

*A Service of Thanksgiving  
and Praise For The Life Of*



*Yolanda Elizabeth Reavis-Toby*  
*"Lemon Drop"*

*Sunrise*  
May 23, 1938

*Sunset*  
February 15, 2015

*Service*

Monday, February 23, 2015 - 1:00 p.m.

**JONES CHAPEL**

339 Jones Chapel Road, Norlina, NC

**Officiating: Pastor Anthony Q. Alston, Sr.**

# Order of Service

Organ Prelude

Presiding..... Bishop Earl Purvis- New Bethel MBC

Selection..... Lady Elect Sheila Alston- Jones Chapel MBC

Prayer of Comfort..... Reverend Shirley Durham- New Bethel MBC

Scripture

Old Testament - Proverbs 3:5-6

New Testament - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Music Selection

Acknowledgements/Cards..... Assistant Pastor Teresa Solomon  
Mounted Eagles Ministries, Intl

Remarks..... ( 2-3 minutes)  
Bishop Earl Purvis- New Bethel MBC  
Gigi Bell- Boys Choir of Harlem

Music Selection

Reflection..... ( 2-3 minutes limits)  
Evangelist Yvette M. Johnson - Daughter  
Deaconesses Addie Manley - Spiritual Daughter

Obituary Reading..... Assistant Pastor Teresa Solomon  
Mounted Eagles Ministries Intl.

Meditation Selection..... Pastor Susie Shaw-Davis  
Mounted Eagles Ministries, Intl.

Eulogy..... Pastor Anthony Q. Alston Sr. - Jones Chapel MBC  
Co-Pastor Carol S. Warr - Reach Out And Touch Ministries, Inc.

Music Selection/Invitation to Christ

Benediction/Recessional

**Interment**  
Concord Baptist Church Cemetery  
Kittrell, North Carolina

# Reflections of Life

*“I have fought a good fight,*

*I have finished the race,*

*I have kept the faith*

*2 Timothy 4:7*

**Yolanda Elizabeth Reavis-Toby** was born on May 23, 1938 in Harlem Hospital. She was the last child born to Thomas Reavis and Bertha Brooks. She is pre-deceased by her siblings Gladys and Joseph Richards.

Yolanda received her formal education in The New York City Public School System. She attended Public School 170, Yorkville Junior High School and Grace Dodge High School. She furthered her education by attending the Grace Institute Business School for two years.

After graduation she worked as a nanny for the Revesy family. She later changed careers and worked as a records clerk at the law firm of Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP. Yolanda excelled in her position as a records clerk and became the records manager at Phillips Nizer LLP, Martin Clearwater & Bell LLP, and Simpson Thatcher & Bartlett LLP. She worked faithfully at Simpson Thatcher & Bartlett until she became ill and went out on disability.

Yolanda loved the Lord and accepted Christ at an early age. She was a devout member and one of the founders of Convent Avenue Baptist Church. She was gifted with a beautiful voice and sang in all of the choirs at Convent Avenue Baptist Church; starting with the Children’s Choir, the lead soprano in the Young adult and Sanctuary Choir. She also sang with both the Hall Johnson Ensemble and the Edward Bolton Ensemble. She gave numerous concerts throughout the Harlem community.

Yolanda’s greatest musical achievement was working closely with the late Dr. Walter J. Turnbull, the founder of the Boys Choir of Harlem. She was the President of the Parents Association of the Boys Choir of Harlem. She later became President of the Alumnus Parent Association for the Boys and Girls Choir of Harlem. Yolanda was responsible for all major fundraising benefits and social programs as well as the annual summer Music Institute for the organization. She was extremely instrumental in bridging the gap between the parents and the organization for the betterment of our children’s education. She remained active with Boys Choir of Harlem until she relocated to North Carolina. She also stayed in touch with Dr. Turnbull until his death in 2007.

Proverbs 18:16 says that a man’s gift makes room for him and brings him before great men. Yolanda’s gift made room for her as she dined at the White House with former President William Jefferson Clinton and former First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. She worked alongside Donna Hanover Giuliani on behalf of the Boys Choir of Harlem.

After battling a lengthy illness, God in His great mercy called Yolanda home on February 15, 2015 at 7:45p.m.

Yolanda’s memory will be cherished by: daughter, Yvette Monique Johnson; son, Doeyan Thomas Toby; granddaughter, Danielle Ashley Harper; great-granddaughter, Treasure Unique Williams; sister, Elizabeth Richards; sister-in-law, Jeanette Richards; niece/daughter, Diana Elizabeth Richards; nephews, Ronald Richards and Joseph Richards, Jr; great-nephews, Jonathan Michael McClain and Robert Caldwell, Best friend/sister Barbara Jenkins; and a host of extended family, and friends.

## *I'm Free*

God saw you getting tired and the cure was not to be,  
So He put His loving arms around you and whispered  
Softly “come with me”. With tearful eyes we watched you, And  
saw you pass away. Although we loved you dearly, we Could not  
make you stay. A Golden Heart stopped beating, A brilliant mind  
at rest. God broke our hearts to prove to us He only takes the best.

### *Acknowledgement*

The family of the late **Yolanda Elizabeth Reavis-Toby**  
would like to express their sincere appreciation for the many  
prayers, acts of kindness and generosity shown to them during this  
time of bereavement. May God bless each and every one of you.

### **Special Acknowledgements**

The family would like to thank “Yolanda’s Angels” at: Crabtree  
Valley Rehab Center (400 hall), The Hospice Care Team; and  
Uni-Health Rehab for their compassionate service and kindness  
during Yolanda’s illness

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Professional Services Provided By

**Garnes & Toney Funeral Home**

806 East Andrews Avenue  
Henderson, North Carolina

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