

**Honorary Group**  
Deaconess and Missionaries of Mount Zion

Deacons and Laymen of Mount Zion

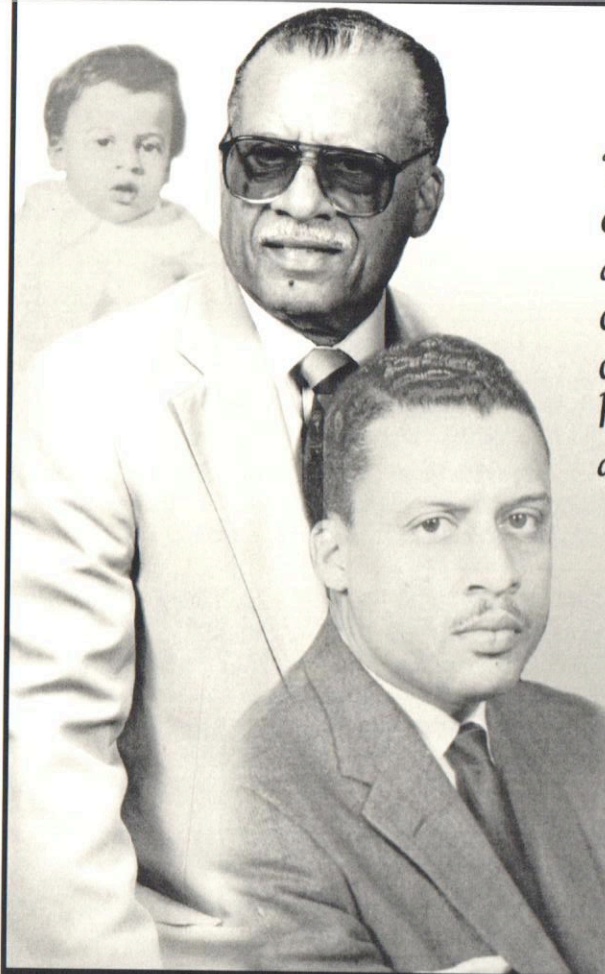
### **The Fallen Limb**

A limb has fallen from the family tree.  
I keep hearing a voice that says, "Grieve not for me.  
Remember the best times, the laughter, the song.  
The good life I lived while I was strong.  
Continue my heritage, I'm counting on you.  
Keep smiling and surely the sun will shine through.  
My mind is at ease, my soul is at rest.  
Remembering all, how I truly was blessed.  
Continue traditions, no matter how small.  
Go on with your life, don't worry about falls  
I miss you all dearly, so keep up your chin.  
Until the day comes we're together again.

**Author Unknown**

**Clark S. Brown**  
& Sons SINCE 1928  
FUNERAL HOME

# Memorial Service for Dr. Ernest B. Hodge



*Therefore, as God's  
chosen people, holy  
and dearly loved,  
clothe yourselves with  
compassion, kindness,  
humility, gentleness  
and patience.*

*-Colossians 3:12 NIV*

Thursday, January 29, 2015  
1:00pm

Mount Zion Baptist Church  
950 File Street - Winston-Salem, N.C.  
Dr. Serenus T. Churn Sr., Pastor/Officiating



# Portrait Of A Pioneer

Humble yourself before the Lord, and He will lift you up. James 4:10NIV

Strength of character, purposeful living and the desire to walk humbly before God and with his fellow man gave Ernest Benjamin Hodge his mantra and his identity. And therein he lived with a sense of commitment, contentment and completion throughout his life. The unfolding of this life began in Vicksburg, Mississippi where he was born on September 28, 1927, the son of the late John W. Hodge and the late Bertha Hodge.

At an early age, young Hodge set his sight on a career in the medical profession. Thus motivated, he completed undergraduate studies at Tougaloo College, a private, historically black institution of higher learning in Mississippi. Subsequent studies at the prestigious Meharry Medical School in Nashville, Tennessee, "which boasts of growing its own unique brand of doctors" was next on his list of academic accomplishments.

Meeting the final requirements for his chosen profession, Ernest completed his residency at St. Agnes Hospital in Raleigh, North Carolina. A residency in anesthesiology was added to his developing resume for work completed in Cleveland, Ohio. In 1962 he joined the medical staff of the Katie B. Reynolds Hospital in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. When that noted institution closed Dr. E. B. Hodge brought his wealth of knowledge and experience to Forsyth Medical Center. When he retired from Forsyth Medical in 1981 he was Head of the Anesthesiology Department there. To the sum total of his distinguished credits, he was the first Black anesthesiologist in the State Of North Carolina.

The full measure of Ernest Hodge the man was found (in part) through his affiliations with the Twin City Medical Society and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated. The essence of his Christian walk of faith was found in his membership at Mount Zion Baptist Church where he served a term on the Trustee Board. Until failing health prevailed, the joy of worship always resonated with him. Characteristic of the man he was, he always took a seat on a back pew in the church, never seeking to call attention to himself.

His soul mate and wife of 58 years was the nurse he met at St. Agnes Hospital, the former Bernice Brooks. In the days of his declining health she and their son, Danny Hodge, were the wind beneath his wings, until the time of his peaceful transition at the home on Sunday, January 25, 2015. Sharing their understandable grief are two brothers, William Hodge and Sandy Hodge, extended family members and many friends.

Respectfully submitted by  
MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH FAMILY-hls



## *The Visitation Period*

Family and Friends 12:30 am

Pre-seating Funeral Directors and Ushers

Musical Prelude Ms. Jeanne Williams, Organist

### **Favorite Hymns of the Church**

### *The Worship Experience*

Affirmation of Faith The Reverend Ira McCullough  
Pastor Emeritus, St. Joseph's Baptist Church, Statesville, NC

Hymn of Worship Choir-Congregation

### **#120 - Because He Lives**

Old Testament Scripture: **Psalm 46** Rev. Frances E. Williams  
Mount Zion Pulpit Associate

New Testament Scripture: **Romans 8:38-39 NIV** Deaconess E. Burthel Hoffler  
Mount Zion Deaconess Ministry

Prayer of Comfort Deacon Alexander Richardson  
Chair, Mount Zion Deacons' Ministry

Solo Ms. Laura Allen

Eulogy Dr. Serenus T. Churn Sr.  
Pastor, Mount Zion Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, NC

Recessional With Choral Affirmation

### **#472 - On Jordan's Stormy Banks**

Family Fellowship File-Goodwin Life Enrichment Center

### Acknowledgement

**T**hank you, church family and friends of the community, for your kindness on our behalf. From the sick vigil through these final moments of farewell you have been a constant source of love and support for us. By God's Amazing Grace and your bountiful hearts, we have peace for today and hope for tomorrow.. Thank you for sharing and caring at this difficult time.

*The Family of Ernest Benjamin Hodge, MD*