



Rev. Reuel Westbrook

December 14, 1931 - February 14, 2019

Robert Reuel Westbrook, 87, passed away peacefully on February 14, 2019 at Hospice House in Greenwood, SC, with complications from Parkinson's Disease.

He is survived by his wife, Sylvia Westbrook of Greenwood; his daughter Cynthia Westbrook of Princeton, NJ; his son Andy Westbrook and wife Mary Lynn Westbrook of Greenwood, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Born in Crabapple, GA in 1931, Reuel was baptized a Christian at the age of twelve and called to ministry at the age of seventeen. Growing up on the family farm during the Great Depression, Reuel left home for Atlanta, where he apprenticed as a carpenter, to help earn money for the family. While preaching in a tent revival, Reuel met Sylvia Boyd, who was playing the piano for the services. They were married in Atlanta in 1950 and their life together has been one of partnership in Christian ministry.

Reuel joined the Navy in 1953 and served on the USS Boyd Destroyer. He served as a Chaplain while based in Guam. Many of his travel experiences in Asia and his enduring friendships with fellow sailors helped nurture and develop his life for ministry and service.

Reuel completed his Bachelor's degree at Mercer University in Macon, GA. He and Sylvia served several churches during his college years – Bethel Baptist Church in Monticello, GA, and Westlawn Baptist Church in Macon. With their newborn, Cindy, they moved to Wake Forest, NC, where he began his Master of Divinity at Southeastern Theological Seminary. Within two months, Reuel and Sylvia were called to serve at Peachtree Baptist Church in Spring Hope, NC. In 1966, the family with an additional child, Andy, moved to Atlanta, to begin work as the Assistant Minister at Gordon Street Baptist Church. His primary work there was inner-city mission work, visitation, and creating programs for senior citizens.

His enduring ministry as Pastor of Callie Self Memorial Baptist Church in Greenwood, SC, began in 1969. During his tenure there, he created innovative programs for missions,

children and youth, senior citizens, music, and community outreach programs that engaged many to participate. He was a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity and one of the founding church partners for Faith Home in Greenwood. During the troubled time of civil rights in the 70's, he served as an advocate and leader for peace and reconciliation in the Greenwood community.

Following his thirty-year ministry at Callie Self, Reuel served as the Interim Pastor at First Baptist Church of Abbeville, First Baptist Church of Edgefield, Modoc Baptist Church, McCormick, Jordan Baptist and Woodfields Baptist in Greenwood, and finally, Donalds Baptist Church in Donalds, SC.

Reuel was an avid gardener, a wood worker, and a voracious reader. He wrote hundreds of encouraging notes that he gave to people of all ages and to people that he met for the first time. The family would like to express their gratitude to the many friends, church members, and community leaders who supported his ministry and family throughout their years in Greenwood.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Harley Funeral Home Chapel with Dr. J. C. Collins and Rev. David Little officiating. Burial will be private.

Pallbearers will be Connor Westbrook, Brandon Sumerel, Rev. Chuck Keller, Rev. Jason Sturkie, Walt Sansbury and James Ouzts.

The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Sunday from 12:30 to 2 p.m.

If you would like to make a small donation in honor of Reuel Westbrook, please consider the Parkinson's Foundation, 200 SE 1st Street, Suite 800, Miami, FL 33131 or by visiting Parkinson.org.

Cemetery

Events

**Oakbrook Memorial
Park**
3007 Highway 25
North
Hodges, SC, 29653

FEB 17 Visitation 12:30PM - 02:00PM

Harley Funeral Home and Crematory
1025 South Main Street Post Office Box 777, Greenwood,
SC, US, 29648

FEB 17 Service 02:00PM

Harley Funeral Home and Crematory
1025 South Main Street Post Office Box 777, Greenwood,
SC, US, 29648

Comments



“ So sorry for the loss of your husband and father. I pray that lean on God, he will give you peace beyond understanding.

Mary Harvley McCarthy

Mary McCarthy - February 19 at 12:57 PM



“ I thank God for the privilege of knowing Mr. Reuel for many years as a neighbor. He was such an encourager to so many of all ages and prided himself in sharing notes of whenever possible. Many times he would hand write thank you notes to me and Walt for little things we did for he and Ms. Sylvia. He had a special heart for young pastors, he loved to mentor. We loved to go visit on their back porch and just listen to him share some of his life stories. We will miss his brief phone calls when he would tell you what he wanted to say and then quickly say, talk to you later and hang up! He never wanted to take up too much of your time. He was quite a unique individual and will be greatly missed by so many! We love you Mr. Reuel and Ms. Sylvia

Walt and Kim Sansbury - February 18 at 07:39 PM



“ The very best pastor anyone could hope for. A true man of God that lived what he preached. He really cared about his church family. When I missed church on Sunday he either called me Monday morning or came by my office to see I was okay. He came by my house and invited us to come to church at Callie Self. We told him we would but didn't go that Sunday. On Monday he came back to visit and asked us again. We went the next week and I have been a member there for 50 years. I will ever be thankful that I had the good fortune to know and work with this man of God. Reuel wore out a lot of shoe leather seeking to bring people to the Lord. May he rest in peace.

