

A portrait of Laraine Alexis Smith, a Black woman with short dark hair, wearing glasses, a red top, and a necklace. She is smiling slightly. A large yellow rose is in the foreground, partially overlapping her portrait.

*Homegoing  
Services  
for*

*Laraine Alexis Smith*

**Sunrise**  
*September 7, 1955*

**Sunset**  
*February 18, 2014*

*Monday, February 24, 2014 - 11:00 a.m.*

**1<sup>ST</sup> BAPTIST CHURCH OF SOUTH ORANGE**

103 Valley Street • South Orange, New Jersey  
***Rev. Dr. Terry L. Richardson, Officiating***

## Obituary

**Laraine Alexis Smith** was born on September 7, 1955 in Newark, New Jersey. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jerome Smith, Sr. and parents, Clarence Baskerville and Mildred Smith.

On July 18, 1980, Laraine was united in marriage to Jerome F. Smith, Sr. From that union was born her only son, Jerome, Jr. The bond between them was unbreakable.

**Laraine** was a mother, grandmother, sister and friend to many. In each of her roles she gave her all. Her love for family was only surpassed by her love of God.

**Laraine's** love for her grandchildren, who lovingly called her "Nana", was unconditional. A hug from Nana made everything better.

**Laraine** worked for many years at Nabisco, Inc. in East Hanover, NJ and was a Legal Secretary for various law firms in New Jersey and New York. She was known for her sense of style and good taste in dressing. Throughout all the challenges she faced, she very rarely complained. Her favorite pastimes were cooking, singing and dancing.

She leaves to mourn: her son, Jerome; daughter-in-law, Martisa; grandchildren, Fortune, Tyrin and Kalani; mother-in-law, Delores Smith; sisters-in-law, Yuvonne Smith and Pamela Smith; "Sisters", Paulette Braxton, Sharon Parrish, Leslie Bagley, Lorene Johnson, Dorene Williams, Valerie Scrutchins and Stephanie Wimley; goddaughter, Dena Wimley; nieces, nephews and lifelong friends, Mark Copeland and Jeff Johnson.

She quietly departed this life on February 18, 2014.

**Laraine** will be missed by all.

*Order of Service*

Musical Prelude

Processional .....Clergy

Opening Hymn.....“What a Friend We Have In Jesus”

Old Testament Reading.....Psalm 23

New Testament Reading.....St. John 14:1-6

Prayer of Comfort

Musical Selection.....Church Choir

Acknowledgements

& Remarks (please limit to 2 minutes).....Leslie Bagley

Poem.....Fortune Smith

Reading of Obituary.....Paulette Braxton

Musical Selection.....“When We All Get To Heaven

Eulogy ..... Rev. Dr. Terry L. Richardson

Recessional.....Clergy and Family

**INTERMENT**  
Fairmount Cemetery  
Newark, New Jersey

# Meditation

*(Adapted words extracted from the Rev. T.D. Jakes)*

O Lord, we have lived this day to bury one whom we love. Our gratitude is as full as our grief and our peace is as deep as our pain....all because of you. We need YOU as never before. Shepherd our souls through these dry and heavy days.

You send us to this earth for a season and then you receive us again unto yourself. We understand this cycle, but we weren't quite as ready to let go as we thought we'd be. All of our lives we've known that someday this would happen, but the finality and reality of it are piercing. One thing we know is that death cannot kill love and human hands cannot bury it. On this, our loved one's resurrection day, we give you praise for a life lived well.

## Pallbearers

Saad Baker	Fortune Smith
Damon Hardaway	Marc Williams
Ryan Keene	Craig Zimmerman

## Acknowledgements

*The family of **Laraine Alexis Smith** will remember and cherish your many expressions of loving sympathy, prayers, messages and courtesies so graciously extended. Thank you and may God richly bless you.*

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