



First Lady C. Brenda Jones

March 26, 1942 - February 27, 2025

Life is God's gift to you. What you do with your life is your gift to God.

On March 26, 1942, Mrs. C. Brenda Jones entered the world as a beautiful, fearfully and wonderfully made creation of God, brought into the lives of George and Edith Reynolds. A native of Asheville, NC, she was the proud mother of Michelle Antoinette, Clifford Anthony, Jr., and Alexa Mariah Fortune-Jones, and the loving mother/aunt to Renee Reynolds-Darity. She was also a cherished grandmother to Jimaree Legins, Jai Legins, Michelle Antoinette, and Maria Deneen Jones.

In June 1968, she married Dr. Clifford A. Jones, Sr., Senior Minister of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC. Together, they built a life centered around family, ministry, and mission, with God at the heart of everything they did.

Mother Jones earned a Bachelor of Arts in Education from Bennett College in Greensboro, NC, a Master of Counseling from Campbell University in Buies Creek, NC, and a Master of Christian Education from Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury, NC. She also studied Anabaptist theology at Regents Park College in Oxford, England. Throughout her career, she taught English in Cambridge, Maryland, and in Louisburg and Clinton, NC. She spent 15 years as a guidance counselor for Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools before retiring.

In 1994, after a year of planning, Mother Jones helped bring her husband's dream to life by establishing the Youth Opportunity University (YOU), a summer program that provided academic, religious, and cultural enrichment, as well as scholarships for both local and South African students. She co-founded CREW (Christians Really Enjoying Witnessing), coordinated the New Perspective Bible Study for women, served as an advisor for the Baptist Young Women (BYW), and was a facilitator of the Military Ministry. Additionally, she was one of the co-founders of the Friendship Day School. She also served as a Sunday school teacher, senior high superintendent, youth advisor, and director of youth at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC.

Mother Jones made her mark at the local, state, and national levels as the chairperson for the Education Curriculum of the NC Women's Convention and the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention. She served on the boards of the Urban League's Teens-N-Touch Program, Dudley Beauty College, and Computer Empowerment, and was a facilitator for the Princeville, NC Clean-Up and Rebuild Initiative—an assignment given by her husband. She was also Co-Chair of the Christian Education Committee of the Women's Convention of the General Baptist State Convention (GBSC), where she influenced mission studies across the state. Furthermore, she served in the GBSC's Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows Ministry and the United Missionary Baptist Association's Minister's Wives and Widows, where she was president during her tenure.

Mother Jones' desire was to leave a legacy in the lives of those she encountered—a monument of love for God, understanding, honesty, and sincerity. She had a deep love for people and never met a stranger, always greeting others with terms of endearment like “hun,” “shug,” or “sweetheart.” She was deeply devoted to her Friendship family, often greeting them with a

heartfelt “Hello Family.” Known for her warm spirit, she didn’t stay in one spot at church but moved about, connecting with everyone she met. She was often found offering words of wisdom, encouragement, or sharing a favorite scripture. She had a corny sense of humor and loved to share jokes, one of her favorites being, “Where do sheep go on vacation? The Baaaa-amas.”

A faithful soldier on the battlefield for God, Mother Jones was a lifelong student of God’s Word. It was not unusual to find her in her favorite sunroom, deep in study and meditation. The legacy she leaves behind is one of kindness, compassion, and loving hugs.

She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Rev. Dr. Clifford A. Jones, Sr.; one sister, Doris Reynolds of Asheville, NC; three daughters, Renee, Michelle, and Alexa; one son, Anthony (Courtney); four grandchildren, Jimaree, Jai, Michelle, and Maria; two sisters-in-law, Esther Bey of Sicklerville, NJ, and Faye Reynolds of Asheville, NC; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, adopted children, and friends.

Cemetery Details

Gethsemane Memorial Gardens

1504 W. Sugar Creek Road
Charlotte, NC

Previous Events

Public Viewing

MAR 6. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church
3301 Beatties Ford Road
Charlotte, NC

Visitation

MAR 7. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church
3301 Beatties Ford Road
Charlotte, NC

Celebration of Life Service

MAR 7. 12:00 PM (ET)

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church
3301 Beatties Ford Road
Charlotte, NC

Tribute Wall

GL

“ ..still thinking of Pastor Jones family/Friendship Church. I know this loss is too great to meaare.

