

*Celebration of the Life and Homegoing of*



*Odessa B. Robinson*

**Sunrise**  
October 9, 1916

**Sunset**  
November 25, 2015



**Service**

Saturday, December 5, 2015 - 11:00 a.m.

**Union Baptist Church**

160 Oakwood Avenue

Orange, New Jersey 07050

*Officiating, Rev. William M. Freeman, Pastor*

## *Obituary*

**Odessa B. Robinson** was the lone child born to the late Russell and Emily McBeth Bates on Oct. 9, 1916 in Union, South Carolina. As a child, she was adored by her family and consequently spent her childhood between her family's home in South Carolina, and that of her aunt in Pottsville, Pennsylvania.

Education was at the core of Odessa's value system. After obtaining her Bachelor's Degree from Knoxville College in Knoxville, Tenn., she moved to New York where she achieved her Master's Degree, and Doctorate equivalency from New York University (NYU). After a brief teaching career in Columbia, South Carolina, she taught in the Union, New Jersey Public School district, from which she retired after a distinguished thirty year career. Always a trail blazer, Odessa was the third African American teacher to be hired by the Union Township Public School district.

After meeting the love of her life, her adoring husband the late James Robinson, Odessa moved to East Orange, New Jersey in 1948. She resided there until they purchased her final residence in Orange, New Jersey in 1961. Odessa and James treasured each other, and loved to travel worldwide to expand their horizons. They shared their circle of love with one daughter, DelGracia, who blessed them with two grandchildren, Sefton Bass III and Allazandra Emily Bass.

A civic-minded individual, Odessa was involved in a number of organizations including the University Women, Women's League of New Jersey, Inc., the NAACP, Friends of the Essex Chorale, Jack and Jill of America, Inc., and the League of Women Voters. She was a proud member of her beloved Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the Berkeley Area Crime Watch Group, and the Newark Performing Arts Center (NJ PAC). She has received formal recognition from: the Union Township Board of Education, Union Baptist Church, Orange, NJ, the Women's Club of Vauxhall, NJ, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the City Council of Orange, New Jersey, and the Florida A&M Alumni Association, New Jersey Chapter.

Always putting God first, Odessa was a generous member of Union Baptist Church (UBC) of Orange, New Jersey since 1948, where she served on the Scholarship Committee, and was a longtime member of the UBC Flower Club. She was personally responsible for many innovations at the church including the beautiful sign outside of the church, as well as the renovation of the magnificent pipe organ, which was rededicated in Sept., 2014.

People loved Odessa, and she loved them in return. A proud woman, she always had a way of standing out from the crowd. Odessa will be lovingly remembered for her quick wit, generosity, advanced intellect, her sparkling sense of style, her hats and her glamour. She was always coordinated from head to toe! Even in her final days at the rehabilitation center she would be found immaculately attired in a silk caftan, with stunning jewelry accessories including her dangling chandelier earrings, and her freshly manicured nails.

Predeceased by her husband, daughter and parents, she leaves to celebrate her memory: her beloved grandchildren, Sefton Bass III and Allazandra Bass; her cousins, Phil Sitton, Joy Atkinson, Edward Charles Atkinson, and Marsha Sitton Davis; her loyal and beloved caregivers, William and Thelma Jones and Jean Spraggins; loving friends, Dr. Robert and Maxine Johnson, Thelma Jeter; former son-in-law, Sefton Bass, Jr.; and "adopted daughters," Pamela Morgan and Renee Carter-Thomas; and many other loving and dedicated friends.

Odessa will be missed, but will forever be in our hearts and minds.

## *Service of Triumph*

The Organ Prelude.....	Mrs. Yvonne Holmes
Call to Worship and Invocation.....	Rev. William M. Freeman
Opening Hymn.....	“Just A Closer Walk With Thee”
The Scripture Readings	
Old Testament - Psalm 28.....	Mariah Ayscue
New Testament - John 14:1-7.....	Ayana Ayscue
The Prayer of Consolation .....	Rev. Dr. Keisha Harris <i>First Baptist Church South Orange, NJ</i>
Solo.....	“Order My Steps” ..... Kisha Joyner
Resolution and Proclamation.....	Mayor Dwayne D. Warren, Esq. Councilwoman April Gaunt Butler
Reflections (please limit to two minutes) Alice Schuler -The Church Thelma Jeter - The Flower Club Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority - Girleen Hayden	
Solo.....	“One Day At A Time” ..... Tyrone Dunlap
Reflections Continued Bill Jones - A Friend Allazandra Bass - Granddaughter	
Acknowledgements	
Solo.....	“Precious Lord” .....Dr. Robert Johnson
Obituary.....	Mae Rivers
Duet.....	“I Am Redeemed” .....Deacon James Bryant and Deacon Robert Elam
Organ Selection.....	“Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine” .....Dr. DeCosta Dawson
Message of Hope.....	Rev. William M. Freeman
Solo.....	“How Great Thou Art” .....Kisha Joyner
Recessional .....	Pastor, Family & Friends
Postlude.....	Mrs. Yvonne Holmes

