

CELEBRATION

OF LIFE



The
Reverend
Mattie Ruth
Burks

1939

~

2012

She is Gone . . .

You can shed tears that she is gone
Or you can smile
because she has 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.

~ David Harkins

"Life is But A Stopping Place"

*Life is but a stopping place,
A pause in what's to be,
A resting place along the road,
to sweet eternity.
We all have different journeys,
Different paths along the way,
We all were meant
to learn some things,
but never meant to stay...
Our destination is a place,
Far greater than we know.
For some the journey's quicker,
For some the journey's slow.
And when the journey finally ends,
We'll claim a great reward,
And find an everlasting peace,
Together with the Lord*

~ Author unknown



*In
Loving
Memory
of
The
Reverend
Mattie
Ruth
Burks*

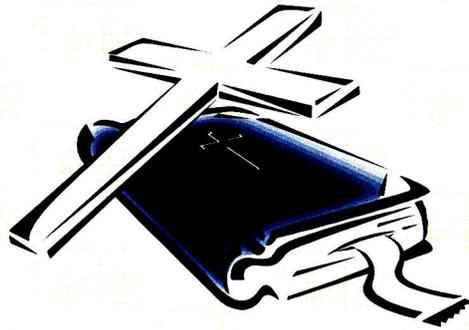


*Saturday, June 23, 2012
One o'clock in the afternoon*

*Hills Chapel Cumberland
Presbyterian Church in America*

3111 Ray Avenue • Decatur, Alabama 35603

Reverend Willie Cowan, Pastor



*¹In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus,
who will judge the living and the dead,
and in view of his appearing and his kingdom,
I give you this charge: ²Preach the word;
be prepared in season and out of season;
correct, rebuke and encourage —
with great patience and careful instruction.*

*³For the time will come when people
will not put up with sound doctrine.
Instead, to suit their own desires,
they will gather around them a great
number of teachers to say what
their itching ears want to hear.*

II Timothy 4:1-3

Life Reflections
of
The Reverend Mattie Ruth Burks



The Reverend Mattie Ruth Burks was born to the late Elder William M. Burks, I, and Mrs. Louisiana Sandifer Burks on March 12, 1939, and was the youngest of 14 children. On June 16, 2012, Mattie peacefully transitioned from life on earth to a promised Eternal Life.

Mattie was affectionately called “Muh” by relatives and friends. In 1991, she accepted the call to ministry and delivered her first message in December of that year. She was active at Hills Chapel Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (CPCA), which has been the home church for more than five generations of the Burks Family. At Hills Chapel CPCA, she faithfully served as an ordained elder and as an associate minister. Additionally, she served as treasurer for the Senior Missionary Society; and for numerous years, she was the advisor for the Junior Missionary Society at Hills Chapel CPCA. In her ministry, she regularly carried an encouraging message to senior citizens in Decatur, Alabama. During the leadership transition at St. James CPCA, she ministered and extended pastoral care to the congregation.

Mattie served in all courts of the CPCA. Within the Tennessee Valley Presbytery and the Alabama Synod courts, she served as a delegate to the Sunday School Convention and the Missionary Society. At the highest court, the General Assembly, she served as a commissioner representing the Tennessee Valley Presbytery.



After many years of serving as a Crossing Guard for the City of Decatur at Eastwood Elementary, Austinville Elementary, Somerville Road Elementary and Oak Park Middle Schools, **Mattie** decided her time at that task was completed. Hobbies and interests over her life varied; however, most notably, she enjoyed fishing (baiting the hook and removing the fish with a hand towel), watching the Atlanta Braves, and being a grandmother.

Cherishing her memory and recalling the life lessons she shared are **four children:** Ronald Burks (*Daphane*), Shelia Burks, Venet Strain Roberts (*Kelvin*), and Adrain Strain; **eleven grandchildren:** William M. Burks, III, Keith Burks, Ebony Burks Henry (*Jake*), Ametra Patterson Hudgins (*Jimmy*), Justin Strain, Michael Burks, Alexis Strain, JaShaun Strain, Korian Roberts, Kaeden Roberts, and Keaton Roberts; and **seven great-grandchildren:** Alevya Banks, Kedric Roberson, Keith Burks, Arianna Hudgins, Micah Henry, Jeremiah Strain and Peyton Burks.

