



Tributes and Reflections of

Our Beloved Sister Shirley Hopkins

A Life Well Lived in Service to God.

You were a diamond among gems sparkling brightly and shining the light of Christ everywhere you went. Your favorite word was “relationship” because you created relationships with everyone you encountered. Your spirit was warm and encouraging. You lit up the room with love and kindness every time you walked in. You have indeed left us with wonderful memories and stories to tell. We thank God for just having the pleasure of being in your presence and we are all better for it. In loving memory of Shirley Hopkins.

Sis. Victoria Jones



There is nothing as precious as a friend that God gives. He knew exactly who to send me when I first arrived at Ebenezer. My memories of Sis. Shirley will be wrapped and sealed, just like every package that she gave to me. I thank you, God, for giving me such a wonderful, true friend.

Sis. Earleen Johnson

Shirley, to know you was to love you and to know what God’s love truly meant. You couldn’t ask for a better friend or cheerleader than Sis. Shirley Hopkins. I don’t think there is anyone Shirley has ever met that she did not like nor try to establish a “relationship”, her favorite word, with. Your warmth and love was felt the first day I met you at Ebenezer. Over the years you always had an encouraging and supportive word. We soon discovered we had quite a few things in common, one being the love for shoes. You saw the good in everyone and gave of yourself unconditionally, never a bad word to say about anyone. You demonstrated the love of a Servant’s heart in everything you did. You have left us great examples to live by and to follow. God knew your work on earth was done. “Well done thou good and faithful servant.”

Sis. Ellalene Barnaby

*Dear Shirley,
I thank God for allowing our path to cross. When I think about your caring spirit and all the times you called to inform me about a family who needed our help, I am saddened that we will never be able to replace you. As one of Ebenezer’s strongest pillars I pray that we do not crumble without your strength. We will miss you, but we know that God wants our best. I love you my sister. Rest In Peace! I will see you at the pearly gate.*

Sis. Mel Jenkins



Tributes and Reflections

Shirley Hopkins was a Class Act. Warm, friendly, adorable, fashionable, God fearing, a Phenomenal Woman. She will be truly missed.

Sis. Barbara Ligon

Once Shirley was on your side, she was always available for conversations on any topic. You always felt that. When she ask you to do something, it was always easy to say yes. She always made sure that I had her Witness Visitation Committee's notes to compile in my Council minutes. She loved family and always had a good word about family. We would talk about how trying it was to get her husband's paperwork in order after his passing. Shirley, you put your all into every committee you were responsible for—Carnival, Usher Board, bus trips (calling to see if you were on your way), etc. We love and miss you and 'yes, I will bring macaroni!' ☺

Sis. Tish Ross

Shirley and I go back 25 plus years. We spoke with each other every day; no matter where we were, whether in town or out of town. She was truly a genuine friend and confidant; knows when you are in your lowest time and not afraid to help when you can't do it at all; always having an uplifting and encouraging word. She cared for and thought of the feelings of everyone. She never forgot to visit with the sick and shut-in and offering words of encouragement. Shirley, you have been a good and faithful servant, doing what God ordained you to do. I miss you my dear friend. Until we meet again.

Sis. Flossie Branch

Shirley Hopkins was our great friend and was always available to help or assist with whatever she could do to make things better. She loved family. Shirley did all she could to help her son Troy. Her last request to us was to write a letter to Troy. She told everyone about "TJ." All of her family knew how much she cared and loved them. Shirley loved her Ebenezer family. She was greatly involved in every church ministry and activity, a real pillar of the church. She will be missed. Shirley knew Carolyn wasn't doing great and offered to help if we ever needed her. That's the kind of friend she was. It was a blessing to have Shirley as a friend. She was one of our blessings from God and we thank Him for the time that he allowed her to be with us. Rest in peace dear friend, Shirley Hopkins. We will definitely miss you.

Bro. Douglas and Carolyn Jackson

Our sister Shirley Hopkins loved, supported and encouraged my children. My children are now paying it forward. Rest in peace my dear sister.

