



Bettie Thompson Rathel

April 5, 1933 - March 10, 2026

Bettie Thompson Rathel, 92, of Belleview, Florida, passed away peacefully on March 10, 2026.

Bettie was born on April 5, 1933, in Beaulaville, North Carolina, to James Abram Bell and Mary Ellen Daugherty. She lived a life centered around her deep faith in God and her love for her family. Bettie was known throughout her family, church, and community as a kind and devoted woman whose life reflected her faith and love for those around her.

She worked as a teacher of upholstery in Adult Education, sharing her knowledge and talents with many students over the years. Bettie also faithfully served as the secretary of First Baptist Church of Belleview under Pastor Damon Walker. During her time at the church, she was instrumental, alongside Betty Walker, in creating, opening, and helping run Little Friends, a ministry that blessed many children and families in the community.

Bettie had a passion for sewing, cooking, and gardening, and she expressed her love for her family through the many handmade items and meals she prepared for them. One of her greatest joys was spending summers in Tennessee with her grandchildren, creating memories that her family will cherish for generations.

Bettie was a loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who leaves behind a large and devoted family. She is survived by her four children: Larry Thompson (Patty), Johnnie Thompson (Lori), Kathy Scherer (Rick), and Steve Thompson (Robin); 11 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her 2nd husband of 21 years, Harvey C Rathel, and her 1st husband and love of her life for 45 years, Garland Thompson.

A visitation will be held at First Baptist Church of Belleview on March 27, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Funeral services will follow at 10:30 a.m. at the church with Reverend Ronnie Walker officiating. Burial will follow at Good Shepherd Cemetery in Ocala, Florida.

Following the burial, the family will host a celebration of life reception at the Cala Hills Clubhouse, 2400 SW 21st Circle, Ocala, Florida. Family and friends are invited to attend and share memories as they honor Bettie's life.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Roberts of Ocala Funeral Home and Cremations.

Though she will be deeply missed, her family finds comfort knowing she is now resting in the presence of her Lord and Savior. Her love, faith, and the memories she created with her family will live on for generations to come.

Cemetery Details

Good Shepherd Memorial Gardens

5050 SW 20th Street
Ocala, FL 34474

Previous Events

Public Viewing

MAR 27. 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Belleview
6107 SE Agnew Rd
Belleview, FL 34420

Funeral Service

MAR 27. 10:30 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Belleview
6107 SE Agnew Rd
Belleview, FL 34420

Graveside Service

MAR 27. 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Good Shepherd Memorial Gardens
5050 SW 20th St
Ocala, FL 34474
(352) 900-4681

Tribute Wall



“ Roberts of Ocala Funerals and Cremations created a Tribute Video in memory of Bettie Thompson Rathel



Roberts of Ocala Funerals and Cremations - March 26 at 10:03 AM

PF

“ Progressive URBI Family purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Bettie Thompson Rathel.



Progressive URBI Family - March 24 at 01:52 PM

PF

“ Progressive URBI Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bettie Thompson Rathel.

Progressive URBI Family - March 24 at 01:52 PM

YO

“ Yolane Ovil purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Bettie Thompson Rathel.



Yolane Ovil - March 17 at 09:32 PM

CH

“ Miss Bettie was so lovely and charming. It was my pleasure and privilege to know her. Sending my sincere sympathy to all her family.

Crole Holden - March 17 at 01:22 PM

SR

“ Steve Rathel purchased the *Simply Elegant Spat hiphyllum* for the family of Bettie Thompson Rathel.



Steve Rathel - March 17 at 10:52 AM

SR

“ Steve Rathel planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bettie Thompson Rathel.

Steve Rathel - March 17 at 10:52 AM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bettie Thompson Rathel.



March 16 at 04:43 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Bettie Thompson Rathel.*



March 16 at 02:05 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Bettie Thompson Rathel.

March 16 at 02:05 PM



“ *With love - Kypp & Neda purchased the Sweet S
olace Spray for the family of Bettie Thompson
Rathel.*



With love - Kypp & Neda - March 16 at 01:38 PM