

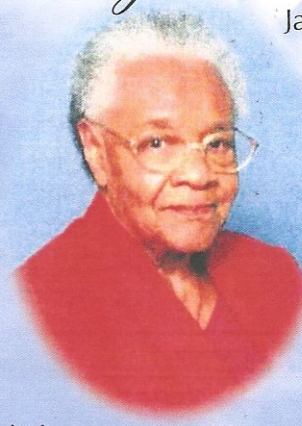
*In Loving Memory
of*

Esther Faye McVeely

SUNRISE
May 8, 1926



SUNSET
January 18, 2014



SERVICES

Saturday, January 25, 2014
11:00 a.m.

**EAST SIXTH STREET
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

1139 N. E. 6th Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Rev. Jesse Jackson, Jr., Pastor, Officiating

Reflections on the Life of Esther Faye McNeely

Esther Faye McNeely was born on May 8, 1926, the second of five children born to Reece and Blanche Irby in Crescent, Oklahoma.

She attended the elementary school in the rural community and graduated as Valedictorian of her class from Booker T. Washington High School, Dover, OK, in 1942. Unable to attend college, she enrolled in correspondence courses in religion and poetry writing.

In 1943, she moved to Oklahoma City and started earning her own living at age 17. In 1945, she united with Tabernacle Baptist Church, working with the BTU and the Young Matron's Missionary Society.

In 1948, she married Hartwell McNeely. To this union five children were born.

She placed her membership with East Sixth Street Christian Church, where Hartwell was a member, and immediately started to work. She has served as Asst. Sunday School Superintendent, Superintendent of the Junior Department, Sunday School Teacher, Asst. Secretary of the General Board, Member of the Trustee Board; worked with the following committees: Membership and Evangelism, Pastor Search Committee, Nominating Committee for Church Officers; and a member of the Disciple Womens' Fellowship (C.W.F.), where she held every office except Treasurer. She jokingly said "I guess they never trusted me with the money." Known as the "Cookie Baker," she baked for teas, receptions, installations and other occasions for the church and community. She spoke on many occasions at East Sixth street, as well at several other churches.

While her children were in school, she worked with the PTA, Campfire Girls, Boy Scouts, Kimbro Music Parents Organization, Eleanor Roosevelt Democratic Womens Club, and found time to do her neighborhood March for Cancer, Cerebral Palsy, etc.

Her search for more education continued. She took courses in typing and shorthand, public speaking, creative writing, knitting, rug making and home nursing care. Her aim in life was to be a nurse. She started this challenge as a nursing assistant at Hubbard Hospital, and later at Tinker Air Force Hospital for six years; often being commended for the unbiased care and attention she gave the patients, and often being assigned the hardest to care for patients. Before her retirement due to health reasons, she was presented the Award for Superior Outstanding Performance.

Later she worked in private homes, usually where there were children to help care for — Gene and Marilyn Torbett; Dub and Mozelle Richardson; John and Sue Goodman; and Larry and Marilyn Lee and son Brandon.

Her hobby was collecting antique and rare objects from garage sales; later in life working crossword puzzles and crypto quotes were her pastime. She loved to sew, garden and cook, being referred to as the family caterer. Occasionally, she worked with other caterers, and sometimes doing parties on her own. With the help of family members, she catered her two daughters' wedding receptions.

For a number of years a family reunion was held in her family's yard, with over 200 family and friends present each year.

Her love for her family was never questioned. Besides caring for her own children, she assisted with the care and welfare of her grand and great grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. Her love for people was unending. The lives of many were touched by the giving and sharing of her time and understanding. But her greatest gift was the gift of love.

Esther Faye's toils and pains ended on January 18, 2014, when God called and she answered. Her parents; husband, Hartwell; and brothers Austin and Edward, preceded her in death.

Left to cherish her memory are her children: Carol J. Moseley (Terry), Hartwell Jr. (Renee), Winfred K. McNeely, Karen J. Smith (Gerrold), and David C. McNeely (Kari); five grandchildren; four great-granddaughters; her sister, Edith Fern Heath; brother, Verdell Irby; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Obituary