



Thelma Wilkerson Williams

July 11, 1965 - April 14, 2019

On Sunday, April 14, 2019, Thelma Wilkerson Williams left this world behind to take the journey of a lifetime, the one that she had been preparing for all her life.

Thelma, fondly called “Butterfly”, “Tee” or “Tee-Mae” Mae was born July 11, 1965, to Deaconess Bernice Parker Wilkerson and the late Deacon Hezekiah Wilkerson, Sr. at Sentara Obici Hospital in Suffolk, VA. She was the fourth of four children. Thelma was the baby of the family and had no problems asserting that truth.

Tee-Mae was educated in Isle of Wight County Schools. She graduated from Smithfield High School in 1983. After graduating, she went to Norfolk State University, majoring in Personnel Management, thus receiving her B.S. Thelma loved the Spartans and beheld the green and gold as a Silkette. Homecoming was not homecoming unless Thelma was there.

Thelma worked for Newport News Department of Social Services as an Employment Service Worker II. Her other jobs included View Worker, Benefit Specialist, Career Education Instructor and Eligibility Specialist.

As a young child, she became a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church. She was active as a Mass Choir and Gospel Choir Director. She directed the youth

choir for 26 years. T Mae served as a Sunday School Member, and Vacation Bible School Music Coordinator. Thelma loved music and shared her melodious voice at homegoing celebrations, special events and on many other occasions. She enjoyed traveling and was planning a trip this year to the Dominican Republic.

Thelma was active all of the time. Mother called her Butterfly because she always had something to do. She would “light” for a minute and then fly away to her next station. Your flight on April 14th was too soon for us, but God knew best. Your memories will never fade. Take your rest daughter, sister, aunt and friend. From this point, every butterfly we see, we’ll think of you being beautifully adorned. We love you!

Loved ones that preceded her in death were her dad, Deacon Hezekiah Wilkerson, Sr.; five aunts, Mary Gray, Eunice Green, Beatrice Joyner, Mary L. Green, Estelle Wilson and Violet Smith; four uncles, James Parker, Junius Wilkerson, Raymond Wilkerson, and Robert Earl Wilkerson.

Left to cherish her memories and lovingly celebrate her life are: her mother, Deaconess Bernice Parker Wilkerson; two sisters, Minister JoAnne Wilkerson Jones and Dr. Cecilia Hardy (Clinton); one brother, Hezekiah Wilkerson, Jr. (Alma); two nephews, Markelle M. Jones and Emanuel Hardy; niece, Tonya Ridgeway (Charles); great-niece, Genesis Jones; four great-nephews, Zekiah and Micah Jones, Trevon Wilkerson, Keyshawn Williams; a god-daughter, Anaya Green, three aunts, Maurice Oglesby (Joe), Pinkie Davis and Gracie Wilkerson; two uncles, Wesley Wilkerson (Dorothy), Everett Wilkerson (Pam) and a host of other relatives and friends.

Cemetery Details

Emmanuel Baptist Church Cemetery

11150 Emmanuel Church Road
Smithfield, VA 23430

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 19. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Chapman - J. T. Fisher Funeral Services
658 W. Main Street
Smithfield, VA 23430
(757) 357-2326
info@jtfisherfuneralservices.com
<https://www.jtfisherfuneralservices.com>

Wake Service

APR 19. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Emmanuel Baptist Church
11150 Emmanuel Church Road
Smithfield, VA 23430

Service

APR **20**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Emmanuel Baptist Church
11150 Emmanuel Church Road
Smithfield, VA 23430

Tribute Wall



“ *J.T. Fisher Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Thelma Wilkerson Williams*



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - April 19, 2019 at 06:44 PM

BN

With heartfelt sympathy to the Wilkerson family. May God continue to bless and keep you in his arms

