



## Ms. Bettie Sue Smith

July 25, 1932 - May 4, 2014

Bettie Sue Smith, 81, died on Sunday May 4, 2014 at Mission Hospital St. Joseph's Campus. A native of Almo, KY she was the daughter of the late Parker Clayton Smith and Euva Bell Phillips Smith. Bettie Sue was also preceded in death by two brothers, James M. and Thomas L. Smith as well as a step brother, Donald Nichols. She is survived by four nieces and one nephew.

Bettie Sue earned a Bachelor's Degree from Lambeth College in Jackson, TN and went on to graduate with a Master's Degree in Education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She retired as a Deaconess from the United Methodist Church and was a member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Asheville.

Betty Sue fulfilled a lifetime commitment to teaching at Allen High School in Asheville, North Carolina and later at Red Bird Mission in Beverly, Kentucky

A memorial service celebrating her life will be held at Brooks Howell Home, 266 Merrimon Ave., Asheville at a later date.

# Comments

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“ Oh Betty Sue! You taught right down the hall from me my first year teaching!!! You knew exactly what you were doing.. And I was scared to death and right out of college. I must be the same age now as you were when you were at that time. Now I know that quiet confident teacher's heart... Sure and strong like yours! Fully of stories of lives touched across the years. Much love to you Betty Sue!!

**Beth Swenson** - December 16, 2014 at 03:12 AM

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“ Cheers, Ms Smith. Thank you very much for your presence here on earth. It would be unlikely that you knew what a wonderful and positive influence you were on so many young lives. Cheers to a great teacher and a wonderful role model. We all loved you and will remember you always. You have left a legacy with your students that will not be forgotten. Thank You, Ms Smith- Rest in Peace, you are home.

sharon knuckles  
class of 1984  
red bird high school

**sharon** - May 28, 2014 at 08:39 AM

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“ Sharon lit a candle in memory of Ms. Bettie Sue Smith



**sharon** - May 28, 2014 at 08:26 AM

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“ At Allen High School, I was that not-easily-tamed teenager who asked too many questions and always wanted to answer those asked of others. If my father had encouraged me to ask, Ms. Smith taught me how to think and to give careful consideration to my responses. Opinions are one thing; facts are another. We shared a love of literature and a passion for the classics from England and America. But she also instilled in me a love of contemporary writing and topics in our Readers Digest subscription, piquing my interest in journalism. I thought I wanted to be a journalist, because she was so attentive to my development as a writer. When my father died my senior year, her guidance was invaluable for my college plans. But literature was my first love, and I could not depart from it ultimately. By the time I began grad school, that love of literature, how we come to understand others through what we read, how we learn to be more human, had taken over. I realized what was missing, a whole body of literature that too few people had studied. If I entered this new field, I could fulfill my passion for the old and the new, I could do groundbreaking research, a kind of literary archaeology. Of all the classes I remember, Ms. Smith's classes brought everything I'd learned together: the research skills Ms. Kelley taught, a thorough knowledge of the library from Ms. Litchfield, and my own peculiar way of selecting uncommon themes that Ms. Smith told me were remarkable. . . remarkable, yes, but could always be better. Because I was passionate, I did want them to be perfect, and she wanted me to want that too. Ms. Smith and I were both friends of hard work, and I am certain that she is one of the main reasons I chose to enter what was a relatively new field in literary studies forty years ago. I can't think of anyplace I'd rather be today than a teacher, who patterned herself after the most remarkable teacher I ever had.

Maryemma Graham, Allen High School 1964  
Department of English, University of Kansas

Maryemma Graham - May 27, 2014 at 09:32 PM

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“ Ann Goode lit a candle in memory of Ms. Bettie Sue Smith



Ann Goode - May 27, 2014 at 06:17 AM

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“ I was very saddened to hear of Miss Smith's death. She was my English teacher at Allen High School grades 10-12, as well as a very good friend. After graduation, we continued to communicate every Christmas via cards and letters; and, I would send her a coffee cake and Biscoff cookies to acknowledge my appreciation for her kindness during my high school years. I will always cherish the last time I saw her, April 2008, when she was in Washington, DC, for an Allen reunion. When the Lord calls us home, he leaves a gift of memories in exchange. Thankfully, I have many of Miss Smith.

