



## Mary Gaster Strother

September 6, 1939 - July 19, 2020

On Sunday July 19, 2020 Mary Gaster Strother went home to eternity with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

From Chatham County, Mary was born to Otis and Alma Gaster on September 6, 1939. She grew up on the family farm with her brothers, Harold and James (deceased) and baby sister, Trudy. In 1962, she married the love of her life and best friend, Donald Strother, who preceded her in 2011.

While raising six children, she also had an administrative career in the offices of BVD, Almay, Bristol-Myers, Dr. Pearson's medical practice and WCPSS. Additionally, she owned The Country Florist, where she and friend, Linda Jackson, created beautiful floral arrangements for birthdays, weddings, and funerals for many years. When her children were in school, she was one of the lead volunteers in the children's and youth ministries at Green Level Baptist Church. She and Donald initiated the first Youth BBQ Fundraiser.

As years passed, Mary's spinal stenosis and scoliosis began to take a major toll on her body. But Mary pressed on. The pain she endured likely will never be experienced by most of us. She continued to serve her church and her family faithfully. Every Sunday, after church, she delighted in cooking for her children, grandchildren, and friends. The years spent together were precious and her home was open to all. Mary's strong work ethic and dedication to her

church will always be remembered.

Additionally, and most importantly, Mary was a prayer warrior, who studied God's Word faithfully on her porch each day, listening to the birds and enjoying her flowers. Many people were encouraged from her greeting card ministry.

This strong lady has reunited in Heaven with her first child Donnie and will be missed by so many, but especially her family: sons, Dan, Darin (Donna) and Jason (Lori) and her ever-faithful daughters, Vicky Jacobs (Doug) and Anita Sauritch (Ray). Mary was known as Mema to her eleven grandchildren: Tyler, Kurt, Austin, Noah, Zach, Joe, Shelby, Kaley, Alex, Wiley and Wren. Additionally, Mary is survived by her beloved sister, Trudy Waters (Rick) and special cousin Rex Howard. Brothers-in-law and sister-in-law: Aubrey (Delores), Doug (Rebecca), Tommy (Doreen), and Carolyn Gill (Bill). Numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and special friends, Jim and Linda Jackson, Edy Adams, Kim Beckwith, Bonnie Cooke Dukeman, Eddie Evans and Lonnie and Loretta Norris.

Due to Covid-19, the family understands if you choose not to attend the service. Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Green Level Baptist Church's Building Fund.

THE FUNERAL SERVICE WILL BE LIVE-STREAMED ON THE GREEN LEVEL BAPTIST CHURCH WEBSITE AT <https://www.greenlevel.com/>

# Cemetery Details

## Green Level Batist Chruch Cemetery

8509 Green Level Chruch Rd  
Cary, NC 27523

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

JUL **25**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Green Level Baptist Church  
8509 Green Level Church Rd  
Cary, NC 27519

# Tribute Wall

SN

“ *Sherry Pangle Nelson lit a candle in memory of Mary Gaster Strother*



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**Sherry Pangle Nelson** - July 26, 2020 at 03:50 AM

DA

“ *Mary and I were high school classmates, Pittsboro High School Class of '57. We had reconnected when we began our class reunions. Mary was always a friend to all her classmates, fun and loving, a most unforgettable and unique individual. Her personality always revealed a spirit of honest and strong character. She was always generous and kind in her speech and behavior. Mary Gaster Strother will be truly missed at our future reunions. We love you, Mary!*  
*Betty Boots Thomas Atkinson, from the PHS class of '57*

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**dr Betty Boots T Atkinson** - July 25, 2020 at 11:55 AM

NB

“ *Sending my prayers for comfort and peace to all of Mary's family. It was a beautiful celebration of life service for her today. She was an inspiration to me in so many ways. I am so blessed to have had Mary as a dear friend.*  
*Love to all of you*



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**Nancy Britt** - July 25, 2020 at 11:51 AM



“ Regina Pridgen lit a candle in memory of Mary Gaster Strother



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Regina Pridgen - July 25, 2020 at 08:54 AM



“ Spent a lot of my childhood with Anita at the Strother home. Riding horses, playing in the fields, and helping cook and clean up. Mr Don and Mrs Mary always treated me like their own, and I cherished every second I spent with them all! She is rejoicing her King right now, and her body is made whole again..no more suffering and no more pain. I know this hurts the kids and grands, and my heart breaks for them all. She was a true Southern Belle. All my love and sincerest sympathies to her amazing family left behind. But they all know they will see them both again one sweet glorious day... Mr Don and Mrs Mary made CERTAIN of that. I will always hold the Strothers in a very special place in my heart...they are some mighty fine God loving people!

