

Pearls

Like the pearl, the oldest known gem and for many centuries...considered the most valuable, Sister Stewart was treasured by many. The pearl is a lunar symbol that also represents water and woman. There is much folklore and tradition about the pearl. In fact, so much history accompanies this stone that five months claim it as a birthstone - February, April, June, July and November, (Sister Stewart's birth month). The Latin word for pearl literally means "unique." Sister Stewart was highly regarded for her honesty, charity, wisdom and integrity. She will be missed.

"Miss Me, But Let Me Go"

When I come to the end of the road and the sun has set me free,
I want no rites in a gloom-filled room; why cry for a soul set free?
Miss me a little, but not too long, and not with your head bowed low.
Remember the love that we once shared, Miss Me But Let Me Go.

For this is a journey that we must take, and each must go alone.
It's all a part of the Master's plan, a step on the road to home.
When you are lonely and sick at heart, go to the friends we know
And bury your sorrow in doing good deeds, Miss Me But Let Me Go.

In lieu of flowers, please remember our beloved mother with a memorial gift to the Marizetta Kerry Child Development Center, Coleman W. Kerry, Jr. Scholarship Fund, Youth Opportunity University (YU) or International Children Outreach Ministry (ICOM).

Acknowledgements

We could never adequately thank you for the many expressions of love, kindness, support and sympathy you have shown through cards, phone calls, emails, text messages, prayers, visits and words of encouragement. The word "family" has always been a reality at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. God's grace and your love has blessed us and sustained us during this time. We love you for how you shared with us down through the years. Everything you have done for us has comforted us and we sincerely thank all who have supported and encouraged us. We pray God's richest blessings upon you and request that you continue to pray for us as we adjust.

The Family of Sister Theresa Stewart

Grier Funeral Service, Inc.

Serving the Family With Dignity and Personal Understanding

Anthony F. Brown, Funeral Director in Charge

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Celebrating the Life of a Phenomenal Woman Sister Theresa J. Stewart



Monday, February 4, 2013

Visitation: 11:00 A.M. ~ Service: 12:00 Noon
Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

3400 Beatties Ford Road

Charlotte, North Carolina 28216

Reverend Dr. Clifford A. Jones, Sr., Senior Minister

Order of Worship

Processional	Family
Prelude	Hymn Medley
Invocation	Ministerial Staff
Hymn of Affirmation #148	<i>"How Great Thou Art"</i> Choir and Congregation
Scriptural Readings	Ministerial Staff
Old Testament: Psalm 27:1-6	
New Testament: Romans 14:7-12	
Prayer of Comfort	Ministerial Staff
Selection #158	<i>"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"</i> Choir and Congregation
Reflections (3 minutes)	Ms. Tanya Wilson, Family Friend Mr. Herbert Blair, Family Friend Sis. Phyllis S. Caldwell, Family Friend
Acknowledgements	Sis. Lena H. Pickens
Obituary (Read Silently)	
Solo	<i>"I Asked The Lord"</i> Sis. Janice L. Davidson
Eulogy	Pastor Clifford A. Jones
Recessional Hymn #404	<i>"Hold To God's Unchanging Hand"</i> Choir and Congregation
Interment	York Memorial Park
Committal	
Benediction	



Casket Bearers
Deacons and Brotherhood

Flower Bearers
Phillip and Phebe
New Perspectives

While in worship service, we ask that you put all electronic devices on VIBRATE or SILENT and refrain from taking photographs and videos as well. Thank you for your cooperation.

Mrs. Theresa Earline Johnson Stewart, daughter of the late Mr. Earl A. Johnson, Sr. and Mrs. Ada S. Glenn Johnson was born November 22, 1922 in Charlotte, North Carolina. She departed this life on Saturday, January 26, 2013 at Presbyterian Hospital (Main).

Mrs. Stewart was raised in the First Ward Community at 427 Myers Street, Charlotte, North Carolina. She grew up in a happy household with one male sibling, Earl A. Johnson, Jr., and had a wonderful relationship with the Lord. As a child, she was a member of Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church. She attended Alexander Street Elementary School and in 1939, she graduated from Second Ward High School in Charlotte. For two years, she attended Barber Scotia Junior College in Concord, North Carolina. In 1943, she completed her Elementary Education degree at Johnson C. Smith University, and she became a member of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

After completing her education degree, she began her teaching career at Fairview Elementary School in Charlotte where she taught students in 1st through 3rd grades. When Marie G. Davis Elementary School was built, she transferred there and continued teaching in the primary grades, and she also taught at Pinewood Elementary School.

After her marriage in 1945 to Richard A. Stewart, Sr., they joined Friendship Missionary Baptist Church where she faithfully served on the Deaconess board and in the mission department. Mrs. Stewart was a dedicated member of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church for sixty years. Theresa was motivated by her love for teaching and utilized her gifts as she served on the Board of Directors for what is presently known as the Marizetta Kerry Child Development Center, becoming its third chairperson.

She earned a Master of Arts Degree in Reading from Appalachian State University in 1977.

In 1982, Mrs. Stewart was featured in "The Charlotte Weekly South" to honor her 36 year teaching career as she prepared for retirement. After what she thought would be her retirement, she returned to the Charlotte Mecklenburg School System and began working as an Elementary Title I Reading Tutor in various schools for 10 years until age 79.

Bessie Graham, a longtime co-worker and friend (at that time) explained, "Thea" is a person who finds the best in any situation. Her sense of humor, her compassion and her versatility helped her adapt to all the changes in her life."

Her legacy in education can be summed up by the following quotes:

"I can't think of anything more gratifying than seeing the look on a child's face when, at the end of the year, he performs something easily that he struggled with only nine months earlier."

"Every child is gifted in some area, once I find their strength, I help them recognize it and build on it."

Mrs. Stewart was a member of the Charlotte Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., Merry Makers Club and the Gayette's Club. She loved basketball and football, and her favorite basketball team was UNC-Chapel Hill. She loved taking family trips to the beach, trips to visit relatives, and she enjoyed attending the yearly CIAA Basketball tournaments where they were held in Greensboro, North Carolina for many years.

As a veteran teacher, she felt there was nothing more rewarding in the world than teaching first graders. She was a well-respected educator, mentor, active member of the church, loving mother and wife and was admired by many in the community.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard A. Stewart, Sr.; son, Richard A. Stewart, Jr.; and brother, Earl A. Johnson, Jr.

Left to cherish her beautiful spirit are twin daughters, Evonne S. Peterson of Charlotte, North Carolina and Evette S. Tillery (Horace) of Garner, North Carolina; four grandchildren, Rashad A. Stewart and Richard A. Stewart, III of Charlotte, Chelsey D. Peterson of Baltimore, Maryland, and Troy R. Tillery of Garner; one step-grandson, Horace E. Tillery (Tiffanie) of Charlotte; two step-granddaughters, RaTasha S. Tillery-Smith (Corey) of Cary, North Carolina and Jene S. Tillery-Burgin (Desland) of Zebulon, North Carolina; one daughter-in-law, Bernice M. Stewart of Charlotte; two sisters-in-law, Utha Johnson of Charlotte and Vivian Stewart of Tuskegee, Alabama; one brother-in-law, George Stewart, Sr. (Melba) of Pacoima, California; niece, Bernadette H. Johnson of Charlotte; and a host of other relatives and friends.