

*Celebration of Life for*  
*Barbara Elaine Griffin*

**Sunrise**  
June 7, 1941

**Sunset**  
September 3, 2016



Wednesday, September 14, 2016 - 7:00 p.m.

**GREATER BIBLEWAY CHURCH OF CHRIST**

20 Southard Street

Paterson, New Jersey

Bishop Franklin R. Pettiford, Pastor

**Pastor Jason Moody, Officiating**

# *Reflections of Life*

**Barbara Elaine (Bratton) Griffin** was the seventh child born to the late Edward and Maggie Bratton on June 7, 1941 in Greensboro, North Carolina.

She received her education in the Greensboro School system.

Barbara grew up in a home filled with love headed by her Godly father who was the purest example of a man of prayer and righteous living. You would often hear her declare, "My daddy was a good man." Every Sunday morning was the time for family prayer before going to church.

Barbara had a deep, deep love for her family and would prove it, if anyone would attempt to threaten or imply a threat against them. She also loved to entertain by having cookouts and house parties. She was a great cook her specialty was those delicious mustard greens!

Barbara moved to Paterson in 1959, following her older sister, Annie Mildred. She held several job throughout the years as a domestic worker and senior care professional. She learned many things from her dear step-mother. She learned how to cook, decorate and later in life developed a love for crocheting. She also loved to shop, buying something new to wear every week.

Barbara suffered many challenges in her life that bought her full circle back to the God her father taught her about. She surrendered her whole life to God, by being baptized in Jesus name and filled with the Holy Ghost at the Greater Bethel Church of Christ under the leadership of the late Bishop Herbert Frazier. She loved the Word of God. She would read the scriptures and ask questions if she wasn't clear about what she read. Later, she joined the Greater Bibleway Church of Christ under the leadership of Bishop Franklin Pettiford. She attended the R.N. Jones Bible Institute, receiving a Certificate of Evangelism and Evangelize, she did. She became an Ambassador for Christ by walking throughout her community, (Brooke-Sloate) passing out tracts and witnessing of the Saving Grace of God, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

In 2011, Barbara joined the New Ministry of Rehoboth Church of Christ Paterson lead by her niece, Pastor Linda Stancil where she worked faithfully in the work of Evangelism until her health would not allow her to work. She was appointed as the church "Mother" in 2015 and continued to pray and praise God, as only she could. *"To God Be The Glory!"* She was a bold soldier even when she was rejected. She just became more determined to know God and make him known. Barbara used to hold Bible study in her home and when she moved into the Adult Living Development held Bible study in the community room. Her faith in the Word of God was unmatched. She believed that if she asked, in faith and did not doubt in her heart, she could ask anything and she could have it and so she did. Her faith in God's ability to heal was never shaken, even her weakest state. The last scripture uttered out loud was Isaiah 54:17, *"No weapon formed against thee shall prosper."*

Aside from her precious parents and beloved step-mother, Willa Bratton, Barbara was predeceased by one daughter Bernadette Bratton, four sisters, Mary Elizabeth Franklin, Annie Mildred Stancil, Maggie Louise Jackson, Carolyn Kurvin and two brothers, James Edward and Carneil Bratton.

She leaves to cherish precious memories: four daughters, Alisa Dickens and Robin Herrera, New Haven, CT, Renee Bratton, Paterson, NJ and Verna Fields, Hackensack, NJ; one son, Eddie Edwards, Garfield, NJ; twelve grandchildren, Tamika Bratton, Anchantress Dickens, Steven Dickens, Kenonda Dontfraid, Chaneya Edwards, Nathaniel Bratton, Emmanuel Bratton, Kyle Hoover, John Martin, Kwanzaa Bratton, Chad Green and Deborah Taylor; twenty-five great grandchildren; one great great granddaughter; two sisters, Bernice Bratton, Louisville, KY, Ethel Mahoncy, Greensboro, NC; a devoted friend, Jasper Greene; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

# Order of Service

Organ Prelude

Opening Hymn

Invocation ..... Bishop Raynard Randall

Musical Selection ..... Elder Lorraine Lawson (niece)

Scripture Reading

Old Testament.....Dea. Brenda Vailes

New Testament

Prayer of Comfort.....Min. Diana Royster

Musical Selection.....Anchantress Dickens (granddaughter)

Acknowledgements .....Nataya McRae

Words of Comfort ..... Apostle Franklin Pettiford  
Greater Bibleway Church

Reflections ..... (2 Minutes)

Tributes ..... Kwanzaa Bratton (granddaughter)  
Family Members

Reflections of Life

Musical Selection

Eulogy.....Pastor Linda Stancil (niece)  
*Rehoboth Church of Christ*

Recessional

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Interment</u></b> <i>Thursday, September 15, 2016 - 9:00 a.m.</i> Fair Lawn Memorial Park 22-21 Maple Avenue Fair Lawn, New Jersey</p>
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*Immediately following the interment the family will receive relatives and friends at Freedom Village, 69 Straight Street, Paterson, NJ (Community Room).*

When God saw you getting tired  
And a cure was not to be  
He put his arms around you  
And whispered come to me  
He didn't like what you went through  
And he gave you rest  
His garden must be beautiful  
He only takes the best  
And when we saw you sleeping  
So peaceful and free from pain  
We wouldn't wish you back  
To suffer that again  
Today we say goodbye  
And as you take your final rest  
That garden must be beautiful  
Because you are one of the best.

**Pallbearers**

William Patterson      Chad Green  
Kyle Hoover              Kelvin Dickson  
Timothy Green          Eddie Edwards

*Acknowledgement*

The family of the late **Barbara Elaine Griffin** wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown to their family during this time of bereavement. May God Bless and Keep You!

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