

Betty's Life Story

Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength. – Nehemiah 8:10

Betty Melvina Spence Jones was born in Elizabeth City, North Carolina on August 29, 1949 to the late Melvin and Carrie Lee Spence. She grew up in a Christian home during the 1950s, often helping to care for her seven brothers whom she adored. She was the youngest of her four sisters. She entered into eternal rest on July 29, 2025. She was educated in the public schools of North Carolina.

After graduating from P.W. Moore High School, Betty decided to visit Philadelphia for a time of laughter and fun with her older sister, Barbara (Ba-Ree). Barbara coerced Betty into staying for a short time which turned into a lifetime of beautiful and precious memories. Betty and Barbara were inseparable. Their daily day consisted of a few trips to Aldi, Walmart, the Dollar Store and occasionally, Shoprite. Barbara cared generously for her sister until her untimely death.

In 1970, Betty began taking classes, which led to her first employment opportunity at Sears and Roebuck. In the fall of 1970, she reunited with her high school friend and soon to be, love of her life, Raymond E Jones Sr. Betty aspired to return home, however, Raymond became intrigued by the city of brotherly love. Two years later, they joined together in holy matrimony and enjoyed 51 faithful and loving years together.

Over the following years, Betty and Raymond were blessed to have two wonderful sons, Raymond Edward Jr. and James Malcom Jones. Betty embraced the role as a stay-at-home mother to her two sons, cherishing the precious time with them. She became actively involved in her children's school and after-school activities. Betty and Raymond loved spending time with their family and others. They always hosted cookouts filled with food and jokes to make everyone laugh. They also enjoyed traveling with her extended family and friends. Betty's greatest joy became her love for her grandchildren. She enjoyed spoiling them by playing games and cooking their favorite meal - pancakes and bacon.

This love for children continued to grow as she began working for Jenkintown Day Nursery in the 3 year old classroom for over 20 years. During her time there, she obtained her Child Development Associate Certificate and later her Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education. Betty loved her work and was deeply fulfilled by watching children's eyes light up when they learned something new. She was known for jumping rope during free play with the entire nursery.



In 1977, Betty joined Jones Memorial Baptist Church under the late Dr. Ronald W Johnson. Betty was a faithful member who participated in many ministries. Betty received a certificate from Manna Bible College for teaching Sunday School and began teaching the primary Sunday School class for her church. She also taught the marriage class alongside her husband, and Vacation Bible School.

Betty faithfully served as a Deaconess taking care of the sick and spreading the word of God. There soon became a need for ushers in the church. Betty accepted the call and from this call a perfect union was born. While she served on the #2 Usher Board, her heart was drawn to the Youth and Young Adult Ushers. She was a great example and cared for the youth as her own children. Excellence was expected at all times. Every child knew what it meant if you were caught with gum in your mouth on the floor. The tissue was REAL! Betty served as a member and mentor of the Usher board until her death.

Betty will be remembered for her unwavering faith, her vivacious spirit, her commitment to family, her enduring influence on the lives of countless children she guided and inspired.

Betty leaves to cherish her memory two precious sons, Raymond E. Jones Jr (LaTashia) James M. Jones (Jennifer) both of Philadelphia PA; five grandchildren, Rayanna, Dillon, Taniya, Gisele, and Raymond III (RJ); three sisters, Audrey Blount (Albert), Ruby Mae both of Elizabeth City, NC and Barbara Sessoms of Philadelphia Pa; four brothers, Melvin Spence Jr of Elizabeth City, NJ, Calvin Spence (Charlotte), Ronald Spence (Shiela), and Tony Spence (Bernadine) all from Elizabeth City NC; four brother in laws, Johnnie Jones (Sandra), of Elizabeth City, NC, Alexander Jones (Delma) of Wilmington NC, Stanford Jones (Ann) of Camden NC, and Vincent Jones (Montina)

of Suffolk VA; three God-children, Zohnette Sligh, Corie Alicea, and DaQuan Jones, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Lovingly Submitted, The Family

