

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE



JACQUELINE SMITH FER_GUSON

SUNRISE: NOVEMBER_ 30, 1937 | SUNSET: NOVEMBER_ 25, 2023

Saturday, December 9, 2023

Viewing: 10 AM | Celebration of Life: 11 AM

Holy Temple Church of Christ
439 12th Street SE
Washington, DC 20003

Bishop David E. Myrick, Sr., Pastor



ORDER OF SERVICE

Presiding
Deacon Raphael Cook

Processional
Clergy/Family

Prayer
Minister Darryl Nailing

Musical Selection
Choir

Scripture Reading
Psalm 27-Minister Reginald Nance
Roman 12-Baron Jackson

Musical Selection
Choir

Poems
Jhane Fletcher
Alexis Ferguson

Remarks & Reflections (2 minutes)
Venus Rogers
Juanita Ferguson
Matthew Fogg
Sandra Nance-Thomas
St. Elmo Smith, Jr.
Marvin Ferguson, Jr.

Cards/Acknowledgements
Miya Johnson

Reading of Obituary
Alesha Hernandez

Musical Selection
Janette Smith

Eulogy
Bishop David Myrick

Recessional Selection
Choir



FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

REMEMBERING SANDRA



"The key is understanding some basic principles that don't just apply to any one season of life but transcend all seasons of life is not allowing our circumstances to define our outlook on life, but allowing what God's Word says about life to define that outlook."

Max Lucado, Christian author

Ecclesiastes 3 describes life's evolution through various seasons - from birth to childhood to adolescence to adulthood to old age and finally to death.

TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON: Ecclesiastes 3:1

Today, we celebrate the life of Sandra Jacqueline Smith Ferguson. Her grace and beauty extended beyond her physical appearance. While many would describe her as well-coiffed, garbed, and stylish, her family knew her as loving, caring, and extremely protective. She was our mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, aunt, cousin, friend, and confidant.

A TIME TO BE BORN: Ecclesiastes 3:2

Sandra was the eldest child born to the late St. Elmo and Ruby G. Smith on November 30, 1937, in Elbert, West Virginia. She shared her birth year with Colin Powel, Johnny Cochran, Morgan Freeman, and Eleanor Holmes Norton.

A TIME TO LEARN: Proverbs 22:6

Sandra attended District of Columbia public schools and graduated from Spingarn Senior High School. Following her graduation, she attended Cortez Peters' Business School, the first Black-owned business and vocational institute to fully prepare African Americans for business and civil service. Sandra was an incredibly talented artist and crafter. Throughout her life, she expanded her skills in drawing, jewelry making, and ceramic creations. She was also a masterful cook who demonstrated her excellent culinary skills for her loved ones.

A TIME TO WORK: Genesis 19 & Matthew 20:25-28

In 1958, Sandra began her employment at National Airport, where she met her future husband, Marvin. After pausing her external employment for motherhood duties, Sandra returned to the workforce in Catholic and public schools, utilizing her acquired secretarial skills. Sandra entered the federal government working at the Department of Transportation, where she retired.

A TIME TO LOVE: Ecclesiastes 3:8

On August 29, 1959, Sandra was united in holy matrimony to Marvin E. Ferguson. To this loving union of 50 years, four children (two sons and two daughters) were born. She was a devoted and loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

A TIME TO WORSHIP AND SERVE: John 3:3 & Matthew 20:4

Sandra worshiped at the Way of the Cross Church, where she was baptized and received the Holy Ghost. While attending the Way of the Cross Church, she sang in the Youth Choir. Sandra and Marvin served together at the Living Word Church. Sandra's friendly personality and signature smile warmly welcomed her fellow worshippers. As Ecclesiastes further defines the seasons of life, "there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live." She not only worshiped at church, but she applied the teachings of Christ in her home, regularly opening her heart and home to the less fortunate.

A TIME TO DIE: Ecclesiastes 3:19 & 9:12

On Saturday, November 25, 2023, Sandra received her wings. She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Marvin Sr, and son Marcus. Psalm 34:18 says, 'The Lord is near to the broken-hearted and saves the crushed in spirit.' Sandra leaves a remarkable legacy in her devoted and loving children: Marvin Jr., (Roselle); Janina Fletcher; Jada Ferguson; her nine grandchildren: Knycos Ferguson (Emily), Xavier Ferguson, Victoria Lee, Zachary Ferguson, Jhane' Fletcher, Alexis Ferguson, Cyrus Fletcher, Jordan Ferguson, and Sonae Ferguson; her great-grandchildren Alauni, Isabella, Zion, Laila, Kaden, Avery and Chazie. Her memories will be shared by her loving siblings: Two sisters: Margretta Kennedy (James) and Jasmine Jones; her three brothers: St. Elmo Smith, Jr. (Janette), Michael Smith (Barbara), and Timothy Smith; two sisters-in-law: Jean Williams (George), and Evelyn Johnson. And her works will be heralded by her five godchildren: Sandra Nance-Thomas, James Kennedy, Jr., Armanda Smith-Bradley, Jerome Butler, and Lavelle Moton, as well as a host of relatives and friends.

In the words of Bishop T. D. Jakes, "Real value isn't in what you own, drive, wear or live. The greatest value is found in love and life, health and strength, friends and family." Sandra's value was immeasurable, and she will truly be missed.



FROM YOUR SIBLINGS

A Loss of Comfort

"Is solace anywhere more comforting than that in the arms of a sister?-Alice Walker



Sandra's comfort was more than warm hugs, encouraging words, or sound advice; her comfort was found in her protection. She was grace personified, an example of femininity and poise. She provided a soft-spoken voice of reason with stern determination. For each of us, she spoke a unique language. Our sister saw us exactly as we were and empowered us to know that we were enough.

