



*The Homegoing Celebration for
Emma Jane McNair*



Sunrise: August 28, 1948 — Sunset: August 27, 2025

Monday, September 15, 2025

Viewing: 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



In Loving Memory of Emma Jane McNair

Sunrise: August 28, 1948 Sunset: August 27, 2025

Emma Jane McNair was born on August 28, 1948, in Washington, D.C., to the late Ernest Garnett and the late Rose Ellen (Turner) Garnett. The youngest of seven siblings, Emma was full of life, love, and a deep-rooted commitment to family and community.

In August 2025, while visiting her beloved hometown of Washington, D.C., to revisit cherished childhood memories and reconnect with lifelong friends, Emma was suddenly called to her heavenly home on August 27, 2025—just one day shy of her seventy-seventh birthday.

She was united in marriage to Vietnam War veteran, the late Willie Woodrow McNair. Emma was the proud mother of four children, each of whom she cherished deeply.

Emma was educated in the District of Columbia Public Schools and proudly worked for over 40 years with the U.S. Postal Service, retiring as the Postmaster Secretary—a role she held with honor, commitment, and excellence.

Even in retirement, Emma remained active, taking on small jobs and continuing to serve as a Primerica agent until her final days.

Emma's faith was so strong, and she shared it at every chance she got. She was not shy about her love for the Lord—she lived it boldly and beautifully. One of her favorite scriptures was John 3:16, and she truly showed that love to all she knew and encountered. She was a woman of patience, forgiving heart, and a love that was so strong, unwavering, and unconditional.

In 1988, Emma joined From the Heart Church Ministries where she served with joy and humility in the Helps, Community Outreach, Girl Scouts, and Office Support Ministries. She also participated in the Women of God Lifegivers Fellowships. In Texas, she was an active participant at the Killeen Senior Center and gave back regularly through volunteer work at local food banks and donations to children's educational causes. She was also known for organizing community events to uplift and support those in need—always leading with kindness, compassion, and an open heart.

Emma had a rich and vibrant life. In her younger years, she was an avid bowler and always found joy in swimming and traveling. A passionate (and often conflicted) fan of the Washington Redskins (now Commanders), Emma never missed a chance to support her team. She also cherished game nights, especially after learning to play the card game "Hand, Knee, and Foot" with friends in Texas—a game she proudly taught to everyone she knew. She was also a caregiver for Ms. Corrine, and a loyal bid whist partner, known for her competitive spirit.

Though her second home was in Killeen, Texas, Emma's heart remained wherever her family was—especially her grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. She was deeply committed to being actively involved in their lives and made it a priority to show up for them. Whether it was a birthday, graduation, performance, game, or family gathering, Emma would travel near and far to be there. She built lasting bonds with each of them and was their biggest cheerleader—offering love, guidance, and presence that left a lifelong impact.

Emma leaves behind a legacy of love, service, and faith. She is survived by her children: Derrick (Christy) Fenner, Willie (Mona) Woodrow McNair Jr., Senetra (Vernon Jr.) Burns, and Kevin Lamont Brown; her siblings: Elizabeth Garnett, Nettie Johnson, Robert Garnett, and Joseph Garnett-Bey (Linda Garnett); goddaughter, Danetta Adams; and grandchildren: Erika Fenner, Derrick Fenner Jr., Byron McNair, Brooklyn McNair, Daji Dix, Lawanda Burns, Lanetta Burns, Vernon Burns III, Diamiani Brown, Denee' Brown, Anija Brown, and Aaliyha Alicia Brown. Her legacy continues through her great-grandchildren: Estella Hughes, Spear Fenner III, Honor Fenner, Praise Fenner, Kareem Sabah, KaHire' Thomas, Zynia-Marie Burns, Rose Star Burns, Emya Jane Coleman, ZYaheir Brown-Ogburn, and Yahri Brown-Ogburn. Emma was also a beloved aunt to her late husband's family and will be greatly missed by Joanne Adkins, Lawanda Leonard, Donna and Paula Williams. She will also be missed by a multitude of extended family and friends.

Emma was preceded in death by her sister, Rose Garnett, known lovingly as the "protector" of the family, who passed in February 2025.

