

*Shelby Senior  
High School*



*Class of 1964*

# Betty Allen

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Where has the time gone? Busy with college at Western Carolina University; teaching junior high and high school for over 37 years; helping to raise two daughters (Beth and Jane), who I think are fantastic by the way; now enjoying watching my two grandsons Evan and Holt grow up, and by the way, I think those two are not just fantastic, but absolutely awesome!

At this point in my life I have discovered I am “the captain of my ship” and most of the time I am guiding her where I truly want to go. Mission work was actually something I thought about as an elementary, junior high, and high school student, and within these most recent years I have experienced some mission work in the form of trips through my church. My trips have taken me to Costa Rica, Armenia, Africa, Mississippi, Kentucky, and Cherokee. Each one has touched me in ways I never could have imagined and I am so very thankful to have had these experiences. My hope is to take a few more of these in the future.

Having fallen in love with my alma mater, Western Carolina, as much as I always loved my first alma mater, Shelby High School, I have found myself returning often to Cullowhee and to being involved with the alumni board and the Catamount board. About six years ago, I was asked to serve as President-elect of the Alumni Board for two years, and then become President of that board for two years. Never in my wildest dreams did I expect such an honor and an opportunity for me (especially when I consider my grades during college, but we won't go there!) My job was more “a face to go with the alumni” and the capable Alumni Director and his assistant took care of almost all of what I needed to do. All I had to do was show up – and show up I did. I seldom pass up a trip back to Western just as I seldom pass up a trip back to Shelby.

While serving as Alumni Board President I was the alumni's representative to the Board of Trustees and was honored to be among

that distinguished group. My “showing up” to those meetings was definitely the reason I was asked to serve on the search committee for our new Chancellor. Oh my! Never, ever did I dream of such an opportunity, but it did happen and I loved every minute of it.

Once my time as alumni president was up I wondered what I might do next, but really did not worry about it because I felt something would come along at some point. So, I relaxed, doing the sort of things I enjoyed doing – that were in my limited retirement/ social security budget; and things have gone along smoothly. By the way, I failed to mention having had a heart attack at some point in the past – I am not sure exactly when, but think it was the spring of 2008; and then in May, 2008, I had double bypass surgery. The surgery went well, and after I allowed myself a very ample period of recovery. . . months and months and months just because I am truly great at doing almost nothing . . . I began substituting and enjoy that, sometimes. Not being the most physically active person and having the tendency to be overweight, I decided to look into gastric bypass surgery and am happy to say I had that surgery in March of 2013, and got along great. I have lost weight and pray I never, ever find that weight. I feel better than I have felt in years, and this spring actually had the feeling of having been reborn.

An opportunity to sub for three months in my major field came along this past fall and I did it. I loved doing that so much that when an opportunity to teach the second semester came along, I decided to go for it. After all, there are a few things on my bucket list I want to do, and unfortunately they cost money!!! Now I am actually beginning to think of teaching full time in South Carolina if they will hire me, or maybe come out of retirement and teach in NC. If I do either, perhaps I will get to check off a few more things on my bucket list.

Time has flown by and now we are coming together again to celebrate our times in high school as well as the times we have had since our graduation. Reunions are such an important part of my being that I cannot wait to see and connect with everyone from our class. My wish is that all from our class will return and I am looking forward to seeing and enjoying spending this weekend with you.

# *Irvin Anthony*

1964-1966 Gardner Webb College

1966-1968 Dover Textiles, Shelby

1968-1970 U.S. Navy (Vietnam Veteran)

1971-1997 Dover/Doran Textiles, Shelby

1972 Married to Suzanne Connor ; Two Children. Tony Anthony;  
Boone, NC.

Three Grandchildren. Connor 8, Titus 5, Kelty 5.

1986 Married to Dawn Matthews ; One child. Natalie Anthony;  
Portland, Ore.

1998-2000 Precision Yarn Corp. Charlotte,NC

2000-2004 Royster Oil Co. Gastonia, NC

2004-2012 Carolina Energies, Shelby, NC

March 2, 2012 Retired.

## Vernon Byrd

After High School, I started college at Western Carolina University and then transferred to the University of Georgia where I studied wildlife biology. I joined the U.S. Navy after college and got stationed in the Aleutian Islands, Alaska. I was able to do my entire active duty at the Naval Communication Station on Adak Island. Most people did not like being in the Aleutians because they are so isolated, but for me it was a chance to study wildlife (in my spare time) in a region that had not been studied before (the dream of any young biologist). I was able to get a job with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska after the Navy, and interspersed with a couple of interludes to do graduate work at University of Alaska and University of Idaho, I worked as a research biologist on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska and Hawaii until I retired in 2010. Most of my work was with marine birds, marine mammals, and restoration of endangered species on islands. I loved my work.

I got married in 1977, and Valerie and I had two sons. Valerie passed away in 2010, but I had her for 33 years. We had a dream to go into full time Christian missionary work after retirement. I am living our dream. In 2011 I joined the all-volunteer University of the Nations (the training branch of Youth with a Mission) at the Kona, Hawaii campus. My role here is to coordinate a team of trainers and researchers in natural farming, clean water technologies, sanitation, and alternate energy. I also get to be part of the staff of a discipleship training school one quarter a year. We are teaching young people to know God better and to make Him known to others. We are equipping them, through training, with tools to use on the missions field in developing countries where they are able to show God's love by meeting felt needs of the hungry, thirsty, and homeless people with whom they are sharing the gospel.

I get to spend time with teams in the field in various locations in Asia each year. I have fallen in love with the people and places in the Himalayas. I feel like I am getting "re-fired" instead of retired, but I

have to admit the mountains do seem steeper to me than they do to the younger folks.

Both of my sons are missionaries with Youth with a Mission; Matthew lives in Nepal and Andy is here in Kona. I have 5 grandchildren.

I am sorry to miss seeing you all again. I am very grateful for being able to grow up in Shelby with such a great group of classmates. I know it is a first-world issue, but one of my favorite memories is hoping John Lawrence's dad (Pastor of First Baptist) would let us out in time to beat the Methodists to Red Bridges BBQ on Sunday!

Blessings to you all.

## *W. Webb Cabiness*

Wow! It has been 50 years since high school. I bet my teachers would be surprised that I taught school for approximately 44 years. I taught social studies and math at Carver Elementary in Rutherford County for 25 years and vocational education at Crest Middle School in Cleveland County for 6 years. I was able to teach homebound students in Cleveland County after retiring for 13 years. In addition to teaching, I was fortunate to be partners with close friends in a painting company and a construction company. Currently, I'm retired and enjoy building furniture for fun!

My wife, Anita, and I met at Georgia Southern College and have been married for 45 years. We live in Shelby where we are active members of First Baptist Church Shelby. We are blessed to have two children and four wonderful grandchildren, ages 12 and 9. Our son, Flay(43), and his family live in Brunswick, Georgia, where he practices law. Our daughter, Ashley (39), and her family live in Cary, North Carolina. She and her husband own an engineering company, TM Engineering.

When we are not busy in Shelby, we enjoy spending time at our beach house on St. Simons, Island, Georgia, and with our grandchildren, Kelsey Ann Cabiness, Cab Cabiness, Logan Mallik and Neely Mallik. Because of our grandchildren, we have become avid soccer fans, supporters of the swim team, travelers with the gymnastic team and cheerleaders for recreational football.

Webb Cabiness

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## *David Cox*

OK, so where do I start—most of you will not remember that I grew up in Anderson, SC, and moved to Shelby in the 8th grade when my Dad was transferred to Shelby to manage the Duke Power office—upon his sudden death at age 39 my senior year, my Mother let me graduate but we moved back to SC the day after graduation, so I lost contact with all my friend. I graduated from the University of Georgia in 1968 where I ended up playing golf. I then went into service and stayed for 26+ years, retiring in 1995. I visited many exotic places like Vietnam, Ishmir Turkey, Panama, Kuwait, Iraq and Somalia.

After retirement we settled in Columbia SC, and I worked in property management and served as general manager of a golf course. I have also been teaching at a technical college there since 1995, still working because I had 4 daughters, Cody who is 28 and went to Duke, Jamie who is 26 and went to South Carolina, Chandler who is 21 and a senior at Winthrop, and finally Hannah who is 20 and a junior at College of Charleston. I so regret that I will not be able to join you and think about many of you often. Few in our country grew up in a more interesting and volatile time than we did. Please feel free to contact me anytime at [dacox@live.com](mailto:dacox@live.com), and warm regards to all.



