



Mother Bernice Jennings

December 16, 1931 - October 30, 2018

****NOTE: VISITATION & FUNERAL SERVICE TIMES & LOCATION LISTED BELOW

On Tuesday, October 30, 2018, God sent one of his kindest angels to assist our mother to peacefully take her flight and transcend to her eternal hour of glory while surrounded by her loving family.

Mother Bernice was the 5th child born to the union of Edward and Georgia Hooper on December 16, 1931 in Greenville, MS. As a youth, Mother Jennings and her siblings toiled in the cotton fields in Mississippi as she was no stranger to hard work. Seeking better economic opportunities, she moved to Chicago, Illinois where she accepted Christ at a young age and served under the tutelage of the late Pastor Glen Washington.

On December 11, 1948 she married the love of her life the late great Admin. Walter Jennings, Sr. (whom she often stated she was married to 53 years and 1 day—to be exact!) In the early 1950's for the betterment of their small family, they decided to move to Kalamazoo, MI. She was a devoted wife and an excellent mother, and instilled in her children to put God first in their lives, to love one another and her belief was to spare the rod spoil the child.

In the late 1960's to early 1970's, Mother Jennings served as a teacher and a

disciplinarian at Lincoln Elementary School in Kalamazoo, MI. Later, she decided not to return to that position. Her love for children was not only in the classroom but also in the home as she taught her children great work ethics even if it meant getting up at the crack of dawn to pick blueberries, cut grapes or climb apple or other fruit trees. She believed the bible was “right by itself” as she often quoted the passage that says to be fruitful and multiply, in which she procured 13 children. She had a loving devotion to God and her husband. She was the “First Lady” of many churches that her husband pastored including: New Hope Church of God In Christ in Bangor, MI; Pentecostal Church Of God In Christ in Three Rivers MI; Prayer Garden Church Of God In Christ in Vandalia, MI and Greater Prayer Garden Church of God In Christ in Bangor, MI. Although she was the First Lady, she served in several capacities within the church which including: Sunday School Superintendent, and Prayer and Bible Band Teacher. She mastered the art of raising money by encouraging everyone she encountered to contribute to her Sunday School Class. She even went as far as giving her students gleaners to fill up weekly, so she could be awarded the Sunday School Banner.

Soon after her husband went home to be with the Lord, Mother Jennings joined her son’s church, Progressive Deliverance Ministries Church Of God In Christ in Kalamazoo, MI, where she became an Assistant Church Mother, serving faithfully until her death.

Her favorite song she would often sing was: “I don’t feel no ways tired. I come too far from where God brought me from. Nobody told me the road would be easy. I don’t believe He brought me this far to leave me!”

Bernice was faithful to God, family, friends and to the many people she encountered along her way in life, were never treated like a stranger. Despite her failing health she always stated, “I’m Blessed” and pressed through with the spirit of Job. “ She fought a good fight!”

She was preceded in death by her husband, Administrator Walter Jennings Sr.; 2 children, Angela Renee Jennings and Kelvin Maurice Jennings; her parents; 3 brothers and 2 sisters.

Mother Bernice Jennings leaves to cherish her memory 11 children: Walter Jennings Jr. of Kalamazoo, MI; Bernadine Stanfill-Porter of Bangor, MI; Jacquelyn (Eddie) Lee of Sacramento, CA; Missionary Patricia Jennings and Debra Moore of Kalamazoo, MI; Elder Rickey (Dianna) Jennings of Allegan, MI; Pastor Gregory (Gwendolyn) Jennings of Kalamazoo, MI; Randy Jennings of Chicago, IL; Darryl Jennings and Denise Jennings both of Kalamazoo, MI; and Andrea Jennings of West Columbia, SC; 2 grandchildren she raised as her own children: Mario and Jaleesa Campbell both of Kalamazoo, MI; 1 special brother-in-law; Mr. Cedell Jennings of Chicago, IL; 52 grandchildren; 65 great grandchildren; 4 great-great grandchildren; also several special nieces and nephews that mean a lot to her; cousins and friends and her loving Progressive Deliverance church family.

