

*In Loving Memory of*



*Michele Emily Drinkard*

Sunrise  
July 20, 1954

Sunset  
December 11, 2017



*Service*

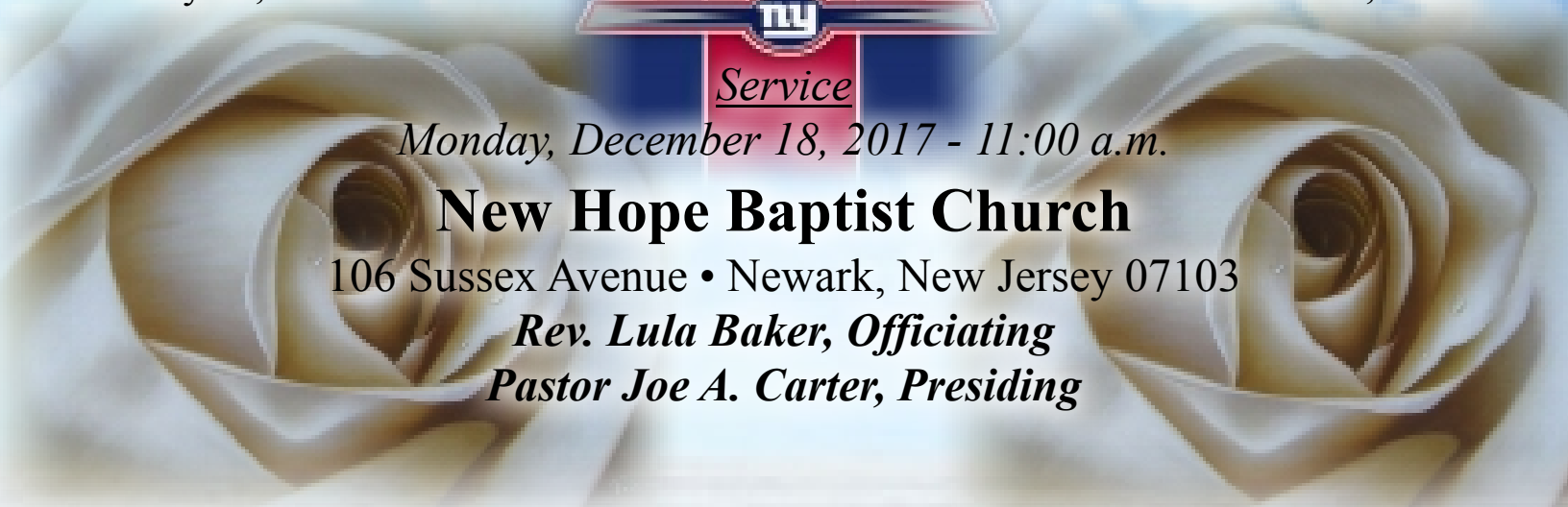
*Monday, December 18, 2017 - 11:00 a.m.*

**New Hope Baptist Church**

106 Sussex Avenue • Newark, New Jersey 07103

*Rev. Lula Baker, Officiating*

*Pastor Joe A. Carter, Presiding*



## Obituary

**Michele Emily Drinkard** was born on July 20, 1954 to the late Nicholas Drinkard Jr., and Alberta Drinkard. She was the second eldest of four children, two boys, two girls. To her friends and family, she was affectionately known as Mikki. Mikki was a wonderfully unique spirit to everyone she came to be around. During her youth, she established friendships that would turn out to be lifelong, bonds that would come to be defined as unbreakable, and a love that would bring into her life seven wonderful children.

She was in high school when she met star running back for Barringer, number 16, Edward Martin Thomas III. They married on July 29, 1974. Mikki's love for Marty would be surpassed only by the love she had for her children. It was this love for her own children that led Mikki to working with other children throughout her life. Whether she was working at a daycare, coaching the Sonics Cheerleaders for a decade, teaching sewing classes at summer camp, or guiding new college students through their studies, Michele had a natural draw to those who wished to learn and became a second mother to hundreds of children. From the childhood friends of her children to the EOF students at Bloomfield College, more than the seven children who called her mom considered her to be a mother to them. It was just who she was to people - guiding, listening, loving, and honest. Sometimes brutally honest - which made people love her all the more.

Over the years, Michele worked for Macy's, St. Michael's Medical Center, as a home healthcare aid for her late Aunt Rebbie, and eventually found a home at Bloomfield College in the EOF department. She devoted nine and a half years to her students, whom she loved dearly, and embarked, during that time, on a path of educational growth herself. She was set to complete her Bachelor's degree in Psychology in 2018.

Mikki loved deeply. Whether it was her family, work, or her New York Giants, she did nothing half-heartedly. When she loved, she gave you her entire heart. Her entire soul. Those who are left to remember her include her brothers and sister, Gerard (Lolly), Glen (Spud), and Nicolette (Gina). She leave on earth to

cherish her memory, honor her spirit, and live by her code of honor, her children - Mikki's Mob - Haashim, Takiyah, Aazim, Halima, Naimah, Aishah, and Nicholas III. Her love blossomed further with the expansion into a new generation that filled her home with twelve grandchildren and two great grand daughters: Deandra Michele, Queirra, Haashim II, Elijah, Amaad, Zayan, Amir, Nashid, Nylah Diggs, Aminah, Isaiah, and Jaa'zim, who lovingly and adamantly called her Mema - not grandma, and great granddaughters Alyssa and Azuri.

