



Ms. Betty Ann Patterson

August 21, 1936 - August 22, 2025

Betty Ann (Smith) Patterson was born on August 21, 1936, the eldest of four children—Eugene, Leroy Jr., and Gail. She grew up in Berlin, a close-knit town on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, where church and school formed the foundation of family and community life. Betty was christened at an early age and accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. She became a member of New Bethel United Methodist Church in Berlin and enjoyed working in the church, especially through the Methodist Youth Fellowship. Her faith became the anchor that sustained and grounded her throughout her life.

Betty was educated in the segregated public schools of Worcester County, MD. In her elementary years, she walked more than a mile each way to school. During high school, she traveled 17 miles each way by bus, a privilege she never took for granted. To Betty, these long journeys were small sacrifices in pursuit of something she considered essential—an education.

Betty graduated from high school with honors and earned an academic scholarship to Morgan State College in Baltimore, Maryland, where she pursued her dream of becoming a nurse. After two years, she transferred to Thomas Jefferson Medical College Hospital School of Nursing in Philadelphia (now Thomas Jefferson University), enrolling in a three-year diploma nursing program. Betty graduated in 1960, became a registered nurse, and began the career she cherished.

She married her high school sweetheart, Nathaniel Patterson who she affectionately called, Sonny. Later, they became the proud parents of two daughters, Denise and Carolyn. Betty and Sonny were married for 31 beautiful years until his passing in 1991.

Later in life, while working and raising her family, she returned to school part-time, earning her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Marymount University in Arlington, VA, along with a certification in Mental Health Nursing. She remained active in Thomas Jefferson's Diploma Nursing Association and retired from Saint Elizabeth's Psychiatric Hospital in 1994, after 36 years of dedicated and compassionate service.

Even with the demands of her profession, Betty ensured her family's life remained centered in the church. In 1978, she joined United Methodist Church of the Redeemer (UMCR) in Temple Hills, Maryland (now merged with Bells United Methodist Church). Over the years, she gave generously of her time and talents, serving in many ministries:

- United Methodist Women
- Comfort Ministry
- Staff-Pastor Relations Committee (past Chairperson)
- Redeemer's Oldest Kids Senior Group (The ROKS)
- UMCR Membership Committee

Betty was richly blessed in her later years. Though her health declined beginning in 2022, she faced each day with the same faith and quiet strength that had guided her life. With the loving care and encouragement of her caregiver, Ms. Vilma Santos, she continued to sing, dance, and "keep it moving," embodying joy and resilience until the very end.

On August 22, 2025, just one day after celebrating her 89th birthday, Betty peacefully departed this life at her home in Upper Marlboro, MD. She leaves behind a legacy of faith, love, and service. Fondly cherishing her memory are her daughters and sons-in-law, Denise (Greg) Fortune and Carolyn (Kevin) Kemper; her stepdaughter and son-in-law, Bernita (Arnold) Downing; her beloved "bonus" grandchildren, Kendall (Sandy) Gaynor, Shawn Purnell, and Destiny Kemper; her sister, Gail Smith; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family, friends, and her grand-dog, Smokey.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents, Hester Caroline Smith and Leroy Exvelt Smith; her husband, Nathaniel Patterson; and her brothers, Eugene and Leroy Jr. Though she has gone home to be with the Lord, her beautiful spirit and the love she shared will live on in the hearts of all who knew her.

Family and friends are invited to celebrate Betty's remarkable life at the upcoming funeral services. A viewing will take place at Bells United Methodist Church on September 5, 2025, starting at 9:30 am, followed by the funeral service at 11:00 am. Everyone is welcome to join us in honoring her life and the joy she brought to those around her. After the service, Betty will be laid to rest at Washington National Cemetery located in Suitland, MD.

Cemetery Details

WASHINGTON NATIONAL

4101 SUITLAND RD
Suitland, MD 20746

Previous Events

Viewing

SEP 5. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Bells United Methodist Church
6016 Allentown Rd
Suitland, MD 20746

Funeral Service

SEP 5. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Bells United Methodist Church
6016 Allentown Rd
Suitland, MD 20746

Tribute Wall

MJ

“ Melinda Jackson purchased the *Arrive in Style* for the family of Ms. Betty Ann Patterson.



Melinda Jackson - September 04, 2025 at 08:47 PM

RO

“ ROKs purchased the *Pink Potpourri Bouquet* for the family of Ms. Betty Ann Patterson.



ROKs - September 04, 2025 at 12:41 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ms. Betty Ann Patterson.

September 04, 2025 at 12:24 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Ms. Betty Ann Patterson.



September 04, 2025 at 12:24 AM

MA

“ *Mr. Silas Patterson & Dr. Vickie Aultmon planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ms. Betty Ann Patterson.*

Mr. Silas Patterson & Dr. Vickie Aultmon - September 03, 2025 at 06:09 PM

MA

“ *Mr. Silas Patterson & Dr. Vickie Aultmon purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Ms. Betty Ann Patterson.*



Mr. Silas Patterson & Dr. Vickie Aultmon - September 03, 2025 at 06:09 PM

OR

“ *Otis L Rowe purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Ms. Betty Ann Patterson.*



Otis L Rowe - September 03, 2025 at 04:13 PM



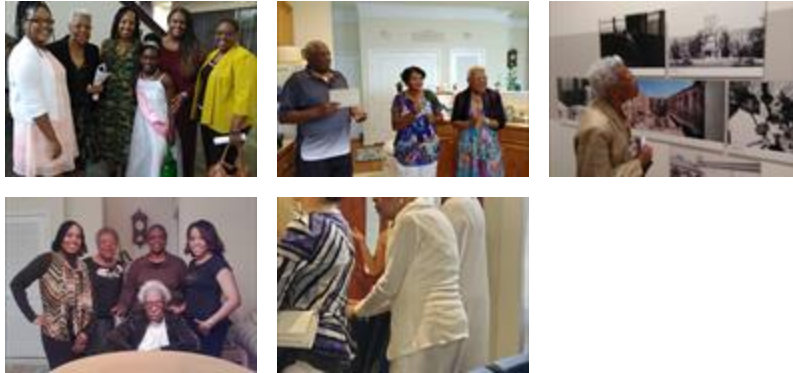
“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Ms. Betty Ann Patterson.*



September 02, 2025 at 08:21 PM

CP

“ 39 files added to the album Betty Patterson photos



Carolyn Patterson-Kemper - September 02, 2025 at 04:52 PM



“ Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of Ms. Betty Ann Patterson.



September 02, 2025 at 03:36 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ms. Betty Ann Patterson.

August 30, 2025 at 10:10 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ms. Betty Ann Patterson.



August 30, 2025 at 10:10 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Ms. Betty Ann Patterson.*



August 27, 2025 at 03:14 PM