


*A Celebration of Life*  
*"105 Years"*

*Minnie Richardson*  
*"Nana"*

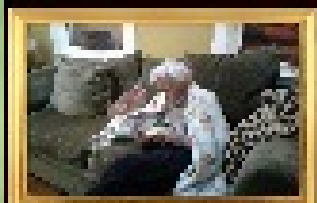
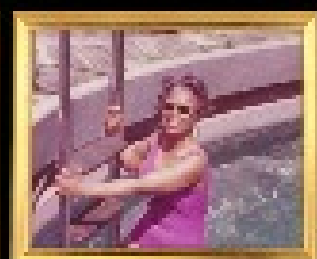
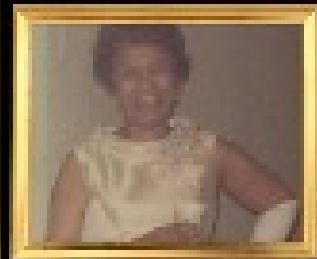
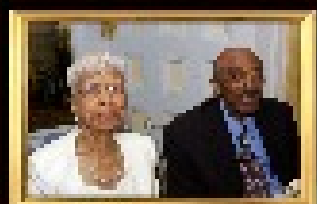
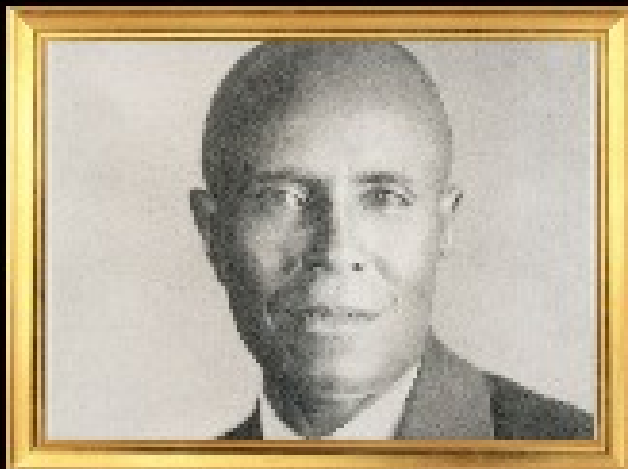


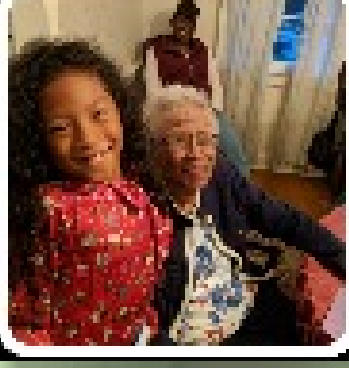
*Sunrise*  
*September 21, 1914*

*Sunset*  
*January 23, 2020*

*Service*  
*Saturday, February 1, 2020*

**Franklin-St. John's United Methodist Church**  
142 Maple Avenue • Newark, New Jersey 07112  
*Rev. Dr. Lloyd Preston Terrell, Officiating*





# Order of Service

Processional.....Clergy And Family

Greeting.....Rev. Dr. Lloyd Preston Terrell

Musical Selection.....“Precious Lord”.....Mr. Emory Lee

Prayer Of Comfort.....Rev. Vivian Cook

## *Resolutions/Proclamations*

Newark City Council, The Hon. Mildred C Crump, President.....Rev. Louise Scott Rountree

City of Newark, NJ, The Hon. Ras Baraka, Mayor.....Rev. Louise Scott Rountree

Franklin St. John’s United Methodist Church.....Iris McMurray Matthews

Franklin St. John’s United Methodist Women.....JoAnne Mettle

Franklin St. John’s United Methodist Mother’s Board.....Mother Marguerite Terrell

Musical Selection.....“He's Done So Much For Me”.....Davette Bivins

## *Scripture Readings*

Old Testament Psalm 23.....James Gee

New Testament Ecclesiastes 3:1-4.....Aysha Nunes

Musical Selection.....“The Lord's Prayer”.....Rhonda McBea

Reading Nana’s 10 Keys To Longevity.....Charisse Carney-Nunes

Words Of Reflection.....James Gee

Pamela Johnson

Sandra Carney

Reading Of Obituary.....Denise Brown-Allen

Musical Selection.....“His Eye Is On The Sparrow”.....Lauren Mattox

Eulogy.....Rev. Dr. Lloyd Preston Terrell

Benediction.....Rev. Dr. Lloyd Preston Terrell

Recessional

### **Interment**

Burial will take place at

**Glendale Cemetery**

28 Hoover Ave • Bloomfield, NJ 07003

### **Repast**

Family and friends are invited to fellowship in Cole-Rowe Hall  
on the lower level auditorium of the church following the Interment.

