



## Gary Laverne McPherson

May 27, 1951 - March 27, 2021

Deacon Gary L. McPherson was born in Charleston, South Carolina on May 27, 1951 to his proud parents: Jervey and Thomasina McPherson. Gary attended the Mary Ford Elementary School, and graduated from the Bonds-Wilson High School where he played the french horn and was a member of the Marching Cobra's Band.

After high school, Gary attended South Carolina State University where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting. Always musically inclined, Gary became a member of the University's Mighty Bulldog Marching Band - and was later accepted into South Carolina's "All-State Marching Band."

After graduation, Gary worked for 25 years as an accountant for the Charleston Naval Shipyard. He also taught accounting at The City College of Chicago for 2 years. Gary later moved to the Washington DC area where he worked as an accountant for Greenpeace USA.

Gary was married to Ms. Felicia Lassiter. He was later remarried and joined union with Mrs. Vivian McPherson. He is blessed with two stepdaughters from this union - Tandy Mazo and Cheri Bailey.

In 1995 Gary met Rev. Ida Moss and the Greater Works Ministry team while they were distributing KFC chicken boxes to the homeless at the MLK Community Center in Arlington VA. Gary rolled up his sleeves and starting helping - and he never stopped. The Greater Works Ministry team later began providing vocational training to at-risk young adults that were aging-out of the

DC Foster Care System. Gary became one of the instructors and began providing training in Bookkeeping skills.

In 2013, when the Greater Works Ministry Team decided to start a Church, Gary became "the great evangelist!" He was always out on the street corners with his tambourine, singing Christian songs, distributing tracks, and inviting people to Bible study. He worked tirelessly toward this endeavor, and was a central figure in helping to plant The Greater Works Christian Church. Gary was truly, "On The Battlefield" for the Lord!

Gary was always a humble, loving, and kind-hearted person, who would overlook any rudeness from his fellow man. He was quick to offer prayer for those who needed it, and was never judgmental.

# Cemetery Details

## SAND HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CEMETERY

1961 SUMMERS RD  
Ridgeville, SC 29472

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

APR 5. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Pope Funeral Home Washington Chapel  
2617 Pennsylvania Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20020

## Funeral Service

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

Pope Funeral Home Washington Chapel  
2617 Pennsylvania Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20020

# Tribute Wall



“ *Pope Funeral Homes created a Webcast in memory of Gary Laverne McPherson*



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**Pope Funeral Homes** - April 05, 2021 at 08:53 AM

PS

*Gary was the best person ever to talk to and I already miss our conversations and the times you prayed for me! I had so much Hope for you and know that our hope is built 'on nothing less than Jesus Love and righteousness'. I know you are with our Savior and singing in His heavenly choir. I love and miss you my brother. Patrice Smith*

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**Patrice Y Smith** - April 05, 2021 at 10:59 AM

PR

*My heart is heavy because I will miss you Gary, but my soul rejoices, because I know your are with our Lord, Jesus Christ. Rest In Peace, and God bless your soul my friend!  
Love you forever!  
Pam Robinson*

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**Pamela Robinson** - April 05, 2021 at 11:30 AM

PS

*Lovely service for my friend!!*

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**Patrice Y Smith** - April 05, 2021 at 12:08 PM

PR

*Wow ! What a wonderful testimony of Gary's life! The meek spirit he had that knew how to go low in order to go high! Would train young people in accounting, filled up the Bible study by passing out tracts, having a wonderful spirit that attracted people and playing his tambourine out on the corner of the building where bible study was held! Glory, Hallelujah! Amen!!!! What a beautiful service and tribute to Gary! Gary was really on the battle field for God!!!!*

*Pam Robinson*

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**Pamela Robinson** - April 05, 2021 at 12:09 PM

PB

*To the smoothest tenor I have known and sang with. I can't wait to sing you in the heavenly choir, save me a seat in the alto section. My prayers are with your family, may you rest in the arms of Jesus and have peace.*

