

## Flower Bearers

Mount Zion Deaconesses  
and Senior Missionaries

## Pall Bearers

Mount Zion Deacons and Laymen

*When I must leave you for a little while,  
Please do not grieve and shed wild tears  
And hug your sorrow to you through the years,  
But start out bravely with a smile  
And for my sake and in my name,  
Live on and do all things the same.  
Feed not your loneliness on empty days,  
but fill each waking hour in useful ways.  
Reach out your hand in comfort and in cheer,  
And I, in turn, will comfort you and hold you near.  
And never, never be afraid to die,  
For I am waiting for you in the sky.  
— Helen Steiner Rice*

We sincerely appreciate the many acts of kindness  
and words of comfort expressed during our time of  
bereavement. May God richly bless each of you.

— The Family of Ida Patterson-Johnson

# Celebration of the life of Ida Patterson-Johnson

July 31, 1940 – August 29, 2018



**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2018**  
**Omega Omega Ceremony at 12:00 p.m.**  
Service begins at 1:00 p.m.

**MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**950 FILE STREET**  
**WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA**  
Dr. Serenus T. Churn Sr., Pastor

Reverend Wendell A. Johnson, Officiant

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO



*"I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep:  
For thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety."*

Psalm 4:8



*"My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor and some style."* — Dr. Maya Angelou

## Ida's Life Story

Ida Elizabeth Patterson-Johnson was born on July 31, 1940, in Roanoke Rapids, NC to the late Ruth Mills and Edwin Lawrence Patterson, Sr. As the first-born child and grandchild on both sides of her family, "Ida E." was well loved from the start. Spending time with her family in Halifax County, NC was a treat as she was surrounded by her mother's large family. However, she was always happy to go back to "the big city" of Winston-Salem. In 1946, her younger brother Edwin Lawrence, Jr. (Sonny) arrived to make the Patterson family complete.

As the child of two educators, Ida was an avid reader and a bright student. She was educated in Winston-Salem's public schools and excelled scholastically. After graduating from Atkins High School in 1957, she headed to North Carolina Central University. She spent four years as a proud EAGLE and remembered her time on campus fondly. One of the highlights of her collegiate experience came in 1960 when she was initiated into Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., an organization that remained dear to her heart for the rest of her life.

After earning her bachelor's degree in biology in 1961, Ida moved to Newport News, Virginia and began teaching high school. She laughingly recalled that, at just 21 years old, she was only three or four years older than some of her students. However, she enjoyed teaching young people and getting them interested in science. While in Newport News, she met William P. Johnson and married him in 1964. The couple soon moved to Aberdeen, Maryland where Ida discovered her true calling and began to work as a librarian. After earning her Masters of Library Science from the University of Maryland, Ida began a long career as a scientific librarian for the Department of the Army.

In 1967, the couple welcomed their first daughter, Patrice Yvette. Their second daughter, Denise Nicole, completed the family in 1972. As in everything that she did, Ida plunged

head and heart first into motherhood and devoted much of her time to nurturing her girls. She was actively involved in the PTA, Girl Scouts, youth groups, dance recitals, piano recitals and everything else her daughters were involved in. With no immediate family in the vicinity, the Johnsons were blessed with several close friends in Maryland. Weekends and holidays were spent laughing, eating and celebrating with these friends who became like family.

In 1993, after rising to the ranks of Head Librarian of the Ballistic Research Library at the Aberdeen Proving Ground, she entered into her FIRST retirement. This time brought many changes as she relocated to her childhood home of Winston-Salem, NC. Ida looked back fondly on this move as it allowed her to spend more time with her beloved father prior to his passing in 1994. She was also grateful for the opportunity to spend quality time with her mother, her maternal aunts (known collectively as The Golden Girls), and many childhood friends.

Ida also became a frequent traveler to Virginia and New York where "her girls" lived. No Christmas was complete without the family heading to her daughter Patrice's home in Richmond and enjoying Ida's famous lovers seafood stew. She also loved her travels to New York City where she visited her daughter Denise. These weekends were spent on the go as they shopped, dined out, saw many Broadway shows and enjoyed an annual Alvin Ailey Dance Theater performance.

