

A Celebration of Life for
Ida E. Harris

SUNRISE:
JULY 28, 1944

SUNSET
SEPTEMBER 18, 2024



MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2024
10:00 A.M. VIEWING | 11:00 A.M. SERVICE

FROM THE HEART CHURCH MINISTRIES®
5055 ALLENTOWN ROAD | SUITLAND, MARYLAND 20746
BISHOP JOHN A. CHERRY, II - PASTOR

Obituary

On Wednesday, September 18, 2024, Ida E. Harris, affectionately known as “Dollie” and “Mama Harris,” answered the call to eternal life. Born on July 28, 1944, she was the second oldest of seven siblings from Layland, West Virginia, and the daughter of the late Robert and Gracie Erkhart.

In the late 1950s, Ida moved to Washington, D.C. She graduated from Eastern High School in 1962 and had an interest in nursing. Ida became a licensed practical nurse upon completing her studies at Martha Washington Vocational School in Washington, D.C. She had a long career in nursing and caregiving, spanning over 40 years. She worked at Freedmen’s Hospital, DC General Hospital, Sunshine Group Home, and Marjul Homes.

Ida always stood for excellence and doing things the right way and in order. During the late 1960s, she met the love of her life, Shellie Harris, Sr., and from that union they had two sons, Shellie Jr. and Oba. She was a devoted wife and mother who would do anything for her husband, children, and family. Although she only had two biological children, she became a mother figure to hundreds of other children, teenagers, and adults.

In her early thirties, Ida re-dedicated her life to Jesus Christ. Her favorite scripture was *Proverbs 3:5-6*, “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

Ida attended Third Street Church of God under the leadership of Pastor Samuel Hines. There she began working with the youth and teaching Sunday school. In 1985, the Lord Jesus Christ led Ida and her sons to From the Heart Church Ministries under the leadership of the late Dr. John A. Cherry. There, she faithfully served in the Youth Department, teaching several generations about the goodness and love of God. Additionally, she served in the Youth Against Peer Pressure Ministry until the time of her death.

Everyone who knew “Mama Harris” knew that she loved wearing hats. You would definitely see her fashionable style at church. She was a collector of many varieties and styles of hats. You also knew that she enjoyed listening to contemporary gospel songs by Fred Hammond and Commissioned. She also loved to travel. One of her most memorable trips was taken in 1998. That year, she and her son Oba visited Ghana with her From the Heart family. Thereafter, she went on several cruises and attended many of the church’s women’s retreats.

Ida loved sports, especially football. Her favorite professional and collegiate teams were the Washington Commanders and Alabama State University. She loved college basketball; during March Madness, she faithfully made her NCAA brackets.

Ida will be dearly missed by her family and friends, but her unconditional love, spirit, and legacy will remain in their hearts forever. She leaves to cherish her memory, her sons, Shellie Jr. and Oba (Marsha); grandchildren: Jamal, Oba Jr., and Jordane; great-grandchildren, Kaila and Soleil; sisters: Doris Erkhart-Simms, Grace Chatmon (John), Cordelia Hodges (Herman), Katie Holloway (Johnnie), and a host of other relatives, her church family, and friends.

Ida was preceded in death by her husband, Shellie Harris Sr.; sister, Jane Herring; and brother, Robert Erkhart, Jr.

Order of Service

Invocation

Congregational Hymn *“What A Friend We Have In Jesus”*

Scripture Reading

Old Testament: Proverbs 3:5-6

New Testament: John 14:1-6

Prayer of Comfort

Selection..... *FTH Psalmist*

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Ms. Christina Simms - Niece

Ms. Doris Simms - Sister

Ms. Stephanie Jackson - Niece

Mr. Oba and Mrs. Marsha Harris - Son and Daughter-in-law

Poem *Ms. Jordane Harris*

Obituary *Mr. Oba Harris*

Song of Preparation *FTH Psalmist*

Message of Hope *Bishop John A. Cherry, II*

Call to Christ

Committal

Benediction

Recessional



Congregational Hymn

What A Friend We Have In Jesus

*What a Friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry, Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry, Everything to God in prayer!*

*Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged: Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful, Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness: Take it to the Lord in Prayer.*

*Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our Refuge Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a solace there.*

Amen

Family Sentiments

If You Could See Me Now

by Patsy Stambaugh Deskins

*If you could see me now, you wouldn't shed a tear.
Though you may not understand why I'm no longer here.*

Remember my spirit, that's the real me.

I'm still very much alive, oh, if you could only see!

I've beheld our Father's face. I've touched my Savior's hand.

The angels all rejoiced as I entered the Promised Land.

Beyond the gates of pearl, I walk on golden streets.

