



THE WITNESS

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Mothers & Women of Influence In Our Lives

“The righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father” Matthew 13:43

Women have been of great importance since the beginning of time. God proved that by creating a companion for Adam who was Eve.

The woman who made a difference in so many lives and undoubtedly the greatest influence in my life was my mother, **Gertrude Logan**.

My mother Gertrude was a strong Christian woman whose spiritual light was always ever present. She never wavered from her faith and the love for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. During her years at Canton First Baptist Church Gertrude was a teacher, mentor, and leader. She always made time to listen to whoever wanted to talk and share their concerns and most of all share the “Good News” with anyone who needed feeding spiritually or physically, because she always loved to cook.

I felt blessed having a mom like Gertrude. She always demonstrated unconditionally love towards her children and friends. Growing up as a young boy and even now as a man I always used to thank God for allowing me to be blessed with a mother like Gertrude. Even though she is no longer physically present with us her spirit lives on within all she met.

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” NKJV Proverbs 22:6

“Hold to what is Right”.

Leander Logan

(Leander Logan, who grew up here in Canton, has many fond memories of Canton First Baptist Church. He retired from Duke University Health System as Senior Radiologic Technician. He is active at the Summit Church wher he teaches Sunday School & leads small groups.)



“Mother Logan”

MOTHER'S DAY

Alice Hall was a very special person to my family. Her love for others and for life itself made her an easy person to embrace and enjoy being around. She did not have immediate family in the area, but she was like family to many people within Canton First Baptist and the community.

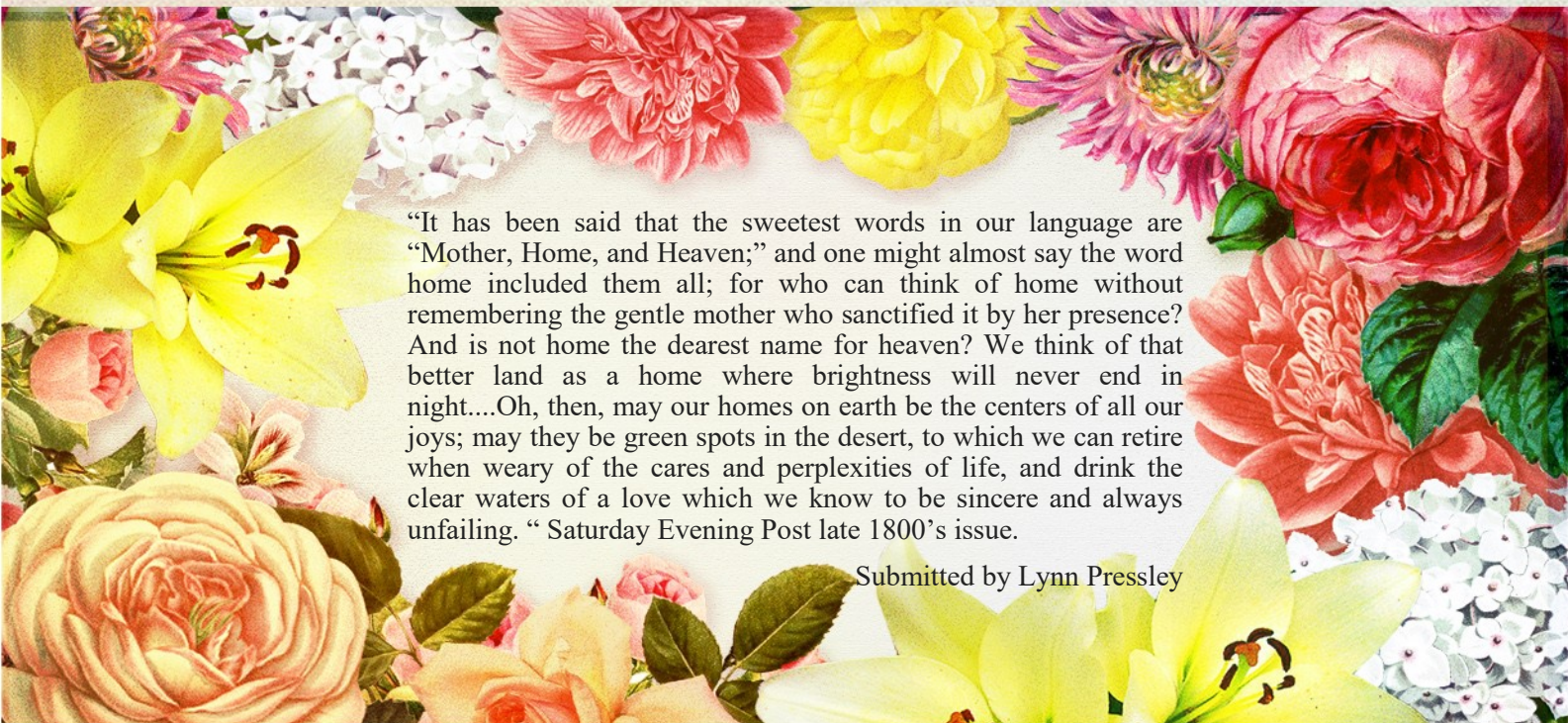
There is no doubt that she believed and followed the words recorded in Luke 3:10-11. *“What should we do then?” the crowd asked. John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”* If there was a physical need of any kind, especially if children were involved, Alice would not rest until that need was met. Benevolence was her calling.

“Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord and not for people.” Colossians 3:23. With a servant’s heart, Alice could be found helping anywhere she was needed; working in the kitchen, teaching children in Sunday School, singing in the choir, working tirelessly to help with a youth yard sale, etc.

When she would laugh, it was hearty and contagious. So, here is an “Alice” story to hopefully bring a smile to your face and just perhaps you will enjoy a hearty laugh. Once, when we were talking with someone, I said something about her being from New Hampshire. Afterwards, she reprimanded me for mentioning that fact, because “people around would not accept her if they knew she was a Yankee!” Well, if you knew Alice, you are well aware that she did not have a Southern Cantonese accent!