Gloria - April 30, 2025 at 07:45 AM

GB

“ Pastor Jones and Family,
May the peace of God rest, rule and abide guard your hearts and minds during this time of bereavement.
G. Felton Brown

Grayling F. Brown - March 16, 2025 at 02:04 PM

TF

“ We extend our deepest condolences and prayers to the Jones family. First Lady Jones had a spirit that will never fade. We send prayers for peace and comfort to Rev. Jones and your family so you may find solace during this time. -Thomas Farrington, on behalf of The Prostate Health Education Network (PHEN)

Thomas Farrington - March 13, 2025 at 11:35 AM

TM

“ Tomeeka Miller lit a candle in memory of C. Jones



Tomeeka Miller - March 13, 2025 at 11:31 AM

HR

“ *Hallie Ruffin lit a candle in memory of C. Jones*



Hallie Ruffin - March 08, 2025 at 10:00 AM

CD

“ *Praying for Pastor Jones and family. Sending love and prayers from Edward Best Elementary School, Louisburg, NC* 🙏🕊️



Carolyn Davis - March 07, 2025 at 11:10 PM

JM

“ *Heartfelt condolences to Dr. Jones and family. I will remember summer of 2024 when First Lady Jones and I were both at the House of Africa, having outfits made and altered by Khadeem whom we both had much respect for and vowed we would not let him return to Senegal in August, it was such a warm atmosphere being in her presence and I will not forget our encounter. Rest in Power First Lady*

Jacqueline McCullough - March 07, 2025 at 03:59 PM

JW

“ *Beautiful home going service. RIP*



Jean Warren - March 07, 2025 at 01:45 PM

JW

“ Beautiful home-going service Sweet Lady RIP



Jean Warren - March 07, 2025 at 01:39 PM

AC

“ Amos and Brenda Gainey Cooper lit a candle in memory of C. Jones



Amos and Brenda Gainey Cooper - March 07, 2025 at 11:35 AM

AS

“ DR. JONES AND FAMILY, WE SEND OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE TRANSITION OF YOUR WIFE, MRS. C. BRENDA JONES. AS YOU AND FAMILY COMES BEFORE OUR HEAVENL FATHER DURING THIS TIME OF SORROW. WE KNOW HE DOES ALL THINGS WELL AND HE LOVES YOU. GOD CHANGE THIS SHADOW OF DEATH INTO A LIGHT OF MORNING, COMFORT THE SADDENED HEARTS OF DR. JONE AND FAMILY, AND HELP THEM REVENTLY SUBMITT THEIR HEARTS AND HOPE TO YOU.

*From the Charlotte District A.M.E. Zion
Rev. Dr. Andrew B. Smoke, Presiding Elder*

Andrew B. smoke - March 07, 2025 at 11:28 AM

KN

“ Karen neal lit a candle in memory of C. Jones



Karen neal - March 07, 2025 at 10:24 AM

JW

“ Sending my prayers and sincere condolences to the Jones family. My most beautiful memories of Sis Jones was in 1989 when we joined Friendship and she introduced herself as the First Lady with such a beautiful smile and continue with that same spirit each Sunday. She also called me when my husband was in hospice and again after the funeral. A very sweet Lady RIP



Jean Warren - March 07, 2025 at 05:54 AM

CN

“ I extend sincere condolences to Rev. Dr. Clifford A. Jones Sr., daughter Rev. Michelle Jones and son, Rev. Anthony Jones Jr., and to the Jones and Reynolds families. I pray that God will continue to grant you comfort, strength, and peace as you accept the transitioning of this beautiful soul to be with our Heavenly Father.



Charles H. Blackwell, Yanceyville, NC - March 06, 2025 at 11:19 PM

JJ

“ *Sister Jones will be missed. Our prayers go out to the Jones family and the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church family. James and Jessie Jordan and the Mount Moriah Baptist Church family.*



James and Jessie Jordan - March 06, 2025 at 10:25 PM

JL

My heart is heavy because I miss hearing your voice, words of comfort and TRUTH. I love to high Heaven.