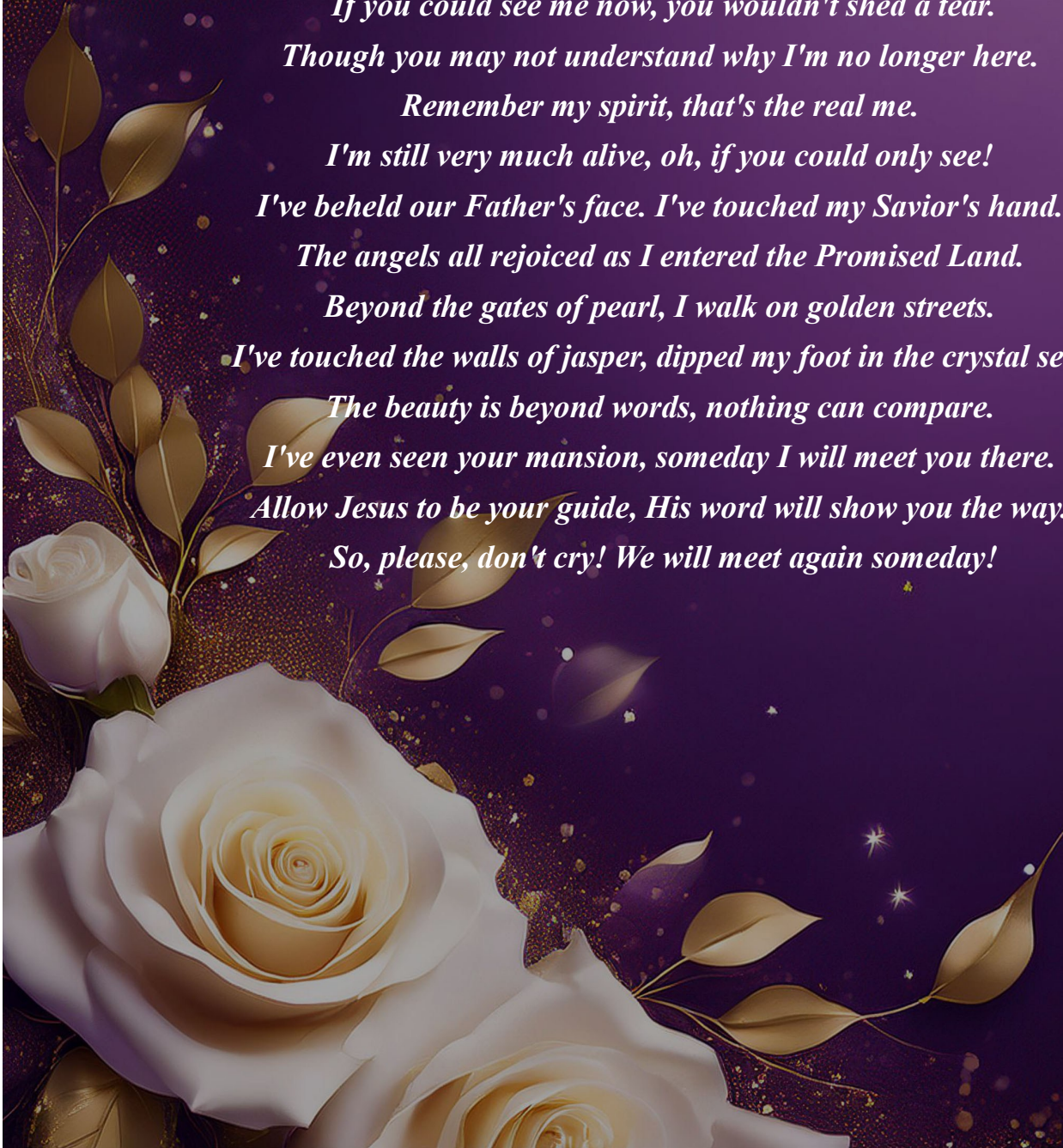
I've touched the walls of jasper, dipped my foot in the crystal sea.

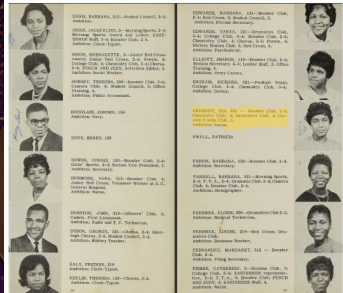
The beauty is beyond words, nothing can compare.

I've even seen your mansion, someday I will meet you there.


Allow Jesus to be your guide, His word will show you the way.

So, please, don't cry! We will meet again someday!



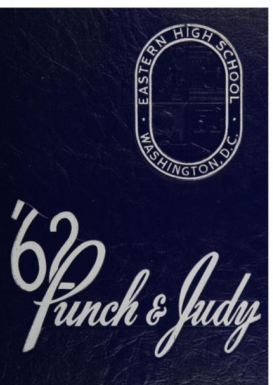


HOME GOING CELEBRATION
for
Robert James Eckhart, Sr.
October 12, 1913 May 22, 2004



Saturday, May 29, 2004
Viewing - 10:00 am - 11:30 am
Service - 11:30 am

Deliverance Free Will Baptist Church
3915 Holly Tree Road
Temple Hills, Maryland
Elder William E. Peterson, Pastor
Rev. Dr. Cheryl J. Sanders, Senior Pastor
Rev. Hervin D. Green, Associate Pastor
Third Street Church of God
Washington, DC





Shellie "Shirley" Lee
Harris, Jr.

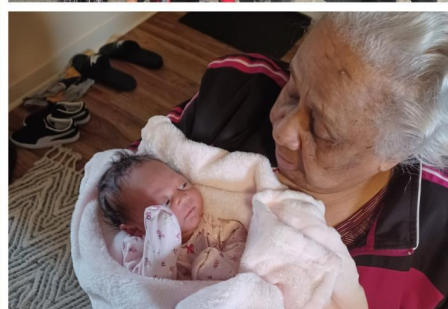
Arrival
May 16, 1943

Departure
February 7, 2003



Friday, February 14, 2003
Viewing: 10:00am
Service: 11:00am

From the Heart Church Ministries
4207 Norcross Street
Temple Hills, Maryland
Dr. John A. Chery, Pastor





Acknowledgement

The family of Ida Harris acknowledges with deep appreciation every act of kindness and expression of love shown to us during our time of bereavement. May God richly bless you. We love you all.

Pallbearers

*Marquis Barnes, Michael Brown, Eric Dobbins
Herman Hodges, Sherman Hodges
William Price, and Christian Taylor*

Flower Bearers

Family and Friends

Services Entrusted to:

*Hodges and Edwards Funeral Home
3910 Silver Hill Road
Hillcrest Heights, Maryland 20746*