

RELIGION/OBITUARY

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JONES

Mr. Larry Laverne Jones, 48, of 25 Salem Gardens Drive, Apt. E., Winston-Salem, died Nov. 5 at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center.

He was born Aug. 6, 1951, in Winston-Salem and was a lifelong resident of the city. He was a faithful member of Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church, where he served on the Senior Usher Board and was a member of the Sunday school department. In the community he was a member of the Lions Club and the WS Chapter, Council of the Blind. He was a graduate of the former Central High School of Winston-Salem.

He leaves to cherish fond memories: six sisters, Darnella Ellis, Priscilla (Marshall) McDuffie, Vanessa Jones, Towanda Jones, all of Winston-Salem, Denise (Terry) Jackson, Pfafftown, N.C., and Patricia Ann (William) Daniels, Martinsville, Va.; two brothers, Sylvester (Brenda) Jones, Bronx, N.Y., and Reginald (Cheryl) Jones; a special devoted friend, Maggie Bynum; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

The funeral was held Nov. 10 at 3 p.m. at Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church. Dr. Douglas E. Summers officiated. Burial followed at Evergreen Cemetery. Hooper Funeral Home directors were in charge of the arrangements.

father of her children, James E. Cathcart, Jr.; her father, Robert L. Wilson Sr.; three sisters, Judith Buford (Junior), Shirley Dumas and Barbara Knapper-Bolden; one brother, Robert L. Wilson Jr.; one granddaughter, Chantae Reynolds; many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and devoted friends and two life-long friends, Jeanette B. Hyman and Ella Lindon.

The funeral was held Nov. 9 at 4 p.m. from the Mount Zion Baptist Church. Dr. Serenus T. Churn Sr. officiated. Burial followed at Gardens of Memory, Walkertown, N.C. Russell Funeral Home directors were in charge of the arrangements.

CLARK

Mrs. Mary Pauline Hickman Clark, 5106 Bethania-Tobaccoville Road, Pfafftown, died Nov. 1 at Forsyth Medical Center.

She was born Sept. 17, 1929, in Stokes County to Nomie and Essie Hickman. She was a native North Carolinian who was a member of Chestnut Ridge Progressive Primitive Baptist Church and a retiree of Armitex Mill. Preceding her in death was her husband, George Ray Clark.

She is survived by four daughters, Mrs. Brenda C. (Walter) Payne, Mrs. Nancy C. (Walter) Cowman, Ms. Vanessa D. Clark, all of the city, and Ms. Joyce Clark of the home; two sons, George C. (Velvet) Clark of Pfafftown and Perry D. (Denise) Clark of Winston-Salem; 14 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; five sisters, Mrs. Runetta (Claude) Payne, Mrs. Winnie (William) Spease, Mrs. Vira (Norman) Spease, and Mrs. Audrey (Charles) Norwood, all of Tobaccoville, and Mrs. Wanda (Rockford) Penn of Bethania; six brothers, James (Marie) Hickman, Amos (Ann) Hickman, Billy (Margaret) Hickman and William (Roslyn) Hickman of Winston-Salem, Key Roy (Loretta) Hickman of Pinnacle, and Nomie Hickman of Tobaccoville; four sisters-in-law; a host of other relatives and friends.

The funeral was held Nov. 5 at 2 p.m. from the Chestnut Ridge Progressive Primitive Baptist Church. Rev. James Denson officiated. Burial followed at Chestnut Ridge Progressive Primitive Baptist Church. Russell Funeral Home directors were in charge of the arrangements.

LOWERY

Mrs. Maggie Gettys Lowery, 109 years old, formerly of 815 West 24 1/2 Street, Winston-Salem, died Nov. 4 at North Carolina Special Care Center, Wilson, N.C.

She was a native of Rock Hill, S.C., born on Sept. 5, 1890, to Ed and Selena Gettys. She was a member of the Mount Zion Baptist Church, where she served with the Ruth Missionary Group. She was a devoted homemaker and was preceded in passing by her husband, Murray Lowery.

She is survived by a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews; one sister-in-law, Carrie Barnett of Winston-Salem; other relatives and friends.

The funeral was held Nov. 6 at noon from the Chapel of the Russell Funeral Home. Dr. Serenus T. Churn Sr. officiated. Burial followed at Evergreen Cemetery. Russell Funeral Home directors were in charge of the arrangements.

McCUMMINGS

Mr. Claude Lee McCummings Sr., 3908 Glen Oak Drive, Winston-Salem, died Nov. 5 at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center.

