

*Celebrating The Life of*



*Laura Mae Tarplein*

*Sunrise*  
*September 24, 1926*

*Sunset*  
*November 3, 2019*

*Service*

*Saturday, November 9, 2019 - 2:00 p.m.*

**St. Matthew A.M.E. Church**

336 Oakwood Avenue  
Orange, New Jersey 07050

*Rev. Dolly Roberts, Officiating*  
*Mrs. Juanda Boxley, Organist*

# Obituary

**Laura Mae Tarpink** was born September 24th, 1926 to Otis Dillard and Suzie Evans in Bibb County, Georgia.

Throughout her formative years, Laura lived in Orlando, Florida and Macon, Georgia. Later, she moved to Newark, New Jersey where she married Arthur R. Tarpink. Together, they raised four children: Geneva, Drefus, Darrell and Tina.

Upon moving to East Orange, New Jersey in 1963, Laura worked as a domestic professional to many prominent families until she retired.

Laura's love for God was demonstrated in her love of family, neighbors and community. She was very active as a faithful member and servant of Gethsemane Baptist Church of Newark, Co-Founder of the North Maple Avenue Neighborhood Association, and member of the PTA throughout her children's school years. She was President of the local chapter of the National Association of Fashion & Accessory Design (NAFAD) and was a faithful member of the New Jersey Eastern Stars, receiving the honor of Queen. With a passion and love for youth and family, she was often seen as a surrogate mom and mentor. Mom T, as she was affectionately known, volunteered as a Girl Scout & Cub Scout leader and community representative for many years.

Some of our forever memories will be of Laura's incomparable peach cobbler and fried chicken. Her love to travel and recreating experiences in the backyard on North Maple Avenue were priceless, including a spectacular Hawaiian Luau and a Caribbean party, complete with a steel drum band. She made her home and the neighborhood safe and fun. A few of her favorite sayings were, "I love you", "God bless you", and "Remember me in your worship."

In 1997, Laura survived breast cancer. Her undeniable strength and faith allowed her to experience many years of good health following her healing.

Laura is predeceased by her mother, Suzie Evans, her father, Otis Dillard, and her stepfather, Robert Smith, Sr.

After a short illness, Laura was called home to be with her Lord on Sunday, November 3rd, 2019. She leaves to cherish her memories her sons, Drefus and Darrell (Tracey) Tarpink; her daughters, Geneva Hudson and Tina (Bernard) Tarpink-McNeill; her grandchildren, Cincy Chanel Tarpink, Emery Darrell (Jasmine) Tarpink, Miles T. Ellington and Kori Alexander Tarpink-McNeill; her brother, Robert (Cheryl) Smith, Jr.; her niece, Toni (James) Duglas; her nephews, Craig A. Smith, Darryl G. (Adrienne) Smith; her goddaughter, Deborah Alston-Davis; her special sister, Lossie Bostic; her special niece, Jacqueline Bostic (and children); and a host of extended family and friends.

# *Celebration of Life for Sis. Laura Mae Tarpkin*

**Saturday, November 9, 2019**

THE PUBLIC VIEWING.....1:00 pm – 1:59 pm

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The Order of Worship  
2:00 pm

THE CALL TO WORSHIP.....Rev. Dolly Roberts

**Minister:** *The hour has come and now is, when the true worshipers shall  
worship in spirit and in truth. Amen.*

THE HYMN OF COMFORT.....“Come, Ye Disconsolate”

*1. Come, ye disconsolate, where'er ye languish, Come to the mercy seat,  
fervently kneel. Here bring your wounded hearts, here tell your anguish; Earth  
has no sorrow that heav'n cannot heal.*

*3. Here see the bread of life, see waters flowing Forth from the throne of God,  
pure from above. Come to the feast of love; come, ever knowing Earth has no  
sorrow but heav'n can remove.*

THE PRAYER OF COMFORT  
**(No Walking, Entry Or Exit At This Time)**

THE SCRIPTURE READING

Old Testament: Psalm 23

New Testament: John 14:1-6

THE SELECTION.....The Combined Choir

THE REMARKS.....Sis. Carol Clark, Bro. Ted Stephens,

Bro. John Washington, Pastor Bernard McNeil

THE OBITUARY.....Sis. Cincy Tarpkin

THE SELECTION.....The Combined Choir

THE EULOGY.....Rev. Dolly Roberts, Ministerial Staff

St. Matthew A.M.E. Church, Orange, NJ.

THE COMMITTAL, BENEDICTION & RECESSIONAL  
Clergy & Family

**Final Disposition**  
*Rosedale Crematory  
Orange, New Jersey*

***Immediately following the service, the family will receive guests and  
share in repast downstairs in the Dining Hall.***

# *When I Must Leave You*

*When I must leave you for a little while  
Please do not grieve and shed wild tears  
And hug your sorrow to you through the years  
But start out bravely with a gallant smile  
And for my sake and in my name  
Live on and do all things the same  
Feed not your loneliness on empty days  
But fill each waking hour in useful ways  
Reach out your hand in comfort and in cheer  
And I in turn will comfort you  
And hold you near  
And never, never be afraid to die  
For I am waiting for you in the sky!*

*-Helen Steiner Rice*

## *Pallbearers:*

*John Washington, Taz Goode & Derek East*

## *Acknowledgement*

*The family of Laura Mae Tarpkin thanks all of you for your many expressions of love, sympathy, and prayers so graciously extended. Thank You and May God Continue to Wonderfully Bless All of You.*

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