



## Dr Rachel W Jones

December 2, 1934 - February 16, 2021

Dr. Rachel W. Jones, 86 passed away quietly on February 17, 2021 at Shadyside Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA. She was the second child born to Emmett Gurtha Woods and Jessie Mae Ellis Woods on December 2, 1934 in Troy Alabama. The family, including sister, Ann and younger brother Fred relocated to Pittsburgh in 1940.

The family made their church home at Second Baptist Church of Homestead. Rachel was a long-time dedicated and active member serving on the Trustee Board, the Nurses auxiliary, and the Emmett Frederick Woods Scholarship Tea which was named for her brother who died in 1962.

Rachel was educated in Pittsburgh Public schools starting at Burgwin Elementary, then Gladstone Junior High, and on to graduate from Taylor Allderdice in 1954. A life-long learner who for many years could be found spending late nights at her kitchen table among piles of books filling endless tablets with, Rachel would go on to earn her Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctorate degrees in Education from Duquesne University and The University of Pittsburgh.

Rachel started her teaching career at Baxter, and steadily rose through the ranks to lead as Vice Principal at Fricke, Principal at Lemington, and Principal at Crescent. As a founder of the Greater Pittsburgh Alliance of Black School Educators she further demonstrated her dedication to expanding children's education – particularly children of African descent. In 1989 Rachel was recognized by the Principal's Academy with the Distinguished Principal's

Award for setting high standards for instruction, student achievement, character, and climate for the students, families, and staffs in their learning communities. She was a Teacher's Teacher advising, mentoring, encouraging, and celebrating many others along the way.

A deeply committed member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. since she pledged in college, Rachel assisted in mentoring and pledging several generations of her DST sorors. She was honored to serve as the Pittsburgh Chapter President from 1987 – 1989, and she traveled the country to participate in just about every regional and national convention.

In 1958 Rachel was married to Faithy L. Jones (deceased) and was a dedicated spouse throughout their union of 20 years. She enjoyed cutting up with her friends, loved cards and board games, was a diehard Steelers fan, enjoyed jazz music, sports cars, and chocolate desserts. She was especially known for her sense of style and affection for classic clothing, and her no-nonsense demeanor.

Rachel is preceded in death by her parents: Emmett "Gurtha" Woods (1988) and Jessie Mae Woods (2003); Brother: Emmett "Fred" Woods (1962); and Nephew: Dr. Bryan K. Tippett (2015) whom she referred to as her best friend. Her memory will be cherished by: Sister: Ann Tippett; Cousin: James Jiles, Sr. (Shirley); Aunt: Pearl Bundridge; Sister-in-Law: Odessa Woods Mathews Johnny); Nieces: Lydia Woods and Jo Anne Tippett; Nephews: Gordon Tippett and Julian Tippett (Tiffani); Great Nieces: Alexis Tippett Coles (George) and Schae'mar Tippett; Great Nephews: Emmett "Avery" Woods-Gresham and Julian "JT" Tippett, Jr. and Great-Great Nephew: Joshua Tippett, PLUS a host of beloved cousins and very special "extended" nieces and nephews: Tina, Dannita & Jaion, and Damiene & Damiene "DJ" Jr. In one way or another, Rachel had a hand in raising us all! So, while we will miss her deeply and dearly, we are rejoicing and grateful as we celebrate her life!

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **25**. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Tunie Funeral Home, Inc.  
218 E. 11th Avenue  
Homestead, PA 15120  
(412) 462-6466  
lisajohnson@tuniefuneralhome.com  
<http://www.tuniefuneralhome.com/Default.aspx>

## Service limited to family and designated friends

FEB **25**. 3:00 PM (ET)

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# Tribute Wall



“ *Dr Rachel W Jones*

January 29, 2023 at 12:45 PM



“ *Dr Rachel W Jones*

January 29, 2023 at 10:10 AM



“ *Sending my condolences to Dr. Rachel Jones family. I have lots of fond memories of her as a young student at Frick school. She was the principal there for many years. Wow I am going way back over 40 plus years. But i will never forget her and the positive impact she instilled on many of her students lives.*

