

*In Loving Memory of*  
*Shirley E. Martin*

*Sunrise*  
*June 7, 1942*



*Sunset*  
*February 12, 2025*

***Friday, March 7, 2025***

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

*From the Heart Church Ministries®*  
*4949 Allentown Road | Suitland, Maryland 20746*  
*Bishop John A. Cherry, II - Pastor*



## *Obituary*

**Shirley E. Martin** was born on June 7, 1942, in Wilson North Carolina, to the late Mother Mozell Brown and Minister Edward L. Brown. She was raised with the strong family values that would guide her throughout her life.

Educated in the District of Columbia Public Schools, Shirley graduated from Dunbar High School in 1962. During her time there, she was an active member of the Rifle Club, earned a place on the Honor Roll, served as an assistant in the Registrar's Office, and as a Student Council Representative. She even led devotions over the school's public address system. After high school, she embarked on a fulfilling career with the federal government, serving in various administrative roles until retiring after 35 years of dedicated service, a milestone that afforded her the time to travel and cherish moments with family and friends.

A lover of life and adventure, Shirley's passion for travel led her on many memorable journeys, with cruising holding a special place in her heart. An avid bowler, she was an active member of several bowling clubs, and her engraved bowling ball remains a cherished memento. Although her bowling career came to an abrupt pause in 2008 after a fall—sustained while protecting her grandson, Eyan—her spirit for community and fellowship never wavered. Her close circle of friends, with whom she met regularly to enjoy fellowship, play pinochle, and plan trips, continued to celebrate her vibrant personality until the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic altered their gatherings.

Faith was the cornerstone of Shirley's life. Raised in Bible Way Church in Washington, D.C., she served as both a Sunday School Teacher and Usher before moving to Maryland. In 1993, she became a member of From the Heart Church Ministries, contributing her time and talents to the Helps and Physical Stewardship Ministries. Her steadfast devotion to her church community remained strong until later years, even as the isolation of the pandemic contributed to the progression of Alzheimer's disease.

Family was everything to Shirley. A devoted mother, grandmother, niece, aunt, and friend, she embraced her role as the matriarch with grace and dedication. She hosted annual Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, ensuring that every family member felt loved and cared for—from taking her aunts to their doctor's appointments to celebrating the milestones of her grandchildren. Her personal traditions, including sharing banana pudding, candied yams, baked beans, lemon pound cake, memorable Seven Springs ski trips, Royal Caribbean Cruises, bowling outings, and Christmas envelopes filled with money and savings bonds, are but a few of the many ways she touched the lives of those around her. Above all, her unwavering love for God, expressed through songs, scriptures, and celebration of Christian holidays, was the light that guided her path. Shirley had one son, Eric White, and was mom to her niece, the late Robin Brown. Shirley's deep love for Eric and his family was evident in every aspect of her life. He was her pride and joy, a legacy of her nurturing spirit that lives on in all who loved her.

In 2022, as her battle with dementia deepened, Shirley moved to Quiet Manor Assisted Living. Even as the challenges of her illness grew, she continued to inspire those around her by leading fellow residents in singing gospel songs during Saturday Bible studies and sharing joyful moments on the dance floor with both staff and friends.

On Wednesday, February 12, 2025, Shirley peacefully left this earth, with Pastor Adamio Boddie reading scripture and singing a gospel hymn by her side.

She leaves to cherish her memory, her son, Eric White (Yasmin); grandchildren: Gabriella (Darren), Alejandro "Alex", Courtney, and Eyan; great-grandson, Landon Obaji; and a wide circle of family and friends who will forever cherish her legacy of love, dedication, and faith.

Shirley was preceded in death by her beloved sisters, Dorothy Jean Brown and Barbara Gaddis.



# Order of Service

**Invocation**

**Congregational Hymn** ..... "Blessed Assurance"

**Scripture Reading**

**Old Testament:** Psalm 139:1-14  
**New Testament:** I Corinthians 15:50-58

**Prayer of Comfort**

**Selection** ..... FTH Psalmist

**Acknowledgements**

**Remarks**

Pastor Adamio Boddie  
Mr. Eric White, Son

**Poem** ..... Ms. Courtney White

**Obituary** ..... Ms. Yasmin Lewis-White

**Song of Preparation** ..... FTH Psalmist

**Message of Hope** ..... Minister Janet D. Briscoe

**Call to Christ**

**Benediction**

**Recessional**

**Interment:**  
**Date to be determined**

Fort Lincoln Cemetery  
3401 Bladensburg Road  
Brentwood | Maryland 20722-1804



# *Family Sentiments*

## *God Knows Best*

*by Helen Steiner Rice*

*Our Father knows what's best for us,  
So why should we complain  
We always want the sunshine,  
But He knows there must be rain*

*We love the sound of laughter  
And the merriment of cheer,  
But our hearts would lose their tenderness  
If we never shed a tear...*

*Our Father tests us often  
With suffering and with sorrow,  
He tests us, not to punish us,  
But to help us meet tomorrow...*

*For growing trees are strengthened  
When they withstand the storm,  
And the sharp cut of a chisel  
Gives the marble grace and form...*

*God never hurts us needlessly,  
And He never wastes our pain  
For every loss He sends to us  
Is followed by rich gain...*

*And when we count the blessings  
That God has so freely sent,  
We will find no cause for murmuring  
And no time to lament...*

*For our Father loves His children,  
And to Him all things are plain,  
So He never sends us pleasure  
When the soul's deep need is pain...*

*So whenever we are troubled,  
And when everything goes wrong,  
It is just God working in us  
To make our spirit strong.*

# 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*











### *Acknowledgement*

We thank you so much for all the kindness you have shown. For friendship's healing touch, with gratitude, our hearts are full.

Love, The Family

### *Special Acknowledgement*

On behalf of our family, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to the staff at Quiet Manor for the exceptional care and compassion they provided to Shirley. In her time there, she was surrounded by kindness, dignity, and unwavering support, which brought great comfort to her and to all of us who loved her. To the nurses, caregivers, and staff who tended to her needs with such warmth and professionalism—thank you. Your dedication made a profound difference in Shirley's final days and we are forever grateful for the love and respect you showed her.

### *Special Thanks*

We would also like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Pastor Adamio Boddie for his kindness and devotion. On that cold, snowy morning, he went to see Shirley, prayed scripture with her, and sang by her side, bringing her comfort and peace. His presence was a beautiful gift, and we are deeply grateful for the love and faith he shared with her in those precious moments.

Thank you, Pastor Boddie, for your compassion and for being a source of spiritual strength for Shirley and our family.

### *Heartfelt Appreciation*

We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to the Sampson Family for their generosity in providing a venue for the repast. Your kindness and hospitality have given us a place to gather, share memories, and find comfort in one another during this time of loss.

Thank you for your support and for opening your hearts to our family. It means more than words can express.

### *Pallbearers*

Saven Baker, Roger Lewis, Darren Obaji, Mike Sampson,  
Ronny Thompson, Eyan White, Paul White

### *Flower Bearers*

Family and Friends

### *Services Entrusted to:*

McGuire Funeral Home  
7400 Georgia Avenue, NW | Washington, DC 20012