

A SERVICE OF WITNESS
TO THE RESURRECTION

CELEBRATING THE LIFE
OF
MRS. MARGARET ANNETTE MAXWELL PAYNE



Saturday, December 20, 2003
12 :00 Noon

First United Presbyterian Church
406 North College Street
Charlotte, North Carolina

The Reverend Mr. Gregory M. Busby, Sr., Pastor
Officiating Minister

OBITUARY

Mrs. Margaret Annette Maxwell Payne, the elder daughter of four children born to the late Charles Baxter and Amie Smith Maxwell was born on July 3, 1923, in Charlotte, North Carolina. She departed her earthly existence on Monday, December 15, 2003, in Carolinas Medical Center-Mercy. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her older brother, Charles Baxter Maxwell, Jr.

Margaret Annette received her formal education in the public schools of Charlotte, North Carolina. Upon completion of high school, she matriculated at the Barber-Scotia Junior College, Concord, North Carolina and Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte, North Carolina. In 1943, Annette received an A.B. Degree in Elementary Education. In the pursuit of academic excellence, she received a Master's Degree in Education from the North Carolina Agricultural & Technical University of Greensboro, North Carolina.

In October 1946, she was united in Holy Matrimony to Shade Thomas Payne. In 1996, during the month of October, Annette and Shade renewed their wedding vows during their fiftieth wedding anniversary celebration that was held at the First United Presbyterian Church in Charlotte.

Annette began her professional career as an elementary education and music teacher at Plato Price High School (later Plato Price Junior High School) where she served as an instructor in Language Arts and Social Studies. She served in a similar capacity at Cochrane Junior High School and retired as an Assistant Principal. Upon completion of thirty-five years in education, Annette retired from the public school sector with an exemplary record.

Margaret Annette was a gifted musician, beginning service in music as a pianist – organist at the early age of thirteen in the Brooklyn Presbyterian Church. Upon the merger of Brooklyn Church and Seventh Street Presbyterian Church, to form First United Presbyterian Church, she served as pianist and a member of the Chancel Choir. She was an organizer and director of many choral groups in the Charlotte Area, including The Delta Ensemble, The Catawba Chorale, and The Interdenominational Choir.

Other affiliations included Golden Life Membership in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated and sustained memberships in her professional and educational organizations.

Annette loved to share her resources with family and friends; to entertain; and to give, give, give. At the time of her passing, her family room was occupied by wrapped and identified Christmas presents ready for her husband, Shade, to deliver and mail. She enjoyed lavishing gifts and remembrances upon her nieces and nephews since she and Shade had no biological children. Affectionately known as "Aunt T", she was a favorite aunt for her special children.

Annette's grandparents were founders of the Brooklyn Presbyterian Church. As a devout Presbyterian legacy of four generations, she professed faith in Christ at an early age and served as an ordained elder and a member of several sessional committees at First United Presbyterian Church.

Those who live to celebrate Margaret Annette's mission in Christ include: her husband, Shade Thomas Payne; her sister, Mrs. Adelaide M. Thomas and brother-in-law, Dr. Clarence H. Thomas of Fayetteville, North Carolina; her brother, Horace Maxwell of Charlotte, North Carolina; her nieces, Dr. Deborah C. Thomas of Tuscaloosa, Alabama and Mrs. Tawanna M. Proctor of Charlotte, North Carolina; her nephew, Theodore Harris Thomas and niece-in-law, Melanie Toles Thomas of Tuscaloosa, Alabama; three great-nephews, Spencer, Jr., Mark, and Samuel and one great-niece, Shawntrice.

Margaret Annette Maxwell Payne was a diligent and loving soul who has already been missed. Her contributions will be forever etched in our memory of her life.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 NRSV