



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Lucile
BARTLEY MERCER

March 4, 1937 · April 29, 2026

*She taught us that faith is the foundation,
family is the treasure, and a life lived in service to others
is a life well spent.*

Order of Service

Celebrating the Life of Lucile Bartley Mercer

May 16, 2026 · 11:00 a.m.

**The Church of the Living God,
The Pillar and Ground of the Truth, Inc.**
5770 Harris Avenue, Arlington, FL

Officiant: Superintendent Cedric D. Johnson, Sr.
Carpenter's House COGIC

Organ Prelude	Patsey Lee Searcy
Processional	Clergy & Family
Invocation	Supt. Cedric D. Johnson, Sr.
Opening Hymn	"Pass Me Not"
Old Testament Reading	Pastor Frederick Bartley
New Testament Reading	Lady Ravandala Johnson
Instrumental Solo	Minister Frank Coleman
Prayer of Comfort	Bishop Marguerite L. Redding
Congregational Hymn	"I Know What Prayer Can Do"
Reading of the Obituary	Read Silently
Reflections	2 Minutes, Please
Acknowledgments	Kelley Dixon
Solo	"His Eye Is On The Sparrow"
The Eulogy	Elder Jeff Dixon
The Benediction	
Recessional	"When the Saints Go Marching In"

Lucile Bartley Mercer

MARCH 4, 1937 – APRIL 29, 2026

A LIFE WELL LIVED

Sister Mercer entered this world on March 4, 1937, the beloved daughter of Dorothy Lee Anderson and Lisbon Bartley, and the cherished sister of Cranston Marcus Anderson and the late Holland Torreno Anderson. From her earliest days, she was surrounded by love — raised in the nurturing care of her grandparents, Lucille and Bishop C.D. Braddy, whose profound influence shaped the woman she became.

Her childhood home was set beside the church, and it was there that the foundation of her faith was laid. She received the Holy Ghost and was baptized at an early age, and that relationship with Jesus Christ remained the anchor of her life for more than eight decades. Her extended family — aunts, uncles, and cousins — felt more like siblings. Throughout her life, she was especially close to her uncles Joseph Braddy, Nehemiah Braddy, David Braddy and aunts Naomi Hester, Deborah Bartley, Evangelist Mary Lena Bartley, and Sophia Y. Demps.



Young Lucile with her mother — the foundation

A SERVANT OF THE WORD

For more than 40 years, Sister Mercer served as a Sunday school teacher and superintendent at her home church, The Church of the Living God the Pillar and Ground of the Truth, Inc., where she faithfully taught and interpreted the Word of God. She loved attending the General Assembly of the CLGPGT in Nashville, with her son Joel, who dutifully accompanied her. Sister Mercer quoted scripture often and with ease and shared the gospel of Jesus Christ wherever she went.

The faithful work of Sister Mercer as a Bible Scholar and a Pianist in the CLGPGT has been thoroughly documented in *Mary Lena Lewis Tate: Thundering Daughters* authored by Chief Overseer CLGPGT, Inc., Bishop Meharry H. Lewis, Ph.D. and further acknowledged by Diocesan Elder Anthony Lockhart, Ed.D, Northeast Florida Diocese II.



Mother and son, faith and family entwined

A SCHOLAR, AN ATHLETE, A WOMAN OF PURPOSE

A graduate of New Stanton High School, Sister Mercer distinguished herself as both a majorette and a star basketball athlete under the beloved Coach Small — a coach she never forgot. She later attended vocational school where she earned a bookkeeping certificate.

She met the love of her life and married Rudolph Mercer, and together they welcomed two children — her son, Joel Rudolph David Mercer, and her daughter, Rudene Mercer Haynes. Though the marriage later ended, her devotion to her children never wavered. She poured everything she had into raising them, stressing education above all else, taking pride in watching her daughter and son become first-generation college and graduate school professionals. She did not simply encourage, she showed up. When her daughter was researching potential law schools, Sister Mercer hired a rental car, and along with her son Joel, drove 1000 miles to Austin, Texas, just so that Rudene could see the campus for herself.

A CAREER BUILT ON EXCELLENCE

Sister Mercer served with distinction at Brewster's Hospital before going on to a 24-year career as a computer operator at the Naval Air Station Jacksonville — a remarkable achievement for a woman of her era. Having given her best, she retired early at 50 years old and turned her attention to the people and passions she loved most.



