

Pallbearers

Zachary Braxton
Mark Clark
Bryan Evans
Maurice Faust, Jr.
Brice Gilleylen
Marlon Lee
Jerome Turner

Michael Chisholm
Gregory "Jay" Cole, Jr.
Christopher Faust.
Jeremiah Flowers
Cyrano Greer, Jr.
Dante Mitchell
Steve White

Flower Bearers Friends of the Family

Arrangements Entrusted by

JAMES H. COLE HOME FOR FUNERALS, INC.

2624 West Grand Bld., Detroit, Michigan 48208 - 313.873.0771
16100 Schaefer Hwy., Detroit, Michigan 48235 - 313.835.3997

Interment

UNITED MEMORIAL GARDENS

4800 Curtis Rd., Plymouth, Michigan 48178 - 734-454-9448

Thank You

Dear Loved Ones and Friends

This has been a very difficult time for us, but our faith in God and the kindness of you, our family and friends, has brought us much peace and comfort. We all are deeply appreciative of the many expressions of love, and are especially grateful for your prayers and presence. A special thank you to our Second Ebenezer Church, Kingdom International COGIC Family, Christian Gospel Center COGIC, Hartford Memorial Baptist Church Family, Hope UMC Family, Bishop Andre Woods, Dr. E. LaQuint Weaver, All Musicians, Singers, Carla M. Cole and the James H. Cole Home for Funerals Family along with our many friends for your outpouring of love. Please continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers.

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Forever in our Hearts
Dr. Carolyn J. Cole

November 13, 1959 - February 23, 2023

Saturday, March 4, 2023
Family Hour: 10:00 AM - Home Going Service : 11:00 AM
Second Ebenezer Church
14601 Dequindre Street - Detroit, Michigan 48212
Host Pastor: Bishop Edgar L. Vann

Reflections

Carolyn Janice Cole was born on November 13, 1959 to the union of Cleveland and Janet Cole. She was the second child of her siblings, Gregory and Reginald Cole; they were raised in Detroit, MI in a loving yet God fearing environment. As the daughter of two musicians, she often heard music played throughout the home on a regular basis, whether by piano, organ or on the record player. Her dad was known for performing private concerts on many nights, playing the piano or organ while singing traditional songs and the hymns of the church.

At a young age, Carolyn gave her life to the Lord while growing up at Miller Memorial Church of God in Christ, under the pastoral leadership of the late Bishop U.E. Miller and the late Bishop Earl J. Wright, Sr. She was quite involved and participated in many ministries including: the Sunshine Band, Purity Class, Sunday School, Young People Willing Workers (Y.P.W.W.), and the Youth Choir. It was at Miller where her musical career initially began. When she was about seven years old, her mother, (the church musician at that time), gave Carolyn her first two solos with the choir singing, "Whiter Than Snow" and "Stretch Out." She was also very active at her grandfather's church, where she directed her first choir at the age of eight (Holy Temple C.O.G.I.C., pastored by the late Eld. James Spearman). Later on, Carolyn was introduced to a much larger audience when The International Sunday School Convention of the Church of God in Christ was held here in Detroit, Michigan at The Adlai Stevenson Building; it was there that she made her national debut with the youth choir, singing the solo "I Love Jesus More Than All" under the capable leadership of her first idol and eventual Gospel music mentor, Mr. Ronald Kersey.

Carolyn's parents were responsible for not only inspiring her but igniting her passion for music so at an early age, she followed in their footsteps and began taking piano lessons. They sought out a music teacher from around the neighborhood to teach her how to read music, however they soon discovered that Carolyn was not applying the discipline of actually reading the music, but rather memorizing it and playing by ear instead. With that being the case, Carolyn's parents wanted to cultivate this skill and sought the services of Mr. Ronald Kersey, who would allow her to learn by ear.

At the tender age of ten, Carolyn started playing for her first church, Grace Temple Church of God in Christ under the late Eld. James Taylor. It was under his leadership that she received the gift of the Holy Ghost. With an eagerness to expand her musical ability, Carolyn continued her music studies with her second gospel music teacher, Mr. Irving Williams of Greater Grace Temple of the Apostolic Faith. It was at that moment that she received the chance to sit under the musical genius, Ms. Beverly Glenn who became her second idol. Ms. Glenn gave Carolyn the chance to play for her choir, "The Beverly Glenn Concert Chorale" and with the late Min. Thomas A. Whitfield, also known as "The Maestro."

