

# WE SMILE IN CELEBRATION

OF THE LIFE OF

*EVELYN MINNIE LEE HOLMES BRADWELL*



*SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2007  
11:00 A.M.*

**HINES MEMORIAL**  
*CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
408 North Madison Street  
Albany, Georgia*

THE REVEREND KENNETH D. McMILLIAN  
PASTOR

THE REVEREND CARLTON MAHONE  
PRESIDING ELDER

THE RIGHT REVEREND OTHAL H. LAKEY  
PRESIDING BISHOP

## GO DOWN DEATH – A FUNERAL SERMON

*Weep not, weep not,  
She is not dead;  
She's resting in the bosom of Jesus.  
Grief-stricken son - weep no more;  
Left-lonesome daughter - weep no more;  
She's only just gone home.*

*Day before yesterday morning,  
God was looking down from his great, high heaven,  
Looking down on all his children,  
And his eye fell on Sister Minnie,  
Tossing on her bed of pain.  
And God's big heart was touched with pity,  
With the everlasting pity.*

*And God sat back on his throne,  
And he commanded that tall, bright angel standing at  
his right hand:  
Call me Death!  
And that tall, bright angel cried in a voice  
That broke like a clap of thunder:  
Call Death! — Call Death!  
And the echo sounded down the streets of heaven  
Till it reached away back to that shadowy place,  
Where Death waits with his pale, white horses.*

*And Death heard the summons,  
And he leaped on his fastest horse,  
Pale as a sheet in the moonlight.  
Up the golden street Death galloped,  
And the hoofs of his horse struck fire from the gold,  
But they didn't make no sound.  
Up Death rode to the Great White Throne,  
And waited for God's command.*

*And God said: Go down, Death, go down,  
Go down and find Sister Minnie.  
She's borne the burden and heat of the day,  
She's labored long in my vineyard,  
And she's tired —  
She's weary ----  
Go down, Death, and bring her to me.*

*And Death didn't say a word,  
But he loosed the reins on his pale, white horse,  
And he clamped the spurs to his bloodless sides,  
And out and down he rode,  
Through heaven's pearly gates,  
Past suns and moons and stars;  
On Death rode,  
And the foam from his horse was like a comet in the  
sky;  
On Death rode,  
Leaving the lightning's flash behind;  
Straight on down he came.*

*While we were watching round her bed,  
She turned her eyes and looked away,  
She saw Old Death. She saw Old Death  
Coming like a falling star.  
But Death didn't frighten Sister Minnie;  
He looked to her like a welcome friend.  
And she whispered to us: I'm going home,  
And she smiled and closed her eyes.*

*And Death took her up like a baby,  
And she lay in his icy arms,  
But she didn't feel no chill.  
And Death began to ride again\_\_  
Up beyond the evening star,  
Out beyond the morning star,  
Into the glittering light of glory,  
On to the Great White Throne.  
And there he laid Sister Minnie  
On the loving breast of Jesus.*

*And Jesus took his own hand and wiped away her  
tears,  
And he smoothed the furrows from her face,  
And the angels sang a little song,  
And Jesus rocked her in his arms,  
And kept a-saying: Take your rest,  
Take your rest, take your rest.*

*Weep not ----weep not,  
She is not dead;  
She's resting*

*Adapted  
James Weldon Johnson*

# EVELYN MINNIE LEE HOLMES BRADWELL

## JANUARY 15, 1920 – JANUARY 5, 2007

WE SMILE IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE of Evelyn Minnie Lee Holmes Bradwell. She was born in Early County the first child of John B. Holmes and Mattie B. Harris Holmes.

She began her education in a one-room school in Early County, completed Washington High School and then attended Georgia Normal Industrial College in Albany, Georgia. She later obtained her B.A. degree in education in 1956 from Albany State College

Ms. Bradwell was united in matrimony to John Andrew Bradwell on November 8, 1941. They were married for fifty-seven wonderful years. To this union three children were born, Bessie Ruth who died at a young age, and twins Marva and Marvin.

At an early age, she joined Bethlehem Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Early County, Georgia. Upon moving to Albany, Georgia, she joined Hines Memorial C.M. E. Church where she remained a faithful member until her death. At Hines, she served as Sunday School teacher and superintendent. She also served as director of Vacation Bible School, member of the Trustee Board and sang in the Julia Davis Senior Choir. She remained active in her church until her health failed. Whenever she had surgery, her goal for recovery would be to set a date that she could return to church.

Ms. Bradwell's teaching career began in Early County and continued for thirty-one years. She retired in 1976 from the Dougherty County Board of Education. In Albany, she taught at Tift Elementary, Isabella Elementary and Radium Springs Elementary. In addition to her regular teaching duties, Ms. Bradwell worked in a tutorial program for young children at the Delta Life Center and taught adults in the Albany Adult Education Program. She touched and shaped the lives of countless people, young and old, throughout the years.