With fond and loving memories,

Marsha Oakley



“It has been said that the sweetest words in our language are “Mother, Home, and Heaven;” and one might almost say the word home included them all; for who can think of home without remembering the gentle mother who sanctified it by her presence? And is not home the dearest name for heaven? We think of that better land as a home where brightness will never end in night....Oh, then, may our homes on earth be the centers of all our joys; may they be green spots in the desert, to which we can retire when weary of the cares and perplexities of life, and drink the clear waters of a love which we know to be sincere and always unfailling. “ Saturday Evening Post late 1800’s issue.

Submitted by Lynn Pressley

My mother **Alice Lowery** was a great friend and blessing to everyone she meet. Of any family members, I dearly loved her the most. She loved and devoted herself to her family. Mother was a excellent wife to my father and she was an angel to us all.

She was real close to her father and mother. She was one of the greatest cooks I have known. Christmastime was her favorite time of the year. She really loved Jesus and took all us kids to church every Sunday and Bible school in the summer.

Christ was first in her life. She did her daily devotions before breakfast every morning and she was a praying mom.

She loved everyone at Canton First. She thought a lot of Myra, Pastor Jay Meadows, Earl Hamilton and his wife, and Donna and Mike Wood. Donna, Mike, Earl and his wife were the first to welcome us when mother and I visited for the first time in late Summer of 2009. Jay was a visiting pastor and he would come by and visit. Mother would cook a Sunday meal whenever he was coming. It was such a blessing to us when he came and visited with us. We would have lunch or dinner, pray together and fellowship.

A special moment I want to share about mom was the first day of school for me in August 1970. She took me to school in our 1969 Chevrolet Impala, bright red with black interior. I remember the song playing on the radio when we got to my school, 1st grade. The song was of Sir Paul McCartney and Wings, (We’re So Sorry, Uncle Albert.) Think it was from the Yellow Submarine album. It was cool early that year. I remember she had the heat on in the car on low. I started crying and didn’t want to go in to the school. My first grade teacher Ms. McClure greeted me on the walkway and said everything will be fine. She was an excellent teacher and a Christian lady. She spoke of God and everyone in class loved her.

My mother was my mom and best friend in my whole life. Only Christ loves me more than mom did. I love and miss her daily

She is with the Father now. I think of her every day. There is no one in this world that will love me and the family like mom did.

Mack Lowery

Mrs. Churm has been such a great educator and influence in the lives of many.... don't ever call her Anita! She will always be known as "Mrs. Churm"!

♥ Maria Miller

It is a great honor for me to write a tribute for Mothers Day to my mother **Bonnie Matthews Stamey** and what she means to me. My mother is one of the most intelligent and compassionate women that I have ever known. She spent her career as an English and reading teacher in Haywood County Schools. She has great compassion for others and has always taught me that each individual is worthy of kindness and respect. She has made a difference in the lives of many academically challenged young people who were her students in our community. She worked with them closely, encouraging these students to work harder and graduate high school. These former students have graduated and gone on to become useful citizens in our community.

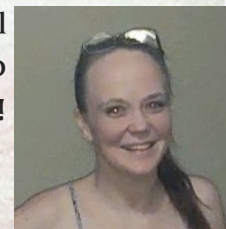
My mother has loved and cared for me my whole life. She brought me to church growing up and has instilled in me a deep faith in God and Jesus Christ as my Savior. She was a Sunbeam leader, GA leader, Primary Department teacher, and Goodson Sunday School Class teacher. She taught me the value and importance of a good education as a way to both broaden my horizons and to become a productive citizen and help others in the community. My family has always believed in community service and helping others to give back to the community. Inspired by the values of giving my mom taught me, I have been an active member of Kiwanis International for over 20 years, helping raise money to help underprivileged children.

My mother is the kindest and most generous person that I know. She spent a number of years caring for my grandparents and my father during various illnesses. I am very grateful and thank God daily for the loving example of my wonderful mother. William Gregg Stamey, Jr.

We could not ask for a better mother, **Carolyn Trantham**. She read to us. She taught us. She encouraged us. She prayed for us. She made sure we had good food to eat. She was always interested in how her family was doing. When we experienced success, or struggled, she felt it too. And on top of all that, she was beautiful. Her son Mark says "she was so pretty and so nice". We miss her. But we are glad she is in heaven today. Doug Trantham

When I was asked to put into a few paragraphs some things about my mother and her contributions to Canton First Baptist Church I was more than glad to. I can never remember when there was a time that we were not in church on Sunday Morning unless we were sick, had broken bones or a three hundred degree temperature. My mother took us in the rain, sleet, or on a beautiful sunny morning. You see, Gods house was as important to her as breathing. She loved the church and most of all she loved her Lord and she knew our places were inside His house on Sunday morning. She was our mentor of all that was good concerning her life and its connection to her God. In her mind you did not give Him your best you gave Him your all. You gave Him your love and respect and your time and whatever else He wanted of you and you did so with a smile on your face and with a humble heart. She served in whatever capacity she was asked to serve because to her it was not just serving the church but it was serving her Lord. She was active in the W.M.U. until her health made it impossible for her to attend. She also taught Sunday School for years. She never met a stranger and she loved the members of the church because to her they were her second family. She always tithed no matter how little or how much she had. She always said she was rich because she was a child of the King. When I think of her I always think of Proverbs:31 10-31 because it describes her so well. Members at Canton First Baptist Church called her **Mrs. Truelbe Hightower**, but to me and my siblings she will always be "Mama". Gail Hightower Bradburn

I want to honor **Brittany Inman** this Mother's Day. She always puts Jonathon first & wants what's best for him! Now, with a new little one on the way, she has a beautiful glow! Soon she will be the Mommy of two! I have always known there was something special about her, but there just aren't enough words to say what a beautiful Mother she is! Jonathon & I want to wish her a Happy Mother's Day! Love, John & Jonathon



We asked the children some questions about their mom's and these are some of their answers:

How are you different from your mom? Gideon: She's a girl and I am a boy.

