



Mary Lee Toomer Thompson

November 20, 1920 - August 26, 2016

Mrs. Mary Lee Toomer Thompson was born on November 20, 1920 in the Texas community of South Carolina, located in rural Dorchester County, the third child of 12 siblings and eldest daughter of the Reverend Willey and Mrs. Minnie (Tobin) Toomer. Growing up as a minister's child, her father pastored several churches around Dorchester and Clarendon counties, and church life was second to none. While attending high school, she was an athlete, played basketball and was the team's point guard. The Toomer family eventually moved to St. George, SC. While working as a cosmetologist, it was there that she met her future husband, Charles I. Thompson, a graduate of Allen University and local teacher. They married on her birthday in 1944. Over time, the family lived in Orangeburg and Charleston, SC. They finally settled in Sumter, SC. following Charles' occupational progression in the education system as a teacher, coach, and Assistant Principal at Sumter's Lincoln High School, and the school district's Adult Education Director.

While living in Sumter during the early years, Mary concentrated her time on rearing the three children, and was a licensed cosmetologist. She serviced clients out of a cinder block shop built for her by Charles in the back yard of the home. But she never lost sight of furthering her education, a trait her father instilled in all of the Toomer offspring. Mary graduated from Morris College with a degree in elementary education, and began a teaching career in Sumter School District 17 that spanned over 20 years.

Mary was very active in the Sumter community and in First Baptist Church, to which she has been a member for over 60 years. She was the church's Girl Scout Troop Leader for many years, a member of the choir, and several church missionary circles. She was a member of the Federated Girls Club, the Sumter Historical Commission, the Green Thumb Garden Club, and the North Main Street Community Club. She was also a member of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

Mary was an outgoing person who loved to dress up and travel, cruising to the Caribbean, Mexico and Alaska, and once to Spain. She loved visitors, insisting that you feel welcomed and comfortable, share, partake of her hospitality, and discover later that you must request permission to leave. She was always one for a good hearty laugh which was medicine for whatever ailed you while in her presence. Above all, she tried to live as Christ did, always concerned about the welfare of others above her own, and thinking what could she do to make one's life a little better while in her presence.

Mary is predeceased by: eight siblings, brothers T.J., Sam, Jethro, and David Toomer, and sisters: Juanita Toomer Ford, Helen Toomer Crique, Contrina Toomer Clark, and Louise Toomer Thomas.

In her transition to eternal life, she finally gets to see again her loving husband of 56 years. She leaves wonderful and cherished memories for: her three children, Barbara (John) Tate, of Jacksonville, NC, Charles, Jr. (Mary) Thompson, of Atlanta, Ga, and Ronald (Marilyn) Thompson, of Columbia, SC., two sisters, Minnie Calendar, Cape May Court House, NJ, Alice (Herbert) Williams, of Valdosta, Ga, and one brother, Stoney (Tillie) Toomer, of Beaufort, SC. There is also a legacy of seven grandchildren, and ten great grandchildren who affectionately refer to her as "GG".

Cemetery Details

Hillside Memorial Park

3001 Cains Mill Rd
Sumter, SC

Previous Events

Wake

AUG 30. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Palmer Memorial Chapel
304 South Main St.
Sumter, SC 29150
(803) 773-3381

Celebration of Life

AUG 31. 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

First Baptist Missionary Church
219 South Washington St
Sumter,, SC

Tribute Wall



“ *Mary Lee Toomer Thompson*

October 04, 2023 at 11:33 AM



“ *To the dear bereaved Thompson, Toomer and Williams Family: One of the promises that God has made to His people is "I Am with you alway(s), even until the end of the world. Amen" (St. Matthew 28:20) and He restated this promise in Hebrews 13:5, "I will never leave you, nor forsake you". Our Lord Jesus is with you now family with all His Love, Grace and Comfort and He will bring you through this time of bereavement. We love you and will be praying for you today and in the days to come.*

*Pastor William C. Morgan & the Morning Star Baptist Church,
Valdosta, Georgia*

Pastor William C. Morgan - August 31, 2016 at 07:19 AM



“ *Dear Barbara, Charles, and Ronald,*

May God's infinite love give you and your family peace during this period of adjustment to Mrs. Thompson's transition. May the testimony of her compassionate service to church and community organizations, coupled with her gracious spirit which permeated informal gatherings of your extended family with neighbors bring deep comfort.

