

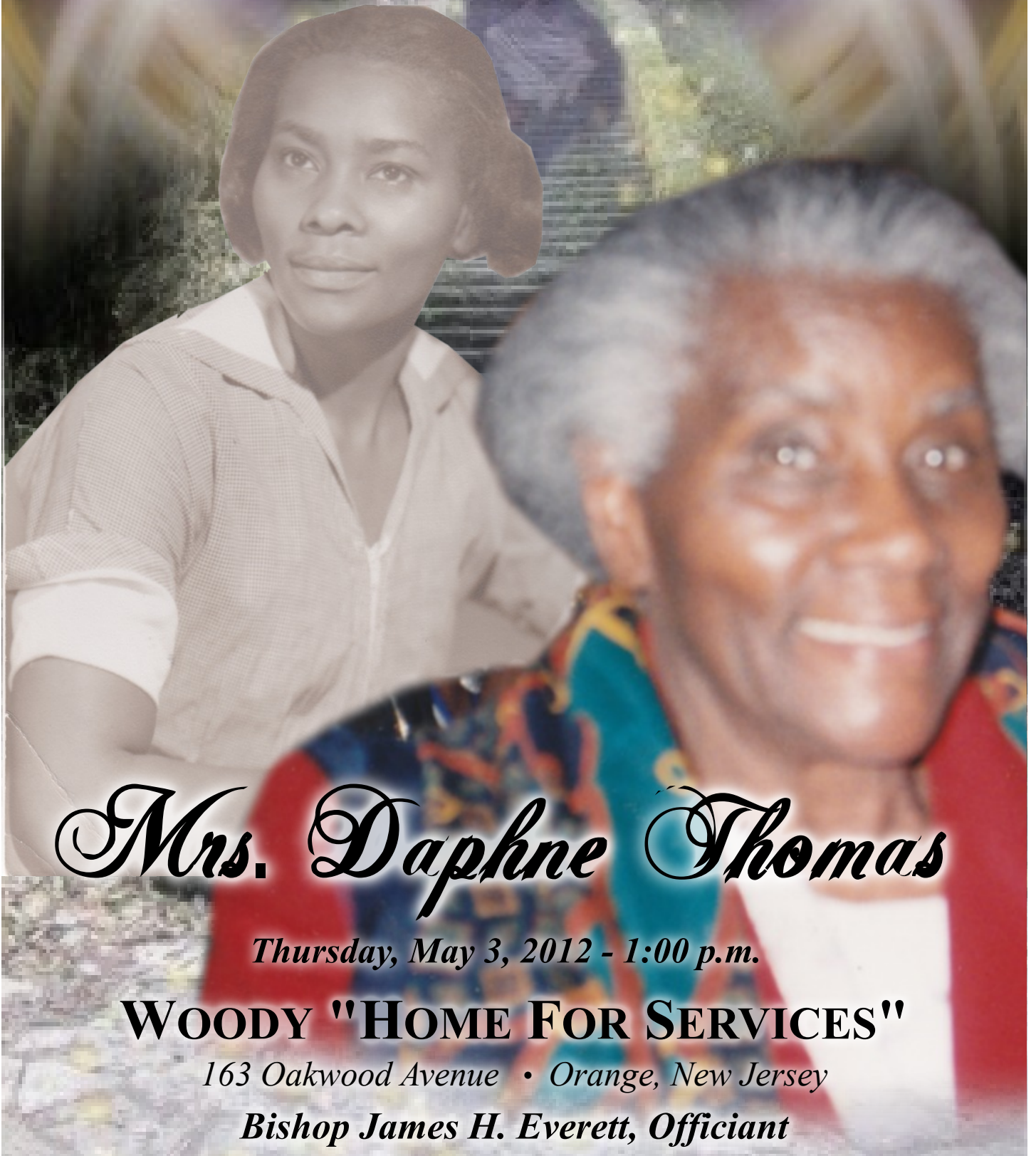
A Celebration of the Life of

Sunrise

March 22, 1914

Sunset

April 27, 2012



Mrs. Daphne Thomas

Thursday, May 3, 2012 - 1:00 p.m.