Order of Service

Invocation

Congregational Hymn "What A Friend We Have In Jesus"

Scripture Reading

*Old Testament: Psalm 23
New Testament: John 14: 1-6*

Prayer of Comfort

Selection FTH Psalmist

Acknowledgements

Remarks

*Mr. Reginald Bagley on behalf of Mrs. Natherine Bagley, Friend
Ms. Diamiani Brown, Granddaughter
Ms. Jocelyn Bennett, Friend
Ms. Danetta Adams, Goddaughter*

Poem Ms. Jocelyn Bennett

Obituary Ms. Sharon Johnson

Song of Preparation FTH Psalmist

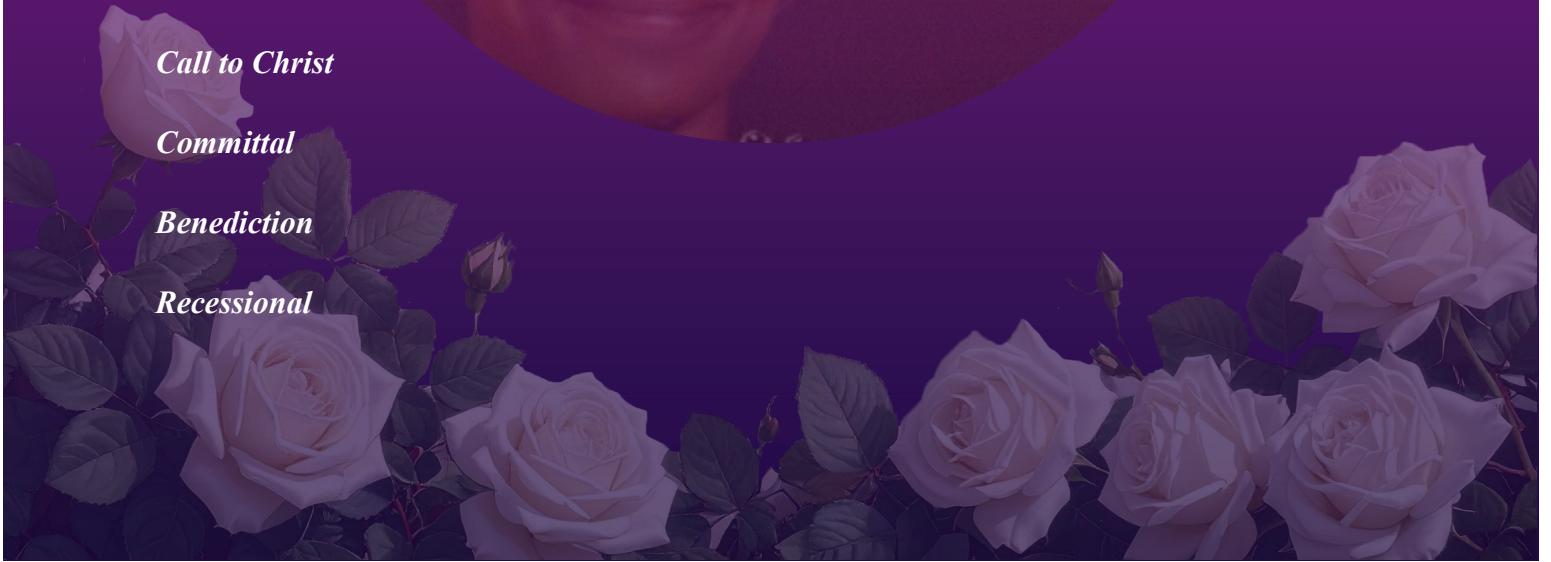
Message of Hope Minister Vance Page

Call to Christ

Committal

Benediction

Recessional



Family Sentiments

Dear Auntie, As I look through pictures and videos of you, I am reminded of your unwavering support throughout my life. You never missed an opportunity to celebrate my accomplishments. I remember the pride you felt when I preached my first sermon and published my first book in 2015, acknowledging the woman I was becoming in God. During my first pregnancy, you selflessly accompanied me to every doctor's appointment, providing comfort and reassurance. When I went into labor with Jabriel, you dropped everything to be by my side to rush me to the hospital. I remember the day you took me to my driver's test; we prayed together during the entire ride, and I passed after two attempts. You were a constant source of motivation, urging me to finish Hair School and become a licensed cosmetologist. You always reminded me that I was gifted with exceptional talent and skill with my hands. I will graduate on September 30, and you had promised to be there; I will ensure that I honor your memory on that day. Upon reflection of our shared experiences, I am filled with gratitude for the unbreakable bond we shared. Your presence was a steady comfort during the darkest moments. I regret not being able to style your hair for your homegoing service, as I was emotionally unprepared to do so. I cherish the memories we made together, and I love you dearly, I look forward to reuniting with you.

