



## Rev. Wallace Willis

August 7, 1937 - June 18, 2022

Mr. Wallace Willis, 84, of Weston formerly of Leesburg died Saturday June 18, 2022 at Columbus Hospice in Columbus, GA.

His funeral service will be held Wednesday 11:00AM at Weston Baptist Church with interment to follow at Leesburg Cemetery at 3:00PM. Revs Dick Gill and Terry Harrell officiating. The family will receive friends Tuesday from 6:00PM to 8:00PM at Kimbrell-Stern.

Born in Tift County, Mr. Willis was the son of Wendall W. Willis and Lillian Ulm Willis. He went to Norman College then went to Mercer University and got his master's at GA State College. Mr. Willis was a retired schoolteacher in Lee County after serving 30 years. Since he was 18 years old he began preaching at Shingler Baptist Church. While he attended Mercer he met his wife Janet Brookins and also pastored Friendship Baptist Church. After Friendship he pastored at Sumner Baptist Church, Sasser Baptist Church, Bronwood Baptist Church, Macedonia Baptist Church and his final church was Weston Baptist Church until his death. Mr. Willis also was a Chaplain at the Lee County State Prison. He loved to play the piano and sing. All of his life was that he loved to minister to others.

He was preceded in death by his wife Janet Brookins Willis.

Survivors include his three children Wynn Willis (Brandy) of Lee County; Laurie Willis Sheffield (Greg) of Preston, GA; Cathy Willis Ivey (Bubba) of Lake Blackshear; a sister Carolyn Lemgruber (Bill) of Friendswood, TX; grandchildren Gage Willis (Rebekah), Tyler Willis (Kelsey), Dale Willis

(Brittlyn), Devin Sheffield, Garrett Sheffield, Gaughf Ivey (Allie), Chap Ivey (Bekah) and Anna Catherine Ivey; great-grandchildren Aria Sheffield; sister-in-law Doris Daniel and several nieces and nephews.

Those desiring please make donations to Weston Baptist Church, 785 Main St., Weston, GA 31832 or Georgia Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries, 9420 Blackshear Hwy, Baxley, GA 30513.

# Cemetery Details

## Leesburg Cemetery

Hwy 32  
Leesburg, GA 31763

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 21. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Kimbrell-Stern  
1503 Dawson Road  
Albany, GA 31707  
(229) 883-4152  
<https://www.kimbrellstern.com?>

## Funeral Service

JUN 22. 11:00 AM (ET)

Weston Baptist Church  
785 Main St.  
Weston, GA 31832

## Committal Service

JUN 22. 3:00 PM (ET)

Leesburg Cemetery  
Leesburg  
GA 31763



# Tribute Wall

SR

“ My Dad walked in this afternoon and told me of Mr. Willis’ recent passing. He was and will remain “Mr. Willis” despite over 40 years passing since 8th grade. What a tremendous teacher who had so much positive influence on so many young minds. I remember fondly singing “Swing Low Sweet Chariot” as part of the boys choral group he lead. I recall that group that year being honorary pallbearers at his wife’s service. I have been forever impacted by that experience and am excited that for them there has been a joyful reunion.

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**Sherman Reeves** - June 26, 2022 at 04:11 PM

SM

“ Sharon Cheshire McDonald lit a candle in memory of Rev. Wallace Willis



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**Sharon Cheshire McDonald** - June 22, 2022 at 04:23 PM

NR

“ Cathy and Bubba, thinking of you.

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**Nancy Reimer** - June 22, 2022 at 11:47 AM

DM

“ Laurie, Devon and family and close friends and to the members of Weston Baptist. My deepest condolences. What a Blessing Brother Wallace was to the Burks family in Weston. When lived in Texas and we had a weeks stay of vacation the memories of Todd, Devon and Leslie are held close. Their swimming days and walking between the houses were the good Ole days. All are adults and I'm Thankful God allowed our paths to cross when he became pastor in Weston. Brother Wallace will be missed. Bittersweet day. We are left to mourn, but oh the homecoming he had. I pray for the comfort from our Heavenly Father for the days ahead without Brother Wallace. May we all hold the memories and the teachings he so gracious gave close to heart.



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**Donna Burks Maxwell** - June 22, 2022 at 05:46 AM

DB

“ Some of my fondest memories growing up are with Mr. Willis and Cathy. Mr. Willis treated me as if I was one of his own kids. He helped me through many difficult times. He provided a lot of biblical guidance and prayed for not only me, Cathy and so many people in our friendship circle. You could feel that it was genuine. In many of those conversations as a young teen, the one thing that stood out was his love for all members of his family. I never met Mrs. Willis, but I remember his conversations about how much he loved her, and how the two of them loved all of you.

