

# CELEBRATING



*The Life and Ministry of*  
***Dorothy Jean Shirley***

*"Rest, Beyond the River"*



*July 11, 1938*

*February 10, 2018*

# PROGRAM

*First Missionary Baptist Church, 20 S. Elm Street, Henderson, KY 42420*

*Rev. Robert A. Esters, Pastor*

*Saturday, February 17, 2018 - 10:00AM*

Calling on the Family & Prelude

Words of Welcome

Prayer

Congregational Hymn: *Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross*

Scripture Readings: Old & New Testaments

A&B Selections: *Faithful & Grateful* by Hezekiah Walker

Silent Reading: Dorothy's Journey

Family Tribute: Dorothy's Life Through Music

Words of Comfort

Benediction

Recessional & Postlude

## **Psalm 121 v1-8**

I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my  
help come from?

My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of  
heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over  
you will not slumber;

indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither  
slumber nor sleep.

The Lord watches over you—the Lord is your  
shade at your right hand;

the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by  
night.

The Lord will keep you from all harm—he will  
watch over your life;

the Lord will watch over your coming and going  
both now and forevermore.

## **2 Timothy 4 v7-8**

I have fought the good fight, I have finished  
the race, I have kept the faith.

Now there is in store for me the crown of  
righteousness, which the Lord, the  
righteous Judge, will award to me on  
that day—and not only to me, but also  
to all who have longed for his  
appearing.





# PRELUDE SONGS

## *Dottie's Playlist*

1. Alpha and Omega - Israel Houghton & New Breed
2. Anthem of Praise - Richard Smallwood
3. Be Blessed - Bishop Paul S. Morton
4. Be Grateful - Walter Hawkins
5. Blessed Assurance - Larue Howard
6. Breathe - Byron Cage
7. God Favored Me - Hezekiah Walker
8. God Will Take Care Of You - Le'Andria Johnson
9. He's God - Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir
10. Holy, Holy - Richard Smallwood
11. I Just Wanna to Praise You - Maurette Brown-Clark
12. I Know The Lord Will Make A Way - Smokie Norful
13. I Know Who Holds Tomorrow - Larnelle Harris
14. I Love The Lord/Center of My Joy - Richard Smallwood
15. I Love You, Lord - Walter Hawkins
16. I Need You To Survive - Hezekiah Walker
17. I Thank You Jesus (A Mighty Long Way) - James Abbington
18. I'll Trust You - Richard Smallwood
19. In The Midst Of It All - Yolanda Adams
20. Jesus Be A Fence - Fred Hammond
21. Jesus Is Love - The Commodores
22. Keeper of My Soul - Marvin Sapp
23. Let The Church Say Amen - Andrae Crouch
24. Lord I'm Available To You - Rev. Milton Brunson
25. Lord Prepare Me To Be A Sanctuary - West Angeles C.O.G.I.C. Mass Choir
26. More Than Enough - Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir
27. My Soul Is Anchored in the Lord - Douglas Miller
28. Never Alone - Walter Hawkins
29. Order My Steps - GMWA Women of Worship
30. Praise Him (From the Rising of the Sun) - Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir
31. Safe In His Arms - Darius Brooks/The Reunion Live in Chicago
32. Something About The Name Jesus - The Rance Allen Group
33. Stand - BeBe Winans
34. Take Me To The King/I Surrender All - Tamela Mann
35. The Benediction - Anthony Brown & Group Therapy
36. Use Me (If You Can Use Anything) - The Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir
37. Wicked Shall Cease From Troubling/We're Marching to Zion - Carlton Pearson
38. We've Come This Far By Faith/I Will Trust In The Lord - Donnie McClurkin
39. When The Saints Go to Worship - Donald Lawrence



# DOROTHY'S JOURNEY

## A Life Dedicated to Spreading the “Good News” and Encouraging People Through Music

Born July 11, 1938 in Henderson, Kentucky to Dorothy Lucille Burris and Jack Wheat Shirley, Dorothy Jean Shirley accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior at an early age at First Missionary Baptist Church. She was a member in musical service and various roles for Greater St. James Missionary Baptist Church, First Ebenezer Baptist Church, and Metropolitan Seventh-Day Adventist Church before returning to First Baptist where she was a mother of the church.

