



Ann Hunt Smith

January 18, 1937 - April 21, 2023

With three deep sweet breaths, Ann “Mama Ann” Hunt Smith’s spirit left her body to be with our Lord while holding the hand of her loving youngest daughter early Friday morning, April 21, 2023. Ann was 86 years of age having lived an eventful and Godly life. Born in Raleigh, North Carolina, she was the only child of two educators, administrators, and activists, William Earl Hunt and Carol Louise Walker. Her parents recognized and encouraged her musical gifts early on. At five years old she met and became inspired by Marian Anderson, the renowned African American contralto who performed opera to spirituals. Ann would go on to use her talent to achieve much in her lifespan - public school teacher, choral conductor, composer, playwright, journalist, Civil Rights activist, motivational speaker, and internationally acclaimed clinician and authority in “Black Music in Historical Perspective.” Ann graduated from the segregated J. W. Ligon High School in the 1950s. She furthered her education in music composition at Virginia State College in Petersburg, VA, majoring in Vocal Music Education. In

1958 segregation laws prohibited her from attending the University of North Carolina for graduate study.

After challenging this practice, the State of North Carolina awarded her a grant to attend another university of her choice. She chose the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor where she received a

Masters in Music for Composition and Arranging. Ann's first teaching job was at Norwayne High School

in Goldsboro, NC. She then moved back to her hometown to teach at her alma mater, Ligon High. In

1967 she founded the Ligon Jubilee Singers who traveled throughout the eastern United States sharing the

African American story of faith and resilience from slavery through the civil rights movement. One

hundred students participated in the first performance as an act of nonviolent protest against racism and to encourage dialogue, reconciliation, and healing.

After Ligon became integrated and the group dissolved in 1972, Ann developed a one-woman show

based on "Black Music in a Historical Perspective " in which she performed for mixed audiences from

Utah to Africa. As her notoriety expanded, she was asked to write and direct the music for an epic outdoor

drama that would run for 23 seasons. "Pathway to Freedom" was an exciting account of the struggles and

heroism of the 1840s and 1850s along the 'Underground Railroad' from North Carolina to Indiana. She

went on to create and direct music for two more outdoor dramas.

During her teaching career, Ann worked with youth at West Cary High, Mary Phillips High, Ligon Junior

High, and Garner Middle Schools. Also, she served as the Choral Director for

the NC Correctional Center for Women for five years and produced 11 music-related publications. Upon retiring, Ann was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the highest civilian award for service to the state of North Carolina granted by the Office of the Governor.

In 2007 Ann moved to Georgia to be closer to her children. She focused her time and energy on serving

God, family, and her new community. She published *Praying Through... Building Faithfulness Through*

Journaling to encourage others to deepen their faith and communicate more effectively with God. She

also contributed to two anthologies.

Ann was married to and later divorced from the late John Mitchell Jones, Jr. of Richmond, VA

(1958-1965) and Arthur Smith, of New York, NY (1983-2007). To the first union were born two

daughters, Carol Jones Hunter (Anthony) and Joniese Jones White (Gregory).

Her daughters gifted her

with five grandchildren whom she named her "Pride" Nigel Hunter, "Joy" Nia Hunter Alford (Todd),

"Contentment" Noah Ernest Gregory White, "Satisfaction" Jordyn Michele White, and "Fulfillment"

Jewel Lilli-Ann White. She has three great-grandchildren, Kobi Elijah, Shiloh Aden, and Ori Anthony

Alford. Ann was one of the oldest and beloved cousins to members of the Scarborough, Walker, and

Sturdivant families. She also leaves behind a cherished sister-in-law,

Ernestine Jones Bailey, and several

nieces and nephews.

Ann loved the Lord! Early in her Christian walk, she learned how essential it

was to submit daily to hearing from God. For more than 30 years, Ann's quiet times were devoted to reading and pondering over the Holy Scriptures, journaling through Psalms, interceding in prayer for family, friends, and the Body of Christ. She developed an intimacy with God and a spiritual maturity in the faith that sustained her through all types of adverse situations. God granted Ann the spiritual gifts of Exhortation and Encouragement. Ann's pattern for years had been to sit before the Lord and allow the Spirit to direct her gifts. Through cards, calls, texts, and later FaceBook, she ministered to others across the country. She leaves behind a host of spiritual daughters and sons and a fellowship of dear friends from her places of worship - Rochester Heights Church of Christ, Raleigh, NC, Brooks Avenue Church of Christ, Raleigh, NC, Hillcrest Church of Christ, Decatur, GA and Stonecrest Church of Christ, McDonough, GA. At Stonecrest, she would fervently intercede for others in the Prayer Warrior Ministry with her dear sisters in Christ, Betty Simmons, Delia Prescod, and others. Affectionately known as "Mama Ann", we thank God for her well lived life.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR **29**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Stonecrest Church Of Christ
750 Mount Carmel Rd
Mc Donough, GA 30253

