



Mrs. Bena Frances Mitchell

May 15, 1934 - May 15, 2020

Bena Frances Nunn Mitchell entered gracefully in this world on May 15, 1934 in Orange County, North Carolina. She departed just as gracefully on May 15, 2020 at Duke Regional Hospital, Durham, North Carolina. She was the fourth of seven children born to George Samuel and Patti Evelyn Roberson Nunn.

At an early age, she accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and savior as she joined Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church. It was also at Mount Sinai, where she met her future husband, the Reverend Cecil Ray Mitchell. Bena and Mitchell (as she would lovingly call him), were married on July 25, 1959 in Raleigh, NC. To this union, she gave birth to their only child, Cynthia Maria.

She received her formal education from Durham County Schools. She graduated from Merrick Moore High School in 1952, where she was voted "Most Prettiest Girl" in her class. Bena found her passion for bookkeeping at Carolina Friends School for 24 years before retiring in 1996. She prided herself for "never making a mistake" on their payroll.

She was faithful and passionate in her service to her family, her church, and the community. As an active member of the Minister Wives, Minister Widows Association, she served in several positions including President and Treasurer. She was also a lifetime member of the International Minister Wives, Minister Widows Association. At Mount Sinai, she was a member of the A.T.

Alston Chancelor Choir where she served as choir director and president for several years. She remained a faithful member until her health declined.

Bena and Cecil were blessed to share in 50 years of marriage before his death in 2009. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her siblings Johnsie Bell Nunn, James William Nunn, Wallace Charles Nunn, and Doris Mae Armstrong.

She leaves to cherish her memories one daughter Cynthia Maria and son-in-love, Kenneth Alexander, Sr.; four grandchildren, Kanasha, Courtney, Kenneth Jr. and Ceciley; five great-grandchildren, Juliya, Javon, Madison, Riley and Khloe; two sisters, Shirley Alston and Georgia Purefoy; four sisters-in-law, Helen, Annie Laura, Mildred and Garnelle; a special brother, Christopher Couch; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Viewing for Mrs. Bena Frances Mitchell will take place on Friday, May 22, 2020, from 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at Scarborough & Hargett Celebration of Life Center, Inc., 309 N Queen Street, Durham, North Carolina 27701.

A private funeral service will take place for Mrs. Bena Francis Mitchell and she will be laid to rest in Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery

5222 Mt. Sinai Rd
Durham, NC 27705

Previous Events

Viewing

MAY **22**. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Scarborough & Hargett Celebration of Life Center, Inc.
309 N Queen St
Durham, NC 27701
(919) 682-1171
scarboroughandhargettinc@yahoo.com
<https://scarboroughandhargettfc.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Bena Frances Mitchell*

October 05, 2023 at 11:31 AM



“ *Cynthia and family, we are sending a note to let you know that we have so much respect and appreciation for your mother. As her neighbors for over 40 years, we developed a close bond with her and your dad. Bena was always kind, considerate and a watchful neighbor. She was "neighborhood watch" before the formal organization started in the neighborhood. We could always count on her to keep an eye out for us and the children. Of course, we would do the same for your family.*

Our prayer for you and the family is to always remember the love and joy that she shared with family and friends alike. We know that she is smiling in heaven right now; a beautiful soul. Charles and Helen Berry, formerly of 5111.

Helen Berry - May 24, 2020 at 04:33 PM



Our family will always be grateful to Mrs. Mitchell for her kind and firm help with our children. For years she provided transportation for them to Carolina Friends School and was truly their guardian during that time.

She was a wonderful neighbor and we feel so thankfully blessed to have shared her life.

Our wishes for peace and comfort are with you and family.

Marilyn Bell Hawley - July 04, 2020 at 08:20 AM

AL

“ Cynthia, I was sadden to hear about the loss of your mother. I will forever remember her laugh and her smile. You and your family has my deepest condolences and are in my prayers.

Annette C. Love - May 23, 2020 at 11:06 AM

DB

“ Dollie Brewington lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bena Frances Mitchell



Dollie Brewington - May 23, 2020 at 09:12 AM

MC

“ You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. Marilyn and Robert Carver



Marilyn Carver - May 22, 2020 at 08:44 PM

TF

“ The Rainey Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bena Frances Mitchell



The Rainey Family - May 22, 2020 at 03:07 PM



“ *Mrs. Mitchell was really down to earth once you got to know her and she you. She had a beautiful smile and an infectious laugh. I know you all will miss these things and her pearls of wisdom. May God keep you all in prayer. Our sincere condolences to you Cynthia and your family. Denise McIntosh*

Denise McIntosh - May 21, 2020 at 10:50 AM

LH

“ *To Cynthia: Words cannot express our sadness. Your Mother was a special person that will be missed and never forgotten. She always had a beautiful smile every time you saw her. You have our sympathy and prayers. Larry and Betty Henderson*

Larry Henderson - May 20, 2020 at 12:56 PM

TE

“ *It is true Bena never got the payroll wrong! Many fond memories of her. She lives in my memory. Terry Pendergrast.*

terry - May 20, 2020 at 12:54 PM

CH

“ *Sending love to Bena's family. I have fond memories of working with Bena at CFS. Mostly, I remember her laugh. She was truly fun to work with. Rest in peace, dear Bena.*

Carrie Huff - May 20, 2020 at 12:35 PM

VR

“ *May the love of God and the gift of time bring comfort and healing through the loss of you're feeling now . You have our prayers and deepest Sympathy for the family.*



VELMA Parker johnson and Edith Rucker - May 19, 2020 at 04:30 PM

GP

“ *Prayers and love to the family for the loss of a special friend who I was blessed to worship with and become friends with. I shall cherish the times we talked together and shared our love and concerns for our church and our families. Rest in peace my friend, you have fought a good fight you have kept the faith a crown of righteousness is laid up for you.*

*Love & Prayers
Geraldine Patterson*

Geraldine Patterson - May 19, 2020 at 01:59 PM

FW

“ *To the family of Mrs. Bena F Mitchell, I send my sincere condolences at this time. My prayer is that God will surround you all with His love, peace and comfort now and in the days to come. We love you all and will be keeping you in our thoughts and prayers.*



Floretta Walls - May 18, 2020 at 02:13 PM

EV

Aunt Francis was a good person. Rev. Mitchell stated once, " I loved her. I knew that she would fit in well with the direction I wanted my ministry to go." Uncle Cecil and Francis will surely be missed. He 2009 and She 2020. To God be the Glory.

evonmitchell - May 24, 2020 at 05:55 PM