Jacqueline Landrum - February 27 at 05:49 PM

TF

“ *The Frison Family purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of First Lady C. Brenda Jones.*



The Frison Family - March 06, 2025 at 10:03 PM

TF

“ *The Frison Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of First Lady C. Brenda Jones.*

The Frison Family - March 06, 2025 at 10:03 PM

KN

“ Karen neal lit a candle in memory of C. Jones



Karen neal - March 06, 2025 at 09:39 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of First Lady C. Brenda Jones.



March 06, 2025 at 09:39 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of First Lady C. Brenda Jones.

March 06, 2025 at 09:39 PM

AN

“ Antoinette McLaughlin, Fayetteville NC lit a candle in memory of C. Jones



Antoinette McLaughlin, Fayetteville NC - March 06, 2025 at 06:29 PM

TM

“ She was a unusual first lady very comforting to everyone esp me she took me under her wing from the first moment I met her and I thank God for such a kind, personable, loving kind , Proverbs 31 mother , wife first lady I will miss my church God mother rip mother well done.

Theresa Moore - March 06, 2025 at 05:05 PM

DC

“ Darryl T. Canady planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of First Lady C. Brenda Jones.

Darryl T. Canady - March 06, 2025 at 04:41 PM

DC

“ Darryl T. Canady purchased the Simply Elegant S pathiphyllum for the family of First Lady C. Brenda Jones.



Darryl T. Canady - March 06, 2025 at 04:41 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of First Lady C. Brenda Jones.



March 06, 2025 at 01:11 PM

RR

“ We learned of the passing of First Lady Brenda Jones, and as a family we want to express our deep sympathy to Pastor Jones and their family.

As the Bible instructs us as believers that when we are absent with the body, we are present with the Lord. 2nd Corinthians 5:8.

Our prayers are offered for the family and church family that God will give you healing and hope at this time of her transition.

*Sincerely,
Pastor Gus Roman & Family*

Rev. Gus Roman - March 06, 2025 at 08:14 AM

JS

“ Sending my deepest condolences to the family of my former First Lady, C. Brenda Jones. I'll cherish my memories of Mrs. Jones.



Joyce P Stevens - March 05, 2025 at 08:43 PM

MB

“ Our deepest condolences & prayers to the Jones family. sister Jones was a faithful devoted servant of our Lord & savior JESUS Christ. Her legacy& memories will live with us for ever.

Myron Black Winston Salem,NC Henry W & Mae C Black Kannapolis,NC



Mae Black - March 05, 2025 at 08:10 PM

WW

“ Wesley Withers lit a candle in memory of C. Jones



Wesley Withers - March 05, 2025 at 03:34 PM

HR

My sincere and heartfelt 🙏 condolences to the family Ms. Carolyn Jones. I will miss her loving caring smile and words. She had a way healing just by saying hello and it's ok. I will miss her. God bless you all always 🙏

Hallie Ruffin - March 08, 2025 at 09:50 AM

MJ

“ I just loved Sister Brenda Jones. She was always so warm and supportive and would call me whenever she didn't see me for a couple of Sundays. I appreciated the way she made me feel like I was special. She made everyone feel that way. How can I go on without her? I know that every time I think of her I'll smile and feel her spirit! Well done Sister Jones. Well Done!

Mary Johnson - March 05, 2025 at 02:34 PM

LB

Brenda C Jones was one of the sweetest warmest person I ever met I do know she's a angel in heaven, looking down on all of us we love you may God bless you always

Linda Reynolds Boulware - March 06, 2025 at 08:10 PM

GR

Wow!! What an Awesome Beautiful First Lady she was. My husband and I always enjoyed our conversations with her about the Lord and marriage. We truly enjoyed laughing and talking with her and she loved when I would repeat words from Pastor's sermon back at her.. She said I listen to hard. We love her and we will truly truly miss her and she is not replaceable!! Pastor and her family are definitely in our prayers.. We know God is with you because he never leaves us comfortless!! Sending Our Love, Sympathy and Prayers. James and Geneva Rhames

Geneva H Rhames - March 06, 2025 at 08:35 PM

JM

“ Condolences to the family. Mrs Jones was a delightful person and contagious spirit. Will be truly missed.



