



Clara C. Matthews

January 21, 1943 - December 21, 2024

On Saturday, December 21, 2024, Clara Matthews peacefully went to be with the Lord.

Clara, affectionately known as “Ann,” was born on January 21, 1943, in Pinehurst, North Carolina to the late Jerome and Dora Crutchfield. Ann attended Pinckney High School in Carthage, North Carolina. She later graduated from Fayetteville State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education.

Ann pursued a career in education and served as a teacher in Isle of Wight County at Hardy Elementary School for over 30 years. Throughout that time, she taught grades one through three and always remembered any student who later crossed her path. She prided herself in understanding her students’ learning pace and finding creative ways to meet and motivate them. Her consistent guidance to each young person was to “get your education.”

During her retirement, Ann developed a commitment to fitness routinely walking with friends as well as exercising at local gyms. She also became an active participant of the scholarship committee of New First Baptist Church (Taylorsville). With faith as the cornerstone of her life, Ann has been a devoted member of the church for over 40 years.

Ann was predeceased by her parents; brother Jerome Crutchfield, Jr; and husband Sterling Matthews.

Ann leaves to cherish her memories her daughter Dana Morris and son-in-law Anthony Morris of Charlotte, North Carolina along with sisters-in-law Lena Riddick (VA) and Thelma Crutchfield (NC); brother-in-law Joseph Matthews (VA); and a host of nieces, nephews, and other relatives. Ann will be remembered by her family and many friends for her sense of humor, independence, love of a good meal, and unwavering strength. She will be greatly missed.

The family welcomes all who would like to attend and celebrate her life.

Cemetery Details

Greenlawn Memorial Gardens

3920 Airline Blvd
Chesapeake, VA

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **29**. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

J.T. Fisher Funeral Services
1248 N. George Washington Hwy.
Chesapeake, VA 23323
(757) 487-3700
info@jtfisherfuneralservices.com
<https://www.jtfisherfuneralservices.com>

Church Service

DEC **30**. 11:00 AM (ET)

New First Baptist Church (Taylorsville)
2720 Turnpike Road
Portsmouth, VA

Tribute Wall

TB

“ My sincere condolences to Dana and family. Mrs. Matthews was a mentor, friend, and respected colleague. Working with her at Hardy Elementary was a privilege and a pleasure. She shared her resources and her wisdom, and for that I am most appreciative. Find peace in knowing she is resting in the arms of the Lord.
Toni Brown

Toni Brown - December 28, 2024 at 07:53 PM

SS

“ Ann is the Sister I met at the 7:00am service at New First Baptist Church Taylorsville about 40 some years ago. Several of us would sit in the last three rows in the Back of the Church. Ann and I became friends(Sisters in Christ). We were in the church Scholarship Ministry. We would call each other on the phone and talk about everything. The two of us would keep up with each other's Birthdays and Christmas. I had not heard from her, but when I finally spoke with her, she told me she was sick. I told her I would come to see her, but I got sick and never got there. She mentioned to me that all I want to do is drive my truck again! To Dana, your mother was a very nice friend; I never ever heard anything I told her repeated, I would say Ann I am just talking to you. My Prays are with Dana and The Family. I will truly miss My Friend.
Sharon Clark-Stephenson

Sharon Clark Stephenson - December 28, 2024 at 04:56 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Clara C. Matthews.*



December 28, 2024 at 12:09 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Clara C. Matthews.

December 28, 2024 at 12:09 AM

LP

“*Ann Crutchfield as I remember her was my first grade teacher at Hardy Elementary in Smithfield, VA. She was one of those teachers where her students fell in love with her—she was beautiful and intelligent. She was a STRONG disciplinarian and ensure that her students, learned, learned how to act in class, and learned when to speak—and when not to. Little did I know, she rented a room from my Cousin Elsie, and when it was revealed that she was my teacher, I KNEW that I had to be a stellar student. I became the teacher's pet, and wore that title proudly. It didn't exclude me from the wrath of Ms. Crutchfield-Matthews, but it positioned me to do well and would impact my life forever. I was employed with the City of Portsmouth as Interim City Manager, and she made it her priority to call me and let me know how proud of me that she was. Her teachings and preparations propelled me to excellence...for she would not accept anything less. I thank God for her influence and example of “Black Excellent,” she was definitely a Black Girl Who ROCKED! To the family, you have my sincerest sympathy and condolences. To my dearest, Miss Ann Crutchfield, rest well and know that God will reward you mightily for imparting excellence to us little children from Smithfield. Lord grant eternal rest to Clara Matthews, and let your light perpetually shine upon her.*”

LaVoris Pace - December 27, 2024 at 05:19 PM

VR

I only knew Clara for a short time, about two years. She was a member of our group of seniors striving to stay fit as we met at Planet Fitness. She always had a way of making us laugh as we complained about our workout. We missed her after she said she was “taking a break”. She was warm and friendly to everyone she met. God bless her family and friends with Comforting memories.

Valerie Russell - December 28, 2024 at 11:11 AM

JC

“ Jerry and Connie Crutchfield purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Clara C. Matthews.



Jerry and Connie Crutchfield - December 27, 2024 at 03:57 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Clara C. Matthews.



December 27, 2024 at 02:00 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Clara C. Matthews.

December 27, 2024 at 02:00 PM



“ 31 files added to the album LifeTributes



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - December 27, 2024 at 11:39 AM