

A SERVICE OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING
FOR THE LIFE OF

**MOTHER
ELEASE COOKE**

Sunrise: February 15, 1919 - Sunset: October 6, 2021



Greater Central Baptist Church

2152-58 Fifth Avenue

New York, New York 10027

Reverend Frank Hawkins, *Pastor*

Saturday, October 16, 2021 • Eleven O'Clock AM

– THE HYMN –
HOLD TO GOD’S UNCHANGING HAND



1. Time is filled with swift transition.
Naught of earth unmoved can stand.
Build your hopes on things eternal.
Hold to God’s unchanging hand.

Refrain:

Hold to His hand, God’s unchanging hand.
Hold to His hand, God’s unchanging hand.
Build your hopes on things eternal.
Hold to God’s unchanging hand.

2. Trust in Him who will not leave you.
Whatsoever years may bring.
If by earthly friends forsaken,
Still more closely to Him cling.
3. When your journey is completed,
If to God you have been true,
Fair and bright the home in Glory
Your enraptured soul will view.





*May the work I've done speak for me.
May the life that I live speak for me.
May the service that I give speak for me.*

The Obituary

*Life is but a stopping place,
A pause in what's to be,
A resting place along the road,
To sweet eternity.
We all have different journeys,
Different paths along the way,
We all were meant to learn some things,
But never meant to stay...*

*Our destination is a place,
Far greater than we know.
For some the journey is quicker,
For some the journey is slow.
And when the journey finally ends,
We'll claim a great reward,
And find an everlasting peace,
Together with the Lord*

– *Anonymous*

CAREFUL THIS IS GOD'S PROPERTY were the words framed by the bedside of our beloved Mother, El ease Cooke. For 102 years she held this title. The seventh of seventeen children, El ease was born to the late Richmond and Lottie Halley Carter on February 25, 1919 in Camden, South Carolina. For over a century, God took care of El ease and surrounded her with love and bountiful blessings every step of the way.

El ease was reared in a Christian home filled with the love of God, love of family and love of people. She accepted Christ, was converted to Christianity at an early age and joined St. Matthew United Methodist Church in Camden. She was educated in the Kershaw County Public Schools and graduated from St. Matthew School in 1937.

Following in the footsteps of many of her older siblings, El ease moved to New York City in the 1940s. She married Julian Cooke in 1941, and from this union three children were born: Inez, Barbara, and Patricia.

In 1956, Mother Cooke joined Greater Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Rev. Charles Roosevelt Walker. For over 65 years, she was a devoted servant leader to the congregation of Greater Central. She was a member of the Female Ushers Ministry for over 60 years. Her beautiful smile, soulful spirit, palpable warmth, and energetic presence blessed all whom she greeted each Sunday. For Mother Cooke, ushering was serious business. She, along with Sister Rachel Seabrooks led the Female Usher Board with love, dedication and compassion. They were an amazing team and represented Greater Central well. Mother Cooke attended the funeral of just about every church member. At times, it would be just a few members of the family and Mother Cooke in attendance. Rain, snow, good weather, or bad weather—nothing stopped her from being on her post of duty. Her dedication went beyond Greater Central. Mother Cooke would often attend three services on a given Sunday morning service and then two other usher anniversaries throughout the city. She was

also a proud member of the United Ushers Benevolent League and would attend their annual convention each year without fail.

On Sunday, February 25, 2018, Rev. Frank Hawkins appointed Mother Cooke as an Honorary Member of the Mother's Board Ministry. The Mother's Board is a group of senior saints of good character, wisdom, and who love the church. The women are chosen by the pastor and the congregation as examples of Holy Living in the family and in the church. Mother Cooke truly lived the Mother's Board mandate her entire life.

Mother Cooke loved her family, and her house was always the go to gathering place for family and friends during holiday celebrations. When she hosted Thanksgiving dinner each year, it seemed like every Carter and Cooke living in New York ended up at her house. She was an exceptional cook, and the love that she baked into every dish filled our souls. In fact, the only argument at those dinners was who was going to leave with the extra sweet potato pie.

