



*Anna Bryant*

*Sunset: July 31, 2016*

Service

*Friday, August 5, 2016 - 4:00 p.m.*

**RIVERSIDE CHURCH**

490 Riverside Drive • New York, NY

## Obituary

Born May 27th to Anna and Joseph Simmons in Charleston, South Carolina. Anna Bryant was an indomitable spirit and a generous soul who kept her birth year a secret and claimed New York City as her hometown. She was a true New Yorker.

Anna was raised in St. Luke A.M.E. Church in Harlem as a member of the founding family and sustained her faith in Christ throughout her life.

She was a sportsman who loved fishing and hunting. She was an avid basketball and tennis fan, she especially enjoyed watching Serena Williams. She loved a good game of cards, especially one in which she could separate her opponents from their money.

Anna had varied intellectual and entrepreneurial interests. However, once married to Roy Bryant, she devoted herself to making a home for her family. A caring woman, Anna opened her home to so many that it was jokingly known as the "Do Drop Inn." This kindness created a web of family that lives on. She leaves a little of herself in the many she helped, from children in trouble to mothers in crisis to friends in transition. Anna, called Lee by close friends and family, was also brilliantly honest and funny.

She mothered many. Her love of her four daughters defined her. It is equally true that she devoted herself to her grandchildren, the first of whom was Amanda Jones. She was actively involved in the rearing of her daughter, Lola's children and, upon the passing of her youngest daughter, Soroya, fully invested herself in raising Ashlee Jemmott from the age of two.

She transmitted to her children her ability to make a way out of no way, to use words to bend the world, and to stand fully in truth, no matter how hard. In this way, Lee lives on, leaving the best of herself in those she loved.

As she slowed down, Anna's family, led by Lola, endeavored to care for her and enrich her life, following the example she had showed them.

The last of her brood, Anna was preceded in death by siblings, Alice Simmons, Josephine Simmons, Irene Hankerson, Alfred Brown, Joseph Simmons, Thomas Brown, Helen Patterson, and Ruth Wilson; her nephew, Joseph Simmons, Jr. also preceded her. In addition to suffering the loss of all of her siblings, she was preceded in death by her husband, Roy Bryant, her youngest child, Soroya Bryant, and longtime friend, Fred Henichen.

Here to mourn her passing are three of her four daughters, Nora Beverly Scott, Lola Elizabeth Keyes (William A. Keyes IV), and Olis Ernice Simmons. She is also grieved by her five grandchildren, Amanda Jones, Lola Keyes Wood (Henri M. Wood), Lorraine Rogers Taylor (Paul Taylor), Ashlee Jemmott, and William A. Keyes V (Elizabeth Frank Keyes); three great grandchildren, Jasmine Jones, Khadija Jones, and Hendrix Wood; and three great-great-grandchildren, Jaylen Hosking, Jo'Hanna Dewberry, and Kyshawn Milage. She is also survived by a host of dear friends and family, including nieces and nephews, Barry Hankerson, Elaine Turner, Alfred Powell, and Avis Simmons.

On the date of her departure from this life, July 31, 2016, her favorite song, "My Way," rang true. Her family thanks everyone who was a part of her amazing life journey.

# *A Service of Thanksgiving & Celebration*

- MUSICAL PRELUDE** .....“Amazing Garce”..... (Christopher Creaghan)  
**WELCOME & INVOCATION** .....(Rev. Debra P. Northern)  
**HYMN** .....“I Come to the Garden Alone” ..... (John D. Harper)  
**SCRIPTURE & REMEMBRANCE** .....(Hon. Kay James)  
**SCRIPTURE & REMEMBRANCE** ..(Ashlee Jemmott, Olis Simmons)  
**HYMN** .....“Give Me Jesus” (Harper)  
**EULOGY** .....(Min. Elijah McDavid III)  
**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** .....(Rev. Northern)  
**LORD’S PRAYER** .....(Congregation)  
**HYMN** .....“What a Friend We Have in Jesus” ..... (Congregation)  
**WORDS OF APPRECIATION** .....(William A. Keyes IV & V)  
**BENEDICTION** .....(Rev. Northern)  
**MUSICAL POSTLUDE** ...“Blessed Assurance”.. (Christopher Creaghan)

## *Interment*

*Rosehill Cemetery  
Linden, New Jersey*

## *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry  
everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry  
everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged;  
take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness;  
take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden,  
cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge;  
take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In his arms he'll take and shield thee;  
thou wilt find a solace there.

## *Acknowledgement*

*The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour.  
May God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.*

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