

*Celebrating the Legacy*  
of  
*Pastor George E. Franklin Sr.*

*Sunrise*  
*October 5, 1926*



*Sunset*  
*September 17, 2003*



*Tuesday, September 23, 2003*  
*Twelve O'clock Noon*



**Saint Bartley Primitive Baptist Church**

*3020 Belafonte Avenue N. W.*  
*Huntsville, Alabama 35816*

*Elder Dr. William J. Gladys, Pastor*

*Officiating Ministers*

*Moderator Eugene Lewis*

*Vice Moderator Robert Rogers Sr.*

*Pall Bearers*  
*The Deacons and Brotherhood*  
*of*  
*St. Andrew Primitive Baptist Church*

*Honorary Pall Bearers*  
*Ministers and Deacons*  
*of*  
*Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Association*



*Flower Bearers*  
*The Mothers*  
*of*  
*Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Association*

*Honorary Flower Bearers*  
*The Mothers*  
*of*  
*St. Andrew Primitive Baptist Church*



*Interment*  
*Faith Memorial*  
*8100 Hwy 20 West*  
*(Madison Boulevard)*  
*Huntsville, Alabama 35806*



*Repast*  
*St. Andrew Primitive Baptist Church*



*Expressions of Gratitude*  
*The family of the late "Elder George Franklin Sr." would like to say thank you*  
*for all the thoughts, prayers, kind messages, flowers*  
*and donations that you shared with us during our time of sorrow.*  
*We have been simply overwhelmed by your love and kindness.*  
*Special thanks to the St. Andrew Primitive Baptist Church Family*  
*for your love and support.*  
*May God Bless Each of You.*



*Royal Funeral Home, Directing*  
*"When only memories remain, let them be beautiful."*  
4315 Oakwood Avenue  
Huntsville, Alabama 35810  
(256) 534-8481

*Personal Touches'*

# *Love Shared...*

*Good Morning George!  
Good morning as I have always said for 22 years.  
I realized this morning we could not  
go in the garden to chop grass,  
Because you are in the most beautiful garden,  
We can't pull grass out of the Flower yard,  
Because you have been picked.  
You don't have to go to the doctor anymore,  
Because you are with the greatest physician.  
You don't have to lay in the hospital bed any longer,  
Because you are laying in Jesus' Arms.  
I Already miss you from laughing,  
Talking, joking and just having fun.  
Most of all, reading and discussing the Word,  
I Thank you for what you taught me  
From the Bible and how to study.  
I Thank God and You  
For the spirit and love we had.*

*Love you  
Your Wife*



*"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD".*

Proverbs 18:22

# Obituary



*Pastor George E. Franklin Sr.* was born on October 5, 1926 to the late Eddie Franklin and Idella Owens Franklin. He was the eldest of eight children. Following his mother's death Elder Franklin, age 17, became head of the family, and assumed responsibility of leading and rearing his seven siblings. However, Uncle Sam had other plans. A year later, Elder Franklin was drafted into the United States Army. He served in the Army for one year and six months during World War II. During his tour of duty Elder Franklin was awarded the American Theater Service Medal, World War II Victory Medal and an Occupational Medal ETO. Pastor Franklin was also a charter member of the C.A.R.E.S. (Churches Assisting, Responding, Enabling and Serving) organization.

Elder Franklin was preceded in death by four brothers, Ervin Franklin, Charles Franklin, Thomas Franklin and Alvie Lee Holman, and one sister, Julia Franklin Joiner.

In 1948, he confessed hope in Christ, and joined fellowship with the Moses Chapel Primitive Baptist Church, under the leadership of the late Elder Joe Pendleton. He accepted his call into the ministry in 1963. In 1968 he accepted his first pastorate at St. Ruth Primitive Baptist Church. After serving there for two years, he returned home to pastor, Moses Chapel Primitive Baptist Church. Two years later, he also began pastoring St. Andrew Primitive Baptist Church. After serving both Moses Chapel and St. Andrew for eight years, he decided it was best to serve St. Andrew full time. He served as pastor of St. Andrew for over thirty-one years, until his death on Wednesday, September 17, 2003.

