

**Celebration of Life**  
**For**  
**Mother Joann Durr Hill**

*Sunrise*  
*October 22, 1933*

*Sunset*  
*February 22, 2012*

**Tuesday, February 28, 2012 – 7:00pm**  
**Union Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church**  
**209 Wainwright Street**  
**Newark, New Jersey 07112**  
**Reverend Anthony Mitchell, Sr. - Pastor**

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**Saturday, March 3, 2012 – 1:00pm**  
**Saint Michael African Methodist Episcopal Church**  
**Route 1 Clopton, Alabama 36317**  
**Reverend Oscar Lane - Pastor**  
**Reverend Horace Mitchell - Eulogist**

*But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength... Isaiah 40:31*

## Obituary

**Joann Durr Hill** was born to the late John and Alberta Wiggins Durr on October 22, 1933 in Edwin, Alabama. She was the second of four siblings; the late Johnnie Richard, Willie J. and Martha Rose. She was educated in the Henry County Training School. Later, she became a member of St. Michaels A.M.E. Church in Edwin, Alabama. There she confessed and received Christ at an early age.

Joann met and married George Franklin Hill on January 15, 1955. In 1956, they left good ole Alabama and journeyed to Newark, New Jersey. Through this union of love they became the proud parents of three children; George Ann, Barry Lemarr and Steven Franklin. In 1971, they became the surrogate parents of Melvin Carver "Brother".

In 1959, Joann joined Union Chapel A.M.E. Church under the pastorate of Reverend Ward. She was a member of the Flower Club and served as President of Stewardess Board B for more than 20 years. She was recognized as a quiet spoken woman that wore memorable hats.

All through Joann's years she was a passionate culinary artist. Her reputation was "she could really burn". Some of her legendary dishes were chicken dressing, Christmas punch, layered cakes, sweet potato pies and collard greens. In addition, she was an exceptional seamstress.

Joann was preceded in death by her father, John Durr (b. 11/26/1907); mother, Alberta Wiggins Durr (b. 8/10/1909); brother, Johnnie Richard (b. 2/19/1927); and two grandsons, Calvin Williams (b. 05/02/1987), and Michael Jamal Williams (b. 01/17/1990).

Joann leaves to cherish her memory: her husband of fifty-seven years, George Franklin Hill (b. 12/24/1931) of Newark, New Jersey; one daughter, Reverend George Ann Alston (b. 2/26/1957) and son-in-law, Harold (b. 9/16/1956) of Phillipsburg, New Jersey; three sons, Barry Lemarr (b. 3/25/1958) and daughter-in-law, Vicky Chandler (b. 5/08/1963), Minister Steven Franklin (b.10/04/1967) and Melvin Carver Goldsmith Jr. (b. 11/14/1956); eight grandchildren, Lamarr Rasheed Jordan (b. 07/10/1978), Shahied Kalem Williams (b. 06/03/1979), Naim Lamar Williams (b. 02/08/1982), Khalia Shaheerah Williams (b. 07/18/1984), Amir Hasan Alston (b. 05/18/1986), Yasmine Maria Williams (b. 03/18/1988), Asha Hadiya Alston (b. 05/29/1990) and Aisha Hai Alston (b. 05/29/1990); six great-grandchildren, Wataysha Williams (b.12/30/1997), Nasir Jordan (b. 01/21/1998), Nasir Alston (b. 12/01/2004), Brianna Fung (b. 08/12/2005), Amelia Alston (b. 09/28/2006) and Yasiah Fleming (b. 06/07/2008); one brother, Willie J. Durr (b. 1/27/1935) and sister-in-law, Betty Joyce (b. 08/26/1934); one sister, Martha Rose Coleman (b. 11/23/1937) and brother-in-law, Jesse (b. 02/05/1936); and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, friends and church family.

A special thank you to Mary Durant, Diane Foster and the staff of Northeastern Professional Nurses Registry.

*Order of Service*

**Praise and Worship**

**Processional**

Clergy

**Doxology**

“Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow...”

**Hymn**

#450 "Blessed Assurance"

**Prayer of Comfort**

**Scripture Lessons**

Old Testament – Psalm 23

New Testament – 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

**Music Ministry**

**Reflections**

**Music Ministry**

**Acknowledgements/Resolutions**

**Obituary**

**Music Ministry**

**Eulogy**

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Rev. Anthony Mitchell - Newark, New Jersey

Saturday, March 3, 2012

Rev. Horace Mitchell - Edwin, Alabama

**Recessional**

*Interment*

St. Michael's A.M.E. Church Cemetery  
Edwin, Alabama

### Honorary Pallbearers

Amir Alston  
Naim Williams  
James Malone  
Douglas Durr

Lamar Jordan  
Shahied Williams  
Harold Alston  
Bobby Durr



### *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 Him call  
I turned my back and left it all.  
I could not stay another day.  
To laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way,  
I found that peace at the close of day.  
If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it up with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
Oh, yes these things I too 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, a loved one's 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



### Acknowledgments

The family acknowledges with deep appreciation, the tireless love and support that many of you extended during Joann's illness; as well as the many comforting messages, prayers, and other expressions of kindness and concern evidenced at this time. No gesture whether in thought or deed, has been too small. May God bless and keep each one of you.

Respectfully Submitted,  
The Family

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Professional Services by:  
**Whigham Funeral Home**

580 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Newark, New Jersey 07102  
973-622-6872  
*Carolyn Whigham, Director*

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**Stanford & Sons Funeral Home**

Abbeville, Alabama  
(334) 585-5344