

*Celebrating the Life of*

*Lessie Strong Washington*

*May 10, 1941 ~ October 7, 2024*



*Friday, October 25, 2024*

*Family Hour: 10:00 a.m. | Service: 11:00 a.m.*



**From the Heart Church Ministries®**  
5055 Allentown Road | Suitland, Maryland 20746  
Bishop John A. Cherry, II - Pastor



## *Obituary*

**Lessie Strong Washington** was born on May 10, 1941, to the late Marvin J. Strong and Emma Smith Strong in Bennettsville, South Carolina. She was the seventh of ten children born to that union. Lessie departed this earthly life on October 7, 2024.

Lessie fondly nicknamed “Girly,” was raised in Hamlet, North Carolina, and attended Richmond County Schools, where she excelled academically, skipping fifth grade and graduating high school early. Upon graduation, she moved to Washington, D.C., and temporarily lived with her cousins, the Quicks of Peabody Street (Annie, Hattie, and James), all of whom she continued to visit throughout the years.

Lessie started her career with the federal government working in the typing pool at the Office of Personnel Management, progressively working her way up the higher ranks within the Department of Housing and Urban Development and later the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Throughout her career, Lessie exemplified traits that many would come to identify her with—whip smart, kind, classy, and *always* fighting for those in whom she saw potential but who needed just a little help or push to move forward.

Lessie fondly recounted stories of her time living in D.C. during the late 50s and early 60s—attending the Martin Luther King Jr. March on Washington, enjoying the sounds of Roberta Flack at Bohemian Caverns, taking college courses at the District of Columbia Teachers College, and meeting lifelong friends who became family. During her early years in D.C., Lessie met and fell in love with Howard “Corky” Cordell Washington, a Howard University college student from New Jersey. Lessie and Corky married in 1966, and they were blessed with three daughters, Robin Yvette, Rani Nicole, and Regan Michele. They settled in Upper Marlboro (Marlton), Maryland, and as luck would have it, their new home was right next door to wonderful neighbors turned best buddies, Audrey “Doll” and Elbe Davis, who would become her bonus family.

One of the perks of being a bonus member of the Davis family was that their extended family became her family, and with that came Lori, Eunice, and Louise. With the creative spirit of Lori and Eunice, Aunties’ Weekend Away was born. Every August, the “girls,” namely Doll, Wilma, Mary, and Iris, would excitedly spirit themselves away to Woodbury, New Jersey, for a weekend of mystery and adventure. They would come back with laughs, gifts, and memories that will last a lifetime.

Lessie and Corky’s marriage ultimately did not last. Consequently, she raised her girls as a single parent with an inner strength and intensity of spirit, filling them with love, character, and the belief that a strong education and work ethic were the keys to success. Lessie always wanted the best for her girls and, hypervigilant over their future, was always full of loving advice. Robin, Rani, and Regan may not have always appreciated the advice at the time, but in their later adult years they came to rely on it, wondering, “What would Mommy do?”

In 1984, Lessie joined From the Heart Church Ministries in Maryland. She was a faithful long-time member who served in the Telephone Reception Ministry, committing a few hours out of every week to her church, and the Seniors Ministry. Lessie retired from her distinguished career with the federal government after thirty-nine years of dedicated service in 1998. She spent the next couple of years caring and advocating for her baby sister, Peggy Jean, until her passing. Aunt Lessie became a surrogate parent to Peggy’s teenage children, Monica and Wendell.

Fulfilling a lifelong dream, Lessie obtained a realtor license in 1999 and sold homes to many. Driven by the desire to help people, on many occasions she could be heard telling a client, “You don’t want that house.” Although it would have been a good and easy commission for her. Lessie was active in her retirement. She was a member of her hometown Hamlet Alumni Association, served on the Board of Directors as Secretary for many years, taking meticulous notes and actively helping to fundraise tens of thousands of dollars to be awarded as college scholarships for students who were Hamlet legacy. Notwithstanding her busy schedule, she always found time to spend with her grandchildren—having them over for weekend sleepovers, taking them to the mall for ice cream, attending a school performance or celebration—just spending time with them was one of her weekly joys.