Another Celebration of life will be held in Raleigh, North Carolina in July 2023

Tribute Wall

HM

“*Liberated, unchained, reassured.
Motivated, unconstrained, self-assured.
Prepared, improved, confident.
Repaired, unmoved, content.
Appreciated, recognized, invited.
Emancipated, energized, reunited.*
- Henry Muldrow remembers Ann Hunt Smith

Henry Muldrow - May 18, 2023 at 03:35 PM

RW

“*Rosemarie J. Walton lit a candle in memory of
Ann Hunt Smith*



Rosemarie J. Walton - May 03, 2023 at 12:25 PM

DM

“*Our family gives thanks to the Lord for the influence of Ann in our
life. She was a source of encouragement and inspiration. Her
legacy lives on in lives of the many whom she influenced to follow
Christ. One of her favorite songs was “I Serve a Risen Savior.” And
that she did.* - David and Sandra Mills, Raleigh, NC

David Mills - May 02, 2023 at 05:51 AM

RA

“ *Rolanda L. Allison lit a candle in memory of Ann Hunt Smith*



Rolanda L. Allison - May 01, 2023 at 10:28 PM

YJ

“ *My heart is truly heavy, but I can find peace because knowing she had a beautiful relationship with our Heavenly Father I will see her again, her Sprit will forever live. She always called me her little cheerleader. Rest in Paradise you have earned your wings 🙏🙏*



Yolanda Simmons Johnson - April 29, 2023 at 04:23 AM

YJ

My Heart felt Condolences 🌸 gose out to her beautiful daughters Carol and Johnese, my God give you strength during your time of bereavement 🙏🙏

Yolanda Simmons Johnson - April 29, 2023 at 04:27 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ann Hunt Smith.*



April 28, 2023 at 06:58 PM

GH

“ Carol, Jonise and family, may God put His loving arms of protection around you all. We have missed her in Raleigh. I know you all have many fond memories of Ann. I am so thankful for her opening the door for us and our sisters and brothers of color at BACC church. My favorite memory of her outside of church, was inviting her to a sorority function as a fairly new inductee in the graduate chapter. I knew only a few chapter members. Ann walked around the room introducing me instead of vice versa. I left in awe, as a VA native who had only lived in Raleigh a few years, finding out how well known she was here. Rest in Peace, Ann.



Gwendolyn Hicks - April 28, 2023 at 04:01 PM

DY

“ My condolences to the family. Ann you will be truly missed.



dymond - April 28, 2023 at 03:03 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Ann Hunt Smith.



April 28, 2023 at 02:29 PM

EB

“ *Earlyn Baldwin lit a candle in memory of Ann Hunt Smith*



earlyn baldwin - April 28, 2023 at 12:00 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Ann Hunt Smith.*



April 28, 2023 at 11:10 AM

CC

“ *Cheryl M Caldwell lit a candle in memory of Ann Hunt Smith*



Cheryl M Caldwell - April 28, 2023 at 08:40 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ann Hunt Smith.*



April 28, 2023 at 08:12 AM

CW

“ To Carol and Joniese & their families, we all are deeply saddened and heartbroken by our first cousin, Ann's passing. Ann's life was lived with love and is an inspiration to us all. She will so dearly be missed by all who knew and loved her. Cousin Ann's visits to her New Jersey family in her younger years with her mother was always special to the Walker family. Ann's mom, Carol Walker Hunt, and our dad, John Henry Walker, Jr. were sister and brother. We will always carry our first cousin, Ann in our hearts. Our sincere condolences to Ann's beautiful family, who she loved so much. We pray that the fond memories of our loving cousin will be a comfort to all of us in the days ahead. She was truly special and touched many. We will always remember her for the kind and compassionate person she was. With Heartfelt Sympathy from Ann's first cousins originally from Orange, New Jersey, Cynthia, Rudy, and Sylvia Walker. Take your rest cousin Ann! You will never be forgotten!

Cynthia J Walker - April 27, 2023 at 10:30 PM

LS

“ Lee Rowley, Julia B. DuBose & Stacey purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Ann Hunt Smith.



