



Miriam Constance McNeely

March 22, 1927 - May 2, 2020

Miriam Watson McNeely transitioned peacefully to her eternal life, with Jesus, Saturday, May 2nd, with her daughter Connie by her side at the Gordon Hospice House in Statesville, NC.

Miriam was born, March 22, 1927, to Ruth Lane Milner and Emory Buie Watson in Jonesboro NC. Miriam was Valedictorian of her High School senior class, and went on to graduate from Flora MacDonald College, with a Bachelor's degree in Organ, and was President of her class. Upon graduation, she accepted a position of Organist/Secretary at First Presbyterian Church and moved to Mooresville, NC in 1948. There she met and married the love of her life, Asa Thurston McNeely, where they began raising children at the McNeely homeplace on Academy St., then moving to the farm in Mount Ulla just outside of Mooresville in 1955. Miriam served First Presbyterian Church for the next 45 years as organist, Director of Christian Education, Stephen Minister, Deacon, Elder, Spiritual Advisor, friend, or whatever needed to be done to serve her Lord. Apart from her professional career, she was a loving and faithful mother, wife, daughter, sister, cousin, aunt, and special friend to countless people. Her legacy of encouragement and joyfulness making everyone feel special will live on for many years to come. She is remembered for her love and devotion to Jesus Christ that directed her life.

She was preceded in death by her son, Milner Watson McNeely, her husband,

Asa Thurston McNeely, and her brother, Emory Milner Watson.

She is survived by her children, Asa Thurston McNeely, Jr. and wife Gwen, Constance (Connie) McNeely May and husband Harvey Craig May III, Mark Emory McNeely and wife Jen; and former daughter-in-law, Susan Mace. Grandchildren, Asa Thurston McNeely, III and wife Marissa, Wiley McNeely Revis and husband Brandon, Harvey Craig May IV and wife, Kate, William Thurston May, Emory Thurston McNeely and fiancé Hannah Hutchens, Connor Brian McNeely, and Anna Marie McNeely; great grandchildren Levi McNeely and Brodie Revis.

Services: 2:00 PM Thursday at First Presbyterian Church, Mooresville, with the Rev. Dr. David F. Rockness officiating.

A live stream of the internment will be available at <https://www.facebook.com/CavinCookFuneralHomeServices>

A live-stream of the service will be available at <https://moorevillefpc.org/watch-live>

The family would encourage any gifts or memorials to be directed in her name to: First Presbyterian Church, 249 W. McLelland Ave, Mooresville, NC 28115-3132; Funds will be dispersed through the Missions Committee of First Presbyterian Church Mooresville after the family has had time to consider recipients.

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

Cemetery Details

Cavin-Cook FH & Crematory

494 E. Plaza Drive
Mooresville, NC 28115

Previous Events

Funeral Service

MAY 7. 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
249 W. McLelland Ave.
Mooresville, NC 28115

Tribute Wall



“ *Miriam Constance McNeely*

February 14, 2021 at 11:24 AM



“ *Miriam Constance McNeely*

February 14, 2021 at 11:04 AM



“ *Miriam Constance McNeely*

February 14, 2021 at 11:03 AM



“ *Miriam was my mother's (Juanita Larkin Lane) first college roommate at Flora McDonald. They continued their friendship until my mother passed in March of last year. It was with great sadness that I just learned of Miriam's passing. I so enjoyed her letters to my mother through the years and especially the last few years when my mothers eyes had worsened and she asked me to read and re-read them. Miriam's handwriting was so beautiful as well as her words. She was indeed a beautiful soul and godly woman. My sincere condolences,*
Lee Lane Chase
Kingsport, TN

Lee Chase - July 19, 2020 at 04:42 PM



“ *Miriam was a joy and a blessing to each of us who knew her, as well as a sister in Christ.*

Sarah Lynn Spencer - May 11, 2020 at 10:36 AM

JW

“ I remember when Aunt Miriam's son Milner Watson Mcneely died. Me and my brother Kevin were all to pieces in our grief. Our Aunt Miriam's Unshakable Faith was so Strong as she quoted Scripture giving us comfort and unconditional love. In my now 58 years I have never known a more Faithful, Generous or Loving Person. We Love you Dearly Aunt Miriam, knowing you were able to give Milner Watson Mcneely a Big Hug for the first time in 41 years as well as Uncle A and my Daddy Emory Milner Watson eases our pain. We will see one another again when The Lord thinks the time is right, I love you.
Jimmy Grey Watson

Jim Watson - May 09, 2020 at 11:22 PM

OS

“ Just today (Friday) did I learn of Miriam's passing. She was a great musician, a cheerful person and the epitome of a Southern Lady. My mother, Nellie Rhodes Stonestreet, who sang in the choir at First Presbyterian, counted her as a friend, and so did I. My condolences to all the McNeely Clan and to the Church as a whole.
To quote *The Pilgrim's Progress*, "...And all the trumpets sounded when she crossed over to the other side."
O. C. "Chip" Stonestreet III

O. C. "Chip" Stonestreet - May 08, 2020 at 05:56 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Cavin-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory - May 08, 2020 at 11:46 AM

WB

“ *My dear family,*

I am at a loss in the passing of a dear saint, Miriam McNeely. She was a great friend, organist and one of the godliest women I was ever fortunate enough to meet!



