

Celebration of the Life
of
Sister Etta Stewart Lee



Sunrise
December 30, 1918

Sunset
June 24, 2009

11:00 a.m.
Friday, July 3, 2009

Tickfaw Missionary Baptist Church
Magnolia, Mississippi

Reverend Edward M. Boss, Pastor
Officiating Minister

To Our Mother

*Mama, we will always cherish the depth of your wisdom.
The strength of your spirit-filled soul.
Your words of courage, and your sweet smile
Will remain with us throughout this earthly trial.
God gave us to each other to love and enjoy for a while.
We have our joys and memories, the one gift of God that death cannot destroy.
Our memories of you are so precious to us.
You nurtured us and caressed our souls with love and kindness untold.
It was your touch that made us whole.*

*In our hearts we always knew we could depend on you to set us straight, to love us in spite
of our shortcomings and to advise us, even when we didn't know we needed it.
But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, faith, meekness, and temperance;
against such there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23*

*You always reminded us to be kind to one another and to treat others the way we wanted
to be treated. The bond of Family will continue to be important to us.
Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath
forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32*

*We'll always remember you saying to put God first in all that we do and above all things seek
understanding.
Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge
Him, and He shall direct thy paths. Proverb 3:5-6*

*All that we learned and gained from you we will instill in our children as a part of your
Legacy for generations to come.*

*Your daughters,
Faye, LoEsther, Annette, and Jennette*

The Broken Chain

*We little knew that day, 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 though we cannot see you, you are always at 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.*

*Your Children – in - Law
Janice, Mitchell, McKinley*

With Jesus

Don't Grieve for Me

If we could hear your sweet soft voice
or your smiling face see
We know you would tell us that
together one day we will be
But regardless, just know that
my wish is that you not

... grieve for me for now I'm free
I'm following the path God has laid you see.
I took His hand when I heard him call
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way
I have found peace at the close of the day.

If my parting has left a void
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss
Oh yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much
Family, good times, a loved one's touch.

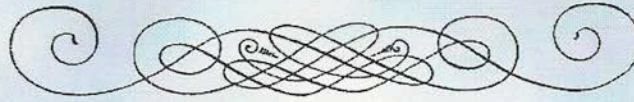
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your hearts and peace to thee
God wanted me now; He set me free.
Unknown

Your sons,
Alious,, Thomas, and Darrell

"Please," is what she would say
as she asked us to not cry
For she went home to meet Jesus in the sky.
She has a mansion, a crown,
and a beautiful white robe,
And what a glory it will be
to walk on streets paved of gold.
Now to all the family and friends
she would say that,
She has fought a good fight and has kept the faith,
And with the help of the Lord
she was able to win the race.
Now when times get hard
and we can't see her "our" way,
Remember, she would want us to
fall on our knees and begin to pray.
And if we listen with our hearts
and not with our ears
We will hear a faint voice say,
"I'm in your heart so, I am still here.
This earth is not my home,
I was born to live here 90 years."
The Lord said, "Come, Etta
for it is now time for you to go,
Go with me and receive your reward on high,
In that big city called heaven up in the sky."
Again, to us she would say, "Do not cry."
Because like I said
I have gone home to meet Jesus in the sky.
The day I went home was like a dream come true,
Because there is nothing like the sky's
brilliant shade of blue.
If a tear you must shed,
please let it be of joy not dread,
Now I again will see my loved ones
who have gone on ahead."

The Family

Obituary



On Wednesday, June 24, 2009, God gave his faithful servant Mrs. Etta Stewart Lee the gift of rest and eternal life. She will be truly missed by all who knew and loved her, yet we know that God loved her best. Knowing that she is in the presence of God where there is no pain, or worry the acceptance of the departure of our loved one is easier to bear.

Sister Etta Stewart Lee was born on December 30, 1918, to the union of Minerva Bates Stewart and Willie Stewart in Amite County, Mississippi. She was born into a religious home rich in love and tempered with strong family values built on faith in God. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband of 60 years, Alex Lee, Jr.; one son, Charles Edward Lee; five brothers: Willie Howard, Herbert Stewart, Charles Stewart, Leroy Stewart, and Garret Stewart; four sisters: Mary E. Robins, Laura Thompson, Callie Mae Patterson, and Helen Haygood.

