

A portrait of Edith (Thomas) Johnson, an elderly African American woman with short, styled grey hair, wearing glasses, a light blue jacket with white lace trim, and a necklace with a heart pendant. She is looking slightly to the right. In the background, a larger, semi-transparent image of her is visible, wearing a green top and glasses. The background of the entire page is a soft-focus image of yellow and orange flowers.

*Celebrating the Life  
of*

*Edith (Thomas) Johnson*

Sunrise  
October 5, 1927

Sunset  
March 16, 2012

*Service*

Thursday, March 22, 2012 - 7:00 p.m.

**CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF NORTH JERSEY AT GARFIELD**

217-245 Passaic Street

Passaic, New Jersey

*Rev. Dr. Calvin McKinney, Pastor*

## *Reflections of Life*

**Edith Thomas Johnson** was born in Tallahassee, Florida on October 5, 1927 to the late Henry and Bessie Thomas. Edith went from "labor to reward" surrounded by her family on Friday, March 16, 2012.

"Grandma Edie", as she was affectionately known, confessed her love for Christ at an early age and joined the Shiloh Baptist Church in Tallahassee. In 1944, she moved to New Jersey, settling in Passaic where she raised her three children. She was formerly employed by Botany Mills and at Passaic General Hospital as a nurse's aide. In 1983, she married James Alfred Johnson and moved to Pennsylvania.

After moving back to New Jersey, she joined the Calvary Baptist Church of North Jersey at Garfield, under the leadership of Pastor Calvin McKinney. She worked tirelessly for many years as President of the Pastor's Aide and as a member of the kitchen committee.

Grandma Edie's favorite hobby was playing bingo. She knew where bingo was being played every night of the week, even occasionally taking her grandchildren. She would even get on the bus and travel to Atlantic City to play.

In addition to her parents, she was also predeceased by four brothers, Willie, Henry, Issac and Mingo "Ponjo" Thomas and a sister, Winifred Thomas.

She leaves to cherish her memory: her sons, John and Kenneth Slappy (Rhonda); her daughter, Gwenda Beshin; her brother, James Thomas (Daisy); her sisters, Dorothy Williams and Betty Paulhill; her grandchild, Officer Jonese Simpson, Kimyada O'Neal (Richard), Stephon, Rashaan, Shaheed, Rasheena and Jamal Slappy, and Joseph Ritchwood; eleven great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, dear friends and her Calvary Church Family.

# *Order of Service*

Hymn of Consolation ..... Hymn #10

The Written Word ..... Psalm 27:1-14  
I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Prayer of Comfort

Solo ..... Sister Veronica O'Neal

Acknowledgements

Words of Comfort

Selection ..... Church Choir

Reflections of Life ..... Pastor Calvin McKinney

Eulogy ..... Pastor Calvin McKinney

Recessional

**Interment**

East Ridelawn Cemetery  
Clifton, New Jersey

## *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 must not 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 you gave me in happiness  
I thank you for the love you each have shown  
But now it's time I traveled on alone*

*So grieve awhile for me, if grieve you must  
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.  
It is only for awhile that we must part  
So bless the memories in your heart*

*Though you cannot see or touch me, I will be near  
And if you listen with your heart you will hear  
All my love around soft and clear  
Then, when you must come this way alone  
I will greet you with a smile and "Welcome you home."*

### *Acknowledgement*

*The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation  
the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown  
to their family during this hour of bereavement.  
May God Bless and Keep You!*

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