

In Loving Memory of



Helen P. Means

March 12, 1936 - December 1, 2020

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020 - 12:00 NOON

Mount Zion Baptist Church
208 Broadway
Newark, NJ 07104
Rev. Dr. Olivia Stanard, Pastor-Elect

Obituary

Mrs. Helen P. Means was born in Brundidge, Alabama on March 12, 1936 to Claude Benjamin "C.B." Pryor and Lueviel Pryor Nickson, and has been the wife of Dr. Fred Means for more than 60 years. They have three sons [Vincent, Marc and Chad], and four grandchildren [Sheryl, Vincent Jr., Omari, and Amir]. They had a God-daughter Pamela (deceased).

According to her sisters, Helen had a brilliant mind, and believed at an early age that she was destined to achieve great things. She put her dream to work by excelling in her studies. Helen graduated from high school at the age of 16.

Helen completed two years of study at Alabama State College and graduated from Newark State Teachers College, now Kean University, where she received a BA and MA in Education. After graduating, she began working at the Newark Board of Education, as an elementary school teacher. During her nearly 40 years at the Board, she worked as a teacher, guidance counselor, guidance director, and retired as Principal of Newark's High School Redirection. Mrs. Helen Means understood that students in the urban school communities faced many problems. Her belief in dealing with these problems was to "create a culture for success." She was determined to change the mindset of her students so they would believe in their potential and understand the road to success. Through her positive thinking and strategic actions, Mrs. Means provided life-improving influence on hundreds of students during her career.

In her youth, Helen played the piano and sang in the church choir with her brother Harold and sisters Flora and Eleanor. They often traveled as a singing quartet with her grandfather who was a preacher. Helen met God early in life. In Newark, she joined Mt Zion Baptist Church where Fred is a life-long member. Under the pastorate of Reverend Homer J. Tucker, sister Helen served in the Christian Education Ministry, planning and implementing many education-related Ministry projects at the church.

Helen Means was a great mother, remaining devoted to her family her entire life. She was also a proud member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

Other areas of interest and enjoyment included reading and participation in social and civil-rights organizations. Membership in her book club was also important to her. She loved to laugh and debate, as well as watch NBA basketball.

Mrs. Means often said that the three most important things in her life were God, Family, and Education!

Helen had close, meaningful relationships with her siblings: Harold (deceased), Eleanor, Flora, Charles, Yvonne, Alfred, Lorenzo, Tyrone (deceased), Bobby and Sandra.

Heaven has gained an outspoken, "Tell it like it is" woman of God!

Mrs. Helen P. Means: A Life Well Lived!

Order of Service

Presiding Rev. Dr. Olivia Stanard
Organ Prelude Brother Kevin Brightman
Invocation Rev. Dr. Olivia Stanard
Scripture Readings: Deacon Gilbert Snead Jr.
 OLD TESTAMENT Psalms 23
 NEW TESTAMENT Romans 8:31-39
Prayer of Comfort Deacon Gilbert Snead Jr.
Selection..... This Little Light of Mine
Acknowledgements & Obituary Sis. Wilma Marshall
Remarks Chad & Marc Means
Selection..... Blessed Assurance
Eulogy Rev. Rose Dean
Committal
Recessional

Interment
Rosedale Cemetery
Linden, New Jersey

Palm 23

1. *The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*
2. *He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.*
3. *He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*
4. *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*
5. *Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointed my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*
6. *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever*

Acknowledgement

The family of Helen P. Means wishes to express their deep appreciation and sincerely thank you for your kind expressions of sympathy during our time of loss.

Professional Services Provided By

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE
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Orange, NJ
973-675-6400

1025 Bergen Street
Newark, NJ
973-926-6400

COTTON-PARKER FUNERAL HOME
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