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Elise Joyce Kent

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*So live, that when thy summons comes to join
 The innumerable caravan which moves
 To that mysterious realm, where each shall take
 His chamber in the silent halls of death,
 Thou go not, like the quarry-slave at night,
 Scourged to his dungeon, but, sustained and soothed
 By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave
 Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch
 About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams.*

(an excerpt from Thanatopsis, by William Cullen Bryant)

Pallbearers and Flower Bearers

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
 MARCH 22, 2009

Active Pallbearers

SAM H. JONES, JR.	WILLIAM STOVALL
CHARLES E. OVERBY	CHRISTOPHER SMITH
KENNY LITTLE	WESLEY SMITH

Honorary Pallbearers

WILLIE D. KENT, III	HOWARD D. ROBERTS, SR.
WILLIE D. KENT, IV	WILLIAM E. OVERBY, SR.
CHARLES WILLIAMS	REV. CURTIS McGRUDER
TIMOTHY SMITH	GEORGE A. SMITH

DEACONS OF PROGRESSIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Flower Bearers

FRANCIS JONES	DEBORAH BROWNLOW
BOBBY SMITH	MICHELLE BAIYEE
SHEILA BRONNER	

PROGRESSIVE BAPTIST CHURCH MOTHER'S BOARD

Pallbearers and Flower Bearers

STATESBORO, GEORGIA
 MARCH 25, 2009

Active Pallbearers

SAM H. JONES, JR.	ANTHONY SIMMONS
CHARLES E. OVERBY	TERRY ROBERTS
AUSTIN HUFF	WILLIE D. KENT, III

Honorary Pallbearers

WILLIE D. KENT, IV	HOWARD D. ROBERTS, SR.
BOBBY SIMMONS	

DEACONS OF HISTORICAL FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH
 DEACONS OF LAWTON GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
 DEACONS OF PINEY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
 DEACONS OF ST. MARY'S BAPTIST CHURCH
 DEACONS OF SCARBORO GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Flower Bearers

RAIN OR SHINE CLUB
 CAPE JASMINE CHAPTER 86 ORDER OF EASTERN STAR



The Final Care of Our Loved One Has Been Entrusted To:

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(317) 925-3000 (866) 827-6262		(912) 764-9742
www.stuartmortuary.com		

In Loving Remembrance



Mrs. Elise Joyce Kent

Order of Service

Rev. Michael K. Jones, M.Div, Officiating
Indianapolis, Indiana

VOCATION.....	Minister
MUSICAL SELECTION.....	"Total Praise" (Richard Smallwood)
OLD TESTAMENT READING.....	Proverbs 31: 10-31
PRAYER FOR THE FAMILY.....	Minister
NEW TESTAMENT READING.....	1 Corinthians 15: 51-58
HYMN.....	"It Is Well With My Soul"
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	Minister
OBITUARY.....	(Read Silently).....Soft Music
FAMILY TRIBUTE.....	Marya Elise Jones Overby
REMARKS.....	Rev. Jean Smith
MUSICAL SELECTION.....	"Goin' Up Yonder" (Walter Hawkins)
WORDS OF COMFORT.....	Rev. Michael K. Jones, M.Div. Senior Pastor, Progressive Baptist Church
HYMN.....	"When You Hear of My Homegoing"
BENEDICTION	

Appreciation

The family of Mrs. Elise Joyce Kent wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many comforting messages, prayers, flowers and any other expressions of kindness and concern evidenced at this time in thought and deed.

May God bestow His blessings upon each of you and may He grant safe passage to those who have traveled to be with us.

Memorial Contributions

The family asks that monetary contributions be directed to:
Progressive Baptist Church
4625 West 59th Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46254
In memory of Mrs. Elise Joyce Kent

Obituary

Elise Joyce Kent was born in Statesboro Georgia on November 30, 1910. She was the youngest of eleven children born to the late Ida Groover Joyce and Daniel Joyce. At an early age she professed a belief in Christ and joined First African Baptist Church in Statesboro. Mrs. Kent was educated in the Bulloch County public schools. Later she graduated from Savannah State College and pursued graduate studies in education at Columbia University in New York.

Mrs. Kent continued her adult life as a resident of Statesboro, Georgia where she was an educator for more than forty years in the Bulloch County public school system. Third grade teacher to countless students, Mrs. Kent was extremely proud to be the recipient of numerous awards for excellence in education. Mrs. Kent was most humbled to be named Teacher of the Year at Julia P. Bryant Elementary School in 1965. Mrs. Kent did all that she could to instill a love of learning in every child she taught. In addition to being a rigorous academican, Mrs. Kent taught her students sports and civics. She understood the value of being well rounded.