*I pray for all of you during this time. I hope you take solace in knowing that this man had a profound impact on so many people over the years. I know when he passed he saw the face of Jesus, and then was met with an embrace from his wife, and Grandma Willis (another great saint that impacted my life).*

*A verse of scripture that I know he would have us all memorize like he always did:*

*"No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is made complete in us." 1 John 4:12*

*Prayers and hugs to all of you.*

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**Dave Branch** - June 21, 2022 at 08:26 PM

KB

“ It had only been a few months after Janet's death, when I met the Willis family.

Cathy, as the oldest and only ten years old. Even at that tender age, she could see Wallace's grief, and knew he was struggling financially.

She had found Janet's large collection of S&H Green Stamps. Wallace was agonizing over Christmas gifts for the children. In his effort to provide for his babies, like any good parent, he was neglecting himself. He only had one pair of shoes, which he repaired with cardboard.

Cathy purchased multiple Christmas gifts for Wynn, Laurie, and saved enough money to purchase a Florsheim shoes gift certificate for Wallace. He told me he had been dreading this Christmas, but instead of sorrow, it was one of his most happy and memorable times. I don't know if Wynn and Laurie ever knew what she had done to surprise everyone.

Years later, Wallace performed the wedding ceremony for my husband and me.

Our families will always have a connection.

Our prayers are with everyone. Love you all.

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**Kay and Ray Bradley** - June 21, 2022 at 07:52 PM

HL

“ Hoyt & Tonya Langford purchased the Beautiful i  
n Blue for the family of Rev. Wallace Willis.



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**Hoyt & Tonya Langford** - June 21, 2022 at 03:26 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Rev. Wallace Willis.* ”



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June 21, 2022 at 01:54 PM

“ A few days after Easter of this year, as I stood with my wife and daughters at my mom’s funeral visitation, I looked at the next person in the line of visitors, and, at that moment, was taken back to 1974. There stood my beloved 7th-8th grade English teacher, boys’ glee club sponsor, and mentor, Mr. Wallace Willis. The 46 years since I last saw him melted away, and there I saw that same smile, that same sweet man, just in a slightly more stooped figure.

*I introduced him to my family. I learned that he was still preaching, staggering sermons over the Sundays at three different churches. What an amazing testimony of a faithful servant.*

*He had seen my mom’s obituary and had made the drive to see us three Moore boys.*

*He followed this visit with a beautifully written letter, typed, in which he shared the words of an old Primitive Baptist hymn that had helped his family in times of grief to help me in my time. He also mentioned that we might never see each other again on this earth. I immediately prayed that God would find a way to let me see my dear friend at least one more time. I wrote back to him, and shortly afterward received a call from him. We talked for quite a while.*

*My prayer was answered. I was a visitor at Weston Baptist when he delivered his final sermon a few Sundays ago. The text was Isaiah 6. What a day it was. I met one of his daughters along with a handful of church members. Attendance was good for this small church, thanks to a convergence of visitors and family.*

*Prayer requests were numerous. Among them was a request for him as he faced an MRI early in the week ahead. We talked again on the phone after his MRI. His stroke came a couple of days later.*

*I am grateful for our getting reconnected in his final weeks. I look*

*forward to our reunion in eternity.*

*Due largely to his influence, I spent three decades as a high school English teacher. Not only do I recall the classroom lessons. I also recall the talks in the hallway, his stern warnings about choices I was making, friends who were leading me from the straight and narrow.*

*He took our choir to sing at nursing homes and to Lee Correctional Institute, where one of his former students (whose name he still recalled during our second phone conversation) was incarcerated. The pain at seeing his old student imprisoned was palpable, but he turned the occasion into a teachable moment for us.*

*One of our special choir trips took us to the Stephen Foster Memorial in northern Florida (Way Down upon the Suwannee River...).*

*I still recall the lines to almost every song we ever sung. In first grade, I had heard his choir sing during a school program, and had asked Mr. Willis if he could bring his choir to sing for us again. I had made a plan when I first heard his boys sing that one day I would be a member of his choir, and God was good in granting me this desire.*

*Truth is, I could not, and cannot sing a lick. Mr. Willis graciously overlooked this obvious fact, and taught me the blessing of making a joyful noise.*

*I will remember our days together fondly, and keep his loving spirit alive, in the days I have left, as I chirp my own versions of The Number Song, Ain't it a Shame, and Way Down upon the Suwannee River, and so many others.*

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**Ralph Moore** - June 21, 2022 at 11:35 AM

HK

“ Wallace & I were good friends ,we would go out to eat he & I would dominate the conversation. I loved him very much, he will be missed.  
Horace & Carolyn Keen

Horace Keen - June 21, 2022 at 08:40 AM



“ Elena Taylor lit a candle in memory of Rev. Wallace Willis



Elena Taylor - June 20, 2022 at 11:38 PM

WE

“ Heavenly Father, Bless that mans soul, he truly made a difference. He preached the Word, and wasn't afraid to speak the truth. Please give his family and friends your peace during this time and in the days to come. I first met him at Friendship. I know there is going to be some kind of homecoming in Heaven...Halleluyah! Thank you.



