



## Mr. Joe Nathan Whitaker

December 6, 1947 - January 27, 2023

Minister Joe Nathan Whitaker was born to the late Roger Whitaker, Sr. and Mary P. Whitaker on Dec 6, 1947 in the Saintsville Community of Pitt County. He departed this life peacefully at his home on Friday, January 27, 2023.

He attended Sally Branch Elementary School. He was an outstanding student and respected basketball player at Bethel Union High School where he graduated in 1965. A lifelong lover of learning, he continued his education at Henry Abbott Technical Trade School. He later enrolled at Pitt Technical Institute and earned his certificate in Electric Welding. His father taught him how to work with his hands at a young age. He built upon that foundation to become well known for his agricultural, mechanical, and construction abilities.

In 1965 Joe moved to Danbury, Connecticut where he was first employed by Scovill Manufacturing Company. Later he became a letter carrier for the United States Postal Service. While in Danbury, he met the love of his life Mary D. Ward. On May 6, 1967 Joe and Mary were married at Mount Pleasant AME Zion Church, Danbury Ct. To this union, three sons, Gregory, Terry, and Anthony were born. He was a great provider and lover of his family. He taught his children the importance of good work ethics. He accepted Christ at an early age under the pastoral leadership of the late Bishop Robert Lee Harris, Sr. at the Ebenezer Holiness Church, Bridgeport, CT.

In 1972, Joe and his wife relocated from Connecticut to the Saintsville community of Pitt County. He possessed a God-given mechanical design and engineering ability that opened many doors for him. He worked as a carpenter for a building contractor for several years. Subsequently, he was employed at Burroughs Wellcome Pharmaceutical Company, Greenville, NC for 22+ years. While there he worked in several divisions of the company, Sterile Product Division, Certified Chemical Operator, and Facility Maintenance/Carpentry Shop Operator. As a project manager, he was a tenacious finisher - he would not give up until the project was completed. While continuing to work at Burroughs Wellcome, he started Whitaker Trucking Company in 1982. He retired from Burroughs Wellcome in 1995 only to extend his entrepreneurial efforts into the successful establishment of additional construction, agricultural, and transportation enterprises. Among other community involvement, he also served as a member and Chairman of the Pitt County Adjustment Board. Joe loved to cook and created many recipes from the stove to the grill.

He joined Holy Temple Church in 1972 under the leadership of Bishop George White. He began using his many gifts and talents in the Kingdom of God to uplift the Name of Jesus. He always maintained a healthy passion for helping others. He was a generous giver of his time and resources and was strong in his faith. His most spoken words were, "I will serve the Lord until I die." Over the years he served God's church in many roles including guitarist, buildings technician, Youth Ministry President, Finance Team Member, Chairman of Trustee Board, and Member of the Executive Board. Because of his commitment to congregational care he was chosen and ordained a deacon under the leadership of the late Elder Isaac J. Robinson. After serving as a deacon for many years, he accepted the call as a Minister of the Gospel. He was licensed on December 4, 2022. Until his death he served God and the church faithfully. "

Minister Joe was preceded in death by his parents, Roger Sr. and Mary P. Whitaker; siblings, Roger Jr., Annie Mae Alleyne, Wally, Cornelius (Neet), Arthur, Dennis, Lorraine Whitaker, and Betty Whitaker.

Minister Joe leaves to cherish his memories his wife, of nearly 56 years, Minister Mary Whitaker of the home; three sons, Gregory (Janice), Terry (Arlette), Anthony (Jennettia) all of Greenville, NC; god child, Mccoy Robinson (Michele) of Raleigh NC; two sisters, Jacqueline Hassell of Belair, MD, Elnoria Hampton (Marcus) of Fredericksburg, VA; one brother, Lornell Whitaker (Rosa) of Greenville, NC; 8 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren, a host of nieces, and nephews, other relatives, and friends.

