



## Mrs. Jean Shirley Watkins

December 1, 1944 - January 20, 2023

It is with deep sorrow that Mr. Cecil W. "Bill" Watkins, Jr. announces the death of his beloved mother, Mrs. Jean Shirley Watkins, 78.

Mrs. Watkins entered into rest on Friday, January 20, 2023. The Directors of Hancock-Elmore-Hill Funeral Home are caring for the family.

A funeral service to honor her life will be held at 2 o'clock on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at Hebron United Methodist Church. The Rev. Jerry McManus will officiate with burial to follow in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends in the Church Fellowship Hall immediately following the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Hebron United Methodist Church, c/o Chip Clanton, 197 Woodham Road, Bishopville, SC 29010.

Born in Hartsville, SC, she was the daughter of the late Alvin Anderson Shirley and the late Helen Dalrymple Shirley. Jean participated in several pageants in her youth and was Miss Bishopville in the Miss South Carolina pageant and Miss Tobacco Festival Queen in Lake City. After graduating from Bishopville High School, she attended Limestone College in Gaffney, SC, where she was named Miss Limestone. She finished her degree in education after only 3 years. She was married for 29 years and taught school for 39 years. She loved her family, students, and friends dearly. She was loyal until the end and

would do anything to help anyone including strangers. She loved her church, riding roller coasters, throwing parties, playing cards, and most of all, she loved to sing. She will always be remembered by everyone for her Patsy Cline performances. She would take her music machine around and perform at various events. Her memory began to fade over the last few years as her disease progressed, but she never forgot the hymns that she faithfully sang her entire life. Most importantly she never forgot her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

She is survived by her loving son, Cecil W. "Bill" (Susan) Watkins, Jr. of Bishopville, SC; grandchildren, Anderson Watkins, and Payne Watkins.

# Cemetery Details

## Hebron United Methodist Church Cemetery

3471 Una Rd.  
Bishopville, SC

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

JAN 24. 2:00 PM (ET)

Hebron United Methodist Church (Lee County)  
3471 Una Rd.  
Bishopville, SC

# Tribute Wall



“ *Brown - Pennington - Atkins Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Jean Shirley Watkins*



---

**Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home** - January 24, 2023 at 08:49 AM

KC

“ *Bill, Susan, Anderson and Payne, we are sorry to hear of your Mom's passing. We're sharing in your sorrow. We have missed seeing her and will miss her smile and love for singing. You're in our thoughts and prayers. Chip and Kim Clanton*

---

**Kim and Chip Clanton** - January 24, 2023 at 09:22 PM

AJ

“ *Mrs Watkins was one of my favorite teachers that had a heart of gold. Praying for your family.*



---

**Amy Johnson** - January 24, 2023 at 09:09 PM

JT

“ We have such sweet memories of Jean from Wesley UMC. She always had a smile with something sweet to say, and those beautiful eyes. We enjoyed hearing her sing hymns solo with her gifted voice, but I have to admit we'd also get a little tickled as she added a little country twang to it as she pat her leg to the beat. Doug had told me numerous times she was one of his favorite teachers. We are so sorry for the family's loss and are keeping you in our thoughts and prayers. Judy and Doug Truett



---

**Judy & Doug Truett** - January 24, 2023 at 01:32 PM

SM

“ Stephanie McCullum lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jean Shirley Watkins



---

**Stephanie McCullum** - January 24, 2023 at 10:28 AM

DK

“ Donna & Henry King lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jean Shirley Watkins



---

**Donna & Henry King** - January 24, 2023 at 09:57 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



---

**Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home** - January 24, 2023 at 08:37 AM



“ *Evonne Cooper lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jean Shirley Watkins*



---

**Evonne Cooper** - January 24, 2023 at 12:10 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



---

**Sherry Donaldson-Brown** - January 23, 2023 at 10:59 PM



“ 40 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



**Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home** - January 23, 2023 at 02:51 PM



“ *Jean was such a lovely lady....always enjoyed seeing her and reminiscing .*  
*Terri Woodham*

**Terri Northcutt Woodham** - January 23, 2023 at 01:39 PM



“ *Letitia Ward lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jean Shirley Watkins*



**Letitia Ward** - January 23, 2023 at 11:26 AM

GL

“ *Bill*  
*I am so sorry for your loss. She will be missed. I have known your mother for a long time. She and your dad lived across the street from me in Botany Woods. I always enjoyed hearing her sing. I would see her often when her mother was at Morning Side. may the Lord give you strength and comfort at this most difficult time.*



