

*CELEBRATING  
THE LIFE  
OF*

*Neil Edward Bethea*

*Sunrise: April 19, 1953 - Sunset: October 24, 2016*

*Service:*

*Tuesday, November 1, 2016 - 11:00 am*

*METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH  
149 Springfield Avenue · Newark, New Jersey*

# Obituary

*“Don't think of him as gone away-  
His journey's just begun,  
Life holds so many facets-  
This earth is only one.”*

*Neil Edward Bethea graced this earth on April 19, 1953 in Dillon, South Carolina to Handy Bethea (deceased) and Azalee Bethea. He grew up in Newark, New Jersey, and as a youth, attended Charlton Street School. Neil was an avid basketball player and spent much of his spare time at the Stella Wright Boys Club or downtown Newark shining shoes for extra money. His natural artistic ability allowed him to pursue his studies at Arts High School. Upon graduation, Neil went on to attend Jersey City State College (currently New Jersey City University). There he majored in economics and minored in art. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in June, 1976.*

*After college, Neil became the manager of Douglas-Harrison Apartments in Newark. He stayed there for many years and then transitioned to Newark Housing Authority. During his leisure time, he enjoyed watching sports, going dancing or just spending time with his friends. He always had a flare for fashion and won many contests for Best Dressed.*

*At a young age, Neil was baptized and became a member of Metropolitan Baptist Church. He attended Sunday School and served on the Junior Usher Board. Throughout his years, he always kept God in his heart. It was demonstrated by his love for his family, his love for helping others and his patient and caring spirit for seniors and those in need.*

*Neil walked through the gates of glory at the age of sixty-three. He now resides in heaven with his father Handy Bethea and brother Glenn Bethea. Those left to cherish his memory are: two daughters Serene Bethea-Mercer and Gia Bethea; one son Neil Ellis; mother Azalee Bethea; brother Murray Bethea; sister Sabrina Bethea; sister-in-law Phyllis Bethea; godsister Doris McNeil; godbrother Marvin Fuller; four nieces Andrea Goolsby, Traci Bethea, Ulan Bethea and Nasya Bethea; six grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends.*

*“Say not in grief: ‘He is no more’, but live in thankfulness that he was.”  
-Hebrew proverb*

# Order of Service

*Processional* ..... *Clergy and Family*

*Hymn* .....*Choir*

## *Scripture Reading*

*Old Testament - Psalm 29:11* ..... *Ulan Bethea*

*New Testament - John 14:27* ..... *Nasya Bethea*

*Prayer of Comfort* ..... *Deacon Kenneth Green*

*Selection* .....*Choir*

## *Acknowledgements*

*(Cards, Telegrams and Other Expressions)*

*Remarks*.....*(Two minutes each please)*

*Ovella Callender*

*Celeste Harris*

*Selection*..... *Choir*

*Obituary* ..... *(Read Silently)*

*Selection* ..... *Dr. Dexter Allgood*

*Eulogy* ..... *Rev. Dr. David Jefferson, Sr.*

*Benediction* ..... *Rev. Dr. David Jefferson, Sr.*

*Recessional* ..... *Clergy and Family*

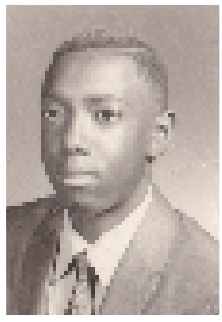
## *INTERMENT*

*Rosehill Cemetery, Linden, New Jersey*

*Family and friends are invited to join the repast immediately following interment in the B.F. Johnson Fellowship Hall.*



Pallbearers  
Murray Bethea      Dwayne Gibbs  
James Williams



*God Saw You Getting Tired*  
God saw you getting tired  
When a cure was not to be  
So He wrapped His arms around you  
And whispered, "Come to me"

*With tearful eyes we watched,  
And saw you fade away  
Although we loved you dearly  
We could not make you stay.*



*A golden heart stopped beating,  
Your tired hands at rest  
God took you home to prove to us  
He only takes the best.*

## Acknowledgement

*The family of Neil Bethea wishes to express our sincere appreciation for the kindness, support and prayers during our time of bereavement. The love you have shown will always be remembered. God bless.*

### 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  
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