

*In Loving Memory of*



*Cynthia  
Bryant Roberts*

Sunrise  
March 28, 1916

Sunset  
May 8, 2016

*Service*

*Tuesday, May 17, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.*

**ST. JAMES AME CHURCH**

588 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. • Newark, NJ 07102

## Obituary

**CYNTHIA B. ROBERTS**, affectionately called “NANA” was born in East Orange, NJ, the older of two children, Helena B. Smith (deceased) born from the union of Annie May Berry Bryant and William Cullen Bryant (both deceased). Cynthia’s father was the first African American grocer in East Orange. Cynthia departed this life peacefully, at the age of 100 on May 8, 2016 at the Summit Ridge Center in West Orange.

In 1930, Cynthia graduated from Ashland School, East Orange and four years later she graduated with honors from East Orange High School. At age twelve, she was an Urban League youth member who participated in a “sit in” which integrated the then segregated Schrafft's Restaurant in Newark, NJ.

Cynthia married Albert E. Roberts of Orange, NJ (deceased) in 1935 and raised three wonderful children: the late Ann H. Culver, the late Albert E. Roberts, Jr. both of East Orange and Judith S. Barrett of Flanders, NJ.

Cynthia and her family joined St. James AME Church in 1948 and she was appointed Sunday School Superintendent in 1951 and served twenty-nine years. She was also a charter member and past president of the Pride of St. James and a member of the Precious Gems.

Throughout her career, she managed three locations of the Taft/Windsor Cleaners and volunteered her at various senior centers and nursing homes sharing her expertise as a Mary Kay Beauty Consultant. As many of you know, Cynthia believed she was not fully dressed without her makeup.

Cynthia was a charter member of the Ashland School PTA in East Orange and served as Vice President from 1952-1953 and President from 1953-1955. She was a member of the East Orange Historical Society and the Essex County Audubon Society plus she was a member of the Brookside Senior Housing Tenants Association and President of the Brookside Social Club for many years where she resided prior to entering Summit Ridge.

In 1994, Cynthia was honored by Stockton Kentopp School, Gordon Parks Academy and Columbia School for speaking at their grandparent’s Mentorship programs. She was Past Worthy Matron and Past Grand Financial Secretary of the Harriet Tubman Grand Chapter of the order of Eastern Stars.

In honor of Cynthia’s 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama sent her a congratulatory letter and Lester E. Taylor III, Mayor of E.O. honored her with a proclamation of the city.

Cynthia’s strong faith, love of God, and that of her family and friends, is the blessing she attributed for sustaining her well into her golden years.

She leaves to cherish fond memories: her daughter, Judith Barrett (James), her grandchildren, Elaine Culver, Terry Thompson (Van), Trent L. Barrett (Charmaine); great grandchildren, Ryan and Chad Culver (Alexandria), Tia and Tory Thompson, Chantiona Smith, Trent A., Laila and Trey Barrett; great great grandchildren, Kai, Heru and Atlas Culver and Griggs and Berry Family and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

## Order of Service

Processional .....	Clergy and Family
Opening Hymn .....	“Lord’s Prayer” Soloist, Dr. Kenneth Hamilton Organist, Sammy Sneed
Prayer of Comfort .....	Rev. Mary White Williams
Holy Scriptures .....	Rev. Garvey Ince Old Testament New Testament
Acknowledgements/ Resolutions .....	Josephine Horton
Obituary .....	Josephine Horton
Hymn of Praise .....	“It’s Well With My Soul” Soloist, Phyllis Sneed Organist, Sammy Sneed
Eulogy .....	Rev. Ronald L. Slaughter
Recessional .....	Clergy & Family

### **Interment**

Fairmount Cemetery  
620 Central Avenue, Newark, NJ

*After the Interment, family and friends are invited to return to the church for the repast.*

## I AM FREE

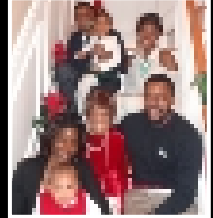
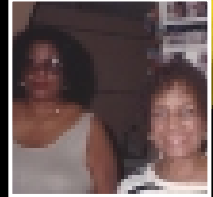
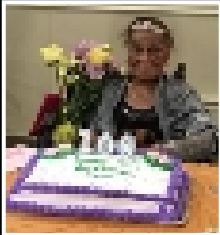
*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path God made for me.  
I took His hand when I heard Him call  
I turned and bid farewell to all.*

*I could not stay another day  
To laugh, to love, to sing, to play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way  
I found my peace at the close of day.*

*If my parting has left a void  
Then fill it with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss  
Oh yes, these things I too will miss.*

*Be not burdened deep with sorrow  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I savored much  
Good friends, good times,  
a loved one's touch.*

*Lift up your hearts and peace to thee  
God wanted me now; He set me free.*



## PALLBEARERS

Dr. James L. Barrett, Jr.  
R. Van Thompson  
Trent A. Barrett

Trent L. Barrett  
Tory V. Thompson  
Troy D. James

## Acknowledgement From The Family

*The family of Cynthia B. Roberts is grateful for the encouraging words, prayers, visits, flowers, cards and other acts of kindness extended to us during this time of sorrow. We ask that you continue to pray for us today and in the days ahead. We sincerely thank you and we shall remember your kindness with grateful hearts.*

Professional Services by:

# Whigham Funeral Home

580 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Newark, New Jersey 07102

973-622-6872

*Carolyn Whigham, Director*



[www.honoryou.com](http://www.honoryou.com)

