

A CELEBRATION
OF THE LIFE
OF



“Laura Mae” ROBERTS

SUNRISE: DECEMBER 2, 1928

SUNSET: MARCH 7, 2026

FRIDAY
March 20, 2026

VISITATION: 11:00 AM
SERVICE: 12:00 PM

St. James Biblical Christian Baptist Church
1311 East Hudson Street
Columbus, OH 43211

OBITUARY

Laura Mae Roberts, age 97, went Home to be with the Lord on Saturday, March 7, 2026. Laura Mae Winton was born on December 2, 1928 in Fort Smith, Arkansas to the late Mertie (Brewer) and late Ollis Winton. She was the youngest of her siblings.

Laura Mae married the late Evans Roberts in 1944, and of that union they were blessed with seven children. Laura Mae was a dedicated Wife of 70 years and a Domestic Engineer. She functioned as the primary manager of the home, displaying strong organizational, multitasking, and problem-solving skills. In 1967, Laura Mae was Founding First Lady of St. James Baptist Church, and a cherished Mother, Grandmother, Great-Grandmother, and Great-Great-Grandmother until her passing. She was a devoted and involved Christian. An integral and faithful serving member of St. James from its inception through her promotion. Laura Mae was an ever present, active Mother, and a supporting pillar in the upbringing of her Grands as well an entertaining force for robust laughter. She tried to meet each of her Grands where they were, and build that solid lasting relationship of love and affection.

Laura Mae is preceded in death by her Parents: Mertie and Ollis Winton; her Siblings: Vivian Walker, Denver, CO., Nora L Thomas, Denver, CO., Evelyn Shepherd, Denver, CO. and Ollis (OJ) Winton Jr., Fort Smith, AR; Her Husband: Evans Roberts; her Son: Emanuel E. Roberts 1 and Great-Grandson: Amare' Cole Smith.

Left to mourn her passing...

Daughters: Maggie L. Hamilton, Laura J. Young, Ava D. Nowling (Mark), Lynn Dillard (Stephen), Lisa M. Smith and Mary E. Roberts; **Daughter-in-Law:** Tamula Roberts and **Son-in-Law:** Paul T. Young; **Grandchildren:** Blight Hamilton, Zina Thomas, Sidney Hamilton, Paul L. Young (Ashlee), Lauran Glover, Emanuel E. Roberts II, Elisha Roberts, Matthew Nowling, Marcus Nowling, Michael Nowling, Shayla Williams, Jenee' Williams, Tamia Williams, Candace Dillard, Bradley Smith (Chelsie), Stuart Smith (Danielle), Ryan Smith (Whitney) and Christopher Roberts; **Great-Grandchildren:** Alexandria and Brianna Hamilton; Tiesha, Stephen (Sean), Shountea (Steven Stover), Tanicqua, Ayden and Aeneas Hamilton; Rylee and Carson Young; Deonta', Malachi, Machi, NyAsia, Xavier, Carter, Kobe and Taraji Smith. Roman and Ruth Smith and Mercy Smith; **Great-Great-Grandchildren:** Aubrianna and Taniyah Hamilton and Soren Stover.

In addition, she was loved and held close by a host of *Nieces, Nephews, Cousins, and Special Friends.*

Special Songs

"Your Grace & Mercy"

"Take My Hand, Precious Lord"

"Little Wooden Church"

"God's Grace"

"The Battle Is The Lord's"



ORDER OF SERVICE

PROCESSIONAL

SCRIPTURE READING - OLD TESTAMENT.....Pastor Frederick LaMarr
Family Missionary Baptist Church

SCRIPTURE READING - NEW TESTAMENT.....Pastor Stephen Dillard
St. John Baptist Church

PRAYER.....Pastor Joseph Freeman
East Mount Olivet Baptist Church

MUSICAL SELECTION.....“*One More Sunny Day*”
First Lady Lynn Dillard,
St. John Baptist Church

RESOLUTION & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....Sister Tanicqua Hamilton
Sister Desmona Moore

READING OF OBITUARY.....Silent Reading

REFLECTIONS.....Sister Tamia Williams
Sister Lauran Young
Sister Brianna Hamilton

MUSICAL SELECTION.....“*On Time God*”
Sister Jenee’ Williams

LIFE REFLECTIONS.....(Two Minutes Please).....Family and Friends

PRAYER OF COMFORT.....Pastor Emeritus Jimmy Overton
Beth-EL Baptist Church, Lyles, TN

MUSICAL SELECTION.....Pastor Sidney Hamilton
St. James BCBC

THE EULOGY
PASTOR SIDNEY HAMILTON
St. James Biblical Christian Baptist Church

BENEDICTION.....Pastor Sidney Hamilton

RECESSIONAL.....Clergy, Family and Friends

Maggie's Tribute

My Mother was my best friend. My Mother was a loving, kind, and ever-present partner. She was my constant companion on our many adventures.

Mother, who I affectionately called "Ma", would make me laugh when I felt like crying. She was my confidant. Over our blessed years together, we shared many, many, many ups and downs. Ma loved singing for the Lord. She always seemed to find spiritual songs to sing. At the tip of her tongue, Jesus Is A Way Maker!

Chorus:

*Jesus is A Way Maker (x3)
One day, He made a way for me. Ohhhh
When my life was dark and dreary
My Jesus heard, Jesus heard and He answered my prayer
One day, He made a way for me*

Verse:

*One day, the sun refused to shine, Into this sinful life of mine
And I prayed both night and day, For Jesus to make a way
One day, He heard my hopeful prayer and He answered me then and there
And One day, He made a way for me
Yes He Did!*

Verse:

*One day, my life will surely end, I'm going to bid farewell to men
I'm going to tell Jesus all my ups and downs, Of that evil that was all around
He's gonna say to me, My child well done, Come on in Your race has been won
One day! One day, He made a way for me
Can you sing it? C'mon!*

Ma's voice was music to my ears, she was very patient with me. Ma's cooking was so good...manna from heaven! Ma enjoyed watching young children grow in the Lord, and singing songs in church. She enjoyed family and outdoor gatherings. Ma's smile and laughter were from the heart and I will carry those with me for the rest of my days!



