



## Mrs. Hortense Ewell Woods

July 14, 1947 - August 15, 2014

On Friday, August 15, 2014, an Angel quietly walked over this earth and took our loved one to her Heavenly Home. She made her transition into eternity at 11:00 a.m. at OSF Hospice Home in Peoria, Illinois.

Mrs. Hortense E. Woods, 67, was born on July 14, 1947 in Jackson, TN. to Willie B. and Thersey (Williamson) Ewell, the oldest of three children. There, she was a graduate of Merry High School and received her Bachelor's Degree in 1968 from Lane College. In 1979, she received her Master of Arts Degree from Bradley University.

During her youth, she professed her faith in Christ and became a member of Lane Tabernacle C.M.E. Church. After moving to Peoria, IL, she became a member of Bethel United Methodist Church where she was very active and served on various committees, including Church Council, Trustee Board, Church Treasurer, Finance Chairperson, and Bethel United Methodist Women.

Mrs. Woods was employed by Peoria School District #150 for 35 years as a teacher at Greeley, Longfellow, and Lincoln Middle School. She loved teaching and her students. She retired in June, 2003.

She met Larry D. Woods after moving to Peoria and they were married on November 24, 1973. They have two sons: Darrick and Sidney. She leaves to cherish her most precious memories, her beloved husband, Larry D. Woods; her sons, Dr. Darrick Woods, of Phoenix, AZ and Sidney Woods, of Washington, DC; two brothers, Melvin (Geraldine) Ewell and Elvin Ewell, all of

Jackson, TN; and three grandchildren, Elliyah, Eriana, and Darrick; two nephews, Melvin Jr. and Elvin Jr.; two nieces, Melanie and Keisha; and a host of other relatives and friends. She has two special friends, Ruthie T. Hamer (since childhood) and Minnie Summers.

She was preceded in death by her Father and her Mother.

Funeral Services will be held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, August 23, 2014, at First United Methodist Church of Peoria, 116 N E Perry Ave. A visitation will be held two hours prior to services beginning at 9 a.m. Rev. Gary Wilson, Pastor of Bethel UMC will officiate. Hortense will be laid to rest at Swan Lake Memory Gardens.

Memorials may be made to Bethel United Methodist Church, 210 N. Richard Pryor PL, Peoria, Illinois 61605-2348.

Simons Mortuary has been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences may be made at [simonsmortuary.com](http://simonsmortuary.com).

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

AUG **23**. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church  
116 NE Perry Avenue  
Peoria, IL

## Visitation

AUG **23**. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church  
116 NE Perry Avenue  
Peoria, IL

# Tribute Wall



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Hortense Ewell Woods*



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**Simons Mortuary** - August 23, 2014 at 02:10 PM



“ *Mrs. Hortense Ewell Woods*

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January 29, 2023 at 06:10 AM



“ *Mrs. Hortense Ewell Woods*

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January 29, 2023 at 03:12 AM



“ *With Deepest Sympathy Gift Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Hortense Ewell Woods.*



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August 25, 2014 at 10:56 AM

JB

“ Share a memory of Mrs. Hortense Ewell Woods, or send a condolence to the family...My prayers and thoughts are with you. Your loss is Heaven's gain. May your memories and your love for Hortense give you comfort and peace until you meet again. Love and God's continued blessing, Joyce Boddie



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**Joyce . Boddie** - August 24, 2014 at 07:28 PM

JB

“ Share a memory of Mrs. Hortense Ewell Woods, or send a condolence to the family...



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**Joyce . Boddie** - August 24, 2014 at 07:21 PM

JB

“ Share a memory of Mrs. Hortense Ewell Woods, or send a condolence to the family...

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**Joyce . Boddie** - August 24, 2014 at 07:20 PM

JB

“ Share a memory of Mrs. Hortense Ewell Woods, or send a condolence to the family...

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**Joyce . Boddie** - August 24, 2014 at 07:20 PM

EE

“ I remember my sister when I was very small. She would take me places with her. She taught me many things about life. I will miss her very much. I know she is now in a better place. She has joined Mom and Dad.



