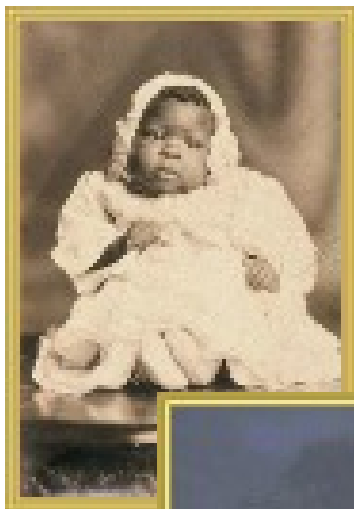


*Home Going Service for
Willie Mae Caffie*



*Sunrise:
April 20, 1920*

*Sunset:
December 24, 2013*

SERVICE

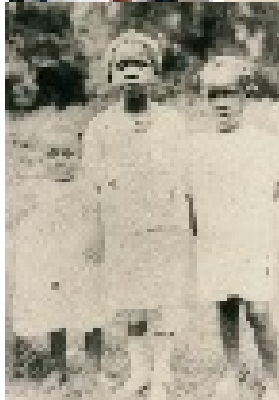
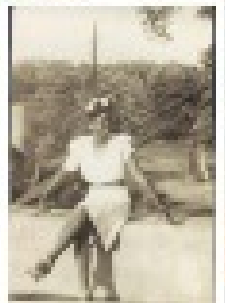
Saturday, January 4, 2014 - 10:00 a.m.

MT. PISGAH AME CHURCH

354 Forrest Street

Jersey City, New Jersey

Rev. Reginald McRae, Pastor



Obituary

Born on April 20, 1920 in Waycross, Georgia, **Willie Mae Caffie** quietly transitioned to eternal rest on Christmas Eve. Unable to spend the holidays at home with her beloved family for the first time in 93 years, she accepted the invitation from her Lord to spend Christmas 2013 in Heaven.

Willie Mae was the third of nine children born to the late William N. Brown and Jessie Belle (Livingston) Brown. Electing to forego formal education to help support her family during the Great Depression, Willie Mae (known to her family as "Midge") began working at age nine for twenty-five cents a week. She honed her gift of cooking and baking under the watchful eye of her mother, which led to employment in her early teens as a domestic in the affluent neighborhoods of her hometown Williamsport, PA.

As the country prepared for World War II, she met a handsome young soldier from Pittsburgh, Thomas J. Caffie, at a church dance. They married before Tom was deployed to service in Italy. From this union three children were born: David, Thomas and Frances. The family moved to Jersey City in 1945 where Willie Mae continued to work as a housekeeper for two prominent local physicians, Laura B. Harris and Carroll M. Leevy. Her work ethic was driven by her desire to afford her children and grandchildren the opportunity to seek higher education. She vowed that her offspring would never have "to scrub floors on their hands and knees" as she did for more than 40 years.

Willie Mae's faith walk began at an early age and her devotion to God persevered even through her recent pain and suffering. She joined Metropolitan AME Zion Church in the late forties and remained an active member there until the church relocated from Virginia Avenue to Bergen Avenue. It was at that time that she joined Mt. Pisgah AME Church, where she continued her Christian service as a dedicated member and leader of the usher board. She was most proud of her work as mentor and disciplinarian for the church's junior usher board. Mrs. Caffie was committed to "doing the right thing" and gained a reputation for speaking her mind at board meetings. Her devotion to God and her church was evident through her service and financial contributions in spite of her fixed income. She frequently professed that it was always better to give, than to receive.

In 1973 Willie Mae made a “career move” working closer to home as a food service aide for the Jersey City Public Schools. She was assigned to supervise the breakfast and lunch programs at P.S. #29. For 20 years through the provision of sustenance, she taught life-lessons and disciplined hundreds upon hundreds of children who came to love and adore her. Those same children later provided assistance and protection as she traveled the streets of Jersey City on foot in her later years. Although she annually renewed her driver’s license, Willie Mae never drove a car while living in Jersey City.

