



## Mrs. Esther Genell Knapp-Vanderson

December 27, 1951 - September 21, 2016

KNAPP-VANDERSON, Mrs. Esther Genell - Age 64, passed away Wednesday, September 21, 2016 at Hurley Medical Center. Family hour 10:00 AM Thursday, September 29, 2016 at Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, 4805 N. Saginaw Street, with funeral service commencing at 11:00 AM Rev. Dr. Henry L. Fuller, Jr. Host Pastor, Pastor Steve Bramwell officiating, Pastor Charles Osborn eulogist. Interment Gracelawn Community Cemetery, G-5710 N. Saginaw Street. Friends and pallbearers will assemble at the church 10:00 AM Thursday. Mrs. Vanderson will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 906 W. Flint Park Blvd., and may be viewed from 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM Wednesday.

A time to be born ... Esther Genell Knapp Vanderson was born December 27, 1951 in Jackson, Mississippi, the daughter of Percy Sr. and Nellie (Knapp) Willis. Esther grew up in Jackson, MS attending elementary school, Powell's Junior High, and graduated from Brinkley High School in 1970. While growing up, she attended Vernon Grove Baptist Church. During her course of Junior High and High School, she discovered her gift of sewing and began sewing her wardrobe. Esther joined the "Voices of Faith Choir" and traveled all over the United States, she also designed and sewed many of the choir's uniforms. After graduating from high school in 1970, she started college at Jackson State University and graduated in 1973 with a Bachelor Degree in Elementary Education. She also joined the Burns Seventh Day Adventist Church in Jackson, MS. While attending college in July, 1970, Esther came to

Flint, Michigan to visit her mom and siblings and was introduced to Edward S. Vanderson, who would become her soul mate. How the soul mates got together is a story in itself. The courtship began from Flint to Jackson and the love letters flowed. After graduating from Jackson State University, Esther moved to Flint and on August 27, 1972, she was married to Edward S. Vanderson. Esther started substitute teaching for the Board of Education in 1973 and she became tenured with the Board of Education in 1986. She continued to fellowship in the Adventist Faith until she joined Fairhaven Seventh Day Adventist in Flint. Esther was a part of the "Fairhaven 5:00 a.m. Prayer Group" and a member of the Federated Kings Daughters. She continued her education at Eastern Michigan University graduating with a Master's Degree and Highest Honors in 1991. In June 1975, Edward and Esther welcomed their daughter, and in 1980 they had a son. Esther loved family and friends. Over the years she hosted many family and friends gathering at her home. In hosting, it had to be perfected in Esther's way. She created her own sewing patterns and sewed many masterpiece including wedding gowns that were never duplicated. In 1983 she sewed her sister's wedding gown. The fabric store tried to buy the wedding gown back for display. Esther would not sell. She also prepared food for serving at church until her health failed. In spite of her disability, she was able to mime with the "Hands of Praise."

Producing a legacy, Esther Genell Knapp Vanderson, leaves to cherish her memory: loving and devoted husband of 44 years, Deacon Edward S. Vanderson; daughter, Maketa Vanderson; son, Edward L. (Ranisha) Vanderson; 4 grandchildren, Marshala, Tyquesha, Christopher and Myleena Vanderson; 2 great-grandchildren, Skyler and Ezra Vanderson; mother, Nellie Willis; 5 brothers, Percy Jr. (Betty) Knapp, James (Susie) Knapp, Lee (Ethel) Knapp and Rondy Knapp, all of Flint, Pastor T. Alexander (Daphany) Knapp of Minden, LA; sister, Marcie Knapp Moore of Flint; step-brother, Damont (Arlean) Banks of Birmingham, AL; 3 sisters-in-law, Starlett Kelly, Robin Johnson, both of Flint, Glenda Graves of St. Paul, MN; 2 brothers-in-law,

Pastor Norse Johnson of Nashville, TN and Carl Johnson of Fayette, MS; 2 aunts, Maggie Smith, and Eva (Rufus) Warren, both of Jackson, MS; great-aunt, Lula Bell Thompson of Flint; 4 uncles, Joe (Minnie) Bolden of Byrum, MS; Earnest Ratliff of Houston, TX, Earnest Kelly, Sr. and Edward R. (Cora) Vanderson, all of Flint, a host of cousins including, Pamela Ligon of Milwaukee, WI, Cossie Martin of Jackson, MS and Maggie Bolden of Raymond, MS; god-children, Olivia Williams and Robin Williams, both of Georgia; a host of other relatives and friends.

