

*Flower Bearers*

Nieces

*Pallbearers*

Grandsons & Nephews

*In Loving Memory*

*Forever In Our Hearts*

You left us beautiful memories, your love is still our guide and though we cannot see you, you're always by our side. You gave us years of laughter and taught us how to live. Your strength, your grace, your kindness, the best that one could give. Though we must say goodbye for now, we know we're not apart - for you will live forever, tucked safely in our hearts.

*Acknowledgements*

Realizing that each tomorrow is not ours to understand and knowing that God never wastes our pain, we joy in knowing that with every loss He sends to us is followed by rich gains. Today in our loss, our hurt, and our pain, we recognize our gains in our friends and loved ones from your flowers, cards, calls, whispered prayers, and every deed of kindness. They have all been a source of strength and comfort. We are eternally grateful to each of you.

-The Family

A special thank you to Dr. Jeremy McDuffie and TN Oncology, Dr. Odom, Alive Hospice and Saint Thomas Hospital.



**Bertha Geneva Smith**

December 5, 1936 - May 6, 2025

Saturday, May 17, 2025

3:00 P.M.

Webb Grove AME Church

3996 Barfield Crescent Road, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

*Interment*

Johnson Road Cemetery  
Christiana, Tennessee

**NELSON & SONS**

Murfreesboro · Shelbyville

(615) 494-5001 (931) 685-4200

Funeral Directors: Albert, Demetrius  
& Brandon Nelson

[www.nelsonandsons.net](http://www.nelsonandsons.net)



# Obituary

Bertha Geneva Smith was born on December 5, 1936, to the late Jim Pope and Dora (Watkins) Pope York in Christiana, Tennessee. She transitioned into this earthly life on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, after a battle of pancreatic cancer.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Sam Smith, Jr.; daughter, Doris Davis; two sons, Howard (Bill) Pope and Doug (Hernes) Smith; sisters, Virginia Daniels, Barbara Ann (Pope) Binford and Lucille Smotherman; brothers, David and George Pope; brother-in-law, Roy Smotherman; and sister-in-law, Irean Gains.

She went to school in Christiana, TN. She worked at MTSU for many years as well as doing housework.

She accepted Christ at an early age at Cedar Grove African Methodist Episcopal Church which joined with Webb Chapel AME and is now known as New Webb Grove AME. She was a steward, Stewardess and Class Leader. She was a WHS (Women Missionary Society) and she loved helping out with the YPD (Young People Department).

Bertha was known to everyone as “Grandma”. She loved spending time with her family and friends and traveling with the YPD of New Webb Grove. Most of all, she loved cooking and shopping with her daughter, Doris Davis.

Bertha Smith leaves to cherish her loving memories, a loving daughter, Alice Brwon; five loving sons, Roy (Nora) Smith, Mike Smith, Gregory (Steve) Smith, Lewis (Letha) Smith and Dr. Rodney E. (Karla) Smtih; one brother, Jimmy “Buddy” Pope; twenty-eight grandkids, forty-three great grandkids and eleven great-great grandkids; a host of nieces and nephews; devoted brother-in-law, Clarence Binford; best friends, Dorothy Martin and Eloise Bishop; and a host of other relatives and friends.



# Order of Service

**Officiant** - *Rev. Dr. Aaron Treadwell*

**Selection**  
*Choir*

**Prayer**  
*Reginald Benford*

**Selection**  
*Albert Richardson*

**Scripture**  
*Rev. Kenneth Odom*

**Selection**  
*“The Lord Will Make A Way”*  
*(Bertha’s Favorite Song)*

**Acknowledgments/Resolutions**  
*Exhorter Sharhonda Pope*

**Selection**  
*Choir*

**Words of Comfort**  
*Exhorter Kenneth Spears*  
*Rev. Kenneth Odom*  
*Rev. George McMillian*  
*Bro. Albert Nelson*

**Poem**  
*Fronzarea Batts*

**Eulogy**  
*Rev. LaVan Strickland*

**Recessional**

