

A portrait of an elderly African American woman with short, wavy grey hair and glasses. She is wearing a dark blue or black patterned jacket with white floral designs and a white pearl necklace. The background is a soft-focus image of purple and white flowers in the upper portion and a sunset or sunrise over a body of water in the lower portion.

*In Loving Memory of*

*Mother*

*Mary Lee Flowers-Kirkland*

*Sunrise*

*August 16, 1929*

*Sunset*

*February 16, 2011*

*Wednesday, February 23, 2011 - 10:00 a.m.*

**GREATER BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH**

305 Morris Avenue

Newark, NJ 07103

*Reverend Joe D. McClain, Officiating*

## ***Loss of Mother***

Now that I am gone,  
remember me with smiles and laughter.

And if you need to cry,  
cry with your brother or sister  
who walks in grief beside you.

And when you need me,  
put your arms around anyone  
and give to them what you need to give to me.

There are so many who need so much.

I want to leave you something --  
something much better than words or sounds.

Look for me in the people I've known  
or helped in some special way.

Let me live in your heart  
as well as in your mind.

You can love me most  
by letting your love reach out to our loved ones,  
by embracing them and living in their love.

Love does not die, people do.

So, when all that's left of me is love,  
give me away as best you can.

*~ Author unknown*

## ***Grandma***

Thank you for the gift of love,  
now you're sharing it up above.

You had many things to say.

All in a caring way.

You always saw good in everyone,

No matter what they've done.

You were always the one we could all lean on.

Even though it must have felt like a ton.

You were always the strength of the family.

Now we must let you rest calmly.

As we say goodbye,

as tears roll down our eyes.

I know your place in heaven has a good view.

Because you're telling God,

I need to keep an eye on a few.

I know you will always be in our hearts and mind.

## *Reflections of Life*

**Mother Mary Lee Flowers-Kirkland**, affectionately referred to everyone as “Baby” was born in Pike County, Alabama on August 16, 1929 to Marion Daniel Flowers and Dovie McCloud-Flowers. After her parent’s death, she was loved, raised by her step-mother Classie Mae Flowers.

Mary Lee accepted Christ at an early age and was baptized at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Dothan, Alabama. Mary served the Lord until her death. Her favorite saying was “The Lord will make a way”.

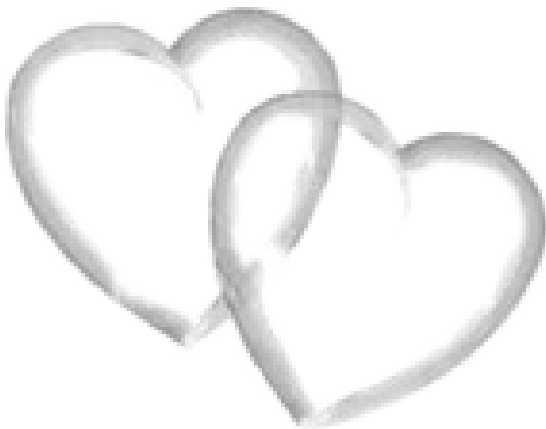
Mary graduated High School in the Alabama’s School system. She relocated to New Jersey. On January 1, 1954, Mary married Leeander Kirkland they remained together until his death in August 2008. She was employed at Trinity Paper Bag & Company for thirty years.

Mary served proudly on a number of committees at Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church where she served proudly for forty years and was the Mother of Greater Bethel Baptist Church. She WAS the “Kitchen Committee” and served proudly in this position. She was known for her Peach Cobbler, Sweet Potato Pie and Macaroni & Cheese which she made with love. She was a proud supporter of the General Baptist State Convention and served as the Financial Secretary of the Christian Fellowship Missionary Baptist Association (Quarterly Union).

She also served on the following Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church Affiliations: President of the Missionary Society Circle #2, Usher Board, Trustee Board, Co-Worker’s Club, Pastor’s Aide, Christian Fellowship Missionary Baptist Association, State Convention of New Jersey, National Convention of USA, Senior Choir and the Kitchen Committee. She truly loved to work for the Lord.

Mary was preceded in death by a sister, Henrietta and brothers, Ernest, Marion Frank, and James Douglas.

Mary leaves to cherish her memory: her children, James D. Flowers (Carolyn) of Thomasville, NC, Brenda Flowers of Newark, NJ, Keith Kirkland (Lisa) of Newark, NJ, Kenneth Kirkland (Linda) of Woodstown, NJ and Lee Andrew Kirkland (Carol) of Rahway, NJ; eleven grandchildren, Dwayne Flowers, Sandra Kirkland, Joi Flowers, David Norris, Kenneth Norris, Kelly Kirkland, Krystal Kirkland, Shelby Johnson, Harrison Mur Kirkland and Jonathan Mur Kirkland; three great-grandchildren, Donovan Kirkland, Briana Kirkland and Bryan Kirkland; sisters, Mary Elizabeth Clark, Robbie Gilmore, Rosie Hurt and Mildred Evans; one brother, James A. Flowers, two sisters-in-law, Ayree Walker and Mary Frank Flowers; special cousins, Norman McCloud, Mattie Ayers, Adrienne Kirkland and Andy McCloud; two aunts, Mary McCloud and Julie Byrd; several godchildren including, Rev. Joe McClain and Rita Johnson; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.



# Order of Service

Musical Prelude

Processional

Selection ..... Greater Bethel Baptist Church Choir

Scripture Readings

Old Testament.....Rev. James Bailey, III  
~ Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist

New Testament ..... Deacon Johnny L. Duncan  
~ Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist

Invocation

Selection ..... Mother Loretta Andrews  
~ Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist

## **Expressions - (Two Minutes Please)**

Christian Fellowship

Quarterly Union

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church

Eastern Star

*Wynhia Lee Felder Martha Chapter #1*

*Martha Chapter #1 - Martha Grand Chapter*

*Order of the Eastern Star, Newark, NJ*

Greater Bethel Baptist Church

The Kirkland Family

Poem Readings ..... Sandra Kirkland – Granddaughter  
Krystal Kirkland – Granddaughter

Selection ..... Greater Bethel Baptist Church Choir

Obituary Read Silently

Acknowledgements ..... Denise Monroe - Niece

Selection ..... James D. Flowers, Son

Eulogy ..... Rev. Joe D. McClain

*Interment ..... Evergreen Cemetery • Hillside, NJ*

*Repast*

*Greater Bethel Baptist Church – Fellowship Hall.*

## *When I Am Gone*

*When I am gone, release me – let me go  
I have so many things to see and do.  
You must not tie yourself to me with tears  
Be happy that we had so many years.  
I gave you love,  
You can only guess, how much  
you gave me in happiness.  
I thank you for the love each have shown,  
But now it is time I travelled alone.  
So grieve awhile for me if grieve you must,  
Then let your grief be comforted by trust  
It is only for a while that we must part  
So bless those memories within your heart.  
I will not be far away, for life goes on.  
So if you need me, call and I will come.  
Though you cannot see or touch me, I will be near  
And if you listen with your heart, you will hear  
All of my love around you, soft and clear.  
Then when you must come this way alone,  
I will greet you with a smile and say,  
“Welcome Home”.*

### *Acknowledgements*

*The family acknowledges with deep appreciation the many comforting messages, prayers, floral tributes, and all other expressions of kindness shown during our hours of bereavement. The love and concern that you have shown us will be cherished forever.*

*May God continue to bless each of you.*

*~ The Family*

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*Perry Funeral Home, Inc.*

**34 Mercer Street**

**Newark, New Jersey**

**(973) 824-9201**

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