

*Celebrating the Life of*  
*Mother Annie Mildred Stancil*



Sunrise  
May 19, 1931

Sunset  
January 3, 2014

*Service*

Friday, January 10, 2014 - 7:00 p.m.

**GILMORE MEMORIAL LOOK & LIVE MINISTRY**

68 Bishop Clarence Gilmore Plaza (Haledon Avenue) • Paterson, New Jersey

Bishop Patrick Farrar, Pastor

*Bishop James Clark, Officiating*



## *A Mother's Crown*

Heaven lit up with a mighty presence,  
as the Angels all looked down.  
As the Lord was placing precious jewels  
Into my mother's crown.

He held up a golden crown,  
As our darling mother looked on.  
He said in His gentle voice,

'I will now explain each one.'

'The first gem,' He said, 'is a Ruby,  
and it's for endurance alone,  
for the days and nights you waited up  
for your children to come home.'

'For all the nights by their bedside,  
you stayed til the fever went down.

For nursing every little wound,  
I add this ruby to your crown.'

'An emerald, I'll place by the ruby,  
for leading your child in the right way.

For teaching them the lessons,  
That made them who they are today.'

'For always being right there,  
through all life's important events.

I give you a sapphire stone,  
for the time and love you spent.'

'For untying the strings that held them,  
when they grew up and left home.

I give you this one for courage.'

Then the Lord added a garnet stone.

'I'll place a stone of amethyst,' He said.

'For all the times you spent on your knees,  
when you asked if I'd take care of your children,  
and then for having faith in Me.'

'I have a pearl for every little sacrifice  
that you made without them knowing.

For all the times you went without,  
to keep them happy, healthy and growing.'

'And last of all a diamond,

the greatest one of all,  
for sharing unconditional love  
whether they were big or small.'

'It was your love that helped them grow  
Feeling safe and happy and proud

A love so strong and pure

It could shift the darkest cloud.'

After the Lord placed the last jewel in,  
He said, 'Your crown is now complete,

You've earned your place in Heaven  
now rest and take your seat.'





## *Tribute To Our Dear Mother*



Strong, determined, loving & classy! What better way to describe you, our dear Mother.

You were **STRONG** in your belief in the Lord Jesus Christ and in the power of His word. Knowing that with His guidance, you would, through **FAITH**, be able to instill that same belief in us. Raising four children was no easy feat. But you did your absolute best to see that our needs were met, and that we understood who God is!

You were **DETERMINED** to make sure that we would never do without. We didn't have a lot of fancy things, but what we had, we were taught to be grateful for, even the little things. You were **DETERMINED** to make sure that we studied hard, and did well in education... (um, we know you were praying **REAL** hard! ☺ ) You were **DETERMINED** to teach us **THE WORD**, and we grew to love, trust and depend on God's word, even when it makes us see ourselves.

You were **LOVING**... in your ability to make each one of us know that you would always be our greatest supporter. We left home, and attempted to live our lives as best as we thought we could. Even when we made mistakes, and needed to return to your embrace, you were right there. We remember graduations, birthdays, holiday gatherings, and those times when we didn't need a reason to get together... you were right there, ready to contribute to our 'dietary needs' with all of the mouth watering items that you were known for... fried chicken & fish, slab bacon, collard greens... and the work the you put in for your delicious potato salad. Folks probably didn't know that you would chop that pickles yourself into tiny pieces! (Bless You!!... but we thank God for relish!!)

You were **CLASSY**! The fashion industry missed it. You were its original **FULL FIGURED MODEL** for sure!! No one in this world could wear it like you! From head to toe, you were it!! And when you smiled... oh, those dimples! But your beautiful attire never overshadowed your beautiful soul; and, no matter what you were adorned in, it never stopped you from praising your **GOD**!!

Dear Mom, these pages cannot hold all of the wonderful attributes that made you, **YOU**! But above all else, we know that you loved the Lord; and you served Him with all your heart, strength and mind. We love the way you loved Him. And because of that love, we celebrate your life... a life of trials and triumphs, valleys and victories. The work you have done has spoken. And now, we rejoice because we know that you are at home, and in the presence of Almighty God.

You've left a wonderful legacy. Therefore, we our children, and our children's children, will continue as you taught us, to not lean to our own understanding, but to acknowledge Him in all our ways... and to press for the mark of the high calling of God, which is in Christ Jesus!

