



Elaine Reams Matheson

December 19, 1932 - June 12, 2026

Elaine Reams Matheson, 93, of Asheville passed away on June 12, 2026 at WNC Baptist Home.

She was the daughter of the late Graham White Reams and Lillian Pauline (Susi) Fitzgerald and was the widow of Russell Arthur Matheson, who died on June 14, 2018.

Elaine was a 4th generation attendee of First Baptist Church Asheville and a member for 83 years. Through those years, she was a Sunday school teacher, a vacation bible school teacher and a "Sunbeam" teacher on Wednesday nights.

A volunteer for 32 years at Memorial Mission Hospital, Elaine was also involved with many other endeavors including Girl Scouts leader, election poll worker, EMT with the Beavertown Fire Department and on the Historical Committee at FBCA; and anything else her kids were involved in!

Mom was a 1951 graduate of Lee Edwards High School and a 1952 graduate of Cecil's Business College as a legal secretary. Originally, she was a substitute teacher for Asheville City Schools that led to a full time position as the head secretary.

Elaine is survived by her daughters, Lynn Matheson and Janet Ellington; a son, Russell Andrew Matheson; grandchildren, Josh Williamson, Jennifer Holt, James Roberts and Elijah Ellington; and two great grands, Richard and Jackson Holt.

The family will receive friends from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM on Saturday, July

11, 2026 in the Chapel of First Baptist Church Asheville, 5 Oak Street, Asheville.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to FBCA Historical Committee, FBCA General Fund or Memorial Mission Hospital NICU.

Mom will be remembered for her kindness, her steadfast faith, and the love she shared with her family and friends. Her legacy of compassion and service will continue to live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her.

Upcoming Events

Family will Receive Friends

JUL 11. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Asheville
5 Oak Street
Asheville, NC 28801