At the Naval Air Station — 24 years of service

A LIFE FULLY LIVED

Sister Mercer cared tenderly for her mother Dorothy Lee Anderson until her passing in 1992, bringing her along on vacations and fishing trips so she would never feel left behind. That same generosity of spirit defined everything she did. She had a gift for seeing a need and quietly meeting it — never seeking recognition, never drawing attention to her own kindness.

She walked her neighborhood faithfully for many years, collecting and selling aluminum cans with cheerful purpose. She never met a stranger. Whether rich or poor, young or old, she welcomed everyone with the same warm smile.



*Walking the neighborhood with her
aluminum cans —
floral dress and white gloves*



With her dear family

At sixty years old, she boarded a plane for the very first time — and went to England and Paris.

Sister Mercer traveled with her son and daughter to Europe and came back with many stories. It would not be her last adventure. She traveled across the United States and the world with her children, and she loved every mile of it.

HER FINAL CHAPTER

After an unexpected illness in 2018, Sister Mercer moved to Richmond to be near her daughter and grandchildren, a transition made with grace. In December 2022, she made her home at Bickford of Chesterfield Assisted Living Facility, where she quickly became known for her laughter, her singing, and her ever-present smile.

She lit up when musicians visited, and she loved joining in on inspirational hymns. She even participated in Bickford's holiday choral concerts in December 2024 and December 2025 — though she drew the line at “The Twelve Days of Christmas.” She simply never liked that song, and she was not about to start now.

She received exceptional quality care at Bickford of Chesterfield, with a special note of gratitude for Jackie Studwood, who styled her hair with such loving attention — long styles, just the way she liked — and who took her to church and spent quality time with her.



Bickford Christmas Concert, December 2024

HER GREATEST JOY

She loved bragging about her children and grandchildren. She beamed when she talked about her eldest grandchild, Russell, who wrote a book called *Aged Warriors* as a tribute to her. She loved watching videos of her granddaughter Rachel doing gymnastics and volleyball, and her commentary was always the same, delivered with absolute certainty:

Rachel is smart. She knows what she's doing — and she knows how to get that ball.



With Russell



With Rachel



Getting Ready for Dinner at Bickford

Sister Mercer was a strong disciplinarian, a devoted grandmother, and a woman who loved the Lord with everything she had. She lived generously, laughed freely, sang joyfully, and left everyone she met a little better for having known her.

SHE IS SURVIVED BY

Her son

Joel Rudolph David Mercer

Her daughter

Rudene Mercer Haynes

Her brother

Cranston Marcus Anderson (Shirley)

Her grandchildren

Russell Atkin Bascomb III · Rachel Alexandra Haynes

Her aunt

Sophia Y. Demps

Her nieces and nephew

Erica Moore (Dedric) · Chelsea Moore (Jordan) · Cranston Marques Anderson (Aganya)

Beloved Cousins

Shirley Coleman (Tyrone), Minister Frank Coleman (LaShawn), Kathy Jo Daniels (Cornell, Sr.),
Lady Ravandala Johnson (Cedric) and Sandra Braddy-Hall

and a cherished host of great nieces and nephews, cousins and friends who will carry her love with them always.

CHERISHED MEMORIES

Moments of love, faith, and family



Until we meet again

Lucile Bartley Mercer

*"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."
— 2 Timothy 4:7*

Pallbearers

Frank Coleman · Frederick Bartley · Carl Bartley
Deacon Edward Griffin

Flower Attendants

Deaconess Queen Rivers
Evangelist LaShawn Coleman
Rebekah Bartley

Entombment

Sanctuary of Memories Mausoleum
Greenlawn Cemetery
4300 Beach Blvd | Jacksonville, FL 32207

Repast

The Cove Social Club
1349 N. Market Street | Jacksonville, FL 32206

Acknowledgments

The family of Lucile Bartley Mercer wishes to express our deepest and most heartfelt gratitude for the many acts of kindness, the prayers, the calls, the cards, the food, the flowers, and the warm embraces extended to us during this season of bereavement. In our moment of sorrow, you have been the very hands and feet of Christ, and we have felt the love of God through each of you. We give special thanks to the pastor, ministers, officers, and members of the church family for their spiritual guidance and unwavering support; to the caregivers at Bickford of Chesterfield Assisted Living Facility who tended to our loved one with such compassion; and to every friend, neighbor, and extended family member who walked this road with us. May God richly bless you, keep you, and return your kindness to you a hundredfold.

“The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: the Lord make his face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee.”

— *Numbers 6:24–25*

Lovingly submitted,
The Family

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