M. Ann Daniels Goode  
Class of 1968

M. Ann Goode - May 26, 2014 at 04:22 PM

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“ Bye for now, Aunt Bettie Sue, we'll miss you and your quick wit. I'm thinking you taught us well in that department.

Tresa Smith Mote - May 19, 2014 at 12:19 PM

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“ To the family of Ms. Betty Sue Smith,  
Ms. Smith was my English teacher at Allen High School in Asheville, N.C. from 1965 to 1969. Ms. Smith was a great teacher and I will always have fond memories of her.

May God continue to bless you and comfort you at this time.

Linda Thompson Stroud



Linda Stroud - May 10, 2014 at 08:44 AM

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“ You were a fabulous teacher Ms. Smith! You taught me well. It was a God given privilege to sit in the classroom as one of your students. You had a tough exterior and a wit so sharp that none of us dared challenge it. You had to have that tough exterior because high school students are not always focused, and do not know what they need to learn for future success.....but you knew.....and you made sure we learned. May you rest in peace knowing how many lives you had a positive impact on and let us all pay it forward in your honor.....Respectfully and lovingly, Barbara Fee

**Barbara Fee** - May 07, 2014 at 10:04 PM

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“ I am so sorry for your loss. Although, I do not know your family personally, I would like to share some encouraging thoughts from the Bible. The Bible provides comfort during these difficult times. Revelation 21:3-4 states, And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away. Very soon now, we will never experience losing our loved ones in death and we will be able to see them again once they resurrected as per John 5:28-29. May these words give you a new hope.

**Ana** - May 07, 2014 at 07:45 PM

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“ I can't ever remember a time when I didn't know Miss Smith. She went to our church and I had her for English 3 of my 4 years in High School. She was my home room teacher and I worked with her on the year book. I have thought of her frequently since I left the mountains. She taught me so much, and not just scholastically. She was a wonderful person and a friend.

**Darin Life** - May 07, 2014 at 03:12 PM

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“ Loved having Ms Smith as a teacher. She made you laugh and cry all in the same day. Loved the way she never let anyone get to her. She loved to teach and everyone loved and hated her alike. What an awesome legacy to leave behind.

**Caren Whitmer** - May 07, 2014 at 12:05 PM

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“ Ms. Smith , "Betty Sue", was our English teacher @ Red Bird in the 70s. She was absolutely the best! I have thought of her often through the yrs. , her wit & smile never forgotten. Thanks, Betty Sue!!

Jada Ledford Robidoux, class of '74 - May 06, 2014 at 11:20 PM

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“ Miss Smith played strong role in my education. I have often credited her with being on of the people who taught me how to write coherently. She had a strong sense of humor and was always willing to help her students. My thoughts, prayers and condolences to her family. She was a gift to all who knew her.

Henerietta Lewis Fraysier - May 06, 2014 at 11:16 PM

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“ Wonderful English teacher! Fond memories of being one of her students at Red Bird.

Nancy Hess - May 06, 2014 at 10:25 PM

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“ We (Randy and Barbara Cramer Crouse) send our sympathy and prayers for comfort and peace to Bettie Sue's family members.



Randy and Barbara Crouse - May 06, 2014 at 10:15 PM

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“ I was honored to be her Principal and colleague for 13 years. I always said, "Give me 50 Bettie Sue Smiths and we can make great the worst high school in Kentucky!" Rest in peace, beloved Teacher.

Dr. O. Taylor Collins, Executive Director  
Red Bird Mission

Dr. O. Taylor Collins - May 06, 2014 at 09:46 PM



“ Miss Smith was a great English teacher and friend. In the last few years, when I visited her, it was important for me to let her know what a difference she has made in my life. I told her that I tried hard to live up to her expectations of me throughout my life. Tears would come to her eyes, and then she would always change the subject. She was truly a humble person. My heart breaks that we have lost her. I will really miss her.

