

A Celebration of Life for
William T. Powell

March 19, 1939 – October 27, 2023



Thursday, November 16, 2023

Viewing: 10:00 a.m. ~ Service: 11:00 a.m.

From the Heart Church Ministries®
Annex at 5055 Allentown Road, Suitland, MD 20746
Bishop John A. Cherry, II - Pastor

Obituary

William Thomas Powell was born in Enfield, North Carolina, on March 19, 1939, to the late Lawson and the late Maggie Powell. He was the fourth of ten children.

William was raised in Whitakers, North Carolina. He often spoke of how he didn't realize that his name was William until his first day of school because he was affectionately known by his family as "Bo Dilly" or "Bo." He graduated from Swift Creek High School in 1957 and he told stories of how he graduated on a Tuesday and left farming behind by Friday.

Bo met Freida Thomas in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, and they were united in holy matrimony in 1961. Shortly after, Bo and Freida relocated to Washington, D.C., settling in Prince George's County Maryland where they raised their family. From this union, there were two children and grandchildren, son, Gregory (grandson, Andrew) and daughter, Kimberly Powell (granddaughter, Tyler). Together they shared a 52-year union of unwavering love and dedication. They enjoyed hosting card parties, holiday gatherings and road trips to family reunions. They attended church together at From the Heart Church Ministries for over 20 years. In their later years, they enjoyed the most memorable trip to Aruba; Bo's first time flying.

Bo tirelessly provided for his family all the days of his life. He loved his work and kept a handwritten note in his wallet notating all the years that he had worked: "School Board 1961-2013, 52 years, Waste Management 1962-2009, 47 years." He was very proud of his life's work and had an impeccable work ethic. Moreover, Bo received various certifications and awards over the years for leadership and safety excellence. In July 2009, he was awarded a certificate of appreciation in gratitude for 22 years of distinguished service and dedication by The Village of Martin's Additions in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

Bo was a creature of habit, waking up every morning at 7:10 to greet his neighborhood walking buddies with a smile by 7:30. Some days, after he walked, he would take his bike for a spin. He loved the outdoors, especially on a warm sunny day. After his walk, he would have a hearty breakfast and read The Washington Post newspaper from cover to cover. Yardwork was a pleasure to him, and he insisted on cutting his own grass on a perfect diagonal, and meticulously attending to his landscaping for an immaculate lawn. He inspired his younger neighbors to do the same.

Bo had a passion for sports. His television was always on a game—baseball, football or basketball. He was a long-time Washington Wizards, Nationals and Commanders fan—always rooting for the home team. In his retirement years, Bo loved embarking on road trips to North Carolina with his daughter to visit family and friends and reminisce on the old days. Those trips always included the mandatory stop at Cracker Barrel to sit for a country-style breakfast. On the way back home, he would always stop at the Red and White store to bring back that country sausage that his fellow North Carolinians (back in Maryland) craved. Bo also loved connecting with his brothers, sisters and extended family at family reunions and cookouts.

In 1992, William joined From the Heart Church Ministries® and was baptized. He loved his church, especially the fellowship before service with his brothers and sisters in Christ, some of whom he had known since high school. He served in the Helps Ministry from 2014 until the pandemic. He will be remembered for his warm greetings—not just at church, but to all those that he encountered. "How you doin' brother?" or "How you doin' young lady?"

In his 83rd year of life, William was blessed to marry Reba Holt. He loved Reba and her family very much. They enjoyed watching Christian programs and attending family activities together.

William will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him. He leaves to cherish his memory, his wife, Reba Holt Powell of Mitchellville, MD; daughter, Kimberly Powell of Mitchellville, MD; sons: Duane Warren (Pamela) of Enfield, NC, Darius Parker (Evon) of Winter Haven, FL, and Michael Parker (Lisa) of Atlanta, GA; granddaughter, Tyler Blount of Alexandria, VA; grandson, Andrew Gilchrist of Gaithersburg, MD; great-grandsons, Malachi and Mehki of Gaithersburg, MD; brothers: Nathaniel Powell of Lanham, MD, Luther Powell of Upper Marlboro, MD, Thurman Powell (Deborah) of Durham, NC, and Herman Powell (Doris) of Rocky Mount, NC; sisters, Ethel Benson of Hyattsville, MD, and Lois Ross of Hartford, CT; and a host of other loved ones and dear friends.

William was preceded in death by his first wife, Freida Powell; son, Gregory Powell; brother, Lawson Powell, Jr.; and sisters, Frances Head and Lucinda Outlaw.

