

## *Acknowledgements*

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation, the many expressions of love, kindness and support shown to us during this time of the great loss our beloved sister.

The Family

### *Callbearers*

Brothers of Temple of Grace

### *Flowerbearers*

Family and Friends

### *Arrangements Entrusted To*

NELSON AND SONS FUNERAL HOME

448 E. Burton St.

Murfreesboro, TN 37130

### *Interment*

MAPLEVIEW CEMETARY

411 Maple Street

Smyrna, Tennessee 37167

# *Celebration of Life*

for our beloved sister



## *Tonya Marie Williams*

Monday  
September 15, 2025

11:00 a.m

Sunrise  
April 27, 1968

Sunset  
September 2, 2025

# Order of Service

Officiant - Sis. Karen Johnson

- Processional .....
- Scripture (Old and New Testament): ..... Deacon Ron Johnson
- Prayer ..... Elder James Gavin
- Song ..... Temple of Grace Praise Team
- Special Tribute ..... Min. Janet Carter
- Acknowledgements & Condolences ..... Sis. Denise Thomas
- Reading of Obituary (Silently) .....
- Ecclesiastical Recognition .....Elder Richard Thomas
- Words of Comfort (2 minutes) ..... Visiting Clergy
- Song .....Temple of Grace Praise Team
- Special Tribute ..... Sis. Karen Johnson
- Eulogy ..... District Elder Dr. Isaac J. Williams
- Recessional ..... Temple of Grace Praise Team

# In Remembrance of our Sister, Aunt, & Friend...



*We Love... We Remember*

## *A Tribute to "My Friend"*



*Tonya*, Proverbs 17:17 "A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. "It is rare to encounter individuals who make amazing friends, and perhaps even more remarkable to experience amazing lifelong friendships. I consider myself favored to have experienced the latter. *Tonya*, you were an amazing lifelong friend. Our friendship encompassed three decades beginning as roommates and continuing to be active in each other's lives. Your *friendship* was a blessing I will never forget. Although you are no longer here, the memories we made and love you expressed to me as a friend will forever be inscribed in my heart. "Thank you so much!" and my last words to you are "I love you so much!"

Love Karen



## *Her Story*

*Tonya Marie Williams* was the third of four children of Elder Thomas and Sister Inez Williams of Bristol, TN, where her father was an English teacher and was Pastor at Bethel Apostolic in Knoxville, TN., and where her mother was also employed by the school system. Tonya was baptized in Jesus's name and filled with the Holy Ghost at an early age and took seriously her vow to serve the LORD for the rest of her life.

After graduating from college, she moved to Nashville in 1992 where she became a faithful member of Grace Apostolic Church. There she served in the choir, as an usher, worked on the church bulletin and served in the Sunday School Department. She was an excellent writer and editor.

With the sure and certain knowledge that only what you do for Christ will last, she and Sister Karen Johnson roomed together many years in multiple locations and regularly enjoyed traveling together to National PAW Conventions, whenever possible. Upon the death of her father, the family moved her mother to Nashville, Tennessee, where she and Tonya lived together for a few years before she passed.

As a gifted student, Tonya enrolled in Berea College in Berea, Kentucky, and worked while she pursued her undergraduate degree, majoring in Spanish.

Tonya dedicated her life to Christian causes, and was employed as an editor for thirty two years at United Methodist Publishing House, in Nashville, TN where she edited FaithLink, a weekly topical online study. She attended the United Methodist General Conference many times, assisting with publication of the Daily Christian Advocate. Tonya also contracted with The Bates Corporation to proofread Bibles for Thomas Nelson Christian Publishing.

For many years, Tonya also edited the United Methodist's quarterly Sunday school curriculum Adult Bible Studies, Adult Bible Studies Teacher, and Daily Bible Study, which have helped hundreds of thousands of people come to know God better.

*"A friend loveth at all times..."*

## *Her Story cont...*

*Tonya* then attended Trevecca University in Nashville, sang in the Trebletones Choir, majored in Education, with a minor in Spanish, and graduated from Trevecca with a Master's degree in 1998.

She moved from Grace Apostolic in 2007 to become a founding member and to support her brother in God's ministry at the new Temple of Grace in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. She served faithfully here, as well, as Temple's Church Secretary and Bookkeeper for many years.

Tonya was an avid Georgia Bulldogs Fan and Minnesota Vikings fan.

She leaves to mourn her passing: Her Sister, Brenda Goins of Louisville, TN, Brothers: Isaac Williams and wife Stephanie of Murfreesboro; and Thomas Williams and wife Deborah of Woodbridge, Virginia;

Numerous Aunts and Uncles; Nieces and Nephews: Jaime Blevins and Jarrett Goins; Addison and Ebony Williams, Courtland Williams, Brooklyn Williams, Morgan Sullivan, and Katelynn Williams; Madeline Williams, Ellery Williams, Xavier Williams, Thomas Williams II and Great nieces, Kerrigen and Kennedy Williams; And many grieving cousins, church family, friends, and co-workers.

Tonya was about doing the work, and doing it well, and leaves a legacy of honesty, professionalism, quiet strength, and excellence. Her behavior was the perfect example of the grace of God teaching us that we not only should, but can "...live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;..." (Titus 2:12,13)

She leaves a big hole in our hearts and a big job to fill in God's house. Even so, we know that the Lord is with us always, and that he knows how to deliver. We have no doubt that God will supply all our needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 3:20)

## *Sis Tonya Williams*

You joined our lives through love and grace, And found your way into our hearts.

Not just by name, but through your care, You became a sister in which we shared.

Many things you talked about when it came to praise, so many didn't know you embodied such joy you raised.

Now though you're gone, your love remains, In gentle thoughts and soft refrains.

Your memory will live on in thoughtful acts and quiet praise. A sister, a guide, a calm so near, you were your own and you stood without fear.

In your absence, the thread stays tight, You will be remembered in our hearts as you now have taken your flight.

When you smile it was with such delight knowing somehow it was going to be alright.

With kindness wrapped in humour's thread, You lightened hearts in all you said.

Though now the house feels dim and still, Your joy lives on, it always will.

So the light you carried may no longer show but in our hearts your memory will continue to glow.

We love you sis.....

You're Blessed, Sister Janet Carter