



## Nelle W. Brannen

April 20, 1924 - June 10, 2017

Mrs. Nelle W. Brannen of Milledgeville, GA, passed away on Saturday, June 10, 2017. A funeral service will be held on Wednesday, June 14, 2017 at 11 a.m. in the First United Methodist Church in Milledgeville, with Rev. Mac Enfinger, Rev. Harold Lawrence, and Dr. Jay Hodges officiating. Interment will follow at Heritage Memorial Park.

An Alabama native and daughter of the late Myrtice Davis Whelchel and the late John Bruce Whelchel; Mrs. Brannen was preceded in death by her sister, Mrs. George (Mary Jo) Kennedy; a brother (in infancy), Bruce Hammon Whelchel, all of Anniston, AL; a great granddaughter, Rebecca Lanier Wood of Columbus, GA; and grandchild, William Braden Brannen of Marietta, GA.

Mrs. Brannen graduated from Anniston High School and attended Shorter College in Rome, GA. She married William (Bill) T. Brannen the day he received his Navy wings in Corpus Christi, TX and the Brannens celebrated their 73rd anniversary on August 21, 2016.

The Brannens moved many times in the early years of their marriage, settling in Marietta, GA, where their children were reared. While in Marietta, Mrs. Brannen was a member of the First Baptist Church and for a time helped in the beginner's class. She became a member of the Marietta Junior Welfare League in 1965 and was involved in community service projects. Her duties at

Creswell School were her most rewarding hours. At the time of her death, Mrs. Brannen's status in the Junior League of Cobb-Marietta was Sustaining Emeritus. Other memberships that she greatly enjoyed were The Honeysuckle Garden Club and bridge clubs.

Moving to Eatonton, Ga in 1992 for their retirement years, the Brannens became members of the First United Methodist Church and the George O. King Sunday school class in Milledgeville. Mr. and Mrs. Brannen took much pleasure in helping with the Meals on Wheels program, operating out of the Oconee Regional Medical Center.

Mrs. Brannen was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend. She was an accomplished author at the age of 92 with a book entitled, "If a Frog Had A Santa".

Beloved survivors include her husband, William (Bill) T. Brannen, Sr.; two daughters, Becky Wood and husband, Henry, of Durham, NC; Kay Collins and husband, John, of Milledgeville, GA; two sons, Bill Brannen, Jr. and wife, Maribeth, of Alpharetta, GA; David Brannen and wife, Claire, of Versailles, KY; grandchildren, Keith Wood and his former wife, Jennifer Wood; Christopher Wood, Courtney Collins Cawley and husband, Chris; Kyle Collins Hitchcock and husband, Andrew; Jack Brannen, Kate Brannen, and Jane Brannen; great-grandchildren, Elliott and Emily Wood; Brannen, Turner and Isabel Wood; Chandler, Kip, Emily and Sterling Elizabeth Cawley; Abbie Kate, Canon, and Caroline Hitchcock; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Milledgeville Christian Counseling Center at First United Methodist Church or to the St. Andrews Anglican Church located at 115 Paddock Drive, Versailles, KY, 40383.

# Cemetery Details

## Heritage Memorial Park

371 Log Cabin Road  
Milledgeville, GA 31061  
(478) 452-2148  
staff@williamsfuneralhome.net  
<https://www.williamsfuneralhome.net>

# Previous Events

## Service

JUN 14. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Methodist Church of Milledgeville  
366 Log Cabin Drive  
Milledgeville, GA

# Tribute Wall

JS

“ *When I walked into the wellness center at ORMC I saw this LOVELY LADY with a big smile-Nelle. She always had that smile and a hug to give. She gave me a book "Jesus Calling" marked with her favorite messages. She was loved!! Jo Scheff*

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**Jo Scheff** - June 14, 2017 at 11:27 AM



“Heaven gained an angel on Saturday and I'm so blessed to have known her. My Aunt Cathy introduced me to Mrs. Nelle while visiting her Father-in-Law (Granddaddy) at the Green Acres Nursing Home in Milledgeville, GA. I already felt like I knew (and loved) Mrs. Nelle from hearing her stories from my Aunt about their adventure together creating a children's book, "If A Frog Had A Santa". My Aunt is the illustrator and described to me the passion Mrs. Nelle had telling her story and encouraging my Aunt to bring it alive on the page in color. You can enjoy this beautiful collaboration of kind and descriptive words with whimsical and bright illustrations here=><http://amzn.to/2srRINs>

