



Ms. Lovey Isable Stephens

September 15, 1927 - October 15, 2022

Isabel, “Pledged to God; God is perfection, and God is my oath!”
Her promise to Him; His proficiency in her; and His final affirmation!

Lovey Isabel Stephens

Isabel, it was all packed in her middle name, though ushered in by love, her first name! Lovey was named after her grandmother, Lovey McAfee Nesbit. She was the 2nd born, on September 15, 1927, to the late Frank and Dixie Nesbit Stephens and raised in the Pinckneyville Community, now Peachtree Corners, GA.

Lovey’s formative school years were at the knees of local teachers and her Aunties, most notably, the late Clara B. Nesbit, the first African American to have a school named after her in Gwinnett County, Georgia. Lovey learned reading, writing, and arithmetic along with the Bible. She passed her educational prowess to her nieces and nephews as they would ask, “Aunt Lovey, where you at?” She would reply, “Behind that preposition!” Her education taught her that she was loved not only by her family but also by her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. And so it was at an early age that she gave her heart to Him at Central Baptist Church, Norcross, GA. Her family were not only educators and Christians but also, philanthropists. They donated the land and the vision for the beginning of Central Baptist.

Lovey’s education continued at Booker T. Washington High School in Atlanta where she learned to play the violin and perfect her voice. She attended both

Spelman and Clark Colleges in Atlanta and graduated from Tuskegee University with a degree in Interior Design. One of her many projects at TU was hanging wallpaper and her instructor praised her for an excellent job except for one small thing ... It was upside down! Over the years, she perfected hanging it!

Lovey, at the ripe old age of 23, followed her brothers and moved to Harlem, New York in 1951. In the spirit of Christian upbringing, she found a church home, Abyssinian Baptist Church, shepherded by her beloved pastor, Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. She completed a new membership training class on June 3, 1951, and promptly joined the choir! She loved her pastor! While there she worked as a dental hygienist and clerk for Judy Bonds clothing company. Lovey returned to Peachtree Corners after several decades in New York. She built her home across the street from her mother's birthplace, "The Oaks" as it was affectionately called because of the many oak trees in the yard. And she joined her family in worship at Central Baptist. At Central, Lovey was active in the Sunday Church School, the Choir, Bible study, and the church's Treasurer, and she assumed the unofficial responsibility of preparing and printing all church programs. Lovey was known for her rendition of, "There's a Stranger in Town" and she loved singing it!

Lovey was almost as famous as McDonald's for her secret family barbeque recipe. That distinct, mouthwatering sauce! And every Labor Day family gathering at The Oaks, it was on full display over the never-ending racks of ribs and chicken grilled by her Aunt Clara, then Lovey took on the task herself when Clara went to her heavenly home. She would also brew delicious Mint Sun Tea. It was her opportunity to bring together her love for family and friends over great meals!

Lovey, in answer to the Lord, in 2001, returned to her father's home church, Salem Missionary Baptist Church, Lilburn, Georgia which was shepherded by her beloved pastor, Rev. Dr. Richard B. Haynes! She loved her pastor! Of course, she joined the choir, often singing lead in the Senior and Mass choirs. Lovey loved to travel and continued to do so at Salem visiting the Holy Land

and walking the places that Jesus traveled. She also served at the Atlanta Mission Center and My Sister's House. She was active in the senior's ministry volunteering in the church office as well! She did all of this and continued to attend weekly bible study and the Seniors Center. Lovey loved her church family and serving her community! Following her Aunt Clara's footsteps, she worked the voting polls in Gwinnett County. She was active in the United Ebony Society in its early beginnings and was faithful in giving blood to the American Red Cross. Lovey was generous to a fault, opening her home to those in need. Her strong expression of God's goodness, protection, and provision was expressed in her love for all mankind.

Lovey was an exceptional steward of all that God had given her. She worked for companies that have since gone out of business, J. Riggins, Scientific Atlanta, and Sampo to name a few. She cut her own yard until 90 years young! She repaired her roof and basically every household issue. She faithfully exercised her body. She treated her body well! She cared for her clothes with amazing care. She ate well. She was faithful to printing and sending homemade birthday cards! She was beyond frugal! But she also splurged whenever she felt like it. She only spent money when necessary! Lovey became Aunt Lovey! She babysat most of her nieces and nephews, with two of her favorites transitioning ahead of her Hassan and Perry Jr. She welcomed others as if they were all family. She was known for her delicious pound cake, Waldorf salad, and macaroni and cheese. She was a financial advisor, pinching pennies until they became dollars! She was a teacher, a loan officer, and a prayer warrior ... But most of all, a child of God! She served her family well!

Lovey leaves to cherish her memories, of one brother, Franklin (Emma) Woods, Chattanooga, TN. Her siblings' children, Denise Stephens, Daryl Stephens, Perry B. (Rose Mary) McClendon, Sr., Reginald (Lisa) McClendon, Portia McClendon, Bobbie McClendon, II, a whole host of great, and great-great, and great-great-great nieces and nephews! A host of cousins –

Stephens and Nesbits, special friends, Joe and Lorraine Irving (Jonee' and Lauren (Kendally) , Sheila Brown, Roberta Jones, and Roslyn Sterling. And all of You who are seated here!

Service Entrusted to Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory
Lawrenceville Chapel 770.338.5558.

Cemetery Details

Nesbitt Family Cemetery

TURNBURY DR. P'TREE CORNERS, GA
30009

Previous Events

Visitation (Mask Required)

OCT **21**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Gregory B. Levett and Sons - Gwinnett Chapel
914 Scenic Hwy
Lawrenceville, GA 30045

Celebration of Life

OCT **22**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Salem Missionary Baptist Church
4700 Church St NW
Lilburn, GA 30048
(770) 923-3936

Tribute Wall

BG

“ Miss Lovey was my good friend for about 25 years and I will miss our conversations in her kitchen. She was a fiercely self reliant person who could stay engaged for a good couple of hours of covering many topics. The procession of family and church friends would file into the kitchen. I She was beloved and that allowed her be independent into her 90's. I never worried about her; there was always someone smiling to see her. I don't think I have ever met anyone who loved the Lord so faithfully and we would discuss Bible study. She knew her Bible. I got to meet the family members and hear about her long life, even being hit by lightning.

I have a hole in my life without my friend, but she is certainly with the Lord and heaven has been enriched.

Byron L Gilbert - November 02, 2022 at 04:02 PM

EF

“ Caring thoughts are with the family in this time of sorrow. May the peace of God guard your hearts. Truly sorry for your loss.

Evans family - October 21, 2022 at 05:59 AM

RE

“ My heart felt sympathies to the family for the loss of your love one. Her name Lovey is the epitome of the individual she was. A remarkable, kind, gracious in joyous person filled with nothing but love. I enjoyed my many visits to her house and phone call conversations with her. When ever i would visit her, she never failed to offer me some of her home made mint tea made from her mint tree leaves from her yard. She was an angelic season saint whose presence will be missed by many. Take you rest Ms. Lovey and I'll see you on that great getting up morning. Rev. Melvin Everson

Rev. Melvin Everson - October 19, 2022 at 12:16 PM

TE

A truly remarkable woman of God, a friend to so many and a cherished family member. I met her at a family reunion and tried to remain in touch with her as much as possible. I know she is missed, mourned and forever loved and respected by many.

TerryThomas - May 23, 2025 at 10:43 AM