



Acknowledgement

Your kind expression of sympathy
is deeply appreciated and gratefully acknowledged.
May God bless and keep each of you is our prayer.

The Bernice Johnson Hestle Family

J.W. Williams Funeral Home

Since 1918

"Celebrating Over 100 Years of Service"



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J.W. Williams Funeral Home
Our Motto: "Service"
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The Parker Family
Calandra Wilkerson Parker
Corporate Secretary/Treasurer

Jai' Wilkerson Parker
Junior-Crisp County High School



Mrs. Bernice J. Hestle

Sunrise
July 5, 1949

Sunset
September 12, 2026

Life Reflection

Bernice Johnson Hestle was kindhearted, intelligent, and hardworking woman whose life was defined by quiet strength, compassion, and care for others. Born on July 5, 1949, she spent her early years growing up in a community that shaped her character and values.

She was named from the Bible - a reflection of the faith and grounding that guided her life. She attended A. S. Clark High School in Cordele, Georgia and Perry High School in Perry, Georgia, where she developed a love for reading and writing that stayed with her throughout the years.

In her career, she found purpose and fulfillment as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). Through her work, she learned one of life's most important lessons: to treat people nicely. Her dedication and gentle spirit touched countless lives, both personally and professionally.

She was married to Harvey Hestle, Jr. of Florida. Later she met Walter Bell while living in Perry, Georgia, where their paths crossed. Together they began a life of shared memories and family.

Faith played an important role in her life, rooted in her Baptist upbringing at Cross Road Baptist Church and her belief in being good to others. She valued kindness above all, often reminding those around her to “be nice to everyone” and to “share what you have if you have it.”

She enjoyed simple pleasures, raking yards, listening to Rock & Roll and Gospel music, savoring a slice of chocolate cake, and laughing at Sanford & Son. Her favorite colors were blue and green, and she loved pink flowers. Home was her sanctuary, and she could find comfort and peace anywhere she could simply relax.

Of all her accomplishments, she was most proud of her children, who were the center of her heart and the legacy she cherished most. Those who knew her best will remember her as a hard worker who took pride in keeping things clean and cared for.

Her life was one of quiet dignity and steady love—a reminder that goodness often speaks loudest through simple acts of kindness. The journey ended on Saturday, September 12, 2026. Her parents, Irvin Johnson, Sr. and Eva Mae Johnson; her siblings, Annie B. Roundtree, Madie Smith, Willie James Johnson and Irvin Johnson, Jr., each preceded her in death.

Her life will be remembered and cherished by her children, Sheryl V. Hestle of Warner Robins, Georgia, Denise E. Hestle of Cordele, Georgia, Lashon D. Hestle of Albany, Georgia, Marcia T. Hestle and Stacy T. Hartage (Gary) of Cordele, Georgia, and Cedric K. Hestle (Shantaneika) of Kathleen, Georgia; 17 grandchildren; eight great grandchildren; her sisters, Mary A. Sanders of Clearwater, Florida, Emma Hill of Macon, Georgia, and Ella Mae Porter of Warner Robins, Georgia; a brother-in-law, Roosevelt Smith of Cordele, Georgia; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and many sorrowing friends.

We Loved You too Much to Say Goodbye



We cried when you left us
but they were aching tears of love.
At least we no longer have to worry,
because we know you're living in peace.
The many years we spent with you
were years that shall never de cease.
They were years for us to treasure forever
that will always last,
and the pain will eventually ease.
The memory of you is like an undying fire
which never seems to end.
And those are the same feelings of our heart
because you were not just our
Mother, Grandmother, and Sister but our friend.
So although you've gone from our presence
we still say, “See you later”
and never ever bye-bye.
Because we loved you too much
to just come out and say goodbye.

The Celebration of Life Service

Saturday | September 19, 2026 | 2:00 PM

J. W. Williams Funeral Home Chapel

407 West 17th Avenue | Cordele, Georgia

Elder J. C. Clark | Officiant

Musical Prelude

Deacon Curtis Mathis

Processional

Led by Clergy

**The Final Viewing
The Final Closing of the Casket**

Solo

Amariah Mason

Prayer of Comfort

Elder J. C. Clark

Scripture Reading

Markevion Hartage

Solo

Josiah Lucas

Reflections

Family and Friends

Solo

Anthony Bass

Eulogy

Elder J. C. Clark

Acknowledgements and Heirloom Bible Presentation

J. W. Williams Funeral Home Staff

Recessional & Postlude

The Committal Service

Bethel Cemetery

Cordele, Georgia

*The service may be viewed on the
J. W. Williams Funeral Home
Facebook Page
or the
J. W. Williams Funeral Home
Youtube Channel.*