Lee Rowley, Julia B. DuBose & Stacey - April 27, 2023 at 10:04 PM

JR

“ *Sister Ann Hunt Jones Smith meant so much to so many! There was no way to have ever come in contact with her and to remain the same. She lived out her faith and shared the love of Jesus with all. Sister Smith had a God-given gift of making "the least of these - the overlooked persons" - truly feel special. She was a devout prayer warrior, a wise counselor, and a friend who would stick closer than a sister or brother. She was special in my life and it is because of her helping me discover my musical talents that I found my place in music. She was a musical genius and our school always came back with the top honors at the Musical Awards across the state. It is because of her prayers and support that I came to realize and got confirmation again and again that God had called me into the Gospel Ministry. I was the preacher in the J.W. Ligon High School Jubilee Singers' Slave Pageant and later went on to preach and pastor.*

To her daughters and the rest of the family, the Shiloh Baptist Church Family of Henderson, N.C. join me in lifting each of you in prayer. and extending our deepest sympathy in your loss. Just know that this Servant of God now rests from her labor and she also is with the Lord. Amen!!!

*Joseph L. Ratliff, Pastor
Shiloh Baptist Church*

Joseph L. Ratliff - April 27, 2023 at 09:30 PM

MH

“ Mrs. Ann Hunt Jones and her Mother were instrumental in the Cultural Heritage and Spiritual Development for me and my sister Dr. Pearlette Pullen. As young women Mrs. Hunt Jones would take us to Wednesday night Bible Study and she never failed to let us get Krispy Kreme donuts afterwards! Her mother hated to hear the word get pronounced incorrectly so she instilled in us proper grammar early! Mrs. Jones the first Afrocentric woman we knew. Her dress attire was as stunning! Her melodic beautiful voice and beauty brought to life the true meaning of preservation of culture. Her storytelling ability was amazing! She has now earned her crown in Heaven! Carol and Jonise I pray for you both and your families to find peace and comfort! Love to all!

Marguerite Hardaway - April 27, 2023 at 11:33 AM

DW

“ I remember moving to a new school my 7th Grade year at East Garner Middle School and meeting my Chorus teacher. Mrs. Smith taught parts, posture, life skills and how to sing from your diaphragm and your heart as you give your audience a choral performance, but give God and your section members your very best! Mrs. Smith soon became the sunshine of each day! Her instructions became so real that the word's jumped off the page! And, to end that year, never ended her teachings. She left her imprint on my life. Music is in everything, uplifts everyone and makes one happy! I pray you Sleep in Heavenly Peace. You are truly the Queen of Music and My Heart!

-Rev. Dr. Lori M. Chappell-Green Washington

Dr. Lori M. Chappell-Green Washington - April 26, 2023 at 11:17 PM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Ann Hunt Smith.*



April 26, 2023 at 09:15 PM



“ *Deloris Williams lit a candle in memory of Ann Hunt Smith*



Deloris Williams - April 26, 2023 at 02:19 PM



“ *Shelia Maxwell lit a candle in memory of Ann Hunt Smith*



Shelia Maxwell - April 25, 2023 at 06:33 PM



“ *Janet Young lit a candle in memory of Ann Hunt Smith*



Janet Young - April 25, 2023 at 05:32 PM

SW

“ *A beautiful lady and wonderful teacher. I loved going to her class at JW Ligon. She always had kind words for you. Sandra Walker Williams*

Sandra Walker Williams - April 25, 2023 at 05:02 PM

BM

“ *Barbara P. Moss lit a candle in memory of Ann Hunt Smith*



Barbara P. Moss - April 25, 2023 at 03:19 PM

LJ

“ *Loria Johnson lit a candle in memory of Ann Hunt Smith*



Loria Johnson - April 25, 2023 at 02:51 PM

CM

“ *My sincere condolences are extended to the entire family of Ann. I have childhood memories of her as we were neighbors & she often referred to me as her little sister. We shared moments over the years at Ligon reunions. What a wonderful life Ann led and she will be missed. May God be your constant guide through this difficult time. Hold on to sweet memories and your love for her and each other. May Ann rest in Eternal peace.*



Charlsea Morgan - April 24, 2023 at 10:01 PM

MS

May you find comfort in knowing your loved one is with God resting in perfect peace.

