

## FLORAL BEARERS

Granddaughters

## CASKET BEARERS

Grandsons



### *Repast*

New Hope Baptist Church Fellowship Hall  
Cross Anchor, SC

## *Our Thanks*

The family of Wilma Ferguson Dillard extends our sincere gratitude for your prayers and every act of kindness shown to us during our time of bereavement. It was so meaningful to the family for you to share in our grief and support us. A special thank you to Mrs. Shirley Dabney, Mrs. Rosa Lee Kershaw and Mrs. Jannie Mae Hall.

May God continually bless you all.

*~The Family~*

Arrangements Entrusted to:

**The W. J. Gist Mortuary**  
519 Workman Avenue – Woodruff, South Carolina  
Telephone 476-3411

**Alexander, Casey & Gist Funeral Service**  
1223 Old Anderson Mill Road – Spartanburg, South Carolina  
Telephone 574-5464

*Celebrating the Life  
Of  
Mrs. Wilma Olivia Ferguson Dillard*

*January 18, 1934 — October 6, 2022*



*Monday, October 10, 2022  
Three O' Clock in the Afternoon*

*Mount Zion C.M.E. Church  
Highway 56  
Cross Anchor, South Carolina*

*Reverend Kristie Cohens, Pastor*



***"WILMA"***

*Outspoken. Outgoing. Outstanding.  
She was real. To the very end.*



FAMILY MEMORIES





## *The House by the Side of the Road* By Sam Walter Foss

*There are hermit souls that live withdrawn  
In the place of their self-content;  
There are souls like stars, that dwell apart,  
In a fellowless firmament;  
There are pioneer souls that blaze the paths  
Where highways never ran-  
But let me live by the side of the road  
And be a friend to man.*

*Let me live in a house by the side of the road  
Where the race of men go by-  
The men who are good and the men who are bad,  
As good and as bad as I.  
I would not sit in the scorner's seat  
Nor hurl the cynic's ban-  
Let me live in a house by the side of the road  
And be a friend to man.*

*I see from my house by the side of the road  
By the side of the highway of life,  
The men who press with the ardor of hope,  
The men who are faint with the strife,  
But I turn not away from their smiles and tears,  
Both parts of an infinite plan-  
Let me live in a house by the side of the road  
And be a friend to man.*

*I know there are brook-gladdened meadows ahead,  
And mountains of wearisome height;  
That the road passes on through the long afternoon  
And stretches away to the night.  
And still I rejoice when the travelers rejoice  
And weep with the strangers that moan,  
Nor live in my house by the side of the road  
Like a man who dwells alone.*

*Let me live in my house by the side of the road,  
Where the race of men go by-  
They are good, they are bad, they are weak, they are strong,  
Wise, foolish - so am I.  
Then why should I sit in the scorner's seat,  
Or hurl the cynic's ban?  
Let me live in my house by the side of the road  
And be a friend to man.*

## LIFE PROFILE

**Mrs. Wilma Olivia Ferguson Dillard** of Cross Anchor, SC, formerly of Cross Keys, made her heavenly transition on Thursday, October 6, 2022.

A native of Union County, she was born on January 18, 1934, to the late Mr. James W. and Mrs. Cleo Young Ferguson and was the oldest of nine children, two brothers and six sisters; four preceded her in death: Johnnie Maree Ferguson, Willie Agnes Cooke, Janie Mae Lowe, and Mary Ann Williams.

Wilma learned early in life Jesus was the way. She joined New Hope AME Zion Church, in Sedalia, SC, at an early age and became an active member. Sunday School was an impactful part of her life for many years as she served as a delegate for many church conferences locally and nationally.

Wilma attended Mount Calvary Elementary School, Mather Academy, a private African American boarding school near Camden, SC, and graduated from Sims High School in Union, South Carolina in 1952. She then attended Livingstone College in Salisbury, North Carolina.

On February 15, 1953, she became the wife of Mr. Willie James Dillard, Sr. who preceded her in death by almost 12 years. To this union six children were born, two of which preceded her in death, Daniel Earl Dillard and Wilma Ann Dillard. After marrying, Mrs. Dillard chose to join Mount Zion CME Church where her husband was a member. She was very active in her church and community: Advisor for the Board of Christian Education; President of Stewardesses & Missionary Board; organized the first Gospel choir; etc. Mrs. Dillard was a part of every family when there was a need or work to be done.

She leaves to cherish fond and loving memories her children, Willie James “Billy” Dillard, Jr of Cross Anchor, SC, Mrs. Jacqueline (Ron) Hooker of Denver, NC, Isaac “Ricky” Ferguson Dillard of Franklin, TN, and Johnny Cleophus Dillard of Spartanburg, SC; two brothers, James (Naomi) Ferguson of Huntingdon, MD, and Gerald Ferguson of Columbia, SC; two sisters, Rebecca (Ivy) Durrah of Woodruff, SC, and Helen Spurgeon of Omaha, NE; two brother in laws, William Cooke of Columbia, SC, and Thomas Lowe of Spartanburg, SC; numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren; honorary children, Deborah Hair and Joseph Earl; a host of in-laws, nieces, nephews, cousins and countless friends.

*The time has come to go home; Jesus took me in His arms and said:  
“My child, come home.”  
~Wilma F. Dillard*

## THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Rev. Kristie Cohens – Pastor  
Rev. Truman Savage – Presiding

Prelude.....	Mr. Ron Boozer
Processional.....	The Family
Opening Hymn.....	<i>“What a Friend We Have In Jesus”</i>
Affirmation of Faith	
Prayer.....	Rev. James McKoy
Solo— <i>“It Is No Secret”</i> .....	Mrs. Lola McBeth
Old Testament Scripture .....	Rev. Elijah Ray
New Testament Scripture.....	Mr. Jamie McBeth
Hymn .....	<i>“It Is Well With My Soul”</i>
Obituary Reading .....	Ms. Mary Johnson
Acknowledgements.....	Mrs. Toya McBeth-McDaniel
Remarks.....	Mr. James McBeth Mr. Mack Browning Ms. LaNae Cooke
Church Resolution .....	Rev. Stephanie Williams
Solo.....	Mr. Isaac Ferguson Dillard
Eulogy .....	Rev. Kristie Cohens
Prayer of Departure .....	Rev. Truman Savage
Recessional— <i>“When We All Get to Heaven”</i> .....	The Family

## Committal, Benediction & Interment

Committal, Benediction and Interment  
Mt. Zion CME Church Cemetery  
Cross Anchor, South Carolina