*Patricia Robinson- Brawley*

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**Patricia Robinson- Brawley** - April 05, 2021 at 06:39 PM

TR

*So sorry to hear of Gary's passing. Only knew him briefly, but could tell he was a beautiful person. May he rest in eternal peace.*

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**Teresa Ross** - April 05, 2021 at 07:11 PM

PE

*I am praying for Gary's family. He was a great friend and classmate at South Carolina State University. Pastor Heyward Evans, Refuge Church of Our Lord, New Smyrna Beach, FL.*

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**Pastor Heyward Evans** - April 07, 2021 at 04:29 PM



“ Gary Laverne McPherson

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January 28, 2023 at 02:13 PM



“ Gary Laverne McPherson

January 28, 2023 at 10:26 AM



“ *My sincere condolences and prayers to the family; as we will miss this creative aspect of Gary... "flexibility". As his mindset could demonstrate that there was usually more than a single answer or solution to any particular issue or problem. And when we were in the Bonds-Wilson High School band together, he could at times introduce augmented or diminished notes into the music, or into life...just like a Duke Ellington composition; just to add some color or dissonance to the music, but it was always in the right key of the song, and we had to eventually, "smile".*

RKing - April 08, 2021 at 03:47 AM



“ *RKing lit a candle in memory of Gary Laverne McPherson*



RKing - April 08, 2021 at 03:45 AM



“ *I am so sorry to hear about Gary. I worked at the Charleston Naval Shipyard in the Bldg.7 where he worked as well, HE was very nice and friendly, I will never forget him. I wasn't sure if it was really him when I was perusing the obituary on last week. I was shocked. And now today when I looked at the obituary, now I know. Weeping may endureth for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.*

Carolyn Gilbert - April 07, 2021 at 07:07 PM

SM

“ Praying for the family. 🙏  
*Sharon Martin and the Poinsette Family*

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**Sharon Martin** - April 06, 2021 at 11:45 AM

SE

“ To Uncle Gary-

*You will be truly missed. Still we meet again.  
Hug my Mama, Daddy and Brother.*

*love you  
Susan -aka your Vinnie poo*

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**Susan Williams Evans** - April 05, 2021 at 12:16 PM

PJ

“ Pat Johnson lit a candle in memory of Gary  
*Laverne McPherson*



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**Pat Johnson** - April 05, 2021 at 11:26 AM

PJ

“ My deepest sympathy to the family. I first met Deacon Gary at the church's noon day Bible Class downtown DC. Deacon Gary greeted me and made me feel welcome. Whenever I visited the church, Deacon Gary was always courteous and helpful. Rest In Heaven.

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**Pat Johnson** - April 05, 2021 at 11:23 AM

PR

“ Gary was always a very giving and fun loving person. He would always say something to lift your spirit and make you laugh. I have so many fond memories of Gary. I will truly miss my friend. May God bless your soul Gary and Rest In Peace! I pray that God comforts your family. I know that Ms. Thomasina and the rest of heaven is rejoicing to have you join them. Love you forever my friend,  
Pam Robinson ❤️💕🙏



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**Pamela Robinson** - April 05, 2021 at 10:43 AM

TM

“ Gary, I am going to miss all of wonderful our conversations, your laughter, your interesting observations, talking about your grandkids and sending pictures, our fun conversations about who's school had the better football team, the real Bulldogs as you would claim, our visits, and just everything else.. so I'm going to say Im really going to miss you and Its so very hard for me to say goodbye so in the spirit of how you usually end our conversations, I know you gotta go, love ya, and talk to you soon. Love Tandy

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**Tandy M** - April 05, 2021 at 10:37 AM

CM

“ *Pastor Ida and The Church Family and family and friends of Gary are in my sincere thoughts and prayers.*



*We miss Deacon already but the LORD had better plans for him.. Let's continue to rejoice rejoice and rejoice for the good ole times we had him in our lives here,*

