



Clara Purdy

August 16, 1922 - December 29, 2013

Clara M. Purdy, affectionately known as “Clarice”, “Mother” or “Muva” was born on August 16, 1922 in Crewe, Virginia to the late Lille L. Knight and James Carson Rather. She took her escorted angelic journey home early Sunday morning, December 29, 2013. Mother accepted Christ at an early age and joined Union Baptist Church in Crewe, Virginia under the leadership of the late Reverend Rather.

At an early age she moved to Baltimore, Maryland to join her Aunt Tona and other extended family. Once in Baltimore she finished her education at Paul Lawrence Dunbar Night School. Mother was blessed into motherhood at early age. From these blessing came forth Cheryl (“Boo”) Hawkes, Jacqueline (“Jackie”) Hill, Michael Hartwill, Darnell Hartwill, Narice (“Pinkey”) Butler and Carolyn Hartwill.

In 1973 she married the late Ernest Charles Purdy. From this union Mother gave birth to another daughter, Ernestine Purdy.

For her love and devotion to the Lord; Mother found a church home in the 1960’s at United Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Dr. George Edward Vanderford. She served on numerous ministries while attending United Baptist Church. One ministry in particular was the kitchen ministry where she served with passion and devotion. Cooking was her calling and she was willing to share it with anyone and everyone. While attending United

Baptist Church she felt that the Lord had placed on her heart another way to give back which at first was not easy to discern (one of her favorite words). With a caregiver's heart and love of the elderly she and her husband prayed on it and waited patiently for the Lords guidance. Having been led by the Lord and their steps ordered they took on the undaunted task of transporting every able body to church from the Lincoln Nursing Home. With their own money they arranged to have all the patients transported on a coach bus to church service. After the conclusion of the worship service, each person was given a home cooked meal and dessert. She would later say we fed their souls as well as their stomachs.

When not attending her home church she often worshiped at Greater Faith Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Leah White.

Mother further showed her love and affection for her family by attending PTA meetings for her grandchildren; (even though her own children could attend) she had to be there. She LOVED her grandkids! Waited passionately for them to come down the hill from school and she was often caught saying "where in the world are those kids". Standing on the porch waiting just to command them to change their school clothes and get their homework down. Her daughter Cheryl often said this was the highlight of her day.

Ask anyone in the neighborhood summer time was her season. Mother was never hard to find, for she had a routine. #1 Wake up at the crack of dawn to get her bathing out of the way, #2 Start the coffee (her day was not complete unless she had a hot cup of coffee), #3 Put mercuricome on her bunions (she could never explain this home remedy), #4 Put her plants on the porch and cushions on the chairs, #5 Took her meds and instill her eye drops (eyesight probably was bad because hardly any drops made it into her eyes) #7 Sit on the porch with her cup of coffee waiting for Jean and Evelyn to join her for the morning update.

Mother loved and enjoyed to cook and baked at every opportunity and especially holidays. She was known for her pound cakes and rice pudding. She especially loved her grandsons and their friends, so much they started a spades club. Former members included Kenneth Hartwill, Kavin Hill, Phillip Hawkes II, Trilliane Hill, Letrell Hartwill (wasn't any good), Leroy Fowlkes and Joseph Green (ages 13 years of age except Clara at 63 years old). Those games became heated and intense, where as though they were often cut short and cards ended up in the trash or the oven. You knew when she had the last few hands she would always say, "got them boys!".

One of the most proud days of her life was when she was able to travel to New Orleans to witness her baby boy Kenneth receive his Doctor of Pharmacy Degree.

She spent over 30 years and was never compensated as the unofficial neighborhood block watcher, knew everything and everybody. She loved the 900 block of Kenwood Avenue and they loved her; she was everyone's grandmother and friend. She was a member of the Lady Elks, under the leadership of The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. As her health declined she later spent her remaining years back down south with her loving and devoted daughter Cheryl.

Those who preceded her in death: her loving husband, Ernest, youngest son, Darnell and daughter, Narice and two grandsons, Lloyd Hartwill and Kavin Hill.

