

## tim allston: Coronavirus ... A Dress Rehearsal? p. 4

## "It'll Get Better," p. 5

"A virtuous woman is not moved by big names and flamboyance, but only men of profound wisdom and integrity move her."

- Michael Bassey

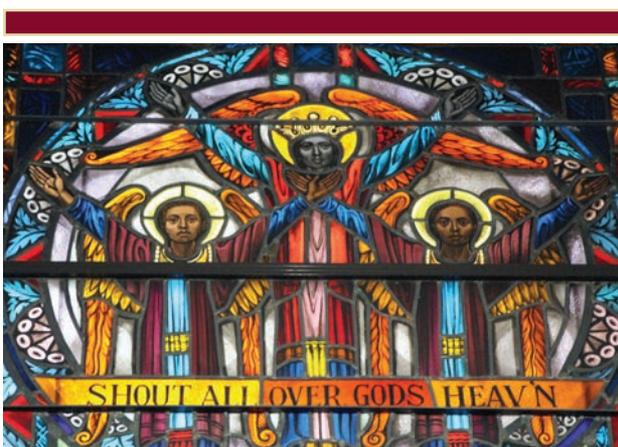


Friday

April 3, 2020

Vol. 6, No. 30

ValleyWeekllyllc.com



"Singing Windows" of The Tuskegee University Chapel

## Coronavirus Empties Many Church Pews

Just weeks ago, area churches were responding with benevolence to the needs of students forced off college campuses due to the anticipated spread of the deadly Coronavirus.

Now that spread has become more dire as cases continue to rise exponentially across the United States and the rest of the world.

Churches of all sizes, religions and denominations, many on the Valley, are shutting their doors in rising hope of better days.

"I am directing the

parishes and worshipping communities to extend that suspension of face-to-face worship through the month of April," wrote the Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama, in a recent letter to Episcopal churches throughout the state. "Obviously, and regrettably, this includes our normal schedules for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter ... Still, the mission of the Church remains ... We'll just have to find different, more creative ways to do it."

## Valley Mourns Death of Native Son, "Dean"

A man referred to by the NAACP as the "Dean of the Civil Rights Movement" died Friday, March 27, in Atlanta, Ga., at the age of 98.

Born to a teacher and grocer in Huntsville, Ala., in 1921, the Rev. Dr. Joseph Echols Lowery co-founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). He graduated from William Hooper Councill High School. After his collegiate experiences at Knoxville College (Tenn.), Alabama A&M University, Paine College (Ga.), and the Chicago Ecumenical Institute, Lowery pastored Warren Street Methodist Church in Mobile, Ala.

It was during this period in the 1950s when he met Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, who was then pastoring at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala. He is credited for helping to lead the Montgomery Bus Boycott following the arrest of Rosa Parks in 1955.



Lowery and King, with Rev. Ralph Abernathy and other civil rights activists, formed the Southern Christian

Leadership Conference in 1957. Two decades later, Lowery would head the organization set it on a new course encompassing a range of social and environmental issues.

During the historic Selma to Montgomery March in 1965, Lowery joined organizers on a mission to deliver demands to Alabama Governor George Wallace. State troopers violently attacked the peaceful marchers on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, leaving many of the marchers bloodied and badly beaten. Congressman John Lewis, among the marchers that day, suffered a fractured skull during the beatings.

Almost without exception, whenever there was a pivotal moment throughout the Civil Rights Movement, Lowery was a part of it. Lowery, Rev. Ralph Aberna-

thy, Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth and S.S. Seay, Sr., were sued along with the New York Times as part of a libel suit. The men lost their cars and other property to the State of Alabama. It took the U.S. Supreme Court to reverse the decision in the landmark New York Times Co. v. Sullivan case, which many legal scholars call the most striking freedom of the press case in history.

Rev. Lowery co-founded and led a consortium of black advocacy groups that effectively protested the existence of Apartheid in South Africa from the mid-1970s through the end of white minority rule there. He also was among the first to be

arrested outside the South African Embassy in Washington, D.C., during the Free South Africa movement. Dr. Lowery served as the pastor of Cascade United Methodist Church in Atlanta, Ga., from 1986 through 1992.

