



GOING HOME CELEBRATION

In Loving Memory

Of

DEACON LAWRENCE BRIDGEFORTH



Sunrise – June 27, 1942 – Sunset – October 6, 2011

First Baptist Church of South Orange

103 Valley Street

South Orange, New Jersey

Pastor Terry Richardson – Officiant

Obituary

Deacon Lawrence Bridgeforth, known to many of his friends as “Larry,” was born June 27, 1942 to Leroy Bridgeforth and Vanisha Foushee. He was also blessed to have Mr. and Mrs. John Coleman as major influences in his life. Deacon Bridgeforth was a lifelong resident of the City of Newark, New Jersey. Lawrence attended the Newark School and attended Essex County College.

Lawrence began his Christian journey at the Mount Sinai Baptist Church, where he and Mamie grew up. Lawrence served his country as a member of the United States Air Force. Upon his discharge from the Air Force, Lawrence married his childhood sweetheart Mamie Lee White, who he met when he was ten and she was eight years old. From this union, were born three daughters: Leah, NaDeen, and Lawren. Lawrence was a very hardworking man. For fourteen years he worked two jobs, Deer Park Water Company, as a driver, and as an independent distributor for the Star Ledger and the New York Times, covering a large segment of Essex County. Lawrence was the owner of the L.N.L. Grocery Store located on 2nd Street in Newark. He established the F.C.C. Transportation Service as the CEO, fourteen years ago, continuing to employ Newark residents until this day. His motto, which was printed on all of his business cards, was “Riding with the full armor of God around you.”

Deacon Bridgeforth loved deep sea fishing and he and Mamie would often go fishing in September when the Blues were running. An avid bowler, Deacon Bridgeforth was a member of the Dragons Bowling Team. Deacon Bridgeforth was a very good and generous friend to many people, including Charlie O and Herman. They were the Three Musketeers. Small in stature, Deacon Bridgeforth was a very elegant dresser. He never believed man should go to church without a suit, tie and of course a hat. He instilled this value within his two grandsons.

A man of courage, when Deacon Bridgeforth was facing a life-threatening illness, he stood upon the scriptures Isaiah 53:5 and Psalm 91. Deacon Bridgeforth received a liver transplant in 1995 and served as a spokesperson for the N.J. Sharing Network





PALLBEARERS

Malcolm Hayman Thomas White, Jr.
James Coleman Nathaniel White
Charles Coleman Bernard Ruth

*Shepherd of my soul I give you full control,
Wherever You may lead I will foll-ow.
I have made the choice to listen for Your vo-vo-ice,
Wherever You may lead I will go.*

*Be it in a quiet pasture or by a gentle stream,
The Shepherd of my soul is by my side.
Should I face a mighty mountain or a valley dark and deep,
The Shepherd of my soul will be my guide.*

*Shepherd of my soul Oh You have made me whole,
Where'er I hear You call how my tea-ars flow.
How I feel your love how I want to se-rve
I gladly give my heart to You O – Lord.*

*Be it in the flowing river or in the quiet night,
The Shepherd of my soul is by my side.
Should I face the stormy weather or the dangers of this world.
The Shepherd of my soul will be my guide .I say yes Lord yes to your will and your way I say
yes Lord yes i will trust you and obey When your Spirit speaks to me , with my whole heart I
will agree And my answer will be yes Lord yes*

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promoting community-wide education about the need to become an organ donor. He was recognized for his efforts and community service in this area by the First Baptist Church of Vauxhall and the Honorable former Councilman Ronald Rice, Sr. Deacon Bridgeforth served his community in a leadership role as the District Leader for the 38th District for the West Ward of Newark for twelve years.

Deacon Bridgeforth was ordained as a Deacon under the Pastorship of Bishop Marvin Bradshaw, Sr. in November 1997, at the Faith Christian Center, where he served as a Deacon until his death. Deacon Bridgeforth was a foster parent and grandparent to many children who have all grown up to become successful adults.

It is hard to mention Lawrence without mentioning Mamie, and hard to mention Mamie without mentioning Lawrence. They were like rice and gravy. Although the man of his household and the “king of his castle” he was always supportive of his wife’s dreams as she pursued higher education, elected office and the ministry.

