



Ms. Bernice Geddis Perry

October 31, 1935 - October 7, 2014

Ms. Bernice Geddis Perry, affectionately known as “Bea” entered into God’s eternal rest on Tuesday, October 7, 2014 at the Tuomey Healthcare System in Sumter. Born October 31, 1935 in Sumter County, she was third of six children born to the late Birnie and Mary Lee Lane Geddis, Sr.

Bernice attended the Public Schools of Sumter County. She was raised in the St. Luke A.M. E. Church in Sumter and later joined St. Luke A.M.E. Church in Newark, New Jersey, where she resided from 1958 to 2003. While there, she served her church in many capacities including: Y.P.D. Director, The Sarah Allen Missionary Society, Steward Board, Nurses Assistant, The Kitchen Ministry and Pastor’s Aide. She was employed with Topper Toys of Elizabeth, New Jersey and retired after 30 years from The Charles Bessles Company in Linden, New Jersey. After retirement, she relocated and rejoined St Luke A.M.E. Church of Sumter and continued in servitude on the Steward’s Board, a Stewardess, Pastor’s Aide, Pulpit Board, Kitchen Committee, Missionary Society and Layman’s Board. She was an avid reader with a caring and endearing spirit. She loved to visit on the telephone. She daily checked on the people, morning and evening and was known to many as Miss Sunshine. She was previously united in marriage to Vance Perry, Jr.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a daughter, Priscilla Geddis, two sisters; Geraldine Brockington, Catherine Geddis and a brother: Willie Joseph Geddis.

Those left to cherish precious memories are; three sisters, Rosa L. Terry,

Schertz, Tex. Amelia Geddis (Ernest) Porter, Columbia, SC and Beverly Geddis of Sumter; three brothers, Birnie (Barbara) Geddis, Jr., Anthony (Ingrid) Geddis both of Sumter, SC and Garnett Mack of Bronx, NY; a host of nieces, Rachel Delores , Mechelle, Bernice, Tosha ,Tiffany ,Tiana and Hope; nephews, Marvin V. Terry, Lorenza Geddis and Maurice Banks; two special Godchildren, Tameka M. Trawick and Felicia Banks; a Stepmother, Emma Johnson Geddis of Sumter and special grandnieces, Kayla and Janiya.

Cemetery Details

St. Luke A.M.E. Church Cemetery

Sumter, SC

Tribute Wall



“ *Ms. Bernice Geddis Perry*

October 04, 2023 at 11:33 AM



“ *I love you Cousin Bea. You will be missed*

Jamecia Gary Cummings - October 11, 2014 at 03:03 PM



“ *I just wanted to send my condolences to the family of Aunt "Bea". Our family was treated as one of their own...in the Geddis-Smith family. I am forever grateful for the bonds that have come from the relationship our families had. I will always remember Aunt Bea as a kind, warm and giving person. I pray you the family is comforted in knowing that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. God Bless. Khatalina Salley Johnson - Virginia (The oldest of the Salley girls).*

Khatalina Salley Johnson - October 11, 2014 at 09:29 AM



“ *Heaven gained another angel. Thank you Ms. Perry for all of the love, hugs, kindness and wisdom that you have given me throughout the years. I cherish all of fond memories the YPD trips, meetings and bakes sales. My prayers for strength and comfort go out to your family in this time of transition.*

Tjwana Dixon - October 10, 2014 at 07:22 PM

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“ Ms. Perry may you rest in peace. You taught me to be respectable, honest, caring and most of all put God first. I thank God that He allowed you to be part of my life. You made such a positive impact in my life and I will forever indebted to you for all of the love, kindness, respect and wisdom that you bestowed upon me.

I would look for Ms. Perry as soon as I walked in St. Luke A.M.E. (Newark, NJ) and there you were with open arms and a bright smile. I remember all of the YPD trips, YPD meeting after choir rehearsal and bakes sales that orchestrated for the young people in the church and you always did it with a smile on your face and love in your heart. Heaven gained another angel on October 7th.

My prayers are with your family during this time of transition.

Love always,

Tjwana Dixon

Tjwana Dixon - October 10, 2014 at 07:14 PM

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“ Ms. Bernice Perry was a quiet lady who worked with the Missionary, YPD, and worked in many other capacities at St. Luke A.M.E. Church in Newark, NJ. I had the pleasure of having her friendship for a number of years. My mother Ms. Annie Ruth Thompson and I will miss hearing from her. Ms. Perry always had a good word and encouraged young and old. My mother will remember their last conversation from Oct. 2, 2014. Your spirit will live on with us
Shirley Tucker

Shirley Tucker - October 10, 2014 at 07:11 PM

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“ *To the Perry and Geddis Family,*

Our Prayers and thoughts are with you at this time of your Berevement. Take each Special Memory of your Loved one with you as you walk from day to day. God will never leave you. Trust Him He will see you though.

*Estelle China and Family
Hillside, New Jersey*

Estelle China - October 10, 2014 at 12:22 PM