

This is my Diary of Life

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I saw the Holy City, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. Rev. 21:1-2



My name on earth was *Bertha Ann Gardner*, known to many as *Peaches*. If you are reading this, my journey here has ended. On a February morning wrapped in stillness and cool air. The sky pale and hushed, and the world resting between night and day, there was a soft chill that carried both peace and reflection.

Everything slowed, gentle, and sacred as if the day was taking a final breath. On that day February 9, 2026. I was called from this world and welcomed into the presence of my Heavenly Father to my eternal home. I now dwell in paradise where life has no end and love has no sorrow. If

you wish to find me, look toward The New Jerusalem, I'll be walking peacefully along Hallelujah Avenue, rejoicing in the promise fulfilled.

I was born to the late Simon Surine Young and the late Bertha Mae (Mayes) Young in Memphis, TN., on October 5, 1957. I confessed a hope in Christ as an adolescent. I lived a life rooted in love and faith, trusting fully in every word and promise God spoke. I was a devoted member of Grace in Christ Christian Church, where I faithfully served under the loving leadership of my sister, Pastor Cliffie "Cherri" Hatton.

Both of my parents preceded me in death, along with a daughter Terita Young, a brother Waymon Young, two sisters, Teretha Young Kent and Cassie Young Hare. Maternal grandparents, Amos Mayes and Lillie Mayes, Maternal great grandparents John and Eppie Smith, Maternal great-great grandparents Adam and Classie Smith, and Paternal grandparents James (Jim) Young and Mollie Young.

I leave to cherish and honor my memory three sons, Jerry Javon Gardner, (Cadince) Perre Davon Gardner and Freddrick LaCurtis Foster, Two grandsons, Jerry Javon Gardner, Jr. and Dylan Gardner. Four sisters, Rev Dr. Shirley (Kandi) Cole, Pastor Cliffie (Cherri) Hatton (David), Patricia Y. Tamayo (Will), and Gwendolyn F. Taylor; and a brother, Andrew Rico Young (Wendy), along with a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.