## *Sandra Dendy Cross*

After SHS I graduated from Charlotte Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in 1967, married Stanton Cross from Salisbury in May of the same year. Our first son, Adam, was born in 1976, second son, Brian, born 1978. Stan retired four years ago after 37 years with Duke Energy. I received my Master's degree in Nursing from UNCC and am still working full time, currently in long term care. Adam has BS in Mechanical Engineering and is a bachelor living and working in Charlotte. Brian is a urologist finishing his last year of a two year fellowship in Pittsburgh in urologic oncology. He married in May 2013 and his wife is also an MD, a trauma surgeon. I am very proud of my family and feel extremely blessed. No grandchildren yet but still hoping.

Looking forward to seeing everyone.



## *Pat Denton Beam*

Husband: Barney Beam

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## *Paula Eddins Blanton*

Fifty years! A lot of life has been lived since we all graduated from Shelby High. Thank God the learning was just beginning.

Life since 1964 has been good to me for the most part. I hope that is true for all of you also. I have spent the most wonderful 50 years with the love of my life, husband David Blanton. We have two sons, David Jr (50), J. Derek (45). We are grandparents to three granddaughters, Shannon (33), Ashley (26) and Kaitlyn (11). Also we have been blessed with two greatgrandchildren, Riley (6), Tristan (4) and another to arrive on the scene in March, 2015.

So, you see, God has been very, very good to me and my family. We all try to serve Him and be the right kind of witness as to lead others to Him.

My working career has been in the financial/mortgage area, mostly in Charlotte, NC. God has played a major influence as to where we have lived because David has been a Southern Baptist pastor for thirty years or so. We've lived in Nashville TN, Greenville SC, Raleigh NC, Rockingham NC, Salisbury NC and then He brought us home to Cleveland County! I would have NEVER thought that.....

Now I have really found my "calling". I am an educator! I work with students to help them read better. I run the gamut from kindergarten to fifth grade. Six hours a day with holidays and summers off. What could be a better job? Not planning to give it up for another four to five years, God willing.

Look forward to seeing all of you in October.

## *Camille Farris Suttle*

I studied in Germany for a year, graduated from UNCG in 1968, and taught German there for two years. In 1970, I married Bill Suttle (a distant kin of our Shelby Suttles) and then stayed at home rearing three sons-----that is, I worked non-gainfully. In 2000, I completed a M.Ed. at UNCG and taught special education for ten years at a small Jewish day school in Greensboro. Bill and I are both retired now and enjoy being in the mountains, reading, travelling, and visiting grandchildren.

Our oldest son, Mark, and his wife, Wesley, live in Winston Salem and have three children (Nan 6, Ward 6, Meyer 2) and are expecting a fourth in late Oct. Our middle son, Sam, and his wife, Mary-Ellen, live in Richmond and have one child (Anne-Wesson 2 months). Our youngest son, Allen, and his wife, Katherine, live in Winston Salem also and are expecting their first child in early Feb.

Please contact us if you are ever in Greensboro or Blowing Rock and come by for a chat on the deck!

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## *Joann Freeman Surratt*

After graduating in 1964, I attended Appalachian State Teacher's College -- as it was known then -- with a major in Spanish and minor in Social Studies. When I graduated in 1968 from Appalachian State University -- as it became by then -- I started my teaching career at Marion High School. I only taught there a year and a half. I received my Masters from ASU in Spanish in 1975. My last job was at Burns High School in Lawndale. I taught there 33 years before retiring. In addition to Spanish, I taught Civics, 10th Grade English, Creative Writing, Chills and Thrills and Psychology. For 17 years I taught night classes at Cleveland Community College. I taught Level One and Two of Spanish to adults. It was a different experience teaching students who wanted to learn. I resigned when my parents needed care at home.

My family consisted of a divorced husband, a son, Michael, and a grandson, Alex. Michael died on 1 November 2012. Alex is living with his girlfriend's family after my daughter-in-law kicked him out of the house.

Five years ago I had a ruptured bleeding ulcer and almost died on three separate occasions. The ulcer lead to years in and out of hospitals and rehab centers plus more surgery. My son fixed a room for me in his house. I was not happy there without Michael or my grandson. I moved to a great apartment in Bessemer City. Things are so much better for me now.

My two hobbies, besides reading and tv, are sign language and genealogy. I interpreted church services for the deaf at my church, First Baptist in Shelby. For more than 35 years I did this and also funeral services and police questioning of a deaf man. I enjoyed this until I got sick and had to quit. The deaf are a great people who appreciate anything you do for them.

My interest in genealogy started early in high school when my father and mother always went to family reunions. He always asked

who were the children, who did they marry, how many children did they have and, of course, dates and places. For 18 years I was Editor in Chief of the bulletin of the Broad River Genealogical Society, Inc. called ESWAU HUPPEDAY. The bulletin concentrated on people and places of the Broad River Basin of NC and SC. While I was editor, the society won an award from the North Carolina Genealogical Society. I am finally able to get back to doing genealogy.

It is hard to believe we graduated from SHS 50 years ago!

## *O. Max Gardner III*

Max Gardner received his undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1969 and graduated with highest honors from the UNC School of Law in 1974. He was a member of the NC Law Review, President of the Student Bar Foundation, and was elected to the Order of the Coif.

Following graduation, Max served as Senior Law Clerk to the Hon. William H. Bobbitt, the late Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, and to the Hon. J. William Copeland, an Associate Justice with the Supreme Court. He worked as an Associate with the law firm of Smith, Moore, Smith, Schell & Hunter in Greensboro, North Carolina, until 1977, when he opened a consumer based law practice in Shelby, North Carolina. After leaving the Smith Moore firm, Max served as Treasurer for the United States Senate Campaign of the legendary Smith firm Senior Partner, J. McNeill Smith, Jr. McNeill Smith has long been recognized as one of the leading civil rights attorneys in North Carolina history. Max later served as General Counsel for the Democratic Party of North Carolina under appointment of Governor James B. Hunt, Jr., for a term of 8 years, ending in 1996. During this period, Max was a member of the National DNC and the National Committee of DNC State General Counsels.

Max has been the attorney of record in numerous landmark cases, including *Myrtle Marshall vs. Spindale Savings*, *Marjorie White vs. Duke University Medical School*, and the *Shelby Yarn Employee Class Action Litigation*. He individually represented the 650 former employees of Shelby Yarn who filed an involuntary Chapter 7 against their employer and subsequently recovered more than \$2,200,000 in damages against the former officers, directors and stockholders. This was the first reported case in the United States where the fired employees of a closed company actually petitioned the United States Bankruptcy Court to force their former employer into bankruptcy and then actually recovered their 60-day Warn Act wages, collateral damages and legal fees.

Max was named the Outstanding Consumer Lawyer of 2004 by the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Lawyers (NACBA) and was elected a Member of the North Carolina Legal Elite by Business North Carolina in 2004, 2005, 2006, and again in 2007. He was also recognized as one of the "Super Lawyers" in North Carolina by the Charlotte Magazine and by Law & Politics in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, and again in 2010 in the field of Consumer Bankruptcy Law. Max has received an AV Plus Rated by

Martindale-Dale and Hubbell for more than 20 consecutive years and was honored for this outstanding achievement in 2011. He has also maintained an AVVO 100% Plus rating for the past two years. He received the 2013 “Consumer Advocate of the Year” Award from the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys at its annual meeting in New York.

Max is one of the earliest members of the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys (NACBA) and has been a long-standing member of the National Association of Consumer Advocates (NACA). He is a frequent national speaker on consumer bankruptcy law, mortgage servicing abuse, mortgage securitization, and foreclosure defense strategies.

Max is recognized as one of the leading lawyers in America in the area of Predatory Mortgage Servicing and the standing of Mortgage Servicers in consumer bankruptcy cases. His position as an educator and as being an attorney on the front lines of the war against predatory lenders and mortgage servicers has captured the attention of ABC News Nightline, PBS Frontline, CNN, BusinessWeek, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Forbes and many other news outlets across the country. More importantly, Max has also captured the attention of unethical lenders, servicers and collectors. This is particularly true because of the hundreds of lawyers he has trained at his renowned “Consumer Bankruptcy Boot Camps” for over the past six years. Max has allowed dozens of legal aid attorneys to attend the training at no cost in an effort to help the largest number of as many low-income consumers as possible.