Sis. Gloria Pickett



Tributes and Reflections

You have a few good friends and Shirley was one of them. She was one of a kind, always helpful in any way she could. Kindness was her middle name. Shirley's passion was visiting anyone in the hospital, nursing home, or at their home. She always had two or three people with her, including me. Will miss you Shirley.

Sis. Edith Wright

Shirley and I lived next door to each other. We have known each other since 1972 (48 years). As couples, we often got together for card games. Over the years, we have shared both good and bad experiences and leaned on each other for support. She understood what it meant to just be there, listening and not asking questions, lending a shoulder to cry on, and talking for hours on the phone or staying up all night talking about nothing. We often took short trips together. Shirley introduced me to Ebenezer and the rest is history. As she would often tell me, "I am so glad I brought you into the Ebenezer family." You have been a cheerleader and recruiter for Ebenezer for all the ministries. I will miss your kind and beautiful spirit.

Sis. Shirley Scott

It has been said that friends are the family that you choose. Shirley was truly more than a friend; she was a sister to me. Shirley was one of the most loving and compassionate people that I've known. She had a knack for making everyone feel important. She had such a helpful spirit and often knew exactly what I needed, sometimes before I even knew myself! I could always count on Shirley to check on me and make sure that I had what I needed during both the good times and the difficult times. In fact, on her last day on this earth, she called me to make sure that I had everything that I needed. What a giving heart she had! Shirley will be remembered for her beautiful spirit and her kind and loving ways. She will be missed by her "fun" sisters, as well as many others. Though I must say, "farewell," Shirley will forever be in my heart and memories. While I will long for her presence, I know that she was an angel that God needed more. Thank you, Shirley, for the joy that you brought into my life. You will never be forgotten.

Love, Sis. Anne Seymour

My tribute to Sis. Shirley Hopkins begins with praises lifted on high and thanksgiving raised to the Lord God for His blessing on me and you in the presence and precious spirit of Shirley Hopkins in our everyday lives. Her loving, sharing spirit, always encouraging others she encountered; active use of the blessings God has given us to serve God by serving others. The sweet and praying spirit of Shirley Hopkins consistently encouraging you to grow in your relationship with God and grow in your service to God. Never a harsh word, always complimenting and encouraging words prompting the receiver to active service in the name of our Lord and Savior. Praise God for the time we spent, for the time we had the precious and encouraging spirit of Shirley Hopkins touching our lives.

Sis. Kathleen Jones



The Broken Chain

Tributes and Reflections

Shirley was a people's person; she was the first person in Ebenezer to grab you by the hand and introduce you to other people in the church you needed to connect with to usher, sing, count money, sign up for prison ministry, etc. She soon developed a "relationship," her favorite word. Your family became her family. No one like her remaining at Ebenezer, she truly will be missed.

Sis. Ina Fells

Shirley was a wonderful role model and inspiration to women. She walked the walk and was always there to motivate you, pray for you, encourage you. She was a wonderful friend that will truly be missed; and we are all blessed to have known her. Through her faith and goodness she was an inspiration to us all.

Sis. Pershail Young

Upon reflection, it occurred to me that there is at least one Scripture that best defines each one of us and how we present ourselves to the world. After a brief search, I found the one that spoke to me and how I think about my late Sister, Shirley Hopkins. 2 Corinthians, Chapter 13 and verse 11 reads as follows: "Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you."

Shirley Hopkins never gave up on anyone. She encouraged others every chance she got. She was a community organizer; constantly striving to enlarge her and others' territory for the good of the Kingdom. She recruited others to get involved in worthy causes and ministries that she felt best suited their gifts and talents. If she sensed that she was pushing too hard, she understood the principle of cease-and-desist. But, none of us was ever "safe" because she also knew how to double back on you in her sweet Shirley Hopkin's disarming way.

When I think of Shirley, I am reminded that we were Sisters for over 25 years. I can recall receiving phone calls from her when we were both in the workforce and calls to see if I planned to ride the bus to various church-related events. I can recall hearing her beloved late great-grandson Romello's voice on the other end of a phone call that Shirley placed for him. She once called for Charlene who needed a little more encouragement than Shirley could provide at the time. On a three-way call, we talked about the emotional, physical and spiritual demands placed on caregivers.

