

I'm Free

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God has laid you see.
I took His hand when I heard him call
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way
I found that peace at the close of day.
If my parting has left a void
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss
Oh yes, these things I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your hearts and peace to thee
God wanted me now; He set me free.*

Pallbearers

Nephews

Floral Bearers

Nieces

Message From Heaven

Perhaps you aren't ready yet
To have to say goodbye ...
Perhaps you've thought of things
You wish you'd said - well so have I.
For one thing, I'd have told you
Not to worry about me ...
I'm with the Lord in Heaven now -
You knew that's where I'd be.
I'm sorry that you're feeling sad,
For I'm so happy now ...
I've asked the Lord to ease the hurt
And comfort you somehow.
It's hard at the beginning,
But I know you'll make it through ...
I hope it helps to know
That I'll be waiting here for my children:
JANIE, JEFF JR, MALLIKAH, SYLVESTER, HENRIETTA, HENRY & AUDREY



Acknowledgement

The family of the late Mrs. Mary Ruth Fordham acknowledges with sincere appreciation the many acts of kindness and expressions of sympathy during our hours of bereavement. May God's richest blessings be showered upon you in a very special way. Special thanks to Edisto Home Care and Hospice, who comforted us during our time of bereavement.

-The Family

Arrangements Entrusted to:

Simmons Funeral Home & Crematory of Orangeburg
Simmons Funeral Home of Santee
Paul A. Simmons, Founder and President
2868 Columbia Road, Orangeburg, SC 29118
(803) 534-2646



8824 Old #6 Highway, Santee, SC 29142
(803) 854-2044
www.simmonsfuneralhome.com

Celebrating The Life Of



A Celebration of Life

Mrs. Mary Ruth
FORDHAM

SUNRISE: DECEMBER 11, 1931 SUNSET: SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023
12:00 P.M.**

*Union AME Church
390 Old River Road
Elloree, SC 29047*

REV. DR. LESLIE J. LOVETT, PASTOR

Order of Service

REV. DR. LESLIE J. LOVETT, PRESIDING

- Prelude..... *Soft Music*
- Processional/Final Viewing..... *Clergy & Friends*
- Hymn of Praise
- Prayer of Comfort.....*Pastor Johnathan Mintz*
Stand for Christ WOTCC
- Scripture Readings
- Old Testament.....*Pastor Pamela Jacobs*
New Faith Community Church
- New Testament..... *Reverend Joseph Ham*
St. Paul Baptist Church
- Poem.....*Mectio Johnson-Mulla*
- Solo.....*Cassandra Greene-Joseph*
- Reflections (3 Minutes, Please)
- Church.....*John Sellers*
Church.....*Pastor Pamela Jacobs, New Faith Community Church*
- Family.....*Barbara Ham*
Family.....*Cassandra Dunning, Granddaughter*
- Acknowledgments.....*Bernadette Anderson, Niece*
- Selection..... *Palmer Sisters*
- Eulogy.....*Pastor Sheila Worme, Granddaughter*
Repairers of The Breach
- Committal, Prayer & Benediction
- Recessional
- ***Repast will be held in the Union AME Church Fellowship Hall

Interment

Union AME Church Cemetery
Elloree, SC



Reflections of Life

Mary Ruth Fordham, affectionately known as Ma, Grandma, Mary, or Auntie was born on December 11, 1931, in Elloree, South Carolina to the late Pearline and Burgess Butler. She was the eldest of ten children.

Mary attended Union School in Elloree, South Carolina. She later decided to put on her working shoes and started her career at United Technology in St. Matthews, SC. In 1951, cupid sent the late Jeff Fordham Sr. into her life. Mary and Jeff got married in 1953 and resided in St. Matthews, SC. To this union, seven children were born.

Mary attended Union AME church, where she served in many positions until her health began to decline. Ma Mary loved to praise God, and she knew it was nothing that she could do without him. In 1992, she hung up her working shoes and retired. During her spare time, she enjoyed reading, listening to gospel music and shopping.

Mary was a loving person who loved everyone she met. She loved to dress up and look pretty. She also loved to bake and was well known for her jelly cake and fruit cake.

Mary departed her life peacefully on September 29, 2023. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jeff Fordham Sr., both of her parents, her son Maurice Butler and seven of her siblings: Burgess Butler, Richard Butler, Harry Butler, Alfred Butler, Ernest Butler, Sara Howard, and Hazel Adams.

She is survived by four daughters: Malikah Madyun of the home, Henrietta (Marvin) Howell of Orangeburg, SC, Audrey Boneparte of Hinesville, GA, Janie Buskey of New Haven, Connecticut; three sons: Jeff Fordham Jr. of the home, Sylvester (Joann) Fordham of Elloree, SC and Henry Fordham of St. Matthews, SC; 15 grandchildren, 20 great grandchildren and 6 great-great grandchildren; two sisters: Barbara (Joseph) Ham of Elloree, SC and Patricia (Richard) Smoot of Sumter, SC; two sister-in-laws: Carolyn Butler of Summerville, SC and Lavena Spigner of Orangeburg, SC and a host of nieces, nephews, and other loving relatives and dear friends. Mary will be missed by all who knew and loved her!