The distinguished leader not only received the NAACP's coveted Lifetime Achievement Award in 1997 and the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama in 2009. He received honorary doctorates from several colleges and universities, including Morehouse College, Alabama State University and the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

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# Harvest Native, WWII Vet Celebrates 102nd Birthday

John A. Drake, Sr., of Harvest, Ala., celebrated his 102nd birthday Tuesday, March 24.

Mr. Drake and his wife of 54 years, the late Mary Johnson Drake, are the parents of nine children, nine grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

The family had originally planned a celebration for Drake but, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, cancelled the gathering.

Rather, the World War II veteran spent a quiet day filled with love and phone calls offering birthday greetings and well wishes from family and friends from across the country.

The children of John A. Drake, Sr., include:

Hattie Drake James (John, Dec.) of Mobile, Ala.; John A. Drake, Jr. (Patricia) of Winston-Salem, N.C.; Carol Drake Harris of Harvest, Ala.; Eulasteen Drake Abernathy (Larry) of Harvest, Ala.; Marcia Drake of Norwalk, Calif.; Joyce Drake of Norwalk, Calif.; Calvin Drake (Charian) of Harvest, Ala.; Steven Drake (Shelia) of Lake Orion, Mich.; and Robert Drake of Harvest, Ala.

Mr. Drake is a testament to the abundant love and grace of our Lord and Savior.

His family members are thankful to God for the favor shown upon Mr. Drake and his entire family.



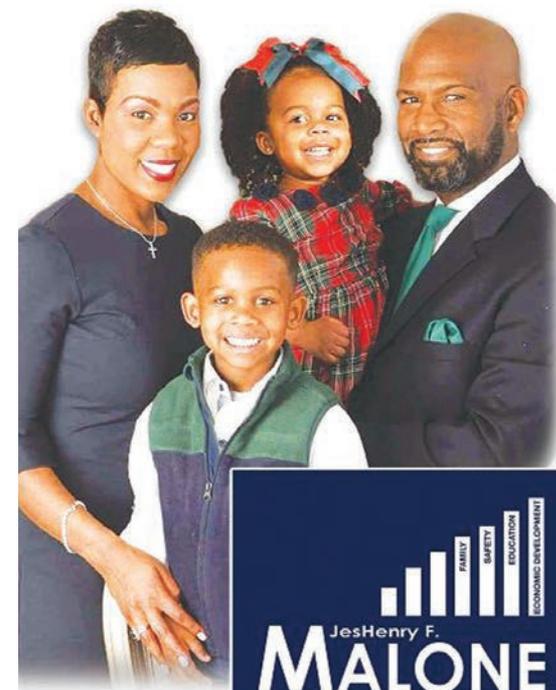
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- Moved our county forward by helping to bring Mazda Toyota to our county.
- Will continue to fight for our quality of life including our schools and recreation.
- Will continue to support Alabama A&M University, Oakwood University and University of Alabama Huntsville.
- Led the effort for the new service center to be located in District 6.

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From the Editor



# Feeding by Faith

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**Greetings!**

The Fellowship Of Faith Church enhanced their weekly Feeding by Faith Ministry through a free drive-through grocery distribution on Tuesday, March 24, at 2 p.m. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Church decided to distribute needed food to the community by allowing persons to remain in their respective cars. The theme used was: #WeLoveOurCommunity#.

Pastor Troy Garner indicated that "The building may be closed, but the Church is still serving!"



Persons interested in this ministry can tune in to the Church's services by visiting www.tfofc.org, through its Facebook page or via the TFOF-Church YouTube channel.