Yes, 2 Corinthians 13:11 sums up who Shirley Hopkins was in my mind, and who she will forever be in my heart. Rest in peace, dear Sister ...the God of love and peace shined brightly in you and through you to others when you were on this side of Zion. Thank you for your kind words of encouragement. Thank you for calling me when you thought I was the right person for the job. Thank you for never giving up on any of us. God prepared you for what I am certain is your job description for eternity. Until we meet again...

Your Sister in Christ, Cynthia Clark



Tributes and Reflections

When Phil and I first moved to New Carrollton, we began our search for a new church home. Prayerfully, we asked God to put us in a church that was warm, loving, caring, and REAL! We wanted to be in a place where we could serve His people, and His people were serving others. And we agreed that we would only join a church if we both knew God was answering our prayers. For about 2 months, we visited different churches, large, medium, small. However we never felt they were the place where God wanted us to be. One day, we received a postcard from Ebenezer inviting us to service. I figured there was no better time than the next Sunday to visit, so we decided to attend. As soon as we entered into the church, so many people warmly greeted us that I couldn't count them all! I am most certain that Sis. Shirley Hopkins was one of the many.

A few days after we visited Ebenezer, I got an unexpected visit from the Witness Visitation Team. I remember how tired I was after walking from my bus stop, and that all I wanted to do was get in my door and shut the world off until morning. There were two ladies in the front of my building's walkway. As I said "hello", one of the ladies asked if I lived at a specific apartment. I said yes, and almost immediately, Sis. Shirley's eyes lit up, and she put the biggest smile on her face. Introductions were made and said they were reaching out to us and thanking us for coming to Ebenezer. I was shocked and amazed because no other church followed up with us this way. We received follow up letters, but this was special. I told Phil that I thought our prayers were answered, and that Ebenezer was the church we needed to revisit.

Ultimately, we joined the church, and each time we were there, Sis. Shirley would always tell us how happy she was that we joined. I could tell that she personally invested her heart in everyone she meets. Her kind words of encouragement continue to play in my mind. Sis. Shirley Hopkins will always hold a special place in our hearts. May we all carry a piece of her warmth and tenderness in our hearts forever.

Sis. Stephanie and Bro. Philip Hazell

It was a culinary event that brought Shirley and me together. Shortly after joining Ebenezer, I participated in the "Cake Walk" contest that was part of the annual church carnival. I submitted an orange sour cream cake that was won by Sister Edith Wright, who graciously shared a slice with Shirley. She fell in love with this cake and from that time on requested that I bake it for her, especially on special occasions: holidays, her birthday, a trip to Williamsburg or just when she had a taste for it. Even when I gave her the recipe, she still insisted that I make it. So rest in peace, dear sister. You left behind sweet memories and you are sorely missed.

Sis. Bernadette Bailey



The Broken Chain

Tributes and Reflections

I miss those early morning calls between 6:30 and 7:00 a.m. when my dear sister, Shirley, would call to see if I was on my way to work. We would talk with each other until I reached the gate at work and we would say goodbye for the day. The last day that I saw her was on the last Sunday that she came to church, all decked out in red. Donald and I told her how lovely she looked. When I came home from Church that afternoon, I took a nap. Upon waking up, he told me that Shirley had called. I immediately returned her call. We chatted for a while and she asked me to do something for her. I told her I would. Two days later, I received a call that she had passed. I couldn't believe it, and I still can't believe that my dear sister and friend is gone. However, I have good, and fond memories of her, and I will never forget her. When I think of her, I think of the letters in her name and what they mean to me.

Sweet—*Shirley was one of the sweetest, and kindest persons I have known. No matter how much she was hurting, she was pleasant, kind and gentle to others. She always had a cheerful word for everyone. I called her my Ebenezer cheerleader.*

Hope—*Shirley was full of hope. No matter what obstacles she faced, she was always hopeful that things would work out. Winston Churchill once said, "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the Courage to Continue that counts." Shirley always had the courage to continue to hope.*

Inspirational—*Shirley was an inspiration to all. I called her the "chief cook and bottle washer" at Ebenezer as she was always inspiring members of the congregation to participate in the various ministries, whether it's going on the bus, bringing macaroni for someone's repast, or to support an activity that was going on. She had that voice that was sweet and convincing and made it hard to say no.*