Michele found her best friend - and second sister - in Janice Taylor, whose daughter, Toshiba Sticklen became another daughter in Michele's life. Michele in turn, became Mema extended to Toshiba's children, Azeem and Azrael.

Mikki was rarely ever seen without expressing her love for the New York Giants. She was clearly known for her loving nature by so many EOF students at the college. Her passion to see her students succeed and the ease in which made the people around her loved her allowed more love in her life than anyone could ever know. Whether it was her daughter's co-cheerleaders, her son's fellow basketball players, her own fellow classmates, or students whom she worked with, the joy that came from being around the tremendous spirit that was Michele Emily Drinkard was a contagious one.

Her memories will live on in a host of nieces and nephews, including Shalene, Kevin, Autumn, Jordan, Sasha, Ramasa, Shermaine, Lauren, Frederick, Donna, Willis and Kyle, a number of cousins including Dionne, Diane, Michael, Gary, Felicia, Greg, and so many others, and her beloved Aunt Cissy, all of whom will genuinely miss the joy that accompanied her laugh, the jokes that came naturally, and the kindness that naturally came from her heart. Those she leaves behind will never be without her love. Michele - Mikki - Mom - Mema - Ms. Michele - will forever remain in the hearts of those who had a chance to experience the wonderful and glorious being that was Michele Emily Drinkard. While our sight will fail to see her, our hearts will never encounter a beat where she is absent.

She will be loved - and missed eternally... until we meet again.

# *Order of Service*

Hymn of Comfort

Scriptures

*Old Testament*

*New Testament*

Prayer of Comfort

Solo

*Austin Eaton*

Remarks

Acknowledgements, Condolences

Resolutions

Obituary

*(Read Silently)*

Selection

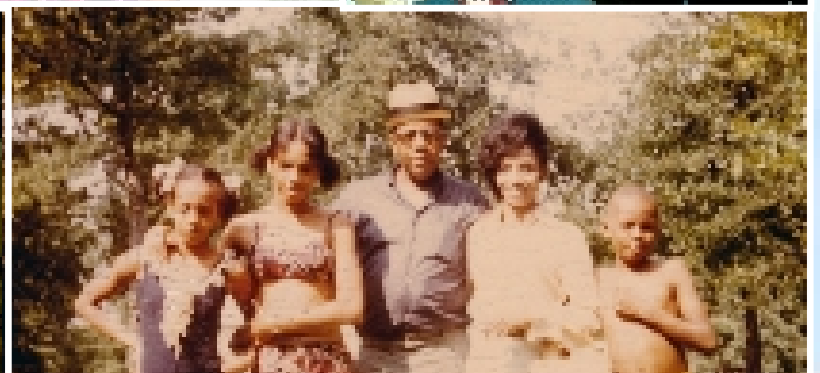
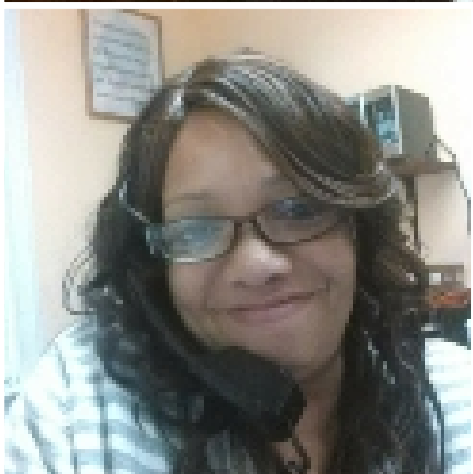
Eulogy

Recessional

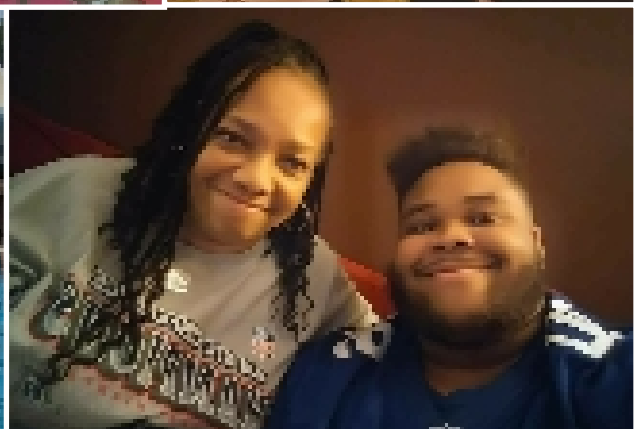
## **Interment**

Evergreen Cemetery  
Hillside, New Jersey

*Dedicate your children to God and point them in the way  
that they should go, and the values they've learned from  
you will be with them for life. - Proverbs 22:6*









Mother you are  
an Angel true  
With you nearby  
We can never be blue.  
How lucky we were  
It was you and no other  
Our friend and protector,  
God Bless you,  
Dear Mother.

In loving memory of our mother.

Love Mikki's Mob.

One Band...

One Sound.

**Pallbearers**

Haashim Drinkard  
Jordan C.N. Drinkard  
Glen Drinkard  
Elijah Tolbert-Drinkard

Haashim Drinkard II  
David Taylor  
Gerard Drinkard  
\*Kevin Drinkard (honorary pallbearer)

*Acknowledgement*

*The family of **Michele Emily Drinkard** would like to thank every heart and soul for the kind gestures, cards, flowers, and expressions of love and sympathy during this time of bereavement. Your love and support during this time was immensely appreciated and of tremendous comfort to the family.*

Professional Services by:  
**Whigham Funeral Home**

580 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Newark, New Jersey 07102  
973-622-6872  
*Carolyn Whigham, Director*

