

*Home Going Celebration for*

*Merteen Gertrude Norris*  
*"The Queen"*

*Sunrise:*  
*October 14, 1937*

*Sunset:*  
*January 29, 2011*

**SERVICE**

*Saturday, February 5, 2011 - 9:00 a.m.*

**ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH**  
525 Bramhall Avenue  
Jersey City, New Jersey

*Reverend Nolan M. Doby, Pastor/Officiating*

## Obituary

*To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the Heaven. A time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to pluck up that which is planted.*

*Ecclesiastes 3:1-2*

**Merteen Gertrude Norris**, daughter of the late Daisy (Meekins) Bowen and the late Frank Bowen was born to this happy union on October 14, 1937 in Sweethall, Virginia. Merteen grew up in West Point, Virginia where she received her education at Sinclare Walker High School in Middlesex County, Virginia. While at Sinclare Walker High School, she played basketball, which was her love. She also learned many trades during that time. During her childhood Merteen was baptized and attended Sunday School and church at Ephesus Baptist Church in King Williams, Virginia. She later attended Mt. Nebo Baptist Church in West Point, Virginia.

Merteen was united in Holy Matrimony to her childhood sweetheart and love of her life John Norris Jr. on April 1, 1957; of this union, three children were born. Merteen and John were married for fifty-three years until her death. As young adults, Merteen and John moved to Jersey City, N.J. with their family to enhance their lives. After moving to Jersey City, Merteen became an employee of Hudson County, where she worked at B.S. Pollack Hospital from November 1963 until April 1994 when B.S. Pollack Hospital closed its doors. She was employed at Hudson County Welfare from November 1995 until the Lord called his angel home on Saturday morning January 29, 2011.

At Hudson County Welfare, the young women that were struggling to get off welfare looked to the “Queen” for spiritual and life guidance. Her kind words encouraged and inspired them. Her famous words to them were, “there is a way out if you pray and trust GOD”. Merteen helped to formulate the 2010 Hudson County Welfare Black History Month program, the first program of its kind.

Also, after moving to Jersey City Merteen became a dedicated and devoted member of St. John’s Baptist Church, demonstrating steadfastness and determination with her walk with the Lord. She has been a member for over fifty years, where she sang in the senior choir and served as Secretary and recently as Treasurer. In December 2010, Merteen participated with the Pearl of Wisdom program, where she won Best Personality; she was a Pearl among Pearls. Also, she won three Queen of Nation’s from the Senior Choir.

Merteen enjoyed cooking, dancing, making people laugh, shopping, getting her nails done and giving her famous backyard BBQ. Her favorite all time drink was Pepsi and her favorite desserts were raisin cream cookies and coconut custard pie. Merteen was very fashionable and loved modeling different outfits and jewelry. Her biggest joy of all was spending time with and enjoying her family. With being married fifty-three years to John, a member of St. John’s Baptist Church for more than fifty years and employed with Hudson County for forty-eight years, Merteen has a total of one hundred and fifty one years of dedicated service to her church, work and family life.

Merteen was preceded in death by her parents, Daisy Meekins Bowen and Frank Bowen, sister, Elaine Bowen, brother, Joseph Meekins (Sarah) and great grandson, Nycere Norris. She leaves to cherish her precious memories: her devoted husband, John Jr.; two devoted sons, Johnnie III and Ivory Norris; her beloved daughter, Ellen Parham (Jesse); four grandchildren, Nyreal (Yvette) and Ivory Norris, Jesse L. (Saleema) and Tiffany Parham; three great grandchildren, Destiny, Ivory III and Irvin; mother-in-law, Ellen B. Norris; three Goddaughters, Chalynda VanEckelen (whom she raised), Leah Smith and Lisa Manning all of New Jersey; two sisters, Mary B. Jones of Charles City, Virginia and Annie Stout (Lenny) of New Jersey; one brother, William Bowen (Linda) of Chesapeake Bay, Virginia; a very special god given daughter, Keala McLeod; and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins; her St. John’s family, the Senior Choir, her Hudson County Welfare family; and a host of life long devoted friends.

Merteen “**The Queen**” we love you, but God loves you best. Your mission here has been accomplished. You will truly be missed; a job well done.

**You were indeed a CHAMPION!**

# Order of Worship

Organ Prelude

Processional ..... Clergy, Deacon, Deaconess and Family

Final Viewing..... Watson Mortuary Service

Hymn of Consolation ..... “No Not One”

Scripture Reading  
Old Testament Psalm 23  
New Testament

Prayer of Comfort

Musical Selection ..... Combined Choir

Solo ..... Rev. R.L. Williams

Acknowledgements, Condolences  
and Resolutions ..... Sis Priscilla Gaillard

Reading of the Obituary ..... Sis Cynthia Waiters (cousin)

Solo ..... Vanessa Williams

Remarks/Reflections.....State Assemblyman: Charles Mainor  
*Hudson County Welfare Representative*  
(2 minutes each) Friends, Family & Officers of the Church & Clergy

Selection ..... Combined Choir

Solo ..... Rev. Rhudell Snelling

Eulogy..... Reverend Doby, Pastor


Committal Benediction Recession ..... Clergy and Family

Recessional Hymn

## **INTERMENT**

Hollywood Memorial and Cemetery  
1500-1621 Stuyvesant Avenue  
Union, New Jersey

*You are invited to join the family for a repast  
downstairs in the church immediately following the burial.*



I heard my Mother Say.....  
She did not come here to stay  
I can hear our mother say  
If you need me someday  
Bow down your head and pray  
I gave to you a legacy  
Not just for you to remember me  
Keep your faith in the Lord above  
Remember his untiring love  
In all that you would say or do  
The Lord will guide you safely through  
Just continue to put your trust in him  
When life seems to dark and dim  
I am glad that I traveled this way  
I can softly hear my Mother say  
I leave behind a Mother's love  
That flows through the veins like a heavenly dove  
Remember the things other's said,  
let the words ring softly in your heads  
"Thank GOD for Jesus"  
"God is Good all of the time"  
and "I WON'T COMPLAIN!"  
You see Jesus has your mother's name

*With all of our love your children, Mom*

#### **Pall Bearers**

- Johnnie Norris III
- Nyreal Norris
- Jesse Parham
- Ivory Norris Jr.
- Howard Jones
- William Wilson

#### **Acknowledgements**

*Our family would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to each of you for your showers of love, kind expressions, messages of comfort, visits and many prayers offered during this most difficult time; it is our sincere prayer that GOD will continue to bless you for your kindness and encouragement.*

The Family of Merteen Gertrude Norris

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*Professional Services Provided By*

### **WATSON MORTUARY SERVICE, INC.**

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