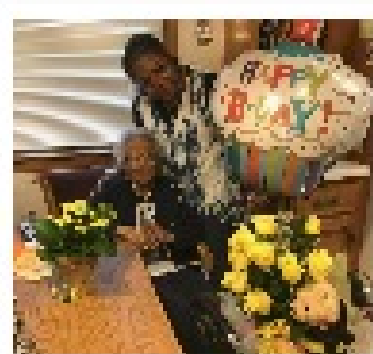
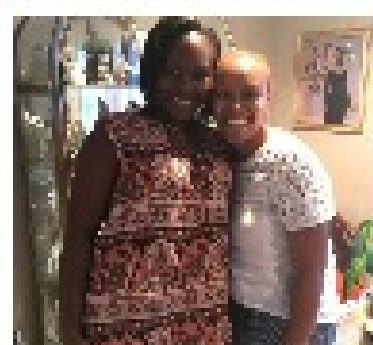
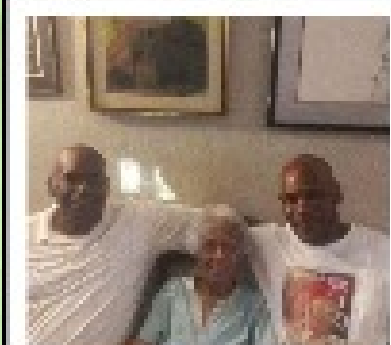


## *Nana's 10 Tips for Longevity*

- 1. Love God, yourself, and then your family and friends*
- 2. Take in other people's children and raise them as your own*
- 3. Mail handwritten birthday cards to those you love*
- 4. Read a good book every week*
- 5. Exercise daily*
- 6. Play Scrabble, Crossword Puzzles, Jeopardy and Wheel of Fortune to stay sharp*
- 7. Always look like a fashion plate*
- 8. Keep calm in the face of life's challenges*
- 9. Drink and eat anything you want, even vodka and ribs, but do it in moderation*
- 10. Speak freely but love generously.*









## Obituary

**Minnie Elizabeth Irene Johnson Richardson** was born on September 21, 1914 in Newark, New Jersey. She was the third child of Walter and Lutetia Johnson, the sister of Charles Johnson, Francis Johnson, Anna Watts and Geneva Mitchell. Minnie attended various schools in Newark, New Jersey and Maryland, finishing her education at Eastside High School in Newark, New Jersey.

As a child Minnie attended St. John's Methodist Episcopal Church, located on Academy Street in Newark. When the church moved to High Street, she served as a junior usher. After being away from the church, she resumed her membership when St John's merged with Franklin Memorial Church, becoming Franklin-St. John's United Methodist Church. She became an active member of the St. John's Unit, which was the fundraising arm of the United Methodist Women's organization. After retirement, Minnie became the Assistant Church Secretary to Rev. Dr. Lloyd Terrell. She remained a faithful member of Franklin-St. John's until she passed.

After leaving high school Minnie worked in various domestic jobs, at Woolworth's 5 and 10 Cent Store and at the former Kresge Department Store as an elevator operator. During World War II, she worked for the Office of Dependency Benefits until it relocated to St. Louis, Missouri. In 1947, she found employment with the City of Newark where she served for 33 years. She started as a clerk typist in the Division of Central Purchase, which was charged with ensuring all purchases of goods and services, and subsequent payments were completed in compliance with New Jersey law. Minnie's dedication to her work and meticulous attention to detail led to her being promoted to Senior Buyer, a position she held until her retirement in 1980.

In 1953, Minnie married James W. Richardson and became a mother to his 15-month-old son, James and young daughter Silvia. It was very important to Minnie that her son have a companion to grow up with, and in 1959, she and her husband adopted a son, Elbert, who was 6 years old.

Minnie's life spanned an incredible 105 years. In her ten and a half decades, she was literally a witness to history. She was born just as World War I began in 1914, was a young teenager during the Harlem Renaissance, saw worldwide economic depression as a young adult during the Great Depression, and personally experienced the post-World War II housing crisis that propelled Newark toward economic decline. Minnie lived through the economic and social conditions that laid the groundwork for the famous Newark riots in 1967. From Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination in 1968 to the election of Newark's first Black mayor in 1970 to the election of Barack Obama in 2007, she witnessed some of the most spectacular events in Newark's and, indeed, America's histories.