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Regina Pridgen - July 25, 2020 at 08:53 AM



“ Memaw I will miss you. I loved to come to your house when I cane to Granny's. You made the best lemonade. I remember telling my teacher in the 3rd grade that she needed to get your recipe for lemonade.



Patrick Harrison

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Patrick Harrison - July 24, 2020 at 09:51 PM

RH

“ My heart is heavy with the knowledge of Ms. Mary's passing. But my soul is joyful in knowing that she is with Jesus and reunited with Big D, Donnie, and other family that have gone on before her. I do pray for comfort and strength for each and every one of her children and grandchildren. As God says in His word that there are angels among us, Mary was certainly one of them. Always showing Love to those whom she encountered. Having a place at her table to feed anyone that crossed the threshold into the home of such a wonderful family. The fruits of her labor can be found in the way she raised her children to be kind, to Love God, and to seek a relationship with Jesus. I have been blessed to have had the opportunity to know her.

*Peace & Blessings*

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**Robert Howard** - July 24, 2020 at 03:43 PM

SJ

“ Sylvia Holt Jackson lit a candle in memory of Mary Gaster Strother



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**Sylvia Holt Jackson** - July 24, 2020 at 02:44 PM

SJ

*Mary was a very lovely and kind lady. She was a major support system when my Mom passed. I hope she is reunited with her heavenly family.*

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**Sylvia Holt Jackson** - July 24, 2020 at 02:48 PM

JB

“ So sorry to see Mary go but know she is with God and Donald and Donnie. Mary was an inspiration to me and so many others. I had 4 children in 5 years. Some days were a bit challenging! I would think about Mary with 6 kids doing all the things she did for our church and community and work - and I would think if Mary could do all that and farm and raise 6 children surely I could handle 4 kids! Thankfully I had the opportunity to tell her that several times in later years. Miss you, Mary. Love to all the family. Jean Beavers

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**Jean Beavers** - July 23, 2020 at 08:33 PM

JF

“ Grew up with Mary's sister Trudy who was one of my very best friends. Many fond memories of time with the Gaster Family....including Mary, Harold, and Trudy as well as Miss Alma & Mr Otis.  
Mary will be missed 🥺

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**Janet Fearington** - July 23, 2020 at 06:45 PM

PH

“ Peggy Holt lit a candle in memory of Mary Gaster Strother



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**Peggy Holt** - July 23, 2020 at 01:58 PM

PH

Mary brought such light to our world through her kind and nurturing nature. She was such a comfort to our family during my Mother's passing and beautifully arranged flowers for her service. Mary's memory will be held dear by many.  
Peggy Holt-Ward (sister of Dawn Howard)

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**Peggy Holt-ward** - July 23, 2020 at 02:09 PM

BW

“ It is with great sorrow that I read of Mary’s passing. I enjoyed working with her at Almaty and being her friend. Although it has been many years since I saw her, I remember her wit, work ethics, and overall a great person. I miss her friendship. She was special in many ways.  
Bob Weldon

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**Bob Weldon** - July 23, 2020 at 11:04 AM

JB

“ Sincerest condolences to the Strother family. Sending our thoughts, & prayers. Ms. Mary was such a beautiful lady, with a true, & genuine soul that made us all shine a little brighter, when in her presence. Much love to you, Vicky ❤️

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**Jennifer Bullard** - July 23, 2020 at 10:06 AM

PA

“ To Vicky, Anita and the families, I was saddened to hear about Mrs. Mary's passing. My condolences goes out to you. You mom was a great friend, woman and mother. From the first time I meet her, she was a caring soul. Then when she started working at Apex Transportation...wow! We had so good times back then. Then later I went to visit her she was in good spirit then too.  
She will truly be missed, but another rose for the garden.



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**Patricia Barbee Allen** - July 23, 2020 at 07:43 AM

TH

“ Ms. Mary was such a joy to work with at WCPSS. She will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her. Praying for comfort for her family and friends.



