

## A Rose and a Lady

There's a rose I know,  
that grew up in Southern soil,  
and found her place in the Northern sun.

She toiled and shined, Principled.  
And drawn to the Divine.

She nurtured and raised,  
Hopeful. She cried and prayed.

Solid and stable,  
She saved many seeds.

Gave them water, and food  
Good soil and love.

She gave those seeds the very best gift: Faith  
She isn't an expressive rose,  
But her laughter roars in the wind.

She isn't a well-traveled rose,  
but her wisdom transcends lands and time.

She's the best rose.  
Lovely, Pure, Strong, Faithful.  
Lady Jane.

Her seeds grew.  
Now roses of their own.

And she is my rose.  
The best I'll ever know.  
And I am grateful she made me.

There's a rose I know.  
She grew up in Southern soil.  
And she has found her place above us...spirit among us.  
She is at home, Finally.  
In a garden worthy of her.

Flower Bearers  
Family and Friends

### Acknowledgements:

The family of Sister Janie Mae Bonner, would like to thank everyone who aided us during our time of grief. Your love and support will never be forgotten. May God richly bless each of you!

Arrangements Entrusted To:

R. A. Prince Funeral Services  
16222 Broadway Avenue  
Maple Heights, OH 44137

Phone: (216) 518-1777 Fax: (216) 518-1975

raprince.com

*In Loving Memory  
Of  
Janie Bonner*

Sunrise:  
10/28/1920

Sunset:  
8/13/2024

Wake: 10:00 AM

Funeral: 10:30 AM

Friday, August 23, 2024

Mt. Hermon Baptist Church  
2516 East 40th Street  
Cleveland, OH 44104

Minister Kendra Anderson, Officiant

# *Order of Service*

**Organ Prelude**  
Brother Steven Gulley

**Processional**  
Family & Minister

**Call to Worship**  
Elder George R. Horne Jr.

**Scripture**  
Old Testament Psalm 23  
Brother Henry Harvey Jr.

**New Testament Romans: 8:37-39**  
Brother Ronald Harvey

**Prayer of Comfort**  
Elder Leon Harvey Sr.

**Selection**  
Precious Lord  
Shirley Herndon

**Acknowledgements/Resolutions**  
Sister Bessie Durr

**Words of Reflection**  
Dedra Withers/Jennifer Foggio/ Eric Bonner

**Obituary**  
Read silently

**Selection**  
Shirley Herndon

**Words of Comfort**  
Elder George Horne Jr.

**Recessional The Cortege**

**Private Burial**

**Pallbearers**  
Family and Friends

## **The Life and Legacy of Janie Mae Bonner**

Janie Mae Blackwell Bonner was born October 28, 1920, in Elberton, GA to James Blackwell and Queen Victoria Harper Blackwell. Early in her life, Janie Mae developed skills in cooking, sewing, and gardening. The eldest of four girls, Janie Mae was a natural leader, and she was instrumental in the care of her sisters, Mary, Emma, and Sue.

When the Blackwell girls completed school, they made the decision to relocate to Cleveland, OH, and their parents joined them. Janie Mae often commented that she and her sisters wanted to explore the possibilities in the North, not wanting to stay in Georgia where they believed they had limited options.

As a young woman in Cleveland, Janie Mae worked at various jobs with multiple roles, including as a sales clerk, at the United States Postal Service, and the Mr. Coffee Company. Outside of those positions, Janie Mae was also a seamstress, and was often hired to provide her sewing services for everything from fixing a hem to making gowns for special occasions.

Janie Mae joined Mt. Hermon Baptist Church, and quickly became a very active member. She served as an usher, sang in the choir, and assisted in caring for the elderly. However, most knew her as their Sunday School teacher. Janie Mae taught elementary and junior high aged boys in Sunday School for many years. She also provided her skills in cooking and sewing when needed for church for events. Janie was blessed to have a particular knack for making delicious lemon pound cake and sweet potato pie, which were often staples at those church events as well as family gatherings.

Janie Mae married Walter S. Bonner, II and gave birth to four children: Wallace, Delores, Milton, and Walter III. Later, she decided to change her name professionally, to Jane M. Bonner, though her friends, family, and church comrades lovingly continued to call her, Janie.

Janie was well known for her spirit of hospitality, and she opened her home to anyone in need. Janie's house was often the place for not only comfort, but for gatherings where there was food, laughter, and good times. Her home continued to be a place for gatherings at holidays and Sunday dinners for years, extending to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Janie loved the Lord. Her consistent service and attendance at church created a lasting legacy of a life devoted to God. From her example, her children and grandchildren learned how to have faith, the power of prayer, generosity, the importance of serving others, and how to care for those who needed help.

Even into her 103<sup>rd</sup> year of her life, Janie could be found reading her Bible, reciting scriptures, singing worship songs, and praying.

Over the years, she was often called Lady Jane because of her regal demeanor and stylish dress. Her family repeatedly noted that she never wore pants, only skirts and dresses.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, sisters, her son Walter Bonner III, and her daughter Delores Bonner.

Lady Jane leaves to cherish her memory, her sons Wallace Bonner (Karline) and Sir Milton Bonner; her grandchildren Mario, Eric, Korey (Katie), Milton Jr., Imani, Dedra (Barrett), Anthony (Ashley), Delores, Walter IV (Lori), Shaunna, Chris, Jennifer, and Brandon; her twenty-two great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren; her treasured nieces and nephews and a host of relatives and friends.