



Mary Butt Shafer

June 24, 2016

Mary Butt Shafer passed away on June 24, 2016. She was born in Princess Anne County, Virginia, in May of 1916 and was the daughter of the late Mary Eliza and William Thomas Butt. She graduated from Oceana High School and attended Kee Business College. Mary was a devoted member of Centenary United Methodist Church.

Mary was preceded in death by her husband, Garfield Shafer, Jr., and her siblings, Millard C. Butt, Eva G. Simmons, Willie M. Brown, Pattie E. Bonney, Ora A. Kellam, Ruby M. Fentress, Louise J. Pulley and Ruth B. Watson. Survivors include her two daughters, Mary Meeks and her husband, Bobby; Sara Hetzler and her husband, Steve; four grandsons, Robert Meeks; David Meeks and wife, Lana; John Hetzler and wife, Laura; Clark Hetzler and wife, Amy; nine great grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held on Tuesday, June 28, at 11 AM at Centenary United Methodist Church by the Reverend John Cole, II. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorial contributions to Centenary United Methodist Church, 3312 Cedar Lane Portsmouth, Virginia 23703, or the charity of your choice.

The family wishes to thank the staff of Province Place and the caregivers of Arcadia for their loving and compassionate care.

Previous Events

Memorial service

JUN **28**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Centenary United Methodist Church
3312 Cedar Lane
Portsmouth, VA 23703

Tribute Wall

UR

“ Please accept our sincerest condolences from United Way of South Hampton Roads at the loss of a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Mrs. Shafer had been a loyal contributor for many years and our community is a much better place because of her generosity.

Sincerely,

United Way of South Hampton Roads Staff

United Way of South Hampton Roads - July 11, 2016 at 10:22 AM

DW

“ Dear Sara and Mary,
Hadley and I were so saddened to hear about your mother's death. We moved to the Harrisonburg area almost two years ago and so we heard from my sister. As I am sure you are aware, we always thought so very highly of both of your parents. They were a truly kind and thoughtful couple. Your mom was one of the sweetest and warmest people we have ever known. She always had a smile and special greeting for everyone and was one of the first there if someone needed her. With her, God put an angel on earth for 100 years and now he has returned that fine angel to heaven. I am sure that she and Garfield had a glorious reunion. I know that you two realize how blessed you were to have them as your parents and will now miss your mom tremendously. May you know that she will be missed by many as a kind and gracious soul. You will all be in our thoughts and prayers. Bless you all!

Dianne and Hadley Whitlock

Dianne Whitlock - July 06, 2016 at 11:47 PM

LS

“ My deepest sympathy to all of the family at this sad time. I met Mary through a mutual friend many years ago. My dear friend, Leona Manley, introduced us at her house one day and I knew right away that Mary was a very special lady. She possessed such dignity and grace. Over the years, our paths crossed many times and she remained the same woman of loveliness that I had met originally at the Manley's home. She was a loyal friend to Leona all of her life and Leona always spoke of Mary with great admiration. It was through Leona that I was blessed to know her. Later I met Mary Meeks at Western Branch where she was a reading aide to one of my children. It was my honor to know this family. May God and your sweetest memories give you the comfort you need now to cope with the loss of your Mother. Blessings to you,
Linda Sterling
Aiken, SC

Linda Sterling - June 30, 2016 at 11:12 PM

EP

“ Mary, was a wonderful friend and inspiration to all of us.
To Know her was to love her.

Love to her family.
Ellen Person

Ellen Person - June 28, 2016 at 09:14 AM

ST

“ Please accept my sincere sympathy for the loss of your mother. The Holy Scriptures says that a person who lives to age 80 is especially strong. (Psalm 90:10). What a privilege that your mother lived for 100 years. May the many memories and lessons learned from her warm your hearts. Take comfort in God's promise concerning the hope of being reunited with her to live in a world without tears where heartache and death will be no more.

S. Tyler - June 28, 2016 at 06:24 AM

GR

“ Mrs. Shafer was one of my Sunday School teachers at Centenary when I was a child in 1966. In fact, it was before the merger of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church so it was still Centenary Methodist Church at the time. At the age of 98, she attended my mother's 90th birthday party at Centenary in August 2014. She certainly did age gracefully! Thanks be to God for her life and witness!

George Riggins - June 27, 2016 at 07:48 PM

MK

“ Mrs. Schafer was a dear, dear lady. She was beautiful inside and out. She touched many lives not only by her teaching years but by the kind, loving woman that she was. She will be missed by hundreds of people whose lives she touched. I am so sorry that I am unable to attend the memorial service but I will be there in spirit and prayer. Her family was blessed to have had her in their lives and I extend my sincerest sympathies to you all.

Mary Korving - June 27, 2016 at 05:51 PM

PM

“ Mrs. Shafer was my Sunday school teacher when I was young child -back in the 50's. She always had a kind smile and nurturing demeanor. I always remember she had her hair in a bun. I had come back to rejoin Centenary Methodist about 20 years ago and she was one of the first persons that I saw and I re-introduced myself to her. What a wonderful lady- a beautiful spirit. May the family know prayers are with them at this time. God bless and comfort you.

Pam Morgan

Pam Morgan - June 27, 2016 at 09:12 AM

PM

“ Mary was my 3rd grade Sunday school teacher at Centenary UMC...I'm sure she taught thousands of kids through the years. She was also a close friend to my mom, Alice Williams. They did Sunday School together and played golf together. Through the years, I would run into Mary at various places around town and she always remembered me. I am not sure she ever looked older and she was always beautiful!! After my mom died, when I would see her, she would always have something kind to say about mom. It always made me feel so good! She was one of a kind and I am so glad that we knew her! I am sorry for your loss but I just know she and mom are sharing a laugh together now! Peggy Williams Murphy

Peggy Williams Murphy - June 26, 2016 at 09:55 PM

MW

“ Dear Mrs. Mary,

You were truly an angel on this earth, and we know you are now an angel in heaven. I'll forever be grateful to have met you, for you truly were a gift from God to all of us. Rest in peace.



May God give comfort to your family. We know you will be watching over them.

*Love,
Margaret 'Maggie' Walker
CUMC, Portsmouth, VA*

Margaret Walker - June 26, 2016 at 01:15 PM

JM

“ Pictures from Mary's birthday party



Jenna Meeks - June 25, 2016 at 07:23 PM