

A  
*Celebration*  
of Life for

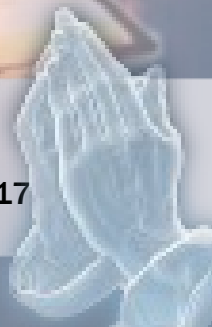
*Willie Chester  
Thornton*

Sunrise  
October 18, 1928

Sunset  
November 27, 2015

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

**THE CHURCH OF THE NEW COVENANT**  
343 Dodd Street • East Orange, New Jersey 07017  
*Apostle Jeffrey B. Kearney, Officiating*



## Obituary

On Friday, November 27, 2015 **Willie Chester Thornton** gently transitioned to his heavenly home.

Willie was born to the late Abraham and Amanda Barber Thornton on October 18, 1928, in Iron City, Georgia. He was raised and educated in the Seminole County Public School system. “Willie C.”, as he was affectionately known, was an only child. However, his parents lovingly opened their home to several children of relatives.

After completing his education, he relocated to Newark, NJ. In 1951, feeling unfulfilled, he decided to join the military. While enlisted, he served in the Korean War and received an Honorable Discharge upon his separation from the military.

Willie returned home at a young age, and was married soon after. From this brief union, two children were born.

His deep Christian roots moved Willie to join Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Newark, NJ. While there, he sang in the choir, and performed other church duties. He served as a diligent member for several years.

One Sunday, Willie visited Mt. Olivet Baptist Church of Newark, NJ and felt drawn to join the church family. He stepped on board and began serving right away. He served in many capacities of the church including Chairman of the Deacon Board, and the Male Chorus. One Sunday, Willie was introduced to a lovely young visitor named Carolyn. They quickly fell in love and were soon married. To this union, which lasted just shy of fifty years, one child was born. Willie had also become a tractor trailer driver with the Kingsland Drum and Barrel Company of Newark, NJ. He remained employed there until his retirement in 1989.

By this time, Willie had moved his family, as well as his church home and ended up at Church of The New Covenant of East Orange, NJ. He served there faithfully until his health started to fail. Willie found tremendous joy here, and was even elected Commissioner Emeritus. He taught Adult Sunday School, served as an usher, and led Bible Study at a Senior Citizens Home. His genuine commitment to Christian living was infectious and Willie was eventually joined in membership by his mother, daughter and granddaughter.

Willie leaves to fondly cherish his memory: his loving wife, Carolyn; two sons, Harold and Willie Jr.; one daughter, Kechia; five granddaughters, Kiana, Sabrina, Theresa, Ashley and Carissa; two grandsons, Cantrell and Antwon; three sisters-in-law, Hilda Suggs, Thelma Little and Meverlene Suggs; one brother-in-law, Douglas Suggs; and a host of great grandchildren, other loving relatives and friends.

# *Order of Service*

*May The Work I've Done, Speak For Me...*

Processional ..... Clergy and Family

Invocation

Scripture Readings

Old Testament - Psalm 92:1-5

New Testament - I Corinthians 15:50-58

Prayer of Comfort ..... Alisa Woodard

Acknowledgments and Resolution

Obituary Reading ..... Andrew McGibbon

Musical Selection ..... Erica Kearney

Moments of Reflection ..... Friend  
Family  
Church  
Leadership

Musical Selection

Eulogy ..... Apostle Jeffrey B. Kearney

Benediction

Recessional

**Interment**

Rosedale Cemetery  
Orange, New Jersey

*Psalm 23*  
*A Psalm of David*

The Lord is My Shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul. He leadeth me in the path of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies. Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

*Acknowledgement*

*The family of Willie C. Thornton gratefully acknowledges with sincere appreciation, the many expressions of love and kindness during our time of bereavement. May God continue to bless each and every one of you.*

Professional Services by:  
**Whigham Funeral Home**

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Newark, New Jersey 07102

973-622-6872

*Carolyn Whigham, Director*

