

THE LEGACY LIVES ON



I will conduct myself in a way that makes my children (and husband) proud. I will be loving, giving and supportive to my family. My presence will always uplift, and I will approach each day with creativity, love, gratitude, curiosity and humor. My life will be focused on developing my soul and helping others evolve theirs. I will thoroughly enjoy the journey no matter what happens!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

On behalf of our mother, we'd like to thank everyone for loving on her through the years. We acknowledge her dear adopted family whom she held close in her heart: daughters Monta Rocker, Carol Garner, and Patricia Turner; adopted brother Deacon Eugene Easley and extended family member Deacon Ralph Gardner. Thank you, Deacon Gardner, for visiting, praying and making sure she received communion spiritual nurturing monthly.



PALLBEARERS

Deacons of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Grandsons of Martha Irma Pearson Lawrence



FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO:

Marlan J. Gary Funeral Home - The Chapel of Peace East
5456 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43232
www.thechapelofpeace.com

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

MOTHER · WIFE · FRIEND



MARTHA IRMA *Pearson Lawrence*

MAY 25, 1925 - AUGUST 1, 2023



MT. OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH
428 East Main Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215

Friday, August 11, 2023

Visitation: 10:00am Service: 11:00am

Officiating Minister
Reverend Dr. Eugene L. Gibson Jr.

Eulogizing Minister
Reverend David Foster

LIFE REFLECTIONS

Martha Irma Pearson Lawrence completed her labor on earth and continued on her peaceful journey to her reward on August 1, 2023. She was born on May 25, 1925, to William Pearson and Elmina King in Asheville, North Carolina.

At the age of eight, she joined her first church, Wilson Chapel Methodist Church in Asheville. She attended Allen School, a private boarding school, where she lived at home. She worked to supplement her tuition by assisting with lunchroom cleanup daily thus beginning her lifetime hard work ethic. In 1940, her family moved to Columbus, Ohio, where she became a member of Shiloh Baptist Church in 1943.

At Shiloh, Martha became the youth piano musician for Sunday school for four years. She was always involved in music. She sung in choirs all through school and church. She was one of the original members of the children's singing group "The Cabin Kids," from the comedy television show "The Little Rascals" while never appearing on the show. She graduated from East High School in 1944. Her excellent piano skills won her the honored position of musician to play all the musical selections for her high school graduation, which prevented her from marching with her class.

In 1955, she joined Mt. Olivet Baptist Church to attend the same church as her husband. She was a member of the Chancellor Choir, directed the Youth Choir and attended Sunday school regularly. She enjoyed being involved with many musical programs. She participated in many choirs from Ohio to Turkey.

Martha was recruited to work for the federal government upon graduation from high school, where she retired with 31 years of service. Her 31 years of service included employment in Ohio, New Jersey and Turkey. She was not finished working! She obtained a senior employment position at Columbus Council of World Affairs where she worked for 13 years. This job afforded her many opportunities to meet foreign delegates and TNT network owner Ted Turner! Her work there also allowed her to visit her lifetime dream destination, Cuba.

Throughout Martha's life, she was a very compassionate person. She had a heart for all people. After retiring, she began a card campaign where she sent cards to the church sick and shut-in. She also adopted two nursing homes that she visited to play hymns and deliver individual bags of fruit to residents. She became a regular visitor the residents knew by sight and by name. Upon her arrival they'd say "Martha's here" and thanked her for bringing church to them. She supported the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and became a lifetime member.

Martha had many interests. She enjoyed cooking, crocheting, musical movies and her favorite music was classical. She read the newspaper from cover to cover and completed the paper crossword puzzles. She loved traveling and visited many places nationally and internationally. All can recount the many quips she quoted throughout the years.

Martha was preceded in death by her parents, William Pearson, Elmina King and Judson Patton (step-father); husband, Roosevelt Lawrence; step-son, Joseph Lawrence, brother; William Pearson.

She leaves to cherish her loving memory, her daughter, Audrey Cobb of Raleigh, North Carolina; son, Charles Amos of Columbus, Ohio; daughters, Rosalind Lawrence-Groce of Columbus, Ohio, Rhonda (Timothy) Davis of Hampton, Virginia; daughter-in-law, Elaine Lawrence of Detroit, Michigan, 13 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, 13 great-great grandchildren, and a host of relatives, adopted relatives and special friends.