The Boot Camps are held over a period of five days of intense training at Max’s remote 160 acre farm located in the South Mountains of Western North Carolina. Max teaches boot campers how to identify and successfully prosecute the hundreds of statutory and common law violations that occur in every consumer bankruptcy case. His goal is to use those claims for the maximum protection of the consumer. Max’s graduates have been involved in more than 15 of the top 20 consumer mortgage cases decided in the past two years.

Max and his wife, Victoria, live at their farm in the South Mountains of Western North Carolina, near the small town of Casar, where they breed and raise their beloved Cavalier King Charles Spaniels. They also breed and raise Pacifino horses and other farm-related livestock. Max often says that he is a “farmer first” and a “consumer bankruptcy lawyer” second. Max hopes that his success at farming will be as good as his success before juries. During his 37 years in the practice of law, Max has tried 102 jury cases to a final verdict. He was successful in all but 2 of those cases, one of which he retried and won.

## *Sally Gaffney Meredith*

My life has been nomadic, and full of surprises. I've lived in 7 states and 2 foreign countries. I've worked as a missionary, dietitian, nurse practitioner, and now, in retirement, as a Weight Watchers receptionist. I enjoy travel, and have visited all 50 US states, all but one of the states in Mexico, and some exotic places like Kenya, Patagonia, and Uzbekistan. Handbell ringing is my most active hobby; I'm currently a member of Back Bay Ringers, a community group in downtown Boston. Proudest accomplishment is having raised 2 fine children during a 30-year marriage. My daughter and a quartet of delightful grandchildren were the motivation for moving to Massachusetts in 2011. My son is single (sigh). Does anyone know a nice young lady who'd like to meet a quirky, adventurous guy who lives in North Dakota?

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## *Betsy Gillespie Vickers*

I graduated from Kings College in Charlotte, NC preparing for a career in medical transcription. I held several positions following graduation including insurance secretary at Royster Memorial Hospital in Boiling Springs, secretary at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, secretary at O. Max Gardner Foundation, medical transcriptionist at Shelby Medical Associates, then retiring after 28 years as medical transcriptionist at Shelby Women's Clinic. I have been married since 1968 to Ron Vickers. We have a son, Steven, and a daughter, Amy, and two precious grandchildren, Cayden and Macy. I take care of my 15 month old granddaughter during the day while Amy works. My daughter is an RN and my son manages a computer repair and sales business. Our grandchildren are the light of our lives.

I really do not know where the time has gone. When I was young, I thought 50 years was a lifetime, but now it seems so short!

Betsy Gillespie Vickers, 2110 South LaFayette Street, Shelby, NC 28152



## *Linda Greene Lindsey (Lynn)*

Where the heck has 50 years gone? After graduation at SHS, I attended GWC. In October 1966, I was in a car crash in Charlotte. My best friend, Judy Sorrell, was driving and was killed. I was in Charlotte Memorial Hospital, where 5 different doctors were telling my parents I WASN'T GOING TO MAKE IT. I don't remember (thank God) much about being in the hospital. When the car I was in was hit, it exploded. I was sedated heavily because of the burns and injuries. I DO remember my mama asking me if I wanted to live, to which I replied, yes, mama. She prayed for me and said LIVE. That was the moment of the beginning of my recovery. I was in Charlotte Memorial for three months then went to my parents' home in Shelby, for the next few months. Needless to say, I had the best of care! One of the statements the doctors at CM made was I would have great difficulty walking. This was because my left knee was broken and could not be set because of the burns. Let me tell you how AWESOME our Lord is...not only did I walk (granted with quite an unusual gait) I ran marathons. You can believe every day when I ran, I was so very thankful not only for life....but life abundantly! In September, 1967, I married Booster Tex Lindsey, Jr., from eastern North Carolina. We were together until 1997. We have two children, Julie Anne and Booster Tex Lindsey III. Julie lives in Wetumpka, Alabama, and T., lives in Peachtree City, Georgia. I have two grandchildren, Grace, a junior at NGS MC, and Booster Tex Lindsey IV, a junior in high school. Definitely these two are my "heartbeats"! For the last 25 years, I have been a professional nanny for four different families. The first family I worked for, I was with them for 14 years. I retired four years ago and now I am a traveling nanny for several different families. I LOVE my job! Working with children leaves no time for dull moments. I moved back to Shelby two years ago. My 90 (going on 65) years old dad is still living and enjoying life to the max. I am blessed to be healthy, alive and living life to the fullest. God bless all of you!

## *Lui Greene*

- . Attended Gardner Webb College for two years after high school
- . Joined the Air Force; went to Germany
- . Married Helen Petty from Lattimore, NC while in the Air Force
- . We had twin boys on Christmas Eve, 1968
- . Several years later (1970) went back to Gardner Webb and received BA degree in Church music
- . 1973 we had another boy
- . Served two Baptist churches as music and youth director - then went through a divorce
- . Went through two difficult years before getting back into church work
- . 1985 became Music and Program director at Kingstree United Methodist Church, Kingstree, SC
- . 1990 moved to Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Greenville, SC as Director Of Christian Education
- . Met a wonderful lady (Olivia) at the church - we got married after two years of being best friends - we have been married for 22 years
- . Served several UMC for 20 years and retired in January of 2005
- . Presently living in Lenoir, NC enjoying retirement
- . Volunteering with Habitat for Humanity Restore once a week

## *Al Hamrick*

After graduation I attended UNC at Chapel Hill graduating in 1968 with a BA in chemistry and then attended the UNC School of Medicine graduating with an MD in 1972. After a medical internship at Fitzsimmons Army Medical Center in Denver I was a general medical officer stationed in California for one year and then completed a Family medicine residency at Eisenhower Army Medical Center in Augusta Georgia. I then remained on the staff teaching residents until leaving the army and moving to Raleigh in 1978. After moving to Raleigh I practiced family medicine with Raleigh Family Practice until retiring in June of 2013.

My wife Ann Dill Hamrick and I were married in 1971. We have 3 children: Rebecca, Ann, and Vason, as well as 3 grandchildren ages 8, 5, and 2, all of whom live in North Carolina. Mother still lives in Shelby so we visit her when we can. Ann and I attend White Memorial Presbyterian Church. I also belong to two area astronomy clubs. Other activities include volunteering at a free clinic in Raleigh, fishing, trying to exercise, visiting family, occasional travel, and trying to stay out of trouble.

## *Elizabeth Hazen Pope*

After high school I went to UNC-CH where I met my husband C.H. We were married in 1967 in Chapel Hill and both continued our education there with law school.

In 1973 we moved to New Bern NC where C.H. joined the law firm of Ward and Smith and I was able to pursue my passion of ballet dance. I studied dance at ECU, in NYC and at NC School of the Arts and performed with various eastern NC groups until beginning a non-profit dance troupe, Atlantic Dance Theatre, in 1984. ADT brought in guest choreographers, dancers, tech folks and put on both local performances and toured NC, performing primarily in public schools. Also I found learning arts administration to direct/fund a non-profit group an exciting challenge.

Somewhere around the year 2000 C.H. and I went on our first dude ranch trip out west and I fell in love with riding horses. I found myself transitioning from dance to horses over several years and now have two horses with whom I am studying dressage and natural horsemanship (horse whispering). C.H. and I continue to live in New Bern with our dogs Bilbro and Rambo. C.H. continues to practice law while I play most days with my horses Try and Sephira.

I am disappointed not to be able to attend the reunion as it conflicts with my niece's wedding in Colorado. I do look forward to hearing all about it!

## *Judy Hord Taylor*

- Graduated from UNC-G with a major in elementary education
- Worked for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools for 29 years
- During that time, got my masters degree in education at UNC-C
- Taught mostly 4th-5th grades for 17 years; was an observer/evaluator for 3 years; served as assistant principal at elementary/middle schools for 9 years
- Supervised student teachers at UNC-C for 3 years and served several interims with CMS observing teachers after I formally retired
- Married to Jim Taylor. We have 3 sons and five grandchildren.
- Enjoy golf, bridge, reading, movies, Bunco, and anything having to do with grandchildren!