*Rest sister until we meet again.  
Brother Elvin*

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Elvin ewell - August 22, 2014 at 11:03 PM

RS

“ To the Woods and Ewell Families,

*Please accept our deepest sympathy and know that we are praying for you as you mourn the temporary loss of Hortense. We know that you loved her dearly as did the Jarmon family and countless others, yet God loved her the most. In His inerrant divine wisdom, God considered the totality of Hortense,s earthly experience and determined that she had "fought the good fight, finished her course, kept the faith," and it was time for her to receive "crown of righteousness".*

*May you find solace in knowing that the world is truly a better place because of the numerous lives that she touched with her infectious smile, tender words, positive attitude and Christian disposition. It was our pleasure to have known Hortense and we were blessed that God shared her with us. As we celebrate her life, let us also emulate it so that we may be reunited with her when we, too, must answer the Master's call.*

*May God bless you and give you peace and strength,  
Rev. William Jarmon, Sr.*

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Rev. William Jarmon, Sr. - August 22, 2014 at 10:45 PM

JM

“ Our smpathies and prayers are with you and your family during this time of bereavement. May God contunue to bless each one of you. Weeping may endureth for a night but joy comes in the morning. Remember those sweet memories of Hortense. She will truly be missed.  
*Jacque and Bob McCullum*

Jacque McCullum - August 22, 2014 at 03:36 PM

TF

“ Todd Woods and Family purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of Mrs. Hortense Ewell Woods.

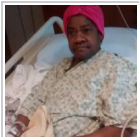


Todd Woods and Family - August 22, 2014 at 08:41 AM



“ I still remember her smile,it could light the world. She nicked named me dusty,because I loved to make mudd cakes when I was little. She will truly be missed Uncle Larry, Derrick,Sidney, your family forever in my prayers.Love You.

Shontoevia Taylor - August 21, 2014 at 08:30 PM



“ Shontoevia Taylor lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Hortense Ewell Woods



Shontoevia Taylor - August 21, 2014 at 08:26 PM

DT

“ *Dr. James & Mrs. Avis Baxter, Jackson, Tennessee purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Mrs. Hortense Ewell Woods.*



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**Dr. James & Mrs. Avis Baxter, Jackson, Tennessee** - August 21, 2014 at 01:59 PM

MK

“ *Those we love must someday pass beyond our present sight. They must leave us and the world we know without the radiant light. Our love one lives forevermore in God's eternal light. May the Lord continue to bless the family in the hour of bereavement.*  
*Margaret F. Kimmins*  
*Jackson, TN*

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**Margaret F. Kimmins** - August 20, 2014 at 08:53 PM

PH

“ *I had the wonderful pleasure of working with Hortense in District 150. She was always positive, smiling, and so effective in interacting with her students. I enjoyed visiting her classroom during the days she was teaching and since that time when I would see her at PARTA. My sympathies and prayers are with all of you who are left behind to mourn her passing -- you have precious memories!*

*Pat Hampton*

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**Pat Hampton** - August 20, 2014 at 08:24 PM

MH

“ *May GOD'S BLESSINGS be with you and your family during your time of bereavement.  
I will whisper a prayer.*

*Bettye Hunter and Family*

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**Ms. Bettye Hunter** - August 20, 2014 at 04:11 PM

LB

“ *To Larry and the Woods Family. Sorry I can't be there with you but my prayers go out to you. May God put his loving arms around the family through this service and the days ahead. God bless.*



*La Verne Butler and the Rice and Bell Families.*

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**La Verne Butler** - August 20, 2014 at 09:33 AM

DB

“ *To The Ewell and Woods Family,*

*We are continuing to pray for you and we express our deepest sympathy to you. God IS with you through the tears, through the pain and sorrow, and even through your loving memories of Sis Hortense.*

*Our God is a great God and HE WILL comfort you , HE will NEVER leave you, and HE WILL wipe away all tears .*

*Wait on the Lord and be of good courage, and HE shall strengthen your heart.*

*Psalms 27:14.*

*Please know that we love the Ewell family and we ask God to sustain you.*

*God Bless You,*

*Dr. James and Mrs. Avis Baxter, Jackson, Tennessee*

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**Dr. & Mrs. James A. Baxter** - August 20, 2014 at 07:04 AM

DT

“ *I will miss you my dear and sweet friend.....  
Rest in Heaven! Dr. Beverly Johnson Thomas*



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**Dr. Beverly J Thomas** - August 19, 2014 at 09:49 PM

CD

“ Praying for God's peace, mercy, and love to Larry Dean and his family in their time of grief and sadness. Know that the Lord loves you dearly and He is always with you in your time of need. Love you all dearly.

