



*Let me live in the  
house by the side of  
the road and be a  
friend to man*

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Job 19:25-27 New International Version  
(NIV)

25 I know that my redeemer lives,  
and that in the end he will stand on the  
earth.  
26 And after my skin has been destroyed,  
yet in my flesh I will see God;  
27 I myself will see him  
with my own eyes—I, and not another.  
How my heart yearns within me!

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*Homegoing Celebration*



*Amanda Mae Edwards*  
*October 28, 1932-July 23, 2019*





Mae was born on October 28, 1932 in Lincroft, NJ to William Gordon and Maud (Norman) Smack. During her childhood, Middletown was mostly rural comprised of farmland, apple orchards, and open fields she would

run through with her older brother, William jr. She attended grade school in a one room schoolhouse, now the middletown lincroft library on Newman springs rd., junior high at River Plaza, and graduated from Leonardo (Middletown) High School in 1950.

Mae and her mother Maud were charter members on Lincroft Presbyterian church. She served as a deacon, taught Sunday school, lead contemporary services and was a member of the women's bible study group. She enjoyed the community, fellowship, and friendships she built with the church and it's worshippers.



In 1953 Mae received her nursing certification from Monmouth Memorial Hospital's School of Nursing and her R.N. in 1954. She became one of the first black head nurses of Monmouth Medical and a stay at home Mother in 1964. She resumed nursing in 1979 at Riverview Medical Center after receiving her BSN. Patients and staff could easily spot nurse Mae as she wore the nurse's hat and uniform until her retirement in 1999, long after the fashion had passed. Regularly starched and pressed; the uniform was a symbol of a proud legacy, as she would say, "I earned my stripes." Her legacy succeeds her as she precepted many nurses that are still practicing today and remains well liked, loved and fondly remembered.



She considered her mother, Maud, "a born genealogist because she seemed to know everyone and knew how they were related". Mae was an active member and past president of the Monmouth county African-American genealogical Society based out of Jersey City. They took trips to conventions in Washington DC and tabled at the annual African-American Arts & Heritage Festival for outreach. She was eager and joyous to lend a hand to anyone wanting to research family and/or health history. She helped preserve Saint Leo's cemetery, the resting place of colored troops from the Civil War, 1st World War, and others.



On July 2, 1961 she married Dock Edwards Jr. at LPC and together they raised three children: Douglas, Theodora Lynn, and Edwin. Mae was the proud and caring grandmother of six: Sierra, Sydney, Savannah, Sinclair, Edwin Jr, and Rhylee.

