

In Loving Memory of



Annie Collier Parker

Sunrise
September 14, 1921

Sunset
October 18, 2014

Saturday, October 25, 2014 -10:00 a.m.

EBENEZER AME CHURCH

253 Central Avenue
Rahway, New Jersey

Rev. Dr. Erika D. Crawford, Officiating

Obituary

HER JOURNEY (1921-2014)

Annie Aleph Collier Parker was born on September 14, 1921 in the parsonage of Ebenezer A.M.E. Church. She was the youngest of five children born to Annie Poole Collier and Rev. John William Porter Collier Sr. who pastored at Ebenezer for 26 years. Her siblings Elouise Collier Duncan and Rev. Dr. J.W.P. Collier Jr. preceded her in death.

She attended Lincoln Elementary School and graduated at the age of 16 from Rahway High School in 1938. She continued her studies at Union Junior College and after graduation, transferred to North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College in Greensboro, North Carolina. While at A & T, she was a member of the traveling choir, played snare drums in the college band, and with her sister Virginia, (Ginny), became members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority in 1944. Although her area of interest was social work, she also (at the request of her Mother), enrolled in a few education courses and graduated in 1945 with a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and English.

On June 19, 1948, she married the "love of her life" J. Stanley Parker and they enjoyed life together for fifty-seven years until his death on May 18, 2006. Their loving union produced two children, Anne (Robin) Parker and John Carrington Parker.

After graduation, the local branch of the NAACP was trying to break the "color line" of the Bell Telephone Company, so she and Ginny applied. Apparently Ginny's age worked against her because while they had the same qualifications, Annie was two years younger and along with Dorothy Bonner, became the first black operators hired by Bell in Rahway. She continued to work for NJ Bell for ten years in the positions of information clerk and as a clerk at the headquarters building in Newark.

Deciding to act on her Mother's advice, she attended Kean College in Union, N.J. acquiring thirty-two credits in Education. After she was denied a teaching position in Rahway, she was hired by the Matawan Board of Education, where she also broke the "color line" and remained for three years. In 1962, she began teaching first grade for the Plainfield Board of Education and remained there until her retirement in June 1984.

In the 1980's, there was talk about putting a garbage incinerator in the predominately African-American Fourth Ward. Annie was a founding member of the Concerned Citizens for the Environment opposed to the placement of the incinerator. The group was later expanded and became the Concerned Citizens of Union County. She, along with other members of the group, were arrested twice and fined for trying to preserve the environment and obtain environmental justice. It was often joked that Stanley had to keep a few extra dollars in his pocket in case she needed bail money!

On January 9, 1993 at the Dr. Martin Luther King's Human Rights Dinner, she received the New Jersey Education Association's Human Rights Award for her lifelong commitment to civil rights. She was especially honored because it was presented by Rev. Bernice King, daughter of Dr. King.

Annie was always active with the NAACP and in 1981 became a LIFE MEMBER serving the Rahway branch as membership chair and as a delegate to the national conventions in Denver, Dallas, Detroit and Miami. She and Stanley were yearly attendees and made many friends during these informative conventions.

Additionally, she served her community as a member of the Rahway Parking Authority from 1996-2001 and Union County as a Court Appointed Advocate for Children, (CASA) for a number of years. In November 2010, she was one of ten seniors honored at a dinner sponsored by the National Council of Negro Women Inc. Rahway Section for her years of community service. Her memberships also included AARP, where she served as secretary and as a founding member, suggested the name the Rahway GLAD Redhatters where she was the "money keeper" and shared the role of Vice Queen with her friend Jean Robertson.

However, her second home was Ebenezer since being born in the parsonage many years ago. She was a member all of her life and served as a Trustee for over 30 years, Choir Director, member of the Lay Organization and Church School, first editor of the newsletter, "THE MESSAGE" and most recently as a Steward under the pastorate of the Rev. Dr. Erika D. Crawford.

Beautiful memories will always be cherished by her children, Anne (Robin) Parker of Detroit, MI. and John C. Parker Sr. (Darlene) of Blakeslee, PA.; sister Virginia C. Jones of Monroe Township, N.J., brother Benjamin Andrew Collier (Adele) of Hightstown, N.J.; grandchildren John Parker Jr.(Stephanie) of Wahiawa, Hawaii, Darlene Parker of Allentown, PA., Jazlynn and Micah Parker of Blakeslee, PA.; great granddaughter Caitlin Parker of Wahiawa, Hawaii; adopted sister and caregiver Geri Johnson; special friends Jean and John Grice, and many other loving nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Order of Service

Musical Prelude

Processional

Opening Hymn..... “It Is Well with My Soul”

Prayer of Comfort.....Rev. Paul Davis

Scripture Readings

Old Testament.....Charlene Jackson

New Testament.....Pamela Robbins

Musical Selection Geraldine Johnson

Reflections John C. Parker Sr.
Rev. Rudolph P. Gibbs Sr

Acknowledgements & Resolutions Jean Martin

Obituary Jackie Collier-Thomas

Musical Selection Geraldine Johnson

Eulogy Rev. Dr. Erika D. Crawford

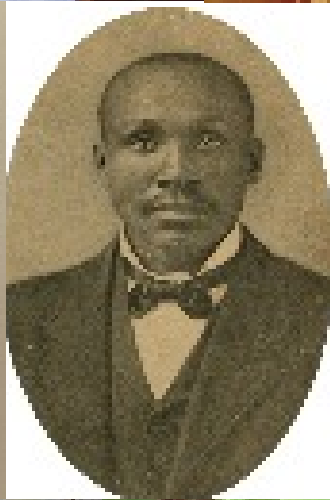
Recessional..... “When We All Get to Heaven”

Interment

Rosehill Crematory

Linden, New Jersey







Pallbearers

John Jackson Steven Campbell
Henry B. Duncan III Robert Robbins
Theodore Brown Steven McCleod

Honorary Pallbearers

John Grice Rev. John Jennings
Henry B. Duncan Jr. J.W.P. Collier III
Jerry Hill

Prayer of Protection

The Light of God Surrounds Me;
The Love of God Enfolds Me;
The Power of God Protects Me;
The Presence of God Watches over Me;
Wherever I Am, God Is, and All Is Well.

Acknowledgements

The family of **Annie Collier Parker** acknowledges with the deepest appreciation the deeds of kindness, thoughtfulness and expressions of sympathy expressed during this difficult time.

The Family

Professional Services Provided By

Jones Funeral Home

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