At an early age she professed her faith in Christ and served as a faithful member of Tickfaw Missionary Baptist Church. Diligence and dedication to service were shown during the 50 years she served on the Tickfaw Church Usher Board. In 2002 she relocated to Chicago, IL where she worshipped at The First House of Prayer Church under Watch Care Ministry, which allowed her to maintain her membership at her home church and to yet be connected to a church home in her residential area. Mother Etta was faithful to her God. Despite failing health, her spirits were high and her faith in God never waived.

She received her formal education in the Europe Bates School in Magnolia, MS. After graduation she married Alex Lee, Jr. on February 21, 1938. To this union eight children were born. Working as a unit, they provided a wholesome Bible based home environment for their children.

Sister Etta Lee was a dedicated homemaker for over sixty years. She worked as a substitute teacher for Bates School for many years. She also worked in the school cafeteria for 13 years as a cook and a cashier at Central High School of Liberty, MS. She also worked with the Head Start Program as a teacher. Because of her belief in the importance of education, she worked hard helping others become proficient in reading, math, and writing.

Her soft spoken sweet spirit was one that endeared her to those who met her. Her kindness and thoughtfulness made her a family favorite throughout the years while her giving spirit made her garden and her kitchen table a highlight on any visit. The warmth of her love was as genuine as her homemade quilts were heavy. She was known for her beautifully created bows to coordinate with youngsters' dresses and special attire which showcased her giftedness in of arts and crafts. She had flowing body movements and found creative dancing and singing refreshing. She was spontaneous in spoken language and often made up poems and songs on the spot. Many of her poems from earlier days she could recite many years later. During her earlier years she sang with a quartet where one of her lead songs was "Come and Go With Me to My Father's House," yet her favorite song was "Two Wings."

Mother Lee departed this earth to be with her Lord and Savior at 7:55 p.m. on June 24, 2009, at Advocate Trinity Hospital of Chicago, IL. The legacy of Mother Etta Lee will be cherished by her children: Alious Douglas Lee of New Orleans, LA; Alice Faye Lee Davis; LoEsther Lane Lee Singleton; Annette Lee Robinson (Mitchell) all of Chicago, IL; Jennette Lee Alexander (McKinley); Thomas Cordell Lee (Janice); Darrell Darnell Lee all of Jackson, MS; 18 Grandchildren, 28 Great-grandchildren; four Great Great-Grand Children; her twin sister Edna Stewart Scott of Liberty, MS and her older sister Wilhelmenia Holden of Chicago, IL; one sister-in-law Mrs. Lena Taplin of Liberty, MS; a special niece Nancy Johnson; a host of other relatives and friends.



Program

Program Guide, Dr. Laverne Gentry

Prelude

Processional

"I'll Fly Away"

Choir

Musical Selection

"I Surrender All"

Mrs. Annissa Clayton

Scriptures

Reverend Effort Alexander, Pastor
Grace Through Faith
Whitehaven, TN

Old Testament
New Testament

Psalms 23
John 14:1-4, II Timothy 4:6-8

Prayer

Reverend L. Charles Stovall
St. Luke (Community) United Methodist Church
Dallas, Texas

Musical Selection

"Come and Go With Me to My Father's House"

Reflections/Tributes (3 minutes, please)

Friends
Neighbors
Family

Reverend Gwendolyn Gail Varnado
Reverend Michael Robinson

Musical Selection

Choir

Obituary

Acknowledgments

Mrs. Nancy Johnson

Words of Comfort

Reverend Luther McEwen

Musical Selection

Choir

Eulogy

Reverend Edward M. Boss

Funeral Directors in Charge

Musical Selection

Recessional

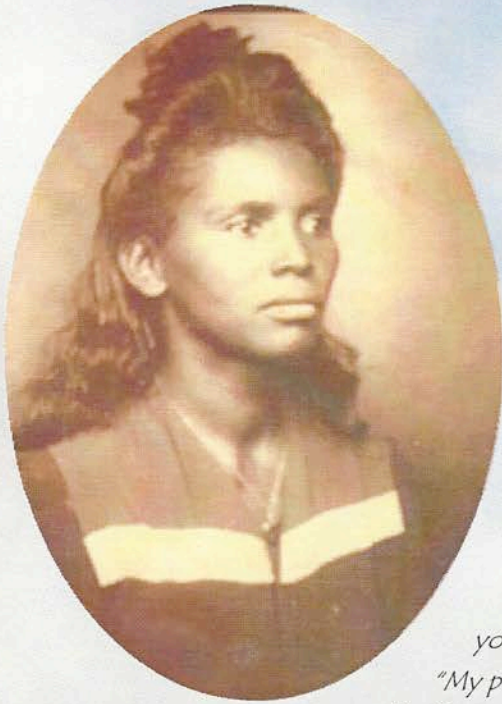
"When We All Get to Heaven"

Choir

Postlude

Footprints

(paraphrased)



One night I had a dream. I dreamed I was walking
along the beach with the Lord.

