

I Never Saw Your Wings

*How is it that I never saw your wings, when you were here with me?
When you closed your eyes and soared to the Heavens
I could hear the faint flutter of your wings as you left.
Your body no longer on this side, your spirit here eternally,
I see your halo shine.*

*I closed my eyes and saw the multi-colored wings
surround me in my saddest moments and my happiest times.*

*Mother, my angel, God has given you your assignment
Always my mother... forever my angel.*

You fly into my dreams and when I am asleep

I feel your wings brush against my face

Wiping away the tears I shed

*Since I can no longer hold you in my arms,
but in my heart.*

*You earned those wings, dear Mother
And you will always be my angel eternal.*

With Our Heartfelt Thanks

*Perhaps you sent a lovely card,
or called on the phone or texted the kindest words,
Maybe you just sat quietly in a chair, and said a prayer.
Perhaps you sent a floral piece or some food our way
If so we saw it there.*

And felt the many blessings sent our way.

Perhaps you were not there at all,

But just thought of our family that day.

Whatever you did to console our hearts,

We thank you so much whatever the part.

*The family of
Ethel Ophelia Bennett*

Professional Services Entrusted to "Those Who Care"
704-873-3611

Rutledge & Bigham Mortuary, Inc.

603 S. Center St., Statesville, NC 28677

Visit Mrs. Bennett's Online Tribute

at www.rutledgeandbigham.com

*A Service of Thanksgiving to God
For the Life of*

Mrs. Ethel Ophelia Wellman Bennett



Ophelia

A Gift Given

March 7, 1921

A Gift Returned

November 2, 2020

Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

Third Creek Baptist Church

Stony Point, North Carolina

Reverend Tommy Carpenter, Pastor

Officiating

Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Psalm 90:1



Amazing Lady

Ophelia was always jolly and full of glee
and how she did it amazed me.
She moved around with that one replaced knee,
and she never ran out of that golden tea.
It was amazing how she kept her house so neat,
and she always had something ready to eat.
She always kept everything in place,
she was amazing and her name wasn't Grace.
She did a lot of things no one saw her do,
some things we were told, and we knew they were true.
There were times when she walked to work,
she walked other places and even walked to church.
She grew up in a home where there was no car,
when you are young and happy three miles wasn't far
I watched her make many cakes,
but I never saw her kill a snake.
She played the organ at her Grandma's house,
and dated the man that became her spouse
I saw her in the field picking cotton,
one of the things she never forgotten.
Ophelia milked the cow before she went to school,
where they had devotions and learned the golden rules.
She pulled fodder and stripped molasses cane
And still found time to play "crazy games."
She chased and caught many chickens,
Her grandma and aunt would do the picking
Stood on the back porch singing and churning
When the wheels of justice wasn't even turning.
Washed lots of clothes without a machine
Worked for people that were a little mean
Worked for wages that was less than fair
When people in high places didn't even care.
All for free, she washed, pressed and curled hair
Did it for kids without a dime to spend or spare.
And yet her cupboard was never bare
She still liked pretty clothes to wear.
When her husband was sick she started watching the soaps
When they were alone, it helped her to cope.
She came up when kids got no allowance
They were doing well to have a ball to bounce.
With her sense of humor and her faith in God
She didn't complain about the path she trod
She was independent and enjoyed retirement
An amazing lady for all our environment.

Written by Thelma Ramsue



A Service of Thanksgiving to God For the Life of
Mrs. Ethel Ophelia Wellman Bennett

Thursday, November 5, 2020
2:00 p.m.

