

Home Going Celebration for
Alexis Marie Walker



Sunrise
October 3, 1949

Sunset
August 16, 2011

Saturday, August 20, 2011 - 9:00 a.m.

WALLACE TEMPLE AME ZION CHURCH

Rev. Dorothy Patterson, Pastor

Rev. Eli Smith, Officiant

Mother's Love

by Octavia Walker

If you look up the definition of what mother means you get many things. For example: a woman who adopts a child, a Mother Superior, or a woman who raises a child. But there is so much more to what a mother is. A mother is a mentor, a teacher, a friend and a role model. As stated in **Proverbs 6:20-22**: My sons, keep your father's commandment, and forsake not your mother's teaching. (21) Bind them on your heart always; tie them around your neck. (22) When you walk, they will lead you; when you lie down, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk with you.

What does everybody who has a mom get from that scripture? Me personally, I get that a mother's love is the 2nd greatest love you can receive. My mother was somebody you could run to with any problem and she would have the near perfect answer every time. She was a woman of God and a woman with such a high stature of respect. You couldn't help but respect her and listen when she started talking. With any relationship, ours was not perfect. I disagreed about a lot of stuff she told me to do and how to act. But looking back on it, every word made sense. I will never understand why the Lord took my mother from me so early, but I look at her as another guardian angel looking over me. I am going to strive to be the woman my mother wanted me to be to honor her life here on earth. I love you Mom and I plan on making you proud every step of the way. <3 (heart)

Precious



The Life of Alexis Marie Walker

It was not necessarily unusual in segregated Baton Rouge, Louisiana during the late 1940's for African Americans to be transported to the hospital in a hearse used as an ambulance. It was unusual, though for a baby girl to be born in one. On October 3, 1949, James and Mary Thomas went to the movies believing they had at least a few weeks before the birth of their second child. She, it turns out, was in a bit of a hurry. An "ambulance" had to be summoned to the theatre and the baby girl made her appearance in the back of that hearse. Her dad, James, was mistakenly listed on the birth certificate as the "doctor" who was present. Thus, began the unique and exciting life of Alexis Marie Thomas Walker.

Rarely had teachers seen a child that seemed to love school as much as Alexis. Once the Thomas family moved from Louisiana to Newark, New Jersey, Alexis thrived in the city's central ward where she earned the reputation for being studious. She played first violin in the orchestra at Central High School and was inducted into the National Honor Society.

A true and proud young adult of the 70's, few know that during the days of the civil rights and Black Power movements, Alexis began to test the boundaries through protest at her college of choice, Douglass College in New Brunswick, New Jersey. She raised funds for a number of issues including the defense of Angela Davis and walked about campus in full African garb. Alexis was "down for the cause". (You can all feel free to raise your right fists now!)

After graduating from Douglass in 1971, Alexis worked a summer job in which she had the opportunity to teach troubled youth. It was there that she discovered her true calling: education. Soon, Alexis returned to school and earned a Masters degree in Education from Montclair State College. She accepted a position at Maxson Middle School in Plainfield, New Jersey where she would teach English and later computer skills for thirty-four years. Alexis was known equally for her strictness in the classroom as much as she was recognized for coming up with new and innovative ways to make the subjects she taught more exciting for her young students.

In 1972, while at a bus stop in Newark, Alexis happened upon a Jamaican minister who struck up a conversation and insisted that they not part before she gave him her phone number. She conceded

and they became engaged a mere seven months later. Upon their first meeting, Walter P.V. Walker (that persistent Jamaican minister) assured Mary Thomas that he would see that her daughter would return to church just as she was raised. Mary was delighted when Alexis soon accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior in 1973. Later, she married Reverend Walter P.V. Walker on November 17, 1973. Together, they raised three children: Carlene, Walter Jr. and Octavia.

Alexis served the Lord through using her calling in education by continuing to ensure that the congregants at the various churches where Reverend Walker was serving had sound and effective Christian education curriculums. Even after her diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis, Alexis remained tireless in this effort.

As symptoms of the MS became more persistent, she would simply find new ways to continue her work that would benefit others. Throughout the challenges presented by this disease no one can ever say that Alexis ever complained about any of it. She never uttered one "Why me?" Perhaps, the greatest way in which Alexis enlightened others was her ability to not only remain steadfast and faithful to God, but to praise Him while faced with physical challenges until the very end.

Those left to celebrate the life of Alexis Walker include: her husband, Reverend Walter P.V. Walker, who will most remember her as the source of his many smiles through her wonderful sense of humor; her children, Carlene, Walter Jr. and Octavia who will always recall their mother's involvement in their education and the way she would stroke their hair as they would tell her about their day at school; her siblings, James Jr., Evelyn and Juanita who will laugh when they think of how she loved to sing hymns, but couldn't seem to ever find the melody or the cute way she would wrinkle her nose and raise her eyebrows when she was making a point about her political views. Alexis' many in-laws will cherish the way she always advocated for any family member in need. Her friends and church family will continue to speak of her wide and ready smile that illuminated any room she was in as well as her prayers for families who were going through difficult times.

When one thinks about it, the life of Alexis Marie Walker came full-circle. She came into this world cradled in the arms of her earthly father and left it cradled in the arms of her heavenly Father. For that, we praise the Lord. Hallelujah!

Order of Service

Praise and Worship *Members of Westminster Jubilee Singers Alumni*

Organ Prelude

Processional *Clergy and Family*

Congregational Hymn *“It Is Well With My Soul” #507*

Old Testament Scripture *Presiding Elder Louis Richardson*

New Testament Scripture *Rev. Theodore Calhoun*

Prayer of Comfort *Presiding Elder Dr. George Maize*

Selections *Gospel Chorus*

Acknowledgements *Sussanne Gerald*

Selection *Jeffrey Boga and Donavon Soumas*

Reading of Obituary *Kathy McQuilla*

Reading *Donavon Soumas*

Remarks (2 minutes please)

Selection *Anwar Robinson*

Eulogy *Presiding Elder Rev. Dr. Lawton Nelson, Jr.*

Recessional

Interment

Fairmount Cemetery

Newark, New Jersey

(please turn on headlights and hazards for cemetery procession.)

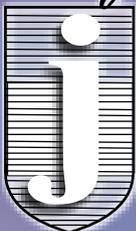
Memories



Acknowledgement

The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour. God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.

jackson funeral residence



384 Communipaw Avenue
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