

Release Me

Release me, let me go.

*I have so many things to see and do.
You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears,
Be happy that we had so many years.*

*I gave you my love and you can only guess,
How much you gave me in happiness.
I thank you for the love you each have shown,
But now it's time I traveled on alone.*

*So grieve awhile for me, if grieve you must
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.
It's only for awhile that we must part
So bless the memories with in your heart.*

*I wont be far away, for life goes on,
So, if you need me, call and I will come.
Though you can't see or touch me, I'll be near,
And if you listen with your heart,
You'll hear all my love around you soft and clear.*

*And then, when you must come this way alone,
I'll greet you with a smile and say,
"Welcome Home".*

Floral Carriers
Nieces

Pall Bearers
Nephews

Acknowledgements

In the midst of our sorrow, our cup truly overflows as we gratefully acknowledge the love and concern you have so freely shared with us. Our family is deeply appreciative of your kindness as we rejoice in both the memory of our loved one's life and in the comfort, you have brought us. May God richly bless each of you.

~The Family ~



II Timothy 4: 6-8

"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the Faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing"

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO
Walker Funeral Home & Cremation

163 Irene Roberts Road
Lillington, North Carolina 27546
Phone: (910) 814-1200 / Fax: (910) 814-1201
www.walkermemorialfh.com

Remembering The Life Of Mrs. Bessie McLean Smith

Sunrise
February 12, 1926

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Sunset
April 5, 2021



Funeral Service

2:00 pm

Saturday, April 10, 2021

Walker Funeral Home

163 Irene Roberts Road

Lillington, North Carolina

Order of Service

Presiding
Reverend Dr. David A. McLean
Pastor, Grace A.M.E. Zion Church
Charlotte, North Carolina

The Family Visitation

The Musical Prelude

The Invocational Prayer

A Musical Selection

The Scripture Readings:

The Old Testament Lesson	Rev. Georgia W. McNeill Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church Dunn, North Carolina
The New Testament Lesson	Rev. Wanda Short Avery Grove A.M.E. Zion Church Smithfield, North Carolina
The Prayer of Comfort	Rev. Dr. Rosa Smith-Williams Norrington A.M.E. Zion Church Lillington, North Carolina

A Musical Selection

Expressions (Limited to 2 minutes)
Ms. Annie Ruth McNair (Family)
Others???

The Acknowledgements

A Musical Selection

The Eulogy	Rev. Dr. Michael E. McLean East Stonewall A.M.E. Zion Church Charlotte, North Carolina
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The Recessional

The Interment	Riverside Community Cemetery
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~The Obituary~

“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.”
Ecclesiastes 3:1 (KJV)

~A Time to be Born~

Long before she was formed in her mother’s womb, Mrs. Bessie McLean Smith was ordained by God to live her life helping others. And for 95 fruitful years, she did just that. She lived unassumingly, preferring to serve in the background and shying away from the limelight. She was sensitive to the needs of others and she opened her heart and her home to anyone she felt needed a warm embrace. She had a radiant smile, a word of encouragement, a kind heart, quick wit and a strong faith.

The bright light that we reference as Mrs. Bessie McLean Smith (affectionately known to many of us as Aunt Bessie) was born February 12, 1926. She was fruit from the rich soils of Harnett County, North Carolina, being born the youngest daughter of her parents, the late Alexander and Gertrude Smith McLean.

~A Time to Plant~

Aunt Bessie grew up in the Riverside Community formally known as Beaver Dam. In 1945, she completed her formal educational training from the Harnett County Training School in Dunn. After graduation, she obtained employment at Erwin Mills. Her “long” career with that company lasted six months. Becky said that Aunt Bessie said, “they gave me the job and I gave it back to them!” From that point on, Aunt Bessie devoted the rest of her life to being a devoted housewife and mother, the two things that brought her great joy. Aunt Bessie married Uncle Bill in 1951 and remained in holy matrimony until his passing in 1998. To this union God blessed them with one daughter, Becky Ann Smith. She enjoyed sewing, watching The Andy Griffin Show and listening to WCKB radio station.

Aunt Bessie’s spiritual foundation was fortified on the altars of Oak Grove A.M.E. Zion Church in Erwin. She was a devoted lifelong member. Aunt Bessie was supportive of all the ministries of the church and she was faithful in attendance until her health declined. She loved to talk about the Bible and how good God had been to her. She also attended Beaver Dam Chapel (the church next door to her home in Erwin, NC) when she could not get to Oak Grove.

~A Time to Die~

God in His infinite wisdom decided to call out of this world the soul of our beloved Bessie McLean Smith on Monday, April 5, 2021. And now she rests with the faithful and can say, “*I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course. I have kept the faith.*” 2 Timothy 4:7

She was preceded in death by all of her siblings: Martha Jane Elliott Cameron, Sonnie Jim McLean, Bradley McLean, Alexander McLean, Jr., James Harrison McLean, John D. McLean, Beatrice McLean Williams, and Reverend Edward C. McLean, Sr.

Those left to lament her demise include: daughter, Becky A. Smith of the home; step-son, Ozell Johnson, Coats, NC; sisters-in-law, Mildred R. McLean, Greensboro, NC, and Cora S. Cameron, Erwin, NC; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.