



Aurtherine W. Steward

November 9, 1946 - April 10, 2025

Aurtherine Williams Steward, the oldest child of Lottie Mae and Virgil Lee Williams, Sr., was born on November 9, 1946, in Columbia, Mississippi. She moved up a little higher on April 10, 2025.

The first nine years of Aurtherine's life were spent on a farm where she washed clothes on a rub board, picked plums, persimmons, China berries and cotton. She boasted of picking 109 pounds of cotton at the age of nine, of course, no one would corroborate this impossible sounding claim. During those years, the Williams family was active in the Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, where her uncle, Reverend W.L. Lumzy (Uncle Claude), was pastor. So, as a young child, Aurtherine was very involved in Sunday School and church activities.

The family moved to Muncie, Indiana when Aurtherine was nine years old. She accepted Christ as her Savior at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, under the pastorate of Dr. I.P. Broaddus. Her spiritual mentor and friend, Miss Della Clark, had a profound impact on her walk with Christ, stressing that "no man can serve two masters" and "prayer changes things". While at Antioch, Aurtherine sang in the Junior Choir, was a Junior Missionary, and a member of the Prayer Band. Outside of church, she was interested in becoming an actress. To further that aspiration, she tried out for eighth grade dramatics homeroom at McKinley Junior High School and made it. Before she could follow that dream, the family moved to New Brunswick, New Jersey in 1959.

Once there, the Williams family united with First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens, pastored by Reverend Clifton Graves Wooding. Aurtherine participated in Sunday School (later teaching an adult class and then the Junior class for many years with Cheryl Hughes). She was a Junior Missionary, Junior Usher, member of the Young Adult Choir, Church Chorus, the Ever-Ready Gospel Chorus (renamed C.H. Brown Gospel Chorus) and the Senior Fellowship Choir (under the direction of Mother Mary Soaries). Aurtherine was a Deaconess, founding member of the Leoma Johnson Players (a youth drama group), the driving force behind the church's Black History celebrations for more than a decade and served as Youth Director. For several years, she served. She also served for several years as Area II Youth Director for Middlesex Central Baptist Association. Under her leadership, as First Baptist Youth Director, the tutoring program was launched, and the Sunbeams were organized. She forged a relationship with the leadership of both Franklin Township Housing Authority (Parkside) and the New Brunswick Housing Authority (Robeson Village and Schwartz Homes) and included their youth on trips and in other church youth activities.

Aurtherine – —although she did not coin the phrase – —felt that “a mind was a terrible thing to waste” and pursued developing her mind at South Carolina State (Orangeburg, SC), Howard University (Washington, DC), finally graduating from Rutgers University (New Brunswick, NJ) May 1992, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications. She had an insatiable thirst for knowledge. She always encouraged others to make good choices because they would have to live with the consequences.

Aurtherine could be called a “workaholic”. She had an unlimited supply of countless energy and would work hard at a task until it was completed, without regard to time. She always said that she only needed five hours of sleep a night. She was employed by A&P, New Jersey Bell, E.R. Squibb and Sons, and was a district manager at AT&T, retiring after 20 years as a “20

Year Diva”. Her most challenging and fulfilling position, however, was as secretary to the Pastor of First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens, under Pastor C.H. Brown, Jr. (1979-1984). She also owned and operated Aurtherine Steward Enterprises, as fashion and accessory boutique for voluptuous women.

Aurtherine felt that she had a direct connection to Heaven through her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. She believed that she could lay hands on the sick, pray the prayer of faith over them and they would be healed and recover. This led her to record “Healing Scriptures” accompanied by her baby sister, Ann Young. She also had great compassion for the elderly and her community. She served the Franklin Township community as a member and president of the Citizens Club of Franklin Township.

Preceding her in death were her parents, Virgil Lee and Lottie Mae Williams, and three sisters, Johnnie Mae, Geraldine and Linda Joyce.

She leaves to cherish her memory: husband – Rinzalea; daughters, Carla and Jennie of Wilmington, DE; and special son, Rinzalea (Consuela) of Hermosillo, Mexico; granddaughters – Maya, Nai’la, Rinay and Anaya; grandson – Jaxon; siblings –: Virgil (Sonya) of Jacksonville, FL, Ann (Philip) of Charlotte, NC and Felix (Annie) of Woodbridge, VA; brothers/sister-in-love: – Art (Cynthia), Carl (Glenda) and Azalea Spearman of San Diego, CA; aunts, nieces, nephews, cousins and some very special friends.

“I will bless the Lord at all times, His praises shall continually be in my mouth.”
To my family: I lived a full, rich, joyously complete life with Jesus Christ as its center and my source. You will bring honor to my life and memory if you will do likewise.

All my love,
Aurtherine

Previous Events

Church Viewing

APR **26.** 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens
771 Somerset St
Somerset, NJ 08873

Church Service

APR **26.** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens
771 Somerset St
Somerset, NJ 08873
(732) 828-2009

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Anderson Funeral Service - April 28, 2025 at 04:11 PM

RW

“ Our condolences to the Stewart family. Autherine was dear cousin who loved her family. She will be deeply missed.