Furthermore, Lessie was an excellent cook. She learned to cook at an early age, preparing family meals, a responsibility passed on from the elder siblings to the younger ones as they left the nest. She was known for her delicious pound cake, succulent smothered pork chops, and mouth-watering fried chicken. She would spend hours in her bright yellow kitchen preparing Thanksgiving and Christmas meals while taking breaks to watch basketball, baseball, tennis, or whatever sporting event was on at the time. She was an avid sports fan. In her later years, she found the Hallmark Channel. When one of her girls would call, she would exclaim how she just watched a “good” movie. Her children made sure she had the Hallmark Channel playing during her final days in the hospital.

Lessie will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her. She leaves to cherish her memory, her daughters: Robin Eggleston, Rani Harrison (Stewart), and Regan Washington; grandchildren: Troi, Nicholas, Kelsey, Lucas, and Ethan; sisters: Hattie Mae Cross, Mary “Pike” Henry, and Sylvia “Nookie” Davis; close friends, Doll Davis and Gloria Montgomery; and a host of nieces, nephews, and friends.

In addition to her parents, Lessie was preceded in death by her sisters, Peggy Jean Gaymon, and Laura Hopkins; brothers: Marvin “Shug” Strong, Earl Strong, Roosevelt “Pete” Strong, and Wilson “Bargie” Strong; and son-in-law, Troy Eggleston.

# Order of Service

*Invocation*

*Congregational Hymn* .....*“Blessed Assurance”*

*Scripture Reading*

*Old Testament: Psalm 121*  
*New Testament: Philippians 4:4-9*

*Prayer of Comfort*

*Selection* .....*Sister Tiara Brown*

*Remarks*

*Ms. Regan Washington*

*Obituary*.....*Ms. Lilita Stewart*

*Song of Preparation* .....*Sister Tiara Brown*

*Message of Hope* .....*Minister Robert Dickerson*

*Call to Christ*

*Recessional*

*Interment:*

*Maryland National Cemetery*  
*13300 Baltimore Avenue | Laurel, Maryland 20707*





# REMEMBERING

## *Lessie Strong Washington*

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*"Lessie will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her."*





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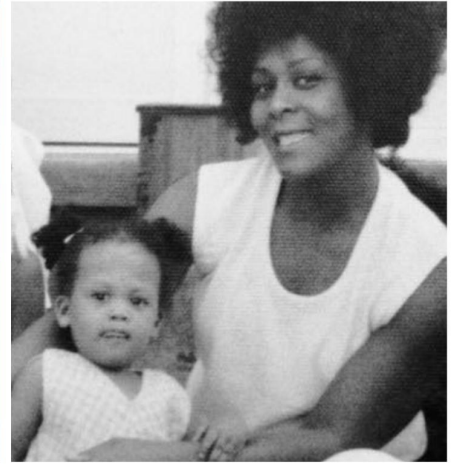
*"Lessie will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her."*











# Congregational Hymn

## BLESSED ASSURANCE

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation,  
purchase of God, born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.*

### CHORUS

*This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long, this is my story,  
this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.*

*Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight; angels  
descending, bring from above, echoes of mercy, whispers of love.*

### CHORUS

*Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest, watching and  
waiting, looking above, filled with His goodness, lost in His love*

### CHORUS

## Acknowledgment

*We acknowledge with deep appreciation every act of kindness and expression of love shown to us during our time of bereavement. We would also like to acknowledge and give heartfelt thanks for all of the visits and phone calls with Mom over the last 6 years she has lived in assisted living. Finally, a special thank you to Case House Hospice for the compassionate care provided to Mom in her final days.*

## Pallbearers

*Terrence Cross, Elbe Davis, Jr., Seth Davis, Nicholas Eggleston, Stewart Harrison,  
and Jason Hopkins*

## Flower Bearers

*Family and Friends*

## Services Entrusted to:

*J.B. Jenkins Funeral Home, Inc.  
7474 Landover Road | Laurel, Maryland 20785*

