

*Pallbearers and Flowerbearers*  
Friends of the Family

***I Am Free***

*Don't grieve for me, for now I am free,  
I am following the path: God laid for me.  
I took His hand when I heard Him call.  
I turned my back and left it all.*

*I could not stay another day, to laugh, to love,  
to work or play.*

*Tasks left undone must stay that way.  
I found that peace at the close of day.*

*If my parting has left a void,  
then fill it with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss. Ah, yes,  
these things I, too, will miss.*

*Be not burdened with time of sorrow.  
I wish for you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I've savored much,*

*Good friends, good times,  
and a loved one's touch.  
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief.*

*Don't lengthen it  
now with undue grief.  
Lift up your heart and share with me.  
God wanted me now. He set me free.*

*Acknowledgement*

The family wishes to express our sincere gratitude to all who have extended expressions of sympathy and other acts of kindness to us during this time of bereavement. May God's peace and blessings rest upon you always.

~~The Family~~



*Homegoing Celebration*  
*For*  
*Mary Ruth Sterling Winton*



*Sunrise*  
November 6, 1927

*Sunset*  
July 21, 2011

*Service*

**Monday, July 25, 2011**  
**5:00 PM**

**Rogers Memorial Baptist Church**  
**520 College Street**  
**Knoxville, Tennessee 37921**

**Pastor James Davis, Officiating**

*Reflections and Memories of a Life Well Lived*

Mary Ruth Sterling "Big Mamma" Winton, went home to be with the Lord at St. Mary's Hospital on July 21, 2011. Mary was born on November 6, 1927 to the parents of Jessie and Claude Dean Sterling. She was the second of 4 children.

She was a devoted member of Rogers Memorial Baptist Church for over seventy (70) years. She was preceded in death by: father, Claude Dean Sterling; mother, Jessie (Phillips) Sterling; brothers, Pless Dean and Hubert John Sterling, Robert (Bobby) Thomas; nephew.

Left to cherish her memories: sister, Yvonne Patterson; devoted daughter, Mary Ruth (Phillip) Patterson; devoted grandson, Pless D. Sterling; devoted sister-in-law, Gwen (Von) Sterling; very devoted niece, Gwendolyn (Chris Tate) Sterling; nieces, JoAnn Glenn, Frances, Shirley Ann (Dan), Althea Pope, Jessie, Natasha (Paul) Charlene Buchanan, Patricia, Vernie McDuffey, Peggy Givens and Joyce Christopher and Shanna Jack; devoted nephews, Terry "Big Stuff" (Sabrinia), Larry "Lil Stuff," and nephews, Hubert Thomas, Claude (Veronica), June (Marcia) and Hubert (Stella), Reggie (Shirley) Givens and Willie Jack, life-long friend Florence Robinson; cousin, Mary Helen Allen; a host of other relatives and friends. Devoted caregivers, Rena "Lil bit" Allen, Agnes Bush, Debra Lowery and Akia Jack; devoted friends, Elder Albert (Teresa) Martin. Special thanks to St. Mary's ER and CP - Unit, Amedisys Hospice, Dr. Raymond Brig - TN Cancer Institute, St. Mary's Infusion Center and Dr. Fred J. Bennett.



*Order of Service*

Reverend James Davis Officiating

Processional

**Family Hour: 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

Selection ..... Rogers Memorial Baptist Church Choir

Scripture

Old Testament ..... Deacon Michael White

New Testament ..... Elder Albert Martin

Prayer of Comfort ..... Reverend Michel S.E. Caldwell, Pastor  
Rogers Memorial Baptist Church

Selection ..... Rogers Memorial Baptist Church Choir

Church Resolution ..... Dr. Lula C. Powell

Poems ..... Pless D. Sterling  
Natasha "Sherry" Johnson

Solo ..... Shelia Hayden

Eulogy ..... Pastor James Davis  
Eternal Life Harvest Center

Recessional



*Interment*

*Tuesday, July 26, 2011  
10:00 AM  
New Gray Cemetery  
Western Avenue  
Knoxville, Tennessee*