Deacon Bridgeforth peacefully went Home to be with the Lord on October 6, 2011, at the Mountainside Hospital in Montclair, NJ. Deacon Bridgeforth was preceded in death by his grandmother, Viola Foushee, mother, Vanisha Foushee-Holly, stepfather, George Holly, father, Leroy Bridgeforth, stepmother, Mattie Bridgeforth, godparents, John and Goldie Coleman, two brothers, James and Ronald Bridgeforth, one sister, Irene Craddock and one sister-in-law, Linda Bridgeforth.

He leaves to cherish his memory: his beloved wife of forty-seven years, Dr. Mamie Bridgeforth; his children, Leah Dade, NaDeen Richardson and her husband, Rev. Terry L. Richardson, Lawren Monroe and her husband, Rev. Darrin Monroe and Ivy Davis and (son) Rev. Gerard Hart; one sister, Mary Ruth; brothers-in-law, Bernard Ruth and Thomas White, sister-in-law, Linda White; his mother-in-law, Lucille White; two aunts, Evelyn Bridgeforth and Irma Hewie; one great aunt, Mable Scott; two uncles, Henry and Morris Foushee. He is also survived by nineteen grandchildren and one great grandson; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Order of Service

- Processional Family and Clergy
- Congregational Selection “Shepherd Of My Soul” - Sister Elizabeth Nieves
- Prayer of Comfort Elder Althea Hill-Faith Christian Center
- Words of Expression Chosen Generation Ministries
First Baptist Church of South Orange
- Old Testament Scripture Pastor Paul Valarius
Central Assemblies of God, Newark, NJ
- New Testament Scripture Pastor Jetlyn Clark
Word of God International Ministries, Hillside, NJ
- Solo Bishop David Barnes
The New Life Church, East Orange, NJ
- Precious Memories Dr. A. Zachary Yamba
Leah Dade, NaDeen Richardson, Lawern Monroe
Dr. Mamie Bridgeforth
- Acknowledgements
& Obituary Sister Madeline Brown
First Baptist Church, S.O.
- Solo Elder Monique Rice
Provision of Promise Ministries International
- Eulogy Bishop Marvin Bradshaw
Higher Dimensions Ministries, Kearny, NJ
- Recessional Solo Bishop Marcus Barnes
Holy Dove Christian Fellowship, Irvington, NJ

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| <p><u>INTERMENT</u> Fairmount Cemetery Central Avenue Newark, New Jersey</p> |
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***Repast will be held at
Appian Way
619 Langdon Street • Orange, NJ***

Tributes



For the Wonderful Man I Married

We shared a very special kind of love because we share so many other things, too ~ happy memories, precious dreams...little everyday discoveries... private jokes that no one else would understand. We know each other's strength and vulnerabilities and how to really make each other happy. We even think alike in a lot of ways, but not about everything ...just enough to make life interesting between us. I'd say make a pretty great team, you and I... wouldn't trade what we had together for anything in the world.

~ With All My Love, Your Wife, Mamie ~



Dearest Daddy,

A writer named Jean Paul Richier once said- "What a father says to his children is not heard by the world, but it will be heard for posterity." So today as we celebrate the life you lived and the father you were, we thank you for speaking the words to us that we will hear in our hearts and spirits and share with others for posterity. You will forever have an impact and effect on us your children, your children's children and their children. They will know our father Lawrence Bridgeforth, by all that you have instilled in us. Although we know throughout the years we have told you how much we loved you, and given you many gifts and thanked you on certain occasions, we wondered if we ever took time to say thank you for being our father. Thank you for being a man who was not merely present, but committed and interested in every aspect of our lives. One who was not perfect, but perfecting himself daily. Thank you for teaching us what it means to be a lady and expecting us to conduct ourselves as young ladies should. Thank you for showing us that nothing in life is free and that education and hard work would be our key to success. Thank you for never allowing us to make excuses and teaching us that there is always an answer to every problem. Thank you for keeping fun and laughter in our home, while instilling discipline and obedience. Thank you for being that ear that was always open to not just hear, but to listen to us always. Thank you for being a man that lived showing us the courage to fight against any odds. Thank you for living according to 1 Corinthians 13, and always giving us unconditional love. Thank you for shielding us from the harm the world could cause young girls and providing us with safe passage to adulthood.

~ With All Our Love, Dolly, NaDeen and Lawren (Boo Boo) ~

Memories