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. II Timothy 4: 7-8

# Cemetery Details

## Holy Temple Church Cemetery

1587 Briley Road  
Greenville, NC 27834

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 3. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Holy Temple Church  
1587 State Road 1415  
Greenville, NC 27834

## Celebration of Life Service

FEB 4. 1:00 PM (ET)

Philippi Church Of Christ  
3760 Philippi Drive  
Greenville, NC 27858

# Tribute Wall



“ *View and Download the Funeral Program*

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**Congleton Memorial Mortuary** - February 04, 2023 at 11:47 AM



“ *Mr. Joe Nathan Whitaker*

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October 06, 2023 at 05:52 AM



“ *Thoughts and prayers are with the Ward/Whitaker Family today and the days ahead. Gloristeen Barnes*



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**Gloristeen Barnes** - February 04, 2023 at 04:22 PM



“ *Cathy Clemons lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joe Nathan Whitaker*



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**Cathy Clemons** - February 04, 2023 at 12:58 PM

CG

“ Carolyn Glast lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joe Nathan Whitaker



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**Carolyn Glast** - February 04, 2023 at 11:35 AM

RH

“ Dea. Thurman and Rev. Mary Higgs are praying for you at this time. Our God of Comfort is right there to bear you up. He will help you. Isaiah 41:10. We Love You. Your Classmates of 1965

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**Rev. Mary Higgs** - February 04, 2023 at 10:27 AM

RM

“ Sending much love and prayers to the Whitaker family. Joe was such a special person and will be missed by many. May you experience the peace and presence of God during this time. Randy and Tomenah Mills

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**Randy and Tomenah Mills** - February 03, 2023 at 10:18 PM

RP

“ We are praying for you during this difficult time and may God hold you with his righteous right hand, Remember Weeping may endure for a night, but Joy comes in the morning.. Love and Prayers, Rev, Morton and Virginia Percy and Family, West Haven, Connecticut



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**Rev. Morton & Virginia Percy** - February 03, 2023 at 07:39 PM

RR

“ *Ruth Randolph lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joe Nathan Whitaker*



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**Ruth Randolph** - February 03, 2023 at 05:29 PM

FJ

“ *May God bless your family and keep them in his heart. Love Frentre' Jones and family*



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**Frentre' Jones** - February 03, 2023 at 02:34 PM

BT

“ *We are so sorry for your lost. We will continue to pray for the family. As the word of God tells us we are to pray continuously for each other.*

*William and Bobbie Barnhill-Telfair*

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**Bobbie A Telfair** - February 03, 2023 at 12:21 PM

TS

*Many, many years ago, I met Mr. Joe and Mrs. Mary when I worked at planters Bank down town, at that time they were just getting the trucking company started, he was always so friendly and always smiling, he and Mrs. Mary were two of the nicest folks I ever had the chance to meet..Prayers for Mrs. Mary and the family.*

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**Tammy Strickland** - February 03, 2023 at 06:54 PM

TJ

“ Timothy And Sheila Jones lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joe Nathan Whitaker



Timothy and Sheila Jones - February 02, 2023 at 09:10 PM

JF

“ Jimmy Barnhill And Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joe Nathan Whitaker



Jimmy Barnhill and Family - February 02, 2023 at 08:33 PM

HT

“ My sincere condolence to the Whittaker family .light a candle in memory of Mr. Joe Nathan Whitaker. Hollio Teel class of 1965.

Hollio Teel - February 02, 2023 at 07:07 PM

MK

“ Margaret Knight lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joe Nathan Whitaker



Margaret Knight - February 02, 2023 at 06:29 PM

LT

“ So sorry to hear of Joe's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Lori Tetterton - February 02, 2023 at 09:56 AM

NC

“ Our sincere condolences to Minister Mary Whitaker and entire family. Praying for strength during this difficult time. The Chance Family.

Nestilene Chance - February 02, 2023 at 07:42 AM

LW

“ Larry & Mildred Willoughby sending our Condolences to Mary and Family. Our Prayers are with you.

Larry & Mildred Willoughby - February 01, 2023 at 07:13 PM

DC

“ I would like to take a few minutes to submit my sincere sympathy to the family members of Joe Nathan Whitaker, to say that although you have lost a wonderful brother, a dad, and husband, you still will maintain his memories to carry you through all of your trials and tribulations as you travel through this sad time. Joe, was a good person as we all attended the same school having fun as well as learning a lot to be ready to face this world as we would grow in our years. Rest in peace my brother because now, you are home in God's Arms.

David Clemons - Triangle, VA

DAVID CLEMONS - February 01, 2023 at 06:59 PM

YV

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you Evangelist Mary Whitaker and family. May He comfort you all.  
Love Sister Yvonne Manning and family.

