



Beverly McDonald

August 18, 1952 - September 25, 2025

Beverly Jane Hargrove Martin McDonald was born on August 18, 1952 at Thomas Jefferson Hospital to the late Robert and Bessie Hargrove. She was the second of three children born to them.

Beloved by parents and siblings alike, she maintained a good relationship with them throughout her life. She was the final caregiver for her Mother and her 'Daddykins.'

Beverly excelled in her studies, attending Brandywine Jr. College and earning a BA degree from the prestigious Babson College in Wellesley, MA. After graduation, she worked for the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Beverly loved her mother, and they enjoyed traveling to places like Cancun and the Bahamas. Both enjoyed shopping, and had a keen eye for 'diamonds in the rough.'

Beverly was a member of St. Paul AME Church in Philadelphia, PA. In 1967, she accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior. While working at the Inquirer, she became a member of Christ Baptist Church under the guidance of the late Rev. John Green, Sr. It was there that she met her love, Michael H. Martin. They were married in 1980, in Philadelphia, PA. To this union were born four children: Hope, Joshua, Justin, and Joy. Shortly after they were wed, Michael answered the call to minister to the people of Memphis, TN. He founded and

served as Senior Pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Whitehaven. For over 20 years, Beverly served as First Lady to the good people of that fellowship. Pastor Martin went home to be with the Lord in the Spring of 2004. The Martin family experienced a grief that cannot be explained, and a peace from the Lord that can only be experienced.

Beverly's dear friend Beverly Elam introduced her to the widower Pastor Walter W. McDonald, Sr. The two found love, and were married in 2006 in Memphis, TN. They made their home in Tallahassee, FL, where Pastor Walter founded Providence Baptist Church years earlier. Their home became a place of fellowship, and a vacation spot for their grandchildren. Beverly served as a missionary and first lady for sixteen years, until the Lord called Pastor McDonald home in the Fall of 2022.

Beverly was known for trying out new recipes, and always striving to improve on the ones that she mastered. She won first place at the Mid South Fair for her Red Velvet Cake. She made many cakes for many people, so much so that her husband Michael called it "Bev's Free Cakes!" She passed this love of the kitchen to all four of her children.

Beverly moved back to Memphis, TN in 2024 to be near most of her grandchildren. She enjoyed time with her friends, especially dear Mrs. Erlean Tyson. She traveled to see her family and loved ones in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New York. And she helped bake cakes once again with her daughter Hope. After a brief illness, the Lord called Beverly from this life in her sleep on the morning of September 25, 2025.

Beverly leaves to cherish her memory: Four children: Hope E.(Mario)Walker of Memphis, TN, Joshua H.(Jessica)Martin, of Denver, CO, Justin C. (VaShaundra)Martin of Olive Branch, MS, and Joy-Katherine H. Martin of Memphis, TN.; one step son-in-law: Bernard E.(Sonya) Coston, Sr. of Tyrone,

GA; a stepson: Walter W. McDonald, III of Tallahassee, FL; one honorary son: Robert Bethel of Memphis, TN, two honorary daughters: Shay A. (Hunter)Brown-Park of Olive Branch, MS and Olubukola(Abel)Odegbile of Tallahassee, FL; six grandchildren: Bernard E. Coston, Jr., Cadence G. Martin, Jude M. Walker, Autumn L. Martin, Maréa J. Walker, and Ezra J. Walker; two brothers: Robert F. Hargrove of Allentown, PA and Bradley W. Hargrove of Sharon Hill, PA; three sisters-in-law: Joyce Harris of Clinton,MI, Shirley (Harold) Evans-Bailey of Memphis, TN, and Shelia Walker of Macon, GA; three brothers-in-law: Phillip(Barbara)McDonald of Dover, DE, Fred A. McDonald of West Virginia, and Ronald McDonald of San Diego, CA; her dear cousins: Albert Morris of Memphis, TN, Hanifah Giles of Dallas, TX, Samtra(Leonard) Devard of Delaware, Patricia Hines of Somerdale, New Jersey and an innumerable host of loving cousins, nephews, nieces, and dear friends.

For those who wish to donate to a worthy cause in honor of Beverly Martin McDonald, please send funds to either Emmanuel Baptist Church or to Providence Baptist Church.

You may mail a check to Emmanuel Baptist Church:

Emmanuel Baptist Church

832 Hale Rd.

Memphis, TN 38116

To donate to Providence Baptist Church, you may either contact Deacon Shawn Peterson at (850) 528-8591 or you can mail a check to:

Shawn Peterson

719 Briandav St.

Tallahassee, FL 32305

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **25**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Central Baptist Church
5470 Raleigh Lagrange Rd
Memphis, TN 38134-5698
(901) 385-1809

Flowers can be sent to the church for the memorial service.

Memorial Service

OCT **25**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Central Baptist Church
5470 Raleigh LaGrange Rd
Memphis, TN

Flowers can be sent to the church for the memorial Service.

Tribute Wall



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Beverly McDonald.



October 23, 2025 at 04:56 PM



“ Emanuel & Bro Steven Washington planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Beverly McDonald.

Emanuel & Bro Steven Washington - October 23, 2025 at 04:56 PM



“ I had the opportunity to meet Ms Beverly through my sister Cellestine (Nita) in Tallahassee. Only saw her maybe on 3 occasions. She was a very kind and giving lady. Her cakes were like none other I have ever had. She will be greatly missed. Condolences to the family 🙏

Josephine Williams - October 22, 2025 at 09:45 PM



“ The Sealock's purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Beverly McDonald.



The Sealock's - October 22, 2025 at 10:47 AM

TS

“ The Sealock's planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Beverly McDonald.

The Sealock's - October 22, 2025 at 10:47 AM

BJ

“ When I met Mrs Beverly It at one her dear friends whom was sick.And very ill. She baked a red velvet cake that was so delicious I had to have one. And then another and a nother one.She became our cake Lady. And she was so giving and kind.And she had the cutest laugh. We became friends here in Florida.When she moved to Memphis we helped her and she will be missed.To the Family of Mrs Beverlys we give our condolences to and hold you all dear to our hearts and prayers.



Brenda Johnson - October 20, 2025 at 02:17 AM



I am so grateful to have met Beverly! I met her 3 years ago when she helped Mike and I care for his mom Sandie who was dying. She was the most kind (and funny) person with such a zest for life! Mike and I had wonderful dinners with her and she always talked about the love for her family.

Rest in Peace Beverly. We love and miss you ❤️

Cathy Craig-Myers - October 20, 2025 at 08:25 AM

MR

Such a beautiful person. I will truly miss Sis Bev. Who will keep me in line, now? M. Rogers

M. Rogers - October 21, 2025 at 12:14 PM

AD

I'm grateful that God allowed Beverly to pass my way on her journey through life. She was a beautiful and giving person. She made the best cakes. She gave cakes, and other baked goods to me and my brothers. I wish that I had a passion for baking like she did. She was such a kind and loving person. She Will sorely be missed. Armia, Calvert, & Kenny Durden.

Armia Durden - October 23, 2025 at 09:30 PM



My life was truly blessed with having Beverly as a friend. I miss you.

Helen Brown - November 13, 2025 at 07:48 AM