

*"Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies.
The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.
She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life." Proverbs 31:10-12*

A Life Well Lived!



Celebration of the Life and Legacy of
Jennie Bell Strickland

February 24, 1922 - April 15, 2017

*"Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates."
Proverbs 31:31*

Remembering Mother Strickland

Jennie Bell Strickland was born February 24, 1922 to Jim King and LoLene Hughes King in Surry County, NC. She passed away on Saturday morning, April 15, 2017 at Twelve Oaks Senior Living Community in Mount Airy, NC while surrounded by family members. She was the second oldest of 10 children and served as a loving sister and second mother to several of her younger siblings. Mother Strickland had two younger sisters; Odessa King Green (deceased) and Priscilla King Allen of Mount Airy, NC, and seven brothers, Ansley King (deceased), Cleo King (deceased), Calvin King (deceased), Curtis King (deceased), John Howard "JD" King (deceased), Lonnie King (deceased) and Elbert King (spouse, Hattie Sue) of Ararat, VA.

While attending J.J. Jones High School, where she was a member of the class of 1941, a young good looking gentleman, who was the first student bus driver at the school, caught Jennie Bell's eye. His name was James R. Strickland. Their romance began after she sought his attention by occupying the seat right behind him as he drove to and from school daily. On May 26, 1940, James and Jennie Strickland became husband and wife after four months of dating. They would have celebrated their 77th wedding anniversary on the May 26, 2017. Trusting in the Lord, this union produced 10 beautiful children, in the exact reverse ratio of Jennie's family of origin – three boys and seven girls. Their sons are James Alfred Strickland (deceased), Lawrence Samuel Strickland of Winston-Salem, NC and Eric D. Strickland (spouse, Paula) of Bowie, MD. Their seven daughters are Arlene S. Halyard (spouse, Scott) of Marietta, GA, Wilna Wilkerson (spouse, Garnell) of St. Leonard, MD, Ora Lea Strickland of Weston, FL, Myranda Strickland of Silver Spring, MD, Maricia Parks of Hope Mills, NC, Phyllis Strickland Williams (spouse, Daryl) of Bel Air, MD and Sedalia Strickland-Horton (spouse, Jackie) of Pleasant Garden, NC.

They raised their children in a household that put God first in all things that they did including Sunday morning Bible study around the breakfast table, participation in many church organizations and activities, and having a full trust that lack of discipline would spoil the child. Mother Strickland worked in collaboration with her husband as the primary disciplinarian in the household. She and Elder James R. Strickland championed the benefits of getting an education with their children, and ensured that each of their 10 children graduated from high school and attended a college or university of their choice.

Mother Strickland's life and dedication to serving her church and local communities were a blessing to her family as well as many in the Surry County and beyond. In addition to being a wise and prudent mother, she was a pastor's wife and a farmer's wife. She supplemented her husband's support of the family by working as a domestic housekeeper; and, a self-employed entrepreneur selling produce from the Strickland Farm such as eggs, butter and milk to local community residents.

Once her children began to leave the nest for their college education, she obtained outside employment; working in the textile industry where she eventually retired from Perry Manufacturing Company with 13 years of employment.

Mother Strickland served her church family well by serving as a distinguished role model as a pastor's wife. She served along with her husband, Elder James R. Strickland, as he pastored as many as three churches concurrently. Mother Strickland would leave home with husband and children in tow early on Sunday mornings, and after three or four church services later, arrive home well after 10:00 p.m. Sunday night. The following Monday morning she would get up by 5:30 a.m., prepare herself for work by 7:00 a.m., and get the children off to school.

In her Christian walk with her husband, Mother Strickland served as Secretary of the Progressive Primitive Baptist Women's Auxiliary for the Sandy Ridge District Association for 42 years; Secretary of the Progressive Primitive Baptist Southeast District Sunday School Convention for 42 years; and Secretary of the Sick and Needy Reunion from its organization in 1964 until 1976, a total of 12 years. In 1976, Mother Strickland along with Mother Ethel Brim, founded the Sandy Ridge District Ministers and Deacon Union, for the National Progressive Primitive Baptist Association. Mother Strickland was a faithful member of The Sandy Ridge District Association, North Carolina/Virginia State Convention USA, and National Primitive Baptist Association for over 40 years until her health begin to fail. Her community involvement included membership in the Eastern Stars, NAACP, and Sandy Level Community Action. Her devotion and love for Christ and individuals led her to a walk of helping others. She was instrumental in helping those in need receive assistance from social services. At the request of Northern Hospital of Surry County, she was legal guardian and advisor for an individual for eight years who was a recovering alcoholic and substance abuser. The Strickland home also served as a food mission, feeding those in the community when they were hungry. Mother Strickland was a faithful Christian and we are proud to celebrate her, as a loving Wife, Mother, Grandmother, community icon and Mother and member of Kings Mountain View Primitive Baptist Church.

