



## Reverend Dr. Lawrence Edward Johnson

May 26, 1942 - April 22, 2025

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Reverend Dr. Lawrence Edward Johnson, on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at his home.

Reverend Dr. Lawrence Edward Johnson leaves behind a legacy of love, compassion, and cherished memories. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him, and his 82 year journey of life will continue to inspire those he touched.

He is survived by his wife, Bernice D. Johnson; daughters, Fatima Johnson-Avery (Cortez) and Selena E. English (Lionell); two grandchildren, Corlissa M. Avery and Lishelle A. English;

The public viewing has been scheduled for Friday, May 2, 2025, at Scarborough & Hargett Celebration of Life Center, Inc., 309 N Queen Street, Durham, North Carolina 27701 from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. The family will be present to receive guests between 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

The celebration of life service will be held on Saturday, May 3, 2025 at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3002 Hope Valley Road, Durham, North Carolina 27707 at 1:00 p.m., with visitation starting at 12:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to either of the following:

-Good Samaritan Fund- New Creation UMC -4705 Old Chapel Hill Road,  
Durham, NC 27707

Duffy Scholarship Fund- [Duffy Scholarship.org](http://DuffyScholarship.org)

-Bernice Duffy Johnson Endowed Scholarship at NCCU- Go to NCCU Office  
of institutional Advancement and select from options under "Give Now."

Interment will take place in Markham Memorial Gardens.

A devoted husband, father, and grandfather, he leaves behind a legacy of love  
and dedication.

The Celebration of Life Service will be streamed live via:

<https://youtube.com/@epworthumc?si=ncXSHpVPGQeldUYx>

# Cemetery Details

## Markham Memorial Gardens

4826 Trenton Rd  
Chapel Hill, NC 27517  
(919) 489-9128

# Previous Events

## Viewing

**MAY 2.** 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Scarborough & Hargett Celebration of Life Center, Inc.  
309 N Queen St  
Durham, NC 27701  
(919) 682-1171  
[scarboroughandhargettinc@yahoo.com](mailto:scarboroughandhargettinc@yahoo.com)  
<https://scarboroughandhargettfh.com/>

## Visitation

**MAY 3.** 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM (ET)

Epworth United Methodist Church  
3002 Hope Valley Road  
Durham, NC 27707

## **Celebration of Life**

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**MAY 3. 1:00 PM (ET)**

Epworth United Methodist Church  
3002 Hope Valley Road  
Durham, NC 27707

# Tribute Wall

RW

“ I just learned of Larry's passing. I remember both him and Bernice very fondly from our time at Reconciliation UMC. I know he is with Jesus, and he's celebrating with my Robert.

Robbie Wippich - January 20 at 07:15 PM

SM

“ I have just been made of Rev. Dr. Johnson's passing. To the family, I extend my deepest condolences. You are in my prayers.



Sylvia Mason - May 05, 2025 at 06:12 PM

PP

“ The entire body of the First Chronicles Community Church extends our deepest sympathy. May God be with the Johnson Family during this difficult time.  
Pastors William & Pebbles Lucas



Pastor Pebbles - May 03, 2025 at 10:00 PM

AB

“ Alvin Banks lit a candle in memory of Reverend Dr. Lawrence Edward Johnson



Alvin Banks - May 03, 2025 at 01:11 AM



“ *Dr. Bernice Johnson, Fatima, and Selena, may the comfort of the Holy Spirit be with you all, and I will cover you in prayer. It has been years since I fellowshiped with your family, but I have remembered Pastor Johnson frequently. His exuberant smile and warm spirit easily made friend and stranger alike feel like family. I recall that vividly, which I think is a testament to the impression he makes on everyone. His light carries on and you are not alone in celebrating his life. Peace to you, Danielle.*



Danielle Reid - May 02, 2025 at 11:28 PM



“ *Sandra Battle, Durham, NC lit a candle in memory of Reverend Dr. Lawrence Edward Johnson*



Sandra Battle, Durham, NC - May 02, 2025 at 07:52 PM



“ *Dr. Bernice, Fatima, Selena, and Family, I am so sorry to hear of the death of your beloved husband and father. I remember with great blessings attending the church he pastored in Durham when I began the process of transferring my ordination to the United Methodist Church. It was always a joy to see him at national meetings like BMCR. He was truly a blessing. His life leaves a legacy of love. Each memory is a bridge that connects us to one another. Christ has already borne your grief and carries your sorrow. Know the Comforter who lives within. Love and prayers. Rev. Neriah Edwards-Boone*

Neriah Edwards-Boone - May 02, 2025 at 05:41 PM



“ *May God comfort you give you the peace only He can. Larry's legacy lives through us in all the ways we relive and keep his memories alive. Shalom*  
*Chalmers-Victor (Africa University - Zimbabwe)*



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**Vik TA** - May 02, 2025 at 12:57 PM

DN

“ *Dr. Bernice Johnson: My deepest condolences to you and your family on the loss of your husband. May you be comforted by the memories of your life together. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul rest in peace!*

*Veronica Nwosu*  
*NCCU*

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**Dr. Veronica Nwosu** - May 01, 2025 at 02:25 PM

