

THE HOMEGOING CELEBRATION FOR
TERRY JAMES TURNER



JANUARY 1, 1979 - DECEMBER 16, 2024

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2025

10:00 A.M. FAMILY HOUR | 11:00 A.M. SERVICE

FROM THE HEART CHURCH MINISTRIES.

5055 ALLENTOWN ROAD | SUITLAND, MARYLAND 20746

BISHOP JOHN A. CHERRY, II - PASTOR

OBITUARY

Terry James Turner was born on January 1, 1979, to Tracy Terry Turner and Karen Rose McNeill Phillips. He departed this life suddenly on December 16, 2024, just days before his 46th birthday, to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ in Paradise.

Terry, lovingly known as “Firstborn” by his mother, had a unique birthmark on his back that closely resembled the number one. As an infant, his father would carry him under his arms like a sack of potatoes—driving his mother crazy. Terry’s great-aunt, Alice Rose, and others helped to raise him, while his mother continued her education. Aunt Alice also helped to raise his mother.

Terry attended a private elementary school and completed a four-year scholarship at the School of Visual Arts for Performing Arts in Harlem, New York. He was a talented individual, who by age seven was drawing blueprints of his family’s apartment, and sketches of superheroes with their eye-catching costumes. As a teenager, he created and designed Christian bookmarks. He also was a gifted student producer, director, and 6’4” tall model.

In 1998, Terry attended the State University of New York at Oswego majoring in computer science before enlisting in the United States Marine Corps. In 2001, he was stationed in Okinawa, Japan, and graduated bootcamp in the 99.9 percentile of the Corps’ administrative clerks. However, after having served three years in the military, he received an administrative discharge and returned home with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Terry was an animal lover who went out of his way to save any creature in need—dog, cat, lizard, bird, arachnid, you name it—if it was comfortable and cared for, he was pleased. In essence, he was a modern-day Dr. Dolittle. Terry’s first rescue animal, a dog named Angel, was eventually adopted by his play aunt, Natalie Manning. However, his second rescue dog, Timmy Turner, was readily accepted by his family. In fact, his mother so loved the animal that she referred to it as her grand dog. Finally, one day while sitting at a bus stop he called his mother to ask if he could bring a stray cat home. Needless to say, she responded with an emphatic “no.”

Firstborn took pride in pleasing his mother which sometimes resulted in sibling rivalry. Mother and son shared a close bond—she loved him dearly and wanted the best for him, always. On July 6, 2013, he proudly walked her down the aisle as she wed Mark “Pops” Phillips. By doing so, he acknowledged that Mark was a good man for his mother. Terry was even more supportive and protective of his mother when she was diagnosed with cancer that same year.

Terry, an introvert by nature, was a computer nerd with a deep boisterous laugh. He enjoyed tinkering with computers, as well as upgrading, repairing, modifying, reprogramming and breaking any machine set before him. His mother recalls the day the family computer was hacked and all data was lost. Terry, a jack of all trades, saved the day by first disassembling it and then rebuilding it. He was happy to learn a few months ago that the computer still works after all these years.

Fond of anime, Terry enjoyed remarkable stories told through animation. In school, when most students were studying Spanish, he was learning Japanese. He was intrigued by *The Lord of the Rings* and could sit through and talk about the entire epic saga. And he loved politics, so much so that his mother said he should consider running for president; he actually thought it was a good idea. Terry enjoyed cooking, baking, photographing food, and giving taste tests as if he were a culinary artist. He was thrilled to be a food vendor at a From the Heart Church Ministries Christmas activity held years ago. And to his mother’s delight, his siblings shared his enthusiasm for cooking which meant that she didn’t have to do much.

OBITUARY (CONTINUED)

Terry was brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. He and his sister, Ebony “Baby Girl,” were ages twelve and three respectively in 1991 when their mother gave her life to Jesus Christ. The trio did street ministry, handing out tracks and witnessing for Jesus. At age 13, Terry gave his life to Christ at the Thy Will Be Done Baptist Church in Spanish Harlem, New York. Afterward, he was filled with the Holy Spirit and along with his mother was baptized in November 1992. The mothers of the church loved to hear him loudly quote scriptures as if he were preaching or narrating a story. In 2011, Terry rededicated his life to Christ and joined From the Heart Church Ministries in Suitland, Maryland. With the functional gift of leadership, he faithfully served in the Sports and Fitness and Telephone Reception Ministries. And he was excited about having attended an annual Men’s Retreat.

