

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND
LEGACY OF



MINISTER MARTHA
JAYNE SHULER-HOLMES

SUNRISE
JULY 2, 1939

SUNSET
JULY 11, 2025



VETERAN SCHOOL

The Beautiful Life and Legacy

Martha Jayne Snowden was born in 1939, in West Chester, Pennsylvania, to Corneilus Thorpe, Sr. and Viola F. Snowden. She was raised by Walter and Beatrice DeLoach and her beloved grandmother, Margaret Oxendine.

She was educated in the Coatesville Area School District, attended James Adams School, and graduated in 1958 from Scott Senior High School, where she was a proud member of the Scott Singers. After high school, she attended cosmetology school and later became a certified nursing assistant at the VA Medical Center in Coatesville.



Though she built a career in healthcare, Martha never lost her touch as a cosmetologist... she could pin curl and roller set with the best of them!

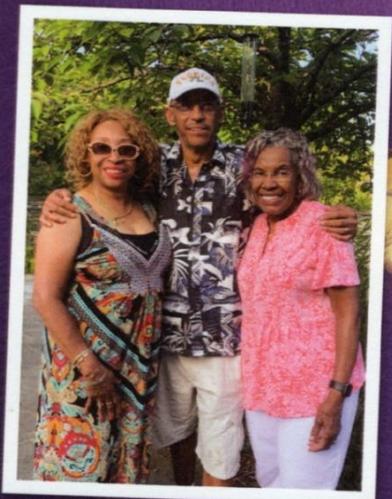
Martha carried herself with quiet strength, integrity, and a deep sense of order. Yet she still knew how to have a good time. She liked to dance, shop at John Wanamaker, and enjoyed traveling to the Bahamas and historical sights, eating at her favorite restaurants like Captain George in Williamsburg.

"Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her."
Proverbs 31:28

In 1962, she married Frederick Shuler of South Coatesville, and together, they made their home in Rock Run, raising four children. Despite the demands of working overnight shifts at the VA, Martha made sure her children were active in school, involved in the community, and most importantly, in church on Sunday mornings.

"Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing."
Psalm 100:2

Martha was baptized at Tabernacle Baptist Church, where she began her lifelong music ministry, playing piano for the gospel choir. She later sang with the Wilson Specials and shared her musical gifts with several local congregations, including Bethel AME, Second Baptist, and Mt. Zion. Eventually, she became a cornerstone of the music ministry at Bernardtown Baptist Church, where she led the gospel choir known not just for their harmonies, but for the powerful connection they shared under



her direction. Martha had a signature sound... when her fingers touched the keys, something special happened.

After 27 years of service at the VA, Martha retired, but didn't stop working. She took on a new challenge at Graystone Academy Charter School in Coatesville. There, she worked closely with students who struggled behaviorally, encouraging them with a firm but loving presence that extended beyond the classroom. Her impact reached parents, teachers, and the broader school community.

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

Later in life, Martha joined Trinity United Bible Church in Coatesville, where she was ordained as a deaconess. She served faithfully as the church pianist and as president of the First Family Ministry, continuing her life-long commitment to ministry, music, and service. After the passing of her beloved husband Freddie, she founded the Widows Support Ministry of Chester County, turning her own grief into purpose. She became certified in grief support and dedicated herself to walking alongside other women navigating the same profound loss.

Martha attended Immaculata College and West Chester University, where she majored in vocal music. In 2006, she earned her diploma in Biblical Studies from the Bethlehem School of the Bible. She was faithfully enrolled in The Triangle Bible Institute, where she maintained a 4.0 GPA. In recognition of her unwavering commitment to biblical education, she was awarded an honorary degree in Biblical Studies from the institute in Virginia. Martha continued her studies as long as she could, until her illness no longer permitted.



In May 2012, she married Pastor Stanley Hayes Holmes and joined his congregation, Bethany Baptist Church in Ruckersville, Virginia. Their marriage was a beautiful partnership, rooted in faith, ministry, and mutual devotion. Whether worshipping side by side, visiting the sick and shut-in, or spending time with friends and family, their union reflected steadfast love and commitment.

After relocating to Virginia, Martha worked for the Spotsylvania County School District as a school bus facilitator, assisting special needs students to get to and from school safely. She could be found making friends on her mall walks, volunteering at the Orange County food bank, and walking in marathons to benefit cancer research.

