

Celebrating the Life of



Myrial Elaine Fields

Sunrise
August 21, 1935

Sunset
February 6, 2014

Saturday, February 15, 2014

Visitation - 11:00 a.m. - Service Noon

First Baptist Church of South Orange

103 Valley Street • South Orange, NJ

Order of Service

Organ Meditation

The Processional

The Scripture Readings

Old Testament - Psalm 23 - A Psalm of David

New Testament - John 14: 1-6

Prayer of Comfort

Selection.....First Baptist Church Choir

Acknowledgements and Condolences

Memories Friends, Family

Reading of the Obituary

SelectionFirst Baptist Church Choir

The Officiant.....The Rev. Dr. Terry L. Richardson, Senior Pastor

The Eulogy.....The Rev. Dr. Keisha Harris, Assistant Pastor

The Benediction

The Recessional

Interment

Rosedale Cemetery

Montclair, New Jersey

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Genesis 1:1-5

We want to tell a good story today, dear Lord. We want to write a new line in a chapter in this life of ours. A dramatic flair, a triumphant conclusion, a love song, a twist or turn.

*You, God, continue to author the greatest story ever told – and you have placed within us a writer's heart. Today, help us tell and be a good story.
Amen*

*Joshua DuBois, Spiritual Advisor
to President Barack Obama*

Obituary

Myrial Elaine Gorham was born in Bethel (originally known as Conetoe – pronounced Cu-neeta), North Carolina to Lottie Gorham and Wimberly Gorham. She had an older sister, Julia Long. Myrial & Julia had one Uncle that they were very fond of named Sam. Myrial's formative years were anchored in her church and her family. Her mother, Lottie was a devout worshipper, and Myrial spent much of her time in the pews. Lottie worked in the homes of affluent Caucasians caring for their children. Lottie's grandfather was of Cherokee descent, from North Carolina. Myrial formed a bond at an early age with her Aunt, Bonnie Harrison, whose family owned and operated a roadside store, and farm, in Mildred, North Carolina. Aunt Bonnie was also a Deacon of her church and a schoolteacher in a segregated school. Myrial attended Conetoe High School, in Bethel, where at 5'8" she played basketball. She graduated with twenty eight others on May 19th, 1953, and was the Class Salutatorian. Myrial was an aunt to her sister, Julia's children, Bob, Donald, Lynn, and Brenda Long.

In 1954, Myrial married George Russell Fields, and they raised six children together, three boys and three girls, Phillip, Jacqueline, George Jr, Michael, Crystal, and Myrial. They were married for thirty seven years. Myrial's sister-in law was Audrey Smith, of Mt. Vernon, NY. Myrial was an Aunt to Audrey's children, Gregory, Ernest and Charlotte. Myrial and "Russell" were part of the continued great migration from the South to the North; they were "first generation Northerners". They came north in 1954, with fellow North Carolinians, like the Black Family, the Lewis Family, and the Best Family, and settled first in Queens, then Brooklyn, New York. The family resided on Sterling Place in Brooklyn, near Prospect Park and the Botanical Gardens for nearly two decades. Myrial became rooted in the community of Brooklyn and with a large family, their time consisted of weekends in Prospect Park, the Botanical Gardens, and the Brooklyn Museum, as well as visiting relatives in the Bronx, Mt. Vernon, Queens, and Danbury, Connecticut. She insisted the children spend their summers down south, out of the city. She was a full-time mom and worked inside the home. In the mid 70's the family purchased a home in Rosedale, Queens, New York.

When her youngest child, Myrial, began high school, Myrial entered the workforce for the first time and worked in retail for a number of years, working her way up from Sales to a Supervisory Role at Queens Center Mall, in Rego Park, NY. She then settled on the field of

Education and became a paraprofessional at Beach Channel High School and then Far Rockaway High School in Queens, NY. Later Myrial went back to school at night and at the age of fifty seven, earned a B.S. in Education in 1992, from The College of New Rochelle. Her final years as an educator were at John Adams High School in New York City. Over the years Myrial mentored many young people through her affiliations with youth groups and the church ministry. Many of the young people she touched considered her to be a like a "Mom".

In her later years, Myrial lived in Staten Island New York near Snug Harbor, and her final home was in South Orange, New Jersey. She was a member of several churches over the years, i.e., New Hope Baptist Church, and Fellowship Baptist Church, and she always sang in the Church Choir. Her final church family was here with The First Baptist Church, where she was a member of the Praise Team with consisted of mostly young people. She would always talk about the fellowship of the Pastor and congregation of this historic 100 year old church. Myrial loved to wear her church "crowns". She was a member of the "Red Hats Society". To be a Red Hatter, you needed to be "over fifty and fabulous", and wear crowns and suits of red and purple. The motto of the Red Hatters is Live, Love, and Laugh. There are over 41,000 Chapters, and Myrial's chapter was called "The Purple Hats".

Myrial loved to travel, and to talk about her memories of cruising, going to Broadway Shows, and Gospel Expos; she loved to listen to James Cleveland and Shirley Caesar. She read and studied the bible and most recently began to write poetry. She was proudest of her grandchildren, Brittany, Marcus, Nicole, Jonathan, Noelle, Paolo, Anniken, and Isabel, and her great grandson Ethan. She also had a daughter-in-law of thirty years, Jacqueline Elaine Fields, Sandy Fields, fourteen months, and two sons-in-law, Alberto Baptiste and Ole Pedersen, 31 and eight years, respectively. Among her dearest friends were Mattie Reddish, Yolanda Walker, Ollie Jeanette Williams, Betty Golden, and her childhood friend, Vernestine Exum.

"Once upon a time there was a woman who lived, named Myrial Elaine Fields and she was a good story. A life well-lived, and a story well written."

Jacqueline Elaine Baptiste





Ribbons of Beauty

Myrial Elaine Fields circa 2013

*How they float majestically, with each new breeze for all to see
Powered by the wind - God's gentle breath displayed
These ribbons can be a praise dancer's streamer, or a gymnast's
baton to float above their movements.*

*A ribbon of many shades to wear in your hair
A colored ribbon to wear as a prize for others to see,
of the hero you dared to be*

A red ribbon as a red cardinal, in all its glory, on a snow covered limb

A pink ribbon as a pink rose on a prom dress worn with pride

A yellow ribbon as a canary that sings beautifully in spite of being caged

A blue ribbon as a majestic blue bird in an oasis of green

A purple ribbon as the royal priesthood and one of God's appointed

The white ribbon as a dove, how pleased our father is with his son.



Honorary Pallbearers

Michael Fields

Alberto Baptiste

Ole Pedersen

Paolo Dato

Words of Gratitude from the Family

*We thank our family and friends for the expressions of support that
have helped us through this difficult time. Our hearts are saddened by
the loss of our mother. May God be with you one and all.*

Woody "Home For Services"

163 Oakwood Ave. • Orange, NJ 07050

