

Pallbearers

Buddy Barksdale

Curtis Ray

Kerry Scott

Kevin Westbrook

Devon Wilson

Javion Riley

Floral Bearers

Nieces and Cousins

Expression of Gratitude

The family of Antoinette Capers Bowers would like to express our sincere gratitude for the kindness and expressions of sympathy shown to us during our hours of bereavement. We sincerely appreciate your acts of love, kindness and support. May God forever bless you.

We would also like to thank: Reverend Dr. Susan Frazier Wilson and Apostle FBH Church, Gwendolyn Baker, Phyllis Parks, Margaret Washington, The Rouse Family, The Cunningham Family, The Caldwell Family, The Green Family, Frances Paul, Ericka Lorick, Rev. Kristen Baker, Celebration Musicians and Singers, "ValleyHavenWood" Community, Lexington Medical Center, Reverend Betty Wannamaker, Bethel AME Church, and Rhema Christian Center.

The Bowers Family

*A Celebration of Life
In Loving Memory
of*

MRS. ANTOINETTE VIOLINA BOWERS



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2025
12:00 NOON**

**BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH
819 WOODROW STREET
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**BISHOP ALLEN H. SIMMONS
CHIEF APOSTLE AND PRESIDING PRELATE
SOUNDS OF PRAISE PENTECOSTAL MINISTRIES
-OFFICIANT-
REVEREND BOBBY COX, JR.
-PASTOR-**

CONTACT US:

*Taylor Street Chapel
803-771-7799*

*Lower Richland Chapel
803-776-6922*

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-Owner-

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Leevy's
Chris Leevy Johnson
-Managing Director-

SIGN THE ONLINE REGISTRY:



Leverette A. Williams, II
-General Manager-

Reflections of Life

Mrs. Antoinette Violina Bowers

Antoinette Violina Capers Bowers (affectionately known as “Toni”) was a devoted wife, loving mother, grandmother, aunt, godmother and friend to all. She dedicated her life to serving God, her family, her church and her community. She entered eternal life on September 1, 2025.

The youngest of four children, she was born in Columbia, South Carolina on February 26, 1942, to the late Joseph and Everlina Capers. As the youngest grandchild, she had a special relationship with her grandmother, Susie Peters Brown, sister, Natalie Toppins; and uncle, James Brown “Uncle Jimmy”, who alongside her parents supported her rearing.

As a native Columbian, raised alongside the railroad tracks on Senate Street, she was proud to be a product of the Waverly Community. Her community was full of love, and she deeply cherished the lifelong friendships she formed.

Antoinette was educated at Waverly Elementary and Booker T. Washington High School (Class of 1960). She continued her education at Benedict College, graduating in 1964 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Education. In 1967, she married the love of her life, Jesse Lee Bowers, Jr., an airman in the United States Air Force from Axtell, Texas. From their union came four daughters. She deeply cherished her role as a wife and mother, building a home with a firm foundation centered in faith, love and laughter. When her girls were older, she returned to school and achieved her lifelong dream of earning a Master of Education from Cambridge College in Boston, Massachusetts.

She believed strongly in the value of education, which led to over a 30-year career as an educator. She began her professional teaching career at Lemon Street High in Marietta, Georgia and later at Skyhaven Elementary in Atlanta. To help support her husband’s changing career, she returned to Columbia, where she worked at the Richland School District One Office. Antoinette later returned to the classroom, teaching at Crayton Middle and Greenview Elementary schools. It brought her joy to teach children, many of whom were from her very own “ValleyHavenWood” Community. Her dedication extended beyond the classroom, supporting students through tutoring and homebound services. She loved being an educator, helping to shape the next generation of leaders.

At a young age, Antoinette accepted and received Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior at Jones Tabernacle Fire Baptized Holiness “Tin Bridge” Church of God of the Americas (FBH). She loved God and the church with all her heart, working in various leadership capacities for over 50 years to share the love of Jesus Christ and enrich the lives of those around her. At the local church level, she served as the director of the Young Peoples Institute (Y.P.I) and a Junior Missionary at Jones Tabernacle. In the national church, she served as the Assistant Secretary, and Secretary of the YPI for over 30 years. Later, she joined St. James FBH church in Irmo, SC, Family Worship Center Church of God in Christ (COGIC) and Victorious Believers COGIC, where she faithfully served as a missionary, Chairlady of the Women’s Department and a beloved church mother.

