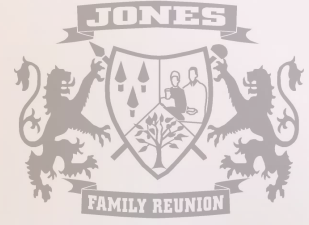




Celebrating the Life and Legacy  
of



# Ester Lee Coward

“Matriarch of the Jones Family”

**Sunrise**  
May 7, 1929

**Sunset**  
January 7, 2017



**Services held:**

**Sunday, January 8, 2017**

**5:00 p.m. Viewing / 6:00 p.m. Service**

**New Christian Tabernacle Church Faith in Action Ministries, Inc.**

1 Rev. Arthur J. Farrar, Jr. Street (PO Box 31) Paterson, NJ 07543

**Rev. Donna Farrar Warren, Pastor**

**Rev. Mildred L. Farrar, Pastor Emeritus**

**The Late Dr. A. James Farrar, Jr., Founder**

## Order of Service

### The Life and Legacy of Ester Lee Coward

Call to Order		Rev. Donna Warren, Presiding Pastor, New Christian Tabernacle
Prayer of Comfort		Rev. Connie Coleman, Grace Chapel
Scripture Readings		
Old Testament – Psalm 46:1-7		Elder Lesia McKenzie, Faith Worship Center
New Testament – I Thessalonians 4:13-18 Min.		Brandon DeWees, New Christian Tabernacle
Song of Comfort	“Because of Who You Are”	New Christian Tabernacle Praise Team
Remarks	(Neighbor) (NCT Trustee Board)	Rev. Ernest Thomas, 1st AME Zion Church Sis. Sue Teal, New Christian Tabernacle
Family Tribute	(Words of Lil’ Eddie)	Mrs. Darlene Morris
Selection		New Christian Tabernacle Mass Choir
Acknowledgements and Reflections of Life		Evang. Peggy Bonds
Sermonic Selection		Sis. Ruth Davis, Gilmore Memorial Tabernacle
Eulogy		Rev. Mildred L. Farrar, (Sister) Pastor Emeritus, New Christian Tabernacle
Final Viewing		Family and Congregation
Sealing of the Briar		Mr. Edward Robinson, Jr Mrs. Celeste Renee Smith
“Passing of the Jones Family Mantel”		Mrs. Letha M. Veal

### The Jones Family Reunion Crest

#### **Three Panels on Shield**

**Top left panel** – Three spear heads represent the Trinity

**Top right panel** – Represent the Family

**Bottom center** – Represent Family History

**Two Lions** – are to protect and teach God’s commandments and maintain the morals and values of the family.

**The Crown Above** – We are the descendants of the King and heir to His promise.

**The Rod and Staff** behind the shield represent the Holy Bible.

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*Please join the family for the burial on Monday, January 9, 2017*

*Gathering at church 9:00 a.m. Burial 10:00 a.m.*

*Laurel Grove Memorial Park ~ Totowa Road, Totowa, NJ*

# Ester Lee Coward

A Beautiful Flower in God's Heavenly Garden

The month of May is associated with Mother's Day in most parts of the world, and in Aynor, SC, as the morning broke on the seventh day (1929) another mother welcomed her first baby girl into the world...that baby girl, Ester Lee (Johnson) Coward immediately became the apple of her mother's eye, and the joy in her heart.

Ester's parents, James and Lula (Jones) Johnson nurtured her and taught her the ways of the world, but most importantly, they taught her to love the Lord...and she carried that legacy into the dawning of a new year, when on January 1, 2017 she accepted the will of the Lord, and slept away into God's Heavenly Garden. During her lifetime, Ester experienced all the joys of childhood in the country, receiving her early education in the Aynor and Conway school districts. Unlike many young women of that time, she was afforded the opportunity to attend college and attended Benedict College in Columbia, SC. There she learned many life skills and experienced life on her own.

She came to New Jersey in 1950 settling in Paterson to be with her family. Always wanting to provide for her family, she accepted a job at Federal Cleaners. Believing that she could create a better life for her children, she went to work for the Kodak Corporation and was trained to be a keypunch operator. She worked there for many years, retiring in the late 80's after a long and successful career. Upon her retirement, she found a new love – caring for her great nephews, Leonard LP Pope, II and Jacoby Warren, who she lovingly referred to as “my boys” and her great niece Kamryn Mack. Ester was one of the first people in her community to embrace the joys of cruise vacations and would often take others along to enjoy them with her. She felt it was important to enjoy some of the benefits of all her hard work. Her travels took her on many adventures around the world.