Extremely active in her community, Mrs. Kent was a devoted member of Cape Jasmine Chapter 86 Order of Eastern Star (OES). Cape Jasmine Chapter 86 OES recognized her for her contribution to the organization in 1990. Mrs. Kent was a member of the Rain or Shine Club, the Bulloch Street Mission, and the NAACP. She was recognized by Georgia Southern University in 1984 for outstanding achievement as a Black History Maker, and by the Rosebud Civic Club in 1987 for her volunteer service as a Pink Lady at the Bulloch Memorial Hospital. Mrs. Kent had great compassion and concern for the larger Statesboro community. She continually sought to improve the lives of those less fortunate in Bulloch County. She often fed and clothed her students and helped indigent members of the community to find meaningful opportunities for improvement.

Although the recipient of several significant awards for educational excellence and civic service, Mrs. Kent was most proud to serve as First Lady of Historical First African Baptist Church of Statesboro, Georgia, of St. Mary's Baptist Church of Statesboro, of Lawton Grove Baptist Church in Screven County, of Piney Grove Baptist Church in Denmark, Georgia, and of Scarboro Grove Baptist Church in Portal, Georgia for a combined period of nearly fifty years where her late husband served as Senior Pastor in each church. Mrs. Kent embodied the ideals and principles of the Bible, always putting God first. She continually strove to provide the best service she could and to model Christian values whether working as a teacher, in the community, or along with her husband in ministry.

Later in life Mrs. Kent spent her golden years with her daughter in Indianapolis, Indiana. She became active in the Progressive Baptist Church where her grandson, Rev. Michael Kent Jones, serves as Senior Pastor. Mrs. Kent was an energetic member of the Progressive Baptist Church Mother's Board where she introduced the Twelve Tribes of Israel, a fund raiser to support the church's building fund, and participated in many other activities, including the Stay at Home Tea.

Elise Joyce Kent was married for nearly 64 years to Rev. Willie Daniel Kent, Sr. They were the proud parents of two children, the late Willie D. Kent, Jr. of Sacramento, California and Prethenia Kent Jones of Indianapolis, Indiana. Mrs. Kent was predeceased by her devoted and loving son-in-law, Sam H. Jones, Sr. Mrs. Kent was the beloved grandparent of Marya Elise Jones Overby (Charles Overby), Sam H. Jones, Jr. (Rhoda McKinney Jones), Rev. Michael Kent Jones, and Willie D. Kent III (Delfina). She was the loving great-grandmother of Willie D. Kent IV, Kent McKinney Jones, and Joyce L. Overby. She also leaves to cherish her memory an adopted son, Austin Huff; adopted daughter, Mary Todd; a goddaughter, Pam Mercer; loving niece, Lorine Glenn; caregivers and special friends, E. Francis Jones, Bobby Smith, Herbalene Rich, Eliza Clark, Davine Nolcox, Dobbie Smith, Mary Rosier, Robbie Williams, Ruth Reid, and Ruth Lamberg; and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins.

Humbly Submitted.....The Family

Order of Service

Rev. E. Charles Lee, Officiating
Statesboro, Georgia

INVOCATION.....	Rev. E. Charles Lee, Pastor Historical First African Baptist Church
MUSICAL SELECTION.....	Choir
OLD TESTAMENT READING.....	Proverbs 31: 10-31.....Rev. Julius Abraham
PRAYER FOR THE FAMILY.....	Rev. Lee Hunter
NEW TESTAMENT READING.....	1 Corinthians 15: 51-58....Rev. Timothy Lee
MUSICAL SELECTION.....	"It Is Well With My Soul"
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/RESOLUTIONS.....	Mrs. Ouida Pearson
OBITUARY.....	(Read Silently).....Soft Music
FAMILY TRIBUTE.....	Sam H. Jones, Jr.
REMARKS.....	Rev. Lee Hunter Rev Julius Abraham
MUSICAL SELECTION.....	Choir
WORDS OF COMFORT.....	Rev. Michael K. Jones, M.Div., Senior Pastor Progressive Baptist Church. Indianapolis, Indiana
BENEDICTION.....	Rev. Patrick Jones



The Twenty-first Psalm

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.
Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.
The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.
The Lord shall preserve thee from evil: he shall preserve thy soul.
The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in
from this time forth, and even for evermore.