



## Rev. Ann R. Purnell

June 22, 1933 - February 17, 2025

Rev. Ann R. Purnell, 91, went home to be with the Lord on Monday, February 17, 2025, at Washington Senior Living Facility in Washington, IL, at 2:45 a.m.

Rev. Ann was born on June 22, 1933, in Greenville, MS to Young and Annie Shears (Littles). She married Caesar Purnell Sr. on December 15, 1978, in Peoria. They were married for 19 years before he preceded her in death on December 9, 1997.

Rev. Ann graduated from Lizzie W. Coleman Highschool in Greenville, MS in 1952. She moved to Peoria shortly after where she began working at the Peoria State Hospital in Bartonville, IL until it was closed. She then went on to work for Caterpillar until she retired. Rev. Ann received her certification and license to preach the gospel under the auspices of Bishop Joseph Johnson at Star of Hope Full Gospel Church in February of 1986. In December of 2006, she received her Ordained Minister License from the "International Gospel Assemblies, Inc." In her role as an ordained minister, she went on to become a mentor and role model for many as she worked fervently for the Lord by spreading the gospel through her sermons and teaching Sunday School classes for women and children. Rev. Ann was also a volunteer working with other church leaders inside the Illinois Dept. of Correction' Prison Ministry program until her health began to fail.

Rev. Ann loved talking to people, she never met a stranger, if you were a stranger, you didn't remain one for long. She enjoyed going out to eat with friends and family. Everyone that knew her knew she had a passion for fishing. Rev. Ann really loved going fishing with friends but especially loved to go fishing with her grandchildren when the opportunity presented itself.

Rev. Ann leaves to cherish her precious memories: two daughters: Debra Standley and Vanessa Purnell both of Peoria; three grandsons: Brandon Standley, Andre (Tanisha) Barber, and Kenny Barber all of Peoria; two granddaughters: Rain Smith and Riyah Marshall both of Peoria; a special nephew: Archie Shears (who she helped raise) of Peoria; a very special friend: Cheryl Ellis (whom she affectionately called, her "other daughter") of Peoria; a host of great grandchildren, nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends.

Rev. Ann was preceded in death by her parents: one son: Robert "Kenneth" Barber; two sisters: Bertha Netters and Ledora Mcleod; one brother: Robert Littles; two grandsons: Niles Alexander and Asante King.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held on Friday, February 28, 2025, at Star of Hope Full Gospel Church at 11:00 a.m. with visitation commencing an hour prior at 10:00 a.m. Pastor Vance Jordan will present the Eulogy.

Rev. Ann will be laid to rest at Lutheran Cemetery.

The Family of Rev. Ann Purnell would like to thank Vistas Hospice Care and staff at Washington Senior Living Care for the care they provided. We would also like to thank her doctors at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center for their ongoing support throughout her health issues.

Arrangements were made especially for the "Purnell" family and professionally directed by T.W. Parks Colonial Chapel. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Sophias Angels Kitchen.



# Cemetery Details

## Lutheran

914 S Pleasant St  
Peoria, IL

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 28. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Star of Hope Full Gospel Baptist Church  
417 W Romeo B Garrett Ave  
peoria, IL

## Celebration of Life

FEB 28. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Star of Hope Full Gospel Baptist Church  
417 W Romeo B Garrett Ave  
peoria, IL

# Tribute Wall

LA

“ Prayers of comfort and condolence to the family of Ann Purnell from The Hardy family Avondale Arizona



Linda Hardy Avondale Phoenix Arizona - March 23, 2025 at 09:05 AM

KC

“ Kathy Collins lit a candle in memory of Rev. Ann R. Purnell



Kathy Collins - March 21, 2025 at 07:12 PM

PW

“ My condolences to the family of Rev. Ann Purnell. God has called His servant home to rest in His Arms. God Bless you all.



P. Williams - March 10, 2025 at 08:12 PM

PW

“ Prayers of comfort and peace in your time of sorrow 🙏❤️🙏



Patricia Ward - February 27, 2025 at 12:48 AM



“ *My condolences to the family.* ”



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**Caad Gor** - February 26, 2025 at 10:46 PM

PH

“ *I want you to know thank you. Rev. AnnFor being the best godmother in the world it was a nothing you didn't do for my daughter I nippy instead of yip. Love both of the names thank you lotta words I wanna see what one word I wanna say from the bottom of my heart thank you for all what you did for my daughter which is your goddaughter he was the best godmother ever seen we love you this is From. Patrica. Yip's mother* ”



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**Patrica hurt** - February 26, 2025 at 10:16 PM

PB

*“Thinking of you and your family as you celebrate the life of your beloved.”*

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**Pastor Jerry and Deborah Butler** - February 27, 2025 at 01:42 PM

PH

“ *Patrica Hurt lit a candle in memory of Rev. Ann R. Purnell* ”



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**Patrica hurt** - February 26, 2025 at 10:07 PM

PJ

“ Pamela Jenkins lit a candle in memory of Rev. Ann R. Purnell



Pamela Jenkins - February 26, 2025 at 07:39 PM

DG

“ Denise Green lit a candle in memory of Rev. Ann R. Purnell



Denise Green - February 26, 2025 at 02:21 AM

EL

“ Ella Lee lit a candle in memory of Rev. Ann R. Purnell



Ella Lee - February 25, 2025 at 08:29 PM

AH

“ Annette Housley lit a candle in memory of Rev. Ann R. Purnell



Annette Housley - February 25, 2025 at 07:25 PM

RN

“ Rufus And Kim Nelson lit a candle in memory of Rev. Ann R. Purnell



Rufus and Kim Nelson - February 25, 2025 at 12:21 PM



“ J Henry Lee lit a candle in memory of Rev. Ann R. Purnell



J Henry Lee - February 25, 2025 at 08:26 AM

LD

“ Linda Davis lit a candle in memory of Rev. Ann R. Purnell



Linda Davis - February 25, 2025 at 07:22 AM

BP

“ Bertha Peters lit a candle in memory of Rev. Ann R. Purnell



Bertha Peters - February 24, 2025 at 09:37 PM

TW

“ Theresa Walker lit a candle in memory of Rev.  
Ann R. Purnell



Theresa Walker - February 23, 2025 at 04:33 PM



“ Rochelle Moore lit a candle in memory of Rev.  
Ann R. Purnell



Rochelle Moore - February 22, 2025 at 06:40 AM

DT

“ Dallas Terry lit a candle in memory of Rev.  
Ann R. Purnell



Dallas Terry - February 21, 2025 at 06:53 PM

RA

“ Renee Adell lit a candle in memory of Rev.  
Ann R. Purnell



Renee Adell - February 21, 2025 at 12:17 PM

JB

“Joyce B lit a candle in memory of Rev. Ann R. Purnell



Joyce B - February 21, 2025 at 11:31 AM

LS

“Condolences to the family of “Ms Ann” we worked together at the old “Peoria State Hospital” in the late “1967” farewell friend beautiful spirit 🕊️🕊️🕊️🕊️🕊️



Loretta and Charlie Simpson - February 21, 2025 at 08:01 AM

KB

“Kay Boone lit a candle in memory of Rev. Ann R. Purnell



Kay Boone - February 20, 2025 at 05:34 PM

RH

“Rena Webster Horton lit a candle in memory of Rev. Ann R. Purnell



Rena Webster Horton - February 20, 2025 at 02:08 PM

GG

*Sis. Purnell taught me all about Prison Ministry. She was a great teacher and had a sense of humor. I'm sorry I could make the Homegoing Service. I didn't see the services online. My sincere condolences to the family. 7 yrs+ we were in Ministry together. Rest in Heavenly peace 🕊️💜*

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**Geraldine Godfrey** - March 06, 2025 at 01:36 PM