Elder Franklin has been preaching for forty-one years and pastoring for thirty-six years. During his earthly walk Elder Franklin has been so much to so many. He was pastor, husband, father, brother, teacher, mentor and friend. His love and guidance touched many hearts and lives. His concern for his fellow man was unmeasurable. Elder George Franklin Sr. was a genuine man of God. He never missed an opportunity to share the Lord with someone else, even while fishing, working and spending time with family. He lived the life he preached. He often requested his wife and her sister to sing "*May the Work I've done Speak for me.*" Truly his life says it all.



Elder Franklin is survived by his adoring and devoted wife, Amanda Smith Franklin of Huntsville, AL; seven sons: Benjamin Franklin (*Jackie*) of Las Vegas, NV, Anthony Binford of Columbus, OH, Martin Lewis, Rickey Lewis, Tommy Ray Smith (*Sharon*), all of Huntsville, AL, Reverend George Franklin Jr. (*Zena*) and Ecclesian Edmond Franklin, both of Atlanta, GA; four daughters: Doris Franklin Caston (*Thaddause*), Zira Tanner, Emma Franklin and Cathy Smith, all of Huntsville, AL; a mother-in-law, Kattie Miller Smith of Madison, AL; four sisters: Sarah Franklin Grays and Addie Pearl Franklin Brown, both of Cleveland, OH, Georgia Franklin Erskine (*Jessie*), Minnie Franklin Rainey (*Reverend L.C. Rainey*) and Mattie Miller (*Thomas Jr.*), all of Huntsville, AL; five brothers: William Franklin (*Mildred*), Willie Holman (*Earline*), Virgus Holman Jr., all of Cleveland, OH, Reverend Freddie Holman (*Alice*) and James Holman (*Louisa*), both of Huntsville, AL; six sisters-in-law: Elnora Franklin and Elizabeth Franklin, both of Huntsville, AL, Pearl Holman and Katherleen Cable (*Henry*), both of Madison, AL, Dorothy Fletcher (*James*) of Athens, AL and Eloise Johnson (*Lindsey*) of Roanoke, VA; three brothers-in-law: Willie James Smith of Junction City, KS, Robert Smith (*Jerrice*) and Dwight Jones, both of Madison, AL; five aunts: Julia Franklin Brown of Detroit, MI, Willie Mae Draper of Huntsville, AL, Edwina Jones and Mollie Smith of Madison, AL; and Dean Toney of Chattanooga, TN; three uncles: Henry Lee Miller of Madison, AL, Wert Toney and Roosevelt Toney (*Roberta*), both of Chattanooga, TN; thirty grandchildren, fifty great-grandchildren, a devoted friend of sixty-five years, Larkin Lightford; a special friend, Elder Ross L. Peyton; a godson, Curtis Holman; a diligent prayer partner, Elder Curtis Jordan; and a host of nieces, nephews and loved ones. Elder Franklin also provided care and concern for Reverend O.B. Johnson.

*"I lift up my eyes to the hills-  
where does my help come from?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
The maker of heaven and earth."*

*-Psalm 121:1-2*

*~A Man of Courage~  
A Man of Peace  
A Man of God*



# Order of Service

*Pulpit Conductor*  
*Pastor William T. Gladys*  
*Pastor, St. Bartley Primitive Baptist Church*



Processional..... "I'm Free"..... Family, Ministers and Friends

Music..... The St. Andrew Primitive Baptist Church Sanctuary Choir

Opening Prayer..... Pastor Timothy Rainey  
Pastor, Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church

Scripture  
Old Testament..... Elder Ben Burt  
Associate Minister, St. Mark Primitive Baptist Church

New Testament..... Pastor Kenneth Owens  
Pastor, St. Mark Primitive Baptist Church

Music..... "God Did It"..... Choir

## ~ Tributes and Reflections ~

(Please Limit to Three Minutes)