In June of 1977, Carolyn graduated from Chadsey High school; she then went on to graduate with secretarial skills from the Detroit Business School in 1980. She worked as a secretary for the Mayflower Baptist church during her teen years and would later go on to work in both, the Fur Department at Hudson's and as a medical biller at the Regency Center Nursing Home.

Carolyn went on to join the "The Michigan State Community Choir," as a musician and played in her first recording session under the anointed leadership of the late Dr. Mattie Moss Clark. A few years later, she was presented with the opportunity of a lifetime in playing for several of Rev. Donald R. Vails' choirs: "The Donald Vails Choraleers," "The Voices of Deliverance" and "The Christian Community Choir" as well as many others. He saw something in her that she didn't quite see in herself and allowed Carolyn to accompany his choirs on several of their Gospel albums.

God continued to open other doors for Carolyn as she was blessed with opportunities to play with "The Testimonial Singers" (better known today as "The Winans"), the late Rev. Charles H. Nicks, Jr. and The National Baptist Convention Mass Choir and Mr. Jimmy Dowell and the St. James Baptist Church choirs. By the time she reached her twenties, she had worked with countless more including Dr. W. James Abington and the Hartford Young Adult Choir, Jubilee Chorus, the Women's Chorus; the Dr. Dorgan Nedom and the Unity Baptist Church Music Department; The Gospel Music Workshop of America; and the "The Michael Fletcher Chorale." She also played both the organ and keyboards on the first three albums of Mr. Ronald Winans.

To my wonderful Auntie Carol,

You know I love you more than words could ever describe. I pride myself in saying you are one of five women in my life that I believe helped shape who I am today. The gratitude I have for you always showering us with unconditional love and being the most remarkable aunt anyone could ask for is intangible. Our running joke was we got off on the wrong foot but you hung in there until I grew wiser and I'm so glad you did. Your strength, perseverance, and diligence has made such an impact on my life. There has never been a moment in my life you haven't been present for, you have always fought tirelessly to be there front and center. I have so many memories of us that bring me comfort as I come to terms with this new reality. I will truly miss our conversations about any and everything but ultimately I will miss you. I find so much comfort in knowing you are free from pain and resting in the arms of Jesus. Love you so much Auntie.

Your baby niece, Taylor





Aunty, there's so much I can say about how much you've impacted my life. Not only did your talents, gifts, and independence captivate who you were, but also it was your style and grace that motivated me to become the GT (Good Thyng) that I am today. I'm going to miss your laughs and your love. Thank you for naming me the best unique name to the fullest in memory. Keep resting Queen, I Love You. I miss you so much. You know how I am about death, although I know to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.

Love your Firstborn Niece
Nikki

Not only did her music ministry allow her to showcase her gift locally, but it also afforded her the chance to share what God gave her to those afar as well: One of her greatest honors was ministering at the Vista Maria Home for Girls here in Detroit and traveling as far as Trinidad and the Bahamas for a world-wide crusade with Dr. Leonard Lyons and Mr. Duane Grant. Carolyn has rendered her gift to numerous churches across the metro Detroit area, including:

Grace Temple C.O.G.I.C., the late Eld. James C. Taylor, Pastor

Greater St. Matthews Baptist Church, the late Rev. O.E. Dixon, Pastor

Mayflower Baptist Church, Rev. Samuel Turner Sr., Pastor

Prince of Peace Baptist Church, Rev. James Flakes, Pastor

Corinthian Baptist Church, Rev. Joseph R. Jordan, Pastor

Hartford Memorial Baptist Church, Dr. Charles G. Adams, Pastor

Straight Gate Church, Bishop Andrew Merritt, Pastor

Palestine Baptist Church, the late Rev. Samuel Ward. Jr., Pastor

Hope United Methodist Church, Dr. Carlyle Fielding Stewart, III, Pastor

During Carolyn's years at Palestine Baptist Church, "The Concert Choir" was awarded first place in the McDonald's Gospel Fest competition in 1983 and after that success, they went on to record two albums. In April of 1987, Carolyn appeared in an issue of "Totally Gospel" Magazine, published by Rev. Tyrone Hemphill. She was also featured on the Gospel music program "God Sounds" alongside one of the country's finest musicians, Mr. Herbert Pickard, which was hosted by Mrs. Deborah Smith Pollard of Channel 4 WDIV in the city of Detroit.