In 2009, Terry moved back to downtown New York City and worked as a personal trainer for Equinox Fitness, incidentally, he was also his mother’s trainer. Concurrently, he was a security guard at the Louis Vuitton store before relocating to Arlington, Virginia, in 2010. His work history includes an interim supervisor for Vamoose Luxury Bus Company, and tier one help desk support for MegaPath, a business telecommunications company, where he recruited others and received numerous awards for his dedication and exceptional service. At the time of his passing, he was working remotely as an information technology project manager for Veriant Solutions.

In 2014, due to a tragic event and domestic burglary, he moved from Gaithersburg, Maryland, to live with his mother, sister, and cousins: Shaquana, Jamal and Angel in Prince George’s County, Maryland. However, Terry always wanted to have a family of his own, so in 2022 he relocated to France with the hope of marrying the long-distance love of his life, Blandine Hallier, and becoming a father to her daughter, Celia. He and his mother loved them both dearly. Blandine called Terry her superhero who loved to tease. The two had a lot in common, such as a great sense of humor and a January birthday. Additionally, she loved his unique birthmark, his cooking, and his take charge attitude.

On December 16, 2024, Terry who loved fried chicken, was listening to music through his headphones while walking back home from a store, where he had just purchased what he loved the most, before being struck and killed. Earlier that day, Terry had left a message for his mother. He said, “I am really sorry that I did not answer your call, Mom. I love you mom. And I really hope to talk with you sooner than later. Bottom line Mom, I love you!!!” “I loves you dad, you made me...lol,” were his final words to his father. “See if you can leave work to come pick me up, there is a speed trap studying how fast people are driving,” is what he communicated to Blandine.

Later, Terry’s mother responded with, “I love you most much and praying for you always! You are worthy, loved and wanted. Love, mom.” There is a six hour time difference between countries, and little did she know that her son had already passed. Terry took a piece of her heart with him that day. He transitioned from this life to eternal life with **Praise, Thanksgiving, Sanctification, and Dancing (PTSD)**.

Terry will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him. He leaves to cherish his memory, his father, Tracy Terry Turner; beloved mother, Karen Rose Phillips (Mark “Pops” Anthony); cousin-siblings: Shaquana, Jamal and Angel McNeill; brothers, Tristin Turner and Daryl Williams; sisters: Tyesha Turner, Shantel Beckett, Monique Williams, Shadequa Brown, and Janee Phillips; aunt, Sadie Spruill; and a host of other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his grandmothers, Ernestine Alberta McNeill and Julia Mae Turner; grandfather, James Alexander McNeill; aunt, Kim Henrietta McNeill Byas; sister, Ebony Chaniqua Williams, and other family members.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Invocation

Congregational Hymn “Amazing Grace”

Scripture Reading

Old Testament: Psalm 25:15-22
New Testament: I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Prayer of Comfort

Selection Mr. Marcus Jones

Remarks

Pastor Michael White, From the Heart Church Ministries of Waldorf

Obituary (Read Aloud) Minister Belinda Miller

Song of Preparation Ms. Betty Phillips, Ms. Ann Rollins
and Mr. Chris Lotson

Message of Hope Reverend Justin K. Young

Call to Christ

Benediction

Recessional

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

“Amazing Grace”

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound;
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind but now I see*

