



## Pastor William Otis Sturdivant Sr.

December 19, 1952 - August 3, 2017

Rev. William Otis Sturdivant, Sr., Pastor of St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church, 64, of Peoria, IL passed away peacefully on Thursday, August 3, 2017 at 5:30 pm at the Veterans Illiana Health Care Center, Danville, IL. William was born on December 19, 1952 in York, Alabama to Roy and Jessie Bell (Nixon) Sturdivant. He married the love of his life, Deborah Kawaii on November 29, 1997 in Reno, Nevada.

William accepted Christ at an early age under the leadership of Pastor Felix Nixon at the Mt. Herman Missionary Baptist Church of York, AL. In 1966, the Sturdivant family relocated to Peoria, IL. The family joined Grace Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Whitehead. In the early '70s he attended the All Nations Pentecostal Church of God In Christ under the leadership of Elder Turner at which he accepted his calling into the ministry. William graduated from Woodruff High School in 1971. In 1993, he joined St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of his brother, Pastor T.C. Sturdivant. In 1994, he was ordained as an associated minister. In 2005, he was elected interim Pastor of the Nauvoo Missionary Baptist Church in Nauvoo, IL. After the homegoing of Pastor T.C. Sturdivant in 2012, William was elected as Pastor of the St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church in March of 2013.

William was a U.S. Army Veteran, retiring in 1993 after 21 years of service. During his military service, he attended Troy State University in Troy, AL where he received his Associates Degree in Military Service. William also

retired from the US Postal Service in 2014 with 18 years of service. He was a member of the American Legion, National Baptist General State Convention and the Peoria Ministerial Alliance. William enjoyed reading, writing, bowling and traveling. One of his passions in life was remodeling projects, including his church and home. William loved spending time with family and friends. William leaves to cherish his precious memories, his loving wife of 19 years, Deborah Sturdivant of Peoria; two sons, William O. Sturdivant, Jr., of Pablo Alto, CA and Jeremy Sturdivant of Peoria; three daughters, Diona Swinney of Douglasville, GA; Miranda Sturdivant of Snellville, GA and Renata Sturdivant of Carbondale, IL; one god daughter, Attevy Talley; two brothers, Danny B. (Penny) Sturdivant and Floyd (Gladys) Sturdivant both of Peoria; three sisters, Rosie Ruffin and Melvie Thomas both of Peoria and Eliza Kelly of Jamaica, NY; six grandchildren, Brittney McClain, Nyiah Sturdivant, Marquazha Stevenson, Kevin Childrey, Jahree Jones and Simone Gates; two great grandchildren, Brooklyn Jones and Brayden Taylor; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, friends and his St. Luke Church family. He is preceded in death by his parents and six brothers.

Funeral services will be held at 11 am on Friday, August 18, 2017 at New Morning Star M.B. Church. There will be a 3 hour visitation Thursday evening, August 17, 2017 from 5pm – 8pm at New Morning Star M.B. Church and visitation two hours prior to the funeral beginning at 9 am. Host Pastor Cleveland Thomas, Sr. will officiate and Pastor Claude L. White, Jr., will bring the eulogy. William will be laid to rest at Parkview Cemetery where US Army Military Honors will be rendered by the Tazewell Area Ceremonial Team . Simons Mortuary has been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences may be made at [SimonsMortuary.com](http://SimonsMortuary.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Parkview Cemetery

2001 N University St  
Peoria, IL 61604  
(309) 688-0733

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 17. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

New Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church  
413 W. John H. Gwynn Jr. Avenue  
Peoria, IL 61605

## Visitation

AUG 18. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

New Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church  
413 W. John H. Gwynn Jr. Avenue  
Peoria, IL 61605

## Funeral Service

AUG 18. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

New Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church  
413 W. John H. Gwynn Jr. Avenue  
Peoria, IL 61605



# Tribute Wall



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Pastor William Otis Sturdivant Sr.*



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**Simons Mortuary** - August 17, 2017 at 01:41 PM

JB

*RIH Pastor William O. Sturdivant. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Family. Lean on Jesus for he cares for all that you're going through at this sad time. Joanie Brown and family*

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**Joanie Brown** - August 17, 2017 at 10:45 PM



“ *Pastor William Otis Sturdivant Sr.*

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January 29, 2023 at 06:10 AM



“ *Pastor William Otis Sturdivant Sr.*

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January 29, 2023 at 03:12 AM



“ *Cuz you are loved and missed thanks for renewing me and Mary wedding vows rest in God's hands till we meet again.*

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**William Randall Sturdivant** - June 03, 2019 at 04:15 PM



“ *Dorotha Williams lit a candle in memory of Pastor William Otis Sturdivant Sr.*



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**Dorotha Williams** - August 17, 2017 at 10:48 PM

