



Mrs. Marian Abel Jones

June 29, 1926 - July 31, 2021

MARIAN ZENOBIA ABEL JONES was born June 29, 1926 in Columbia S.C. She was the 9th of 12 children and the youngest daughter born to Ira Beatrice Abel and Jepsie Thomas Abel. (The youngest child, Lewis, died as an infant). Marian departed this life on Saturday, July 31, 2021.

Marian was educated in the public school system in Columbia and graduated in May of 1942 at the age of 15 from Booker T. Washington High School in Columbia. She excelled academically and was awarded a scholarship to Barber Scotia College in North Carolina, which was then a two year college. She graduated from Barber Scotia College. She then enrolled in Bennett College and, with help from her family, completed her Bachelor's Degree in Sociology in 1946.

After completing her Bachelor's Degree, she began teaching in the Columbia School System. On December 25, 1948, Marian married Edward C. Jones, Jr, of Sumter, S.C. He was one of only two black photographers in South Carolina at that time. Marian later obtained her Master's Degree in Education from South Carolina State College in 1957.

Marian taught in the Sumter School System for over 20 years. She taught Social Studies (U.S. History and Constitution) at Lincoln High School (formerly the all black Sumter high school) for the majority of that time. She was later

moved to Edmunds High School (formerly the all white Sumter high school) as a part of the school district's attempt to desegregate schools.

Marian and Edward had three children: Marvene, E.C. and Beatrice. As a couple, they worked hard and provided a comfortable life for their family. They also extended helping hands to others in the family as well as in the community-especially young black people in whom they detected potential and drive. They embodied the concept "it takes a village".

In 1955, Marian and her siblings lost their Mother, and in 1956, they the lost their Father. In 1962, her husband, Edward, suffered a serious stroke which completely paralyzed him on his right side and caused some brain damage. This forced her to become the only family breadwinner, taking care not only of her children, but also of her husband. Despite the financial troubles, Marian kept her children well cared for and there was nothing that they needed that was not provided to them. She received some support and help from siblings.

During this time, she mentored one of her 8th grade students, Robert L. Johnson. He became a part of this family and for all intents and purposes, her 4th child and older brother to the other children. On May 5, 1969, Edward suffered another stroke on his namesake's 16th birthday, from which he did not survive.

Though the struggle to adapt to her husband's condition and the changes in the family life was challenging, Marian's relationship with God was always central to her life. She said that her faith and her prior struggles prepared her for Edward's death.

With concern for the need for her older teenage daughter to have positive extracurricular activities, she became involved with Emmanuel United Church's Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF) in the mid 1960's, The MYF was

lacking in leadership at the time. The MYF grew under her leadership. A new and exciting youth church choir developed, led by the youth themselves and attracting a wide array of youth, many with musical talents. Marian had no musical training or talent herself, but she was the inspiration and leader of this group. She became a mentor to many young people, with approximately 60 youth going through this organization during that time. She provided informal counseling and assisted many in gaining admittance and scholarships to college. At one point in time, there were 39 of these youth attending United Methodist Colleges. She also provided guidance to a number of youth who entered the ministry.

Marian worked with the youth group until she left the Sumter School District to work directly with the United Methodist Church as Associate Director of the South Carolina Council on Ministries. In 1973, she was recruited and selected to become a Field Representative in the Office of Finance and Field Service, National Division, General Board of Ministries. During that tenure, she travelled to various places in the United States, as well as China, India and four developing countries in Africa.

In 1990, she accepted a position with the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church headquartered in Columbus, Ohio where she relocated. She retired from the West Ohio Conference in 1993. Throughout her time with the United Methodist Church, she also worked closely with the national and regional Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) organization and was a Life Member.

Marian loved her family - her children, grandchildren, siblings, nieces and nephews. She maintained contact with and tried to assist her siblings whenever she could. She developed special relationships with each of her grandchildren. She enjoyed being around family, and could be counted on to

invite family for Christmas dinner every year.

In 2008, Marian suffered a stroke, when her son E.C. had moved to Columbus to be with her for a while. After extensive rehabilitation, and additional exercise therapy with E.C., she began to walk again, with minimal assistance. In the spring of 2009, she moved to Fort Worth, TX with her daughter, Beatrice, who cared for her until her death. During her time in Texas, she affiliated with Dallas' St. Luke "Community" UMC and was inducted into the Senior Saints of Wisdom in 2010.