He was born on July 4, 1912, to the late Mrs. Rosa Bethea McCummings and Mr. Blake McCummings in Marion, S.C. His family relocated to Hamlet, N.C., where he spent the early years of his life and joined First Baptist Church. As a young man, he moved to Winston-Salem, where he met and married his loving and devoted wife of 64 years, Mrs. Brownie L. McCummings, who preceded him in death on Feb. 24, 1999.

Also preceding him in death were a son, Harold McCummings; a

granddaughter, Shelia McCummings; four sisters, Mrs. Mamie Malloy, Mrs. Rena Jackson, Mrs. Julia Lucas, Mrs. Mildred Timmons; and two brothers, Mr. Robert McCummings and Mr. Walter McCummings. Mr. McCummings was a veteran of the United States Army. He served during World War II. He was employed by B.F. Huntley Furniture Co. (now Thomasville Furniture) for more than 30 years.

He is survived by three sons, David (Mary) McCummings of Charlotte, Claude (Barbara) McCummings Jr. of Winston-Salem, and Donald (Linda) McCummings of Walkertown; two daughters, Jacqueline (Walter) Black of Kernersville and Beverly (Tony) Sellars of Winston-Salem; 27 grandchildren; 32 great-grandchildren; two brothers, Willie (Terri) McCummings of Rochester, N.Y., and Herbert McCummings of Springfield, Mass.; and one sister, Mrs. Gladys Grice of Bronx, N.Y.; daughter-in-law, Elizabeth McCummings of Winston-Salem; two sisters-in-law, Earline W. Hairston and Vernelle W. Spratt of Winston-Salem; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

The funeral was held Nov. 9 at 2 p.m. from the Chapel of the Russell Funeral Home. Rev. Samuel J. Cornelius officiated. Burial followed at the family plot of the Evergreen Cemetery. Russell Funeral Home directors were in charge of the arrangements.

PATTERSON

Mr. Alexander Bennett Patterson of 2053 Cannon Avenue, Winston-Salem, died Nov. 7 at his residence.

He was a native of Laurinburg, N.C., born on Sept. 25, 1915, the son of the late Harvey Douglas and Lula Bennett Patterson. He had lived in Winston-Salem since 1930 and was a member of Union Bethel AME Church, where he was a member of the Senior Choir, the Harmonizers, was a Steward and a member of the Missionary Society. He was a retired employee of Thomasville Furniture Industries.

He is survived by his loving wife, Ada Pankey Patterson of the home; one daughter, Betty Patterson of the home; an aunt, Nettie P. Jarvis of Mitchell, Md.; a niece, Inez Rush of Philadelphia, Pa.; a very dear friend, Lee Feggins of Winston-Salem; and other relatives and friends.

The funeral was held Nov. 10 at 2 p.m. at Union Bethel AME Church. Rev. L.S. Werts officiated. Burial followed at Piedmont Memorial Gardens. Russell Funeral Home directors were in charge of the arrangements.

RHYAN

Ms. Esther Shuler Rhyan, 5140 Butterfield Drive, Winston-Salem, died Nov. 3 at Forsyth Medical Center.

She was a native of Orangeburg, S.C., and had resided in Winston-Salem for 70 years. She was a member of the New Unity Baptist Church, where she served with the Pastor's Aide, the Missionary Board and the Sunday school. She was a retired employee of Carolina Linen Service, where she worked for over 33 years.

She is survived by one son, Robert Simpson, and one daughter, Christine (Roland) Douthit, both of Winston-Salem; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; one adopted great-grandchild; one brother, Jake Rhyan of Charlotte; four sisters, Earline Bryant of Jersey City, N.J., Roseetta Carree, Martha (Leroy) Terry and Bernice Rhyne, all of Winston-Salem; many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

The funeral was held Nov. 8 at noon from the New Unity Missionary Baptist Church. Pastor Johnny Scott officiated. Burial followed at Evergreen Cemetery. Russell Funeral Home directors were in charge of the arrangements.

Russell
Funeral Home
822 Carl Russell Ave.
722-3459

CATHCART

Mrs. Lois Wilson Cathcart, 4441 Inwood Drive, Winston-Salem, died Nov. 6 at her residence.

