

# Obituary

By God's Grace, Mary Lee Wooten, affectionately known as "Ms. Mary" born January 26, 1927, lived to be 96 years old. She was born in Carrollton, Georgia to Charlie Johnson and Lee Bertha Boykin. Her mother died at her birth, but she was raised on a tenant farm by her paternal grandparents, her father, and his 13 siblings. She accepted Christ at an early age and was raised in the church.

Her early years were spent in Carrolton and Whitesburg, Georgia. When her father, most of her aunts, uncles, and two brothers left the farm (during the Great Migration) in search of better lives, Mary (at age 14) had to leave school after the 8th grade to help tend the fields. She told stories of being alone for long hours while watching and keeping the cows off the train tracks so they wouldn't be killed. After a few years, she grew increasingly unhappy with tending the fields, and at age 16 she left Georgia to live with her father and stepmother (Eva) in Chattanooga, Tennessee. During her time in Chattanooga, she married (R.L. Dunlap) and worked as a presser at a dry cleaner and held other domestic jobs.

Mary moved to Cincinnati, Ohio in the early 1950's where she lived with several of her aunts until she became established. During this time she divorced, married William Parker Wooten, and raised her children in the West End of Cincinnati. She joined People's Tabernacle Baptist Church, where she loved singing in the choir. She loved Jesus Christ and was a faithful member, raising her family in the church as well. When her children rebelled at having to attend the numerous church services or activities throughout the week - in addition to the all-day Sunday events, vacation bible school, etc. - being a woman of God, she would calmly put her foot down and say, with love, that we would thank her someday, and she was right! She later joined New St Paul Baptist Church where she continued her walk with God.

Mary continued to work as a domestic and eventually landed a job in housekeeping at Christ Hospital where she worked until her retirement in 1985. She was an excellent cook. She enjoyed baking and would bake cakes and pies as gifts for her family on birthdays and holidays. Fishing was in her blood and she went every chance she got. She loved playing Bingo and was an avid gardener; she was blessed with a "green thumb" and loved her house plants. She was an avid Cincinnati Reds fan.

She always had a loving and encouraging word and never complained. She worked hard to provide for and loved her children (including those in the neighborhood whom she helped to raise) and deeply loved her family. She provided loving physical care for her aunts and uncles in their old age and taught her children to do the same. Although she spent the last several years of her life in chronic pain, she continued to praise God, stayed in prayer and was thankful; held steadfast to her faith, and patiently waited for the Lord to call her home. While we were praying for healing, she was praying for the Lord to bring her home. One of the last scriptures she recited as she was transitioning was 1 John 4:4: ...greater is he that is within me than he that is in the world. Mary was a strong woman, a praying woman, a wife, mother, and grandmother. She was a gentle, loving, kind, sweet and generous soul.

Mary was preceded in death by her paternal grandparents (George & Annie Johnson); parents (Lee Bertha Boykin, Eva and Charlie Johnson); thirteen aunts and uncles; brothers (William, Mack and Joe Johnson); husbands (R.L. Dunlap and William Parker Wooten); sisters (Bertha Bonds, Joyce Peterson, Barbara Nunley); daughter (Robbie Lou Dunlap); sons (Theodus Dunlap and James "Skip" Dunlap); and best friend Thelma Malachi.

Mary leaves to cherish and honor her memory: brother, Charles Edward Johnson of Syracuse, NY; four children: Diane Dunlap, William "Greg" Wooten (Cynthia "Cindy"), Calvin Wayne Wooten (Sheretha), Teresa Wooten-Cain (James); and daughter in law Beverly Dunlap- all of Cincinnati, Ohio. Eleven (11) grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, and 10 great-great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews, cousins, a special cousin- Russell Spence; and her special children by other mothers: Lisa West and David Malachi.

## Order of Service

Prelude .....	Soft Music
Prayer .....	Pastor William Randall Wooten
Scripture .....	Pastors William Randall & Carmen Wooten
Selection .....	"Great Grace"
Acknowledgments of Cards, Condolences, and Remarks	
Obituary .....	Read Silently "His Eye Is On The Sparrow"
Eulogy .....	Pastor Damon Lynch, III
Benediction .....	Pastor Damon Lynch, III
Recessional .....	Clergy, Family, and Friends

## Honorary Pallbearers

William Greg Wooten	Calvin Wayne Wooten
Stanley Dunlap	Louis Dunlap
Alonzo Dunlap	James Dunlap
Jacolby Watkins	Dennis Watkins

## Final Resting Place

Spring Grove Cemetery  
4521 Spring Grove Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45232

*What The Heart has once owned,...it shall never lose!*  
*"A message from Heaven"*

Blessed Savior, Thou Art with me, Through all trials and deepest pain, In my life on earth beside me, Now Thy Heavenly Home, I've gained. O' what a "Blessed Assurance", That Thy Love can conquer all, If we have Faith in Your Divine Promise, Daily upon Thy Name we call.

Let Each heart that shared my sorrow, Be secure in Thy Holy Word, And not sloughful, but steadfast in service, That Thy "Good News" can be heard. Throughout each Holy Season, Let not one Precious Heart be sad, For now I am within Thy presence, And for this reason... All hearts should be glad. Only Peace and Joy avail me, As I take my Heavenly rest, No longer do I have to suffer, I am happy; I'm truly blessed.

Yes, I'm free, for there's no tomorrow, To beacon, nor to conquer me. Loved-ones, please be patient, For once again, ...we shall meet. "Just Praise The Lord for all He's promised... Praise The Lord for now I am Free."

-Henry Ward Beecher (Clergyman and Abolitionist; Brother of Harriet Beecher Stowe)

### *Acknowledgment*

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation and gratitude the many expressions of love, concern, and kindness shown to them during this hour of bereavement. May God Bless and Keep You! The Wooten & Dunlap Families



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*In Loving Memory and Celebrating the Life of*  
*Mary Lee Wooten*

January 26, 1927 - November 22, 2023



*"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."*

Phillippians 4:7

*Saturday, December 16, 2023*

Family Gathering: 2:00 pm | Memorial Service: 3:00 pm

*Walker Funeral Home - Mt. Healthy Chapel*

7272 Hamilton Avenue | Mt. Healthy, Ohio 45231

Pastors William Randall & Carmen Wooten | Officiating