When I met Mrs. Nelle last Fall, I could have visited and talked with her for days. At times I honestly felt the Holy Spirit was sitting right there next to us and speaking through her. Those that know me know I wouldn't typically share such intimate thoughts, so that should tell you something about my encounter with Mrs. Nelle and how powerful it was. Near the end of our visit, I found words poured out of my mouth about some past pains I had experienced. While I have moved on, I still had a desire to share this with her. She listened intently, comforted me when appropriate. She then told me to open up one of her cabinets, reach in a box and pull out a book. The book was *Jesus Calling* by Sarah Young. She had a beautifully handwritten note in the middle of the book:

"Hope these precious words will "lift" you, as they "lift" us each day for help and forgiveness. Great pages to read: January 18, January 31, August 14, August 20 and October 28. You, too, will find your favorite pages. May god bless you and those you love."

Mrs. Nelle knew just what I needed. She didn't need to say anything, her actions spoke volumes. Although my visit with Mrs. Nelle was too brief, she has touched my life so dearly. And I know how much she has touched so many, including my Aunt Cathy.

Although I can't be there in person today to celebrate Mrs. Nelle's

*incredible life, I am in there in spirit. This morning as I opened my book (Jesus Calling) and read the devotion for June 14, the scriptures referenced include Jeremiah 31:3; Isaiah 61:10; 1 Peter 2:9. I feel 1 Peter 2:9 is so Mrs. Nelle: "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." Mrs. Nelle helped call me out of the darkness that day so I could see His wonderful light.*

*Rest in Peace Mrs. Nelle and thank you.*

*Lisa Blacker*

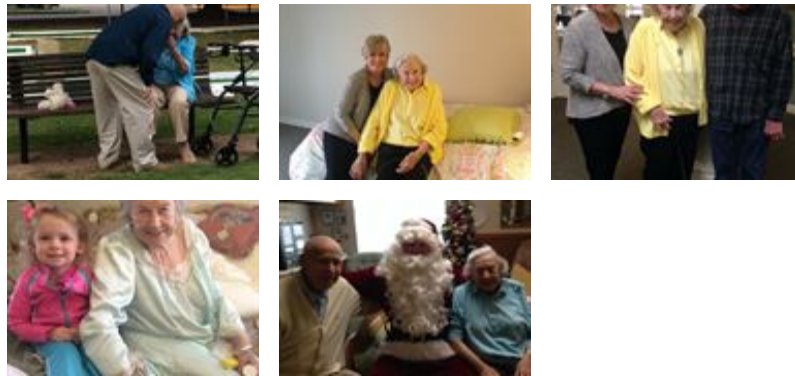
*Cathy & Chris Wood's niece*

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**Lisa Lawrence Blacker** - June 14, 2017 at 08:25 AM



“ 165 files added to the album LifeTributes



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**Williams Funeral Homes and Crematory** - June 13, 2017 at 05:24 PM

CF

“ *May the God of all comfort give you strength, hope, and peace in this sad time. He cares very deeply about the pain you feel and the loss you just experienced. Philippians 4:6,7. So sorry for your loss.*

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**Calandra Farley** - June 13, 2017 at 11:27 AM

DB

“ Kay and family our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.  
Danny and Donnell Brown

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**Danny and Donnell Brown** - June 13, 2017 at 10:27 AM

HS

“ I'm very thankful for many wonderful memories of Ms Nelle, my friend! She was the epitome of a life well lived for Jesus. She was loving, kind, patient, and long suffering. A beautiful lady in every way.  
Prayers for her family.

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**Helen Shumate** - June 12, 2017 at 12:10 PM

WF

“ Kay and family, So sorry for the loss of your Mom. Having the privilege of her being with you for this long wonderful life is a blessing. Prayers to you and the family.

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**Wanda Fitzgerald** - June 12, 2017 at 08:48 AM

DE

“ I would like to express my deepest sympathy to the family at this time of bereavement. She must have imparted a wealth of knowledge during her time spent on this earth. In the future many of the wisdom that she impacted you will reflect on. May this thought comfort you from God's word the bible as you deal with the loss. Notice the blessing revealed at Revelations 21:4 “And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. May God's words bring comfort to you and the whole family at this sad time

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**Dell** - June 11, 2017 at 12:23 PM