In addition to her husband and surviving children and siblings, Jennie Bell Strickland, leaves to cherish her memory, 20 grandchildren, Cherie Halyard, Craig Halyard, Armand Strickland, James Anthony "Tony" Strickland, April Wellons, Victor Smith, Elude Ortiz, Jason Strickland, Samuel L. Strickland, Jr., Lauren Ashley, Kayla Strickland, David Strickland Cantor, Steven Strickland Cantor, Taneeka Strickland, Dason Strickland, Cierra Strickland, Shawntel Parks, Chermaine P. Quinn, Jacia Horton and Saudia Horton; 13 great grandchildren; her devoted friend, sister-in-law and personnel care provider, Jessie R. Strickland, as well as brothers and sisters-in-law, Sadie S. George, Helen S. Taylor, G. W. Strickland (spouse, Connie) and Joe Lewis Strickland (spouse, Mary); a host of nieces, nephews, her church family, other relatives and friends.

Order of Service

Saturday, April 22, 2017

Viewing and Visitation - 11:00 a.m.

Funeral - 1:00 p.m.

Central United Methodist Church

1909 North Main Street ♦ Mount Airy, NC

Elder Timothy Lions, Officiating

Visitation.....11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Family Prayer and Tribute.....Family Members

Scripture Readings

Old Testament

New Testament

Musical Selection.....Kings Mountain View Combined Choir
"What a Friend We Have In Jesus"

Obituary Reading / Acknowledgements / Church Resolutions.....Elaine Simmons

Musical Selection.....Kings Mountain View Combined Choir

Remarks ***Mother's Board, Kings Mountain View Primitive Baptist Church*** - Mother Gloria King
 Deacon Board, Kings Mountain View Primitive Baptist Church - Deacon Anthony King
 Sandy Ridge District Progressive Primitive Baptist Association - Deacon John Jessup

Special Recognitions

Eulogy.....Dr. Elder Thomas W. Samuels

Musical Selection.....Kings Mountain View Combined Choir

Recessional

Interment

Skyline Memory Garden

Mount Airy, NC

***Immediately following the interment, please join the family at
Central United Methodist Church for the repast and continued fellowship.***

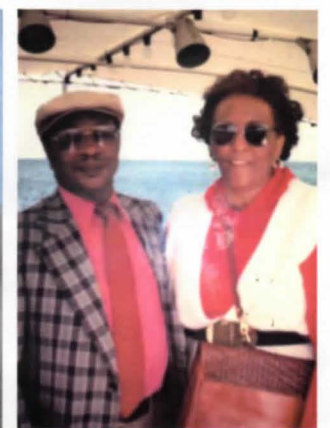
Family Memories



Family Memories



Family Memories



Tribute



*Christ saw her footsteps falter, when her heart grew weak and faint,
He marked when her strength was failing, and listened to each complaint
He bid her rest for a season for the pathway has grown too steep
And folded in fair green pasture; He giveth his loved one sleep.
Weep not that her toil is over, weep not that her race is won,
God grant that we may rest as calmly, when our work like hers is done.*



Message of Thanks

With deep appreciation and gratitude, we wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to our friends and church family for the meals delivered daily to dad as he sat lovingly by mom's side. We thank you for your concern, prayers, and the many acts of kindness that you have shown us during the loss of our mom, Jennie B. Strickland. Words cannot express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to each of you. May God bless each and every one of you.

The James R. and Jennie Strickland Family

Donations in honor of Jennie B. Strickland can be made to
The Alzheimer's Foundation of America:

By mail: The Alzheimer's Foundation of America
322 Eighth Avenue, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10001

***Make check payable to "The Alzheimer's Foundation of America" and in the memo line,
write Jennie Strickland Memorial Fund.***

By credit card: Call 1-866-232-8484 and specify the contribution is for
the Jennie Strickland Memorial Fund.

Professional Services Arranged By
Spencer Funeral Home, Inc.
824 North Main Street • Mount Airy, NC • 336-786-4161
Programs by In-A-Minute 301-877-7728