



Anthony Craig Hardee

December 27, 1956 - May 13, 2026

Anthony Craig Hardee, 69, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend, passed away peacefully at his home in Apex on May 13, 2026. Born on December 27, 1956, in Durham, North Carolina, Craig lived a life devoted to service, learning, ministry, and the people he loved.

Craig earned a bachelor's degree in Religion and Philosophy from Campbell University, followed by a Master of Divinity in Religious Education from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. His ministry career took him to Florida, where he faithfully served as a youth and education minister. He later managed a Baptist bookstore before returning to North Carolina, where he pursued many entrepreneurial ventures, including freelance writing, selling choir robes, reselling collectibles, and website work.

Craig also faithfully served at Salem Baptist Church in many capacities throughout the years, including as a deacon, small group leader, puppetry leader, and volunteer in children's and youth ministries.

A man of many passions, Craig found joy in a wide variety of hobbies and interests. He loved animals and especially enjoyed raising rabbits with his children. Music was a lifelong passion, and he was an accomplished guitar player whose favorite saying was, "How many guitars is enough? Just one more." He also shared his love of music by teaching guitar and dulcimer

classes. Craig was an avid sports fan who faithfully followed numerous teams and took great pride in his sports card and memorabilia collections. Rarely without his Kindle in hand, he was also a devoted reader who loved learning and discovering new ideas through books.

Craig is survived by his wife, Deborah Hardee; his children, Anna Hardee Bradley, William Hardee & Madalyn Wells, and Ashley Hardee Moon & David Moon; his grandchildren, Abigail & Noah Roth, and Isaac Hardee Tatum; his great-grandchild, Barrett Roth; his mother, Billie Hardee; his sister and brother-in-law, Pam & Clark Craver; and his sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Ellie and Buck Bukowick. He was preceded in death by his father, Ezra "Phil" Hardee.

A funeral service will be held in the chapel of Salem Baptist Church in Apex, North Carolina, on Tuesday, May 26, at 1:00 p.m., followed by burial and visitation with the family.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the North Carolina Missions Offering (<https://ncbaptist.org/north-carolina-missions-offering/give/>).

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Cemetery Details

Salem Baptist Church Cemetery

1200. Salem Church Rd
Apex, NC 27523

Previous Events

Funeral Service

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

Salem Baptist Church
1200 Salem Church Rd.
Apex, NC 27523

Tribute Wall



“ Wake Funeral & Cremation Services, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Anthony Craig Hardee



Wake Funeral & Cremation Services, Inc. - May 22 at 10:59 AM

BC

“ Bill Allen and Kay (Allen) Carroll purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Anthony Craig Hardee.



Bill Allen and Kay (Allen) Carroll - May 24 at 07:52 AM

BC

“ Bill Allen and Kay (Allen) Carroll planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Anthony Craig Hardee.

Bill Allen and Kay (Allen) Carroll - May 24 at 07:52 AM



“ 51 files added to the album LifeTributes



Wake Funeral & Cremation Services, Inc. - May 22 at 10:50 AM

AR

“ *Mr. Hardee was a kind man and a positive influence in my life, from an early age I remember consistently seeing him around church and the felt sense of his warmth in his presence. Mr. Hardee taught Sunday school as well and saw the best in the kids he taught. I'm holding the whole Hardee family in my heart during this difficult time.*

Avery Roland - May 21 at 10:09 PM

EM

“ *Craig was always ready for an adventure too. In the early 90's he took several trips with me into Romania to bring the Gospel to many who have never heard! He loved his family and he loved the Lord.*

Edward McKeown - May 18 at 07:57 PM



“ I met this wonderful family in Miami I was a student serving my first church. We became instant friends that carried me to NC to Campbell university. I often thought how great it would be to have such a talented man and family as part of my staff. I tried to find him many times and jist recently found him again. His since of humor was the icing on the cake. God used his talents in a mighty way in my life. I have no doubt that he heard the words "well done thou good and faithful servant. " Joy and I along with the First English Baptist Church family extend our love and prayers during this difficult time. Praying for that peace and sustaining faith.
Rev. & Mrs. Warren L. Gilpin

Warren L Gilpin - May 18 at 07:12 PM



“ We were very sad to hear, He was a good Deacon when at Salem Baptist, A caring heart in our BFG Class We will pray for Deborah and family's comfort!

Michele Siemasko - May 18 at 06:52 PM



When my older daughter was visiting recently we talked about what an Inspiring Influence Craig was when our older daughter did a mission trip to Prague!

Michele Siemasko - May 18 at 07:31 PM

PH

“ I never saw Craig that he didn't have a warm smile and was always willing to have a good conversation. Our world's intertwined during the softball years of his coaching and Carl's coaching at the same age level with the Apex Parks and Recreation. He was a wonderful coach and person. Our prayers are with the entire family and know that you have been blessed that you were able to call him son, husband, dad, granddaddy. I feel fortunate to have been able to call him friend.

PAT HELTON - May 18 at 05:09 PM

JG

“ 1 file added to the album *Pictures of Craig*



Joel S Gilmore - May 18 at 05:03 PM

JK

“ *Craig was awesome. He helped me in children's church for year. I loved his heart for the kids and his willingness to step up and help whenever and wherever needed. I could not have had an effective children's ministry without Craig!*

James Kendall - May 18 at 04:36 PM