

## *Flower Bearers*

*Friends and Family*

## *Honorary Flower Bearers*

*Classmates of 1973  
Oakland United Methodist Women*

## *Pallbearers*

*Nephews*

## *Honorary Pallbearers*

*Classmates of 1973*

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## *Interment*

*Houston Cemetery • Tanner, Alabama*

## *Acknowledgement*

*We, the family of Shirley Carthen, wish to thank each and everyone for your acts of kindness shown toward us. Special thanks are extended to St. Mark Primitive Baptist Church. May God bless you.*

*Immediately following interment, dinner will be served for family and friends at St. Mark P. B. Church of Athens, Alabama.*

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*Reynolds Funeral Home*

## *Shirley Jean Carthen*

*"A Gift to God"*



*September 17, 1954*

*— May 1, 2005*

*Saturday, May 7, 2005  
Twelve O'clock Noon*

*St. Mark Primitive Baptist Church  
Athens, Alabama*

*Elder Kenneth Owens, Sr., Pastor  
Elder Michael Freeman, Officiating*





*Love,*  
*Tarrian and Faith*

## *The Obituary*

*"We loved her, yes we loved her  
But God loved her more  
And He swiftly called her  
To yonder shining shore.*

*The golden gates are opened  
A gentle voice said come  
And with farewell unspoken  
She calmly entered home."*

**Shirley Jean Carthen** was born on September 17, 1954 to Mr. Tommie Carthen and the late Mrs. Mae Evan Carthen. She departed this life on Sunday, May 1, 2005, at the University Hospital in Birmingham, Alabama. She was preceded in death by one sister, Annie D. Harvell.

Shirley gave her life to Christ as a young girl and was a life-long member of the Oakland United Method Church in Tanner, Alabama. She also served in the choir and was a member of the usher board.

Her precious memory will forever be cherished by **one daughter**, Tarrian; **one granddaughter**, Faith; **God-daughter and niece**, Marteen; **special friend**, Mr. Jessie Mayberry, Jr.; **five brothers**: Richard, Eugene (*Rosie*), George (*Kay*), Luke (*Thelma*), and Billy (*Priscilla*); **five sisters**: Fannie, Martha, Doris, Leora, and Janice (*Nelson*); **four aunts**: Marie McDade, Ada Grisby, Clara Shoulders, and Estella Porter; and a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, other relatives and friends.



## ***"If Tomorrow Starts Without Me"***

*If tomorrow starts without me,  
And I'm not there to see;  
If the sun should rise and find your eyes,  
All filled with tears for me.*

*I wish so much you wouldn't cry,  
The way you did today;  
While thinking of the many things,  
We didn't get to say.*

*I know how much you love me,  
As much as I love you;  
And each time you think of me,  
I know you'll miss me too.*

*But if tomorrow starts without me,  
Please try to understand;  
An angel came and called my name,  
And took me by the hand.*

*It seemed my place was ready,  
In Heaven far above;  
And that I'd have to leave behind,  
All those I dearly love.*

*But as I turned to walk away,  
A tear fell from my eye;  
For all of life, I'd always thought,  
I didn't want to die.*

*I had so much to live for,  
So much left to do;  
It seemed almost impossible,  
That I was leaving you.*

*I thought of all the yesterdays,  
The good ones and the bad;  
I thought of all the love we shared,  
And how much fun we had.*

*But when I walked through Heaven's gates,  
I felt so much at home;  
When God looked down and smiled at me,  
From His great and golden throne.*

*He said, "This is eternity,  
And I've promised you;  
Today your life on earth is past,  
But here it starts anew".*

*So when tomorrow starts without me,  
Don't think we're far apart;  
For every time you think of me,  
I'll be right there -- in your Heart.*

## ***Order of Service***



### PROCESSIONAL

SELECTION.....St. Mark Mass Choir

PRAYER.....Elder Kenneth Owens, Sr.  
*Pastor, St. Mark P. B. Church*

SELECTION.....St. Mark Mass Choir

SCRIPTURE & WORDS OF COMFORT.....Elder Willie Byrd  
*Pastor Grace M. B. Church*

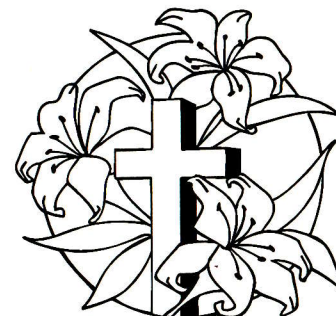
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....Sister Cozie Maxwell

REMARKS (*As a Friend*).....Sister Janice Woodruff

EULOGY.....Elder Michael Freeman  
*Pastor, Oakland U.M. Church*

SELECTION.....St. Mark Mass Choir

### RECESSIONAL



*Our Dear Aunt Tee-Tee*

*Your style, your grace, and your charisma touched us all. You continuously tried to teach us all how to walk, smile, and dress like women of virtue. And, even though it may have seemed to fall on deaf ears, we were absorbing every word of it.*

*You always emphasized the importance of Christianity, family, and self-worth to you nieces. You encouraged us to love ourselves, respect ourselves, and strive to be the very best we could be, all at the same time reminding us how the women did it "back in your day". But now the time has come for us to let you go on to a better place, a place where there is no sickness, no pain, and no suffering. And, until we meet again our dear Aunt Tee-Tee, we will continue to love ourselves, respect ourselves, and strive to be the very best "You" would have us to be.*

*I love you so,  
Marteen*

**Aunt Shirley,**

You were such an inspiration to me. I just wanted to let you know how much I loved and admired you. I wrote a little something to show you what you meant to me . . .

**S** - a **STRONG** and **SANCTIFIED** believer in God

**H** - always **HAPPY** and smiling

**I** - a true **INSPIRATION** to all you knew

**R** - a beautiful and **RADIANT** woman

**L** - full of **LIFE** and **LOVE**

**E** - for all the **ENCOURAGING** words you gave

**Y** - for always thinking you're **YOUNG**

**C** - for being **CARING** and **CONSIDERATE** of others

**A** - for the **ADORABLE** and **ADMIRABLE** person you were

**R** - very well **RESPECTED** by all

**T** - for **TARRIAN** and **FAITH**

**H** - for all the **HUGS** and kisses you gave

**E** - God's **EVERLASTING** love for us

**N** - a very **NOBLE** woman

Tee-Tee, I wanted you to know that you were a blessing to all. God was there for you when you needed Him the most. If it had not been for His love, all souls would be lost. You know how much you meant to me. Now our Heavenly Father has once again called one of His children home to be with Him. It hurts to know that you will not be here on earth with us. We know you are in a better place.

*Revelations 21:4: "And God shall wipe all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."*

I will always love you and keep you in my heart, for I know you are in Heaven smiling down on us!

Love Your Little Diva,  
Renada (Stank)