

Celebration of Life

For

Estelle Thorpe Freeland Belcher

Sunrise
April 10, 1915

Sunset
March 12, 2012



SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2012
2:00 P.M.

WHITE ROCK BAPTIST CHURCH
3400 Fayetteville Street
Durham, North Carolina 27707

Dr. Reginald Van Stephens, Pastor, *Officiating*

The Journey

Estelle Thorpe Freeland Belcher was born in Durham, North Carolina on the tenth day of April in 1915. She departed this life on the twelfth day of March in the year 2012. She was the daughter of Ulysses and Minnie Thorpe, deceased, and the wife of the late Attorney Nathaniel Belcher.

She grew up in Durham and attended the city school system graduating from Hillside High School where she was a typical student. Her favorite subjects were Latin, Algebra, and music with the late Teresa Claggett. After completing High School, Estelle enrolled at North Carolina College where she earned both Bachelor's and Masters degrees. She then accepted employment with the city school system as a librarian and completed thirty-four years of devoted service.

Her interests were numerous and varied. They spanned such subjects as plants and flowers to national politics with items such as collecting objects of art and the study of law in between. She seriously considered enrolling in law school after her retirement.

She found Christ at an early age and became a member of White Rock Baptist Church. She was a member of the choir for more than 50 years, served as a children's church worker during Sunday service and was a member of the Susie V. Norfleet Bible Class. She was a member of the Board of Christian Education and served in the Diaconate Ministry.

Estelle was very much interested in what was going on in the world around her both far away and nearby. When President Obama was elected in 2008, she could hardly contain her delight. She was a member of the Board of Elections for Shepard precinct #42 and also a member of the Durham Committee on Affairs of Black People. Her membership and participation in groups and organizations such as those kept her occupied and alert. Some other organizations contributing to her busy life were her membership in the Tuesday Morning Study Group, board member of the American Cancer Society, Trustee of the Durham County Library, Board Member of the Merrick/Washington magazine for the Blind, Board member of (WIAPVC), Women in Action for the Prevention of Violence and its causes, member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., The Bridge-A-Detts Bridge Club, and the Barristers Wives. Her life was long and productive. During her later years when she increasingly needed care and support, she found it in her sister-in-law Lula G Thorpe and her niece Miriam Yvonne Rush (Gerald). One or the other, and often both, seemed to always be there for her.

Along with them, Estelle leaves behind to mourn her loss, one brother, Dr. Claiburne Thorpe (Vivian) of Greensboro, NC, one brother-in-law, Daniel Joseph Belcher (Ferretta) of Lynchburg, VA, five sisters-in-law, Francis Thorpe of Brooklyn, NY, Audrey Thorpe of Silver Springs, Maryland, Odessa Belcher of Plymouth, NC, Eunice Belcher of Brooklyn, NY, Joyce Matthews (Artie) of Raleigh, NC and a host of nieces and nephews.



Hall Bearers

Diaconate Ministry



Floral Bearers

Diaconate Ministry

Shepard Womack Williams Mission Circle

Durham Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Bridge-A-Dettes Bridge Club

Tuesday Morning Study Group

I REMEMBER

*I remember so long ago.
When I was too young to
go to school.*

*Being taught by you, the
things to do.*

To keep the golden rule

*I remember so long ago
The stories you use to tell,
Of forest so green and the
Kings and the queens and
Creatures that within them
Did dwell.*

*Now the long night has fallen,
And the shadows have come, to
Cover the hills and the dale.
Those memories won't fade, though
Shadows cover the glade,
Sleep well dear sister, rest well.*

Brother to Big Sister

Acknowledgement

The family acknowledges and deeply appreciates the many acts of kindness shown to us during the illness and subsequent death of our loved one. May God bless each of you and continue to keep you in His care. - The Family

Arrangements by



Fisher Funeral Parlor

3137 Fayetteville Street -- Durham, NC 27707 (919) 682-3276