Yvonne - February 01, 2023 at 02:47 PM

CH

“ Praying that God continues to strengthen and comfort the family even more as you go this transition. Eddie and Faye Chance



Chance - February 01, 2023 at 02:19 PM

JC

“ Many wonderful memories with this family. Prayers, thoughts, and so much love for all.



Julian and Debbie Cutler - February 01, 2023 at 06:27 AM

EF

“ Ernest Clemons And Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joe Nathan Whitaker



Ernest Clemons and Family - January 31, 2023 at 11:31 PM

RB

“ Our prayers are with you and your family. May God provide His peace and His strength to Minister Mary Whitaker and the family during this difficult time. 🙏❤️🙏



Rodney and Debra Bailey - January 31, 2023 at 08:19 PM

RM

“ Mr. Joe Nathan Whitaker touched so many lives in the very best way. We are grateful we had the chance to know him. We're saddened to hear about his passing. We share in your sorrow. Please accept our deepest condolences and we offer our heartfelt encouragement and support in this difficult time. Grace and Peace.



Robert and Cellastine Moore - January 31, 2023 at 07:06 PM

JP

“ Joyce Purvis lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joe Nathan Whitaker



Joyce Purvis - January 31, 2023 at 05:42 PM

GH

“ My God continue to strengthen the family.

Gwendolyn Harkley - January 31, 2023 at 04:56 PM

GH

“ Gwendolyn Harkley lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joe Nathan Whitaker



Gwendolyn Harkley - January 31, 2023 at 04:15 PM

CW

“ Prayers & Condolences To The Family. The Lord Is Your Strength Like No Other.



Celestine Williams - January 31, 2023 at 07:11 AM

JM

“ We would like to send our condolences to Mrs. Mary Whitaker, sons, and grandchildren & other family. We are praying for you and for the family asking the Lord to keep, strengthen, comfort and give you peace as you go through your most difficult time. We thank God for the time that God allowed us to know and fellowship in the past with Mr. Joe Whitaker. Please know that "Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal." God bless you and we love you.

Joe & Missy Tammy Murchison - January 31, 2023 at 02:04 AM

RF

“ REV.MILTON & DELORES STATON FAMILY lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joe Nathan Whitaker



REV.MILTON & DELORES STATON FAMILY - January 31, 2023 at 12:16 AM

BH

“ *Barbara Hollis-Carr lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joe Nathan Whitaker*



Barbara Hollis-Carr - January 30, 2023 at 08:31 PM

CA

“ *CarltonClemons lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joe Nathan Whitaker*



CarltonClemons - January 30, 2023 at 02:55 PM

TB

“ *Tim And Shuntaye Baker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joe Nathan Whitaker*



Tim and Shuntaye Baker - January 30, 2023 at 02:07 PM

MT

“ *Our prayers are with you and your family. May God's strength continue to be with you in your time of grief. We love you....*  
*Mack and Ann Teel*  
*Class of '65*



Mack and Ann Teel - January 30, 2023 at 12:46 PM

JK

“ To Ms. Mary D., and the Whiraker Family, my heart goes out to you for the loss of your beloved Joe. He will certainly be missed by the Holy Temple Church family and all of those who knew him. He was truly a man of God. My prayers are with you as you face this most difficult time of loss.

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**Joyce A King** - January 30, 2023 at 12:14 PM

CS

“ Congleton Funeral Home and Staff wishes to express our sincere condolence on the passing of your love one. We light this candle in their memory.



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**Congleton Funeral Home and Staff** - January 30, 2023 at 10:24 AM

SS

“ Loved all of our talks on that back porch, He loved his family church and his Jesus you about them at every conversation, Steve Stancill

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**steven stancill** - January 29, 2023 at 09:11 AM

JW

“ Our hearts are saddened to hear of "Joe's" passing. Praying God's comfort and peace for the family.

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**James & Dianne Wilson** - January 28, 2023 at 05:12 PM

BM

“ Sorry for your loss . Praying for the Whitaker family sending love to Minister Mary Whitaker during this time of sorrow. Love always  
Ministry Barbara McCaskill Tiney Grove Holiness Church SC

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**Barbara Mccaskill** - January 28, 2023 at 07:39 AM