

## *Floral Bearers*

Chanda Corpening  
Anissa Harvey  
Wanda Green  
Kathy King  
Angela Dawkins  
Candis Oates  
Mary Ann Webber  
Hope Blackson

Cheryl Griffin  
Cathy Williamson  
Carla Williamson  
Delores Williamson  
Sissy Williamson  
Sheila Williamson  
Joanne Williamson

## *Pall Bearers*

Javon Ross  
Tony Williamson  
Shawn Williamson

Dustin McCain  
Eunrea Harper  
Xavier Griffin

## *Acknowledgement*

The family of Deborah Denise Williamson Hopper wishes to express our sincere thanks and gratitude for the many comforting acts of kindness and sympathy shown during the passing of our loved one



"Sympathetic and Efficient Service Since 1922"  
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# *Celebrating the Life of* *Deborah Denise Williamson Hopper*



Saturday, September 6, 2025  
3:30 pm

Philadelphia United Methodist Church  
Lawndale, North Carolina

Rev. Brandon Miles, Officiating



# Order of Service

Prelude

Processional

Officiating Minister.....Pastor Brandon Miles

Receiving of Friends.....3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Selection .....”Spirit” .....Min. Sherry Beam

Scripture Reading

Old Testament.....Rev. Roger Fuller

New Testament.....Rev. Roger Fuller

Prayer of Comfort.....Pastor Nellie Kirkland

Selection..... “The Last Mile Of The Way” .....Mr. Aleik Maddox

Remarks (Two Minutes).....Mrs. Wyonella Gardner

Mrs. Mary Lee Eskridge

Ms. Wanda Green

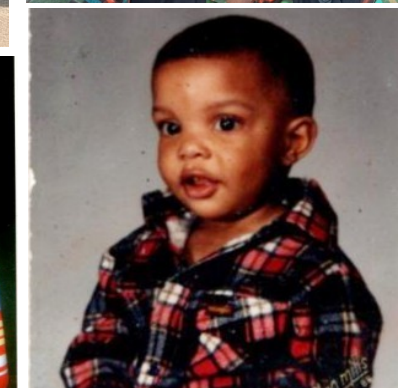
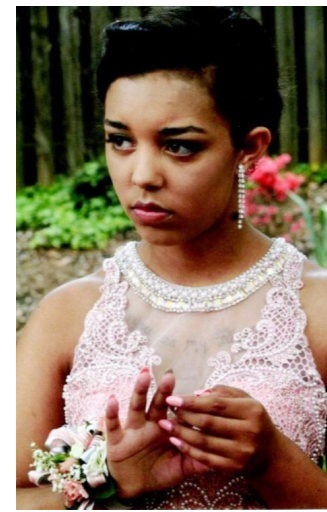
Reading of Obituary.....Ms. Briea Parks

Selection..... “I Wanna Take A Ride” .....Min. Sherry Beam

Words of Comfort.....Pastor Brandon Miles

Recessional Selection

Interment







FOREVER IN  
OUR HEARTS





## *Ms. Deborah Denise Williamson-Hopper*

Ms. Deborah Denise Williamson-Hopper, affectionately known as Debbie, was born on December 26, 1960, in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. She was lovingly raised by her mother, Delois Thompson, Jessie Thompson, and her grandparents, Docia Mae Williamson Ross and Willard “Bill” Ross. Surrounded by her cousins Ashanti, Joella, Laverne, and Tiffany, Deborah grew up in what she fondly described as a “village family,” where children were nurtured, guided, and grounded in the stories and traditions of their elders.

Deborah was educated in Cleveland County Schools and graduated from Burns High School in Lawndale, NC, with the Class of 1979. She continued her studies at Livingstone College in Salisbury, NC, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration in 1983, and minored in Art. While at Livingstone, she became a proud member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, through the Sigma Chapter.

A devoted mother, Deborah cherished her children, Demarius and Mario, whom she bore, along with her cousin, Jamarri, who she raised as her own “bonus son.” She also embraced her bonus daughters, Sharika and Shantineya, through her former spouse, Hubert Hopper. Her commitment to family was unwavering, and her home was always open, filled with love and care.

Deborah was a loving homemaker in her early years, pouring her energy into raising her children and supporting her family. As her children grew older, she built a career in retail and worked for many years at Belk Department Store at Cleveland Mall in Shelby, NC. She was known by coworkers and customers alike for her kindness, hospitality, and dedication. Her work reflected the same generosity of spirit she shared in her church and community, always willing to help others with a smile and a caring word.

At an early age, Deborah accepted Christ and was baptized. She remained a lifelong member of Philadelphia United Methodist Church in Lawndale, NC, where she faithfully served in numerous roles, including as church secretary, Administrative Council Chairperson, and member of the United Methodist Women. She also served as an usher, treasurer for the usher board, worked on the Kitchen Committee, and cared for the church building each Saturday with pride and devotion.

Outside of work and church, Deborah enjoyed photography, gardening in her grandmother’s garden, and fishing – especially with her cousin Maurice, her son Mario, and her friend Olandis. She was a talented baker, best known for her pound cakes and sweet potato bread, which became family traditions. For nearly 45 years, Deborah also cultivated a deep passion for family history and genealogy. She diligently researched her lineage, reconnecting relatives across generations and even uniting distant Williamson kin through a Facebook group she created and faithfully administered. Her work as the family historian will remain a treasured gift for generations to come.

On the morning of Thursday, August 28, 2025, at the age of 64, Ms. Deborah Denise Williamson-Hopper peacefully departed this life at her home in Shelby, NC. Surrounded by the love of her family, she was cared for in her final days by her son Mario, her mother Delois, and her cousins Bronda and Laverne. She was preceded in death by her son, Demarius Hopper; her father, Jessie Thompson; and her grandparents, Docia Mae Williamson Ross and Willard “Bill” Ross.

She leaves to cherish her memory: her son, Mario Hopper of Shelby, NC; her bonus son, Jamarri Wilson of Shelby, NC; her bonus daughters, Sharika Hunt (Travis) of Waco, NC and Shantineya Howell of Gastonia, NC; her mother, Delois Thompson of Cleveland, OH; her brother, Marlon Thompson (Sonya) of Cleveland, OH; her sister, Darlene Tyson of Concord, NC; her grandchildren, Katelyn (Jamarius), Zakarius, and Kamryn; her bonus grandchildren, Travon, Trarika, Trenton, and Trevor; her great-grandchildren, Aaralyn, Kay’Lonnie, Raelyn, and Prince; her dear friend, Hubert Hopper; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, sorority sisters, church family, and friends who will forever cherish her life and legacy.



## *For My Beautiful Mother*

*If Roses grow in Heaven Lord*

*please pick a bunch for me.*

*Place them in our Mother's arms*

*and tell her they're from me.*

*Tell her that I love her and miss her*

*and when she turns to smile,*

*Place a kiss upon her cheek*

*and hold her for awhile.*

*Because remembering her is easy,*

*I do it every day.*

*But there's an ache within my heart,*

*that will never go away.*

