



## Mary Willie Kitchens Banks

November 10, 1918 - August 14, 2016

Mrs. Mary Willie Kitchens Banks enjoyed a life of family, friends, music and community involvement for 97 years. In the early morning of August 14, 2016 her time on this earth drew to a peaceful close and she joined all the saints who have gone on before her. Mary Willie's life began November 10, 1918 when she was born at the family home on Jefferson Street in Newnan owned by her parents William Albert and Nellie Rosser Bowen. There was a built-in nanny there, as her grandmother also shared the family home. She attended Newnan High School and graduated in 1935. She furthered her education at Georgia State College for Women and earned a bachelor's degree in 1939. She later did post graduate work at what was then West Georgia College. "Miss Mary Willie" was the go to person for piano students. She taught hundreds of young people in the fifteen years she did this. She later taught fourth grade at Elm Street School in Newnan from 1965- 1970. Aside from her students, Mary Willie's great joy was her involvement in Newnan First United Methodist Church. She was a lifelong member and delighted in recanting her memories of the "old church" on Jackson Street and the "new church" on Greenville Street. She sang in the sanctuary choir for over 70 years. She delighted in assisting with the children's choirs. She also served as President of the United Methodist Women. Also a good community citizen, she was a member of Alpha Delta Kappa (international organization for women educators), The Newnan-Coweta Historical Society, The Kiwanis Club of Coweta County and The Newnan Junior Service League. She will be

remembered as a devoted wife to Henry B. Kitchens to whom she was married from 1941 – 1963. She later married Samuel M. Banks, a friend of many years, in 1970. He preceded her in death in 1989. Mrs. Banks was a loving mother to her children Karen Kitchens Newman of Montgomery, AL and William Henry Kitchens and his wife Ellen of Atlanta. She was adored by her grandchildren Dr. Alfred Newman and his wife Catherine of Charlotte, NC, Dr. Andrew Newman and his wife Kelly of Columbia, SC, Dr. William Kitchens, Jr. of Atlanta, Nathan Kitchens of Atlanta, Madison Kitchens and his wife Ahra of Atlanta, Reverend Chamberlyn Marks and her husband Calvin of Wake Forest, NC. Her great grandchildren are Meredith, Lauren and Layla Newman; Ethan and Wesley Marks. Also surviving are Sam's children Robert Banks and his wife Mary Sue of Higdon, AL, Laura Lewis and her husband Eugene of Elberton, GA, Jennie Banks of Charlotte, NC. Those grandchildren are Charles Banks, Dylan Maher, Adam Lewis and Jenny Gewirtzman. Many people have been of great help to Mary Willie in the past years, but her family would like to express their gratitude to her dedicated caregivers Velma Gulick, Enesta Reeves, Mary Luke, Annie Holloway, Dottie Edwards and Catherine Woods. Theirs was a special labor of compassionate care. Mary Willie Kitchens Banks' legacy of love, faith and music will be remembered in a service to be held at Wesley Woods of Newnan on August Wednesday, August 17, 2016 at 2:00 PM led by Reverend Sharon Edgar and Reverend Gary Parrish. Burial will be in Newnan's historic Oak Hill Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, it is suggested that memorial contributions may be made in her memory to either Newnan First United Methodist Church 33 Greenville Street Newnan, GA 30263 or Wesley Woods of Newnan-Peachtree City 2280 North Highway 29 Newnan, GA 30263. Online condolences may be expressed at [www.mckoon.com](http://www.mckoon.com). McKoon Funeral Home 770-253-4580.

# Cemetery Details

## Oak Hill Cemetery

96 Jefferson Street  
Newnan, GA 30263  
(770) 253-3744

# Previous Events

## Service

AUG 17. 2:00 PM (ET)

Wesley Woods Thompkins Auditorium  
2280 Highway 29  
Newnan, GA 30263

## Visitation

AUG 17 (ET)

Wesley Woods of Newnan-Peachtree City  
2280 North Hwy 29  
Newnan, GA 30265

# Tribute Wall

JM

“ Miss Mary was my fourth grade teacher in the 1968-69 school year. She was such a sweet lady, and one of my favorite teachers. Now she's rejoicing in heaven. May God bless her family.

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**Joyce Edwards Mays** - August 18, 2016 at 02:16 PM

ML

“ "Miss Mary Willie" was always so generous in sharing her musical talent. We have many memories of her singing in the choir and playing the piano for Sunday School. She was a very caring friend to our family for many years, often bringing those delicious Sprayberry's sandwiches. We will miss her beautiful smile!

*John and Mary Anne Hambrick Lockard*

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**Mary Anne Lockard** - August 16, 2016 at 09:10 PM

DH

“ Ms. Mary Willie was a very faithful Kiwanis member for many years. I miss her.

*Darlene Higgins*

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**Darlene Higgins** - August 16, 2016 at 06:35 PM

DE

“ Dear Bill and family, I'm so saddened by the news of your mother's passing. You were certainly blessed to have her in your lives and make so many memories for all those years. My thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time.

Heartfelt regards,  
Deborah and Robert Edgar

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**Deborah Edgar** - August 16, 2016 at 12:44 PM

FF

“ I am sorry to hear about Miss Mary. She was the sweetest person. She was a teacher at Elm St. School when I was there. Everyone liked her so much. My prayers are with all the family.  
Frank M. Farmer

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**FRANK M FARMER** - August 16, 2016 at 09:50 AM

EL

“ Kay, Bill and family. Please accept my heartfelt condolence . In the short time that I visited with your mom, I truly looked forward to being with her. We developed a very special relationship, and have missed "our special time." A truly amazing lady that shared her love for her family, her friends, her church and God. I have not doubt, Ms Mary Willie is teaching angels how to sing and play the piano. Our loss is heaven's gain.  
May your time of sadness soon turn into precious memories of you dear mother and grandmother.

Warmest regards,  
Elaine Lee

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**Elaine Lee** - August 15, 2016 at 05:54 PM



BW

*I was one of those 4th grade students, back I in the day. She was so sweet then and every time after for decsdes. Our loss is heavens gain.*  
*Beverly*

**Beverly Walker** - August 16, 2016 at 07:22 AM

CY

*One of my very favorite people in this world! She was a blessing to many. May God Bless*

**Cynthia** - August 16, 2016 at 07:26 AM

SS

*MS MARY WILLIE WAS ONE OF THE SWEETEST LADY I KNEW WHILE LIVING IN NEWNAN. SHE WAS ALWAYS SMILING AN ALWAYS HAD SOMETHING TO NICE TO SAY TO YOU.SYLVIA SEAWRIGHT*

**SYLVIA SEAWRIGHT** - August 18, 2016 at 10:18 AM