

## *This is Not Goodbye*

I did not want to leave you,  
It was just my time to go.  
I know your heart is breaking,  
So, I need to let you know,  
Although you can no longer see me,  
I'll be forever be by your side.  
I promise time will numb the pain,  
And help dry the tears you've cried.  
You can reach me in your  
memories,  
Just think of me, I will be there In  
your dreams,  
we can visit yesteryear.  
Where we didn't have a care  
Please carry on and live your life  
I beg of you to try  
Just know we'll meet again one day  
As this is not goodbye.

## *Repast*

First New Shiloh Baptist Church  
710 South Fred Shuttlesworth Circle, Cincinnati, Ohio  
45229

## *Pallbearers*

D'Rontae Johnson	Titus Lofton
Corey Booker	Jodey Thomas
Antonio ("Yo") Stephens	Anthony Thomas Jr.
Michael Kirkland Jr.	Jelani Byrd

## *Honorary Pallbearers*

Brian Richardson



*Known for Excellence. Trusted for Value.*

## *Acknowledgement*

We would like to express sincere gratitude to our family and friends for your outpouring of love during this time. Your calls, cards, visits, and acts of kindness have been a welcomed comfort. We want to extend a special thanks to Pastor Rashaan Boyd and the entire First New Shiloh Baptist Church family for the support you have provided during our family's time of bereavement.

## *In Loving* **MEMORY**



*Arwella (Bonnie Bell) Washington*

December 3, 1964 - March 20, 2026

*Saturday April 11, 2026*

Visitation: 11:00am - Funeral Service: 12:00 pm

*First New Shiloh Baptist Church*

710 South Fred Shuttlesworth Circle | Cincinnati, Ohio 45229

Pastor Rashaan Boyd, Officiating

## Obituary

Arvella Washington, affectionately known to friends and family as “Bonnie Bell,” graced the world with her presence as the fourth of five daughters to Nathaniel and Helen Bell on December 3, 1964, in Cincinnati, Ohio. Bonnie was called home on March 20, 2026, at 2:04 p.m. at Mercy West Hospital.

Bonnie attended Woodward High School, where she was a part of the drill team, and graduated in 1983. Woodward is where she met her first love, James Smith, with whom she welcomed her sons, James and Deonté Bell. She later met Michael Williams, and together they share a daughter, Melanise Williams – lovingly known by her mother as “Sweet Baby.”

Bonnie had a deep passion for cooking and an even deeper love for feeding others. Anyone who entered her home never left empty-handed – you left with a full belly, a to-go plate, and often a pie or two. She cooked for every holiday from Christmas to Thanksgiving and Mother’s Day – every Sunday, and every day her body allowed. If you were blessed to taste her food, especially her greens and ribs, you were in good company – and left with even better memories.

Bonnie dedicated her life to Christ at an early age and was a devoted member of First New Shiloh Baptist Church of Avondale under the leadership of Pastor Rashaan Boyd. She was a devout Christian and professed her love for Jesus to any and everyone whenever she had a chance.

Her love was loud, her kitchen was always open, and her presence will be deeply missed but forever remembered.

She was preceded in passing by her beloved son, Deonté Bell; her parents, Nathaniel and Helen Bell; her sisters, Belinda (“Kandy”) and Nadine (“Kitty”); and the fathers of her children, James Smith and Michael Williams.

She leaves to cherish her memory: her significant other, Cassius (“Cash”) Strickland; her children, James Bell, Melanise Williams, Michael (“Mikey”) Williams, and Ellen (“De-Anna”) Williams; her sisters, Selina (“Peaches”) Austin and Karen Bell, her best friend Deborah (“Teddy”) Sanders, Gloria Bell, Brian Burress, Angela McCoy; her grandchildren, Malaysia Bell, Jalaysia Bell, Aysia Bell, D’Rontae Johnson, Jamiah Roseberry, India Roseberry, Jai’Ayre Burton, Amoni Shade, Mason Williams, Eboni Key, and Shantye McKelton; along with a host of nieces, nephews, great-grandchildren, family members and dear friends.



## Order of Service

- Musical Prelude ..... Video Presentation
- Parting View ..... Immediate Family
- Prayer .....
- Scripture .....
- Selection ..... Cicely Johnson
- Acknowledgements ..... Selina (Peaches)  
Austin & Karen Bell
- Remarks ..... Jalyasia Bell  
Eboni Key- accompanied by all her grandchildren
- Remarks ..... Friends & Family
- Selection ..... First New Shiloh Choir

### Moments of Reflection Video Tribute

- Reading of Obituary ..... Read Silently
- Eulogy ..... Pastor Rashaan Boyd
- Benediction ..... Minister of Service
- Recessional ..... Clergy Family & Friends



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