



## Shirley A. Thomas

June 23, 1944 - February 6, 2017

Shirley Ann Barber, was born on June 23, 1944 in McDonough, GA to the late Albert and Rosie Mae Barber.

Shirley, confessed Christ as her savior at an early age. She was an active member at Unity Grove Baptist Church in Locust Grove, GA; where she loved singing in the junior choir as well as serving as an usher.

On March 3, 1963, Shirley married Freddie Thomas and later moved her church membership to Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in McDonough, GA.

Shirley was a very dedicated, committed and determined Woman of God. For many years, she sang with the adult choir, and assisted with the youth choir and various other youth programs.

She loved the children and spent many summers working with Vacation Bible School. She was the public transportation for many kids because she picked them up and returned them safely home, to ensure they got the opportunity to participate in VBS. She served as the president of the Pastor's Aide for 6 years. She later became a member of the usher board and served as their president for many years. Additionally, she served as a deaconess as well as a mother board member. She was the choir mom for the Henry County Youth United in Christ Community Choir. Wherever they traveled, she was always right there to cheer them on! There was no job too large or small when serving

was involved.

In the 1970's, Shirley was one of the few Black female entrepreneurs in McDonough, Ga. As a licensed, master cosmetologist, she rented a building on Macon Street along with her sister Evyone, and opened T & D Beauty Salon. T & D was instrumental in jumpstarting the careers of young stylists. In the late 70's she purchased 1 ¼ acres of land on Simpson Street, and hired a contractor to build her own salon. Shirley's Hairworld, has been instrumental in the community since it's grand opening. Many young stylists from the Henry County area started their careers at Shirley's Hairworld. She opened her doors for employment to anyone who had a will, passion and drive to work hard towards acquiring success!

Shirley, was preceded in death by her sister Geraldine, her father Albert Barber Sr., siblings Laura, Herbert, Curtis and mother, Rosie Mae Barber.

Following a valiant battle with a rare form of Non Hodgkin's Lymphoma, Shirley gained her wings early Monday morning February 6, 2017. Her devotion to her family and her firm belief in God supported her in her fight, and ultimately gave her peace.

Shirley, leaves to cherish her memory, her loving husband of 54 years, Freddie Thomas; her daughter, Yolanda Thomas-Wright of Stockbridge GA; son Frederick (Audrey) Thomas of Jenkinsburg GA; her beloved and only grandchild Briyana Wright of New Orleans, LA; sister Evyone(Walter) Daniel of McDonough, GA; brother Albert Barber Jr. of McDonough GA; aunts Stella McCord of Locust Grove, GA and Lois McCord of Atlanta, GA; sisters-in-law Martha Mccord of McDonough, GA; Viola (Ivery) Craddock of Ellenwood, GA; Lois (Billy) Tyler of McDonough,GA; Ida (Grady) Meadows of College Park, GA; brothers-in-law Edward (Barbara) Thomas of McDonough, GA; Robert Thomas of Griffin, GA; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.



# Previous Events

## Viewing

FEB 10. 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Mt. Carmel Baptist Church  
647 Highway 42 S  
McDonough, GA 30253

## Service

FEB 11. 11:00 AM (ET)

Tabernacle of Praise Church International  
1640 Hwy 42 North  
McDonough, GA 30253  
admin@topci.org  
<http://topci.org/>

## Interment

FEB 11 (ET)

McDonough City Cemetery  
Macon Street  
McDonough, GA 30253

# Tribute Wall

BM

“ *Lady Shirley was an elegant woman in ways that we have forgotten. She was always kind and compassionate to me and my family. My mother appreciated her friendship and entrepreneurial spirit. The day will be a little less bright with her passing. But, the memories will continue to light our reflections on a great life. You are our family and we will keep you in our prayers.*

*Bishop J.P. (Patrick) Miller, Valdosta, GA*

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**Bishop Patrick Miller** - February 10, 2017 at 09:41 PM

SH

“ *Her welcoming smile and hug were always such a warm gesture on Sunday mornings. Our condolences go out to the family of Shirley Thomas.*



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**Sister Elaine Heyward** - February 10, 2017 at 01:05 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Shirley A. Thomas.*



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February 10, 2017 at 12:04 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Shirley A. Thomas.*



February 10, 2017 at 08:53 AM



“ *Mrs. Shirley was one of the sweetest women I have ever met. I am glad I did. Thank you for being s true woman of God.*



**Cynthia Clark-Chambers** - February 09, 2017 at 09:14 PM



“ *Chiquita Edwards lit a candle in memory of Shirley A. Thomas*



**Chiquita Edwards** - February 09, 2017 at 05:32 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Shirley A. Thomas.*



February 09, 2017 at 02:40 PM

WA

“ I was sadden to hear of Shirley's passing. I remember my grandmother walking to her home to ask her if she could begin doing my hair. Shirley did not hesitate even when my mother or grandmother could not pay her for doing my hair, she did it and became my beautician for many, many years. Shirley was not only my beautician, but a friend and I considered her family. She was a wonderful, beautiful, giving and caring person and she will be surely missed. May she rest in peace.

Love, Willie Ruth Farley Akins

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**Willie Farley Akins** - February 09, 2017 at 01:08 PM

VB

“ Shirley, have earned her wings as being the great person she was, she'll always have a smile on her face and ask how is my mother doing? Rest on GOD love you!!!! Virginia Barber and Family

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**Virginia Barber** - February 09, 2017 at 08:59 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Shirley A. Thomas.



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February 08, 2017 at 11:57 PM

MT

“ *Melissa lit a candle in memory of Shirley A. Thomas she will be truly miss. I enjoyed stopping by Shirley Hair World with her@ Eyvonne talking, laughing just having fun but she still having fun with Jesus. May God Continue to Bless each of you*



Melissa Thornton - February 08, 2017 at 03:24 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Shirley A. Thomas.*



February 08, 2017 at 01:23 PM

SJ

“ *Thank you for the opportunity to have cared for Shirley. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers.*

Sacred Journey - February 08, 2017 at 11:19 AM



“ *Cousin Shirley was my first beautician and I remember all the days sitting in her chair crying scared of the hot comb. She wasn't worried about my tears, she was focused on getting my hair right! She was my mom's ONLY beautician. She was also family. We love you cousin Shirley, but God loved you best. I know you're better now. Take your rest. R.I.H.*

Requel Williams - February 08, 2017 at 12:01 AM



“ *Shannon Lemon lit a candle in memory of Shirley A. Thomas*



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**Shannon Lemon** - February 07, 2017 at 07:39 PM



“ *Queen Mother, I know you can hear me.  
Yolanda has so much more to say.  
She will continue on with your legacy.  
She will be as strong as you one day.*

*She's sorry for being selfish.  
She's not ready to let go of your hand.  
Please help her to remember.  
The "Footprints In The Sand.*

*Love you forever,  
Dr. Kai*

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**Kai Ashby, PhD** - February 07, 2017 at 06:51 PM



“ *So many fond memories of such a special woman. A surrogate mother to so many of us. Her life was a light that shined so bright for so many. To the family, I love each and everyone of you. Monica*

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**Monica** - February 07, 2017 at 06:40 PM