How are you the same? Foster: We are both very chatty.

What does your mom do that you love? Corbin: She snuggled me.

What does your mom do that you don't like? Zoey: Nothing. Isabella: She makes me clean my room.

What is one thing your mom always says? Gideon: I love you.

How does your mom make you laugh? Foster: She says weird things.

What makes your mom happy? Gideon: When I say I love you back. Jonathan: When I tickle her.

What does your mom do when you are not around?

Jonathan: Makes scrambled eggs. Foster: Eats chocolate eggs.

What makes your mom sad? Foster and Corbin: When we are sad.

What is your mom really good at? Zoey: Taking care of babies.

What is your mom's favorite thing to do?

Jonathan: Play with me. Gideon: Doing sidewalk chalk. Foster: Pressure washing.

What is your mom not very good at? Gideon: Jumping. Foster: Golf. Zoey: She is good at everything.

Our children love their moms!

When I think of women of influence at Canton First Baptist I think of **Rose Haynie**, her sweet demeanor. She was such a hard worker. I could always count on her if I had a project. And how she loved our Pastor Dr. Rick Gosnell! I was so honored to teach Sunday School to the Wise Women of the church, the oldest women's class. They taught me how to survive heartbreak and disappointments, how to trust the Lord in all things. One who particularly stands out is **Jincy Messer**. She had a wonderful sense of humor and she used old southern words in her vocabulary and it was so enlightening to this Yankee! **Frances Smathers, Marion Sprinkle, Keitha Campbell, Frankie Johnson, Alice Hall, Terry Hall, Marjorie Whitted** all these ladies loved on me! I failed to mention **Billie Rickman**, what a character! **Anita Churm** has kept in touch throughout the years since I left Canton First Baptist. I am blessed to call her friend! As I think of these precious ladies, how blessed I was to be part of Canton First Baptist. I have always said I left a part of my heart at Canton First Baptist.

Donna Schofield

Mrs. Billie Rickman was a very influential lady, who had an infectious smile and an amazing personality! She was a beautiful lady, who taught my Sunday school class when I was a preteen. In 1982, while attending her Sunday school class, Mrs. Billie gave me a bookmark for my Bible with a quote from the 91st Psalm. "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most high shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty" – Psalm 91:1. This bookmark still holds a place in my Bible to this very day! This scripture speaks volumes to the life that Mrs. Billie led and is a testament to her own testimony! She loved the Lord, her church and her family with all her heart!

If you ever had the pleasure of knowing Mrs. Billie, then you are as blessed as I was by knowing her! Every time I saw her, she would pull me in to give me a sweet hug and a precious kiss on the cheek. Mrs. Billie treated me like one of her own children and always made me feel loved! Mrs. Billie never missed an opportunity to remind me that "Jesus loves you!"

I will cherish the memories and impact that this beautiful lady had in my life always!

Lora Banther Inman



Mrs. Elizabeth Painter was an unforgettable teacher I am thankful was an important part of my education at our church. She was my Sunday School teacher, Training Union teacher, and Bible Memory Work Instructor. She was special because we all felt she really cared about us as individuals. Not only was she a great teacher, but she also, along with Mr. Painter, took us on picnics and had parties for us. I am most thankful to her for the Bible verses I memorized with her instruction. All my life, but particularly important to me as I have cared for my parents and husband in their illnesses, verses have come into my thoughts that were perfect for whatever help I needed at the time.

A particular incident that I cherish involves my grandmother, Ida Slaughter Long, who took me with her to the little girls' Sunday School class she taught at Garner First Baptist Church when we visited her one Easter Sunday. I knew my grandmother loved me, but she was a rather stoic lady who did not show her emotions. During the lesson, she asked if anyone knew the names of the twelve disciples. I did, because Mrs. Painter had, in Training Union, taught us the little song about the disciples. I raised my hand, and while going over the words of the song in my mind, named all the disciples. My grandmother patted me on the back and said, "That's my granddaughter!" I was so happy, thanks to Mrs. Painter.

Bonnie Matthews Stamey

Some women
are **MOTHERS**
because they
STEPPED IN
and **STEPPED UP**
exactly when
they were needed.

Mrs. Rachel Lovelace Mitchell, wife of Morris Mitchell, and mother to Jane and Margaret, was a life-long member of Canton First Baptist Church. Both her mother and father, L.R. and Ida, were active members. Rachel was very active in serving her Lord through her church. Until her later years, she was always there every Sunday and Wednesday and many times in between! She taught her daughters to give of their *talents to their Lord and to the church*. *Rachel loved teaching Sunday School and did so for a long time. Her family gives thanks for the Christian witness of Rachel Mitchell.* -Jane Mitchell Rhinehart



As the wife of a music minister, our mom, **Marsha Oakley** was very connected to the church and its ministries. We grew up with the church as a second home. Mom always encouraged us to be involved in church from birth until today. She was a second mom to our friends at church. Being very involved in the music ministry of Canton, Mom led the preschool and children's choirs, rang handbells, and sang in the sanctuary choir as well as various ensembles. She taught Sunday School and was involved in youth ministry and activities. Faithfully she chaperoned children and youth trips to choir camps. Our home was open for youth hangouts and other events. Mom was an example of Christian servant leadership to both of us and our children. Carol Bruckmann and Karen Pope

In honor and appreciation of my wife **Donna Wood**:

Dear God, I want to thank You for blessing me, my daughters, son-in-law and grandchildren with the best person I know, Donna Wood. Each of our lives have been blessed beyond measure by this beautiful, incredible, Godly woman. My journey and love story with her starts over 47 years ago on a blind date and I will be forever grateful to a friend, my sister-in-law Debbie and the Good Lord for making it happen.

