

Homegoing Service
Celebrating the Life of



Sunrise

October 3, 1951

Sunset

April 6, 2012

Isadell "Dell" Riley

"A Beautiful Voice Is Stilled"

Service

Saturday, April 14, 2012 – 9:30 a.m.

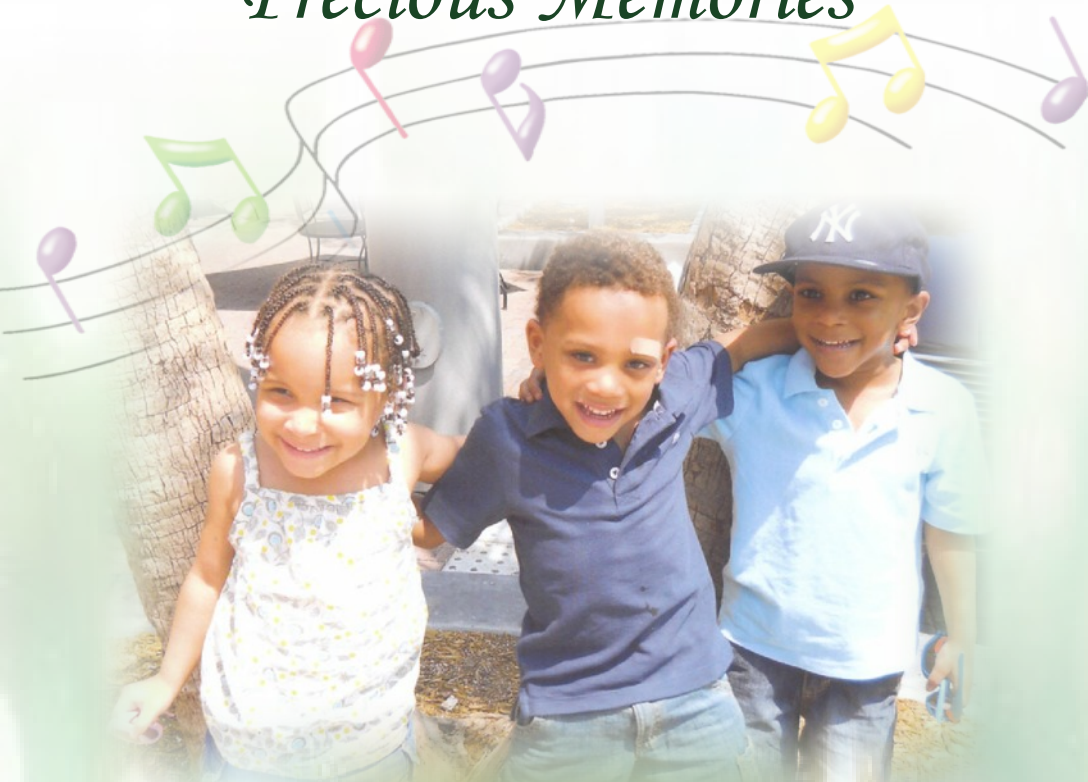
First Baptist Church

929 Dill Avenue

Linden, New Jersey 07036

Rev. Derrick R. Dumas, Pastor

Precious Memories



Order of Service

Minister of Music – Michael Reeves

Organ Prelude

Processional “All Hail King Jesus” Combined Choir

A Parting View

Musical Selection “Call Him Up” Combined Choir

Scriptures

Old Testament

New Testament

Prayer of Comfort

Dance Ministry “For Every Mountain”
First Baptist Church Praise Dancers

Family Tribute Grandchildren: Jekhi, Bryce Cole and Corynne
Children: Jamaal, Kahlil and Fatimah

Acknowledgements of Condolences Sister Ruth Jones

Obituary (Read silently) “I Don’t Mind Waiting”
Musical Selection

Solo “Because He Lives”
Sister Ella Spears

Eulogy Rev. Derrick R. Dumas

Recessional “I’ll Fly Away” Combined Choir

Interment Rosehill Cemetery, Linden, New Jersey

Repast

Immediately following the Interment, the Family will will receive family and friends for a Repast in the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall.

Reflection of Life

Isadell “Dell” Riley was born on October, 3, 1951 in Elizabeth, New Jersey. The daughter of the late Daniel Riley and Annie Bell (Fairfax) Riley, Isadell was raised in Linden, New Jersey. Educated in the Linden Public School system, she graduated from Linden High School in 1969, and continued her education earning a Bachelors degree in Art Education from Rutgers’ Douglass College and later her Masters degree in Special Education. She also earned certifications in Conflict Resolution and American Sign Language.



