



The Legend of the DOGWOOD

THERE is a legend, that at the time of the Crucifixion the dogwood had been the size of the oak and other forest trees. So firm and strong was the tree that it was chosen as the timber for the cross. To be used thus for such a cruel purpose greatly distressed the tree, and Jesus, nailed upon it, sensed this, and in His gentle pity for all sorrow and suffering said to it:

"Because of your regret and pity for My suffering, never again shall the dogwood tree grow large enough to be used as a cross. Henceforth it shall be slender and bent and twisted and its blossoms shall be in the form of a cross . . . two long and two short petals. And in the center of the outer edge of each petal there will be nail prints, brown with rust and stained with red, and in the center of the flower will be a crown of thorns, and all who see it will remember."

Flower Bearers
Granddaughters and Friends of the Family

Pall Bearers
Grandsons and Friends of the Family

Thank You Note

We asked our mother what if anything did she want to say -what message did she have for her friends and loved ones after her transition. She responded saying to everybody that brought her food, gave her rides, remembered her on birthdays, Mother's Day and Christmas, or prayed for her, or called to check on her, and made any other gesture of kindness not mentioned, I want to Thank You for what you have done for me. I hope that I have lived a life worthy of your love. To echo Mama, we thank you and our gratitude is immeasurable. God bless you all!



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Celebrating the Life and Legacy of
Mother
Fessie Mae Moore Rudisill

Mt. Zion Restoration Church
Gastonia, North Carolina
Saturday, September 2, 2023 at 11:00 AM
Dr. Rodney Freeman, Pastor

Order of Service

Mother Fessie Rudisill

Processional	
Invocation.....	Dr. Rodney Freeman
Song.....	Natasha Fewell
Scripture	
Old Testament.....	Psalms 116:12-19 Reverend Erwin Worthy, Jr.
New Testament.....	2 Timothy 4:3-8 Reverend James Mason
Prayer of Comfort.....	Reverend James Mason
Remarks (2 minutes)	Robin Bamberg John Shanks Paul Moore
Reading the Resolution.....	Natasha Fewell
Tribute From Catherine Booth Apt.....	read by Granddaughter Nichelle Rudisill
Song.....	Natasha Fewell
Eulogy.....	Dr. Rodney Freeman
Benediction.....	Dr. Rodney Freeman
Committal/Interment	Armstrong Cemetery Gastonia, North Carolina



On March 9, 1931, Mrs. Fessie Mae Moore Rudisill was born in Cleveland County's Patterson Springs, NC to the parents Lucille Moore Hardy and Ernest Bridges. She was the eldest of six children and was fondly known to her siblings as "Big Sis." She married Charles Lee Rudisill of Boiling Springs, NC and became a widow at an early age. She was the mother of seven children, Eddie Chambers (Nerissa), Hazel Moore, Robbie Rudisill, Charles Rudisill, Jr. (Diane), Clara Rudisill Odom (Charles), Ellen Austin (Benjie), and Phyllis James (William), and an extended daughter, Patricia Malcher Paige.

Fessie retired from Quick Way Cleaners and occasionally worked as a babysitter. Her greatest passion and purpose were found in church service, serving as a nurturer and confidant to many. Remaining a faithful member of the now Mount Zion Restoration Church since 1966, she loved Jesus and lived for and encouraged others to seek salvation and maintain a personal relationship with God. Fessie served as an usher, Sunday School teacher and volunteered many hours with The Salvation Army in their League of Mercy ministry, and supported women's programs, the prison ministry and community outreach.

She loved and admired her family which includes her seven children, sisters, Marjorie "Margie" Fowler, Debra Walton (Wayne), sister-in-law Ernestine Moore, and preceded in death by brothers; Charles Moore, Carl Moore, Ronald Moore, and grandson Quinton Rudisill. Her legacy lives on in eleven grandchildren, twelve great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Her hobbies were word puzzles, reading and watching favorite TV shows, "Jeopardy," "The Price Is Right," and "The Lawrence Welk Show!" And we have never known why she "LOVED" and had a healthy addiction to "Vaseline!!!" She never left home without it! So, rest in peace, dear Ma Fessie and let us know if you need a supply of Vaseline in heaven...we got you!

Forever Loved