Wendy - June 20, 2022 at 10:04 PM

SP

“ i meet preacher wallace at friendship church and i sure will miss him a lot he was so kind and we all love him prayers sent to the family

sarah parker - June 20, 2022 at 08:16 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rev. Wallace Willis.*



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June 20, 2022 at 08:07 PM



“ *Mr. Willis was loved by my daughter in the Lee County schools! He was her favorite teacher!*

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**Susan Johnson** - June 20, 2022 at 02:28 PM



“ *Wallace Willis had a positive influence on hundreds of students and members of the churches he served. He was a dedicated professional and a friend .I extend my sincere sympathy to his family.*

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**Robert A. Clay** - June 20, 2022 at 01:49 PM



“ *Best teacher ever. He taught us all what tough love was. I'll always remember the Friday spanking sessions and the reasons for getting them! The eighth grade choir sessions are still some of my favorite memories, 47 years later. Condolences to the family.*

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**Jim Clanton** - June 20, 2022 at 01:47 PM



*I will remember him in my prayers. He had a truly positive affect on my life.*

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**Mark Lovell** - June 27, 2022 at 08:49 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rev. Wallace Willis.



June 20, 2022 at 10:28 AM



“ Dean Joyce & Construction Services Family purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Rev. Wallace Willis.



Dean Joyce & Construction Services Family - June 20, 2022 at 10:06 AM



“ Tony Dato lit a candle in memory of Rev. Wallace Willis



tony dato - June 20, 2022 at 06:56 AM



So sorry to hear of his passing. He was my 8th grade teacher and one of my favorites. A kind and gentle man who set a great example for his students.

Bill Cannon - June 20, 2022 at 07:53 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rev. Wallace Willis.*



June 19, 2022 at 09:30 PM



“ *Tara Chambless purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Rev. Wallace Willis.*



**Tara Chambless** - June 19, 2022 at 07:23 PM



“ *ROBERT HUNTER lit a candle in memory of Rev. Wallace Willis*



**ROBERT HUNTER** - June 19, 2022 at 06:03 PM



*Rest in peace Mr. Willis. A good, honest man and a great English teacher who cared about his students.*

**ROBERT HUNTER** - June 19, 2022 at 06:05 PM



*I accepted Christ as my Savior under his preaching. He was always there for the Weid family. My heart is sadden but Heaven gained a Saint! We love you sweet Wallace..*

**Dorothy Weid Knight** - June 19, 2022 at 06:47 PM

ML

“ He was my favorite teacher. I think he whipped me every week during eighth grade, along with most of the other boys in the class. He had a wood paddle. Haha. He would line us up every Friday. He was a great teacher that we all loved even though he was strict.

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**Mark Lovell** - June 19, 2022 at 06:03 PM

JC

*Best teacher ever. He taught us all what tough love was. I'll always remember the Friday spanking sessions and the reasons for getting them! The eighth grade choir sessions are still some of my favorite memories, 47 years later. Condolences to the family.*

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**Jim Clanton** - June 20, 2022 at 01:39 PM

CN

*I remember the early times when you began preaching in Sumner and the tales you told about your escapades at Norman College. Jan will be happy to see you.*

*Caywood & Natalie Chapman*

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**Caywood & Natalie** - June 26, 2022 at 08:09 PM

DM

“ *Diane McLeod lit a candle in memory of Rev. Wallace Willis*



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**Diane McLeod** - June 19, 2022 at 05:20 PM

BW

“ *Our condolences to Wallace's family! Brenda Gail & Danny Wall (Leesburg, GA.)*

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**Brenda Gail & Danny Wall** - June 19, 2022 at 04:50 PM

MM

“ Wynn and Willis family sorry for loss. Ya in thoughts and prayers. Mr. Wallace Willis was good Christian man 🕊️ .

Michelle Mash - June 19, 2022 at 04:30 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rev. Wallace Willis.



June 19, 2022 at 04:23 PM

TC

“ Tania Cook lit a candle in memory of Rev. Wallace Willis



Tania Cook - June 19, 2022 at 04:10 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rev. Wallace Willis.



June 19, 2022 at 03:10 PM