

## Vila M. Smith's Pictorial Album

### *"Treasury of Memories, 1948-1987"*

(From the Sons and Daughters – Naomi, Kelly, Paul, Tim, and NaRuth)

**Compiled by Naomi Smith Hammonds**



In the spirit of reflection of the Friendship Church's early days, it is befitting to include our mother in this 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. She dedicated her life to the church for 26 years as the pastor's wife. Although she is not here now, she left treasured photos of family, members, and friends. We desire to show appreciation to all who labored with her at Friendship Church. We have compiled this pictorial with love and hope you will enjoy this album as you remember the past, the good old days at the "Ship."



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# Mother and Father

**The pictures on this page reflect the union of two people whose lives intertwined more than 40 years.**

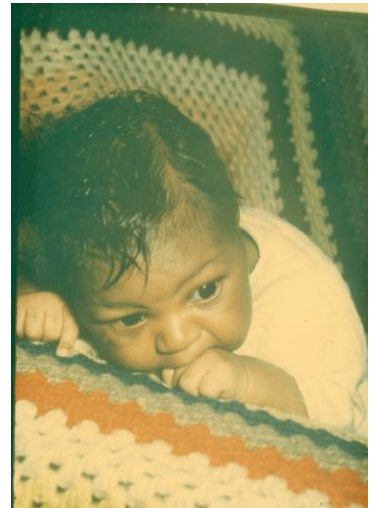




# Mom's Pictures of Her Children

Row 1: Naomi, Kelly, Paul

Row 2: Timothy, NaRuth

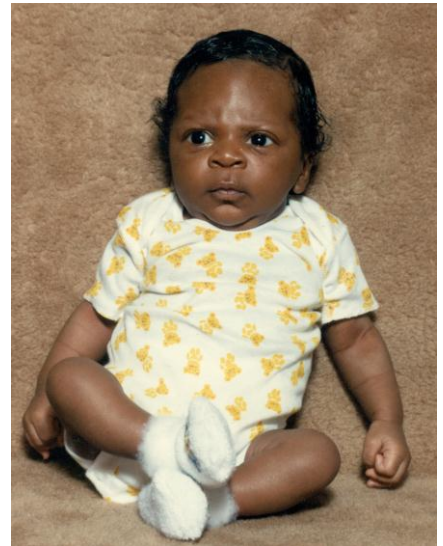


# Mom's Pictures of Her Grandchildren

Row 1: Tim (Tiny), Sabrina, Chara

Row 2: Dorielle, Thurston

Row 3: LaMar, Tiny, Chara, Dorielle





## Mom's God Children

**Row 1: Mildred Wilson (adopted daughter), Jan Boyd**

**Row 2: Michelle James, Michael Johnson , Foster Children: Tommy and Joel**



# Best Friends

Row 1: Romona and, Vila, Sis. Elise Johnson, Sis. Irene Robinson

Row 2: Mother Johnson, Mom and Dad with Sis. Lula Moore

Row 3: Sister Winbush





# The Alexander Family: Mom's Family

**Top Picture: sisters, brothers, uncle, cousins, nieces and nephews. Mom is holding NaRuth - 1957**

**Middle Picture: sisters and brothers – Vila, Videna, Henry, LaVonne, Ressie, Vera - 1970's**

**Bottom Pictures: sisters – Ressie, Vera, Videna, Vila – 1980's**





c. 1949-1951

Picture includes left to right: sisters LaVonne, Videna, Mom, Romona (best friend), Effie, and brother-in-law Arthur Crumpler



## Alexander Family Reunion in the 1970's

Family members include: Alexander, Crumpler, Earles, Ricks, Smith, and Wells





# Mom's In-Laws Smith Family 1970's

Family of Kelly Smith, left to right: MaeDessa Mardis, Rosa Lee Richards, Ressie Lee Jackson, Bertha Moore, Ola and Charlie (Parents), Curtis Smith, Kelly Smith, Jestene Smith, Edna Mathis



Below are some of the Smith family cousins.



# Friendship, the “First” Church, 1962

## The “First” Members



**Back row: Eld. Marks, Bro. Metcalf, Eld. Hannah, Eld. Avery, Eld. Cameron, Bro. Hamilton, Eld. Smith, Eld. Isley, Eld. Williams**  
**Front Row: Mother Carr, Sis. Hannah, Sis. Avery, Sis. Ressie Cameron, Sis. Ramona, Mother Lawrence, Sis. Smith (as an usher), Sis. McNary, Mother Nunn.**

**The First Sunshine Band that included toddlers.**



**The first Junior Church and Choir**

**The Junior Church was mostly relatives from the Smith and Alexander families.**



## Young Musicians and Singers

**Paul (organ), Kelly (guitar), Tim (trumpet), Young Guitar Player**  
**Friendlettes: Gwen Hannah, Reba Hannah, Mildred Wilson, Naomi Smith**



# Friendship Church Members 1964-1968

Row 1: Assistant Pastor and Wife Elder and Sister Hannah, a group of members (guess who they are).

