



Mary Beth Stuart

June 9, 1931 - January 2, 2025

Mrs. Mary Beth Robinson Stuart died January 2, 2025, at her residence at Covenant Village Retirement Center.

Born June 9, 1931, in Opelika, Alabama, she was the daughter of Kathryn Sells and Alexander Jude Robinson. Her early years were lived in Auburn, Alabama, and she remained a "War Eagle" at heart. After graduation from East Alabama High School, she completed her BA degree in Bible at Agnes Scott College, Decatur, GA in 1953.

Following graduation she married James Gordon Stuart, a recent graduate of nearby Columbia Theological Seminary. They would spend the next forty-four years in pastorates located in Atlanta, Little Rock, Charlotte, Gastonia, and Blowing Rock, before settling into Covenant Village in 2006.

Mrs. Stuart enjoyed volunteer involvement with Meals on Wheels, United Way, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts, as well as various church activities.

She returned to college in 1977 to take courses pursuant to earning a teaching certificate. She taught at Ashley Junior High School in a program targeting "at risk" teens in the Gaston County Exceptional Children's Program until 1987. Mrs. Stuart enjoyed tennis and served as President of the Gastonia Women's Tennis League when tennis was experiencing major growth in the city. For three years she coached the Ashbrook High School girls' tennis team.

Her pleasure and energies were mainly directed toward supporting her husband in his ministry and nurturing their children and grandchildren.

In addition to her husband, parents, brother, Jude Robinson, and grandson, Baker Stuart, Mrs. Stuart is survived by her son, Jeb Stuart (Mari) (West Palm Beach, FL), daughters Elizabeth Mecum (Gastonia), Leslie Reid (Mooresville), and Tyler Bullock (Dale) (Gastonia). Her grandchildren, the joy of her life, are Lauren Empey (Duston) (Stanley), Lexie Stuart, Garnett Bullock, Bailey Bullock, Preston Bullock, Madison Coe (Trevor) and Harrison Reid (Charlotte), Colin Stuart (West Palm Beach, FL) and Courtney Stuart (New York).

The family will receive friends at Covenant Village on Saturday, January 11, 2025, from 2-4 pm. The inurnment at First Presbyterian Church Columbarium will be private.

The family wishes to express their sincerest gratitude to the devoted staff at Covenant Village for the respectful and loving care they provided to Mrs. Stuart, especially in the last few years of her life.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Covenant Village Memorial Fund, 1351 Robinwood Road, Gastonia, NC 28054, Crisis Assistance Ministry, 805 W. Airline Avenue, Gastonia, NC 28052, or to a benevolence of one's choice.

Cavin Cook Funeral Home & Crematory, Mooresville, is serving the Stuart family. Condolences may be made to the family at www.cavin-cook.com.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN 11. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Covenant Village
1351 Robinwood Road
Gastonia, NC 28054

Tribute Wall

RB

“*Mrs Mary Beth Stuart was energetic and positive from the time I first met her and family to the more recent time I saw her at Covenant. I'd met the Stuarts in my early teenage years when her husband Dr Stuart pastored the 1st Presbyterian Church in Gastonia. She was a very good influence on our family and the Gaston community.*

Rick Bryant - January 10, 2025 at 02:28 PM

LD

“*We knew Mary Beth & Jim from the early 1970's through Jim's death and now Mary Beth's. We loved them as close friends and church members. Mary Beth was a wonderful, loving mother, grandmother, friend and Minister's wife to everyone she came in contact with. We can't put into words how much they meant to our family during their years in Gastonia. God's Blessings to the family in the loss of such a fine woman..Linda, Roger and the Dixon Family*

Linda & Roger Dixon - January 07, 2025 at 11:13 AM

EL

I am Mary Beth's second cousin—her grandfather David Sells and my grandmother Bettie Sells Wright were siblings. Our mothers were avid corresponders. I had the privilege of sharing family history with Mary Beth, especially in recent years. Her husband Jim and I were both alumni of Columbia Seminary and sometimes served in same presbyteries. I feel I have lost a colleague, friend and family member. Prayers for comfort and support for her family. May you know the presence and peace of the Lord she and Jim served so faithfully. -Ed Lewis

Ed Lewis - January 10, 2025 at 09:23 AM

CG

I was saddened to learn of Mary Beth's passing when the birthday card I sent was returned. Jim was the pastor of Sardis Presbyterian Church in Charlotte when I was a teenager. He returned to Sardis to co-officiate at my marriage to Walter Graham, Jr., 55 years ago.

After I finished seminary in 2004 I looked them up in Blowing Rock and we had a delightful reunion. I always enjoyed visiting with them in Gastonia and talking theology while I was still able to make the journey from Florida to NC.

Christmas and Birthday cards became our continuing path to connecting. They truly were an amazing couple who took such delight in their family.

Cynthia Graham - June 21, 2025 at 05:48 PM