After deciding that she was too young to be retired, Ida took a position as Library Director at Bennett College in Greensboro, NC. During her time at Bennett, Ida concentrated on automating the school's library and getting the Bennett Belles excited about libraries and reading. After a few years, Ida retired from Bennett and intended to spend her time at leisure. However, she was soon recruited by the legendary poet and activist, Dr. Maya Angelou, to manage the library at Dr. Angelou's church, Mount Zion Baptist Church. During this time, Ida also worked part-time at Shaw University's Divinity School in High Point, NC.

In 2014, Ida finally decided to give true retirement a try. When she became ill in 2016, Ida relocated to Richmond, Virginia to be closer to her daughter Patrice during her recovery. She lived in several assisted living centers in the Richmond area and, in true *Ida* fashion, appointed herself Head Librarian of their facilities. She was a tireless advocate for culture, literacy and public libraries and believed that reading was key to a happy life.

Ida was a member and benefactor of Lloyd Presbyterian Church, where she was raised as a child. She became a devoted member of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Winston-Salem and remained active there until her illness. She was a member of the National Association of University Women, the American Library Association and a Life Member of the NAACP. She was also a proud Golden Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Ida Patterson-Johnson transitioned to her Heavenly home on August 29, 2018, after a long illness. She was preceded in death by her parents Ruth and Edwin Patterson. She is survived by her daughters Patrice Johnson Wiggins (Cedric, Sr.), and Denise Johnson-White (William); granddaughters Jessica Catherine Wiggins, Shirai Monique Wiggins and Devyn Ruth White; grandsons Cedric Earl Wiggins, Jr. (CJ) and Jason Edwin Wiggins; great grand-daughter Skylah Sophia Wiggins; her brother, Edwin L. Patterson, Jr.; many devoted cousins, nieces, nephews, Sorors and extended family. To know Ida was to love her, so also left to mourn her loss are beloved friends in Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and New York.

## Literary Expressions

When I die my song shall be crooning of the summer breeze;  
When I die my shroud shall be leaves plucked from the maple trees;  
On a couch as green as moss and a bed as soft as down,  
I shall sleep and dream my dream of a poet's laurel crown.

When I die my star shall drop singing like a nightingale;  
When I die my soul shall rise when the lyre-strings never fail;  
In the rose my blood shall lie, in the violet the smile,  
And the moonbeams thousand strong past my grave each night shall file.  
— Fenton Johnson

Heaven smiled the day this soul was born,  
for there were a lot of good things headed for the earth  
in that one package —  
kindness, generosity,  
integrity, love,  
even a little humor —  
All the things a person would need to make a good life.

And Heaven is rejoicing now,  
welcoming that soul back home.  
dusting off the suffering,  
throwing out the shortcomings  
polishing up those same qualities  
in preparation for the day,  
we all meet once again.  
— Author Unknown

## The Pre-Worship Moments

Prelude	Ms. Jeanne "Billie" Williams, Organist
Arrival of Family and Friends	Pre-Seating by Ushers and Funeral Directors
12:00 p.m.	Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. Omega Omega Service
12:30 p.m.	Family Visitation Period

## The Worship Moments

Procession w/Affirmation of Faith	Clergy and Other Worship Leaders
Hymn of Worship #255	"It is Well" Choir and Congregation
Scripture of Comfort	
Old Testament: <i>Ecclesiastes 3:1 – 8</i>	Deacon Charles N. Alston, Sr. Mount Zion Baptist Church Havre de Grace, MD
New Testament: <i>1 Corinthians 15:51 – 58</i>	Reverend Dr. Ray Mackenzie Pastor, Gravel Hill Baptist Church Richmond, VA
Prayer of Solace	Dr. Joseph Bryant
Church Tribute	Brother Mark Moss
Family Tribute	Patrice J. Wiggins
Solo	"God Is Real" Deaconess Addie Jabbar
Eulogy	Reverend Wendell A. Johnson Pastor, Jerusalem Baptist Church Norfolk, VA
Recessional w/Choral Affirmation #468	"When We All Get to Heaven"
The Interment	Piedmont Memorial Gardens Winston-Salem, NC
Family Fellowship Moments	File-Goodwin Life Enrichment Center Mount Zion Baptist Church