---

**Ginny Lyles** - January 23, 2023 at 10:51 AM

MH

“ *Maxine Howle lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jean Shirley Watkins*



---

**Maxine Howle** - January 23, 2023 at 07:41 AM

SP

“ *So sorry for your loss. I met Ms. Jean when I was caring for her mother Mrs. Helen at morning side. She was always a sweet lady.*

---

**Sara Purvis** - January 23, 2023 at 01:19 AM

LH

“ *Jean was a wonderful God-loving lady. Dear God, please bless this family in a special way. In Jesus' Name! Amen!*



---

**Larry and Linda Hodge** - January 22, 2023 at 11:48 PM

MB

“ *Melinda Byrd sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Jean Shirley Watkins*



---

**Melinda Byrd** - January 22, 2023 at 11:27 PM

TA

“ *Tim & Penny Anthony lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jean Shirley Watkins*



---

**Tim & Penny Anthony** - January 22, 2023 at 06:53 PM

KJ

“ *Karen Jeffords lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jean Shirley Watkins*



---

**Karen Jeffords** - January 22, 2023 at 05:11 PM

DS

“ *So very sorry to read about Jean, very sweet lady and I always enjoyed being around her playing cards. You will be missed!*



---

**Danny and Phoebe Stokes** - January 22, 2023 at 03:44 PM

RS

“ Bill,

*I loved your dear mother! I will always remember running into her at the Marshall Tucker/Charlie Daniels concert when I was with my friend, Danny Coker (AKA The Count). I told Danny about your mother owning Bobby Richardson's corvette your Grandfather Alvin bought for her. She was thrilled to run into me unexpectedly and we chatted briefly. She was a big part of our life growing up and considered extended family. She and my oldest sister, Debby, we friends and my mother accompanied her (on piano) when she won Miss Bishopville and I believe Moma played for her at Miss S.C. as well as MANY other times over the decades. She sang beautifully through her own tears at Moma's graveside service. Jean and Cecil often took us to sporting events and were involved in my youth group. Cecil's sister and my sister, Suzanne, were good friends. When I grew up we were in Jaycee's together and shared MANY fun times and HARD work on different projects and charities. She was a WONDERFUL hostess and one of THE most beautiful women I have ever known. She loved you and her Savior above all else. Hold fast to you memories of the love you shared and know both she, and you, are loved by so many, especially the Woodham/Skinner clan. May God provide you and your family the peace and comfort that surpasses understanding that only He can.*

*Love, Rebecca*



---

Rebecca Skinner - January 22, 2023 at 03:12 PM

JB

“ I have so many fond memories of Jean. She was always a delight to be around with an energetic personality and offered you a brilliant smile. My mother played "Doin' What Comes Naturally" for her to sing when she was in the "Miss Bishopville " pageant! What a knockout she was when she can on stage in her hillbilly outfit (Daisy Duke like). I knew she was a sure winner! In later years she worked with our Methodist Youth Group. What a thrill when she road us in her convertible. We had a cantata at church in which Jean had a lead singing part. Her voice was so beautiful! I remember the hair stood up on my arms. She was a faithful servant of God. Find peace in knowing she is now reunited with Mr. Alvin and Ms. Helen in the presence of our Lord and Savior! Suzanne



Johnny and Suzanne (Skinner) Beasley - January 22, 2023 at 03:01 PM

JT

“ Cousin, keep smiling and singing, and know George and I will miss you until we are together again in Heaven so save us some seats. Your life's journey touched the hearts of many with laughter and inspiration daily. Thank you for always being there to lift me up and spreading sunshine when there wasn't any. Rest sweet Jean!



June Touma - January 22, 2023 at 01:55 PM

BG

“ Sorry to hear of your loss. Prayers for peace and comfort for the family. ❤️🙏❤️  
Bess and Don Gore

Bess Gore - January 22, 2023 at 12:56 PM

NH

“ Norman And Iris Hayes lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jean Shirley Watkins



Norman and Iris Hayes - January 22, 2023 at 12:51 PM

MN

“ Mike & Brenda Northcutt lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jean Shirley Watkins



mike & brenda Northcutt - January 22, 2023 at 12:32 PM

LP

“ Linda & Billy Price lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jean Shirley Watkins



Linda & Billy Price - January 22, 2023 at 12:12 PM



“ Bill, I am so sorry for your loss. I lived across the street from your mom in Forest Hills for many years. She was a dear lady and friend to me. I know she will be deeply missed. Gods blessing upon you and your family.



