



Praying the Psalms

Thank you for your goodness and mercy,
 which will follow me
 All the days of my life.
 We choose to believe your Word,
 Dear God, and we
 Believe you are enabling us
 to overcome all grief and mourning.
 In Jesus' Name we pray.
 Amen



Active Pallbearers

James Powell
 Everett Williams
 Travon Johnson

Derrick Smith
 Therus Brown
 Fred Williams

Moral Bearers

Family & Friends

Earthly Bed of Slumber

Hymn | Committal | Final Presentations
 Mt. Nebo Church Cemetery * Greenville, Florida

Repast

Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church Fellowship Hall

The Stephen's Family's Message of Gratitude

The family of **Jessie B. Stephens Parker** would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to our many relatives, friends and church families for the loving support they have given during her illness and ultimate transition. We would also like to thank the staff of Elder Care of Alachua County, Champion Home Health Care, Phillips and Sons Funeral Directors, Inc. transportation services, as well as neighbors and friends in Gainesville, Florida. Our appreciation is also extended to Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church for the use of your facilities and the final resting place of our beloved Jessie. Most of all we salute *J.P. Moore Mortuary & Cremation Services* for taking Jessie the last mile of the way. May God richly bless each of you who played a part - a warm "THANK YOU" from the bottom of our hearts.

Professional Services Entrusted To:



J.P. MOORE MORTUARY & CREMATION SERVICES
 Jamarien "JP" Moore, CFSP, CFSGM, CCO
 President | Mortician
 379 West Base Street, Maison, Florida 32340
 tel: 850.973.6677 / fax: 850.973.6676

www.JPMooreMortuary.com

"Spreading
Sunshine

At the Sunset of Life"

#TheMorticianWhoCaresMoore

Your Life Was A Blessing, Your Memory A Treasure

Homegoing Celebration

HONORING THE LIFE, LOVE & LEGACY OF
Sister

*Jessie Bethedra
 Stephens Parker*

Earth's Gift:
 November 17, 1938

Heaven's Gain
 October 2, 2024



Celebrating Her Life

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2024
3:00 POST MERIDIEM

Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church

4168 SOUTHWEST LOVETT ROAD * GREENVILLE, FLORIDA 32331

The Reverend Mathew Troupe, Gracious Host | Pastor
 The Reverend Alonzo Fudge, Eulogist
 PASTOR, NEW JERUSALEM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
 GREENVILLE, FLORIDA

J.P. Moore Undertaking Company, Directing

Jessie Bethedra Stephens Parker

NOVEMBER 17, 1938 – OCTOBER 2, 2024

*“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil; for thou art with me” ~ Psalm 23:4*

Jessie Bethedra Stephens Parker, the oldest child of James “Scrap” Stephens and Viney Mae Smith Stephens, was born on November 17, 1938, in Madison, Florida, the community where she also lived the early years of her life. Because of her career, she relocated to Detroit, Michigan, and Bridgeport, Connecticut, respectively. However, twenty years ago, she established her retirement residency in Gainesville, Florida.

Jessie grew up with God-fearing parents who took their children to church every Sunday. While they were faithful members of St. Thomas African Methodist Episcopal Church, they also attended Lime Sink Missionary Baptist Church within the community. With a strong spiritual foundation, *Jessie* confessed her belief that Jesus Christ was her Savior, was baptized by faith, and faithfully served as a dedicated member of St. Thomas.

Jessie acquired her formal education at Madison County Training School, the segregated school for African American students. Because of the supportive village - teachers, parents, church, and community fostering goal setting, students were successfully prepared for real world experiences. Following her 1956 high school graduation, *Jessie* enrolled in Edward Waters College (now Edward Waters University) in Jacksonville, Florida. She graduated with an Associate of Arts degree in 1958. She returned home to secure her first career position as secretary of Greenville Training School. Her career path later elevated her for employment as an auditor for Aetna Insurance Company, a position she dedicated her untiring service until her retirement.

Jessie’s retirement years included quality time for enjoying her family. She loved going to her favorite fishing holes, cooking favorite foods/meals, and being a road runner (traveling). She also was an avid golfer on the fairway with her hole-in-one, eagle, or handicap. Likewise, she was an enthusiastic bowler with the perfect game in her Bowling League.

Jessie adored her extended family and was a supportive role model and matriarch. While she was not blessed with her own biological children, she was a favorite auntie/ second mom for her nieces and nephews. She loved them unconditionally and cherished the wonderful memories they helped create during the holidays or on “just because” visits.

Blessed with eternal life are those who believe in Christ. On Wednesday, October 2, 2024, *Jessie Bethedra Stephens Parker* quietly transitioned from her labor to rest eternally with the Lord.

Another leaf from the Stephens family tree has fallen. *Jessie Bethedra Stephens Parker’s* leaf is her legacy of life lived with love and laughter that she left in the sands of time. She is gone from her loved ones’ sight but never from their hearts. Those who will miss her until they see her again are her *siblings*: Melva Stephens Morfaw of Cherry Lake, FL, Gloria Sims-Fargas of Gainesville, FL, Theola Killings, Andrew Stephens, and Vernell Williams, all of Madison, FL, and Adolphus Stephens of Leesville, LA; a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews; along with many other loving relatives and friends. Preceding *Jessie Bethedra Stephens Parker* in death were her parents: James Stephens and Viney Mae Smith Stephens; husbands: Jerry McGee (in 1972) and Robert Parker (in 2008); along with brothers: Marion Stephens and Leroy Stephens.



The Divine Order of Service

Prelude.... *“Blessed Assurance”*.....Sister Geraldine Thompkins

Processional.....Pastor, Eulogist, Clergy, Mortician & Family

Parting Glance & Seating of Family The *J. P. Moore* Staff

Selection Sister Geraldine Thompkins
“It Is Well With My Soul”

The Prayer of ConsolationReverend Albert Barfield

The Holy Scriptures:
Old Testament Reverend Kimberly Mobley
New Testament.....Reverend Elaine Perdue

Musical Tribute Brother Adolphus Stephens

Reflections & Tributes:
Family & Friends (3)..... Two Minutes Each, *Please*

Resolutions & Acknowledgements..... The *J. P. Moore* Staff

Solo.....Chaplin Monica Jackson

Words of Comfort Reverend Alonzo Fudge

Mortician’s Brief..... Mr. Jamarie “J.P.” Moore, LFD

Recessional.....Clergy & Family

*“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall
be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there
be any more pain: for the former things are passed away”
~ Revelations 21:4 ~*