*Across the sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene,
I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one
belonged to me, and the other set belonged to the Lord.*

*When the last scene of my life flashed before me, I looked
back at the footprints in the sand. I noticed that many times
along the path of my life there was only one set of footprints.
I also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest
times in my life. They really bothered me and I questioned
the Lord about it. "Lord you said that once I decided to
follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed
that during the most troublesome times in my life there is only
one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed
you most you would leave me. The Lord replied,*

*"My precious child, I love you and would never leave you.
During your time of trial and suffering, when you see only
one set of footprints, it is then that I carried you."*

Author Unknown

Family, know that the Lord is always with you.

A Truly Good Wife

Proverbs 31:10-20,26,31

¹⁰Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies.

¹¹The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.

¹²She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

¹³She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.

¹⁴She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.

¹⁵She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.

¹⁶She considereth a field, and buyeth it; with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.

¹⁷she girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.

¹⁸She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night.

¹⁹She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.

²⁰She stretcheth out her hands to the poor; year, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.

²⁶She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

³¹Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

Tributes...

Let Me Go

When I am gone, release me, let me go,
I have so many things to see and do.
You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears.
Be happy that we had more than 90 years.

I gave you my love, you can only guess.
How much you gave to me in happiness.
I thank you for the love you each have shown.
But know it's time I travel on alone.

So grieve awhile for me, if grieve you must
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.
It's only for a while that we must part.
So bless the memories within your heart.

I won't be far away for LIFE goes on,
So if you need me, call, and I will come
Though you can't see or touch me, I'll be near,
And if you listen with your heart you will hear.

All of my love around you soft and clear.
And then, when you must come this way alone,
I'll greet you with a smile and whisper in your ear...
"Welcome Home"

Dear Mama Etta,

How can we say good-bye to a dear, sweet, God-fearing grandmother who taught us so many important life lessons? It gives us comfort to know that you are no longer suffering and we are grateful to God for giving you rest. It is difficult to accept that you are not here in your physical body. We shall be comforted in knowing that your spirit lives in us and that you are present with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Thank you, thank you, thank you for your unconditional love and special relationships that you shared with us all.
You will truly be missed until we meet again.

We Love You,
Your loving grandchildren

*Wayne Lee, Bruce Lee, Deadra Ellis, Michele Johnson, Oliver Winding, Jr., Stafanie Winsley,
Robert L. Davis, Jr., Clarence Singleton, Jr., Randall Singleton, Mitchell B. Robinson, Jr.,
Anniassa S. Clayton, Michael Robinson, Monifa Martin, Jamila Alexander, Bahati Alexander,
Kisha Hardy, LaMesha Lewis, and Stacy Lee.*

Honorary Pallbearers

*Alious Lee
Darrell Lee
Kenneth Holden*

*Thomas Lee
Mitchell Robinson
McKinley Alexander*

Active Pallbearers

*Wayne A. Lee
Bruce D. Lee
Mitchell B. Robinson*

*Michael S. Robinson
Randall Singleton
Anthony Hobbs, Jr.*

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

Flower Bearers

*Tickfaw Missionary Baptist Church Members
Granddaughters
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.*

Interment

*Tickfaw Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery
Willie Bates School Road*

Repast

*Tickfaw Missionary Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall*

Acknowledgment

*Perhaps you sang a song, held her hand during her illness,
spoke kind words, prayed or thought of us.
Maybe, you traveled thousands of miles to visit or bid her the time
Perhaps you sent flowers or sat quietly in a chair.
Whatever you did to console our hearts.
We thank you so much, whatever your part!*

*The family also gives special thanks to Mother Lee's long time physician
Dr. Bob J. Achebe, Leak and Sons Funeral Chapel, Advocate Trinity Hospital Staff,
The House of Prayer Church Family of Chicago, and Tickfaw Missionary Baptist Church Family.
May God's Richest Blessings be yours.*

*Arrangements and Services Entrusted to
Peoples Funeral Home
McComb, Mississippi*