



Thank you seems to be inadequate to acknowledge the thoughtful expressions of love, concern, and sympathy from friends and family far away and near. We wish to convey our sincere appreciation to all who visited in person and by telephone; sent greetings, telegrams and flowers; prepared and brought food; participated in the funeral services; offered prayers on our behalf; and helped in any way. In our grief we have no walked alone, but have been lifted up through our faith in God and through the sincere love and strength of caring expressed by our family and friends.

*- The Family*



**Sanders Funeral Home**  
 806 E Market St • Smithfield , NC 27577  
 Phone: (919) 934-8416



*Irene  
 Mallisa Yellowdy Stanley*

*November 12, 1929 — March 15, 2026*

Saturday, March 21, 2026  
 1:00 pm

First Missionary Baptist Church  
 403 Caswell St | Smithfield, NC 27577

# The Order of Service

**Processional**  
Clergy and Family

**Hymn of Assurance**  
"Jesus Cares"  
Deacon Huger

**Scripture Readings**  
Old Testament: Psalms 107:8-9  
New Testament: Philippians 4:6  
Rev. Zinfindale Smith

**Prayer of Consolation**  
Rev. Sterling E. Freeman

**Acknowledgments & Obituary Reading**  
Dr. Carolyn Ennis

**Poem**  
"Footprints"  
Rev. Dr. Debra Walker King

**The Eulogy**  
Rev. Sterling E. Freeman

**Mortician's Brief**

**Recessional Song:**  
"Praise Him"  
First Missionary Baptist Choir

**Interment**  
Pinecrest Cemetery  
12830 US-70 Bus Clayton, NC 27520

# The Obituary

Irene Mallisa Yellowdy Stanley was born November 12, 1929, to the late Willie Lee and Hettie Dortch Yellowdy. She was the oldest of five loving sisters, Violet, Mollie, Lucy Pearl, and Anner Gracie. She was a member of First Missionary Baptist Church of Smithfield, NC.

She was a graduate of Richard B. Harrison High School of Selma, NC. She obtained her undergraduate degree from Fayetteville State University in Fayetteville, NC and obtained her master's degree from North Carolina Central University in Durham, NC. While attending Fayetteville State University, she met her future husband, Allison Stanley. The two were married in 1952 and from this union was one child, Robert Allison Lee Stanley.

Irene began her teaching career at Forest Hills Elementary and High School in Four Oaks, NC. In the later part of her career, she taught at Four Oaks Elementary in Four Oaks, NC. Altogether, she served over 40 years in the Johnston County School System.

On March 15th, Irene was called to Glory. She leaves to cherish her memory, one son Robert Allison Lee Stanley (Debbie) of Smithfield, NC, one granddaughter, Allison Nicole Stanley and mother, Delores Joyner of Raleigh, NC. Her beloved niece, more like a daughter, Rev. Dr. Debra Walker King of Gainesville, FL, niece Linda Grantham of Landover, MD, 3 nephews; Retho Williams, Jr. (Susie) of Rocky Mount, NC, Darrick Pridgen (Cornetta) of LaGrange, NC, and Elijah Grantham Jr. of Landover, MD.

Great nephew, Christopher King of FL, great nephew and niece Thomas Grantham and Janeal Grantham, great-great niece, Reign Grantham of MD, great nephews and niece Trey, Katlin, and Jared Williams of NC; great-great niece O'Tivea Banks; great-great nephews O'Tyren Banks, Deamonte Pridgen, and Ovion Pridgen of GA; great nephew and niece, Michael McClain and Kiara McClain of NC, great-great nephew, August Jamac Salley of NC; great nephew Allique Moore (AJ) of NC; great niece Gianna Grantham and great-great niece Inaya Carmilla Grantham of MD and a host of beloved cousins, relatives, and friends.

