PALLBEARERS

Barryre H. Reese
Jay Damond Hanson II
Xavier David Michael Elder
Jay Damond Hanson
Renorado Lamont Hall
Rolando Burse

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Charles Edward Reese
Harold Lindsey Hall
Jordan Alexander Reese
Robert Duane Fowler
Charles Edward Reese II
Curtis Lamont Taylor, Jr.

I'm Free

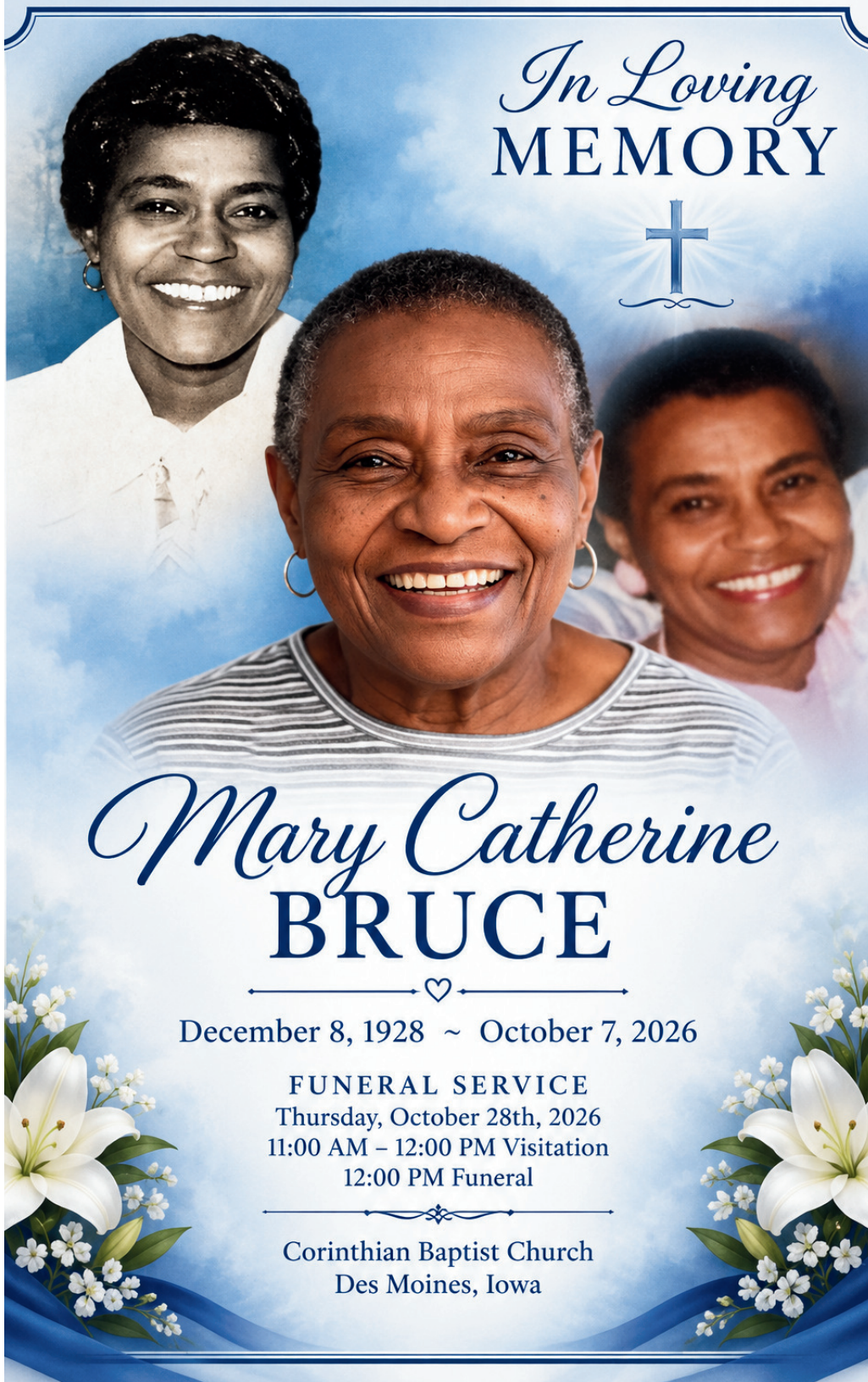
Don't grieve for me for now I'm free,
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took his hand when I heard him call,
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I've found that peace at the close of day.
If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy —
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah yes, these things I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish for you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I've savored much,
Good friends, good times, my loved one's touch.
If my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart, rejoice with me,
God wanted me now,
He set me free.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

During times like these, we realize how much family and friends mean to us. Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered. God Bless.

The family of Mary Catherine Bruce

Hendersons
FUNERAL & CREMATION CARE



In Loving
MEMORY

Mary Catherine
BRUCE

December 8, 1928 ~ October 7, 2026

FUNERAL SERVICE
Thursday, October 28th, 2026
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM Visitation
12:00 PM Funeral

Corinthian Baptist Church
Des Moines, Iowa

Mary Catherine Bruce, 97, of Urbandale, Iowa, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, at her home, surrounded by her loving family.

Mary Catherine was born on December 8, 1928, in Moberly, Missouri, to Felix Fowler and Mary Holley. She grew up in Moberly, where she attended school and graduated from Lincoln High School with the class of 1945. Mary annually attended School Reunions with her classmates.

Following high school, Mary Catherine moved to Des Moines, Iowa, where she began building her life and raising her family. She married Carl J. Burse Sr. and worked at several places throughout her career, including Iowa Methodist Medical Center as a Certified Nursing Assistant, the Savory Hotel, Von Maur department store, and Guide One Insurance Company. On June 17, 1960, Mary married William Branch Bruce in Des Moines. Together, they made their home in Des Moines and raised their family.

Mary Catherine was a woman of strong faith and was a member of both Shiloh Baptist Church and later Corinthian Baptist Church, where she was an active and devoted member.

Family was at the heart of Mary Catherine's life. She cherished spending time with her loved ones and enjoyed fishing, taking long walks, and cooking. She was especially known for her famous banana bread, which was enjoyed and remembered by many.

Those left to cherish Mary Catherine's memory include her children, Brenda Hanson, Beverly (Charles) Reese, Carl Burse Jr., and Cheryll (Robert) Simmons Fowler; honorary daughter, Anita Fleming-Rife; 17 grandchildren; 50 great-grandchildren; 42 great-great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, extended family members, and dear friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Felix Fowler and Mary (Holley) Hill. Her beloved husband, William B. Bruce; a daughter, Carla Jean Hall; and stepdaughter, Trudy Holt-Connel.

Memorial contributions may be directed to her family.

Corinthian Baptist Church
814 School St., Des Moines, IA 50309
Rev. Dr. Jonathan Whitfield

Musical Prelude	
Procession of Family	Final Viewing
Musical Selection	In the Upper Room- Mahalia Jackson
Scripture	
Prayer	
Musical Selection	Going Up Yonder - Tramaine Hawkins
Acknowledgements & Obituary	
Family & Friends Tributes	2 Minutes Please
Ministerial Tributes	
Musical Selection	Take Me to the King - Tamela Mann
Eulogist	Reverend Dr. Jonathan Whitfield
Closing Prayer	
Instruction & Dismissal	Hendersons Funeral Care
Recessional	
Interment	Glendale Cemetery