



William "Jerry" Gerald Walker

August 25, 1945 - June 11, 2016

John's gospel states that before Jesus ascended he said, "I am going away to make ready a place for you. And if I go and make ready a place for you, I will come again and take you to be with me, so that where I am you may be too." It was secure in that knowledge that William Gerald "Jerry" Walker peacefully slipped away and came to realize the truth of that promise in the early morning of June 11, 2016 while being in the compassionate care of Southwest Christian Hospice. Jerry began his journey in this world on August 25, 1945 in Cairo, Georgia. He was one of two sons born to the late Blanton William and Joyce White Walker. After high school, Jerry would go on to further his education and receive a master's degree in music at Georgia Southern University and be an elementary school music teacher and later principal at Terrell County Junior High School. He would also receive a Master's Degree in Education and Administration from Valdosta State. It was during the time that he was in education that he would catch the eye of a certain young church secretary. She would soon become Mrs. Susie Swindell Walker. Susie was a young widow with two children whom Jerry would come to love as his own. God was only getting started with His plans for Jerry's life. Heeding God's call, Jerry went to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas where he would attain a master's degree in Religious Education and Administration. He served at Second Avenue Baptist Church in Rome, Georgia and later at East Hill Baptist Church in Tallahassee, Florida. In December of 1983 Jerry and his family relocated to Newnan where he began

32 years of faithful service to First Baptist in January of 1984. Like his marriage to Susie, this was a match made in heaven. Jerry was a quiet, strong force in the life of the church. He had such a strong servant spirit and amazingly calm demeanor. As his ministry evolved, he came to have a passion for ministry to the senior adults in the church. He was instrumental in forming "The Front Door Ministry" at First Baptist. He also began a mission project for the senior adults to serve for a week at Camp Hawkins which is a respite retreat for physically and mentally challenged children. His core beliefs came to fruition in fulfilling these two calls of God on his life. Many happy hours for him and the senior adults in the church revolved around the Never Grow Old ministry. He loved planning trips for them and being the official tour guide. His greatest love in life, without question, was for his God and Savior. The outgrowth of that love manifested itself in his love for his family. During his life he would go to extraordinary lengths to be a guiding force in the good times and the trying times. He adored his grandchildren and they, him. When he realized that his time on earth was short, his only desire was to be with his family and savor the days he had left with them. Being active outside the church was his way of taking the church outside its four walls and he served as President of Georgia Baptist Religious Educators and was active in The Kiwanis Club of Newnan and served a term as president. Jerry was the much loved husband and faithful life partner of Susie Swindell Walker. His daughters are Donna Jill Wright and Holli Anne Jones (and Buddy). Jerry was an extraordinary blessing to his grandchildren Josh Rainey, Jessica Rainey, Logan Price and Catelyn Price, Olivia Wright and Rachel Wright. One of life's most difficult moments was the loss of his beloved granddaughter, Lindsey Marie Price. He is also survived by his brother, Dennis (Barbara) Walker, sisters-in-law Jeanette (Paul) Sterbutzel, Jay (Terry) Wood, Diane (Lee) Bates and June (Jimmy) Horne. There will be a time of visitation on Wednesday, June 15th between 6:00 PM and 8:00 PM in the historic sanctuary at First Baptist Church Newnan. On Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 11:00 AM in The First Baptist Church Historic Sanctuary, Jerry's life of dedicated service to God will

be remembered in a time proclaiming the love of God and thanksgiving for His blessing in all of our lives. The service will be led by Dr. Gene Tyre, Rev. Mike Emeott and Reverend Clare Whitlock. In lieu of flowers, it is suggested that memorial gifts be made in Jerry's memory to Southwest Christian Care 7225 Lester Road Union City GA, Front Door Ministry of First Baptist Church 15 West Washington Street or to The Lindsey Price Memorial Fund at any Bank of North Georgia location. Online condolences may be expressed at www.mckoon.com McKoon Funeral Home 770-253-4580.

