



Flower Bearers
Granddaughters

Pall Bearers
Nephews

Honorary Attendants
Grandsons

The Book of Psalms

“ O God, thou hast taught me from my youth
And hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works.
Now also when I am old and grayheaded,
O God, forsake me not;
Until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation,
And thy power to every one that is to come.”
Psalm 71:17-18



Our Gratitude

We are grateful for lives transformed by her spirit,
for hours brightened by her presence,
and for dreams realized by her efforts.

We thank God for your hearts which loved us enough to care,
for your hands which helped us enough to share,
And for heaven's grace and mercy
which were surely there

The Family of Lillian Payne Speas

Clark S. Brown
& Sons SINCE 1928
FUNERAL HOME

727 N. Patterson Avenue
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
www.clarksbrownandsons.com
Telephone 336.722-8117 Fax 336.722-8120

Celebration of Life and Remembrance for
Mrs. Lillian Payne Speas



“I will arise and go to Jesus, He will embrace me in His arms;
In the arms of my dear Savior, Oh, there are ten thousand charms”

Tuesday, September 23, 2014
200p.m.

Center Grove A.M.E. Zion Church
7001 Zion Church Road
Tobaccoville, North Carolina

Reverend Louis Hunter, Jr., Pastor / Officiating

Obituary

Her children arise up, and call her blessed... Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Proverbs 31: 28, 29

Mrs. Lillian Doretha Payne Speas was born to the late Ellis and Della Mae Payne on May 6, 1918 in Tobaccoville, North Carolina.

Her early educational experiences took place in the "one-room schoolhouse" of the city of her birth where she was the youngest student in her classes and was taught by her future father-in-law.

She married the late Reverend Lester B. Speas, the love of her life, in 1934 and they served together in God's vineyard throughout the Western North Carolina Conference of the A.M.E. Zion Church. While demonstrating the special attributes of a minister's wife, Miss Lillian articulated as "First Lady" in various congregations. She accompanied her husband to varied church conferences and one would witness to her favorite testimonial rendition of "Let the Church Say Amen." They were married for over 54 years until his passing in 1988.

Mrs. Speas was a faithful and life-long member of Center Grove A.M.E. Zion Church in Tobaccoville. Her cheerful temperament has served as a spiritual inspiration to her local church family and to the Western North Carolina Conference. She held memberships in the Women's Home Overseas Missionary Society, Lay Council, Life Member and the Local Ministers' Wives and Spouses.

She worked as a floral designer for more than forty years at Boyles Florist and Talley's Flower Shop in King, NC and Cozart's Florist in Winston-Salem, NC. She gained oriental designing techniques from the North Carolina Floral Association in Raleigh, NC and the NC FTDI Teleflora Association. She also taught floral designing.

Miss Lillian retired and then her occupation included the daily nurture of her personal flower garden. Her love of God's nature was especially evident at her home during the spring and summer months. She earned special recognition for her award winning floral designs and was an expert at designing wedding bouquets, floral arrangements for churches and beautiful memorial tributes.

God chose a beautiful and exquisite flower from His garden when he picked Lillian Doretha Payne Speas from Forsyth Medical Center in Winston-Salem on Friday, September 19, 2014. In addition to her parents and her husband, she was preceded in death by her children, Wilma S. Ijames, Oscar and Cornelius Speas; her sister, Margaret Linton; and brothers, Robert and Woodrow Payne.

Those family members who survive and who will cherish her lingering fragrance include her son, Lester B. Speas, Jr.; three daughters, Delores (John) Harris, Ann Leak (Harry Caldwell) and Reverend Belinda (Alfonza) Harris, all of Tobaccoville; a brother, Charlie Payne; twenty-four grandchildren; thirty-one great grandchildren; eleven great great grandchildren; sister-in-law, Mary Frances Payne; brother-in-law, Marthaniel Linton; daughters-in-law, Elizabeth V., Mary Ann and Bertha Speas; several nieces and nephews; extended family members and many other friends.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Building Fund Project at Center Grove A.M.E. Zion Church, PO Box 268, Tobaccoville, NC 27050

Prelude Mr. Shipps Washington
The Processional
Gathering of Family and Friends 1:00 p.m.

Order of Worship

The Invocation Reverend Johnny Ruff
Pastor, Goler Metropolitan AME Zion Church, Winston-Salem, NC

Hymn of Praise "My Hope Is Built" Choir/Congregation

The Holy Scripture

Old Testament Reading: **Psalm 90** Reverend Jimmy C. Griffin
New Testament Reading: **II Corinthians 5:1-9** Reverend William Speas

Prayer of Comfort Reverend Dr. Calvin L. Miller
Presiding Elder, Winston-Salem District, A.M.E. Zion Church

The Choral Response

Musical Selection Center Grove A.M.E. Zion Church Choir
"O, I Want To See His Face"

Acknowledgements/ Reflections (please limit remarks to 2 minutes)

Center Grove A.M.E. Zion Church
Mrs. Karatha Scott
The Grandchildren
Reverend Belinda S. Harris

Musical Selection Center Grove A.M.E. Zion Church Choir
"Come and Go With Me"

Acknowledgements/ Reflections (continued)

St. John A.M.E. Zion Church, Mocksville, NC
Mr. Julius Suiter
Reverend George Erwin, Former Pastor, Center Grove A.M.E. Zion Church
District Ministers' Wives and Spouses
Mrs. Jasmine Ruff

Solo Mr. Edward Gary

The Eulogy Reverend Louis Hunter, Jr.
Pastor, Center Grove A.M.E. Zion Church, Tobaccoville, NC

The Recessional "Let The Church Say Amen"

Interment Center Grove A.M.E. Zion Church Cemetery
Tobaccoville, North Carolina

The Benediction

Our Matriarch

Author: Mitchell M. Gissendanner

*Black, beautiful, intuitive and strong
the matriarch, the stabilizer,
the earth's backbone-
From the beginning she excels
determined to survive...
In her womb the seed of trillions
through the ages she will provide
Unfazed by obstacles
perpetual is her drive
kings, queens, all royalty alike
are inherently in her blood line-
Against all odds she presses on
not a moment does her love wane
she looks down through the annals of time
and realizes she must maintain
Her aura of invincibility
Her spirit of strong will
Her disposition of 'I will succeed
regardless of the mountainous hills'
She is black, bold and beautiful,
mother, grandmother and friend
her strength personified since birth
She is the matriarch of our family
She is the backbone of the earth*

The Pastor's Wife

There is one person in our church
Who knows our pastor's life,
Who weeps and smiles and prays with him-
And that's the pastor's wife.

The crowd had seen him in his strength
When wielding God's sharp sword,
As underneath God's banner's folds
He faced the devil's horde.

But deep within her heart she knows
That scarce an hour before,
She helped him pray the glory down
Behind the closet door.

She's heard him groaning in his soul
When bitter raged the strife,
As, hand in hand, she knelt with him -
For she's the pastor's wife!

You tell your tales of prophets brave
Who marched across the world
And changed the course of history
By burning words they hurled.

And I will tell how back of each
Some woman lived her life;
who wept with him and smiled with him -
She was the pastor's wife!