The Church also partnered with Huntsville Hospital to provide a free drive-through COVID testing site on the Huntsville Campus, located at 3703 North Memorial Parkway, on Thursday, March 26, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

According to Pastor Garner, he led this ministry for four reasons:

- 1) It is fulfilling the great commission;
- 2) The church should be a source of hope for the community at all times, but especially in times of crisis;
- 3) A part of the mission statement of TFOF-Church is to make an impact in Madison and in Huntsville; and
- 4) We love our community and feel God has planted us here to make a difference.



In times like these, there is no better thing for us to do than to serve others, demonstrate care and concern for our neighbors, and let our lives reflect the the people we truly profess to be. Our hats are off to you, The Fellowship of Faith

Church and Pastor Troy Garner. Someone once said, "If we want to be like Jesus, we should do what he did - SERVE."

Until next week ...

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*Dorothy*

## Huntsville Mayor: Neighbors Helping Neighbors

In the days since a state of emergency was declared in Huntsville, the number of confirmed cases has started to rise.

"There will be more – but how many more will depend on how well we do our part," said Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle in an update to citizens.

Battle was referring to the 'social distancing' and frequent hand washing brought about by the onslaught of the Coronavirus 2019.

"For the past several months, our City has worked closely with public health partners to update our emergency strategies to combat this coronavirus," commented Battle. "We've had to make difficult decisions. So have all of you."

"I am so proud of how this community has come together to help each other through this challenging time," said the mayor.

HudsonAlpha has "stepped up" to provide COVID-19 testing and research, institutions and community foundations are helping business owners, and health care practitioners are working around the clock, Battle noted.

Grocery stores offer early morning senior shopping hours, and churches are helping schools serve lunch to students who no longer have a class to attend. "Neighbor is helping neighbor," said Battle.

Meanwhile, City Hall is working to keep services open and running. Sanitation crews will pick up garbage, police and fire will provide protection, and citizens can still do business over the phone and with online services.



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## Perspectives on EGO-holism

by tim allston

### This Coronavirus Crisis: God's Dress Rehearsal?

*"Be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of Man cometh"* - Matthew 24:44 KJV

In both 2017 and 2019, Trump officials practiced but disregarded earlier pandemic dress rehearsals, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/19/us/politics/trump-coronavirus-outbreak.html>.

As a result, White House officials seem baffled by this pandemic, and thereby choose to



"blame-game" others to mask their lack of preparation; positive test results from both the well-connected and the everyman paint this virus as an equal-opportunity destroyer; and to date, no domestic or foreign agency has been able to solve, cure or control it.

If these instances mirror our knowledge of the end time warnings in the Bible's Book of Revelation, then thank a loving God for allowing us this dress rehearsal.

#### CHARACTERISTICS OF A DRESS REHEARSAL

Dress rehearsals feature a completely costumed and staged trial performance or practice exercise for an upcoming presentation.

Metaphorically, the coronavirus crisis drama features God as producer/scriptwriter (the Bible as the script), Jesus Christ as the protagonist, and the Holy Spirit as our performance coach.

#### THEREFORE, WHAT THREE ACTS MUST WE FOLLOW?

Script-reading is over, as Bible will soon be outlawed; therefore, all lines must be memorized verbatim - no ad libs, "... leaning to your own understanding;" (Proverbs 3:5a)

The main character Jesus is located in each of the 31,102 verses of the script. Find, study and share him liberally; and

Appreciate, maximize this final act's most effective tool, the "pregnant pause": a presenter's preceding words - accentuated by inserting a timed silence - to build up suspense for what is to come.

In his Celebration of Discipline, author Richard Foster wrote, "In contemporary society, our Adversary majors in three things: noise, hurry, and crowds. If he can keep us engaged in 'munchness' and 'manyness,' he will rest satisfied."

Ironically, this coronavirus pandemic is producing quieter public places, slowed-down lifestyles and outlawed crowds.

Therefore, we need to avail ourselves of this pregnant pause to re-connect with our households, cherish this downtime and affirm the increased alone God-time - before the curtain rises for earth's final act.

