



Mrs. Bessie Elizabeth Norris Johnson

January 1, 1924 - April 30, 2017

Funeral services for Mrs. Bessie Elizabeth Norris Johnson, 93, who died peacefully on Sunday, April 30, 2017, will be held at Noon on Friday, May 5, 2017, at Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church. The Rev. Valerie Miteb, The Rev. Becky Forrest, and The Rev. Della Hunsucker will officiate with burial in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends in the fellowship hall one hour prior to the service. Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home is serving the family.

Mrs. Johnson, the widow of Mr. Clarence Merle Johnson, was born in Hartsville, SC, a daughter of the late John and Bessie Elizabeth Lockhart Norris. She was raised in Lydia, SC and attended Hartsville High School where she enjoyed playing sports. She was a graduate of Winthrop College and continued her education at Emory College in Atlanta, Ga, where she received her Master's Degree. She met her husband in Memphis, TN, at a church where she was employed. They were married at Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church in Lydia, SC. She raised her children in Hartsville and worked at Emmanuel Baptist School for 26 years as a Fourth Grade teacher. She retired in the early 90's and continued to volunteer with the school until 2008. She and her husband continued to be actively involved at Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church where she enjoyed singing in the choir. She enjoyed serving her Lord, which was her number one priority in her life. She loved people and would go out of her way to serve others, to meet

their needs, and to help them. She truly enjoyed a full life well lived.

She is survived by her loving sons, Jan Lee Johnson of Charlotte, NC, Charles Anthony (Bethany Storlazzi) Johnson of Columbia, SC; daughters, Sara Sue Johnson (Mark) Bargo of Reedsville, PA, Shirley Ann Johnson (Wayne) Horsley of Pfafftown, NC; sister, Annie Mae Norris Howard; 11 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren.

Cemetery Details

Wesley Chapel Methodist Church of Lydia Cemetery

3061 Wesley Chapel Road
Lamar, SC 29069

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 5. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Wesley Chapel Methodist Church of Lydia
3061 Wesley Chapel Road
Lamar, SC 29069

Service

MAY 5. 12:00 PM (ET)

Wesley Chapel Methodist Church of Lydia
3061 Wesley Chapel Road
Lamar, SC 29069

Tribute Wall

LW

“ *Lisa O'Tuel Williamson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bessie Elizabeth Norris Johnson*



Lisa O'Tuel Williamson - May 06, 2017 at 03:41 PM

LG

“ *Lisa Goodale lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bessie Elizabeth Norris Johnson*



Lisa Goodale - May 05, 2017 at 12:15 PM

CH

“ *Connie Holley lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bessie Elizabeth Norris Johnson*



Connie Holley - May 05, 2017 at 08:35 AM

Beth
Lee

“ I have such fond memories of Mrs. Johnson. She was one of my favorite teachers at EBS. Stern but caring. I still have the thoughtful encouraging notes/letters she sent home to my parents. And also notes for our daughter when she was helping in her class back in the late 90's. Knowing all those kids names just amazed me. Such an inspiring woman that showed her love for our Lord through her daily walk in this world. What a wonderful example of a Christian. I feel so blessed to have known her. She will be greatly missed. Thoughts and prayers for the family in the days ahead...

Beth Lee - May 04, 2017 at 10:12 AM

TF

“ Having worked with Mrs. Johnson for years, I can say she was a good teacher, and a faithful and loyal servant of the Lord. God bless each and every one in her family.



Teresa Fisher - May 02, 2017 at 11:04 PM

DF

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. May God's great love comfort you all. Mrs. Bessie was a very dear and sweet lady. We all have missed her kind notes and words of encouragement. We certainly have missed her presence at Wesley chapel United Methodist Church. Love and prayers to all.

