

Living Legend of Cumberland

Mrs. Mary Frieson Thomas



Mrs. Mary Frieson Thomas was born August 27, 1930 in Scranton, South Carolina. She was the eighth of ten children born to the late James and Mae Belle Graham Frieson. Mary began her early childhood education in Scranton and continued her education at Wilson after her family relocated from Scranton to the Meadow Prong community. Mary is a graduate of Wilson High School and did further studies at Florence-Darlington Technical College. She is the sole survivor of her immediate family. Mrs. Thomas was married to the late James Thomas.

Mary spent her adult life as an employee of Wentworth and Marlowe Manufacturing Companies and retired from Southland Nursing Home as a CNA. After retiring, she worked part-time with DHEC Agencies.

While attending high school, Mary and her sister, Elouise Frieson Miller, lived with Mrs. Julia Stevenson and attended Cumberland with her. This is how Cumberland became her house of worship. She has been a faithful member of Cumberland for more than 70 years. She has served as secretary of the Administrative Board, treasurer of the United Methodist Women and Senior Usher Board, and a member of the Committee On Missions, Stewardship Committee, and the Lillian Adams Sunday School Class.

Mrs. Thomas also spent time volunteering with Cumberland's Youth Choir and Credit Union and fundraising for the Girl Scouts. Mrs. Thomas was Cumberland's 2014 United Methodist Woman of the Year. Mary has been actively involved in her community. She is a member of the Azalea Garden Club, the Elks, and the National Council of Negro Women.

Mary has limitless energy and endurance. She provides bulletins for the shut-in members of Cumberland every week, makes early morning calls to family members, provides neighbors with Golden Life magazines and papers, collects debris to maintain a clean neighborhood, and provides assistance to church shut-ins. She lives to give and serve!