Rainbow—*As Maya Angelo once said, 'try to be a rainbow in someone else's cloud'. Shirley was that rainbow at Ebenezer. She was reliable and someone that you could count on at all times.*

Leader—*Proverbs 27:23 states "be sure you know the condition of your flock, give careful attention to your herds". Shirley was a true leader and she was always seeking talents who could serve in the various ministries at Ebenezer.*

Encourager—*Shirley encouraged and sought out others to serve. If a child or an adult had performed on any given day, she would call that person and tell them how wonderful they were.*

Yeoman—*Shirley was a servant in the royal household of God. She made sure that she sowed, tendered and harvested in the vineyards of the community and Ebenezer. Her witness and visitation ministry brought several new members to Ebenezer. I already miss your early morning calls, your pleasant voice, saying "are you on your way to work" and your charming personality and disposition. The fond memories we shared will live on forever. Rest in peace my dear sister. I love you.*

Sis. Alice M. Jackson



Tributes and Reflections

Shirley, you are sorely missed, and always will be. Thank you for your leadership of the Witness Visitation Ministry. I am proud and honored to have been one of your Co-Coordinator for this Ministry. You have blessed Ebenezer with your many years of service in this Ministry and in the Church.

Recently, after Church, as Victoria and I sat lamenting our loss and tugging at each other's brains as to what to do for the upcoming Church Council Meeting, suddenly, I realized that by just reflecting on you and how you led us, provided us our answers for the upcoming meeting and beyond. So even in absentia, your love for this Ministry and your Ebenezer family still guide and lead us.

In honor, and as tribute to you, I am going to ask our Team to consider our first community walk each year to be called "Shirley's Walk", to be held the first Saturday (weather permitting) closest to your birthday.

My thanks to you for your friendship, leadership, guidance and getting me to do things even when I did not want to do them, only to see how well things always turned out.

I will miss your friendly directives for cups and magnets and for preparing mailings to new residents.

Thanks for having been there, and your "can do, must do, will do" spirit will continue to guide us.

Always thinking of you, Bro. Donald Jackson

My Christ like Sister and Gracious Friend

Shirley Hopkins blessed me beyond all measure with her kind and loving concern for me. Even now, by the power of the Holy Spirit, I feel her arms embracing me with the same care she had while she was on earth.

Even if she was busy, Shirley would always make time for me. One of the things that so deeply impressed me about Shirley was that she was so interested in everything. Any conversation I brought up was fascinating to her, and she always wanted to know the deeper meaning of everything. Shirley and I loved to spend time together. We loved just to talk together. When I felt lonely or needed to talk, she would always make time for me. She never turned me away and would always offer such wonderful encouragement. If I was concerned about a choice or decision I had made, she would look at me and say, "You can't make a mistake, Rev. Manson." What she meant was that, in the Lord, God works everything for good for those who love Him. What a blessing that was to hear, and how much in line with God's grace that statement was.

The gentleness and the joy Shirley and I had was mind-blowing to me. She was unlike the tense, achievement-oriented culture we live in—she had the opposite perspective. Having had her for a friend, I know I have been given an everlasting gift that will never leave. A feeling of being truly loved and not only loved, but delighted in, even as the Lord delights in each one of us.



The Broken Chain

Tributes and Reflections

In speaking of His own impending death and resurrection, Jesus said to His friends, “For the moment you are sad at heart, but I shall see you again and then you will be joyful, and no one will rob you of your joy.”

And so, I do not know if she can hear me or not, but dear friend, mentor, and sister in Christ, until we meet again, when this presence of an absence shall yield to eternal life together in all its fullness: SO LONG AND GOD BLESS.

Rev. Evelyn Manson

As I recall, I met Shirly approximately 28 years ago. I had just started coming to church regularly rather than just on special occasions. One Sunday, this lady came to the pew in which I was sitting and said, “Good Morning Mr. Bell how are you doing?” My name is Shirley Hopkins and I want to tell you how much I love your mother.” I thanked her, and since she knew my mother as well as my name, there was no need for me to introduce myself.