Mother Cooke lived independently until she was 96. For the last six years, she lived at the Isabella Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing Care, a place where she continued her ministry for loving God's people. Her strong faith, unyielding optimism and "Jesus Joy" were an inspiration for many of the staff and residents. The last two years were difficult on the staff at Isabella, but a stop by ROOM 470 would brighten any day. And her day was brightened by the many visits from family and friends, and the daily and weekly visits from her devoted daughters and her beloved and inseparable sister, Hester.

On Wednesday evening, October 6, 2021, God saw fit to call His servant on home from labor to reward. She leaves to cherish her memory three devoted daughters: Inez Braxton, Barbara James, and Patricia Caffie; three sisters: Hester Moye, Irene Coleman, Gladys Pyatt; one brother: Albert Carter; three grandchildren: Julian "Junie" Braxton (Ayanna), Beretta "Reddie" Dickens (Sheldon), Ephian "Bernie" Caffie (Tyshawna), grandson Marvin Barry James preceded her in death; four great-grandchildren: Carter, E.J., Eden, and Barry; two very special friends: Robin Alston, Mabel Brown, and a host of nieces and nephews, and many friends far and near.

*A precious one from us is gone, a voice we loved is still.
A place is vacant in our hearts, our loss is Heaven's gain.
We love you, Ease, but God loves you best
Sleep on and take your rest, for we know that you are in Heaven resting
In the arms of Jesus
When the gate swings open, we will meet you there.*



– TRIBUTE OF LOVE FROM THE FAMILY

Celebrating the Life of Mother Elsie Cooke

The Order of Service

Reverend Frederick Crawford, *Presiding*
Pastor, Union Grove Baptist Church, Bronx, New York



Guest Minister of Music and Organist
Elder Terence Kitchings, Music Director
McDonald's Gospifest

THE PROCESSIONAL

USHERS GRAND MARCH "It's A Highway to Heaven"

THE HYMN "Hold To God's Unchanging Hand"

THE SCRIPTURE READING Reverend Dr. John Carter, *Nephew*
Old Testament - Psalm 90:1-17
New Testament - 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

ORGAN MEDITATION "Sweet, Hour of Prayer"

PRAYER OF COMFORT Reverend Roy Chestnut
Pastor, Little Mt. Bethel Baptist Church, Bronx New York

CHANT Thank You, Lord

SOLO Minister Kenneth Gainey

TRIBUTE Julian Braxton, *Grandson*

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CONDOLENCES Sharon Parker,
Family Friend

CHURCH RESOLUTION Priscilla Penceal, Church Clerk

Celebrating the Life of Mother El ease Cooke

REFLECTIONS FROM THE CHURCH COMMUNITY

Deacon Charles Cooper, *Deacon's Ministry*
Deacon Issac F. Washington, *United Ushers Benevolent
League of New York State and Vicinity*
Sister Ertie Foreman, President, Usher's Ministry,
Greater Central Baptist Church
Sister Thelma Monore, *Family Friend*
Minister Isaiah Owens, *Family Friend*

SOLO.....Minister Kenneth Gainey

RELECTIONS FROM FAMILY

Mr. Bellinger Moye, Jr. *Nephew*
Mother Irene Coleman, *Sister*
Mother Hester Moye, *Sister*

SOLO – “In The Garden”.....Minister Kenneth Gainey

THE WORDS OF COMFORT Reverend Frank Hawkins, *Pastor*

CLOSING PRAYER..... Reverend Frederick Crawford

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL..... “If You Live Right, Heaven Belongs to You”

*God Be With You
Tell Meet Again*

Even though we are miles apart, We are still in each Others' Hearts.

Mary Carter Brown
Thomas Moses Carter
Minerva Carter

Dorothy Carter Williams

Richmond Carter, Jr.