Ms. Bradwell served her community through her membership in the Jolly Jacks, Progressive Women Clubs and the Albany Federation of Colored Women. She was most proud of her club's participation in the "Christmas in July" project serving a needy family in the community.

Ms. Bradwell is survived by her daughter, Marva Bradwell Simpson (David); a son Marvin Vincent Bradwell (Audrey); granddaughter Marvis Dionne Simpson; an adopted son, William R. Shepherd (Beretta) and a host of other relatives and family friends. She was preceded in death by her loving husband John A. Bradwell and a grandson Marvin V. Bradwell, Jr.

### THE TWENTY THIRD PSALM

THE LORD *IS* MY SHEPHERD; I SHALL NOT WANT.  
HE MAKES ME TO LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES;  
HE LEADS ME BESIDE THE STILL WATERS. HE RESTORES MY SOUL;  
HE LEADS ME IN THE PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE.  
YEA, THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH,  
I WILL FEAR NO EVIL; FOR YOU *ARE* WITH ME;  
YOUR ROD AND YOUR STAFF, THEY COMFORT ME.  
YOU PREPARE A TABLE BEFORE ME IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES;  
YOU ANOINT MY HEAD WITH OIL; MY CUP RUNS OVER.  
SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY SHALL FOLLOW ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE  
AND I WILL DWELL [in](#) IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER.

# ORDER OF SERVICE

THE PRELUDE		"A SOLEMN MELODY"
THE PROCESSIONAL	" <i>GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS</i> "	RUNYAN
THE HYMN OF PRAISE 27	" <i>BLESSED ASSURANCE</i> "	KNAPP
THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH		THE APOSTLES' CREED
THE INVOCATION		
THE LESSON FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT		PSALM 23
THE GLORIA PATRI		MEINEKE
GLORY BE TO THE FATHER AND TO THE SON AND TO THE HOLY GHOST; AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING, IS NOW, AND EVER SHALL BE, WORLD WITHOUT END. AMEN. AMEN.		
THE LESSON FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT		MATTHEW 25:34-40
THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC	" <i>I KNOW WHO HOLDS TOMORROW</i> "	STANPHILL
THE REFLECTIONS AND TRIBUTES (TWO MINUTES, PLEASE)		
HINES MEMORIAL		MRS. MARY BARNES
ALBANY FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN		MS. LOIS REYFORD
EXTENDED FAMILY		MS. JUANITA GAY
NIECES AND NEPHEWS		MRS. MARILYN KING-JACKSON
HER DAUGHTER		MARVA BRADWELL SIMPSON
THE POEM		DR. WILLIAM R. SHEPHERD
THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC	" <i>JUST AS I AM</i> "	FROM <i>MOUNT OF OLIVES</i>
THE EULOGY		DR. MAURICE CHERRY
THE RECESSIONAL	" <i>ABIDE WITH ME</i> "	MONK

THE SERVICE OF COMMITTAL  
FLORAL MEMORY GARDENS

*Minnie Lee Holmes Bradwell*



*"We Smile As Minnie Speaks  
To Us In Her Own Words"*

*"I wanted to know everything there was to know. My desire to learn became the seed of my desire to teach others."*

*" . . . I learned to dream and fantasize. In the evening I would watch the birds fly overhead and imagine that they were students on their way home from school and that I had been their teacher."*

*"As a child, life to me was like a patch of grass, soft to tiny feet and edged with beautiful flowers."*

*" . . . I found so much pleasure and happiness in a little stick of candy that one would have thought I was rich and had all the luxuries of life."*

*" . . . Because of my desire to learn and to seek knowledge, I could have gone to school year round."*

*"The day I received my degree was one of the happiest times in my life. I was proud that in spite of the many obstacles and setbacks, I had achieved my goal."*