Left to cherish and share treasured memories are: five children, Cheryl Hawkes (Phillip) of Blackstone, VA, Jacqueline Hill (Calvin), Michael Hartwill (Janet), Carolyn Hartwill and Ernestine Purdy; a devoted and loving grandson, Kenneth Hartwill; six grandsons; five granddaughters and a host of great-

grandchildren, nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Cemetery Details

Baltimore National Cemetery

5501 Frederick Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21228

Previous Events

Public Viewing

JAN 6. 8:30 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - East Baltimore
1101 East North Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21202
(410) 727-3300
info@marchfh.com

Family Hour

JAN 6. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - East Baltimore
1101 East North Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21202
(410) 727-3300
info@marchfh.com

Wake

JAN 7. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Paul Community Baptist Church
1901 E. Federal Street
Baltimore, MD

Service

JAN 7. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Paul Community Baptist Church
1901 E. Federal Street
Baltimore, MD 21213

Tribute Wall



“ *Clara Purdy*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Hi Family,
Sorry to hear about Aunt Clarice. I use to love
when she came to Boston to visit us and she
will be truly missed.*



*Your Cousin Donna
From Boston*

donna rather - January 07, 2014 at 01:12 PM



*To my Family,
Sorry for the lost of my Auntie, your, mom, grandmother and great
grandmother. My dad said I looked just like her, looking at this picture,
made me cry, i look just like her. Loved when she came to visit
us, especially the time we hid her from my dad, until the party got
started. Love you all my cousins, stay blessed , she will be truly
missed. Blessings and prayers from her Sister - In -law Joyce.*

*Your Cousin Deborah
Boston, Mass.*

Deborah Rather Mosley - January 07, 2014 at 06:55 PM

DT

“ To Kenny and Carol, Ernestine, Smirk, and Family

My condolences goes out to you and your family. Who would have known 23 years ago that we would maintain a lasting relationship with not one, but two lovely families. We often speak of our Kenwood families and the good times that we shared together. Mova was a stern but caring person and kept my kids in line once or twice and I didn't mind because I knew it was coming from a caring place. Be filled with joy and celebrate her life with fond memories.

Former "911 Crew"

Donna Taylor - January 07, 2014 at 07:27 AM



“ To my Dad, Micheal Hartwill and my Aunts, Cheryl, Ernestine, Carolyn, and Jackie:

The weather is preventing our travels from WV to MD, but I want you to know that my sons and I are thinking of you. Please rest assure that Jehovah God has given us the hope of seeing "Mova" (as we use to call her when we were little) again.

I Love You Aunt Cheryl, for all you did and continue to do.

Our deepest sympathies to all remaining Hartwills, Purdys, Hills, and Hawkes. I have included a link that I have found helpful. I love you all!

Lisa Hartwill-Shackelford

Can the Dead Really Live Again? <http://www.jw.org/finder?locale=en&docid=1102013500>

Lisa Hartwill-Shackelford - January 06, 2014 at 04:26 AM

AV

“ I am so sorry to read about the death of your love one.. My family would like to express our condolences to your family. I would like to share this scripture with you at John 5:28, 29 "Do not be amazed at this, for the hour is coming In which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out." I hope this scripture will bring your family comfort that soon you will see your Love one again.

A. Verrett - January 04, 2014 at 12:19 PM

SL

“ "Another Soilder gone home." Remembering Ms. Clarice or Sis. Purdy as we always called her. A little petite lady that was a powerpack at United. We share in your loss Kenneth and will keep you and your family in our prayers.

The Lang Family

Susie D. Lang - January 02, 2014 at 01:16 PM

MM

“ My condolences to the Purdy family. May you find comfort from God's word at Ecclesiastes 9:5&10 regarding the loss of your loved one. It show how she is in no pain, she is like in a deep sleep, hoping to be brought back to life soon, by being in God's memory, for God will bring back to life all those in his memory. So yes, you may see Ms. Carla again during what she loved and you enjoying her again. I hope this bring you some strength to continue on, in your difficult days ahead.

Mary Miller - January 02, 2014 at 12:13 PM

PL

“ I would like to send my condolences to the family. When someone we love dies its very painful. But the Bible talks about God doing away with pain at Rev 21:4. May the God of comfort provide solace to your family at this time.

Peggy Land - January 02, 2014 at 05:37 AM

LF

“ Our family would like to express condolences to your family. May you find comfort from Jehovah God's Word The Bible. He assures us at 1 Corinthians 15:26 that "the last enemy death will be brought to nothing". Our prayers are with your family.

linn & Family - January 01, 2014 at 09:28 AM



“ We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.

March Funeral Homes - December 31, 2013 at 01:45 PM