Marian was preceded in death by her husband, Edward Jones, Sisters, Oneta Tolson, Ocie Harris and Nearie White; brothers Earl, Harold, Broadus, Jepsie, Wendell, Melvin, Herman and Lewis Abel.

She leaves to cherish her memory her Children, Aurelia Marvene (Jones) Brooks, Edward C. Jones III, Beatrice L. (Jones) Nealy, and Robert L. Johnson; Son- in law, Jefferson Brooks, and Daughter in law, Myrtle Johnson; Grandchildren, Maisha (Johnson) O'Neal, Ahmad Braxton-Jones, Sekou Brooks, Josina (Brooks) Woodruff), Malcolm Brooks, Marian Nealy, Chauncey Nealy and Camille Paxton-Akers; Great grandchildren Ta'von Francis, Ahmad Bosier, Khalil Stowers, Michaela O'Neal, Aniya Woodruff, Jaila Woodruff, Moriah Brooks, Cadence Paxton, Micah O'Neal, Cherish Upshaw, Avi Thompson and Cohnnor Akers; 4 Great great-grandchildren; 19 nieces and nephews; and a host of other relatives and friends.

This is a socially distanced and Covid-19 compliant funeral service. Services will be held at Emmanuel United Methodist Church in Sumter on Saturday, August 14, at 11:00 a.m., preceded by a viewing at 10:00 am.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to following charities:

*Bennett College

Marian Jones C/O 1946

900 E. Washington Street
Greensboro, NC 27401
or online at <http://www.bennett.edu>

* M/O Marian Jones
Emmanuel United Methodist Church
Building Fund
PO Box 1203
Sumter, SC 29151

To access the livestream of the service, please go to Facebook.com, search for Palmer Memorial Chapel Inc., and "like" the page. The livestream video will begin at the designated time of the service.

Note: Persons must have a Facebook acct.

Previous Events

Public Viewing

AUG **13**. 1:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Palmer Memorial Chapel - Sumter
304 South Main Street
Sumter, SC 29150
(803) 773-3381
palmermemorialchapel@sc.rr.com
<https://www.palmermemorialchapel.com>

Public Viewing

AUG **14**. 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM (ET)

Emmanuel United Methodist Church
421 South Main Street
Sumter, SC

Funeral Service

AUG **14**. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Emmanuel United Methodist Church
401 S Main St
Sumter, SC 29150
(803) 773-6197

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Marian Abel Jones*

October 04, 2023 at 11:33 AM



“ *I will always have fond memories of Mrs. Jones. I had the pleasure of working along with her with the youth of Emmanuel UMC. It was a pleasure to see the energy and love she brought to that job. It was more of a project and a deep desire to make life better for the young students of the church. It showed me what it's like to really love what you are doing and to do it well..*

Rest in Peace Mrs. Jones.

Virginia King

Sumter, SC



Virginia King - August 14, 2021 at 10:08 AM



“ *Marvene, E.C. and Bea, I have fond memories of your mom as she guided the youth of Emmanuel. The church had a vibrant youth ministry under her leadership. Thank you for sharing her with us. Another angel has received her wings. Peace and Blessings to you.*

Wanda Wells Smith

Wanda Smith - August 13, 2021 at 05:40 PM

LW

“ *May God’s love comfort you as only he can during this time of loss. May he heal your heart with the peace of his promise and the comfort of his loving.*

I have fond memories of Mrs. Jones who was my mother’s dear friend and mentor. I remember Mrs, Jones as a woman of faith and as a tireless worker in the United Methodist Church and in the community.

Praying for the family and that your memories of her will bring you peace,

With Love,

*Laurie Wells Wilson and Lonnie Wilson
Manassas, Virginia*

Laurie Wells Wilson - August 13, 2021 at 04:55 PM



“ *Touching Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Marian Abel Jones.*



August 13, 2021 at 02:14 PM

YF

“ *Our deepest and sincere condolences to the Abel Jones family.*

Mrs. Jones was the epitome of a mentor. If not for her we and many young ladies would not have been educated at the greatest college for women, Bennett College. We have four cousins who graduated from Bennett College and our only niece who graduate from Bennett May 2021. The legacy continues.

It was her mentoring, example and genuine caring that touched our spirits to always want to reach back and help someone along the way.

Under Mrs. Jones' leadership, it is our opinion that we had the best and most progressive youth program at Emmanuel United Methodist Church. We learned the word of God, obedience and reality. The reality, not to succumb to the negative but how to overcome the negative to make it a positive.

