

Pall Bearers
Nephews and Former Students

Flower Bearers
The Links
The Deltas of Charlotte

Honorary Pall Bearers
Stewards

Honorary Flower Bearers
Gethsemene WHOMS

Her journey's just begun
Don't think of her as gone away
her journey's just begun,
life holds so many facets
this earth is only one.

Just think of her as resting
from the sorrows and the tears
in a place of warmth and comfort
where there are no days and years.
Think how she must be wishing
that we could know today
how nothing but our sadness
can really pass away.

And think of her as living
in the hearts of those she touched...
for nothing loved is ever lost
and she was loved so much.

-Ellen Brenneman



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GRAPHIX

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Celebration Of Life *For* *Mrs. Lois Harris Byers*



Monday, February 13, 2012
12:00 PM
Gethsemene A.m.e. Zion Church
531 Campus Street
Charlotte, North Carolina
Presiding Elder Benjamin Morrow, Interim Pastor
Presiding

Eulogist
Bishop George E. Battle, Jr.
North Eastern District A.M.E. Zion Church

Obituary

Lois Harris Byers, the 7th of ten children, was born to the late Moses and Fannie Harris on August 9, 1927 in Birmingham, Alabama. She grew up in a happy household with strong Christian morals. During her active childhood with her peers, playmates & classmates she was taught piano lessons by Professor N.L Green in the privacy of her home along with her other sisters and brothers. She took a special interest in music and speaking. She loved to teach other children in her neighborhood. Lois was baptized at St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church by Rev. J.L. Avant along with her sisters and brothers, there she received her Christian nurturing in Sunday school, Varick Christian Endeavor, and Bible School until she left for college. She was active in all the church youth organizations and sometimes played the piano for church services. Attending public schools in Birmingham, Alabama she graduated with honors from Parker High School in 1944.

She entered Livingstone College in September of 1944. After a year she transferred to Johnson C. Smith. It was at Johnson C. Smith University that Lois met Eddie Byers, who would later become her husband. She received a B.A. degree in mathematics and furthered her education at New York University where she earned a degree in physical education. Twenty years later she returned to Johnson C. Smith University to obtain her master's degree in Counseling. Lois was fortunate to obtain a teaching position for one year in Sumter County Alabama before returning to Charlotte to marry Eddie, the love of her life. From this union, they were blessed with two children, Karen Michelle and Eddie Elliott, Jr. She and Eddie enjoyed activities in the Senior Olympics, both winning several medals.

For thirty years, Lois taught physical education in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and had both the pleasure and challenge of teaching her own children, nieces, and neighbors' children. During her tenure, she touched many lives and contributed to the fitness of numerous students.

Lois attempted to retire but found herself back with the school system, this time directing the after School Program at Irwin Avenue Elementary School.

Upon returning to Charlotte, Lois became an active member of Greater Gethsemane A.M.E. Zion Church, serving in the Women's Home Missionary Society and later President of the same. She also served as a member of the Steward Board, President of the Parent Body Missionary Group, and troop leader for the Girl Scouts. In addition, Lois was a member of the Church Women United and the Leaves of Wisdom Missionary Society.

Lois was very active in the community as well, belonging to many civic organizations such as Jack & Jill of America, Inc. (President), and Holidays Bridge Club, where she was instrumental in establishing several chapters in her role as National President. She was a member of the Charlotte Chapter Links and served as its Membership Chair, was a Golden Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She represented the Charlotte Alumnae Chapter of Delta on the Pan Hellenic Council, and at one time served as its president. In her later years, Lois joined the Bluebirds Bridge Club. During her retirement, she enjoyed the fellowship of the Bluebirds immensely.

After living a full, active life devoted to serving God, her family and her students, she suffered from both cardiac problems and on Good Friday 2011 she was hit with an Ischemic Stroke. These occurrences limited her ability to maintain her upbeat lifestyle. Lois however did not let her limitations stop her. Through the help of her family and friends she still attended church occasionally. After a valiant battle to regain her health, she was called home to be with the Lord on February 8, 2012.

Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised
Proverbs 31:30