

The Family Tribute

*A smile for all, a heart of gold
One of the finest this world could hold
Never selfish, always kind
These are the memories she leaves behind...*

Mrs. Bernice Reid Femister, affectionately known as “**Mother of Many**” was born on March 31, 1930, to the late John Scott and Frances R. Reid. She departed her earthly life on Tuesday December 6, 2022, at Iredell Memorial Hospital in Statesville, NC surrounded by her family.

Bernice received her education from the public schools in Iredell County. She joined Zion Wesley AME Zion Church at an early age and remained a member until her death. During her lifetime she loved cooking for family and friends, gardening, attending her senior citizens events (55 and Alive Club) and listening to gospel music.

Bernice is preceded in death by her husband of 72 years, Francis Odell Femister, Sr.; two brothers, Ivey Reid and Tommy Reid; and one sister Jeaneatte Muskelly.

She leaves to cherish the memory of her life to a beloved sister, Frances Gail Witt of Pennsylvania; eight children, Tarnell (Tony) Lazenby of Stony Point, Francis (Alice) Feimster, Jr. of Charlotte, Gwendolyn (Colbert) Spain of Troutman, Cassandra F. Ramsey of the home; Shelia (James-deceased) Fleming of Charlotte, Henry L. Femister of the home, Thomas R. Femister of Washington DC, Michelle (Stanley) Bailey of Salisbury; sixteen grandchildren, sixteen great, grandchildren, and five great, great grandchildren. In addition, she leaves to her children in love Kendra Smyre, Rozolene Feimster, Jannifer, Nicole, Audrey Barnes, Rhona Vaga, Tonya Young, the Fleming family, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and other relatives and friends.

A special thanks to our Griffin family, Alice Bozenbry, Peggy Hagood, and Theresa Lail for all the love, care and continuously supporting our family. The family of the late Bernice Reid Femister would like to thank you for your heartfelt condolences and honoring our beloved mother, sister, and grandmother.

Gone from our sight, But never from our hearts...

**A precious one from us is gone,
A voice we loved is still.
A place is vacant in our hearts,
Which never can be filled.
It hurts us to lose you,
But you did not go alone.
A part of us went with you
The day God called you home.
Sleep on dear one,
And take you needed rest...
You know how much we loved you,
But God loved you best.**



A Service Remembering the Life of

Mrs. Bernice Reid Femister

**Christian Outreach of the Piedmont
Statesville, N. C.**

**Thursday, December 16, 2022
Pastor Glenn J. Usry, Officiating
Reverend David Smalls, Eulogist**

The Visitation

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The Processional

The Selection Barbara Saddler
The Selections Lydia Lowe and Steve Wilson
The Solo Mario Witt Sr.
Reading of the Family Poem by Great Grandchildren

The Order of Service

12:30 p.m.

The Invocation..... Reverend Glen Usry
Congregation of Hymn.....”*Blessed Assurance*”
Solo..... Sharmika Feimster
The Scripture.....
 Old Testament: *Psalm 23*
 New Testament: *1 Corinthians 15: 51-58*
The Prayer of Comfort..... Reverend Bobbie Samuels
The Solo..... Mario Witt, Sr.
A Tribute..... Michelle F. Bailey
The Acknowledgments
Reading the Obituary..... Tawana Feimster
The Reflections (*Limit two minutes please*)
 ♥ Maggie Turner: “55 and Alive Club”
 ♥ Sidney Williams
 ♥ Open
The Church Resolution..... Phyllis Starks
The Commemorative Presentation..... Funeral Director
The Selection..... Zion Wesley Church Choir
The Eulogy..... Reverend David T. Smalls
The Recessional

At Zion Wesley AME Zion Church Cemetery

The Gathering of the Christian Community
The Ritual of Consignment
The Prayer of Benediction
The Final Departure

In the procession to the cemetery, please remember to turn on your headlights, take caution at all intersections and fasten your seatbelts for safety



Always in our hearts.



A Celebration of Life for
Bernice Reid Femister

A Gift Given
 March 31, 1930

A Gift Returned
 December 6, 2022



*You are
 so loved*

Memories



“Mother of Many”



“He Only Takes the Best”

God saw you were getting tired, and a cure was not to be, So he put his arms around you and whispered, “Come With Me.” With tear-filled eyes we watched you suffer and fade away. Although we loved you dearly, we could not make you stay. A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands put to rest, God broke our hearts to prove to us, He only takes the best.

The Family



Professional Services Entrusted To:
Rutledge & Bigham Mortuary, Inc.
 603 South Center Street, Statesville, NC - (704) 873-3611
 Visit Bernice’s Online Tribute at www.rutledgeandbigham.com

**Christian Outreach of the Piedmont
 Statesville, N. C.**
**Thursday, December 15, 2022
 12:30 p.m.**
Pastor Glenn J. Usry, Officiating
Reverend David Smalls, Eulogist