The Order of Service

- The Processional
- The Invocation Minister Joy Jones
- The Solo..... Mrs. Carol Speaks
- The Scripture:
 - Old Testament: *Proverbs 31* Reverend Sterling Howard
 - New Testament: *I Corinthians 15:51-58* Minister Jerry Ratchford
- The Prayer of Comfort Minister Maurice Lackey
- The Silent Reading of the Opbituary
- The Remarks (*limit two minutes please*)
 - ♥ Mrs. Brenda Waters
 - ♥ Mr. George Hollman
 - ♥ Mrs. Ollie Byers
- The Acknowledgements and Church Resolution Minister Jerry Ratchford
- The Commemorative Presentation The Funeral Director
- The Solo Mrs. Judy Wiggins
- The Eulogy Pastor Tommy Carpenter
- The Committal
- The Recessional Selection

At The Third Creek Baptist Church Cemetery

The Gathering of the Christian Community
The Placing of the Casket
The Final Departure

The Family Tribute Celebrating and Remembering the Life of

Mrs. Ethel Ophelia Wellman Bennett

*A smile for all, a heart of gold,
One of the finest this world could hold,
Never selfish, always kind
These are the memories she leaves behind...*

Mrs. Ethel Ophelia Wellman Bennett, 99, of Stony Point, NC passed away peacefully at her home surrounded by family. Ophelia finished her life as she lived it full of grace, dignity and a positive attitude. She was admired and her legacy will live on in all who knew her. She was loved by many friends and was well taken care of especially by her daughter, her caregiver and her family. She was born on March 7, 1921, and departed her life on Monday, November 2, 2020, at her home.

She was the daughter of the late Austin and Laura Parker Wellman. Losing her mother at the age of 2 weeks, she was reared in the home of her late maternal grandparents, Albert and Harriet Parker; her aunt Mary; her foster mother, Ella; and her foster brother, Harvey Parker. A sister, Hazel Bratcher and a brother, Hillard Miller; two sisters-in-law, Marie Rankin and Idell Bennett; four brothers-in-law, Wilbur Bennett, Harry Bennett, Garland Bennett and Henry Bennett, also preceded her in death.



Ophelia attended Third Creek Baptist Elementary School and Happy Plain School. She accepted Christ at an early age, and became a member of Third Creek Baptist Church. She was a charter member, president and treasurer of the Senior Choir. Ophelia showed her love for five years to the choir by hosting a backyard cookout for the members to enjoy. She was a charter member of the usher ministry, Sunday School secretary, and served as Chairman of the Hospitality Committee. She was a member of

the NC and Alexander County Singing Convention, and the Golden Women's Club. Ophelia was employed in 1947 until 1950 at Stony Point Cafeteria, Days Inn and El Tio's in Statesville for her tasty food. She was employed at the opening of Alexander County Hospital in Taylorsville, NC in the culinary department for many years. Among the many delicious meals, she was especially noted for her yeast rolls where everyone was standing around the oven, waiting for a hot buttered roll. She was a wonderful chef.

Ophelia always found time after she married to go back home to her grandparents to can food from the garden, cook and take care of them. She was a jolly and lovable person.

Her hobbies were riding bicycles, embroidering, playing the organ, quilting, fixing hair, baking cakes for Christmas, Birthdays, Weddings, special events and growing flowers.

Ophelia was honored at her church in 2012 by Taylorsville's Mayor George Hollman for her dedicated service to the hospital and community.

She was married to the late De Arcy Bennett on June 16, 1939. They enjoyed many years



together traveling and sightseeing until his sickness. She left her job at the hospital trusting in God without any income to take care of her husband. He preceded her in death on March 6, 1988.

She leaves to cherish precious memories, her sweet and loveable daughter, Velma Bennett Patterson and son-in-law, B. F. Patterson, both of the home; daughter number two, Gladys Allen of Roaring River, NC; one granddaughter, Sylvia Poole; one grandson, Reginald Patterson; one great grandson, Jerome Poole of Stony Point;

Ailene Keaton of Statesville who was reared in the home; one sister-in-law, Betty Bennett of Stony Point; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, the Third Creek Baptist Church Family, neighbors and friends.



*If Roses Grow In Heaven
If roses grow in heaven,
Lord please pick a bunch for me,
Place them in my Mother's arms
And tell her they're from me.
Tell her I love her and miss her,
And when she turns to smile,
place a kiss upon her cheek
and hold her for a while
Because remembering her is easy,
I do it every day,
But there's an ache within my heart
That will never go away.
Love your Daughter, Velma*