Our lives have also been wonderfully blessed with two amazing daughters. Donna, being the loving wife and mother she is, always made certain our family came first. She is an excellent cook and homemaker, and her first priority has always been making sure our family was well taken care of. In her career, she chose to move to third shift (graveyard) in order to be home in the morning as our girls were waking up and so that she could go to work at night after they were in bed and sleeping. Working nights was much more demanding and a very selfless sacrifice. Donna did not hesitate in making this decision for the benefit of our family. Our daughters were good students and very involved in school activities, and Donna wanted to attend their school activities and recognitions even though many times it meant lost sleep for her. She also made sure the girls left for school after a good breakfast and that our evening meals were a special family time together.

Donna, next to God, is my rock. As her husband, I cannot begin to count the many examples of love and support she has given me over the years as I developed and built my own career. Much of the time, a new project would require me to travel frequently. It is impossible to adequately put into words the peace of mind I had knowing she was home looking after our girls. Early in our marriage, I played league and tournament softball. Once again, she was at many of my games supporting me, sacrificing her free time so we could have more time together.

Seven years ago, our oldest daughter Lauren married one of the finest men I have ever known. Four years ago Lauren, Caleb and the Good Lord blessed us with twin grandsons. What a beautiful gift from God they are. However, Lauren had a terribly difficult pregnancy. She had to be bedfast and in the hospital much of her pregnancy. Donna, being Donna, did not hesitate to offer love and assistance. She went to help them in any way she could, staying with them for several months before, during and after the delivery. Donna loves every opportunity she has to spoil and pamper our grandsons. Our boys call her "Nonna" and they think Nonna is the best and she definitely is. Nonna goes above and beyond to make sure there is an abundance of love, fun, laughter, hugs and kisses. After college graduation, our youngest daughter, Leia, chose to follow her dream of living in New York. This was a most difficult time for Donna, but Donna has done everything possible to support Leia's dream, even though she wishes Leia would be closer to us. Donna makes sure there are calls, cards, and care packages filled with love and tasty treats. She works hard to do all she can to make the miles between us not seem so far.

Donna loves Canton First and our church family. She was born into CFBC and was heavily involved with her family's participation growing up. She was very engaged with our children's church experiences. She is a beautiful example of what a Godly Mother should be. Donna continues to be faithfully involved in many aspects of CFBC.

Thank you, Sweetheart, for your love, kindness and Christian example. Our lives are richer because of you. We love and appreciate you so very much!

Mike Wood

Mrs. Gertrude Logan was a beautiful sweet soul! I met Mrs. Logan in 1974, when my family came to Canton First Baptist Church. She kept the children's nursery at CFBC. I always enjoyed going to church and visiting with Mrs. Logan. She knew every child and family by name & referred to every child who entered the nursery as her "baby". Mrs. Logan radiated love and had an infectious smile. She saw to it that I actually got my very first paid job (before I was really old enough to even get a paycheck!). I was hired as Mrs. Logan's assistant to help her keep the nursery, which I had done for several years without pay.

I had the opportunity to visit with Mrs. Logan in her home numerous times. She had a lovely home and enjoyed having my family over for a mini gospel "singing" in her living room. Mrs. Logan never let much time pass when she hadn't heard from you, and she called me numerous times to "check in" with me regarding her health and my family. Mrs. Logan enjoyed reminiscing about my childhood and always got emotional when remembering my Dad, whom she fondly referred to as "Pastor Banther".

Mrs. Gertrude Logan was a cherished Christian lady. She loved the Lord with all her might! Mrs. Logan was a wonder Mother/Grandmother to so many and I am proud to have called her my friend!

Lora Banther Inman

In honor and appreciation of our daughter
Lauren Lawson:

As richly and wonderfully blessed as Donna and I are with our daughters and son-in-law, receiving God's gift of two incredible grandsons takes God's blessings to a new level of love and appreciation.

Lauren endured a terribly difficult pregnancy, months of being in the hospital and complete bed rest. Our family will forever be grateful to her for all she suffered through and thankful to our Amazing God that he protected her and blessed our family with two beautiful, healthy boys! Lauren is an excellent mother, wife, daughter and sister. She is a wonderful example of what a Christian mother should be. Lauren thank you and Caleb for surrounding our boys with love and raising them in a Christian home. We are so proud of you and love you so very much! Mike & Donna Wood

My mother, **Jean Powell** was a person who led by example. She has spent much of her life as a member of Canton First Baptist. She was a Sunday School teacher for girls just entering their teenage years. I have always looked at my mother as an example of how to live my life. Everyone was always treated fairly. My mother and dad had so many close friends that have lasted a lifetime. Treat everyone with love, respect, and honesty. That is how she has lived her whole life. Jerry Powell



Kaye Riddle is my precious mother! She is the most talented and dedicated Christian woman that I know! If the church doors are open and she is able, then my Mom is at church! She is one of the best prayer partners that I have ever had! I love when Mom comes to my house to enjoy Bible Study in our Zoom meetings every Wednesday night. I especially enjoy our private discussions after Bible study, to listen and hear each other's feelings about what we just learned or talked about! I have learned what "Christ like" dedication is all about from my Mom!

When I say my Mom is talented, I mean my Mom enjoys knitting, crocheting, sewing, growing/planting flowers, flower design and playing the piano. My Mom is honored to get to play the morning meditation music on Sunday mornings at CFBC. I so enjoy getting to watch my beautiful



Mom playing the piano! If the church needs a volunteer and my Mom is able, then I know she will do whatever she can to help. On a personal note, let me just say this, I have called my Mom last minute on several occasions to show up to a church without a pianist or to play for a wedding on the spur of the moment....and she's shown up every time! (But I don't recommend doing this, if she's not your Mom, hahaha!)

My Mom/Kaye Riddle has had to overcome some major challenges and devastating loses in her life. She's been through a lot of strife and adversity too. She is not boastful, nor prideful – Mom is a humble woman with a heart full of love to give! Mom might not be tall in stature, but she is like David in the Bible story when he defeated Goliath! My Mom draws strength and courage from the Lord, who has carried her through so very much through the years!

