



Janie Ophelia Witherspoon

June 8, 1935 - August 20, 2020

Mother Janie Ophelia Witherspoon, affectionately known as “Sweetie” departed this life on Thursday, August 20, 2020 at her home. Janie was born in Sumter, South Carolina on June 8, 1935 to the late Wilson McKinley Mickens and Lou Ida Holmes Mickens. Janie was educated in the public-school system of Sumter, South Carolina. She later attended Sumter Beauty College, Inc. where she pursued her cosmetology license. Most of her life she was blessed to be a Stay-At-Home Mom and created a nurturing environment for her husband, children, grandchildren, and all that entered her home. During the times that she worked, Janie was employed by Pioneer Dress Factory, Glen Manufacturing, and operated her own home-based florist. Janie was also a volunteer at Tuomey Regional Medical Center where she was able to walk in her calling of nurturing and taking care of those in need. Janie was a devoted wife and mother that loved her family to life. She was united in Holy matrimony to James on December 25, 1952, and from that union they had eight children, fourteen grand-children, twenty-one great grand-children, and two great great-grand-children. Janie was a sweet and nurturing Woman of God that accepted all and was undoubtedly loved by all. Some of Janie’s hobbies were cooking, baking, crafting, and singing. Janie’s voice was Angelic and was known to “stir up” the anointing and “set the church on fire”. Singing was a gift & calling and she humbly walked there-in. As the story is told, back in the days when it was common to hang clothes out to dry, people in the neighborhood would be drawn to the outside with her

bellowing praises to the Most High as she went about her daily chores. Janie was a lifelong member of New Hope Ministries Church in Sumter, South Carolina, where she faithfully served in many capacities over the years. Some of her purposed serving included Church Secretary, President of the Missionary Auxiliary, President of the Minister's & Deacon's Wives Auxiliary, Sunday School Teacher, Usher, Altar Worker, Culinary Ministry, and many different choirs over the years. Janie was also an anointed intercessor and spiritual conduit that labored at the altar on the behalf of many over the years. Many times, it was said that she had a "direct line" to Jesus and if she prayed a prayer, no doubt He would hear it and the answer would be dispatched. She was preceded in death by her loving husband James Witherspoon of 67 years of matrimony, her parents Wilson and Lou Ida Mickens, one daughter Jacqueline W. Smith, four sisters Geneva Clark, Mary Quince, Marie Isaac, and Albertha Rogers, three brothers Earl Mickens, James "Peter" Mickens, and William Mickens.

She leaves to cherish her precious memories, two sons, Elder James E. (Crystal) Witherspoon, Pastor Clifton N. Witherspoon, five daughters, Loretta (Pastor J. Russell) Rogers, Fiesta (Dwight) Brooks, Dr. Christola D. (Melvin) Brayboy, Pamala W. (Kenneth) Mercer, Minister Quentina W. (Cephus) Gregg, one sister; Susan Emma Spann, fourteen grands, twenty-one great grands, and two great-great grands and a host of devoted surrogate sons/daughters, in-laws, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Janie leaves a legacy of LOVE and a bit of SWEETNESS in every life that she has TOUCHED.

ATTENTION FAMILY AND PUBLIC: MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING ARE REQUIRED FOR EVERYONE.

Cemetery Details

Evergreen Memorial Park

802 N. Guignard Drive
Sumter, SC

Previous Events

Public Viewing

AUG 27. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Palmer Memorial Chapel
304 South Main St.
Sumter, SC 29150
(803) 773-3381

Funeral Service

AUG 28. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

New Hope Ministries
95 Community Ministries
Sumter, SC 29150

Tribute Wall



“ *Janie Ophelia Witherspoon*

October 04, 2023 at 11:33 AM

“ ~RESOLUTION~

*No matter what your trials are, or how big your mountain seems;
The Lord is there to see you through; He'll go to all extremes.
So if your cross seems hard to bear; and you know not what to do;
The One who loves you most of all will be there to see you through.*

*We are in place in this world for a limited time, and with the breath
of the infant begins the race to the grave. A race everyone must run.*

*WHEREAS, in the providence of God, He has brought to a close the
life of Deaconess Janie Ophelia Witherspoon. We, the Pastor,
Ministry Leaders and members of the Elizabeth Baptist Church, in
Bishopville, SC, feel that it is befitting to express our sympathy to
the family during the passing of Deaconess Janie Ophelia
Witherspoon. We commend you to Him who knoweth best and will
always do what is right. You have our sincere prayers; and*

*WHEREAS, Deaconess Witherspoon was a woman who loved the
Lord. Her daily life gave evidence to the fact that she believed God's
word and followed His guidance, seeking His leadership in all that
she said and did; and*

*BE IT RESOLVED, that we bow in humble submission to Him who
never makes a mistake and remind the family to be encouraged by
remembering this poem:*

*When I must leave you for a little while
Please do not grieve and shed wild tears
And hug your sorrow to you through the years.
But start out bravely with a gallant smile;
And for my sake and in my name
Live on and do all things the same,
Feed not your loneliness on empty days,
But fill each waking hour in useful ways,
Reach out your hand in comfort and in cheer*

*And I in turn will comfort you
And hold you near,
And never, never be afraid to die,
For I am waiting for you in the sky!*

□ *Author Unknown*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be given to the family and a copy kept in the church archives.

To the family, we know your loss is deep, and your sorrow is great, but we want you to know that we share in your sorrow, but more importantly, we recognize that this loss is Heaven's Gain.

Humbly submitted on this 28th day of August, 2020,

*Pastor Dr. Gregory J. Jackson, Sr.
Leading Lady Debra J. Jackson
The Elizabeth Baptist Church Family*

Elizabeth Baptist Church - August 29, 2020 at 01:09 AM

VJ

“ *May God love sustain you doing this time our prayers are with you
Sister Verlena Jackson and family*

Verbena Jackson - August 27, 2020 at 10:17 PM

CP

“ *To Fiesta, Pastor Clifton & All Family of Mrs. Janie Witherspoon:*

You all are in my prayers during your time of bereavement. My condolences to you all

Love Cathy L. Pollard



CATHY POLLARD - August 27, 2020 at 09:32 AM

TC

“ *With Deepest Sympathy. Thomasenia Clark-Robinson and Family*



Thomasenia Clark-Robinson - August 26, 2020 at 09:41 PM

TM

“ *Sending love and prayers to the family during this difficult time, as you mourn the loss of your beautiful mother, Mrs. Sweetie.*

Tonya F. Mack and the Mack Family



Tonya F Mack - August 26, 2020 at 09:37 PM

MC

“ *praying for the family .love mother so much so sweet*

Mother Ida CLINKSCALE - August 26, 2020 at 09:15 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Janie Ophelia Witherspoon.



August 26, 2020 at 07:57 PM