

❧ *Celebration of Life* ❧



Janice W.
CARTER-BOWDEN

— NOVEMBER 11, 1956 - OCTOBER 6, 2025 —

Saturday, October 25, 2025 at 12:15 p.m.

Shiloh Baptist Church • 1500 Ninth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001 • Rev. George E. Mensah, Sr., Interim Pastor



The Space You Left Behind



Who will bring me clarity, and be my moral guide?

Who will be my confidant in whom will I confide?

Who will drag me shopping to each and every store?

Who will push me to shut my mouth when I really want to say more?

Who will help me strategize? With whom will I debrief?

Who will I run to when I need relief?

Who will tolerate my attitude?

Who will let me vent;
then offer wisdom and compassion while telling me to repent?

Who will stress me out, and get on my nerves?

Who will offer unconditional love, and accept mine in return?

Who will be strong enough to grow with me, fearless enough to push
me, kind enough to comfort me, and wise enough to instruct me?

Who will be my mother in every sense of the word?

Who will guide me through life with all its twists and turns?

You gave me everything you had, and all the things you did not.

If I had one grievance it's that you trained no one to fill your spot.

I love you more than I could ever express, but I'll do my best
by continuing to make you proud.

Love always,

Jassy *Jazzy*

(Yes, I'm using my preferred spelling because now that you're gone,
you can't stop me.) LOL

Be well my love. You deserve your rest.

Order of Service

OFFICIANT

The Reverend Desiré P. Grogan
Interim Assistant Pastor for Christian Education

PRESIDING

The Reverend George E. Mensah, Sr.
Interim Pastor

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OCCASION AND INVOCATION Rev. Desiré P. Grogan

MUSICAL SELECTION Ms. Dawn E. Robinson
"Goodness of God" (as recorded by Cece Winans)

SCRIPTURE READING Mr. B. Roland Edwards
Psalm 27

MUSICAL MEDITATION *"It Is Well with My Soul"* (Horatio Spafford)

PRAYER OF COMFORT Rev. George E. Mensah, Sr.

TRIBUTES **Ministry of Deacons** | Deacon Richard "Rick" T. Coleman, *Chair*
(3 mins each) **Fellowship Circle** | Mrs. Mary Bates-Washington, *Vice Leader*
Christian Education | Mrs. Patricia L. Evans
The Shiloh Girls | Mrs. Lillie Lewis Garrett

MUSICAL INTERLUDE *"We'll Understand It Better By and By"* (Tindley/arr. Clark)

TRIBUTES **LaSalle-Backus Elementary School** | Ms. Joyce Hill
(3 mins each) **McKinley Tech High School Alumni Association, Class of 1974** | Rev. Sammie Fitzgerald
Letters of Condolence | Ms. JoAnne Beasley, *Church Clerk*
The Family | Mr. Maurice C. and Mrs. Nicole Patterson

HYMN OF PREPARATION #153 *"Great is Thy Faithfulness"* (William Runyan)

EULOGY Rev. Dr. Jacqueline A. Thompson, *Senior Pastor*
Allen Temple Baptist Church (Oakland, CA)

CHORAL BENEDICTION The Silent Mission
"Sweet, Sweet Spirit" (Doris Akers)

RECESSIONAL *"It Ain't Easy Being Green"* (as recorded by Ray Charles)

Music provided by
The Music Ministry
Dr. Thomas Dixon Tyler, *Director*
Ms. Evelyn Simpson-Curenton, M.M., *Organist*

Janice W. Carter-Bowden

~ A Time to be Born ~

Janice W. Carter-Bowden was born on November 11, 1956, in Washington, DC, to William and May Bell Carter. She was three minutes older than her twin sister Joyce "Joy" M. Patterson, and took great pleasure in reminding everyone of that fact.

Jan was baptized into the Christian faith, with her sister Joy, by the late Rev. Earl L. Harrison. During the service, Rev. Harrison announced that he baptizes twins together, so Jan and Joy were dunked, side by side.

Much later in life, the twins revealed the reason they got baptized was so they could join the youth choir under the direction of Mary Ellen Lofton.

At the age of twelve, Jan became an active member of Shiloh Baptist Church. She participated in Sunday School, Sunshine Circle, the Shiloh cheerleading team, Ujima Generation, and many other auxiliaries and groups. Jan attended services with her family regularly over the years, and became a pillar of the church.



