



Betty Bonner Sams Steele

July 14, 1933 - August 30, 2025

Betty Bonner Sams Steele, a long time member of First Methodist Church in Salisbury, passed away peacefully on Saturday, August 30, 2025. She was born on July 14, 1933 in Winston-Salem, NC and was the oldest of five children born to the late Fuller Sams and Agnes Trotter Sams. Betty Bonner attended Statesville Senior High School until her parents sent her to St. Catherine's School for girls in Richmond, Va. where she graduated. She attended Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Va. for two years before transferring to Richmond Professional Institute to major in art.

For a number of years Betty Bonner taught children's art classes in her home in Statesville and later in Salisbury. She also taught art classes to adults at Rowan Technical College and the Waterworks Art Gallery. For many years she had a passion for painting and drawing and was a member of the Rowan Art Guild. She also enjoyed gardening and was an avid bridge player belonging to several clubs and playing in numerous tournaments.

Like her mother before her, and along with her sister Agnes, Betty Bonner was proud to be a member of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her first husband James Henry Carmichael and her second husband Clyde Steele.

Left to cherish her memory are her three sons, David (Karen) of Salisbury, Monty of Salisbury, and James (Tina) of N. Myrtle Beach, SC; grandchildren Spencer Carmichael (Katie) of Mocksville, Dylan Carmichael of N. Myrtle Beach, SC, and Heather Carmichael of China Grove; great-grandchildren Sadie Carmichael and Boone Carmichael; and her siblings Agnes Schneider, Drew Sams, and Bill Sams (Leslie) all of Statesville, and Concha Heartsong (Gene) of Weaverville, NC.

Her family will have a private memorial service at a later date.

Memorials may be made to Liberty Home Care and Hospice, 420 Eastwood Rd., Suite 101, Wilmington, NC 28403; Faithful Friends Animal Shelter, 220 Grace Church Road, Salisbury, NC 28147; or First Methodist Church, 217 S. Church St., Salisbury, NC 28144.

Tribute Wall

WS

“ Prayers, thoughts and love to all of you. Thanks for all the memories. God be with you. Wayne & Barbara Saleeby

Wayne Saleeby - September 15, 2025 at 02:45 PM

CB

“ Betty Bonner was a friend of my mother's. She taught my sister art. I had a Siamese cat I got from her as a kitten Her name was Bonner. I use to see her at the Farmer's Market and talk to her. She will be missed

Carol Bellis - September 08, 2025 at 04:56 PM