

God's Garden

*God looked around His garden and found an empty place.
He then looked down upon the earth, and saw your tired face.*

*He put His arms around you and lifted you to rest.
God's garden must be beautiful. He always takes the best.*

*He knew that you were suffering. He knew you were in pain.
He knew that you would never get well on earth again.*

*He saw the road was getting rough and the hills were hard to climb.
So He closed your weary eyelids and whispered "Peace be thine."*

*It broke our hearts to lose you, but you didn't go alone.
For part of us went with you the day God called you home.*

Pallbearers

Darryl A. Blake

Rev. Dr. David Grier, Jr.

David Bowens

Rev. Gregory S. Smith

Lester Collins

Kerwin Webb

In Appreciation

The family of the late Virginia Blake Hunter acknowledges with sincere appreciation the many kind deeds extended during her illness and the comforting expressions of sympathy extended during this time of bereavement.

Special thanks to doctors and staff at Regional Cancer Care Associates LLC, Freehold; CareOne at Wall, Wall Township; and Peggy's House (Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care), Scotch Plains. Your compassionate care made a difference!

Thank you for your love, prayers and support. May God bless each of you!

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO:

JAMES H. HUNT FUNERAL HOME

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CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Virginia Blake Hunter



March 16, 1932 ~ July 1, 2017

Friday, July 7, 2017 - 11:00 A.M.

Bethel A.M.E. Church

1001 Cookman Avenue ~ Asbury Park, New Jersey 07712

The Right Reverend Gregory G.M. Ingram, Presiding Prelate First Episcopal District

The Reverend Vernard R. Leak, Presiding Elder New Brunswick District

Reverend Doctor Danielle L. Hunter, Pastor

The Reverend Ronald L. Slaughter, Officiating

Order of Service

Musical Prelude	Shawn Mikael	
Processional	Clergy & Family	
Hymn of Praise	A.M.E. Hymn No. 364	“My Hope Is Built”
Prayer of Comfort	Reverend Archie Cummings, Jr.	
Prayer Response	“He’s Sweet I Know”	
Scripture Readings:		
The Old Testament		Psalm 27
The New Testament		II Corinthians 5:1-8
Solo	Reverend Vernon R. Byrd, Jr., Esq.	
Acknowledgements, Resolutions & Obituary	Clarice Brown	
Musical Tribute	Michael Jackson	
Reflections	Reverend Winton M. Hill, III, Presiding Elder Newark District	
	Reverend Ronald L. Slaughter, Pastor Saint James A.M.E. Church, Newark	
	Wilma S. Robinson, President New Jersey Conference Branch Women’s Missionary Society	
	Bishop M.L. Johnson Mount Olive Holy Temple Church of God in Christ, Neptune	
	David H. Hunter	
Solo	Reverend Vernon R. Byrd, Jr., Esq.	
Eulogy	Reverend Vernard R. Leak, Presiding Elder New Brunswick District	
Recessional	Clergy & Family	

Interment

Monmouth Memorial Park
Tinton Falls, New Jersey

Repast

**Waterview Pavilion
800 River Road
Belmar, New Jersey 07719**

Obituary

Virginia Blake Hunter was born Frances Virginia Lee Blake on March 16, 1932, to Virgil D. Blake, Sr., and Aivonia Force Blake in Gainesville, Georgia. She was reared in a Baptist home with two sisters and three brothers. Virginia came to know the Lord at a young age.

Following her graduation from Morris Brown College in Atlanta, where she met her husband, the Reverend Carl Frederick Hunter, Sr., Virginia pursued a career in education. Her first teaching assignment was at the Georgia School for the Deaf in Cave Springs. As a skilled educator, Virginia held teaching certifications in the states of Georgia, New York and New Jersey. In July 1996, Virginia retired from a successful teaching career that spanned more than 40 years. After her retirement, she taught part-time as a substitute teacher at the Oak Street School in Lakewood, the elementary school where she had served for many years.

As a pastor's wife, Virginia did not stand in her husband's shadow. Rather, she distinguished herself by lending her time and talent on the local, district, conference and connectional levels of the Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. For eight years, Virginia was honored to serve on an international level as a representative for the First Episcopal District of the A.M.E. Church to the United Nations in a non-governmental capacity.

Virginia believed strongly in being an independent woman. She will always be remembered for the philosophy she shared with other women, most especially pastors' wives: *Pursue a career and make your own mark in the world.* Virginia raised two children and supported her husband in ministry while cultivating her teaching career. She was blessed to have traveled extensively throughout the United States and abroad. Among the many places she visited were North Africa, South Africa, Portugal and Spain.

In 1996, following her husband's election as a General Officer of the A.M.E. Church, Virginia became a devoted member of Saint James A.M.E. Church, Newark. She remained at Saint James until she became an affiliated member of Bethel A.M.E. Church, Asbury Park, in 2011.

Virginia was predeceased by her husband of 61 years, the Reverend Carl Frederick Hunter, Sr.; her parents; two sisters, Geneva Blake Samuels and A.V. Lindsey; and two brothers, Walter James and William Blake. Left to cherish her memories are her children, the Reverend Carl F. Hunter II and David H. Hunter; a “special” daughter, the Reverend Doctor Danielle L. Hunter; grandchildren, Ashley C. and Isaiah C.F. Hunter; great-granddaughter, Khloe Hunter; brother, Virgil D. Blake, Jr. (Alice); brother-in-law, John Samuels; sisters-in-law, Atheia Hunter and Rose Wright-Blake; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living
Psalm 27:13