Esther was preceded in death by her father and stepmother, Percy (Jackie) Knapp; grandmother, Mary Knapp; father and mother-in-law; and 1 brother in-law.

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

SEP **28.** 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, Inc., Flint  
906 W. Flint Park Blvd.  
Flint, MI 48505  
(810) 789-6666  
lemoonfhflint@gmail.com  
<https://lawrenceemoonfuneralhome.com>

## Family hour

SEP **29.** 10:00 AM (ET)

Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church  
4805 N. Saginaw Street  
Flint, MI 48505

## Service

SEP **29.** 11:00 AM (ET)

Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church  
4805 N. Saginaw Street  
Flint, MI 48505

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Esther Genell Knapp-Vanderson*

October 09, 2023 at 07:02 AM



“ *Mamie Wiggins lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Esther Genell Knapp-Vanderson*



**Mamie Wiggins** - September 29, 2016 at 01:03 PM



“ *Sister Betty, Brother Percy and the entire family of Mrs. Esther G. Knapp Vanderson, I'm praying that God's love, peace and comfort will abide in you today, tomorrow and forevermore. Deb - Saved By Grace Ministries Flint!*



**Deborah Milling** - September 29, 2016 at 09:35 AM



“ *Michelle Y Hunter lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Esther Genell Knapp-Vanderson*



**Michelle Y Hunter** - September 28, 2016 at 10:51 PM

MB

“ Our deepest sympathy to the Vanderson family! Esther was a beautiful and very kind spirit. She had special talents and gifts. We are going to miss our conversations and her funny little jokes! We loved to hear her beautiful voice and she loved to sing country music! She will always be in our hearts!

*Love, Love, Philip and Margaret Broden*

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**Margaret Broden** - September 28, 2016 at 07:35 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Esther Genell Knapp-Vanderson.



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September 28, 2016 at 06:08 PM



“ Michele Davis sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Esther Genell Knapp-Vanderson



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**Michele Davis** - September 28, 2016 at 04:34 PM

CF

“ Charles and Marva Ruth and Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mrs. Esther Genell Knapp-Vanderson.



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**Charles and Marva Ruth and Family** - September 28, 2016 at 02:42 PM

CH

“ My condolences to the beloved family of Esther. May God continue to encompass his love around you and give you strength. I will treasure the coversations and fun times we shared at Pierson School...the plesantry when greeting me at church. Esther truly lived (Romans12:12), "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."

🌹 *Cassandra Green Hughes*

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**Cassandra Green Hughes** - September 28, 2016 at 02:16 PM

FL

“ She was such a nice person. We sang together in "Anointed" singing group. We had so much fun together. I want to send my deepest sympathy to her family. Praying for you to find comfort at this time. I remember her singing the song "The Lord Is My Light" recorded by Debarge. I think of her every time I hear that song

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**Florenda Lee-Hall** - September 28, 2016 at 12:39 PM

CH

“ I will truly miss my friend Esther. I sang with Esther for many years in Fairhaven's Choir. She was kind, generous, a wonderful cook, and she was naturally very funny. She was also a faithful Christian. I will truly miss our chats and sampling her delicious food, that she would bring to church for us to sample.

*Family, may God continue to bless and comfort you! And thank you for sharing Esther with us. She will truly be missed!*

*Charlene Harris*

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**Charlene Harris** - September 28, 2016 at 08:57 AM

SJ

“ A very special woman in so many ways. So glad we got to experience the joy you've brought to so many people. RIP. Praying for the family. Sincerely Janice, Sharon and all the Viola Jackson family.

