

*In Loving
Memory
of*

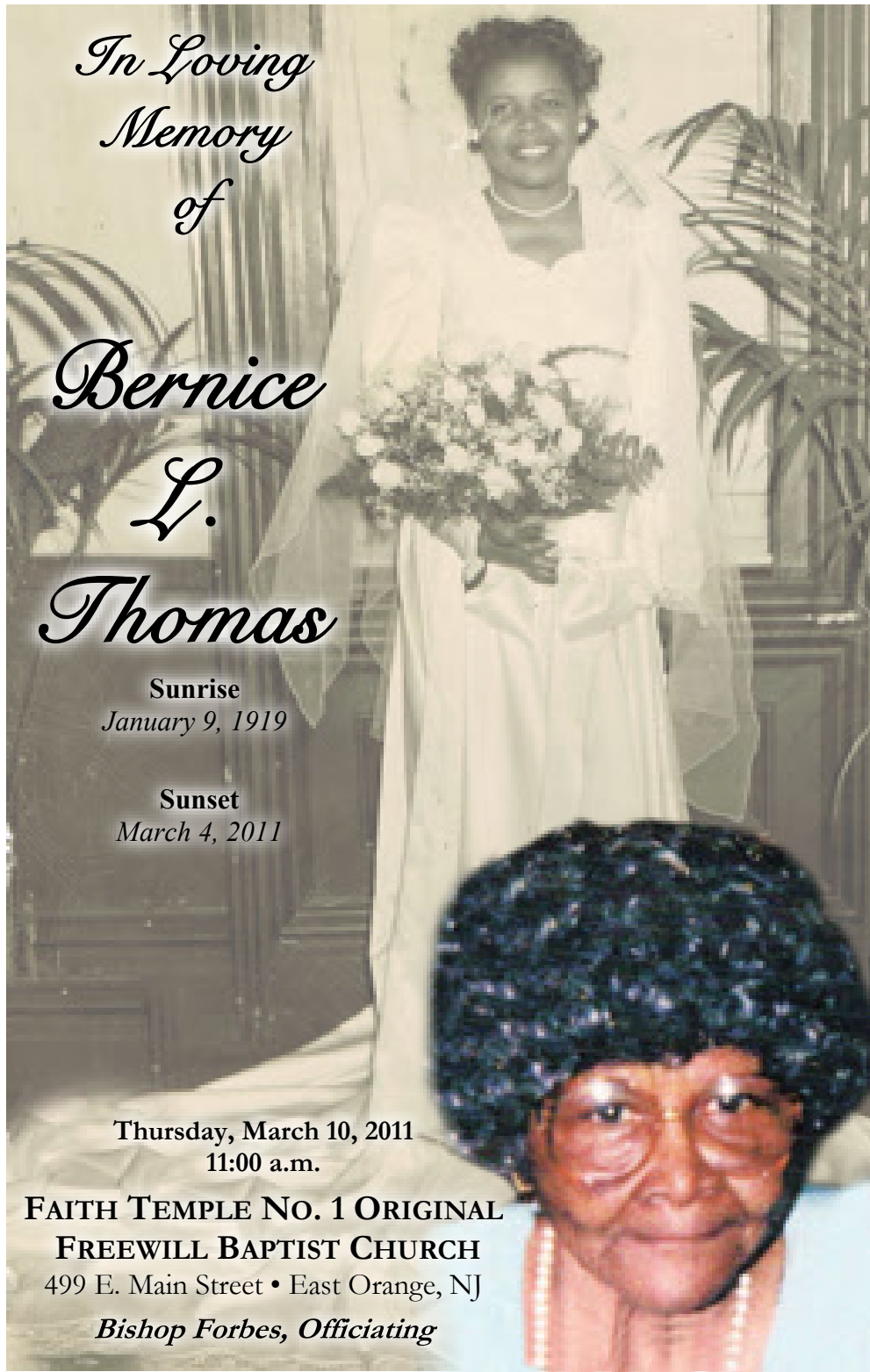
*Bernice
L.
Thomas*

Sunrise
January 9, 1919

Sunset
March 4, 2011

Thursday, March 10, 2011
11:00 a.m.

**FAITH TEMPLE NO. 1 ORIGINAL
FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH**
499 E. Main Street • East Orange, NJ
Bishop Forbes, Officiating



Obituary

Bernice Choice was born January 9, 1919 in Jakin, Georgia to Arzalene Choice and Tommy Bell. She is the only child born to her parents. She was born with a veil over her eyes which is said to mean she would be blessed and wise. She made her transition on March 4, 2011 at Brookhaven Healthcare Facility in East Orange, New Jersey.

Bernice was infamously referred to as “Ms. Cutie” by her family and close friends. Cutie was educated in Valdosta, Georgia until she moved to NJ in the 1930’s. At an early age along with her mother and cousin, Nancy she relocated to Newark, New Jersey to continue her education. Nancy was her cousin but she was more like a sister-friend. They did everything together. In the early 1940’s she worked in the war plant during World War II. It is there that she met and married the love of her life Henry Lee Thomas, Sr. who lovingly called her “Pumpkin”. From that union they were blessed with four daughters, Arzlen, Norma, Patricia and Linda and one son, Henry Jr. After marrying, Bernice chose to be a housewife and be hands on with the raising and nurturing of her children.