~ A Time to Grow ~

Jan graduated from McKinley Technical High School in 1974, where she served as editor of the yearbook, a pom-pom girl, and an academically gifted student. In 1977, she graduated from The George Washington University with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education, a career she chose at the age of eight, when she would play "school" during recess with her classmates. She would instruct each of her "students" to answer a question, and if they answered correctly, she would release them to play.

In the summers, she enjoyed visiting one of her family's vacation homes at Indian Acres in Thornburg, VA. Jan tooted around on her sister's motorcycle and enjoyed swimming in the lake. Her parents took the twins to Broadway shows, the New York World's Fair, every monument and museum in Washington, DC, the Macy's Day Parade, and many other exciting events for the young girls.



~ A Time to Love ~

At age 19, Jan met Jeffery "Bow" Bowden through John Holt while volunteering at Shiloh. The late Rev. Henry C. Gregory III married the pair in 1979 at a beautiful "Shiloh Wedding." In 1982, their daughter, Jasmyn, was born, bringing light and joy to their lives.



~ A Time to Work ~



While in college, Jan began working at Harper's, a family-owned retail store that she called home on Saturdays for many years. It was there she met Cathy Ball. They remained friends, and she chose Cathy as Jasmyn's godmother.

Jan began her career in education in 1977, first as a teacher, and then as the director of the Foggy Bottom Child Development Center in Northwest, Washington, DC. In 1988, she was welcomed onto the teaching staff at Gage-Eckington Elementary School, where she taught every grade, with second grade being her favorite.

"Bowden," as she was known by her peers, was every child's champion, every parent's advocate, every teacher's coach, and every leader's confidant and advisor. She always followed the rules, and made sure everyone else did too.

While at Gage-Eckington, Jan transitioned from teaching children, to teaching teachers. As a Change Facilitator, and ultimately an Instructional Coach for Literacy, Jan used her institutional and instructional knowledge to help her colleagues teach well-rounded lessons that met the standards of the District of Columbia Public School System. In 2002, after Gage-Eckington's closure, Jan moved to LaSalle-Backus Elementary School. A favorite of both children and teachers, Jan formed a special bond with Richard Rogers, Shelley Gray, Freddie Temoney, Joyce Hill, Ronald Richardson, Harriet Byrd, Aryanne Young, and April Barnes.



In 2006, she earned a second Master's and Education Specialist degree (EdS) in Curriculum and Instruction. Jan received awards and accolades, including multiple Standing Ovation Awards. Teachers and administrators across the city acknowledged her skill and acumen.

In 2022, upon her retirement, Jan celebrated 45 years in education, and 35 years with the District of Columbia Public School System.

~ A Time to Serve ~



A member of Shiloh her entire life, Jan participated in, and led an untold number of programs, events, ministries, and auxiliary groups. Active from her earliest years, Jan's young adulthood was marked by her teaching in church school, leading the children's ministry, and co-leading the young adult ministry under the late Rev. Barry Hargrove. As her daughter grew up, Jan became an active parent in the youth ministry under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Thompson. The two formed a strong bond, affectionately referring to each other as David and Jonathan, with Jan being the latter.

While supporting the youth ministry, Jan formed deep friendships with Para Perry and

the late Marla Jones-Oakes, raising their children together, with Jan becoming "Aunt Jan" to Yaundalyn (Perry) Hebron, Clarke Perry, and Danielle (Jones) Reese. She also took great joy in "mothering" Erin Clark, Tiquita Hall, Tiffany Sampson, and the many other youth of Shiloh.

Bible study was one of Jan's most cherished activities. She led Shiloh's Bible Institute for fifteen years, taught church school most of her life, and led or participated actively in Shiloh's Christian Education Ministry. For decades, she led Christian Education alongside or supporting Robert Gunn, Linwood Moore, Patricia Evans, and Rev. George Mensah, Sr. Jan attended Rev. Desiré Grogan's Bible class, which blended didactic and collaborative instruction on the book of Revelation. Jan often

shared that Rev. Desiré's class helped her through some of the most significant challenges in her life.



In 2002, Jan was ordained a Deacon by then pastor Rev. Dr. Wallace Charles Smith. Deacon Jan became known as the "Queen of Clarity" in Deacon's meetings, and regularly joined friend and visiting partner, Deacon Gregory Prioleau, in calling on, and visiting Shiloh's sick members.



