



Pastor Maggie Lynn Russell

April 14, 1945 - November 22, 2025

Maggie “Mary” Lynn Russell was born on April 14, 1945, in Middleton, Tennessee, to the late William Hampton Bowden and Indiana Lake Bowden. Raised in a loving and faith-centered home, she was nurtured with strong values that shaped the remarkable life she would lead. She attended Bolivar Industrial High School, graduating in 1965, and soon after made her way to Norwalk, Connecticut—a city that would become the place where she built her family, ministry, and legacy.

In August 1996, she married Calvin Russell. To this union were born two children who became the joy of her life: Felicia Yvonne Russell and Stacey Bernard Russell.

Pastor Russell loved God above all else, followed closely by her deep and unwavering love for her grandchildren and her family. She was known by many names—Mommy, Ma, Grandma, Grandma Sweetie, Aunt Mary, Auntie, Miss Mary, Pastor, and Maggie—and she answered to each of them with pride, affection, and grace.

Her spiritual walk began early, and her commitment to ministry was evident throughout her life. She was a devoted member of Calvary Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. Samuel J. Williams, faithfully serving on the Senior Usher Board. On September 19, 1987, she received her Minister’s License from the Church of Christ in Prayer, Incorporated, under Bishop Dozier Shields of New Haven, Connecticut. Her spiritual education continued with dedication: she graduated from the Connecticut School of Christian

Religion on May 15, 1988; received a certificate of credit from Carver Bible Institute, Inc. of Atlanta, Georgia, on May 11, 1989; and earned her Bachelor of Theology Degree from Christian Leadership Bible College, Inc. on June 3, 1990.

In October of that year, Elder Russell was appointed Pastor of Christ Temple Church of Christ in Prayer (C.O.C.I.P.), where she faithfully served as pastor until the day the Lord called her home. She preached her final sermon on Sunday, November 9, 2025, and joyfully celebrated her 34th Pastoral Anniversary on Sunday, November 2, 2025. One of her greatest joys was sharing the Word, and she often reflected on her favorite scripture, Psalm 34, which shaped her life of worship and service.

Pastor Russell leaves to cherish her memory her beloved children: Felicia Russell (Keith) and Stacey Russell (Kimberly), both of Norwalk, CT; her grandchildren: Calvin Stewart, Olivia Moseley, Myles Russell, and Ryan Russell, all of Norwalk, CT; and her great-granddaughter, Mya Rose Stewart of Merrimack, NH. She is also survived by her siblings: Mattie Bowden and Martha Conner of Norwalk, CT; Jimmy Bowden (Bobbie) of Bolivar, TN; Thomas Bowden of Bolivar, TN; Gladys Bowden of Houston, TX; Pastor Gene Bowden (Linda) of Whiteville, TN; Clarence Bowden of Norwalk, CT; and May Helen Jones of Nashville, TN.

She is lovingly remembered by her godchildren, Yasheika Battle Langley and TaReda Ragin; her former husband, Calvin Russell (Barbara) of Whiteville, NC; special friends Eutaline Smith and Hilda Rees; and her sisters-in-law: Edith Russell of Durham, NC; Lillian McElveen of Raleigh, NC; Lela Bryant of Whiteville, NC; and her brother-in-law, Marshall Nichols of Hallsboro, NC.

Pastor Russell's life was a testament to faith, perseverance, compassion, and steadfast love. She ministered with conviction, served with humility, and loved with her whole heart. Though her earthly journey has ended, her legacy lives on in the countless lives she touched, the family she adored, and the ministry she so faithfully led.

We thank God for the gift of her life and the blessing of her example. May her

memory continue to inspire all who knew and loved her.

Cemetery Details

Norwalk Union Cemetery

Norwalk, CT

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Calvary Baptist Church
21 Concord St
Norwalk, CT

Service

DEC 1. 11:00 AM (ET)

Calvary Baptist Church
21 Concord St
Norwalk, CT 06850

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Tribute Wall

KB

“*Pastor Maggie was the best she baptized both of my sons and my nieces she will really be missed thanks for everything you have done for my kids we will always remember you* ❤️❤️



kimberly and bonnie - December 01, 2025 at 11:21 AM

RB

“*I met Maggie through church, though with Maggie it never felt like you were just a “church friend.” Once she knew me, I was accepted right into her life—fed, cared for, prayed for, and loved, whether I asked for it or not. Maggie had a special ministry of her own: making sure I never went hungry, emotionally or physically. I could always talk to her about anything and everything, she gave it to me straight while on my journey with the Lord. She helped me with my son, accepted him as her own. Encouraged me being a single mother, was a very scary time for me. She cared for my son so many times, you would have thought when did she have a third a child, I thought she only had two 🤔. I thank God for her life, for her friendship, and for the moments she shared with me. I will carry her spirit forward.*

Romana Billingslea - November 30, 2025 at 03:26 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Pastor Maggie Lynn Russell.



November 30, 2025 at 12:46 PM



“ Dave & Kim Hagerstrom planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Pastor Maggie Lynn Russell.

Dave & Kim Hagerstrom - November 30, 2025 at 12:44 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Pastor Maggie Lynn Russell.



November 30, 2025 at 12:44 PM

SD

“ My fondest memory of Ms.Mary is Felicia and Stacey became our best friend's and family I thank Ms.Mary for Felicia and Stacey they are truly family until this day. We lived on Lexington Avenue they lived on Lowes Street it was walking distance every afternoon after school we'd head to the Russell's house we'd pick her berries from her tree in the backyard and make pies from scratch making a mess in her kitchen but we cleaned up. Ms.Mary would always come home and there we were. She'd say Don't you all have a home ? I'll never forget those day's she never mistreated us just treated us like one of her children Ms.Mary was funny she had her own sense of humor we loved her and the Russell's. I'll never forget Ms.Mary and the gift of her children we've gained Felicia and Stacey for a lifetime of friendship and family forever. My deepest condolences 🙏 to the Family Ms.Mary has truly earned her wings ☐ the memories we made will stay in my heart ❤️ forever. My Love and prayers 🙏 to the family and carry them Lord God bring them thru this difficult 💔 time. Sarah Darden-Blount and Family

Sarah Darden-Blount - November 30, 2025 at 09:57 AM

AN

I will miss aunt Mary so much I remember as a child when I would go to her house every weekend and she would take me to church and we would go and do fun things she would fuss sometimes but she was always there for me we talked we laughed there was never a dull moment she always kept plenty food and boxes of cereal i will truly miss her soooo much I will keep my cousins in prayers during this difficult time love yall stay strong

Alice Neal - December 01, 2025 at 09:37 AM