

Homegoing Celebrating A Life Well Lived
Deaconess Rillie McPherson

Sunrise
September 2, 1930

Sunset
March 22, 2017



Friday – March 31, 2017
Final Viewing: 10:00-11:00 a.m.
Funeral Services: 11:00 a.m.

Zion Hill Baptist Church

152 Osborne Terrace
Newark, New Jersey

Rev. Douglas L. Williams, III, Pastor

Rev. Irving Childress, Officiating
New Beginnings Faith Fellowship Ministries

Obituary

Deaconess Rillie McPherson was born on September 2, 1930 to the late Edward and Nancy Smith, in Grangerberge, Alabama. She joined her beloved Sam with the Angels on Wednesday, March 22, 2017.

During her early teens, she relocated to Newark, NJ. Here she completed her education beginning at Arts High School and graduating from West Side High School. She had worked at Hemantics Manufacturing Company (Newark) and J. Wiss & Sons Shears/Scissors Company (Newark). She decided to return to school to advance her career. Upon graduation, she was employed at Cigna Insurance Company of Livingston, NJ where she worked as a claims adjuster until her retirement.

Rillie was Blessed the day that she met her soulmate, Sam. They were united in Holy Matrimony on March 9, 1952 and enjoyed sixty one years of marriage. Two daughters and a son were born from the union. With a broken heart, Rillie survived three years after Sam's passing in 2014.

Rillie's parents taught her the virtues of life and provided a strong Christian foundation. At an early age, she gave her life to Christ and was baptized at the Union Baptist Church in Dothan, Alabama. Upon arriving in Newark, she became a member at the "Zion Hill Baptist Church" in 1945 where she was a faithful member for many years. In support of her brother (the late Rev. Robert Smith), she joined in fellowship with "Christ Memorial Baptist Church" where she was ordained a Deaconess. After relocating to South Jersey she obtained a watch care membership with New Beginnings Faith Fellowship Ministries. Because of her love for singing gospel music, Rillie and her sister formed a singing group "The Gospel Echoes". They traveled around New Jersey spreading the "Good News" of the Lord. Her signature soprano solo was "Since I Met Jesus", which was always a Blessing.

Rillie was a true Virgo. Her kind and friendly spirit was like a magnet drawing people to her. She acquired relationships with her many young friends. They called her mom and she adopted them as her children. Rillie was always willing to listen, console, and offer spiritual advice to her family and friends. "TRUST GOD" and "THE LORD WILL PROVIDE AND MAKE A WAY" were beliefs that she lived by. Rillie enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren whom she loved dearly. But most of all, she loved just being with her beloved Sam. They spent their time together talking, cooking, fishing, praying, watching TV, singing and cheering the Mets. They were true soulmates.

Rillie was preceded in death by her husband, Sam; infant son, Joseph; parents and two brothers. She leaves to cherish her memory, two daughters, Eunice McPherson-Benjamin of Sewaren, NJ and Helena McPherson of East Orange, NJ; one sister, Nancy E. Lindsay of Manchester, NJ; son-in-law, Chris Rhoden of Waretown, NJ; three grandchildren, Darius Rhoden, Chanel Rhoden and Ryan Benjamin; sister-in-law, Edna Graves of Irvington, NJ; brother-in-law, Richard McPherson (Eddie Dean) of Ft. Lauderdale, FL; and a host of nieces, nephews, adopted daughters, sons and friends.

Rillie loved and served God to the best of her ability. God is pleased with his good and faithful servant. Well done, Rillie...well done. Now you can rest peacefully in the arms of God and your beloved Sam.

Order of Service

Scripture Readings

Old Testament: Psalm 23 ~ New Testament: Ecclesiastes 5:3

Prayer of Comfort

Selection.....*Choir*

Remarks/Reflections.....*Family and Friends*

Selection.....*Choir*

Acknowledgements.....Condolences.....Resolutions

Obituary.....

Selection.....*Deacon William Woods*

Eulogy.....*Reverend Irving Childress*
New Beginnings Faith Fellowship Ministries

Final Viewing.....

Benediction

Recessional.....*"This May Be the Last Time"*

Interment

<i>Glendale Cemetery</i> <i>Bloomfield, New Jersey</i>

Repast: *Following the interment at Zion Hill Baptist Church*

She Is Gone

*You can shed tears that she is gone,
Or you can smile because she lived,*

*You can close your eyes and pray that she will come
back, Or you can open your eyes and see all that she has
left. Your heart can be empty because you can't see her*

Or you can be full of the love that you shared,

*You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday,
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.*

You can remember her and only that she is gone

Or you can cherish her memory and let it live on,

You can cry and close your mind;

be empty and turn your back,

*Or you can do what she would want:
smile, open your eyes, love and go on.*

-Author, David Harkins

Acknowledgement

*The family wishes to express their sincere thanks and appreciation
for all acts of kindness and expressions of sympathy that was
shown to them during this time of bereavement.*

Professional Services by:
Whigham Funeral Home

580 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Newark, New Jersey 07102

973-622-6872

Carolyn Whigham, Director

