

## *Ode To You, Mother*

Katherine Hardimon  
By Wilmer White Deckard

You viewed man's superficial human limitations  
And saw what we, with your strength,  
Could become

You looked with a mother's trepidation  
Seeing the blackness of our skin,  
Then taught us  
That black is beautiful, too

You peered at centuries old opinions  
of discrimination  
And one by one, plucked them  
from our minds

You modeled the meaning  
of love, friendship, family,  
courage, faith and tenacity  
Thereby building the road  
we are traveling

You molded more than dough  
for delicious pastries  
and fancy hats  
for beautiful ladies.  
You molded our lives

In fashioning the wings of our success,  
you also reminded us not to soar so high  
that we could not see  
those less fortunate  
than ourselves

And, yet,  
through the storms of life  
that none of us escape  
You inspired us  
To rise higher ... to go on



## *Pallbearers*

Bruce Johnson  
Lester Kinchion  
Wilson Brewer

Shawn Clewis  
James White  
Cecil Lee

## *Flower Bearers*

Emmanuel Pastor's Aide

## *Acknowledgement*

Perhaps you sent a lovely card, or sat quietly in a chair.  
Perhaps you sent beautiful flowers, if so, we saw them there.  
Perhaps you sent or spoke kind words as any friend could say  
Perhaps you were not there at all, just thought of us that day.

Whatever you did to console the heart,  
We thank you so much, whatever the part.  
May God Bless each and everyone of you.  
The Katie Hardimon Family

The Repast for family and friends will be at  
Emmanuel Baptist Church  
C. C. Carroll Fellowship Hall

## *Internment*

Hillcrest Memory Gardens  
12813 NE 50<sup>th</sup> Street  
Spencer, Oklahoma 73084

## *Funeral Director*

Funeral service under the direction of  
TEMPLE AND SONS FUNERAL HOME  
2801 North Kelly Avenue  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111

## *A Lady Named "Katie"*

*Katherine Hardimon*



*Sunrise*  
*April 6, 1923*

*Sunset*  
*October 18, 2008*

Saturday, October 25, 2008  
Fairview Baptist Church  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Pastor J.A. Reed  
Pastor Chester A. West, Officiant

## *Obituary*

*Katherine "Katie" Hardimon passed away on Saturday, October 18, 2008. She was born April 6, 1923 in Clarksville, Texas to Milton and Litha Miller Iverson. She was the youngest of six children. She was preceded in death by her parents; three brothers: Melton, Marvin, Mervin; two sisters: Charlene and Louise; her son: James Gray; grandson: Mandrell Dean, and her nephew: Robert Russell.*

*Katherine was baptized at an early age at the Martin Shilo Baptist Church in English, Texas. During her teens she moved to McAlester, Oklahoma and became the first Black waitress to work in a white restaurant in McAlester. There she joined Mt. Triumph Baptist Church.*

*In 1959, after organizing a successful economic boycott because of racial discrimination, Katie quit her job as a short order cook and moved to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma while both children were in college. She did this because her employer increased her duties but refused to increase her pay.*

*In Oklahoma City, she joined Fifth Street Baptist Church and later transferred her membership to Emmanuel Baptist Church where she remained until her death. Katie worked for the Fred Jones and J.D.*

*Helms families, helping to raise their sons along with domestic responsibilities.*

*Left to cherish her memory is her devoted daughter, Wilmer Deckard; five grandchildren: Nicol L. Deckard, Monique J. Deckard, Randy Mina, James Gray, Jr., and Jasmine Gray; eight great-grandchildren: Quintaz Struble,*



*Raiven Callum, Sole' Deckard, Mandrell Dean, Jr., Qarod Deckard, Mickel Kwan Strong, & Deandre and Devonte Gray; one nephew: Kirk Russell; one niece: Melba Iverson; a dear and loving cousin, Dimple Davis; and a host of other family members and friends.*

*Katie was a caterer, hat designer and fulfilled 41 years of domestic service. Katie was loved by many and respected by all. She will be remembered as a rare jewel who always went that extra mile with a spirit of excellence. She was passionate about fishing, gardening, cooking, world-wide travel, Emmanuel Baptist Church, the Pastor's Aid, fashion shows and big beautiful hats. Miss Katie used her unique brand of love, style and tenacity for twenty-eight years of leadership as president of Emmanuel's Pastor's Aid, accomplishing remarkable feats. For twenty of those years, Sister Hardimon continuously sponsored Emmanuel's Annual Pastor's Aid Fashion Show; featuring in those shows "Miss Katie's Hats". Miss Katie's Hats is a production she maintained for over forty years.*

*It is undeniable that Katie enjoyed her own special flavor for life. She wrote, in her final papers, "I have many names: Mother, Katie, Kathy, Kat, Auntie, Mama, Mimi, Mom, Katie Mae, Moms, Katie Mama, Grandmother, Auntie Katie, Ms. Katie, Miss Katie, Sister Katie, Miss Kitty . . . But my real name is: Katherine."*

*Katie has so many titles because she was many things to many people. She adopted and fed whole football teams, nurtured and help to raise many children. Her energy seemed limitless. The very essence of her spirit demonstrated love, loyalty, family, friendship, courage and mercy. Katie's mission in life was to love and be loved. Katie's soulful character will be deeply missed and emulated.*

## *Order of Service*

*Acts 9:36  
A Lady Named "Katie"*

*Processional*

*Prayer ..... Dr. F.E. Burroughs*

*Old Testament Scripture..... Rev. Emmett Roberts*

*New Testament Scripture..... Rev. Kevin Shaw*

*Solo ..... Rev. Moses Howard  
"God Has Smiled On Me"*

*Obituary ..... Read Silently*

*Special Tribute..... Connected*

*Song..... Emmanuel Baptist Church Male Chorus*

*Resolutions .....*

*Solo ..... Rev. Cecil Lee  
"Center of My Joy"*

*Remarks ..... Josephine Davis  
Jackie Flowers*

*Solo ..... Minnie Flower  
"He's Sweet I Know"*

*Eulogy..... Pastor Chester A. West*

*Video Presentation*

*Final Viewing..... Temple & Sons Funeral Directors*

*Recessional*