Teresa Cannady Harrington - July 22, 2020 at 08:00 PM

LW

“ Sending many prayers of comfort and peace during the loss of such a beautiful soul, Ms. Mary Strother. I will never forget Ms. Mary from my early days in WCPSS Transportation Dept. There was just something about her that drew me to her and we would always laugh. No other words to describe her other than having a beautiful soul. Thank you Vicky and family for sharing your treasure with us here at WCPSS.



*Peace & Blessing.*

Lisa I. Pennywell / WCPSS - July 22, 2020 at 03:18 PM

RC

“ Praying for peace and comfort for all of Ms. Mary's family and friends.



Rene Canady - July 22, 2020 at 02:57 PM

CA

“ My condolences to the family ,May God give you strength in the days ahead.May you remember her life and cherish all the amazing memories .God always knows what's best for us. Know that she has gained her wings and is in such a much better place. God bless this family ..

*Mrs. C Pearson*

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**Candice** - July 22, 2020 at 01:26 PM

JO

“ To the Strother and Gaster Family: I will truly miss Mrs. Mary, We had some good old times back in the day at Apex Transportaion I miss those good old days, But God has other plans for all of us.God is in control and he does not make any Mistakes.So I know Mrs. Mary is looking down on us and Smiling and saying that's my wonderful family.Mrs. Mary was a Giver and a Humbly person,so I am so proud to have known her and to Learn from her. Love Joyce O'Neal

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**Joyce O'NEAL** - July 22, 2020 at 11:51 AM

JO

“ Joyce O'NEAL lit a candle in memory of Mary Gaster Strother



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**Joyce O'NEAL** - July 22, 2020 at 11:38 AM

WF

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



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**Wake Funeral** - July 22, 2020 at 10:39 AM

MO

“ I am so very saddened to hear of Mary's passing. She was a kind, funny and loving lady. She made the best butter beans and always made me laugh! Much Love to the Strother family. Meg (Howard) Overocker

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**Meg (Howard) Overocker** - July 22, 2020 at 09:18 AM

JM

“ M condolences to the family. Mary was a very special woman that will be missed by many. Praying for continued strength and comfort during this difficult time.



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**Jimena Mitchell** - July 22, 2020 at 03:53 AM

PH

“ I worked with Mary at Almay. She was a wonderful lady & was a friend to all. I have to share a funny memory of her coming into work for awhile disheveled & exasperated. It seems she had a son ( Darrin, I think) who REALLY didn't want to go to school & she was having trouble every morning persuading him to get out of the car. She would always tell about it in a way that had everyone in stitches. She was smart & funny & loved her family deeply. I know you will all miss her.

Pat Helton

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Pat Helton - July 21, 2020 at 11:32 PM

T(

“ We are praying for the Strother family and all of the friends who had the pleasure of working with Ms. Mary at Apex Transportation Department. We had some good old days with Ms. Mary. She was such a joy to work with and such a kind person who had a true love for people. May God be with you all during this time and the days ahead. Vicky we love you and your family and we are here for you always.

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Teresa Williams (WCPSS) - July 21, 2020 at 07:05 PM

MM

“ Thank you Mary for being a Mother to every Child that walked in your house Thank you for being a Great Mother to Six Children that called you Mama and your Baby that would just say I don't know ask Mama your house always had love in it This sad a lot about person and I know I'm a better person by knowing you and that you loved me like a son go Rest High on that Mountain and now it's your turn to be with Donnie We had you for some 36yrs. God as the place for you Mary

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mark mcmain - July 21, 2020 at 02:43 PM

JH

*Vicky,  
You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. May God will be your comfort and strength during these tender moments. You have been much support for so many people. May you now find the same love from your friends and family. God Be With You Til We Meet Again.  
Sincerely,  
Jo Ann Hunter*

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**Jo Ann Hunter** - July 22, 2020 at 01:24 PM

JD

*I worked with Mary at Almay for several years. She was a truly special & unique person and I know she will be missed. My deepest condolences for your loss. Judy Douglas*

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**Judy Douglas** - July 24, 2020 at 09:46 PM

MW

*I met Mary through Linda and Jim Jackson who are my good friends. She was a good person and good friend to everyone who knew her. May God bless all of you children with comfort and the knowledge she loved all of you. Jo Warren.*

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**Mary Jo Warren** - July 25, 2020 at 02:18 PM