Ann Miller Woodford

Ann Miller Woodford - May 06, 2014 at 09:10 PM

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“ A no nonsense English teacher who was loved by her students. They never accused her of being unfair. Was her boss at Red Bird but she was really in charge!! Touched many lives, including my children. Don Scott

don Scott - May 06, 2014 at 05:36 PM

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“ Janice Helton lit a candle in memory of Ms. Bettie Sue Smith



Janice Helton - May 06, 2014 at 03:56 PM

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“ One other thing Miss Smith. I spelled kind wrong in one of my sentences in memorial for you. I knew you would give me down the road for that one word. I can hear it now. Can't you spell correctly Mr. Wilder. Rest in peace Miss Smith. You we're love by many.

Allen Wilder - May 06, 2014 at 03:42 PM

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“ We always had test on Friday right after we returned from vocational school at Bell Co.  
She would have those test ready and waiting on us. The look was always the same. You could see it in her eyes. The look was I hoped you studied for the test. I'm like I'm through. We knew to study on our way back on the bus. One time I did a book report in her class and kink of read the beginning of the book and some in the middle, also toward the end. I wasn't the only one that did that too. For some reason I took a bad grade and the other dude got like a B. I'm like what? Why me. He didn't tell me he had already read the book once. He received his paper before I received mine. I said to myself, I got this. WRONG. I asked her how many books she had read in the Library and she said most of them. I'm like my goodness man that's a lot of books. She had me before I could say another word. She did say read the book next time. If you didn't learn anything in her class, you couldn't be taught. I think every student that went thru her door to her class knew they had to work or fail. I'm so thankful for her way of teaching. She knew how to bring out the bad and the good in a student. You had to earn your grade in her class or it was simple you failed. I can still see he walking down the hall with a apple in her hand and say get to class or where are you suppose to be now. Thank you Miss Smith for all the great years of working and putting up with us. you will be missed. I must say I still wonder about that book report though. I worked really hard on it.

**Allen Wilder** - May 06, 2014 at 03:32 PM

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“ Betty Sue Smith was a remarkable teacher and a remarkable person. She was a stewart part of Red Bird Mission, Red Bird School, and all of the Red Bird Missionary Conference, for that matter. She looked for the best in kids, and expected the best out of them as well. It was an honor to know her as she worked for the Lord here in southeastern Kentucky. Those who truly knew her were the better for it. II Timothy 4:6-8 <>< Jamie Brunk, pastor at West Liberty (KY) UMC and former pastor in the RBMC

**Jamie Brunk** - May 06, 2014 at 12:34 PM

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“ Ms. Smith was a firm but fair teacher. She pretended like it upset her when we the students would tease her about certain things but she loved every minute of it. She was truly a great lady and teacher who will be missed

**Tonya Davidson** - May 06, 2014 at 12:26 PM

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“ Bettie Sue had such an impact on my life, so much that I'm certain not enough space is available to write it all down. I will say this, she taught me to look for the positive in things. "How can you ever expect good things if you only look at the bad?" I hadn't talked to her in a few years but the last time we spoke she did tell me she was proud of me and the attitude I had developed. I received a message from her friend who saw her the night before she passed, she told me that Bettie Sue knew how much we loved her, and we know how much she loved us. Rest in peace my dear friend.

**Teddy Joe Brock** - May 06, 2014 at 11:57 AM

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“ As evidenced by the numerous memories from the Tribute Wall, Bettie Sue was a unique individual. I first met Bettie Sue when I came to teach at Red Bird School in 1977. She offered a warm welcome and guidance to a "flat lander" from Nebraska. She was an exemplary teacher and mentor to many students and others whose lives she touched. Both my children, Michelle and Lance, attended Red Bird School. Michelle graduated from Red Bird before venturing out into life. I always admired Bettie Sue's ability to deal with her arthritis and other ills while maintaining a positive attitude and outlook. Bettie Sue, Barb Smith, Bev Reitz and myself shared many fun and memorable experiences while I was at Red Bird. She was a dedicated teacher, blessed friend and a wonderful Christian. Please know that you, her family, are in my prayers and thoughts as you go through this time of loss. Receive comfort from the knowledge that she is welcomed into Heaven and will be among God's faithful Angels.

