



### *The Best*

*God saw you getting tired  
and a cure was not to be.  
So, He put His arms around you  
and whispered, "Come to ME."  
With tearful eyes we watched you  
and saw you pass away.  
Although we loved you dearly,  
we could not make you stay.  
A golden heart stopped beating.  
Hard working hands at rest.  
God broke our hearts to prove to us  
He only takes the best.  
Your Family*

### *Pallbearers*

Grandsons & Great-Grandsons

### *Flower Bearers*

Bethlehem Baptist Church Mission Ministry  
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®  
Eta Upsilon Omega Chapter

### *Interment*

Forest Lawn Cemetery  
3210 South Washington Avenue  
Saginaw, Michigan 48601

### *Acknowledgement*

The family of **Mother Willie B. Williamson Wilkins** wishes to express our sincere gratitude to all of you for your prayers, presence, love, telephone calls, texts, and all other expressions of concern that you have shown during our time of bereavement. We extend special thanks to Healthsource Nursing Home, especially the following medical staff: Shirley Toliver, Sharon Vaughn, Elizabeth Sweeney, Kingsley Obi, and Shannon Krueger; Covenant Hospital: RN Molly, Dr. Naisan, and Dr. Clement; Pastor Lafayette Simpson and the Bethlehem Baptist Church family; Pastor Benjamin Smith, Carolle Walker, Mary McDonald, and Ivan E. Phillips, and the staff of Paradise Funeral Chapel. Never more than now was your kindness needed and more appreciated.



### **Paradise Funeral Chapel**

3100 South Wahington Avenue  
Saginaw, Michigan 48601  
Phone (989) 754-4826 / Fax (989) 754-3740  
pfcsaginaw@paradisefuneralchapel.com  
Sharise Steele-Phillips, Manager

# *Celebrating The Life of*



## **Mother**

## *Willie B. Williamson Wilkins*

Sunrise: September 25, 1934 - Sunset: March 28, 2025

**Monday, April 14, 2025 | 11:00 A.M.**

**Bethlehem Baptist Church**  
3309 Bundy Street  
Saginaw, Michigan 48601

**Pastor Lafayette Simpson, Officiating**

# Order of Service

Order of Service  
Pastor Benjamin Smith Presiding

Prelude  
Musician

Processional  
Family

Scripture Reading  
Old & New Testament  
Pastor Marcelle T. Smith  
Historic Second Baptist Church

Prayer  
Pastor Roy L. Manning, Sr.  
Corinthian Baptist Church

Selection  
Bethlehem Music Ministry

Acknowledgements & Obituary  
Carolle Walker

Expressions  
(Please Limit to 2 Minutes)  
Family & Friends

Selection  
Laverne Wilkins

Eulogy  
Pastor Lafayette Simpson

Committal | Benediction | Recessional

# Obituary

Our beloved mother, Willie B. Williamson Wilkins, 90, was born September 25, 1934, in Vicksburg, Mississippi, to Columbus Baker and Ophelia Mack. She went home to be with the Lord on Friday, March 28, 2025, at Covenant HealthCare Cooper, with her daughter and only remaining child, Ceylon, by her side.

Mother Willie B. joined Bethlehem Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor E.W. Bothuel and was always there when the doors opened. She continued her membership under Pastor Lafayette Simpson, serving in many capacities including the Usher Board, Mission, and as a Sunday School teacher. She was active in the Saginaw Valley Baptist District Association and previously served as President of the District Ushers. She faithfully attended the Saginaw Valley Baptist District Association, Wolverine State Missionary Baptist Convention, and the National Baptist Convention, USA Incorporated. She ensured that many youths attended the conventions by helping with fundraisers and sponsoring youth.

She retired from Vlasic Food Corporation as a crew leader and was affiliated with RWDSU/UFCW Local 87 of Saginaw. Mother Willie B. was very vocal about what was right and passionate about helping people attain employment and keep their jobs. She left a memorable impression on her many co-workers and friends. Her door was always open to feed people, especially during the holidays. Mother Willie B. would easily feed up to 60 or more people during Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Mother Willie B. leaves to cherish her memory her devoted daughter, Ceylon Williams Bettis; grandchildren: Dennis Baker, LaQuinda (Princess) Williams, Katrina Pipkins, Sharease Richardson, Roean, Julian and Jordan Baker all of Saginaw, Michigan, Demontrail (Natasha) Williamson, Jacksonville, North Carolina, Chvonne Howard, Brittany Butts, and John DeBardelaben all of Saginaw, Natasha (Ronald) Hoskins-Jones, Orlando, Florida, Torey Fields, Flint, Michigan, and Correy Fields, Fate, Texas; many great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; two nieces, Jessie Dawkins and Onie Taylor, both of Bay City, Michigan; sisters-in-law, Bertha (Leon) Payne, Barbara Conner, Bonnie Price, and Helen (James) Murdock; special family, Valerie Baker, Zeldia Matthews, and Amy Baker; her foster daughter, Tyrene Davis; best friends, Jeanette Cassell of Saginaw, Michigan, and Eula Brown, of Memphis, Tennessee; cousins and friends, Larry Jackson, Shellie Ann Bell, Hazel Durham, Nancy Joseph, Hope Foote, Georgia Bell Foote, Pleshetta Hunt, and Wanda Lynn Jackson and daughter Jennifer (James) Jackson Jones of Tennessee; many other cousins and her Vlasic co-workers.

Mother Willie B. was preceded in death by her parents, Columbus Baker and Ophelia Mack; husband, Joe Wilkins, and her children, Roean Baker, Larry Hoskins, Sheneal and Larease Williamson; sisters, Mamie Lee Knox and Mildred Lee Baker-Nelson; and her cousin/friend, Tommie Lee Jackson.



*Those Whom I Love and  
Those Who Love Me*

*When I am gone, release me. Let me go  
I have so many things to see and do.  
You must not tie yourself to me with tears,  
Be happy, that I have had so many years.*

*I gave you my love and you can only guess  
How much you gave to me in happiness.  
I thank you for the love you each have shown  
But now it is time I traveled on alone.*

*So grieve a while for me if grieve you must  
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.  
It is only for a while that we must part  
So bless those memories in your heart.*

*I will not be far away for life goes on  
So if you need me, call and I will come.  
Though you cannot see or touch me, I will be near.*

*And if you listen with your heart, you will hear  
all of my love around you soft and clear.*

*And then, when you must come this way alone,  
I'll greet you with a smile and a "Welcome Home."*

