

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
Mary Ernestine Wilson

Sunrise
January 17, 1930

Sunset
August 24, 2025

Saturday, September 6, 2025 - 10:00 a.m.

United Presbyterian Church
375 Van Houten, Paterson, New Jersey

Obituary

Mary Ernestine Wilson was born on January 17, 1930, in Cheraw, South Carolina, to the late Willie and Ada Marshall Griffin. In the 1940s, she moved to Paterson, New Jersey, where she would begin the next chapter of her remarkable journey. It was there that she met the love of her life, Milton P. Wilson, Sr. The two were united in marriage on December 1, 1948, and together they built a strong foundation of love and faith, celebrating 70 years of marriage and raising ten beautiful children – five girls and five boys.

In the 1950s, Mrs. Wilson joined Calvary Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. Albert Rowe, where her devotion to God deepened. In 1971, the family relocated to Vernon, NJ, and she became a faithful member of Glenwood Baptist Church under Pastor Edgir Jean. Following the passing of her beloved Milton, she moved in 2017 to Georgia to live with her daughter Barbara and son-in-law David Harman, where she joined Westside Baptist Church under Pastor Alton Midget.

Mrs. Wilson knew and loved the Lord with all her heart. Her faith was her compass, and her family was her greatest joy. She worked tirelessly caring for her husband and children, and she remained a constant source of wisdom, laughter, and truth. She never hesitated to share her thoughts – whether to offer guidance, encouragement, or a little tough love when it was needed. Her presence was a steady anchor, her love unconditional, and her dedication unshakable. Her children called her daily, a testament to the bond she nurtured with them until her final days.

Beyond her devotion to her family and church, Mrs. Wilson was a woman of many gifts. She loved to sing, filling her home and church with her beautiful voice. She was an outstanding cook, known for preparing three home-cooked meals each day, complete with dessert. She delighted in reading, solving brain word puzzles, and watching classic movies. Stylish and confident, she took pride in being a sharp dresser, loved driving, and carried a spirited yet sweet demeanor – always ready with kindness, yet never afraid to put someone in their place if needed.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Milton P. Wilson, Sr.; her parents, Ada Marshall Griffin and Willie Griffin; her sisters, Willie Louise Gilchrist and Lillian Carlotta Griffin; her daughter, Mary “Bootsie” Wilson; and her son, Stephen Wilson.

She leaves to cherish her memory: one sister, Mildred Neal; four daughters, Eileen Wilson, Carol Green, Barbara Evans-Harman, and Helen Willis; four sons, William Wilson, Milton Wilson, Charles Wilson, and David Wilson; two sons-in-law, David Harman and Charles Mills; and one daughter-in-law, Delia Wilson. Her memory will live on through her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and the countless lives she touched with her love, wisdom, and faith.

Mary Ernestine Wilson’s life was a beautiful testament to devotion to God, to family, and to all who were blessed to know her. Though she has transitioned from this world, the legacy she leaves behind will continue to guide, uplift, and inspire generations to come.

Order of Worship

Prelude and Welcome

Rev. Edgir Jean

Solo – “His Eye Is on the Sparrow”

Marilyn Blackmon-Garret

Scripture Reading – John 14:1-2 (New Testament)

Ashema Evans

Eulogy

Sharkia Scarborough

Song of Praise

“In The Garden”

Homily

Rev. Edgir Jean

Poetic Tribute – “As I Sit In Heaven”

Nyree Wilson

Remarks by Friends and Family

(Please limit remarks to 2 minutes)

Closing Song

Amazing Grace

Prayer and Benediction

Rev. Edgir Jean

Interment

Restland Memorial Park

77 DeForest Ave.

East Hanover, NJ 07936

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

Acknowledgment

The family of **Mary Ernestine Wilson** would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude for all your prayers, kind words, and support during this time of bereavement. Your presence today is deeply appreciated.

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