Bernice was a faithful member of St. James AME Church from it’s inception on Green Street in Newark, New Jersey until she was no longer able to attend. Once her children got older she decided to go to work. She was a loyal and dedicated employee at the Newark Beth Israel Hospital for over twenty years until her retirement in 1984. While employed at Beth Israel in the pediatric ward she became a favorite amongst the children. She loved everyone, “the whole world” but she was especially fond of children. Bernice was a woman that was fervent for the Lord. She was a God fearing woman that taught her family love and respect for themselves and for others. She religiously arose to pray every morning at 4 a.m. She always talked about how she loved her family and the whole world. She prayed each and every day, night and any spare moment in between. She prayed for each and every member of her family by name. If you didn’t pray for yourself, rest you know for certain grandma did!

Cutie was the matriarch of her family. She loved to give and receive hugs and kisses. Her smile could light up a room. Her wisdom, understanding, warmth and constant encouragement impacted all our lives. She often adopted family friends as her own children. She remember everybody’s birthday and we do mean everybody’s! She would religiously send birthday cards and Christmas cards to everyone she could remember. You could also expect a beautiful “Cutie version” of the “Happy Birthday Song”. She made Marilyn Monroe sound bad every time! One of her favorite past times included watching the Price is Right or should we say being a contestant EVERYDAY! She would yell answers out at the television and get angry when they didn’t listen. The Price is Right was followed by everybody’s favorite, “The Young and the Restless”. Ms. Cutie also had another nick name. She loved to eat! Everything was her favorite but she especially enjoyed “Fig Newtons”, peanut butter and no day started without a nice hot cup of black coffee. She never turned down a meal or snack which infamously earned her the nickname “Mikey”. If you asked Bernice how she was doing, her response would be, “Properly well! Properly well!” and if you told her she looked good she would respond, “I know!”

Bernice leaves to mourn and cherish her memory, two daughters, Arzlen Beavers (Willie), Patricia Gregory (Lawrence); one son, Henry Lee Thomas, Jr (Jeanette); fourteen grandchildren, Kim Worrell, Wanda Payne, Ron Bruce, Sandra Bruce-Tobin, Robin, Sonea, Kyreesha, Cedric, Danny, Amice, Sean, Jamar and Gloria Thomas; twenty-eight great grandchildren, and three great great grandchildren. Bernice was preceded in death by her husband, Henry Lee Thomas, Sr, in 1983, two daughters, Norma Lee Thomas, in 1995, and Linda Ingram, in 2000.

Order of Service

Processional Organ Prelude

Opening Hymn “Blessed Assurance”

Prayer of Comfort

Scripture Reading Deacon Lawrence Gregory
Old Testament
New Testament

Music Selection “It’s Well With My Soul”

Expressions and Tributes Church

Poem Mylan and Mekhi White
Family

Solo

Remarks Family and Friends

Resolutions/Acknowledgments

Obituary

Song “I’ll Fly Away”

Benediction

Recessional

Interment

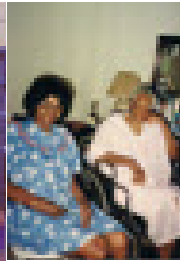
Evergreen Cemetery
Hillside, New Jersey



Psalm 23

The Lord is My Shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul. He leadeth me in the path of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though

I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies. Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.



Acknowledgement

Perhaps you sent a lovely card or sat quietly in a chair.

Perhaps you sent a floral piece If so, we saw it there.

Perhaps you spoke the kindest words as any friend could say.

Perhaps you were not there at all just thought of us on that day.

Whatever you did to console our hearts, We Thank You, Whatever the part.

Professional Services Provided By

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE
130 Main Street
Orange, NJ
973-675-6400

1025 Bergen Street
Newark, NJ
973-926-6400

COTTON-PARKER FUNERAL HOME
37 Clinton Avenue
Jersey City, NJ
201-433-1000

www.honoryou.com

Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

(Refrain)

Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

(Refrain)

It Is Well With My Soul

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say,
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

It is well, with my soul,

It is well, with my soul,

It is well, it is well, with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,

Let this blest assurance control,

That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

Refrain

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!

My sin, not in part but the whole,

Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

Refrain

And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,

The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;

The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.

Refrain

It is well, with my soul,

I'll Fly Away

I'll fly away, oh glory, I'll fly away
When I die, hallelujah by and by, I'll fly away

Some bright morning when this life is over, I'll fly away
To a land on God's celestial shore, I'll fly away

When the shadows of this life have gone, I'll fly away
Like a bird from these prison walls I'll fly, I'll fly away
I'll fly away, oh glory, I'll fly away
When I die, hallelujah by and by, I'll fly away

Oh how glad and happy when we meet, I'll fly away
No more cold iron shackles on my feet, I'll fly away

I'll fly away, oh glory, I'll fly away
When I die, hallelujah by and by, I'll fly away

Just a few more weary days and then, I'll fly away
To a land where joy will never end, I'll fly away

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