

*Celebrating The Life*  
*of*  
*Frieda D. Smith*

Sunrise:  
June 24, 1927

Sunset:  
September 21, 2021



**SERVICE:**  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2021 - 10:30 AM

**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
74 Park Ave. • Glen Ridge, NJ 07028  
**The Rev. Diana Wilcox, Officiating**  
**Philip Field, Organist**  
**Donna Field, Soloist**

# *Obituary*

**Frieda D. Smith**, a phenomenal woman, entered peacefully into eternal life with her lord and savior Jesus Christ on Tuesday, September 21, 2021. She lived for 94 years.

She is reunited in heaven with her beloved husband of 29 years, Charles L. Smith Jr., who died on April 19, 1979.

Frieda was born on June 24, 1927, in Cleveland, Ohio. She was the fourth of nine children born to Mary and Robert Stephens the son of a former slave owner in Stephens, GA.

Growing up in Cleveland with her brothers and sisters the Stephens household was hectic, chaotic, and always full of love and joy and a family capable of making the most of good and hard times.

Frieda attended The Ohio State University and Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. It is at Case Western where she met and fell in love with Charles (affectionately) known as, Smitty), a dashing and handsome young man from New Jersey with a Cuban heritage and savoir-faire that Frieda found irresistible. Out of this union, Frieda and Smitty had three children, Stephanie Darleen, Charles Leslie (III) and Danita Carol. Frieda and Smitty raised their family in East Orange and Montclair New Jersey, and it was in Montclair where the Smith family blossomed and flourished.

Frieda loved living in Montclair and often said there was no other place she would rather live. After years of working for Liberty Mutual Insurance Company and The Royal Globe Insurance Company in East Orange, Frieda pursued her life-long goal of becoming a teacher. In 1969 she joined the National Teacher Corps, a program created by the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve elementary and secondary education in low-income areas. Through the Teacher Corps, Frieda earned her bachelor's degree in Education from Montclair State College. In 1971 she was hired as an English teacher at East Orange High School where she taught until her retirement in 1988.

In the middle of it all, being a loving and attentive wife, a mother of three rambunctious children, a well-loved teacher by her students and peers, and a doting grandmother, Frieda was most happy working with Trinity Episcopal Church in Montclair where she served as a lay minister and member of the Vestry.

With a passion for scholarship and serving her community, Frieda was a charter member of the Omicron Xi Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. in Montclair, NJ. As an active member she served on numerous committees, held leadership offices, and often led the chapter in prayer and meditation during gatherings and events.

Frieda is survived by her three children, Stephanie Lightfoot (Robert), Hartford, CT; Charles L. Smith III (Quinta) Roseland, NJ; and Danita Locks, Atlanta, GA; plus grandchildren Justin Smith, Atlanta, GA; Stephen Lightfoot (Kishauna), Manchester, CT; Brian Lightfoot (Nikki), Denver, CO; Leslie Locks (Trey Gillison), Atlanta, GA; Allison Locks, Atlanta, GA; and Dana Locks, Atlanta, GA; great grandchildren Kylee and Kandance Lightfoot; Court and Trey Gillison; her sister Helen Spears, Atlanta, GA; her brother Gerald Stephens, Cleveland, OH and a host of other relatives and many friends.

# *Order of Service*

Procession with Opening Prayer

Welcome ..... The Reverend Diana Wilcox

Remembrances ..... Stephanie Lightfoot - Daughter  
Justin Smith - Grandson

Reading of the Obituary ..... Brian Lightfoot - Grandson

Hymn..... “How Great Thou Art”

1st Reading - Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 ..... Danita Locks - Daughter

Psalm 121:1-4, 7-8 ..... Allison Locks - Granddaughter

2nd Reading - 2 Corinthians 4:16, 5:1 ..... Stephen Lightfoot - Grandson

Holy Gospel - John 14:1-6 ..... The Reverend Diana Wilcox

Homily ..... The Reverend Diana Wilcox

The Creed

Prayers of the People

Peace

Holy Communion

The Commendation

Closing Hymn ..... “The Strife Is O’er, The Battle Done”

## *Interment*

Rosedale Cemetery

Orange, New Jersey

## *Pallbearers*

Robert A. Lightfoot Jr.

Stephen Lightfoot

Brian Lightfoot

Justin Smith

Thomas Aiken

David Cumminings



# *Frieda Smith a "Virtuous Women"*

## **Proverbs 31:10-31**

A capable wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels.  
The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.  
She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.  
She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands.  
She is like the ships of the merchant, she brings her food from far away.  
She rises while it is still night and provides food for her household and tasks for her servant-girls.  
She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.  
She girds herself with strength, and makes her arms strong.  
She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.  
Her lamp does not go out at night.  
She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle.  
She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy.  
She is not afraid for her household when it snows, for all her household are clothed in crimson.  
She makes herself coverings; her clothing is fine linen and purple.  
Her husband is known in the city gates, taking his seat among the elders of the land.  
She makes linen garments and sells them; she supplies the merchant with sashes.  
Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.  
She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.  
She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness.  
Her children rise up and call her happy; her husband too, and he praises her:  
"Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all."  
Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.  
Give her a share in the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the city gates.

## *Acknowledgement*

The family of **Frieda Smith** wishes to express their sincere appreciation for the many expressions of sympathy shown to them during their time of bereavement. May God bless you all.

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