FAMILY TRIBUTES

Mom, you know I loved you and though you are gone from my presence, you will never leave my heart. I will strive to live the life that God expects from me so that one day I will see you again. You taught me patience, love and how to be caring to others. I have always sent cards to friends and loved ones but have taken on the card sending to the sick and bereaved just like you. Your life was a blessing and your memory I will treasure.

*Love Always,
Audrey, your first born*

"My mom...Martha Lawrence was like a beautiful, warm, sweet spring rain. She showered many people she encountered with love, compassion and counsel. She dispensed the best and all she could give as a reflection of the glory of God".

*I so love and will miss her.
Chuck*

To the Proverbs 31 Woman, My Mother. You instilled in me a strong belief in God and His greatness. That honesty is the best policy, to respect my elders and most of all, no outfit is complete without a hat. Also, what I learned from you is that hard work never hurt anyone. You loved your family fiercely and sacrificially. My life has been wonderfully blessed to know you as my mother. I will miss calling you to talk about current events in the news, your favorite game shows (The Price is Right and Family Feud) and your wicked sense of humor to pull off an occasional prank. You may have been a helpmeet to Daddy, but you were mine as well. You opened doors for me to be a public servant and it was only right that you were there for my retirement luncheon when I finished that career. I will truly miss you.

*I love you Mama.
Roz*



Mom was a special person in the way that she nurtured everyone she encountered. She always had open arms to support me through all things. She encouraged me to do my best and told me that my honest effort would be good enough.

When I went away to college, I learned that everyone's mother was not like mine...super mom! Mom always arose early to begin her day preparing breakfast, school lunches with homemade cookies, and laundry all before heading out to work. She cooked homemade meals and even sewed for us. We loved watching her prepare (for one month) for holiday meals, especially my father. Mom thought it was important to seek the Lord. She modeled it for us throughout her life and made sure we received Christian training in Sunday school. Every night I placed her Bible beside her when she went to bed. For me, she possessed many traits of a virtuous woman. Her life will always be an example for me and I will carry her love in my heart.

*Your baby child who loves you
Forever, Rhonda*





GOD'S GARDEN



God looked around His garden
And found an empty place
He then looked down upon the earth
And saw your precious face

He put His arms around you
And lifted you to rest
God's garden must be beautiful
He only takes the best

He knew that you were suffering
He knew you were in pain
He knew that you would
Never get well again

He saw the road getting rough
And the hills were hard to climb
So He closed your weary eyelids
And whispered, "Peace be thine"

Author Unknown

What is a Proverbs 31 Woman?



The Proverbs 31 woman is a woman of wisdom. With God as her guiding source, she has clarity on the decisions she makes, how she lives her life, and the words she chooses. She carefully cultivates a Godly life on the eternal truth of God and not the temporary and fleeting distractions of this world.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Dr. Eugene L. Gibson Jr., Officiant
Senior Pastor, Mt. Olivet Baptist Church

MUSICAL PRELUDE.....Music Ministry, Mt. Olivet Baptist Church

*The Processional with Scriptural Sentences

*HYMN OF ASSURANCE....."Victory in Jesus"

SCRIPTURE READINGS.....
OLD TESTAMENT.....Psalms 71:17-18.....Dr. Deborah Dennis
NEW TESTAMENT.....Isaiah 40:29-31.....Min. Kenneth Stanley

PRAYER OF COMFORT.....Deacon Ralph Gardner

TRIBUTES.....Two Minutes Please
Deacon Eugene Easley
Elaine Lawrence
Carol Garner

OBITUARY.....Read Silently

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CONDOLENCES.....Elder Sherryl Winston

MUSICAL SELECTION....."Never Would Have Made It"

EULOGY

Reverend David Foster
Associate Minister, Mt. Olivet Baptist Church

*RECESSIONAL.....Clergy, Family & Friends
"Going Up Yonder"

THE POSTLUDE.....

INTERMENT

Arlington Memorial Gardens
Winchester Pike & Winchester Cemetery Road
Canal Winchester, Ohio 43110

* Indicates Please Stand



WHO CAN FIND A VIRTUOUS WOMAN? FOR HER PRICE IS FAR ABOVE RUBIES.
PROVERBS 31:10 KJV



TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL THINE HEART; AND LEAN NOT UNTO THINE OWN
UNDERSTANDING. - PROVERBS 3:5 KJV

