



Mrs. Ola Mae Witherspoon Budden

August 3, 1940 - December 11, 2021

Life Reflections

Ola Mae Witherspoon Budden was born August 3, 1940, in Sumter, South Carolina to the late Isell Weldon Witherspoon and Mamie Davis Witherspoon. She was the oldest of eight children and quietly departed this life at her home on Saturday, December 11, 2021.

Mrs. Budden received her early education at Dwyer Tindal School in Sumter and is a 1958 graduate of Manchester High School in Pinewood, South Carolina where she developed a love for home economics and excelled in sewing, decorating, cooking, and baking. Her sister Lucille fondly remembered her saying, "she was Martha Stewart before there was a Martha Stewart." After a brief stay in New York, she married the love of her life and best friend, Mr. London Budden, Jr. on July 2, 1961, and moved to McRae, Georgia. They relocated to Albany, Georgia in 1964 and remained there until retiring to Sumter, South Carolina in 2005. Their union was blessed with two daughters (Angela and Cheryl).

Mrs. Budden accepted Christ and joined Enon Baptist Church in Sumter at an early age. She joined Shiloh Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia in 1965 and joined Jehovah Missionary Baptist Church in Sumter, South Carolina in 2005 where she was a devoted member until her transition.

Mrs. Budden was a woman of excellence, decency, and order. She was a firm advocate for education and as a school principal she had an exceptional track record for promoting academic achievement. Her passion for education was mirrored by her civic and community involvement. She made immeasurable contributions to the Dougherty County School System as well as her Albany, Georgia, and Sumter, South Carolina communities where she received numerous honors and awards as outlined in the Affiliations/Accomplishments section.

If you ever had the pleasure of meeting her, your life was changed forever. She was always ready and willing to help anyone that she could. It was nothing for her to give her all and she seemed to be able to do anything. One dear friend described Mrs. Budden perfectly by saying, "when you open the dictionary and look for the word perfection; you will see her name."

Left to cherish her precious memories are a devoted husband of sixty years, London Budden, Jr; two daughters: Angela Yvette Budden and Cheryl LaVette Earls; one granddaughter, Bria Nicole Earls; one brother, Isell "Bubba" Witherspoon, Jr; five sisters: Lucille Cummings, Ida (Thomas) Felder, Bernice Townsell, Connie (Gregory) Daniels, and Patricia (Rodney) Dunham; one god-son, Corey (Felicia) Thompson; one god-brother, Rev. Sammie (Tonya) Drayton, Sr., three uncles, a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, and friends.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by one brother, Samuel Witherspoon, and one sister-in-law, Freda Witherspoon.

In lieu of flowers, please make check donations payable to

- JMBC Christian and Academic School (415 Manning Avenue, Sumter, SC 29150)

- Please note in the For section of the check (in the bottom left corner):“In Honor of Mrs. Ola Budden”

- Or you may cash app \$CherylEarls

Thank you,

ATTENTION; THE SERVICE LIVESTREAMING WILL BEGIN AT 12:30 PM.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

DEC 18. 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Jehovah Missionary Baptist Church
803 South Harvin St.
Sumter, SC 29150

Tribute Wall

CE

“ *In Loving Memory of Ola Mae Witherspoon -https://youtu.be/XWQny p0wOaY?si=CkRK8d5Cc0_hEMe8*

Cheryl Earls - December 11, 2023 at 08:31 PM



“ *Mrs. Ola Mae Witherspoon Budden*

October 04, 2023 at 11:33 AM

RK

“ *Mrs. Budden was my first administrator at SRES and gave me a my first teaching position. I reference her often and I truly admired her. She was an amazing person and loved by all. Rest in Heaven sweet lady. 🙏❤️*

Regina Graham Kimbrough - January 01, 2022 at 04:00 PM

RH

“ *I only learned of Mrs. Budden's passing today. She was a valued member of the Sumter County Library Board of Trustees. She had served on the Board since 2011. Her passion for education was very clear and her experience as a school principle and commitment to education were very valuable to the development of the library. She was always on hand when we needed her help. Most of all, she was warm and caring and always willing to offer advice, support and encouragement. We will miss her greatly. Robert Harden*

Robert Harden - December 29, 2021 at 01:38 PM

FP

“ Freida Polite lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ola Mae Witherspoon Budden

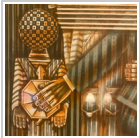


Freida Polite - December 28, 2021 at 11:08 PM

FP

“ Oh my God I Just found out today. Mrs Budden has been in my life for 32 years.We had a beautiful conversation a few weeks ago.I love you Mrs.Budden.My heart is broken 💔 Mr Budden love you. ❤️
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Freida Polite - December 28, 2021 at 11:05 PM



“ Mrs. Budden was my 6th grade homeroom teacher at Morningside Sixth Grade Center in Albany, GA. I wasn't a bad kid, but I wasn't exactly good either. But I was smart, and she knew how to talk to me like I was her own child. I just remember her kind heart and patience in dealing with somewhat mischievous child, and that's what made her one of my all-time favorite teachers. She was also a neighbor, so she knew my mom and dad, who were also educators.