# *Janet Huffstetler*

When writing about your life for your 50th high school reunion, it is difficult to get it on paper because by this time in our lives, we all have had some real bumps, along with many wonderful experiences. Career wise, I have worked for an architectural firm in Chapel Hill for 27 years. I started as the “Bookkeeper-Contracts Manager” (Ms. Randall and Mr. Davis are cringing somewhere) and now serve as Office Manager which can mean anything on any given day. For 15 of those years I also had a second job that I called “my heart job” working with the Carolina Basketball team as an Academic Counselor. I have never enjoyed anything more. Getting to know those great young men on the level I did and still do, has been amazing in my life, truly inspirational.

But my story revolves around a trauma from which I almost did not recover. The most amazing thing in my life is that I have reversed Type II Diabetes and regained my health beyond my wildest dreams. When my son, Max, was killed in a car accident, I honestly fell to the depths of despair, depression and poor health. I was sliding fast and could not get a grip on life. Before that, I had been diagnosed as “pre-diabetic” but had managed with diet and exercise to keep it under control for over seven years without medication. When I fell into deep depression after his death, my diabetes spiraled out of control. I was on large doses of medication, being “threatened” with daily insulin shots and accused of not following the programs the doctors prescribed.

Fortunately, I say now, but did not feel that way then, I had a very mean doctor at Duke Endocrinology who kept me one day for six hours in and out of tests, and finally yelling at me to the point I left in tears. Crying all the way home, I just said out loud that I had to find another way. I went home and Googled “Type II Diabetes, alternative treatments, Duke”. One name kept coming up, Dr. Eric Westman. I read everything I could find on the internet that he had written. I also saw that he had co-authored Dr. Atkins’ last book before he died and ordered a copy immediately.

The story was amazing. Dr. Westman had actually stumbled on the fact the Low Carb “Atkins” diet was reversing Type II Diabetes in the patients he was working with at the VA Hospital at Duke. He had told patients not to do Atkins, do the low-fat/high fiber diet. But the ones who did not listen to him and did Atkins were actually getting off their medications and the

others were not. So he went to New York and did research with Dr. Atkins. Came back to Duke and opened his Lifestyle Clinic and has been getting diabetics off their medications since. We follow a ketogenic program. The only patients who fail are the ones who do not follow the program. I was hooked. I went headstrong into it because I had not been given the hope of living without diabetic meds by any of the doctors I had seen. The meds themselves were horrible for me. I made an appointment. From the time I read his book and started the program, I kept a three ring binder with records of blood sugars, blood pressure, every single thing I ate, recipes, information, everything. I took that with me to the first appointment. I did that because I was sure this program would fail me like all the others. But this time was different for me. It actually worked!

Dr. Westman was so impressed with my “work” and the fact that I had lost 8 lbs. on my own, that he introduced me to the director of his support group who happened to be in the clinic while I was there. That day was the beginning of my new life. Those two people, the many friends I have made there and that program have not only saved my life but have led me on many new adventures. At this writing, I have lost 112 lbs. which is a phenomenal transformation, but more importantly, given me back my energy and desire to live.

I have become very active with Dr. Westman and as you saw via a class email, I was on The 700 Club with him to get the word out. I am no 700 Club fan, but as Dr. Westman said to me, “Janet, if you can reach one person, is it not worth it?” And the feedback was amazing. At our recent group meeting, Dr. Westman had his first new patient who said she was there all the way from Virginia because of “the woman in the interview”. But I reached more than that one and I worked with a Chinese medical student, a Chinese doctor from Duke and a Chinese UNC nutrition major (who started med school in Shanghai this fall) on two books for the Chinese on the low carb program. I adapted authentic Chinese recipes to low carb. In other words, Janet took on the task of getting the Chinese off rice and noodles! Type II Diabetes is rampant in China, so the need is great there. Dr. Westman has also co-ventured with a doctor in South Africa and I did a video for their website.

With all my new energy, I have suddenly become active again and my kids just shake their heads and say they can't keep up with me. I have been amazed how getting sugar, carbohydrates and food processing chemicals out of my body have changed my entire makeup, mentally and physically. Being low carb is mind altering. Life suddenly becomes good on its own. I have been off diabetic medications for almost three years, have cut blood

pressure meds down to a minimum and am working to rid myself of those! I have never felt better in my life.

I'm sure most of you don't know this about me, but I moved to Shelby in the fourth grade. Prior to that, I had lived in Belmont and was little Miss Belmont in 1952. In the presentation, we were to walk out on the stage, step up on a dais, turn around, step down and walk off. When my turn came, I walked out, went to step up, tripped on my long dress and fell. I ran off the stage as the audience gasped. But, then I came right back out with a big smile, stepped on the dais, turned around, stepped down and walked off to huge applause! My determination to get it "right" and perseverance probably won me the title.

Little did I know that was going to be the story of my life. There have been many "falls", picking myself up, dusting myself off and trying again, determined to "get it right", but the last one was the hardest. My comeback has been the most amazing to me as have been the many people who have supported me along the way. Some of the biggest supporters are members of our class. High school is a special time in young people's lives and some of the friendships formed there are irreplaceable. I am so fortunate to have been a member of the Class of 1964 and treasure all of the people I knew and the time we all had together. I missed reunions during my "dark period" but I am so happy to be back.

My wonderful family has been my saving grace. My daughter, Sarah, her husband, Josh, their son, Zane, (named for my father), and my youngest son, Webb, have been there for me through it all. I will be eternally grateful to them and love them immensely. My grandson, Ollie lives in Shelby and I hope to see him more often in the future. We did have a great time together after the 2009 NCAA Championship! But as they get older, Nana is not the high priority as we all know.

Janet Huffstetler



## *Janice Lee Kale*

As you may remember, I was married my senior year. The only requirement to stay in school was that if I got pregnant, I would have to quit school. Wow, it's certainly different now. Melvin and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary last year along with his 50th class reunion. Now, it's my 50th. We have lived and worked in Shelby all of these years. Now, we have both retired and love being "senior citizens." We are active members of Bethel Baptist Church. I am so fortunate to have been brought up in a Christian home. I had two sets of twins but, unfortunately, lost one baby at birth. Our three grown children live nearby and we have five grandchildren. We are so blessed. God has been so good to us even when we were not so good. Looking forward to seeing everyone at our party. Thanks to everyone who had a part in the planning. "Life is Good"!

# *Joan Kale Allen*

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Children:	Carissa Morris L. B. IV (Bo)
Grandchildren:	Jessica Bethany
Step-grandchildren:	Dustin Niki
Great-grandchild:	Alley

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## *Dean Kistler*

I have taught math for 46 yrs, in high school and college. In 1988 I was nominated and won North Carolina State Math Teacher of the year, I'm very proud of that!

Thank you,  
Dean Kistler

# *Judy Latham*

My only child, Barry, was born July, 1965. He and his wife and two dogs live in Shelby.

In September, 1966, I began work with the N. C. Employment Security Commission in Shelby and retired in July, 2004.

From September, 2004, until present I have participated at the Neal Senior Center in the following activities: aerobics, live dance, Senior Games, performing arts, and also volunteer at different functions.

I am a member of two bridge clubs and sub for other clubs every chance I get.

My husband Gene plays golf on goes to our property in Rutherford County. There he cuts grass, trims, cuts down or cuts up trees, and does woodworking on occasion.

## Steve Lee

After Shelby High School I graduated from Davidson College. Then I headed to Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, where I received master's degrees in theology and sacred music. During the eight years of college and grad school I had church music jobs each year. In the Dallas area I also worked with at a federal minimum-security correctional institution where I directed an inmate choir and sometimes assisted the chaplain in other ways.

Then I came back to North Carolina to serve in United Methodist churches in the Western North Carolina Conference. My first year found me back in Shelby as associate pastor and minister of music at Central UMC. Over the years I was sent to a variety of settings, urban, rural, small town, and enjoyed getting to know quite a variety of people and encountering different cultures. Perhaps I should have taken some courses in sociology or anthropology somewhere along the way.

The short version is that I learned that our stereotypes of different sorts of folks don't have much basis in reality. Perhaps my best educated and most cosmopolitan congregation was at a church in the middle of nowhere, surrounded by dairy farms.

