



## Mrs. Bonita Phillips

June 22, 1947 - January 27, 2023

Bonita Faye Bradshaw Phillips was the only child born to Everett (Ebb) and Sophronia Inez Russom Bradshaw on June 22, 1947, in Mineola, Texas. She was raised in the Little Hope Community of Winnsboro, Texas, attending school in Winnsboro. She was preceded in death by her parents. A Celebration of Life and Legacy will be held on Saturday, February 4, 2023, at First Baptist Church of Carthage with visitation with family and friends will begin at 10:00 am with service to follow at 11:00 am. Interment of cremains will take place in the future at Little Hope Cemetery in Winnsboro, Texas. Bonita met the love of her life, Jerry Cleo Phillips, on the school bus in 1960. They were married on September 6, 1963, at Little Hope Baptist Church by Bro. J.E. Hopkins. She teased Jerry by telling him she had no choice but to marry him as he was the only boy in the community, she wasn't kin to! Jerry and Bonita moved to Dallas in 1963. Jerry went to work for Dallas Power & Light and Bonita worked for Collins Radio in Richardson, Texas, in the communications department making radios for the Huey helicopters used during the VietNam war. After the birth of their youngest child, she came home to become a full-time wife, mother and caregiver to her mother for the next 17 years. After the death of her mother, she worked as Tax Assessor/ Collector for Beckville ISD; Secretary/ bookkeeper for Larry Dorman, Inc.; Reporter/photographer for the Panola Watchman Newspaper; Panola County Appraisal District; Hawthorne Funeral Home. Bonita and Jerry were saved and baptized at the same time in August 1972, at Victory Baptist Church,

Sherman, Texas. Jerry surrendered to the ministry and together they served with Victory Baptist Church, Calvary Baptist Church, both in Sherman, Texas. After moving back to East Texas, they served in First Baptist Church, Beckville; First Baptist Church, Carthage; and Liberty Baptist Church, Henderson. Bonita taught Sunday school, teaching 7-12 grades, Ladies Sunday School, Young Married Class, numerous Bible study groups, WMA president local and district, AWANA secretary, Church Clerk, Church Treasurer, pianist, and organist. She enjoyed reading, crocheting and calligraphy. Enjoyed times spent with family and friends, especially all the grand and great-grandchildren. Bonita is survived by her husband, Jerry, three children and their spouses, eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Very Favorite #1 Daughter, Tammie Phillips Herndon and husband, Brian, of Rockwall. Their daughters, Lauren Alyse Sheppard and husband, Jon, Jr. of Whitehouse and their children, Kenley Alyse, Chloe Alexis, and Graham Kirby; Amy Elizabeth Sheppard and husband, Matthew, of Bullard and their children, Madison Kate, Emma Elizabeth, Eleanor Rose, and Henry Matthew. Very Favorite #1 Son, Jerry Marcus (Mark) Phillips and his late wife, Ronna Lynn, of Gary. Their children, Ashley Brett Bowen and husband, Cody; Erin Brynn, Ryan Douglass, and Rhett Marcus, all of Gary. Very Favorite #2 Daughter, Kelly Phillips Wallace, husband Brian and their children, Claire Alexandra, and husband John Ward of Arlington, VA; Brice Everett of Arp. Special "son" and family, Chris and Julie White of Gary and children, Lindsey & Preston Byrd and children, Chloe, Paisley, and Jackson; and Jacob White, of Denton. God-given life-long friends Kent and Donna Elliott and family of Prosper; Charles and Bertha Hines and family of Sherman. Beloved church families at First Baptist Church, Beckville; Liberty Baptist Church, Henderson; Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Carthage; First Baptist Church, Carthage. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in memory of Bonita to The Hospice of East Texas, Tyler at [www.hospiceofeasttexas.org](http://www.hospiceofeasttexas.org) or the Gideons International at [www.gideons.org](http://www.gideons.org).



# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 4. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Carthage  
256 S Market St.  
Carthage, TX

## Funeral Service

FEB 4. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Carthage  
256 S Market St.  
Carthage, TX

# Tribute Wall

BB

“ *Bonita was a delightful person and I will never forget her love and kindness. When her grandkids were in my 2nd grade at Gary, she always came at Christmas and shared the true meaning of Christmas with the second graders. The students were spellbound by her story telling talent and I could tell that some of them had not heard the nativity story. I was always thankful for her Christian influence. I truly admired her and loved he. See ya in Heaven some day, precious friend. Prayers for all of her family.* 🙏🙏 ☐☐ ❤️❤️



Becky Blair - February 05, 2023 at 12:43 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Bonita Phillips.*



February 03, 2023 at 06:47 PM

SR

“ As I think back over the 50 plus years, there are those special friends and families, we will never forget. I remember picking blackberries, how wonderful Bonita played the piano and organ, she even played one last time for Jim Jim's funeral. We had Sunday night sing-alongs after church and the list goes on and on. I'm sure she and Jim Jim and your Mam-ma haven't hushed yet. Ha, Ha! Oh these are what is called Precious Memories that flood the Soul. She was and is very Special to our family as you all are Jerry, Tammie, Marcus and Kelly. The weather and work will not permit us to be with you at her service but our Heart and Prayers are with you Always. Gus and Sandra Shaw Rea.

Sandra Rea - February 02, 2023 at 10:33 AM

JD

“ Sending our love and prayers. So sorry for your loss. Bonita was a friend to so many of us.  
With love,  
The Jerry Don Dorman Family  
Isaiah 40:31



Jerry Don and Pat Edens Dorman - January 31, 2023 at 05:27 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Bonita Phillips.



January 31, 2023 at 01:16 PM

SH

“ We send our deepest condolences!!! This very beautiful lady, Inside and out, will be missed so very much❤️❤️ Our thoughts and prayers are with you all🙏🥰 I can't believe I will not be able to have another conversation with her or hear her laugh again, well at least not in this lifetime! Lots of love to her family 🥰🥰 Love: The Hall Family ❤️❤️🥰🥰

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**Sarah Hall** - January 30, 2023 at 03:19 PM

EM

“ Ms Bonita was a joy to work with at the newspaper. I loved her and her ecstatic personality. She will be missed.  
Elaine

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**Elaine McPherson** - January 30, 2023 at 11:14 AM

JT

“ Bonita was a friend with everyone she met. We just love her and her family and have a sweet memories especially of rolls she served at dinner. She loved to laugh and make everyone smile around her. Prayers for all of the family and so sorry for the loss of a great First Lady. Love, The Tilley's

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**Joyce Tilley** - January 30, 2023 at 10:37 AM

AS

“ She was a wonderful person and will be missed so much. I worked with Bonita at the Panola Watchman. She was a great friend and always had words of encouragement. She loved her family greatly.  
Anita Shahan

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**Anita Shahan** - January 30, 2023 at 01:17 AM

PS

“ Prayers for the family for peace , comfort and strength for the days ahead. Though our acquaintance was short, she was truly a blessing to my life.  
Peggy Silvey



Peggy Silvey - January 29, 2023 at 11:13 PM

KA

“ Tammie, now I understand why Bonita and her family have been on my mind so strongly and in my prayers all weekend. I'm so saddened to hear that you're missing and grieving your mom. We will see you soon. Love you.

Karen Adams - January 29, 2023 at 08:28 PM

BH

Thank you!

Brian Herndon - February 02, 2023 at 11:35 PM

SK

“ Such a sweet lady. Loved Liberty Baptist where I attended until 1970. SS with her at First Baptist Carthage.

Sue Kear - January 29, 2023 at 07:14 PM

LJ

“ Tammy and Brian, so sorry to hear of your Moms passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time.  
Lisa and Jerry Jayroe

lisa jayroe - January 29, 2023 at 04:45 PM

BH

*Thank you!*

**Brian Herndon** - February 02, 2023 at 11:36 PM

LD

“ *My deepest condolences to Bonita's family & loved ones. She was such a sweet & friendly Lady. I loved to read her FB posts from "Margaret". She was very funny & wrote quite well. RIP Cousin. You will be missed greatly.*  
*LuElla Davis*



**LuElla Davis** - January 29, 2023 at 04:20 PM

SB

*Bonita and Jerry were always such a great inspiration to me and James . I can only say I know the days ahead will Be hard just remember the good years you had and lean on your faith in the Lord to help you . You are in my prayers.*  
*Sue Bishop*

**Sue Bishop** - January 30, 2023 at 08:59 AM

VM

*Kelly and family so sorry for the loss of your mom I hope you can find comfort in knowing that you will be together again in Heaven. Stay strong in your faith for you and your dad. You are all in my prayers.*

**Velma Medina** - January 30, 2023 at 10:13 AM