



The Broken Chain

Author Unknown

We knew little that evening that God was going to call your name,
In life we loved you dearly, In death we do the same.
It broke our hearts to lose you, You did not go alone.
For part of us went with you, The day God called you home.
You left us peaceful memories, Your love is still our guide,
And though we cannot see you, You are always at our side.
Our family chain is broken, And nothing seems to be the same,
But as God calls us one by one, The chain will link again.

Pallbearers

Nephews and Deacons of Welcome Grove Baptist Church

Flower Bearers

Nieces

Acknowledgements

The family of Mr. Otis Mathews, Jr. is sincerely grateful in many ways to everyone for the kind and varied expressions of sympathy, support, and love. May God richly bless you and keep you; may the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; may the Lord turn His face to you and give you peace, always.

Special Thanks

Mr. Larry Gray
Ms. Britney Jordan
Dr. John H. Carter and Susan Gibson Carter
The Staff of Riverside Health and Rehabilitation Center
Welcome Grove Baptist Church Family



His Life, His Love, His Legacy
"Doc"

DEACON OTIS MATHEWS, JR.

January 10, 1935

November 16, 2025

Friday, November 21, 2025

11:00 AM

Welcome Grove Baptist Church

3465 Welcome Grove Church Road
Thomaston, GA 30286

Rev. Martin Henry Johnson

Pastor

Pastor Honkeithviles Respress

Eulogist

*For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and
the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good
fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
- II Timothy 4:6-7*

Obituary

Deacon Otis “Doc” Mathews, Jr. was born on January 10, 1935, as the ninth child of the late Sarah Dawson Mathews and the late Otis Mathews, Sr. of Butler, Taylor County, Georgia. Growing up in the Carsonville community, he received his education in the public schools of Taylor County.

Like many African American youths of his era, Otis joined the great Black Northern Migration, moving to Cleveland, Ohio in the mid-1950s to join his brothers, Henry Brown Mathews and Otha Mathews. However, after returning home for Christmas in 1957, he decided to stay and married the love of his life, Hallie Belle Gray, on January 4, 1958. Together, they were blessed with one son, Michael. They remained married for over 67 years, until Hallie’s death on May 7, 2025.

Otis earned a living working at the textile mills of Thomaston, Georgia, but his true passion was working on cars. From a young age, he was known for his knack for fixing things, a skill fondly remembered by his siblings. His warmth and generosity were evident to everyone he met, always greeting others with a big smile and a heartfelt hug. Although he was their younger brother, Otis was a protector to his big sisters, always offering advice, transportation when needed, and a helping hand at all tasks. His kindness extended to his nieces, nephews, and all who had the pleasure of knowing Doc.

A man of deep faith, Otis was baptized at Antioch Baptist Church in Butler and later became a devoted member of Welcome Grove Baptist Church, serving on the Deacon’s Board and various other areas of ministry. He lived by the conviction that “Everything Moves by the Power of God.”

Otis was preceded in death by his beloved wife, devoted parents, six sisters—Climmie Revere, Susie Ellison, Everlee Howell, Fannie Searcy, Dollie Russell, and Ruby Walker—and three brothers, Henry Brown Mathews, Otha Mathews, and Thurman Mathews. On Sunday, November 16, 2025, the Lord looked down and saw His son in distress. He called his name, Otis answered, and his spirit returned to his heavenly Father.

He leaves to cherish his memory: his son, Michael Mathews of Charleston SC; a sister, Rosie Mae Carter of Thomaston, GA; two brothers, Jessie Mathews and James (Annie) Mathews of South Bend, IN; a sister-in-law, Sherman Gray of Culloden, GA; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, and a host of friends.

Order of Service

Pastor Martin Henry Johnson, Officiating

Processional

Last Glance

Greetings Pastor Martin Henry Johnson
Welcome Grove Baptist Church, Thomaston, GA

Prayer Pastor Martin Henry Johnson

Scripture Readings
Old Testament - *John 14: 1-6* Anderson Alsobrook, Nephew
New Testament - *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18* . . . Eugene Russell, Nephew

Remarks
Pastor Ralph Searcy, New Lincoln Park AME Church - Neighbor
Dr. John H Carter, Nephew

Acknowledgements Trice Funeral Home

Words of Comfort Rev. J A Matthews, Retired former Pastor

Musical Selection “Power of God” - Mattie Howell Davis, Neice

Eulogy Pastor Honkeithviles Repress
Restoration of Faith Ministries, Thomaston, GA

Recessional

Interment Welcome Grove Cemetery