Elease Carter Cooke

Margaret Carter Engram

Ethel Carter Dunham

Daisy Carter
Nathan Carter

Albert Carter

Clifton Carter

Gladys Carter Pyatt

Valentine Carter

Hester Carter Moya

Irene Carter Coleman

Lottie Carter Nichols

Richmond Carter & Lottie Halley-Carter

CARTER
Family Reunion

The Carter Family

Poppa, Momma, Brothers, and Sisters



The Cooke Family



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This Far By Faith: Elease Cooke Turns 100

Mrs. Elease Cooke celebrated her 100th birthday on February 15, 2019.

The special Centennial Celebration took place on Saturday, February 16 in the Community Room of the Isabella Center in Manhattan. Family and friends, near and far came to take part in this milestone event. Mrs. Cooke's grandson, Julian K. Braxton of Boston, Massachusetts and a Washington Heights native presided over the auspicious occasion. Rev. Frank Hawkins, pastor of Greater Central Baptist Church in Harlem where Mrs. Cooke has been a member for over sixty years offered a wonderful tribute, and Rev. Frederick Crawford, pastor of Union Grove Baptist Church the Bronx delivered the prayer of thanksgiving and the benediction. In addition to tributes and reflections from family and friends, Elder Terence Kitchings, music director of McDonald's Gospelfest, was on hand for a special music presentation. Mrs. Cooke, a native of Camden, South Carolina, moved to New York City in 1942 and has been



residing in Harlem ever since. Elease married the late Julian Cooke and has three children, three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. She has been a dedicated member of the Ushers Ministry Greater Central and has been an active member of the United Ushers Benevolent League of New York and Vicinity. Mrs. Cooke received a citation from Councilwoman Diana Ayala which noted, "a great city is only as great as those persons who give exemplary service to their communities and such service is the lifeblood of the community and the city." When asked what is the secret to her long life, Mrs. Cooke responded, "It's simple, family, faith, hope and love, and kindness, yes, always being kind to others is the only way to live."

A Faithful & Dedicated Usher

“For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness.” Psalm 84:10

FEMALE USHER BOARD



OFFICERS OF FEMALE USHER BOARD

SIS. RACHEL SEABROOKS President
 SIS. ELEASE COOKE Vice President



A Faithful & Dedicated Usher



Senior & Female Usher's Ministry
Greater Central Baptist Church

The Usher's Psalm: The Lord is my light. He is the joy of my salvation, of whom then shall I be afraid. I am a doorkeeper in the house of the Lord. Yea though I meet with unpleasant conditions, I must keep smiling, for I must enter into His presence with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise. Yea, though I walk through the shadow of kindness, I must smile; for the beauty of the Lord is upon me; my countenance is filled with light, the light of love, patience and endurance. I shall strive to give joy to the sorrowful, hope to the lost, sunshine to the darkness, and I shall remain doorkeeper in the house of the Lord, as long as I live.

Our Usher's Prayer: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost, Bless Oh Lord, this Thy servant, as Thou didst bless the son of Levi who ministered in Thy Holy Temple, and grants me devoutly to minister in Thy house and Thy name be hallowed; Thy kingdom come, and thy will be done; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Amen.

The Usher's Closing Hymn (UUBL):
God be with you till we meet again;
By his counsels guide, uphold you;
With his sheep securely fold you.
God be with you till we meet again.
Till we meet, till we meet,
Till we meet at Jesus' feet,
Till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.

Through the years...



Celebrating 100 Years



Celebrating 101 Years



Celebrating 102 Years

The Acknowledgments

The Family of Mother East Cooke greatly acknowledge your supportive presence, your memories and laughter, your loving care, calls and concern, and especially, your effectual fervent prayer for us; as we strive to sing the Lord's song during our hour of bereavement.



We would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to the many earthly angels who cared so lovingly for Elease:

Nurse Jeanne Clifton and Christina Amara
&

The Entire Staff of Isabella Center for
Rehabilitation and Nursing Care

Nurse Janet Richman and Nurse Lane Tatman
of the
Metropolitan Jewish Health Systems



Interment
Kensico Cemetery
Valhalla, New York



Isaiah Owens, President * Lillie Owens, Manager
216 Lenox Avenue
New York, New York 10027
"Where Beauty Softens Your Grief"

