~ Acknowledgements ~

The family of Mary Ellen Starks gratefully acknowledges every expression of love, kindness, prayer, and support shown during this time of bereavement. Whether through a call, visit, card, floral tribute, comforting word, or quiet prayer, your thoughtfulness has strengthened and encouraged us.
May God richly bless each of you for helping us honor and celebrate the beautiful life and legacy of our beloved Mary.

The Family

~ Pallbearers ~

Mark Simmons
Kedrick Simmons
Courtney Agnew
Davian Price
Keldrick Simmons
Darius Leach
Nehemiah Starks
Dale Grove

~ Flower Bearers ~

Great Grandchildren

~ Interment ~

Oak Hill Cemetery

Service of Love entrusted to the care of
Agnew & Sons Funeral Home
111 Water Street ~ Baldwyn, MS / 662.365.5541
337 College Street ~ Verona, MS / 662.566.5546
101 Lafayette Street ~ Booneville, MS / 662.365.5541
VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.agnewandsons.com



Celebrating the Life Of

SUNRISE
MAY 9, 1950

SUNSET
SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

Mary Ellen STARKS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026 | 1:00PM

OAK HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
119 CAROLINA ROAD | BOONEVILLE, MS 38829

REV. ISAAC SHINAULT, PASTOR/EULOGIST
AGNEW & SONS FUNERAL HOME, DIRECTING

REMEMBERING

Mary Ellen Starks

Mary Ellen Starks was born on May 9, 1950, in Booneville, Mississippi, to the late Martha Bell Pierce. Her life was one marked by faith, family, friendship, service, and a joyful spirit that touched those who knew and loved her. Mary departed this earthly life on Tuesday, September 22, 2026, at her home in Booneville, MS.

Mary received her education in the Booneville community and proudly graduated from Wick Anderson High School in 1968. Following graduation, she married Lee Earnest Starks, and together they began building a life and family.

Throughout her life, Mary was a dedicated and hardworking woman. Her employment included Blue Bell, the Baldwyn High School cafeteria, Landmark, Booneville Head Start, Baldwyn Elementary School, and Lucky Star. Wherever she worked, Mary brought with her a strong work ethic and a genuine concern for others.

Mary's faith was an important part of her life. She was a member of Mt. Nebo CME Church and had several roles while there. She was a faithful and devoted member of Oak Hill Missionary Baptist Church, where she served until her passing. She joyfully shared her gifts through several areas of ministry, including the Voices of Joy and the Booneville Missionary Choir. She also faithfully served as secretary of the Missionary Ministry. She was a member of Herons of Jericho and Palace of Children.

While Mary was committed to her church and her work, some of her greatest joy was found in simply being surrounded by the people she loved. She treasured time spent with family and friends and enjoyed the fellowship, laughter, and memories they shared. Mary also loved to dance, and dancing remained one of her favorite pastimes. Her joyful spirit and love for life will be remembered by all who were blessed to know her.

Mary was preceded in death by her mother, Martha Bell Pierce; grandmother, Lee G. Simmons; husband, Lee Earnest Starks; brother, Edgar Frank Simmons; and sisters, Vera Moore, Gloria Agnew, Annie Shack, and Martha Shumpert.

Mary leaves to cherish her loving memory three children: Stephanie Stewart (Marcus) of Booneville, Mississippi; Martin Starks (LaCresha) of Baldwyn, Mississippi; and Sherea Starks of Booneville, Mississippi.

She also leaves her siblings: Lee Gloria Christian of Booneville, Mississippi; Minnie Foster of Memphis, Tennessee; Thomas F. Simmons; Charlie Agnew of Booneville, Mississippi; and Willie Agnew (Antoinette) of Guntown, Mississippi; and two sisters-in-law, Brenda Simmons and Kim Starks.

Her legacy continues through her nine grandchildren: Tamara Price (David), Candyace Starks, Roman Starks, Consuela Starks, Josie Starks, Nehemiah Starks, Katayja Price, Shariah Murphy, and Kaleigh Murphy; fourteen great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Mary also leaves a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, church family, extended family members, and dear friends who will forever cherish the memories, laughter, love, and joy she shared.

Though her earthly journey has ended, the life Mary lived and the love she gave will continue to speak through the generations she leaves behind. Her faith, devotion to family, joyful spirit, and love for others have created a legacy that will not soon be forgotten.

Order OF SERVICE

'Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die' ~ John 11:25

Processional ……. Ministers and Family

Song ……..…… Choir

Scripture Reading

Old Testament ……..…. Rev. Charles Fears

New Testament……. Bro. Jerry Woodruff

Prayer ……..……. Rev. J. S. Agnew

Song ……..…… Sis. Reketa Brandon and Sis. LaCresha Starks

Words of Comfort ……..…… Rev. Raymond Shugars

Acknowledgements ……..…. Sis. Rosella Shumpert

Remarks (2 minutes)
Friends and Family

Song ……..…… Bro. Jermaine Agnew

Eulogy ……..…… Rev. Isaac Shinault

Recessional

Precious Memories

THE THREAD SHE LEFT BEHIND



With gentle hands and a faithful heart,
You stitched our family piece by piece.
With every thread you gave us love,
With every stitch, you gave us peace.
You taught us faith, you taught us strength
And showed us how to carry on.
And though your hands now rest in peace,
The beautiful work you started lives on.
The memories you stitched into our hearts
Will never face or come undone.
Rest peacefully, Mama
Your earthly work is finished
But the beautiful legacy you stitched
Will last forever.

With all our love,
Your Children

FOREVER OUR GRANDMOTHER



You taught us to love
To pray and trust in the God
Your faith was your foundation,
And your love was our blessing.
You prayed for us, guided us,
And loved us through every season.
Though we cannot see you now,
Your words, your faith, and your love
Will forever live within us.
We thank God for the gift of you
And for every precious memory
You left behind.

Rest peacefully,
Your Grandchildren








ISLAN
H2O










FREE












GOOD
MOMS
BAD
WORDS