

*Celebrating The Life  
of  
Teresa J. Wallace Porter*

*Sunrise  
August 2, 1956*

*Sunset  
December 25, 2013*



*Celebration*

*Thursday, January 2, 2014 - 11:00 a.m.*

*Fairview Baptist Church*

*1700 N. E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street*

*Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73117*

*Rev. J. A. Reed, Pastor*

*- Officiants -*

*Rev. Derrick Walter, Assistant Pastor,  
Fairview Baptist Church*

*Rev. Maurice Franklin, Assistant to the Pastor,  
Greater Bethel Baptist Church*

## *Teresa's Life Journey*

It was on August 2, 1956 when Teresa Jean was born to Eugene E. Wallace, Jr. and Lillie Pearl Wilson, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. As we celebrated the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ on December 25, 2013, He called her home to be with Him. For 57 years, we were blessed by Teresa. We will greatly miss her physical presence here on earth but rejoice and celebrate that she's with God and we'll see her again in Heaven. Greeting her in heaven was her sister, Vanessa Dale Wallace; brother, Ronald Wayne Wallace, Sr.; maternal grandmother Emma Harris, maternal grandfather Lee Jones and paternal grandparents, Eugene and Velma Wallace.

### *Early Life + Career + Adult Life:*

Sustained by strong faith and family, Teresa led a life full of love and service with a humble personality that often met you with this greeting - "what's up?" Teresa grew up in a home with three of her eight sisters — all of whom remember Teresa as a sweet and adventurous little girl. She had an adventurous spirit that at times resulted in her injuring herself, among them: a broken arm when she was determined to climb a tree and a trip to the emergency room after she stuck a bean up her nostril that swelled! Teresa attended Carver Elementary School and graduated from Northwest Classen High School in 1974.

The first *real* joy of her life was the birth of her son, JaMaal Terron Wallace. It was a memorable birth because shortly before going into labor, she got chicken pox which caused JaMaal to have chicken pox, too! She loved and nurtured him. Then, four years later, she had her baby girl, Jasmine Tere Gabriel-Wallace. She really, really loved her children, and later her grandchildren, and did everything she could to show them her unconditional love and support.

In 1986, Teresa married Ernest Ray Porter and due to this union she was blessed with two more children Tony and Erika. Later, Ernest and Teresa ended their marriage, but she remained a part of the Porter family. Teresa also demonstrated her love for children by being a foster mother to Sharlisa and later, Aona and Malachi.

In May 1977, she began her career at Western Electric/AT&T/Lucent Technology as a production analyst and was a material planner when she retired in December 2001 after 24 years of service. She worked for Celestica for two years after Lucent closed. Wanting to pursue her interests in an area related to beauty enhancement, Teresa obtained post-secondary credentials as a certified nail-technician and an esthetician. After retirement, she also went beyond her discipleship as a member of Greater Bethel Baptist Church and became the Church Secretary, a position she still served in until her home going. As an entrepreneur, Teresa created "Sweets by T" through which she sold her delicious baked dishes and entrées. Teresa also worked alongside her daughter to successfully create and build "J Gabriel's Cleaning Company."

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### Faith:

Teresa was a strong, independent Christian woman with a gentle spirit. As a very young girl she attended Macedonia Baptist Church in Sandtown in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Macedonia merged with Mt. Elam Baptist Church where she was baptized and continued to participate in ALL youth and church activities - choir, usher, Sunday School, Baptist Training Union (BTU), Girls Auxiliary (GA), Acteens, etc. She joined Antioch Baptist Church as a young adult and served on the usher board. She later joined Greater Bethel Baptist Church and humbly served in many ministries and cooked for various services and events. Teresa had a great love and much respect for her Pastor, Rev. Teron V. Gaddis ("Pastor G") who was also her brother-in-law and friend. She would prepare and bring Pastor G special treats and ensure he was always served dinner at church functions with "real" dishes and silverware, among many other things she would do for him in love. In fact, the entire Greater Bethel Baptist Church was truly her extended family, which included many of her relatives.

### Hobbies:

A huge sports fan and a softball player herself, Teresa loved watching her children and grandsons play sports and frequently watched college and professional football and basketball games. She was a huge Oklahoma State University and Oklahoma City Thunder fan. She had a love for romance novels and you could find Teresa cuddled on a couch reading for hours, while occasionally looking up at the television to keep up with the football/basketball score! She was also a huge supporter of President Barack Obama and enjoyed following politics and current events.

But, her number one hobby was cooking. Among many kinds of recipes, she really loved baking cookies and desserts - such as butter and Neiman-Marcus cookies, sweet potato and banana split pies and sour cream pound cake - for family and friends. And, every Wednesday afternoon, you could find Teresa cooking for the Older Adults Still In Service (OASIS) at Greater Bethel Baptist Church.

### From Life Journey to Eternal Life:

Teresa's Life Journey on earth is finished and her eternal life with God has begun. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends. Teresa leaves to cherish her memory, her children, JaMaal, Jasmine, Tony and Erika; her grandchildren, MaKilen, MaKaden, NayLeah, Jaiden, Anthony, Aaron; mother, Lillie Wilson; father, Eugene Wallace, Jr.; sisters, Glenda "Fay" Wilson-Calhoun, Pam Peachlyn, Zelda Wilson, Linda Wallace-Howard, Donnah Wallace, Marilyn Mitchell (Sterling), Subrina Mack (Angelo), Gina Wallace, and her Porter family sisters Wanda Simmons, Evelyn Givings, Janice (Teron V.) Gaddis, Maxine Porter, Karen Porter-Jackson and Cheryl Boyles; brothers, Eugene Wallace III, Michael Wallace, Sr. (Shirley) and Steven Wallace, Sr. (Laticia) and her Porter family brother James Robinson; special niece/lil-big sister/girlfriend, Shalonda Peachlyn and aunts, uncles, other nieces, nephews, cousins, her church family and many friends.

***IN THE WORDS OF T-PEZZY (TERESA JEAN WALLACE PORTER): "WON'T HE DO IT?!!!"***