

the First Baptist Church of Bedford, where Thelma sang in the choir, served on the Board of Deacons, and was very active in the church over the years. In 1974, Harold and Thelma were blessed with their first granddaughter, Darrell. In 1979, they were blessed again with a second granddaughter, Deborah. Both are daughters of eldest son Harold Jr., and have been a great pride and joy in Harold's and Thelma's lives. Both Harold and Thelma were very involved and active in their granddaughters' lives. In 2012, Harold and Thelma were blessed once more with great grandson Izayah, son of youngest granddaughter, Deborah, and a shining bright light in his own right. Amidst all that was a part of Thelma's very full life, she still had time, energy, and room in her heart to be an exceptional wife and mother, not only to her own family, but also surrogate mother and mentor to many of her children's friends and acquaintances as well. She was even able to participate and excel in a bowling league for several years, which she greatly enjoyed for recreation and relaxation.

The example of the way Thelma lived her life was obvious to all who knew her. Living and demonstrating the principles of...Be caring and kind to others; always lend a helping hand to those in need; do whatever you can to make a positive difference in the lives of others. She was the best embodiment of such qualities and virtues as patience, caring, kindness, tolerance, acceptance, grace, calm, warmth, funny, and most of all, LOVE.

Thelma Lee Russell, phenomenal woman! Extraordinary wife, dedicated community servant, compassionate caregiver, devoted Christian, and most of all, caring mother to many. What words are sufficient, for a woman who has done so much for so many? Return home Tee, to a place of happiness and serenity, and be with the Lord and all the loved ones who have gone before you. We will miss you, and love you always. Rest in peace. You truly deserve it, for a life well lived, and a job well done. God bless!



Celebration of Life



Thelma Lee Russell

**February 27, 1928 to
July 29, 2018**

Memorial Service

August 4, 2018

Prelude Joan Mickel

Welcome and Invocation

*Hymn *"His Eye Is on The Sparrow"* Insert

Scripture Psalm 23

*Hymn *"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"* Insert

Scripture Matthew 25:23

Homily Rev. Dr. Mar Imsong
Executive Director
MA Baptist Multicultural Ministries

*Hymn *"Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"* Insert

Scripture John 14:1-4

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and
the glory, forever. Amen

Sharing of Memories Congregation
(Keep to Two Minutes)

*Hymn *"Amazing Grace"* Insert

Scripture II Corinthians 1:3-5

Benediction

Postlude

Bedford Funeral Home
167 Great Road
Bedford, MA 01730

Thelma Lee Russell, and to many of us, Tee Russell. Born February 27, 1928, into a family of sharecroppers in North Carolina. At age 12, Thelma and her family moved north to Everett, MA. In 7th grade, Thelma was the deserving captain of her championship girls' basketball team. Later, she graduated from Everett High School, Class of 1946. Following high school, Thelma worked in an urban industrial plant, where she met the man who would become her husband of 61 years, Harold W. Russell. They were married on December 27, 1952, at Thelma's family home in Everett. Following marriage, Harold and Thelma moved to Boston where eldest son Harold Jr. was born in 1955, and later son Mark in 1960. It was during those years when Thelma entered the nursing field, working as a Candy Striper in the Boston area hospital system. This led to her attaining her certification as a Licensed Practical Nurse. In 1962, Harold, Thelma and family moved to suburban Bedford, where son Carl was born in 1964. Shortly after Carl's birth, Thelma began working as a geriatric nurse for the company that would later become Carlton Willard, starting out at the Ross Worthen nursing home in Waltham, MA. After many years of exemplary commitment, she later retired from the company and nursing in 1995. Although, she would say only semi-retired, as there were still family members to take care of and look out for. Bedford is where Thelma began her work in community service, in the classrooms of the elementary school system, teaching the story of The Green Circle, about tolerance, empathy, and acceptance. In the 1970's both Harold and Thelma served on the Bedford Council on Human Relations, promoting racial peace and equality, and anti-violence; then later were part of the founding members of the Concerned Black Citizens of Bedford, doing community advocacy, sponsoring black history events, and providing scholarships to graduating minority students. Also during that time Harold and Thelma opened up their home to serve as host family to young METCO students. Moving forward through those years, Thelma was also a member of the Bedford Social Club, and served on the Bedford Public Ceremonies Committee. The Bedford Social Club, for which Thelma served as president for a time, was also active in the community and provided scholarships to deserving graduates. The Public Ceremonies Committee organized and coordinated such events as Bedford Day, and Memorial Day and July 4th celebrations. Shortly after moving to Bedford, Thelma and family joined