Carolyn worked at several metro Detroit funeral homes as a Chapel Organist: Stinson's Funeral Home, Thompson Funeral Home, Swanson's Funeral Home, Jeter Memorial Funeral Home, and O.H. Pye Funeral Home.

She also worked as both a Receptionist and Chapel Organist for the James H. Cole Funeral Home Northwest Chapel location, where she had been employed for nearly 30 years. In 2023, Carolyn became a member of Kingdom International C.O.G.I.C. under the leadership of General Board member of the Church of God In Christ, Inc, Bishop Michael E. Hill, Sr.

Throughout the years, Carolyn has a multitude of achievements and received numerous awards, including "The Spirit of Detroit" and "The Maestro" awards. She had always mentioned that she was patiently waiting for the day she received her greatest reward yet: and that was when the Master would say "Well done, good and faithful servant; thou have been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." Matthew 25:23, KJV

On Thursday morning, February 23, 2023, Carolyn took her final rest and reunited in heaven with her parents, Cleveland and Janet Cole. She leaves behind to cherish in her loving memory: brothers: Gregory Sr (Dorinda) Cole, Reginald (Taranetta) Cole; nephew: Gregory Cole Jr; nieces: Nikkia (Dion Sr) Beach, Krysten (Cyrano Jr) Greer, Taylor Cole; great nephews: Dion Beach Jr, Cyrano Greer III; great niece: Kashmir Beach; her lifelong friends: Gail Washington, Denise McClellon, DeShawn Dozier, Jesse Douglas, Felecia Hill, Dr. E. LaQuint Weaver, Bishop Andre Woods, Larry Kitchen and a host of relatives and friends.



Order of Service

MASTERY OF CEREMONY
 Pastor Ronald Alexander
 Greater Blessed Peace Tabernacle

Processional-----	Carolyn J. Cole Memorial Choir
Family's Final Viewing - Closing Bier -----	James H. Cole for Funerals Staff
Prayer -----	Elder Maurice Faust
Old Scripture -----	Elder Tyrone Peterson
New Scriptures -----	Elder Brice Gilleylen, Sr.
Choir Selection -----	Carolyn J. Cole Memorial Choir
Remarks: (3 minutes)-----	Denise McClellon Pastor Rochelle Richardson Restoration Christian Fellowship Church, Winston-Salem, NC DeShawn Dozier
Choir Selection -----	Carolyn J. Cole Memorial Choir
Remarks: (3 minutes)-----	Rev. Charles H. Adams, Pastor Hartford Memorial Baptist Church Dr. Carlyle Fieding Stewart, III Hope United Methodist Church Bishop Edgar L. Van, Pastor Second Ebenezer Church Dr. E. Laquint Weaver Deacon Joyce Hutcherson Palenstine Missionary Baptist Church
Choir Selection -----	Carolyn J. Cole Memorial Choir
Acknowledgement of cards, Telegrams and Condolences-----	Sister Gloria Scott
Obituary -----	(read in silent)
Choir Selection -----	Carolyn J. Cole Memorial Choir
Family Tributes -----	Cole Family
Remarks and Introduction of the Eulogist -----	Bishop Marcus Ways, Pastor Christian Gospel Center COGIC Prelate of Michigan Southwest First Jurisdiction COGIC
Sermonic Solo -----	First Lady-Evangelist Sederia Butler-Williams
Eulogy -----	Bishop Michael E. Hill, Sr. Pastor, Kingdom International COGIC Prelate of Great Lakes First Jurisdiction of Michigan General Board Member of the Churches of God in Christ, Inc.
Recessional	