



Celebrating
The Life of
Rev. Clarence Merritt

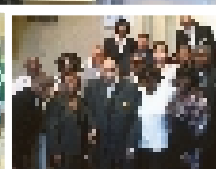
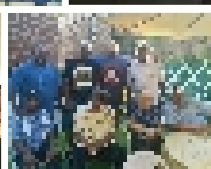
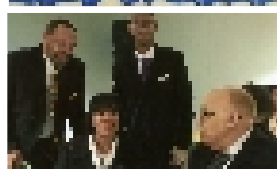
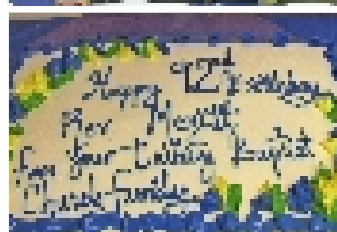
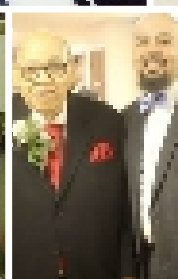
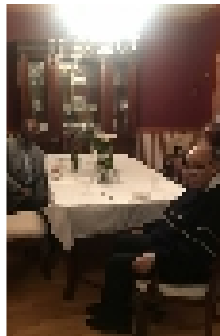
Sunrise
October 2, 1924

Sunset
February 12, 2017



Saturday, February 18, 2017 - 10:00 a.m.

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH
218 Passaic Street • Hackensack, NJ
Rev. George Maize, IV, Officiating



Reflections of Life

Reverend Clarence Merritt was born October 2, 1924, in Freeman, Virginia to the late Annie Jordan and the late Charlie Merritt. He passed away peacefully on February 12, 2017 at the age of 92, and he is now at home in Heaven. He was preceded in death by 12 siblings: Maggie, Gracie, Louise, Annie, Edward, Ed, Levi, George, Henry, Ervin, Lonnie and Russell, all of whom attended the Brunswick County, Virginia public schools. He, along with most of the Merritt men, worked full-time jobs while in school, as the family's needs came first. At an early age, he joined Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Freeman, where he was a faithful member for many years.

In 1947, Rev. Merritt relocated to Hackensack, New Jersey to be near his older brothers, Henry and Ervin. He immediately started a life of service through his church affiliations and various organizations. It was in New Jersey in the early 1950s, where he met his lifelong partner, Mary Toon. Mary Toon, a member of the Mt. Olive Baptist Church Choir, caught Rev. Merritt's eye, as she sang so beautifully. It was soon evident that they were ideal partners – he could preach and she could sing – and they were united in Holy Matrimony on May 4th 1957. This year, Clarence and Mary Merritt would have celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

To this union was born one daughter, Monica. A devoted father, Rev. Merritt ensured that Monica received a college education and opportunities to live a productive, rewarding life – one imbued with a love of God. With that goal in mind, he worked 46 years in the maintenance department at New Jersey Bell. A dedicated employee with a stellar work ethic, he rarely, if ever, took a sick day, and he was often seen walking to and from work, no matter the weather conditions.

One of Rev. Merritt's proudest accomplishments was being a charter member of the Trinity Baptist Church in Hackensack led by the founding Pastor, Rev. Richard H. Puryear. His contributions included providing the inspiration for the church's name, and implementing the church's charter and organizational structure. Always an active Christian, he served as a Deacon for more than 50 years, and served as Chairman of the Deacon Board for over two decades at both the New Hope Baptist Church and Trinity Baptist Church.

At Trinity, Rev. Merritt achieved the distinction of serving as the church's first Chairman of the Board. He was a founder and treasurer of the Deacon's Union and held other various leadership roles in the organization from 1973-1978. He was also the church's

first Superintendent of Sunday Schools. He sang in the Men's Chorus at Trinity for many years, and was the choir's first President. He also had a special relationship with the congregation at Mount Zion Baptist where he served under Rev. Curry for nearly five years.

A proud Mason, he earned the high honor of 33rd Degree, having joined the St. Paul Lodge #7 Hackensack FAAY in 1958, where he served for many years as its Chaplain.