*Nobody will be able to play that tambourine like Gary did...nor sing those songs "off" key like he did LOL.....but he did it ALL FOR THE FOR THE LORD....and we all enjoyed him doing this.....i...*

*Gary.....your physical body will be missed but I shall always remember you in the kitchen as I planted my feet underneath your table to feast and fellowship with grits, eggs, fish, shrimp biscuits and orange juice..*

*Rest my dear friend .....*

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**Clara P McCargo** - April 05, 2021 at 10:20 AM

DH

“ *Brother Gary requested BBQ's at The Belnor Senior Residence. I gladly accepted the request. Because of this request, I was introduced to the Greater Works Church. Brother Gary's love and support to this community; not only fed our stomachs; but more importantly our souls. His love of Crist was the most special gift he shared with us. In all he did, food ministry, Santa Claus, and BBQ's, his light shone through in his service. Absent in the flesh, yet present with the Lord. Thank you Brother Gary! Love You, Sister Mi Mi*

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**Debra Hart** - April 05, 2021 at 09:27 AM

EB

“ *My condolences to the family of Gary McPherson. May the peace of God be with you! RIP Gary! Much love!*



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**Evelyn Burwell** - April 04, 2021 at 10:14 PM

DM

“ *Darnell Byrd McPherson lit a candle in memory of Gary Laverne McPherson*



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**Darnell Byrd McPherson** - April 04, 2021 at 09:21 PM

AY

“ *I love you Unc and we will miss you dearly. Keep smiling and laughing in heaven. Love you. - Monster (Ayinde)*

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**Ayinde** - April 04, 2021 at 05:33 PM

DW

“ *Gary and my brother Sonny shared a great friendship. Both are gone now and I miss both of them. Gary was a great cook, and I am delighted to have been the recipient of some of his fine meals. I always kidding around about something with him. He would call me most Sundays immediately following church, and we'd have a good laugh about something. May his soul rest in peace and power.*

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**Dr. E. Faye Williams** - April 04, 2021 at 12:54 AM

PM

“ You are in heaven Gary...many blessings to your family..



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**Pamela Mims** - April 03, 2021 at 11:58 PM

KB

“ Deacon Gary was my big kitchen kid! With his SC upbringing and my GA upbringing, we both both love good food. Every Sunday morning, without fail, he made his way to the kitchen, to find out what was cooking, if he needed to taste anything, and to sneak a piece of cake or two. He would butter me up by complimenting me on how well my husband dresses me! Brother Gary was a gentle giant who was always on the battlefield for the Lord, and I know he's blowing them away in the heavenly choir! He will forever be etched in our hearts.

*Love in Christ,  
Karen Black*

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**Karen Black** - April 03, 2021 at 05:12 PM

TW

“ Sorry For Your Loss, Jesus Christ Loves , We Love You



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**Thomas Widgeon** - April 03, 2021 at 04:07 PM

JM

“ Gary was a devoted and loving Christian. He had the heart of an angel. He was always so warm and welcoming and he would give you the shirt off his back when needed as long as he had another at home.!!! He was always so excited to see me and my daughter and made us feel so welcomed at Greater Works. I worked with Gary, attended bible study with him, and couldn't help but love him (over 20 years). Gary was a dear friend and will be truly missed !! SO UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN MY FRIEND, LOVING MEMORIES and REST IN PEACE !!!



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**Jacqueline Mensah** - April 03, 2021 at 03:22 PM

CM

“ I met Gary through his friends Alonzo Jacobs and Stan Gilliard back in the 90s. Gary was always willing to give and share whatever he had. Most recent I will always cherish the fellowships at Gary's apartment with his church family. Gary could cook some shrimp fish and grits that would make you scream. I'm gonna miss my bud but I have to remember that the Lord knows best ....the Blood that gives me strength from day to day will always keep Gary close to my heart

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**Clara McCargo** - April 02, 2021 at 08:10 PM