**Carmella Brown** - March 15, 2021 at 03:07 PM



“ *I am saddened to hear of the passing of Soror Dr. Rachel W. Jones. I have so many memories of her when I was a child, teen and later young adult growing up in Second Baptist Church in Homestead. I was recently home for another funeral and learned of Soror Jones' passing. My grandmother Inez was so fond of Ms. Jessie and Soror Rachel as was I along with Bryan, Gordan and Julian. May she be received well by our God and or ancestors. Ase and Amen.*

*Rev. Dr. Melva (Che) L. Sampson  
Granddaughter of Inez Adkins  
Winston-Salem, NC*

**Melva L. Sampson** - March 08, 2021 at 02:09 PM

PB

“ Dear Mrs. Tippett, Gordie, JoAnn and Julian and Family:

*May your Dear sister and aunt and family member-Dr. Rachel W. Jones, RIP. I go to know her as the Principal of Frick Elementary School when my mom went there to teach in 1977 and thru my friendship with Gordie at Taylor Allderdice H.S.*

*Dr. Jones and I also served for a time on a committee at the University of Pittsburgh for the African Heritage Classroom Committee. I was so sorry to hear of her illness and passing from Gordie.*

*May God's peace, comfort, and blessing be upon each of, always!!!!*

*Sincerely,  
Paul-Martin Bender  
Chicago, IL*

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**Paul-Martin Bender** - February 26, 2021 at 03:57 PM



“ *My Rachel I Love you to the moon and back! I am who I am because you believed I could... May your garden be forever beautiful and your house in the sky be as beautiful as all the Gold jewelry you wore. Kisses 🍷*



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**April Taylor** - February 25, 2021 at 08:49 PM



“ Today we participated in the live streaming funeral service for our beloved Soror, Dr Rachel Woods Jones, a past president of the Pittsburgh Alumnae Chapter. Dr Jones was a family friend long before I was born. We belonged to Second Baptist Church of Homestead PA, where she served in many positions including Chair of the Trustee Board. It was as my Soror in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, however, where I came to cherish her friendship toward me and my Soror mom. The ancestors will surely welcome her with open arms as she takes her rightful place among them!!! Soar on, Soror!! ▲ ❤️

*Yvette Murphy Aidara  
Juanita King*

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**Yvette Aidara** - February 25, 2021 at 08:11 PM

BR

“ Soror Rachel Jones was a dear friend to me. Happy that I spoke with her a few weeks ago. She was a part of my family. She is lovingly called “Aunt Rachel” by my children nieces and nephews. We will truly miss her.

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**Beverly Reynolds** - February 25, 2021 at 07:21 PM

NS

“ Our deepest sympathies to the family of Dr. Rachel Jones. She was a bright star in a dark world. She will be truly missed. She was a long time resident of the Imperial House Condominium. She always was so kind and thoughtful and an absolute treasure to be around. We had the privilege of knowing her for over 35 years and our building will not be the same without her. Our hearts are broken.

*Norman and Diane Stankewicz  
Imperial House Condominium*

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**Norman & Diane Stankewicz** - February 25, 2021 at 04:05 PM

JH

“ My condolences to the family of our beloved soror, Dr. Rachel Jones. She was a mentor to so many of us from Theta Chapter and encouraged us all to be women of purpose and substance. Rest well, sweet soror.

Joyce Howard - February 25, 2021 at 02:42 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr Rachel W Jones.



February 24, 2021 at 10:11 AM

DD

“ Soror Rachel Jones was an outstanding person and dear friend. We traveled to Delta Sorority Conventions and had much fun. I will miss her as we celebrate her life.  
Soror Yvonne Davis

Dr. Yvonne Davis - February 23, 2021 at 07:09 PM

CP

“ My deepest condolences to the family of my dear Soror Rachel Jones. She was always so kind, thoughtful and a sharp dresser!! When I crossed over 25 years ago, she gave me a clock, which is in my living room still today. I will truly miss her and the love she always showed me. I will always remember her with warm and heartfelt thoughts.

Carolyn Peterson

Carolyn Peterson - February 21, 2021 at 09:58 PM

AJ

“ So sorry to hear of Rachel's passing. She was a sorority but also a dear friend. She was my principal at Crescent Elementary School and we became dear friends. She had a wonderful sense of humor and a calm about her that could quell most problems.



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**Alison Jones** - February 21, 2021 at 04:04 PM

HB

“ Dr. Rachel Jones... Soror.. Will be missed..condolences to the family and her close friends.

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**Helen Bowers** - February 20, 2021 at 08:53 PM