



Mary Wigginton Leonard

February 17, 1950 - September 25, 2023

Mary Wigginton Leonard, 73, of Salisbury, North Carolina, passed away Monday, September 25, 2023, at her home.

Born February 17, 1950, in Salisbury, Mary grew up on the campus of Catawba College, where her father, the late Marvin D. Wigginton, served as Dean of Music. Her mother, the late Eilyne Wigginton, worked for Shuford and Caddell. Mary always held a special bond with her "Catawba" family.

On December 29, 1970 Mary wed her high-school sweetheart, George William "Bill" Leonard Jr.. The couple lived in Salisbury, raising their children Nathaniel "Nate" Leonard and Natalie (Leonard) Hill. Mary was preceded in death by her husband, Bill.

Mary spent her life caring for others. A kind and gentle soul, Mary was a dedicated wife, mother, daughter, sister, and friend. She worked as a preschool teacher for many years but enjoyed teaching ESLA the most. She was a committed volunteer, serving the hospital for decades, Meals on Wheels, and many other local missions. When her parents became elderly, Mary cared for them, providing them with the highest quality of life possible.

Mary loved working in her yard, cultivating flowers and plants of all varieties, and spending time with her eight grandchildren. She was a dedicated friend, a

good listener, and a calming presence. She loved her Lord, Jesus, and faithfully attended First Baptist Church of Salisbury, where she was involved in various ministries. Her confidence in the Lord never wavered, even after her terminal diagnosis. Her faith gave her a peace that endured through death into everlasting life.

Those remaining to cherish her memory and carry on her legacy are her son, Nate Leonard (Suellen) of Morehead City; daughter, Natalie Hill (Drew) of Greensboro; sister, Judy (Richard) Bowen of Wilmington, DE; grandchildren Pierce Leonard, Honey Hill, Creed Leonard, Hutch Hill, Selwyn Leonard, Macy Heart Hill, Hobson and Huddle Hill; and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

Her life and her God will be celebrated at First Baptist Church of Salisbury on Saturday, October 14, at 1 p.m. with Rev. Nate Leonard and Rev. Brian Farmer officiating. In the spirit of Mary, the family requests you wear colorful clothing to the memorial. The family will speak to friends following the service in the church sanctuary.

As an expression of sympathy, memorial contributions may be made in Mary's memory to First Baptist Church, 223 N. Fulton St., Salisbury, NC 28144.

Summersett Funeral Home is serving the Leonard family. Family and friends are welcome to submit online condolences at www.summersettfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT **14**. 1:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church Salisbury
223 N. Fulton St.
Salisbury, NC 28144

Tribute Wall

BF

“ For more than 2 years Mary and I delivered Meals On Wheels together. It is not the same without her in the "navigator" seat. She was a kind and thoughtful friend who will be missed.

beth foreman - September 29, 2023 at 09:35 PM



“ Mary was the sweetest soul. She was always one of the first in Sunday School and she made a point to talk with everyone and ask how they were. She was a shining example of faith in her Lord, especially when she faced hardships in life. Well done, good and faithful servant. Rest well.

Jo Earnhardt - September 29, 2023 at 03:45 AM

YD

“ Mary was a dynamic, sweet lady. Our thoughts are with her family.

Yang Family Dentistry

Yang Family Dentistry - September 28, 2023 at 08:59 AM

BM

“ As a member of Mary's "Catawba " family, I look forward to celebrating the life of a wonderful little sister and friend . May God's love bring peace to all of you.

Betsy Dearborn Miller

Betsy Dearborn Miller - September 27, 2023 at 07:34 PM

NB

“ *Have so many happy memories of sweet Mary from first grade at Frank B John through our years at Catawba. With deepest sympathy to the family, Nancy Roakes Blalock*

Nancy Roakes Blalock - September 27, 2023 at 01:24 PM

CM

Many thanks to Mary for giving us a wonderful pastor, Dr. Nate Leonard, here at The First Baptist Church in Moorehead City, NC. Rest in peace, Mary, you have earned it.

Craig and Dot Meshaw - September 28, 2023 at 01:47 PM