

Celebration of Life



First Lady Diane J. Byrd

Service

Saturday, May 18, 2019 - 9:00 a.m.

Good Shepherd Church of Christ

633 Bergen Avenue

Jersey City, New Jersey 07304

Bishop James Herron, Sr, Pastor

Elder James Herron, Jr., Officiating

Obituary

Heaven has one more angel, by the passing of **Diane J. Byrd**, who was born to the late parents of Charles and Ethel Baker in Jersey City, NJ. Diane received her education in the New Jersey education system. She graduated from Synder High School in Jersey City and attended the New Jersey City University (formerly known as Jersey City State College) with a degree in Early Childhood Education. Her first and only job was at the New York Telephone Company. She worked faithfully there until she retired.

Diane accepted Jesus Christ at an early age and joined the Cornerstone Church of Christ. As an adult she joined Good Shepherd Church in Christ. She was a faithful member until she met and married Eugene Byrd in December on Christmas Eve. After being married to her husband, she converted her faith to Baptist and joined with the Second Macedonia Baptist Church in Elizabeth, NJ. She later became the First Lady of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Jersey City, NJ.

Her Christian life was as the fragrance of a beautiful rose. She was a gentle woman, pleasant toward everyone; enjoyed talking about the Lord. Diane was a loving person and would help anyone in need. She loved and cherished her husband and her family. She was always ready to lend a helping hand. Diane was an Event Planner and was known as the person to go to for family and friends. Diane loved to travel and did so extensively to Germany, Texas, Florida and was raised as a military child. Her favorite hobby was crocheting.

Diane leaves behind her loving and devoted husband, Rev. Eugene Byrd; a daughter, Yolander Mahone (Kariem); 5 brothers: Reginald Baker (Hope), Gerald Baker (Janet), Carl Baker – deceased, Alan Baker – deceased, and Terrance McMoore (Wanda); 2 sisters: Karen Baker and Kim Baker Chavis (Wade); 1 – aunt: Jo Baker of Los Angeles, CA; 7 sister-in-laws: Trustee Hattie Rhodes, Carolyn Hendricks, Agnes Byrd, Pat Lamb, Vanessa Byrd, Theresa Jones, and Sandra Byrd; 1 brother-in-law: Leon Byrd (Pam); 22 nieces and nephews: Rev. Reginald Byrd, Sr. (Kelly), Gerald Baker, Jr (Margaret), Corey Baker (June), Donell J. Baker – deceased, Reginald Baker, Jr. (Latasia), Tiffany Baker, ShyKera Coats (Kenneth), Antonio C. Baker – deceased, Wendell Baker, Sr., Antwan McMoore – deceased, Jazzie-Blue Baker, Wade Chavis, Jr., Tyquan Davis, Terwanda McMoore, Tamara McMoore, Terri McMoore, Valerie McNear, Hope Lane, Kwanette Thompson, Dorethea Thompson, and Alethea Thompson; 33 Great nieces and nephews: Christopher Waiters, Jr., Haduyah McCall, Ny'Asia Powell, Corey D. Baker, Jr., Jeriah Bell, Daiquan Baker, Donte' Baker, June Baker, Gerald Baker III, Heaven Baker, Reginald W. Baker III, Jamia Baker, Mikala Baker, Jaelah Baker, Wendell Baker, Jr., Amini Baker, Leanna Baker, Jaden Coats, Jermaine D. Baker, Erika Bess. Margaret Baker, Chyna Baker, Shayla Cook, Lorenzo Bess, Jr., Ja'Nee Baker, Essence Newhill, Serenity Newhill, Bryan Bess, Daisha Baker, Zachery Baker, Adruyana McNear, India Jackson, and Devin Wright; 5 – great-great nieces and nephews: Christian Baker, Brody Kade, Ashanti Hadden, Chanel Baker, and Jabari Reese; 2 God-daughters: Tamica Herrron-Webster and Taniah Herron; 1 special friend – Stephanie Reed and a special nurse – Christine, and a host of cousins and friends.

Sadly submitted,
The Family

Order Service

Officiator.....Elder James Herron Jr.
Good Shepherd Church of Christ
Jersey City, New Jersey

Organ Prelude.....Professor Fred Hill
Saint James Missionary Baptist Church
Jersey City, New Jersey

Professor James Walker
Zion Baptist Church
Jersey City, New Jersey

Processional.....Clergy & Family

Opening Prayer.....Reverend Johnnie Spry, Pastor
The House of Prayer Baptist Church
Jersey City, New Jersey

Opening Hymn.....“Hold to God’s Unchanging Hand”

Scripture.....Old Testament -Psalm 23
Reverend Nolan M. Doby, Pastor
Philadelphia Missionary Baptist Church
Jersey City, New Jersey

Scripture.....New Testament - John 14:1-10
Reverend Joseph Jones, Pastor
Monumental Baptist Church
Jersey City, New Jersey

