

*In Loving Memory of*

A portrait of a woman with voluminous, curly brown hair, wearing a light blue top with a large blue flower pinned to the left side. She is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a soft-focus mix of yellow and light blue.

*Bennie Dudley*

*Sunrise: May 25, 1937*  
*Sunset: March 11, 2018*

Service

*Monday, March 19, 2018 - 7:00 p.m.*

**GREATER CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
2152-58 5th Avenue • New York, NY

# Obituary



To God be the glory for the things that he has done. The presence of the Lord blessed St. Helena Islands in Beaufort, South Carolina on the 25th day of May in a glorious year (that shall not be disclosed) with the birth of our beautiful and beloved Bennie Mae Dudley. Bennie was born to her proud parents the late Louise Rivers and Bennie Dudley. Bennie and her siblings, Marie, Rosa and Josephus were raised by their beloved grandmother, Virginia Rivers.

At a very young and tender age, Bennie received Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior at Brick Baptist Church in Beaufort, SC under the leadership of Rev. J. E. Johnson. When Bennie transitioned to New York City in 1958 she joined the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church under the auspices of Rev. U. S. Brown, followed by Rev. Leonard Williams, and lastly by Pastor Charles Eatman. In 2014, Bennie became a member of Greater Central Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Frank Hawkins.

Bennie received her formative education at St. Helena High School in Beaufort, SC, and completed her higher education at the College of New Rochelle. Bennie worked as a Social Worker with NYC HRA for more than thirty years. She spent much of her career at Lincoln Hospital in the Medicaid Department where she developed lasting friendships with her co-workers.



Bennie was a woman who wore many distinguished hats. She embodied the essence of uniqueness through her innate talents and ardent desire to celebrate life, family and friends. Bennie was truly a "Class Act." She was witty and had a sense of humor like none other. No matter what the situation or where she may have been her comedic skills would kick in and have you in belly aching stitches.

Bennie had a passion for cooking and baking and loved to cater for the holidays or different occasions. She created some of the most delicious meals. The one thing that you would not be is hungry in her presence.

Although sometimes when planning an event and one would ask, "Bennie what are you bringing?" She would vehemently reply, "I'm not bringing anything." However, when her ride would arrive to pick her up, she would almost need another car just to carry all of the food that she made.

Bennie would feed the multitudes especially when she would create and host her annual Cross Program in Beaufort, SC. For ten straight years, Bennie created and displayed her vision of Calvary with the illustration of three self-made huge Crosses for all of Beaufort, SC to view and marvel at during the celebration of Holy Week and Easter. She would gather a great crowd where they would be ministered to and fed a hearty meal. Bennie cooked and baked all of the food free of charge. She did these things with no car, bus or train in site and all while living most of the year in New York. Of course, she did have the support of loving friends and family to lean on for some of the leg work.



Bennie was a self-appointed photographer. Many of us have photos (some cute, some not so cute) of our most precious moments because of her thoughtful picture taking everywhere all of the time. Some of her photos go back more than sixty years and are sure to put a smile on your face when you see them. Bennie would let you know "if I didn't take those pictures, some of you would never know what you looked like."

Stylish and chic she was. Bennie was a self proclaimed seamstress, decorator and fashionista. Sewing was a passionate talent that Bennie developed at an early age and never lost sight of. She made most of her own clothes, hats and home decors (she could transform a room). She even sewed and designed clothing for others.

Bennie often considered having her creations patented. She was a diva extraordinaire! Bennie enjoyed writing poetry, skits and plays as fundraisers for her church family. She was truly a visionary who enjoyed the flexibility of expressing her thoughts in ministry.

Bennie was an event planner. She organized all of our family reunions, cookouts, bus rides, cruises and yes even dances (Apple Tree Dance) back in the days. She enjoyed the gathering of friends and family having a good time.

She was very giving and supportive to her friends and family.



Everybody knows that Bennie was Queen of the "Fuss Box." If she hadn't seen or heard from you in a long period of time, you should just be prepared to hear her fuss you out for the first ten to fifteen minutes of your encounter.

That was her way of saying, "I missed you", as she will be sorely missed.

One thing that has never been truer is that Bennie loved, loved, loved her one and only son, Derrick as she honored his absence from her life annually. Becoming a grandmother was one of the proudest days of her life and she doted on her grandson, Terrell.

Bennie loved butterflies with the Monarch being her favorite. On Sunday afternoon, March 11, 2018 our beautiful butterfly Bennie slipped out of her cocoon and into the hands of our Lord and Savior. Bennie was preceded in death by her parents, and her one and only beloved son, Derrick A. Lopez. Bennie leaves to celebrate her memory: her grandson, Terrell A. Lopez; her siblings, Marie Alston (Abe Alston, Sr.), Rosa Bryan (Frank Bryan), and Josephus Rivers; a special thanks to Whitney Miles; godsons, Eric Rivers, Jr. and Jason; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, cousins, friends, neighbors, former co-workers and co-laborers of the Lord.

Lovingly submitted,

The family

# Order of Service

Organ Prelude

Processional.....Clergy and Family

Congregational Hymn ..... "Blessed Assurance"

Scripture Readings: .....Elder Sharon Houston-Hodge  
Old Testament - Psalm 90:1-12  
New Testament - II Timothy 4:6-8

The Prayer of Comfort.....Deacon Charles Cooper

Selection.....Combined Choir

Resolutions and Acknowledgements of Condolences.....Sis. Priscilla Pencal

Family Tributes  
Liturgical Dance – Mariah Alston - Niece  
Poem - Charlie Guyton

Reflections (Limited to 2 Mins.).....Community and Family

Obituary.....Sis. Priscilla Pencal

Selection.....Deacon Wilson Joyner

Eulogy.....Pastor Frank Hawkins

Final Viewing

Benediction

Recessional

Interment

Rosehill Cemetery  
Linden, New Jersey



## To Say Goodbye

*To say goodbye is not the end  
To all my family and friends  
For life goes on, you must endure  
For my eternity is sure.  
Remember all the good times  
The memories we've shared  
The precious jewels of laughter  
The tender love and care.  
I found my resting place  
God's peace surrounds my soul  
Let love abound in all your hearts  
Let heaven be your goal.*

*-Author unknown*

## Acknowledgement

The family of **Bennie Mae Dudley** is deeply appreciative of all calls, cards, visits, prayers and other acts of love that was displayed during this time of bereavement. Through our darkest hour, the endless outpouring of love kept our hearts enlightened and for this we will always be grateful.

**2352 8th Avenue • Manhattan, NY • (212) 666-8300**  
**1406 Pitkin Avenue • Brooklyn, NY • (718) 774-1023**  
**1018 Prospect Avenue • Bronx, NY • (718) 542-3833**

*Clifford V. James, President & CEO*  
[www.unityfuneralchapels.com](http://www.unityfuneralchapels.com)  
email: [unityfc@aol.com](mailto:unityfc@aol.com)



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