The churches presented me with a variety of challenges, and the different hats that I wore in the communities and the annual conference meant I was often led outside my comfort zone. I didn't think of myself as much of an administrator until after twenty years a parishioner thanked me for getting their church back on sound financial footing. Then I realized I had done that pretty much everywhere I had been. That realization was important years later when I was sent to be pastor of a church that had tried very hard to self-destruct, and had been rather successful at it. That helped me move from the "Why me, Lord?" stage to realizing that I wouldn't trust much of anyone else to pull this transformation off.

In communities that didn't already have some kind of cooperative helping agency, I helped start them. Somehow in Stanly County I found myself on a committee to start a little theater group. In north Iredell County they wanted me to coach an elementary girls' soccer team, but I got out of doing that because I had already agreed to be the cubmaster.

The annual conference had me to be the district youth coordinator for three counties. I wondered why they didn't get somebody

good-looking and athletic, more like my stereotype of that role. I think of myself as better at disrupting meetings than at organizing and conducting them. So naturally, the conference had me to preside for some years at the forum group dealing with the most contentious political and social issues.

And so on. As the ad used to say, "It's not a job; it's an adventure." And well, a calling and a ministry, I realize. And then I retired.

Eleven years ago I discovered by chance there were a couple lots left in a neighborhood about a half mile from the campus in Davidson. It occurred to me that this would be the obvious place for me to retire. Over the next few weeks a class reunion and a trip with my old roommate to get some things of his daughter's to store in my parsonage over the summer kept bringing me back to the town. Finally, that July I signed a contract to build a house, and six years later I retired and moved into it full time. I've enjoyed living in this small college town even more than I expected and find myself participating in quite a variety of events and activities on campus and off. I've got back to practicing the organ, and am the substitute organist of last resort for a couple of churches. I wind up playing a few times a year more often than I preach. I visit the Episcopal church in my neighborhood fairly often, and am expected to sing in their choir when I do. I don't sing very well, but I enjoy singing anyway, and I do take up a lot of space in the choir loft. Most semesters I also sing with the community and student combined chorus doing major works with orchestra. The big United Methodist church in town doesn't really need me to do much of anything, but they put my organ practice times on their church calendar. I do sing with them for occasional special services and have taught a Bible study. I do several sorts of volunteer work with various organizations outside of musical activities.

I get to travel a fair amount, and I like riding trains, as some of you know from our trip to Raleigh a few years ago. I attend a lot of Davidson home games in various sports, and I make it to a fair number of road games and tournaments of the men's basketball team. This is Davidson's first year in the Atlantic 10, and most of the schools in the new conference are along the main Amtrak eastern corridor, so I'll get to combine basketball with train trips more often.

I've enjoyed reconnecting with high school classmates since our fortieth reunion and have enjoyed attending planning meetings for the fiftieth. I look forward to seeing you all.

## *Janice Lloyd DeVane*

After graduation I attended Kings College in Charlotte. My roommates were Ann Olson and Brenda Smith. After graduation in 1966 I worked for various firms as an administrative assistant — the last being to the Firm Managing Partner at Cherry, Beckert and Holland, a regional CPA firm.

I married Jim DeVane from Lumberton, N. C., in 1968 and continued to work until 1977 when our son, Christopher, was born. I then retired and became a stay-at-home mom. My duties then consisted of volunteering at his various schools, being soccer, basketball and tennis mom, volunteering for UNICEF and playing tennis and bridge.

My husband, Jim, worked for First Union National Bank in their Commercial Credit Division. His career has taken us from Charlotte to Winston-Salem, back to Charlotte, and finally to Atlanta in 1986 with the advent of inter-state banking. He took early retirement in 2002 when First Union bought Wachovia and retired as Senior Vice President and Chief Credit Officer for the state of Georgia.

When Jim retired we moved to our lake home on Lake Oconee in Greensboro, Georgia, about 1½ hours east of Atlanta. Since this is a golf course community I decided I needed to learn to play golf. Learning to play in your late 50's is probably a little late if you hope to excel at this game. I usually play golf twice a week, tennis once a week, with a sprinkling of bridge in between. We do a fair amount of traveling and are currently trying to visit as many national parks as we can while we can.

Christopher and his wife Amy have two little girls: Taylor 6 and Avery 21 months. They both work—he in property management as the City Manager of a 1700 unit apartment complex and Amy in finance for ADP. They live in Atlanta, so we usually get to see them about every 2–3 weeks. They have an in-law suite in their home, so we have a free place to stay when we visit that allows them and us our

privacy when we want it.

We have been very fortunate to have our health and are still very active. We just hope it continues for many more years.

It has been very interesting reading all the bios. Our class seems to have made a contribution to this world we live in. Who would have thought back in 1964 that so many of us would have traveled and lived in so many different countries, accomplished so much professionally and made a difference in so many lives. I am very proud to be a member of the SHS Class of 1964!

Janice Lloyd DeVane  
1960 Garner's Ferry  
Greensboro, Georgia. 30642  
706/453-2446

## *Claire Lohr Gillespie*

I attended WCU where I met my future husband and we married in the winter of 1966. I Graduated from WCU with a BS In Ed in '68. We moved to Colorado and found teaching positions in a two room school in a ranching community north of Fort Collins. I taught the lower grades and Robertjohn taught the upper grades and was principal.

After serious illnesses with both of our mothers, we returned to Asheville, NC. We taught there until 1976. Our first daughter was born in 1975 and our second daughter was born 17 months later. We moved in the country near Mars Hill to rear our children in a rural setting. We were some of the folks who moved to Madison County to follow the "return to the land" movement due to political uncertainties in the '70s. We literally built our own post and beam house, raised organic produce, reared two lovely girls, raised a menagerie of animals, etc.

I resumed teaching in 1979 and taught in Mars Hill until retirement in 2005. When the girls left home, we moved to a smaller place in Marshall, NC, where we remodeled a house and did extensive landscaping. We purchased an RV after my retirement and have spent our summers traveling around the US and Canada. The last five years we have rented a house on the coast in Newfoundland where we stay from mid-May until late September. We live the best of both worlds by the sea and in the mountains with family nearby.



## *Bob Macomson*

The summer after our graduation is a blur. Getting ready to go to college, not knowing exactly what I would be studying, then accompanying my brother, Jim, to NC State. First year at college was interesting; big world, different people, new ideas. Nothing, though, on the career path, until one evening George Peeler's remark rekindled an old idea, "Why don't you do what my grandfather did. Be a dentist." Transferred to UNC-CH for pre-dental and entered dental school in 1971 after a year and a half teaching "educable mentally retarded" students in Kings Mountain. One of my first dental school patients was a young lady whose father had fought the Russians in the Hungarian Revolution in 1956. After 4 years of first-class stress, graduated, took the State Boards (had never had a 5 day examination before), a week later married a girl, Mollie, from Bladenboro. First thing I had asked when meeting her was, "Are you the Beast of Bladenboro? (Remember those Charlotte Observer articles?) That was a real icebreaker. We settled in Boone where I practiced a year with a friend and then moved to Siler City to set up my own practice. Great little town. Many of you class mates have probably gone through Siler City on your way to college. The actress who played Aunt Bea on Andy Griffith Show was a neighbor. Talked with her on the phone once.

In 1980, we were blessed with the arrival of our son, Tatum. He is a distant relative of Coach Jim Tatum from UNC and the pioneer/mountain man Jim Bridger (from his mother's side). Can't say enough good things about him. A wonderful child who has become my best friend. Marriage ended in 1984 and I spent next 14 years in the world of SPMP (single, previously married people), sometimes known as "The 50%." I practiced dentistry in Siler City until 1987, moved to Raleigh and practiced in a group practice and then provided dental care to the residents of Murdoch Center in Butner, NC. This was an institution for the severely, profoundly mentally retarded. The medical, dental and caregiver staffs had very unique opportunities to help these helpless folks. Sometimes treating them was very difficult, sometimes humorous, sometimes exasperating, sometimes dangerous,

but always rewarding. In 1995 I met a Raleighite, Linda, and married her in 1998. Serendipity! She came with a son in college and a teenage daughter, both of whom were very suspicious of me for a couple of years after we were married. It all worked out fine; her son is professor of fine arts at Washington State University and daughter teaches in Charlotte and has blessed us with 2 grandchildren. My son also blessed us with a grandson and he is also stepfather to his wife's two teenage girls. Family get togethers tend to be chaotic.