*Loving You Always... Your Daughters... Brenda, Linda & Lorraine*



## Reflections of Life



**Annie Mildred (Bratton) Stancil** was born May 19, 1931 in Greensboro, North Carolina. She was the third of nine children born to the late Edward and Maggie Bratton. Annie Mildred was educated in the Greensboro School system, graduating from Dudley High School in 1949. Annie Mildred loved school and had a passion for learning. She also exercised her God-given talent of singing by joining the High School Glee Club.

Annie Mildred has always had a strong sense of responsibility, which is why her parents became to depend on her. She helped to care for her siblings, especially when her mother became ill. She was only thirteen when her dear mother passed away, and her motherly instincts immediately began to manifest. It was a difficult transition but God equipped her for this challenge, and her love for her praying father gave her the ability to fulfill this assignment.

God in His infinite wisdom placed another gracious woman in their lives by the name of Willa Smith. Ed and Willa almost immediately began a short courtship and found that through the wisdom of God, they were meant to be together. It was also evident that she came to love all of Ed's children and they loved her. When Ed and Willa married, the children embraced her and called her "Mama". Annie Mildred was then allowed to be a teenager and enjoyed that time in her life. She often said that "Mama" was a real blessing to their lives.

Annie Mildred and her family were members of the Lindsey Street United Holy Church in Greensboro. Now named "Hayes Memorial United Holy Church". She was very active in her local church and throughout the associate churches in North Carolina. She often spoke of how proud she was to have been chosen as a delegate of her youth department. It was during these teen years that Annie Mildred took piano lessons which would open the doors to many blessings in future years.

In 1950, she gave birth to her first born daughter. She always remembered how lovingly supportive her parents and her best friend, Evelyn Johnson was to her during that time. Shortly thereafter, Annie Mildred met and married Benjamin R. Stancil, Sr. and to this union three children were born.

In 1952, Annie Mildred moved to Paterson, New Jersey. Upon arriving in Paterson, it was not long before she joined her Aunt Blake at the Bethel Church of Christ, located at 282 Governor Street, under the pastorate of the late (then Elder) Bishop James I. Clark, Sr. Upon being baptized in Jesus' Name and receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, Annie Mildred became a faithful, working member of the church. She also served faithfully under the next pastor, the late (then Elder) Bishop R.N. Jones. She was strong-willed, sometimes to a fault. She was out-spoken but honest and respectful. Although, she had not excelled in her gift of playing the piano, she became the church musician. She testified of the time Bishop Jones prayed for her hands, that she would play under the anointing and be perfected. God honored his prayer and she became known throughout the church world for her ability to sing and to play under the power of the Almighty God, and singing and playing blessed congregations for years to come. Hallelujah to God!

In 1968, God had another road for Sister Stancil to travel, when He opened up an opportunity to use her musical talents at Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, in Newark to become their church musician. It was there that she met a group of people who would become as close to her as her biological family. She was not just the church organist, but she was a friend, a sister, a daughter, a mother and an example of a Godly woman. Everyone knew she loved good food, and there was a quest, on the part of the members, to see who could feed her best. Her best times was when she would take trips with the church or when she and Aunt Margaret would go south to family reunions or the Christmas and birthday gatherings. Everyone loved her and wanted her to be a part of their lives. Her confession to her family was that she loved being with her friends from Bethlehem. Bethlehem was truly a gift from God to her!

After thirty years of service, (as a non-member), Mother retired from Bethlehem and gave her full time service back to Greater Bethel Church of Christ. She served well with all she had to give, in all she endeavored to do, for whoever needed her. Her last official office at Bethel was Pastor's Aide President, serving Pastor Norman Harris. Even from her sick bed, she would try to perform her office.

On March 27, 2011, she joined her daughter, who had been called to a new work and became one of the charter members of the "Rehoboth Church of Christ". She was immediately appointed as the "Church Mother". Mother Stancil was an honorable woman and respectful of leadership. Many young women wanted to be around her because of her motherly spirit and her willingness to listen and give encouraging words of wisdom.

Mother Stancil was predeceased by her only son, Benjamin R. Stancil, Jr.; great granddaughter, Miah Farrar; two brothers, Carnell and James Bratton and three sisters, Elizabeth Franklin, Carolyn Kurvin and Louise Jackson.

