



Mary Nell Childs

March 4, 1949 - January 28, 2026

Mary Nell Childs, affectionately known as "Nana," passed away, leaving behind a life full of laughter, love, faith, and unforgettable memories. Truly the life of the party, Mary Nell never met a stranger and had a gift for making everyone feel like family.

Born on March 4, 1949, in Augusta, Georgia, Mary Nell spent her early years there before moving to Senoia, Georgia, where she became a longtime resident beginning in 1962. Senoia was home in every sense of the word-it's where she worshiped, raised her family, built lifelong friendships, and left an indelible mark on her community.

Mary Nell was married to the love of her life, Don P. Childs, Sr., for 57 years. Devoted to her "sweetheart," she cared for him with unwavering love and was affectionately known as "Papa's hummingbird." Together, they built a family grounded in faith and overflowing with love.

She is survived by her children: Don Childs, Jr. (Amy) of Sharpsburg, GA; Dawn Matthews (Steve) of Denham Springs, LA; and Kathy Perry (Scott) of Gainesville, GA. She was a proud grandmother to Hunter and Brittany Childs, Trent Childs, John Steven Matthews, Olivia and Cameron Harris, Faith Sloat, Katlin Matthews, Luke Autry and Bryce Autry, and a joyful great-grandmother to Tinsley Mae Harris, Belle Taylor Childs, and Sunny Elizabeth Harris.

Preceded in death by Lawson Lee Harris.

A faithful member of First Baptist Church of Senoia, Mary Nell's Christian faith was the cornerstone of her life. She and Don were married and baptized

there, all of their children were baptized and married in that church, and many of her grandchildren were dedicated and baptized there as well. She loved Jesus deeply and lived her faith through kindness, service, and genuine love for people.

Mary Nell enjoyed a long career in cosmetology, where her customers became dear friends. She truly loved her work and the relationships she built—right up until the end. Outside of work, she loved traveling to places like New England, Canada, Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Louisiana, and England, always ready for the next adventure.

Known as an incredible cook and baker, Mary Nell fed not just her family, but anyone who crossed her path. Her home always had an open door, a full table, and plenty of laughter. She loved flowers, tending her yard, watching birds at her feeders, reading, and most of all, spending time with family and friends.

Mary Nell will be remembered as a loving wife, devoted mother, proud grandmother and great-grandmother, wonderful friend, and woman of deep faith. She was full of life, always smiling, and brought joy wherever she went. Her legacy lives on in the countless lives she touched and the love she freely gave.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, January 31, 2026, at 2:00 PM at First Baptist Church, Senoia, 41 Johnson St., Senoia, GA, with Dr. BJ Cobb officiating. Interment will follow at Senoia City Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 12:00 PM until service time at the church.

Condolences may be expressed to the family at www.mckoon.com

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to First Baptist Church Senoia at <https://fbcsenoia.breezechms.com/give/online>.

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory (770) 253-4580.

Cemetery Details

Senoia City Cemetery

Stallings Road
Senoia, GA

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 31. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Senoia
41 Johnson Street/P.O. Box 86
Senoia, GA 30276

Funeral Service

JAN 31. 2:00 PM - 2:40 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Senoia
41 Johnson Street/P.O. Box 86
Senoia, GA 30276

Tribute Wall



“ *McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Mary Nell Childs*



McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory - January 30 at 11:47 AM

MI

“ *Childs Family,
You are in our thoughts and prayers.
Ecclesiastes 3:1-11*

Mike and Deborah Ivie - February 05 at 09:55 AM

FF

“ *Sending prayers to the Childs' family during difficult time. God will comfort you.*



Francis Smith Futral - January 30 at 07:33 PM

N.

“ *Nann . planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Nell Childs.*

Nann . - January 30 at 06:36 PM

CG

“ Casey Grover purchased the Simply Elegant Spa thiphyllum for the family of Mary Nell Childs.



Casey Grover - January 30 at 04:16 PM

JR

“ Mary Nell was a beautiful person, inside and out. I am so sorry, for your deep loss. Prayers for you all.

Judy Rivers - January 30 at 02:58 PM

DH

“ I will miss my dear friend so very much, my heart is broken. She loved her family, friends, even strangers but most of all JESUS. My deepest sympathy to Don and all of your beautiful family. Love, God bless

Donna Harrell - January 30 at 12:53 PM