



## Deaconess Pearl Virginia Hunter

December 4, 1925 - February 16, 2022

### Reflections of Life

Wednesday, February 16, 2022, the Lord chose from his lovely garden our Beloved, Deaconess Pearl Virginia Webster Hunter. She was born on December 4, 1925, in Henrico, Virginia to the late Clinton Odell Webster, Sr., and Ruth Virginia Robinson Webster. During her high school years, while being the only girl, Pearl was sent to live with her Aunt Lillian Shepperson in Richmond City, where she attended public school for a more inclusive education and graduated from Armstrong High School. Preceding in death were her parents, her husband, Deacon Earl J. Hunter, Sr.; eight brothers, Clinton, Jr., Harvey, Earnest, Thomas, William, Walter, Lloyd, Harry Webster; daughter, Lillian "Evonne" Hunter; and great-granddaughter, Shauna Williamson.

Pearl was a Girl Scout as a young girl, and often quoted, "I learned that you had to work with and use what you got." She accepted Christ at an early age at Potomoi Baptist Church. There she met Earl Joseph Hunter, Sr. at Homecoming Services, and on July 31, 1943 were united in marriage and blessed with five children. Having joined First Union Baptist Church under the pastorate of the late Reverend Emmanuel Kent, she was a member for over 70 years. She served First Union Baptist Church faithfully and was a committed member of the Senior Choir, Women's Ministry, Senior Missionary Ministry, and Deaconess Ministry. She became the first Chairperson who initiated the Kitchen Committee, which in later years became known as the Hospitality Ministry. Often sharing oral history, she reminisced of how she, her husband, and children worked in any way they needed help at church. This included church clean-up duties, grass cutting, purchasing curtains and chimney tin plates for the woodstove. She thrived in being a member of the Deaconess Ministry, serving as the first young Deaconess at the time with her Elders, and remembering gently washing and handling the sacred elements for Communion Sundays. Other affiliations included the Chickahominy Baptist Association Deacon & Deaconess Conference, NAACP, and "The Jolly Bees." Until her death, Pearl was the eldest member and "Mother" of FUBC.

Pearl and Earl shared 40 wonderful years together until his death in 1983. They became the proprietors of Creighton Lake, which was a recreational park for African-Americans during that time. She then worked at the East End Elementary School, of which years later new Pole Green Elementary School was built on site. She recalled how the Principal allowed her and the FUBC Kitchen Committee use of the cafeteria to prepare food for Homecoming Services. "Big baskets of greens, string beans, ham, etc.." were fixed. Early Sunday morning before church opened, they would bring the food back to FUBC "serving from the outside, little kitchen, and basement." She worked for A.H. Robins for many years as a cafeteria server. "When I came in at 8 o'clock in the morning I made 160 gallons of regular coffee, and I usually had to make more gallons for the afternoon break," she pointed out in a featured article about her. After leaving the outside workforce, Pearl continued to work hard as a Farmer's wife, mother, and grand mother.

"Ma Pearl" as known to many, was described as a virtuous woman. She was a very loyal and devoted wife, mother, grandmother (Nana), great-grandmother, sister, friend, confidante, spiritual mentor, good listener and family-oriented person. She loved her family and once she loved you, you became her family.

-As she would always say, "Keep the family and yoke together; don't break that yoke."

Leaving to celebrate loving memories are her four children, Earl Hunter, Jr. (Francine), Stella Henderson (James), Janet Shelton (Julian, Sr.), and Wendy Hill; seven grandchildren, Tamie Williamson, Julian Shelton, Jr. (Beena), Telesia Greene, Mark Hunter (Jodi), Brian Hunter, Eric Hunter (Erika), and Danah Telfaire (Kenno); twelve great-grandchildren, Michael, Jasmyn, Sydney Williamson, Cameron Davis, Jaylon Greene, Shyli, Jace Shelton, Jaci, Brandon, Cristian, Zoe Hunter, and Kamden Telfaire; five great-great-grandchildren, Aryana, Matteo, Mylah and Ava Williamson, Dakota Sykes; one brother, Robert Webster, Sr. (Nereida); one sister-in-law/cousin, Elnora Hunter; a loving and devoted caregiver, Sister Hattie Weatherless; many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