*Life Coach tim allston is the author of the free book, 7 Steps to Manage Ego Problems: The How-to Guide for "Someone Else," downloadable now at [www.GetEgoHelpNow.org](http://www.GetEgoHelpNow.org).*

# Champion Game Plan for Life *by Preston Brown*

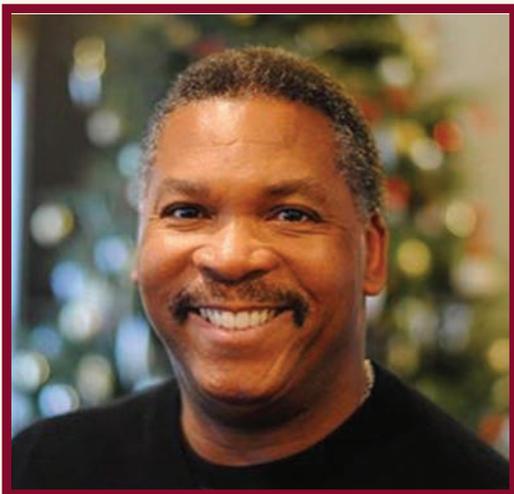
## IT WILL GET BETTER

Philippians 4:6 says, *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God.*

You know, there is no doubt that we are living in difficult times. Just the other day I had to wait in line just to get into a Publix grocery store.

With this Coronavirus Pandemic going on, it appears that there is no end in sight. However, now is the time to keep on praying, because

prayer always changes things. Also, we need to keep giving thanks to the mighty God that we serve, because he will give us all the peace that we need in times like these. And



finally we need to keep on loving one another. The bible tells us that when we

love, love always protects, always trusts, and always believes in the very best. You know, there is a song that goes, "Hold on, help is on the way."

It's time to believe that God is getting ready to do the very best in our lives. Now, I know that it can be hard to believe that the best is yet to come, but it's going to get better because God is still in control. Just remember: God is not asking us to trust people; He's asking us to trust Him.

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters!

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## Older Residents of Jones Farm Receive Live Window Concert

The community is supporting the elderly who can't be out and about with others, and it's doing so in some innovative ways.

One morning, Refuge Church decided to visit the local senior living community Thrive at Jones Farm.

Since the residents were not able to attend church in person, members of the Refuge Church congregation came to them--setting up a makeshift band to sing and bring the soulful rhythms right to the windows of Thrive at Jones Farm residents.

Church members walked around the community with signs saying, "We Love You" and "We Are Praying For You" to accompany handwritten cards delivered to each resident as the residents gathered at their windows to enjoy the music and prayers.

Thrive at Jones notes that the older adults of

today are living longer, and they want to live active purpose-filled lives. They are looking to downsize and simplify... not disengage.

Thus, Thrive communities are built on the idea that older adults deserve better. To Thrive team members, older adults aren't patients - they're friends with stories worth knowing and sharing.

The facility offers older adults ample opportunities for independent living. Many residents are often looking to downsize or find a closer-knit community of friends. There are also opportunities for assisted living, ideal for older adults who place a high value on independence.

Finally, Thrive offers "memory care" to interact with our memory care residents as unique people rather than objects in need of care.

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
cdc.gov

# Called 2 Preach

by Pastor/Founder Michael D. Rice  
Grace Gethsemane Mission Church

## Fear Not!

I did a Google search to find out how many times this phrase appears in the Bible and found an interesting answer. Although this answer was challenged by some others, it's fitting for this 2020 leap year; yes, you guessed it; 366 times. This is one admonition for each day of this year. These words were spoken to the

likes of Moses, Joshua, Joseph, Mary, Abraham, Jesus' disciples, and a cadre of other potential victims of the cancer of fear.

Two acronyms came to mind as I pondered the subject; Faith Erodes Amidst Risklessness. Interestingly, even though that infamous "redline" popped up under that word, risk-



lessness, indicating either a misspelled word or a word that's not a word, it means being safe or taking no risks; which is what faith does, it takes risks

that seem too "risky" to take. It indeed looked risky for Peter to emerge from the boat to walk on water, but the object of his faith was Jesus' word to him; "Come." This "risk" was proven worthy. The reason that fear is so dangerous is that it erodes faith; slowly, not suddenly; causing it to even be undetectable until it's too late.

