



Mrs. Cynthia Smith

December 2, 1958 - June 17, 2021

Cynthia Gail McDowell Smith began her earthly journey on December 2, 1958, the daughter of Katie McDowell Copeland. Her mother held fast to the bible's teachings to "train up a child in the way he should go" which resulted in Cynthia's early affiliation with First Baptist Church under the leadership of Dr. E. B Turner. Her spiritual journey would transition her to obtain membership at Cromartie's Temple of Praise under the discipleship of Elder George Cromartie. Upon her relocation to Raleigh, NC Cynthia attended Wake Chapel Church.

At an early age, Cynthia's intellectual abilities became apparent while attending South Lumberton Elementary School (W.H. Knuckles) where she was an avid reader and quickly absorbed information. Cynthia was a member of the class of 1977 at Lumberton Senior High School and matriculated to the University of North Carolina at Pembroke graduating in 1981 with a Bachelor of Science in education. While attending UNCP, Cynthia met her future husband and life partner Saul Alphonzo Smith III (Zack). According to Zack, he and Cynthia were introduced by a mutual friend and there was an instant attraction which included making him laugh. Although it was his senior year, he knew there was something special about Cynthia particularly her intellect which she also admired in him having seen his name on the Dean's List. Zack says that their relationship blossomed when they realized they shared the same life goals which included obtaining their college

degrees, establishing careers, buying a home, having a family, assuring that their children graduated from college, retiring and traveling. Zack and Cynthia celebrated 38 years of marriage. Upon receiving her teaching licensure, she began her thirty-year educational career with the Public Schools of Robeson County eventually transitioning to the Wake County Public Schools as a math teacher. She was an outstanding educator and mentor as evidenced by her being named Teacher of the Year while at East Wake Middle School. Her professional affiliations included membership in the North Carolina Association of Educator (NCAE).

Having superbly fulfilled her calling as a classroom teacher inspiring critical thinkers, Cynthia retired in 2012 after successfully enriching the lives of her students and colleagues. Her thirst for knowledge continued during her retirement as she traveled extensively absorbing the culture and lifestyles of South Africa, Paris, France, Switzerland, Germany and several states. Her post-employment period also afforded her the opportunity to spend quality time with her grandchildren.

In the early dawn of Thursday, June 17, 2021 God called his warrior home, fulfilling her earthly journey. Cynthia finished her course having maintained her faith through all of life's circumstances and now rests peacefully in the arms of her Savior and Redeemer.

Cynthia was pre-deceased by her father Leroy Copeland, Jr., nephew Jerrell Flowers and her in-laws Saul Alphonzo (Mary Esther) Smith II.

In addition to her husband, Saul Alphonzo Smith III and her mother, Katie McDowell Copeland, others left to cherish her memory and carry on her legacy include her children: Kristen (Derrick) Kemp, Brandon Smith and Damian Smith all of Raleigh, NC. Her legacy and love of life continues through her grandchildren Derren Kemp and Kaylin Kemp, Raleigh, NC, sisters:

LaRosa McDowell of Lumberton, NC, Sylvia (Bobby) Scales of Fort Dodge, Iowa and her brother Gregory McDowell of Lumberton, N.C. thirty-five nieces and nephews, seven sisters-in-law and one brother in-law. Special friends: Laureen Bines of Durham, N.C. and Thydora Wilson of Raleigh, NC. Her aunt Mary McDowell and uncle Cleveland McDowell of Lumberton NC.

“Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.” . Matthew 25:2

Professional Services entrusted to - Colvin Funeral Home, Lumberton, NC.

Cemetery Details

Elizabeth Heights Cemetery

Lumberton, NC 28358

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **25**. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Colvin Funeral Home Chapel
1904 Elizabethtown Road
Lumberton, NC 28358

Funeral

JUN **26**. 1:00 PM (ET)

True Believers Church
2640 7th St.
Lumterton, NC

Tribute Wall



“ *Colvin Funeral Homes & Cremations created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Cynthia Smith*



H. M. Colvin Funeral Home - June 28, 2021 at 12:27 PM

SK

“ *Cynthia Smith was a wonderful teacher. I taught students with severe physical and mental disabilities at Carroll. Cynthia had a wonderful attitude toward these students and was always excited and happy to provide student helpers from her classes and participated in Wake Education Partnership grant activities that promoted interaction and understanding between students of extremely varied ability levels. I always thought of her as a friend with a quick smile who always had kind words of encouragement for both students and colleagues.*

Sue Klaric - July 01, 2021 at 02:49 PM

TW

“ *Sending prayers and condolences to Zack and family during this difficult season of bereavement. Praying for your comfort strength and healing.
Agape and In His Love
Min. Theresa Watkins and siblings*



Theresa Watkins - June 30, 2021 at 11:53 AM

SW

“ My deepest sympathies are extended to the family of Mrs. Cynthia Smith during this unfortunate time. May the love and mercy of our Lord be bestowed upon you and help ease the pain of your loss.