Mabel Wynne Steele - April 26, 2023 at 06:02 PM

CM

“ *Charlsea Morgan lit a candle in memory of Ann Hunt Smith*



Charlsea Morgan - April 24, 2023 at 09:51 PM

AH

“ *My sincere condolences to you the family. What a wonderful person she was to me.*



Angie Hockaday - April 24, 2023 at 09:18 PM

DW

“ *Dr Wanda Williams lit a candle in memory of Ann Hunt Smith*



Dr Wanda Williams - April 24, 2023 at 09:08 PM

KM

“ Kenny Montgomery lit a candle in memory of Ann Hunt Smith



Kenny Montgomery - April 24, 2023 at 08:24 PM

BR

“ Barbara Rucker lit a candle in memory of Ann Hunt Smith



Barbara Rucker - April 24, 2023 at 07:48 PM

YC

“ I remember when I was teaching some new music to The Living Stones, Mama Anne said" Since you are singing that note, you must choose this note to go with that one." So, you all how hard headed I am. I chose a different note and she looked at me and said, " Sounds good!" Lol She was music mentor to so many. I will miss her dearly.

Yolanda Calhoun - April 24, 2023 at 06:08 PM

JA

“ Johnnie R Arrington lit a candle in memory of Ann Hunt Smith



Johnnie R Arrington - April 24, 2023 at 05:11 PM

CP

“ Carolyn Peterson lit a candle in memory of Ann Hunt Smith



Carolyn Peterson - April 24, 2023 at 03:52 PM

SB

“ Beautiful Lady and a Beautiful Prayer Warrior!

Shirley Barclay - April 24, 2023 at 01:58 PM

SH

“ Shirley Hunter lit a candle in memory of Ann Hunt Smith



Shirley Hunter - April 24, 2023 at 01:27 PM

AA

“ Alicia Adcock lit a candle in memory of Ann Hunt Smith



Alicia Adcock - April 24, 2023 at 01:00 PM

AH

“ *Ann Tomlinson Hodges lit a candle in memory of Ann Hunt Smith*



Ann Tomlinson Hodges - April 24, 2023 at 01:00 PM

J1

“ *JW Ligon, 1967 lit a candle in memory of Ann Hunt Smith*



JW Ligon, 1967 - April 24, 2023 at 12:07 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Ann Hunt Smith.*



April 24, 2023 at 09:16 AM

PW

“ *Pamela Wilson lit a candle in memory of Ann Hunt Smith*



Pamela Wilson - April 24, 2023 at 09:02 AM

PW

“ . Ann Smith encourage me during my high schools years, she was always so positive. Prayers for the family, 🙏

Pamela Wilson - April 24, 2023 at 09:01 AM

TA

“ Teresa Edger Abron lit a candle in memory of Ann Hunt Smith



Teresa Edger Abron - April 24, 2023 at 08:30 AM

IF

“ I called her Aunt Ann because my cousin Jackie called her Aunt Ann. She came to our church: Christ of Calvary Church in Philadelphia more than once with her solo performance of God's Word. It was an awesome betrayal of the Word that continued to bless the Church long after she was gone. The dance, the music and songs have never been forgotten. She was truly a Woman of God and will be remembered. ❤️ to the Family

Ida Flanders - April 24, 2023 at 06:55 AM

PR

“ Patricia Williams Farrar & Family Raleigh lit a candle in memory of Ann Hunt Smith



Patricia Williams Farrar & Family Raleigh - April 24, 2023 at 01:20 AM

CJ

“ *Ann Hunt Jones Smith was absolutely an amazing woman of GOD. Her amazing gift and passion for music was absolutely phenomenal. I sincerely extend my sincere and heartfelt condolences to her daughters during this very difficult time of bereavement. May peace and comfort prevail.*

Claude A Lee Jr - April 23, 2023 at 10:30 PM

DP

“ *Dawanna Poole lit a candle in memory of Ann Hunt Smith*



Dawanna Poole - April 23, 2023 at 09:21 PM

DP

I would like express my sincere condolences for the family. May the good Lord provide peace and comfort during this difficult time. 🙏🙏

Dawanna Poole - April 23, 2023 at 09:24 PM

DF

“ *Moma Ann Jones will always be remembered by her soft voice and beautiful smile ❤️💔❤️
Gone but never forgotten. My heart goes out to her family 🙏❤️💔❤️🙏*



Delores Kittrell and Family - April 23, 2023 at 09:20 PM

JR

“ *Juanita Ratliff lit a candle in memory of Ann Hunt Smith*



Juanita Ratliff - April 23, 2023 at 09:03 PM

TR

“ *Mrs. Smith will always be the reason I had enough courage to sing in front of a crowd.* 🙏🕊️❤️