# Cemetery Details

## First Union Baptist Church Cemetery

Mechanicsville, VA 23116

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life with live streaming

FEB **21**. 1:30 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home -Laburnum Chapel  
2110 E. Laburnum Ave.  
Richmond, VA 23222

# Tribute Wall



“ *To View the Webcast of the Funeral for Deaconess Pearl Virginia Hunter, Please Click the Link below.*



---

**March Funeral Homes** - February 19 at 09:29 AM

RR

*So very sorry for your loss. May you find comfort in precious memories.*

---

**Rita Ricks** - February 19 at 04:01 PM

DA

*Sincere Condolences and Prayers for the extended Hunter Family!*

*FISCAL FITNESS FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC. STAFF*

---

**DERRICK ALFORD** - February 21 at 12:23 PM

BW

“ *With Deepest Sympathy to the Hunter family, my prayers are with you all. Aunt Pearl will truly be missed.*

*Barbara Webster*



---

**Barbara Webster** - February 23 at 08:08 AM

RS

“ *Dear Janet, Julian, Sr. and the Hunter Family,*  
*We are saddened to learn of the passing of your adored mother. God has called another blessed and faithful saint home. She will forever be remembered in the hearts of family and friends. Words will not wipe away tears and hugs may not ease the pain, but may you find comfort in the wonderful memories of your loving mother. We pray that God will comfort and strengthen you during this most difficult time. Our deepest condolences to your special family.*

*Rita Jones Shelton and family*

---

**Rita J Shelton** - February 21 at 07:48 PM

KA

“ After my family moved to Hanover County in the late 1940's, Clinton Webster and his sons helped my father farm. Mr. Webster offered his land as bail to get my father out of jail because he had lost his wallet with his driver's license and was involved in an accident. Ruth Webster would babysit us children. Mr and Mrs Webster were like my grandparents. I give thanks to the Lord for having known them. Deaconess Hunter was blessed to have them as parents.  
Many blessings to the Webster and Hunter families.  
Prayers and Peace,  
Kathy Clark

Kathy - February 21 at 01:29 PM

EH

“ To the Hunter Family: My wife and I send prayers and condolences to you. We were saddened to hear of the passing of Miss Pearl. She had a wonderful and a very positive influence on us as we grew up. We will always remember her kindness and precious sweet spirit. The love and wisdom that she shared with so many was a testament of her faith and trust in God.  
May God bless each of you. God will provide the peace and comfort that you need.  
Reverend Earl and Almon Hall



E. Hall - February 21 at 09:34 AM

SR

“ Earl, Francine, and family, Leslie and I send our love to you at this celebration of life for Mrs. Hunter. Her spirit lives in the character and good deeds of all of her descendants. Her memory will always be a blessing. Take good care.

Stewart Roberson - February 19 at 06:01 PM

RC

“ May you find comfort in God's love at this most difficult time. Roslyn de Cordova



Roslyn de Cordova - February 19 at 09:17 AM

WT

“ To the Hunter Family – We share in your grief. “Ma Pearl” was the Matriarch of both the Hunter family and First Union Baptist Church. A strong woman of Faith who knew not only who she was but whose she was. “I won’t complain.” – three impactful words that summarize a life well lived. Pearl knew no strangers and treated everyone like family. Her light, love, laughter, wisdom, grace, and warmth are the gifts that she shared daily. Her legacy will live on in the hearts of all those whose lives she enriched.

With deepest sympathy,  
Warren and Lorraine Thompson

---

**Warren and Lorraine Thompson** - February 19 at 05:07 AM



“ We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.

---

**March Funeral Homes** - February 18 at 03:33 PM