

*Homegoing Service for
Oper Lee Ayers*



Sunrise
March 16, 1921

Sunset
March 28, 2016

Service
Saturday, April 2, 2016 – 11:00 am
Cotton Funeral Home
1025 Bergen Street
Newark, NJ 07112
Bishop Andrew Potts, Sr.
Officiating



Obituary

Oper Lee Ayers was born March 16, 1921 to the late Melvin and Viola (Rogers) Thomas. She departed this earth on March 28, 2016 to a heavenly home and forever rest with her personal Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; Born in Dublin Georgia, Oper Lee was the eldest girl of a set of six children born to Melvin and Viola (Eddie Eugene, Alvin, Marvin, Oper Lee, Ocie, and Clydes). The family, a group of very devout followers of Christ, had very strong Christian values and were taught at a very early age how to Love the Lord. In fact, according to a prelude to her own obituary written by her own hands in 1992, Oper reflected that her home was filled with much love and was a place of safety where the Bible, Prayer and Worshipping God were taught in a disciplined way. At age 11 Oper Lee gave her heart and life to the Lord and became a born again Christian; this event would began a journey with the Lord that would last over eighty years and bear much spiritual fruit and deliverance for Oper and her family.

Oper attended the Washington Elementary School in Roselle NJ and later attended Abraham Clark School in her high school years. In 1939, Oper met and married the late Preston L. Edmonds and to this Union was birthed four children (three girls and one boy) Hilda Edmonds, Gloria Edmonds, Ronald Edmonds and Benedetta C. Edmonds. Oper Lee was predeceased by all of her offspring except one (Gloria Edmonds-McKenny of South Mountain GA).

Oper Lee was a faithful, loving mother and servant of the Lord and if ever you needed to find Oper you could always find her serving those she loved. A lover of the young and old, Oper passionately served the youth of her generation, the elderly and the disabled by being employed in the areas of Home Health Aide, Teachers Aide and Youth Counselor working out of peoples homes and educational centers in West Field New Jersey. In 1962 Oper Lee retired early from her life's works to go on to volunteer in a continual service of care to the young and disabled men and women of her day-what she notes in her prelude to her obituary as-reaching out to touch young and old hearts in the way GOD was leading me.

Oper Lee joined New Zion Baptist church on Easter Sunday 1948 under the leadership of Pastor E. Hampton; she later served with gladness and excitement under the auspices of Reverend Richard Greene (whom she loved dearly and attributed most of her

growth as a Christian and Learned Disciple to his love and personal care for her). A follower of Christ in deeds and service, serving people was not the only area of Oper Lee's love and passion as was seen by Oper's dedication to serve faithfully in her local church. Oper served in many capacities and roles at New Zion Baptist Church including the Fellowship Choir, Usher Board, Pastors Aide Committee, Missionaries at Heart Ministry, Courtesy Guild, Building Fund Committee, Prison Ministry and Women's Ministry for which she was nominated to be president during her years of service. Those who knew Oper knew she loved God and singing and serving for him was her greatest pride and joy.

In 1973, Oper was joined in Holy Matrimony to Deacon Benjamin Ayers of St. Matthew Church in Roselle NJ. No children were born to this Union but Oper was blessed with a son (Gary Ayers) in that union. Oper most enjoyed retirement and serving her husband as they traveled all around the world. She is well remembered for her infectious spirit of generosity and kindness (never forgetting birthdays, anniversaries, or special occasions and always sending greeting cards and tokens of her love by mail to those she loved) she is remembered for her dedicated heart toward serving others (especially her husband Bennie and her family), her smile that could light up a room, her endearing beauty and style, her loud singing of Baptist hymns in the kitchen early in the mornings and all throughout the day, her love for the Lord and her gracefulness. Truly she was "One of A Kind".

Oper leaves to carry on her legacy of servitude and hope; her grandchildren Ronald Snead Jr. of Richmond VA, Sharonda Snead-Scroggins of Belleville NJ, Ameera Snead of Newark NJ, her great grandchildren Ronald Snead III, Issachar Scroggins, Edward Coleman, Jaci Coleman, Taylor Coleman, Saniyyah Snead, Muneerah Moore, Amanee Moore, and her great-great grandchildren Jahki Snead and a new baby girl just born to the family Sienna Snead. She leaves to remember her life; her daughter Gloria McKenny of South Mountain GA, granddaughter, Veronica Feggins and Veronica's daughter, her son(s)-in-law, Eddie Feggins and Ronald Snead Sr., her granddaughter-in-law Shirlee E. Mullins, closest friend Ena Smith, loving family member Shirlee Chase and a host of other family and friends whose names are too many to mention here-in. It is also acknowledged here that Oper was blessed to enjoy a longstanding natural and spiritual friendship with her best friend Eleanor Hall-Bracewell by whom she was predeceased in 2007.

Order of Service

Processional(Clergy, Joint Board, Family)

Scripture Readings:

Old Testament Psalm 34:1-10.....Sharonda Scroggins
(granddaughter)

New Testament 1Cor:1-7.....Jaci Coleman
(great granddaughter)

Prayer of Comfort:Overseer Tawana Thompson
(Truth Ministries Newark NJ)

Selection:Marlo Cozart (soloist)

Reflections:

Pastor Valerie Garrison (Heart to Heart Ministries)

Ronald Snead (son in law)

Sharonda Scroggins (granddaughter)

Obituary:Sister Felecia Salters
(New Zion Baptist Church)

Sermonic Selection

Voices of The New Generation (Gospel Ensemble)

Eulogy:..... Pastor Kevin J. White

Recessional

Interment

Heavenly Rest Memorial Park

East Hanover, New Jersey

(delayed until Monday 4/4/16)

Repat

New Zion Baptist Church

immediately after home going service.

Crossing Over

*Oh, please don't feel guilty It was just my time
to go. I see you are still feeling sad, And the
tears just seem to flow. We all come to earth
for our lifetime, And for me it was many years
I don't want you to keep crying You are
shedding so many tears. I haven't really left
you Even though it may seem so. I have just
gone to my heavenly home, And I'm closer to
you than you know. Just believe that when you
say my name, I'm standing next to you, I know
you long to see me, But there's nothing I can
do. But I'll still send you messages And hope
you understand, That when your time comes
to "cross over," I'll be there to take your hand.*

Acknowledgement

Perhaps you sent a lovely card or sat quietly in a chair.
Perhaps you sent a floral piece If so, we saw it there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words as any friend could say.
Perhaps you were not there at all just thought of us on that day.
Whatever you did to console our hearts, We Thank You,
Whatever the part.

Professional Services Provided By

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE
130 Main Street
Orange, NJ
973-675-6400

1025 Bergen Street
Newark, NJ
973-926-6400

COTTON-PARKER FUNERAL HOME
37 Clinton Avenue
Jersey City, NJ
201-433-1000



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