### As a Father and Grandfather

*Rasheda Franklin*  
Granddaughter

*Emma Franklin*  
Daughter



Solo..... Ursula Caston  
Granddaughter-in-law

### As a Wise and Loyal Advisor

*Pastor Woodrow Kirby*  
Pastor, Big Shiloh Primitive Baptist Church

*Pastor Dave Draper Jr.*  
Pastor, Draper Memorial Church of God in Christ

*Pastor Harrison Burruss*  
Pastor, St. Elizabeth Primitive Baptist Church

### As a Friend

*Pastor Ross L. Peyton*  
Pastor, Flint Primitive Baptist Church

*Pastor Curtis Jordan*  
Pastor, Greater Mt. Carmel Primitive Baptist Church

### As a Pastor

*Deacon Dwight Lewis*  
St. Andrew Primitive Baptist Church



### CARES

*Pastor Terry Ragland*  
President of CARES  
and

*Pastor, New Hope Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America*

Resolution and Acknowledgements.....Wilhemina K. Burwell

Music.....Choir

Words of Comfort.....Pastor Robert Rogers  
Vice Moderator Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Association  
and Pastor, Douglas Tabernacle Primitive Baptist Church

Eulogy.....Pastor Eugene Lewis  
Moderator Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Association  
and Pastor, St. Stephen Primitive Baptist Church

Solo.....Brother Arthur Jordan

Closing Prayer.....Pastor Mylon Burwell  
Pastor, Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church

Recessional....."I Can't Feel at Home".....Ministers, Family and Friends



**O**ver 31 years ago God saw our need and he sent us a shepherd and that overseer was our pastor, Reverend George Franklin Sr. He let us know that "he was anointed to preach the Gospel" and he always gave his best. He encouraged us to do our best. He said this is what God wants from his people your best... he deserves it.

Constantly, he told us we had to have and show love for one another that God is Love and the greatest of the commandments is to love. On today we at St. Andrew cannot help but to be sadden to see our dearly beloved pastor depart from us. Indeed we were truly blessed to have had a shepherd as devoted to his flock, as was our pastor. Words cannot express the loss we feel, however, we are joyful and we rejoice in the life and the legacy of such a wise, brave and courageous Christian soldier. We thank God for the vision he inspired him to have, and his yielding and very appreciative to have been blessed by his teachings and instruction. We will continue to reflect and cherish closely that which we were taught. We will endeavor to follow his example of true Christian humility and faithfulness; being steadfast and long-suffering. He was not only a model of example to his church but also the community; demonstrating that denomination did not mean barrier.

In shepherding his flock, he encouraged and uplifted, consoled and comforted, instructed and chastised as was needed. He was always concerned about the church and it's people and he demonstrated this daily. He provided words of wisdom, instruction, and guidance not only to those ministers fortunate to be under his pastorship but to the many others who sought his wisdom. He was always freehearted with his smiles, handshakes, and hugs for all. We will miss his charismatic and witty sense of humor; as often he told us God wants his people to be joyful and have fun sometimes.

Pastor Franklin loved fishing so much, that God made him a fisherman of men as well. A true master of the game; he liked to be prepared for each fishing trip, he always packed the best bait (Gospel); the Word of God, and he always had his map-guide; the Bible ... handy... and when the fish would start biting, you would know by his light as a feather gait and prance and then you would hear a loud yelp.. "Wahoo!!!" from such a small creature that let you know his fishing partner; (the Holy Spirit) ... his helper; had come. He would whirl around and the fish would just be jumping to catch a hold of his baited line. He reeled in many a catch here at St. Andrew and in the other ponds he fished. I can almost see him sitting on the banks of the Rivers of Jordan wearing one of his fishing hats with his poles casted.

We know that your soul is in Heaven with the Lord, and that you want us to be happy and rejoicing in your homegoing; for you instructed us to shed no tears of sadness for you... because you said you had your business fixed with God. We know you are free from pain and suffering and you have pressed on to the mark of the highcalling. We know you loved us and we loved you too. So we bid you a short farewell, but not goodbye, to take a rest until we meet again, on the other shore.

The St. Andrew Primitive Baptist Church Family

Submitted by Melissa Pitts

## *Tributes from the Family...*

*George, My daddy,*

The Lord in Heaven  
knows I loved you!  
You became my dad  
when I was 11 years old,  
now that I am 33 I  
can say your wisdom  
and knowledge has truly been  
a great inspiration to me.

You always told me  
to live each day to the fullest  
and keep God first in my life.

Although you have gone  
on to receive that beautiful  
Robe and Crown

I know you truly loved me  
and I will always love you!

*Cathy*

*How do I say goodbye*

to someone I loved so much.

I'll start by remembering everything  
that meant so much.

