

*Services Entrusted to:*

**BURTHEY FUNERAL SERVICE**

1510 Fayetteville Street

Durham, NC 27707

919.682.0327

www.burtheyfuneralservice.com



Our family offers sincere appreciation for the many acts of kindness and generosity shared with us during our time of sorrow and grief. We have been strengthened by your prayers, words of comfort, and every expression of kindness. May God continue to bless you abundantly.



*Interment*

**BEECHWOOD CEMETERY**

3300 Fayetteville Street

Durham, NC 27707

*Program by:*

**JOURNEY HOME FUNERAL PLANNING  
& CONSULTING, LLC**

*Candice P. Blount, Owner/Director*

journeyhomefpc@gmail.com

919.395.8295



*Celebration of  
Life, Love  
&  
Legacy*



**VIVIAN  
C.  
SAMUEL**

MAY 22, 1930 - JUNE 20, 2024

*“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. - Revelation 21:4*



Saturday, July 6, 2024

12:00 pm

**WHITE ROCK BAPTIST CHURCH**

3400 Fayetteville Street

Durham, NC 27707

*Dr. Reverend Reginald Van Stephens,  
Officiating*



# Her Story



VIVIAN C. SAMUEL

MAY 22, 1930 - JUNE 20, 2024

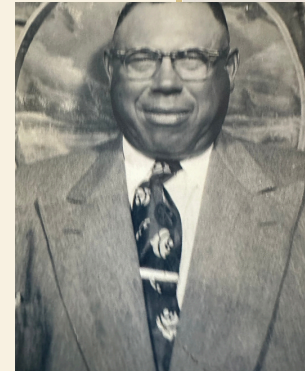
Our Beloved Mother, Grandmother, Great-Grandmother, and Sister, Vivian Elizabeth C. Samuel, was born May 22, 1930, in Enfield, NC. Vivian (aka Vip) departed her life on June 20, 2024, in her home in Los Angeles, California. She was the third of six children born to Rev. Charles Henry and Bettie H. Wilkins Whitaker, both of whom preceded her in death. Also preceding her in death were two brothers, Rev. James Whitaker, and Clarence Henry Whitaker; one son, William T. Charleston, Jr.; and three stepchildren, James Samuel, Jr. (Blanch), Arnold Samuel (Essie), and Sandra Johnson.

Vivian graduated from Eastman High School in Enfield, NC in 1949 and began attending North Carolina Central (formerly known as NC College at Durham) in 1950 for a short period. She resumed her studies in 1970, graduating with a degree in Commerce. Prior to working at North Carolina Central University (1947-1969) she worked at GT, North Carolina Mutual.

A member of White Rock Baptist Church since 1955, Vivian was no stranger to service! She was a member of the Missionary Circle for over 50 years, and after working with the youth with Sister Rosetta Southerland, she was elected as her assistant. Vivian later joined the Durham County Union and in 1972 was elected assistant to Mrs. Carrie McNair, Young Adult Leader. Vivian taught the Youth Sunday School class for her church for 25 years. Over the years, she was a member of the Gospel, Senior, Chancel, and Church Choir. Vivian was also a Deaconess for over 20 years.

Vivian married the late William Thomas Charleston Sr. on April 5, 1955, and their union was blessed with three children. Left to cherish the memories of Vivian are her daughters, Sabrina Charleston Miles of Henderson, NC, and Saundra Charleston of Los Angeles, CA; sisters, Doris E. Beverly (age 97) of New York City, NY, and Lucy Ward-Chivis (age 90) of Washington, DC; brother, Rev. Charles Calvin Whitaker (age 89) of Enfield, NC; six grandchildren, Shawne Brown, Ava Miles Wellington (Marley), Julia Miles Davis (Chaz), India Prather (Chris), Jules Charleston, and Rodrico Charleston Wright; 10 great-grandchildren, Arron & Shakia Brown, Enzo Wellington, Jagger & Dillon Davis, Xzay, Ava, William & Vivian Prather, and Nyla Charleston; as well as a host of nieces and nephews.

Vivian remarried Lieutenant James B. Samuel (one of the first black police officers of Durham, NC) on July 24, 1969. She is also survived, by her stepdaughter, Gaynelle Samuel; four grandchildren, Nancy, Sherry and Tracey Samuel; and five great-grandchildren.