*Sincerely,
Arthuree McLaughlin Wright*

Arthuree Wright - August 30, 2016 at 10:04 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mary Lee Toomer Thompson.*



August 30, 2016 at 05:25 PM



“ *My sincere condolences to Mrs. Thompson's family, especially her daughter and sons. In 1963, after my mother's sudden death, Mrs. Thompson and her husband opened their home to shelter me and my younger brother. She was a warm and gentle spirit during a very dark period of my life. Her kindness allowed me to remain in Sumter and graduate from Lincoln High School. I could never repay her spiritual generosity, but I have emulated her behavior. She was a Christian role model who shared her love with her family, as well as those whose lives she touched. May she rest in peace, and bask in her reward. Sarah Bracey White*



Sarah Bracey White - August 30, 2016 at 05:08 PM



“ *To the Family of Mary Thompson. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. We the care ministry at First Baptist Missionary Church, will continue to keep you in our thoughts and prayers. Cherish those everlasting memories, we conclude, then that the believers are absent from their physical bodies and present with the Lord. Sincerely, The FBMC Care Ministry.*



Tammy Montgomery Scott - August 30, 2016 at 03:08 PM

JC

“ John, DaDonna and Elizabeth Coulter purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mary Lee Toomer Thompson.



John, DaDonna and Elizabeth Coulter - August 30, 2016 at 12:52 PM

MA

“ Ron, so sorry to hear of your mother's passing. She must have been an amazing mother..thinking of you and wish you have peace and grace during this difficult time.

Mary Dunlap Snead

mary - August 30, 2016 at 10:05 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mary Lee Toomer Thompson.



August 30, 2016 at 09:56 AM

TT

“ The Clark Family Tina, JoeJoe, Vickie and Tuttie purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mary Lee Toomer Thompson.



The Clark Family Tina, JoeJoe, Vickie and Tuttie - August 29, 2016 at 05:57 PM

TC

“ I spent a summer with my Aunt Mary by myself and I was treated as if I was one of her own. There was also a summer my sisters and I spent with Aunt Mary but this particular time it was just me. I'm not sure but I may have been around 12 or 13. I had my own room which had this cute little dressing table where she would place all of the girlie stuff for me. She would press my hair in her backyard hair salon. I loved my Aunt Mary's hair. All she had to do was brush her hair under to get a curl. She had hair like my grandmother's hair - soft, salt and pepper and easy to manage. She also had the softest smile that I will always remember. I pray that she R.I.P. I love you Aunt Mary.

Tina (Clark) Carr - August 29, 2016 at 04:36 PM



“ 30 files added to the album Life Tributes



Palmer Memorial Chapel - August 29, 2016 at 08:19 AM

A.

“ Please accept my heartfelt condolences in the loss of your dear loved one. May the family find comfort from the God of tender mercies.(2 Corinthians1:3,4).

A.H. - August 28, 2016 at 09:48 PM

EF

“ Eric & Stephanie Thomas and Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mary Lee Toomer Thompson.



Eric & Stephanie Thomas and Family - August 28, 2016 at 06:29 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Mary Lee Toomer Thompson.



August 28, 2016 at 02:49 PM

LC

“ I will always Remember the LOVE Aunt Marylee showed me n my sisters. She kept us for the entire summer when we were young, took us out to events and showed us plenty of Love. She also was the shoulder that I cried on when my mother passed. Love you Aunt MaryLee you were an amazing, woman!

Lana (Vickie) Clark - August 28, 2016 at 01:37 PM

RB

“ I am sorry to hear of your loss. May you find comfort in the resurrection promise at John 6;40 that reads; "This is the will of my Father, that everyone who recognized the Son and exercise faith in him should have everlasting life and I will resurrect him on the last day." The Bible gives us hope that one day our dead loved ones will be brought back to life.

RB - August 28, 2016 at 07:23 AM

GJ

“ *I will remember Mrs. Thompson for her beautiful smile, her warm spirit and gracious hospitality. She was indeed a phenomenal woman..*

Pastor George Windley

George Windley Jr. - August 27, 2016 at 09:52 PM