Betty Newby - April 19, 2019 at 10:39 PM

AB

“ *My sympathy, love and prayers are with the family. I have known this great woman of God for 17 years. When Tee saw me with her unforgettable smile she would throw her head back open her arms and say "hello my sister. " We are sisters because God is our father. We prayed together and danced to give God glory for victories we had won. The song, Just A Little While To Stay Here, written by Eugene Bartlett chorus: Just a little while to stay here, Just a little while to wait, Just a little while to labor, In the path that's always straight, Just a little more of sorrow, In this low and sinful state, Then we will enter heaven's portal sweeping through the pearly gates. On Palm Sunday April 14, 2019 Tee Saturday in a chair on this side of heaven. She entered heaven's portal and rose up on the other side, eternally in heaven, sweeping through the pearly gates. You are loved Tee now and always rest in Jesus's arms. I will meet you in that great getting up morning. Your Sister*

Amanda BB - April 21, 2019 at 11:19 AM

AB

“ Amanda BB lit a candle in memory of Thelma Wilkerson Williams



Amanda BB - April 21, 2019 at 08:51 AM

LP

“ I am so sorry for your loss. My prayers and condolences for the family.

Larry Pleasant - April 21, 2019 at 01:36 AM

GJ

“ Ginelle James lit a candle in memory of Thelma Wilkerson Williams



Ginelle James - April 20, 2019 at 11:49 PM

CO

“ I would like to express my sympathy and condolences at this time. Also at Isaiah 25:8, it tells us that God will wipe away the tears from all faces and he will swallow up death forever and Rev 21:3,4 tells us that sickness and death will be no more. I hope these words will help you during your loss.

C. Outland - April 20, 2019 at 07:51 PM

JG

“ I met Mrs. Thelma as my youth choir director in church, years ago. I never would have known I could sing if it wasn't for her. In life I know she was much more than a choir director; her vibrant personality, sense of humor and kindness will truly be missed. Condolences to her family and friends. Rest In Peace, Miss Tee.

Jasmine Grant - April 20, 2019 at 10:15 AM

SW

“ Sherri Winnegan lit a candle in memory of Thelma Wilkerson Williams



Sherri Winnegan - April 19, 2019 at 10:34 PM

JTF

“ 24 files added to the album Life Tributes



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - April 19, 2019 at 10:03 AM

LC

“ My heartfelt condolences to the family. Tee and I became great friends just a few short years ago. We commuted together to Richmond for work. She was always the life of that 1.5 hour van ride. We formed a sister circle where several of the ladies from the van would meet each month for food, fun and fellowship at a local eatery. After she transferred to Newport News, we did not see each other as much, but still stayed in constant contact on social media and on the phone. We recently saw each other at a play in Newport News. We shared more than we knew... Tee and my cousin Miguel were close friends and band mates at NSU, so we were more like family than just friends. I loved her beautiful smile and the wonderful advice she would offer to me. I love you Tee and will miss you dearly, but I know we will see each other again.

Linda Carter-Ashby - April 19, 2019 at 09:14 AM

LC

“ Linda Carter-Ashby lit a candle in memory of
Thelma Wilkerson Williams



Linda Carter-Ashby - April 19, 2019 at 09:07 AM

FF

“ From Thelma's Work Family purchased the Heav
enly Sentiments Spray for the family of Thelma
Wilkerson Williams.



From Thelma's Work Family - April 18, 2019 at 04:04 PM

RO

“ Girl,
Nobody knows just how much I am going to miss our weekly therapy sessions, who will I share my stories with and who will I be able to advise, remind and encourage the way you advised, reminded and encouraged me. I love you and I know you are "Safe In His Arms"

Robin - April 18, 2019 at 02:56 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Thelma Wilkerson Williams.



