

Flower Bearers

Mt. Moriah Baptist Church Missionary Circle #1

Pall Bearers

*Quentin Randolph
Kyhali C. Lindsey
Michael Mance
Rodney Estrich, Sr.
Morris Webb
Cornelius Irby*

Acknowledgements

The family of Mrs. Helen V. Simmons would like to thank everyone for their warm words, cards, flowers and condolences that have comforted us during our time of bereavement. Thank you for your love and prayers. Please continue to keep us lifted.

We would also like to thank The Marcus D. Brown Funeral Home, Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, family, friends, and everyone for their assistance in the homegoing celebration for our mother.

~The Simmons Family~

**Professional Services Entrusted to:
Marcus D. Brown Funeral Home, Inc.
1212 South Main Street
Anderson, South Carolina 29624
(864)225-2220**

"An Eternal Flame of Remembrance"



Celebration of Life

Helen Sadie Rozena Vandiver Simmons

Sunrise
March 5, 1922

Sunset
January 20, 2016



"Big Mama"

*Monday, January 25, 2016
2:00 p.m.*

*Mt. Moriah Baptist Church
Starr, SC*

*Dr. Ronnie Williams, Officiating
Rev. Scotty L. Gaines, Presiding*



I Am With You Always!

*To those I love and those who love me
When I am gone, 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, you can only guess,
How much happiness.*

*I thank you for the love you each have shown,
But now it's time I traveled alone.*

*So grieve a while for me, if grieve you must
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.*

*It's only for a while that we must part,
So bless the memories within your heart.*

*I won't 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 of my love around you soft and clear,
And then, when you must this way alone,*

I'll greet you with a smile and "Welcome Home."



Homegoing Celebration

*Rev. Scotty L. Gaines, Presiding
Pastor of Glory Outreach Christian Ministries
Anderson, SC*

To Our “Big Mama”

Dear Big Mama,

*You have been the best grandmother
Any of us could ever ask for.
We love you so much!*

*As children you helped raise us
You wiped away our tears and helped us face our fears.
As adults you mentored us ...
You gave us advice and helped us whenever we needed you.
For this, we are eternally grateful.*

*It is so very hard to imagine you being away from us,
But we know you are watching us from heaven above,
Resting with Granddaddy, forever in peace.*

*You left us with so many beautiful memories.
Your love forever our guide.
Although we cannot see you,
You will always be at our side.*

You will forever be loved & missed by your Grandchildren

*Prelude.....Soft Music
Processional.....Ministers & Family
Solo.....Evangelist Sheila Johnson*

Scripture Reading

*Old Testament.....”23rd Psalm”.....Rev. Kelley Simmons
New Testament.....”John 3:16-21”.....Rev. R. H. Mitchell*

Prayer.....Deacon Amos Simmons, brother-in-law

Obituary read silently.....Soft Music

*Selection.....”It Is Well With My Soul”
Mt. Moriah Baptist Church Choir*

*Remarks.....Annie McKinney, family friend
Lizzette Sullivan, sister-in-law
Deacon Robert Estrich, son-in-law*

Solo.....Rev. Hazell Quarles

*Eulogy.....Dr. Ronnie Williams
Pastor, Generostee Baptist Church, Starr, SC*

Recessional Selection.....Mt. Moriah Baptist Church Choir

Interment.....Mt. Moriah BC Cemetery

Committal/Prayer/Benediction.....Dr. R. Williams

Order of Service

Dearest Mom

Saying goodbye to you is such a hard thing to do.

Just know we will always love and care for you.

Heaven gained yet another angel,

The day our beautiful mother passed away.

We will miss you in the days to come

And think of your beautiful smile,

Bright as the morning sun.

Tell our Father we love and miss him too,

For we know he will take good care of you.

You raised each of your children very well,

And in our hearts you will always dwell.

Fly high our dear sweet mother,

For compared to you there is no other.

Love you always,

Fannie Mae, Eula Ann, Ella Ruth, Wade Jr.

And your baby, Frances

Mrs. Helen Sadie Rozena Vandiver Simmons, affectionately known as “Big Mama,” of 103 Sugar Pine Road, Anderson, South Carolina, was born on March 5, 1922. She was 93 years young, when she departed this life on January 20, 2016.

Mother was the wife of the late Wade Simmons Sr. whom she loved and cherished during their 70 year marriage. To this union, nine children were born. She is the third of seven children, born to the late Deacon Cephus St. Clair and Eula Mae Mattress Vandiver.

Mother joined Mt. Olive Baptist Church at an early age and later became a member of Mount Moriah Baptist Church. She was a God fearing woman and attended Mount Moriah for over 50 years where she enjoyed singing on the Progressive Choir and was an active member of the Missionary Circle #1. Our dear mother worked as a caretaker and homemaker for many years while rearing several children in the home.

Mother leaves to cherish her fond memories to five children, Fannie Mae Simmons Randolph (Charlie), Eula Ann Simmons Estrich (Robert), Ella Ruth Simmons Wideman, Wade Simmons Jr., and Frances Dianna Simmons Mance; one grandson, Anthony Wideman, one niece, Georgia Ann Williford and one nephew, Randy Williford (all reared in the home); twenty-six grandchildren, fifty great grandchildren, twenty-nine great-great grandchildren and a host of other relatives and friends.

Mother was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Wade Simmons Sr.; parents, step mother, Trussie Foster Vandiver; father and step mother-in-law, Feaster and Elizabeth Durham Simmons; one daughter, Ellen S. Estrich; one son, Curtis Simmons; two infant children; three grandchildren, Vincent Tyrone “Poochie” Wideman, Aretha Yvette Estrich Duncan, and Carolyn Catrina Randolph Sullivan; siblings, Eloise V. Foster, Ellen B. Johnson, Wilma V. Wideman, Lillian V. Williford, Gladys V. Wansley, Frances V. Cleveland and step sister, Pauline Foster. Helen was the last surviving member of her family.