

**DR. MARY ENSOR CHAFFIN**

b. September 28, 1928, Smith Co., TN

d. January 29, 1987

Parents: Frank Chaffin & Virgie Petty

Buried: Gordonsville Cemetery, Smith Co., TN

Dr. Chaffin Services Set: By Gary Pryor, Democrat Staff Writer.

Committing her life to the ministry and serving others, the late Rev. Dr. Mary E. Chaffin, 58, was a "person of great compassion," her friends say.

Even the loss of her sight some five years ago didn't deter her work of preaching the gospel. She made her rounds via the assistance of friends and to congregations at Upton Heights United Methodist Church and churches in Mt. Olivet, Union and Tuckers Cross Roads.



Remains are at Bob & Robinson Funeral Home. Services for Rev. Chaffin will be 11 a.m. Saturday at First United Methodist Church. Officiating will be Rev. Billy Craighead, assisted by Dr. Thomas Cloyd. Burial will be at Gordonsville Cemetery.

Rev. Chaffin died at 4 p.m. yesterday at Humana Hospital McFarland. She had been ill for some time with a diabetic condition and liver ailment.

In lieu of flowers, donations are requested to the Mary Chaffin Memorial Scholarship Fund of the First United Methodist Church. It has not yet been determined how this fund will be used.

The sold child of Franklin and Virgie Petty Chaffin, she was born September 28, 1928 in Smith County. Survivors include her father, Franklin Chaffin, and her companion, Rhea Sears.

Pallbearers will be ministers of the Tennessee Annual Conference and administrative councils of the Upton Heights charge of the United Methodist Church.

As a child, Rev. Chaffin decided to go into the ministry, acquaintances recall. Beulah Thomas, a friend who taped Bible readings and other subjects for Rev. Chaffin after she lost her sight, says she began preaching at an early age.

Rev. Chaffin spent 20 years at various churches in Arkansas and then 19 years in Wilson County, Thomas says.

"She served a community group that was much larger than a church membership," says Thomas. "she was involved in many groups and activities for children and adults, and not all church related."

Thomas says through her church ministries alone that Rev. Chaffin "reached 300 to 400 people a month."

Rev. Chaffin is recalled as a caring person who had little concern for herself.

"a lot of her work was through community outreach, she was a person of great compassion who helped others," Thomas says.

Though her vision went bad five years ago, Thomas recall how Rev. Chaffin had a sharp memory, remembering sermons and people's phone numbers easily.

Rev. Chaffin had three master's degrees and received her doctorate from Vanderbilt University.

J. B. Leftwich says she always had kindness and help to children. And, though she was a woman in the ministry, she told him, "she didn't feel her gender had any effect."

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\*See Chaffin files at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>