She leaves to cherish her love and legacy of dignity: three daughters, Brenda Vailes and Pastor Linda Stancil of Paterson, New Jersey, Elder Marcia Lorraine Stancil-Lawson (James) of Wayne, New Jersey; six grandchildren, Mietta Stancil-Farrar (Arthur), Kimberly Vailes, Kevin Stancil, Rhonda Stancil, Carlton Vailes, Jr., and Stephanie Guy; one adoptive grandchild, Cynthia Lipscomb; thirteen great grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren; three sisters, Bernice Bratton of Louisville, Kentucky, Ethel Mahoney of Greensboro, North Carolina and Barbara Griffin of Paterson, New Jersey; five goddaughters, Glenda Johnson-Green, Kathy Donnelly, Rose Mary Jackson, Fontella Howie and Debra Jefferson-Cook; dear friends, Margaret Boyd, Polly Silvera, Elder William Cousin and Elder William Mickens; a childhood friends, Mrs. Evelyn Johnson; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

# Order of Worship

Worship Leader ..... The Reverend Toney Jackson  
Pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church • Newark, NJ

Processional

Invocation..... Pastor James A. Kuykendall  
Agape Christian Center • Paterson, NJ

Hymn of Praise ..... “When We All Get To Heaven”

Scripture Readings ..... Elder Terrence Kitchings  
Old Testament  
New Testament

Prayer of Comfort ..... Rev. Dr. Lester W. Taylor  
Pastor of Community Baptist Church of Englewood • Englewood, NJ

Solo ..... Debra Jefferson-Cook

## Remarks

Elder William Cousin, Pastor, Second Full Gospel Church, Newark, NJ  
Bishop Norman Harris, Pastor, Greater Bethel Church of Christ, Paterson, NJ  
Bishop Franklin Pettiford, Pastor, Greater Bible Way Church, Paterson, NJ  
Mrs. Glenda Johnson-Green

Music Ministry ..... Bethlehem Baptist Church Choir

Remarks ..... Ms. Vivian Matthews  
Ms. Kathy Donnelly  
Mr. Adrian Champion  
Elder Gayle Richardson

Music Ministry ..... Bethlehem Baptist Church Choir

Reading ..... Lady Rosemary Flowers-Jackson

Musical Rendition ..... Rev. Edwin Guy  
Pastor of Victory Christian Tabernacle Hempstead, NY

Acknowledgements & Reflections of Life ..... Sis. Frances Bradman

Tributes To Mother  
Ms. Brenda Vailes (Daughter)  
Minister of Music, Kevin Stancil (Grandson)  
Pastor Linda Stancil (Daughter & Pastor)  
Elder Lorraine Stancil-Lawson (Daughter)

The Preached Word ..... Bishop James I. Clark, Jr.  
Pastor of Christ Temple Church of Our Lord Christ • New York, NY

Closing Prayer

Recessional

## Interment

Saturday January 11, 2014 - 9:00 a.m.  
Fair Lawn Cemetery  
Fair Lawn, New Jersey



## Tributes To Our Grandma



Every moment was a great moment with YOU. From my early childhood trips with you to North Carolina for any given reason, our Sunday morning drives to Bethlehem Baptist Church that were followed by dinner at either Aunt Frankie's or Aunt Margaret's home. All the many part-time jobs you and I worked together, the times when I would look across School 28 parking lot as you walked to your assigned class-and watching the children's reaction when they realized you were their teacher for the day (let's just say they were less than excited). Your appreciation for music of various types has left a great impact in my life. But, there is one moment that really sticks out for me. I was taking you to a doctor's appointment and Ella Fitzgerald's Greatest Hits was playing and you began to sing along with one of the tunes playing "ain't what you do it's the way that you do it, that's what gets results" I was in awe at not only the knowing of the song but, you gave me the year in which it was done! Everything about you was priceless! Mission Accomplished Grandma!! God Be Praised!!!! Mietta



I have many great memories of grandma but one of my favorites is when me and Mietta went to North Carolina with her and for whatever reason we started fighting over a pillow and continued the whole train ride there. Grandma was so fed up with us that she started pulling ponytails the entire ride. That was one of my favorite memories of grandma. Kim



Dear Grandma,

"Thank you" for instilling in me the value of family and that no matter what good, bad or indifferent, we were to always love and be a family at all times. If I had to pick one thing I inherited from you it would be your strength to stand and fight for what I believe in and to have a voice. Anyone who knew you knew that your family was your weakness and although we all had our own relationship with you, you loved us all deeply and you were never too proud to express it. You will be missed dearly but never forgotten. Your legacy lives on in each of us! I Love You Grandma Anne, Rhonda



