



## Rebecca Simpson Stradley

May 27, 1922 - April 26, 2017

Surrounded by Family and enjoying her special view across Beaver Lake, Rebecca Simpson Stradley found her eternal rest on Wednesday, April 26, 2017, a month shy of her 95th birthday.

The daughter of Joseph Horace and Fannie Bobo Simpson, “Grandmother Becky” was born in South Carolina and moved to Asheville in 1951. She was predeceased by her husband, Leslie A. Stradley, her brother, Joseph Horace Simpson, Jr., her sister Dorothy Wise, and Leslie’s daughter George McFarland.

She graduated in from Erskine College with a degree in Home Economics. Throughout her life, she was lovingly devoted to caring for children both in and outside of her home. After co-founding the Jewish Community Center’s Child Daycare Center in the mid 1950’s, she went on to establish the Child Daycare and Summer Day Camp programs at the Asheville Orthopedic Hospital for mentally and physically challenged children. She served as Director of Macon County’s Program for Progress Year Round Head Start Program, and as Director of the Asheville-Buncombe Year Round Head Start Program. She was also instrumental in lobbying the North Carolina General Assembly for North Carolina’s first Daycare Center licensing law. She was a founding member of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, where she could often be found caring for babies in the infant nursery on Sunday mornings.

Remaining to cherish her Life and her Love are her children, Danie A. Johnson, Fran J. Harris (Don), Amy R. Johnson, James H. Johnson (Marilyn), David B. Johnson (Sharie), Leslie B. Stradley (Susan), and Frank B. Stradley (Jo Ann).

She is also celebrated by over thirty grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grandchildren: Megan J. Whelen (Jim/Colin, Daniel), Sally Pitts (Jackson/Connor, Nolan), Craig Johnson, Whitney Wallace (Travis/Nathaniel), Tye Johel (Tim), Brooks Johnson, Joseph Johnson, Graham Johnson, Matthew Stradley (Laurie/Millie, Sam), Martha Stradley Johnson (Mike/Savannah), Brian Bowen (Jackie/Brittany, Zachary), Weatherly May (Rick/Justin, Ellen, Cadence), John Stradley (Laura/Thomas, Sarah, Andrew, Jordan), Joe Stradley (Gwen/Jacob, James), Vance Browning (Gabby/Alecia) and Birch Browning (Stephanie/Sarah, Joshua).

Services to remember her Life and her Love will be held at 2:00 PM, Sunday April 30, 2017 at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, 789 Merrimon Avenue, Asheville, NC.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

APR **30**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church  
789 Merrimon Avenue  
Asheville, NC 28804

# Tribute Wall



“ *Rebecca Simpson Stradley*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *Sending condolences and remembering you in prayer.*

*Bobbie (Moore) Gates  
Metro-Atlanta*

**Bobbie (Moore) Gates** - May 17, 2017 at 01:31 PM



“ *Sending our love, prayers and condolences to the Johnson and Stradley families. We know she will missed by all of you.*

*Arthur, Laurie, Evan and Sara Pappas*

**Laurie Pappas** - May 03, 2017 at 05:21 PM



“ *Dear Family,*

*The Fawcett children have fond memories of Mrs. Stradley as being extremely kind and caring to those of us who roamed around the neighborhood so many years ago. We were especially grateful for the kindness she showered upon our mom, Mary Fawcett, especially during the final years of her life. They were dear friends. Hold close to all the great memories. They will offer much comfort in the days ahead.*

*Jon and Janet Fawcett*

**Jon and Janet Fawcett** - May 01, 2017 at 10:02 PM

RH

“ Jimmy, I was saddened to read of your mother's death in the paper tonight. Please know I'm thinking and lifting prayer up for you and all your family. I know how special she was to you. Peace to you as you adjust your life without her earthly presence. Sorry I cannot make the service. Give me a call sometime. 828-777-5711. Would love to catch up.

Fondly,  
Richard Hudson

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Richard Hudson - April 29, 2017 at 09:18 PM

AH

“ Charlie and I are sending our thoughts and prayers to your whole family. We are out of town and saddened to hear of Becky's passing. Celebrate her tomorrow for a life well lived and filled with love. What a legacy she leaves.

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Ann Howell - April 29, 2017 at 04:24 PM

TM

“ Becky was a pure light and joy to all who knew her as family and friend. She loved all of us unconditionally and led us to know the meaning of Christian faith. She had a long and fruitful life in her beloved mountains. She demonstrated a childlike delight in the pleasures of each new day filled with the beauties of birds, flowers and the glorious views of the ever changing mountains. She cherished her children, grandchildren and extended family with a beautiful and generous heart. I will miss her.

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Tom McFarland - April 29, 2017 at 02:24 PM