



Mr. David Barnhill

March 6, 1919 - July 3, 2014

“God, give us men! A time like this demands strong minds, great hearts, true faith, and ready hands. Men whom the lust of office does not kill; Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy; Men who possess opinions and a will; Men who have honour; men who will not lie.....”

These words by Josiah Gilbert Holland give a vivid description of Deacon David Barnhill.

David was born to Lonnie and Josephine Staton Barnhill, who were the parents of Howard, Norman Brooks, Athea, Mabel, and Douglas. The “Barnhill Bunch,” following the passing of their mother, increased when their father married Julia Keyes. This union was blessed with the births of Phillip, Barbara Lou, Sadie, and Mathew Curtis. The Barnhills, while living in the “downtown” area of Greenville, worshipped at the Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist Church, where they looked forward to participating in Sunday School, the BTU (Baptist Training Union), and all other church-related services.

David and his siblings learned early the importance of a good education. He graduated from the Greenville Industrial High School; and in 1942 he graduated from A. & T. College. Greenville Industrial High School was renamed in May of 1942 to honor its Principal Professor C. M. Eppes. David began his first year of teaching in 1942-43 at C. M. Eppes High School as a Senior English teacher. At this time seniors graduated from the eleventh grade. His goal in life was to educate and motivate youth to succeed through lifelong service in secondary and collegiate education. While teaching English, Mr. Barnhill required all of his students to memorize and recite the 13th Chapter of the 1st Corinthians - KJV. His seniors who graduated would always remember their teacher for this scripture and a gift of the KJV Bible. Before the integration of C. M. Eppes and J. H. Rose High School in 1969, Mr. Barnhill had taught for twenty years as an English teacher, and in 1962-63 he became a guidance counselor at C. M Eppes. Mr. Barnhill received the Masters Degree in Counselor Education with further studies at East Carolina University. He continued as a guidance counselor at J. H. Rose until his retirement. He also served J. H. Rose and the Greenville City Schools as Director of School Bus Transportation for a number of years.

Having grown up in a family where hard work was valued, David seemed never to tire of working. Some of his regular workplaces included the BB&T, the New East Bank, the Greenville Country Club, Greenville Tobacco Co, Coffman's Menswear, and Virginia Beach (during summer weather). He also worked for several prominent Greenville families performing a wide variety of jobs --always working diligently and faithfully in every task he undertook.

David received Christ at an early age and as he matured in church ministries, he became a Sunday School teacher, a leader of the Board of Christian Education, and was later ordained as a deacon under the pastorate of the Reverend B. B. Felder.

David's community activities included his leadership and participation in the Bachelor-Benedict Club, the A. & T. State University Alumni Association, and the Board of Directors of the Greenville Industrial-C. M. Eppes High School Alumni Association (Emeritus). His fraternal membership was the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. He was initiated in the Alpha Nu Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi on the campus of A. & T. College in 1941. He was a life member and a charter member of the Rocky Mount and the Greenville Chapters,

serving as the Exchequer. In addition, he served as a mentor to the Eta Psi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi on the campus of East Carolina University. David, fondly called "Pop" and Uncle "Pop," was known for his friendly personality, his charming smile, and his stylish dress. (One of his former Coffman's Menswear salesmen commented that "Easter was the holiday that David always entered the store to purchase a completely new outfit.")

David leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife of 23 years, Wanda Barnhill of the home;
Three Daughters: Sandra Taylor of Greenville, NC, Tralese Williams (Lindsey) of White Marsh, MD, and Keisha Holmes (Major) of Charleston, WV; One Sister: Sadie Streeter of Carson, CA; One Brother: Mathew Barnhill, Sr (Alice) of Temple Hill, MD; Mother-In-Law: Betty Butler of Pikesville, MD; Father-In-Law: Alphonsus Butler of Pikesville, MD; Sisters-In-Law: Lois Barnhill of Harrisburg, NC, Zola Barnhill of Wilson, NC, Laura Cu a (Allen) of Baltimore, MD, Celeste Hamlin (William) of Westminster, MD, Elizabeth Inman (Marin) of Charlotte, NC, Hope Wells (Freddie) of Alaska, Karen Millington (James) of Baltimore, MD, Felicia Brooks of Atlanta, GA, Amy Harris of Baltimore, MD and Latitia Rogers (Timothy) of Raleigh, NC; Brothers-In-Law: Kenneth Brooks (Patricia) of Camden, SC, William Brooks of Fontana, CA, Chauncey Brooks of Baltimore, MD, and Dwight Brooks (Aretha) of Atlanta, GA; Six Grandchildren; Three Great-Grandchildren. Numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, his church family; his beloved Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity; his many students, co-workers, and friends are let to carry on his legacy.

Cemetery Details

Homestead Memorial Gardens

4251 E. 10th Street
Greenville, NC 27858

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist Church
1001 Hooker Road
Greenville, NC 27834

Service

JUL 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist Church
1001 Hooker Road
Greenville, NC 27834

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. David Barnhill*

October 06, 2023 at 05:52 AM



“ *James"Boot"Yarrell lit a candle in memory of Mr. David Barnhill*



James"Boot"Yarrell - January 04, 2015 at 02:07 AM



“ *We all appreciate what you did for all of us as our guidance counselor at Dear Old C M Eppes High to steer us to our career goals. Arlene Sanders*



Arlene Sanders - July 07, 2014 at 06:17 PM