My father passed away in 1997. I never thought there would be a time when he wouldn't be here. My mother passed away in 1999 after more than 14 years of Alzheimer's. I don't need to tell my classmates what it feels like to be an orphan.

Left Murdoch Center in 1996 and joined the Dental Programs at Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte. I had over 90 young women in Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene who looked to me for support and guidance. Tough job but someone has to do it. Was involved in building new clinics for each program. Heard President Clinton tell us how important community colleges were to our country when he was on our campus. While at CPCC, on various weekends, I provided pro bono dental care to indigent patients on the Baptist Men's Dental Bus, the director of which told people that she had prayed and prayed for help in treating the patients "and then Dr. Bob showed up". I had never considered myself an instrument of Divine Intervention. I also helped plan and worked on 2 Missions of Mercy (MOM) free dental clinics in Charlotte. These clinics are held all over the country and the first one in Charlotte was one of the largest nationwide and the only round-the-clock clinic that we know of. After 15 years at CPCC, I retired in June, 2011. Since then, have been doing some traveling, covered brother Jim's office in Gastonia so he could spend time with his wife before her passing, lots of jobs around my house and those of friends and family. Setting up a workshop to make wooden toys. So far I've made 5 toys and a lot of kindling and sawdust.

Can't believe it's been 50 years!

1964-Graduated from Shelby High School.

-Entered NC State

1968-1970-Taught educable mentally retarded students in Kings Mountain

1971-Entered UNC School of Dentistry

1975-Graduated dental school

-Married Mollie Bridger

-Moved to Boone to practice

1976-Bought practice in and moved to Siler City

1980-Son Tatum born

1984-Divorce

1987-Sold practice and worked locum tenens and group practice, Raleigh

1988-Began practicing at Murdoch Center, Butner, NC

1990-Moved to Raleigh

1995-Met Linda Gast (and her 2 suspicious teenagers)

1996-Moved to Charlotte

-Began work at Dental Programs, Central Piedmont Community College, Charlotte

1997-Father passed away

1998-Married Linda

1999-Mother passed away

2010-Step-daughter's son born

2011-Retired

-Son's son born

2013-Step-daughter's daughter born

2014-Travel, spoil grandkids, Honey Do List, woodworking

## *Steve Mauney*

Upon graduating from SHS, attended Gardner-Webb 1964–1965. Then transferred to medical laboratory school in Asheville 1965–1967. Married classmate Gary Mcswain's sister, Patricia, in 1967, divorced 1969 — no kids . Employed with U.S. Civil Service as lab technician at the Armed Forces Entrance and Examining Station in Charlotte for 5 years.

Met Margaret Lamar in 1971 while at AFEES, who at that time was a nursing student at Mercy Hospital School of Nursing. Margaret was entering the U.S. Naval Nurse Corps. We were married in 1972 and spent 1972–1973 at the Naval Air Station in Corpus Christi, Texas. She chose to discharge from the Navy after we were expecting our first child.

Returned to Shelby and was employed at the Celanese operation in Earl, N.C. Applied for and was accepted into the radiology program at Mercy Hospital. Studied and worked at Mercy Hospital Radiology Dept. performing vascular studies. Left for a similar position at N.C. Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem, N.C. Then settled in Concord, N.C., after accepting a position at Cabarrus Memorial Hospital in management in the Radiology Dept. Joined Duke Power Company in Jan., 1982, at the McGuire Nuclear Station on Lake Norman and worked in the Health Physics Dept. Retired in 2007 from DPC after 25 years at MNS.

Margaret retired from Carolinas Medical System in 2011 after 37years as a urology nurse, serving the handicapped population in this region. We are currently dividing our time between Concord and Oak Island, N. C. Our home in Concord is a 125+ year old farm house located near the Charlotte Motor Speedway ( we head for OI during races ) and are involved with our four grandchildren and church.

Our first born, Hayden, (1973) has two children, Roan(14 ) and Paisley (7) and lives in Mooresville, N.C. with Kim. David, (1980)

our second son, also has two children, Paula (10) and Hayden James (8). He is currently separated ( dating a nice young lady) and lives in Concord, N.C.

Our long / short range plans are to relocate to Oak Island and enjoy our retirement. Otherwise you may catch us at 91 Pitts School Road N.W., Concord or 304 Crowell St., Oak Island.

Would be great to keep in touch :

704- 786-7473 or cell 704-791-0735

E-mail: [mmauney49@yahoo.com](mailto:mmauney49@yahoo.com)

## *Thomas F. McCoy (Tommy)*

After high school I married Vallery Devine, served in the Army active duty at Fort Ord California and the National Guard. While in California, along with Steve Martin (SHS '64) and other buddies, we attended the International Rock Festival at the Monterey County Fairgrounds seeing real hippies for the first time along with Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, Jefferson's Airplane, Mamas & Papas and numerous other pop groups.

After coming home, I attended Gaston College (AC & Refrigeration) and later attended Cleveland Community College (Electrical). In 1987 I received my NC refrigeration contractor's license. I retired in 2001 from Hoechst-Celanese to work on my part-time job fulltime (McCoy Services) but health issues changed the course of my life. My job now is to exercise 5 days a week.

I'm still married to Vallery (celebrated 50 years in July), have two sons, Thomas, wife, Beth, who live in Shelby and Brian, wife, Mary, who live in Winterville. They have blessed us with six grandchildren: Jordan, Meleah and Colton McCoy (Shelby) and Makenna, Mitchell and Matthew (Winterville, NC).

Besides enjoying our grandchildren, Vallery and I started the Blue Oval Ford Club. We have three Mustangs (our original 1968 Fastback, 2005 GT and a 2009 Shelby GT500). I really enjoy driving the Shelby and in 2012 we visited Shelby American headquarters, Shelby garage (my name's on the wall) and Carroll Shelby's Museum in Las Vegas. We are also active members of Elizabeth Baptist Church, support our local Pregnancy Resource Center, Baptist Children's Homes, organize cruise-ins to support Relay for Life and the American Legion. I am a member of the local American Legion Post 82.

We stay busy within the community but I really enjoy taking the grandchildren to the beach and working with the SHS Class of 1964 Reunion Committee. God bless you all.

## *Jean McCurry Lineberger*

I have lived in Brevard, NC for many years and now consider myself to be a mountain woman. I am divorced and have one son, Drew, who lives in Richmond with his wife Sarah. My two grandchildren Ellie (7) and Jack (6) are full of energy and a handful, but I love it and visit often.

After graduation from Meredith College, most of my career was teaching high school business students. After retiring from teaching in 2004, I worked part time keeping the books for a real estate company. I retired completely last year.

In the spring of 2002, I had an opportunity to travel to Paris & London with my niece. I had a wonderful time and discovered my passion for travel. Since that first trip, I have tried to take one major trip each year and have traveled to most of the states and many foreign countries. Last year I went on a very special journey when I accompanied a friend back to Norway to visit her family in her homeland. We spent 15 days seeing the country through the eyes of a native. In 2016, a Viking cruise to the Baltic Sea is on my calendar.

In the meantime I enjoy reading thrillers and sipping wine with friends on the screened porch. Please stop by if you are in the neighborhood.

## *Becky Mosteller Mace*

My husband John and I have the best of two worlds between Shelby in the winter and Blowing Rock spring, summer and fall. After residing 30 years in Charlotte this is certainly “heavenly” for both of us. I retired with USAirways and he retired with a 30 year career with Charlotte Fire Department. We enjoy life!!!

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## *Ann Olsen Stroup*

After graduation went to King’s College in Charlotte, roommates with Brenda Smith and Janice Lloyd. I came back to Shelby and attended Howard’s Business School. Married Ronnie Stroup, class of ’65, and lived in Shelby until 1976 when we moved to High Point, NC. We have two children, Chip and Craig, and 5 grandchildren, Christine 24, Kathryn 22, Tyler 19 a student at App State, Elizabeth 18, and Jackson 16. We enjoy going to baseball games and tennis matches. Ron retired from Sara Lee about 12 years ago and I still work part-time at an OB-GYN practice as a certified medical assistant. I love it and have been there since 1977. I am considered one of the oldies, that’s OK cause I can teach them a few things.