Julia Mccollie - March 05, 2025 at 02:10 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of First Lady C. Brenda Jones.

March 05, 2025 at 10:44 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of First Lady C. Brenda Jones.



March 05, 2025 at 10:44 AM

PT

“ Thank you for your kindness and beautiful smile extended to me with your kind words. You were such a Cherished Blessing. *Patty Eady Truss*

Patty Eady Truss - March 05, 2025 at 08:36 AM

WB

It was always a pleasure talking with Mrs Jones. You will be greatly missed. Brother Wilbert and Louise Brown.

Wayne W Brown - March 05, 2025 at 06:31 PM

RA

“ *Reece Hoover, Mandy, Carrie & Amber purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of First Lady C. Brenda Jones.*



Reece Hoover, Mandy, Carrie & Amber - March 05, 2025 at 08:27 AM

SW

“ *Sophia Williams lit a candle in memory of C. Jones*



Sophia Williams - March 04, 2025 at 07:48 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of First Lady C. Brenda Jones.*



March 04, 2025 at 11:08 AM



“ *I joined Friendship online in 2020. When church opened up after Covid, I met Mrs. Jones, so welcoming, warm and friendly. In 2024, after having lost 2 sisters and 1 brother suddenly, I returned to church. I was alone and my spirit was sad. Mrs. Jones got to my row and said, I want to sit with you. It made my day and I know it was God inspired. What a beautiful Sunday morning and wonderful worship experience. What a “good soul”! Rest In Paradise! Marjorie Parker*

Marjorie Parker - March 04, 2025 at 07:06 AM



So Blessed to have known Brenda years ago! She was a true friend. I saw her two weeks ago, she was visiting the church I attend. Her son was Preaching at Greater Providence Baptist Church. So thankful for that last Hug. I will miss her dearly. She was a true child of God!!
Patsy Young

Patsy Young - March 05, 2025 at 12:18 AM



Sending my prayers and sincere condolences to the Jones family. My memories of Sis Jones is when our family joined Friendship in 1989 and Sis Jones introduced herself to us as the First Lady and continued to greet us that way each Sunday , calling me when my husband was in hospice and after the funeral. She was a beautiful soul and will be missed and always be remembered. RIP

Jean Warren - March 07, 2025 at 05:34 AM

AS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Antoinette Sheppard - March 03, 2025 at 08:12 PM

JW

Sincere condolences and prayers to the Jones family and church family. Sis Jones was a very sweet warm lady. My memories of her was when she introduced us as the first landy and welcoming us to Friendship and greeting my family with her beautiful smile , calling me when my husband was in hospice and calling me after my husband had passed. Sis Jones was a beautiful sweet Lady and will be missed but now she is resting in the bosming of God RIP. Jean J Warren and family

Jean Warren - March 06, 2025 at 11:31 AM

LF

“ Lisa Adams & Family lit a candle in memory of C. Jones



Lisa Adams & Family - March 03, 2025 at 05:08 PM

MS

“ My sincerest condolences to the Jones Family.

Martin Hare Sr. - March 03, 2025 at 02:07 PM

JA

“ Ms. Jones , Brenda . My special earth angel. !! I meet Brenda in 1996. I was her dental assistant. I brought her to the exam room for her visit. I could tell she was a little nervous. We looked at each other smiled. Then hugged. I told her everything was going to be fine and I would be right by her side and Dr. Stout would be on the other side and God in the middle. She gave off an aura of love, kindness . We connected as I'm sure she did with so many. During her visit we talked. I was humming as I worked on her. I Come to the Garden Alone. Didn't even realize I was doing it. She looked up at me and said" Jan, your never alone. He. The lord, is always with you. And so am I. I knew right then this lady was an Angel . She showered me with love. friendship and many gifts. Thru the next 30 years. We always shared a joke at her visits. Laughed together. Even cried a few times. Sharing thngs that was happening in our lives. . To you Pastor Jones and to the family. I'm so sorry for your loss. But I feel you all praise God, for blessing you with her presents in your life. I loved her too. Fly High my dear friend and when I look up in the sky at night , I know you'll be one of the brightest stars. Ps: before you get all busy up there , take a vacation. Enjoy... Then get busy with God's next chore for you. Not goodbye, but til I see you again.

