



Bette Callaway

August 7, 1934 - January 4, 2026

Bette Callaway went home to be with her Lord and Savior on January 3, 2026, at the age of 91. She witnessed a world that changed greatly over the years; yet one thing never changed for “Dee,” as her grandchildren and great-grandchildren lovingly called her; her faith remained steadfast.

A celebration of her life will be held on January 18, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. at Pierce Memorial Methodist Church in Sparta, Georgia. Pastor Darrell McGinnis, Pastor Jerry Bradley, along with family members and friends, will officiate. The family will greet friends following the service in the sanctuary.

Born in Hancock County, she was the daughter of the late Juanita Moore Johnson and the late Iverson Starnes Johnson. She was devoted to her work at the Bank of Hancock County, where she served faithfully for 42 years before retiring at the age of 75.

Bette was deeply faith-filled and dearly loved her church, Pierce Memorial Methodist Church in Sparta, Georgia. She was a devoted wife to her late husband, John William Callaway, and a loving mother to her daughter, Dianne Callaway Sheppard of Sandersville, and her son, John Iverson Callaway (Carol) of Sparta.

Her five grandchildren Brian Renfroe, Christopher Callaway (Christi), Joseph

Callaway, Mitch Sheppard (Brannen), and Trey Sheppard (Emily); were blessed to know “Dee” and to experience the unwavering love of a devoted grandmother.

“Dee” also found immense joy in her great-grandchildren; Ford Sheppard, Anne Marie Sheppard, Emerson Sheppard, Jones Sheppard, Pierce Sheppard, Mitchell Sheppard, Sims Sheppard, Addison Tydings, River Renfroe, Ava Renfroe, and Rebekah Neal. They brought light, laughter, and purpose to her later years. She cherished each of them deeply and prayed faithfully over their lives; leaving an imprint of love and faith that will carry on for generations.

The family would like to thank her caregivers; Beverly Rachels, Teresa Callaway, Linda Blair, Christi Callaway, and the Home Health and Hospice staff for their love and dedication in allowing her to remain at home, where she wished to be.

She was patient, kind, and truly lived as the hands and feet of Jesus. Bette’s faith-filled life is the legacy she leaves behind. Even in her final moments, she continued to lead others to Christ. She was a light that burned brightly, and her sweet smile will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to; Pierce Memorial Methodist Church
21 Boland Street Sparta, GA 31087; Knowles Chapel Methodist Church c/o
Pierce Memorial 21 Boland Street Sparta, GA 31087; Balerma Baptist Church
1362 Balerma Church Road Sparta, GA 31087; Culverton Cemetery c/o
Tommy Foster 8686 East Broad St. Sparta, GA 31087

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN 18. 3:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Memorial Methodist Church
21 Boland Street
Sparta, GA 31087

Tribute Wall

NH

“ Richard Phillips sends his thought and prayers to the family in this time of loss. Mrs. Beatty was not only a wonderful friend but also a customer when I was in business in Sparta.

Nancy H Hill - January 16 at 11:21 AM

LN

“ I am so sorry to hear of Ms. Bette's passing. I grew to love this lady in the 11 years we worked together at the Bank of Hancock County. Always the sweetest of persons, she would be quick to give you a word of encouragement on days when you needed it. I most fondly remember the early morning times when we would have devotions in the bookkeeping department before we opened for business. i will miss this fine lady. My thoughts and prayers go out to your family.

Lamar Nix - January 15 at 08:37 AM

BA

“ We love you ms Bette! Doob and I will miss you and your kindness to us so much! Love Doob and barb and Anna (puppy)

Barbara Ashley - January 09 at 06:33 PM

AR

“ I am so sorry for your loss. MS Bette was such a kind and gracious Lady. I always enjoyed seeing her and Mr John. Sending Prayers to John, Diane and Family 🙏🙏

Arnold Roberts - January 07 at 10:07 PM

CE

“ Loved knowing and working with this very special lady. Beautiful inside and out. Sympathy extended to Diane, John and family.
Cheryl (Holloway) Edwards

Cheryl Edwards - January 07 at 07:58 PM

CW

“ I am so sorry to hear this. I have loved Ms. Bette all my life. She and Mr. John were such a special part of my Sparta memories. Love to Diane, John and all the precious family who just gained another very special guardian angel. Prayers.

Cindy Wolfe - January 07 at 06:17 PM

LM

“ Sorry for your loss. Our condolences and prayers are with you. Luther and Berta and Friends at
Johnnie McDade Grocery.



Luther Minor - January 07 at 02:41 PM

RH

“ So very sorry. Sending my deepest condolences 🙏



Regina Harrison - January 07 at 01:20 PM

MS

“ *My condolences to her family. She was a beautiful person and a loving mother.*

Melissa Padgett Seipel - January 07 at 10:49 AM

PF

“ *Such a sweet, sweet lady. We always enjoyed having her and Mr. John at Knowles Chapel. They were so loved by everyone. ❤️❤️*

Phyllis Ford - January 07 at 10:26 AM

EC

“ *Dianne , John and Family, I am so sorry to hear about Bette. She was such a beautiful, gracious, southern lady. My prayers are with you all during this difficult time in your lives.*
Elaine C Carnes



Elaine Campbell Carnes - January 06 at 09:57 PM

DG

“ *So very sorry to here this. My condolences and prayers for her family and friends.*

Dale Garner - January 06 at 08:45 PM

GY

“ *Ms Bette was one sweetest ladies I have ever known. She was always dressed to tee and hair always pretty. I so enjoyed my visits with her through years and always left with smile on my face because of how sweet she was and how much I enjoyed our talks. She was ready and we know where she is. Love and prayers to all family*

ginger yarbrough - January 06 at 05:23 PM

BH

“ *Miss Bette was a consummate Southern Lady, kind and nurturing. She always had a smile for everyone. Prayers for peace and comfort for Dianne and John, her grandchildren and great grandchildren.*

Becky Holton - January 06 at 05:18 PM

ED

Dianne, I hope you remember me. You and your Mom came in Pikes when I was working there and I loved seeing you both after so long a time. I adored your sweet Mom and you. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. I'll always cherish the time I got to spend with you both in Devereux at your Grandparents store. ❤️🙏🌸

Emily Dinkins - January 06 at 10:51 PM