

Celebrating The Life of
Bessie Louise Turner

March 22, 1922 - June 28, 2014



Because of the LORD'S great love we are not consumed, for his compassions fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22-23

Thursday, July 3, 2014 -11:00 a.m.

FIRST WESLEYAN CHURCH

201 Woodlawn Avenue

Jersey City, New Jersey

The Rev. Donavon W. Shoemaker, Pastor
Officiating

Obituary

Bessie Louise Mallisham Turner was born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama on March 22, 1922 to the late Rev. Lewis Simeon and Leola Smith Mallisham. She peacefully departed this earthly life on June 28, 2014. Bessie was the eldest daughter among five brothers and three sisters. She helped her mother by serving as a “second mother” to her siblings. Her loving care for her brothers and sisters left a big impact on them which they fondly remembered in the later years of their lives.

Bessie attended Industrial High School in Tuscaloosa and graduated in 1942. She went on to attend Stillman Institute (now called Stillman College) and was awarded a junior college diploma. She passed a test for a federal government job which led her to Washington, DC where she worked for the War Department as a stenographer. Her job allowed her to keep up with the whereabouts of her brothers and family friends serving in the armed forces during the war.

On June 20, 1948, Bessie was married to Luther P. Tuner at Fort Dix, New Jersey. To this loving union two children were born, Luther, Jr. and Gloria. The family made their home on Woodlawn Avenue in Jersey City for over two decades. She was active in the PTA while her children were in elementary school. In 1978, Bessie and Luther moved to South Orange, NJ.

Bessie was a highly skilled seamstress and her sewing skills actually began when she was young. At twelve years old, she helped her mother make a wedding dress. As her children and grandchildren were growing up, she made many of their clothes. Over the years, her skills as a seamstress benefited her church family as well. She tailored garments for church members, made Christmas program costumes and curtains for the choir loft and basement windows.

Bessie was also a great cook and baker. Anything she baked was made from “scratch.” She was most known for her pound cake, pineapple upside down cake and banana pudding. And then there was her lemonade! It was always made with freshly squeezed lemons.

A loyal and faithful member of the Jersey City First Wesleyan Church for over fifty years, Bessie was loved and respected by all. Although quiet in nature, she actively served the Lord through many ministries in the local church, Women’s Missionary Society, member of the Stewardship Committee, Church Teller, Tithing Secretary, Sunday School and Vacation Bible School teacher. For many years she collected Campbell Soup labels from church members in support of Hephzibah Children’s Home in Macon, Georgia.

Bessie had a deep and abiding faith in God. She loved reading and studying the Bible and singing the hymns of the church. Her constancy, wisdom and smile will be remembered by all who knew her.

Bessie leaves to celebrate her life: her devoted children, Luther, Jr. (Hazel) and Gloria; her beloved grandchildren, Vanessa and Luther III; her sisters and brothers, Rev. A.L. Mallisham, James “Morgan” Mallisham, L. Rose Carter and Emma Christine Williams. Also cherishing memories of her are brothers and sisters-in-law, Joseph Turner, Miriam Turner, Naomi and Rogers Ward, Eloise Turner and Sadie Mallisham, a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and her church family at First Wesleyan Church.

Order of Service

- Opening.....Rev. D.W. Shoemaker
- Congregational Hymn.....“How Great Thou Art” Page 76
- Scripture Readings
Old Testament - Psalm 90, Verses 1-2, 4-6, 10-12,16-17.....Minister Jean Albert
New Testament - John 14:1-6, 16-21.....Minister Troy Gibson
- Prayer of Comfort.....Rev. D.W. Shoemaker
- Selection.....“He’s Been Faithful To Me”
Andrea Guthman
- Remarks.....Emma Williams (sister)
Vanessa Turner (granddaughter)
- Letter From The Church.....James McCormack
- Obituary.....Valerie Turner Williams
- Congregational Hymn.....“Great Is Thy Faithfulness” Page 57
- Sermon.....Rev. D.W. Shoemaker
- Benediction.....Rev. D.W. Shoemaker
- Recessional.....“Swing Low, Sweet Chariot”

Interment
Graceland Memorial Park
Kenilworth, New Jersey

Following the interment, please join the family for dinner at Puccini’s, 1064 West Side Ave., Jersey City.

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before His presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD He is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations.



PALLBEARERS:

Albert Edwin	Joe Forbes
Winston Foy	Troy Gibson
Ezekiel Miller	Frank Osei-Bonsu
Clement Wade	

Acknowledgement

The family of Bessie Turner is deeply grateful for the expressions of love, concern and support shown during this time of bereavement.

Professional Services Entrusted To

Woody "Home For Services"

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