



Anonymous

When I am gone, release me, let me go.
I have so many things to see and do,
You mustn't tie yourself to me with too many tears,
But be thankful we had so many good years.
I gave you my love, and you can only guess
How much you've given me in happiness.
I thank you for the love that you have shown,
But now it is time I traveled on alone.
So grieve for me a while, if grieve you must,
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.
It is only for a while that we must part,
So treasure the memories within your heart.
I won't be far away for life goes on.
And if you need me, call and I will come.
Though you can't see or touch me, I will be near.
And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear,
All my love around you soft and clear.
And then, when you come this way alone,
I'll greet you with a smile and a 'Welcome Home'.

Acknowledgement

The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour. May God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.

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
37 Clinton Avenue
Jersey City, NJ
201-433-1000



A Celebration of Life for
Mary Thompson-Vaden

August 17, 1954 – July 19, 2022



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2022 - 11:00 AM
Cotton Funeral Service
1025 Bergen Street • Newark, New Jersey

www.honoru.com

Obituary

Pastor Mary Dean Thompson-Vaden, daughter of the late Emma Kearney, Carlton Patrick, and living James Kearney, was born Aug. 17th, 1954, in Washington County, North Carolina.

Mary Dean attended public schools in Lakewood, N.J. After graduating from Lakewood High School Mary Dean attended Stuart School of Business and Georgian Court College. Mary Dean worked various jobs from librarian in Lakewood, Outreach Programs, Temp Agencies, Continental Insurance, and Apartment Building Manager. But her favorite line of work was as Community Organizer in Newark, NJ, running after school summer programs and programs for teens at the church.

Pastor Mary Dean Thompson Vaden is known to everyone as a woman of Christ. At the early age of 11, Mary professed her love for Jesus Christ and became a member of Bethel Church of God in Christ, Lakewood. As a dedicated member of the church, Mary became a member and leader of Young People Willing Workers (YPWW), teaching other young people about God's love. Church led Mary to meet and marry her first husband, the late Reverend Melvin Thompson of Asbury Park, with whom she had three children: Melvina Thompson, Henry Thomas Thompson (deceased), and Velda Selene-Shantanique Thompson. After marrying Reverend Melvin Thompson, she became an active member of Mt. Olive Holy Temple Church of God in Christ, Neptune, NJ.

In 1994, after Reverend Melvin's passing, she became a member of St. Paul's Sounds of Praise where she once again became a youth leader; teaching teens to conduct services, orchestrating fundraisers, and traveling to various church programs to sing and worship. In 1998 she married the late Bishop Henry Vaden and together with her husband, she Co-Pastored St. Peters Angelic Church of God, Newark, NJ. Mary had the gift of nurture and anyone who met her could feel her warmth, compassion and Godly love.

She truly lived by example and "love thy neighbor" seemed so effortless for her – in fact, she considered every human being to be her neighbor. The love she had for people shined through over the years as she fostered countless children, considering each of them her sons and daughters and loving them as though she had given birth to them. While her son Devion Wilson considered himself too old to be adopted, Mary and Bishop Vaden held out hopes until his untimely demise. Mary and Bishop Vaden were happily able to legally adopt, raise, and love 3 babies in their care during their union: Henry Dashawn Vaden, Diamond Roberta Vaden, and Anthony Henry Vaden.

Mary's essence departed this earth Tuesday, July 19th. She is predeceased by her baby Henry Thomas Thompson; her first husband Reverend Melvin Thompson, her biological father Carlton Patrick Sr of Roper, NC, her foster son Devion Wilson of Newark, NJ; her mother, Emma Dean Swain Kearney of Lakewood, NJ; her husband Bishop Henry Vaden of Newark, NJ and her brother Glenwood Kearney of Lakewood, NJ.

Mary leaves to cherish her memories – her children, Melvina Thompson of Berks County, PA; Velda Thompson of Monmouth County, NJ; Henry Dashawn, Diamond and Anthony Vaden of Essex County, NJ; Two granddaughters: Noelani Selene Thompson and Atarah Melvina Thompson; The loving father that raised her, James B. Kearney of Lakewood, NJ; Sisters: Joyce Tuggles of Accokeek, MD, Alberta Lopez of Springfield, VA, Linda Williams of Richmond, TX; Selina Kearney-Rogers of Lakewood, NJ; Brothers: Robert Williams of Decatur, GA; Carlton Patrick, Jr. of Roper, NC;; Barry Kearney of Lakewood, NJ; Mark Kearney of Newark, NJ; Daniel Kearney of Lakewood, NJ. Her beautiful spirit and love will forever be cherished in the lives of a host of Aunts, Uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, church family and beloved friends. Her influence will be forever missed in the lives of those who knew her.

"For God so Loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him shall not perish but have everlasting life"
John 3:16...God surely loved the world when he gave us Mary Dean.

Order of Service

Processional

OfficiantPastor Howard

Scripture Reading..... Pastor Mosley Psalms 91
Pastor Woods Thess. 4: 13-18

Prayer of Comfort..... Apostle James

SelectionSelina Kearney

Remarks (2 mins each please)..... Family & Friends

Acknowledgements & Resolutions.....Morrisa Stevens

Poem Reading..... Sandy

Obituary.....Morrisa Stevens

Selection.....Naomi Stevens

Eulogy.....Pastor Stevens

Recessional

Interment

Graceland Cemetery
Kenilworth, New Jersey