

Vernell Swan (Steven) of Brooklyn, NY, Jerolyn Fairley and Rulinda McMillan (Henry) of Raeford, NC and Varinda Fairley of Charlotte, NC; three brothers: Gary Fairley (Sonya), Rodney Fairley, Sr. (Romona) and Orlando Fairley (Brenda), all of Raeford, NC; a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

**Floral Bearers**  
*Nieces and Friends*

**Pall Bearers**  
*Family and Friends*



**Acknowledgments**

*The family of Elder Bonita Thomas would like to express their sincere gratitude and love, for your prayers, kindness and expression of support to our family. Words cannot express how much we appreciate you for your thoughtfulness.*

How do we describe our sister Bonita ,  
They're many words we can say,  
*Beautiful*  
She was a precious jewel, inside out everyday  
*Outgoing*  
And encouraging to others, who came her way  
*Nurturing*  
Many souls, with the words she would say  
*Inspiring*  
Those around her through song and glorious praise  
*Trustworthy*  
Indeed for she honored her spoken words  
*Affectionate*  
She was to all even until her final days

Sister, we love and miss you so, but we understand you had to go. You will always be in our hearts never, ever to depart.

Love, Your Siblings  
Written by Jerolyn Fairley

**B**

**Buie Funeral Home**

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*Celebration Of Life*  
*Of*  
**Elder Bonita Fairley**  
**THOMAS**



**Sunrise**  
*December*  
**6,**  
**1**  
**9**  
**5**  
**2**

**Sunset**  
*November*  
**22,**  
**2**  
**0**  
**2**  
**1**

Friday, December 3, 2021 • 1:00 PM

**Cape Fear Conference B. Headquarters**  
Raeford, North Carolina

Dr. Johnathan Bratcher, Pastor  
Mt. Calvary Church of God FBJC  
Presiding Elder Demonn McNeill, Officiating

# Order of Service

- PRELUDE .....*Arthur D. Kemp, Ph.D., M.S*  
Vice Bishop Elect - COGFBJC
- PROCESSIONAL ..... *Ministers & Family*
- OFFICIATING ..... *Presiding Elder Demonn McNeill*
- SOLO .....*Siedah Thomas, Daughter in-law*
- SCRIPTURES READING
- Old Testament ..... *Bishop Xavier "Zap" Robinson*  
    St. Matthew Church of God, Inc.
- New Testament..... *Elder Frankie Martin*  
    New Beginning Committed to God's Purpose
- PRAYER OF COMFORT .....  
    .....*Presiding Prelate Bishop Alexander Glover*
- SELECTION ..... *Combined Choir (COGFBJC)*
- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & OBITUARY .....  
    .....*Sister Karen B. Floyd*
- REMARKS ..... *Family and Friends (2 minutes please)*
- SELECTION ..... *Combined Choir (COGFBJC)*
- SERMON OF CELEBRATION.....  
    .....*Pastor Johnathan Bratcher, D.D.*  
    Pastor - Mt. Calvary COGFBJC
- CELEBRATION SELECTION .....  
    .....*Combined Choir (COGFBJC)*



## Interment

**Mt. Calvary Church of God FBJC Cemetery**  
449 Alex Baker Rd. • Raeford, NC

# The Obituary

*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 of them also that love His appearing. ~ 2 Timothy 4: 7-8*

***Elder Bonita Thomas***, daughter of the late Elder William Chester Fairley and Thelma Kemp Fairley, was born on December 6, 1952 in Raeford, NC. She departed this life on November 22, 2021 and transitioned into her eternal home of glory. One brother, William Cleo Fairley, preceded her in death.

Bonita obtained her education through the Public Schools of New York City. While living there, she met a young man, fell in love and in 1974, Bonita was united in holy matrimony to Arthur L. Thomas and to this union three children were born.

Bonita confessed Christ as an adult and joined Rose of Sharon Church of God FBJC in Brooklyn, NY. Years later, she moved back to Raeford, NC and joined Mt. Calvary Church of God FBJC.

Bonita attended Sandhills Community College to further her education, whereas she earned an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education. She always had a special place in her heart for children. She followed her passion as a teacher's assistant with the Hoke County Public School System for several years at McLaughlin Elementary School. Yet, she has a desire to do more and attended Pembroke State University and obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Social Work. Additionally, she started a privately owned tutoring business which she operated after school and during the summer. Bonita didn't stop there and used her creativity to make beautiful classy gift baskets and sets. She named this business "Tickle Your Fancy".

Being fully committed to God, Elder Bonita was elevated during her tenure at Mt. Calvary Church of God FBJC under the leadership of Dr. Louise K. Thomas. She served faithfully in the following capacities: YPHU President, Missionary Dept. President, the Choir Uniform Coordinator and Sunday School Superintendent for the Church of God Founded by Jesus Christ. Following the death of Pastor Dr. Louise K. Thomas, Elder Bonita Thomas became the interim Pastor, where she led diligently. Elder Johnathan Bratcher was late appointed as Pastor, and she served as an Associate Pastor. Although Elder Thomas's health declined, she remained devoted to God and her church family.

Elder Bonita Thomas, aka "Sunshine", was truly a shining light of encouragement. Her bright, beauty smile, anointed voice, and love sprinkled with charisma enlightened many souls. Upon meeting her, you could be greeted with "hello dar-ling" and if you asked her how she was doing, she would say "I'm blessed and highly favored!" as well as "God is G-O-O-D, good!". She will be remembered by many for her indelible spirit and bubbly personality.

The legacy our Elder Bonita Thomas left behind will continually shine in our hearts and "she will never be forgotten". She taught us the value of fighting the good fight of FAITH amid all adversity for God is our help, and He always has the final say.

She leaves her memories: her husband of 46 years, Arthur L. Thomas; three children: Virenus Thomas of Raeford, NC, Arttrelle Thomas (Pam Whitted) and Jontau Thomas (Siedah) both of Charlotte, NC; three grandsons: Javon, Jaylen and Jonta Thomas and two God-sons: Johnathan Bratcher of Raeford, NC and David Graham of Greensboro, NC; four sisters:



