

*Celebrating The Life  
Of*



*Elaine W. Pierce*

**Sunrise**

*March 14, 1943*

**Sunset**

*January 19, 2015*

*Wednesday, January 28, 2015 - 11:00 a.m.*

**ELMWOOD UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

135 Elmwood Avenue

East Orange, New Jersey 07018

*The Reverend Robert N. Burkins, Sr., Senior Pastor - Officiating  
T.W. Sample, Organist*

# *Obituary*

**Elaine W. Pierce** was born in Wirtz, Virginia on March 14, 1943 to the late Clarence R. Wright and the late Nannie Kate (Dudley) Wright. Elaine grew up in Rocky Mount, Virginia where she was a member of First Mount Airy Baptist Church and spent her young adult years singing at local churches with her siblings in the gospel group, Heavenly Tones. After her graduation from high school, she moved to New Jersey where she attended Essex County College in Newark, NJ and began her employment at Torch in West Orange, NJ. In 1969, Elaine met the love of her life, Joseph C. Pierce. Within a month of meeting, Elaine and Joe were joined in matrimony on September 27, 1969. On October 5, 1971, she gave birth to her only child, Karen Elaine Pierce.

Elaine then worked as a data entry clerk at Westinghouse in Bloomfield, NJ for eight years before becoming a field inspector with the City of East Orange in the Property Maintenance Department. During her twenty-three years of service with the City of East Orange, she loved her work and eventually became a Supervising Field Representative Property Improvement before her retirement in February 2011.

Service to the community was very important to Elaine. She dedicated many years as County Committee Representative for the Third Ward of East Orange and as Troop Leader for the Girl Scouts of America. She was proud to be a resident of East Orange for over fifty-five years.

Elaine enjoyed her family and friends and was known for her “shoot straight from the hip” words. She was head of the Wrights-Reynolds-Edwards Family Reunions. She cherished and looked forward to the many gatherings that she would organize such as Sunday breakfast and family dinners as well as Father’s Day Cookouts. Family meant everything to Elaine especially her very special relationship with Karen, they were besties.

Elaine was preceded in death by her siblings, Delmus C. Wright, Sergeant Major Charles W. Wright, Grover C. Wright, Robert S. Wright, James Herman Wright, Lorraine R. Thornton, Wilma D. Ferguson and Shirley Ann Roberts.

Elaine leaves to cherish her memory: her beloved husband, Joseph; loving daughter, Karen Pierce; sister, Peggy J. Wright; brothers, Warren C. Wright, Thomas W. Wright and Coleman H. Wright (Debra Wright); and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

***Serenity Prayer - God, give me the grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, courage to change the things which should be changed, and the Wisdom to distinguish the one from the other. Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time, accepting hardship as a pathway to peace, taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it, trusting that You will make all things right, if I surrender to Your will, so that I may be reasonably happy in this life, and supremely happy with You forever in the next.***

***Amen.***

# Order of Service

Prelude.....T.W. Sample, Organist

Processional.....Clergy and Family

Cal To Worship

Hymn of Comfort.....“How Great Thou Art”

Prayer of Comfort.....Reverend George Britt

Scripture Readings.....Christine D. Williams

Old Testament - Psalm 23

New Testament - Proverbs 31:1-10

“Amazing Grace”.....Ms. Jean L. James, Soloist

## Tributes and Remarks

Acknowledgements and Resolutions.....Councilwoman Quilla E. Talmadge

Reading of The Obituary.....Mrs. Jamie R. Bragg

“The Lord’s Prayer.....Mr. Tyrone Dunlap, Soloist

Message of Comfort and Hope.....Reverend Robert N. Burkins, Sr.

“Old Rugged Cross”.....Ms. Jean L. James, Soloist

Recessional.....Clergy and Family

### **Interment**

*Graceland Memorial Park  
Kenilworth, New Jersey*

### **Repast**

*Immediately following the Interment, friends are invited to  
join the family for the repast in the Church Fellowship Hall.*

# *The Chain Will Link Again*



*Little did we know that morning,  
God was going to call your name.  
In life we loved you dearly,  
in death we do the same.  
It broke our hearts to lose you,  
you did not go alone.  
For part of us went with you,  
the day God called you home.  
You left us beautiful memories,  
your love is still our guide.  
And although we cannot see you,  
you are always by our side.  
Our family chain is broken,  
and nothing seems the same.  
But as God calls us one by one,  
the chain will link again.*

*-Author unknown*

## *Acknowledgements*

*The family of **Elaine W. Pierce** wishes to acknowledge with heartfelt appreciation the many thoughtful deeds and comforting expressions of love and concern extended to us during this difficult time. These things will always be remembered with deepest gratitude; you will be forever cherished in our hearts.*

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***May God Bless and Keep You***

*"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." II Timothy 4:7*