Order of Service

Invocation

Congregational Hymn "Amazing Grace"

Scripture Reading

Old Testament: Psalm 23
New Testament: I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Prayer of Comfort

Selection Mrs. Linda Gray

Acknowledgements

Ms. Claudia Floyd, *Daughter-in-law*
Ms. Gigi Lyons-Lewis, *Classmate*
Mr. Luther Thompson, *Brother in Christ*
Mr. Steven Young, *Son-in-law*

Poem Ms. Tyler Blount

Obituary (*Read Silently*)

Song of Preparation Mrs. Linda Gray

Message of Hope Reverend Walter V. McLaughlin, III

Call to Christ

Recessional

Interment

Resurrection Cemetery
8000 Woodyard Road
Clinton, Maryland 20735



Family Sentiments

Letter to Dad

Hey Daddy,

My main man, my A-1 since day 1, my always there to comfort, love, support, scold and advise me. I'm so blessed to have had such a great dad like you. I can't think of a time when you were not there for me. I remember as a child how you would come into my room and tuck me in and wish me good night, every single night after you had been working for so many hours. Even as an adult, you were my knight in shining armor running to the scene to rescue me and help me.

I'm so very grateful for the last months of your life. It was a tough time but at least we did that time together. What an amazing strength you showed. And what a miracle you were, sustained by love and prayers. It was great to bond with Andrew, and a delight to see you smiling and laughing when Tyler brought Lux to see you again. I will always keep with me the memories of us watching Andy Griffith and sharing meals. I will remember our times out in the garden and gazebo and basking in the light and warmth of the sun.

So many times, I held you to lift you up. I count it all joy to be there to comfort you, and I asked God to hold and comfort you. May you rest in heavenly peace. Until we meet again.

~ Love, Rochelle "Kim"



A Caring Godly Man

When I think of William T. Powell, aka "Brother Powell," I fondly think of a caring godly man. He personified kindness to others. Up close and personal and too many times to mention, I have seen him extend his time and resources to help others in need. Jesus, words cannot express my gratitude to you for sharing William T. Powell with me and my family. We enjoyed every moment we spent with him. He will be sorely missed. He fought a good fight, he finished his course and more importantly, he kept the faith. Thank you, Jesus!

~ Glynis Bowman

More than a Helping Hand

For four years, Mr. Bill was just my neighbor. His simple wave to my daughter and I during his morning walks defined the extent of our relationship. We looked forward to it! On January 11, 2023, God revealed to me that Mr. Bill was more than my neighbor; he was my angel in the lowest season of my life. You see, Mr. Bill stopped his morning routine, on a cold winter day, to help change my flat tire. He didn't know that I felt depleted and emotional all morning. I wanted to cry but the tears wouldn't come as being in the comfort of Mr. Bill was peace to my soul. While changing my tire like, mighty mouse, he shared heartfelt love songs about his wife and his deepest desire to tighten his bond with his children, especially his sons. That day he also noticed me at my lowest, without exchanging too many words. From our brief encounter, this angel unapologetically and unknowingly vowed to guard my daughter and I as we transitioned to a call for a better life. When I moved, he watched over me and offered to help, though he was sick. He also campaigned to other neighbors to find my new number, right after coming from his treatment. When he called, Mr. Bill wanted to talk about my daughter's and my safety and brushed off his health journey by saying, "I'm doing better. I'm going to go on walks again." While it's with a heavy heart, Mr. Bill is no longer with us, my spirit is grateful to have had an encounter with one of God's heroic angels, a man of great might who truly transformed my life for the better. From the belly of my soul, thank you!

~ Elsie L.