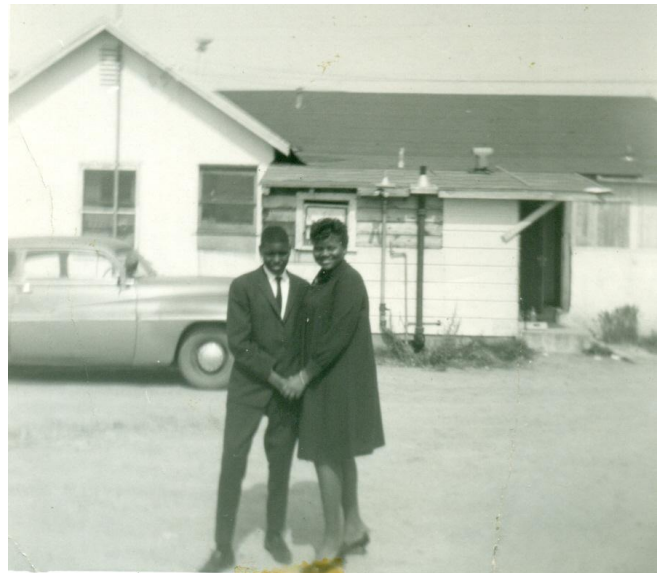
Row 2: Mother Scott, Sister. Smith, (standing outside the "old" church reverently known as "The Shack"), Dwight Jones, Paul Smith, James Wells

Row 3: Friendship Choir (in the "Shack")





Pastor Smith at the pulpit, Elder Worthen dancing, Kelly and Chubby, Paul and Bay-Bay, Groundbreaking



# Church Dedication 1971

Bishop Mathis and Bishop B. R. Stewart officiated the ceremony.





# Celebrations

**Top Picture: Friendship members and guests at an anniversary service.**

**Bottom Picture: Friendship members at a church banquet**



# Women of Friendship from Three Decades 1960's, 70's, 80's





# Award Winning Choir

**Friendship Award  
Winning Choir from two  
decades, 1970-1980's**



**The church musicians,  
together for over 40 years!**

- Paul Smith**
- Kenneth Buchanan**
- Lawrence Buchanan**



Pictures from the 1980's

Mothers Board  
Mother Starling,  
Church Mother



Deacons



Sunshine Band





# Mom's Collection of Young People (Mom loved her young folks!)

Row 1: Kenny and Lawrence, Lisa Irving, Gwen Hannah, Wendy Anderson

Row 2: Tanya Harris, Lena Ford, Phyllis Anderson April Orr

Row 3: Connie Ford, Dwight Ford, Elaine Ford





Row 1: Terry Shoals, Arthur Ford, Clara Chandler and Family

Row 2: Clussie Smith and Family, Monique and daughter, Annie Bell Colton and daughters

Row 3: Diane Grant, Chuckie Ford, Sis. Anderson and Ruth, Wallace Champion





Row 1: Cindy Johnson, Cheryl Moore, David Wells

Row 2: Tamara and Reggie (Elvira's children) Elvira Thomas and 3<sup>rd</sup> son, Robert Gooden (Alpha's son)  
LaMar Smith

Row 3: Tressie Wells and Sis. Anderson, Mac Winbush, Mildred Wilson, Paulette Sadler





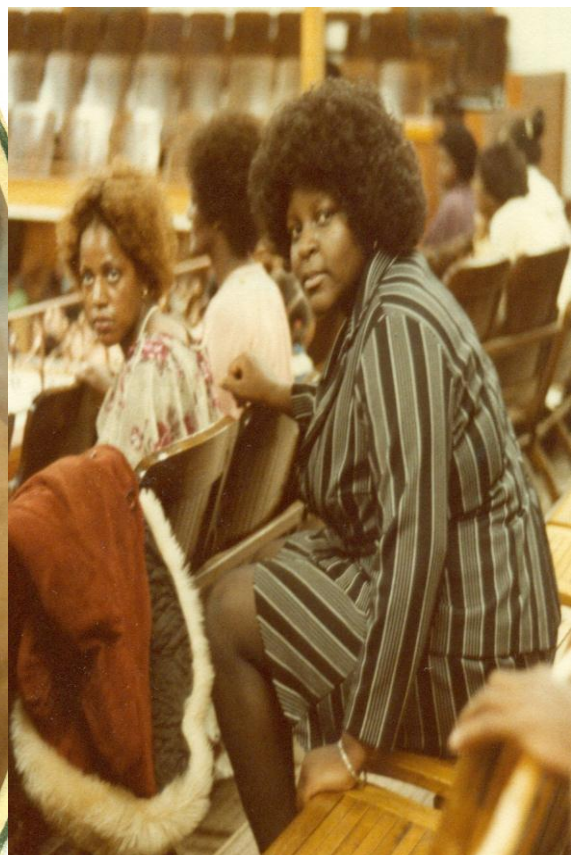
Row 1: Lynne Wicks, Eld. Avery and Lena Avery, Debra Ford