Lisa's Tribute... Mother's Final Thoughts "YOU"

Unfinished Business...

Following Mother's two weeks in the hospital, she spent four weeks at my home. Mother felt your love- prayers, calls, visits, cards, flowers and well wishes. Looking back, I can see Mother methodically and strategically managing her business- her legacy, familial and spiritual to the best of her ability.

Bashful to BOSS...

Mother did not have a relationship with her Father and lost her Mother in her teens. Mother referred to that time in her life as walking around with her head down and being Bashful. As a Woman on a Mission, Mother was involved in the lives of her legacy and orchestrated on their behalf. Mostly based on Biblical teaching with a dose of 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s values and standards, and because she was human, a healthy dose of her own feelings, emotions, and desires. Mother became a BOSS. Including making BOSS moves for when she was no longer with us!

Feisty Spice...

During Mother's stay, she displayed behaviors I had not witnessed before. Now, I affectionately refer to her as "Feisty Spice!" Mother was not pleased with her limitations. Mother appreciated the care her daughters provided, but still wanted things her way. So she debated, pressed, pouted, tattled, rebelled, and even fired her daughters. My eldest son shared that Mother was used to being in control and having fun. During her recovery, the only fun she could have was to tease her daughters, because it was her entertainment. She did not miss an opportunity!

Role Model...

Anyone can be a role model. One must be wise enough to distinguish between traits to carry forward and traits to dismiss. When times are challenging, we may do what we do for others because of who they are. While in traumatic, unfamiliar territory, when the challenges are increasingly difficult, we do what we do because of who we are! I am who I am due to my Mother, Father, and my environment.

Who Are You?

Mother's Beauty Is Inside Each of You!

What traits will you carry forward?

How Mother loved her children's children was a reflection of her love for her children. Most may not understand until they become a Grandparent.

Be honest with yourself and others. We teach people how to treat us!

Live Well. Nurture your Relationship with God and Family!

Find a Confidant, a Therapist, or both.

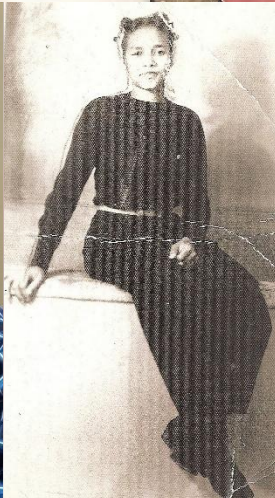
Cherish the great memories and carry them forward!

Find humor and peace in the not so good memories. No one is perfect.

Be mindful of your health...know your numbers!

Live your best life, knowing at the end of your days Mother will welcome you with open arms!













Message to My Loved Ones

*Well, I'm on my way to a land bright and fair
To that heavenly glory, there's nothing but love over there.
I tell ya I'm----
Goin away, yes to a much better place----
You should come on----
Come on and go with me (repeat)*

*Three gates in the east, north, south, and west. I know you say you love me, but
My God loves me best. I tell ya I'm----
Goin away, yes to a much better place----*

*Soon as my feet strike Zion, I gonna walk that heavenly glory, all of God's saints,
they gonna tell the story, how we made it over, everyday, I'm a little bit closer----*

*Come on go with me (repeat)
Far better place than this (repeat)
Better--- Better place than this (repeat)
Far better place than this (repeat)*

My loves, my legacy, my hopes and my dreams...my wish for you all is to make it through this difficult time with as little sadness as possible. Celebrate Me! I Celebrated You! Be there for each other and support one another during this time of my transition.

Living your best life and being the best you is the best gift you could give me and yourselves.

Above all, remember the life and the memories we have shared and the love that will always remain strong.

Now. Listen. Do not rush to join me. You live 97 years, then, we will see!

With All My Love,



INTERMENT

GREEN LAWN CEMETERY

1000 Greenlawn Avenue – Columbus, OH 43223

PALLBEARERS

Bradley Smith - Christopher Roberts - Paul L. Young
Stuart Smith - Ryan Smith - Matthew Nowling - Marcus Nowling
Michael Nowling - Emanuel E Roberts II – Elisha Roberts

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Blight Hamilton

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Family of Laura Mae Roberts express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for your prayers, flowers, thoughts, calls, cards, outpouring of love and acts of kindness during our time of bereavement. It has been a comforting blessing to each of us.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

RIVERSIDE METHODIST HOSPITAL

Emergency Department

NeuroScience Center

NeuroScience Rehab

McConnell Heart Hospital

Riverview & Canal Winchester Skilled Nursing

Dedicated Seniors Medical Center

OhioHealth at Home- Compassus- Cardinal Home Health Care Solutions

Pickerington EMT

Pickerington Sherriff's Dept

Marlan Gary Funeral Home



*M*ARLAN GARY
FUNERAL HOME

1 FUNERAL HOME | 5 LOCATIONS

MINISTRY OF COMFORT ENTRUSTED TO:

NORTH CHAPEL
2500 CLEVELAND AVE.,
COLUMBUS, OH 43211
614-267-8310

EAST CHAPEL
5456 LIVINGSTON AVE.,
COLUMBUS, OH 43232
614-604-8774

MANSFIELD CHAPEL
753 MCPHERSON ST.,
MANSFIELD, OH 44903
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