



*Teresa Matkins Benton*

**Feb. 26, 1952 - March 15, 2024**

Teresa Matkins Benton, 72, of Morganton, NC, passed away on Friday, March 15, 2024. Born in Wilmington, NC on February 26, 1952, she was the daughter of the late George T. Matkins, Sr. and Virginia Hammond Matkins.

Teresa graduated from Morganton High School and earned her bachelor's degree from Gardner Webb. She was a teacher with Burke County Schools where she taught kindergarten and first grade at Oak Hill Elementary for 30 years and was a member of First Baptist Church in Morganton.

Teresa is survived by her husband of 50 plus years, Barry C. Benton; sons, Aaron Benton (Jessica Hasson) and Ashley Benton (Marcia Rector); grandchildren, Kayla Burgess (Jacob), Madison Benton (Riley), and Kinsey Benton, Makenzie Hasson, and a sister-in-law Ruth Matkins, Len and Katrina of Granite Falls; half-brothers, Randy Benton and Larry Wilson of Morganton; half-sisters, Dedra Thielen and Lisa Benton of Morganton; and her lifetime best friend, Karen Robinson of Valdese.

In addition to her parents, George T. Matkins, Sr. and Virginia Hammond Matkins, Teresa was preceded in death by a brother, George T. Matkins, Jr.

The family will receive friends from 11am until 1pm, Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at First Baptist Church of Morganton. The funeral will be held at 1pm in the church, with Rev Dr. Thomas A. Bland, Jr. officiating. Burial will follow at Burke Memorial Park.

Memorial contribution may be made to First Baptist Church children's music programs or Burke County Friends for Animals.

Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center is assisting the family with the arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

Dear Barry, Aaron and Ashley, My heart is heavy learning of Teresa's passing. She loved the three of you with all that she was. My prayers for comfort and peace are lifted for you all. Love and hugs, Susan

—Susan Fetner

Dear Barry, Aaron and Ashley, I am so sorry to hear of your wife and mom's passing! She was one of the most genuine people I have ever known. Her laugh was infectious and she made you happy just being around her. She was a wonderful mom and she totally adored you both and was so proud of you! As a fellow teacher, I admired her love and dedication she showed to each and every student! She will be missed! Love and prayers for each of you in the difficult days ahead. May God comfort you and give you His peace! Much love, Tammy Packard

—Tammy Packard



Barry, Aaron, Ashley and family, I'm so sorry for your loss. When I think of Teresa, it was her beautiful smile she had. She was the happiest person I ever saw. Praying for the family.

—Susan Paterno



Barry and Family, Teresa was a wonderful teacher and friend. We had great times at Oak Hill Elementary and during our many visits. May God comfort you at this difficult



time. - Doris Fleming

—Doris Fleming

May you all and your families find peace, love and comfort at the hands of Jesus. it's a beautiful day in Heaven. Prayers from me and my family.

—Autumn Laws

Barry, so sorry to hear of Teresa's passing. Prayers are lifted for you and Family!!!

—Kevin Duckworth

I always loved coming to visit y'all with my nana and sister thank you for treating us like family the best neighbors ever!

—Katie Ledford



Barry, I'm so sorry for her passing. I just saw this. I'm working today and can't come to the service. Wanted you to know I'm thinking about you guys. She fought a courageous battle with cancer. I'm glad she is whole and out of pain. Her angel wings are beautiful, I'm sure. My prayer for God to hold you in His hands through this difficult time.

—Loretta Poole Moses



Barry, Aaron, Ashley, I'm so sorry for your loss. I'll always remember Mrs. Benton's sweetness toward me, and love for you guys. May she rest in peace. Hugs, and love from The Duckworth's.

—Dylan, April, & Regalo Duckworth

Teresa was an incredible person that touched so many lives. She will be remembered and cherished forever. I can say I know how you feel by losing a soul mate. I can also say I know how Teresa felt with the suffering at dialysis. I have been through both pains. God will get you through this sorrow, but it's a long time hurt. My prayers are with you and the family. I am available if you need to talk. Love and prayers, Lynn Causby

—Lynn Causby



—Rosanne Penley

Dear Family. I had the good fortune to visit Teresa's classroom at Oak Hill as a public health worker. She was always welcoming, kind, and full of joy! One doesn't forget educators like Teresa! I wish you comfort and peace as you move forward without her. Blessings for you all - Nancy Ferguson Brown, Public Health RDH

—Nancy Ferguson Brown



Class of 1970, Morganton High School, sends regrets.  
Barry, we send our prayers for your family..

—David L Tubergen



My prayers go out to you and your family. May you find peace in these difficult times

—Kevin Cline

To all the Benton family, I am so sorry for your loss. Teresa was my first cousin and even though I haven't seen her since we were children I mourn her loss. All are in my thoughts and prayers.

—Judy Matkins Waddell



Prayers for the family. May you all find peace in such a difficult time.

—Jennifer Church



—Brad and Katerina Helton

Hello Barry this is your friend Sidney Lane I'm coming to with you with a big hug to tell I'm so sorry for your loss she was absolutely amazing woman please don't feel like this end she a lot better place that where never die you will see her brand new please tell the boys my prayers go out to all of you love ya my friend Sidney

—Sidney Lane

I am so saddened to hear of your dear loss Barry, My prayers go out to you and your entire family for comfort and peace. God Bless and Hold You all. Don Peach Sr.

—Don Peach Sr

We LOVE you! You were so sweet and kind to everyone. You will be missed.

—Len Benton



I met Teresa when I was a waitress almost 8 years ago ....from the moment we met we hit it off ...She was always smiling and laughing and talking about her family that she loved so very much... Thankful for getting to know such a loving and caring woman . Praying for her family.... Love Jenny

—Jenny Ferguson



—Shannon Gragg



How do you tell how much I loved this woman. We cut class together , had sleep overs and started our family's . Barry and Teresa kept my son when I needed to go have my daughter. I

—Karen Perkins Demers