

## *Safely Home*

*by Anonymous*

I am home in heaven, dear ones;  
All's so happy, all so bright!  
There's perfect joy and beauty  
In this everlasting light.

All the pain and grief are over,  
Every restless tossing passed;  
I am now at peace forever,  
Safely home in heaven at last.

Did you wonder I so calmly  
Trode the Valley of the Shade?  
Oh! but Jesus' love illumined  
Every dark and fearful glade.

And He came Himself to meet me  
On that way so hard to tread;  
And with Jesus' arm to lean on,  
Could I have one doubt or dread?

Then you must not grieve so sorely,  
For I love you dearly still;  
Try to look beyond earth's shadows,  
Pray to trust our Father's will.

There is work still waiting for you,  
So you must not idle stand;  
Do your work while life remaineth —  
You shall rest in Jesus' land.

When that work is all completed,  
He will gently call you home;  
Oh, the rapture of the meeting!  
Oh, the joy to see you come!

## *Pallbearers*

Family and Friends

## *Acknowledgements*

We are most grateful for the gift of friends and family like you, who have been so kind and thoughtful during these hours of sorrow. Your prayers, visits, calls, flowers, and every act of kindness have given us strength and inspiration for the facing of this hour. May God ever bless each of you.

## *Repast*

Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church  
1118 W Beaver Street  
Jacksonville, Florida 32204

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CELEBRATING  
THE LEGACY

*of*

*Norma*  
GENEVA MASON

S U N R I S E  
December 5, 1943

S U N S E T  
June 1, 2024

*Saturday, June 8, 2024, 11:00am*

Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church  
1118 W Beaver Street | Jacksonville, Florida 32204  
H. B. Charles, Jr., Pastor-Teacher  
Rev. Al Letson, Sr., Officiating

# Norma's Story

Norma Geneva Mason was born on December 5, 1943 in Jacksonville, Florida to Duke and Edna Bennett. She was the youngest out of her six siblings. She was educated in Duval County schools and graduated from New Stanton High School in 1962. Upon completion of high school, Norma went on to attend Savannah State University. Life had other plans. It was at this time, Norma married her childhood sweetheart, W. Charles Morris. Charles and Norma moved to New York to begin their life together. Norma met her dream man but did not give up on her dreams of obtaining her college degree. With great tenacity, determination, and willpower, she was able to graduate from Adelphi University with her Bachelor and Master's Degrees in Early Childhood Education.

Norma was deeply passionate about being an educator. She sought to inspire young people to be the best version of themselves, to pursue their dreams, to be an ever-present reminder that the students were heard, cared for, and loved. She spent over 10 plus years as a classroom teacher. Her commitment and dedication to education would not go unnoticed. She was promoted to being the director of several New York City daycare centers and her sphere of influence grew to help so many more children.

While education was of paramount importance to Norma, she also had other interests. She enjoyed activities like synchronized swimming, being a majorette, and other creative, artistic outlets. However, one interest surpassed all the others and that was dance. Norma loved to dance. Dancing allowed her to express herself and to feel free. She strengthened her innate talent, which opened the door for her to become a professionally trained ballet dancer.

What Norma loved more than dance, more than education, more than anything, was being a mother to her daughter Michele, whom she affectionately called Mommie's Baby. She was wholeheartedly devoted to being the best mother to and for Michele.

Norma eventually returned to Florida. It is here where she became an active member of Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church. Attendance at the church allowed her to grow in faith and delve deeper into her relationship with God. She thoroughly enjoyed the many strong connections and relationships with fellow churchgoers, including her BSF class. In the midst of her sickness, she steadfastly held on to her faith.

There are so many loved ones who will cherish her memory including her daughter Michele, her sister Edna Thomas, sister-in-law Ida Bennett, her nieces, her nephews, her great nieces, her great nephews, her cousins, and her goddaughters as well as a host of lifelong friends who she held so dear to her heart.

Norma was preceded in death by her parents: Duke and Edna Bennett; brothers: James, Alvin, Sr., Lorenzo and Harold Bennett and nephew: Wayne Bennett.

She is survived by her daughter: Michele Morris; sister: Edna Thomas; sister-in-law: Ida Bennett; nephews: Alvin Bennett, Jr. (Charlene) and Gary Thomas; nieces: Vanessa Monroe (Clayton), Tymesha Thomas and Sherrill Bennett-Standberry (Aaron); Goddaughters: Fatima Stiggers (Willie) and Sheena Davenport and a host of grand nieces, grand nephews, cousins and many special friends.



## Order of Service

### PROCESSIONAL

### SELECTION

Music Ministry

### SCRIPTURES

Minister

*Psalm 91*

*Romans 10:9*

### PRAYER

Minister

### REFLECTIONS

Vanessa Monroe and Kimberly Jordan

### SELECTION

Music Ministry

### WORDS OF COMFORT

Rev. Alfred Letson, Sr., Associate Pastor

### RECESSIONAL

