

Homegoing Celebration Service
of
Ella Mae “Ma” Burks
December 18, 1931 - October 9, 2011



“Going Home”

Saturday, October 15, 2011 11:30 a.m.
Lindsey Lane Baptist Church

Rev. Kenneth Langford Jr., Officiating

OBITUARY

On Sunday, October 9, 2011, God called one of his faithful servants to rest.

Ella Mae Crutcher Burks was born in Limestone County on December 18, 1931 to David Crutcher and Estella Malone, both preceded her in death.

She accepted Christ as her personal savior on Monday, August 25, 1947 and joined Bright Hope Cumberland Presbyterian under the leadership of Rev. Aaron Toney, she later joined Word of Faith Missionary Baptist Church in 2000 under the leadership of Rev. Willie J. Mangruen, where she remained a faithful member.

She was a member of Bright Hope # 1 Choir and she was President of the Missionary Society, where she worked faithfully encouraging young ministers to spread the word of God every 4th Sunday. She dedicated her life by helping those in need by giving benefit programs. She also paved the way for other musical artist by allowing them the opportunity to enhance their singing careers.

Her work never stopped with Bright Hope but she continued in her work at Word of Faith M.B. Church, where she worked side by side with the Pastor as the President of Pastor's Aides. She also was an advisor of the kitchen committee and a member of the parking lot committee.

She was a strong community activist actively involved with the Athens City Council and The Board of Education. She was well respected in the community for her role as she fought to make a better life for her community.

She and her husband were the founders of the "Family of Tribes". The group traveled the world as far as Freeport Bahamas spreading the word of God through our music ministry. Under her leadership the group won and received many awards and recognition. She became a well known music promoter. With her leadership the group received many musical recording opportunities and through her guidance the Family of Tribes recorded numerous albums.

She was respected all across this country as one of America's most prolific promoters and performers in the gospel music industry.

She was united in Holy Matrimony to Willie Mangruen in 1951 and later married to Lester Burks in 1976.

Ella Mae leaves to celebrate her homegoing and cherish her memories: 16 children; three preceded her in death: Charlie Mae Crutcher, Willie Lee Mangruen and Markmarie Mangruen.

Obituary Continue

She is survived by her 13 children: Bessie (Billy) Pryor, Earnestine (Ira) Turner, Pastor Willie J. (Fannie) Mangruen, Annette (Ray) Wiggins, Rev. Rickey Burks, Rev. Stoney (Tiffany) Burks, Rev. Dorrine McLin all of Athens, AL, Ryan Burks of Huntsville, AL, Rev. Victoria Burks of Tanner, AL, Bridgett (Ernest) Bailey of Madison, AL, Bishop Stevie (LaQuita) Burks of Athens, AL, Rev. Corey (Crystal) Burks of Madison, AL, and Christopher Burks of Athens, AL.

Her adopted God-sons; Anthony Johnson and John Anderson.

Eight sisters: two preceded her in death; Elizabeth Fletcher and Georgia Mae Benford. Nazerine (Leroy) Harris, Athens, AL, Lena Cox of Madison, AL, Dollie D. Smith of Huntsville, AL, Ida Mae Crutcher of Louisville, KY, Bert Huffman, Cincinnati, OH, and Clara Smith of Athens, AL. Two brothers; James (Jewel) Johnson of Athens, AL and David Crutcher of Louisville, KY. She has 32 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren. Five aunts and two uncles who preceded her in death. A host of nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.



ORDER OF SERVICE

Processional _____ "Momma" (Family of Tribes)

Selection _____ Morning Star

Song & Prayer _____ Rev. Jerry Gardner
Matthews House of Praise

Scripture

Old Testament Reading _____ Rev. James Townsend

New Testament Reading _____ Rev. Marcus Gilbert
Bright Hope C. P.C.A

Selection _____ "Grace & Mercy" (Believers In Christ)

Resolution and Acknowledgements _____ Sis. Ethel McCullough

Tribute _____ Slideshow

Words of Remembrance

As A Friend _____ Sis. Vera Williams

As A Church Member _____ (Bright Hope) _____ Sis. Millie J. Woods
(Word of Faith) _____ Sis. Mealie Hunter

Reflection _____ Huntley Batts
Owner of WEUP

Selection _____

Eulogy _____ Rev. Kenneth Langford
Fletcher Chapel P.B. Church

Solo _____ Bro. Shawn Moore

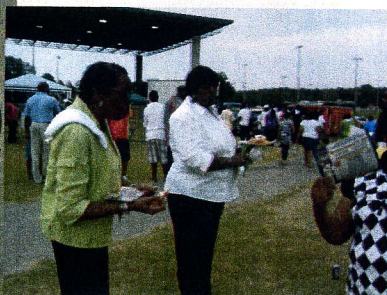
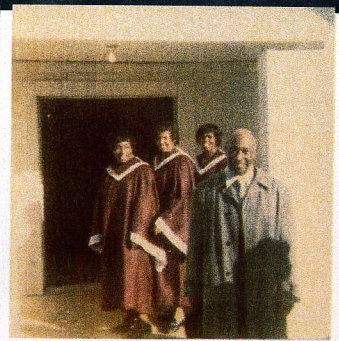
Special Tribute _____ Jerry Bolton of the Bolton Brother

Closing Prayer _____ Rev. Lawrence Sandifer

Recessional

A Lifetime of Memories











A New Life

My tears do fall and these burdens are hard to bear, but you've taught us that God is always there. You told us to hold on until the end and know that a new life was about to begin. Now you're going on to heaven where your Life have begun and whispering to us to hold on until the end. The tears and pain are so harder to bear but I promise Mom I will meet you there.

