

## Obituary

Mr. Willie Ward Jr. was born January 29, 1946 in Decatur, AL to the late Mr. Willie Ward Sr. and Mattie Lee Swoopes. He departed this life on November 27, 2014 at Vanderbilt University Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee.

Willie attended Lakeside High School in Decatur, Alabama, where he was a phenomenal athlete in basketball, football and track. He graduated in 1964. Shortly thereafter, he attended Albright Business College. After Albright he went on to complete a maintenance and apprenticeship program with Champion Papers in 1970 where he began his career. He retired from Champion in 2000 after 30 years of service.

He started his courtship with Carmella Dillard also known as “Tootie” in high school and was married in June 1967. During this bond they had two children.

He accepted Christ at an early age and joined First Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Reverend John Ewing. He served as a Junior Deacon and was also a member of the usher board and choir.

He was preceded in death by his father, Willie Ward Sr. and brother, Herman Johnson.

His loving memory and lasting impressions will be cherished by his **“devoted wife”** Carmella Ward; **two children**, Weena Ward Jones (John) of Birmingham, AL and Willie Ward III (Michelle) of Decatur, AL; **two granddaughters**, Maya and Melodie Jones of Birmingham and **two grandsons**, Marcus Romine and Kamden Ward of Decatur, AL; **two sisters**, Norma Ward Richardson of Atlanta, Georgia and Brenda Ward Gooden of Schaumburg, IL; **sisters-in-law**, Elnora Griffin, Annette Dillard, Wanda Horton (Timothy), Cynthia Dillard, Margaret Tevis (Kenneth Ray), Frances Johnson (NaJurl), Pauline Lanier and Peggy Dillard; **brothers-in-law**, Jessie Jackson, Foster Dillard Jr. (Deloris), Gary Dillard, Johnny Dillard (Sharon) and a host of nieces, nephews other relatives and friends.

## Order of Service

*“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course,  
I have kept the faith.” II Timothy 4:7*

Processional

Hymn of Praise.....Choir

Opening Prayer.....Pastor Herbert Cartwright Jr.

Scripture.....*Old & New Testament*.....Pastor Herbert Cartwright Jr.

Tribute.....The Rev. Adolphus Elliott  
James Nicholas

Hymn of Praise.....Choir

Poem.....Melodie Jones

Solo.....Regina Mitchell

Eulogy.....Pastor Rufus James Crawford  
*Faith United Missionary Baptist Church  
Columbia, TN*

Solo.....Sonya Tucker

Closing Prayer.....Pastor Herbert Cartwright Jr.

Recessional



**Pallbearers**  
Lakeside High School Class of 1964

**Flower Attendants**  
Lakeside High School Class of 1964

**Expressions of Gratitude**  
"The Family of Willie Ward Jr"

*The family of Willie Ward wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the visits, calls, comforting words and other acts of kindness shown during our time of bereavement. We are truly grateful for your continued prayers and may God bless each of you.*



**Interment**  
Calvary Memorial Gardens  
Decatur, Alabama



Professional Service Entrusted To:  
**Reynolds Funeral Home**  
"Serving the Community with a Spirit of Excellence"  
[www.reynoldsfh.com](http://www.reynoldsfh.com)



In Loving Memory  
of  
**Willie Ward Jr.**



*January 29, 1946 ~ November 27, 2014*

Tuesday, December 2, 2014  
12:00 P.M.

First Missionary Baptist Church  
233 Vine Street, NW  
Decatur, Alabama 35601

The Reverend Herbert Cartwright, Pastor  
The Reverend Rufus James Crawford, Officiating





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## *The Lord is My Shepherd: Psalms 23*

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

*He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me  
beside the still waters.*

*He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of  
righteousness for his name's sake.*

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of  
death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and  
thy staff they comfort me.*

*Thou preparest a table before me, in the presence of mine  
enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth  
over.*

*Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of  
my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

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