By obeying God's will throughout his life, Rev. Merritt preached his trial sermon and was licensed to the ministry in 1978 at Trinity Baptist Church. In the presence of his family, he was formally ordained at his home church in Freeman, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, on September 21, 1980. Rev. Merritt took his call to the ministry very seriously and was committed to furthering his education in the areas of religious doctrine and theology. He first attended First Baptist Church Evening Institute; and later, he attended the New York Theological Seminary where he received his certification in 1981.

He was the ultimate people person and a true Southern gentleman – charming, engaging, friendly and polite – and he always wore a warm smile. Many people sought his counsel; and he loved to share the teachings of the Bible to all who were willing to listen. Rev. Merritt loved a good joke and was always ready to tell one. He will be sorely missed at the family gatherings, “cutting up” with his brother-in-law Luther.

Rev. Merritt leaves to cherish many wonderful memories, his wife Mary, daughter Monica Weeks, grandson Tyler Weeks, and a host of other family members, acquired through his generous, loving spirit: daughters, Thelma Miles, Gracie Williams, Linda Wright; granddaughter Niya Duncan; brother-in-law Luther Toon; devoted niece and nephew Gladys and Willie Hopson; son in the ministry Min. David Summerville; family friend, Robert Brunson, and many nieces, nephews, friends, as well as his beloved Trinity Baptist Church family.

In the Bible, which he presented to Monica on the day that she left home for college, Rev. Merritt wrote his testimony from the Book of Isaiah.

Isaiah 40:28: Hast though not known? Has thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding. Isaiah 40:29: He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Isaiah 40:31: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Order of Service

Procession

Music Selection “Precious Lord”

The Final Viewing

The Call To Order

Moment Of Praise

Hymn Of Comfort “Near The Cross”

Reflections Deacon Kevin Gillespie (Deacon Ministry)
Trustee Helen O. Wyche (Trustee Ministry)

Scripture:

The Old Testament Rev. Roderick Merritt - Isaiah 25:1-8

Reflections Min. David Summerville

The New Testament Min. David Summerville - 2 Timothy 4:5-8

Reflections Bro. Jerome Pemberton (Sunday School)

Prayer of Comfort Rev. Robert L. Curry

Reflections Sis. Thelma Miles (Merritt family)

Music Selection..... Trinity Baptist Music Ministry

Reflections Bishop Isaiah McKinnon (Toon Family)
Monica Weeks and Tyler Weeks (Weeks family)

Acknowledgements Niya Duncan and Linda Wright

Charter Members Tribute and Salute Puryear family

Obituary Linda Wright

Music Selection Trinity Baptist Music Ministry

Word From The LORD

Closing Prayer

Recessional

Note: Reflection should be no more than 2 minutes.

Interment
George Washington Memorial Park
Paramus, New Jersey

*Repat Immediately Following Interment at
Trinity Baptist Church*

Carry On My Children

*Carry on my children
And do not weep.
For today is not the end
But instead the beginning.
Carry on my children
You must be strong
For I am home with the Lord
And I am free from all that ails me.
Carry on my children
And keep my memory alive
Remember our laughter
And all the joys we shared.
So until we meet again
Carry on my dear children
For one day we will all be free.*

Perhaps

Perhaps you sent a lovely card, or sat quietly in a chair. Perhaps you sent a floral piece if so we saw it there. Perhaps you spoke the kindest words as any friend could say. Perhaps you were not there at all, just thought of us that day. Whatever you did to console our hearts we thank you so much whatever the part.

Special thanks for your endless support of the Merritt and Weeks families:

Rev. and Mrs. Maize, Trinity kitchen staff, and Church Family

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Nu Xi Omega Chapter

The Firm and The Ladies of the Kitchen Round Table

Gladys Hopson

Gracie Williams

Walking Deacon, Mattie Johnson

Jerome Pemberton

Deaconess Juliet Washington

Deaconess Helen Ray

Pallbearers

Tyler Weeks

Amod Field

Jason Field

Shawn McKinnon

Rev. Roderick Merritt

Min. David Summerville

Honorary Pallbearers

Alfred Merritt

Edward Merritt

James Merritt

Lawrence Merritt

Wilbert Merritt

Calvin Merritt

Willie Ellis Merritt

Funeral Arrangements Entrusted to:

Clinton-Curry Funeral Home

411 West Broad Street • Westfield, NJ 07091

Phone: 908-232-6869 • Fax: 908-232-3206

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