



Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith

November 10, 1925 - May 17, 2023

A jewel of a woman, Pearl Virginia Miles Smith was a Godly, loving, and devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, who stood in the gap for her children. Her loving compassion, prayers, joy, and wisdom extended far beyond her family and flowed into the lives of her church family, her community and wherever she went. She was affectionally called “Mrs. Pearl”. All those she met would come to know her favorite scripture, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will direct your paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6.

Mrs. Pearl was born on November 10, 1925, in Richmond, Virginia to the late Georgia Miles, who died while Pearl was an infant. She was raised by a loving aunt and uncle, Gertrude, and Robert Kenny. She accepted Christ at the age of 12 and became a member of Thirty First Street Baptist Church in Richmond, Virginia.

After graduating from Maggie L. Walter High School in 1942, she received her beautician license from Robinson Beauty School. She worked as a hairdresser until she met and married her husband, James E. Smith, Sr. on September 8, 1951. James and Pearl eventually moved to Steinman, Virginia. Her service to the Lord and the community began while living in Steinman, where she began teaching local children the word of God. She and a friend started the first Sunday School in that community, and she also continued her work as a beautician.

She and James relocated to Elizabethton, Tennessee where they raised their

children. Mrs. Pearl united with Phillippi Baptist Church and was a faithful member and served in any capacity the Lord called for more than 70 years until her health declined.

Once her children started school, she began working at the First United Methodist Church where she helped prepare meals for various church functions, fellowship dinners, and wedding receptions and parties. Mrs. Pearl, who began cooking in her Aunt Gertrude's kitchen at age 13, became well known throughout the area for her dinner rolls, chicken salad, and as one of Elizabethton's finest cooks.

Seeking a better life for her family, in 1973 she began working at American Air Filter until her retirement in 1989. Following her retirement, she became a partner and chief caterer for the Rose of Sharon for more than a decade. Although she was a full-time loving wife and mother, she was often asked to help with local weddings and dinner parties. However, she was never too busy to support the functions of her beloved Phillippi Church family and community. At Philippi, Mrs. Pearl served in any capacity to which the Lord called her. She was a member of the Anna Breedlove Circle, Sunshine Band Leader, Usher Board, President of the Mass Choir and faithfully participated in the Bethel District Baptist Missionary and Education Association.

She served her local community as a member of the Carter County Election Commission, the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society, the Red Cross, the Comwolies Civic Club and University of Tennessee Extension Family and Community Education.

She was an avid supporter of the Elizabethton City School System and served as Girl Scout Leader, President of the Elizabethton High School Parent Teacher Association, and officer of the Elizabethton High School Betsy Band Boosters.

Mrs. Pearl found time to minister to others through Meals on Wheels, the Melting Pot, and providing home cooked meals from her own pantry for the sick and elderly of her community.

Mrs. Pearl's service earned her the Volunteer Community Service Award by

the Carver Rec Center of Johnson City. The Mayor of Elizabethton, Tennessee, Curt Alexander, proclaimed October 12, 2012, as "PEARL VIRGINIA SMITH DAY" and asked all citizens and residents to recognize and honor her on this day.

God released Mrs. Pearl from her earthly duties and called her home to rest in His Arms on May 17, 2023. She is preceded in death by her husband, James E. Smith, Sr.; a daughter, Gloria Ann; and three sons, Leroy, James, Jr, and Billy.

Left with the anticipation of joining her in Glory are her loving and devoted daughters, Lillian (Barry, Sr.) Owens, Jan Stephens, Derby (Lester) Butz, Shirley (Arnold, Sr.) Thomas, and Karen Smith.

In addition to her daughters, she leaves a host of loving grandchildren: grandsons, Travis McRath, Terrence Turner, Sr., Johnathan Smith, Jackie Stephens Jr. Lamar Spencer, Arnold Thomas, II, Barry Owens, Jr., Everett Thomas, Julian Smith, Ryan Thomas, Zechariah Nidiffer, Jalen Smith, Rakown Grimes, Terrance Lucy, Torrian Lucy and William Weems-Smith,II; granddaughters, Tiffany Davis, Jessica Stephens-Whitfield , Karlyssa Williams, Elliana Weems-Smith, Londyn Pearl Weems-Smith, Isabella Weems-Smith and Vesaree Weems-Smith; great-grandsons Terrence, Jr, Jeremiah, Jacob, Nate, Oliver, Micah, Isaac, Houston, Winston, Anderson, Braycen, A'saiah, and Javon; great granddaughters, Kaiden, Tamera, LoGhan, Heaven, Shelby, Constance, Aubree, Li'Mora, Azalea Grace and Brooklynn; great-great grandsons, Titus, and Miles; and great-great granddaughters, Hazel, Mia, and Katalina.