"In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

Thessalonians 5:18 KJV

Cemetery Details

Riverside Cemetery

1015 Gull Rd
Kalamazoo, MI 49048-1733
(269) 337-8227

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 8. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Progressive Deliverance Ministries COGIC
1527 N. Edwards
Kalamazoo, Mi

A Service in Loving Memory

NOV 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

Progressive Deliverance Ministries COGIC
1527 N. Edwards
Kalamazoo, Mi

Tribute Wall



“ Harper Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mother Bernice Jennings



Harper Funeral Home - November 07, 2018 at 10:57 PM

BL

Rih Auntie Burnice love 💕 u 🥺🥺

Brenda Love - November 09, 2018 at 10:32 PM

BL

Wonderful loving blessed memories. May the Father up above continues to comfort all of your hearts. Bobbie J Huntley

Bobbie J Huntley Linwood - November 09, 2018 at 11:22 PM

PM

Lovely video.. fond memories of Mrs. Jennings at my grandparents house of Berie and Louella Morris' house. Safe journey Mrs Jennings. God's favor to the family.

Pamela Morris - November 11, 2018 at 06:54 AM



“ Mother Bernice Jennings

October 23, 2023 at 06:06 AM



“ *Mother Bernice Jennings*

October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM



“ *Ruth Wells lit a candle in memory of Mother Bernice Jennings*



Ruth Wells - November 16, 2018 at 01:07 AM



“ *Hi, my cousins, the three remaining offsprings of your Uncle J. D. Jennings, Walter, William (Dub), & Ruth send our warmest and sincere condolences to all of you. We loved Aunt Bernice. And we love each of you. You will remain in our prayers. May God bless and keep you in His Providential care.*

Ruth Wells - November 15, 2018 at 02:10 AM



“ *Pauline Gardner lit a candle in memory of Mother Bernice Jennings*



Pauline Gardner - November 10, 2018 at 05:52 AM

DF

“ Dallas Boards And Family lit a candle in memory of Mother Bernice Jennings



Dallas Boards and family - November 09, 2018 at 05:21 PM

TF

“ The Fields Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Mother Bernice Jennings



The Fields Family - November 09, 2018 at 01:56 PM

RL

“ Ramona Lumpkin sent a virtual gift in memory of Mother Bernice Jennings



Ramona Lumpkin - November 09, 2018 at 11:19 AM

RC

“ Renate' L. Cole sent a virtual gift in memory of Mother Bernice Jennings



Renate' L. Cole - November 08, 2018 at 09:46 PM

RC

“ *Renate' L. Cole lit a candle in memory of Mother Bernice Jennings*



Renate' L. Cole - November 08, 2018 at 09:10 PM



“ *Karest Willis Brown sent a virtual gift in memory of Mother Bernice Jennings*



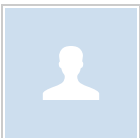
Karest Willis Brown - November 08, 2018 at 07:32 PM



“ *Karest Willis Brown lit a candle in memory of Mother Bernice Jennings*



Karest Willis Brown - November 08, 2018 at 06:32 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mother Bernice Jennings.*



November 08, 2018 at 03:56 PM

TF

“ *The Luddie Walker Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Mother Bernice Jennings*



The Luddie Walker Family - November 08, 2018 at 01:11 PM

RW

“ *2 Timothy 4:7-8 King*

7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.



Remenyi Williams - November 08, 2018 at 12:31 PM

TF

“ *The Daniel Family lit a candle in memory of Mother Bernice Jennings*



The Daniel Family - November 08, 2018 at 11:10 AM

TJ

“ Teresa Mahone Jordan lit a candle in memory of Mother Bernice Jennings



Teresa Mahone Jordan - November 08, 2018 at 10:35 AM

HB

“ Hal & Janet Buchanan lit a candle in memory of Mother Bernice Jennings



Hal & Janet Buchanan - November 08, 2018 at 10:12 AM

JH

“ Jeanetta Walker Hamilton, sent a virtual gift in memory of Mother Bernice Jennings



Jeanetta Walker Hamilton, - November 08, 2018 at 07:07 AM

SW

“ To the family of Mother B Jennings, She was **SOMEBODY** special, she loved all!!!! She got me straight on pronouncing a city in Mississippi 😊, she would straighten out anyone if they crossed her line. She will be greatly missed, she was the strength of her family!! God bless all her children and extended family!!! Love Scott Williams

Scott Williams - November 08, 2018 at 06:32 AM

DR

“ Donald & Rubynell(Walker)Barbee lit a candle in memory of Mother Bernice Jennings



Donald & Rubynell(Walker)Barbee - November 07, 2018 at 10:54 PM

BP

“ Barbara "McPherson" Phillips lit a candle in memory of Mother Bernice Jennings



Barbara "McPherson" Phillips - November 07, 2018 at 06:03 PM

MW

“ Minister Flora Walker sent a virtual gift in memory of Mother Bernice Jennings



Minister Flora Walker - November 07, 2018 at 04:36 PM