

*Pallbearers*  
Shaun Stagge  
Michael Smith  
Brandon Menears  
Justin Menears  
Christopher Williams  
Tommy Maxwell, Jr.  
Lawrence Ross

*Acknowledgement*

*We, the Stagge Family, want to thank each and every one of you for the cards you sent, the prayers you said to our Father God for our continued strength in Him, the floral pieces, the love, and the food. We saw it all and are truly grateful for whatever part you played in consoling our hearts. We love you all.*

*God's Garden Must Be Beautiful*

*God looked around the garden  
And found an empty space.  
He looked down upon the earth  
And saw your tired face.  
He put his arms around you  
And lifted you to rest.  
God's garden must be beautiful  
For he only takes the best.  
He knew that you were weary,  
And he knew you were in pain.  
He knew that you would never  
Be well on earth again.  
He saw the roads were getting rough,  
And the hills were hard to climb,  
So he closed your weary eyes  
And whispered, "Peace be thine."*

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*Celebrating*  
THE LIFE OF  
*"Honey Bun"*



*Mother Mary*  
MAGDALENE STAGGE

DECEMBER 17, 1942 - FEBRUARY 2, 2020



**CELEBRATION OF LIFE**  
**MOTHER MARY MAGDALENE STAGGE**

**VISITATION: 10 AM - 11 AM**  
**CELEBRATION OF LIFE: 11 AM**

**THIRD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
9990 Lewis & Clark Boulevard, Jennings, Missouri 63136  
*Rev. Cedric Portis, Host Pastor*

*Pastor Jesse Dunigans, Eulogist*  
*Bethesda Mennonite Church*  
2823 Dayton Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63106

*Order of Service*

**MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES**  
**GWEN HEARD**

Processional.....	Family
Scripture Readings .....	Elder Stacey Gardner
Old Testament.....	<i>Psalm 23</i>
New Testament.....	<i>John 14:1-6</i>
Prayer of Comfort.....	Pastor Michael Fulks
Song Selection.....	<i>“Order My Steps”</i> ..... Colette Brown
Acknowledgement of Condolences .....	Jamiee Smith
Obituary (Read Silently) .....	Soft Music
Remarks (Two Minutes, Please).....	Clergy
Dance Selection.....	<i>“Heaven in Motion”</i> ..... Eunolia Williams
Tributes	
As Children.....	James Stagge, Karen Boobie King, & Angela Mathis
As Grandchildren.....	Raquita William & Justin Menears
Song Selection .....	Brunetta Lemons
Words of Comfort.....	Pastor Jesse Dunigans, Bethesda Mennonite Church
Parting View .....	Baucom’s Life Celebration
Closing Prayer/Benediction.....	Pastor Jesse Dunigans

**INTERMENT**  
**LAUREL HILL MEMORIAL GARDENS**  
**2000 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63133**

*Precious Memories*





## Precious Memories



## Life Reflections

*Mary Magdalene Stagge* was born in Paulette, Mississippi, on December 17, 1942, to Lela Bell Ivy and James Halbert. Mary graduated from Macon Colored High School April 27, 1962. Shortly after, she married Charlie Stagge on July 28, 1963, at Bethesda Mennonite Church at 2823 Dayton Street. It was officiated by Reverend Herbert Schwartzentruber. Mary dedicated her life to the Lord at an early age. She joined Bethesda Mennonite Church March 29, 1964, dedicating her life to servicing others at the church where she served as a Sunday school teacher, usher, and a host of other positions as needed until her health failed. Her passion was to give, feed those in homeless shelters, and visit the elderly and sick in nursing home facilities. She served God faithfully until her transition.

She worked at the Missouri Athletic Club on Washington Avenue in downtown St. Louis from the early 60s until the early 2000s, essentially retiring from a long career of service in supervising the housekeeping.

She departed this life on February 2, 2020, after a long battle with dementia.

She leaves to cherish her memories: her loving husband of 56 years, Charlie Stagge; children, Portia Stagge, Lela (Stacey) Gardner, James Monroe (Kim) Stagge, Darlene Stagge, and Stanley Stagge; grandchildren, Shaun (Darleta) Stagge, Raquel Glover, Brandon Menears, Raquita (Chris) Williams, Najiah (Samuel) Williams, Justin Menears, Michael Smith, and Tayler Stagge; two aunts, Eula Mae Bass of St. Louis, Missouri, and Hattie Taylor of Chicago, Illinois; siblings, Tommy Maxwell of St. Louis, Missouri, and Annie Ruth Moore of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; 18 greatgrands; and a host of unforgettable and faithful family members, including sisters-in-law, aunts, nieces, nephews, cousins, and dearest friends.

She was preceded in death by: her mother, Lela Bell Ivy; father, James Halbert; grandparents, Mary Luck Ivy and James Ivy who raised her during her time in Paulette, Mississippi, when her Mom died at an early age; aunt, Lydia Townsend; mother-in-law, Mary Francis Clanton; brother-in-law, Walter Stagge; and so many more that were awaiting her arrival.

“I HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT,  
I HAVE FINISHED THE RACE, AND I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH.”