In 1973, Sis. Coward was instrumental in helping to establish the New Christian Tabernacle Church in Paterson, NJ. As a chartered member, she dedicated herself, her gifts and her finances to ensure the church grew strong...a legacy that continued until her passing. She served faithfully in many capacities including the choir and Trustee Board but her favorite was as president of the Floral Club. She made sure there were flowers in the sanctuary and in the Tabernacle Gardens for all seasons-often using her own funds for these projects. She could bring even the weakest flower back to life and would get so excited to see the little buds sprout. She was also active in the New Garden State Jurisdiction Choir, always the first one in rehearsal for conventions and fellowships. She would always say, “I may not be able to sing loud, but I can surely sing proud!” ☺

She was also proud to be the Matriarch of the Jones Family and loved and cherished her family dearly. She always began preparing for the family reunion as soon as the letters went out, and in fact was looking forward to attending the reunion this year in Virginia. But God in his infinite wisdom, gave her a head start and her final days were spent there in the beautiful home of her niece Celeste Renee Smith – for that she was grateful.

Her greatest love was her children and her grandchildren. She always wanted the best for them, always instilling the love of the church and the need for God in their lives, even in her final days. She also expressed over and over again how thankful she was for her nieces and son for showing such care and concern for her needs. Her desire has always been to sleep away, and God, in His gracious love, granted her that wish.

Those that remain to carry on her legacy will always speak of her with love and affection for her simple ways, her loving spirit, and of course her wonderful desserts. She was predeceased by her parents, her children Dennis Robinson and Andrea Kimmerlin, granddaughter Kimberly Jones, her only brother Nathan C. Johnson and sister-in-law Wilma Johnson, as well as her former husband E.L. Robinson. Always carrying her in their hearts are her sons, Willie James Kimmerlin and Edward Robinson, Jr. of Paterson, NJ; two grandsons Shawn Jones of Newark, NJ and Edward “Lil Eddie” Robinson, III, of Trenton, NJ; her great-grands, Breyana Pauling, Shanyna Farley and Varquis Evans of Paterson, NJ; her sisters Rev. Mildred L. Farrar, Eld. Alma Ruth Wheeler of Paterson, NJ, Willa Mae Wise of Dagsboro, DE, Christine (Tom) Frazier of Rahway, NJ; Special nieces that served as her caregivers Celeste Renee (Willie) Smith of Hampton, VA and Arlette (Leonard) Pope of Stroudsburg, PA; two god-children Arthur J. (Mietta) Farrar, III of Newark, DE and Allene James of Paterson, NJ; a slew (her words) of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

So as her song fades and her flower withers, her legacy will forever remain in the hearts and minds of her immediate family, the entire Jones Family and the New Christian Tabernacle Church family. An excerpt from one of her favorite songs signifies her ultimate goal in life...until we meet again:

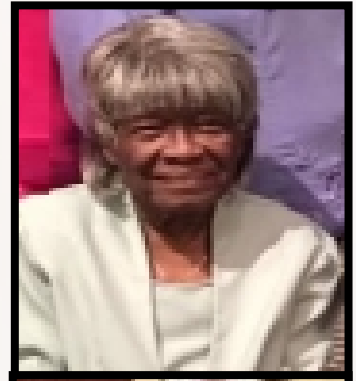
...Go ahead, and bury Me;  
But very soon, I will free,  
Cause I'll rise, again;  
Ain't no power on  
earth can keep Me down!  
Yes, I'll rise, again;  
Death can't keep Me  
in the ground.



## God's Heavenly Garden

Sometimes God picks the flower  
that is still in full bloom;  
Sometimes the rosebud's chosen  
that we feel He's picked too soon.  
Sometimes the flower is fading  
with petals floating down,  
but God knows the perfect time  
to gather flowers from the ground.

There is a heavenly garden  
in which God takes great pleasure  
because He's placed within it  
the loved ones that we treasure.  
He walks among the blossoms  
giving them eternal rest,  
and I know that it must please Him  
because He chose our very best.



### Pallbearers

Dea. Thomas B. Frazier (Honorary)  
Mr. Joseph Fowler  
Mr. Leonard Pope II  
Mr. Chase Morris  
Mr. Donald Stevens

Dea. Arthur J. Farrar, III (Honorary)  
Mr. Charles Fowler  
Mr. Jacoby Warren  
Mr. Kyle Morris  
Mr. Irving Mack

### With Thanks and Appreciation

We are grateful for all the love, support and care that has been extended to us during the passing of our loved one. Special appreciation and thanks to Rev. Donna Warren and the New Christian Tabernacle Church; and Rev. Lawrence Powell and the Agape Family Worship Center of Rahway, NJ, Rev. Benjamin & Felicia Jeter and the House of Refuge Worship Center of Newport News, VA for your prayers and support to our family during this time. May God bless you all as you have blessed us.

### Professional Services:

#### **CC Carter Funeral Home**

3314 Roanoke Ave., Newport News, VA 23607, (757) 245-4391  
Rev. Chris Carter, Director

#### **Carnie P. Bragg Funeral Home, Inc.**

256 Rosa Parks Blvd., Paterson, New Jersey 07501, (973) 278-6330  
Carnie P. Bragg, Director



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