

Celebration of the Life of
Rachel Jenkins

Sunrise October 4, 1925 - Sunset March 19, 2017



Saturday, March 25, 2017 - 2:00 p.m.
Viewing: 12:00 Noon

ROGER WILLIAMS INSTITUTIONAL BAPTIST CHURCH
362 Oak St., Passaic, NJ 07055
Rev. William B. Davidson, Sr., Pastor
Lawrence Mitchell, Organist



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Reflections of Life

Mrs. Rachel Jenkins was born on October 4, 1925 to the late Charlie King and the late Emma (Burrell) King in Bishopville, SC. She lived there along with her parents, sister the late Ernestine, and younger brother the late Mitchell King.

After the death of her father, the family moved to Passaic, NJ in 1936. The family soon joined the Roger Williams Institutional Baptist Church (RWBC) following the lead of her grandmother the late Ellen Owens who was a founding member of the church. Rachel's mother, Emma, later married Hassel Lee Donnell, the son of Rev. Dr. Samuel Arressie Donnell, the Founder of the RWBC. Together, they had one daughter, the late Hazel Arressie Donnell and they adopted Hassel Lee's sister the late Serena Mae (Donnell) Holmes. As a young woman, Rachel worked in the coat factory industry until she was 25. On June 4, 1951, Rachel married the late Martin Sam Jenkins Sr. who helped in the construction of the current church building of RWBC. She moved to Newark, NJ with her husband. There, they had and raised 4 children.

Rachel was supportive of children and took an active role in making sure they had every opportunity to excel. She remained an active PTA participant until her youngest child completed high school. She attended their sporting events, choral concerts, theatrical appearances, award ceremonies, and dance recitals. Rachel was a stern disciplinarian who instilled good values in those she loved. She had strong beliefs about civil rights and voter registration and encouraged others to get involved. She served as a member of the South 18th Street Block Association, which provided free meals to children during the summer and sponsored bus trips to various amusements. As a member of RWBC, she sang in the Senior Choir, was a member of The Busy Bee Club, and served as the church sexton along with her mother, Emma Donnell. More than anything, she loved God! She was often called upon to give Godly counsel and advice. As one of the seasoned saints, she served as the Mother of the Church. She lived a life that truly reflected her passion for Christ.

Rachel was very nurturing and always willing to help others in anyway that she could. Although she only had 4 children naturally, she was “Mother” to many. She has been one of the primary matriarchs of the Jenkins family; raising and guiding numerous family members and their children in addition to her own. She was affectionately referred to as Mama Rachel, Ms. Rachel, Ms. Jenkins, Granny and MeeMa by countless number of children she cared for and helped raise over the years, including neighbors, nieces, nephews, and her own grandchildren.

In 1983, she and her husband moved to East Orange, NJ and subsequently West Orange, NJ in 1994 where she continued to care for others, which gave her great joy; especially caring for her mother and husband until their deaths.

Rachel enjoyed traveling. Although she never drove a car or flew in a plane, she was no stranger to the bus or the train. You could find her at each family reunion and church gathering or trip. She loved to spend quality time with her children and grandchildren. Rachel had a way of cooking certain meals just right. It was not uncommon to smell fried chicken, collard greens, rice, and macaroni and cheese coming from the kitchen. Most of all, the scent of her delicious bread pudding could start a riot! She had a wonderful sense of humor and enjoyed life.

On Sunday, March 19, 2017, Rachel peacefully transitioned from this life at her residence at Daughters of Israel West Orange surrounded by her beloved family.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Rachel E. Jenkins.

She is survived by 1 Sister-in-law, Pearl Jenkins; 2 sons Charles S. and Martin S. Jr.; and 1 daughter Michele L. (Jenkins) Norman. 1 Son-in-law, Curtis J. Norman, Sr and 1 Daughter-in-law, Lisa (Boyd) Jenkins; 5 grandchildren, Latisha Charles, Tiffany Noakes, Curtis, Jr, Kennedy Jenkins, and Corey Norman; 6 great-grandchildren, Poursha Charles, Rinear Charles, Sr, Najahe Charles, Jynae Freeman, Yasiin Charles, Tyler Cooper; and 2 great-great-grandchildren, Niiyla Oliver, and Rinear Charles, Jr.; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Order of Service

Processional

Hymn of Worship..... RWBC Mass Choir

Scripture Reading
Old Testament
New Testament

Prayer of Comfort

SelectionRWBC Mass Choir

Reflections of Life

Acknowledgements

Reflections of Life Reading

Poem Reading

Selection.....RWBC Mass Choir

EulogyRev. Dr. WB Davidson, Sr., Pastor
Roger Williams Baptist Church

Recessional

Interment
Saturday, April 1, 2017
Gray's Grove Baptist Church Cemetery
Waynesboro, Georgia



Weep Not For Me

By an Unknown Author

Weep not for me though I have gone
Into that gentle night
Grieve if you will, but not for long
Upon my soul's sweet fight
I am at peace, my soul's at rest
There is no need for tears
For with your love I was so blessed
For all those many years
There is no pain, I suffer not
The fear is now all gone
Put now these things out of your thoughts
In your memory I live on
Remember not my fight for breath
Remember not the strife
Please do not dwell upon my death
But celebrate my life.

Acknowledgement

The family of the late **Rachel Jenkins** wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown to their family during this hour of bereavement.
May God Bless and Keep You!

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