Tilola Mitchell Robinson - April 23, 2023 at 08:03 PM

LW

“ *My condolences to the family, Momma Ann was a Momma to me, no matter what I went through she was always always right there with encouragement, some motherly advice and sometimes she would stuff some change in my purse,,as tears fell when I heard this my heart felt like it stopped, I will always always love her, and, it's a joy to know she's going up yonder to be with our Lord....Love all of you*



Lisa Walker - April 23, 2023 at 07:51 PM

MN

“ *Marilyn Sanders Raleigh NC lit a candle in memory of Ann Hunt Smith*



Marilyn Sanders Raleigh NC - April 23, 2023 at 07:34 PM

DM

“ *So sorry for your loss and I will keep you and your family in prayer 🙏*



Donald Mial - April 23, 2023 at 07:15 PM

FC

“ *Faye Cox Chaplin lit a candle in memory of Ann Hunt Smith*



Faye Cox Chaplin - April 23, 2023 at 06:56 PM

SJ

“ *Shonda Jones Johnson lit a candle in memory of Ann Hunt Smith*



Shonda Jones Johnson - April 23, 2023 at 06:41 PM

DC

“ *Denise Craven-Horton lit a candle in memory of Ann Hunt Smith*



Denise Craven-Horton - April 23, 2023 at 06:38 PM

DF

“ *God grant eternal peace and rest to a most kind and gentle spirit. I am better for havng known you. Condolences and prayers fo comfort to the family. She is sleeping.*



Diann E. Freeman - April 23, 2023 at 06:24 PM

JW

“ *Snow Camp Historical Drama. If there was one song from that play that I saw her passion most was the song "Wade in the Water". She was such an inspiration to all those actors and singers. I am fortunate that our paths crossed while performing in The Sword of Peace and know she was a true icon.*



Jeff Wells - April 23, 2023 at 06:06 PM

RB

“ *Rosalyn Williams Bell lit a candle in memory of Ann Hunt Smith*



Rosalyn Williams Bell - April 23, 2023 at 04:43 PM

GB

“ My condolences to the family.



Gwendolyn Bates Boykin - April 23, 2023 at 04:37 PM

SH

“ My thoughts and prayers are with Carol, Joniese and their families. Ann was a second mother to all of the children who lived on Jones Street in Raleigh! God bless you mama Ann 🙏🙏🙏

Sheril Holt - April 23, 2023 at 03:25 PM

FP

Send thoughts and prayers to the family. I am a former student of Ms Hunt-Smirh at Ligon High School. I visited her at her home on State Street when I will come back home to visit in Raleigh. She was an encourager and a listener as we reflect back of the blessings of the Lord. Ms. Hunt-Smith life has spoken for her, now is laid up for her a crown of righteousness. Enter into the joys of the Lord.

Francine Chambers Pierce - April 23, 2023 at 04:02 PM

SR

My thoughts and prayers are with Carol & Anthony and Joniese & Greg along with their families. Like my sister said, Ms. Ann was a second mother to all of us children who grew up on Jones Street in Raleigh. Such a blessing to have talked to her and to hear her speak of her Great-Grandchildren with so much love. Her legacy will live on through her love and spirit. Rest in peace!

Stephanie H. Riddick - April 23, 2023 at 04:02 PM

BK

*My thoughts and prayers are with the family my sweet music teacher loved with her whole heart. I will forever be grateful for every song she taught us at J W Ligon. Directing us with grace and love. No one has ever conducted "**Peace Be Still**" like Ann Hunt Smith and no one ever will. That song has stayed in my spirit since high school and I had the opportunity to tell her that when she came to Nashville with Joniese and her family to enroll her precious granddaughter Jewell at The Tennessee State University. Oh, what a heavenly choir God will have now! You will be missed but never forgotten by this student. ❤️*

Brenda Hatfield Kirk - April 23, 2023 at 08:20 PM

AH

My condolences go out to family and may she Rest In Heavenly Peace 🕊️

Annette M Holland - April 25, 2023 at 01:36 PM

JD

My fondest memory of Aunt Ann and Ligon High was the day she asked me to stay a few minutes after music class. We sat beside one another at the piano and she started to speak in her soft comforting tone. She said one day when I have children and it's a girl would you mind if I name her Johnese. I'll probably change the spelling but I sure do love your name. And she did get her girl and named her Joniese. She will always be in my spirit and heart. With much love Johnese T. DuBois

Johnese T. DuBois - April 28, 2023 at 09:11 AM