With Love,

Wiggins-Taylor Family

Renee Wiggins-Taylor - April 28, 2025 at 12:17 PM

LD

“ To the Stewart and Williams family.
We were deeply touched to hear of the passing of our beloved sister in Christ. We have many fond memories of her and her family. We had the privilege of working alongside of her in various capacities such as, The God Squad, First Baptist Choir, Children's Church, Deaconess Board, etc. She impacted our lives in so many positive ways. She will be remembered with gratitude and missed but we take joy and comfort in knowing that she rests in the arms of our loving Lord and Savior. We are praying for your comfort.
Lonnie and Brenda Duckett

Lonnie Duckett - April 26, 2025 at 11:50 AM

SM

“ *My sincere condolences to the Steward family. May the Lord cover you with peace and comfort during your time of grief and always. Love,
The Sims and Mosley family
Sharon, Kendall, Marc, Courtney*



sharon Sims Mosley - April 26, 2025 at 09:47 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Aurtherine W. Steward.*



April 25, 2025 at 01:06 PM

TF

“ *The Ray/Harris Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Aurtherine W. Steward.*



The Ray/Harris Family - April 25, 2025 at 12:09 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Aurtherine W. Steward.*



April 25, 2025 at 10:26 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Aurtherine Stewart.

April 25, 2025 at 10:26 AM



“ Mrs. Stewart and her famiky are a core part of my childhood. Thank you, Aurtherine for being an integral part of my introduction to GOD.

Praying for comfort and healing for the Stewart family in this time of grief. Sincerely, Tamika (Harris) Wilson

Tamika Wilson - April 24, 2025 at 03:17 PM

“ Condolence blessings #2 dedication~ For Sister Aurtherines' Family & Friends:

Poem : "A Friend's Departure"

*I jumped _ you caught me.
I laughed _ you joked.
I was down _ you picked me up.
I crumbled _ you glued me back together.
I loved you _ you loved me back.*

*You jumped _ I couldn't catch you.
You forgot to laugh _ I couldn't remind you.
You were down _ I couldn't hold you.
You crumbled _ I had no glue.
You loved me _ I still loved you.*

BUT,

*Without any warning or sign,
You ventured to a world divine.
I refused to say goodbye,
Yet, {Today} /tonight/ _ I cried.
My tears are for you, my friend,
But our legacy will not end.
For I shall see you soon,
But first, I {we} have more living to do.
I promise - I won't forget.
Your face is embedded in my heart.*

Also your Love, is forever. AMEN.

*** Original Author: Ms. Carina Spencer ***

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 i~(NKJV) reads:

“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?”

“For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s ”

Reprint: c 4/24/2025} = [<https://fordmears.uk/funeral-poems/my-best-friends-departure/>]

Sincerely- Evangelist LB Foy, 12 noon~p.m.

Evang. Lillie Foy - April 24, 2025 at 12:03 PM

EF

“ We wish to extend our sincere condolence blessings to the family of our Sister~Friend, {Deaconess} Aurtherine Stewart.

Truly a woman of faith, of dedication and great love to the body of Christ: to her dear family ~ {extended and immediate}, and to the community folks' that she served with compassion and graciousness. Amen.

She and her dear husband, Deacon Rinzalea' are counted as great friends to our family {past, 20+years} ~ [especially, to my deceased' Father ~ Deacon George Foy, Jr: departed July' 2016, R.I.P.]

My personal fellowship and times with Sister Aurtherine, was treasured & will be remembered in my heart fondly. She had a countenance of smiling joy and great humor ~ that would make you laugh deep, until your belly' aches. SMH.

Rest in peace my dear Sister ~ Autherine, in Jesus' name.

Submitted by: Evangelist Lillie B. Foy & Family ~ Somerset, NJ.

Evangelist Lillie Foy - April 24, 2025 at 11:54 AM

SH

“ Ms. Autheine as many called her was a woman of statue and purpose. She always had a kind but firm word. She will be missed.
Sherry

sherry - April 18, 2025 at 12:44 PM

RH

“ Sincere condolences to the Stewart family.
Rose, Dyshelle and Tamika Harris

Rose Harris - April 16, 2025 at 07:25 PM

EV

“ Evelyn lit a candle in memory of Aurtherine W. Steward



Evelyn - April 15, 2025 at 12:47 AM

EV

My deepest and heart felt prayers and condolences to the family the Steward family. Rest In Peace! 🙏🙏🙏❤️🌸

Evelyn - April 15, 2025 at 12:49 AM

BM

My deepest condolences Aurtherine was, a deeply rooted President of, the Citizens Club in, Somerset, NJ and will be remembered as a loving, kind well liked Woman she wil, forever stay in, out hearts.

Beryl Mason - April 15, 2025 at 05:55 AM