

Celebrating The Life  
Of

*Marilyn Frances Bowles*

*Sunrise*  
*May 27, 1939*

*Sunset*  
*October 22, 2016*



*Saturday, October 29, 2016 - 11:00 a.m.*

**Union Baptist Church**

160 Oakwood Avenue  
Orange, New Jersey 07050

*Rev. William M. Freeman, Officiating*  
*Yvonne Holmes, Organist*

## Obituary

**Marilyn Frances (DeFreece) Bowles** was born on May 27, 1939 in Orange, NJ to the late Albert Martin DeFreece, Sr. and the late Olive Frances (Burke) DeFreece. She had one brother, Albert, Jr., who preceded her in death. She departed this life on October 22, 2016 after a challenging illness.

Marilyn was a life-long resident of Orange, NJ, receiving her education in the Orange Public School system. She was an exemplary student. She attended Oakwood Avenue School from Kindergarten – 7<sup>th</sup> grade where she was a “Star” Honor Roll student, earning straight A’s every marking period. She then attended Central Junior High (8<sup>th</sup> grade). She graduated from Orange High School in 1957, where she not only maintained her high academic standing, but was also involved in the Basketball, Banking, Honor Roll, Orange PEAL (newspaper), and various other clubs. Her ambition was to become a School Teacher. In 1962 she earned a BA in Elementary Education from Newark State Teacher’s College and later, in 1976, received her Master’s degree and her Supervisor/Principal Certification from the same college. She was the first in her family to attend college.

Marilyn began her career teaching fourth grade at Camden Street School in Newark, NJ. In February of 1967 she transferred to Sussex Avenue School, Newark NJ. She taught several grades during her career at Sussex; however, she loved teaching fourth grade. That was her favorite! She began serving as Vice Principal of Sussex Avenue School in 1978. There was a nine month period that Marilyn served as acting Principal at Maple Avenue Annex. Other than that she remained at Sussex Avenue School until she retired on January 23, 1998.

Marilyn grew up attending Union Baptist Church in Orange, NJ. She went to Sunday School, sang in the choir and participated in various other activities within the church. After a long separation Marilyn restored her membership and active participation in the Union Baptist Church family. She attended Bible Study/Prayer service and Adult Church School. There were times when she taught the Adult Church School class in the regular teacher’s absence. She joined the Usher Board and was later elevated to Deaconess.

During high school, Marilyn met, and sometime thereafter, married the late Alfonso Lee Bowles. They had four children. She loved her family and was a very supportive wife, mother and grandmother. However, if she didn’t agree with something you said or did she would let you know!

In her leisure time, Marilyn enjoyed bowling. She bowled on several leagues and received many trophies. She bowled up until the time of her illness. She also liked to read, watch sporting events and make beautiful scrapbooks. She loved history, especially black history and made a scrapbook dedicated to it. She was very stylish in her dress and had a fondness for jewelry.

Marilyn loved the Lord, her family and her church. During her extended illness she was sustained by her strong and unwavering faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. She fought the Good Fight of faith and made a strong witness to the power and presence of God to comfort and to sustain. We are confident that absent from the body she is now present with the Lord.

She leaves to cherish her memory: 4 children: Sonia Ayscue, Cheryl Bowles Hill, Donna Bowles and Robert Bowles; four granddaughters: Sienna Robinson, India Hill, Mariah Ayscue and Ayana Ayscue; one great grandson: Malcolm Lucas; 1 son-in-law: Victor Hill; A very close cousin: Chanda Moore and a host of other family members and friends.

## Order of Service

Prelude.....	Sister Yvonne Holmes
Procession.....	Clergy and Family
Call To Worship and Invocation.....	Pastor Freeman
Hymn of Comfort.....	“Blessed Assurance” #27
Scripture Readings	
Old Testament - Psalm 23	
New Testament - 1 Corinthians 15:50-58	
Prayer of Comfort.....	Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Bankole
Ministry of Music.....	Ayana and Mariah Ayscue
Acknowledgments and Resolutions	
Remarks.....	Jeanette Parham Sienna Robinson
Obituary.....	David Moore
Ministry of Music.....	Kisha Joyner
Message.....	Pastor Freeman
Hymn.....	“When I Can Read My Title Clear” #312
Recessional.....	Clergy, Family and Friends
Postlude.....	Sister Yvonne Holmes

*Interment*  
*Rosedale Cemetery*  
*408 Orange Road*  
*Orange, New Jersey*

*Repast*  
*Immediately following the Interment family and friends*  
*are invited back for repast in the church dining hall.*

# *Growing Old with the Stars*

A poem by Mariah Ayscue

She said, "Do not be afraid of growing old"  
Just like Robert Frost was saying, "Nothing gold can stay"  
She said, "Death is like floating through a blue velvet carpet  
With glitter and dreams  
And death isn't as scary as it seems."  
Every morning she drank her coffee  
But she didn't drink it black like me  
She would drink it and tell me that our family grew  
In the Garden of Eden  
Like Eve to the forbidden tree  
She said, "Life can be hard. People make mistakes.  
Eve was only curious and she wasn't afraid of snakes."  
She said, "Do not be afraid of growing old because living is a blast."  
She would tell me that when she was my age  
She wished that everything would last  
Her favorite subject in school was history  
She said, "Because history repeats itself."  
I didn't understand  
Until I saw those dusty yellowing pages  
Hanging on the shelf  
She said that when she was my age  
She spoke about boys and old cars  
And she was a dreamer looking up to the stars  
In the beginning she was like Eve  
In the end she was with God  
And in the blue velvet carpet  
She was like every star  
Glittery and unflawed

## *Acknowledgement*

The family of **Marilyn Frances Bowles** will remember and cherish your many expressions of love, sympathy, and prayers so graciously extended, thank you and may God richly bless you.

---

Professional Services Provided By

*Woody "Home For Services"*

163 Oakwood Ave. • Orange, NJ 07050  
ph (973) 674-0814 • fax (973) 674-2055  
[www.honoryou.com](http://www.honoryou.com) 