Kaye Riddle, my Mom is my best friend (and that says a LOT, especially if you knew me when I was younger, hehehe!). I am very lucky to have Kaye in my corner, but I'm even more proud to call her my MOM! "Lora Kaye" Banther Inman

We love our mom, **Laura Simmons**, because she always cuddles us and gives us hugs when we need them. She makes sure to always bring us to church. She encourages us when we are sad and works hard to make our life special.

We love you Mama. Foster and Corbin

Pastor's Pen

That Other Mom
Dr. Court Greene

Mothers come in all different categories. All of them matter. At its core, motherhood is not something that happens to people. It is something that, through both well considered actions and intangible character traits given by God, many women must develop into over time (note: I mean the qualities of motherhood, not childbirth). That being the case, it is not only those with children who offer the world much needed motherly love. While I have spoken of mothers in general, as well as those with these incredibly important maternal attributes who may not happen to have given birth in the past, and likely will again, this year I want to turn your attention to that other mom.

When I look out at the sanctuary, or check the comment section, on a given Sunday I can see all sorts of mothers. Every category possible looks back at me. Thinking back to when our sanctuary was at pre-pandemic levels though, I think about the stage left side of the balcony. I think about the stage right side of the sanctuary in the last or second to last row. I think about four specific people, and the strength that they must have. Then I think about my mom.

That other mom is one who you know has an endless capacity to love her child, or others who need a mother's love, and you know it because she gave it without fail. She is the mom who has done everything in her power for her child or children, but because sometimes life gives us something so overwhelming that even that much love cannot overcome it, she has lost the recipient of all of that endless love. When I think of her, or perhaps them, I am overcome with two feelings. First, grief. I do not know, nor will I ever, what it feels like to be a mother. I certainly do not know what it feels like to be that other mom, and pray to never feel the paternal version of it. I am sure they thought likewise at one point. The sadness does not remain, however, because soon another feeling pushes it



aside. The second thing that I feel when considering these mothers, is admiration. The amount of strength it must take to carry on at all after such a life altering moment is breathtaking. The capacity to love in these women is astounding because they can even consider someone else after something so jarring, and yet they not only consider others, they love and care for others. Perhaps admiration is not strong enough of a word. I certainly do not worship them, but it would be fair to say I revere them.

That other mom, you see, may or may not have ever been the Mary of Christmas. She is, however, the Mary of Good Friday. Sadly, we do not talk about her often on Holy Week. The Bible does not give her much attention, and so she seems like an ancillary character. If you spend some time talking to that other mom, though, you will know the Mary of Good Friday. You will see the pain of being robbed of time with a loved one. You will understand loss in a new way, even if you can never understand her loss. You will also find hope. If Mary could go on to see Easter, you can make it through whatever it is life is handing you. If these mothers, the other moms, can endure, love, make life more hopeful, and yes, continue to mother those around them, then isn't there hope for all of us?

As Mother's Day approaches, remember that other mom. Admire her, feel for her, but as those two feelings wash over you, please don't forget to love her. Maybe take a minute to let her know that she's not alone, even if she feels that way when May rolls around each year.

Some of my fondest memories of Canton First Baptist were when I was in the Primary and Junior Departments. We had some wonderful, dedicated Sunday School teachers. **Mrs. Dorothy Crawford, Mrs. Duke, and Mrs. Clay Pegram** helped to shape my young life. I eagerly awaited Sunday morning so I could go to Sunday School. **Mrs. Carl Painter** took special interest in us and helped us in Sunday School but she also gave of her time to instruct us in Bible Drills for the Haywood Association. She worked at the mill, would stop by Hendrix Drug Store and buy all of us a Mars Candy bar, and then drill us on our memory verses. Sometimes we got to go to her home and practice. We participated in the state drill at Fruitland Bible Institute and as I remember we did quite well. As a result of these great ladies and of my own grandmother's steady guidance I was saved when I was 11 years old and baptized at Canton First. I thank God often for their unwavering dedication to children. Linda Clark

Given the opportunity to write a tribute to my mother, **Lillian Long Matthews**, I thought it would be an easy pleasure. I could write about the things she did for me, all the fun we had, the vacations, clothes she made for me, the piano and the flute she bought for me, the visits to plays, concerts, and Civic Music in Asheville. Then I realized these things, though all brought me pleasure, are not what I think of when I remember, with joy, my mother.

She was the finest person I have ever known. She loved me and was kind and caring to me my entire life until she went home to Heaven in 2012. I miss her and love her every day. I have never known a finer Christian than my mother. She taught me to pray before I remember. At various times she was Sunbeam director, Primary Department teacher, GA leader, Intermediate Department teacher and secretary, WMU General Secretary, Berean Sunday School Class secretary, and spent lots of time in the kitchen whenever a meal was held. She saw that I was involved in all age-appropriate church activities. Her example has been a guiding light in my life. I am more thankful for her than I can express. Today is an appropriate day to honor her not only because it is Mother's Day but also because it is her birthday!! I love you now and forever, Mother.

Bonnie Matthews Stamey

My grandmother was **Connie Wood Collins**. She was very active at First Baptist when it was the beautiful old building where the existing church stands now. I would sit by her in church as a child and feel her love. My Aunt **Reva Collins** was my Sunday School teacher along with all my friends for many years. She had no children of her own so she would take her class on many outings. Then my mother **Frankie Collins Johnson** was such a huge influence on my early church life. My mother served on so many committees, too many to list. Her favorite was serving on the pastor search committee each time a new pastor was to be found. These three women in my life are the reason Canton First Baptist holds a huge place in my heart. They all made sure I was there on Sunday morning, Sunday night and Wednesday night. They have all passed away and now live in their heavenly home. First Baptist Church is what it is because so many of these woman and their friends loved this church. Jan Johnson



My mother **Polly Roberts** was the most selfless person I have ever known. She always put everyone's needs first and herself last. She had a servants hear. Mother was always present for us and gave us her all. Mother took care of my grandparents and my daddy. She was a good neighbor and friend and was always willing to help anyone in need. My girls loved going to "Nanny Polly's" because she always made it fun and was the best cook. We all especially love her yeast rolls and her special birthday cakes. Happy Mother's Day in heaven to the best Mother ever! I love and miss you so much!