She asked me if I was a member of this church. I answered no, but I plan to join. She said “good.” She said that she was the president of the Usher Board and would like for me to become an usher. I said I would give it some thought. At the time, I didn’t know how persistent she could be.

A few Sundays went by and I still had not joined this church. She came up to me and said, “I may have missed it, but have you joined yet?” When I answered no, she said “Well, we are still waiting for you”. A few Sundays later I joined; and Shirley, true to her word, was there waiting for me. She said that she wanted me to be on her team.

A couple of years went by. One day, Shirley called me and said that she had planned to step down as the president, and Kendall Harris, who was the vice president, would probably take her position. If so, would I become the vice president. I said Shirley, “I haven’t been an usher that long and there may be someone else who wants that job.” I forgot who I was talking to. She said that I want you to be the vice president.

When it was our team’s month to usher or to be on duty during a funeral, Shirley did not leave anything to chance. She called each person on the team. She didn’t just do it one time, sometimes twice, sometimes three times. I recall on one occasion she had gone down to her home town in Virginia, a trip she had planned, and we were to have a funeral while she was gone. Before she left, she called each person that she wanted to usher. She told each person what their duties would be, and I would be in charge of the team. Remember, Shirley had given up her position as president, but she was still in command—in a nice way.

The morning of the funeral, Shirley called me and again went over the assignments. I said Shirley, “we got this. Don’t worry about anything, we are going to be alright. Just go on and enjoy being with your family.”

The Broken Chain

Tributes and Reflections

When our phone rang on Sunday Mornings between, 7:00 am and 8:30 am, we did not need caller-ID to know who it was. It was usually Shirley reminding me of something. This past Sunday, between 7:00 and 8:30, our phone rang. At first Jobie and I just looked at each other. To the family, we all loved Shirley and we are going to miss her; but we know that God also loved her, and He wanted her to come on home.

Bro. Curtis and Sis. Jobie Bell

The Lady in the Metallic Blue 240Z

I first met my friend Shirley on a Sunday morning in our church parking lot. As she stepped out of her Classic Datsun 240Z, fashionably dressed, with her young son Troy, we smiled and greeted each other. That greeting was the beginning of a 30-year friendship. I was a new usher and invited her to join. During our conversation, I remarked that I became an usher because I had no singing voice and therefore couldn't join the choirs. She laughed and said she couldn't sing either, so she supposed she, too, should become an usher.

After observing her dedication to our usher's team, when the opportunity arose to establish a "young adult" usher group, I immediately nominated Shirley to lead this group, and she accepted. With vigor and enthusiasm, she organized and led Ebenezer's young adult ushers for several years before becoming president of the Ebenezer's Senior ushers. She always said, "Tis, you got me into all this," but I knew that she enjoyed every moment, and as she did with all her endeavors, she gave it the "Shirley Jane Hopkins" gusto.

Shirley and I shared so much during our 30+ years of friendship/ sisterhood. She traveled with me to visit my Mom in my hometown of Kingstree, SC several times. There were a couple of stores in Kingstree that sold "Church Ladies" hats and she always found a red or purple one to her liking. She bonded with Mom and called her at least once every week. Shirley, along with Carolyn Jackson, were the coordinators for my daughter, Nicole's wedding. She was very pleased that purple was the primary color for Nicole's attendants, in fact, I think she suggested it because purple was her color.





Tributes and Reflections

We shared many special times. One very exciting moment was hearing Troy's name called for graduation while not sure that he had completed the credits required for the 6 week back-to-school program in which he had enrolled; the birth of my first grandchild; the birth of her grandson, Troy B; tirelessly campaigning for the election of County Executive, Angela Alsobrooks, and attending her swearing in and inaugural Ball.

There were also sad moments when we leaned on each other's shoulders, cried, prayed, and tried to make sense of what we were going through .my divorce; the trial and conviction of her son which she endured with dignity and grace and the death of her 10 year old great-grand son, Romello. Shirley always had words of comfort for me and I hope I was able to console her in some small way.

