

In Loving
Memory
of

Helen E. Perry

Sunrise

October 6, 1924

Sunset

August 2, 2012

Wednesday, August 8, 2012 - 11:00 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

351 W. Englewood Avenue • Englewood, New Jersey

Rev. John H. Spencer, Jr., Pastor

Obituary



Helen Kearney Perry was born October 6, 1924 to the late Richard G. Kearney and Fannie Green Kearney in Liberia, North Carolina. She was the eldest of seven children. Helen attended the Warren County Schools graduating from John R. Hawkins High School; she then attended Elizabeth City Teachers College in Elizabeth City, NC where she graduated with her teaching degree.

Helen accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior at an early age and remained a faithful member of Spring Green Baptist Church of Warrenton, NC until she moved to Englewood where she joined members of her family at

First Baptist Church. Helen was united in marriage to Shade Perry on November 27, 1948. To this union one daughter was born.

When Helen moved to Englewood, she had her teaching degree, but could not find a permanent teaching position. To support herself, she began working in the aircraft manufacturing factory of Curtiss-Wright, which was the largest manufacturer of WWII fighter plane parts in the US. After leaving there, she worked as a domestic for a few of the rich White families on “**THE HILL**” in Englewood before beginning substitute teaching. After receiving strong support from Englewood’s Urban League, NAACP, and prominent Civil Rights leaders, she was offered a permanent teaching position. Helen was the **first Full-Time African American** teacher at Cleveland Elementary School in 1961. Helen has always shown compassion for people, especially to the children she taught. She was one that paid special attention to each child in her class, many times bringing those concerns home with her trying to work something out that would reach and help them. Because she showed this concern, many of those same students stayed in touch with her into their adult lives. Those who knew her have always said she was a “Real Teacher”. Helen received a Master’s Degree in Learning Disabilities from Farleigh Dickerson University, in the 1970’s. She retired from teaching in 1986 after 25 years.

Helen was an active member at First Baptist Church until her health slowed her down. She was a member of the Scholarship Committee, the Commission on Christian Social Concerns and a Sunday school teacher.

Helen departed this world on August 2, 2012 after a long illness. She was preceded in death by husband Shade in September 2000, her brother Rev. Willis M. Kearney in September 1992, and her brother George R. Kearney in August 2010. She leaves to cherish her memory, her loving and faithful daughter, Karen (Nathan); her very loving grandson Tyrone, and her one great-grand daughter Milena, three brothers: James Kearney and Wesley Kearney (Jean) of Williamsburg, VA, Alfred Kearney (Ruth) of Voorhees, NJ and one sister Nan Moore of Cherry Hill, NJ, six sisters– in-law, a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Order of Service

Prelude

Processional

Invocation

Hymn #162 “Pass Me Not O Gentle Savior”

Scriptures Lessons

Old Testament Psalms 23

New Testament Romans 10:9-11

Prayer of Comfort Rev. John H. Spencer, Jr.

Solo “Goin’ Up Yonder” Aretha Perry Arrington

Remarks Family and Friends (2 minutes)

Acknowledgements Deaconess Sandra White

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Solo “Precious Lord” Aretha Perry Arrington

Eulogy Rev. John H. Spencer, Jr.

Invitation to Discipleship

Recessional

Interment

*George Washington Memorial Park
Paramus, New Jersey*



A Mother's Love

*A Mother's Love Is
Being happy for her children
When they are happy
Being sad for her children
When they are sad*

*Being together in good and bad times.
A Mother's Love is a source of strength
A Mother's Love Is*

*Being honest with herself at all times
Being honest with her children at all times
Talking, listening and respecting the truth and never pretending
A Mother's Love is the source of reality.*

*A Mother's Love Is
An understanding so complete that she feels
as if she is a part of her children
Accepting her children just the way they are
And not trying to change them into being something else
A Mother's Love is the source of unity.*

*A Mother's Love Is
The freedom to pursue her own desires while
sharing her experiences with her children
The growth of her individuality along with
the growth of her children's individuality
A Mother's Love is the source of success.*

*A Mother's Love Is
Knowing that her children will always be with her
Regardless of what happens
Missing her children when they pass
But knowing that they are near in her heart
A Mother's Love is the source of security.
Most of all a Mother's Love is Forever!*

Acknowledgement

*The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness
extended to them during this bereavement hour.
God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.*

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Aree Booker, Executive Director

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