

A
Celebration of
The Life of

Sunrise

1915

Sunset

2004

Bessie Mae Perry

Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies (Proverbs 31:10)

Service

Thursday, November 18, 2004 - 7:00 p.m.

BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

275 West Market Street • Newark, New Jersey

Dr. M. William Howard, Jr. - Pastor

Rev. Anthony Wilcots, Officiating

Reflections Of Life

Mrs. Bessie Mae Crews Perry was born on February 17, 1915 in Wake County, North Carolina to the Late Walter Crews and Pocahontas Wyche. She departed this life on November 15, 2004 in Raleigh, North Carolina.



Bessie was one of nine children that grew up on a farm known as the “Scarborough House.” She learned at an early age that she had to work hard, attend church and make something of herself. She attended Riley Hill Elementary School and James E. Shephard High School and graduated from the Albea Academy in Franklinton, NC. She later met and married the Late Rev. Hudy L. Perry and they were blessed with one child, the Late Orlando K. Perry Sr.

In the late 30’s, Bessie moved her family to New Jersey, establishing her home in South Bound Brook. To her delight, several of her sisters, brothers, aunts and uncles from North Carolina, also decided to make their home there or in nearby towns. Many days were spent going in and out of each other’s houses with pots and pans, sharing dinner and having a good time.

Bessie showed an interest in beauty culture and she enrolled in Essie Mae McCrae’s Beauty School in Elizabeth, NJ and received her beautician’s license. She derived great pride and pleasure in making other women feel special and look their best. Many of her best hairstyles were created right in her kitchen. She was also employed at Bamberger’s in Newark for a short period of time.

Having been raised in a Christian household, Bessie accepted Christ at an early age. She was baptized into the fellowship of the Riley Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Wendell, NC. When she relocated to New Jersey, she joined the First Baptist Church in South Bound Brook, where she taught Sunday School and was active in the Missionary Circle. In later years, she was not able to attend her church as often as she wanted to, but she stayed connected to her church family and was diligent in supporting them financially and in spirit.

Order of Service

Musical Prelude

Congregational Hymn

Opening Prayer Dr. M. William Howard, Jr.

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Psalm 19
George Reynolds (*great grandson*)

New Testament 1 Peter 4: 7-9
Minister Eric Dickerson

Prayer Of Comfort Christopher Reynolds (*great grandson*)

Solo / Poem “Amazing Grace”
Brianna Carter (*great granddaughter*)

Reflections Bishop L.N. Forbes

Tribute, Reflections Of Life & Resolutions Gwen Crews (*niece*)

Words Of Consolation Rev. Dr. Lloyd P. Terrell

Remarks (2 minutes each) Representative of First Baptist Church
S. Bound Brook, NJ
Deborah Jones (*goddaughter*)
Tracey Perry Moore (*granddaughter*)

Solo Kenneth Montgomery

Eulogy Dr. Curtis Cofield
(New Haven, Connecticut)

Recessional

INTERMENT
Riley Hill Baptist Church Cemetery
Wendell, North Carolina

Immediately following the service the repast will be held at the Church Fellowship Hall.

Proverbs 31: 15-20

She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens. She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night. She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she



In Appreciation

The family of **Bessie Mae Perry** acknowledges with deep appreciation every thought and act of kindness rendered to us during this difficult time. God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.

Professional Services Provided By

Perry Funeral Home, Inc.

34 Mercer Street • Newark, New Jersey

(973) 824-9201

www.perryfuneralhome.com

Probably one of the greatest surprises and challenges in Bessie's life came when her son decided to become a Mortician and establish his own business. Hudy and Bessie made the decision to support their son, Orlando and they moved to Newark, NJ and set up a small business known as the Perry Funeral Home on Waverly Avenue. The business did well and in 10 years they were able to break ground and build a beautiful edifice that is located at 34 Mercer Street in Newark. It was only through her steadfast love, prayer, hard work and the loyal staff, that she saw her son's dream come true. The business began to flourish and grow. Even with the untimely death of her son in 1990, Mrs. Perry continued to work hard and assist her daughter-in-law, Virginia, with the funeral home business. At eighty-nine, she continued to dress hair and sign checks every day. She was the Matriarch of the Perry Funeral Home and she will be greatly missed by the entire Staff.

The love of Christ was the most important focus in Bessie's life...after that came her family. She was a doting mother, a thrilled grandmother and a "beyond words" great grandmother. There was nothing that she would not do for these children. She often remarked that they were what kept her going. She was proud of them and encouraged them to serve God and show their talents to the world. The "Grands and Greats" called her "Gay, Gay-be, Lillie, or Radge." She found the daughter she never had in her daughter-in-law, Virginia. She was preceded in death by her husband, son and her siblings, Lawrence, Alexander, Walter, Williard, Erma and Christianna.

Gay was a classy and elegant woman, who was loved by many. She had the ability to make everyone feel welcome and comfortable. She had a special wit, that could keep you laughing, and would feed you non-stop. She had a giving and sharing nature and you rarely left "Aunt Bessie's" house without a goodie bag or a "piece of change." She showed us how to live life to its fullest and the precious memories we have of her will be a lasting comfort in our minds.

To carry on her legacy of love, she leaves: her daughter-in-law, Virginia Arnold Perry; her three grandchildren, Nancy Velez, Orlando K. Perry Jr. (Deanna), all of Newark, NJ and Elizabeth Tracey Moore (Marchell) of Orange, NJ; six great grandchildren, George, Christopher, Angela, Brianna, Alicia and Tre; a step great grandchild, Andrew; a brother, Deacon Frank E. Crews of Knightdale, NC; a sister, Pocahontas Farris of Piscataway, NJ; a goddaughter, Deborah Jones; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, the entire Perry Funeral Home Staff and friends.