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**Sharon Jackson** - September 28, 2016 at 08:09 AM

DJ

“ DAWN & JA'MON purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Mrs. Esther Genell Knapp-Vanderson.



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**DAWN & JA'MON** - September 28, 2016 at 05:24 AM

DS

“ I LOVED THAT INSPITE OF HER CHALLENGES, SHE LEARNED SIGN LANGUAGE AND BROUGHT SOOO MUCH JOY TO OTHERS. WILL MISS YOU TERRIBLY AUNT ESTER!!!



DAWN DAY & SON-JA'MON - September 28, 2016 at 04:19 AM



“ Peace Eternal Wreath was purchased for the family of Mrs. Esther Genell Knapp-Vanderson.



September 27, 2016 at 11:28 PM

Alvina Owens

“ Alvina Owens lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Esther Genell Knapp-Vanderson



Alvina Owens - September 27, 2016 at 09:48 PM

Alvina Owens

To the Vanderson and Knapp families - my sincerest condolences. Rest heavenly Esther.

Alvina Owens - September 27, 2016 at 09:54 PM

CD

*To the Knapp and Vanderson families - my deepest sympathy. Esther and I were in many high school classes together and she literally taught me how to sew. A delightful and caring person. May she rest in peace.*

*Cynthia Davis - Brinkley class of 1970.*

**Cynthia Davis** - September 29, 2016 at 10:37 AM

MS

“ *Maggie, Maketa, Lela and Mechelle Smith purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Mrs. Esther Genell Knapp-Vanderson.*



**Maggie, Maketa, Lela and Mechelle Smith** - September 27, 2016 at 09:46 PM

JS

“ *I am so sorry and hurt to hear of the passing of Sis. Vanderson. She was so nice to me the short time I knew her, she supported me and Trevor in many ways with our wedding reception in Grand Blanc and came to my bridal shower at Fairhaven 7 years ago. I will never forget when she took time out to cook a delicious pan of vegetarian cutlets for my mom's birthday when she visited Fairhaven several years ago. Me and my mom and family really appreciated her kindness and thoughtfulness. I want to tell the Vanderson family that I am praying for you all, and I pray God will strengthen you all during this difficult time. Thank God for the resurrection and promise of Heaven where we will see Sis. Vanderson's beautiful smile again.*

**Jennifer Schluter and Trevor Schluter** - September 27, 2016 at 08:39 PM

MS

“ *Esther, I am very sorry that you are no longer with us. You were such a kindhearted, loving, friendly and compassionate person. I remember the late nights I called you and we talked a long time, there will never be one like you.*

*Your Cousin,  
Maketa Smith  
(Jackson, MS)*



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**Maketa Smith** - September 27, 2016 at 06:45 PM

CT

“ *Cynthia Turner lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Esther Genell Knapp-Vanderson*



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**cynthia turner** - September 27, 2016 at 04:39 PM

AB

“ *Will miss Esther. She was always such an inspiration. When she was teaching, she always wore a different African outfit during the month of February. As a proud Black woman, that impressed me and I began doing the same thing. I never ever heard Esther say an unkind word. She was very funny also and I loved being around her. The family is in my prayers.*

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**Alona Boggess-Reid** - September 27, 2016 at 02:14 PM

EB

“ *Erma Bolden lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Esther Genell Knapp-Vanderson*



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**Erma Bolden** - September 27, 2016 at 02:05 PM

EB

*Will Miss You Cuz Esther*

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**Erma Bolden** - September 27, 2016 at 02:08 PM

PL

“ *To the knapp family and extended family members.we extend to you our condolence during this your time of sorrow(the loss) of your loved one.Pastor Clarence,Rhonda Lee and the members of No Greater Faith prayers to God is that His grace and mercy keep you all*

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**Pastor Clarence and Rhonda Lee** - September 27, 2016 at 12:15 PM

TT

“ *Treva Thornton lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Esther Genell Knapp-Vanderson*



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**Treva Thornton** - September 27, 2016 at 11:52 AM