WOODY "HOME FOR SERVICES"

163 Oakwood Avenue • Orange, New Jersey

Bishop James H. Everett, Officiant

Order of Service

Musical Prelude

Processional

Musical Selection - "*Holy is the Lamb*" June Morgan

Casket Watch Bruce A. Smith, Jr.

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Carlos Pierce

New Testament Dante' Smith

Prayer Wanda Bramwell

Musical Selection - "*Amazing Grace*" June Morgan

Reflections

Church Rev. William Barnett

Family Elaine Jacobs

Friends

Acknowledgements Gabriel Goodwin

Obituary Tia Waller

Musical Selection - "*It Is Well With My Soul*" Wanda Bramwell

Eulogy Bishop James H. Everett

Recessional

Interment
*Rosedale Cemetery
Glen Area
408 Orange Road
Montclair, New Jersey*

Repast
*Mt. Carmel Baptist Church
381 Cleveland Street • Orange, New Jersey*

Farewell Dear Darling Daphne, you're extra special to us,
You are so very beautiful, always one we love and trust,
You walk steadfastly with our LORD, you rely full strength on Him,
Hand in hand together, your faith, it never dimes,
You are a shining example to us all, as onward in love you trod,
We love you very much Daphne, we hope somehow you know,
You bless us all with your love, as it continues to always show,
We wish you beautiful memories, of your special departure - today,
For lovely memories of you, in our hearts will always stay,
We pray you feel GOD's love, reaching down to you,
You truly are so dear to us, your loving kindness we all value.
So although we don't want you to leave us,
We know your time has come
To go and be with Jesus
And live in your heavenly Home. Farewell for now:
Daphne, Mommy, Grandma, Grams, Auntie, Cousin Daphne
Sister Thomas, Mrs. Thomas, Mother Thomas
We pray that God will allow you to come visit us from
Time to time in our dreams

Love and Prayers,
Pray for me as I pray for you,
We all love you, now and always!





Escort

Bruce A. Smith Jr.

Pallbearers

Christopher J.B. Stizza

Dante' J. Smith

Keyvan Thomas

Shane Thomas

Barry S. Thomas Jr.

Quandel Thomas

Q. Carlos Pierce Jr.

J. Scott Pattersom

Acknowledgements

*The family of **Daphne Thomas** would like to express our most sincere gratitude for the many acts of love and kindness shown to us during our time of bereavement. We are truly grateful for the calls, flowers, food, support, and all that you have done to honor our dear beloved one. We pray that you will continue to keep our family in your prayers as we continue thank God for blessing our lives with such a wonderful, loving, spiritual woman.*

Professional Services Provided By

Woody "Home For Services"

163 Oakwood Ave. • Orange, NJ 07050
ph (973) 674-0814 • fax (973) 674-2055

Mrs. Daphne Thomas

Great was your Faithfulness!

Obituary

Daphne Bennett - Thomas was born in Eufaula, Al. on March 22nd, to the late Scott and Mittie Mary Bennett. She was the third of eight children and is predeceased by her seven siblings.

The Bennett family moved to Orange, New Jersey in 1921. Daphne loved spending time with her family and was always a fun loving child with a sunny disposition. Her childhood nickname was Yang, which is derived from the Chinese meaning of Sunlight. Indeed she was considered a ray of sunshine within her family.

She attended Cleveland St. Elementary and Orange High Schools where she was an honor student. While at Orange High, she enjoyed basketball and playing the piano, and graduated in 1933.

