

*In Loving Memory and Celebration of Life  
For*



*Vivian Odessa Cunningham*

Sunrise  
November 15, 1950

Sunset  
May 14, 2014

Service  
Friday, May 30, 2014

**ST. JAMES A.M.E CHURCH**  
588 Martin Luther King Blvd.  
Newark, New Jersey 07102

# Obituary

*Welcome Home Thy Good and Faithful Servant "Job Well Done"*

**Vivian Odessa Cunningham** affectionately known to many as "Viv", departed this life and was called home on May 14, 2014 at Clara Maas Hospital in Belleville, NJ. She was born in Rock Hill, South Carolina to Marie and the late Lawrence Cunningham on November 15, 1950. She was the eldest of five children although born in South Carolina, Vivian was raised and educated in the public schools of Newark, NJ. She attended Barringer High School and graduated from Jersey City State University. She was employed through Macy's as a Executive in the Fraud/IT department. She worked tirelessly for more than thirty-five years. As an Executive she was dedicated to her job which consisted of long hours, complex situations, and constant traveling until she retired in 2008. Vivian accepted Christ at an early age and was baptized at St. James A.M.E Church where she was a member. She resided in Newark all of her life and during that time she mastered the art of Sewing, Cooking, and Art. She enjoyed sporting events such as football and basketball. Her favorite NFL team was the New York Giants. Vivian knew the newest fashion trends as well as music. Though she had no children of her own, she treated all of her nieces and nephews as if they were her own.

She is survived by her mother, Marie Cunningham of Newark, NJ; brother, Dwight Cunningham of Sweden and sister, Rose Cunningham-Martin of Columbia, MD; her aunts, Essie Lee Thomas of Pittsburg, PA and Doretha Franklin of Cleveland, OH; godson, Darius Brian Martin; and a host of nieces, nephews, great-nephews, great-nieces, cousins, and friends.

She was predeceased by her father, Lawrence Cunningham, May 2005; her brother, Larry Cunningham, August 1986; and her brother, Brian Cunningham, December 1994.

## ***"The Rescue Ship"***

*I think of death as a large white ship,*

*That's surrounded by beautiful lights.*

*With God as the captain, sailing along the shores of life.*

*And with the passing of the hours, it stops along the way,*

*Rescuing some weary traveler, who has come to the end of his day.*

*That ship stopped on Wednesday morning,*

*Taking away our loved one out of pain.*

*Only God knew how much she suffered,*

*And how tired she was of aches and pain.*

*So God took her aboard and carried her home,*

*Where she will have a peaceful rest.*

*Words can't express how much we will miss her,*

*But God always knows and does what's best.*

*Lovingly,  
The Family*

# Order of Service

Processional

Scripture Reading  
Old Testament  
New Testament

Prayer

Selection

Obituary & Acknowledgments

Remarks

Selection

Eulogy

Recessional

## **Interment**

Rosedale Cemetery  
Orange, New Jersey

## Life Beyond

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I feel the warmth upon my face as I enter the land of God's good grace,  
Friends and loved ones gone before, waiting here beyond the door.  
With open arms they welcome me, amazement in my eyes they see.  
They look so well and at their best, beauty beholds them now they rest.

I walk across the grass so green, the greenest grass I've ever seen,  
I jump and skip and bounce on air, it's almost like there's nothing there.  
A sky of blue, not a cloud in sight, perpetual day no darkest night.  
Every flower is in full bloom, undefined colours of every hue.

The streams and rivers crystal clear, no rubbish or decay found here.  
The sea is calm and turquoise blue, I long to test it, wouldn't you?  
The softest sand beneath my feet, at the waters edge where they both meet.  
The warmest waters gently flow, bathing me from head to toe.

A city built of alabaster walls, where translucent light eliminates the halls.  
Theatres of music and concerts too, magnificent galleries for all to view.  
Amazing sights for me to see, I just wander in, there's no entrance fee.  
Libraries stacked with books galore, history, science and many more.

The celestial sun does forever shine, it's a perfect temperature all the time.  
Orchards here overflow with fruit, a taste in itself that is quite exquisite.  
I'm told it will help my soul to restore, pick what I like, there is plenty more.  
This ethereal plain is a pure delight, it's my new home, my God given right.

There is nothing here to cause me fear, the lord protects within his sphere.  
An infinity of perfect peace, from the toils of earth I am now released.  
I have landed on a higher realm, in perfect harmony to forever dwell.  
So believe when I tell you my dear friends, you cannot die, life never ends.

## *Acknowledgement*

The Cunningham family of the late **Vivian Cunningham**, recognizes that we are blessed with love and friendship, through your many acts of kindness. We express our sincerest appreciation to you who walked with her in life, comforted us in the pain of her death and continue to celebrate with us the memory of her life.

Professional Services by:  
**Whigham Funeral Home**

580 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Newark, New Jersey 07102  
973-622-6872

*Carolyn Whigham, Director*