Vicki Price - January 22, 2023 at 12:03 PM

LJ

“ *Linda R Jordan lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jean Shirley Watkins*



---

**Linda R Jordan** - January 22, 2023 at 11:47 AM

CC

“ *Christel Copeland lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jean Shirley Watkins*



---

**Christel Copeland** - January 22, 2023 at 10:40 AM



“ *James Butch Mckenzie lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jean Shirley Watkins*



---

**James Butch Mckenzie** - January 22, 2023 at 09:00 AM

LG

“ *Larry Grantham lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jean Shirley Watkins*



---

**Larry Grantham** - January 22, 2023 at 07:44 AM

GO

“ Jean was what I would call a virtuous woman. Sweet and very loving. There was never a time through the years that we wouldn't hesitate to stop and chat when our paths crossed. I will surely miss this sweet humble lady. Heartfelt condolences and prayers for the family. Always reflect back on the memories you cherish with Jean, They will last a lifetime.



Grady O'Neal - January 21, 2023 at 10:35 PM

SJ

“ I'm so very sorry, Bill for the loss of your mother. Sending many prayers and lots of love to you and your family. 🙏❤️🙏 I have many sweet memories of your mother, she was the first granddaughter in our “Shirley” family. She won the “Miss Bishopville” beauty pageant years ago. She also won a talent award and brought the house down in the “Miss South Carolina” pageant, by singing “Doing What Comes Naturally!” A Hillbilly song full of comedy, she was awesome! Her performance began with her sticking her barefoot out from behind the curtain, with a big red bow on her big toe! Oh, my goodness all of our Aunts and Uncles loved her performance and this story was shared for many years at our family reunions! ☐ Helen Jean was definitely a beauty! ❤️ As a little girl, I was always fascinated by her parents (Uncle Alvin and Aunt Helen) and her beautiful home! I was told, Uncle Alvin brought her a corvette when she was a teenager... my oldest brother, Alvin always said, he was jealous of her amazing car! 😊 She was truly blessed in her life! She will be remembered as a beautiful soul and dearly missed! ❤️💔❤️



Sheila Johnson - January 21, 2023 at 05:31 PM

MB

“ Matt And Betsy Bramlett lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jean Shirley Watkins



Matt and Betsy Bramlett - January 21, 2023 at 04:37 PM

BM

“ Becky was close friends with Jean going back to school days and later when we were together at Wesley UMC. We will always remember our grandchild, Madeline Wilkes, and Jean, singing "Crazy" together at a church supper at Wesley.

Becky and Bob McWatty - January 21, 2023 at 04:22 PM

SS

“ Sorry for your loss, Mrs. Watkins was my teacher in Jr High. She was a good teacher, and caring person.



Sam A. Hall Sr. - January 21, 2023 at 03:41 PM

SH

“ Sandra And Larry Huggins lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jean Shirley Watkins



Sandra and Larry Huggins - January 21, 2023 at 03:29 PM

VB

“ *Bill and family: Sorry to hear about Jean's demise. She was a wonderful individual always filled with laughter. I enjoyed playing for her so much when she would visit various groups and sing. She had a beautiful voice and such a love for music. She will be missed. Prayers for the family as you go through this period of mourning for your loss, but remember she is in a place of rest now with her Lord and Savior. I know you have such great memories to focus on and cherish. I will always cherish the beautiful memories I have of times spent together laughing and sharing. God bless you all.*



---

**vernon G boyd** - January 21, 2023 at 02:28 PM

BH

“ *Condolences for the family.*



---

**Bobbie Huggins** - January 21, 2023 at 01:58 PM

CG

“ *Connee Gamble Grantham lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jean Shirley Watkins*



---

**Connee Gamble Grantham** - January 21, 2023 at 01:37 PM

RW

“ *Ron Wall lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jean Shirley Watkins*



---

**Ron Wall** - January 21, 2023 at 12:41 PM

CM

“ *Mrs Watkins was a wonderful lady always had such a beautiful smile. She was my teacher In middle school and a good one. She will be missed praying for her family*



---

**Crystl Minnehan** - January 21, 2023 at 12:31 PM