

*Celebration of Life and Legacy for*



*The Life Reflections of A Virtuous Women*

*Proverbs 31: 10*

*"Who can find a virtuous woman?  
for her price is far above rubies.*

*Martha Dunn Hatcher*

*Sunrise: May 22, 1931*

*Sunset: September 8, 2016*

Service

*Thursday, September 15, 2016 - 10:00 a.m.*

**ABYSSINIAN BAPTIST CHURCH**

132 Odell Clark Place • New York, NY 10030

*Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III, Officiating*

## *Legacy of Martha Dunn Hatcher*

**Deaconess Martha D. Hatcher** was born May 22, 1931 in Augusta, Georgia to the late Mr. James Dunn and Mrs. Willie Mae Dunn. Martha Hatcher was passionately devoted as a wife, mother, and humble servant of God. Mrs. Hatcher's marriage to Deacon James L. Hatcher extends beyond the diamond jubilee year, and serves as a true testimony of love and inspiration for her children, Toni, Muriel, and James, and her community. Mrs. Hatcher's greatest life legacy was her capability to love, hope, give freely, and endure with sacrifice and strength for others. In addition to these qualities, she possessed a natural love for knowledge, was an avid reader, and a self-motivated learner. These attributes can be measured by her educational history, which reached its distinction of excellence when she graduated Summa Cum Laude from New York University.

Mrs. Hatcher's undergraduate training in home economics ignited a lifelong love of culinary arts. As a culinarian she understood food science, nutrition, and diet. Mrs. Hatcher skillfully combined her love for elegance, taste, and presentation with her culinary training to develop her unforgettable trademark as an entrepreneur. Mrs. Hatcher's precious moments was her Art of Elegant Entertainment. She hosted elaborate social gatherings that left a notable impression on her guests. Mrs. Hatcher was featured in Food for the Soul publication (Abyssinian Baptist Church congregation) and the New York Times for her entrepreneurship. She took delight in her career as a dietitian with the New York City Department of Education, and was among the first African-American dietitians employed at Lenox Hill Hospital.

Mrs. Hatcher was a servant of God's Kingdom Agenda. She was a devoted member of Abyssinian Baptist Church, and member of Abyssinian's Deaconess Board and other ministries. As a member of the Convent Avenue Baptist Church, Mrs. Hatcher completed her ministerial training in the Stephen Series and met the requirements to serve as a Stephen Minister. At Brown Memorial Baptist Church she served a devoted member. Equipped to teach God's Word, Deaconess Hatcher embarked on a spiritual journey, bringing faith and God's Word in diversified communities with the prospect of renewing hope. Her work as a Stephen Minister was her most cherished accomplishment.

Mrs. Hatcher was a Golden Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. As a soror and a member of the Bronx Alumni Chapter, she understood and acknowledged the progression of critical times. As a result, her affiliations included organizations that revered justice such as the NAACP. She became an active public servant among civil and political organizations for change. Throughout her life she empowered others with timeless strength, and inspired others with her intelligence, life standards, and faith.

Mrs. Hatcher leaves to cherish her memories: a devoted and loving husband, Deacon James L. Hatcher; daughters, Toni R. Hatcher (NY) and Muriel R. Hatcher (TX); son, James L. Hatcher (NY); granddaughter, Samartha Capers (NY); grandsons, SGT. Robert Blair II, USMC (Japan) and James Wm. Blair (NY); great-grandsons, LaRue Capers, Javon Hamilton and Logan Hamilton (NY); great granddaughter, Kamya M. Blair (CA); brothers, James Dunn (Mamie) (GA) and Abraham Dunn (Frankalene) (GA); sisters-in-law, Muriel Pigler (GA) and Mary Dunn (NV); and brother-in-law, Boykin Jones (GA). Aunt Martha had enduring love for all her nieces and nephews, Lisa Alford (NY), Kathy Dunn (GA), Sonya Dunn Brailford (SC), Dary Dunn (GA), Judith Jones (GA), Broderick Jones (GA), Yvonne Magness (GA), Sandy Pigler (GA), Carmen Pigler (DC), James Pigler (GA), Authur Seabrook (deceased), Carlton Seabrook (deceased), Eric Seabrook (GA), Charles Dunn, Jr. (NV), Calvin Carlton Barker (NJ), Dennis Anthony Barker (PA), Keith Barker (NJ), and Thelonious D. Barker (NY); niece, Beverly Barker-Fludd (CT); including a host of cousins and friends. Mrs. Hatcher was preceded in death by her brother, Charles Dunn and sisters, Queen Dunn and Mildred Jones.

# *Order of Celebration Service*

## **PRELUDE**

James Davis, Jr.

## **PROCESSIONAL**

Ministers • Officers • Family

## **INVOCATION**

## **CONGREGATIONAL HYMN**

*“What A Friend We Have In Jesus”* #430

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Old Testament – Psalm 23  
New Testament – Colossians 3:1-4

## **PRAYER OF COMFORT**

## **SOLO**

*“Amazing Grace – He Looked Beyond My Faults”*  
Dr. Gwendolyn Roundtree Evans

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, TRIBUTES AND RESOLUTIONS**

## **THE OBITUARY**

## **SOLO**

*“I Won’t Complain”* – Eunice Newkirk

## **EULOGY**

Reverend Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III

## **RECESSIONAL**

*“Going Up Yonder”*

## *Interment*

*Calverton National Cemetery  
Calverton, New York*





# *I'm Free*

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free I'm following the path God laid for me  
I took his hand when I heard Him call I turned my back and left it all.*

*I could not stay another day. To laugh, to love, to work or play.*

*Tasks left undone must stay that way, I found that peace at the close of day.*

*If my parting has left a void, Then fill it up with remembered joy.*

*A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss, Oh, yes these things I too will miss.*

*Be not burdened with times of sorrow, I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.*

*My life's been full, I savored much. Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.*

*Perhaps my time seemed all too brief, Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.*

*Lift up your heart and share with me, God wanted me now, He set me free!*

*-author unknown*

## **Active Pallbearers**

Calvin Carlton Barker

Keith Barker

Eric Seabrook

Dennis Anthony Barker

Thelonious D. Barker

James William Blair

## **Honorary Pallbearers**

SGT. Robert Blair II

Javon Hamilton

Daryl Dunn

Ruby Coombs

LaRue Capers

Charles Dunn, Jr.

Broderick Jones

Jacques Moore

## *Message of Gratitude*

Thank you for your expressions of comfort and sympathy. Your fervent prayers are deeply appreciated. May the abundant blessings of the Lord be upon each of you. Perhaps you called, gave money, sent a flower, a card of concern or even stopped by to visit, whatever your part, we extend our profound appreciation to each of you for helping us during this season in our lives. And a special thank you to Clark Atlanta University (CAU), Stephen Ministry, NYC Board of Education Retirees, Teamsters Local 237 Retirees Benefit Fund, Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., Golden Life Member, Rev. & Mrs. Thomas Grissom, Deacon & Mrs. Keels, Deacon & Mrs. Beryls, Deacon & Mrs. Abraun Dunn, Augusta, GA and Abyssinian Baptist Church.

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