Sandra, you were our **Solace** in a tumultuous world.
You were the **Artist** who graced the world with your talent,
You were the **Negotiator** who advocated for us,
You were the **Dependable** ally who cared for us,
You had a **Radiant** smile that melted the coldest heart,
and You were the **Altruistic** spirit who gave her time, energy,
and help to all who needed it.

And we will always cherish our memories,
but the love for our sister will transcend time.

With infinite love,



Margretta (affectionately called Sister),
Sonny, Michael, Tim, and Jazz.





BROKEN CHAIN



We little knew that morning,
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 though we cannot see you,
You are always by 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.

Marvin, Jr., Janina, and Jada



NAI

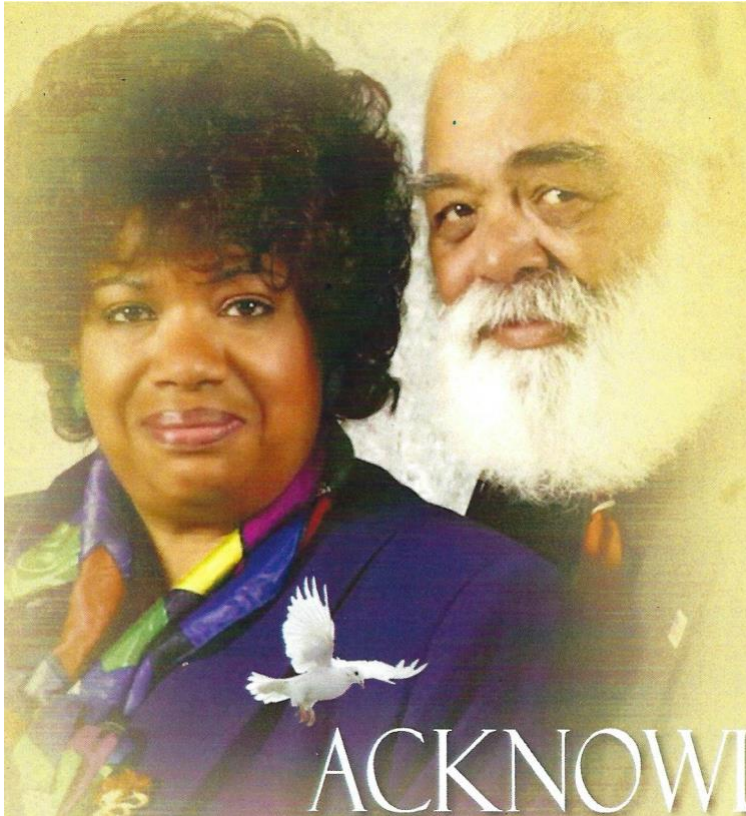
GOODBYE

My dear G' Ma, by writing this passage, I must face the reality of your death. You have always been my rock, my safe space, my strength, and my other mother. Having to accept that you are no longer here on earth brings a grief that only time will lessen. I must find comfort in knowing that Daddy was waiting for you on a bench with a big grin to walk you into the pearly gates. To know that MarSan is once again united gives a temporary perspective to the pain. I am blessed to have had 38 years with you, knowing that no matter what, you were in my corner, and with the reminder, my mother had me, but I was your fifth child. You have been with me since my birth and present for all of my significant achievements. Knowing that Emily, Kaden, and Avery got to experience the love of Gma is genuinely remarkable.

As we gather to celebrate your life, I'm finding it very hard to say goodbye; to imagine the world without your hands to guide me or your voice to comfort me is terrifying. However, as I reflect on your 85 years, I find reassurance in knowing how much love there is for you and your impact on brightening this world. Like your heart, your door was always open and welcoming to help any- one in need. It was not uncommon to come home and find you making a meal like your famous eggplant parmesan for someone or just sitting at the table giving motherly love.

As the oldest grandchild, I can comfortably speak for all of us, plus the great-grandchildren, and say thank you. Your love, wisdom, and generosity has left a massive impact on all of our lives. While we will never be whole without our Gma, we will strive to make you proud as you and your soulmate watch down on us. Rest easy, Sandra J, and enjoy the time with Granddaddy and Ruby G!

With all of our love, Knycos and grandchildren



PALLBEARERS

Knycos Ferguson
Xavier Ferguson
Zachary Ferguson
Cyrus Fletcher
Jordan Ferguson
Lavelle Moton



FLORAL BEARERS

Family & Friends

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Ferguson **family** expresses **their** sincere gratitude and appreciation for the prayers, words of inspiration, and kindness extended to our family during this time. Also, a special thanks to Venus Rogers and her staff at the Mount of Venus Assisted Living, for the exceptional caretaking provided to our loved one. We are extremely appreciative of the memories captured by Uncle Mike, who provided many of the photos included today, which were restored or created by Midiael Smith Photography.

We are forever grateful for the outpouring of support as we navigate the loss of our matriarch. We would also like to express a special thanks to Bishop David Myrick, Sr., pastor of Holy Temple Church of Christ, and the entire church family for your support and concerns. Finally, we thank Mr. Andre' Thompson and the McGuire Funeral Home for their professional services.



INTERMENT

Cedar Hill Cemetery
Suitland, Maryland



PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TRUSTED TO:

McGuire Funeral Services, Inc.
7400 Georgia Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20012
(202) 882.6600

Programs By Twanitta (240) 606.6876