April 18, 2019 at 01:36 PM

LW

“ Lydia Williams lit a candle in memory of Thelma Wilkerson Williams



Lydia Williams - April 18, 2019 at 12:52 PM



“ *First i would like to extend my sincerest condolences to the family. Thelma you will be truly missed. Thanks for all the encouraging and kind words you spoke into me. Just last week, I was on FB Messenger and you had shared this video that stated share with 15 people that you loved them and keep it going. For some reason It caught my attention and i quickly replied back and said I love you. Not knowing it would be the last time. Rest Easy my dear friend... Delores Trent*



Delores Trent - April 18, 2019 at 11:27 AM

MC

“ *You will be truly miss. You are one of kind.*



Malinda Cofield - April 18, 2019 at 09:26 AM

AJ

“ *Alice Harris Jones lit a candle in memory of Thelma Wilkerson Williams*



Alice Harris Jones - April 18, 2019 at 09:05 AM

CH

“ *Cathy Hall lit a candle in memory of Thelma Wilkerson Williams*



Cathy Hall - April 18, 2019 at 07:45 AM

JA

“ *Thelma and I worked together in Norfolk years ago and came back together in Newport News. I will miss her greatly as she always took time to visit with me when I would visit her office. I am still in shock but I know she loved the Lord and believe she is in heaven with Him. I am praying for her family and loved ones in her passing. She is truly missed. Thelma love you and may you rest in peace*



Jacque - April 18, 2019 at 04:47 AM

LF

“ *Lisa Jackson*

Lisa Fulgham - April 17, 2019 at 04:15 PM

CA

“ *Wow it is still hard to believe my friend is gone. She was the epitome of a good friend. Thelma was one of a kind and I will truly miss her. RIH my friend.*



Camelia - April 17, 2019 at 02:48 PM

TW

“ *Tanisha Brown White lit a candle in memory of Thelma Wilkerson Williams*



Tanisha Brown White - April 17, 2019 at 12:36 PM

LJ

“ *Linda Goodman Jones lit a candle in memory of Thelma Wilkerson Williams*



Linda Goodman Jones - April 17, 2019 at 12:03 PM

GS

“ *Always had something good in prayer to post everyday on facebook....i simply am in so much shock and disbelief... it's unrealmuch love my cuzz...as we always say*

Gary Spratley - April 17, 2019 at 12:34 AM

SB

“ *Santina Banks lit a candle in memory of Thelma Wilkerson Williams*



Santina Banks - April 16, 2019 at 11:01 PM

SB

“ *Santina Banks lit a candle in memory of
Thelma Wilkerson Williams*



Santina Banks - April 16, 2019 at 10:49 PM

FL

“ *Faith Lankford lit a candle in memory of
Thelma Wilkerson Williams*



Faith Lankford - April 16, 2019 at 08:44 PM

CW

“ *Cynthia Batten WATSON lit a candle in
memory of Thelma Wilkerson Williams*



Cynthia Batten WATSON - April 16, 2019 at 08:42 PM

FL

“ Still in a state of shock. T-Mae, cannot believe you are gone. Our last verbal conversation was when she took the time to reach out to me during the death of a loved one in my family and she always kept in touch through Facebook. I'm thankful for our friendship since 3rd grade and for sharing years together on the band flag squad of SHS. As a matter of fact, T-Mae encouraged me to try out! She will be greatly missed. Many prayers and much love to the family.

Faith Lankford

Faith Lankford - April 16, 2019 at 08:21 PM

MW

“ Marion Wrenn lit a candle in memory of
Thelma Wilkerson Williams



marion wrenn - April 16, 2019 at 04:42 PM

GG

“ Words cannot express the pain I'm feeling. We go so far back from the Smithfield High School band to the Newport News shipyard and last but not least Norfolk State Univerity Marching Spartans. I recall all the church programs we shared between Rising Star and Emmanuel and fond memories of you down the lane. My condolences are extended to the family, Thelma was truly a dear friend until the very end. May God bless the Wilkerson family.

Gayle & Phillip Gissendanner - April 15, 2019 at 06:57 PM

LD

“ *I miss you so much! Fun times at the reunions and parties will never be the same without you. My heart and prayers go out to your family. May God bless and keep them through this sad time.* 🙏💕

Lecia

Lecia Davis-Phillips - April 15, 2019 at 03:55 PM