-Donna Wood

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think towards you, saith the LORD. Thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you and expected end...

My mother, **Millie T. Hoglen**, and her love for God is the one thing that has helped me on my journey and her example of living in prayer to our Heavenly Father. She prayed all the time. Hallelujah! Her example I hold close to my heart..

My Journey to the Holy Spirit this past year has brought me to love the Lord with all my heart and soul. I will praise the Lord with a passion. I will STAND FOR JESUS! Hallelujah!

The church has been apart of my life from birth. God has put my heart here! My family has been lifetime members. Momma's family grew up in this church. So we have always loved and returned to Canton First Baptist. On this Mother's Day I have two women in this church who were an example of "Love for our Lord Jesus", the power of PRAYER! Thank you to both! Since they are sisters and I tried to do separate ones. It just blended together.

Happy Mother's Day to my mother in Heaven!

Karen Ivy Hoglen

I have been inspired, motivated, and influenced by three generations of mothers at Canton First Baptist Church. This list includes my mother, **Marilyn McDowell**, my grandmother **Catherine Cogburn**, and my great-grandmother **Nell Thomason**.

For this Mother's Day, I would like to remember **Nell Thomason**. Not many people have had a great-grandmother to influence them, but I had one for 30 years. In my early years, Nell Thomason, whom we all called "Nunny" was often our babysitter, and always the family matriarch. Her home at 71 North Main Street was the favorite landing spot for two generations of children.

Nunny had a food box ministry before there was such a thing as a food box ministry. I can recall many excursions with her delivering goods to people in need. Sometimes they were distant relatives and other times they were just people that she knew needed help.

I also remember at Christmastime she would load some of her great-grandchildren into her Buick with a bunch of presents and drop by to visit a houseful of less fortunate kids. She knew where to find them and she knew what would make them happy at Christmas.

During my high school years, I served as her grasscutter. This gave her many opportunities to offer pieces of advice as I was headed into adulthood and off to college. She told me to never forget my Christian values and that I would meet people in college who would try to change me. She was right and I never forgot.

Danny McDowell

Myra Steadman is an incredible asset to Canton First Baptist Church, our members, ministers, staff and the community we serve. She has been with us now for 14 years and I am embarrassed to say I took her for granted and did not fully understand what her position requires and how demanding it is on a daily basis. It was not until I became Deacon Chairperson during a challenging time for our church that I realized the extent of her education, her many gifts and sincere Christian love for our church family and the people we serve. During this difficult time, I was in our church almost every weekday for over a year. It was only then that I was able to see and hear first hand the challenges she deals with continually and witness her patience, kindness and compassion in action. I was very surprised at the number of calls and visitors to our church office and their wide variety of needs. This included people dealing with sickness and death, financial needs such as housing, utilities, groceries, loss of a job, needing transportation and more. Most of these situations required prompt attention and a good listener and Myra provided both. She is a wonderful resource, whether directing a person in need to the proper person or committee within CFBC or some organization within our community. One time I came in and she was going over the Plan of Salvation with someone she had witnessed to when they had come in for assistance. What a beautiful blessing this was!

Mike Wood

To the wonderful Mothers and ladies of Canton First Baptist Church, if you have ever participated in any of these or some other areas that may not have been mentioned, we want to honor you and thank you for your service to God, CFBC and our community.

You are a very important part of this honorarium. To All those who have ever been: a Christian witness, a Christian steward sharing your time, talents, and tithes, participated in reading or dramas, playing a musical instrument, singing in choirs or solos, working with children and nursery, working with youth, working with adults or seniors, serving on committee or ministry team, assisting with missions and mission trips, opening your home for church activities, working with school partnership ministries, filing backpacks, driving for ministry events, participating in community events and ministries, working in VBS, serving as a deacon or greeter or usher, teaching or assisting in classes and outreach, serving families who have experienced the loss of a loved one or sickness, (continued below)



serving those who have lost a job or face financial hardships, helping single parents and widows, serving the church in any way, mailing cards to encourage others, helping with community missions and outreach, volunteering in disaster relief, preparing food for a meal for a family or church functions, donating items, serving with WMU groups, sharing a kind word, a smile, a listening ear, handshake or hug to a church member, visitor, minister or staff member dealing with a difficult time or situation and so much more.....

If you have helped those in need and have assisted in growing Canton First Baptist Church and God's Kingdom in anyway...

We Honor You!

You are very much Loved and Appreciated!

Nancy Mann has set the gold standard in taking care of her family, especially my brother and I. She was cheerful in her interactions with us and enjoyed preparing meals and being there to support our endeavors. We received hugs, backrubs, and smiles. Nancy left her friends and relatives in Texas in 1971 to move 1000 miles east to Canton, NC. She never looked back and continues today to be a fine Mother and servant of the Lord!

Regards, Randy Mann

A tribute to **Dorothy, Dutch, Miriam and Sherry**.

Canton, as well as the wider community including Haywood, Jackson and Buncombe Counties, has been greatly influenced in a caring and profound way these four women through their professions in funeral service and their social and charitable activities in the community. All have been members of this CFBC congregation. **Dorothy Boyd Crawford, Miriam Wells Greeley, Sherry Murray Ray and Dutch McCracken Wells** have all participated in creating and enhancing their respective funeral service businesses, which are unsurpassed in quality anywhere I've observed. With the utmost in professionalism and with much love, they have helped soften the blow of death and losing a loved one for most all of us. I am grateful to each of them for their service, professionalism, dedication, concern, thoughtfulness, wit and good humor.

