

*Celebration of Life  
For*



*Carrie Mae Bennett*

Sunrise  
July 1, 1948

Sunset  
January 23, 2017

*Service*

*Saturday, January 28, 2016 -- 10:00 a.m.*

*Phillips Metropolitan Christian Methodist Episcopal Church*

*27 Morris Avenue*

*Newark, New Jersey 07103*

*Rev. Anita Marie Neil, Officiating*

# *I'm Free*

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path  
God laid for me

I took his hand when I heard Him call  
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day.

To laugh, to love, to work or play,  
Tasks left undone must stay that way.

I found peace at the close of day.

If parting has left a void.

Then fill it up with remembered joy.

A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,

Oh, yes these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with  
times of sorrow,

My life's been full, I savored much.

Good friends, good times,  
a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief.

Lift up your heart and share with me,

God wanted me now, He set me free!

-author unknown

## *Obituary*

**Carrie Mae** daughter of the late Christopher Nelson and Mary Lee Nelson was born in Sumter, South Carolina on July 1, 1948. She peacefully departed this life to be with the Lord on Monday, January 23, 2017.

**Carrie** was educated in the Berkeley County South Carolina School system and graduated from Russellville High School in 1966.

At an early age, Carrie attended the Unity Baptist Church of Eutawville, SC and later joined Bethel United Methodist Church in St. Stephens, SC. In the late sixties, she relocated to Newark, NJ and joined Phillips Metropolitan CME Church. While exploring her spiritual growth Carrie later joined The True Love Baptist Church for many years. Carrie later returned to Phillips Metropolitan CME Church to worship with her husband, Louis Bennett.

**Carrie** grew to be a diligent worker in the church for over 20 years. She was a member of the Missionary Society, Pastors Aide, Stewardess Board, Board of Evangelism, Lay Council, Women's Ministry, Gem Color Tones and Phillips Mass Choirs. She also served on the Philadelphia District as a member of the Missionary Society where she was the secretary of the Rossie T. Hollis Missionaries. **Carrie** also served as a Stewardess on both the District and Regional levels. On the Connectional level, she was a member of the Women's Missionary Council, secretary for the Pauline B. Grant Status of Women and the Division Leader on the Division of Structure Committee.

**Carrie** retired from Verizon Communications in July 2010 after 29 years of service spanning a career starting as a Repair Service Clerk to her last position as a Senior Service Analyst.

**Carrie** married and cherished her high school love, Louis Bennett in 1972. From their union two children were born, Roderick and Tenisha.

**Carrie** had a passion for serving. She enjoyed donating her time, working with children, taking care of seniors and visiting with the sick and shut in. She also loved cooking and reading, this was evidenced by her dedication to The Eclectic Sistahs Book Club.

**Carrie** had excellent organizational and planning skills. She was successful in all her endeavors.

She loved coordinating and hosting family functions which included sleep overs for the kids, games and family programs. She is famous for her **Homemade Biscuits, Hoppin' John** and **Red Rice & Sausage**. Hosting the family's annual New Year's dinner and gift exchange was the highlight of the New Year always extending an open invitation to the friends of the entire family. Any one that knew her, loved her contagious personality and welcoming arms.

**Carrie** was predeceased by her parents and sister Lillie Mae Small. Left to cherish her memories are her beloved husband Louis, two children Roderick Jefferson and Tenisha Bennett; Jason Bennett (reared as son); grandson Dante Aikens; two great grandsons, Dante Aikens Jr., and Justice Levi Aikens; her sisters Victoria Levine and Mildred (Oswald) Prioleau; Godchildren Lucy Small, Tisha Eady, Brian Levine, Monica Bennett, Timika Warren, Shaniqua Lewis, Jaylen James Nelson; a special daughter Tracy Alston, sister-in-law's Ruby B. Almond, Bernice Bennett and Deborah Bennett all of South Carolina, and Mary Bennett of Manhattan, New York and a host of nieces, nephews, other relative and friends.

*Carrie's favorite scripture:*

*"Now Faith is the substance of things hoped for,  
the evidence of things not seen"*

*Hebrews 11:1*

*We will miss her but we have maintained a hope in knowing that she is resting in the Lord Jesus Christ.*

# *Order of Service*

Processional

Opening Hymn ..... “Blessed Assurance”

Prayer of Comfort ..... Rev. Delores Bute

Choir Selection ..... Mass Choir

Scriptures:

Old Testament - Psalm 90: 1-9 ..... Rev. John Milligan

New Testament John 14: 1-6 ..... Rev. Joseph Fairley

Choir Selection ..... Mass Choir

Acknowledgments and Condolences

Obituary ..... Rev. Steve Wilson

Reflections (2-3 minutes)

Selection

Eulogy ..... Rev. Marshall J. Jenifer

Benediction

Recessional ..... Clergy and Family

**Interment**  
Hollywood Cemetery  
1500 Stuyvesant Avenue  
Union, NJ 07083

*Immediately following the interment, you are invited  
to fellowship with the family.*

*Please join us at Abyssinian Baptist Church  
224 W. Kinney St., Newark, NJ 07103*

*As I sit in heaven and watch you every day,  
I try to let you know with signs I never went away.  
I hear you when you're laughing, and watch you as you sleep.  
I even place my arms around you to calm you as you weep.  
I see you wish the days away, begging to have me home.  
So I try to send you signs so you know you are not alone.  
Don't feel guilty that you have life that was denied to me.  
Heaven is truly beautiful, just you wait and see.  
So live your life, laugh again, enjoy yourself, be free.  
Then I know with every breath you take  
You'll be taking one for me.*

**Pallbearers**  
Family and Friends

*Acknowledgements*

*The family of the **Carrie Mae Bennett** wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern, and kindness shown to the family during this hour of bereavement.  
May God bless and keep you.*

Professional Services by:  
**Whigham Funeral Home**

580 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Newark, New Jersey 07102  
973-622-6872

**Carolyn Whigham, Director**



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