



Mrs. Mary E. Whitfield

August 1, 1927 - February 16, 2016

“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: My God; in him will I trust.” Psalms 91:1-2

Mary Elizabeth Howell Rodgers Whitfield was born on August 1, 1927 to the late Johnny Howell and the late Elizabeth “Lizzie Bell” Howell Bond and departed this life on Tuesday, February 16, 2016.

Mary married Willie Alexander Rodgers in 1945 who preceded her in death. To their union seven children were born. She worked various jobs from the cotton and tobacco fields, domestic housework, to factory work while raising her children.

Mary joined Cedar Hill Missionary Baptist Church at an early age and served on the senior usher board. She married Willie Herbert Whitfield in 1971 and moved her membership to Green Memorial Baptist Church where she was honored with the title of Church Mother. She later joined Back Swamp Church where she remained until her death.

Mary Elizabeth was educated in the Martin County Schools and was a member of the Business and Professional Women Club and the Eastern Star.

Mary Elizabeth was a loving and kind woman who loved to make everyone happy. She was known for her cooking and especially her “hummingbird puddings.” She was strong and loyal, once she made a decision or commitment, she honored it for life. Mary was a beautiful lady (inside and out) but a very humble lady whose favorite phrase was “low and humble is the way.” And with that phrase, we witnessed God always making a way out of out no way in her life.

Mary was preceded in death by her siblings, James (Slab) Howell, Haywood Howell, Jimmy (J.B.) Howell and Magalene Watson.

Strong memories of joy are left to her husband, Willie Herbert Whitfield, five sons, Milford Rodgers, Reverend Samuel Rodgers, Horace Rodgers (Nedra) all of Williamston, NC, Johnny Rodgers of Raleigh, NC, Vernell Rodgers (Cynthia) of Windsor, NC; two daughters, Dorothy Hickman and Ontra Reddick (Darnell) both of Williamston, NC; two stepsons, Willie Mack Whitfield (Vivian), Walter Whitfield both of Williamston, NC; two step-daughters, Frances Whitfield of Durham, NC, Edwina Coley (William) of Virginia Beach, VA; one sister, Mary Ann Howell of Elizabeth City, NC; two sisters-in-law, Margaret Howell (Haywood) of Williamston, NC, Shirley Howell (James) of Morganton, NC; two special cousins, Thelma Rouse of Williamston, NC, James Spence (Floryne) of Baltimore, MD, a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Cemetery Details

Rodgers Town Farms

2462 Rodgers School Rd
Williamston, NC 27892

Previous Events

Viewing

FEB 21. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Back Swamp Church of Christ
1414 Bear Grass Road
Williamston, NC 27892

Service

FEB 21. 3:00 PM (ET)

Back Swamp Church of Christ
1414 Bear Grass Road
Williamston, NC 27892

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Mary E. Whitfield*

October 06, 2023 at 05:52 AM



“ *Anjelika Williams lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Mary E. Whitfield*



Anjelika Williams - February 26, 2016 at 12:02 PM



Very kind woman. My prayers are with the family. Ms Queenie, Jamie, and Anjelika Williams.

Anjelika - February 26, 2016 at 12:06 PM



“ *I'm going to miss my Grandma very much. She truly loved me and I truly loved her. My Grandma was strong and full of knowledge. She taught me to always to care for the children first, feed them and encourage them toward the love of God. Grandma, I'm missing you, I love you! Until we meet again, your granddaughter: Ontra "Neicey" Rodgers.*


Ontra Rodgers - February 23, 2016 at 08:23 PM

CS

“ Congleton Funeral Home And Staff sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Mary E. Whitfield



Congleton Funeral Home and Staff - February 22, 2016 at 11:29 AM


Vanessa
Gaddy

“ I remember, how close my Mom and Mrs. Mary were. She would always encourage me on raising my sons. She saw me struggling with them one day and said, "Nessa, one day you will be able to turn a corner without them. You keep working at it, it will happen!" Thank you Mrs. Mary! It did happen! Rest on and tell Mom I said "I love and miss her".....You two can laugh, talk and enjoy now!!!!

Vanessa Gaddy - February 21, 2016 at 03:01 PM

RM

“ To the Family of Mary Whitfield, please know my siblings and I loved your mother so much, she became a mother figure to us after our Mother passed away. Please know also that she was always been a friend to us. God bless her in her travels home, and God bless you her family at this time. We wishes you Peace and Love in your grief.

Ruth Bowen Maupin

Ruth Bowen Maupin - February 21, 2016 at 02:22 PM

ME

“ *To the Family, Especially the Children and Husband of Mrs. Mary E. Rodgers Whitfield:*

I was surprised and saddened to discover just moments ago that your beloved mother and wife had transitioned earlier in the week and that her final service is in just a few hours. I remember her since childhood and always experienced a genuinely kind and loving woman. She was beautiful and never let work or life's trials get in the way of looking like she was ready for a runway. Mrs Mary was a good neighbor and dedicated member at Cedar Hill as I recall her from my youth.

On behalf of my brother, Dallas Evans, Jr., I extend our sincerest condolences. May you find comfort and strength in your countless memories and in God's arms of protection.

*With love and understanding,
Mutter D. Evans
Winston-Salem, NC*

Mutter D. Evans - February 21, 2016 at 05:04 AM



ES

“ *Eula Marriner Scott lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Mary E. Whitfield*



Eula Marriner Scott - February 21, 2016 at 04:12 AM

MJ

“ My sincere condolences to all of my cousins during this difficult time. Aunt Mary was truly a beacon of light that drew you to her where ever you had the joy of meeting. She ALWAYS had a smile, hug and a kiss for you. No matter how old you got, you were still her sugar or baby. That's what I'm going to miss about her. We have lost another strong and loving Matriarch in our family. May the memories we have of her forever linger in our hearts. Rest in peace sweet lady. I love you.
Mildred Rodgers Jones



Mildred Rodgers Jones - February 20, 2016 at 05:17 PM

LS

“ You will always be with us, Grandma Mary...Neil and I eternally grateful for our fun times with you and Grand Daddy.



Lynette and Samuel - February 19, 2016 at 02:29 PM


Rhonda
Whitfield

“ To the family
I pray for strength and comfort during this difficult time. You are in my thoughts and prayers.
Cousin Rhonda

Rhonda Whitfield - February 19, 2016 at 12:17 PM



“ *Rhonda Whitfield lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Mary E. Whitfield*



Rhonda Whitfield - February 19, 2016 at 12:12 PM



“ *From our heart to yours, we are so very sorry to hear about the passing of one of the sweetest ladies I grew up with. Mrs. Mary had a heart of gold. She was kind, sincere, and a very warm hearted person. She will be missed. I am grateful for such fond memories of her. I pray God will grant the family strength during this time off bereavement. Be encouraged and strengthen by the comfort of Jesus. We love you Mrs. Mary.*

*Amy Brown
Johnny Walker and family*

Amy Brown-Walker - February 17, 2016 at 04:09 PM

AR

To the family of Mrs Whitfield I offer my sincerest sympathy and will be in prayer for you to have strength to get through these trying times. Mrs Jimmy Rodgers

ann rodgers - February 20, 2016 at 08:59 PM