

Funeral Service - Dorothy C. Johnson - November 2, 2010

We have gathered here today to pay our final respects and to give tribute to the dearly beloved, Dorothy C. Johnson affectionately known to all as "Dolly".

I want to thank you for coming and thank Larry for playing that rendition of "How Great Thou Art" that was Dolly's favorite hymn among others such as, Jesus is all the world to me and I know who holds tomorrow. So when you sing them again think of her. She loved singing. I like to begin with a scripture I believe Dolly would like you to hear.

Opening: I Thess. 4: 13-18

... please join me as we pray for these proceedings.

Prayer

Gracious God our heavenly father, we call upon you in this most difficult hour to comfort and console the hearts and friends of the dearly departed. Please grant this bereaving family the serenity to accept the things we cannot change. Grant us the courage and faith to change what we can and the hope to face tomorrow.

Please except my expression of sympathy and regrets to her daughters Phyllis, Dorothy, Beverly and to all the family and friends of the dearly beloved Dorothy C. Johnson. I do offer you the continued prayers of the congregation of the Dover First Baptist Church.

My thoughts:

We miss Dolly- there has been a missing ingredient from our church family ever since she left. Her faith in God and love for her church will live on in our hearts. We will not forget her example to us.

1 Timothy 4:[12] but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

It was always a pleasure to be in Dolly's presence. She lit up the room with her joy and love for Jesus, she was not afraid to tell others of her love for Christ. I spend many times talking and praying with her about people she had encountered and shared her love of Christ to.

Dolly loved coming to church and being with her brothers and sisters in Christ in Christian fellowship. She had such a love for God that for some it was a difficult thing to understand. Some would say she was wearing her faith on her sleeve but as her pastor I would say God chose her to be a messenger of His loving grace and care for many. That message radiated from her countenance.

Whenever Dolly was missing from church my office phone would ring more to ask about her well-being than for anyone else. She was loved by all. Missionaries, friends and family

members who visited would all remark about her jubilant spirit. Christ was real in her and that reality manifest itself in her love of children, people, God's nature, and animals especially her love and care for kittens and cats. All of this however does not compare to her love for the human soul. Dolly wanted everybody to have the joy, peace, love and contentment she experienced after being saved. She would often walk forward during an altar call for salvation at church. I was a bit confused that a Lady who truly was save would repeatedly come forward. One day I spoke to her about that and she said, Pastor, I come forward because others may not if someone doesn't come forward first. She was so right.

She was a credit to motherhood, a credit to the community and a credit to this Church. She was a very fortunate woman in that she was dearly loved...family, congregation, her senior members group the Methodist church and many friends. She loved and gave to needy causes sacrificially. The Lord told us we have great joy & consolation in true love. Now you must take consolation in God's love. I pray that I might bring you some words of comfort and insight concerning her passing.

She gave encouragement to many and now it is time to emulate her and encourage each other.

There are no words to express sorrow when someone we love departs this life. As a minister I believe it is my responsibility to help you with grief and with closure. God help me to do so.

Jesus said, blessed are those that mourn for they shall be comforted.

I find comfort in these words and I hope you do too. I remind you of the message he gave to His own disciple before his impending death. They were trouble over his leaving them, just as so many of you are today. But Jesus said in John 14:1-6....

Transition:

The Psalmist wrote in Psalms 39:4-6...

Death as unwanted - is still part of life's reality. It is just important to know how to face death as it is to face life.

Dolly was ready to face death because she was saved. **1 Thess. 4:13**

The Psalmist also said," Lord teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. God gave her 96 years a long life by even today's standard. Dolly's passing causes us to face are own immortality and reminds us the time to make preparation for death is in life. Eph. 2:8-9

[II Corinthians 1:3,43] ... he is ...The Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; [4] Who comforteth us in all our tribulation...

She is in God's care and keeping. She would want you to learn from her example. She taught us to be unselfish. She thought of others more than herself. She didn't want you to worry or to make a big fuss.

She has gain infinitely more in death than she ever did in life. She is at home with family and friends gone on before her.

Conclusion:

Today as we grieve, we can look forward to the day when death will be destroyed and so rest your broken hearts in the comfort of God's love.

God promises comfort from your sorrow, Blessed are those that mourn for they shall be comforted.

I believe Dolly would not want you to drown in your sorrow but to channel your love for her to others in her memory. **She wrote a letter to you** all for me to read.

God promises comfort from your sorrow, Blessed are those that mourn for they shall be comforted. Love is the only lasting thing. Remember the quality about him that expressed love for love is the only lasting thing. So I challenge you to find your way from grieve to a love you can express in her memory thereby she will live on in each of you.

Be there for each other now and always and thereby he will live on in each of you. God help you to do so.

Psalms 23

WINGDALE, NY - Dorothy C. "Dolly" Johnson, 96, a longtime resident of Wingdale, NY, died Saturday, October 30, 2010 at the Southwinds Retirement Center in Middletown, NY. Mrs. Johnson was a homemaker and babysitter for many years. Born October 30, 1914 in Perth Amboy, NJ, she was the daughter of the late Owen and Annie Schafer Culton. On April 27, 1936 in Elkton, MD, she married Clarence Johnson who died in 1983. She was a member of the Dover-Wingdale Senior Citizens and the South Dover United Methodist Church in Wingdale. She also attended the Dover First Baptist Church in Wingdale. Mrs. Johnson is survived by three daughters, **Phyllis** Skinner and her husband, Carl, of Slate Hill, NY, **Dorothy** Tervenski and her husband, Steve, of Poughkeepsie, NY and **Beverly** Zilkowski and her husband, Gary, of Dolgeville, NY; a brother, Marvin Culton of Allentown, PA; seven grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren and three great great grandchildren. Besides her parents, she was predeceased by nine brothers and two sisters. Calling hours will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, November 2, 2010 at the Hufcut Funeral Home, 3159 Route 22, Dover Plains, NY. Funeral services will follow at 1 p.m. at the funeral home with Pastor Anthony Bacino officiating. Burial will take place at South Dover Rural Cemetery, Wingdale, NY. Memorial contributions may be made to the Dutchess County SPCA, 796 Violet Ave., Hyde Park, NY 12538. For directions or to send the family an online condolence, please visit www.hufcutfuneralhome.com.