The other acronym is Fantasy Emerges As Reality. The enemy of our souls is an expert at making things appear as real. Fear gives him time to craft what appears as credible counterfeits that arrests one's faith; making it impossible to receive anything from the Lord; says James (1:7).

**Fear not!**

"Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid."

- Albert Einstein

Spotlight on Our Elders ... Featuring

## Mrs. Amy Lewis Draper

A lifelong resident, Mrs. Amy Lewis Draper was born in Huntsville, Ala. She is steadfast and unmovable in her relationship to her Lord and Savior and is committed to fulfilling His will.

Mrs. Draper had a yearning to create a better life for herself. Therefore, she enrolled at Alabama A&M University, where she attended classes in biology, alongside her son, Charles Draper, who was also a student. She also had two other children in middle school at the time. Mrs. Draper knew that education was the only way for her to move forward in life, so her home became known as the "House of Learning," where she worked with all of her children to excel academically. In 1969, she completed all her required academic courses in nursing from Alabama

A&M University. In Summer 1969, she enrolled in the nursing program at J.F. Drake Technical Trade School and after many long nights of studying hard, perseverance and prayer, she completed and received her License Practical Nursing (LPN) in 1971.

Mrs. Draper absolutely loved nursing! She knew that she had found her true calling. Armed with this passion and a belief that she could excel even more, she enrolled at Calhoun Community College in the Registered Nursing Program in 1972. Despite her persistence, Ms. Draper was unable to complete her program due to her commitment to take care of her ill mother. But she never gave up on her dream. She later completed her course work at Huntsville Hospital to receive her Advanced LPN



license.

Mrs. Draper was employed at Huntsville Hospital for 27 years, working in several departments, but her absolute favorite was working in the nursery. Yes, that department was the love of her life, along with the wonderful people she worked with throughout her years of service. Eventually, she was awarded the highest honor in nursing, the Lily Sullivan Award.

## Unsure whether you can retire? Let's talk.



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**APRIL 3 - EDDIE MURPHY - A comedic actor born in Brooklyn, N.Y., Murphy is best known for films such as "Beverly Hills Cop," "The Nutty Professor," "Mr. Church" and "Coming to America."**  
- [BlackinTime.info](http://BlackinTime.info)

# Huntsvillians Will Remember Beloved Presbyterian Minister

Many people throughout the Tennessee Valley will long remember the life and works of Rev. Dr. John Loritts Herndon, III.

Servant Leader, Humanitarian, Counselor and Pastor/Teacher are just a few names that summarize the work that Rev. Herndon rendered to the community and the world.

Born in Lincolnton, N.C., to Mr. John and Mrs. Elizabeth Herndon, the Rosetta James Foundation Elder received his postsecondary education training at Livingstone College in biology and chemistry; University of Texas, psychophysiology; St. Mary's University, law; Southern Illinois University, urban planning; and Columbia Theological Seminary, theology.

During his professional career, he served as a research psychophysicologist, School of Aerospace Medicine, San Antonio, Tex.; research fellow, Polymer Chemistry, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D.C.; administrator, NASA Technology Utilization, Washington, D.C.; mental health administrator, State of Georgia; and pastor, Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Huntsville, Ala.

While serving as the pastor of Fellowship Presbyterian Church for 24 years, he and the members of his congrega-



tion implemented numerous programs to provide a service to the community and youths, such as the FASST afterschool tutorial program for elementary school children

at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School.

Dedicated and committed to the General Assembly and the North Alabama Presbytery of the PC (USA), he served in numerous capacities: General Assembly Committee on the Self-Development of People, 2010; adjunct professor of pastoral theology, University of Pretoria, since 2001;

chair, chairperson, General Assembly Council Nominating Committee, 1996-2000; Committee on Theological Education, 1994-2006; and many others.

