

*A Celebration of Life*

*Vera M. Merriweather*

**Sunrise**

February 13, 1923

**Sunset**

April 13, 2017



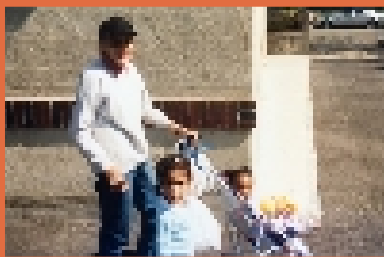
Tuesday, April 25, 2017 - 10:00 a.m.

**COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH**

224 First Street

Englewood, New Jersey

*Rev. Dr. Lester W. Taylor, Pastor*



## *Reflections of Life*

**Vera Myrtle Ward** was born on February 13, 1923 in Baconton, Georgia to Charles and Fannie Ward. She was the fifth of twelve children.

After completing one year of junior college, Vera left home with her younger brother Thomas and moved to Sharon Hill, PA to live with family. There she met and fell in love with William Henry Merriweather Jr.

Bill or Billy Boy, as often called in his younger days, was a charismatic, handsome, outgoing life of the party young sailor smitten by the beautiful Georgia peach. He said the right things and had the right moves. Vera was hooked.

They married on May 2, 1944 in Wilmington, Delaware. The happy couple settled in Brooklyn and later became the proud parents of June Olivia. After Brooklyn, they moved into the Colonial Housing in Harlem, home of the Polo Grounds and the New York Yankees. Second daughter Dawn Elissa was born during this time.

In 1962, the family purchased their first home in Teaneck, New Jersey. Later Joy Christina was born. During this time Vera noticed the need for childcare and began taking care of children from the neighborhood. She provided a clean, caring, structured and disciplined home where children could grow and learn. Parents went to work knowing their children were in a safe environment.

Vera and Bill enjoyed entertaining family and friends. They hosted many cookouts, birthday celebrations and holiday gatherings. Vera was an excellent cook – baking cakes, cookies and the best home-made rolls.

In 1975, Vera became “Mumzie” after the birth of her grandson and “buddy”, Justin. A few years later the

family welcomed two additional blended grandchildren Jac Jr. and Jeneen Graves.

Mumzie was a pet lover, which included birds, bunnies, first dog Fuzzy and her offspring Flip and Flop. Later sister Jeanette's beloved dog Toto was added to the family.

After the passing of her husband of 40 years, she sold her home in Teaneck and moved to Hampton, GA. She became good friends with her new neighbor Margie. She was employed part-time as a daycare worker at Sheltering Arms. A few years passed and Mumzie was on the road again. Homesick for family, she sold her house in Georgia and purchased a two family home in Hackensack, NJ with her sister Doris.

Back in New Jersey, Mumzie was hired as a part-time daycare worker for infants and toddlers at Take My Hand in Leonia. She later cared for children in her home. She attended and enjoyed services at First Baptist Church of Hackensack. When her health declined, Mumzie continued her faith and trust in God with dignity and grace. She found comfort in singing hymns and reading scripture and meditations with her daughters. The view from her window enabled her to enjoy the birds at the feeder and bird bath.

Vera M. Merriweather was preceded in death by parents Charles and Fannie Ward, husband William, siblings Charles Jr., Ella, William, Doris, Jeanette, Helen, Booker T, Henry and Mary. She is survived by her daughter June Goldson and son-in-law Pastor Robert Goldson, daughters Dawn and Joy Merriweather, sister Alma Shirley Brown, brother Thomas Ward, grandchildren Justin, Jac Jr. and Jeneen Hopkins, great grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, cousins and dear devoted friends.

# *Order of Service*

Prelude

Processional

Selection ..... “Amazing Grace”

Scripture Reading

Old Testament - 23rd Psalms ..... Eric Jones, God-Son/Nephew

New Testament John 14:1-6 ..... Joy Merriweather

Prayer of Comfort.....Rev. Ella Hayes,  
Chaplain of Holy Name Medical Center

Solo ..... Evangelist Barbara Mayo

Acknowledgements

& Reflections of Life.....John Best, Nephew

Selection

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

Recessional..... “I’ll Fly Away”

## **Interment**

George Washington Memorial Park  
Paramus, New Jersey

## *There's A Reason*

For every pain that we must bear  
For every burden, every care  
There is a reason.

For every grief that bows the head  
For every tear drop that is shed  
There is a reason.

For every hurt, for every plight  
For every lonely, pain-racked night,  
There is a reason.

But if we trust God, as we should  
It will all turn out for our good  
He knows the reason.

*-Author unknown*

## *Acknowledgement*

The family of the late **Vera M. Merriweather** wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown to their family during this hour of bereavement. May God Bless and Keep You! A special thank you to Mumzie's dedicated doctors over the years. Also we thank the nurses and staff of Holy Name Hospice Care. A Heart-felt thank you to Rev. Dr. Lester Taylor, First Lady Gayle, and to the members of Community Baptist Church. We would also like to thank Bragg Funeral Home.

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