*We did a lot of fun things too. Shirley thought we should form a club of "ladies with similar likes", so we organized the "No Name Group." There would be no rules and no specific agendas. Shirley hosted the first gathering and we were each to bring a dish. She told me to bring rolls, and that I could buy them at the grocery store (cooking was a "no-no" for me). We had so much fun at our first get together, that we titled ourselves the FUN BUNCH. Hence, for several years the Fun Bunch regularly met. We went shopping, **ate**; shared stories, **ate**; had lots of fun, **ate**, went to a few shows and had our private fashion shows all coordinated by Shirley.*

Relationship building, helping, and complimenting others were main attributes of my friend Shirley. She believed that problems could be solved, and missteps could be prevented if we took the time to build relationships. Helping and complimenting others just came naturally to her. Countless phone calls, cards (birthday, get well, sympathy, Just Because), hospital visits, nursing and rehabilitation homes visits... they made up her daily agenda.

Several of us received birthday cards from Shirley several days after her death. She had purchased, addressed, written a special message and had them ready for mailing, even for persons whose birthdays are not until October 2020. I could go on and on and on about the "Fashionable Lady" who drove the Datsun 240Z, but I'll end by saying, my friend Shirley loved her family, our Pastor, her church family, friends, crab cakes and French onion soup, and helping others...BUT most of all, she Loved the Lord! You just have to "Pray" she would say, "Pray, Pray, Pray."

I love you Shirley; May you Rest in Peace, my Friend!

Eddi ("Tis")

Dear Shirley,

Having you as a friend was indeed a gift from God. Tom and I will always remember and be thankful for your words of encouragement and comfort, your acts of kindness, and the love shown to us over many years. We miss you.

Bro. Thomas and Sis. Joan Brown



The Broken Chain

Tributes and Reflections

There is a spiritual song that says, "When it looked like the sun wasn't going to shine any more, God put a rainbow in the clouds." When I walk into Ebenezer, enter the sanctuary, and pass the last pew, I still look to see Shirley's smiling face and hands outstretched to greet me. Shirley had the rare gift of finding a way to be the rainbow in everyone's cloud. When she called and asked you to do something, she could not be denied. Shirley had an indelible presence that will forever linger in my heart. In a spiritual sense, wherever we gather she will still be with us.

Sis. Daphne Fuller

Shirley Hopkins made new friends wherever she went and connected well with our church visitors. Shirley loved Ebenezer United Methodist Church and was very proud whenever she received compliments about the duties and deeds of any Ebenezer member. She was responsible for recruiting many ushers and loved every minute of keeping the ushers organized and focused without ever raising her voice or losing control. She always greeted you with a very warm smile. Shirley never left church when she ushered without first policing the pews for discarded fans, bulletins, gum and candy wrappers, and restoring the hymnals and bibles to their respective locations.

Shirley Hopkins pledged her moral, physical, and spiritual support to every endeavor she undertook. Shirley was one of those people who showed the courage of her convictions. Shirley was a standard banner bearer for the Lord. This was a banner which she held very high until the very end of her journey on this side of the river. Shirley exemplified the type of worker that the Lord wants working in his vineyards. She was a servant for the Lord. Her labors were plentiful, and we know her reward is to inherit that kingdom prepared for her from the foundation of the world. Shirley Hopkins will be greatly missed by all of her Ebenezer family.

Bro. Kendall Harris

Sis. Shirley Hopkins was an inspiration to me, whenever we spoke or met. She always had uplifting things to say to me. She was a committed, dedicated, and detailed type of person.

Bro. William Butler, Jr.

Sis. Hopkins was one of the first people we met when we joined the church over 45 plus years ago; our children were just babies. She made us feel welcome, and did not hesitate to get us involved in different ministries of the church. She had always been easy to talk to, very cooperative in all activities of the church. She was a strong leader, committed, and dedicated to whatever she got involved in. She had a strong faith in God and aspired to get along with everyone. I miss her a lot, for countless reasons. She had a wonderful way of asking us to do things; it was hard to say no. Sis. Shirley strongly believed in the word "Relationship." May your soul rest in peace. You are dearly missed, Sister Shirley Hopkins.

