

## **A Life Well Lived**



*Stella Ann Matthews Pete was born in Crowley, Louisiana to the late John and Beulah Matthews. She was educated in the Acadia Parish School System and is a graduate of Crowley Industrial High School. Following graduation she attended Southern University in Baton*

*Rouge, Louisiana and achieved a Bachelor of Arts degree and later a Master of Education degree in Elementary Education. Other educational achievements include a certificate in Education Supervision from Valdosta State University in Valdosta, Georgia and an Education Specialist degree in Administration and Supervision from the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia.*

*She received her early Christian development at First Church of God in Christ (COGIC ) in Crowley, Louisiana. She was baptized in the first indoor pool of First Church under the pastorate of the late Elder Leroy D. Winbush. Her walk in holiness began in the Sunshine Band and continued through Purity Class, Sunday School, YPWW and regular worship services. Having served in the local church as Sunday School Secretary, Sunday School teacher and class leader in various auxiliaries, she was also the Sunday School Secretary for Western Louisiana Jurisdiction COGIC under the late Bishop John White. Stella Ann Matthews found serving the Lord to be an enjoyable task that caused no trouble. She was proud of her journey.*

*In 1954, Stella Ann Matthews married Joseph Allen Pete, Jr. of Crowley. To this union was born a daughter, Reve' Marie.*

*In 1966 Stella Ann Matthews Pete moved to Albany, Georgia. In 1970 she joined Monroe Street COGIC under the pastorate of the late Bishop J. Howard Dell. As a member of Monroe Street Church, Stella Pete's service has included Sunday School teacher, Senior Choir President, Bible Band member, Women's Department worker and Assistant Church Mother. Within the Albany District of Northern Georgia Jurisdiction COGIC, she served as a District Sunday School Adult Class teacher and District Chairlady. Within Northern Georgia Jurisdiction she served as Chair of the Business and Professional Women's Auxiliary, a Women's Department worker and a member of the State Choir. She was licensed as a Deaconess Missionary in the Church of God in Christ by Supervisor Diane L. Jenkins of Northern Georgia First Jurisdiction during the tenure of Bishop Adrian D. Williams as Prelate. Until the last year of her life, Stella Pete served as Adult Sunday School teacher at the Monroe Street Church, now known as Words of Restoration COGIC, under the pastorate of Bishop Oscar Benton, Jr.*

*As an educator, Stella Pete served as a teacher at Ross Elementary School in Crowley, Louisiana, Acadia Parish Training School in Rayne, Louisiana and Flintside Elementary School in Albany, Georgia. Other educational services in Albany included Reading Specialist at Lincoln Heights Elementary School, First Parent Coordinator of the Dougherty County Title I Program, Dougherty County's*

*First Elementary School Assistant Principal (Lincoln Heights Elementary School), Assistant Principal of Lake Park Elementary School, Principal of Flintside Elementary School, Assistant Principal of Sylvandale Elementary School and Principal of the Dougherty County Pre-K Program. After retiring from the Dougherty County School System, she served as a tutor at the Bethel Housing Project in Albany, Georgia.*

*Stella Pete's professional accomplishments are numerous: Albany Area Council of Reading President; Lincoln Heights Elementary Reading Teacher of the Year; charter member, corresponding secretary, vice president and president of the Georgia Council of International Reading Association; president of the Dougherty County Elementary Principals Association and corresponding secretary of the Dougherty County Retired Educators Association. Her community service included Semper Fidelis Nursery School Advisory Board Secretary.*



*Stella Pete was a Life Member and a Pearl of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She was also a member of the Crowley Louisiana Branch of the National Association of University Women.*

### **At Home**

*Rest in peace, Mother. Jesus is coming VERY SOON! We will be together again shortly. Mother transitioned to Heaven on Friday night, January 2, 2026 at 8:20 PM EST.*

*Although I miss her presence here on Earth, I am thrilled that she is safe at home with Jesus and her family members. Mother was one of the last ones of her biological family to transition. Of her generation, she has one biological cousin still alive in Crowley, Louisiana. She also has a cousin by marriage alive in Lafayette, Louisiana.*

*If you knew Mother, you knew she was from Crowley because she made it a point to tell you. What was so special about Crowley was not the city itself but the people who lived there. For Mother, home was where her family was, and they were in Crowley.*

*Jesus said, "...I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." John 14:2b-3 NKJV*

*Those of us who have received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord have a home in Glory prepared for us by Him. Mother went to the home Jesus prepared for her when she transitioned on Friday evening. But Mother also has family and friends there and "home" for her has always been with her family and friends. So Mother is doubly at home. It is hard not to be happy for her because it has been quite some time since she has been with many of her family and friends. Oh, what a welcome home she must have received and what laughter as they caught up on what had happened since their transitions. So, if anyone asks you where Stella Pete is, you can say, "She is at home."*

*Reve' M. Pete*