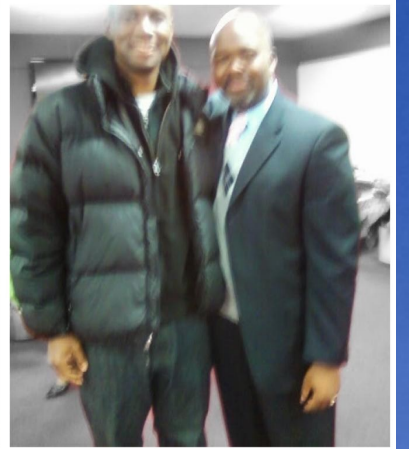
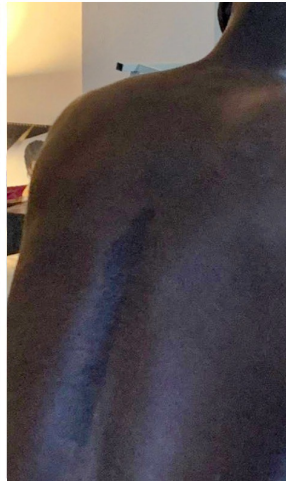
*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear,
the hour I first believed.*

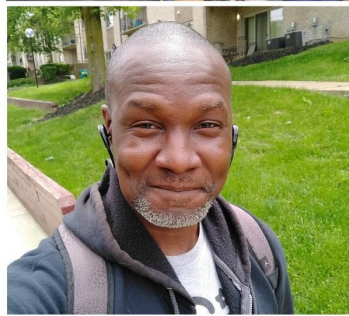
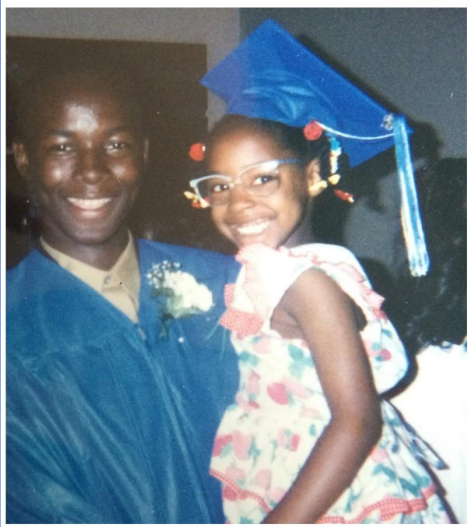
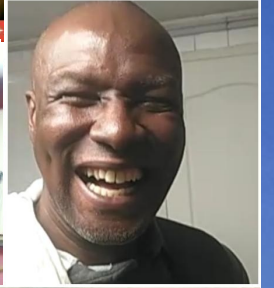
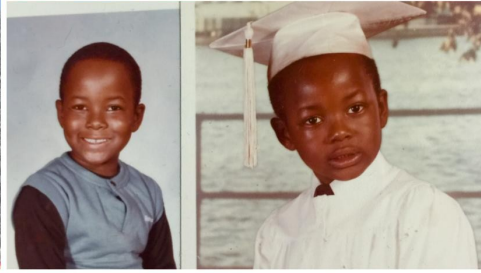
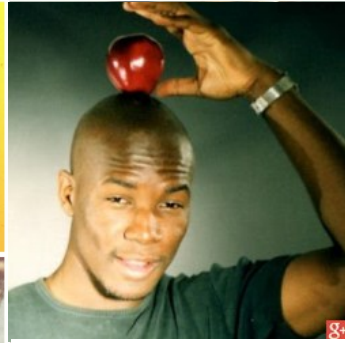
*The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures,
He will my shield and portion be,
as long as life endures.*

*Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come, 'tis grace hath
brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise,
than when we first begun.*







ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We thank you so much for all the loving kindness you have shown. For friendship's healing touch, with gratitude our hearts are full, though words cannot convey the tender thoughts and thankfulness we hold for you today. Love, the family

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank Bishop John A. Cherry, II and Reverend LaWanda Cherry; Reverend Diana P. Cherry; and our entire From the Heart Church family for the many selfless acts of kindness and tremendous outpouring of love shown to us throughout the years and especially during our times of mourning. We are truly thankful for a body of believers who love us "from the heart."

Words cannot express our heartfelt gratitude towards Sharon Liebetreu, Duncan Shanks, Adair Shanks, and Blandine Hallier. A huge thank you for all your help with being the ambassadors for our family for the return of Terry from France to the U.S. when we could not be there ourselves. You came through when we really needed you the most and we are so grateful to call you friend! You are the epitome of unconditional love and will forever be in our hearts.

FLOWER BEARERS

Family and Friends