



## Mrs. Jean Purnell McKelvey

July 7, 1938 - February 16, 2026

With grateful hearts for a life well-lived, we celebrate the homegoing of Jean D. Purnell McKelvey, age 87 born on July 7, 1938 in Lexington, Kentucky who received her wings on Monday February 16, 2026.

She attended Old Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School. She was employed for years at Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority as a cook until her retirement. She was a member of Pentecostal Power Church under Bishop A.D. Bates until she moved to Saint Stephen, SC and became a member of Canaan Pentecostal Church under Pastor Albert Grant.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband Willie McKelvey Jr., her mother Gertrude Clayborne, her father Harold G. Purnell Sr., her Daughter Trina Ann Purnell and two sons Rickie L. Purnell and James M. Purnell Sr. Her sister Metta Gross and her brothers Harold G. Purnell Jr. and Willie Lee Floyd.

She loved family gatherings. One of her greatest gifts was feeding and helping anyone in need. Her true passion was fishing, cooking and sitting on her porch in her rocking chair watching the world go by.

Jean was a beautiful spirit who was honest, full of personality, yet incredibly loving. To know her was to know a woman who cared deeply.

She leaves to cherish her memories her one and only loving daughter Lanita Purnell, her Son-Son Bert Lewis. Her sister Nancy Dickerson, sister-in-laws Doris Purnell and Earline Floyd. Grandchildren Sandra Jean Smith, Larphine (Craig) Dotson, James M. Purnell Jr., Jonelle Norris, Darrius Davis, Jawana (Darrick) Minniefield, and Seaira Gentry. 10 Great Granddaughters: Alneishia, Uniqua, Kapreese, Amia, Serenity, Nyelle, Bella Jean, Dasha, Jaida, Zakari. 9 great grandsons: Marquess, Omar, Jalen, Jaiden, Javion, Princeton, Darrick Jr., Darion, Lawrence. 5 Great Great Grand Children Ava, Kyngston, Kashten, Chloe, Ayla, Cayoni. And a host of Nieces, Nephews, Cousins and Friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Cove Haven Cemetery

984 Whitney Avenue  
Lexington, KY 40508

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 27. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Shiloh Baptist Church  
237 E Fifth St  
Lexington, KY 40508

## Funeral Service

FEB 27. 1:00 PM (ET)

Shiloh Baptist Church  
237 E Fifth St  
Lexington, KY 40508

# Tribute Wall

CS

“ Lanita know that you are in our thoughts and prayers today and always.

*Alan, Cheryl and Natalia*

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**Cheryl Jones Smith** - March 01 at 02:06 AM

CY

“ Nita...  
*Aunt Jean was a beautiful lady.  
Love you Cuz.*

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**Cynthia Young** - February 28 at 12:37 PM

M)

“ Lanita,  
*My heart goes out to you and your family during this difficult time.  
Please know you are in my prayers, and I'm asking God to surround  
you with comfort, peace, and strength in the days ahead.*

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**Maurica Green ( Pvt. Green )** - February 26 at 06:33 PM

HC

“ Sending prayers to you and your family during this difficult time. ❤️  
*Hattie Carter and family* 🙏❤️

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**Hattie Carter** - February 26 at 05:58 PM

AM

“ Mrs. Jean was an old and dear family friend. Sincere condolences  
*from the family of Sarah and Stafford Miller. Prayers from Alesia,  
Valerie & Stafford Miller Jr.*

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**Alesia Miller** - February 26 at 12:59 PM

GL

“ Mrs. Jean McKelvey better known to me (Gladys Witt) and my son Messiah as Aunt Jean we lived next door to her for many years. She will be deeply missed. Rest In Peace. Our little lady

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GladysWitt - February 25 at 04:59 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Jean Purnell McKelvey.

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February 25 at 01:57 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Jean Purnell McKelvey.



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February 25 at 01:57 PM