



Marti B. Slife

November 24, 1935 - April 6, 2025

Marti Jo Black Slife, 89, whose musical gifts and energetic enthusiasm blessed many churches, choirs, and individuals, died April 6, 2025, at Golden Ivy Personal Care Home in Stockbridge, Ga.

Marti was born in Atlanta on Nov. 24, 1935, the eldest of four children in a Methodist pastor's family. Soon thereafter, she learned that Methodist pastors (and their families) were subject to being relocated every several years: Marti grew up in Buchanan, Dalton, Rockmart, Eatonton, and Atlanta.

Her musical talents began to blossom early. She started piano lessons in third grade and sang her first solo at age 11 (at the Shiloh Campmeeting in Carrollton). In high school, Marti sang in several music groups that won statewide competitions.

After moving with her family from Eatonton to Atlanta at age 16, she enrolled at Atlanta's Sylvan Hills High School. Despite being a newcomer, she was elected senior class president.

Marti earned a B.A. in Music at Decatur's Agnes Scott College. Years later, she received a joint Master's degree in Sacred Music from Georgia State University and the Candler School of Theology.

In 1955, Marti married Bil (William F.) Slife of Atlanta and settled in the Capitol View area of Southwest Atlanta, where they raised three children and were active in church and community.

As a Minister of Music in the Methodist Church's North Georgia Conference, Marti served as a church music director while teaching part-time at Atlanta's Clark College and offering private voice lessons from her home. She sang with the Atlanta Symphony Chorus, the Choral Guild of Atlanta, and Opera Atlanta and she was a featured guest soloist at Peachtree Presbyterian Church. She also led Girl Scout Troop 741 for seven years.

After moving with her family to Jonesboro in 1974, Marti became the director of the Clayton (County) Community Chorus. Later, she served as the director of the Lafayette Singers in La Grange and the Henry (County) Community Chorus.

In 1977, Marti was consecrated a Diaconal Minister (a lay deacon) in the United Methodist Church. In the 1990s, she was ordained a Permanent Deacon (clergy) and served as an associate pastor at Jonesboro UMC. Following her retirement in 2001, she was a minister of visitation for the Jonesboro congregation, diligently sending cards and regularly visiting ill or homebound church members. She also served as chaplain for the Jonesboro United Methodist Preschool Program.

During her long church-music career, Marti served seven North Georgia United Methodist congregations, including Capitol View, Cascade, Morrow, Jones Memorial, Fairburn, LaGrange First, and Jonesboro. She co-founded the North Georgia Music and Worship Arts Camp, which was held annually for almost 50 years, and assisted with music and planning for countless church conferences, revivals, and workshops. After retiring from full-time work, she directed the handbell choir at McDonough Presbyterian Church for more than

a decade.

In addition to Marti's love of music, she maintained a lifelong passion for swimming and participated in water aerobics at the Steve Lundquist Aquatic Center in Jonesboro well into her 80s.

Marti was preceded in death by her husband of 57 years and brothers John Walter Black and James Jackson Black.

She is survived by a sister, Elizabeth Barrett; daughter, Mary Elizabeth "Libby" Snipes; sons, John and Joseph Slife (Joye); grandsons, Gideon, Reuben, and Jared Slife; granddaughter, Lindsay Snipes Martin (Gabe); and great-granddaughter, Emmy James Martin.

A Memorial Service will be held at Jonesboro First United Methodist Church, 142 S. Main St., Jonesboro, on Saturday, April 26, 2025, at 4:00 p.m., with a reception to follow at the church. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Marti's memory to JUMPP—the Jonesboro United Methodist Pre-School Program. Online donations can be made via www.jonesboroumc.com/give/

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR **26**. 4:00 PM (ET)

Jonesboro First United Methodist Church
142 South Main Street
Jonesboro, GA 30236

Tribute Wall



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Marti B. Slife.*



April 25, 2025 at 04:57 PM



“ *Marti was my teammate at our water aerobics class, and even though I only knew her a short time she was a beacon of light and joy every time we'd meet. She loved her family, singing, church and life so much . I was blessed to hear her stories and experience her enthusiasm. Thank you sweet angel Marti, you are always remembered here on earth,
With love and affection to all who knew her well.
Vickie Creel Williams.*

Vickie Williams - April 20, 2025 at 07:04 PM



“ *I first got to know Marti in the 70's and since I was in Church Music, she became my mentor. She was an encourager and I will forever be grateful for all she taught me. We worked many choir camps, children's music festivals, handbell festivals and planned music for Annual Conference together. Rest in peace, Marti and rise in glory!
Sandra Smith Franklin*

Sandra Smith Franklin - April 12, 2025 at 02:58 PM

JB

“ I am Julia Blake and my Mother (Marian Johnson) was a good friend with Marti through SAI and the Fairburn United Methodist Church. She remembers your Mother very fondly and appreciated their musical connections in particular. Mother is living in Newnan now. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Julia Blake - April 10, 2025 at 03:01 PM

AR

“ To the family of Marti B Slife, she had a beautiful spirit. Very friendly and enjoy being with her Aqua Buddies. She will be truly missed.

Angela Rucker

Angela Rucker - April 09, 2025 at 05:26 PM

JO

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Joseph - April 09, 2025 at 04:53 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Joseph - April 09, 2025 at 03:37 PM

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“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Joseph - April 09, 2025 at 01:13 PM

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Joseph - April 09, 2025 at 12:40 PM

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Joseph - April 09, 2025 at 07:45 AM

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Joseph - April 08, 2025 at 05:39 PM

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Joseph - April 08, 2025 at 04:51 PM