

*Celebrating the Life  
of  
Deaconess Virginia Crystell James*

*Sunrise  
June 30, 1922*

*Sunset  
May 27, 2013*



*Services*

*Saturday, June 1, 2013 - 10:00 a.m.*

*Viewing*

*9:00 am - 10:00 am*

**IMANI BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHRIST, INC.**

*113-119 Elmwood Avenue*

*East Orange, New Jersey 07018*

*Rev. Charles "Chuck" Chamberlay, Emeritus Pastor, Officiating*

## Obituary

**Virginia Crystell James** departed this life on May 27, 2013. The daughter of the late Charles and Virginia Anderson, she was born on June 30, 1922 in Cumberland, VA. Her family moved to New Jersey when she was five.

Deaconess James accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior as a young child and was baptized at Calvary Baptist Church in East Orange. At Calvary, she was active in Sunday School, B.Y.P.U. and Bible class. When she moved to Plainfield, NJ in 1952, she joined Calvary Baptist Church of Plainfield where she was active in church programs and ministries until her retirement and relocation to East Orange, NJ. In East Orange, Deaconess James became a founding member of Imani Baptist Church of Christ. She was consecrated as a Deaconess on October 24, 1993, and was chosen "Mother of the Church" on June 26, 2011.

Deaconess James graduated from West Side High School in Newark, NJ. She then attended Howard University's Freedmen's Hospital School of Nursing in Washington, DC. At Freedmen, she had the opportunity to learn under the tutelage of the brilliant surgeon and researcher, Dr. Charles Drew, who discovered how to preserve whole blood plasma. She was also a student nurse to Mary McLeod Bethune, during the famous educator and civil rights leader's stay at Freedmen.

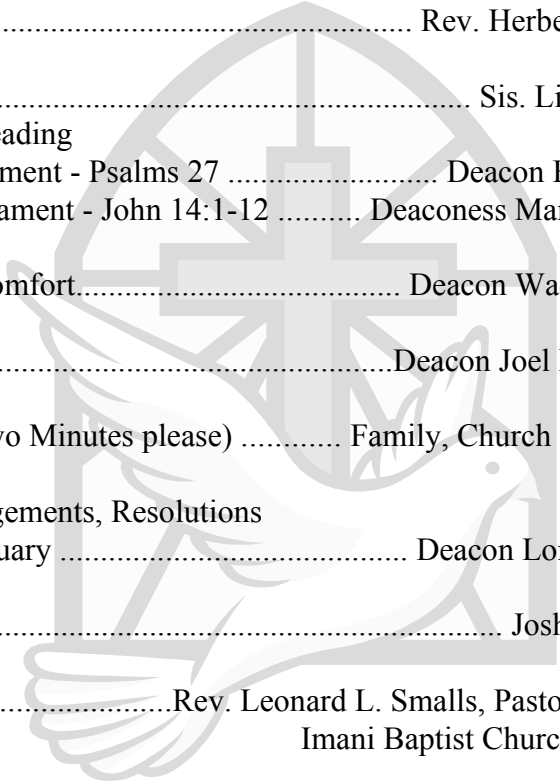
A firm believer in importance of education, Deaconess James continued her academic pursuit, earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing from Fairleigh Dickinson University in Rutherford, NJ, a Master of Education Degree from Rutgers University Graduate School of Education in New Brunswick, NJ, and a Master of Science Degree in Nursing from Hampton University in Hampton, VA. She also did doctoral study at Rutgers Graduate School of Education.

Deaconess James received numerous honors and recognition. She was inducted into Sigma Theta Tau, an International honor society in Nursing and Kappa Delta Pi, an honor society in education. She was a charter member of Tau Chi Chapter of Chi Eta Phi Sorority and a past president of the New Jersey Chapter.

During her distinguished career, she was employed as a staff nurse, a public health nurse, a nursing instructor and a nursing education administrator. She retired in 1988 as Dean of Nursing and Allied Health of the Cooperative Nursing and Allied Health Program at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center and Union County College. When Deaconess James began working as an instructor at Muhlenberg in 1970, there was one other African-American Faculty member and one African-American student. Inspired by Dr. Drew, Mrs. Bethune and other trailblazers who came before her, Deaconess James set out to change the unbalanced demographics of the school and successfully recruited more African-American Faculty and students. In 2003, this pioneering leader's contributions to her profession and to her community were spotlighted when she was honored as a "Black Hero In Silence".

Deaconess Virginia James was a pillar at her beloved Imani Baptist Church, where she was active in many organizations and ministries, including Wisdom's Children, Missionary Ministry, Entertainment Ministry and the Floral Club. She is survived by one son, Gregory A. James and his wife, Wanda, one brother, Louis Anderson, and her beloved friends and God children, Norman and Mary Bynoe, and many other relatives and friends. Her son, Rodney A. James and husband, Ralph James preceded her in death.

# *Order of Service*



Processional .....	Clergy, Official and Family
Invocation .....	Rev. Herbert Thomas
Solo .....	Sis. Linda Swain
Scripture Reading	
Old Testament - Psalms 27 .....	Deacon Ella Taylor
New Testament - John 14:1-12 .....	Deaconess Mary Johnson
Prayer of Comfort.....	Deacon Wade Hudson
Solo.....	Deacon Joel Henderson
Remarks (two Minutes please) .....	Family, Church and Friend
Acknowledgements, Resolutions & Obituary .....	Deacon Lorena Smith
Solo.....	Joshua Nelson
Eulogy.....	Rev. Leonard L. Smalls, Pastor Emeritus Imani Baptist Church of Christ
Recessional.....	Clergy and Family <i>"I'll Fly Away"</i>

## **Interment**

Fairmount Cemetery  
Newark, New Jersey

## ***Repast***

*Following the interment family and friends are invited for a repast in the church Fellowship Hall.*

## ***Safely Home***

*I am home in Heaven, dear ones;  
Oh, so happy and so bright!  
There is perfect joy and beauty  
In this everlasting light.*

*All the pain and grief is over,  
Every restless tossing passed;  
I am now at peace forever,  
Safely home in Heaven at last.*

### ***Acknowledgement***

*The family of Virginia Crystell James will remember and cherish the kindness of your many expressions of love, sympathy, prayers, massages and courtesies so graciously extended.  
Thank you and may God richly bless you.*

---

**Professional Services Provided By**

***Woody "Home For Services"***

163 Oakwood Ave. • Orange, NJ 07050  
ph (973) 674-0814 • fax (973) 674-2055  
[www.honoryou.com](http://www.honoryou.com)