

A Celebration of Life
Clydie Bell Sewell

Sunrise
June 22, 1920

Sunset
June 12, 2015



Monday, June 29, 2015 - 11:00 a.m.

BETHEL AME CHURCH

145 Myrtle Avenue
Passaic, New Jersey

Rev. Marti Robinson, Pastor

Order of Service

Rev. Marti Robinson, Officiating

Prelude..... Organist

Call to Worship..... Rev. Marti Robinson

Hymn of Adoration..... “Blessed Assurance”

Scriptures
 Old Testament - Psalm 91: 1-11
 New Testament - 1 Corinthians 15: 50-58

Prayer of Comfort..... Rev. Dr. W. Louis McDowell

Solo Selection..... Jeanette Crowder

Acknowledgements/Resolutions..... Clerk

Remarks/Reflections

Solo Selection..... Rev. Dr. W. Louis McDowell

Eulogy..... Rev. Marti Robinson

Recessional..... Scripture Passages

Entombment

Garden of Memories

300 Soldier Hill Rd.

Township of Washington, NJ 07676

Obituary

Sister Clydie Bell [Gresham] Sewell was born on June 22, 1920 in Locust Grove, Georgia to the late Beasley and Delci [Goodman] Gresham. Sister Sewell was one of twenty-five children born between two marriages of Beasley Gresham.

At an early age, Sister Sewell had to drop out of school to help her father and other siblings work the fields as a sharecropper.

Clydie Sewell was married at the age of sixteen years old in 1936 to the late George Henry Sewell. From this union there were no children. But one thing she realized at an early stage of her life was that when there is a tragedy in one's life, it's then that God is merely preparing to send a blessing.

Although Sister Sewell never had children of her own, one of God's many blessings came by way of her brother and sister-in-law's sons, Earlie J. Gresham, Jr. aka: Butchie, and Raymond Gresham. Earlie and Raymond were raised in Sister Sewell's home as "her boys." Throughout her life's journey she'd tell anyone and everyone who'd listen about her boys. However, in a very loving way, Sister Mae Gresham would often remind Sister Sewell that she was their biological mother!

Sister Sewell moved to Passaic, New Jersey in 1945 and upon her arrival joined the Bethel A.M.E. Church, under the pastorate of the late Rev. M.L. Oliver. During those early years in Passaic, she worked several years as a domestic; house cleaning, doing laundry, ironing and cooking.

Sister Sewell served on the Missionary Society, Pastor's Aid, Senior Choir, Gospel Chorus, Senior Usher Board, Flower Club, and Sunday school until she became ill. Her beloved Bethel A.M.E. Church honored her at the "**50th Year Recognition Luncheon**" on March 8, 1998, along with several other members of the Choir. She had been a member of The Bethel A.M.E. Church for sixty seven years. To God be the glory!

On March 5, 2011, Sister Sewell was presented with three Awards - **Remarkable Woman Award**-Bethel A.M.E. Church, **Certificate of Recognition**-City of Passaic and **Senate and General Assembly Citation**-The State of NJ. Some of her many God given gifts and talents were: She planted flowers and shrubbery around church grounds at her own expense. She mailed Birthday cards, Anniversary cards, Get well cards, to family members and friends; and sympathy cards to those in bereavement. She was simply the best desert baker worldwide. Her specialties were: Pound cake made with powdered sugar, Pineapple Coconut cake, Caramel cake, German Chocolate cake; Smooth creamy Sweet potato pie; Apple pie and Peach cobbler.

Sister Sewell decided to move back to Georgia, July 2011. Clydie continued to entertain the family and workers as a resident of Jonesboro Nursing Home in Stockbridge, Georgia and making regular family Sunday dinners at her niece Catherine's house. She continued to love the Mets, flowers, children, string beans and fried chicken wings until her transition on June 12, 2015.

She was preceded in death by her husband George Henry in 1944, her brothers Curtis Gresham, Zelman (Bo) Gresham, George T. Gresham, Earlie James Gresham, Sr., and Johnny Gresham followed her in death on June 15, 2015; sisters Ethel Turnipseed, Versa Bell, Willie Lue Turnipseed, Annie Mae Gomelia, Lilly Jenkins, Gail Gresham and Maxine Gresham.

She leaves to cherish her memory, sisters Millie T (Gresham) Thomas, Jewell (Gresham) Palin, Shirley (Gresham) Dixon; brothers Edward Gresham, Fred Gresham (wife Valerie), and Keith Gresham (wife Crystal), her boys, Earlie (wife Janet) and Raymond, her God daughters, Dr. Teresa Johnson and Sharman Pate and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, family and friends.

Sister Sewell's favorite scripture is Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the Heaven and the Earth" and her favorite song is "Since I Met Jesus. In closing God has certainly blessed Sis Sewell with longevity of life; for the Psalmist vividly records in Psalms 90:10 these words.

"The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away."

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A Heart of Gold

*A heart of gold stopped beating,
Two shining eyes at rest,
God broke our hearts to prove
He only takes the best,
God knows you had to leave us,
But you didn't go alone,
For part of us went with you,
The day He took you home.
To some you will be forgotten,
To others, just part of the past,
But to us who loved and lost you,
Your memory will always last.*

Author unknown



Acknowledgement

The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour. God bless you all.

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