Mrs. Caffie spent the last chapter of her life doing what mattered to her most – caring for her family. She took great pride in baking made-to-order birthday cakes and holiday dinners. In the late summer you would find her at farmers’ markets gathering fruits and vegetables to can in preparation for the winter. She also loved communing with God’s creations. Whether it was feeding the birds, watching the sunset or tending to her houseplants, Willie Mae enjoyed the simplicity of nature. A grapevine in her yard prompted her to make homemade jelly that became highly anticipated annual holiday gifts for friends and family.

Willie Mae’s devotion to family included caring for relatives young and old, sick and well, and near or far, often sacrificing her personal well-being and happiness. She felt this was God’s plan for her life. Mrs. Caffie was preceded in death by her loving husband, Thomas; three brothers (Daniel, Benjamin, and William); four sisters (Anna, Dorothy, Ellen and Betty); daughter-in-law, Carolyn Caffie.

She leaves to cherish her memory and honor her legacy: devoted sons, David Caffie and Thomas I Al-Yasha; loving daughter, Frances Caffie-Wright; daughter-in-law, Bernestine J. Caffie and son-in-law, Dr. Joseph Wright; surviving sister, Esther L. Gibson; beloved grandchildren, Janique Caffie, Kecia Caffie (Clinton Wais), Khadijah Caffie, Justin Wright, Christopher Wright, Teomo Hampton and Jaddah Williams; treasured great-grandchildren, Jah Caffie-Speed , Jaiden Wright, Kaleel Hampton, Kailah Hampton, Kaeleb Hampton, Jay’Mel and Jay’Quan Bing; adored godson, Derek Brown. A host of nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, co-workers, neighbors, caretakers and P.S. #29 alumni are also celebrating the many ways, both great and small, that Willie Mae Caffie touched their lives.

Order of Service

“A Service of Celebration”

Rev. Reginald McRae, Officiating

Organ PreludeOrganist

ProcessionalClergy, Officers and Family

Final Viewing..... Watson Mortuary Service

Opening Hymn.....#448 “When Peace Like A River”

Prayer of Comfort

Scripture Readings:

Old Testament: Psalm 121: 1 – 8

New Testament: II Timothy 4: 5 – 9

Selection..... “If I Can Help Somebody”

Acknowledgements/ResolutionsSister Erma D. Greene

Inspirational ReadingDr. Joseph Wright

Selection “I Surrender All” Organist

Reflections and Remarks:

Family: Rev. Dr. Arthur Brown

Church Usher Board: Brother Willie Haggan

Reading of the ObituarySister Erma D. Greene

Selection

Eulogy..... Rev. Reginald McRae

Solo “The Lord’s Prayer”Sister Sandra Moss

Recessional Postlude “My Help”Organist

INTERMENT

Rosehill Cemetery

Linden, New Jersey

Pallbearers

David Brown

Clinton Wais

Christopher Wright

Justin Wright

Letting Go

(Adapted from a poem by J. Morse)

The angels gathered near your bed
So very close to you
For they knew the pain & suffering
That you were going through

We thought about so many things
As we held tightly to your hand
Oh, how we wished that you were strong
And happy once again

But your eyes were looking homeward
To that place beyond the sky
Where Jesus held His outstretched arms
It was time to say “goodbye”

We struggled with our selfish thoughts
For we wanted you to stay
So you could walk and talk with us
Sharing stories along the way

But Jesus knew the answer
And we knew He loved you so
So we gave to you life’s greatest gift-
The gift of letting go

Now our hearts will carry memories
Of the love you gave so free
Until we meet again in Heaven
Where the best is yet to be
Lovingly submitted by The Grandchildren

Acknowledgements

The family of **Mrs. Caffie** offers their sincere gratitude and appreciation for the many expressions of love and comfort, acts of kindness and encouraging words extended to us during our loved one’s transition. Special thanks to those who prayed with us and visited our beloved matriarch during her prolonged illness. May God continue to shower you with His blessings and grant you peace.

Professional Services Provided By



WATSON MORTUARY SERVICE, INC.

26 Gifford Ave. • Jersey City, NJ

ph (201) 432-5521 fax (201) 432-5599

John H. Watson, Manager, NJ LIC. No. 3856

Candace M. Watson, Mortician, NJ LIC. No. 3421

Keith A. Watson, Funeral Director, NJ LIC. No.4862



To send online condolences visit, www.watsonmortuaryservice.com