



Margaret Neil Riley

November 5, 1934 - July 25, 2018

Margaret Neil Riley

Margaret Riley was born outside of Laurel, MS, to Chester and Inez Ishee. While in high school, she looked across to the adjoining Jr. College and saw the young man to whom she would be married and share 59 years. Margaret and Bill "Howard" would have two children, Denise and Bill, Jr. She took pride in her children's accomplishments and loved to hear them sing. Margaret's life would center on family and creative activities. Margaret enjoyed painting, arranging flowers and designing her Oxford home's yard and gardens with Howard. Howard and Margaret would go on to be awarded Oxford Garden Club's "Yard of the Month" numerous times, as well as being featured in Mississippi Magazine.

Margaret also discovered her talent and love for catering and event planning. Her catering company was often booked over a year in advance by bride's wanting her to make sure she would save their wedding day. Margaret continued to cater for over two decades, during which time her relationship with her best friend, Izetta Berringer began. Izetta was with the family, helping with Margaret's care throughout our transition to hospice and Margaret's death.

Anyone who knew Margaret was aware of her knack for finding the best garage sales, farms with barns to go through and bargains. This led to Margaret and Howard having several antique booths in area antique malls after Howard's retirement. Very few of those who knew Margaret were aware

of her enjoyment of the occasional “soap opera”. Those in her Sunday school class at First Baptist Church who shared this pastime know who they are! Margaret also loved to laugh. You would never be around her very long before she told a story, perhaps including something you had done, or tell a joke made funnier by her fumbling the punch line.

Margaret loved her Lord and strove to serve him by serving others. She loved helping people. She never told anyone about her acts of kindness, but her children have often heard from those their mother touched, who told the stories of her generosity and caring.

Margaret was preceded in death by her husband, William H. Riley, Sr. and her brother, Chester Mike Ishee of Laurel, MS and Pensacola, FL; she is survived by her daughter, Margaret Denise Riley of Brookhaven, MS and her son, William H. “Bill” Riley, Jr. of Arlington, MA.

Margaret will be missed, but leaves her friends and family with a lifetime of memories filled with fun, love and happiness.

A funeral service will be held at Antioch Methodist Church in Laurel, MS on Saturday, July 28th at 11 a.m. with visitation at the church beginning at 9 a.m. Interment will follow in the Church cemetery.

To sign the online guest book, visit www.memorychapellaurel.com.

Cemetery Details

Antioch United Methodist Church Cemetery

845 Lower Myrick Road
Laurel, MS 39443

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 28. 9:00 AM (CT)

Antioch United Methodist Church
845 Lower Myrick Rd
Laurel, MS 39443

Service

JUL 28. 11:00 AM (CT)

Antioch United Methodist Church
845 Lower Myrick Rd
Laurel, MS 39443

Tribute Wall

BO

“ So many years I fondly remember stopping and visiting with Margaret at the end of her drive. She was always asking about my mother and other family members. McLaurin Dr. and Sisk Ave. will miss her wonderful smile and kind words. It seems as though she lived there the whole time my mother did, I know she didn't but the house on the corner will always be the Riley's to me. Bob Davis

Bob - July 30, 2018 at 12:51 PM

DW

“ Doyle and Ollene Whitehead purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Margaret Neil Riley.



Doyle and Ollene Whitehead - July 27, 2018 at 11:57 AM

BS

“ Margaret was a very fun loving and talented person. Her smile and wit would brighten your day. She was kind and generous. I will never forget how she helped me when my mother was sick. She came and stayed with us and "took control", especially in the kitchen. We know that was one of her favorite spots. My son, who didn't like to eat off paper plates, insisted on a dinner plate. She quickly told him that he could surely wash the plate!! We still laugh about that today. He still doesn't like paper plates. I love her and will miss her. Becky Shoemaker

Becky Shoemaker - July 27, 2018 at 11:51 AM