

In Loving Memory of



Deacon Ruth Reynolds

Sunrise
April 8, 1941

Sunset
September 8, 2019

Service

Thursday, September 19, 2019 - 11:00 a.m.

BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

1635 Bergen Street • Brooklyn, New York 11213

Rev. Dr. Arlee Griffin, Jr., Senior Pastor

Order of Service



Organ Prelude
Deacon Joseph Jones

The Viewing and Processional

The Song of Comfort "When I See Jesus"
Rev. Willie Lane, Jr.

The Scriptures

Old Testament : Psalm 27 - Deacon Virginia Ford
New Testament John 14:1-3 - Deacon Rosa Thorne

The Prayer of Consolation
Dr. Louvenia Ward

The Song of Consolation
"May the Work I've Done Speak for Me"
The Celebration of Life Choir

The Reflections
Bro. Rodney Holliday, Nephew
Deacon Ronald Bridges, Diaconate
Deacon Joseph AE Jones, Minister of Music

The Acknowledgements & Obituary
Deacon Annie Amaker

The Song of Assurance
"Hold to God's Unchanging hand
The Celebration of Life Choir

The Eulogy
Senior Pastor Griffin

The Prayer of Departure
Pastor Hyde

The Recessional

Interment

Fredrick Douglass Cemetery
Staten Island, New York

Obituary

Ruth Reynolds, aka Lil Ruth, named after “Big Ruth,” her first cousin, was born in the small town of Camden, South Carolina on April 8, 1941. Ruth’s formative education took place in its public schools, where she attended Jackson Elementary, Jackson Middle, and Jackson High School. The premature death of Ruth and her sibling’s father, James English Sr., the husband of Hester Reed-English, compelled the siblings to seek employment, to help support their recent widowed “Momma,” Hester Reed-English.

Ruth, the fifth of nine children, born to James English Sr. and Hester Reed-English, along with some of her siblings, quickly learned how to balance the tremendous task of picking cotton in the searing sun during half the school year and undertake the challenge of meeting the exceptional academic rigors that school demanded.

Camden’s small community made it a hospitable place in which families helped one another. Josephine Reynolds, the mother of John Reynolds Sr., helped to raise Hester English, the mother of Ruth Reynolds. Sacrificial love tied the two families. The intermingling of the families sparked a permanent relationship between, John (Bubba) Reynolds and Ruth (Lil Ruth) English. On July 7, 1959, Lil Ruth and Bubba, her childhood and teenage sweetheart, got married.

Shortly after the couple married, they migrated to Brooklyn, New York. Ruth sought out and joined a house of worship, Holy House of Prayer for All People. The couple moved to 1220 St Marks Avenue, across the street from Berean Baptist Church, joining later. The children followed. Ruth’s petitioning of prayers on behalf of John led him to accept Christ. John attended regularly and became an active member. The couple became a ministering duo, singing those old southern gospels that could warm a heart that had grown cold.

Later the Berean Baptist Church ordained the couple deacons. By then Ruth had been working as a dietitian at Manhattan Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital, Manhattan ENT. However, she desired to care for patients. Hence, Ruth enrolled in the nursing program at Clara Barton High School for Health Professions. Manhattan ENT promoted Ruth to nurse’s aide. After thirty-three years of service, Ruth retired at the age of sixty-two.

God equipped Deacon Ruth with both a natural and spiritual gift. Her sunny smile coupled with her genuine greetings could bring a smile to most persons who were “having a bad day.” Out of Ruth’s natural ability to make people feel special arose her spiritual gift to minister to persons with compassion and understanding. The growth of Deacon Ruth’s spiritual gift also led her into the ministry of helps such as the Choral Ensemble, the Berean Choir, Christian Endeavors, and the prison ministry. When occasion required, “Deacon Reynolds,” “Mother Reynolds,” “Ms. Ruth,” each of which she was affectionately called, had no reservations about encouraging a person to broaden her/his view about a concern in order to find a solution.

On September 8, 2019, between 7 pm to 8 pm, Deacon Ruth Reynolds heard “The Holy Hills of Heaven calling her to mansions bright across the sea where loved ones wait, and crowns are given. [She must have thought] ‘...the hills of Home [are] calling me.’ [Ruth’s] ... flesh was but a prison, ... that held her soul, but her doors of clay burst wide open as [God’s] angels set her spirit free. [Hear her shout,] ‘I’m taking ...flight like the mighty eagle because the Hills of Home [they’re] calling me.’”

Deacon Ruth Reynolds leaves to cherish her memory, her husband of 60 years, Deacon John Reynolds Sr., her children, Wayne Reynolds, John Kevin Reynolds Jr., La-Tanya and Dwayne Bynum (son-in-law). Her grandchildren, Tamika and James Gibbs (grandson-in-law), Kierra Reynolds, Wayne Reynolds Jr., Ezekiel Reynolds, Lakia J. Cooper, her greatgrandchildren, Wayne N. Reynolds II, Morgan C. Gibbs, Gerren V. Devlin Jr., her siblings, Henry English, Doris Artis, Grant and Annick English (sister-in-law), Brenda Prince, and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Deacon Ruth Reynolds’ loved ones who preceded her in death are Eric Reynolds (son), her siblings, Mary English, Ceasar English, James English, Luther English, and Ruby (English) Gibbs.

If Tears Could Build A Stairway

*If tears could build a stairway
And memories were a lane.
We would walk right up to heaven
And bring you back again
No farewell words were spoken
No time to say goodbye
You were gone before we knew it
And only God knows why
Our hearts still ache in sadness
And secret tears still flow
What it meant to lose you
No one can ever know
But now we know you want us
To mourn for you no more
To remember all the happy times
Life still has much in store
Since you'll never be forgotten
We pledge to you today
A hallowed place within our hearts
Is where you'll always stay.*

-Author unknown



Acknowledgements

With profound gratitude, the Reynolds family expresses their sincerest appreciation to all for all your acts of kindness, whether through the showering of verbalized compassion, or a creative expression of empathy, or a reassuring smile, or even a whispered prayer.

We thank our Church family and friends for being there, in body or in spirit through the discipline of contemplative prayer.

Professional Services Provided By:

Armstrong Funeral Home

2037A Utica Avenue • Brooklyn, New York 11234

