



Betty Hurdle

May 22, 2026

Betty Hurdle, 84, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, passed away on Friday, May 22, 2026, at Lancaster General Hospital. Born in Lancaster, PA, she was the daughter of the late Elizabeth Jane (Waters) Matthews and Walter Sydney Matthews.

A lifelong resident of Lancaster, Betty leaves behind a legacy of love, service, and unwavering dedication to her community.

Betty was a proud 1960 graduate of J.P. McCaskey High School. She went on to become a cornerstone of the Lancaster community, lending her time, talents, and heart to numerous boards and organizations throughout her life. She worked for Alcoa in the 1960's and the City Administration for Redevelopment Authority in the 1970's. She finished out her career with Residential Management with Lancaster Garden Court Apartments, Hillside Apartments in Harrisburg, and Lancaster Arms in Lancaster.

A woman of deep faith, Betty was a founding member of Bright Side Baptist Church, where she served faithfully and held a position on the church board. Her commitment to uplifting others was evident in everything she did — from founding The Girl's Club of Lancaster to leading and participating in countless community projects.

Betty was also an active member of the African American Historical Society and played an important role in the 7th Ward Project. She participated in the Crispus Attucks initiative and contributed to the Heritage Walking Tour, helping to preserve and share the rich history of Lancaster's community for generations to come.

A passionate advocate for civic engagement, Betty was a dedicated foot soldier for President Barack Obama's campaigns and worked tirelessly in support of many other Democratic elections throughout the years. She believed deeply in the power of the vote and in the responsibility every person holds to shape their community and their country.

Those who knew Betty knew her warmth immediately. She was beloved for her motherly affection toward everyone she encountered, and she had a remarkable gift for making people feel seen, valued, and loved. She touched an immeasurable number of lives and leaves behind a large and devoted family.

Betty Hurdle was more than a community member — she was a community builder. She will be deeply missed and never forgotten.

She is survived by her four children, Sonya Diane Johnson, Robert David Hurdle, Kelly Akande (Adebayo), and Sheila Heiser; her six grandchildren, Alyssa, Andrea, Matthew, Isabella, Paige, and Olivia; and her two sisters, Ella Bair, and Judy China (John). Betty was preceded in death by her brothers, Morris, George, Larry, and Walter.

Betty will be dearly missed by her friends and family, especially her bonus children, Michael and Que Qui.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend a Memorial Service at Bright Side

Baptist Church, 515 Hershey Ave., Lancaster, PA 17602, on Thursday, June 18, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. There will be a Visitation from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the service. Interment will be private.

In Betty's memory, please make donations to the American Cancer Society, w
www.donate.cancer.org

Upcoming Events

Visitation

JUN 18. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Bright Side Baptist Church
515 Hershey Avenue
Lancaster, PA 17603

Memorial Service

JUN 18. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Bright Side Baptist Church
515 Hershey Avenue
Lancaster, PA 17603

Tribute Wall

KD

“ Miss Betty was a wonderful, caring woman of God. A beautiful smile and personality to match. Will always remember the fun & laughter we shared. Condolences & prayers to the family. Karen Dixon

Karen Dixon - June 08 at 04:16 PM

SF

“ Shirley Ferguson lit a candle in memory of Betty Hurdle



Shirley Ferguson - May 30 at 02:41 PM

SF

Betty was such a pleasant person ALWAYS a lot of fun! She loved her family and friends! I'll definitely miss talking to her since she had a lot of knowledge and wisdom! She was definitely an asset to Lancaster!

Shirley Ferguson - May 30 at 02:46 PM

SC

“ Sherry Duncan Cantagallo lit a candle in memory of Betty Hurdle



Sherry Duncan Cantagallo - May 30 at 01:30 PM

EB

“ Sending prayers, ❤️, condolences to the Hurdle family members regarding the passing of Betty from Mary/Bonnie/Aaron/Papa Boots. My mom n I were just reflecting how Betty greeted us with her lovely smile n very sincere in wanting to know how we were doing when she would run into us out in public. During Betty life journey she touched so many people in a positive way. I will truly miss her friendship. RIP Betty

Earl Papa Boots - May 29 at 05:09 PM

LL

I grew up with Betty knowing the Matthews family she was and will be missed. She had a contagious smile and anyone that knows her loved her ❤️❤️❤️

Louatha brown lawson - June 02 at 01:40 PM

TM

“ To the Hurdle family our sincerest condolences.
Ted & Janice Makauskas

Ted Makauskas - May 29 at 12:44 PM

AG

“ Ann Gantt lit a candle in memory of Betty Hurdle



Ann Gantt - May 28 at 05:39 AM

LB

“ Betty was simply "Betty." She gladly shared her knowledge of any subject she knew without making you feel small. She will definitely be missed.

Linta Baldwin - May 27 at 12:38 PM

AB

“ Hello
Many of you know me, Betty was a great friend and family person. I am her on earth because of her love and thoughtfulness. 💕 She will truly be missed. I loved her like a big sister and she was liked that with me. My prayers go out to her family and ours who loved.

Anna M. Betts - May 27 at 11:57 AM



“ Betty Hurdle was such a special sister in Christ. When my family first came to Brightside Baptist Church, relocating from NYC, Betty made it her business to welcome my family, with kind words and loving smiles. She always made sure to ask me how we all were doing. I will truly miss her spirit of love and hospitality.

Cheryl Murray - May 27 at 11:01 AM