

*Celebrating the Life Of*



*Bertha Marie Collins*

Sunrise: August 26, 1924 - Sunset: March 19, 2017

**Service:**

Saturday, March 25, 2017 - 11:00 a.m.

**MONMOUTH CHURCH OF CHRIST**

312 Hance Avenue • Tinton Falls, New Jersey 07753

**Minister Reagon Wilson, Officiating**

## Obituary

**Bertha “Berdie” M. Cotton Collins**, 92, passed away on Sunday, March 19, 2017 at the Neptune Gardens Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Neptune, NJ. Berdie was born on August 26, 1924 to Catherine and James Godfrey in Providence, Rhode Island.

At an early age she was adopted along with her sister Gloria by Dr. and Mrs. Norman T. Cotton. She was raised in Harlem, NY and Montclair, NJ and enjoyed her childhood summers at the family’s summer home in Martha’s Vineyard, MA.

In 1949, Berdie married Joseph M. Collins Sr. and they raised their children: Norma and Joseph “Joe” Jr. in Nutley, NJ.

Berdie was a long time resident of Nutley and later Neptune for the past 23 years. Berdie was an active member of the Tinton Falls Senior Citizen Group. She also regularly attended Monmouth Church of Christ in Tinton Falls where she loved to sing every Sunday.

Berdie’s children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren were the center of her world. She loved to travel, dance, and was a mean card player. She was known for her signature red lipstick and her infectious laugh. She was a true optimist and never turned down an opportunity to tear up the dance floor. She will be deeply missed by her family, church family, and countless number of friends.

Berdie has joined in eternity: her husband Joseph M. Collins Sr., her parents Dr. Norman T. Cotton and Bertha M. Cotton, and beloved sisters Annie Thornhill, Margaret “Dolly” Cruz, and Gloria Carter Westcott.

She is survived by her children: Norma M. Davis (Ralph) of Tinton Falls, Joseph M. Collins Jr. of San Francisco, CA; her grandchildren: Dr. Bryce C. Davis (Sandy) of Los Angeles, CA, Chad E. Davis of New York, NY, Cherise M. Davis of Baltimore, MD; her great grandchild: Juliet D. Davis of Los Angeles, CA; and many beloved and cherished family and friends.

# Order of Service

Funeral Liturgy.....

Selection.....“It Is Well With My Soul”

Greeting

Invitation to Prayer.....

Opening Prayer.....

Old Testament Reading.....Psalm 46:1-3 & Proverbs 3:5-6

New Testament Reading.....John 16:33

Selection.....“Old Rugged Cross”, “Blessed Assurance”

General Intercessions.....

The Lord’s Prayer.....

Selection.....“Give Thanks”, “Lord I Need You”

Reflection.....Family and Friends

Selection.....“When We All Get To Heaven”

Obituary.....

Eulogy.....

Committal.....

Release of Doves.....

Benediction


**“Rest Sweet Berdie, Thank You for a Life Well Lived.”**

## ***Repast Invitation:***

*Berdie’s family requests that you join them for a repast in the Church Dining Hall.*

# No Goodbyes

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*Oh Father, can you hear us?  
We're sending a prayer your way,  
We're clutching hard to our faith,  
as mom taught us,  
As she draws closer to you each day.  
We talk to her in whispers,  
And we hope she hears us pray,  
We hope you send an angel  
To guide her towards your way.  
We continue to tell her we love her  
And thank her for all the sacrifices she has made  
And for the unconditional love,  
No matter what kind of behavior we displayed.  
Mom, can you hear us?  
We have so much more to say.  
We will continue on with your legacy.  
We hope we can be as strong as you one day.  
You taught us the importance of family.  
We have learned from the very best.  
Don't you worry yourself now, Mom,  
You keep yourself at rest.*

## Acknowledgement

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 on that day.  
Whatever you did to console our hearts, We Thank You, Whatever the part.

### Professional Services Provided By

**COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE**  
130 Main Street  
Orange, NJ  
973-675-6400

1025 Bergen Street  
Newark, NJ  
973-926-6400

**COTTON-PARKER FUNERAL HOME**  
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