Solo.....Reverend Annie Jones
Monumental Baptist Church
Jersey City, New Jersey

Prayer of Comfort.....Bishop Thomas P. Robinson, Pastor
Evangelical Gospel Tabernacle
Bayonne, New Jersey

Scripture.....New Testament - 2 Timothy 4:1-8
Reverend Vangie Williams, Assistant Pastor
Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church
Jersey City, New Jersey

- Solo.....Ms. Sandra Williams
Salem Baptist Church
Jersey City, New Jersey
- Poem.....Ny' Asia Powell, Niece
Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church
Jersey City, New Jersey
- Expression.....Trustee Hattie Rhodes
Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church
Jersey City, New Jersey
- Expression.....Trustee Callie Wright
Zion Baptist Church
Jersey City, New Jersey
- Expression.....Elder Bill Thompson
Miracle Baptist Church
Plainfield, New Jersey
- Instrumental Solo.....Reverend John Terry, Pastor
Miracle Baptist Church
Plainfield, New Jersey
- Expression.....Reverend Rudolph Daniels, President
Interdenominational Ministry Alliance of Jersey City
- Expression.....Brother Omar Barbour
Saint Michael's Methodist Church
Jersey City, New Jersey
- Expression.....Reverend Reginald Byrd, Nephew
New Zion Revival Temple
Newark, New Jersey
- Expression.....Kabili Tayari
Director of Economic Development
Industrial of Jersey City
- Musical Selection Ethel Pope
- Expression.....First Lady Mother Callie Herron
Good Shepherd Church of Christ
Jersey City, New Jersey
- Expression Reverend Vincent Thomas, Pastor
Bethesda Baptist Church
Jersey City, NJ

Tribute.....Reverend Eugene Byrd, Husband
Pastor, Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church
Jersey City, New Jersey

**Acknowledgements & Condolences..... Deaconess April Womack
Philadelphia Missionary Baptist Church
Jersey City, NJ

Mrs. Linda Pearson
Good Shepherd Church of Christ
Jersey City, New Jersey

New Jersey State Senator.....The Honorable Sandra Bolden Cunningham
State Assembly Person.....The Honorable Angel McKnight
Hudson County Freeholder.....The Honorable Jerry Walker
Hudson County Executive.....The Honorable Thomas DeGise
Hudson County Sheriff.....The Honorable Frank X. Schillari
City Council Jersey City.....The Honorable Joyce Watterman

Obituary.....Mrs. Yolander Baker Mahone, Daughter
Mr. Gerald Baker Jr., Nephew

Selection.....First Lady Diane Byrd Memorial Choir

Eulogy.....Bishop James Herron Sr., Pastor
Good Shepherd Church of Christ
Jersey City, New Jersey

Final Viewing

Recessional..... Good Shepherd Church of Christ

Repast.....Church Dining Hall

Final Repose.....Monday, May 20, 2019 - 10:30 a.m.
Bayview Cemetery
Jersey City, New Jersey

“I’ll Fly Away”

Pallbearers

Gerald K. Baker Jr.
Corey D. Baker
Reginald W. Baker Jr.
Christopher Waiters Jr.
Wendell L. Baker

TRIBUTE TO MY WIFE

Diane, my light went out on May 4, 2019 when you, my beloved wife, Diane J. Byrd, passed away at Bayonne Medical Center in Bayonne, NJ. I thought this just can't be true. I was looking forward to when you would be coming home. But God in His infinite wisdom had other plans. You were going to a heavenly home, to be with the Lord, Jesus Christ. There, you will see loved ones that had gone on before.

Diane, you were not only a wonderful wife, you were a devoted friend. You were a cheerful, friendly person and made many warm friends. You never criticize anyone. Instead, you referred to their good qualities. You wouldn't shade the truth no matter what the consequences. You loved your church and your church family. You were faithful to the end.

I close this tribute with a feeling of humility and submission to God's authority. I know many men have a wonderful wife, but no one has ever had a better one than I. You were efficient, loyal and true. You inspired me in ways I cannot explain. I have lost a worthy helpmate but I have many, many memories to hold onto.

I glory in the day we shall meet again. Thank you for loving me!

Forever Grateful,
Your Husband,
Rev. Eugene Byrd

A TRIBUTE TO MY WIFE

The man who finds a wife treasures her wealth far above jewels. (Proverbs 31:28) and he receives favor from the Lord. In the middle of a snowstorm, I was blessed to meet Diane J. Baker.

We met at the Cornerstone Church of Christ; 577 Ocean Avenue, Jersey City, NJ. From the first day until today, she has always greeted me with a smile on her face and a cheery note in her voice. She has been and will always be a delight. Her name Diane, is more precious than silver or gold. Diane is a great name and it means, "Heavenly Divine" for a man such as "I".

She has been a very deep and steady source of golden sunshine in my life. Diane, THANK YOU!

Friendship

It is a dream come true to be your husband and best friend. It has taken a lot of sacrifice and effort on both of our parts but it was worth it. THANK YOU!

Encouragement

You have prodded me onward many times when I wanted to quit. I would not be where I am today had it not been for you. THANK YOU!

