



Willodean Frances McDonnieal Hastings

October 14, 1924 - May 31, 2023

Willodean Hastings was born on 14 October 1924 in Summerland, Mississippi, to Eula Cynthia Glisson McDonnieal and Sylvester Harris McDonnieal, Sr. She graduated from Jones County Junior College in 1943, earned a Bachelor of Arts in Natural Science from Blue Mountain College in 1945 and a Master of Science in Science Education at the University of Southern Mississippi in 1970.

After working in the Core Lab division of Gulf Oil in Laurel, Mississippi, Willodean began teaching at Calhoun High School and remained an educator for the rest of her career. Her longest tenure was at Maddox Junior High in Laurel, where she taught life sciences. While at Maddox she was a leader in the Youth Conservation Corps and Laurel's Ecology Education program.

Willodean loved both the Summerland community, her birthplace, and Laurel, her home for more than seventy years. Throughout her life she remained engaged with friends and family from both places. Her love for home and family was almost equaled by a love for exploring the world. Travel took her to numerous places on six continents.

A deep commitment to service and community engagement shaped Willodean's life. She was a member of both the Garden Club and the Three Arts Club of Laurel. Willodean joined First Baptist's Medical Dental Mission

program to Honduras early in its formation and remained an active participant for many years. She taught conversational English for children's summer camps in China as well as courses for Chinese teachers of English. A strong supporter of the Red Cross, Willodean volunteered to serve on teams well into her 80's. At home she was a regular volunteer in the pharmacy department of Laurel's Good Shepherd Clinic. The Junior Auxiliary of Laurel recognized her many volunteer activities by naming her Humanitarian of the Year in 2010.

Willodean's faith was foundational to every aspect of her life. She grew up in First Baptist Church Summerland, was an active member of First Presbyterian Church in the early years of her life in Laurel, then joined her husband, Carlton Hastings as an active member of First Baptist Church. In 2019 Willodean made the courageous decision to relocate to Jackson, Tennessee. Family and friends were the joy of Willodean's life. She shared her life and her home with so many, leaving us with wonderful memories of our time with her.

Willodean was predeceased by her siblings, Harris (Ann) McDonnieal, Mary Nell (JM) Powell, and Betty Carolyn (JL) Kittrell, and by her beloved husband Carlton Hastings.

Surviving family members include stepsons Carlton (Evelyn) Hastings, Jr, and Dwight (Ruth) Hastings, grandchildren Lauren (Quay) McKnight, Meredith (Todd) Manley, Tom (Susie) Hastings. David (Brook) Hastings and their families, Willodean's nieces and nephews: Cynthia Jayne, John (Nancy) Powell, Karen (Tom) Larrick, Sunny (David) Fowler, John (Cynthia) Kittrell, Patti (Owen) Baynham, Carol (Jerry) Broughton, Lynn (Tripp) Pittman, and Jan (Daron) Wilson, and many first and second cousins, great-grandchildren and grand nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at First Baptist Church, Laurel, Mississippi, on 29 July 2023 at 11:00 a.m. Visitation will begin at 9:30.

To sign the online guest book, visit www.memorychapellaurel.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 29. 9:30 AM (CT)

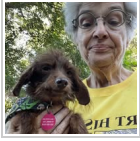
First Baptist Church of Laurel
607 West 5th Street
Laurel, MS 39440

Memorial Service

JUL 29. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Laurel
607 West 5th Street
Laurel, MS 39440

Tribute Wall



“ *With deepest sympathy and love.*

Maxine Huff Reddoch

Stephanie Reddoch - July 28, 2023 at 02:07 PM



“ *I admired Ms Willodean, my 9th grade science teacher at Maddox Jr. High. She always posted a quote or wise saying on the left side chalkboard. I follow her example and and post “Words of Wisdom” every week in the online classes I teach. She was an inspiration and her teachings were good and wise.*

Wanda Ishee Lynch - July 22, 2023 at 10:16 PM



“ *Willodean lived a beautiful life, loved her Lord, her students, and many friends. We are thankful God allowed our paths to cross. May God bless her family during these days.*

Ralph and Fay Campbell

Fay C. Campbell - July 22, 2023 at 11:44 AM

MH

“ Mrs Willodean was a wonderful lady. She was an inspiration to all of us who were fortunate enough to have her as an educator at Calhoun high school in Laurel. She not only taught the subject well but also taught us so much about life. She was always encouraging us to do our best and to excel at our chosen field of study. We need more people like her in our society today if we want our world to regain the principles that our founding fathers put in place. I'm so thankful for her dedication to every aspect of her life and appreciate the influence she had on me 🙏❤️

Mike Lowe (class of '64 Calhoun High) - July 22, 2023 at 09:30 AM

DP

Mrs. Hastings....what an incredible teacher and woman of God. Her commitment to students was noteworthy and her passion for service, in particular her work in missions to Honduras, impacted me tremendously. I can only imagine that her heavenly homecoming was one to remember! Rest in peace Mrs. Hastings. You will be remembered. Love- Your Favorite Twins ❤️ D. Poveromo & G. Poveromo House

dionne poveromo - July 22, 2023 at 01:24 PM

BS

Mrs . Hastings was a very sweet land and a wonderful teacher . She taught me science in 7th grade at jones junior high . My thoughts and prayers for her family !! Rest in peace sweet lady !! Sincerely billy

billy Shirley - July 24, 2023 at 11:24 AM