



*In Loving
Memory of*

Agnes Craig Barksdale

Sunrise

May 21, 1938

Sunset

September 28, 2014

Service

Sunday, October 5, 2014 - 6:00 p.m.

Rose of Sharon Community Church

825 West 7th Street

Plainfield, New Jersey 07063

Rev. Tracey L. Brown, Officiating

Our Mother Kept A Garden

*Our Mother kept a garden,
A garden of the heart;
She planted all the good things,
That gave our life its start.*

*She turned us to the sunshine
And encouraged us to dream;
Forestering and nurturing
The seeds of self-esteem.*

*And when the winds and rains come,
She protected us enough;
But not too much, she knew we'd need
To stand up strong and tough.*

*Her constant good example,
Always taught us right from wrong;
Markers for our pathway
To last our whole life long.*

*We are our Mother's garden,
We are her legacy,
And we hope that she feels the love,
Reflected in us all!*



Obituary

On Sunday, September 28th surrounded by her loving children **Agnes Craig Barksdale** entered the pearly gates to meet with her Lord and Savior.

She was born Agnes Olivia Reed in Evergreen, Alabama to the late Willie and Ruby Reed.

The Reed family moved to Jersey City with a host of relatives and friends. As the middle child, Agnes formed a strong and formidable relationship with her older brother, Willie James (deceased) and her baby sister, Lorraine.

Agnes received her education from the Jersey City Public School System and graduated from Snyder High School. She later took college courses in law and with the help of Aunt Mary Harper landed a job with Attorney Saunders' law firm. Her brother and sister would make her chuckle by mimicking her prim and proper telephone voice when they called.

Agnes loved music and its no wonder her heart strings were pulled by Sonny Bivins of the well known R&B group The Manhattans. Following their marriage Tony Dereck Bivins was born. She shared not only a mother and son relationship with Dereck, but a deep friendship and bond.

Agnes later re-united and married her childhood sweetheart, Ronald Craig. Two beautiful daughters were born to this union Monique and Lisa. At that time, Agnes worked as an Insurance Adjuster with Allstate Insurance Company where she later retired.

One of the joys of her retirement was helping to raise her granddaughter, Shakira Craig. Fondly known as "KiKi".

Agnes celebrated her golden years with long time friend, George "Pete" Barksdale. They married and continued to cherish each other through the years.

Agnes Craig Barksdale's spirit and fond memories will forever live in the hearts and minds of all who loved her.

She leaves: her caring husband, George "Pete" Barksdale; a sister, Lorraine Love (Isaac Brown); a loving son, Tony Dereck Bivins (Shelley Bivins); two daughters, Monique Craig and Lisa Blake (Billy Blake); eight grandchildren, Shakira Craig, Marques Bivins (Marneice Bivins), Christopher Bivins, Brittany Bivins, Maeson Bivins, Kowanda Barksdale and Kennedy Bivins; four great grandchildren, two aunts, Mary Louise McMillan and Shaheeda Yasin; one uncle, Takbir Yasin; eight nieces, one nephew a host of cousins and many dear friends.



Order of Celebration

Hymn of Comfort

Scripture Readings

Old Testament

New Testament

Prayer of Comfort

Solo

Selection

Reflections

Family and Friends (two minutes please)

Solo

Acknowledgement (cards, telegrams)

Reading of Obituary

Solo

Eulogy

Rev. Tracey L. Brown

Ruth Fellowship Ministries

Plainfield • New Jersey



Interment

Monday, October 6, 2014 - 10:00 a.m.

Hillside Cemetery

Scotch Plains, New Jersey

A Poem From Nana

*Grandchild, please don't mourn me.
I'm still here, don't you see?
I'm right by your side each night and day
And within your heart I long to stay.
My body is gone but I'm always near,
I'm everything you feel, see and hear.
My spirit is free, but I'll never depart
As long as you keep me alive in your heart
I'm the first ray of light
when the sun starts to shine,
And you'll see that the face in the moon is mine
I'm that first bright blossom you'll see in the spring.
The first warm raindrop that April will bring.
So when you start thinking
there's no one to love you
You can always talk to Nana
through the Lord above you
I'll whisper my answer through
the leaves on the trees
And you'll feel my presence
in the soft summer breeze
I'm the warm salty tears that flow when you weep,
And the beautiful dreams
that come when you sleep.
I'm that smile you see on a baby's face.
Just look for me grandchild, I'm every place.*

We Love You Nana

In Appreciation

We, the family, extend our deepest appreciation to those who have encouraged and consoled our hearts through various acts of kindness. If you whispered a prayer, sent sympathy cards or a floral tribute, prepared a meal or just gave a hug, we thank you. We are indebted to Bishop M. Laverne Lattimore Ball and the members of Rose of Sharon Community Church for sharing themselves and their sanctuary with us at our time of need. As always, we are eternally grateful to our own Reverend Tracey L. Brown and our church family, Ruth Fellowship Ministries, for your love, support and keeping us strong in the Lord. May our Lord and Savior continue to bless you, The Family.

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