Jan Sparks. Dental assistant. - March 03, 2025 at 12:59 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



A.E. Grier & Sons Funeral and Cremation, LLC. - March 03, 2025 at 12:22 AM

LG

*SIP Hun 🙏❤️
Mother Jones I Am Already Missing You And Your Sweet Smile!
Remember To Use Your Umbrella ☂️ In Heaven When You Need It!
(Friends & Family Day 2024)💔🥺💕💔*

Lisa G. - March 03, 2025 at 10:12 AM

TW

Mother Jones was truly a woman of God. Our hearts are broken but we are truly blessed to have had Mother Jones. She exuded so much love, beauty, and faith. Thank you God for her testament. Thank you family for sharing. Prayers. Hugs, and love.

Tanya Wilson - March 03, 2025 at 03:15 PM

FL

Sleep in peace mama jones, God needs you and he knows best. Love you always Floyd N.Luckey Jr.

Floyd Luckey - March 03, 2025 at 06:36 PM

RE

We extend our heartfelt condolences to you and your family. May God's love and healing touch bring you peace. Rev. Sarah M. Ellis

Re. Sarah M. Ellis - March 03, 2025 at 07:42 PM

AS

Pastor Jones & Family,

Sorry for your loss. You & the family are in my thoughts & prayers. I will never forget Momma Jones. Rest in Heavenly Paradise Ms. Jones!!! I know it's beautiful up there & you are flying around with the other Angels!!!

Antoinette Sheppard - March 03, 2025 at 08:17 PM

AN

Another beautiful flower has been plucked from the Friendship garden. You're sorely missed now & will NEVER be forgotten. We love you!!! Lord, please continue to grant the entire Jones Family with peace for we know she's in great care & at Your Throne.

Respectfully with Hugs & Love, Angela Scott

Angela - March 05, 2025 at 12:58 PM

LF

Pastor Jones and Family,

My heart aches with you in the loss of such a wonderful light in the world. I remember my first interaction with Momma Jones when I sat beside her in church with my young daughter and young active son. My son was acting out a little and would not be still. She looked at me as my patience was leaving and said, "he is just a baby, leave him alone". She reminded me as a parent that no matter how things are going with my little ones, allow them to be a kid and not so focused on how things looked to others. May your hearts be comforted during this time and know that we love you and share in such a great loss. May God blanket us all with love and calm our uneasy spirits. Love you,

Lashanda Faye

Lashanda Faye - March 06, 2025 at 05:21 PM

PF

I will miss Mrs. Jones beautiful smile and kind words. She never met a stranger and she had the gift of hospitality. Loving memories as my Sister in Christ, Pat Foster

Patricia C. Foster - March 06, 2025 at 06:30 PM

LG

Our deepest condolences to the Jones family for your loss. May time soon impart the peace, the joy of memories sweet and replace the pain in your heart.

L.Grimball & family

Larua Grimball - March 07, 2025 at 09:59 AM

JW

Sending my sincere condolences to the Jones and Friendship family. My most memorable memories of Sis Jones is when my family and I joined Friendship in 1989 from transferred from Asheville she greeted us with her presence with the most beautiful smile and hug and introduced herself as the Sis Jones and we received that greeting each Sunday from that day on. She called me when my husband was in hospice and again after his home going Sis Jones was a very warm loving Lady. RIP

Jean Warren - March 07, 2025 at 04:09 PM

JW

Beautiful home going service for a beautiful Warm Lady

Jean Warren - March 07, 2025 at 04:15 PM

JS

An excellent counselor, and lovely person.

Janet L. Springs - March 09, 2025 at 07:00 PM