

THE MANSIONS ABOVE

*We strain every nerve, We strive for the prize Of our calling in
Christ, A home in the skies. The battles all fought the victory won
We have the reward "Good servant well done." Come enter thy
home these mansions above Rest in Heaven of infinite love*

From sorrow and sin forever released

*Come sit with the guest at the Heavenly feast All stains washed
away in robes of pure white We bask in His rays we shine in His
light The crowns of rejoicing we ever more wear The glory of
Christ eternally shared.*

*Make me "O" father more grateful for life More willing to bear
the turmoil and strife More anxious to serve more like him to be
Who gave his own life for answer, for me That bearing Christ
image here below.*

*My word done in him his glory may show Fill the summer hear in
accents of love Daughter come higher and serve me above What
glories await the spirit set free*

*From fetters of earth untrammelled to be
The work begins here is continued above
And all that's left in life is service and love.*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

God Child: Joe Nathan Forbes

Care Takers: For all that you have done to aid in the care of Shirley:
Loli, Kris, Karen, Esther and Theresa

Special Acknowledgement:

Pastor Donovan and Vi Shoemaker, thank you for your Love,
Friendship, and Pastoral care for mommy for 49 years!

Professional Services Provided By:

The Family Funeral Home, LLC

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East Orange, NJ 07018
(973) 375-8100

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Kenneth Cattenhead NJ Lic. No. JP04153

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR



Shirley L. Smith

Sunrise: September 27, 1933

Sunset: August 28, 2021

Service

Saturday, September 4, 2021 - 10:00 am

First Wesleyan Methodist Church

201 Woodlawn Avenue • Jersey City, New Jersey 07305

Reverend Donovan Shoemaker, Pastor



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Shirley Loretta Smith was born on September 27, 1933 in Jersey City, New Jersey to the late Melvin and Sarah Kee.

Raised on Kearny Avenue, Shirley attended Mt. Pisgah AME Church on Forrest St. She was formally educated in the Jersey City Public Schools, achieving the status of valedictorian at A. Harry Moore Grammar School and later graduating from Henry Snyder High School.

Shirley loved to sing and was selected to participate in the All-State High School Chorus at the Atlantic City Auditorium in 1950. She then sang professionally as a member of The Honeytones. The group performed with many celebrities including:

Dinah Washington - Singer. The group merited mention in Ms. Washington's biography, Queen: The Life and Music of Dinah Washington which explains that "Dinah prided herself on her eye and ear for talent...she heard a female quartet called The Honeytones and was impressed." Ms. Washington became their manager and invited the group to go on tour with her.

- Quincy Jones – Composer, Musician, Producer
- Billy Eckstine – Singer
- Cootie Williams – Jazz Trumpeter
- The Checkers – An American Doo-wop Group
- Nipsy Russell – Comedian and Game Show Host
- Flip Wilson – Comedian and TV Host

In 1954, Shirley performed with The Honeytones on Ted Mack's Amateur Hour. They were signed to Mercury Records and sung at The Apollo and other venues.

Shirley became a faithful member of the First Wesleyan Church in 1969 and served in the Music Ministry playing her beloved Piano as she sang many solos. As someone recently stated, "She never met a song she didn't like."

Shirley also studied to be an ordained Minister, attending classes at Houghton College, and served First Wesleyan Church in the following roles for many decades:

- Vice-Chairperson of the Local Board of Administration
- District Board of Administration to the Penn Jersey District of the Wesleyan Church
- Church pianist and choir member
- Adult Sunday School Teacher
- Tuesday Noonday Prayer Founder and Facilitator
- Delegate to the Wesleyan church General Conference
- Lay Minister overseeing the Usher Board

Shirley began working for the United States Post Office in 1961 in Jersey City. In 1972,

she started at the Dominick V. Daniels Post Office in Kearny in the Postal Employee Development Center, where she was the Manager of Human Resources and the Training Specialist. Shirley was also one of the first female and Afro-American Supervisors and one of the first, two women allowed to work at that location. Despite Shirley's "high position and being an Afro-American in charge, she never lost her kindness towards people," according to co-worker, Shelia Williams.

Shirley is preceded in death by her mother, Sarah Kee Raines; her husband, David Smith; her daughter, Shelia A. Smith; her brother, Bishop Alfred M. Kee Sr., and sister, Barbarajean Womack.

Shirley was called home to be with the Lord on Saturday, August 28th, 2021.

She leaves to cherish her precious and loving memories, her three daughters: Dana Elizabeth

Maurer (son-in-law, Phil), Denise Shirley Smith, and Sherrill Loretta Smith.

She is also survived by three grandchildren: Keisha Smith-Carrington; Master Sargent Percell Goodwyn, III (Jenny); and David L. Goodwyn (Maggie). She leaves six great-grandchildren: Avatara Smith-Carrington, Esq.; Ashby Smith-Carrington, David L. Goodwyn, Jr.; Isabella Goodwyn; Noah A. Goodwyn; and Percell Goodwyn, IV. She is survived by her sister-in-law, Dolores Kee (Alfred, deceased). She also leaves a host of nieces and nephews: Jackie Kidd (William); Bruce Fullard (Mary); Patricia Fullard; Leonard Fullard (deceased); Marsha Fullard, Debra Alexander (William); Doreen Kee (Alfred M., deceased); Stacy Kee (Steven, deceased); Mark Kee; Bishop Paul L. Kee (Sylvia); Susan Kee; Terri Kee; and Audrey Watkins.

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