

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;  
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. (Psalm 23: 6)*

*Celebrating The Life of*



*Mother Ethel Mae Bethea*

*Servant of God Well Done, You Have "Graduated to Glory"*

*Sunrise* - September 21, 1923      *Sunset* - November 5, 2014

**Saturday, November 15, 2014**

Viewing - 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Service - 11:00 a.m.

**Union Gospel Tabernacle of Newark, Inc.**

(United Holy Church of America)

756 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard • Newark, New Jersey

Elder Ricardo Jones, Eulogist

Rev. Shirley Graham, Officiating

## *The Obituary*

**Mother Ethel Mae Bethea** was born September 21, 1923 to the late Flora Pridgen and Oscar Phillips in Wilson, NC. She attended school in Snow Hill, NC. She was married to the late Columbus (Skip) Phillips and later to Shepherd Bethea.

Mother Bethea accepted Christ under the ministry of her aunt, Mother Lena Davis at the Pack House in Wilson, North Carolina. After moving to New Jersey during the 1950's, she joined Union Gospel Tabernacle on Clinton Avenue and was baptized by Elder John Wilkins.

On any given Sunday morning in the sanctuary of Union Gospel Tabernacle, you would hear Mother Bethea lifting her voice in praise to God, keeping the beat with her tambourine and singing "Everything is Going Down, But the Word of God!" She would testify to the glory of God, give Him thanks for all that He has done for her and then she would get her shout in.

Mother Bethea was a witness for the Lord. In her younger years, she loved visiting the sick and helping feed patients in nursing homes along with her friend, Sister Fannie. She was truly an example of serving others. As a grandmother, she assumed the responsibility of raising seven grandchildren. She raised her great granddaughter as well. She provided them with a good home, food and clothing. Mother Bethea loved and nourished her grandchildren from infants through adulthood. She did just as the Word of God instructs, "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it."

In spite of heavy home and family responsibilities Mother never forgot the church. When she could she always attended Sunday School, Missionary Meeting, and Prayer and Bible Study often traveling by bus or taxi cab. She supported the church financially and served in the Volunteer Choir and Willing Worker's Club. It was her firm belief that "Holiness is Right" and while living holy, you don't have to take the "Devil's Junk". She always encouraged the saints to love one another because God is love.

Mother Bethea truly loved the saints and her smile could melt your heart. She was witty and had a unique sense of humor. Mother Bethea was known for her integrity, dedication and loyalty to her church.

Mother Bethea was preceded in death by her daughter Lena Mae Phillips-Marhiney and her granddaughter, Alicia Denise Cunningham.

Mother Bethea leaves to cherish her memories: one sister, Glennie Mae Allen (Snowhill, NC); four granddaughters, Christine Perkins (Columbus, SC), Lillian Taylor (Hillside, NJ), Jeanette Johnson (Elizabeth, NJ), Linda Carpenter (Newark, NJ); four grandsons, Elliot Taylor (Newark, NJ), Eugene Perkins (Newark, NJ), Robert Carpenter (Newark, NJ) and Vashon Cunningham (Columbus, SC); twenty-three great-grandchildren including her "Special and very Dear" great granddaughter, Tiara Sha'Monique Riley who lived with until her passing; fifteen great-great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces and nephews, other relatives and friends.

**Sorrowfully Submitted, THE FAMILY**

*Precious*



*Memories*

# Precious Memories



*With Tears in My Eyes. I will never forget this HAND. The hand that wiped my tears as a little girl. The hand that cooked for me and fed me. The hand that chastised me when I was bad "Smiling." The hand that Prayed for me when I was sick and hurting. The hand that washed my clothes and wiped my Nose. How can I forget the Hand that straightened my Hair from Nappy to Straight? I will never Forget the hand that waved to my friends and said, "Come on in, we're gonna have Prayer." YOU ARE THE BEST GRANDMA EVER!! "THANK YOU GRANDMA" for showing and teaching me the ways of Salvation! GRANDMA, you are the wind beneath my wings!!! NOW GOD has taken Your HAND IN HIS HANDS. He has called you from Labor to REWARD. I am going to miss you. I WILL MISS YOUR SMILE. I WILL miss you saying, "Jeanette, sing me a song." Thanks Thanks Thank You!!! Thank you for Your Loving Hands. I am a blessed woman because of you. REST!!! GRANDMA! REST!!! I WILL SEE YOU IN THE MORNING!!*

*Love Always,  
Jeanette*

# *The Service of Triumph*

Rev. Shirley Graham, Officiating

**The Organ Prelude**

**The Opening Hymn**

Union Gospel Tabernacle Mass Choir

**The Prayer of Comfort**

Rev. Lenore Artis

**The Word of the Lord, Minister Eleanor Weeks**

Old Testament – Psalm 23

New Testament – I Thessalonians 4:13-17

**The Hymn of Consolation – The Choir**

**Expressions from the Church Family**

Trustee Lester Ellis

Volunteer Choir and Willing Worker's Club, Trustee Kenneth Townsend

Bible Church School, Sister Beverly Lambert

**Family Tributes**

Praise Dance to Celebrate My Life, Praise Dancers

Expressions, Mother Glennie Mae Allen, Sister

Solo, Sister Jeanette Johnson, Granddaughter

**Acknowledgments, Cards, Condolences and the Obituary**

Trustee Mabel A. Rhodes

**Favorite Song — “Everything is Going Down, But the Word of God”**

Sister Rachel Hester and the Choir

**The Eulogy**

Elder Ricardo Jones, Pastor - Union Gospel Tabernacle

**Final Viewing, Mortician in Charge**

**The Recessional**

*Final Resting Place*

Fairmount Cemetery, Newark, New Jersey

*Repast*

(Following the interment, you are invited to join the family at the Church for repast)



## Psalm 23

*The Lord is My Shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul. He leadeth me in the path of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies. Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

### *Acknowledgements*

*The family of the late **Mother Ethel Mae Bethea** gratefully acknowledges your prayers and many acts of kindness shown to us during this time of bereavement. Much of the strength we will get to carry on comes not only from the Lord, but also from your continued acts of love. We embrace your love and caring acts and will cherish them forever.*

**Professional Services Provided By:**

*Perry Funeral Home, Inc.*

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