

Tapestry of My Life

I wonder what the other side will be when I have finished weaving all my thread. I do not know the pattern nor the end of this great piece of work which is for me. I only know that I must weave with care the colors that are given me, day by day, and make of them a fabric firm and true, which will be of service for my fellow man. Sometimes those colors are so dark and gray I doubt if there will be one line or trace of beauty there. But all at once there comes a thread of gold or rose so deep that there will always be that one bright spot to cherish or to keep and maybe against its ground of darker hue it will be beautiful!

The warp is held in place by the Master's hand. The Master's mind made the design for me; if I but weave the shuttle to and fro and blend the colors just the best I know, perhaps when it is finished, He will say, "Tis good," and lay it on the footstool of His feet.

Honorary Pallbearers

Deacons

Floral Bearers

Deaconess and
Sunshine Garden Ministries

Acknowledgements

The family of the late Margaret Jones Bell expresses our sincere appreciation for your love, kindness, prayers, flowers, cards, or whatever thoughtful deeds rendered during our time of need. May God continue to richly bless you.

Services Entrusted To:

Leevy's Funeral Home
1831 Taylor Street | Columbia, SC 29201
9120 Garners Ferry Road | Hopkins, SC 29061
(803) 771-7799 | (803) 776-6922

Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Margaret Jones Bell



October 4, 1932 - June 1, 2026

Monday, June 8, 2026

10:00 a.m.

First Nazareth Baptist Church
2351 Gervais Street | Columbia, SC 29204

Reverend Dr. Blakely N. Scott
-Pastor-

Obituary

Today, we celebrate the life and legacy of Margaret Jones Bell. Margaret was born on October 4, 1932, in Forsyth, Georgia, to the late Andrew and Sylvia Estella Jones. She entered rest on Monday, June 1, 2026, at her home in Columbia, South Carolina.

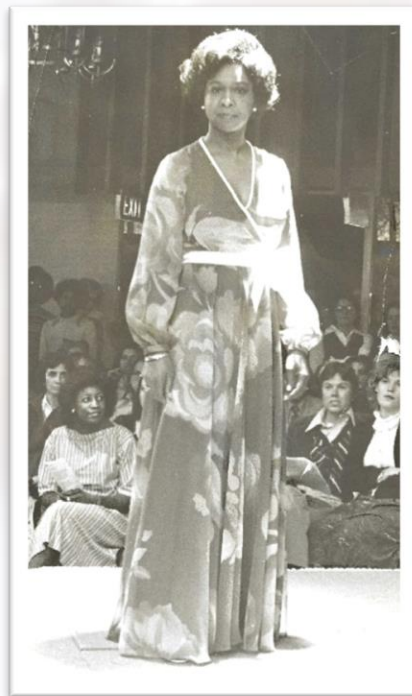
She grew up in Monroe County and graduated with honors from Hubbard High Training School. Margaret was a faithful member of Hopewell United Methodist Church and taught Youth Sunday School until she relocated to Fort Hood, Texas.

On May 30, 1959, she was joined in matrimony to the love of her life, Burleigh Weldon Bell for over 60 years. Shortly after their wedding, they moved to Fort Hood, Texas where they resided for 18 months and then relocated to Columbia, South Carolina.

After moving to Columbia, South Carolina, Margaret became a faithful member of First Nazareth Baptist Church where she served in the Sunshine Garden Ministry, Senior Ministry, Deaconess Ministry, and worked on many committees. She was an elegant lady with many talents. She was quick to see humor in life, and enjoyed interior designing, reading, crossword puzzles, and gardening. She was an excellent cook and known for her delicious cheese straws.

Her career spanned over 28 years of service, and she received many honors and awards. She was employed at the Belk Department Store located on Main Street. She was among the first blacks to integrate into the Belk Store. Her positions included: Sales Associate, Assistant Store Manager, Fashion Coordinator, and Fashion Model. She was the top Sales Associate for 14 consecutive years, thereby garnering her many awards and honors. She was nominated for the *"10 Best-Dressed Career Women of Columbia,"* by the Columbia Council of Career Women.

Margaret Jones Bell is survived by: one sister, Catherine Jones Mays, of Forsyth, Georgia; two sisters-in-law, Maisie Bell Nichols, and Rose Patricia Bell Singleton, both of Forsyth, Georgia; her nieces and nephews, Barbara J. Banks and Gladys J. Owens of Forsyth, Georgia, Patricia J. Hood, of Griffin, Georgia, Carolyn A. Jordan, of Covington, Georgia, Wanda A. Freeman and Valerie (Johnny) Davis, of Forsyth, Georgia, Alisa B. Jones, of Lithonia, Georgia, Burleigh L. Singleton, of Atlanta, Georgia, Tonya Bell (Michael) Tate, of Elkton, Maryland, Carrie Donley Gilmore, Houston, Texas, Donald E. (Lily) Bell, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Ernest Curt Bell, of Bowie, Maryland, Alvin V. Bell, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Curtis (Rachel) Jordan, of Auburn, Georgia, Mary Kate (James) Franklin of Sumter, South Carolina; special friends, Deacon Joel and Loraine Ingram of Elgin, South Carolina, and Clinton and Renee Davis of Columbia, South Carolina and a host of relatives, friends, and church members.



Order of Service

Musical Prelude | *Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

Processional | **Final Viewing**

Prayer | Reverend Hazel Reese

Scripture Readings:

New Testament | Minister Samuel Diggs

Old Testament | Pastor James Franklin

Poem | Loraine Ingram

Tapestry of My Life

Selection | *Amazing Grace*

Reflections (Please Limit to Two Minutes)

FNBC | Deacon Stacy Wilson

Family | Burleigh L. Singleton

Friend | Brenda Jackson

Friend | Renee Davis

Solo | Debroah Solomon

Eulogy | Reverend Dr. Blakely N. Scott

Acknowledgements

Recessional | *I'm Free*

Interment | Fort Jackson National Cemetery
4170 Percival Road | Columbia, South Carolina