Dexter and I send our sincerest condolences to the Budden family for their loss.

Darryl Love - December 22, 2021 at 02:00 PM

JW

“ I was privileged to work with Mrs. Budden in Dougherty County for several years. She was an amazing person who used her gifts for others and no one had a more positive influence on me professionally. She was such a gracious encourager who lived her faith.

Julie Walker

Julie Walker - December 21, 2021 at 10:52 AM

JH

“ My condolences to my classmate and friend Ola Mae. She was a kind and giving person, always meet you with a smile. Her attributes are many.

Jean Harvin - December 19, 2021 at 06:15 PM



“ With heartfelt sympathy from Curtis and Virginia Tinson...
Albany, Georgia

Curtis Tinson - December 18, 2021 at 03:27 PM

MP

“ I am honored and blessed to have known Ola Mae. When I was a little girl, she and London would regularly visit my parents and I can recall saying, they are teachers and I want to be just like them. I didn't know why at that time, but through the years, I realized it was because of their knowledge, passion for education, and always so approachable. I shared that with Ola in 2018 at our last family reunion. She had no idea that she and London made such an impact on my dream and career path. A lesson to be learned from Ola's life is, never underestimate the difference YOU can make in the lives of others. She will be missed.

Sending my love and condolences to London, Cheryl, Angela, sisters, and the entire family.

Matlea Budden Parker

Matlea Budden Parker - December 18, 2021 at 02:05 PM

NS

“ *To the Family of Ola Mae and London; Memories of Ola Mae will always be in our hearts. We will miss her beautiful smile, kind words and big hug! On behalf of the Manchester High Class of '55-'70 Plus I share this poem in her memory.*

In Memory

*Those we Love remain with us.
for Love itself lives on,
Cherished memories never fade,
because a loved one is gone.*

*Those we Love can never be,
more than a thought apart.
For as long as there is memory,
they'll live on in our heart.*

Author Unknown



Nancy P. Smith - December 18, 2021 at 07:02 AM

CA

“ So saddened to learn of Ola Mae's passing. We were all former members of the same church, Enon Baptist, I adored her and all the members of her family, especially Mrs. Mamie. She leaves a beautiful legacy that I'm certain will be a comfort during the difficult days ahead. Her mom and my mom (Maybelle Charles) were besties! My prayers will be for your comfort and peace through beautiful memories.

Cassandra Anderson.

CassandraAnderson - December 17, 2021 at 06:48 PM

MH

“ Mrs. Budden was the epitome, of class and grace. I was privileged to work with her for many years. My condolences and prayers for the family

Marilyn Heard - December 17, 2021 at 05:23 PM

AR

“ Our sincere condolences to the family of Ola Mae Budden. She will be missed by many. Ola lived a long meaningful life filled with so many accomplishments. I felt I like I knew her long before I met her in person, through the eyes of her sister Bernice, my classmate. Rest in Heavenly peace...Angela & Bernard Ragin

Angela Ragin - December 17, 2021 at 01:34 PM

SG

“ We were saddened to hear of our dear Ola Mae passing. We love you and will miss you. The Manchester Alumni will miss your great work. May your soul rest in peace. Willie G. Moore & Sarah Gaymon-Johnson.

Sarah Gaymon-Johnson - December 17, 2021 at 10:23 AM

EB

Aunt Ola you will be missed.

Ernestine Beale - December 19, 2021 at 05:57 PM



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Thank you so much!

Cheryl Earls - December 16, 2021 at 09:59 AM

DB

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Donna Brown - December 15, 2021 at 10:56 PM

CA

“ *Cora, Jen, and Andy purchased the Meat & Cheese Wooden Gift Crate for the family of Mrs. Ola Mae Witherspoon Budden.*



Cora, Jen, and Andy - December 15, 2021 at 08:04 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Ola Mae Witherspoon Budden.*



December 15, 2021 at 05:52 PM