**Bobbi Mowrey Gerdes**

**Bobbi Gerdes** - May 06, 2014 at 10:06 AM

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“ Whenever I read, preach, or teach Psalm 139 I think of Ms. Smith. When I was a senior I heard an Ash Wednesday sermon preached on that text. The next day in the Bible class I was taking with her we had to choose a passage of scripture to write about and I naturally thought Psalm 139 was a good choice. Unfortunately, she had been at the same Ash Wednesday worship service and was not in favor of my scripture selection at that moment. I think she enjoyed catching me in my laziness as much as I enjoyed trying to pull one over on her. Thank you, Ms. Smith, for always loving us so fiercely and demanding our absolute best.

**Timothy Wood** - May 06, 2014 at 07:52 AM

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“ I had Miss Smith for English & Bible at Red Bird Mission from 1992-1996. At first I feared her, because others said she was tough, but I learned so much from her. She was a true teacher, she was there to teach you, prepare you for college, no playing around. I learned to write papers like nobodies business in her class!!! She demanded the best out of you & when you got her approval, with a little smile, it was the best thing ever!!! Also the bible classes, were a foundation in my Christian walk, I had to memorize this verse in her class & it will forever link me to a fabulous teacher, who taught myself, as well as so many others so much. ~In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. John 14:2-3 Thank you Miss Smith for being, without a doubt, the best teacher I ever had!! RIP??

Amy Napier Hubbard - May 06, 2014 at 07:14 AM

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“ So saddened by the news of Ms. Smith's passing. What a wonderful teacher, woman, and friend. She will be missed. RIP Ms. Smith



Margot Gross, Toth - May 06, 2014 at 06:27 AM

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“ Bettie Sue Smith was a wonderful teacher. She taught at Red Bird Mission School and was one of the finest teachers ever. She was a beautiful teacher and was very loved. We all hated to see her leave us. R.I.P Bettie we love you so much. She believed in people doing their best and wanted the kids to learn. Charlie and Irene Brock and Daughter Linda Gail Brock From Red Bird

Irene Brock - May 06, 2014 at 05:39 AM

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“ Such a great teacher.



**Tonia Sizemore Ramsey** - May 05, 2014 at 11:12 PM

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“ Ms. Smith made a most positive impact on the lives of many young women. I feel blessed that she was a part of making a woman out of me. My prayers go out to her family.

Stephanie Marrow Bridgwaters  
Allen Class of '64

**Stephanie Marrow Bridgwaters** - May 05, 2014 at 09:24 PM

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“ Winona Williams lit a candle in memory of Ms. Bettie Sue Smith



**Winona Williams** - May 05, 2014 at 08:28 PM

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“ To the family of Ms. Bettie Sue Smith, Please know that I am grateful to have had Ms. Smith as my English teacher from 1965-1969 at Allen High School. I survived and am a much better person for all that she taught me. I pray that you will feel God's comfort at this time and in the days to come. God loves you and continue to hold Ms. Smith's love in your hearts. She is at rest and at peace. Jeremiah 31:13 "I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness in sorrow.

**Winona Williams Thompson** - May 05, 2014 at 08:27 PM

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“ She taught me that procrastination was a very bad thing.....I always think of her when i am contemplating putting off a task...R.I.P. Ms. Smith.....

**Katrina Sakho** - May 05, 2014 at 07:57 PM

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“ Barb Smith lit a candle in memory of Ms. Bettie Sue Smith



**Barb Smith** - May 05, 2014 at 07:56 PM

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“ Tina Shanks lit a candle in memory of Ms. Bettie Sue Smith



**Tina Shanks** - May 05, 2014 at 07:37 PM

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“ She was dear friend to my Mother and a great role model as my teacher. She made you better, and would not accept anything less! Thank you Ms. Smith.

**Jeff Smith** - May 05, 2014 at 07:31 PM

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“ Bettie Sue was one of the few teachers I have known in my life who had high expectations for every student. There were no excuses because she believed in every student she taught, and she actually loved them all. She was an example to everyone she came in contact with. The world will be worse off for her absence from it.

**Beth Yost** - May 05, 2014 at 05:55 PM

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“ May God give you comfort during this time of loss. Miss Smith was my freshman English teacher at Red Bird High School many years ago. Although I moved after my sophomore year, the influence she had on me helped me through many writing assignments in college and beyond. We were all very blessed to have been in her class(es).