Hailing from a family rich with love and support, **Mattie** is also remembered by **one brother**, Edward Burks (*Georgia*) of Cleveland, Ohio; **six sisters:** Margaret Ruffin of Westwego, Louisiana; Elove Johnston of Marrero, Louisiana; Nettie Wynn and Ann Edmonds of Decatur, Alabama; Doris Curry and Evelyn Robinson of Akron, Ohio; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Order of Service



MUSICAL PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL Hills Chapel CPCA Choir

INVOCATION.....Pastor Endia Scruggs
Pastor, Madkins Chapel CPCA

THE SCRIPTURE

OLD TESTAMENT Pastor Michael Jones
Pastor, St. James CPCA

NEW TESTAMENT Reverend Carol Franklin

PRAYER..... Mr. Ronald Burks

SELECTION..... Hills Chapel Hills Chapel CPCA Choir

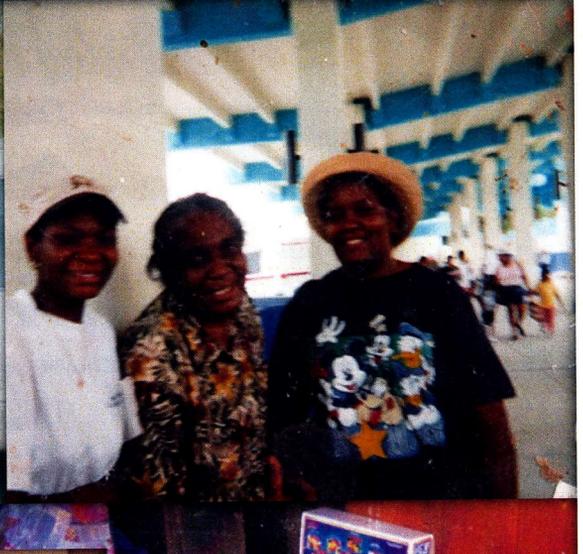
WORDS of ENCOURAGEMENT Mr. William M. Burks, III

SOLO Ms. Vanessa Edmonds

THE EULOGY Pastor Willie Cowan
Pastor, Hills Chapel CPCA

MORTICIAN Nelms Memorial Funeral Home

RECESSIONAL





Callbearers

~Nephews~

Jerry Cross
Walter Lockett

Johnny Cross
Wilson Cross

Eugene English
Andre Cater

Flower Bearers

~Nieces~

Joella Davis
Vanessa Edmonds
Monique Hobbs

Francis Tate
Joanna Brown

Kathy English
Renaë Cross
Kanilla Brown

Ushers

St. James Cumberland Presbyterian
Church in America

Interment

Roselawn Cemetery
Decatur, Alabama

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Final Arrangements Entrusted
Nelms Memorial Funeral Home

"We cannot erase the sting of death, but we can make it easier."
2501 Carmichael Avenue NW - Huntsville, Alabama 35816 - (256) 539-8189

www.nelmsmemorial.net



Acknowledgement

The Family of the Reverend Mattie R. Burks wishes to thank each of you for the loving compassion that you have shown during this time. It is indeed a blessing from God. Your kind expressions of love have strengthened our faith, helped us accept the things we could not change, and reaffirmed the fact that others shared our loss. We have been blessed with prayers, cards, visits, flowers, telephone calls, contributions of food, and other gestures of thoughtfulness. Words can never express just how much you mean to us! God Bless Each of You!

My Mother Kept A Garden



*My Mother kept a garden.
A garden of the heart;
She planted all the good things,
That gave my life it's start.*

*She turned me to the sunshine,
And encouraged me to dream:
Fostering and nurturing
The seeds of self-esteem.*



*And when the winds and rains came,
She protected me enough;
But not too much, she knew I'd need
To stand up strong and tough.*

*Her constant good example,
Always taught me right from wrong;
Markers for my pathway
To last my whole life long.*

*I am my Mother's garden,
I am her legacy.
And I hope today she feels the love,
Reflected back from me.*

~Unknown