

On Monday, October 17, 2022, Mrs. Mary Neal Watkins Hill, 96, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, friend, but more importantly, a child of God, was welcomed into heaven by her Lord and Savior and many friends and loved ones. We are at peace knowing her life mattered and she heard the welcome words, Well done good and faithful servant.

Funeral services will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 19, 2022 in the Chapel of Leavitt Funeral Home with Rev. Jeff Glenn officiating. Interment will follow in Rocky Mount Baptist Church Cemetery in the Burnsville Community.

The family will greet friends one hour prior to the service on Wednesday at the funeral home.

Mary Neal was born April 1, 1926, in Anson County, and was a daughter of the late Joseph F. Watkins and the late Mary Harward Watkins. She was a graduate of Ansonville High School and retired from West Knitting Mills with 28 years of service.

A member of Ansonville Baptist Church since age 10, she was very active in the ministries of the church. She served as a Sunday School teacher, GA and Acteens director and was passionate about the Women's Missionary Union, now called Women on Missions. She was active with the Women's Missionary Union throughout the Anson Baptist Association.

Well known for being an excellent cook by her family and friends, many loved her orange pound cakes. She was an accomplished seamstress and quilter, having won awards for her work in various county events. She also enjoyed knitting and was a member of the Wadesboro Prayer Shawl Ministry. She started a Prayer Quilt Ministry, having shared nearly 100 of her handmade prayer quilts.

Above all her accomplishments, her family was her greatest. She dearly loved time spent with her children and grandchildren and extended family. So many in the community and surrounding areas called her grandma. She had a witty sense of humor, and you knew where you stood with her, in a kind of southern lady sort of way.

Those left to cherish her memory are her children, Delaine McCormick of Norwood, Betsy Kaye King and David W. Hill, both of Ansonville; her daughter-in-law Jane Hill of Dennison, TX; her grandchildren, Kim Smith-Carpenter of Norwood, Traci Smith Swaringen (Jerry) of Albemarle, Travis Hill (Gina) of Morganton, Jacky King of Wadesboro and Cory King of Providence, RI; her great-grandchildren, Dylan Carpenter, Jordan Carpenter (Brinley) and Kendal Eddings (Brandon), all of Norwood, Colbi Griffin (Garrett) of Polkton, Trent Stroupe, Ty Stroupe, Lucas Hill, Riley Hill and Lexi Hill, all of Morganton; her great-great-grandchildren, Remi Eddins, Banks Carpenter, Brooklyn Lee, Benjamin Lee and Theodore Lee; her sister Betsy Tribble of Mint Hill; her sister-in-law Reba Watkins of Norwood; and her nieces and nephews and their families.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband C. Bennett Hill, her son William Hill, her granddaughter Nicole Stroupe, and her brothers, Robert Watkins, Joe Watkins, Jr., Dewey Watkins and Daniel Watkins.

Mary Neal would want to be remembered most for loving the Lord and being of service to him. While in the hospital, the night before she passed away, she witnessed of her faith to the doctor while they were having a conversation via the teleconference.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Ansonville Baptist Church c/o Frances Burris, 601 Dunlap Rd., Wadesboro, NC 28170.

Mary Neal's family is most grateful for the love and care she received from Dr. Lincoln and staff, Wadesboro Health and Rehab, and Atrium Health Anson, not to forget her church family and friends in the community.

The arrangements are in care of Leavitt Funeral Home and online condolences may be made at www.leavittfh.com.

Anson Middle School Athletic Director JF Harward

Heading the athletic department at Anson Middle School this year is JF Harward, Athletic Director. Assisting Harward is Matthew McLeod. Both say they are very grateful for the support of the administrative team and staff of AMS who provide feedback and guidance needed to serve to the best of their abilities. "I could not do this job alone," said Harward.

The middle school Athletic Director has many duties, ranging from purchasing equipment to scheduling games, and all that goes on behind the scenes. "We have a relatively large student body and we offer quite a few athletic programs, so Coach McLeod and I work together to give our students the best middle school experience possible," offered Harward. "However, our teachers and staff are the unsung heroes. They work tirelessly to support the student athletes academically. Many teachers and staff serve as coaches and others volunteer their time on game days."

"After serving as Assistant Athletic Director for two years I feel I gained valuable experience that has been vital to my first few months on the job," said Harward. "John Martin, our previous Athletic Director, allowed me to participate in all aspects of the program in order to aptly prepare me should this opportunity ever present itself. I am grateful for his guidance in making this a smooth transition."

Harward shared these words, "At the end of the day, it is working directly with our student athletes that I enjoy most about my new position. I enjoy seeing them have fun and reach their potential in the classroom, on the court, and on the field. I enjoy seeing the great rapport between athletes and coaches. I realize that athletics can play an important role in the lives of middle school students. And, this age can be hard for many reasons. But, if we can offer our athletes something to work toward and look forward to, then part of the battle is won."

Working towards a goal and looking forward to being a part of something are most definitely key elements to a successful middle school experience. The more students are involved in athletics and other extracurricular activities the better the school becomes. Parents, guardians, teachers, counselors, if you know a child or children who are somehow struggling, then perhaps steering them in the direction of an organized activity or athletic team could be a defining moment in their lives. Oftentimes many students have a desire to be a part of something but lack the courage to take that first step. Give them a nudge. Offer them advice. Show them success at their own age level. Share experiences. Share knowledge. Provide encouragement. If any one of these things could mean the difference between the success or failure of a student or students, then by all means give it a go. Every single student deserves a chance to be successful.

