

*Homegoing Celebration Service
for*



Deacon

Maxine Lang Shepard

*Sunrise
January 23, 1937*

*Sunset
August 2, 2011*

*Service
Thursday, August 11, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.*

Bethel Gospel Assembly, Inc.

2-26 East 120th Street • New York, NY 10035 • (212) 860-1510

*Bishop Carlton T. Brown, Senior Pastor
Pastor Lorna I. Brown, Officiant*

Obituary

Maxine Lang Shepard went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, August 2, 2011. A devoted wife, caring daughter, beloved sister, trusted friend, and faithful Christian, Maxine was a great blessing to all who encountered her.

Maxine Lang was born on January 23, 1937 to Alphonso and Margaret Lang in New York City. After graduation from Morris High School, Maxine completed nursing school at Fordham University and earned certification as a Registered Nurse. She later returned to school and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing from Hunter College, City University of New York. With her nursing degree, she went on to work as a school nurse for the New York City Department of Education. She worked in the capacity of school nurse until her retirement.

In 1980, Maxine married Edward L. Shepard, Sr. As a devoted wife and partner in ministry, Maxine became very involved in her husband's outreach ministry in addition to her own. They worked side by side in ministry, especially at Harlem Hospital, where they were recently recognized by the mayor's office for their years of dedicated volunteer service.

Maxine grew up in the church, and she accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior at the early age of 9. She was raised in Kelly Temple Church of God in Christ (currently pastored by Bishop James Gaylord)—where her parents were among the founding members. After many years at Kelly Temple, Maxine joined with her husband at Bethel Gospel Assembly and served as a faithful, active member for the balance of her days. At Bethel, Maxine served in the Becoming God's Answer Bookstore, and as a board member of the Alabaster Women of Faith. She also pursued a course of study in Christian counseling. Maxine was installed as a Deacon at Bethel in February of 2010.

Maxine traveled extensively throughout the Caribbean, Asia, and Europe for various mission endeavors and conferences. Her missionary journeys also took her to Haiti and parts of Africa. In all of her Christian endeavors, she served quietly and selflessly, always content to be behind the scenes.

Deacon Maxine Lang Shepard leaves to cherish her memory: her adoring husband, Deacon Edward L. Shepard, Sr.; his children, Camille (Rev. Reginald) Warren, Rev. Dianne (Pastor Darold) Hayes, Edward L. Shepard, Jr., and Gayl J. Shepard; grandchildren; her brother, Kinard (Cheryl) Lang; a sister-in-law, Ruth (Alphonso, Jr., deceased) Lang; cousins, a host of nieces, nephews; as well as grandnieces and grandnephews; the church families of Bethel Gospel Assembly and Kelly Temple Church of God in Christ; and many other relatives, friends, and brothers and sisters in Christ.

More than anything, Maxine loved the Lord, and she devoted her life to worshipping and serving Him. She now lives and reigns with Him forever in eternal peace, health, and joy.

Don't Grieve For Me For Now I'm Free

Don't grieve for me; for now I'm free,
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took his hand when I heard His call;
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way;
I've found that peace at the end of the day.
If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah, yes, these things too I will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My Life's been full, I savored much,
Good friends, good times, my loved one' touch.
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief;
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now, He set me free
~Author: Unknown~

Acknowledgements

The family of **Deacon Maxine Lang Shepard** would like to express their sincere appreciation and gratitude to all of you for the expressions of love and sympathy extended to them during their time of bereavement.

Professional Services Provided By:

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