Daphne accepted Christ at an early age while attending Gospel Chapel Sunday School (one of three Sunday Schools she and her siblings attended every Sunday) in East Orange, NJ. Daphne taught Sunday School for over sixty years and was a Sunday School Superintendent for a while during those years. She was a member of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Orange, NJ, Deliverance Church in Montclair, NJ, and Rose of Sharon Church in Orange, NJ. She taught countless children about Christ and loved to sing Christian "action" songs with her Sunday School students. Besides training her children, her Sunday School classes became her main ministry. She would drive and pick up the children in the family, as well as neighborhood children and anyone else who was willing to come and brought them to Sunday School with her. She encouraged them to have faith and to live by the Word of God so that they would personally get to know the Lord.

In 1939 Daphne married Rudolph Elliot Thomas of Orange, NJ. They were blessed with four children, Marcella Emily of Atlanta, GA, Rudolph Scott of Orange, NJ, Barry Scott of Long Pond, PA, and Elaine Josephine of Denver, CO. They were married for sixty-five years until Rudolph's death in 2004.

Daphne worked as a freelance domestic housekeeper for over fifty years. She greatly enjoyed her work and most of her client families became lifelong friends. She remained in contact with generations of those families until her death.

Daphne was a skilled seamstress, knitter and crocheter. She made clothes, quilts, pillows, blankets, hats, and many other items for family members and friends. Her family and friends were also the beneficiaries of her wit and charm. Daphne loved to laugh even when you didn't think it was so funny. Her wisdom, grace and knowledge of the Word of God afforded her the opportunity of giving her sage advice to the many who sought it.

Grace, love, loyalty and appreciation were attributes that she embodied. She enthusiastically maintained the soon to be lost art of writing. Her beautiful Thank-You cards were mailed to everyone who gave her a gift. In each card she prepared, she was sure to write a specific bible verse that was appropriate to the individual and the circumstance.

Birthdays were very also important to her. She ensured that all family members had birthday cake and ice cream on the actual day of their birth, no matter their age - which has become a family tradition. In addition, she sent birthday cards to all, including her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, nephews, nieces, siblings, in-laws, and close friends....in fact, if she had your address and birthday - you got a card from her - on time and with a celebratory bible verse.

Completing crossword and word search puzzles were a favorite pastime of hers. This gave her a unique appreciation for words and their meanings. She would often introduce new words to her children and grandchildren by asking them for a definition or how the word might be used in a sentence. Her love of learning never ceased. Recently she began studying Spanish when her evolving neighborhood began to include several Hispanic - American families because she wanted to be able to comfortably communicate with her new neighbors.

Photographic pictures were a particularly joyful hobby of hers. Her house was filled with pictures of her loved ones. This allowed her to see and pray for everyone in her immediate and extended family by name. She was a living testament to ...Philemon 1:4, *"I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers."* She also took great pleasure in creating family photo albums of the many people, places and events in her life. Her travels included trips to virtually every state in the continental United States as well as Canada. She especially liked visiting her family wherever they lived. She also loved traveling to most every World's Fair in the United States.

Daphne always loved gardening and maintained a garden every year. Her active interest in herbs and home remedies made her a valuable source of information and counsel throughout the family. She could tell you the holistic cure for just about any ailment. She also knew how to make environmentally friendly home cleaning products and utilized them throughout her home.

Daphne was kind, generous and warm to all whom she met. In many instances, she was a surrogate mother to many young people, often sharing her great wisdom and insight to enable them to have better lives. She opened her home and gave refuge and solace whenever needed.

She never had a harsh word for anyone and the world is definitely a better place because she was here. Daphne was blessed with a long life and she would quote the scripture in Psalm 91:16, *"With long life will I satisfy Him, and shew Him my salvation."* Her courage, enthusiasm and faith were a blessing to many. Her legacy of unselfish love, zest for life and giving spirit will long be remembered!