# Her Life and Service



- Following her retirement from NC Central University, Vivian began working at Chester Brook Academy Day Care in 1993. She eventually obtained her childhood development certification and was promoted to Assistant Director. After her tenure at Chester Brook, she began volunteering at White Rock Baptist Church Child Development Center, as well as, C.C. Spaulding Elementary School.
- Vivian organized the Youth Missionary Circle from members of her Sunday School Class and a Junior Choir, which she served for many years. She taught Vacation Bible School for over 20 years. Vivian was a Lifetime member of the New Hope Missionary Baptist Association of North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary and served as president for over 20 years. She served as 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Vice-President for 16 years, receiving special honors. Vivian was the Auxiliary Board Member Chaplain for 15 years, a Deaconess Ministry Chaplain for 10 years, Worship Leader Co-Chair for five years, a Parliamentarian for four years (receiving special honors from the Dean of Divinity School) and served as the Devotional Leader of New Hope Association Union.
- Vivian was a Lifetime member of the **Women's Home and Foreign Mission Convention** serving on the General Board for 30 years and was a returning member to the Executive Board. She spent 25 years on the Arts and Crafts Committee, served as a Chaplain for 10 years on the Deaconess Board, served 8 years as the Vice-Chair of the One-Day District Conference, and served as the Area Chair for the Women's Baptist World Day of Prayer for 20 years.
- Vivian was a Lifetime member of the **Durham County Missionary Union**. She served as the President of the Mission Circle for 25 years, served as Vice-President 4th, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st, and was a Special Worker for four years, Deaconess Ministry for five years, and served for 30 years as the Arts & Crafts Year-Round Committee Chair. She also served as the Youth and Young Adult Missionary Assistant, Scholarship Founder and Chair for five years, Devotional Leader Member, and part of the History Committee.
- Vivian was a Lifetime member of the **Lott Carey Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina**. She served as Deaconess Ministry Chair for 25 years. Vivian was in the Convention Choir for 10 years as well as part of the Prayer Ministry - Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer for 20 years. She also Chaired the Pillowcase Dress Special for Haiti - NC Project, (1000 Shoes Project, Roof on Haiti School, Dug a Well in Africa, and was Global Missions Ambassador Chair for 10 years). Vivian was elected "Woman of the Year" by the Lott Carey Convention for her services rendered.
- Vivian taught data processing at both NCCU and Durham Technical Institute. She also volunteered her free time as Assistant Director for White Rock Baptist Church Child Development Center.
- Additional affiliations include: the Tau Gamma Delta Sorority (30 years). She initiated the first Tau Gamma Delta Sorority line at North Carolina Central University in 1978 and was elected the National Chaplain from 2004-2006.

*She was no stranger to servicing!*

## AS I SIT IN HEAVEN

*Hazel Birdsol, Author*

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As I sit in heaven and watch you every day,  
I try to let you know with signs, I never went  
away.  
I hear you when you're laughing and watch you  
as you sleep  
I even place my arms around you to calm you as  
you weep.  
I see you wish the days away, begging to have me  
home.  
So I try to send you signs so you know you are  
not alone.  
Don't feel guilty that you have life that was  
denied to me  
Heaven is truly beautiful, just you wait and see.  
So live your life, laugh again, enjoy yourself be  
free.  
Then I know with every breath you take,  
you'll be taking one for me.

# Order of Service



### PRELUDE

TJ Bridgers, Organist

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### CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Rev. Reginald Van Stephens

### MUSICAL SELECTION

"Amazing Grace" - TJ Bridgers

### PRAYER OF COMFORT

Rev. Regina Mitchell

### SCRIPTURE READING

Rev. Irene Gilbert Perry  
*Old Testament - Proverbs 31:31*  
*New Testament - John 14: 1-6*

### MUSICAL SELECTION

"I Won't Complain" - Mack Jarmon

### RESOLUTIONS

### SONG

"This Little Light of Mine" - Great-  
Grandchildren (Jagger Davis, Dillon  
Davis, William & Vivian Prather, Nyla  
Charleston, and Enzo Wellington)

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/REMARKS

### OBITUARY

*(please read silently)*

### MUSICAL SELECTION

"Beyond My Faults" - Mack Jarmon

### EULOGY

Dr. Rev. Reginald Van Stephens

### MORTICIAN'S BRIEF

Burthey Funeral Home

### RECESSIONAL

“Lives are like rivers:  
Eventually they go  
where they must. Not  
where we want them  
to. - Richard Russo





*“Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.” - Proverbs 31:31*