Love Always your favorite Great Niece

From Grace

Nana was more than a grandmother; she was a guiding light rooted in faith and overflowing with love. She reminded me that God's grace covers all and that love binds a family together stronger than anything else. Nana's hugs, her laughter, and her endless prayers helped shape who I am today. I rejoice in knowing she is at peace in the arms of the Lord, yet her spirit remains with us, forever etched in me and my children's hearts. Thank you, Nana, for being amazing here on earth.

My fondest memory of Auntie is when I would call her on her birthday and sing happy birthday, and she always say girl I forgot you can sing. I'm going to miss that making that phone call..

This is from Cuz Adair:

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 14:27 This verse is part of Jesus's Farewell discourse, which takes place during the Last Supper before His crucifixion. Here, Jesus promises a deep and lasting peace that differs from what the world offers. This promise of peace may calm fears or anxieties you may feel in your grief.

Miss Emma was like a second mom to me always offering, love, wisdom and support, her kindness and warmth will never be forgotten. I love you, mom Emma. Pamela Lewis and family loves you and will truly miss you.

Sooooo sorry to hear of your beautiful Mother passing...Sending love and prayers for you and the rest of the family. Will call you later.

Tiffany Boyd (daughter co-worker)



Family Sentiments

Dear Aunt Emma,

I wanted to take a moment to express just how deeply I will miss you. You've always been such a special part of my life, and I am truly grateful for every moment we shared together. Thank you for your honesty and for always being there for me; your presence meant a lot to me.

I will miss those calls when you'd fuss at me for not reaching out more often. It's those little moments that I cherish the most. I remember our last conversation so clearly. You encouraged me to promise to stay in touch, and I genuinely intended to do so. Losing you so suddenly and unexpectedly has left me heartbroken, and I still find it hard to accept.

But even in this painful time, I find comfort in the beautiful moments we had together and the love that we shared. I love you so much, Aunt Emma, and I will hold you close in my heart forever.

With all my love,

Matrice

So sorry for your loss. Beautiful woman I shall always remember her! My Bid Wiz partner! Loved her to life!

RIH ALWAYS

Mrs. Velma Green

From Gloria Robinson

Good morning

† **DEEPEST CONDOLENCES SENETRA TO YOU**
† **THE FAMILY I AM SO saddened to hear of MamaQueen's**
Homegoing 🙏

I will reach out to you.

Pray Y'all Are Ok, and at least you have Your **STRONG FAMILY SUPPORT**

Take care of Yourself as well

When we are dealing with difficult situations, sometimes it gets to the point where there are no signs of improvement on the horizon, and it seems as if all hope is lost. There are certain situations that God allows us to experience, and He allows those situations not to destroy us, but to kill our fleshly desires and our fleshly reactions.

God is with us in the midst of the difficulties, and He uses these situations to develop us spiritually so that the life we live is led by the Holy Spirit and gives all glory to God.

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

HAVE A BLESSED THURSDAY from Melony Clifton



When Great Trees Fall

by **Maya Angelou**

When great trees fall,
rocks on distant hills
shudder, lions hunker
down in tall grasses,
and even elephants
lumber after safety.

When great trees fall
in forests,
small things recoil into
silence,
their senses
eroded beyond fear.

When great souls die,
the air around us becomes
light, rare, sterile.

We breathe, briefly.
Our eyes, briefly,
see with
a hurtful clarity.
Our memory, suddenly
sharpened,
examines,
gnaws on kind words
unsaid,
promised walks
never taken.

Great souls die and
our reality, bound to
them, takes leave of us.
Our souls,
dependent upon their
nurture,
now shrink, wizened.
Our minds, formed
and informed by their
radiance,
fall away.
We are not so much
maddened
as reduced to the unutterable
ignorance
of dark, cold
caves.

And when great souls die,
after a period peace
blooms,
slowly and always
irregularly. Spaces fill
with a kind of
soothing electric vibration.
Our senses, restored, never
to be the same, whisper to
us.
They existed. They existed.
We can be. Be and be
better. For they existed.