She departed this life on Friday, April 27, 2012 and leaves to cherish her memory four children, Marcella Emily Carrol of Atlanta, GA, Rudolph Scott Thomas of Orange, NJ, Barry Scott Thomas (Maryanne) of Long Pond, PA, Elaine Josephine Jacobs (Darryl) of Denver, CO.; fifteen grandchildren, Tia Waller (Kenneth) of Smyrna, GA, Paula Stizza of Stone Mountain, GA, Christopher Stizza of Phoenix, AZ, Paul Taylor (Vanessa) of Stone Mountain, GA, Kahlila Carroll of Atlanta, GA, Darrin Thomas of Virginia, Keyvan Thomas of Hackettstown, NJ, Sharlinda Purefoy of NJ, Quandel Thomas of Orange, NJ, Dawn Thomas of Mesa, AZ, Barry Thomas Jr. (Megan), Daenna Thomas of Long Beach, CA, Shane Thomas of Long Pond, PA, Tiffany McGinty (Mark) of Upstate New York, Scott Patterson of Van Nuys, CA.; twenty-nine great grandchildren and six, great-great grandchildren.

"Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God."

Matthew 5:8

My Dearest Mother (Mom),

You were my best friend, my confidant and my love. I am thankful that you were my mother. I'm glad we've had this time together. Thanks for everything you have done for me and my children. You are the best. I'll love you forever and always. *Marcella*

You are the mother of the earth. We all love you. Go with God. *Fella*

Thank you so much for all your love, your caring and your kindness. I thank God that I had you in my life. You gave me the most important thing which was the love of God. I'll see you later on in heaven. I love you. *Barry*

Wow, you really pulled a fast one on us. Fortunately, God gave me a premonition about your soon departure when you said you wanted to go and see the ocean for your birthday. I heard finality in your voice and felt there was something to it but I wouldn't let myself go there. Rather what I tried to do was to appreciate and live in the present and you know that sometimes that is hard for me. I have always thanked God for gifting me with you; a woman who loved God, His Word, your children, your children's children and His children. A long time ago, I had asked God to let me be with you when He sent for you and you went to be with Him and I was so upset when that didn't happen. However, He did reveal to me that if I had been there that I would have kept you here when you wanted to go. I would have made it about me and not about you. Your physical absence is painful. Knowing that I can't jump in the bed with you on my next visit, or sit on your lap makes me so sad.

You always told us that we were going to have a lot of fun going through your house and getting rid of your collection of things or stuff. Sorry, I am not looking forward to it at all. What a great time we have been having going through the wonderful thousands of pictures that you've collected over your ninety-eight "short" years. Thank You! Now what do we do with them all? You have always been my champion, intercessor and when I grew up, my best friend. Your love and memorization of God's Word continues to be an inspiration to me and my relationship with God.

Elaine



"Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God."

Matthew 5:8

Grand Children

Dearest Grandma,

You always had a smile to share, love to give, time to spare, to hold our hand, to understand. Grandma, you were always there. You taught us to love family like we love ourselves, to thank the Lord and say our prayers. You made holidays and birthdays special occasions. Christmas time we baked cookies, Birthdays we all made our cakes with your help and the main ingredient was your love. You shared so much of yourself, you made us who we are. No matter where we are, things in our daily lives always bring us back to you..... "You pray for me and I'll pray for you"!

Love,

Your Grandchildren

Great Grandchildren

To our Beloved Great Grandma,

You were a moral compass wherever we were - be it on foreign or domestic soil and also unto life itself. You were a beacon of light during dark times. You have never missed a birthday of anyone that we know of within the family. It was always a joy to speak to you under any and all circumstances. Being around you was always a breath of fresh air that only you could give. You will be forever, eternally missed and we will see you again...but, just not yet.

Your loving,

Great Grandchildren

Great Great Grandchildren

To the Best Great Great Grandma,

We have had a hard time understanding why you are not here. We know that you love us and that you love Jesus too and are with Him. We will always remember the love and laughter we shared with you. Thank you for making sure that we know how to pray.

Love and Kisses,

Great Great Grandchildren

