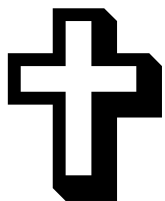
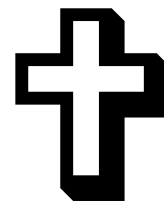


MEMORIAM



"PRECIOUS IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD
IS THE DEATH OF HIS SAINTS."

– Psalm 116:15 –



We pause at this time to pay special tribute to our beloved people who have passed from among us since we last met.

"A person or loved one to us loaned;
Was ever by the Father owned;
Allotted time they're ours to keep;
When God reclaims we'll trust, not weep."

Deep within our hearts will remain the sainted memory these our brothers and sisters in Christ. Their names shall be engraved on the pages of our BOOK OF MEMORIES – We honor them. This association at large mourns their passing.

*BAKER, Lewis Arnold
BOWLIN, James E. "Jim"
BROWN, Randall "Randy" Dale
FERRELL, Clifton Rhea
FISHER, Ella Voneneva
MINTON, Steve
NEELEY, Cora L
SEAL, Argel Lee
SMITH, Charlene Baker
STEVENS, Leanoria F.
STURGILL, Randle Carson
SULLIVAN, Ronald Eugene (Gene)
TURNER, Maude
WHEELER, Clara Launa

BELL, Grady Jr.
BROOKS, Denise Moore
DOWELL, Nellie Grace
HELVEY, Margaret Sue Denton
HELMICK, Edgar Nelson III
NEAL, Lois Brice
SCOTT, Virginia Rose "Sissy" Parvin
SIMMONS, Debbie L.
STEPP, Louella Laney
STIPE, Helen Magdalene
SULLIVAN, Paul Fred
TURNER, Jessie
WELLS, David Lee

*Ministers

ELDER LEWIS ARNOLD BAKER, 82, of Kingsport, TN went to be with the Lord Monday, March 6, 2023. Lewis was born July 20, 1940, in Blountville, TN to the late Jake Baker and Roena Booher Baker. Other than his parents, Lewis was also preceded in death by his wife, Rosa Baker and his sister, Eunice Baker. He served as Pastor of Chestnut Flats Primitive Baptist Church for 40 years.

Those left to cherish Lewis' memory are his daughter, Cassandra Kerney (Eric); granddaughters, Ariana Kerney and Angelina Kerney; brother, Ralph Baker (Kay); sisters, Ada Baker, Virgie Ann Cross (Dan) and Minola Price (Phil); several nieces and nephews also survive.

-Written by his daughter, Cassandra Kerney

GRADY BELL, JR., 80, went to be with the Lord Wednesday, February 22, 2023. He was born November 12, 1942, in Altoona, AL to the late Grady and Pearl Goble Bell, Sr. Grady was a loving and devoted son, husband, father and brother who made family his main priority. He was a small business owner for many years and retired from Eastman Chemical Company following twenty-eight years of service. Grady was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army having served during the Vietnam War and was a member of the Masons. He was a member at West View Primitive Baptist Church and Arcadia Presbyterian Church where he enjoyed participating in mission trips.

In addition to his parents, Grady was preceded in death by his loving wife of twenty-six years, Wanda Collier Bell; siblings, James Bell, Geneva Nix, Gail McGlaughn and Eddie Bell.

Those left to cherish Grady's memory are his son, Grady Lynn Bell and wife, Noelle; sister, Rebecca Jenkins; eighteen nieces and nephews; many great friends.

-Written by the family

JAMES E. "JIM" BOWLIN, 87, passed away at Holston Valley Medical Center on May 28th, 2023, following a period of declining health. Jim was born on May 24th, 1936, to the late Claude and Mary Bowlin of Hiltons, VA.

He was preceded in death by siblings, Jean Wilson, Bill Bowlin, and Elder John Bowlin.

He is survived by sisters, Sue Johnson, Brenda (Joe) Horton, brother, Kenneth Bowlin (Melinda), and sister-in-law, Brenda Bowlin.