One of my memories with grandma is when she took me and Kevin to North Carolina. Kevin and I locked uncle Joe out of the house. Grandma asked me when she got backed to the house. "what did y'all do to him?" and I said "ain't nobody do nothing to that ole' geezer". grandma just shook her head. CJ



The most memorable moment of my grandmom was the day she taught me how to read Hymns! I was visiting her one summer afternoon and she decided to make lunch for me and of course I accepted her offer. While waiting I found a Baptist Hymnal and asked her "how do you read these grandma?" She put the stove on a low fire, took the hymnal and opened it up to the timeless song "What A Friend We Have In Jesus", she sat with me for almost 2hrs teaching me how to read the composition and also how to recognize key signatures. That one afternoon changed my musical life forever. To date that hymn is my absolute favorite, and my knowledge of reading music was because of her teaching me for that brief moment. She was always concerned about how my music was going, and I always said it was doing well and I owe that to her. That one visit to her home in Redwood Village helped me become the musician I am today. Thank you "Grandma", I will represent your teaching with honor and love. Your grandson, Kevin.



Every moment with Grandma Ann was memorable. But if I had to choose a moment that changed my life, it would have been the day I graduated from Temple University. When all the ceremonies were over, I knelt beside her in her wheelchair and she started to tell me how grateful she was for being able to have

lived to see me complete my college graduation, and that she knew I was going to be a huge success in life. She then took off the emerald ring that she had worn for most of her life, kissed it and put it in my hand, telling me that she was giving me her "blessing for life". I put the ring on the necklace that I was wearing, and to this day, it is one of my most prized possessions. Stephanie



Grandma,

You are the epitome of what a Matriarch should be. You made sure we were okay and if you could you would have funded us all. I want to thank you for always instilling in me to be a hard working individual and never stop at being good, you taught me to be great. You loved Aidan and Austin so much and you always made sure I was being a great mom and presented myself well. Lastly I remember how strong you were when it came to life and its obstacles, you were a fighter and you fought until the end. I love you so much and as hard as it will be for me to come to terms with you being gone, I understand that you are in a much better place. Love Tiffany



Grandma,

You have been and will always be an inspiration to me, throughout the years I learned so much from you. You taught me that as long as you work you can have and go anywhere. You also taught me that you should always have a full-time and part-time job, the full-time for the bills and the part-time for clothing and eating. Most of all you taught me how to be a strong, independent, educated black woman that loves God the church and your family. Although my heart is broken and I will kiss you so much, I do understand that you are resting in the arms of Jesus. The last words that you said to me were "God's Power" and that I will hold in my heart forever.

Love you always  
Cindy



## *Tribute To My Mother-In-Law*

It is not hard to say THANK YOU for opening up your heart and home to me. In these past few years, we had become more closely connected through my love for your daughter, Lorraine, who is now my loving wife.



The times that you traveled with us, and came to our home, were filled with laughter. When we would come to visit you, it did my heart good to see you smile, even though many times, I knew you were feeling weak and experiencing pain.



It wasn't by accident that you and my mom ended up being right next door to each other. God fixed it so that the two of you could spend some quality time together. When she went home to be with the Lord, you told me that if I prayed for strength, it would get a little easier as time goes by. You were right.

I will never forget the day that you held my hand so tightly, and told me that you loved me, and that you were praying for the both of us. Now that you are resting and free from pain and worry, I will do all I can to take care of (as you called her) your 'Baby Girl'.

I won't ever forget you. And I will strive to live as God will direct me, so that we will all meet again.



Your Son-in-law,  
James

**Pallbearers**

Carlton Vailes, Jr.	Kevin Stancil
Darrian Vailes	Tasean Muldrow
Ramon Muldrow	Donavon Joe

We extend our sincere gratitude and deep appreciation to all of you,  
For your cards, letters, phone calls, visits and most of all your prayers.  
Your outpouring of love has sustained us through this  
difficult time and will continue in the days ahead.

A very special 'Thank You' to the wonderful staff of the  
**Preakness Healthcare Center**  
For your incomparable professionalism, devotion and untiring care  
that was given to our dear Mother Stancil in her final days.

It is our prayer that the rich blessings of Almighty God  
rest upon each and every one of you, from this day forward.

The Stancil Family

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