

Celebration of Life for



Ms. Vernell Allen Smiley

August 27, 1948 ~ January 18, 2024

Saturday, January 27, 2024 | 1:00 P.M.

First African Baptist Church

23 Montgomery Street

Savannah, GA 31401

Rev. Thurmond N. Tillman, Pastor

Obituary

As the third child born to Lillian Giles-Allen and Benjamin (Rock) Allen, Vernell's life began in Savannah Georgia on August 27, 1948, at Charity hospital. She was a beautiful baby. Her parents adored her. Vernell was quiet and somewhat shy. She loved dressing up and having her hair done. However, at the same time, Vernell was not to be played with. She could handle herself with the best of them. She was close to her brother Earl, and she looked up to her big sister Shirley. She would lock her younger siblings out of the house almost every day so she could clean before her mother got home from work. Vernell Allen-Smiley made people around her smile with her unwavering faith in the Lord. She took her spiritual life seriously. Yes, she accomplished many other things but her faith in God cannot be overstated. Vernell was very young when she joined the Tree of Life Pentecostal Church down the street from her parents' home.

Vernell attended West Broad Street Elementary School, Pearl Lee Smith Middle School and Sophronia Tompkins High School. Vernell signed up for home economics and taught herself to make patterns and to sew. She earned extra money by doing alterations for her friends.

After graduating high school, she met and married her first husband, Corrie Edward Lee, Jr., and with her parents' permission, they moved to Miami, Florida. From this union two sons were conceived, Corrie Edward Lee, III and Clinton Maurice Lee. Six years after Vernell's first marriage ended, she met and married Gregory L. Smiley, Sr., and from this union Shirley Smiley-Berry, and Gregory L. Smiley, Jr. was conceived.

Vernell moved back to Savannah Georgia in 1978 with her four children. Upon moving back to Savannah, Vernell converted from the Pentecostal Church to become Baptist. She became a cherished member of First African Baptist Church where she served on the Usher board for more than 30 years and participated in several church activities.



She worked to support herself and her children by working several jobs. She worked for many years as a single parent raising her children. She retired from three of the jobs that she held: St. Joseph Hospital, SCAD Security, and Gulfstream.

She is preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, and her paternal grandparents, her parents, Benjamin and Lillian Allen, sister, Shirley Ann Allen-Brown, brother Earl Allen, and grandson, Aaron Lamar "Snacks" Anderson-Lee.

She leaves to cherish her memories, her husband, Gregory L. Smiley, Sr.; her children, Corrie Edward Lee, III (Angela), Clinton Maurice Lee (Ashley), Shirley Smiley-Berry, and Gregory L. Smiley, Jr. (Lena); her bonus daughter, Toccoa McLeod; sister, Deborah M. Lewis (Everett); brother, Ronald Eric Giles; sister, Pamela Renee Sams (Larry); sister, Juliet Blount (Rodney); brother, Carl Hills; her grandchildren, Quintavious Lee, Kayla Polite-Lee, Sha' niya Mack-Lee, Tyrone Anthony Steele, Jr., Shanice Elexus Baker, Corrie Tiquan Corque Lee, IV, Ciara Nicole Lee, Octavia Breana Renee Lee, Kareem John Alfred Nesbitt, Kah'dija Juanita Nesbitt, Ka'Jona Senqua Kavon Nesbitt, Brianna Chanecia Ne'Dasha Emani Lee, Gregory L. Smiley, III, De'Asia M. Smiley, Demetrious, J Smiley, Jami Smiley, Zaric Smiley, and Kaleb Smiley; her great-grandchildren, Zayah Leanna Marie Days, Auriyana Ka'Dazia, Emani Days, Jadyne Mahki Nesbitt, Harmonie Ne'Vaeh Morgan, Royale' Lillian Lee, Aries Anthony Steele, and Andreas Kobe Steele, and a host of devoted nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Also, the family would like to acknowledge Vernell's longtime friend of more than 20 years, Mr. Tommy Gates.

Order of Service

Musical Prelude:

God's Got Me by Anthony Brown & Group Therapy

Processional

The Family

Final viewing

Scripture reading

Old Testament

New Testament

Min. Carl Bosier

Min. Kenneth Hearn

Prayer

Min. George Anderson

Selection

Monica

and Monique Brown

Poem

Eli Victor Brown

Reflections (2 to 3 minutes please)

As a Family Member

Corrie Edward Lee, III

Gwendolyn Lewis

As a Church Member

Melvin Washington

As a Neighbor

Patricia Alick

Selection

Choir

Acknowledgments

& Reading of the Obituary

Stefanie Wright

Selection

Monica

and Monique Brown

The Eulogy

Rev. Thurmond Tillman

Musical Song

God's Got Me by Anthony Brown & Group Therapy

Service of Interment

Magnolia Memorial Gardens | 5532 Silk Hope Road | Savannah, GA

Vernell's Legacy

Continues



Corrie



Clinton



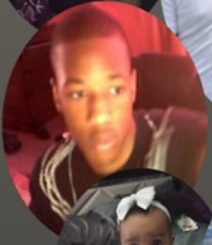
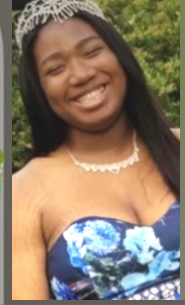
Shirley



Gregory







God's Garden

*God looked around His garden
and found an empty place
He then looked down upon the earth
and saw your beautiful face
He put his arms around you
and lifted you to rest
God's garden must be amazing
He always takes the best
He saw the road was getting rough
and the hills were hard to climb
So He closed your weary eyelids
and whispered "I got you"
It broke our hearts to lose you,
but you did not go alone
For a part of us went with you
the day God called you home*



Callbearers
Family and Friends

Flower Ladies
Family and Friends

Acknowledgements

**The family of Vernell Allen-Smiley wishes to acknowledge with the deepest appreciation the many expressions of love, concern, and kindness shown to us in this time of grief.
May God bless and keep You!**

Repast

Please join the family for dinner and fellowship at the First African Baptist Church Social Hall immediately following the interment.

A D A M S
FUNERAL SERVICES

"Your Loved Ones Deserve the Very Best"
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