Over the years, Jan supported the ministry closest to her heart, Shiloh's Silent Mission. She assisted in coordinating and scheduling interpreters, signed for the Silent Mission, and advocated for services and events to be accessible to members of the Silent Mission. Her work with the Silent Mission led her to become active in the worship ministry, where she collaborated with Sharon Parker and Deacon Christine Barker-Odom on compiling written parts, songs, and Orders of Service for the Silent Mission Interpreters. This work was always supported, and occasionally derailed, by her dear friend, Dr. Thomas Dixon Tyler, at whom she often fussed.

The friends spent many hours on the phone, with him dreaming big, and her bringing clarity and project management to his plans.

In 2019, she earned a 50-year pin, an honor for maintaining membership at Shiloh for at least 50 years. Jan spent much of those 50 years as a member of her beloved Fellowship Circle, led by the late Jewel Randall, the late Delores Sawyer, the late Thomasina McLeish, Mary Bates-Washington, and currently, her sister Joy Patterson.

During the 2020 shutdown, Jan enjoyed "pajama church" and advocated for the church to continue growing, acknowledging, and supporting its virtual community. After that time, Deacon Jan returned to in-person worship twice a month and supported the Silent Mission online on the other Sundays.



~ A Time to Unwind ~



When not working or serving at Shiloh, Jan could be found at brunch with Deacons Jocelyn Frye and Kent Amos, or Tyrone Goodwyn, Elizabeth Clark, and Eric Jones. She enjoyed shopping and always seemed to have a shopping partner to visit stores, malls, and outlets near and far.

Jan also loved playing Bid Whist with John and Sharon Holt, Porsha and Eddie Fernandes, her sister and brother-in-law, Maurice, and her nephews Will and Calvin. She also hosted numerous sleepovers for her daughter and the Holt girls, Trina, Dani, and her almost-birthday-buddy, Jocelyn.

When at home, she would discuss her favorite show with Deacon Daryl Branson, or walk from Anacostia Park to the Frederick Douglass Bridge with Patricia Stephens. Jan was everyone's favorite strategist and discussion partner, and until the very end, she would field calls from members and leaders at LaSalle-Backus and Shiloh, who sought her counsel. One of her favorite pastimes was watching murder mysteries, including "Matlock," "Columbo," "Perry Mason," and "Murder She Wrote." An avid reader, her library was immense with titles from all genres of literature.

~ A Time to Rejoice ~

Jan's life was full of love, service, and accomplishments, making significant contributions to her family, church, school, and community. She transitioned peacefully after a short battle with cancer on October 6, 2025, surrounded by love, and under the watchful care of Vitas Hospice and Visiting Angels caregivers.

She is survived by her daughter, Jasmyn (Michael) Price, twin sister Joy Patterson, nephews William (Marlena) and Maurice C. (Nicole) Patterson, her former husband, Jeffery Bowden, and many other family members, loving church members, and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, William and May Bell Carter, and her brother-in-law, Maurice A. Patterson.



A Time Was Had





Interment

Fort Lincoln Cemetery

3401 Bladensburg Road, Brentwood, MD 20722

Pallbearers

Jeffery Bowden
Tyrone Goodwyn
John Holt

Maurice Patterson
William Patterson
Freddie Temoney

Repast

The family will receive friends for a repast in
Heritage Hall at the Henry C. Gregory III Family Life Center.

Expression of Gratitude

"Perhaps you sent a lovely card, or sat quietly in a chair.
Perhaps you sent a funeral spray, if so, we saw it there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words, as any friend could say.
Perhaps you were not there at all, just thought of us that day.
Whatever you did to console our hearts,
We thank you so very much, whatever the part."

The family of

Janice "Jan" W. Carter-Bowden

Acknowledgements

While many people helped care for Jan, her daughter would like to pay special acknowledgement to: Sharon Holt, Tyrone Goodwyn, Gregory Prioleau, Rev. George Mensah, Sr., Patricia Stephens, Willa Hall-Smith, Daryl Branson, Leandra Williams, Kent Amos, Jocelyn Frye, Elizabeth Clark, Eric Jones, Patricia Evans, April Barnes, Kymiel Standifer, Christine Barker-Odom, Carolyn Moyer, Eppie Hankins, her neighbor Debbie, Tydren Sullivan, Deacon Richard "Rick" Coleman, Thomas Dixon Tyler, Keonna (Clark) Austin, and everyone who called, mailed a card, or sent up a prayer.

Professional Services Entrusted to

Marshall-March Funeral Home

4217 Ninth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20011