Sheriff Burnis Wilkins - June 28, 2021 at 11:46 AM

SW

“ I would like to extend my heartfelt condolences at this time to the family and friends of Mrs. Cynthia Smith. May the love and mercy of our Lord help to ease the pain of your loss.

Sheriff Burnis Wilkins - June 28, 2021 at 11:23 AM

DS

“ Donald & Shelia Hartsfield, Sr.



Donsld & Shelia Hartsfield, St. - June 25, 2021 at 08:56 PM

AB

“ AVA RAGLAND BAILEY lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cynthia Smith



AVA RAGLAND BAILEY - June 25, 2021 at 08:46 PM

LR

“ *Lucretia and Renee purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mrs. Cynthia Smith.*



Lucretia and Renee - June 25, 2021 at 05:13 PM

DS

“ *To the Smith Family, my condolences and prayers are with you all. Mrs. Cynthia and I have been getting our hair done for several years at Williams Beauty Salon in Raleigh, NC. I will miss talking and texting about the Soaps (use to watch), Queen Sugar, 911, different shows on Lifetime and many current events.*

Diane Smith - June 25, 2021 at 10:26 AM

DS

“ *Diane Smith lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cynthia Smith*



Diane Smith - June 25, 2021 at 10:18 AM

LT

“ *Lisa Trang Tuong purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mrs. Cynthia Smith.*



Lisa Trang Tuong - June 24, 2021 at 04:17 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Mrs. Cynthia Smith.*



June 24, 2021 at 04:04 PM



“ *The Vines family is heartbroken over your loss. We will forever cherish her memories.*



Lauren Andrews-vines - June 24, 2021 at 04:00 PM



“ *Our sincerest sympathies to your family. Cynthia was a wonderful teacher, coworker, friend...Let the memories help comfort you. She will live on...forever in our hearts.*

*Donna and David Bradley
Hannah Bradley Papes*

Donna - June 24, 2021 at 06:59 AM



“ *Donna and David Bradley and Hannah Bradley Papes purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Cynthia Smith.*



Donna and David Bradley and Hannah Bradley Papes - June 24, 2021 at 06:54 AM

DB

“ *My sincerest sympathies to your family. Cynthia was a wonderful teacher, coworker, friend...Let the memories help comfort you. She will live on...forever in our hearts.*

*Donna Bradley
Hannah Bradley Papes*

Donna Bradley - June 24, 2021 at 06:37 AM

EJ

“ *Elston Powell Jr lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cynthia Smith*



Elston Powell jr - June 23, 2021 at 11:18 PM

CB

“ *Cherry Perry Blossom lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cynthia Smith*



Cherry Perry Blossom - June 23, 2021 at 09:51 PM

NM

“ *Novena Mitchell-Graves lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cynthia Smith*



Novena Mitchell-Graves - June 23, 2021 at 06:35 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Cynthia Smith.*



June 23, 2021 at 06:10 PM



“ *Veronica Nwosu purchased the Simply Elegant S pathiphyllum for the family of Mrs. Cynthia Smith.*



Veronica Nwosu - June 23, 2021 at 05:06 PM



“ *Veronica Nwosu lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cynthia Smith*



Veronica Nwosu - June 23, 2021 at 04:59 PM



“ *Thank you for always being a friend. ❤️ Your kindness and sweet personality will definitely be missed. 💕*



Courtney Rivers - June 23, 2021 at 02:30 PM

CM

“ *Cindy Brock McKoy sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Cynthia Smith*



Cindy Brock McKoy - June 23, 2021 at 11:05 AM

RH

“ *Richard And Tamala Hartsfield lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cynthia Smith*



Richard and Tamala Hartsfield - June 23, 2021 at 07:27 AM

RH

“ *Richard And Tamala Hartsfield lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cynthia Smith*



Richard and Tamala Hartsfield - June 23, 2021 at 07:26 AM

RH

“ *Richard Hartsfield lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cynthia Smith*



Richard Hartsfield - June 23, 2021 at 07:20 AM

NR

“ *Nicole Robinson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cynthia Smith*



Nicole Robinson - June 23, 2021 at 05:37 AM

SH

“ *Samuel Harris lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cynthia Smith*



samuel harris - June 23, 2021 at 05:25 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Cynthia Smith.*