As an author, he wrote meditations and other writings related to pastoral theology. He edited for publication a series of sermons and lectures presented at the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa on the Assembly's Theme of "Restoring Human Dignity."

He traveled the world, visiting over 27 foreign countries. He and his lovely wife, Mrs. Tommie G. Herndon, were the proud parents of seven (7) children, and 11 grandchildren.

## Washington in One Minute



The House and Senate are in recess through at least April 20, 2020 (they were already scheduled to be in recess April 6-17).

The nation's 2.1 million federal workers are still required to report to their offices, but agency heads have discretion to grant telework for "telework eligible" employees and some buildings and locations may have select hours, reduced in-person services, or visitor restrictions in

place (and note that DC's Metrorail and bus use is down 93%, so a lot of folks are staying home).

Federal courts are individually coordinating with state and local health officials and have issued orders relating to court business, operating status, and public and employee safety (for federal courts' operating status go here: US courts).

The 9 justices of the U.S. Supreme Court are

still meeting (remotely) for their regular Friday conferences, but March arguments were cancelled.

On Friday, President Trump signed the 880-page, \$2.3 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic

Security (CARES) Act, H.R. 748. To compare the staggering scope of this bill, note that the Marshall Plan, which rebuilt Europe in the wake of World War II, cost \$13 billion, which would be \$150 billion in today's dollars.

On Friday, the President ordered General Motors "to accept, perform, and prioritize federal contracts for [hospital] ventilators" under the powers of the

Defense Production Act and named White House trade adviser Peter Navarro to oversee enforcement.

President Trump announced that he was extending the White House's current guidelines on social distancing through April 30 ...

For more details, check out the following reports:  
- CRS report on CARES Act tax provisions: CRS tax  
- CRS report on CARES Act unemployment benefits: CRS unemployment  
- Senate Appropriations Committee summary of additional funds for federal agencies: SAC summary

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## Valley Deaths

**NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME - 2501 Carmichael Avenue NW - Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-8189**

Graveside service for MRS. SUPHRONIA B. ROBINSON (b. 1929) was held Saturday, March 28, at Meadowlawn Garden of Peace (450 Mount Lebanon Road - Toney, Ala.).

Funeral service for MR. ROBERT JACOBS (b. 1964) was held Friday, March 27, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Leslie Enos officiating.

Memorial service for MRS. MARGARET PETTY (b. 1942) was held Wednesday, March 25, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Larry Petty officiating.

Graveside service for MR. ROBERT C. ("COLLARBONE") ROBERTS (b. 1944) was held Monday, March 23, in Meadowlawn Garden of Peace with Pastor Jesse Draper officiating.

**ROYAL FUNERAL HOME - 4315 Oakwood Avenue - Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 534-8481**

Funeral service for MR. OSCAR EASON will be 11 a.m., Saturday, April 4, at the Royal Chapel of Memories.

Funeral service for MRS. BERYL AGATHA CUTTS (b. 1943) will be at 11 a.m. Friday, April 3, at the Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Avenue NW Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Oscar Montgomery officiating.

Public viewing for MRS. THELMA ALEXANDER FUQUA (b. 1921) was held Monday, March 30, and Tuesday, March 31, 2020 at the Royal Funeral Home.

Funeral service for MOTHER PEARLIE MAE WALTON was held Saturday, March 28, at the Lewis Chapel Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America with Pastor Versey L. Jones officiating.

Graveside service for MR. JAMES HARRISON, SR., (b. 1923) was held Friday, March 27, at Meadowlawn Garden of Peace (450 Mount Lebanon Road, Toney, Ala.) with Pastor Mylon Burwell Officiating.

Public viewing for MR. KIRK JACKSON was held Friday, March 27, at the Royal Funeral Home.

**SERENITY FUNERAL HOME - 2505 University Drive NW - Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-9693**

Funeral service for MR. JASON DEVON KELLY, JR. (b. 1975) was held Thursday, March 26, at Serenity Funeral Home with Pastor Stephen R. Davis, Sr., officiating.