They say I cried when you first  
came into my life

(didn't want you take my Aunt Mandy)

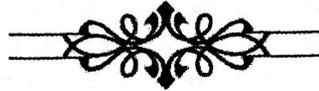
As time went on you  
became my most prized possession.

The way you always  
had something encouraging to say,  
or maybe even the way you taught me to pray,  
or maybe the fact that you baptized me.

So many precious memories from  
eating strawberries in Texas  
to cutting hair in Alabama.

Thank you Uncle George for  
being a part of the person I am today.

*Ashlie*



## *The Race...*

This earthly race, you have left us to run alone.

But, we know it was you who helped teach us to be confident in ourselves.

(You were proud of us no matter what)

For it is written (Psalm 46:1) "God is our refuge and strength,  
A very present help in a time of trouble."

Yes, we know that you have won your race,

And God will give us strength-No matter what we have to face.

We will miss your smile, laugh, jokes, stories, songs, sermons  
And most of all, we will miss talking with you and the advice you gave.  
No matter what we did and how wrong it was, you were there to tell us,

That God still loves us and so did you.

Even, though you have run your race,  
it only makes us run harder to see what the end will be.

We love you, we will miss you  
and know we will meet again one Glad Morning.

Love Your Athens Family,

*Fletcher, Smith and Andersons*

Written by Delois J. Fletcher

*Father G.,*

## *Lesson Taught, Lesson Learned*

*I sit and think of all the lessons you taught me  
without me even realizing a lesson was being taught.*

The first time I went fishing with you was the very first time for me ever. I didn't know the first thing to do. When I snagged my first catch, I hollered for you, You said, "Hold On, Don't let it get away." I struggled with the fish for a while, again I asked for Help. Again you said, "Don't let Go." I fell twice but I was determined and with your encouragement, I wouldn't give up. Finally the Fish was out and it was Huge. (1) I learned that Day, to always know what you are looking for and why you are looking for it. (2) Always prepare yourself for the good and the bad. (3) Life is full of struggles but they can be overcome. (4) Always have faith and you shall succeed. (5) The voice I heard then was yours, with your Christian teaching. I now hear my Savior talking to me also saying, "Go On my Child, Go On" and let Jesus Lead You. (6) Stand even when you have to stand alone, but at the end share your blessing with others so that they may be blessed also.

You were a **Father**; taught me things to become a man and take on many responsibilities. You were a **Pastor**; taught me the Word and how to believe and understand it. You were a **Counselor**; when things weren't right, no matter what it was you knew what to say and how. As a **Friend**; there was never a time you didn't have time, for me or the kids you loved so much.

You were a wise man and you will be missed. You brought out things in me I didn't see, and I thank you. The tears I shed will be tears of joy, that you are free of pain and in Good Health. Another Great Warrior gone home to the Heavenly Father.

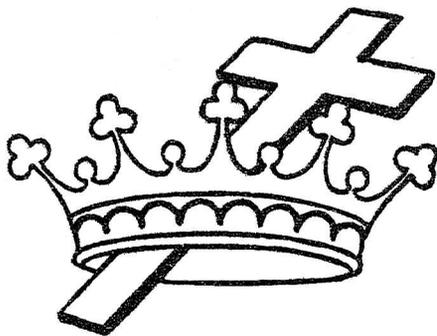
*Be anxious for nothing;  
But in everything by prayer  
and supplication with Thanksgiving  
let your request be made know to God.  
And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,  
shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."*

-Philippians 4:6-7

*You would always say "Take It to Jesus and He Will Make a Way,  
Patience and Faith."*

## *You Fought Hard*

*Now  
Rest*



*Your Son,  
Love Ray*

You Should See  
the One that  
Got Away!

My Granddaddy, we did lots  
of things together we are close  
we did all kind of things.

Fishing, studying, reading and planting in the garden.

One of his favorite scriptures is John 3:16

"For God so love the world  
that he gave his only begotten son.

So that who so ever  
believe in him shall not perish"

He was a good man –

He lived an excellent life.

He is a well known man a good man

I am like a son and a grandson

We had our ups and downs,

But we got over it.

I love him and he love me.

And I still love him

I just can't see him

And he still is a good man!

By Brandon

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***Fishing Partners***  
**Granddaddy George And Brandon**