### **Interment**

Rosedale Cemetery  
408 Orange Road  
Montclair, NJ 07042

*Repast will be served in the church dining hall immediately following the interment*

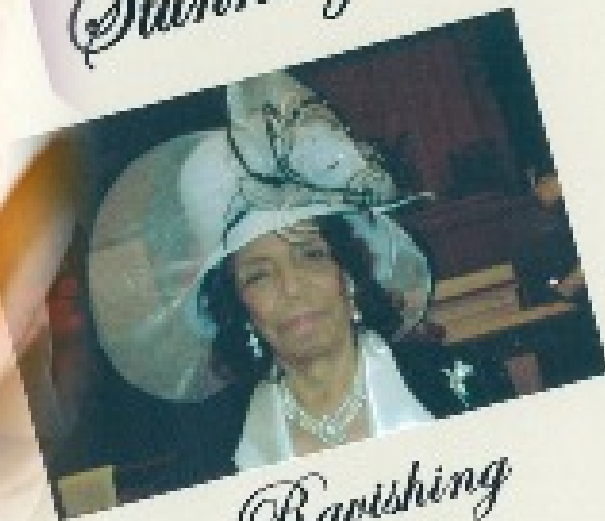




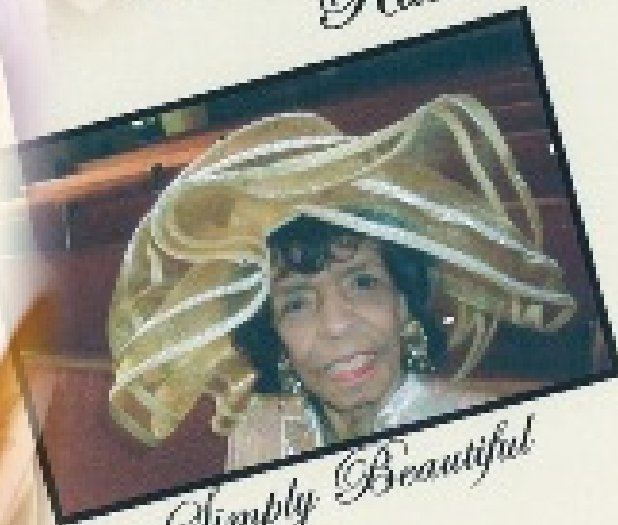
*Stunning*



*Lady of Many Hats*



*Ravishing*



*Simply Beautiful*



*Odessa Robinson*

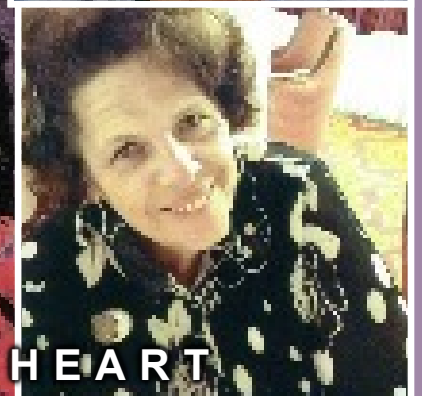


*Precious Memories*





# *My Family*



I LOVE YOU WITH ALL MY HEART

# *"Time to Come Home"*

*Odessa it's time to come home. I know there will be  
some loneliness, cries and moans.*

*The Lord said to her, Odessa I have a great place for you  
Where there are gates open, and the streets are  
Paved with gold. There are many mansions here  
Where you can now rest your soul.*

*Family, just remember that I have gone home to the  
Lord. There's no more pain, no more sorrow.*

*It's just my time to go home. To my grandchildren, cousins,  
friends and church family, don't be sad for me.*

*I'm at peace. If you hear an angel, that might be me.  
I love you all.*



## *Acknowledgement*

The family of **Odessa Robinson** extends our warmest and most grateful appreciation for the many comforting messages, prayers, visits, cards, and other expressions of sympathy and love shown during our time of bereavement.

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Professional Services Provided By

*Woody "Home For Services"*

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