Joe Trostel

Having been closely associated with Canton First Baptist Church for more than seventy years, I have many sweet memories of the wonderful ladies who made a huge difference in my spiritual life. The godly women that I remember who have gone on to be with our Lord include Sunday School teachers such as **Mrs. R.W. Holtzclaw, Mrs. Painter, Mildred Whitted** and many others. **WMU and GA leaders** such as **Maxine Duke, Mrs. Horton, and Mrs. Ralph Hightower** were powerful witnesses as they enthusiastically led the ladies and girls of our church into service for Christ. These and many more, some still living and serving others, have provided a strong central core for our church's ministry to others through the years.

But the woman who had the most important impact on my life, spiritually and every other way, was my mother, **Terry Cathey Hall**. She taught by example in service to others inside the church and out; by faithfulness in attendance and participation in all church activities; and by the high ideals of character and integrity which she displayed and taught to my sister and me. She was truly a wonderful and loving Christian lady, and I miss her every day.

Cathy Walsh

Tribute to all mothers & mine

Mothers are the angels sent by God to touch our lives with the light and warmth of His caring. Through their guidance we find the path to our future.

Growing up, my mother made certain that I was involved in GA's & Acteens, Youth activities and especially Sunday School. She taught teen aged girls several years after I was grown.

One of her sayings that I have always remembered about church members is that many are like "a handle on a pan...there but not in it" which our pastor has emphasized to us...

We are to worship and also be a witness in the community...

Nancy Mann

Thank you, **Winifred Leatherwood**, for being a loving example in my life. Thank you! I pray for you to have a wonderful blessed Mother's Day.

All my love! Living by Faith!

Karen Ivy Hoglen

Mark 11:22 And Jesus answering saith unto them, "Have Faith in God." Amen

In honor and appreciation of **Lisa Ledford**:

Lisa is one of the kindest most caring members of our church. She is one of the first ones willing to volunteer for many projects and areas of need, but especially when it involves children. You are a blessing to our church Lisa and I have seen the genuine love you have for our children and others. When I would make rounds on Sunday mornings collecting Sunday School attendance sheets I loved to stop outside your class room taking time to listen to your teaching and hear the wonderful interaction with your students. Your guidance and direction for our Community Christmas Party continues to make it a wonderful ministry for Canton First Baptist Church and our community, as does your involvement with Vacation Bible School, Labor Day and other areas.

Thank you Lisa for being a vital part of our CFBC ministries and programs. God is working through you in amazing ways!

Mike Wood



In my 14 years at Canton First Baptist Church, as Education Director, Pastor's wife, and member, I met some amazing women who influenced me. I can't name all for fear of leaving someone out so I will talk about their sphere of influence.

These godly ladies were and are still my family. They treated me with unconditional love and support. They were and are to me a reflection of Christ. During my greatest tragedy, the loss of my husband, pastor and best friend, these ladies surrounded me and took care of my girls and me. They went the second mile to do things for us that we could not do. Examples include but not limited to; meals, cards of encouragement, time, trips, prayers, gifts, and scripture. I went into a depression that many probably don't know about. God used these ladies as His hands to keep me from not giving up in life. These ladies are part of the reason I am still working in the ministry. They will always be part of my testimony during one of my roughest seasons.

I can best explain the role of my Christian sisters like this. My brokenness represented a very weak sheep that wanted to leave the fold but they set out to restore me just like the Father looks for the one lost sheep and leaves the ninety-nine to bring back into the fold. I could never thank my godly sisters past and present, enough for hanging in there with me. A Bible verse that God give me during this time is *Jeremiah 29:11*.

"For I know the plans I have for you "declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Robin Gosnell Watkins

Grandma Helen was short in height but her personality was larger than life. She drove semi-trucks and could plumb a house without help. She could nurse you with compassion like she did as a nurse with the red cross in ww2. At 70 years old she donned my brothers leather jacket, hopped on his motorcycle and proceeded to do a burn out and a wheelie. She had to postpone her own wedding to help her mother give birth to my grandma's 16th sibling.

Grandma had 7 kids of her own and never slowed down. She loved gardening but the thing I remember the most about her is her faith. Grandma Helen was a woman who loved God with her whole life, mind and being. That love and devotion to God filtered through to everything and everyone she loved. She was a living testament on how to love God. Sadly, Grandma Helen passed away from Alzheimer's and did not recognize us at the last years of her life. But she still knew God and his love never faded from her eyes. I hope my eyes reflect the same love for God that she shared with me..

Lisa Ledford

In loving memory of our beloved grandmother – “**Mimmie**” – **Jessie Woodall Trostel** (1891-1987); and our aunt – “**Gin**” – **Virginia Trostel James** (1919-2018), both members of CFBC.

Jessie, born 4/26/1891 on her mother’s 25th birthday, came to the mountains from Raleigh as a girl. She became well educated, married and raised two children while also being very active in her Church and community. Women of her generation didn’t tend to work outside the home. But that did not keep her from being very industrious at home and in the community. From the WMU (Women’s Missionary Union) to being a charter member of the Canton Woman’s Club, she stayed active, healthy and engaged during her 96 years on earth.

We knew her mother died when she was young, but only learned later on (from our Great Grandmother Woodall’s footmarker) that her mom died on Mimmie’s 11th Christmas – 12/25/1902. How sad. But by God’s grace and [all other sources of strength from which she drew](#), we only knew a loving, supportive and joyful grandmother at Christmas and most any other time of year. Thanks Mimmie!

Virginia was born 3/28/1919, a snowy day in late March (during the end of a pandemic), and less than 2 months after her mother helped organize the “Friendly Dozen Club” (a social and charitable women’s club) at her home on Pennsylvania Avenue. Virginia grew up in Canton and, as it worked out, spent the vast majority of her life as a resident. Well-educated, she attended Meredith College in Raleigh and transferred to and graduated from Parsons School of Design in New York City. This set her on course to enjoy a 60+ year career in interior design which was one of the loves of her life.

