

- *Pallbearers* -

Willie Hill
Mac Arthur Hill
Henry Frank Thomas

Anthony Williams
David Collier
Travis Dunn

- *Honorary Pallbearers* -

Mt. Nebo Baptist Church Deacons

- *Flower Bearers* -

Nieces and Friends

- *Interment* -

Thursday, March 28, 2024
11:00 a.m. (CST)

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church
490 Martin Luther King Drive, SW
Crawfordville, GA 30631

- *Acknowledgements* -

The family of the late Reverend Arthur Thomas gratefully acknowledges with sincere appreciation your prayers, comforting messages, floral tributes and all other expressions of kindness shown during this time of bereavement. Special thanks are extended to: Dr. Graves and the Spencer Cancer Center, the staff at East Alabama Medical Center, Compassus Hospice, Mt. Nebo Baptist Church, Harris Funeral Home, Greater Peace Baptist Church and Friendship Baptist Church. May God continue to bless and abide with you.

The Thomas Family

IN MEMORIAM

May we take this opportunity to express sincere and deep appreciation for allowing us to serve you during this most difficult period. It is our constant aim to afford to the people of this community a service completed in all details and faultlessly executed with sympathy and understanding.

Final Arrangements Entrusted to:



Harris Funeral Home
Sympathetic, Courteous & Professional Service

515 South Sixth Street
Opelika, Alabama 36801
(334) 749-6583 Fax (334) 759-7018
www.harrisfuneralhomeinc.com

HOME GOING
CELEBRATION
FOR

REVEREND

Arthur
THOMAS

SUNRISE:
AUGUST 4, 1943

SUNSET:
MARCH 19, 2024

The Obituary

Reverend Arthur Thomas, son of the late Mr. Henry and Mrs. Anna Mariah Thomas, was born August 4, 1943, in Greene County, Georgia. "Baby Arthur", as he was affectionately known by his family, was the tenth of eleven children.

At an early age, he confessed Christ and united with Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Crawfordville, Georgia.

Arthur graduated from F.T. Corry High School Class of 1961 in Greensboro, Georgia. He attended Miami Bible College and later received his Degree in Theology from Baptist Fellowship Center in 1978. His pastoral calling lead him to Elam #1 in Alexander City, Alabama where he pastored for four years. In 1982, on Palm Sunday, Reverend Arthur Thomas found his forever church home at Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church in Cusseta, Alabama where he was a dedicated pastor and servant for over forty years.

Under the leadership of Reverend Thomas, Mt. Nebo purchased twenty-five acres of land, implemented church cemetery mapping, pricing and stipulations, created the Evangelistic Sunday School Class, implemented Mid-day and Evening Bible Study Classes, instituted legal process and procedures for the finance department, ordained many deacons and facilitated the acquisition of a state of art surveillance system. He loved his church family, and enjoyed preaching and teaching the word of God within the church walls and beyond. Reverend Thomas was the ultimate storyteller of the word of God, and he always created an atmosphere of laughter and smiles amongst his congregation, family and friends. He took pride in visiting the sick and shut-in and taking senior citizens shopping. As a result of his generous spirit and pleasant personality, he was loved by many.

Reverend Thomas served as the First Vice and Second Vice Moderator of the Bowen East District Association. He also served as an instructor and host pastor of the district convention. Reverend Thomas believed strongly in Christian Education and was very active in his support and attendance of the Alabama Northeast Baptist District Convention, Alabama State

Missionary Baptist Convention, and National Baptist Convention, USA. Over the years, Reverend Thomas was the recipient of various proclamations from the City of Opelika, Alabama House of Representatives, State of Alabama Office of the Governor and the United States Senate.

Arthur loved and cherished his wife, Dorothy (Dot) whom he joined in holy matrimony and shared forty-two years of marital bliss. This union was blessed with two beautiful daughters, Angela and Artrina Rose.

In his spare time, he would often be found outdoors enjoying nature. He had a passion for the beauty and activities you engage in as you spend time outside, such as hunting, fishing, gardening or simply enjoying his backyard with his beloved Beagles.

On Tuesday, March 19, 2024, Arthur peacefully departed this life with his loving family by his side. He was preceded in death by: three sisters, Katie Ransom, Claudia Champion and Lillie Graham; three brothers, Henry Frank Thomas, Willie "Billy" Thomas and John Thomas.

His life will forever be cherished in the hearts of his family: a devoted wife, Dorothy Thomas; three children, Jerome (Roberta) Powell of Florence, KY, Angela Thomas and Artrina Thomas both of Opelika, AL; eight grandchildren, Tiara, Terence, Mariyah, Madison, Angel, Ryleigh, Stephanie and John; four great grandchildren, Kyaira, Kelvin Jr., Mark and Lily; four sisters, Annie B. Askew of Cincinnati, OH, Martha Hill of Greensboro, GA, Justine Steel of Country Club Hills, IL and Sinnie Atkinson of Athens, GA; one brother, Robert "Tip" Thomas of Greensboro, GA; mother-in-law, Mather Phillips of Alexander City, AL; five sisters-in-law, Anne (Albert) McCreary of College Park, GA, Clementine Buckner of Streamwood, IL, Linda Adamson, Kelsie (Michael) Maxwell both of Alexander City, AL and Tara (Paul) Jackson of Wetumpka, AL; one brother-in-law, Donnie Reese of Alexander City, AL; one godson, Thomas Johnson of Alexander City, AL; Mount Nebo Church Family; a host of loving nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Art Daddy