Victoria Burks

Reflections

Momma it seems like on yesterday when we saw your smile and heard your laughter. I can still hear your words "All I want is to see my children grown" Momma all your prayers have been answered and we could not have asked for a better life. You taught us how to love each other and to be a God Fearing Family. Momma we will miss you on this side but we will see you again on the other shore. Your legacy will never die, not only with your children, grand children, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren, but people everywhere you will never die as long as we live. Sleep on Momma take your rest. We love you, a great warrior and a strong leader.

Dorrine McLin

A Poem for Ma

Thank you for your gift of love to not only us but everyone around you as well, but now your sharing it with those up above. You had many things to say all in a caring way. You were always the one we could lean on and come to for sound advice, you bared the burden never faltering along the way. You were always the strength of our family, but now we must let you rest calmly. The tears may fall but we know your place in heaven has a good view because your telling God I need to keep an eye on a few. I know you will always be in our hearts and minds so Ma we must let you go but I'll never forget you're one of a kind special woman and we know this isn't good-bye it's a see ya later. Love you!

Your Grandkids

“Ma (From the Start) You Were There”

You mean the world to us and I want you to know
From the start you were there.

I remember as a child you told us what was right, then you taught us wrong from right.
You were always there to make everything alright whether it was a simple fall or a late night
call.

From the start you were there 16 to care for and you never complained cause you always trusted
in Jesus name.

It must have been hard indeed, but at night we could always find you on your knees praying
for God to keep us all, united we stand divided we fall (I remember).

Not a whole lot of money, but how we made it now seem so funny. Adults, now we all are
because your words and training will carry us far.

Don't worry we will continue on, you instilled a love in us that will keep us strong ,
Ma I Love You and I want you to know from the start to the end you have always been there.
We Love You Ma.

Mike and all your children



**On Sunday evening October 9, 2011
God was looking down from his great high heaven,
looking down on all his children and his eyes fell on my Momma.
Tossing on her bed of pain,**

**And God's big heart was touched with pity, with everlasting pity
And God sat back on his throne and he commanded that tall bright angel
standing at his right hand, "Call Me Death"**

**And that tall bright angel cried in a voice that broke like a clap of thunder,
"Call Death, Call Death"**

**And the echo sounded down the streets of heaven till it reached way back to
that shadowy place where death waited with his pale white horses.**

**And God said, Go down Death, down in Athens
And find Sis. Ella Mae Burks,**

**She beared the burden in the heat of the day,
She labored long in my vineyard
She's tired....she's weary....**

**Go down Death and bring her to me.
And death took her up like a baby and she laid in his arms,
And Jesus took his own hands and wiped away her tears**

**And said take your rest, take your rest!
Weep not, weep not she is not dead, she is resting in the bosom of Jesus.**

Annette Wiggins

THERE'S SOMETHING MY FAMILY SHOULD KNOW

*God reached down his loving hand and chose to lead you away
For us left here without you, it was just a few days ago*

*For God saw you suffering and wanted to set you free
He said, My child you'll suffer no more, if you come to live with me*

*Without hesitation, you said, I'll go
But first, let me take a second God, for 'There's something my family should know'*

*God said My child please talk to them and tell them what's in your heart
Then I will take your graceful hand, and you and I shall part*

*You said, I love each one of you with everything that I am
But now my time on earth is done, and I must trust in him*

*Cry not for me dear family, keep a smile upon your face
Remember, I'll be in Heaven, a beautiful and loving place*

*I'm not afraid, and I'll be at peace
For my sickness and pain I know will cease*

*And When I take my journey home and get to Heaven's door
I'll be forever happy, and tears I'll shed no more*

*I'll take my place in Heaven, and I'll stand right by your side
Please tell me what your weakness is, in me you can confide*

*I'll give you love and all my strength whenever you're in need
I'll not be just your Mother and Grandmother, for an Angel I will be
For when I chose to take God's hand, He chose to set me free*

I Love and Miss You Ma,

Bridgett

Honorary Pallbearers

Clagon Wood
Ram Hammond
WM Williams

Osbie Stevens
Billy F Crutcher
James Moore

Honorary Flower Bearers

Vera Williams
Mealie Hunter
Millie J Woods

Annie M Mangruen
Dorothy J Mangruen
Bonnie Collier

Active Pallbearers

John Anderson
Roy Dejesus
Robert Earl Williams
Eugene Anderson

Steven Clay
Frank Brown
Patrick Malone
Fred Crutcher

Flower Bearers

Jean Benford
Belinda Ann Houston
Priscilla Williams
Patricia Williams

Edna Pearl Stevens
Latrace Jones
Thelma Crutcher
Helen Davis

Interment

Thatch-Mann Cemetery
Athens, AL

Repast

Home of Ella Mae Burks
2104 Luke St
Athens, AL

ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO:

NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

2501 CARMICHAEL AVE NW

HUNTSVILLE, AL 35816