She was born in Baltimore, Md., on Aug. 30, 1941, the eldest child of the union of Robert L. Wilson Sr. and the late Rebecca Clement Wilson. She moved to Winston-Salem at an early age and attended the Forsyth County schools. She graduated from Atkins High School in 1959. She received a B.S. degree from Winston-Salem State University and a master's of education from North Carolina A&T State University. Lois was a veteran teacher of 29 years in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System. She was a member of the Mount Zion Baptist Church, where she was a member of the Ruth Group Missionary, the Senior Group of Mount Zion Missionary Circle, Sunday school Adult Class #5 and a member of the Baptist Training Union.

She leaves rejoicing in her home-going and blessed with her memory, three devoted children, Jamie Cathcart-Stowe (James), James E. Cathcart III and Anthony J. Cathcart; one grandchild, Jasmine R. Stowe; two step-grandchildren, Dameka Stowe and Corrie Stowe; the

Joshua leads Israel across the Jordan

Mildred Peppers
Sunday School Lesson

Lesson Scripture: Joshua 3:3-17
Lesson Aims: to retell the story of the Israelites crossing the Jordan, to appreciate God preparing the way for His people and to cultivate our faith in God.

Background: The book of Joshua continues the saga of the Israelites. God delivered them, shaped their thinking (from slavery to freedom) and chose Moses' successor. A new generation of people were raised up to witness the fulfillment of the promise. Joshua is the central figure and becomes their leader due to his faithfulness to the Lord. He set the example of obedience and inspired others to follow his path. During his life, the people were faithful to God. This historical narrative began with Joshua's preparation and ended with the division of Canaan.

For the study today we need to examine Joshua's preparation found in chapter 1. After Moses died, God met with Joshua to restate the promise and to encourage him. God told this new leader that he would not be forsaken, and to be strong and courageous. Joshua assumed his command and began to prepare the Israelites. He told them to get ready for in three days they were going to cross the Jordan.

Beginning in chapter 2, Joshua sent two spies into Jericho to examine the city. They were discovered but a prostitute named Rahab hid them. She later told them of the people's fear of them, for the people in Canaan had heard all about the Israelites and their God. Rahab asked the two spies to spare her family when they enter to control the land. They swore that they would. She even told them how to escape. While the lesson doesn't deal with her, it is important to note that God

divinely chooses people for his work based on their faith.

Rahab believed in God's power. By the way, she is in the lineage of David, thus in the Messianic line (Ruth 4:21-22, Matthew 1:5-6, Luke 3:31-32). The spies reported to Joshua all that had happened.

Lesson: The excitement mounts. The people are camped on the east bank of the river waiting for the Lord's command to go forth. Final preparations are made. The command goes out.

When the Levites (priests) move the ark, the people are to follow it about a thousand yards away. Joshua tells them to sanctify themselves for the Lord will do great things.

The ark is carried before the people and the Lord says to Joshua, "This day will I begin to magnify thee in Israel's sight. For they will know that I am with you

as I was with Moses." God demonstrates without a doubt that He is with Joshua.

It's springtime and the river is high yet when the priest steps into the river the northern waters pile up and the southern ones dry up. The riverbed is dry! Joshua encourages them to listen to the Lord. That implies the people are to "hear" Him through His word, and His deeds. They are not to worry about the seven warlike people. God will go before them and every thing will be all right.

On dry ground did all of Israel cross the Jordan. The ark going before the people is symbolic of God preceding them.

Application: This crossing opens our eyes to several truths.

First of all, our God is faithful. He does just what He says! The original promise was made to Abraham more than 400 years ago. The Lord God fulfills the

promise through Abraham's descendants. Second, we find that God uses anyone. Pharaoh, Moses, the Pharaoh's daughter, Miriam and Rehab, to name a few, were all used by God in fulfilling His word. He never left them even when they were most disappointing. His love and grace keep us close to Him. God Almighty always prepares the way.

Third, God goes first. Not only were the Israelites prepared to cross the Jordan, God himself (the ark) went before them. As a calling is placed on every life, God prepares the men called for the mission.

At no time does God call and you are not prepared. Like Israel, we should "listen" to His voice. Omitted from the lesson is what happened after they crossed. Joshua told them to pick one man from each tribe. These twelve were to pick up one stone each from the river where the priest stood and

make a memorial where they camped that night.

The fourth truth is God wants each of us to remember His mighty acts in our lives individually as well as collectively. We can rejoice with the Israelites for He kept His promise to them. We can go to the next level for God has delivered and is delivering in our time as well. With that knowledge we can be strong and courageous when facing difficult tasks/situations for the same God will not forsake us. Let's cultivate our faith and discipline ourselves to be obedient.

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Kim Burrell



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