

*A Celebration of Life for*  
*Millicent Yvonne Mathis*



Sunrise  
May 31, 1943

Sunset  
September 25, 2015

Saturday, October 3, 2015 - 10:00 a.m.

**BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH**

145 Myrtle Avenue  
Passaic, New Jersey

**Rev. Marti Robinson, Pastor**

## *Footprints*

One night a woman had a dream. She dreamed she was walking along the beach with the LORD. Across the sky flashed scenes from her life. For each scene, she noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonged to her, and the other to the LORD.

When the last scene of her life flashed before her, she looked back at the footprints in the sand. She noticed that many times along the path of her life there was only one set of footprints. She also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in her life.

This really bothered her and she questioned the LORD about it. "LORD, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me."

The LORD replied, "My precious, precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

## *Reflections of Life*

**Millicent Yvonne (McCormick) Mathis**, was born on May 31, 1943, in Passaic, NJ. She was the first child of the late James & Millicent McCormick. Affectionately known as “Yvonne”. She matriculated through the Passaic School system and graduated in 1961. She then went on to attend Sawyer Business School, the American Institute of Banking in Clifton, NJ and then later attended Royal Business School in NY.

In August of 1964, Yvonne landed a position as a student loan supervisor at Broadway Bank & Trust Company in Paterson, NJ. She received several promotions within the company before joining Caribe International in NYC, where she worked as an Assistant to the President. In early 1976, she moved on to Berg Chemical Company, Bronx. In 1981, Yvonne, took a leap of faith and started her own company, Priority Chemical Company, along with her business partner, Ed Lindsey. Priority Chemical Company successfully partnered with various companies providing chemical distribution, maintenance and cleaning compounds. The company was featured in Black Enterprise Magazine and they received a number of achievement awards for entrepreneurial success.

Yvonne, met and married the love of her life CL Mathis on July 23, 1966. They remained married for 44 years until his passing in October of 2010. In 1985, Yvonne and CL Mathis, became the proud parents of Eagle Lester and Elizabeth Edna Lynn Mathis. She was a loving and supportive mother who always provided and wanted the best for her children.

From childhood, Yvonne was an active member of The Bethel A.M.E Church, Passaic. She served in multiple leadership positions including the Usher Board, the Trustee Board, the Steward Board and the Finance Committee.

Yvonne, retired at the age of 62 in 2005, at which time she took a part-time position as an Administrative Asst. at

Wayne Ford in Wayne, NJ. In 2012, Yvonne moved to Willingboro, NJ to live with her beloved sister, Betty McKinnon, the two shared a close bond. They enjoyed IHOP breakfast dates, often having to convince the wait staff that they both were eligible for the senior discount. Yvonne also enjoyed bargain shopping on Passaic's Main Avenue as well as watching her favorite television shows The Have & Have Nots, Undercover Boss, westerns, game shows and the crazy guests on the Dr. Phil show. She also developed a strong bond with Yvette Jackson, who became Yvonne's primary daily caretaker in 2012 and graciously offered not only daily companionship but exceptional care. When Yvonne wasn't walking or watching her favorite shows, she was often caught sneaking Marshall, Betty's dog (although he claimed Yvonne) table food as a way of buying his canine loyalty.

On Friday, September 25, 2015, Yvonne Mathis' Savior saw fit to call her home for her reward.

Yvonne was preceded in death by her husband, CL Mathis of Clifton, NJ and her parents, James & Millicent McCormick of Clifton, NJ.

She leaves behind to mourn and celebrate her life, her eldest maternal aunt, Margaret Graham of Phoenix, AZ, her daughter, Elizabeth Mathis-Smith and son-in-law Marc-Damon Smith Sr. of Orange, NJ, her son, Eagle Mathis and fiancé Monica Perry of Clifton, NJ; six grandchildren, Brandon Yates, Christopher Boyd, Eli Mathis-McCormick, Ja'Anna Mathis-McCormick, Alisha Brown-Smith and Jeremiah Mathis, all residing in New Jersey. She also leaves behind to mourn and celebrate her life, siblings, Geraldine Rhymes of Irvington, NJ; Cynthia Vaughn of Atlanta, GA; James Arthur McCormick, Jr. and sister-in-law, Cheryl of Twenty-Nine Palms, CA; Richard McCormick and sister-in-law, Arlene of Los Angeles, CA; Henry McCormick and sister-in-law Pearl of Clifton, NJ; Lawrence McCormick of Fort Meyers, FL and Betty McKinnon of Willingboro, NJ; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, great and grand nieces, nephews, cousins, church family, co-workers and friends.

# Order of Service

Processional

Prelude

Opening Hymn ..... "Eye Is On The Sparrow" - Amy White

Prayer of Comfort..... Reverend Marti Robinson

Written Word Reading

Old Testament Reading ..... Arlene McCormick

New Testament Reading..... Larry McCormick

Song of Comfort..... "Stand" - Alex McCormick

Acknowledgements & Resolutions ..... Tiffanie Smith

Reflections of Life..... Marian Jackson

Reflections ..... Richard McCormick  
Marc-Damon Smith

Song of Comfort ..... "Precious Lord" Bethel AME Choir

Message of Comfort ..... Pastor Marti Robinson

Recessional

Song of Celebration..... Every Praise

## **Interment**

East Ridgelawn Cemetery  
Clifton, New Jersey

## **Repast**

Following the interment the repast will be held at the  
VFW Hall  
135 Summer Street • Passaic, NJ

## *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

### *Acknowledgement*

The family of the late **Millicent Yvonne (McCormick) Mathis** wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown to their family during this hour of bereavement. May God Bless and Keep You!

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