God has his plans, and what if we with our sight be too blind to see Their full fruition; cannot he, who made it, solve the mystery? One whom we loved has fall'n asleep, not died; although her calm be deep, some new, unknown, and strange surprise in Heaven holds enrapt her eyes.

And can you blame her that her gaze is turned away from earthly ways, when to her eyes God's light and love have giv'n the view of things above? A gentle spirit sweetly good, the pearl of precious womanhood; Who heard the voice of duty clear, and found her mission soon and near.

She loved all nature, flowers fair, the warmth of sun, the kiss of air. The birds that filled the sky with song, the stream that laughed its way along. Her home to her was shrine and throne; but one love held her not alone; She sought our poverty and grief, who touched her robe and found relief.

So sped she in her Master's work, too busy and too brave to shirk, When through the silence, dusk and dim, God called her and she fled to him. We wonder at the early call, and tears of sorrow can but fall; for her o'er whom we spread the pall; but faith, sweet faith, is over all.

The house is dust, the voice is dumb, but through undying years to come, the spark that glowed within her soul shall light our footsteps to the goal. She went her way; but oh, she trod the path that led her straight to God. Such lives as this put death to scorn; they lose our day to find God's morn.

Paul Dunbar

When peace, like a river attendeth my way
When sorrow like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me say,
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

Floral Bearers
Nieces

Pall Bearers

Nephews

Acknowledgement

The family would like to extend our deepest gratitude and appreciation for the many kind acts that has been shown during the lost of our loved one.

Arrangements Were Entrusted to:

Gregory Funeral Service, Inc. | 601 N. York Street Gastonia, North Carolina 28052 704-867-4364 www.gregoryfuneralservice.com

A Life Well Lived Celebrating the Life and Legacy of

Mrs. Clara B. Ross Watson

Sunrise January 13, 1932

Sunset July 26, 2023



Monday, July 31, 2023 12:00 Noon

Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church 5569 Indian Creek Primitive Church Vale, North Carolina Elder John Hunt, Pastor

Rev. Dr. Pierre Crawford, Officiating Center Baptist Church, Gastonia, NC

Order of Service



Selection Sammie Ross Prayer of Invocation Rev. Melvin R. Ross Old Testament Hosea 13:14 Joy L. Ganes New Testament 1 Thes. 4:13-14; Rev. 21:4 Eric F. Hill Obituary Reading Sharon Ross Kimberly E. Zouzoua Selection Reflections Velma Bostic Bernard Hill Rev. Dr. Pierre Crawford Ross Siblings Selection Elder John Hunt Eulogy Pastor, Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church, Vale, NC Benediction Recessional "When We All Get to Heaven"

> Interment Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery Vale, North Carolina



Clara B. Ross Watson peacefully departed this earthly life in the early morning hours on July 26, 2023 at the age of 91.

Clara was born on January 13, 1932 to Jerry Ross and Annie M. Clemons Ross in Lincolnton, North Carolina, where she was the fifth of 16 children.

She is proceeded in death by her siblings: Margaret Ross, Joann Ross, Thurman Ross, Wardell Ross, Jesse Ross, Gene Ross, George Ross, Pauline Hill, and Eula Mae Hammond.

Always an adventurous and independent spirit, Clara left North Carolina and moved to New York at the young age of 17. Wanderlust had her moving to California before returning to New York, where she later married Willie M. Watson. From that union, she birthed her only child, a beautiful baby girl.

Clara held various jobs until she obtained her Nursing Certificate and became a Nurse's Aide. She worked in that role for many years at Coney Island Hospital in Brooklyn, New York until her retirement.

Having accepted Christ at a young age, Clara always, always loved serving in the church. When she relocated to New York, she joined Mount Lebanon Baptist Church in Brooklyn, where she was a member of the Inspirational Chorus, Sunday School, and Missionary Society. Because the travel to Brooklyn became too much for her, she later moved her membership to Emmanuel Baptist Church in Elmont, New York. There she was an active member of the Senior Ministry. Later after a move to Gastonia, NC, she became a member of Center Baptist Church until her health began to fail

Clara was a true missionary in every sense of the word. She had dynamic roles in her church serving on various committees, and she was always helping and encouraging people. She offered her home to those needing shelter, and visited the sick and shut-in. She always served as that listening ear, encouraging people and letting them know that with God, nothing is impossible.

Fiery, fun, and possessing an uninhibited spirit, Clara loved to sing, dance, and have fun. She so enjoyed and loved her family. She was always "dressed" for the occasion – especially with that special and distinct hat, sure to set off an outfit "just right." An independent woman with a strong belief in Christ, she accomplished a great deal in this life.

Clara leaves to mourn: a loving daughter, Kimberly E. Zouzoua (Charlotte, NC); two grandsons: Nisré M. Zouzoua (Spain) and Niadré M. Zouzoua (Boston, MA); three sisters: Velma Bostic (Cincinnati, OH), Shirley Ganes and Verline Ross (Gastonia, NC); three brothers: Jerry Ross, Jr. and wife Marion and Sammie Ross and wife Margaret Ann (Denver, NC), and Rev. Melvin Ray Ross and wife Maria (Gastonia, NC); a special niece, Joy L. Ganes and husband Reggie Martin (Los Angeles, CA); Best Friend Nezzie B. Mumford (Queens, NY) and a host of other nieces and nephews.

Clara was a beautiful person inside and out. She was our gracious, brave, caring, and generous wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend. Her stunning smile would light up a whole room. She cared so deeply for the people around her. She was kind and made an impact on many lives. Her heart and body of this world may have failed but her spirit was stubbornly strong and lives on in Heaven and in our precious memories. She will be forever missed.