

Celebrating the  
Life and Legacy of

*Elaine  
Burton*

October 20, 1954 - April 08, 2020

(Virtual)

**HOMEGOING  
CELEBRATION**

**Wednesday,  
April 15, 2020**

**Viewing: 12:00 PM**

**Homegoing Service: 1:00 PM**





## *Order of Service*

Organ Prelude

Soloist ..... Latonya Johnson-Crawford  
Friendship Baptist Church

Scripture Readings ..... Talmadge J. Thomas, Senior Pastor  
Old Testament: Psalm 90:1-12  
New Testament: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Prayer ..... Talmadge J. Thomas, Senior Pastor

Soloist ..... Latonya Johnson-Crawford  
Friendship Baptist Church

Acknowledgement of ..... Cassandra Day  
Condolences/Obituary

Remarks (2 minutes, please).. Samantha Nance, Daughter  
Grandchildren  
LeAnna Burton, Daughter

Soloist ..... Latonya Johnson-Crawford  
Friendship Baptist Church

Eulogy ..... Talmadge J. Thomas, Senior Pastor

Committal ..... Talmadge J. Thomas, Senior Pastor

Recessional

Organ Postlude

A background of soft-focus yellow orchids with green leaves, creating a warm and gentle atmosphere.

## *Letter from Heaven*

When tomorrow starts without me, and I'm not here to see,  
if the sun should rise and find your eyes, filled with tears for me.

I wish so much you wouldn't cry, the way you did today,  
while thinking of the many things we didn't get to say.

I know how much you love me, as much as I love you,  
and each time you think of me, I know you'll miss me too.

When tomorrow starts without me, don't think we're far apart,  
For every time you think of me, I'm right there in your heart.

## *I'm Free*

Don't grieve for me, for now I am free;  
I'm following the path God laid for me.

I took his hand when I heard him call;  
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day,  
to laugh, to love, to work or play.

Tasks left undone must stay that way;  
I found that peace at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void,  
then fill it with a remembered joy.

A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
aah yes, these things, I too, will miss.

Be not burdened with the times of sorrow;  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.

My life's been full, I've savored much;  
good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief;  
don't lengthen it now, with undue grief.

Lift up your hearts and share with me  
God wanted me now, for HE SET ME FREE!



## *Obituary*

Mrs. Elaine (James) Burton was born on October 20, 1954 in Toledo, OH to the union of the late Oliver and Anna James. Elaine made her transition from earth to heaven on Wednesday, April 08, 2020 peacefully at home. She married her one and only husband, Larry D. Burton. They share three loving daughters.

Elaine professed her hope in Christ at an early age when she joined Morning Star Baptist Church, under the leadership of the late Reverend A.D. Eggleston and Cornelius Byers. After uniting in holy matrimony on August 3, 1974 to Larry D. Burton, they recently celebrated 45 years of marriage this past August. Elaine became a devoted member of The City of Zion, Mount Zion Church in 2000, under the pastorate of Talmadge J. Thomas, she referred to him as her “Beloved Pastor.”

At the early age of 12, Elaine taught the youth Sunday School at Morning Star Baptist Church. This was just the beginning of her devoted life to God’s service and the church. Her walk with Christ was further developed and enhanced, as she carried the torch from Sis. Esther P. Burton. She humbly served the Lord with her time, talents, and resources, by sharing the Word of God with others at the City-Wide Fellowship worship experiences and throughout the state. Elaine lived a life that was a true example of a Christian woman. She exuded a radiant and genuine spirit which touched those who she encountered. Over the years, Elaine served as a choir member, Director of Christian Education Ministry, coordinated annual Bible Institutes and Evangelism Explosions. Elaine was adamant that everyone has a personal relationship with the Lord. That was her motto!

Elaine was a proud graduate of the Libbey “Cowboys” High School, Class of 1972. Elaine was employed at The Toledo Hospital in the

Dining Department for 10 years. In 1979, she left work and became a full-time Mom. To pursue her dreams, she enrolled in post-secondary education at The University of Toledo and earned her baccalaureate in Education in 1991. Immediately following her undergraduate, academia career, Elaine became employed at Toledo Public Schools and served as a teacher at Glenwood Elementary from 1991-2000. Due to her zeal for education, instruction, and teaching, Elaine continued and obtained her Master's Degree in Educational Administration in 2000. She was then promoted as a School Administrator at East Side Central Elementary School. Elaine worked as an Assistant Principal for two years. Later, she transitioned into the role as the Principal until her retirement in 2009, due to her disability. One of Elaine's educational goals was to complete a few additional courses to earn her Doctorate of Philosophy in Education Administration. Elaine valued and instilled the importance of obtaining a quality education into her children's lives and reminded them that no one could ever take that away.

Elaine had a heart big as Texas and she loved spending time with family and friends! Many of memories are cherished from being born and raised on the southside of Toledo. She enjoyed cooking and "giving orders" at the same time. Frying chicken, fresh corn, hot tamales, the "infamous" dressing, baking homemade cakes from scratch, and making sweet tea are just a few items named. Her Caramel Cake was her "specialty" as she also made the icing from scratch. She refused to share that recipe! Elaine's presence will be deeply missed by all who loved her.

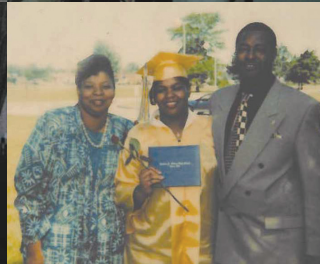
She was preceded in death by her parents, Oliver and Anna James, brother, Oliver James Jr., sister, Elnora Garland. She leaves to cherish loving memories her husband, Larry D. Burton, three dear daughters, Samantha Nance, Keisha Taylor, and LeAnna Burton; four grandchildren, Terrell Jr. and TaKyra Nance, Javen and Dallas Taylor, other relatives, her City of Zion Church family and many friends.



# *Elaine's Photo Tribute*

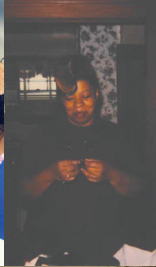


Elaine Burton (left) and Samantha Shaye (Burton) Nance will both be graduating from the University of Toledo on Saturday.











Shhhhh...it's a surprise!  
Elaine is celebrating her  
65<sup>th</sup> Birthday!





**SEES THE SUCCESS:** East Side Central Elementary's Elaine Burton, principal, was the first to participate in the program, Successful Children, Successful Schools: Social and Emotional Learning in Toledo.





## *Pallbearers*

Michael Burton  
Terrell Nance, Jr.  
John "Chicago" Spencer  
Javen Taylor

## *Honorary Pallbearers*

David Burton  
Duane Garland, Sr.

## *Interment*

Historic Woodlawn Cemetery, Toledo, OH

## *Special Thanks*

The family of the late **Elaine Burton** acknowledges, with sincere appreciation of the many comforting messages, floral tributes and other expressions of kindness evidenced at this time in thoughts and deeds. May God bless each of you! Special thanks to the Fresenius Kidney Care Toledo for their care for our loved one for the last 11 years.

*\*\*In response to Covid-19, a Memorial Dinner  
will be arranged at a later date.\*\**

## *Arrangements Entrusted To:*

The House of Day Funeral Service  
2550 Nebraska Avenue, Toledo, OH 43607

## *Programs and Graphics by*

Leap Graphics - [leapgraphics.com](http://leapgraphics.com)