

Pallbearers

Kenneth W. Hall
Tracy Johnson
Ricardo Rather
Charles Beason
Jamaral Gilchrist

Flowerbearers

Kristy Rather Hall
Geralda Johnson
Mary Rather
Edwina Beason
Carriss Gilchrist

Acknowledgments:

The universe has a way of opening up to accommodate every imaginable need. Our family would like to give special thanks to all who have helped us manage Mattie's care over the last several years:

Dr. Alan L. Gruman, MD and staff,

Doris Byrd, Ethel Burns, Lorain Moore, Sarah Bradley,
the Staff at Legacy Health and Rehabilitation Center of
Pleasant Grove, Alabama, and especially Latonia

Finally to all of our close family friends and neighbors (Mattie's block is awesome) who watched after her, visited with her, and supported us, giving great value to her life and care.

Elmwood Mausoleum Chapel
Birmingham, Alabama
July 1, 2011 at 2:00 pm

Final services entrusted to:
Mullins Metropolitan Funeral Home

Program design by Lamont Pickett Home Place Computing ~ Tucson, Arizona
www.homeplacecomputing.biz (520) 977-6295

In Loving Memory



Mattie Rather

November 12, 1916 - June 29, 2011

Obituary of Ms. Mattie Rather

Mattie Rather was born November 12, 1916 to William & Mattie Luler Rather in Decatur, Alabama. She confessed Christ at an early age and joined the St. Peter Missionary Baptist Church in Cedar Lake, Alabama. She was educated in the Morgan County School System. This branch of the Rather clan boasted ten children; Agrippa, Rebecca, Richard, Richmond, Delbert, Mollie, Mattie, Mahalie, Willie, and "Our Baby" who was born in 1910 but only lived about 12 days. Mattie's parents and all of her siblings predeceased her.

In the mid 1930's, Mattie moved to Birmingham to live with her brother Delbert "Rock" Rather. She was an especially doting mother to her only child, Bobbilene Barker-Evans, who passed away on March 16, 1995. Mattie worked at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Birmingham for many years doing domestic work at the parsonage. She was very loving, funny, quit-witted, and a great story-teller. She absolutely loved sweet potatoes. She often recanted the story of how she would keep the last of them from her siblings, by hiding the potatoes in the stove ashes. Her favorite advice to family or friends when they faced trials was to simply "stand still", encouraging them to allow God to do His work.

Mattie shared a very special bond with her nephew, Leon Rather, whom she affectionately referred to as "*the boy*", even to the day before she passed away. Though constantly attended to by the family, her primary caregiver in her final years was her great-niece, Angela Johnson, whom Mattie loved dearly. Although the family expected her to return home to them after hip surgery rehabilitation, God had a different plan and decided to bring her home to be with Him. She will be lovingly remembered by her nephew, Leon (Elizabeth) Rather of Birmingham, Al, sister-in-law, Mary L. Rather of Decatur, Al., great-nieces, Edwina (Charles) Beason of Hartselle, Al., Angela Rather Johnson of Birmingham, Al., Kristy Rather (Kenneth) Hall of Hueytown, Al., Gertraude Rather of Stuttgart, Germany; Linda Anderson of Decatur, Al. and Delaine Evans of University Park, Il., Pamela (Lamont) Pickett of Tucson Az., Louvenia (Terri) Watkins of Orange, Ca.; great-nephews, Ricardo (Mary) Rather of Lagrange, Ga., Michael Rather of Columbia, SC., Richard Rather Jr. of Decatur, Al., Ronald Evans of Phoenix, Il., Keith (Gaynell) Watkins of Phoenix, Az., Darell Watkins of Seattle, Wa., Reginald (Vonda) Watkins of Apache Junction, Az. and a host of other relatives and friends.

Order of Service

Processional ~ "I Come to the Garden Alone" Marvin Sapp

Viewing

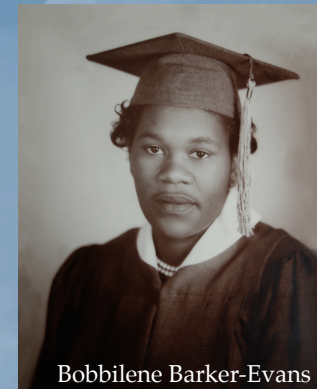
Scripture and Prayer ~ Reverend Elbert Jones

Family Reflections

Recessional ~ "When We All Get to Heaven"

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...



Bobbilene Barker-Evans



Mattie Rather

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