

*Celebrating the Life of a Phenomenal Woman*



*Ethel Mae Charles-Perry*

October 28, 1931 – November 17, 2012

*Service*

*Friday, November 23, 2012 - 10:00 a.m.*

**HOLLIS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

100-50 196th Street  
Hollis, New York 11423

*Rev. Dr. Mark L. Chapman, Pastor*

## Obituary

**Ethel Mae Charles-Perry** affectionately known as “Pete” was born October 28, 1931 in Topeka Kansas to Crosby and Elizabeth Chiles. She and her family were devout members of Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church where Ethel participated in many activities. After graduating from Topeka High School, she attended Washburn University in Kansas and completed her graduate work at Atlanta University in Georgia earning a Master’s Degree in Social Work. Ethel received numerous certifications from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Social Work and Public Health, the University of Pittsburg Graduate School and Medgar Evers College. She met Merrill B. Charles and the two married and moved to Brooklyn, New York until they purchased their home in Queens, New York. The union produced two children, Merrill B. Charles III affectionately known as “Butchie” and Lisa Marie. She later remarried the love of her life, Orendell B. Perry, where they enjoyed many years of their life together until his passing in 2005.

Ethel’s life work was centered on helping others. She worked for the Veterans Administration, the Salvation Army Foster Home Service, the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene Clinic in Queens, NY, and Brookdale Hospital in Brooklyn, NY where she was the Director of Social Services for 25 years. She served on the Advisory Council of Queen’s Children’s Psychiatric Center. She also worked for Beverly Mack Harry Consulting Agency in Brooklyn, NY, the Advanced Center for Psychotherapy in Queens, NY, Senior Coordinator for Foster-Laurie P.A.L. Senior Center, and Weight Watchers as a lecturer. In addition, she opened a private practice where she provided therapeutic service to adults and children.

As a dedicated Christian, she devoted her life to serving. She was an active member of Hollis Presbyterian Church for over 40 years. She served as an Elder in the church, a member of the Women’s League and Pastoral Nominating Committee, Chairperson of Christian Education, was an original member of the Gospel Choir and served on numerous other committees.

Serving was a major part of Ethel’s life. She was a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated since her college years and Top Ladies of Distinction since 1983. She served two terms as National Area II Director. On the local level, she served as President of the Gotham Chapter, Chaplain, Parliamentarian and mentor to several Top Teens, as well as many of the Top Ladies. In 2008, at the National Conference in Cleveland, Ohio she was recognized for twenty-five years of distinguished service and dedication to the organization. Lady Ethel was admired and loved by Top Ladies’ across the country.

Her exuberant personality and wit was often displayed in her role as Mistress of Ceremony for many of her church and social organizations’ functions. Ethel loved life. She enjoyed traveling to many countries, attending Broadway plays and cultural arts events. She had a passion for reading, as she participated in various book clubs.

To cherish her memories, Ethel leaves her children, Merrill (Butch) and Lisa, her grandchildren, Christian, Caroline, Alexsa and Merrill, her daughter-in-law, Carol Charles, son-in-law, David F. Jordan, Goddaughter, Shavonne Baez; and a host of relatives and friends.



*“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”*

***Revelation 21:4***



*Acknowledgements*

The family wishes to express their deepest appreciation and sincere thanks for all the love and concern shown to them in their time of sorrow.

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Professional Services Provided By:

*Roy L. Gilmore's Funeral Home, Inc.*

Angela Gilmore-Manning, *President*

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