

*Celebration of Life for
Mother*

Bessie Smith

Sunrise
May 16, 1924

Sunset
December 27, 2015



Service

Friday, January 8, 2016 - 11:00 a.m.

SEMINARY BAPTIST CHURCH

193 Haledon Avenue
Paterson, New Jersey

*Rev. Alfred Steele, Pastor
Donnie Mann, Organist*

Reflections of Life

Bessie Smith was born on May 16, 1924 in Cleveland, Ohio. She was the daughter of Lucinda (Palmer) and Genie Abrams.

Mother Bessie Smith as she was affectionately known, was a devoted wife and mother who accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Saviour in 1946. Since that time, she spent many fruitful years in the Master's service.

In 1957, she and her husband Rev. Thornton Smith, Sr. relocated from Cleveland, Ohio to come to Paterson, NJ as Missionaries. They began ministering in Paterson by having Sunday School classes in the Alexander Hamilton Housing Development and Bible classes in various homes as well. From these humble beginnings the Seminary Baptist Church was established under their leadership on October 21, 1960.

She was faithful to her church, her husband's ministry. Mother Smith was always present at every service unless providentially hindered from being there. She was especially loyal to the work of the Missionary Ministry and as a Sunday School Teacher. She was the Mother of the church. She was also a member of the North Jersey Ministers' Wives and Widows Union. She was also a faithful member of the Shiloh Baptist Association of New Jersey.

She was predeceased by her husband, Rev. Thornton Smith, Sr., her sons, Richard Smith and Thornton Smith Jr. and grandson, Daryll

On Sunday, December 27, 2015, Mother Bessie Smith entered into eternal rest.

She is survived by her two daughters-in-law, Leslie Smith and Patricia Smith, Grandchildren Kyle, Lauren, Korinne, Derrick, Daneen, Marcell, Darnell, Cornell and Dwight; A great grandson, Cameron and several more great grandchildren and great great grandchildren.



Order of Service

Prelude

Processional

Selection

Scripture Readings

Old Testament

New Testament

Prayer of Comfort

Selection

Acknowledgements & Remarks

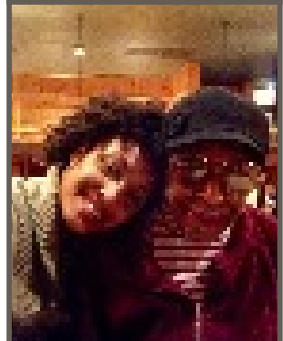
Reflections of Life

Selection

Eulogy

Pastor Alfred Steele

Recessional



Interment

Fairlawn Cemetery
22-21 Maple Avenue
Fair Lawn, New Jersey

The Master Called

*I'm sorry I had to leave you.
My loved ones, oh so dear.
But you see, the Master called me,
His voice was very clear!
I had made my reservation
A heaven bound ticket for one,
And I knew that He would call me
When He felt my work was done.
I know that your hearts are heavy
Because I have gone away,
But when the Master called me,
I knew that I could not stay.
Yes, I'm sorry I had to leave you
My loved ones, oh so dear,
But, you see, the Master called me
And, now I'm resting here.
Yes, I've crossed on over to glory
And to you all I say
Just stay in the hands of Jesus
And we'll meet again someday.*

-Author unknown

Acknowledgement

*The family of the late **Bessie Smith** wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown to their family during this hour of bereavement.
May God Bless and Keep You!*

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