2 TIMOTHY 4:7



# Mom's Story In Her Voice

TOLD BY LELA, PORTIA, DARLENE, MONROE, AND STANLEY

## DEDICATION TO HELPING OTHERS:

*Our house was a hub for people that didn't have anywhere else to go. I can't remember a time when there wasn't someone else living with us. If a family member was ill and needed a place to go, they came to our house. From aunts and uncles, to family members from the south, many of them came and lived here. They could stay here as long as they wanted, until they were ready to move out with their families. Mostly it is family members, but whatever neighborhood we lived in, I helped take care of people. I even took in a maid I worked with, and her dog! We didn't have much either, but whatever we had we shared. I took care of the kids in the neighborhood and made sure they had enough to eat and were never left out in the street. Even if all we had was ramen noodles, everyone would eat. I don't want anybody to be hungry.*

*My family always says I'm a giver. We used to live in a not so good neighborhood and I would take kids from the community with me to church. I served as a mentor for them and I still keep in contact with them today. They call me "Grandma Mary". I think my kids used to not like people staying with us all the time. Growing up, they just wanted it to be our family. But then they realized what I was really trying to do, that I was trying to instill in them to be a little more giving and sympathetic, even as kids. It wasn't until they got older that they realized what I was doing and grew to appreciate it. Charlie just goes along with me. I always ask him first though, before bringing someone into our house. Even though we used to live in a bad area, I didn't want to leave because I was worried about the kids there. I didn't care that bullets were flying. But Charlie said we're packing up and leaving so I reluctantly came.*

*I never have much time for any hobbies because I am always so busy with other things. Church is my main involvement and takes up most of my time during the whole week; from leading Sunday school, to Wednesday night sessions, to usher meetings, choir, volunteering at the Mary Ryder Nursing Home, and volunteering at the Larry Rice homeless shelter. I have a busy, busy schedule and it all centers around caring for other people. My kids have come with me sometimes to the nursing home. I go there with the church every second Saturday of the month. I also go to Larry Rice on Thursdays and help with cooking, leading Bible sessions, and singing groups. One time at Larry Rice, there was a man with no shoes so I just took off my shoes and gave them to him. It was cold out but I knew he needed them more than me so I just gave him my shoes and got in the car. The man was shocked. I will give someone the shirt off my back if they need it. I will also try to sneak a dollar or two to all the people down at Mary Ryder and Larry Rice so the other volunteers have to watch me and try to stop me because it isn't allowed.*

*My love of caring for others extends even beyond people; I also love animals. If someone gets rid of their dog I will bring it into our house and take care of it. We had about five dogs at one time. We didn't have a whole lot of money or food to eat but we had five dogs and they shared with us. One of the dogs, Taxi, would always walk with my kids to the bus stop and then come back home. I didn't go down to the school much. If I did, it meant one of the kids were in trouble so it wasn't a good thing. They didn't get into too much trouble growing up. I think they would say I am the discipliner, Charlie didn't discipline them. They know I have a good heart though. I will just tell them not to do it again and to keep a relationship with God.*

## WORK:

*I started off working in private houses as a housekeeper, mostly doing cleaning. Later on, I worked at the Missouri Athletic Club (MAC) in downtown St. Louis off of Washington. I was the supervisor of housekeeping. I LOVED my job working there and never wanted to quit, but I had to because of the dementia. I didn't know where I was sometimes and a lot of times I would accidentally take the grandkids with me and wasn't sure where I was. Even at my job, I was always helping someone, whether it was giving them money or taking them back and forth to work. Again, it was just my nature.*

## CHURCH:

*For my whole life, I have always been a church-going woman. I go on the weekdays and Sundays. My relationship with God is the most important thing to me. When my kids were growing up, we would all go to church as a family. I am extremely involved in the church and do everything from ushering, to cooking, to singing, to serving as a program coordinator, to teaching Sunday school, to running fundraisers. People say I am a real pillar of the church. Before going to work, every single morning a group of women and I from the church pray together on the phone for everyone.*

*I go to a Mennonite church, which originated out of Iowa. It was very integrated and there were lots of people who founded the church. That's when my family and I really realized there are no racial boundaries because we were just a melting pot of people within the Mennonite church. When we first started, it was predominantly white, but then it moved to a black neighborhood and now it's mostly black. The church has pictures way back from the 50s all the way to the present, and they have timelines documenting important events. This church was right off of Jefferson on Dayton which is down in the city.*

*My relationship with God and the church community is what keeps me going now. If I hear a certain type of music, I'll start crying because I'm reminiscing about my relationship with God. I love gospel music and old traditional hymns. I used to make my kids sing when they were younger. They weren't that good but I always made them sing. I still enjoy listening to music now. My family will use the iPad to play the songs for me and recently, when church members come by, they'll start singing and I will join them. Even though I don't talk anymore, I'll hum along to the music.*

## MEETING CHARLIE:

*I met Charlie in the country down in Mississippi when he was about 20 or 21, something like that. We got married when he was 24. I first met him when I was working in the cotton picking field. I was chopping cotton and he went to the cotton fields in 1957, and that's where we met. I knew right away when we first met how I felt about him. He came back to St. Louis before we got married in 1963, and we moved here together in 1962. Before that, we were living in the city in a house on Washington, and then on Dayton above the church, and then we raised our kids in a house down on Elliot. Our old house wasn't the best place to live but I always made sure it was clean and all our kids had chores to do. I don't believe in a dirty house so they had to make sure everything was clean when I got home. Charlie loves to watch western movies so I will watch them too. I like a lot of western movies like Lone Ranger. I will also watch nighttime soap op.*