“Dell” as she was affectionately known by her family and friends worked in the Newark Public School system for over 30 years. She began her teaching career as a Fine Arts Teacher at Clinton Place Junior High School from 1973 to 1978. During this time she became fond of teaching children with special needs. This led her to return to school and subsequently continue her career as a special education teacher at Bergen Street School and West Kinney Middle School. She later worked at Weequahic High School where she was not only a special education teacher for many years, but also became the Crisis Intervention Specialist, Administrator, Classroom Advisor and Originator of various School improvement and Culture Committees. She was also the Head of the Yearbook Committee for many years. She remained at Weequahic High School for over twenty-six years before retiring in June 2011. Dell had a huge impact as a mentor and role model to hundreds of students within the Newark public school system.



In addition to her dedication as an educator, Dell was a uniquely GIFTED and TALENTED woman. She was a freelance painter/artist, seamstress, and wedding/event planner, director of various plays, and a choir director and singer, with the voice of an angel. For more than twenty-five years, Dell worked in Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park (also known as 4th Ward) as the Director of the Linden Parks/Recreation Summer Playground Program; and later became the Head of Arts and Crafts for the city-wide program. In this position, she kept the neighborhood kids on track. She nurtured and mentored hundreds of children – acting more like a second mother to many of the neighborhood kids. Under her direction, children engaged in many activities that she typically

“created,” most memorably the Lip Sync Competition, which is currently a city-wide event.

All who knew her knew she LOVED to sing, especially for the Lord! As a life-long member of First Baptist Church where she founded the Celestial Ensemble singing group and she was the director of the First Baptist Church’s Intermediate, Mass and Woman’s Day Choirs. Dell was also a member of the 100 Women in White Choir and a charter member of the Jubilation Choir under the direction of Rev. Stefanie Minatee.



As a seamstress, Dell created her own line of African-inspired dolls, made clothing for EVERYONE, helped in organizing/directing fashion shows and always willing to hem or alter a piece of clothing or put together a “frock” for friends or family.

Dell had a heart of gold! She was such a kind and giving person; always willing to lend a helping hand. She gave of her time and talents generously always striving to bring out the best in others without looking for anything in return. These are values she instilled in her children and all those that she touched. She will be dearly missed.

She was predeceased by her sister, JoAnn Riley in 2004.

On April 6, 2012, Dell was called from this earthly home to the heavenly choir.



Surviving are her children: two sons, Jamaal Burnam (Denille) and Kahlil Burnam (Rená) and one daughter, Fatimah Burnam-Watkins (Jon); siblings, Patrick Riley (Dottie), and Kennis Fairfax (Diane), and Debbie Cepeda (Candido); five grandchildren, Jekhi and Jace Burnam, Bryce, Cole, and Corynne Watkins; god daughters: Kijuana Tate and Melissa Jones; aunt, Elsie Fairfax; nine nieces: Kisha, Gillian, Alicia, Candace, Niambi, Jewzell, Danielle, Jadea and Heaven; four nephews: Justin, Michael, Chris and Dominic; Arthur and Viola Burnam; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and special friends.

Sorrowfully submitted,
The Family

Pallbearers

Ronald Green, Jr.

Bryan Bowser

Dennis McGhee

Kennis Fairfax

James Chisolm

Rashan Davis

The Rarest of Gifts

Every day is a reason

For giving –

And giving is the key to living

So let us give ‘ourselves’ away

Not just today, but every day.

And remember, a kind and thoughtful deed

Or a hand outstretched, in time of need

Is the rarest of gifts, for it is a part

Not of the purse, but a loving heart—

And he who gives of himself will find

True joy of heart and peace of mind.

Acknowledgement

The family of **Isadell “Dell” Riley** acknowledges with sincere appreciation every thought and act of kindness expressed to us during this hour of bereavement. Your acts of kindness are providing a tremendous amount of comfort, strength and support to us and we are grateful. May God bless you all for your thoughtfulness and concern. Thank you.

Services Entrusted To:

G.G. Woody Funeral Home, LLC

206 East Eighth Avenue • Roselle, NJ 07203

www.ggwoodyfuneralhome.com

“Where Our Sympathy Expresses Itself Through Sincere Service”