NC

“ Esther was such and Inspiration in our Sabbath school class. I enjoyed her so much. She was so sweet. Even though she was sick she never gave up she kept coming to church. I will miss her. My prayer is that the Lord will comfort and strengthen you all in the days and weeks ahead. Nevelyn Carroll

Nevelyn Carroll - September 27, 2016 at 09:36 AM

NC

“ To Edward (chief) Vanderson, Maketa and to the entire family, so sorry, Esther was a fighter even though she was ill. She did not give up, she kept coming to Sabbath school and church. I admired her for that. She was so sweet. She was such and Inspiration in Sabbath school. I enjoyed her so much. I will miss her Sabbath school. I will keep you all in my prayers daily. I pray that God will strengthen and comfort all of you in the days and weeks ahead. Nevelyn Carroll Flint Michigan

Nevelyn Carroll - September 27, 2016 at 09:16 AM

JE

“ Heaven certainly gained an angel. Praying for the family for strength after losing such an amazing woman 🙏



Jade Edwards - September 27, 2016 at 07:42 AM

N(

“ *Esther will be missed very much, one of the things I loved about her is she was always the same when you saw her..Always smiling and so nice...To her family my condolences..*



Nicole Williams (nikki) - September 26, 2016 at 11:38 PM

MJ

“ *Mario Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Esther Genell Knapp-Vanderson*



Mario Johnson - September 26, 2016 at 10:49 PM



“ *My heart is broken you will be missed*

Lisa Scott - September 26, 2016 at 10:14 PM

ST

“ *Star lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Esther Genell Knapp-Vanderson*



star - September 26, 2016 at 10:14 PM

ST

*sweetie I don't have words to express the shock that I feel right now, so i'll just say that i'm missing you already, our Tuesday dates won't be the same. no one to call and say hey sweetie what you doing? rest on my friend/sister-n-law,*

star - September 26, 2016 at 10:20 PM

CB

“ Cheryl Bolden lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Esther Genell Knapp-Vanderson



Cheryl Bolden - September 26, 2016 at 08:23 PM



“ Here's is a light that shine up on a hill; may you continue to sleep until the loud trumpets sound!

LOVE YOU MOM!



Yah'nah Israel - September 26, 2016 at 08:18 PM

GJ

“ Gwinda Jefferson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Esther Genell Knapp-Vanderson



Gwinda Jefferson - September 26, 2016 at 08:08 PM

FM

“ Florine Mason-Thompson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Esther Genell Knapp-Vanderson



Florine Mason-Thompson - September 26, 2016 at 07:59 PM

PH

“ *Pamela L. Hightower lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Esther Genell Knapp-Vanderson*



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**Pamela L. Hightower** - September 26, 2016 at 06:28 PM

LM

“ *Lori McBrayer lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Esther Genell Knapp-Vanderson*



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**Lori McBrayer** - September 26, 2016 at 01:10 PM

MS

“ I am so sad to hear about my cousin passing away. She is the one who named me as a baby and gave me the unique spelling of an " e " instead of the traditional " i " resulting in MEchelle. People still tell me they hardly ever see it spelled this way and I always say my cousin thought of me as being special, the 1st baby in the family and she thought outside the box. Esther told me stories about her taking me to Jackson State to meet her teachers so they would gush over me and later remember she was the one who brought me to see them. I always enjoyed seeing her every summer when she would come to Jackson to visit us. Although its been about 6 years since I last saw Esther, I always knew how she was through my grandmother (her aunt). Esther is loved and missed by her family (The Smith's) in Jackson, MS. I'm sure now she is resting in peace !



Love, Chelle  
MEchelle Antoinette Smith

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**Mechelle A. Smith** - September 26, 2016 at 12:12 PM

DW

“ Doreen Williams lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Esther Genell Knapp-Vanderson



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**Doreen Williams** - September 25, 2016 at 03:14 PM

KF

“ Vandersons/Knapp family,Jesus said "I am the resurrection"Those who believe in me,though he dies...yet shall he live...john 11:25)Such a beautiful personality,Esther loved the Lord,she will be missed her caring acts,love and keeping the family together.Gods peace,comfort,love and understanding be your guide during this difficult time. You are in our prayers.