To Mark and all the Family, my prayers go up. Remember what an instrument of God she was/is!! Love to all...

Willie Beaver

Willie Beaver - May 07, 2020 at 11:13 PM

KM

“ *I was very fortunate to have had the pleasure to meet Miss Miriam. I was always greeted with the sweetest smile. I met with Miss Miriam every week for the past year and it was something I have always looked forward too. She was such a blessing in my life. She would tell me stories of her family of how she met her husband, the Thanksgiving meals with several people out at the farm, the journey of Asa and Lucy going to Hawaii and all about her family which she adored. Her love for the Lord was unmeasurable. Sometimes Miss Miriam would repeat her stories but that was ok with me. I just enjoyed every moment that I got to spend with her. She felt that being I had twin Granddaughters and her Asa was a twin that was our special bond and she would love to see pictures and loved to hear how they were doing. I know Heaven has one special lady up there but I will surly miss my special friend. She will forever live in my heart. My Sincerest Condolences to her family, Kelly Modola*

kelly Modola - May 07, 2020 at 09:22 PM

AM

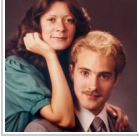
“ Our family so fondly remembers Miriam's kindness, generosity, and her pleasant smile. By happenstance, while cleaning out one of our drawers this week, my wife came across a manila envelope from Miriam containing two items - a copy of one of her favorite hymns - "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" and a recipe for "Sweet Potato Delight". On the back of the recipe is a note to Kendra from Miriam sharing how much they enjoyed hosting our family for Thanksgiving and that she was pleased to share the recipe with her, stating "the menfolk seem to especially like it!" I certainly can attest to her assertion. The recipe has been a favorite of our family's and has passed to the next generation. We think of Miriam and her kindness every time we serve the dish. Godspeed Miriam.

Addison May - May 07, 2020 at 03:26 PM

PS

“ What an amazing life and example this beautiful woman lived and demonstrated!
My parents, Smith and Lois Kirk were friends and great admirers of Miriam, and I was in turn blessed to be acquainted with her through them. What joy they all must be experiencing now, reunited in eternal love and friendship!
I can only imagine the large gathering, welcoming her Home.....
Peg Kirk Spicknall, Marietta, GA

Peg Spicknall - May 07, 2020 at 03:12 PM



“*Miriam was my mother's favorite cousin. They were very much a like and really for being family best friends. I will always hold Miriam in highest regard. Kind gentle loving outgoing thoughtful overall a very caring and embracing personality. Her family is blessed by the legacy Miriam and Asa have left instilled in character and personality traits that are becoming to all who know them and were loved by them. I should think my mother Sammie Cook is very happy to see her best friend in glory. God Bless You All. Jim Cook*

Jim Cook - May 07, 2020 at 01:50 PM

CL

“*Miriam taught me about Jesus, music, love, and life. She was such an instrumental part of my childhood and she helped guide my life in the right direction. She was an amazing woman, and somebody that I have always looked up to. Love you and miss you Miriam.*

Christopher Lieu - May 07, 2020 at 01:47 PM

MT

“*"Aunt" Miriam welcomed me into the McNeeley family in the same way she welcomed so many people- with a big smile and a warm heart. I loved her as a friend, and often as a surrogate mother, and I love the McNeeley family. What a blessing to read the names of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and I know there are so many more loving family members who will miss her so much. She always kept her faith first and foremost, and I know that her spirit will live on through each of us. Blessings to all of you, and my thoughts and prayers are with you! With love, Martha Tepper*

Martha Tepper - May 07, 2020 at 12:15 PM

EE

“ Dear McNeely Family,

My Mama (Mary Atwater Womble Boland) was a classmate of your mother's at Flora McDonald. When the McNeely children were growing up, I believe that your mother was President of the PTA at Mount Ulla and my Mama was President at Cleveland Elementary. They renewed their friendship and talked frequently on the telephone. Mama died in 1985. I will never forget your parents coming to the funeral home then. That meant a lot to our family.

May your memories of this great lady who lived a long, wonderful life comfort you. May your faith sustain you.

