

Moments of Sharing

Prelude
Processional
Receiving of Family and Friends.....9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Order of Service

Presiding, Pastor Tyson McDowell McKinney

Selection.....PPD Praise Team

Scripture Readings
Old TestamentBishop Allen Brutton
New Testament.....Pastor Rosze Kaur

Prayer of Comfort.....Reverend Tony Mackerson

Remarks (2 minutes)

Lenora Littlejohn
Delacie Miller
Calvin Harris
Eugene McKinney
Harold Anderson
Bishop Lattimore

Crowning

Selection.....Justin Valentine
Eulogist.....Bishop Troy McDowell
Recessional

Interment

Gethsemane Baptist Church
238 Richland Street
Chesnee, South Carolina 29323

Pall Bearers

Jaylen Harris
Mike Stewart
Eric McKinney
Phillip Harris
Omar Smith
Sherman Crawford

Floral Bearers

Katrina Carson
Carolina Wilkins
Beverly McKinney
Cynthia Curtis
Sandra McGill
Neita Schultz
Anijah Hardy



A Tough Cookie with a Tender Heart

Sylvia McDowell
a name that carried strength in every syllable,
a woman who stood firm like roots deep in the earth,
unshaken, unbothered, unbreakable.

She was a tough cookie
not easily bent, not easily swayed,
life may have tested her,
but it never took her power away.

She walked with style,
grace stitched into every outfit she wore,
fashion wasn't just what she put on—
it was how she showed up in the world.

And oh, her cooking
meals made with seasoned hands and knowing love,
each bite a quiet reminder
that care doesn't always come soft—
sometimes it comes strong,
rich, and unforgettable.

She had a unique way about her,
a flavor all her own
tough on the outside, yes,
but dropping wisdom like seeds
that will grow in us forever.

Because beneath that strong exterior
was a heart
steady, present, and real.

Sylvia McDowell...
you were strength,
you were flavor,
you were legacy.

And though you've gone from our sight,
everything you poured into us
will never leave.

Rest well,
you've earned your peace.

Love Always,
Frantasia McKinney, Tyson McKinney Jr., Nala McKinney,
and Malachi McKinney

Acknowledgement

The family of Sylvia McDowell acknowledges with sincere appreciation the many expressions of love, sympathy, and kindness shown during our time of bereavement.



485 Poors Ford Road | Rutherfordton, NC 28093
Phone: 828-287-3800

"We Are The Voice of Comfort In Your Hour of Grief"

IN LOVING
Memory

Sylvia McDowell

DECEMBER 8, 1938 - MAY 3, 2026

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF OUR BELOVED

SERVICE: SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026

VIEWING 9:00 AM | SERVICE 10:00 AM

LOCATION:
736 State Line Rd
Mooresboro, NC 28114

*"Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of His saints."*
Psalm 116:15

Life Celebration

Sylvia McDowell was born on December 8, 1938, in Anderson County, to the late Nolie and Martha Dennis. Our cherished matriarch and faithful servant of God, peacefully took her wings on May 3, 2026, surrounded by the love of her family.

At a young age, she relocated with her family to Connecticut, where she was raised and came into womanhood. She was employed for many years in administrative services, carrying herself with professionalism and dignity throughout her career.

In 1964, she wed the love of her life, the late Dr. C.E. McDowell. Together, they began a journey of faith and family that took them to Anderson in 1968, and eventually to Spartanburg in 1979.

For over a decade, she served with distinction as First Lady of Gethsemane Baptist Church, faithfully supporting her husband's leadership until his passing. In 1998, she found a new spiritual home at Greater Buck Shoals Baptist Church, where she served faithfully as a Mother in Zion.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Dr. C.E. McDowell; her children, Debra Hall and Clarence McDowell, Jr.; her sisters, Sarah Barnes, Jean Epps, and May James; and her brothers, Nolie Dennis, Jr. and Earlis Dennis.

Left to cherish her loving memories are her devoted children: Troy McDowell, Sr. (Melanie), Patricia McDowell, and Dawn Anderson (Harold); along with a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, extended family members, and dear friends.

She also leaves behind those she lovingly embraced as family, including her adopted daughter, Carolina Wilkins; her goddaughter, Kia- Loni Valentine; her godson, Fred Humphrey; and her cherished friends Lenora Littlejohn and Delacie Miller.

A life defined by service, family, and unwavering faith, she will be deeply missed by all who were blessed to know her.

