

Homeing Celebration
For

Deacon Leon Foster

Sunrise

January 10, 1933

Sunset

June 10, 2015

Wednesday, June 17, 2015 - 11:00 a.m.
Grace Temple Baptist Church

185-7 16th Avenue
Newark, NJ 07103

Pastor Floyd T. Gaskins, Officiating
Reverend Chris Burgess, Organist

DEACON FOSTER

Obituary

Deacon Leon Foster, son of the late Eugene and Eula Mae Foster was born in Pike County, Alabama on January 10, 1933. He departed this life on Wednesday, June 10, 2015, at Trinitas Hospital in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Leon's Christian life journey began when he joined the Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Alabama, under the leadership of Reverend J.C. Cossey. During his membership there, Leon would borrow his brother-in-law's car and go and pick up people and bring them to church. He also sang in the choir.

Leon was employed as a Share Cropper for a while in Alabama. He later relocated to Florida and stayed there for a few years. After leaving Florida he moved to Elizabeth, New Jersey. On December 17, 1973 he was hired with the Public Works Department in the city of Elizabeth, NJ. He started out as an Equipment Operator. On May 1, 1999, he retired as a Welder.

In the latter part of 1973, **Leon** joined the Grace Temple Baptist Church, under the leadership of the late Reverend John L. McClain. On the third Sunday in July 1975, he was ordained as a Deacon. He worked and served faithful with the Pastor, the Board members and the congregation.

Leon loved the church and **he loved God**. He loved good preaching. He always joined in with all preachers when they preached the word. When the sermon was over **Leon** was very exhausted from his preaching. Looking at him, you thought he was in the pulpit.

As a strong Christian member, **Leon** was appointed Vice Chairman and than later Chairman of the Deacon Board for thirty-eight years. He served as Chairman until his health failed. **Leon** was a faithful member of the Morning Star Choir, and once president of the Male Chorus. He loved to sing and he was always available to lead a song. He assisted the Missionary Ministry in their duties; he supported the Youth Ministry and was always willing and able to help all of the other auxiliaries when needed. He was appointed Deacon in charge of the Nurses Unit. At one time he was Pastor's McClain's personal nurse.

Leon was a very good handyman around the church and community. Whenever some repairs needed to be done, he was called upon to do so. He was the babysitter for the Contractors when Grace Temple Baptist Church was renovated. Leon enjoyed being around his church members.

Leon's past time relaxation was fishing. Sometimes he would go to the Pier in Elizabeth and sit; just to relax and meditate.

Leon, on Januray 26, 1989, met Mrs. Penelope Presley-Garland. They were married on November 12, 2006, at Grace Temple Baptist Church, under the leadership of the late Reverend John L. McClain.

During the time of his failing health, he resigned as Chairman of the Deacon Board, on January 1, 2015 under the leadership of his present Pastor Floyd T. Gaskins. He loved his Pastor, and was always willing to help him in any way that he could.

Leon was preceded in death by his son, Levon Foster, daughter, Barbara Allen, two sisters: Flora Lampey and Jerdine Leary.

Leon leaves to cherish his memory, a loving, caring and devoted wife, Deaconess Penelope Foster; his children: LaShanda Maddox (William) of Hampton, Virginia, Douglas Presley, Jr. (Hillside, NJ), Jerome Foster (Rahway, NJ), Miracle Babalola (Akintayo) of Upper Marlboro, Maryland, Felicia Howard (Porter), Leodis Foster, Norman Foster, Nathan Foster (all from Brundidge Ala.) Ethel Foster (Milwaukee, Wisconsin); one sister, Ola Mae Lampey (Brundidge, Ala.); two brothers, James Foster (Brundidge, Ala.) and Jonah Foster (Peggy) of Florida; two sisters-in-law, Ernestine B. Harris (Dennis) of East Orange, NJ, Juanita Gold (Union, NJ); two brothers-in-law, Roger Lee Garland (Hillside, NJ), Nathaniel Garland (Decatur, GA); a host of grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews and other relatives, friends and several God-children.

Deacon Leon Foster will be greatly missed and loved forever by all who knew him and loved him.

*The depth of sorrow we cannot tell of the loss of one we loved so well.
A pleasant smile, a heart of gold, no finer person this world can hold,
without farewell, he fell asleep with only memories for us to keep.*

The Family

Order of Service

Processional

Hymn of Praise

Scripture Reading

Old Testament: Eccl. 3:1-4

New Testament: Matt. 26, 27-29

Prayer of Comfort

Selection Grace Temple Choirs

Remarks(two minutes please)

Acknowledgements and Obituary Sis. Patrice Jones
Fountain Baptist Church, Summit, NJ

Solo Deacon Edward McCrorey
Greater Bethel Baptist Church, Newark, NJ

EulogyPastor Floyd T. Gaskins

Recessional



Interment
Evergreen Cemetery
Hillside, New Jersey

Repast and Fellowship
Grace Temple Baptist Church

Pallbearers
Family Members

The Golden Side

*There's many a rest on the road of life
If we only would stop to take it;
And many a tone from the better land
If the querulous heart would wake it.
To the sunny soul that is full of hope
And whose beautiful trust ne'er faileth,
The grass is green and the flowers are bright,
Though the wintry storm prevaileth
Better to hope though the clouds hand low
And to keep the eyes still lifted;
For the sweet blue sky will soon peep through
When the ominous clouds are rifted.
There was never a night without a day
Nor an evening without a morning;
And the darkest hour, the proverb goes,
Is the hour before the dawning.*

Acknowledgement

The family and friends of the late **Deacon Leon Foster** expresses sincere gratitude and deep appreciation for all acts of love shown during the illness and homegoing of their loved one. May God Bless each of you.

Professional Services Provided By

Clarence B Wright Funeral Home, Inc.

579 Grove St, Irvington, NJ 07111

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