



## Mary Eller Smith

September 14, 1920 - June 29, 2014

Mary E. Smith was born in Texarkana, Arkansas, on September 14, 1920, to the parents Marcus Allen and Suzie Smith. She was raised by her loving grandparents, Jim and Polly McCormick. She attended school in Texarkana and completed the eighth grade.

She accepted Christ and was baptized at the age of 14, in Texarkana.

Mary moved to Oakland, California in 1957 and immediately joined the Shiloh Baptist Church, which is now called Center Street Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. Theodore Jackson.

Mary met and married Mr. Philip Smith in 1957 to this union no children were born. Philip preceded her in death in June of 1991.

Mary worked for three generations of the Davidson family as a domestic worker, and also for the Patman family when she lived in Southern California, before moving to the Bay Area. She took pride in the work she did. She has shared many funny stories about her experiences in her profession doing what she loved. She wasn't just an employee for these families, she was loving and devoted, as was expressed to me by Nanny Davidson and Don Patman.

Mama Smith (what so many of us call her) was a very faithful member here at Center Street for many years until her health begin to fail. She had a stroke in October 2010 when she recovered from that she couldn't wait to get back to church, and to the choir and sing for the Lord, though her speech was impaired, and her walk was restricted due to spinal arthritis, she didn't let that stop her, she was an inspiration to all of us, and those who knew her. She would always say, "Jesus gave me this voice, and I'm going to use it for him as long as I can." And That She Did.

When the choir would go out to sing everybody wanted her to lead a song and she did, and when the Holy Spirit took over she would throw her head back, put her hands on her hips, and she and the Spirit would tear up things. She served faithfully for many years here at Center Street, with her whole heart, she did whatever was asked of her. She loved her church and church family.

She served as, Vice President of the Senior Choir, sang with the Mission choirs and was Treasure for both, worked with the Mission department, and also their treasurer. She would take the Mission sisters and whoever else wanted to go and visit with the sick and shut-ins, and then she would treat them all to lunch. Her greatest joy was giving. She truly believed that it was more blessed to give than to receive.

She attended Sunday School, Wednesday night prayer and bible study faithfully until her physical body did not permit. Mama Mary Eller Smith will truly be missed by those who she loved, and the many that loved her.

# Cemetery Details

## Rolling Hills Memorial Park

4100 Hilltop Drive  
Richmond, CA 94803

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 8. 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM (PT)

Harris Funeral Home Legacy Center  
1331 San Pablo Ave.  
Berkeley, CA 94702  
(510) 525-1331  
<http://www.harrisfuneralhomelegacycenter.com>

## Service

JUL 9. 11:00 AM (PT)

Center Street Missionary Baptist Church  
940 Center Street  
Oakland, CA 94607  
(510) 444-4926

# Tribute Wall



“ 19 files added to the album Memories Album



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Harris Funeral Home - February 25, 2015 at 04:41 PM