Gin came to know and live with tragedy. In 1945, her husband Tommy was killed at age 24 in service during WW2 making her a Gold Star Wife. In 1992, her only child and son Michael died at the fairly young age of 48, adding her to another club to which no one wants to belong - parents who have lost children. Despite these heartbreaks, by God’s grace, the love and support of family, friends and community, and all other sources of strength from which she drew, Virginia was able to summon in her life, and share with others, real joy. Thanks Gin!

We quote Henry David Thoreau – “There is no remedy for love but to love more.” This we saw in action in both Mimmie and Gin!
Joe & Mich Trostel

Mildred Sloan is my grandmother. She is the Matriarch of our family. Our family is so blessed to still have her with us at 101 years young! I call her “Grandma Mildred”. She is the pillar of strength and always imparts so much wisdom. Grandma Mildred might come across as a very stern lady, but when she speaks...you can see her heart of GOLD!

Grandma still drives (and she is a better driver than almost anyone else that I know too!) and makes her beautiful and very coveted “Grandma Mildred” quilts. Each quilt that she makes holds a very precious piece of fabric, which contains that name for the quilt, her name and her age at the time she makes them. I am honored to have a few of her quilts in my possession, two of which we made together. I did the cross stitch/embroidery on the quilt squares and Grandma Mildred did all the hand quilting. She does a beautiful job, even when she says “I can’t quilt like I used to”. It’s not true, every stitch in every quilt is as precious as Grandma Mildred is!

Grandma Mildred has had to overcome so many obstacles in her life, but without having to ever speak about any of it...it is by God’s amazing grace that she’s here! She is my HERO and real life “wonder woman”! I am blessed to call her my Grandmother and to still have her to impart her love, life and wisdom to not just our family, but to everyone that she meets!

Mother’s Day is a day that is set aside to honor Mother’s....Mildred Sloan/Grandma Mildred is the very definition of the kind of mother that any woman should strive to be! I personally want to grow up to be just like my amazing Grandma Mildred!
Lora Banther Inman

It wasn't until I became a mother that I began to realize the true sacrifices of my own mother, **Donna Wood**. A story that I find myself telling a lot is that of my mother being a working parent and, not just any typical work schedule, but she worked the graveyard shift at the local hospital five days a week. She chose to work the graveyard shift when I began kindergarten so, that if needed, she could sacrifice sleep and be at my school programs, field trips, and extracurricular activities. She never missed a single moment.

My sister and I grew up in a home where a homecooked meal was shared around the dinner table every weeknight. And it should be no surprise that this meal was always prepared by Mom. This is something that I still have a hard time wrapping my head around; my mother worked a full-time job at night, arrived home around the time I was waking up, packed my lunch, drove me to school, slept for a few hours, picked me up from school, drove me to my activities, and cooked a delicious meal; only for her to head back to work at the end of the day. My mother is the hardest working, most selfless person I know.

I could go on and on about the qualities of my mother, so it is quite a challenge to fit all of these years and memories into a few short paragraphs. Almost five years ago, I was pregnant with twin boys. I ended up being hospitalized for the majority of my pregnancy and giving birth early. It was a very difficult and scary road we traveled. My mom was right beside me - she would fly to Florida on a regular basis and stay with me at the hospital and, when our boys were born, she lived with us for two months. She would cook, clean, do the laundry, and take night feedings so that I could rest. My mother gives and gives of her time and abilities - a true Christ-like servant.

My mother is steadfast and committed, gracious and patient, encouraging and available, and the most precious Mom and 'Nonna.' Our family knows of deep love and sacrifice because of her. Our lives are richer because of her. She is a beautiful picture, on earth, of Christ and His deep love for us.

- Lauren Lawson

For me, I have never had any doubt in the support my mother gives. Through every hobby, project big and small, questionable fashion phases, big moves to unfamiliar cities, teary phone calls when life feels too overwhelming and we are hundreds of miles apart - she brings peace and understanding and unwavering support through it all. The older I get, the more I find myself reflecting on my relationship with my mom and how it grows and changes with every year. She is my teacher, my safe space, my biggest cheerleader, my favorite chef, and truly my best friend.

If you know my mom, you are aware of her big heart and giving spirit. I have seen this come to play in so many different scenarios over my life, but the one I want to highlight is the sacrifice of time and sleep my mom gave to my sister and I for so many years. Growing up I was involved in many sports and activities and my mom never missed a single one. An important detail to this is that my mom worked the graveyard shift at the hospital for the majority of my childhood. Each evening she would leave for work as I was falling asleep and return in the morning just as I was waking up for school. Throughout the years there were many times a volunteer parent was needed in the classroom or as a field trip chaperone or invited to watch presentations, etc. My mom never hesitated to sign up. At the time I don't think I realized that meant she was sacrificing her sleep to spend extra moments with me during the day. I am still on the fence that my mom is possibly a vampire because I truly am not sure when she ever slept. It seems so effortless the way she gives her time, love and support to anyone who surrounds her. With each Mother's Day I become increasingly thankful that God picked me to be her daughter.

Mom, you have taught me so much, but the one I cherish most is the way you have shown me how to love people so well. You have shaped me into who I am today and I can never say thank you enough for the constant love and support you have poured into me. So today I hope you feel loved and celebrated just as you make others feel. I love you. Happy Mothers Day!

- Leia Wood



To my Mother, **Rose Haynie**,

and to **all of the Mothers** of Canton First Baptist, both past and present:

Thank you for your love and for the cherished friendships that I have experienced as a part of the family of Canton First Baptist Church.


Though life brings many changes, your Legacy will remain in my heart and mind forever.

When I think of the heritage of our Mothers, I think of the words of Proverbs 31....

"She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue." Proverbs 31:25-26

Happy Mother's Day!

Carolyn Haynie



*Charm is deceptive,
and beauty is fleeting; but a
woman who fears the Lord
is to be praised.
Proverbs 31:30*

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