



PALLBEARERS
Dinosaur Riders Motorcycle Club

FLOWER LADIES
The Mother Board and Missionaries of Friendship Christian Church

SPECIAL FLOWER GIRL
Deborah Stover and Lauryn Johnson
(like granddaughters)

THE BROKEN CHAIN
By Ron Tranmer

We little knew that day,
God was going to call your name.
In life we loved you dearly,
In death, we do the same.

It broke our hearts to lose you.
You did not go alone.
For part of us went with you,
The day God called you home.

You left us beautiful memories,
Your love is still our guide.
And although we cannot see you,
You are always at our side.

Our family chain is broken,
And nothing seems the same,
But as God calls us one by one,
The chain will link again.

*Submitted by her sister
Phyllis Armstrong Scott*



Acknowledgements

We give special thanks to Mary Ampley, Cynthia Alexander, Janice Adams, Friendship Christian Missionary Ministry, and Southern Comfort Home Health Care.

We extend our deepest thanks to you for your kindness during our greatest sadness. We appreciate it more than words can express, and it will always be remembered.

The Family



2425 West Franklin Boulevard | Gastonia, North Carolina 28052 | Telephone:
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Mother
Willie Mae Roberts Ward
“Bill”

February 24, 1926 – July 27, 2025

Tuesday
August 5, 2025

Visitation: 1:00 p.m.
Celebration Service: 1:30 p.m.

Friendship Christian Church
221 W. Bradley Avenue
Gastonia, North Carolina 28052

Overseer Justin D. Ross-Hillard, Senior Pastor
Bishop John A. McCullough II, Eulogist

Music rendered by Gastonia Prayer Band #2.

Processional	
Prelude	
Invocation	Pastor Justin D. Ross-Hillard Friendship Christian Church
Opening Hymn	“It Is Well With My Soul”
Scripture Reading	Old Testament Psalm 90:1-13 Elder Kenneth Friday Friendship Christian Church
	New Testament II Corinthians 5:1-9 Elder Gene Kennedy
Prayer of Comfort	Dr. Rodney Glover
Selection	Gastonia Prayer Band #2
Remarks (2 minutes only)	Evangelist Vicky Clinton, Community Service Ambassador Social Human & Civil Rights Activist Deacon T. J. Montgomery, Friendship Christian Church Janet Adams Southern Comfort (CNA) Kenneth Glenn (Family)
Resolutions	
Solo	Michelle Dawkins “May The Work I’ve Done Speak For Me”
Words of Comfort	Bishop John A. McCullough II Friendship Christian Church
Recessional	Prayer Band #2 “What Are They Doing In Heaven Today”

Rose Hill Cemetery Gastonia, North Carolina

Willie Mae was born February 24, 1926, to the late Nelson Armstrong and Myrtle Roberts in Clover, South Carolina. She was reared by her grandmother, Mrs. Janie Goode Roberts who instilled in her “you can make it if you try”.

Willie Mae ‘Bill’ Roberts Ward departed this life on Sunday, July 27, 2025. Her life’s journey of 99 years demonstrated the fruit of the spirit and was a blessing to many.

Willie Mae joined and was baptized at Friendship Baptist Church, Gastonia, NC, presently Friendship Christian Church, when she was nine years old. She served faithfully in various ministries until her death. A former Sunday School Teacher, Youth Supervisor, Young Adult Director, Musical Choir member, church Hymn Choir member, Missionary Circle President, and Church Clerk for many years. She was the church Historian for FBC, was on the Mother's Board and served in the Clothing Ministry.

Willie Mae, at 16 years of age, married the love of her life Harry Ward, who preceded her in death. From that union they bore one son, John Wesley Ward “Meatball”, who preceded her in death.

Her community activities included Rebecca Chapter 20 Eastern Star, Church Aid Society, Friendly Aide Society, Quilting Club, Gastonia Prayer Band #2, and the Crisis Assistance Ministry. She was an active member of the Erwin Senior Group and was the oldest member of that group. Additionally, she was very active in family activities and was the Historian for the Giles & Anne Powell Goode Family Reunion for many years and also served as an Advisor for the reunion.

Willie Mae received service and appreciation awards from Gaston County Organization Community Concerns, Gaston County Missionary Baptist Association, Women's Auxiliary, and Gaston County NAACP. She was also the 1991 FBC Missionary Woman of the year.

She enjoyed baking, sewing, gardening, planting, and sharing flowers. Her specialty “banana pudding” was loved by all. She also learned the skill of upholstering furniture earlier in life which became her pastime.

In addition to her parents, husband, and son she was preceded in death by her three sisters, Alice Padgett, Louise “Pete” Glenn and Betty Carthen; three brothers, James ‘Jimmy’, Michael ‘Mike’ and Larry Armstrong; one granddaughter, Narshara Wallace, and one grandson, Gyagus Wallace.

She leaves to cherish her memories one granddaughter, Selina Zeigler (Chris); two grandsons, Wayne 'Meatball' Ward, and Prentice Lipscomb (Tijuan); fifteen great grandchildren; and six great great grandchildren. She is also survived by one brother, Richard Armstrong (Cheryl) and one sister, Phyllis Armstrong Scott both of California.

Her special nieces include Judy Gingles, Constance Kennedy, Kaye Johnson, Macie Clary, Kaye Glenn, Alice Ward, Darlene Ford, and Mary Ann Williams; nephews, Kenneth Glenn, Marvin Glenn, Arnold Padgett and William Padgett, Jr.

Her loving memories are also cherished by a host of relatives and friends and a special friend Paula Jackson and a goddaughter, Emily Whitworth.