Jim was a member at Blue Springs Primitive Baptist Church and was the song leader, deacon, and trustee of the church. He also sang tenor in the Bowlin Family Singers for over 59 years, singing in numerous churches throughout the area and countless funeral services.

We miss his presence, but we know he is at rest. We will meet Jim in the Land of Perfect Day.

-Written by his sister, Brenda Horton

DENISE MOORE BROOKS, 59, of Morristown, TN, passed from this life into her eternal home on Tuesday, March 21, 2023. She was a faithful member of Kingswood Primitive Baptist Church where she served as the clerk for more than 25 years.

Denise was preceded in death by her husband of 25 years, Deacon Ronnie Brooks and her father, Willard Moore. She is survived by her son, Joey Brooks; sister, Teresa Moore Stepp; and mother, Gerri Ridley Moore.

Though much could be said about Denise's infectious smile and humble heart concerning leaving this world of time, suffice it to say we are thankful for the promise of another meeting beyond the clouds.

-Written by Elder Terry Sizemore

RANDALL "RANDY" DALE BROWN, 69, passed away Saturday, November 12, 2022. He was a faithful member of Little Cowan Primitive Baptist Church and a great neighbor to those in the community.

Randall was preceded in death by his parents, Myrel and Virginia Gibson Brown, and brother, Steven C. Brown.

He is survived by his wife, Eula Boggs Brown; sons, Kevin and Jason; grandsons, Cody, Corey, Cameron, and Eli; great-grandchildren, Jackson and Emmy; and brother, Joe Brown.

Randy loved his family and friends and believed he had a better place to go. We look forward to spending eternity with him.

-Written by the family

NELLIE GRACE DOWELL, of Blountville, TN, died May 30, 2023, in Bristol, Tennessee. She was the daughter of Hugh and Geneva Smith.

Grace was preceded in death by her husband, Billy Dowell; sons, Jeff Dowell, and Billy Dowell; sister, Margie Baker; and brother, Ralph Smith.

Grace is survived by her son, Bobby Dowell; daughter, Connie Penley (Mike); grandsons, Tyler Penley and William Dowell; daughter-in-law, Norma Dowell; brother, Frank Smith, and several nieces and nephews

Grace was a 1955 graduate of Hilton High School. She was saved at an early age and attended church regularly. She was a member of Gardener's Memorial Church.

-Written by the family

CLIFTON RHEA FERRELL, 50, left his earthly home on April 26, 2023 after a brief illness. He was born to Virgil and Judy Ferrell on October 30, 1972. Clifton attended Marion Robinette Memorial Church before moving with his family to Myrtle Beach, SC.

He was preceded in death by his father, Virgil Lee Ferrell, grandparents, Orbin and Naomi Ferrell, Hillary and Beulah Robinette.

He is survived by his mother, Judy Robinette Ferrell; brother, Bradford Ferrell; brother, Travis Ferrell and Andy Guthrie; nieces, Brittany Ferrell, MacKenzie Ferrell.

-Written by his mother, Judy Robinette Ferrell

MARGARET SUE DENTON HELVEY, age 85, of Blountville, Tennessee was born on November 8, 1937 and passed away on February 24, 2023. She was a member of Miller's Chapel Primitive Baptist Church and attended Poplar Grove Primitive Baptist Church. Margaret was preceded in death by her parents, Georgia and W.C. (Shorty) Denton, her husband, Tommy Helvey and son, Benjy Helvey.

She is survived by her sons: Derek Helvey (Ruth Anne), Brent Helvey (Angie) and daughter: Dinah Porter (Brandon). Grandchildren: Megan Miller (Justin), Zach Helvey (Katie), Delaney, Cassidy, Sadie, Silas, and Josiah Porter, Jacob, Brianna and Heartlie Helvey and four great-grandchildren.

-Written by the family

ELLA VONENEVA FISHER, 78, of Blackwater, VA, passed away Monday December 5, 2022 at her home. She was a member of Blackwater Lick Church.