Belief In Me

You have been my biggest fan. You believed in me when I didn't believe in myself. Thank You!

Faithfulness

Never have I questioned your fidelity to me or our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Like the sun that rises every morning and the moon every evening, great in your faithfulness. THANK YOU!

Love and Respect

You have loved me and even when I was not lovable and respected me while I was down. THANK YOU!

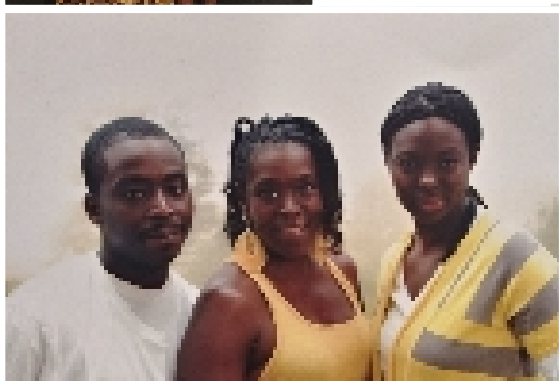
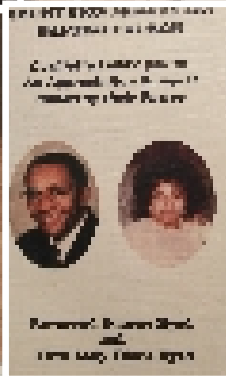
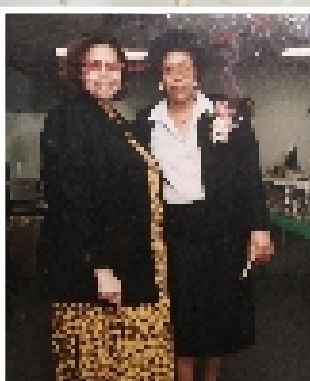
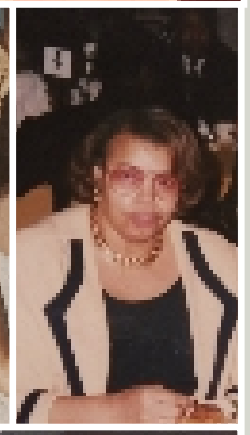
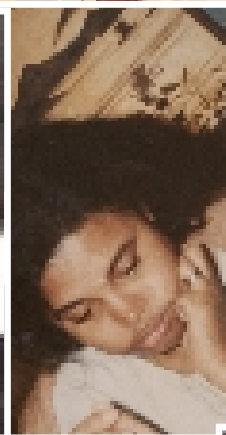
You have been a wonderful mother to children; you have been to them, an example of the following: a teacher, a comfort, a place to turn for insight and wisdom, a friend, a role model, a light at the end of the tunnel and one in whom they can trust and feel secure. We Thank you.

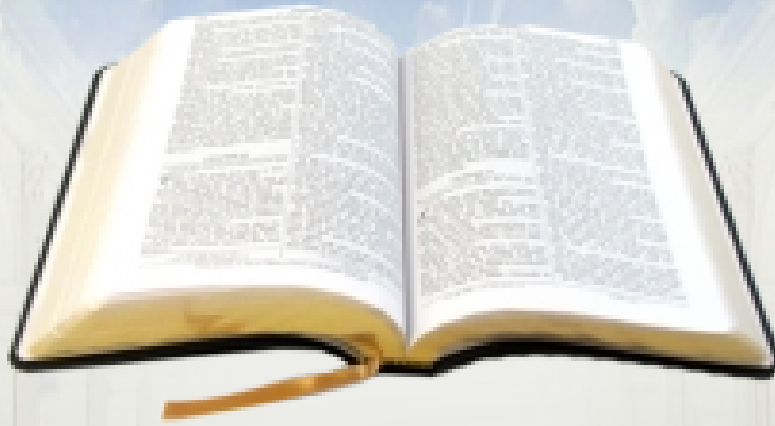
Diane you make me smile and laugh, you are forgiving, patient, kind, gracious, and understanding. You are my greatest listener, you pick me up when I am down and you follow me all around on this journey.

Together you are the light of each and every day of my life and you give me hope to carry on. I said "Goodbye" to my loving wife on Saturday, May 4, 2019 at 5:30 P.M at Bayonne Medical Center. God dispatched an angel to take you to your heavenly home.

I held your hand as you took your last breath. Diane, you fought a good fight; you kept the faith. For we know that if our earthly house, this tabernacle, were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. (2 Corinthians 5) We love you but God loves you best.

I will always love you!





Romans 8:18

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Acknowledgements

*The family of the late **Mother Diane J. Byrd** wishes to express their sincere appreciation for the acts of kindness and love shown to them during their time of sorrow. Special thank you to the Bayonne Hospital, Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Good Shepherd Church of Christ and The Family Funeral Home.*

Professional Services Provided By:

The Family Funeral Home, LLC

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www.thefamilyfuneralhome.us

Kenneth Cattenhead NJ Lic. No. JP04153