Mrs. Pearl also leaves to cherish her memories numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, her beloved Phillippi Baptist Church Family, Elizabethton Community, and friends.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 25. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Phillippi Baptist Church
200 Horace Leftwich Lane
Elizabethton, TN 37643

Celebration of Life

MAY 25. 6:00 PM (ET)

Phillippi Baptist Church
200 Horace Leftwich Lane
Elizabethton, TN 37643

Interment

MAY 26. 1:00 PM (ET)

Mountain Home National Cemetery
53 Memorial Ave
Mountain Home, TN 37684

The cortege will depart from Birchette Mortuary and Cremation Service at 12:30 pm.

Tribute Wall

DS

“ *Rest in Paradise Mrs. Pearl. You have earned your crown. We will miss you. Prayers and condolences to the family.* ”



Deborah Simmons-Grey - June 02, 2023 at 12:08 PM

RD

“ *Rebecca DeLong lit a candle in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith* ”



Rebecca DeLong - May 31, 2023 at 06:23 PM

LW

“ *Leisa Wright lit a candle in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith* ”



Leisa Wright - May 26, 2023 at 11:45 AM

CT

“ *Connie Thompson sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith* ”



Connie Thompson - May 25, 2023 at 09:04 PM

AP

“ Condolences to the family...Only God..



Aleea Pierce - May 25, 2023 at 08:02 AM

SM

“ God has called a beautiful angel to come home.. We loved u and now it is time for u to rest u were a faithful servant...blessing to the family...Love ..Star Pierce Morris..



star Morris - May 25, 2023 at 07:56 AM

JD

“ To the family of Ms. Pearl I send my deepest condolences to all of you. Let it be known that I will have all of you in my prayers tomorrow as you say fair well to your Mother Grandmother Great grandmother she knows she was Loved I will continue to lift you up in prayer in days to come



JoAnn Dockery - May 24, 2023 at 09:54 PM

BK

“ Barbara Kimbrel lit a candle in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith



Barbara Kimbrel - May 24, 2023 at 09:40 PM

AD

“ *Angela Duffield lit a candle in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith*



Angela Duffield - May 24, 2023 at 08:18 PM

VN

“ *Veral Neal lit a candle in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith*



Veral Neal - May 24, 2023 at 04:09 PM

ST

“ *Mrs. Pearl...where do you begin? I have known her for most of my life (I am now 49). Every time we saw her at a football game or out in the community, she always smiled. She would grab your hand and just chat for a bit. She was a staple in our community and she will be missed dearly by all. My prayer for the family is that they remember all of the good times and love one another just as Mrs. Pearl loved all of us.*

Stephani - May 24, 2023 at 10:58 AM

AT

Thanks for acknowledging and Knowing our Matriarch. We Appreciate your Post. 😊

Arnold Thomas - May 25, 2023 at 09:12 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith.*



May 24, 2023 at 09:17 AM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith.*



May 24, 2023 at 05:45 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith.*

May 24, 2023 at 05:45 AM



“ *Thank you Ms. Pearl for all you did. You will be deeply missed. We know you are resting well in the arms of your Lord and Savior.*

Love, Margaret & Stan

Margaret Cannon - May 23, 2023 at 07:08 PM

MC

“ Margaret Cannon lit a candle in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith



Margaret Cannon - May 23, 2023 at 07:05 PM

FF

“ From Your North Carolina Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith.



From Your North Carolina Family - May 23, 2023 at 04:30 PM

JF

“ Jefferson State Community College Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith.



Jefferson State Community College Family - May 23, 2023 at 11:38 AM

JS

“ Jearlene & Victor Smith lit a candle in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith



Jearlene & Victor Smith - May 23, 2023 at 11:31 AM

BB

“ Rest well Mrs.Pearl! You will be missed dearly!



Becky Barner - May 23, 2023 at 09:07 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith.



May 23, 2023 at 07:56 AM

KB

“ Kim Barnett lit a candle in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith



Kim Barnett - May 23, 2023 at 06:01 AM

GG

“ Gladys Gambrell lit a candle in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith



Gladys Gambrell - May 22, 2023 at 11:28 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith.*



May 22, 2023 at 11:27 PM



“ *Louis Locke Jr lit a candle in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith*



Louis locke Jr - May 22, 2023 at 11:03 PM



“ *Renea Hall sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith*



Renea Hall - May 22, 2023 at 09:33 PM



“ *Frazier Lyons sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith*



Frazier Lyons - May 22, 2023 at 09:18 PM

ML

“ *Mary Latham sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith*



Mary Latham - May 22, 2023 at 09:15 PM

RK

“ *Praying for the family...Only God*



Rev.Sherry Pierce Kinchloe - May 22, 2023 at 07:45 PM

KM

“ *Ken McRath sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith*



Ken McRath - May 22, 2023 at 05:43 PM



“ *Phyllis Askew lit a candle in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith*



Phyllis Askew - May 22, 2023 at 03:45 PM

VS

“ Praying for the family Ron and Vanessa Stephens



Vanessa Stephens - May 22, 2023 at 03:08 PM

PC

“ Paula Cavin lit a candle in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith



Paula Cavin - May 22, 2023 at 02:19 PM

DB

“ Praying for the family!