Martha always found a way to encourage you, whether it was through one of her beautiful handcrafted Jars of Inspiration, a handwritten card, phone call, or text message. She was a powerful prayer intercessor and would answer the call for those in need when others wouldn't answer.

In 2016, under the spiritual leadership of her husband, Martha accepted the call to the Gospel Ministry and was licensed to preach The Word. She revived the women's ministry at Bethany and expanded their outreach efforts to those in need. She founded the Wayland Blue Ridge Minister and Deacon's Union grief support ministry. She also was a member of the Ministers' Wives





and Widows of Wayland Blue Ridge. Upon Pastor Holmes' retirement from Bethany, Martha fellowshipped for a short time with Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Fredericksburg, VA, and later joined her husband at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Lignum, VA, where she co-led the women's book club.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."
2 Timothy 4:7-8

While in the company of her family, Martha was called home to be with the Lord on July 11, 2025. In addition to her husbands, she was preceded in death by her son, Dana Shuler; and siblings, Lola Chandler, Vance Thorpe, Arthur (Raymond) Thorpe, Richard Thorpe, Ronald (Tony) Thorpe, and Cornelius Thorpe.

"And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love."
1 Corinthians 13:13

Martha leaves a legacy of love to her children: Frederick H. Shuler, Jr. (Debora) of Coatesville; Minister Darien M. Shuler (Deaconess Michelle) of Philadelphia; Kyhisha S. Zebley (Jonathan) of Brookhaven; and Deacon Ronald Holmes of Locust Grove, Virginia—a beloved son through marriage. She is also survived by her cherished siblings: Jeanette Myers of New York; Barbara Ann DeLoach-Pugh (Cedric) of Virginia; and Barry DeLoach (Barbara) of Florida. Martha held a special place in her heart for her daughter-in-law always, Eunice Edny (Tyron).

She deeply loved her 12 grandchildren and 36 great-grandchildren, who affectionately called her Mom-Mom and Mom-Momers. She also leaves behind a host of devoted nieces, nephews, and treasured friends across generations.

Like a caterpillar becoming a butterfly, her spirit is now free to soar. Her legacy of grace will flutter in our hearts, reminding us of her profound impact. May she rest in peace.

Sorrowfully Submitted,
The Family



Order of Service

Rev. Dr. Wm. Lewis "Rocky" Brown III, Officiating
Bethany Baptist Church, Chester, PA

- Processional** Clergy & Family
- Final Viewing**
- Musical Prelude**
- Selection** Celebration Ensemble
- The Invocation** Pastor James C. Kennedy Jr.
New First Baptist Church of Birdsboro, Birdsboro, PA
- The Scriptures**
- Old Testament - Job 19:25-27 Deaconess Michelle Shuler
Taylor Memorial Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA
- New Testament - 1 Thess 4:13-16 Sis. Renae Gaines
Arising Ministries Christian Center, Bear, DE
- Prayer of Comfort** Pastor G. Lamar Stewart
Taylor Memorial Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA
- Music Selection** Ensemble
- Acknowledgment of Condolences
& the Obituary** Deaconess Tracie Smith
Trinity United Bible Church, Coatesville, PA
- A Life Reflected...**
- Reflection from Her Grandchildren
- Reflection from Her Sister Sis. Barbara Ann DeLoach-Pugh
Mount Hope Baptist Church, Fredericksburg, VA
- Pastoral Reflections Pastor Douglas Greene
Ebenezer Baptist Church, Lignum, VA
Pastor Kevin M. Hunt
Trinity United Bible Church, Coatesville, PA
- Music Selection** Celebration Ensemble
- The Eulogy** Minister Darien M. Shuler
Taylor Memorial Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA
- Recessional Directives** Ventnor T. Wright, Funeral Director
- Recessional** Clergy & Family

Celebration of Life

Saturday, July 19, 2025

8:00 AM Viewing

10:00 AM Service

SERVICE LOCATION

Second Baptist Worship Center

857 Lumber Street

Coatesville, Pennsylvania

Rev. Dr. James L. Smith, Pastor

INTERMENT

Rolling Green Memorial Park

1008 West Chester Pike

West Chester, Pennsylvania

REPAST

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

107 S 17th Avenue

Coatesville, Pennsylvania

A NOTE OF THANKS

Thank you with sincere gratitude for your care
and concern shown during our time of bereavement.

May God bless you.

Sincerely,

The Family



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Coatesville, Pennsylvania

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Ventnor T. Wright, Funeral Director, Supervisor