Ron enjoys cycling and still plays golf occasionally. We both enjoy RVing. As I write this we are in Fries, Virginia, near the New River Trail, our favorite place to come. Sorry I will not be able to join in all the fun at the reunion and will miss seeing everyone, since we will still be on vacation. I have enjoyed reading what my classmates have shared and what a great way to keep up. I hope to be at our next reunion, and to all, take care.



# Mary Ellen Rabon Moore

Dear Classmates,

Wow! Fifty years and what a ride. After high school graduation (I wept for joy that I never had to set foot on that campus again), I set off for Charlotte Memorial Hospital School of Nursing. My father could not afford to send me to a real college to study nursing so I ended up 42 miles away from home to get real life experience. Well it might as well have been 42,000 miles away. Honey, you would not have recognized me. I was voted the most popular girl by Belmont Abbey College in the Miss Hospital School of Nursing Contest. I put my nurse's training about the human body (if you know what I mean) to good use. By the time I graduated in 1967 I had offers to work all over North Carolina.

However , after two short years as a Pediatric Nurse and a trip to Central America (oh, those Latins) I moved to Atlanta, Georgia. Wow!! The BIG HOT LANTA!!! While working at the Public Health Department I met my first husband, T. T had a PHD in Sexually Transmitted Diseases from Emory. We spent nine years of wedded bliss sailing on Lake Alatoona and Hartwell as well as marching for the civil rights movement and in the annual Rich's Christmas (now Macy's) parade.

Things took a nasty turn when I ended up in Federal prison on the outskirts of the city . I am afraid I snapped when T left the toilet seat up once too often and I killed him with a well placed blow to the solar plexus. Did you know Houdini died the same way?

I plead guilty to second degree misdemeanor based on his chronic history of leaving the top up. The judge didn't buy it. I was sentenced to 10 years. I looked on the bright side. I put those years to good use. I enrolled in Emory's correspondence program and graduated top of my class with a PhD in Forensic Psychology. T would have been so proud. Just think. We shared Alma Maters.

After early release for good behavior I worked at several prisons

for women. However , my heart was always in Nursing. While living in several Southern states I was a public health nurse, outpatient alcohol and drug rehab nurse and Infection Control and Prevention Practitioner. I finished my career as a community Parish Nurse . You would be amazed at what congregants and inmates have in common.

Currently, I am basking in retirement with my third husband ,J. We travel the world and spend wonderful hours babysitting my three adorable grandchildren. We just returned from South Africa to see the beautiful wild animals and witness what 40% – 80% unemployment rate will do to people who are under the control of Dictators.

I also spend free hours volunteering as a docent at Historic Oakland Cemetery in the heart of Atlanta as well as gardening on my estate with the help (working with Latinos, Again!) and supporting my church, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta. I am still marching for human rights. This time it includes women and gays.

All in all, the past fifty years has been a remarkable journey for a small town southern girl . I don't intend for it to end any time soon. Y'all come see us, ya hear?

Love, Mary E.

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## *Gail Roberts Stamey*

Now that our 50th class reunion has come and gone, I have a few moments to reflect on just what has happened in these last fifty years. As attendees of the reunion you might have noticed not much has changed with me except my gorgeous figure! I'm like a hot air balloon, I go up and I go down with my weight. Between that and my hair color, I'm still pretty much the same, it's genetics. An old body but a young soul! Not to offend anyone, but I've often said, "I'm a size four black woman trapped in a fat white woman's body!" Even as a little girl my dream was to be one of the famous Rockettes of New York, but like most dreams it fell by the wayside. I had to settle for being a "pole" dancer at the local lounge!! Please, it's a joke!!

Being told by our school counselor I was no where near college material I had better settle for a "Mill" job, (Nothing wrong with being a Mill worker: some of the best people I've known in my life worked the great mills of Shelby) I felt defeated. Somehow my awesome Daddy got Gardner Webb to take me as a "probationary day student; I guess God had plans for me Mrs. DePriest wasn't in on, thank you Lord! So, I struggled for two years and two summer schools to get that little 2.0 to transfer to Western Carolina, but whoa, God didn't want me there either.....off to ASU, which at the time was ASTU. There I majored in Health and PE, reacquainted with a friend from GW, Bob Stamey, a Biology major. We married in '68, had our first son, Vance, in '69; Bob taught school, and I went back to ASU to finish up one semester, so I became a weekend mom.....was not easy. Bob's mother kept Vance through the week, I came home to a spoiled little baby. I graduated from ASU in '69, was pregnant with second child, Kent, born 1970, then we moved to Catawba County and have been here ever since, became a stay home mom. Five years down the road gave birth to our third son, Seth, 1975. Finally got my first teaching job in '76, taught 15 years high school and the last 14 elementary PE. Been retired ten years now: love it!! Our oldest son, Vance, is in his last year of law school, Kent

is owner and trainer of CrossFit Hickory, and Seth is in real estate. It only took these boys twenty years to figure out what they wanted to do in life; it's been an experience I would not want to repeat!!

We've all been stung by the loss of loved ones by now: Wayne, younger brother, 2010; my Dad, R.E. Roberts, Jr, 92, in 2012; and my sweet, sweet Mama, Chancey P. Roberts, 92, in 2013. I am comforted by knowing without a doubt they are all in the loving arms of our Creator! My belief is we are not of this world.....if you are His child, I pray I'll see you all at "the" greatest reunion all of times!!!

After eleven years of teaching, my husband, Bob, packed the school business up, went back to school to become a Pharmacist. He went off to UNC, I stayed home with three little boys....good thing they were still scared of me at this time...he worked for a drug store for eight years then he went in a partnership with a co worker and they have had their own business in Maiden for the past twenty five years. This afforded me to be able to retire and I'm so thankful! Also, God has blessed us with six awesome grandchildren; Caleb, Carsyn, Colt, Cage, Callie Gail, and Bella Grace!! I am in awe of the patience, forgiveness, mercies, and above all the love of my Heavenly Father! I am blessed beyond anything I could have dreamed of as child. I'm so glad God did not want me to be a pole dancer!

Looking forward to the next time we meet. Until then may you have joy and peace in your life, but above all, LOVE!!

## *Ginger Rochelle Connor*

After high school, I worked as a dental assistant for several years and was married in 1966. In 1978, divorced with two children, Clint, 8 yrs old, and Christy, 4 yrs old, I went to work for the NC Department of Corrections as a Correctional Officer in Raleigh. I completed training in Salemburg, NC, which included qualifying on the firing range. When State Personnel moved my daytime position back to the shifts, I had to leave. With two small children, I could not work shifts. For five years I worked as a customer service rep and trainer for a company that sold business phone systems. I trained in small offices, school systems, and a hospital in Durham with several hundred phones.

In 1987 I moved my family to Hampstead, NC, to be closer to my aging Mother. I am a member of Topsail Presbyterian Church, where I have enjoyed teaching Sunday School, singing in the choir, teaching crafts in Bible School, and cooking meals for the youth groups on Sunday evenings. Prior to retiring I was an office manager for an endodontist for ten years.

Living on the coast has been wonderful with the exception of hurricane Fran in 1996. Fran blew down 42 pines trees in our yard with only two coming through the roof and several branches breaking windows. When one large tree fell over, it pulled up the drain lines to the septic system. Nice! We were without power for two weeks! I am fortunate to live close to my son Clint and his wife, my daughter Christy and her husband, and my two granddaughters, Emma, 11, and Brooke, 2. What joy and love grandchildren bring into our lives!! I am so blessed to still have my Mother, who will be 99 this November, and to be able to care for her. She has faced health challenges recently but her mind is still sharp and I treasure each day I have with her. Family has always been and will always be the most important part of my life.

# *Brenda Smith Atchley*

After graduation attended Kings Business college.

Met Jerry Montgomery from Winston Salem. We had two sons Joey Montgomery, Andy Montgomery. Worked at Baptist Hospital for four kidney doctors and secretary for two attorneys and secretary for traffic engineer,.

Divorced in 1972 and returned to Shelby with my two sons broken but not defeated.

Worked in Accounting at PPG Industries for 22 years.

In 1985 married Gary Atchley from Rutherfordton County. We combined our family of four boys and raised them as best we could.