*Cynthia McReynolds Davis*

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**Cynthia Davis** - August 19, 2014 at 07:53 PM

ME

“ My sister taught me many things, from how to dance to how to love. Of all the things I admired about her, the greatest was her unwavering faith in God. Her last lesson reminded me to always trust in God and always be ready when he calls your name and your work on earth is done.

*I will miss you, but will see you one day in heaven!*

*Your brother,  
Melvin Ewell*

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**Melvin Ewell** - August 19, 2014 at 03:25 PM

LK

“ *HORTENSE WAS A VIRTUOUS WOMAN WHO NOW WALKS WITH THE ANGELS. WE WILL MISS HER FRIENDLY SMILE, KIND WORDS & WORKS, AND THE SPARKLE IN HER EYES.*

*10 Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.*

*11 The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.*

*12 She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.*

*13 She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.*

*20 She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.*

*23 Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.*

*25 Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.*

*26 She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.*

*27 She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.*

*28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.*

*29 Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.*

*30 Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.*

*31 Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.*

*Excerpts from: Proverbs 31:10-31 King James Version (KJV)*

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Lorene King - August 19, 2014 at 12:06 PM

AW

“ I have known the "Ewell" family for many years. To Melvin and Elvin my brothers in Christ, with deepest sympathy for you and your family in this time of sorrow.

*Hortense was a wonderful woman of God. I will never forget when my grandmother passed, her phone calls and words of prayer. She truly loved the Lord.*

*It is my desire that you experience the wonder, peace, and lifelong hope in knowing that heaven is for real and "Hortense" is with Jesus!*

*I*

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**Annette Warren** - August 19, 2014 at 11:35 AM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Hortense Ewell Woods.



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August 19, 2014 at 10:07 AM

MG

“ I went to school twelve years with Hortense and grew up on the same street. I was sad to hear about another one of my classmate been added to God's bouquet, but He only wants the best. And when He picked Hortense that was one of them. So may knowing this and seeing her again help ease the pain. May God be with you.

*Mattie Bills Gillispie*

*Elgin Illinois*

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**Mattie Bills Gillispie** - August 19, 2014 at 09:01 AM

CK

“ We have known Hortense since our days together in Jackson Tennessee. We all grew up in Jackson and we all graduated from Merry High school. She was a very nice person then and continued to be throughout her life Our prayers and thoughts are with her family as they go through this loss together. May God bless you all.  
Curtis and Dorsey Kendrick, New Haven CT.

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**Curtis and Dorsey Kendrick** - August 19, 2014 at 08:36 AM

GC

“ My thought and prayers are with her husband, brothers, and children.

*Gertrude Copeland  
Jackson Tenn.*



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**Gertrude Copeland** - August 19, 2014 at 08:32 AM

JI

“ Sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers to you and your family.

*Jim and Mary Irwin*

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**Jim/Mary Irwin** - August 19, 2014 at 07:41 AM

GE

“ I express my sincere thanks and gratitude to a sister-in-law who has always been kind, generous and supportive of the family and others. Your earthly presence will be deeply missed and your heavenly presence will be rejoiced. We will find that peace that surpasses all understanding and that joy that only our Heavenly Father can give.



*Rest until we meet you again.*

*Respectfully,  
Geraldine*

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**Geraldine** - August 18, 2014 at 11:01 PM

CM

“ Clarence Mays lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Hortense Ewell Woods



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**Clarence mays** - August 18, 2014 at 09:49 PM

RD

“ Hortense and I grew up together at Lane Tabernacle CME Church in Jackson, TN. She was a sweet soul then, and remained so throughout her life. I will always have pleasant thoughts of her.

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**Richard Hulon Donnell** - August 18, 2014 at 07:38 PM

JW

“ Jackie Woods lit a candle in memory of Mrs.  
Hortense Ewell Woods



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**Jackie woods** - August 18, 2014 at 03:19 PM

BC

“ Larry and Family,

*Our love and blessings to you and the family. Hortense was an outstanding and caring educator, a good personal friend of ours, and a wonderful neighbor. She will remain with us in thought and be missed by many.*

*With warmest friendship,  
Bob and Judy Carruthers*

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**Bob Carruthers** - August 18, 2014 at 11:43 AM

SS

“ Prayers and thoughts are with your family. She was a great lady and will be missed!!!!

*Doug and Sharon Smith*

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**S. Smith** - August 18, 2014 at 07:51 AM