



**Flower Attendants**  
Cedar Grove Baptist Church

**Pall Bearers**  
Cedar Grove Baptist Church

### Acknowledgment

Our family sincerely would like to thank the Cedar Grove Baptist Church family, our many friends and family, Kindred at Home Healthcare, St. Francis Home Healthcare, Open Arms in home Hospice, for your prayers, acts of kindness and support shown to us during our mother's illness and passing. We will be eternally blessed by all of your love. 1Corinthians 13:13 and now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

**Interment**  
Resthaven Memorial Gardens  
1655 Piedmont Highway  
Piedmont, South Carolina 29673

Please be advised that the Greenville County Sheriff's Department and the City of Greenville Police Department no longer provide escort services for funeral processions. Therefore, all drivers should obey traffic signals. Persons who are not riding in the funeral home limousines should meet the family at the cemetery.

Services Entrusted to  
Watkins, Garrett & Woods Mortuary, Inc.  
1011 Augusta Street  
Greenville, SC 29605  
(864) 242-1144

## Celebrating the Life of Mrs. Johnnie Mae Browner Collins Gray



**Saturday, December 21, 2019 - 1:00pm**  
**Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church**  
206 Moore Street  
Simpsonville, South Carolina 29681

**Pastor Robert Smith, Eulogist**  
Mt. Zion Upstate Church, Fountain Inn, S.C.



## Order of Service

Minister Renee LaFrance Ladson, Presiding  
Cedar Grove Baptist Church

Prelude

Processional .....Clergy, Family and Friends

Selection... *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*...Cedar Grove Choir

Scripture Readings:

Old Testament .....Rev. Zachery Brewster  
Interim Pastor, Cedar Grove Baptist Church

New Testament .....Elder James Brown  
Nicholtown Baptist Church (The Love Center)

Prayer of Comfort.....Pastor James W. Nesbitt, Sr.  
Beulah Christian Fellowship

Selection.....Beulah Christian Fellowship Praise Team

Reflections (Please limit to 3 minutes.)

Deacon Prince Brown (Church)  
Minister Jeanie Smith (Senior Women Sunday School)  
Brother Kenneth Durham (Church Van Driver)

Solo .....Deacon Jerry Samuel

Reflections (Please limit to 3 minutes.)

Mrs. Marvis Williams (Neighbor)  
Ms. Nivia S. Collins (Granddaughter)  
Mr. Darrell Sims (Grandson)

Selection.....Beulah Christian Fellowship Praise Team

Special Presentation and Resolution.....Sis. Alice London

Solo .....Deaconess Mildred Madden

Words of Comfort & Closing Prayer.....Pastor Robert Smith

Closing Hymn .....Cedar Grove Choir  
Recessional

## Obituary

Mrs. Johnnie Mae Browner Collins Gray was born on February 16, 1922, and departed this life at her home on December 10, 2019. Our mother was the eldest of three daughters. She was born to the late Stephen and Cleo Morrison Browner in Toccoa, Georgia.

As a young child her family moved to Statesville, North Carolina where they lived and worked on a large dairy farm. After living in Statesville for a number of years, the family moved to Greenville, South Carolina. Mrs. Gray was blessed with a long and wonderful life of 97 years.

She attended the public schools of Greenville County and was a graduate of Fuller Normal School in Greenville. The highest level at that time was the eleventh grade. Mrs. Gray was a former member of Bruton Temple Baptist Church where she served as church clerk and held various positions. She was also a former member of Evangelistic Temple, serving in many capacities including being one of the mothers of the church. She was currently a member of Cedar Grove Baptist Church until her health declined. She was a faithful member, active in the Senior Ministry and the Senior Women's Sunday School Class.

Our mother was a devout Christian and a woman of faith. Visitors to her home often found her singing praises to God. She was employed as a domestic worker in the private sector for years and also worked for several businesses.

Mrs. Gray was also dedicated and committed in caring for her family. She was preceded in death by her husband, Leo Collins, Sr., her second husband, Cornell Alfred Gray; sons, Leo Collins, Jr., Stephen Collins, John Lee Collins; sister and brother-in-law, Rose and Robert Thomas of Cleveland, OH; and a son-in-law, Benny J. Harris.

She leaves to cherish precious memories two daughters, Rose C. Harris and Linda L. Collins, both of Greenville, SC; two sons, Charles E. Collins of Greenville, SC, and Leroy Collins of Atlanta, GA; one sister, Lois Fields of Columbus, OH; granddaughters, Nivia Sharrise Collins of North Charleston, SC, and Sandra Renee Collins; grandsons, Darrell Sims of Atlanta, GA, Derold Owens of Greenville, SC, and Stephen Anthony Collins; and a host of great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, other relatives and friends.

## From My Heart to Hers

**G**-grace to love others

**R**-respect for our Heavenly Father

**A**-admired by many

**N**-neatly dressed

**D**-dedicated spirit

**M**-mother of seven

**A**-ageless beauty

Love, your Granddaughter,  
Nivia Sharrise Collins