

CELEBRATING THE PRECIOUS LIFE OF...



Pearl Amethyst Pettis Cook

Sunrise: August 26, 1924 | *Sunset:* September 16, 2019



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2019

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

Metropolitan A.M.E. Church
The National Cathedral of African Methodism
1518 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005

Officiating

Rev. William Lamar, IV
Senior Pastor

REMEMBERING OUR PRECIOUS
Pearl Amethyst Pettis Cook

Pearl Amethyst Pettis Cook affectionately referred to as Precious Pearl, was born in Little Rock, Arkansas on August 26, 1924, the third child of the late Elmo and Mary Qualls Pettis. A sister, Mayme Pettis Stafford and a brother, Elmer Qualls Pettis preceded her. At the age of seven, Pearl joined Wards Chapel A.M.E. Church and remained active until she relocated to Washington, DC. She attended the Bush and Gibbs Elementary Schools, graduated from the Paul Laurence Dunbar High School in May 1942, and completed two years at Dunbar Junior College. Prior to traveling to Washington, DC in 1945, she taught briefly at an elementary school in McCrory, AR.

On February 28, 1945, Pearl arrived in Washington, DC to work for the Federal government. She was assigned to the War (Ordinance) Department in March of that year and served as a clerk-stenographer in the Personnel Branch in the Pentagon from 1945-1947. Thereafter, Pearl went to work for the Federal Communication Commission on August 5, 1947. During her tenure, she served as clerk-stenographer for the Stenographic Pool, Safety and Special Radio Services Bureau, and the General Counsel's Office.

In 1947, Pearl met and married the late Joe Harden Cook and became the proud mother of three: Harden Thomas Cook (deceased), Wydenia Cook Saunders, and Veda Cook Usilton.

In February 1951, Precious Pearl continue to excel and became secretary to the Chief Economics Division. Her duration expanded to nearly 14 years. During her tenure, she received several accolades for her devotion and tireless efforts to her career. To broaden her mathematical skills and enrich her profession, Pearl enrolled in the Department of Agriculture Graduate School, where she received a certificate in Statistics I and II. On January 11, 1980, after 34 years of government services, Pearl retired.

Precious Pearl became a member of Metropolitan A.M.E. Church in May 1945, under

the pastorate of the late Reverend J. Campbell Beckett. For more than 74 years, she has participated in numerous church organizations and activities. She attended and taught Sunday School, A.C.E. Christian Endeavor League and the Junior Missionary Society. In 1947, she joined the Mothers' Club and the Ethel P. Hall Club (formerly known as the Sunday Evening Club). Pearl served on the Senior Usher Board for more than 50 years and concurrently, as the Vice President of the Ladies Auxiliary. Pearl was also affiliated with the Interdenominational Church Ushers Association of DC, Inc. and served on the Nominating Committee. Her efforts continued while serving as the Assistant Junior Supervisor and a member of the Education Division.

Pearl was a member of the Sarah Allen Missionary Society and the treasurer and activities chair for the Senior Citizens Club. During the late Bishop Frank M. Reid, Jr's. term, Pearl volunteered as an officer to the church. As a result of her dedication and exceptional service, she was asked to substitute for the secretary during her absence. Her faithfulness and commitment continued for the congregation. In 1985, Pearl officially became the church's secretary and remained in the position for 11 years.

God quietly called Pearl Amethyst Pettis Cook to beautify his garden on September 16, 2019. She is survived by her two daughters, Wydenia Cook Saunders and Veda Cook Usilton. She was a proud grandmother of seven grandchildren: Anthony Sean Phillips (deceased) (*Lysa*), Melvin Harden Phillips (*Ceon*), Kevin Harden Cook (*Cynthia*), Kenneth Alexander Cook (*Ebony*), Nicole Cook Brooks (*Bruce*), Amber Usilton Mikel (*James*), and Dominique Saunders. Pearl was further blessed to add 17 great-grandchildren to her lineage.

Rest In Heavenly Peace, *Precious Pearl.*

Order of Service

PROCESSIONAL

HYMN OF PRAISE “Amazing Grace”

INVOCATION Dr. E. Gail Anderson Holness
 Senior Pastor, Christ Our Redeemer AME (DC)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament (*Psalms 139:23-24*)..... Judge Theodore R. Newman, Jr.
 New Testament (*Philippians 4:13*) Ceon V. Phillips (*Granddaughter-in-law*)

MUSICAL SELECTION “How Great Thou Art”

TRIBUTES

Family..... Howard Cook (*Brother-in-law*)
 Ethel P. Hall Club Rosemary Tate (*President*)
 Senior Usher Board James Robinson
 5 A.M. Bible Study Minister Stella McLean
 Senior Citizens Club Ellen Fizer (*Activity Chair*)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS Linda Williams (*Cousin*)

OBITUARY (*Read Silently*)

SERMONIC SELECTION “His Eye Is On The Sparrow”

EULOGY Rev. Dr. Rodger Hall Reed, Sr.

RECESSIONAL “Going Up Yonder”

Precious Pearl



To you my beloved Grandmother, momma and dearest friend, a virtuous woman that loved fiercely and gave of yourself so unselfishly and humbly.

Grandma, you were such an amazing woman. Your love and kindness filled so many empty, lonely, unwanted and unloved periods in my life. The beautiful and humble person you were, drew people in and they never left.

I thank you for being my anchor and catalyst to becoming a man. Thank you for supporting and celebrating me through my high and low periods. The unwavering support, encouragement and words of wisdom that will forever resonate with me.

Grandma, I am truly in awe of the unconditional love you showered me with, it will never be forgotten!

So I say, rest easy my Angel, for you have gained your wings and one day you will receive your crown.

I miss and love you deeply.
—Your grandson, Melvin H. Phillips

90th Birthday Celebration for Mother Pearl Amethyst Pettis Cook



Mother Pearl Amethyst Pettis Cook

“I Can Do All Things Through Christ Which Strengtheneth Me”

— Philippians 4:13



*Deceased



Mrs. Cook has Seven Grandchildren and Thirteen Great GrandChildren

August 26, 1924

“Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubles.”
Proverbs 31:10

My mother was a special kind of person, who cared enough to take time for others and for me... She was someone who knew that giving makes living a pleasure and that thoughtfulness is the best measure of a person...

Her warmth, kindness, understanding and above all, love, meant more than words could say...

A day will never go by without the thought of how much it meant to have someone like her as my mother...

I'll be loving her always.

—Your loving daughter, Veda Cook Usilton





Pallbearers

Stanley Black (*Honorary*)
Tyrone Fizer (*Church member*)
Lloyd Murphy (*Family friend*)
James Mikel (*Grandson-in-law*)
Anthony Phillips, Jr. (*Great-grandson*)
Arzel Phillips (*Great-grandson*)

Acknowledgements

The family wishes to thank you for your caring thoughts and acts of kindness, your comforting words, cards, telephone calls, food, visits, and prayers. We offer special thanks to Mother Pearl's caregivers, Bernice Dunbar and Elaine Benjamin, for their commitment and dedicated care and Rev. William H. Lamar and the members of Metropolitan A.M.E. Your thoughtfulness will serve as reminders that we are not alone during this time of our bereavement. We shall always remember how your love sustained us, and we pray that God will continue to bless you as you have blessed us.

Interment

Rock Creek Cemetery
Washington, DC

Services Entrusted To:

Hunt Funeral Home
908 Kennedy Street, NW
Washington, DC 20011

FOLLOWING THE SERVICE OF INTERMENT,
THE FAMILY WILL RECEIVE FRIENDS IN THE
DOUGLAS HALL.