Dan and Kathy Newsome family - May 02, 2017 at 08:10 PM

AW

“ Jan, Charlie, Sara and Shirley, I am sorry to hear of your mom's passing. She really was a great lady and will be missed. We will be praying for you all. Al Williams

Al Williams - May 02, 2017 at 02:35 PM

DW

“ I didn't have Mrs. Johnson as a teacher but I knew her to be a wonderful, sweet lady! I went to school with her children and Sara and Shirley were in my 8th grade class at Emmanuel. I am so sorry for your loss....I will keep you all in my thoughts and prayers!
Debbie (Wallace) Weaver

Debbie Weaver - May 02, 2017 at 09:11 AM

MC

“ Matt Cassidy And Janice Cassidy lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bessie Elizabeth Norris Johnson



Matt Cassidy and Janice Cassidy - May 02, 2017 at 06:55 AM

AH

“ Mrs. Johnson was the first teacher I ever had at EBS and she touched my life in such a way that you never forget. Her kindness inspired me to work with kids and strive to be a better Christian. She will be greatly missed but never forgotten. God bless her family ❤️
🙏

Amamda Thompson Haubner - May 02, 2017 at 02:50 AM



“ Our condolences to the family. Bessie was one of the kindest and most loving people from Wesley Chapel. She always cared about everybody. She and Clarence were definitely fine people! We haven't seen her in years, but I know she continued to be a sweet lady. You're all in our thoughts and prayers.



Carolyn Kelley - May 01, 2017 at 11:34 PM

NF

Mrs. Johnson was an inspiration to many at EBS, Wesley Chapel, and community. She was a wonderful loving and caring teacher. I'm so happy to say she was my 4th grade teacher and my sons as well. My thoughts and prayers are with the Johnson family.
Nicole McInnis Farmer

nicole farmer - May 02, 2017 at 08:54 PM

MB

“ *I have truly missed Miss Bessie and Mr Clarence at Wesley Chapel. They were so complimentary and supportive of the music ministry. Miss Bessie always sent me the sweetest notes. I'm sending comforting thoughts and prayers to all of you because I know you will miss her terribly. I know she is rejoicing in heaven now.*

Melinda Byrd - May 01, 2017 at 10:37 PM

TR

“ *I love reading all the tributes to Mrs. Johnson. One of the best teachers at EBC. She truly cared for each one of her students and taught us both educationally but most importantly spiritually. I will always remember Hambone*

😊 *praying for her family during this time of loss. Give my daddy a big hug for me!! Love, Tammy Rockholt*



Tammy Rockholt - May 01, 2017 at 10:02 PM

RF

“ Mrs. Johnson was the consummate teacher. Her enthusiasm saturated her teaching, making learning fun and exciting. She had a zest for life, instilling a desire to learn in each of her students. She cared for her students personally. I will never forget the sweet get well card that she sent when my daughter was ill. She loved all children, including a family that lived near her home that she wanted to be sure learned of Jesus' love. She enlisted several of us, teenagers at the time, to play kickball with these precious little ones and then share a Bible story with them. She will be teaching for many years to come through the lives she touched.

Rena Thomas Fish - May 01, 2017 at 09:58 PM

AM

“ Mrs Bessie Johnson was one of my all time favorite people and teachers. I always knew she cared for each one of us as students and little people. She talked to us, had real conversation with us and who doesn't remember "Hambone, Hambone, where ya been?" 4th grade was the best! BUT more than that, Mrs Bessie followed me and was interested in me long past 4th grade. To all of her remaining family, I know you will miss her! I am praying that God will give you comfort in knowing she is walking, singing and dancing with Jesus! She's been around the world and now is busy in heaven! Probably teaching again!

Angela Radin Mathews - May 01, 2017 at 09:32 PM

CA

Mrs. Johnson was such a sweet and enthusiastic teacher. I will always remember her in her smock with a pocket full of mints that she loved to share with students. And who could forget playing soccer at recess? No one could blow the whistle like Ms. Bessie when it was time to round up her students. Her cards and letters were always a blessing years after she retired. A faithful servant is enjoying heaven today.
Cindy Anderson

cindy anderson - May 04, 2017 at 07:06 PM

AR

“ *Angie Raines lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bessie Elizabeth Norris Johnson*



angie raines - May 01, 2017 at 09:27 PM

SW

“ *Sherrille Wilks lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bessie Elizabeth Norris Johnson*



Sherrille Wilks - May 01, 2017 at 08:46 PM

DC

“ *Mrs Johnson was my favorite teacher. In fact, she was probably most childrens' favorite teacher. She was one of the finest teachers in SC, and she made education fun. She always encouraged her students. We will miss you Mrs Johnson. We offer prayers to her family who has experienced a great loss. But we know Heaven is rejoicing today!*

*Dan Coward
Winston-Salem, NC*

Daniel R Coward - May 01, 2017 at 08:29 PM

AT

“ I remember Mrs. Johnson teaching me at Emmanuel. I loved her and she is still one of my favorite teachers! She was one of a kind, a very special lady! You all are in my thoughts and prayers.

