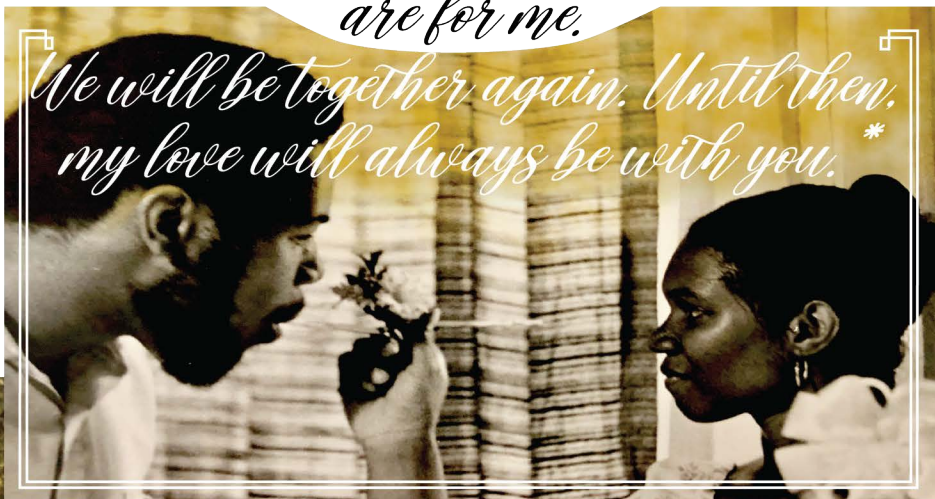




*I miss you.
My mind knows
that you are in a better place
where there is no pain.
You are at peace.
I understand that. I just wish
I could explain it to my heart.
There is an empty space in it that
nothing
will ever fill.
I grieve, but I know my tears
are for me.*



Acknowledgments

The family of Birch Jones Jr. wishes to express its sincere appreciation to Estes Funeral Chapel and Bishop David E. Johnson as well as a host of family and friends for the acts of kindness and care we have received during this time of sadness. Our hearts are full with gratitude.



Active Pallbearers

Mr. Kenneth Bradley	Mr. Valerion Bradley
Mr. Kamal Buchanan	Mr. Jezeir Bradley
Mr. Carlton Bradley	Mr. Robert Bradley

Honorary Pallbearers

Mr. Jerome Jones	Mr. George Leggs
Mr. Thirse Jones	Mr. Jelani Falkner
Mr. Lee Norman	Mr. Vincent Jones



Interment

Lakewood Cemetery
3600 Hennepin Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, capacity at the service is limited and masks are requested.
We appreciate your understanding.

Celebrating the Life of



Saturday
March 20, 2021

11:00 AM

Birch Jones Jr.

October 26, 1949 - March 9, 2021

Estes Funeral Chapel
2101 Plymouth Ave. N - Minneapolis, MN 55411

*Presiding Suffragan Bishop David E. Johnson
of Grace Apostolic Church*

Livestream of the service available at:
<https://www.estesfuneralchapel.com>

Obituary

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

II Timothy 4:7

Birch Jones, Jr., was born in Chicago, Illinois on October 26th, 1949 to the late Birch Jones Sr. and Louvenia Jones. He was the second youngest of four children and the only son in the family. His oldest sister, Joyce Falkner, preceded him in death.

Birch attended St. Paul CME Church in Chicago and was committed to Christ at an early age. He graduated from Lindblom Technical High School in 1967 where he was Vice President of his senior class. Education and teaching were an important part of Birch's life, and he went on to graduate with a bachelor's degree in Social Science from Eastern Illinois University in 1971, and a master's degree in Education from Loyola University in 1975. While at Eastern, Birch met his best friend, Shirley, and they were married on June 5, 1971 in Chicago. Birch, Shirley and their young family moved to Minneapolis in 1975 so he could pursue a doctorate degree at the University of Minnesota. Birch left the university prior to completing this dissertation when he got the opportunity to start his administrative career in the Coon Rapids school district. He and Shirley went on to put down roots and find a community within the Northside of Minneapolis.

Birch established himself as an educator dedicated to student success while working for the Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS). Throughout his 30-year career, Birch rose through the ranks, starting as an Assistant Principal, moving to Principal and then Area Superintendent; he retired as the Chief of Staff

to the Superintendent. Birch found meaning in his work with students, taking vacations with his family, cutting the grass on the properties he maintained, visiting his summer cabin, and keeping in touch with his extended family.

As an entrepreneur, Birch operated Jones & Jones, a cleaning business, and purchased Young Brothers Barber Shop, a north Minneapolis institution, that kept them barbering in the community for several decades. With his wife Shirley, he invested in other properties on the Northside, including an apartment building and an art studio.

Birch leaves to cherish his memory, his wife of 50 years, Shirley Jones; three children, Jayatta Jones, PhD of New York, NY; Nika Jones (Silvana) of Sunnyvale, CA, and Faro Jones of Rochester, MN; his sisters, Shirley Buchanan and Beverly Bradley, both of Minneapolis; one grandchild. Sofia Jones; favorite uncle, George Leggs and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.



Order of Service

Processional	Family/Friends
Prelude	<i>instrumental</i>
Prayer of Comfort	Bill Green
Scripture.....	John 14:1-3
Solo	"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"
KMK Resolution	Gracie Norman Pitts
Remarks	Friends & Family
Obituary	<i>silently read</i>
Solo	"Take Me To the King"
Eulogy.....	Bishop David E. Johnson
Recessional	"I Will Always Love You"



And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Revelation 21:3-5