By Melanie Lyon

Anson County Schools Fall Athletic Stats

Anson High School Volleyball

• **Monday, October 3 versus Monroe.** Anson won 3-0 (25-14, 25-7, 25-6). Individual stats: Blair Threadgill 3 aces, 3 kills, 3 assists, 2 digs; Lauren Dutton 1 ace, 4 kills, 1 assist, 1 dig; Leah McLaurin 1 ace, 3 kills, 2 blocks, 3 assists; Allie Steagall 9 aces, 1 kill, 7 assists, 4 digs; Jada Harrington 1 ace, 1 assist, 1 dig; Malayasia Gabriel 2 kills, 2 blocks; Cam Martin 1 ace 3 kills; Cierra Lear 1 ace, 1 dig; Brooklyn Lear 2 aces, 1 kill; Morgan Burr 3 aces, 2 kills; Caroline Austin 3 aces, 3 digs.

• **Wednesday, October 5 versus Cheraw.** Anson won 3-0 (25-14, 25-5, 25-23). Individual stats: Cam Martin 3 aces, 9 kills, 3 blocks, 1 assist, 14 digs; Blair Threadgill 5 aces, 4 kills, 2 blocks, 11 assists, 4 digs; Leah McLaurin 2 kills, 1 block, 2 assists, 1 dig; Allie Steagall 4 aces, 4 kills, 17 assists, 7 digs; Lauren Dutton 1 ace, 7 kills, 2 digs; Caroline Austin 1 ace, 1 assist, 4 digs; Malayasia Gabriel 3 kills, 2 blocks; Jada Harrington 1 ace, 1 dig; Morgan Burr 4 kills, 1 dig; Cierra Lear 9 digs.

• **Thursday, October 6 versus Monroe.** Anson won 3-1 (25-11, 26-24, 23-25, 25-18). Individual stats: Blair Threadgill 1 ace, 11 kills, 2 blocks, 5 assists, 10 digs; Cam Martin 1 ace, 15 kills, 1 assist, 7 digs; Allie Steagall 2 aces, 1 kill, 37 assists, 11 digs; Malayasia Gabriel 6 kills, 3 blocks, 1 dig; Cierra Lear 6 aces, 1 assist, 12 digs; Lauren Dutton 6 kills, 1 assist, 3 digs; Morgan Burr 3 aces, 7 kills, 8 digs; Caroline Austin 4 aces, 1 kill, 3 digs; Jada Harrington 1 ace, 2 digs; Leah McLaurin 1 kill, 1 assist.

Toys for Tots Dollar Day Yard Sale

Toys for Tots will have a Dollar Day Yard Sale in the parking lot of Burger King in Wadesboro on Saturday, October 29. Everyone is invited to come take advantage of the great deals beginning at 8 a.m. All funds raised go to Toys for Tots and their efforts to make Christmas a happier time for less fortunate children in Anson County.

If you would like to donate items or money to the cause, or if you need information, please call Toys for Tots Coordinator Vancine Sturdivant at 704-294-0480 or Patricia Robinson, Assistant Coordinator, at 704-465-8942.

Trick or Treat in Uptown Wadesboro on Saturday, October 29

Kids can Trick or Treat at more than a dozen uptown Wadesboro locations, including new businesses, from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, October 29. Locations include: Tite Cutz, Treasure Corner, Indie Studios, Anson County Sheriff's Office, Awesome Touch, HW Little, Wadesboro Fire/Anson Rescue Squad, Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition, Triad Barber School, Studio 256, Anson County Partnership for Children, Wadesboro Police Station, Willow & Vine, Parson's Drug Company, Kat & Liz, Turner & Tarlton and West Wade Originals.

You will also find Proman Staffing, North Wadesboro Baptist Church and Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. at the Speckled Paw Haunted Trail on West Wade Street.

School Board Meeting is October 24

The Anson County Board of Education will hold their regular meeting on Monday, October 24. Closed Session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 4:00 p.m. Open Session to the public will begin at about 5:30 p.m.

The meeting will be live streamed on the Anson County Schools' YouTube channel for the public to view. To find the channel you can search YouTube for "Anson County Schools."

The meeting will be held in the Anson County Schools' Administrative Board Room, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.

If the public wishes to sign up for public comment, they can sign up in-person. A sign-up sheet will be available 30 minutes before the meeting begins for any individual or group to indicate their desire to address the board.

Anson County Beekeepers Meet Every Month

Next meeting is Thursday, October 27

All Anson County Beekeepers members are reminded of the monthly meetings, held on the fourth Thursday. The upcoming meeting will be held on Thursday, October 27 at Welika Fish House Restaurant in Lilesville. If you would like to eat, come at 6 p.m., pay your own meal. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. The guest speaker has not been confirmed yet.

Anson County Beekeepers meeting are open to everyone who is interested in having bees for honey and pollination as well.

For more information call 704-272-7154 or check their Facebook page, "Anson Beekeepers Association."

Chicken & Dumplings at BRLC on October 29

Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center will hold their annual Chicken & Dumplings Fundraiser on Saturday, October 29, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., or until they sell out. They are serving plates of chicken and dumplings, Joe's red slaw and dessert. The community is invited to come and purchase a plate.

This fundraiser, put on with the help of volunteers, helps generate funding for the many community activities provided by BRLC.

BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. The telephone number is 704-826-8737.

For more information visit www.burnsvillec.org.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held before the Commissioners of the Town of Polkton on the

7th day of November 2022, at 5:30 p.m. at the Polkton Fire Department on the application of Charles Anthony Dyson ETAL to rezone the following described property to Industrial from Highway Business:

Five (5) acres bound by US Highway 74 and Old Highway 74 East.

Parcel ID# 644505182356.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



If you can see daylight around a window frame or if you can rattle a window (movement means possible leaks), the window likely needs to be sealed. Most window leaks can be sealed with caulk or weatherstripping, which come in a variety of compounds and materials. Visit energy.gov/energysaver to learn how and where to seal air leaks.

Source: energy.gov

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