What Makes a Dad

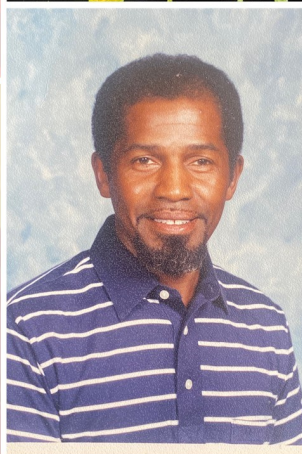
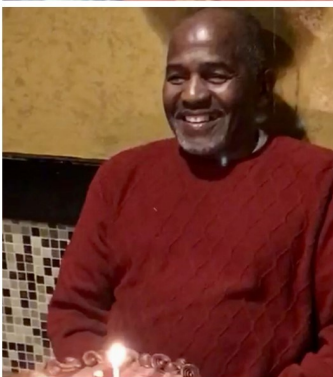
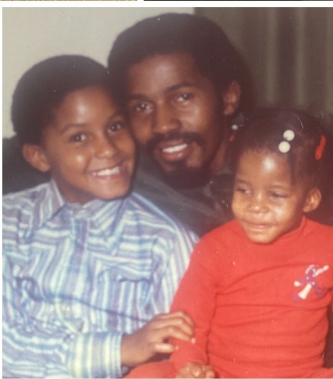
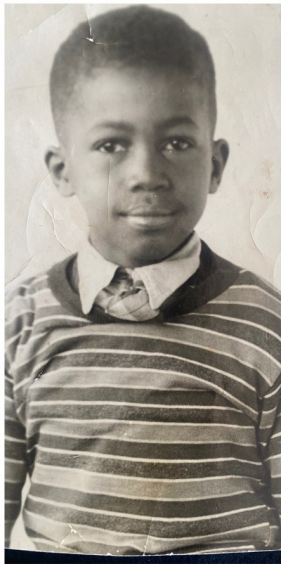
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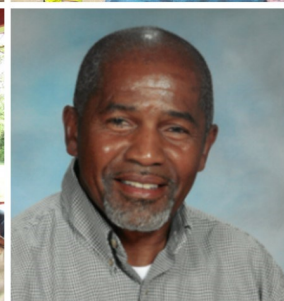
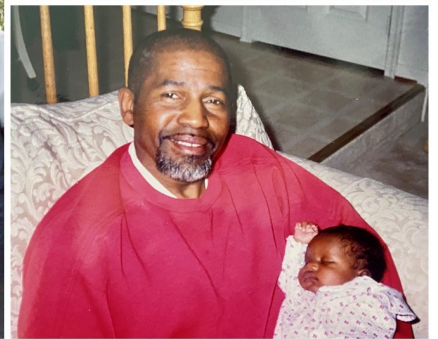
God took the strength of a mountain,
The majesty of a tree,
The warmth of a summer sun,
The calm of a quiet sea,
The generous soul of nature,
The comforting arm of night,
The wisdom of the ages,
The power of the eagle's flight,
The joy of a morning in spring,
The faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity,
The depth of a family need,
Then God combined these qualities,
When there was nothing more to add,
He knew His masterpiece was complete,
And so, He called it...dad.

In Our Hearts

by Rose M. De Leon

We thought of you today,
but that is nothing new
We thought of you yesterday'
and days before that too.
We think of you in silence.
We often speak your name.
Now all we have are memories,
and your picture in a frame.
Your memory is our keepsake,
with which we'll never part.
God has you in His keeping.
We have you in our heart.





CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

Amazing Grace

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound; that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind but now I see*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed.*

*Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come, 'tis grace hath
brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.*

PALLBEARERS

*Darryl Benson, Leonard Crockett, Tyrone Griggs,
Derek Lowe, Sam Rogers and Dwain Watts*

FLOWER BEARERS

Family and Friends

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We, the family, wish to acknowledge and express our sincere gratitude for the many expressions of love and kindness shown to us during our most difficult time. To the following individuals and church families, please accept our humble appreciation, you have been a blessing:

Autumn Lake Healthcare, 9001 Cherry Lane, Laurel, MD 20708

We especially appreciate those who visited us at Autumn Lake Healthcare: Gigi Lyons-Lewis, Faye Hamlett, Glynis Bowman, Patricia Bobbitt, Robin Vample, John and Annie Wynn, and Alex and Valerie Baker. Thank you for bringing love and light! We are forever grateful to the nursing staff at Autumn Lake Healthcare for the excellent care provided with love and concern during our stay. With special thanks to nurse Angel, who was our loving angel of care.

From the Heart Church Ministries, 4949 Allentown Road, Suitland, MD 20746

To Bishop John A. Cherry, II, Minister Janet Briscoe, Brother Luther Thompson, Minister Vance Page, Sister Maggie Fonville, Sister Kim Mallard, and the entire From the Heart family for ministering and sharing God's Word and praying with and for us.

First Baptist Church of Glenarden, 600 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

To Senior Pastor, John K. Jenkins, Sr., Minister Antonio Cheeks, and Minister Angela Eugene for bringing church to us at Autumn Lake and ministering God's Word in song and prayer.

We Love You All

Services Entrusted To:

*J. B. Jenkins Funeral Home
7474 Landover Road, Landover, Maryland 20785*