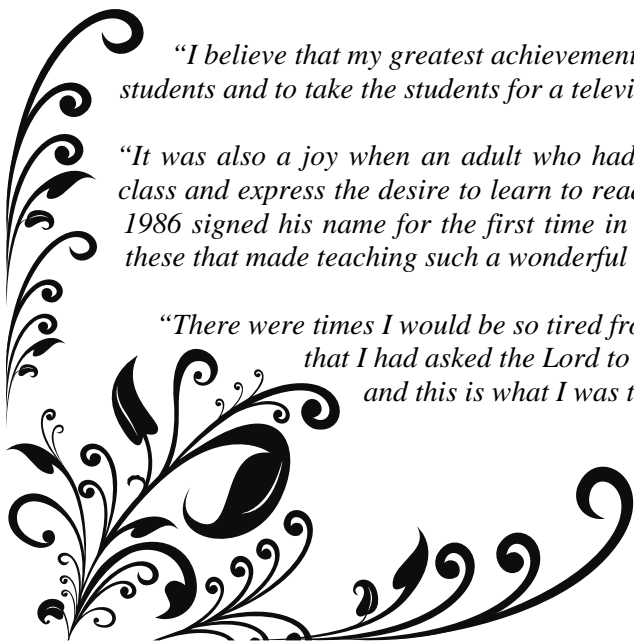
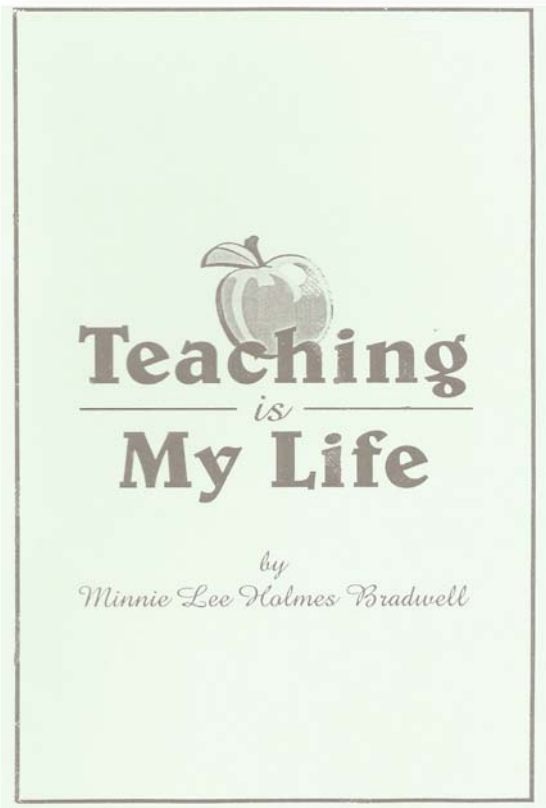
*"I owe so much to the people that I patterned my life after and who supported me in my efforts to achieve my goals. What I learned from them still serves to guide my life and decisions that I make even today".*

*"At Union Hill Elementary were two sets of twins. I was really fond of them. . . would you believe it, I gave birth to twins, Marva and Marvin".*

*"I believe that my greatest achievement was to present a Christmas play with Black and White students and to take the students for a television appearance during the Bicentennial celebration".*

*"It was also a joy when an adult who had never gone to school would come into the adult education class and express the desire to learn to read and write. There was an elderly man who....on January 3, 1986 signed his name for the first time in his life on his social security check. It was experiences like these that made teaching such a wonderful and satisfying career".*

*"There were times I would be so tired from working that I wanted to give up, but I would remember that I had asked the Lord to make a way for me to provide for my children and mother and this is what I was to do. Help someone and in return I would be helped.*



**Teaching Is My Life,**  
Minnie Lee Holmes Bradwell

## PALLBEARERS

Robert Gay  
Karstan Reynolds  
Charles Rayford, Jr.

Johnny Hamilton  
Leland N. Williams  
Gregory Drummond

## HONORARY ESCORT

STEWARDESSES  
STEWARDS  
TRUSTEES

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*During this time of sorrow within our hearts, it means so much to have loving family and friends. We are truly grateful for all the expressions of love and sympathy. The visits made provided so much comfort to us. The many cards and telephone calls have consoled our hearts. Your prayers have strengthened us. The many loving acts of kindness extended to us and to Mother will never be forgotten.*

*The Family*

## MATTHEW 25:34-40

34THEN THE KING WILL SAY TO THOSE ON HIS RIGHT, "MY FATHER HAS BLESSED YOU! COME AND RECEIVE THE KINGDOM THAT WAS PREPARED FOR YOU BEFORE THE WORLD WAS CREATED. 35WHEN I WAS HUNGRY, YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO EAT, AND WHEN I WAS THIRSTY, YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO DRINK. WHEN I WAS A STRANGER, YOU WELCOMED ME, 36AND WHEN I WAS NAKED, YOU GAVE ME CLOTHES TO WEAR. WHEN I WAS SICK, YOU TOOK CARE OF ME, AND WHEN I WAS IN JAIL, YOU VISITED ME."

37THEN THE ONES WHO PLEASED THE LORD WILL ASK, "WHEN DID WE GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO EAT OR DRINK? 38WHEN DID WE WELCOME YOU AS A STRANGER OR GIVE YOU CLOTHES TO WEAR 39OR VISIT YOU WHILE YOU WERE SICK OR IN JAIL?"

40THE KING WILL ANSWER, "WHENEVER YOU DID IT FOR ANY OF MY PEOPLE, NO MATTER HOW UNIMPORTANT THEY SEEMED, YOU DID IT FOR ME."

## A MEADOWS SERVICE