Row 2: Ernestine Thompson and Dad (Dad's oldest daughter, our half -sister), Jack and Paulette Sadler





**Row 1: Group picture of Ruth Smith, Reba Turner, Naomi Hammonds, Ressie Wells, Janet Ricks (cousin), Kenneth Buchanan and Veronica Ford participating in a wedding.**  
**Row 2: Jeanette Starling, girl unknown, Joyce and Tony Neal, Sandra Alexander and Ruth Smith in balcony at Prayer Garden**





Row 1: Young people at a banquet, Chara Hammonds, Kenya Hadnot ages 4

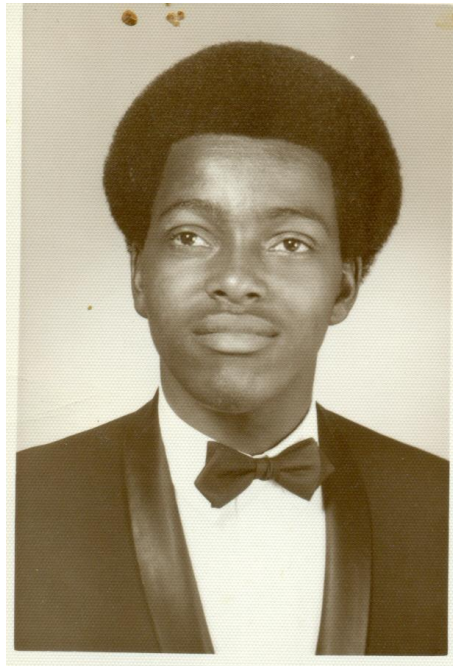
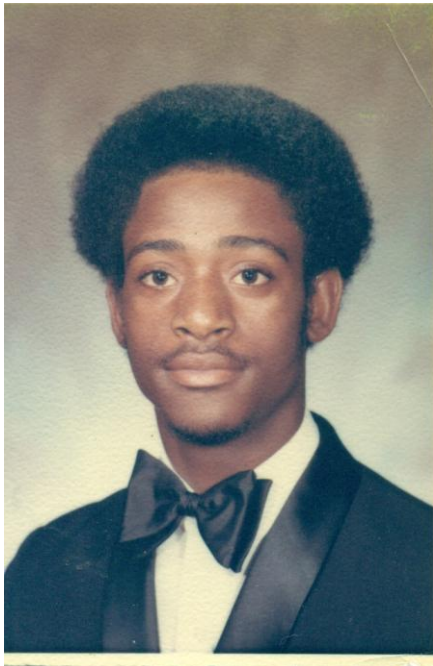
Row 2: Chara's Birthday Party, Grand mom with Cory Hankins, Jovan Sadler, and Toya Hartwell

Row 3: Sylvia Grant, Gwen Davis, Tressie Wells





Row 1: James Wells as an infant and adult, Alpha Gray and Eddie Wells  
Row 2: Eddie Wells, Lanuel Wells, Naomi and NaRuth Smith





# A Collection of Seasoned Saints

Row 1: Mother Starling, Sis. Smith, Sis. Isley, Elder and Sis. Mark (Assistant Pastor)

Row 2: Mother M. Smith, Bro. and Sis. McMillian, Sis. E. Jones, Mother F. Strain





Row 1: Sis. Windbush, Sis. Alexander, Sis. Winbush's daughter, Eld. and Sis. Bryant, Mom and Dad

Row 2: Mother Martin, Ruby Haylett, Sis. Johnson and others at a church banquet

Row 3: Bro. and Sis. Ford, Sis. Ridley





Row 1: Sis. Winbush and Arthur Cooper, Bro. Harold and Sis. Joann Johnson

Row 2: Sis. Carol Harris and Eld. Smith, Bro. and Sis. Jones,

Row 3: Eld. and Sis. Elliot, Sis. Gloria Ford





Row 1: Ola Smith (grandmother) Eld. and Sis. Haylett, Eld. and Sis. Smith (Dad and Mom), Sis. Ford  
Row 2: Ressie Cameron, Vera Earles, Videna Crumpler, Vila Smith (Mom takes a picture with her sisters.)



Parents of the Bride  
Naomi Smith and Kenneth Hammonds' Wedding, Mom and Dad, August 24, 1974





## Family Portrait

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This is the last family portrait with our mom. It was taken at our parent's 35<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary Ceremony, 1983.



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This is the Sister Vila M. Smith Pictorial Memory Book.

This ebook is available for downloading at: <http://KenHammonds.com/Friendship50.html>.