-Written by church family

EDGAR NELSON HELMICK III, age 62, of Sneedville, passed away on March 9, 2023. He was a member at Swan Creek Church. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Edgar Sr. and Blanche Helmick and Reuben and Eliza Collins; parents, Ed and Bobbie Helmick; brothers, Ricky and Robert Helmick; sisters, Linda, Margaret, and Janice; nephews, Travis and Joey Helmick, and several aunts, uncles & cousins.

His survivors include his wife, Mary Helmick; sister, Becky Graham; nephews, Johnny (Annie) Bunch, Jerry (Angie) Johnson, Jack (Carie) Johnson, Rick Helmick, Jacob Baker, and Alex Graham; nieces, June (John)

Gose, Sherri Crosby, and Amy Adams; and special friends, Pheadra and Blaine Barker.

-Written by the family

STEVE MINTON, 77, passed from his earthly life to his heavenly home on May 23, 2023. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and retired from Eastman Chemical Company with over 30 years of service. He was a faithful member, deacon, and song leader at Copper Creek (Addington Frame) Church for many years. He was parents and several brothers and sisters.

Surviving and left to mourn his passing are his loving wife of 57 years, Flo Stapleton Minton; daughters, Gina Minton and Lisa Dean, granddaughters, Taylor Lankford, Sophie and Gracie Dean; five sisters, three brothers; and his loving church family.

Steve enjoyed a simple life of church, family, helping neighbors, fishing, gardening, and sharing his harvests. He was a loving husband, dad, and papaw who was loved by all his family and friends. He is missed by so many, but we share the promise of meeting again someday where we will never have to part again. Until then, our precious one will bask in the presence and joys of the Lord and await our coming.

-Written by the family

LOIS BRICE NEAL, age 82, passed away on November 9, 2022. She was formerly employed with TRW, where she was affectionately known as "Granny". She had a love for quilting and was a member of The Happy Hearts Quilt Guild. She was preceded in death by her husband, Hubert F. Neal; parents, John and Maude Geneva Brice; sister, Erma Lee Fields; brothers, Albert Brice, Haynes Brice, Burle "Tince" Brice.

She is survived by her daughter, Connie Johnson and husband, George; sons, Hubert "Hoopie" Neal and wife, Kimberly, Keith Neal; sister, Shirley Rakestraw; brother, John L. Brice; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

-Written by the family

CORA L NEELEY, 88 of Kingsport TN, departed this life on October 5, 2023 at the Wexford House Nursing Home where she had been a resident for the last 7 years. She was born in Blackwater, Va on May 21, 1935 to the late Gale Roger and Lenna Giles Bowen. Her husband Edgar Neeley, her 11 siblings, a great grand-daughter, and her son Rickey preceded her in death.

She is survived by her daughter, Brenda Kay Neely; granddaughter, Dezarhea Hebert (Donovan); great-grandchildren, Bailey Rhea and Erik Gunnar Hebert; daughter-in-law, Sue Neeley; and a host of friends and her church family, whom she loved.

Cora L was saved at an early age and joined Rollers Chapel Church. She served as clerk for many years. She, along with her mother and sister, formed the "Bowen Trio". They were well known in the area and were a blessing to many people. After her mother's death, Cora L continued singing. She was blessed with a beautiful alto voice and also had a wonderful lead voice. Cora L blessed her church with her singing. She sang at many funeral services and almost every year she would be called upon to sing at our "association meetings".

Although sister Cora L battled dementia for the last few years of her life, it did not keep her from remembering the songs of Zion and she would bless all who would visit her in the nursing home with her singing. She was a dedicated church member as long as she was able to attend. Even laying her in bed for the last seven years, she would fondly talk of Rollers Chapel and would always want to know about our services. Rest on sister Cora L until we meet in that sweet land that you have sung about for so many years.

-Written by the church clerk, Kim Robinette

VIRGINIA ROSE "SISSY" PARVIN SCOTT, age 64, of Rogersville, passed away on November 4, 2022 at UT Medical Center in Knoxville, TN after an extended illness. She had worked as a waitress. She loved children, and they were drawn to her. She enjoyed taking care of her relative's children before she had any of her own.

