



## Rev. William A. Bynes Sr.

February 20, 1920 - February 5, 2016

The Reverend William A. Bynes, Sr., born in Macon, Georgia, February 24, 1920, was the 4th child born to Chester Arthur Bynes and Alice Kelsey Bynes (Walker). He spent his young years in Millen, GA and later moved to New Jersey to join his family. Although he had other intentions of how he would spend his life, the Lord had a much greater plan in mind. His mother, who was a member of Bethel Church of God in Christ (COGIC) at that time, relentlessly prayed and begged “Honey” (the nickname given by his family) to come and visit Bethel. He finally agreed to go to church to appease his mom and surprisingly decided to answer the altar call that night. His life was changed forever!

In the early 40s he was drafted into the U.S. Army and had to unfortunately leave the new found love of his life, Elconia Smith. Although, he was in line for a promotion if he chose to enlist, his heart was in New Brunswick so he returned to make wedding plans. On July 2, 1944, William and Elconia were joined together in holy matrimony in the home that they unknowingly would be residing 40 years later.

Young Bro. Bynes was not only very dedicated as a husband but became very active at Bethel COGIC and was totally “sold out” to his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He first became an usher, followed by the Y.P.W.W. Local President. The Lord called him into the ministry in the late 40s and as a young minister was chosen to serve as the Middlesex District Y. P. W. W. President. Simultaneously, during this era, Elder Bynes was also being recognized as the first African-American to be employed by Suburban Transit Bus Co. as a driver and was given their top line New York express run. In addition to his varied occupations as a weatherman, tailor, photograph salesman and contractor, he was appointed Assistant Pastor at Bethel and later installed as Pastor by the late Bishop B. M. Keith in 1964. Shortly after becoming Pastor, he became active in the local Pastoral Alliance and accepted the position as Treasurer. Prior to retirement, he briefly served as Chairman of the Ordination Board, under Bishop Martin L. Johnson of the 1st Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of New Jersey. Pastor Bynes served faithfully and tirelessly for 40 years and retired in 2003. He was a very strong supporter of his community, has been involved in numerous civic functions, and held various responsibilities within cross-denominational organizations as well as his own.

He was predeceased by his loving wife, Elconia, his siblings, Edna Forbes, Dr. Allene

Gilmore, and his brother, Samuel, Sr. However, there are many he leaves to celebrate his life: his children, William A. Jr. (Constance), New Brunswick, NJ; Karen Linette Parker (John), Falmouth, VA; Kevin Eugene (Charlesetta), Somerset, NJ; and Glenn Layne (Kate), Bethlehem, PA., 15 grandchildren, and a host of great grandchildren. Others who will miss him dearly include one sister-in-law, Bernice Witherspoon, Somerset, NJ; one brother-in-law, Cecil Smith of Linden, NJ, a host relatives and friends.

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble... the Lord of Host is with us, the God of Jacob is our Refuge!

# Cemetery Details

## Franklin Memorial Park

1800 Route 27  
North Brunswick, NJ

## Previous Events

### Visitation

FEB 12. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Bethel COGIC  
141 Comstock Street  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

### Visitation

FEB 13. 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens  
771 Somerset Street  
Somerset, NJ 08873  
<http://www.fbcsonerset.com>

### Service

FEB 13. 9:30 AM - 11:15 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens  
771 Somerset Street  
Somerset, NJ 08873  
<http://www.fbcsonerset.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Rev. William A. Bynes Sr.*

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September 22, 2022 at 02:41 PM



“ *Deborah Anderson lit a candle in memory of Rev. William A. Bynes Sr.*



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**Deborah Anderson** - February 12, 2016 at 12:03 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Rev. William A. Bynes Sr..*



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February 11, 2016 at 09:31 PM