Sweet Emma

Author Jocelyn Bennett

*Sweet Emma, you will always be remembered.
Even though it is September, your light still shines.
You walked by Faith not by sight.*

When night falls, I can no longer place a call.

*Sweet Emma, you ran your race, and we had a ball,
now you are in Heaven standing tall.*

What you left behind are memories, lessons, and blessings, for each to recall.

I never saw you get heated, just trusted God to defeat it.

Now fly high white dove and be seated in the sky.

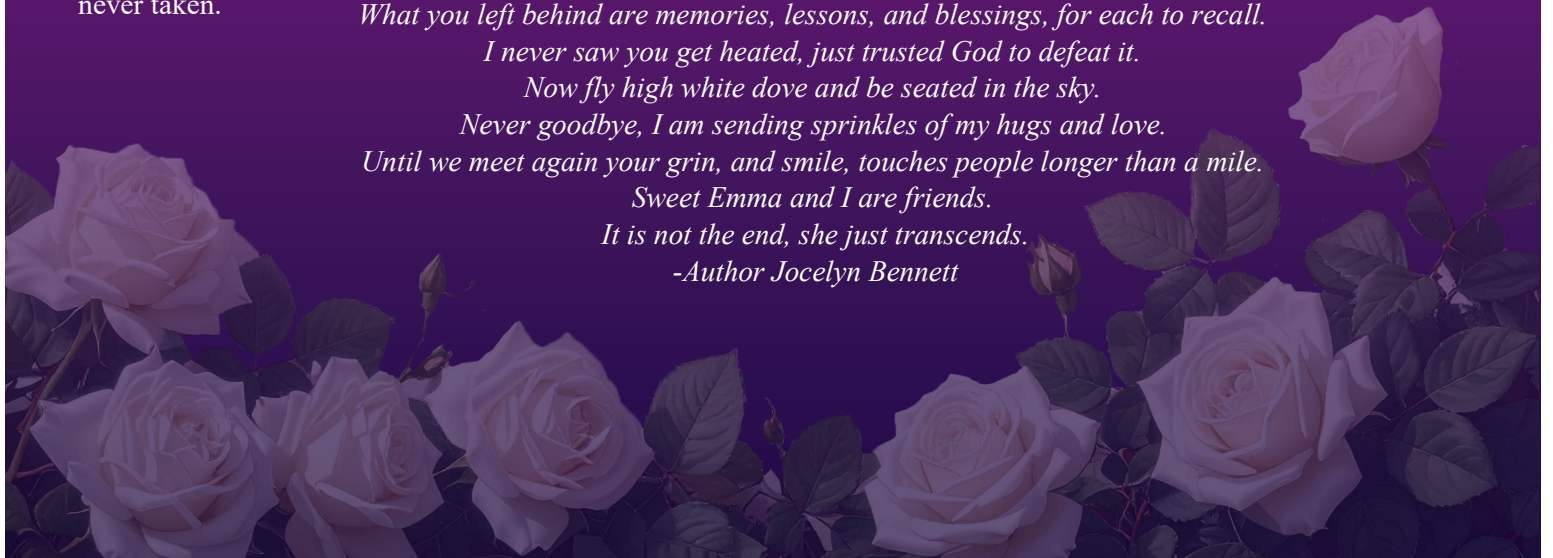
Never goodbye, I am sending sprinkles of my hugs and love.

Until we meet again your grin, and smile, touches people longer than a mile.

Sweet Emma and I are friends.

It is not the end, she just transcends.

-Author Jocelyn Bennett



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

Acknowledgement

The entire McNair family sincerely thanks all of you for your prayers, comfort, love and support. Your many acts of kindness and expressions of sympathy have been a blessing to us. May the Lord Jesus Christ bless and keep you in perfect peace!

Pallbearers

*Richard Burton, Larnell Ellis, Rodney Garnett, Jr.
Douglas Johnson, Frank Reid, Jai Scott*

Flower Bearers

Family and Friends

Honorary Pallbearers

Vernon Burns III, Derrick Fenner Jr., Brooklyn McNair, Byron McNair

Services Entrusted to:

*Pridgen Funeral Home
9455 Lanham Severn Road
Lanham, Maryland 20706*