Dr. Jovan Bass - May 22, 2023 at 11:30 AM

JW

“ Janice Wells sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith



janice wells - May 22, 2023 at 08:59 AM

JH

“ Joe And Diane Hardin lit a candle in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith



Joe and Diane Hardin - May 22, 2023 at 04:36 AM

JS

“ Jay And Christine Scurry lit a candle in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith



Jay and Christine Scurry - May 21, 2023 at 11:22 PM

TC

“ The Browns' : Queen, David (Carmen), CB purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith.



The Browns' : Queen, David (Carmen), CB - May 21, 2023 at 10:10 PM

GC

“ Gail Charles lit a candle in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith



Gail Charles - May 21, 2023 at 07:19 PM

BB

“ We send condolences and prayers to the Whitfield and Stephen's family. We pray for your strength and comfort. We love you. From your family in North Carolina.

Brenda Bizzelle - May 21, 2023 at 04:47 PM



“ lit a candle in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith



May 21, 2023 at 04:05 AM



“ lit a candle in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith



May 21, 2023 at 04:03 AM



“ sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith



May 21, 2023 at 04:02 AM



“ sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith



May 21, 2023 at 03:54 AM



“ sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith



May 21, 2023 at 03:53 AM



“ sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith



May 21, 2023 at 03:51 AM



“ My condolences to the family of Granny Pearl. She was a living legacy, and I was blessed and honored to know her, and to be loved by her. My thoughts, prayers, and love are with you during this time of her transition from earth to her eternal Home.



Candi Isom - May 20, 2023 at 09:34 PM

CB

“ *Carol Bradley lit a candle in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith*



Carol Bradley - May 20, 2023 at 08:49 PM

CF

“ *Carla Forney lit a candle in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith*



Carla Forney - May 20, 2023 at 08:18 PM



“ *Linda Workman sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith*



Linda Workman - May 20, 2023 at 07:43 PM

CT

“ *Connie Thompson sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith*



Connie Thompson - May 20, 2023 at 07:36 PM

MJ

“ *Mary James sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith*



Mary James - May 20, 2023 at 05:44 PM

LB

“ *Lynn & Rayetta Bachmen lit a candle in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith*



Lynn & Rayetta Bachmen - May 20, 2023 at 03:23 PM

PR

“ *Paulette Robinson lit a candle in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith*



Paulette Robinson - May 20, 2023 at 01:22 PM

JP

“ *Janice Phillips sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith*



Janice Phillips - May 20, 2023 at 10:38 AM

LB

“ Lydia Bridwell sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith



Lydia Bridwell - May 20, 2023 at 09:56 AM

MR

“ Prayers to the family 🙏🌹



Mary Rollins - May 20, 2023 at 09:41 AM

SB

“ Sylvia Bachman sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith



Sylvia Bachman - May 20, 2023 at 09:19 AM

RN

“ Ricky A Nobleton lit a candle in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith



Ricky A Nobleton - May 20, 2023 at 07:43 AM

VP

“ *Viola Patton sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith*



Viola Patton - May 20, 2023 at 01:49 AM

GB

“ *G.L. & Trish Bristol sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith*



G.L. & Trish Bristol - May 19, 2023 at 09:25 PM



“ *Take your Rest Granny*



Carolyn Fain - May 19, 2023 at 08:56 PM

VR

“ *Vangeline Rollins lit a candle in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith*



Vangeline Rollins - May 19, 2023 at 08:25 PM

RS

“ Dear family,
We are so sorry about the loss if Mrs. Pearl.
She will be truly missed in our church as well
as in the community. May GOD comfort and
keep you during this difficult time. We love
you.



Ron & Gwen Smith - May 19, 2023 at 07:58 PM



“ lit a candle in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia
Miles Smith



May 19, 2023 at 07:56 PM

GF

“ Gary & Moricina Fain sent a virtual gift in
memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith



Gary & Moricina Fain - May 19, 2023 at 06:22 PM

GF

We are so sorry to hear of Ms. Pearl's passing. She was a special lady
and will be missed by all. We are keeping all of you in our prayers.
Love, Gary & Mo

Gary & Moricina Fain - May 19, 2023 at 06:30 PM



“ Pamela Renea sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith



Pamela Renea - May 19, 2023 at 05:55 PM



“ Jaymon, edna and Adeline



Jaymon Johnson - May 19, 2023 at 04:36 PM



“ James Josh Taylor planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith.

James Josh Taylor - May 19, 2023 at 03:40 PM



“ James Josh Taylor purchased the Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray for the family of Ms. Pearl Virginia Miles Smith.



James Josh Taylor - May 19, 2023 at 03:40 PM