Affectionately known as “Little Dot,” Dorothy developed a love of the piano at an early age. A self-taught pianist, she began playing for the church choir around the age of 12. Many years later, she added the organ to her musical repertoire, allowing her to create more colorful choral arrangements. For over 60 years, Dorothy directed and played for numerous choirs, churches and organizations in the tri-state area. In the midst of all of her choir work, Dorothy was also a founding member of the Voices of Glory gospel ensemble which, in 2003, was awarded the “Pioneer Award” for extraordinary contributions to gospel music by the Evansville chapter of the Gospel Music Workshop of America (GMWA).

Additionally, Dorothy was inducted into the Evansville chapter of the GMWA Hall of Fame, an honor she cherished and appreciated. When presented with the recognition award, she was appropriately described this way:

"In her nearly [60] years of playing the piano, she has played for many churches, but never played in a 'roadhouse'. She admonished the young musicians to continue to play gospel music and to stay with the church."





# DOROTHY'S JOURNEY

In addition to spending time with her children of whom she was most proud, Dorothy shared her musical gifts by teaching others how to play the piano, especially the “young folks.”

Dorothy worked in administration for McLean Trucking Co. and Atlas Van Lines in Evansville, from where she retired to care for her mother, faithfully, for 7 years.

She leaves to cherish her memory a brother, John Gilbert Shirley of Evansville, Indiana, four children: Sherrilynn Mitchell Tolliver (Gerald) of Capitol Heights, Maryland, Daryl Allen Mitchell of Evansville, Indiana, Pamela Horn Hall (Ricco) of Upper Marlboro, Maryland, and Timothy Ray Horn (Ayana) of Portland, Oregon; five grandchildren: Paul Allen Osei Mitchell, Winston Cloye Tolliver, Jaylan Carnell Hall, Amiri Paul Horn and Imani Rose Horn; and a host of loving cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

She is preceded in death by her father, Jack Wheat Shirley, mother, Dorothy Burris Shelton, stepfather, Luvall Oswald Shelton, and brothers Robert Lee (Bobby) Shirley and William Donald (Billy) Shirley.

Dorothy will be remembered for her strong faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, her ability to listen to those who sought advice, comfort and solace, her love for others, her beautiful singing and piano/organ playing, her love of elegant home décor, and her stylish fashion.

Even in her winter season, Dorothy praised God all day long for  
“His grace and mercy that never ends.”



# FAMILY TRIBUTE

## *Dorothy's Life Through Music*

**For Every Mountain**

*Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir*

**My Help (Cometh From the Lord - Psalm 121)**

*Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir*

**Stand**

*Daryl Coley, Marvin Sapp, Helen Baylor, Maurette Brown-Clark*

**To God Be the Glory**

*Kelly Price (at The Potter's House)*

**Revelation 19:1 (Hallelujah, Salvation & Glory)**

*Stephen Hurd*

**Total Praise**

*Richard Smallwood*





# POSTLUDE SONGS

## *Benediction & Recessional*

**Going Up Yonder**

*Walter Hawkins*

**Reach Out And Touch**

*Diana Ross*



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The family wishes to acknowledge with sincere appreciation the many comforting messages, floral tributes, prayers, calls, visits, and other countless expressions of kindness and consolation during our time of need. May God bless each and every one of you for we are truly blessed to have you as friends.

With special thanks, the family acknowledges Dr. Anthony Stephens. For 15 years your faith, friendship and anointed spirit were instrumental in sustaining Mommy's fight, and we are forever grateful.

In honor of the legacy of our mother, the family requests your consideration of a monetary donation, or donation of your time in memory of Dorothy Shirley to one of the following charitable organizations that continue to assist others in the fight against cancer, and in the support of all those affected:

The Susan G. Komen Foundation - <https://www5.komen.org>  
American Cancer Society - <https://www.cancer.org>  
My Chemo Buddies of Evansville - <http://www.mychemobuddies.com>  
Heritage Hospice - <http://heritagehospice.org>

## *Continue the Tribute!*

Please visit <http://www.dottiesmusic.com> where the family has created an extended Tribute, including reflections from the family, music, photos, a downloadable version of the Homegoing Celebration program and an original Tribute Book.

## *Dedication*

For all the things you've been to us, our guardian and our guide; for truths you have so gently taught, and all the tears you've dried. For faith and understanding when we've faltered on our way, we love and owe you more thanks, Mother, than words can every say.

**Funeral Arrangements Entrusted To:**  
Mason Brothers Memorial Chapel  
1001 Lincoln Avenue, Evansville, IN 47714

**Committal Service and Interment:**  
Fernwood Cemetery  
920 Madison Street, Henderson, KY 42420

