

In Loving Memory of



Wertley Coward

Sunrise: May 1, 1921

Sunset: November 1, 2016

Service

Monday, November 7, 2016 - 6:00 p.m.

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH OF TOMS RIVER

2 First Street • South Toms River, NJ 08757

Obituary

Using her own words, **Wertley Coward's** sunrise occurred "out on the back roads" of North Carolina on May 1, 1921. She passed her sunset on November 1, 2016 in the warmth and comfort of her own home surrounded by friends, pastor, and niece.

Daughter of Joseph and Mary Artis, "Auntie", the affectionate term for her used by family and friends, was an only child raised in a large extended family of uncles, aunts, and countless cousins. She attended rural schools and the high school in Kinston, NC. Always a strong believer in the power of education, she completed certification as an administrative assistant while in her sixties. Over her many years, she worked in the cotton and tobacco fields and moved on to cosmetologist, care provider, and administrative assistant.

In addition to the dedication to her Lord, Auntie was also a servant to her community on this earth. She served as deaconess, steward, missionary, secretary-treasurer and always on call for duties and responsibilities at the AME Zion New Jerusalem Church in Tom's River, New Jersey. Some thirty years ago, she joined Pastor Kennedy in founding the Church. During her years there, her spiritual leaders were several; Pastors Kennedy, Montgomery, McLaughlin, Lee, Carswell, Harrigan, Carson, Evens, Smith, Parriott, Bennett, and Stewart.

Her reach was beyond her local church. She attended the New Jersey Annual Conference for Mid-Atlantic Northern District. She was also a delegate of the Camden District.

Ms. Coward's community spirit can be seen in her involvement in the Chambersbridge Residence for seniors. During her sixteen years of residence there, she attended Bible Study on Thursday evenings, occasional Sunday service when she could not get out to New Jerusalem Church, and other social activities. She served the Residence as a member of the Tenants Association for many years and was among the most popular and well-known members of the community.

Ms. Coward was also an active member of Eastern Star and having attained the highest office of Grand Matron attended several local, regional, and national conferences of the organization.

Rather than name the countless family members Aunt Wertley leaves behind, it could be better to tell a family memory. Less than a year and a half ago, she attended her nephew's funeral in Norfolk, Virginia. At the family gathering that followed the interment, beautiful pictures were taken of "Auntie" holding an infant. Five generations separated them.

The life she lived speaks for itself and those present are witnesses of the love, respect, compassion, nurturing, support, leadership and help that were Christ-like characters that governed her life. All share in the grief and loss brought on by Auntie's courageous and inspirational passing to His eternal Kingdom; and she will be missed by all.

Order of Service

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

OFFICIANT - Rev. Donna Stewart

OPENING HYMN

SCRIPTURES

Old Testament - Psalm 23
New Testament - John 14:1-7

SELECTION

PRAYER OF COMFORT

SELECTION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/OBITUARY/RESOLUTION

REMARKS

SELECTION

EULOGY - PS. PERCY SMITH

RECESSIONAL

Interment

*Tuesday, November 8, 2016
William C. Doyle Memorial Cemetery
Wrightstown, New Jersey*

REPAST

Immediately following Celebration Service at
The Residence Community Room
175 Chambersbridge Rd.
Brick, NJ 08723

My Bible and I

*My Bible and I, We've traveled together,
My Bible and I, Through all kinds of weather,
With smile or with sigh! In sorrow or sunshine,
In tempest or calm! Its friendship unchanging,
My lamp and my song. We've traveled together,
My Bible and I, When life has grown weary, And death e'en was nigh!
But all through the darkness Of mist or of wrong, I found it a
solace, A prayer and a song! So now who shall part us,
My Bible and I? Shall "isms" or "schisms" Or "new lights" who try?
Shall shadow for substance, Or stone for good bread,
Supplant its sound wisdom, Give folly instead?
Ah, no, my dear Bible, Exponent of light! Thou sword of light,
Put error to flight! And still through life's journey,
Until my last sigh, We'll travel together, My Bible and I.*

In lieu of flowers you can make donations
to AME Zion New Jerusalem Church.

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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