She was a member at Long Hollow Church. She will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

-Written by the family

ARGEL LEE SEAL, 83, of Sneedville, TN, went home to be with the Lord on May 26th, 2023. She was a member of Swan Creek Church. She was preceded in death by her parents, Harrison and Hazel Brewer; step-mother, Orea Brewer; son, Rick Brewer; brothers, Ronnie and Charles Brewer; and her husband, George Seal.

Argel is survived by her children, Joyce (Jack) Collins, Terry (Crystal) Cope, Tammy and the late (Kevin Suggs); grandkids, Wesley, Holly, Jordan, Keesha, Johnathan, Josh, Terra, Raegan, Braeden, and Isaiah; great-grandchildren, Jutson, Haddie, Bella, Cayden, Addison, Oceania, Havien, and Lila Rose; sisters, Pauline King and Maedean (Ralph) Sutton; several nieces, nephews, and a host of friends. She is gone but never forgotten and will be missed dearly until we meet again.

-Written by the family

DEBBIE L. SIMMONS, age 67, of Wilmington, passed away peacefully on January 22, 2023, at the Wilmington Nursing and Rehabilitation center. She was born April 17, 1955, in El Paso, Texas, the daughter of the late Marvin and Dorothy (Davidson) Carter. Debbie was a member of the Macedonia Church, was the former owner of Sisters Craft Shack in Wilmington, and had owned the Dart Dairy Bar in Blanchester. She was a huge Elvis fan and enjoyed crafting. Most of all, she loved her family and being with family and friends.

She is survived by her husband, Clem Simmons; children, Bryan Simmons, Kimberly Ann Robinson, Sopinda Lavecchia, and Dr. Siriporn Bulls-Fernandez; grandchildren, Brad, Selena, Porter, Bay, Christopher, and Alicia; sister, Judy and her husband Kenny Taylor; several nieces, nephews, and cousins; many friends, including Pam and Danny Pogue, Mark Daniels, and Linda Hoggett. In addition to her parents, Debbie is preceded in death by her brother Bill Carter and her son's fiancé Misty Blackburn.

-Written by the family

CHARLENE BAKER SMITH, 81, of Bristol, Va., went to be with the Lord peacefully on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at Oakmont at Gordan Park, after a lengthy illness. She was born on April 30, 1941, in Bristol, Va., a daughter of the late Charlie and Rosa Whitaker Baker. She was one of nine children. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Claude W. Smith; and siblings, Juanita Baker, Johnny Baker, Hanford Baker, Norman Baker, Lawrence Baker, and Ruby Baker.

Charlene married the late Claude W. Smith and enjoyed 53 years together. She enjoyed her traveling with her husband as an accomplished marksman. She also enjoyed her traveling to Europe, England, Vancouver, and other places with her son, Greg and daughter-in-law, Cherry.

Charlene was a member of West View Church. She loved to go to church and be with her church family.

She is survived and loved by her son, Greg Smith and wife, Cherry; sister, Mary Baker; brother, Tom Baker and wife, Linda; several nieces and nephews; a host of friends; and a loving god-child she helped raise and love, Parker Maggard.

“And the Lord, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.”
Deuteronomy 31:8

-Written by the family

LOUELLA LANEY STEPP, 59, of Louisa, KY passed away July 25, 2023 following a long illness. LouElla was born on Feb. 6, 1964 to the late Milton and Bessie Laney. Besides her parents, she is preceded in death by her brothers, David Preston, Melvin Preston, and Michael Laney; and sisters, Junenell May and Janie Marcum. She was a member of Richardson Chapel Church.

LouElla is survived by her husband, James Stepp; sons, James Boyd, Brandon Boyd, Josh Stepp, and Chad Stepp; daughter, Karla Stepp; grandson, Brayden Boyd; sisters, Annie (Brad) Dutton and Mickey (William) Rose; and a host of nieces and nephews.

-Written by the family

LEANORIA F. STEVENS, 62, of Erwin, TN, passed away in her earthly home, and went home to be with the Lord, on November 26, 2022. "Lenore" was born to Freeman and Naomi Thacker in Hawkins County, TN, and later moved to Kingsport. She married the love of her life, Richard Stevens, and the couple enjoyed over thirty-six years of marriage together. They had two children, Amber and Matthew. Lenore was a homemaker who served others and enjoyed working in her flower garden. She was a member at Poplar Grove Church.