Antoinette will always be remembered as a mighty woman of prayer, encourager and communicator. (Her phone chats could be lengthy with several endings.) With a life devoted to serving her family, she faithfully cared for her husband as his primary caregiver for over 19 years. She had a passion for traveling, reading, collecting decorative bells, listening to the radio, looking at photos of family and friends and reminiscing on times past. A gracious hostess, her door was always open and visits to her home always included something to eat and drink and a “request” to capture the moment with a photo. Antoinette never met a stranger and would make you feel like the most important person in the room. But above all, she was Saved, Sanctified, Holy Ghost filled, and Fire Baptized (with a mighty burning fire).

She was preceded in death by her parents; her beloved sister, Natalie Toppins, brothers James Capers, Sumpter Capers, niece Zorradia Toppins, nephew Steven Toppins and Godparents William and Rosanna McCullough.

She leaves to celebrate her legacy: her loving husband of 57 years, Jesse; daughters, Valencia Mouzon (Randolph), Natalie Miller (Alexander), Jessica Antoinette Bowers and Erma Crystal Ingram; grandchildren, Lauren Ingram, Christopher Ingram and Ava Miller; sisters-in law, Evelyn Oliver, Yvonne Scott (William), Dorothy Paul and Carolyn Nelson; Godsisters, Betty Taylor and Regina Blash; Godbrothers, Ralph McCullough and Willie Sease; Godchildren, Melanie Rouse, Mario Riley, Essence Green, Sharmaine White, and James Barron II and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, lifelong friends, classmates and neighbors.

A Mother’s Crown

Heaven lit up with a mighty presence,
as the Angels all looked down.
Today the Lord was placing the jewels
Into my mother’s crown.

He held up a golden crown,
as my darling mother looked on.
He said in His gentle voice,
‘I will now explain each one.’

‘The first gem,’ He said, ‘is a Ruby,
and it’s for endurance alone,
for all the nights you waited up
for your children to come home.

For all the nights by their bedside,
you stayed till the fever went down.
For nursing every little wound,
I add this ruby to your crown.’

‘An emerald, I’ll place by the ruby,
for leading your child in the right way.
For teaching them the lessons,
That made them who they are today.’

‘For always being right there,
through all life’s important events.
I give you a sapphire stone,
for the time and love you spent.

For untying the strings that held them,
when they grew up and left home.
I give you this one for courage.’

Then the Lord added a garnet stone.
‘I’ll place a stone of amethyst,’ He said.
‘For all the times you spent on your knees,
when you asked if I’d take care of your children,
and then for having faith in Me.

I have a pearl for every little sacrifice
that you made without them knowing.
For all the times you went without,
to keep them happy, healthy and growing.’

‘And last of all I have a diamond,
the greatest one of all,
for sharing unconditional love
whether they were big or small.’

‘It was your love that helped them grow
Feeling safe and happy and proud
A love so strong and pure
It could shift the darkest cloud.’

After the Lord placed the last jewel in,
He said, ‘Your crown is now complete,
You’ve earned your place in Heaven
With your children at your feet.

-Your Girls

Memories



Order of Service

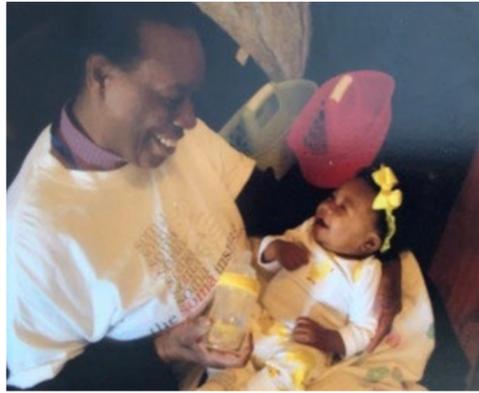
- Prelude
- Processional
- Viewing.....Funeral Directors
- Opening Hymn.....“Blessed Assurance”
- Invocation
- Old Testament.....Proverbs 31:10-12; 28-31.....Reverend Charles Martin
- New Testament.....Phillipians 1:18-23.....Elder Anthony Green
- Musical Selection
- Moments of Reflection (Two to Three Minutes Please)
 - Booker T. Washington High School Class of 1960.....Mr. Warnell Rhett Friend.....Mrs. Jennie Dupree Family.....Mr. Julius Wilson and Mrs. Michelle Bowers-Franklin Godchildren.....Overseer Melanie Rouse Neighborhood.....Mrs. Betty Hunter and Mrs. Crystal Collins
- Musical Selection
- Family Tribute
- Acknowledgements/Resolutions.....Ms. Gwendolyn Baker
- Silent Reading of Obituary
- Sermonic Selection
- Words of Comfort.....Bishop Allen H. Simmons
- Recessional
- Postlude



Committal, Benediction, and Interment

Lincoln Cemetery
 4900 Farrow Road
 Columbia, South Carolina

Memories



Memories