Bill Morrison - February 17 at 09:07 PM



“ A wonderful man that meant a lot to our family during a difficult time.
Durham family, Edgefield

Ken Durham - February 17 at 11:58 AM



“ So many wonderful memories of Preacher Westbrook not sure where to begin... he was my Preacher, Pastor and Friend, he Baptized me as a little girl, he Married me as a young woman, he preached funerals for loved ones, we shared many many times at churches and events around the area where he was preaching and I was singing. But more than that we shared many many wonderful conversations, brief phone calls where he was just saying hello, and memories of the the many notes he sent through the years, just to say hello or a word of encouragement, many I still have! My last talk with him was in a hospital room, he couldn't move very well, but his mind was still sharp, I walked in he knew who I was and immediately asked how Lee (my husband) was doing, if he performed your marriage he never forgot you or your spouse, and even then I wanted to visit and comfort him yet I found him comforting and encouraging me! The many wonderful memories of such a Godly man will always be with me and anyone else that has the pleasure of knowing Reuel Westbrook! Mrs. Sylvia, Cindy and Andy our thoughts and prayers are with you all, may you find comfort and peace in knowing that he is in Heaven with our Lord

Kelley Gossett Lowe - February 17 at 12:18 AM



“ My grandparents, Allen and Elizabeth Chapman, were neighbors with the Westbrooks. Many wonderful memories of the family. Thinking of you all during this time.

Beth Hamby Shirk - February 16 at 10:41 PM



“ Heard today (Feb. 19) about the passing of this saint of God into his heavenly home. His last encouraging note to me I carry in my Bible. It is a simple prayer: "Lord, pour out Thy spirit on my soul, my temper, my life, my spirit. Help me to glorify Thy grace. Thank you that after death I shall see you face to face." He added his usual "God Bless" at the bottom. I grew to love the Westbrooks during his interim pastorate at Edgefield First Baptist. I know I shall one day see again in the presence of our Lord. To Sylvia and family, Carol and I extend our sincere condolences.

Gene Smith - February 19 at 09:23 PM



“ I have a lot of memories. Use to sit in his office and talk and laugh a lot. The one thing I remember the most was when he did the funeral for my 10 year old niece that was killed. He made a comment that has stuck with me till today. He did a great job. Will always remember him.

Wayne Cameron - February 16 at 06:34 PM



“ Reuel was one of the most important men in my life. He guided me in the faith during the early critical years. I will never forget his kindness and his steadiness. I hope to see him again one day on the other side of Jordan. Glory to God for His servant!

Anthony Bridges - February 16 at 01:29 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with the family.



Cindy Rinehart - February 16 at 11:44 AM



“ Angel Cline lit a candle in memory of Rev. Reuel Westbrook



Angel Cline - February 16 at 11:30 AM



“ Cindy Price lit a candle in memory of Rev. Reuel Westbrook



Cindy Price - February 16 at 11:27 AM



“ Cindy, sorry to hear of the passing of your dad. May you and your family be comforted by the peace of Christ. Karen

Rev. Karen Radcliffe - February 16 at 10:58 AM



“ Mrs. Westbrook, Andy, Mary Lynn and family,

My deepest sympathy to all of you. Although it may not have been evident at the time when I was a Mathews teen, Rev. Westbrook made an impact on my life and I will always have fond memories of him.

Praying for all of you,
Rita Adams Dixon

Rita Dixon - February 16 at 07:31 AM



“ Judy & Danny Mitchell and family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Rev. Reuel Westbrook.



Judy & Danny Mitchell and family - February 16 at 07:30 AM



“ So many memories its hard to know where to start but aside from being a wonderful pastor, preacher and a man og God i think the tjing that comes to mind is whay a great encourager he was. He made a huge impact on my life a countless others. Praying for the family.

Frank Elliott - February 16 at 06:50 AM



“ Pastor Westbrook was a very loved man in Greenwood! He worked so hard in his church and family! I am so sorry to hear of his passing! My thoughts and prayers for all the family!

Nancy H Price - February 15 at 11:24 PM



“ Sylvia and family, I have such fond memories of Rev. Ruel Westbrook as my late husband, Dr. Buddy Wiles, and I shared some wonderful services together with Callie Self Church and Abney Memorial while we were ministering at New Market Baptist. He, even after my late husband retired from New Market Baptist, would often have a card just simply saying: "Praying for you." but you just don't know what a blessing he was to us and many others. May God grant you peace and comfort as He is finally home with our Savior.
Dixie Wiles Stukes

DixieWilesStukes - February 15 at 10:38 PM



“ What a great man of God.

Curtis Eidson - February 15 at 07:22 PM