Janet Brown Knapp  
1975 - 1977

**Janet Brown Knapp** - May 05, 2014 at 05:55 PM

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“ Barbara Helton lit a candle in memory of Ms. Bettie Sue Smith



**Barbara Helton** - May 05, 2014 at 04:33 PM

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“ Although I did not graduate from Red Bird, nor have Ms. Smith as a teacher; I've heard so many wonderful stories about her and had the opportunity of getting to know her while working with the Red Bird Alumni Association and the Red Bird Missionary Conference. It was obvious the number of lives this woman touched!!! RIP Ms. Bettie Sue; I'm sure you were met with "Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant!"

**Revelle Moore Berry** - May 05, 2014 at 03:25 PM

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“ Mary Young Patterson lit a candle in memory of Ms. Bettie Sue Smith



Mary Young Patterson - May 05, 2014 at 03:25 PM

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“ Revelle Moore Berry lit a candle in memory of Ms. Bettie Sue Smith



Revelle Moore Berry - May 05, 2014 at 03:23 PM

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“ Ms. Smith was the one teacher EVERYONE was terrified to have and the one teacher you rearranged your schedule to take. She didn't take excuses in learning because she believed we were all capable of learning a great deal. And we believed we could do it because she told us so.

Stacia Carwell - May 05, 2014 at 03:19 PM

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“ Lora Short lit a candle in memory of Ms. Bettie Sue Smith



Lora Short - May 05, 2014 at 03:09 PM

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“ Ms. Bettie Sue will be greatly missed. She was feared by many but that made people sit up, take notice, and LEARN. She deeply loved the mountains and her time there teaching students. It was a privilege to know her, be taught by here, and to learn from her. She will be greatly missed. May the Lord welcome her with open arms into his loving kingdom.

**Michelle Mowrey McCaulley** - May 05, 2014 at 01:42 PM

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“ Such a wonderful teacher and person, Learned so much from her, an I appreciate her promoting a wonderful love of reading. God Speed!

**Pamela Lewis Frazier** - May 05, 2014 at 01:26 PM

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“ No one will ever compare. She was a class act and a great educator. They don't make them like Ms. Smith anymore. She will be greatly missed, and she'll keep 'Em in line up in heaven.

**Jay Lorenz** - May 05, 2014 at 01:18 PM

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“ I loved her! She made such a difference in my life and I am thankful for her knowledge of Appalachian Literature and the love for the mountains that she passed on to me.....

**Lynn Hulsey** - May 05, 2014 at 01:05 PM

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“ Karen Slusher Bruner lit a candle in memory of Ms. Bettie Sue Smith



**Karen Slusher Bruner** - May 05, 2014 at 12:13 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Bettie Sue Smith



**Steve Hundley** - May 05, 2014 at 11:09 AM

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“ My absolute favorite teacher. She told me I was loquacious, that I shouldn't prevaricate, to spit my gum out and that I was a good writer. She was, without a doubt, the most influential teacher I had. She will be missed!

**Michael Fox** - May 05, 2014 at 09:32 AM

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“ Wayne Pennington lit a candle in memory of Ms. Bettie Sue Smith



**Wayna Pennington** - May 05, 2014 at 07:32 AM

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“ I am truly thankful that I had the opportunity to be one of Ms. Smith's students. She was one of the best teachers I ever had. While she had high expectations, she cared about her students and wanted everyone to succeed. Though she has completed her journey through this life, God has welcomed her home.

Rest in peace Ms. Smith and thank you for being such a wonderful person!

**Lloyd (Joe) Asher** - May 05, 2014 at 07:08 AM

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“ She will truly be missed. .she was an amazing person and phenomenal teacher

**jennifer verdell** - May 05, 2014 at 06:51 AM

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“ I once missed three weeks of school due to my mum's death. When I returned from Europe I was immediately informed that I would have to make up her weekly vocabulary tests consisting of 25 word definitions and parts of speech thus for three weeks I learned 50 of them. Demand for excellence would not allow for excuses of any kind and knowing what a student could or could not do distinguished her from any teacher I had met in the US. Farewell and may God truly be with you.