Our love for you will never fade away. We will think of you every passing day. Even though we enter your room and see your empty chair, we know that you are resting up there. Nevertheless, we will always feel your presence here. The memories of your laughter, your warm and loving smile, and your eyes full of happiness will forever be cherished. Art Daddy, you were one of the most generous people I've ever met in my life. One important lesson I learned from you was that generosity isn't always about money. Art Daddy, you had some of the wisest words I've ever heard, and they could help people more than money ever could.

Granddaughter, Madison Payne

We love you Art Daddy.

Granddaughter, Ryleigh Allen

Message from Art To My Loved Ones

August 31, 2019

Wife, Dorothy P. Thomas; children, Jerome Powell, Artrina Rose (Art) Thomas and Angela D. (My Jewel and Precious Shining Star); grandchildren, Mariyah and Madison. To all my family and church members whom I love with an everlasting love ...

I'd Like The Memory Of Me To Be A Happy One, I'd Like To Leave An Afterglow,

I'd Like To Leave An Echo, Whispering Softly Down The Ways, Of Happy Times And Laughing Times, And Bright And Sunny Days.

I'd Like The Tears Of Those Who Grieve, To Dry Before The Sun, Of Happy Memories That I Leave Behind, When Life Is Done!

Love, A. T.

Because of Love

As I remember, I don't feel sadness, I don't shed tears,
I remember all the laughter we shared for so many years,
We made each other's life worthwhile.
When you were with me, you made me smile.
Now, as I walk through the days with you on my mind.
I know that you are only a half step behind,
So, I won't be unhappy just because you are out of sight.
I know that you are with me every morning, noon, and night.
We were together because of LOVE.

Dot

Dad

You were my bright and shining star, too. You always made me laugh. I have been looking for you, but Mama says that you are gone. I know in my heart that you did not leave me alone. I miss you, Daddy!

Your loving daughter, Angela

Daddy

There are so many thoughts, so many feelings that have invaded my spirit since the day you left me. You prepped me the best you could with the time God gave us. We were blessed with thirty-five years together. The wisdom, the knowledge, and the love that you have shown me will never be forgotten. Daddy, you were my listening ear and my confidant. I understood you and you understood me. The strength that I witnessed in you will stay with me forever. I never wanted this day to come, but here we are ... the look in your eyes ... the whisper in your voice ... I knew our time was coming to an end when you mentioned, "just a few days." Daddy, I'm thankful for just a few days. Just a few days of knowing you, learning from you, and loving you. Until we meet again ...

Your Baby Girl, Trina

To My Best Friend

You are near, even if you are far away. You are with me, even if I don't see you. You are forever in my heart, in my thoughts, in my life. I love you, Art Daddy.

Granddaughter, Mariyah Payne

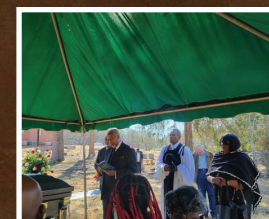
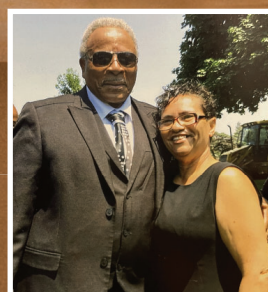
The Order of Service

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024 | 12:00 O'CLOCK NOON (CST)

GREATER PEACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
650 Jeter Avenue • Opelika, Alabama 36801

REVEREND CLIFFORD E. JONES, PASTOR AND OFFICIANT

Processional.....	Clergy and Family
Musical Selection	Betty and Carolyn Scott
Scripture Readings:	
Old Testament	Reverend David Benton
New Testament.....	Reverend Marshall Smith
Prayer of Comfort	Reverend Walter Darden
Musical Selection	The Lewis Family
Inspirational Messages	Two Minutes Please
Reverend Dr. George McCulloh.....	Pastor, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church
Reverend L. W. Booker.....	Pastor, St. James Baptist Church
Reverend Dr. Richard Carter	Pastor, Washington Chapel A.M.E. Church
Reverend Gary Dixon	Moderator, Bowen East District
Musical Selection	Ramon Harris
Words of Comfort	Reverend S. Dewayne Drakeford
Closing Prayer, Blessing and Benediction.....	Reverend Eric Dowdell
	Second Vice Moderator, Bowen East District
Recessional	



Fallen Limb

A limb has fallen from the family tree.
I keep hearing a voice that says, "Grieve not for me.
Remember the best times, the laughter, the song.
The good life I lived while I was strong.
Continue my heritage, I'm counting on you.
Keep smiling and surely the sun will shine through.
My mind is at ease, my soul is at rest.
Remembering all, how I truly was blessed.
Continue traditions, no matter how small.
Go on with your life, don't worry about falls.
I miss you all dearly, so keep up your chin.
Until the day comes we're together again."