Through the years, Minnie's experiences were enhanced by the love of family and friends. She often traveled to St. Michaels, a historic town on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, to vacation with her sisters, her nieces, Jackie and Roberta, their husbands and children. The four Johnson Sisters were avid Scrabble players, easily defeating challengers, old and young. Minnie's sister Francis was considered the best player of all, and Minnie's love for Scrabble served as the foundation for her love of newspaper crossword puzzles and the TV game shows, Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy. In the weeks preceding her death, she was still solving Wheel of Fortune puzzles before the television contestants.



Minnie also enriched the lives of many close friends who were like family. She faithfully remembered birthdays, always sending cards and gifts to her loved ones. As a young adult, Minnie was an honorary member of the legendary Beau Modes social club with Connie Bolden, Mabel Rochester, Alma Platter, Rose Pickford, Lettie Reeves, Hattie Malone, Hattie Burk and Flossie Drinkard. After the untimely death of Mabel Rochester in 1964, she stepped in as a mother-figure for her goddaughter, Mabel's daughter, Sandra Carney. This relationship endured until her final hours with Sandra caring for her beloved Nana during the last years of her life.

Minnie thoroughly enjoyed her roles as mother, grandmother and Nana. She was a constant source of support to her two sons and granddaughter, Sharonda. Minnie was a grandmother to Sandra's four children and great-grandmother to their children. She was a vital presence in the Carney family homes, a quiet force calmly reading countless romance novels amid the hustle and bustle of family life. Minnie celebrated holidays and birthdays with them, traveled with them to Martha's Vineyard and in 2016 fulfilled her life-long dream of visiting Disney World and riding on "It's a Small World." The family helped to bring about another highlight of her life in 2015 when she appeared on the Kelly and Michael show captivating the hosts and audience with her lessons on longevity, including having a little vodka every now and then. She also enamored the viewers by getting "a little too close" to Micheal Strahan during the commercial break.

Minnie's earthly journey ended on January 23, 2020, but she rests eternally with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and her spirit lives on in her family and friends.

Minnie was preceded in death by her beloved parents, husband James Richardson, brother Charles Johnson, and sisters Francis Johnson, Anna Watts and Geneva Mitchell. She leaves to mourn her loss, sons James and Elbert Richardson; stepdaughter Sylvia Gill; granddaughter Sharonda Richardson; goddaughter Sandra; adopted grandchildren Charisse Carney-Nunes (Harvey), Dawn Carney-Massey (Corey), Lisa Carney and Henry Carney III; great-grandchildren Clarence Coleman, Jania and Niyera Willis, Aysha and Allen Nunes, Semari, Nia and Jaden Massey, Jordan Carney and Najhee Carney; nieces Jacquelyn Gee (James), Roberta Herbert (Cliff), June Eggleston, and Claire Wade; grandnieces Carmen Canon, Pamela Johnson, and Jennifer Williams (Tewodross); grandnephews James Gee and Derrick Wade; godson Melvin O'Neal and a host of other relatives and friends.









## *The Road To Eternity*

*Life is but a stopping place, a pause in what's to be, A resting place along the road to sweet Eternity. We all have different journeys, different paths along the way, we all were meant to learn something but never meant to stay. Our destination is a place far greater than we know, for some, the journey's quicker, for some, the journey's slow. And when the journey finally ends, we'll claim a great reward, and find an everlasting peace, together with the Lord.*

### *Pallbearers*

*Harvey Nunes • Corey Massey • Henry Carney III • Glen Anderson  
Semari Massey • Derek Wade • Richard Anderson • Tewodross M. Williams*

### *Jr. Pallbearers*

*Allen Nunes • Jordan Carney • Nia Massey  
Jaden Massey • Jania Willis • Niyera Willis*

### *Acknowledgement*

*The family of the late Minnie Johnson Richardson would like to take this opportunity to extend their sincere appreciation for the many kind expressions of sympathy that have been expressed during this time of bereavement.*

*The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me.  
My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.*

*Psalm 28:7*

*~ The Family ~*

Professional Services by:  
**Whigham Funeral Home**

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

*Carolyn Whigham, Director*