We are forever grateful for her influence in our lives.

Rest in peace Mrs. Jones

Proverbs 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

*Yulaundra Ferguson Heyward
Fernaundra Ferguson*

Yulaundra and Fernaundra Ferguson - August 13, 2021 at 10:48 AM



Beautiful tribute to our Mom. Thank you for coming to her wonderful funeral service and it was so great to see you all after a number of years. Hugs, E.C.

Edward Jones - August 17, 2021 at 01:20 PM

LS

"Condolences to the Able- Jones and extended families:

I grew up and lived 4 houses on Farrow Rd from the homestead of Mrs. Marian Able Jones whom I fondly admired. I observed Ms. Able (then), as being a very successful, knowledgeable young lady whom I wanted to emulate. As a young teen, I often sought Marian's guidance and advice as a mentor !

Mrs. Marian Jones' life has truly been a blessing to those whom she touched!!

I also knew Melvin, Herman, Ocie and her children, Paul, Rudey, and Yvonne Harris and her nephew, Karey Able.

May Your Memories of Her Bring You Peace!

Lydia Davis Sandiford Columbia, S.C. " August 21, 2021

Lydia Davis Sandiford - August 21, 2021 at 01:32 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Marian Abel Jones.



August 13, 2021 at 08:34 AM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Mrs. Marian Abel Jones.*



August 12, 2021 at 11:40 PM

JJ

“She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future.” Proverbs 31:25

Dearest Abel-Jones Family,

Our hearts are heavy and broken with the loss of Mrs Marian Z Abel Jones... Matriarch, Mother, Grandmother, Great Grandmother, Great Great Grandmother, Aunt, Teacher, Counselor, Confidante... a brilliant, beautiful light in All of our lives...and especially, for the Jones Family.


Your dear Mother, has heard the call and answered, as only she could for her chosen time and as we will, one day...Oh, what a beautiful and rare late Summer flower, God has chosen for His Heavenly Garden...

I have had the extreme pleasure of knowing Mrs Jones through an almost 50 year friendship through a multilayered college experience with her son, Edward. I recognized early, that she was an able woman of God...His beautiful daughter and a solid role model for her Abel-Jones Family, her Sumter, South Carolina, Ohio Communities and every place she touched. She was an extraordinary servant of God, educator, wife, mother and a sister/friend, to All she met along her way.

With the voice of an Angel, her brilliance, steady and stellar performance, with dignity, was truly exemplified in every way...For us she will Forever, represent the scales of justice and all things orderly.

We mourn her passing and cherish her well-lived life, with many sweet remembrances of her generously shared blessings, salutes and service, to her God first, Family second and “People Projects”, third.

Rest in Heaven, Mother Marian... God knows we have enjoyed your classic, beautiful, savvy way and kind heart. You will Always be the Exemplar for your Family and Friends.

*Grace, Mercy, Love  and my Deepest Sympathies,
Janyce F Jefferson, Long-time Family Friend
Washington, DC*

Janyce Faye Jefferson - August 12, 2021 at 09:16 PM

JJ

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Janyce F Jefferson, Long-time Family Friend
Washington, DC*

Janyce F Jefferson - August 12, 2021 at 09:13 PM

RC

“ *She was always so put together. Her presence was one that had to be noticed. She was also dedicated and efficient. Well done faithful servant*

Rev J Jeannette' Cooper - August 12, 2021 at 08:47 PM

PF

“ *Priscilla Foggy lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Marian Abel Jones*



Priscilla Foggy - August 12, 2021 at 06:09 PM

EJ

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Edward C. Jones - August 12, 2021 at 02:32 PM

EJ

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Edward C. Jones - August 12, 2021 at 02:28 PM

RD

“ For all the love, care, guidance, and blessings Mrs. Jones gave to us, we say Thank You. Her living was not in vain as she touched many youth. She was one of God's treasures whose brilliant light will forever shine. Rev. John & Beverly (Waldon) Dicks, Sr.



Rev. John & Beverly Waldon Dicks - August 12, 2021 at 11:39 AM



“ Beatrice, Marion, Chauncey and other family members. May God continue to give you strength and peace during this difficult time of loss and transition 🙏 Peace and Blessings Always 🙏 Praying for you 🙏

Dee Cain - August 11, 2021 at 02:17 PM