

When Great Trees Fall
By Maya Angelou

When great trees fall,
rocks on distant hills shudder,
lions hunker down
in tall grasses,
and even elephants
lumber after safety.

When great trees fall
in forests,
small things recoil into silence,
their senses
eroded beyond fear.

When great souls die,
the air around us becomes
light, rare, sterile.
We breathe, briefly.
Our eyes, briefly,
see with
a hurtful clarity.
Our memory, suddenly sharpened,
examines,
gnaws on kind words
unsaid,
promised walks
never taken.

Great souls die and
our reality, bound to
them, takes leave of us.
Our souls,
dependent upon their
nurture,
now shrink, wizened.
Our minds, formed
and informed by their
radiance,
fall away.
We are not so much maddened
as reduced to the unutterable ignorance
of dark, cold caves.

And when great souls die,
after a period peace blooms,
slowly and always
irregularly. Spaces fill
with a kind of
soothing electric vibration.
Our senses, restored, never
to be the same, whisper to us.
They existed. They existed.
We can be. Be and be
better. For they existed.

Thank You

The Johnson family wishes to acknowledge with heartfelt appreciation everyone who has sent a card, flowers, called, stopped by, or just said a silent prayer during this time of bereavement.

We are also appreciative of Virginia, her very special caregiver from Home Instead, Michelle, her guardian angel from the Mount Holly Police Department, her church family, her caring neighbors and her friends at Brookdale. Your love and concern truly touched her heart and ours. May God richly bless each and every one of you.

Professional Arrangements Were Entrusted to:
COSTNER FUNERAL HOME

2425 West Franklin Boulevard | Gastonia, North Carolina 28052
Telephone: 704-864-6787 Fax: 704-864-6793 | www.costnerfuneralhome.com

CELEBRATION OF
Life



ON EARTH
APRIL 27, 1926

ETERNAL REST
JULY 1, 2026

Margaret Smith Johnson

Tuesday, July 7, 2026
12:00 PM

Mt. Sinai Baptist Church
339 South Hawthorne Street
Mt. Holly, North Carolina 28120

Reverend A. T. Pearson
Pastor

Obituary

Margaret Smith Johnson was born April 27, 1926 in Lincoln County, North Carolina and entered into eternal rest on Wednesday, July 1, 2026, at Caromont Regional Medical Center in Gastonia, NC. She was the daughter of the late Will A. Smith and Flora Shipp McDowell.

Mrs. Johnson attended Gaston County public schools. When she moved to Mount Holly, NC, she joined Mt. Sinai Baptist Church and faithfully served there for over 70 years. She was lovingly called “Mother Johnson” by her fellow congregants and enjoyed her elder position in the church, generously offering wisdom, a kind word or a prayer. She also served her community, watching over neighborhood children (and adults).

Over the years, Mrs. Johnson worked in a variety of places, never shrinking from hard work or learning a new skill. She worked in the cafeteria at Mount Holly High School, summers at Lake Junaluska, and retired from Perfection Spinning in North Belmont, NC. During her time at Perfection Spinning, she also completed a course in Apparel and Tailoring Technology from North Carolina Vocational School in 1979.

Margaret Smith Johnson and Jacob Leroy Johnson were united in holy matrimony in 1946 and were blessed with one daughter (Geraldine). In addition to her service to her church, community, and employers, Mrs. Johnson was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, aunt and friend. She answered to “Baby Mae,” “Mac,” “Margaret,” “Mama,” “Nanny,” “Miss Mae,” “Aunt Mae,” “Stomp Johnson,” and “Mother.” She fed every mouth that crossed her threshold, freely offered her advice and wisdom, and never missed an opportunity to share her faith.

In addition to her parents, Mrs. Johnson was preceded in death by her husband, Jacob Johnson, her siblings, Ruth Smith Reid, Corrine “Peg” Flowers, J.A. McDowell, Walter McDowell, Jr., Albert McDowell, Roy McDowell, and Ray McDowell, and a son of her heart, Ronnie Hunter.

She leaves to cherish fond memories her daughter, Mrs. Geraldine Logan of Cramerton, NC, and three grandchildren, Ms. Kim Logan Jubraj, Mrs. Sidney Logan Echevarria (Andres), and Mr. Jonathan Logan (Amitria) all of Belmont, NC, along with five great-grandsons, Jacob, Alex, Gabriel, Logan and Jonah, daughters of her heart, Georgia Hunter and Sandra Currence, a son of her heart, Harry McDowell, nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews, and a host of other relatives and friends.



Order of Service

Prelude

Processional/Visitation

Call To Worship

Reverend A.T. Pearson

Selection “Amazing Grace”

Rosemary McDowell

Scripture Readings

Old Testament

Reverend Charles McCorkle

New Testament

Reverend Robert Hunter

Prayer of Comfort

Reverend Michael Glenn

Words of Reflection (3 minutes)

Shirley Greenlee
Saundra Currence
Jacob Echevarria

Selection “Psalm 19”

Congregation

Eulogy

Reverend A.T. Pearson

Recessional “I Want to Take a Ride”

Congregation

Flower Bearers - Nieces, Family and Friends

Pall Bearers - Nephews, Family and Friends

— Interment —

Hillcrest Gardens Cemetery

Mount Holly, North Carolina

Repast immediately following interment at the church.