Abby Dempsey Tyner

Abby Tyner - May 01, 2017 at 08:21 PM

MC

“ Mrs. Bessie Johnson taught all five of the Paul A.Coward,Sr Boys. I loved her teaching and I loved how every child was special and she had a lesson for life for all of them. We know you loved the Lord and you are celebrating with Him. Love and Prayers to all the family,
Mary Coward

Mary Coward - May 01, 2017 at 08:12 PM

RH

“ Ray Pansy Howell lit a candle in memory of
Mrs. Bessie Elizabeth Norris Johnson



Ray Pansy Howell - May 01, 2017 at 08:12 PM



“ Mrs Johnson was the best teacher I ever had in school! She was stern but loving and taught me so much ! She was so involved in each students lofr and truly cared about each one of us! At EBS she would stand At the door every morning and greet every student by name when they came to school! I have letters that she wrote to my parents and to me that o will treasure forever! You had a very hard working loving stern God fearing mother and I am so glad I can say I knew her and loved her and that she was my favorite teacher ever! She will be greatly missed! God bless you all 🙏
Love. Crystal Talbert Minnehan



Crystal Minnehan - May 01, 2017 at 06:38 PM

BR

“ Mrs bessie was such a sweet lady se taught my son at Emmanuel we loved her dearly she will be missed by many she touched everyones heart in a very special was RIP the roberts family

Brenda and don roberts - May 01, 2017 at 05:40 PM

JW

“ Jessica Wilks lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bessie Elizabeth Norris Johnson



Jessica Wilks - May 01, 2017 at 03:43 PM

PO

“ *Mrs Bessie will surely be missed. She was one of the sweetest Christian ladies I have ever known. We both worked at ECS and she taught both of my boys. One of the best teacher's they ever had. She not only taught them but knew their personalities inside and out. My thoughts and prayers go out to all the Johnson family. God bless each of you.*

Perry and Vicki Outlaw - May 01, 2017 at 01:52 PM

SW

“ *Stacie Welch lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bessie Elizabeth Norris Johnson*

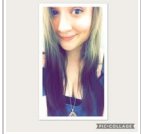


Stacie Welch - May 01, 2017 at 01:30 PM

PB

“ *Mrs. Johnson was my favorite teacher in all of elementary school. You will be missed.*

Paige Brockett - May 01, 2017 at 01:28 PM



“ *Celeste Robinson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bessie Elizabeth Norris Johnson*



Celeste Robinson - May 01, 2017 at 01:25 PM

BM

“ Charles and family, I was sorry to hear about Mrs. Bessie. My daughter, Ramona, said she was her favorite elementary school teacher. May God comfort all of you during your time of sorrow.

Billie McManus - May 01, 2017 at 12:34 PM

MW

“ Michael Walters lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bessie Elizabeth Norris Johnson



Michael Walters - May 01, 2017 at 11:49 AM

LK

“ Johnson Family,
I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Mrs. Bessie was an inspiration to all. She was a dear friend. To my mother. After my mom passed away, I found the sweetest notes from Mrs. Bessie. I will be praying for you all.
Sincerely,
Linda Stewart Knorr

Linda Knorr - May 01, 2017 at 11:18 AM

RD

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Mrs. Bessie was such an inspiring Christian woman and her love of our Lord was shared with so many at Wesley Chapel and where ever she happened to be. Sending thoughts and prayers to her family.

Rick & Cheri Dunlap - May 01, 2017 at 09:18 AM

DH

“ *What an amazing lady. Prayers for all.*

Debbie Richburg Hroch - May 01, 2017 at 07:59 AM

DS

“ *So sorry to hear about Ms. Bessie, we have missed her at Wesley Chapel but we know she was where she was suppose to be Sending prayers and thoughts to each of the family*



Danny and Phoebe Stokes - April 30, 2017 at 09:02 PM

PH

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you! Mrs. Johnson was a great teacher, my children had the honor of her teaching them. Love in Christ, Blake and Patricia Hoffman*

Patricia Hoffmn - April 30, 2017 at 09:27 AM