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**Kelly family** - September 25, 2016 at 12:25 AM

DK

“ Diane Kirksey lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Esther Genell Knapp-Vanderson



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**Diane Kirksey** - September 24, 2016 at 03:53 PM

DK

“ Diane Kirksey lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Esther Genell Knapp-Vanderson



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**Diane Kirksey** - September 24, 2016 at 03:51 PM

JB

“ *RIH my friend.*



Juralin Bethea - September 24, 2016 at 12:39 PM

EL

“ *Elder Michael & Phyllis Leslie lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Esther Genell Knapp-Vanderson*



Elder Michael & Phyllis Leslie - September 23, 2016 at 08:37 PM

EF

“ *Evaett Webb And Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Esther Genell Knapp-Vanderson*



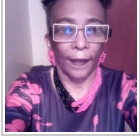
Evaett Webb and Family - September 23, 2016 at 08:23 PM

NI

“ *Rest peacefully aunt ESTHER...you will be missed! My condolences to you uncle Chief, Keta, Edward, aunt Nell, Toni, Ron, June, Tommy, Lee and all her grand children. I love y'all*



Nicole - September 23, 2016 at 03:47 PM



“ *Sandra Copeland lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Esther Genell Knapp-Vanderson*



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**Sandra Copeland** - September 23, 2016 at 03:43 PM



“ *Lillian Chandler lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Esther Genell Knapp-Vanderson*



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**Lillian Chandler** - September 23, 2016 at 01:55 PM



*My Dear Friend. You will truly be missed.*

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**Lillian Chandler** - September 23, 2016 at 01:57 PM



“ *Diane Williams lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Esther Genell Knapp-Vanderson*



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**Diane Williams** - September 23, 2016 at 01:09 PM

SJ

“ *Shalese Jarrett lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Esther Genell Knapp-Vanderson*



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**Shalese Jarrett** - September 23, 2016 at 11:23 AM

DB

“ *My Condolence to the family of Mrs. Vanderson. My prayers are with the family and friends at this time. I would to leave you with a bible thought at this time this scripture gave me comfort during my time of sorrow. It's found at ( Psalms: 34:18 ) which states. That Jesus is close to the broken hearted. Again my condolences.*



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**Daisy M Boone** - September 23, 2016 at 09:50 AM

CB

“ *Carolyn Brezzell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Esther Genell Knapp-Vanderson*



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**Carolyn Brezzell** - September 23, 2016 at 08:42 AM

MC

“ *Beautiful woman, she always treated me kindly, your gonna be missed.*



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**Mariea Coffey** - September 23, 2016 at 07:24 AM

SJ

“ *Stafford Howard Jr lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Esther Genell Knapp-Vanderson*



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**Stafford Howard Jr** - September 23, 2016 at 02:48 AM

MB

*Esther was my friend and I loved her. We worked at the same school and I so enjoyed the times that my family and her family spent together. I am grateful to have my beautiful memories. My prayers and thoughts are with her family.*

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**Mavis Blacque** - September 27, 2016 at 07:45 PM

NB

“ *Had the opportunity to work with Esther Vanderson at Cook Academy. What a special lady. For Halloween she usually dressed up as Viola Swamp as a substitute teacher in her classroom. It was amazing how well the kids behaved. Our birthdays were close to each other, so we kept track of each other's age. She was a few days older than me. I will dearly miss this special lady. Nancy Beecher*

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**Nancy Beecher** - September 23, 2016 at 01:43 AM

TG

“ *Tresia "Tree" Givens lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Esther Genell Knapp-Vanderson*



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**Tresia "Tree" Givens** - September 22, 2016 at 07:41 PM



“ *Denise Sunshine lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Esther Genell Knapp-Vanderson* ”



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**Denise Sunshine** - September 22, 2016 at 04:10 PM