June 23, 2021 at 04:07 AM



“ *A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Cynthia Smith.*



June 22, 2021 at 09:46 PM

EB

“ My sincere condolences to the family of Cynthia. We were at the same school at one time.RIP



Elsie Bobbitt - June 22, 2021 at 06:57 PM

BR

“ Although I haven't seen Cynthia in years, as I retired from Carroll Middle 3 1/2 years ago and she retired several years before me, we have been in contact through facebook and what I remember mostly is how encouraging, positive, and delightful she has always been in our "facebook" conversations. When we both were at Carroll together, for years, she was always cheerful, positive and it was wonderful to work with her, always so collaboratively! My prayers are for her family during this grieving time.

Barbara Russell - June 22, 2021 at 05:45 PM

CK

“ Ms Smith, you helped so many and made such a difference. You will not be forgotten.

Cindy Keech - June 22, 2021 at 05:41 PM

DG

“ Cynthia was one of the first teachers I hired as principal of Carrol Middle School. She proved to be not only an exceptional teacher but a wonderful role model for students. She was a straight forward and honest person who loved laughter and being around friends. Her heart was her family who she always spoke of with so much love. A beautiful flower has been plucked from earth to be placed in the heavenly garden. Rest well Cynthia!

Dr. Alice J. Garrett - June 22, 2021 at 04:31 PM

DW

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Uncle Zach and family, Since being apart of the Smith family, aunt Cynt was always the sweetest person each time we encountered one another. Always counted on her to snap a picture or two at any point! You will be missed, Rest Peacefully, With Love,
Desmond, Deidre & Dyoni Woods



Deidre Woods - June 22, 2021 at 04:08 PM

KR

“ We always say God makes no mistakes, but this one hurts
You will be truly missed Mrs. Cynthia you were such a beautiful person inside and out . I will never forget how you help and offer suggestion for Tyler with his Math ..THANK YOU! Take your Rest you will be truly missed @ Williams Beauty Salon.



Krista - June 22, 2021 at 11:44 AM



“ Cynthia was a wonderful lady and a ball of fire. She had the greatest smile and laugh and was always there to brighten your day. I enjoyed my years working with her and sho proud to call her my friend.
My thoughts and prayers go out to the Smith family. She will be missed.

Connie Schlimme - June 22, 2021 at 09:54 AM

NH

“ *Natasha Harris lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cynthia Smith*



Natasha Harris - June 22, 2021 at 01:01 AM

LF

“ *Laura Fowler lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cynthia Smith*



Laura Fowler - June 21, 2021 at 05:46 PM

LF

“ *Laura Fowler purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Mrs. Cynthia Smith.*



Laura Fowler - June 21, 2021 at 05:43 PM

JS

“ *I will miss you my friend. You had a great sense of humor and a great outlook on life. Love you girl.*



Julie Spiriti - June 21, 2021 at 10:11 AM

JS

“ Cynthia, my best friend, my travel and adventure companion. We always had each other's back. Like when we were in Paris. Our tour guide told us not to buy anything from the people selling trinkets on the streets because the police would put you in jail. You heard a sob story from one of the people and bought several little trinkets from him. So I took some so if we were caught we would be together. However, we were not caught. We had the best time in Europe and met a lot of good and interesting people. When I had my first case of cancer she would call me, visit me, and text me to keep my spirits up. She had a wonderful laugh, a great sense of humor, a great positive way of looking at life, a great sense of what was right and wrong, and was a great lie detector. Girl, you will be missed everyday.

I love you Cynthia!

Always,

Julie Spiriti



Julie Spiriti - June 20, 2021 at 01:34 PM

DP

“ Dear Family, I was deeply saddened to hear of Cynthia's passing. I remember her kindness as we worked on the same teaching team at Carroll Middle School. She loved teaching math and was such an awesome teacher! She often spoke of her love for her family! She will be sorely missed. My heart goes out to you at this difficult time. My prayers are with you. Deborah Pridgeon



deborah pridgeon - June 20, 2021 at 11:33 AM

RB

“ Cynthia, my friend, my sister, my customer, you were all those things rolled into one. We have shared so much over the more than 30 years in the beauty salon. We laughed and cried together and solved many problems in the chair. I am praying for GOD to carry your family during this difficult time. I love you all



Rosalyn Williams Bell - June 18, 2021 at 06:20 PM

MF

“ Michael & Tammy Jones And Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cynthia Smith



Michael & Tammy Jones and family - June 18, 2021 at 01:49 PM