*Sincerely,
Edith Boland Eubanks*

Edith Boland Eubanks - May 07, 2020 at 08:47 AM

JE

“ *I always called her Miss Miriam. I would go to her house and play with her children, mainly Connie. I remember walking across the field with her dogs escorting me. Miriam was a kind and beautiful lady. My condolences to the family. From Janis Basinger Eury.*

Janis Basinger Eury - May 06, 2020 at 07:51 PM

FA

“ *Miriam was only a friend but also a good mentor. Her love for her family and friends is warm and heartfelt. God has welcomed her home saying, "Well done, my good and faithful servant". We will see her again in paradise.*

Fern Alexander - May 06, 2020 at 05:19 PM

RW

“ Dear Mark and the whole family, please know that Janielle and I are thinking of you and praying for you. Oh, your mother, Mark, was such a wonderfully talented person, a great lady, and a marvelous friend! There are a lot of people who will miss her. She knows that I really did enjoy working with you during your student teaching. I never saw her without a smile. Aren't we glad that we knew her, not only as a son, but as a friend too. Take care. Stay safe! Love, Roy (Monsieur) and Janielle Watkins

Roy and Janielle Watkins - May 06, 2020 at 01:27 PM

DW

“ We know she will be missed but her memories will keep her alive forever. What a vital, strong lady who lives in all her family. The values she built are so evident in this family. We know she will be busy upstairs teaching those waiting on wings how to soar!!!
Love to all, Dennis and Ellen

Dennis and Ellen White - May 06, 2020 at 09:23 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Miriam Constance McNeely.



May 05, 2020 at 08:02 PM

AI

“*Miriam was my grandmother. She and Asa were truly the embodiment of love. They opened their hearts and homes to anyone who needed help. They never discriminated against people who were different. While most people judged they loved. She and Asa had the strongest faith and lived a life full of family and friends. Grandmother taught me at a young to look past skin color, age, and class. I never heard her or Asa speak ill of others. She wrote me letters every week no matter what was happening in her or my life. I miss you so much and hope you pop and Milner are together. I can never thank her enough for all you words of wisdom, and time we spent together.*”

Asa Thurston McNeely III - May 05, 2020 at 07:58 PM

JW

Patti and I will miss her letters that always seemed to come at just the right time. Hopefully you and your Family are doing well, tell everyone there hello.

Jim Watson - May 09, 2020 at 11:29 PM

CL

“*Miriam was one of my dad's organ students at Flora MacDonald. I will be forever thankful that my parents chose Miriam and Asa to be my Godparents. My life was blessed and better for knowing their love and kindness, and for knowing their sweet family so well. Miriam loved with her whole heart, advised wisely, and shared her love for the Lord with all. She taught me many lessons that have molded me throughout my life. She welcomed my husband and loved him, too. Our hearts are broken, but we find joy in knowing that Miriam sits with Jesus in heaven and is reunited with her beloved Asa and family who went home before her. Heaven is even brighter, now that she is there.*”

Caroline and Gene Lowery - May 05, 2020 at 06:36 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Miriam Constance McNeely.*



May 05, 2020 at 06:21 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Miriam Constance McNeely.*



May 05, 2020 at 08:46 AM



“ *Mrs. McNeely was my Grandfather's oldest friend. She knew our family before he was born. She was a amazing woman, who gave selflessly. I find joy in knowing she is in heaven, and at peace. We love you Mrs. Miram!*

Will Aven, Grandson of Claude U. Voils Jr.

WILLIAM U AVEN - May 04, 2020 at 07:15 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Miriam Constance McNeely.*



May 04, 2020 at 06:14 PM

DG

“ To The McNeely Family:

Thank you for the privilege of being able to spend time with Miriam over the past year.

Her Kindness, Inspiration and Love for the Lord will remain with me for a lifetime. She loved to share stories about the family past and present and loved you all deeply.

No doubt she is in her Beautiful Heavenly Home with The Lord, and smiling as if to say that it is more than she could ever have imagined.

My thoughts and prayers are with each of you that you will have comfort knowing that Miriam is in the loving arms of Jesus.

*With Love,
Donna Garland*

Donna Garland - May 04, 2020 at 03:32 PM

HW

“ Mark, Jen and family

Please know that you are in our prayers.

We loved Miriam and will miss her dearly in this life.

May God's love and peace fill you all in the coming days and weeks

Harry & Lucinda Weyer

Harry Weyer - May 04, 2020 at 05:17 AM

DP

“ *I used to deliver Mrs. McNeely's mail and boy did she get a lot of mail. She must have been truly loved because she got a lot of cards and letters from friends!! I will miss her!!*

debbie plyler - May 03, 2020 at 08:55 PM