NF

“ *Nicole Sinclair & Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Reverend Dr. Lawrence Edward Johnson.*



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**Nicole Sinclair & Family** - May 01, 2025 at 01:26 PM

RJ

“ *Dr. Johnson (Bernice),  
May God's continual grace, peace, and  
strength be with you and your family, now and  
in the days ahead.*



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**Rev, Rhonda Grant Jordan** - April 30, 2025 at 11:53 AM

TA

“ *Trudy Mayo Artis lit a candle in memory of  
Reverend Dr. Lawrence Edward Johnson*



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**Trudy Mayo Artis** - April 29, 2025 at 05:33 PM

JR

“ To Dr. Bernice Johnson and the entire Johnson Family:

*Words cannot express the deep loss of such a servant of God. The Rev. Dr. Lawrence E. Johnson was a genuine soldier of the Lord's Army. He labored long and hard to get the Lord's work done.*

*Might you be consoled knowing that your loved one has found sweet rest beyond the river and as he folded his earthly tent to move to his eternal home, he heard the words of our Risen Lord and Savior say, "Well done and welcome home!"*

*The Shiloh Baptist Church Family joins me in extending our deepest sympathy and prayers. Earth truly has no sorrows that heaven cannot heal!*

*We loved Lawrence and we love you, too!*

*Joseph L. Ratliff, Pastor*

*Shiloh Baptist Church of Henderson, N.C.*

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**Joseph L. Ratliff** - April 29, 2025 at 01:50 PM

JR

“ *Juanita Ratliff lit a candle in memory of Reverend Dr. Lawrence Edward Johnson*



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**Juanita Ratliff** - April 28, 2025 at 11:07 PM

JW

“ *Dr. Bernice and family, may GOD's peace be yours along with His strength and comfort. We were neighbors for when I grew up and my parents are still there. I am grateful for your family's positive example and influence in education and in Christ. I extend condolences and prayers in this season of bereavement and adjustment.*



*with love ~ Jamie Edge Willie*

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**Jamie Willie** - April 28, 2025 at 05:24 PM

KB

“ *To the family, please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers as you mourn the loss and celebrate the life of such a wonderful man. I met Dr. Johnson early in my career in music ministry, and he was a true source of encouragement. May today's tears be replaced with tomorrow's joys. Peace and blessings.*

*Kent Brooks - Chicago, Illinois*

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**Kent Brooks** - April 27, 2025 at 08:56 PM



“ *Sorrowful at the passing of a true man of God and brother to all who would accept. I'm thankful for the solicited as well as the unsolicited advice I received and the surprise calls just to say that the road may be rough but I was loved by more than just those in my household. He will truly be missed.*

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**Shawn Mitchell** - April 26, 2025 at 03:37 PM

LC

“ My heartfelt condolences are with the Lawrence E. Johnson Family and Friends. I met Dr. Johnson while I was serving as Secretary of Shiloh Baptist Church of Henderson, during Pastor Joseph L. Ratliff's leadership. Dr. Johnson was a very nice person, visited the church several times, preaching, leading the church in workshops. I am sorry to learn of his passing. My prayers are with the Family.



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**Linda F. Crews** - April 26, 2025 at 01:22 AM

BG

“ Our sincere sympathy to the Johnson Family. Our prayers are with you.  
The NCBMCR

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**Bertha Graham/NCBMCR** - April 25, 2025 at 01:25 PM

BG

“ To The Johnson Family  
I offer my sincere sympathy in the loss of my Dear Brother, Reverend Dr. Lawrence Johnson. I met him during our Black Clergy Retreats and he made me feel welcomed as a new clergy member. May God sustain you in your time of grief.  
Reverend Bertha Graham (Mount Olive UMC-Lumberton, NC)

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**Bertha Graham** - April 25, 2025 at 01:22 PM

RB

“ The Brunson family offer our deepest condolences to the Johnson's on the passing of The Reverend Dr. Lawrence Johnson.

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**Rev. Dr. Jesse & Mrs. Doris H. Brunson** - April 25, 2025 at 11:14 AM

GM

“ My heart is heavy as I say goodbye to a mentor, former “boss” (he hated when I called him that), but most of all a friend. Dr. Johnson was my supervisor, when I worked in the NCCUMC office. He was always jovial, patient, and committed to the work that we did in the Multi-cultural Ministries Office. Even once I became a pastor, he kept in touch, preached for me, advocated for me, and supported me during some trying times. He will be forever loved and forever missed.

Take care Dr. Bernice, Fatima, and Selena; he will always be with you, and his granddaughters. He loved all of his “girls” so very much.

Love,  
Dr. Gypsie Murdaugh, his mentee and clergy friend

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**Gypsie Murdaugh** - April 25, 2025 at 10:08 AM

JG

Dr. Bernice Johnson, I wish to extend my most sincere sympathy to you upon the loss of your husband. May God keep you and your family in His care. Stay strong!! Jerome Goodwin

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**Jerome Goodwin** - May 02, 2025 at 06:15 PM

GC

To Dr. Bernice Johnson and family, I'm sorry to hear the loss of your husband. I offer my condolences and prayers for you and your family.

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**Gloria Chambers** - May 14, 2025 at 08:29 PM