JB

“ *Joanie Brown sent a virtual gift in memory of Pastor William Otis Sturdivant Sr.*



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**Joanie Brown** - August 17, 2017 at 10:47 PM

DF

“ *Dr. Fi'nis D. Massey and Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Pastor William Otis Sturdivant Sr..*



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**Dr. Fi'nis D. Massey and Family** - August 17, 2017 at 02:15 PM

JB

“ *Joanie Brown lit a candle in memory of Pastor William Otis Sturdivant Sr.*



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**Joanie Brown** - August 17, 2017 at 12:12 AM



“ Sorry for your loss my prayers go out for family and friends rip in Jesus name have a blessed night in Jesus name amen

Dorotha Williams - August 16, 2017 at 04:03 PM



“ Dorotha Williams lit a candle in memory of Pastor William Otis Sturdivant Sr.



Dorotha Williams - August 16, 2017 at 03:57 PM



“ Annette Lucy lit a candle in memory of Pastor William Otis Sturdivant Sr.



Annette Lucy - August 16, 2017 at 02:56 PM



Sorry for your loss may GOD give you peace

pastor jonathan byrd - August 17, 2017 at 12:35 PM



“ To the Sturdivant Family - You have our deepest sympathy & prayers. Your loss is our loss, as William was a God-fearing man who loved the Lord & life. His smile and open heart was priceless and will never be forgotten. May God grant you comfort during this time of sorrow.



Raphael/Vickie Patterson-King - August 15, 2017 at 09:09 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Pastor William Otis Sturdivant Sr..*



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August 15, 2017 at 08:52 AM



“ *May God's peace & Love give each of you comfort in your time of sorrow. Pastor William O. Sturdivant, exemplified the very essence of God's Love. He was a true humble, Servant Leader & we who Loved him, will miss him & cherish his life which was a Labor of Love for the up building of God's Kingdom. God Bless you, Rev. Johnnie Trammell Goodson & family!*



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**Rev. Johnnie Trammell Goodson** - August 14, 2017 at 10:20 PM



“ *To the Sturdivant family may God comfort you during this difficult time and grant you peace.*



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**Bobby and Sandra Walker** - August 14, 2017 at 08:41 AM

JB

“ *Joanie Brown sent a virtual gift in memory of Pastor William Otis Sturdivant Sr.*



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**Joanie Brown** - August 13, 2017 at 09:03 PM

LS

“ *Uncle William was one of my favor that always had a smile on his face any time u saw him. We always had a joke or 2 for each other. I will dearly miss him. Love u uncle.*

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**Linda Sturdivant** - August 12, 2017 at 10:16 PM



“ *I was blessed to grow up in this family of remarkable people. You my dear uncle pastor, luck dad played a lot of roles. Thank you for teaching me, and preaching to me, and always looking out for me. Your love came without conditions, and your advice, spot on. You had the ability to admit you could at times be wrong, and I miss those daily conversations we had. You my babyuncle, we're and will always be the visionary of our family. Not once have you looked at any of us and seen anything, but potential. I'm sure in that heavenly Sturdivant mansion, last Thursday evening the party was off the charts, cause you had made it home. I will miss you, always love you, and never forget you always my UNCLEPASTOR!! Love jai*



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**Jai Sturdivant** - August 12, 2017 at 11:30 AM



“ *Annette Lucy lit a candle in memory of Pastor William Otis Sturdivant Sr.*



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**Annette Lucy** - August 10, 2017 at 08:33 PM



“ *I worked with Bill at the Post Office and really enjoyed talking with him and getting to know him. He was always laughing and smiling. He was a very gentle man who loved his family.RIP soldier. I'm sure you're already in Heaven with those who have gone before you and smiling.*

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**Louis Eberly** - August 10, 2017 at 09:45 AM



“ *Evelyn Tate-Clayton sent a virtual gift in memory of Pastor William Otis Sturdivant Sr.*



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**Evelyn Tate-Clayton** - August 09, 2017 at 10:29 PM



“ *William was one of the the kindest people I have ever had the opportunity to know. One of God's chosen men who did it with such Grace. As his cousin my heart goes out to his immediate family, his wife, children, sisters and brothers. I pray God's Mercy and Grace upon each of us.*

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**Mildred Nixon-Atmore** - August 09, 2017 at 11:14 AM

TH

“ Debra, You are in my thoughts and prayers, now and always! Tina Howell

Tina Howell - August 08, 2017 at 10:45 PM

MR

“ To Debra and Family Praying for your strength. God will take care of you



Mattie Risby - August 08, 2017 at 05:56 PM

RB

“ To Debra Sturdivant ,and Family may the strenght of the LORD keep you all during this time of sorrow. I am praying for you,and much love family.

Ruth Bush - August 08, 2017 at 04:56 PM