



*The Family Tribute*  
*Frances Gaither Wilkins*

*Memory has a beautiful way  
of keeping our loved ones near,  
Ever close in our hearts and minds  
are the ones we hold most dear.*

**Frances Gaither Wilkins**, beloved daughter of the late Loren Patterson Gaither Houston and George “Sweet” Hickman, was born in Iredell County February 17, 1939. She departed this life on Wednesday, April 1, 2020, at West Iredell Dialysis Center in Statesville, N.C.

She was a graduate of Unity High School and attended Livingstone College. She was a longtime member of St. Joseph Baptist Church where she served faithfully and sang on the choir. She was married to her longtime husband, Willie Wilkins Jr., who preceded her in death. In addition to her husband, she was also preceded in death by two loving daughters, Joyce Kimberly Wilkins and Pamela Loree Currence; two brothers, Johnny Gaither Sr. and Harry Gaither; mother-in-law, Floree Haney Wilkins; three brothers-in-law, Clyde Wilkins, David Parks and Bobby Griffin; a foster sister, Beulah Brown; an aunt, Eula Hickman Daniels; nephews Carl Brown and Tyree Dalton; and foster parents, Geneva and AJ Robinson who raised her.

She leaves to cherish the memory of her life, her sons, Kenneth (LaChay) Wilkins, Victor Wilkins, and Ronald (Eva) Wilkins; her one and only son-in-law, Gregory Currence Sr.; two lifelong loving sisters, Josephine Parks and Flora Griffin; an aunt, Connie Patterson; special grandchildren, Gregory (Shirelle) Currence Jr., Charre Currence, Roneisha Wilkins, Sierra Wilkins, Chandler Rhyne, and Letisha Lewis; great grandchildren, Traven Lassiter, Cameron Smith, Jada McCain, Elijah Lacy, Julian Speller, Essence Whitesides and Deltrich Lewis; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, the St. Joseph Church Family, other relatives and dear friends.

*In tears we saw you sinking, and watched you fade away  
Our hearts were really broken, because we wanted you to stay  
But when we saw you sleeping so peacefully and free from pain.  
How could we wish you back with us to suffer that again.  
It breaks our hearts to lose you but you did not go alone  
For part of us went with you the day God called you home.*

**The Celebration of Life Service**  
**Reverend Perry Dye, Officiating**  
**Reverend Darrick Clemons, Pastor, Eulogist**

*The Order of Service*

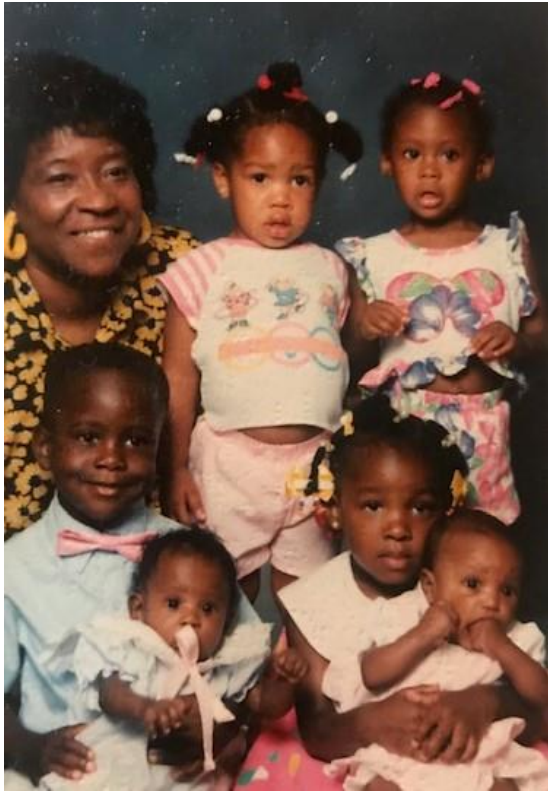
**2:00 P.M.**

- The Processional
- The Opening Selection
- The Scripture Readings ..... Reverend Leonard Middleton  
*Old Testament:*
- New Testament:*
- The Prayer of Comfort .....Elder Christopher Daniels
- The Solo ..... Evangelist LaTina Mack Johnson
- The Remarks: *(Limit two minutes please)*
- The Acknowledgments and Commemorative Presentation  
..... The Funeral Director
- The Solo ..... Nakayla Griffin
- The Eulogy..... Dr. Darrick Clemons
- The Committal
- The Recessional Selection

*At The St. Joseph Baptist Church Cemetery*  
*Statesville, North Carolina*  
*The Placing of the Casket at the Grave*  
*The Final Departure*

*Casket Bearers*  
Relatives

*Flower Bearers*  
Relatives



*A Celebration of Life for  
Mrs. Frances Gaither Wilkins*



*A Gift Given*  
February 17, 1939

*A Gift Returned*  
April 1, 2020

*With Our Heartfelt Thanks*

...that we through the patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope, (Romans 15) God has given us our church family, neighbors and dear friends, to help us as we go forward. **God's Word has been manifested through** your many expressions of sympathy and support; we praise God from whom all blessings flow. Thank you for honoring the memory of our beloved Frances and for remembering us during her illness and passing. In our risen Lord, we have peace that passes all understanding. **The Family**

Professional Services Entrusted To:  
**Rutledge and Bigham Mortuary, Inc.**  
603 South Center Street, Statesville, NC 28677 (704) 873-3611  
Visit the Book of Memories for Frances  
at [www.rutledgeandbigham.com](http://www.rutledgeandbigham.com)

*Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 1:00 a.m.*  
*St. Joseph Baptist Church*  
*Statesville, North Carolina*  
*Reverend Perry Dye, Officiating*  
*Dr. Darrick Clemons, Pastor, Eulogist*