Decided in 1994 that I wanted to try something new. I bought a florist in Cliffside beside a funeral home. Worked very hard for next ten years. Retired to take care of my mother who lived with us the next few years. We lost her in 2010.

Have always enjoyed working with my hands.. Loved wood carving, basket making, taught tating, knitting, crocheting at some local art gallery and churches.

Loved all the challenges of learning new art form but became a master of none.

Currently reside in Forest City, N.C. We have four grandchildren and four grand dogs who keeps the UPS truck drivers on their toes. We have a miniature horse who keeps the deer running and ground hogs at bay on our little farm.

After 50 years I am so happy and proud that I grew up in Shelby. and went to school with some wonderful people.

## *Gary Smith*

Gary (Smitty) Smith, a cancer survivor. Married 47 years to Judith Williams (SHS Class of 1966) Have 1 son, Alton, who is a high school coach and teacher. Have 2 Grandchildren, Rowan and Riley, ages 11 and 9. Retired from textiles and the granite industry. Live in Elberton, Ga. E-mail [gsmith@elberton.net](mailto:gsmith@elberton.net).



## *Sandy Spears-Guy*

Went to Kings Business College where I was a cheerleader. Married in '69 and spent two years in Germany where hubby served in the Army. Lived off base in an upstairs apartment of a German family. Visited six countries while there. Was secretary at Henkle Chemicals to the VP upon return. Was in Beta Sigma Phi where I was voted Most Valuable Member in '73. Son, David, born in '80 and daughter, Jennifer, born in '84. Became a stay-at-home mom while also selling Avon where I became an area manager. Moved to Virginia in '94 where I became a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs in Radford and eventually became president and where I also became a district president—one of 7 in Virginia—while also serving as president of 2 clubs. Also became president of Newcomers and Queen Mother of Red Hats as well as playing bridge often. Divorced in '05, have 2 grandsons and am happily retired and enjoying flower and vegetable gardening while singing in the church choir and leading Senior Ministries at my church.

# *Jim Swift*

Attended North Carolina State University between 1964 and 1968. Graduated in 1968 with BS in Engineering Operations.

Joined General Electric Company right out of college and spent 40 years in the Power Generation & Transmission Business, all with GE. Retired in 2008. Moved 16 times during the 40 years.

Married to Drew Fewell of Clover, SC in 1969. Have one son, Mark, born in 1974, and one daughter, Ashley, born in 1977. So far we have no grandchildren.

We live now in Tellico Village, TN, which is 15 miles southwest of Knoxville, TN, on the Little Tennessee River.

Play golf, pickleball, and boat on Tellico Lake.

That is about it. Looking forward to seeing everyone again in October.

Best regards,

Jim Swift



# *Sue Thompson Willis*

2 Sons

4 Grands

Part-time work: care-giver for the elderly

Spends time:

Yard

Crafting

Cooking

Very happy in Stuckey, South Carolina

# *Dyke Tilt*

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After graduating from SHS in 1964, I started my first year at North Carolina State University. My efforts were less about academics and more about experiencing life outside hometown Shelby, N.C. Fast forward to 1967, I was married, had my first son and was working full time. Notwithstanding, I continued to take courses at various colleges as my family and I moved with the jobs changes that were to come.

During nearly 30 years, I worked in 2 countries, 5 states, 7 cities, and took college courses at 7 institutions of higher learning. My professional development was rewarded with positions of ever increasing responsibility and resources to advance and support my family.

I began working for Eastern Air Lines (EAL) in 1968. After my first wife Marlys and I divorced in 1975, I met and married my current wife Bunny in 1976. My second son, Charlie, was born in 1978.

Many promotions and moves later, in 1984 EAL promoted me to the position of Manager of Airport Services in Birmingham, AL. One year later, I was accepted at UAB in the School of Business. In 1993 I earned a B.S. in Management at UAB.

Most of us know that Eastern Air Lines is no more. After the collapse of Eastern, I was the Director for the North Alabama Chapter of the March of Dimes for 6 years. Then I moved to Vice President of Development for Eastern Health System, a hospital foundation in Birmingham.

In 1999 my wife Bunny and I moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts where I continue working for PG Calc, a privately owned software and service company serving not-for-profit organizations. I became a managing partner in 2005. In April of 2013 I moved to semi-retirement, continuing to work with PG Calc 3 days a week as a consultant.

My son Lee and his wife Brenda live near Atlanta. They have 3 children. Charlie and his wife Katie also live near Atlanta. They have 2 children.

Life has been very good!

## *Lynn Van Dyke Gillespie*

After high school I attended Kings Business College in Charlotte. The next year I married Dwight Gillespie and we have two sons (Sherman and Christopher). We have 6 grandchildren (three of each). During my working career I worked at First National Bank of Shelby for 10 years and retired from BB&T Bank after 27 years. Am now enjoying my retirement spending time with my family and friends, volunteering at the Hospice Resale Store and the Senior Center, working part-time, and having time to catch up on my reading.

## *Karen Walters Gee*

After graduating from Meredith College in 1968, I had a brief career in teaching. Realizing that I needed to make a career change, I went back to school and became a medical technologist. I met my husband Paul in 1974 at Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte where I was working in the lab and he was a sales rep for American Hospital Supply. We were both divorced. He had a 5-year-old daughter, and I had a 4-year-old son.

In August when Paul was transferred to Miami, we decided to get married. The wedding took place in the hospital chapel where I wore a navy blue peasant dress and most of the guests were in hospital whites.

We spent 12 years in Miami where we added a son and daughter to our family. We have fabulous memories of stone crabs, key lime pie, and year round summer. In 1986 work took us to Minneapolis, Minnesota where we arrived with no blankets, coats, or winter clothes. After 6 years of snow and cold, we were lucky to have an opportunity to move close to home and relocated to Huntersville, NC where we have lived since 1992. Throughout the years I always found a lab to work in and retired from Carolinas Medical Center Northeast in Concord in 2010. Paul and I now enjoy retirement on the NC coast with our toes in the water, a@@@s in the sand, and trying not to have a care in the world.

## *Ann Ward Hamrick Wray*

As we were graduating from Shelby High School, I started a wonderful romantic adventure. I married my sweetheart Joe Hamrick. Joe, a talented artist, continued his education in Richmond, Virginia, at Virginia Commonwealth University. After eight years of marriage we were blessed with a son, Tyson. Our happiness was short lived and shattered in 1978 when Joe was diagnosed with cancer. Joe passed away in 1980.

After Joe's death I bought a small house in Roanoke, Virginia, for Tyson and me. I worked at a bank until 1983 when I met Ronnie Wray and became a step-mother to two children, who were nine and twelve years old. In 1998 Ronnie was diagnosed with cancer and passed away in 2006. I sold my house in Rocky Mount, Virginia, and moved to Marion, North Carolina, to be close, but not too close, to my son Tyson (band director at Owen Middle School), my terrific daughter-in-law Joann, and my two beautiful grandchildren. Aaron is a freshman at NC State, and Sarah Ann is a freshman at Owen High School.

I was blessed to find a wonderful part-time job working for McDowell County as a "dreaded" Deputy Tax Collector. I have been there almost five years and hope to finally retire (for the third time) to be able to travel and visit friends more often.

Short and sweet story of my life (in a nutshell)!!!!

## *Steve Warren*

Hello, all classmates! Since our school days I think my life has been fairly simple. After our high school graduation I served an enlistment in the Marine Corps which was followed by college at Gardner-Webb College and North Carolina State University. Immediately after college I began employment with Duke Energy (then known as Duke Power Company) and I went on to work there for more than 35 years. Over the years I held numerous engineering and management assignments, primarily in the Duke Nuclear Power Program. Through these years I worked at several Duke facilities, but fortunately was never located more than an easy drive from Shelby. I have been married to Linda Kinsey for 43 years. Linda is also a Shelby native, and she is a graduate of the former Number Three Township High School. We have two children, one of each, and four grandsons ranging in age from 11 months to 15 years. Linda and I retired in 2007 (she was a nurse) and moved to Raleigh to be near all our children; however, we continue to visit Shelby on a frequent basis. I am grateful to be able to attend our 50-year reunion. I miss all those that are not here with us for this very special event, especially those that have passed on before us. I will try my very best to personally speak with every classmate that is here for our reunion. I look forward to seeing everyone.

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