**Bernd Gruener** - May 05, 2014 at 03:12 AM

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“ Paulette Barrett lit a candle in memory of Ms. Bettie Sue Smith



**Paulette Barrett** - May 05, 2014 at 01:34 AM

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“ Bobbie Caldwell Roark lit a candle in memory of Ms. Bettie Sue Smith



**Bobbie Caldwell Roark** - May 04, 2014 at 11:15 PM

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“ Ms Smith was an amazing teacher. She touched so many lives. I'll never forget the way she would smile and flip her head when I was being rotten. No matter how so, she never lost sight that there was an intelligent person under all of the mischief and always treated me as such. Rest in peace Ms Smith.

**Bobbie Collett-Dial** - May 04, 2014 at 10:41 PM

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“ Cleve And Zetta Bowling lit a candle in memory of Ms. Bettie Sue Smith



**Cleve and Zetta Bowling** - May 04, 2014 at 10:30 PM

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“ Betty was a beautiful woman inside and out. We really appreciate her kind help at Red Bird Mission School. She was a wonderful person. She will be missed and very loved. R.I.P. IRENE BROCK AND FAMILY

**IRENE BROCK** - May 04, 2014 at 09:38 PM

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“ Bettie Sue Smith was an amazing woman. I 1st met her when she represented Red Bird Mission School at the Holston Annual Conference. She informed me of a teaching opening at Red Bird. Little did I know then that God was using her as the vessel to open my way to Red Bird and into the ministry I now have. She shared with me her passion for teaching, her love for her students, and great wisdom of the Bible. The family of Red Bird now has a big hole where Bettie Sue was in our lives but the Kingdom of Heaven gain a great soul. We celebrate her home-going and look forward to joining her there some day.

**Rev. Robert Amundsen** - May 04, 2014 at 09:28 PM

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“ Bettie Sue was a truly amazing lady! She was a tremendous inspiration to all who knew her and had such an impact on all the students she taught at Red Bird over the years!!! Rest in peace Miss Smith, you will be greatly missed!

Sonya Howard - May 04, 2014 at 09:13 PM

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“ There was no one like Miss Smith, the impact she made in so many lives was" beyond the call of duty". She was very much loved and respected.



Tonya Asher - May 04, 2014 at 08:56 PM

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“ Betty Sue was such an inspiration as my teacher and I loved her dearly. This world has lost a wonderful person. My youngest daughter has her spunk and my 11 yr old has her love for reading. She made such an impact on my life and it was an honor knowing her. I a so sorry for her families loss.

Sylvester Nolan



Sylvester Nolan - May 04, 2014 at 08:45 PM

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“ Aunt Bettie Sue was a very important part of my life. I love her dearly. She is now with the rest of my family. She is very loved by many people. I am so happy I was able to spend time with her be for she left. God has her in his hands now. Love you Aunt Bettie Sue. I know you will always be with us.

Liz Coaley - May 04, 2014 at 05:00 PM



“ Aunt Bettie Sue was loved by so many who will forever miss her. She was a very special lady and I know heaven is celebrating her arrival!

**Kathleen Yancy** - May 04, 2014 at 03:58 PM

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“ Thank you, God, for giving us Bettie Sue for 81 years. She is CELEBRATING in Heaven with the Angels!!! Sad, GOD only made ONE Miss Smith, I will miss her! LOVE, Bev



**Beverley J Reitz** - May 04, 2014 at 11:36 AM



“ I knew Bettie Sue Smith at St. Paul's Methodist Church. I was Director of Christian Education there and we became good friends. After she had accepted the position at Red Bird Mission, I rode with her to take a load of her belongings to that facility. I'd never been in that area of KY. I'll never forget our trip and dodging coal trucks along the way. Loved her sense of humor and quick wit. I never "got one on her" but that was OK. I loved her and admired her greatly. Though we lost contact after her retirement, she remains one of my treasured friends. God bless you, Bettie Sue. You left many friends and former students influenced by you.

**Martha Griffin Gunter** - March 03, 2015 at 07:33 AM