Sis. Winnifred Butler



Tributes and Reflections

*I remember Shirley meeting with us encouraging us to participate in the Youth program when I was a Teenager! She was so encouraging to all of us. Shirley continued to encourage me as an adult because she would call me often to tell me how much she sincerely enjoyed the music the Chancel Choir sang for the service. I miss her. **Linda***

*Ms. Shirley called me at home to tell me how much she enjoyed my saxophone playing a lot, especially when I played a solo. I really appreciated her taking the time to speak with me. I miss her. **W. Alexander***

*I remember recessing with the chancel choir and always seeing her dancing and smiling in her back pew seat. She always smiled and hugged us all. She is missed. **Allison***

*I remember a genuine friend who was always there to support me and my family on a very consistent basis. I have never met someone who appreciated and supported the efforts of my family in whatever we did. But what I remember most are the relentless and tireless efforts that Shirley gave of herself. Even though she supported everyone, she also gave every ounce of her energy, and she did it with a wonderful smile and a wonderfully pure heart. There are moments in life that you wish you could just go back to hug someone and thank them for being such a wonderful person. If I could, I would go back and hug Shirley, because she was truly one in a million. **Bill***

The Porter Family

This poem reflects the inner beauty of our beloved disciple—Sister Shirley J. Hopkins

*Spiritual, spread God's love to everyone she met
Helpful, gave others sound advice with no regrets
Interesting showed initiative to accomplish her goals
Resourceful, provided services to young and old
Loving, brought family, friends and neighbors in the fold.
Enthusiastic, held on to God's unchanging hand,
Youthful, encouraged others to be faithful in their stance.
Jovial, extended joy and compassion to wayfaring souls,
Humble, desired peace and tranquility on heavenly rolls.
Optimistic, inclined to look at life's beauty
Passionate; urged persons to witness for Jesus Christ
Kind, showed genuine concern for others' rights
Inviting, shared the Lord's goodness with many
Noble, exhibited excellence in all aspects of life
Sympathetic, caring, thoughtful, her beauty shines so bright.*

Written by Sis. Peggy Dearing



Tributes and Reflections

Shirley Hopkins was a very special person who will always be a part of so many warm and wonderful memories. She was a woman who loved God and did God's work. Her special word was "relationship." I had a tremendous amount of respect for the way she conducted herself, her concern for others, and the way she reached out to assist others. A life well lived cannot be diminished by death. The beauty, guidance, and inspiration it gave us will shine on as brightly as ever. I am very glad I had the opportunity to know Shirley, a true friend she was. She will be missed. Peace and love.

Sis. Christine Freeman

Shirley Hopkins—Bye Line 'Relationships'

Reliable—Could be called on at any time for her beloved Ebenezer United Methodist.

Eager and quick to greet visitors and participate in Church Visitations.

Love for family, friends, ushering and making carnival job schedules.

Attitude—positive when engaging you for a church outing, i.e., using church bus and needing your cell phone number.

Thoughtful with plenty of tolerance for the opinion of others.

Integrity—Shared some of her adversities when you were going through adversity of your own.

Obedient to her words and commitments.

Never turned down Blue Dolphin's French Onion Soup.

Sincere and tactful with what he needed to share/inform.

Honorable and humble when receiving compliments—"we could say you did an excellent job".

Independent—I can, and I will attitude.

Positive Praise—"You did an excellent job." She never failed to do this.

Stylish—No one wore hats like her.

These traits and more sum up my dear friend and sister, Shirley Hopkins.

Lovingly, Sis. Tina Brown

The Broken Chain

Remembering The Many Moods of You...



The Broken Chain

Remembering The Many Moods of You...



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Remembering The Many Moods of You...



Shirley loved her family. Nothing was more evident than the love she had for her grandson, Troy, and his sister Nevaeh.



The Broken Chain

We little knew that day,
God was going to call your name.
In life we loved you dearly,
In death, we do the same.

It broke our hearts to lose you.
You did not go alone.
For part of us went with you,
The day God called you home.

You left us beautiful memories,
Your love is still our guide.

And although we cannot see you,
You are always at our side.

Our family chain is broken,
And nothing seems the same,
But as God calls us one by one,
The chain will link again.

-Ron Trammer

Shirley Jane Hopkins

March 28, 1944–January 14, 2020

Rest in Peace!