

### MARY EDITH STEPHENS



Mary Edith Stephens, 73, went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, July 9, 2020 in Jacksonville, after a short illness. She was born on August 18, 1946 in Lyons, Georgia to the late William and Juanita Howell of Callahan. Edith was married to Houston Stephens, owner and operator of Houston's Meats in Oceanway. Behind the scenes, she quietly and faithfully served as the company's long-time bookkeeper and office manager.

When not working, Mrs. Stephens loved to travel and take cruises. Her travel destinations included Hawaii, Alaska, the Great Smoky Mountains, Pigeon Forge and many others. She loved beautiful flowers, shopping, watching old western shows and gospel music. Most of all, she loved and cherished her family, including her four grandbabies Callie (14), Reagan (11), Candler (8) and Cadence (5).

Mrs. Stephens was most recently a member of Gardenview Baptist Church (Jason Reid, Pastor) on Armsdale Road in Jacksonville. Previously, she attended Pines Baptist Church and Faith Baptist Church where she faithfully served in the choir and supported the various ministries of the church. She embodied the meaning of a Proverbs 31 woman: *"Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates."* (Proverbs 31:10, 30-31).

She is survived by her husband, Houston; her daughter Christy Stephens; her son David (Casey) Stephens; her four grandchildren Callie, Reagan, Candler and Cadence; her sisters June Johns and Ann (Rex) Randolph; several nieces and nephews and other family. All of these, she deeply loved.

The family received friends Monday, July 13 at Cedar Bay Funeral Home, 405 New Berlin Road, Jacksonville. A celebration of her life service was held Tuesday, July 14 at Gardenview Baptist Church, 3139 Armsdale Road, Jacksonville, with Pastors Jason Reid and Steve Wilson officiating.

*"Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."* - 2 Corinthians 5:6-8

Cedar Bay Funeral Home assisted the Stephens family, 714-1110.

Condolences may be expressed by visiting [www.cedarbayfuneralhome.com](http://www.cedarbayfuneralhome.com).