

*A Service in Memory &  
Celebration of the Life  
of*



*Bernice Bracey*

*Sunrise:*  
June 22, 1924

*Sunset:*  
March 6, 2018

Friday, March 16, 2018 – 9:00 am

**Newman Memorial United Methodist Church**

257 Macon Street • Brooklyn, New York 11216

*Rev. Laurel E. Scott, PhD, Senior Pastor*

# Obituary

**Bernice Bracey** was born on July 22, 1924 in Jedburg, South Carolina, to the Late Isaac and Sallie Gallashaw. She was the second of five siblings; three sisters and one brother: Wilhelmina, Josephine, Lillian and Isaac.

On Tuesday, March 6, 2018, Bernice Bracey, a resident at Seaview Home in Staten Island, NY, was called home by our Lord after a long battle with Alzheimers's. Even in her condition, at times she would smile while humming church hymns.

Bernice married the love of her life, the late George Nathan Bracey Sr., in South Carolina after he fought in WWII and was honorably discharged from The Army in, 1945. They relocated to New York City in the Prospect Heights section of Brooklyn in the late 1940's. There were many family gatherings and celebrations at that home.

Bernice joined Newman Memorial United Methodist Church in 1960, under Reverend Henri M. Deas. She served Newman well, as she held many positions and was a member of numerous committees, including, President of the Parsonage Committee where she founded the Sunday morning coffee hour, and after service fellowship hour; amongst many other endeavors: The Gospel Chorus Voices of Praise under the Director of Music Ministry the late Mr. Douglas Johnson, the Chapelites, attended adult Sunday school, organized church outings such as bus trips and cruises on the Hudson. She also served on various ad hoc committees. In 1979, she moved to St. Albans, Queens but still kept her faithfulness to God and to Newman by continuing as a member until she died. In later years she and George opened their home to foster children; which resulted in two adopted daughters. She also fostered three adult mentally challenged women for years: Helen, Bessie and Jackie.

Bernice was employed as a dietician at St. John's Hospital (now Interfaith Hospital) in Brooklyn, NY. Bernice was an entrepreneur who worked hard and prayed hard to make her dreams a reality. She was good with managing finances and budgeting. If you gave her a dollar, she knew how to turn it into twenty dollars. For a period she hosted parties to sell Tupperware and Celebrity costume jewelry. She also owned and managed a fruit stand from the side of her van near Boys and Girls High School.

Bernice had a flair for fashion and interior design, enjoyed gardening, antique shopping, traveling, loved entertaining by hosting dinner parties and barbecues, and planning fundraising events for her church. The Christmas season was one of her favorite times of the year. Her house would be fully decorated inside and out. Above all things, Bernice loved her family and God. She was a force to be reckoned with, a person you could rely on to get things done. She was the quintessential modern woman of her time.

Bernice's life was committed to serving her community and God. Her service was so apparent that on May 14, 1988 The National Council of Negro Women, in which she was a member, honored her with the Mary McLeod Bethune award, in recognition of achievement in the Bethune tradition.

Bernice leaves seven children to honor her life: George N. Bracey Jr., Joseph W. Bracey, Donald Bracey Sr., Timolin Bracey, Michael T. Bracey, Courtney Bracey, and Keesha T. Bracey. 20 grandchildren: Trenton, Detiesha, Monique, Kareem, Tyree, Donella, Donald Jr., Sabrina, Karie, Timisha, Quanton, Danyale, Oryan, Aisecci, Shamecca, Nelicia, Jalvina, Marshawn, Jahquill and Antique a host of great grandchildren.

Bernice Bracey will be remembered as a loving wife, supportive mother, caring daughter, giving grandmother, trusting friend, and faithful servant to our dear Lord. Her legacy lives on.

# Order of Service



## **Newman Memorial United Methodist Church**

257 Macon Street • Brooklyn, New York 11216

***Rev. Narcisse (Cherie) Philips, Officiating***

Prelude.....“The Old Rugged Cross”  
Organist

The Word Of Grace

Greeting

Hymn.....“How Great Thou Art” UMH 77

Prayer: Eternal God, you know all things in earth and heaven, you are our refuge and strength and our help in times of trouble. Give to us now your grace, in this time of need and loss in the death of BERNICE BRACEY. Lord as we shrink before the mystery of death, let our eyes see the light of eternity. So, speak Lord, speak to us once more your solemn message of life and of death. Help us to live as those who are prepared to die. And when our days here are accomplished, enable us to die as those who go forth to live, so that living or dying, our life may be in you, and that nothing in life or in death will be able to separate us from your great love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Scripture.....Psalm 90:1-10  
Timolin Bracey

Solo.....“Let The Works I Have Done Speak For Me”

Obituary.....Donella Bracey

Hymn.....“Because He Lives” UMH 364

Reflections

Solo.....“I’m Free”

Scripture.....John 14: 1-4, 18-19, 25-27  
Quenton Bracey

Hymn.....“Jesus Is All The World To Me” UMH 469

Homily.....Rev. Philips

Commendation

Chorus.....“Jesus Remember Me”(x2) UMH 488

Closing Prayer

Benediction

Recessional Hymn.....“I’ll Fly Away” TFWS 2282

### **INTERMENT**

Calverton National Cemetery  
Calverton, New York



## *Come To Me*

*God saw she was getting tired  
And a cure was not to be  
So He gently closed those loving eyes  
And whispered "Come to me"  
The days of toil and nights of pain  
The weary hours have passed  
The patient gentle worn out frame  
Has found sweet rest at last.  
Day and night we stood by her  
And saw her in pain,  
Anxiously awaiting her cure  
But our waiting was in vain.  
God who knoweth all things best  
Eased her suffering, gave her rest  
She is gone but not forgotten,  
Never will our memories fade  
Sweetest thoughts of her will ever linger  
Round the place where she rests.*



## *Acknowledgement*

The family of **Bernice Bracey** wishes to extend our sincere gratitude for all acts of kindness and sympathy shown to us at our time of bereavement. God bless you all for thoughtfulness and concern.

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### **A. Barrett Funeral Services, Inc.**

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