She loved the song "O I Want to See Him" and we know that desire has now been granted. We miss Lenore and her sweet testimony, but we know she is resting and is no longer in pain.

-Written by church family

HELEN MAGDALENE STIPE, 96, passed away February 3, 2023, at Norton Community Hospital. She was a lifelong resident of Big Stone Gap. She loved to quilt and crochet. She was a member of Cadet Baptist Church, where she taught Sunday School for over 20 years. In her later years, the church members enjoyed her discussions in the adult Sunday School class. "Mag" was an inspiration for the whole Cadet community. Many of her friends loved talking to her for her advice and discussing the Bible.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Earnest Lee Stipe; son, Gary Stipe; parents, Roscoe and Elizabeth "Lizzie" (Yeary) Williams; two brothers; and two sisters.

Surviving are her son, Jeffrey Stipe (Donna); grandchildren, Amy Brewer (Robert) and Jason Stipe; great-grandson, Elijah Brewer; sister, Shirley Shafer; several nieces and nephews; and several very special friends.

All that knew Mag was her friend and loved her. Everyone that knew her misses her and cherishes the memories of her.

-Written by church family

RANDLE CARSON STURGILL, 79, entered into eternal rest on August 14, 2023, with his loving family by his side.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Baxter and Mary Sturgill; sisters Jackie Gillenwater and Norma Bowman; and brother Daniel Sturgill.

He is survived by his loving wife of nearly 57 years, Janice (Balthis) Sturgill; daughter, Penni Sturgill; son, Randy Sturgill; and grandchildren, Shannon Sturgill, Ashley Sturgill, Kaleigh Sturgill, Carson and Cooper Sturgill, Tanner Ray Dingus, and Abigail Dingus.

He was a member of Poplar Grove Church where he served as a deacon. He will be greatly missed.

-Written by church family

PAUL FRED SULLIVAN was born June 15, 1948 and went home to be with Jesus on June 4, 2023 at his home in Kingsport, TN. He was saved at a daytime revival at Blackwater Lick Church and was baptized on June 10, 1961, joining Flower Gap Church. He rededicated his life to Christ at a revival in 2016 at Pleasant View Baptist Church in Kingsport, TN where he became a faithful friend and servant until his illness. He proudly served in the U.S. Army for two years of which thirteen months were served in Korea.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Chris and Laura (Johnson) Sullivan; brothers, Chris Sullivan, Jr. and Ronald Eugene Sullivan; father and mother-in-law, "Babe" and Rachael Stapleton; sister-in-law, Genia Miller; and brother-in-law, Quinn Gardner.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 47 years, Shirley Sullivan; sisters, Vonda Gardner and Cheryl (Roy) Thomas; sister-in-law, Darsulla Sullivan; brother-in-law, Carl Miller; a special Aunt and Uncle, Ruth (Sister) and Arvel Lewis; several nieces, nephews, cousins, and a host of friends.

While he was in the hospital one Sunday morning, God's Holy Spirit came into the room and Fred started raising his hands and praising God and said, "There's nothing between me and God." And singing, "Glory, glory, glory, somebody touched me" and "He's got the whole world in His hands". He was so peaceful, and you could feel the "Spirit" all around. We had our last church service with him before God called him home. He wanted to hear his brother's voice and now they are together.

So, sleep on dear one and we will all meet again on that glorious day. Fred witnessed to doctors and nurses and would tell them to "trust and obey" so as his last witness to all of us, we need to trust and obey God's Word.

-Written by the family

RONALD EUGENE (GENE) SULLIVAN, 83, was born May 13, 1939, and the Lord called him to rest on May 1, 2023. He was preceded in death by his parents, Chris and Laura Sullivan, and brother, Chris Sullivan, Jr. He was saved at Flower Gap Church at an early age. He served as clerk for many years. He loved his church very much and sang in the Flower Gap Quartet for years. He loved to sing, attend Sunday School, and most of all, read his Bible daily. He read it all the way through many times. He was a member of the McPherson Lodge No. 99 and served as secretary for many years until his sickness.

Left to mourn his passing are his wife of 60 years, Darsulla Sullivan; sisters, Vonda Gardner and Cheryl Thomas (Roy); brother, Paul Fred Sullivan (Shirley); nephews, Christopher (Kelci) and Jared (Stephanie) Thomas; nieces, Lesa Gardener, Laura (Beth) Grindstaff, Sarah (Collin) Rodgers, Melora Thomas (fiancé, Carl Littrell), and Stephanie Collins; brothers-in-law, Ralph Smith, Roy Thomas and Stevie Collins; many other nieces, nephews, and many friends and relatives.

We will miss you dearly. We all love you and are so thankful for your guidance and wisdom. God held his hand as he crossed over Jordan and will forever hold him in his strong arms. Rest on, Gene, and we will meet you again in Heaven.

-Written by the family

JESSIE TURNER, age 88, of Miamisburg, Ohio passed away November 3, 2022. He was born in Altro, Kentucky on January 30, 1934 to the late Johnny and Sinda (Johnson) Turner. Jessie was a family man who loved his family and enjoyed gospel music and UK basketball. He was preceded in death by his wife, Millie, his parents, eight brothers, and two sisters.

Jessie is survived by his daughters, Clynthian Lee Turner, and Mimia Sue Turner; sons, Kenneth Scott (Debbie), and Jesse Douglas (Patty) Turner; grandchildren, Beth Ann (Tim) Rudd, Bobby (Gabrielle) Kinder, Brad Turner, Stacie (Jeff) Whiteside, and Lori Turner; several great-grandchildren; sister, Margie Baker; brother, Robert Turner; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

-Written by the family

MAUDE TURNER, 84, of Carlisle, OH, went to be with her Lord and Savior on July 12, 2023. She was born to the late Jesse and Polly Ann in Wolfe Coal, KY on May 23, 1939. She was preceded in death by her husband of 63 years, Elder John Turner; son, Rickey Turner; grandson, Shawn Crase; a sister and two brothers.

She is survived by her daughters, Anita (Mark) Newkirk, Marcella (Marvin) Simpson, Loretta (Dave) Eastridge, Melissa Jarvis, Jessica (Jason) Moss; nine grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren.

Maude was a member of the Rose Chapel Church since 1981. She served the church well as a pastor's wife and was a faithful servant until the time she was not able to attend due to bad health.

Her heart's desire was for her family to be together in Heaven forever and ever.

-Written by Anita and Jessica

DAVID LEE WELLS, 49, of Dryden, VA, passed away, July 24, 2023 at his residence. He was born on May 26, 1974, in Norton, VA, to the late Jackie Ronald Wells, Sr. and Rebecca Jane Collier Wells. He was a member of Valley View Church. He was a loving father, brother, uncle, and friend and will be greatly missed by all that loved him.

Those left to cherish his memory are his daughters, Shiena Wells, Myah Wells, Addison Pennington, and Brooke Pennington; son, James Lee Curtis Brummitt; brother, Jackie Wells, Jr.; sisters, Tracey Herron and Carla Milam; caregiver and mother to his children, Ledawn Pennington; and several nieces and nephews.

-Written by his church family

CLARA LAUNA WHEELER, 88, of Whitesburg, passed away July 15, 2023, at Life Care Center of Morristown. She was a member of New Life Church. She was preceded in death by her parents, Henry and Flora Hawkins; loving husband, Elder Henry Wheeler; sister, Marie Bell; brothers, Hilary, Carl, Truman, and Marvin Clay Hawkins.

She is survived by her daughters, Janet (Sonny) Lawson, and Glenda (Bill) Hicks; son, Chris (Vicky) Wheeler; granddaughters, Jill (David) Margelowsky, LaCrista (Michael) Blanton; a great-granddaughter; and a great-grandson; two great-great-grandsons; several nieces, nephews, and a host of dear friends.

Rest on dear lady, until we meet again.

-Written by church family