Cemetery Details

Forest Lawn Memorial Park

656 Roscoe Road
Newnan, GA 30263

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **15**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Newnan Historic Sanctuary
15 West Washington St
Newnan, GA 30263

Service

JUN **16**. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Newnan Historic Sanctuary
15 West Washington St
Newnan, GA 30263

Tribute Wall



“ *Thoughts & Prayers was purchased for the family of William "Jerry" Gerald Walker.*



June 16, 2016 at 07:35 PM



“ *Jerry was a Christian in the very finest sense of the word. His legacy will live on in the programs and people he poured his life into. Our family is praying for you and all of Jerry's loved ones, Susie. ~ Much love, Connie, Curtiss, Caitlin and Drew Singleton*

Connie Singleton - June 16, 2016 at 05:46 AM



“ *Karen Hubbard lit a candle in memory of William "Jerry" Gerald Walker*



Karen Hubbard - June 15, 2016 at 11:06 PM



“ *To Jerry's family, I will never forget his sweet and kind ways. He always had a moment for a hello and a word of encouragement. Now that he has gone to his reward in Heaven, we will always remember him fondly. Love, Judy Miller*

Judy Miller - June 15, 2016 at 02:57 PM

DS

“ *The importance of Jerry's ministry cannot be understated. He left an indelible footprint at First Baptist of Newnan. The loss is enormous.*

Dean Smith - June 15, 2016 at 01:42 PM

DO

“ *Sending prayers of comfort and peace as you cherish your precious memories.*

Debbie Oneal - June 15, 2016 at 10:52 AM

GB

“ *Those of us that have known Jerry will know him no longer, but our memories of him will last forever. He had a heart of gold. Alice and I will always remember the NGO trips with him. He had to be a special person to put with a bus full of old people. We enjoyed his visits so much. I will miss cooking him his collards and tenderloin at Thanksgiving. He always said nobody could cook collards like me. Thanks Jerry for the complement. We will miss you. Glenn and Alice Bexley*

Glenn Bexley - June 14, 2016 at 04:18 PM

DD

“ To the family of Jerry Walker. I am so sorry for your loss. He was a great man and was a shining light to me. When I moved down here from Michigan it was Jerry that gave me acceptance and never questioned my faith as a Catholic. He was supportive and loving. Along with his wonderful wife Susie, they both ministered to me and helped me heal mentally and spiritually. I will always remember his gentle smile. He was a Godly man who truly walked the faith. He was a shining example. Susie, you will always remain in my prayers. God will hold you and comfort you. That is my prayer!! We love you.

Wayne and Debby Dye

Debby Dye - June 14, 2016 at 01:04 PM

Jl

“ Susie and Family ~ it is with such warmth and love that we remember Jerry. To me, he was the definition of what it means to be a true Southern gentleman. I have so many memories from FBC Newnan that include him and his humor and his delightful ability to "keep it real." He was always authentic in the best possible way! Even though we have been away from Newnan for 6 years, I can still remember Jerry's beautiful voice. I think I always will. Please know we are praying for you and remembering how much we were blessed to share in a church family with you and Jerry. Hugs from us, Jennifer, Chris, and Ava Irish

Jennifer Irish - June 14, 2016 at 11:59 AM

DJ

“ Dear Susie and Family,
We are so sorry to hear of Jerry's death. We go to the First Methodist church, but Don knew Jerry as a Paster and a Friend he really enjoyed talking to Jerry, he was a super person of God. May the a good Lord give you peace, love and contentment during this very difficult time.
God loves you and we do too,
Don and Mildred Jones

Don and Mildred Jones - June 14, 2016 at 10:23 AM



“ 43 files added to the album Life Tributes



McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory - June 14, 2016 at 08:15 AM

PA

“ Jerry-Always compassionate, kind, & serving others. A dear friend went home to be with The Lord after battling cancer. My husband had out-patient surgery the day of her funeral so we could not attend. Jerry came by the hospital, understood our hurting hearts and prayed for our friend's family and my husband's surgery. Still makes me cry thinking of Jerry ministering Christ's love to all of us at a difficult time. The hands and feet of Jesus to everyone... every single day! Thank you so much Jerry. We love you!
Pat & Pepper Atkinson

Pepper & Pat Atkinson - June 13, 2016 at 06:46 PM

GW

“ Susie, Dennis, and Family. The Cairo High School Class of '63 would like to extend our heartfelt sympathy to all of you. Jerry was a special guy to our class. Most of us attended school with Jerry from the 1st grade until the 12th grade. Susie it was a pleasure to see both of you at our 50th Class Reunion three years ago. May GOD be with you and your family and give you strength for the days ahead. Our Love, Class of '63

Gail White - June 13, 2016 at 03:35 PM

EC

“ I am so sorry for your loss, he was a good man of God he would come and have pray for Mrs Bullard, and he would a ways include me. So R.I.P Mr Jerry Walker.

Effie Cotton - June 13, 2016 at 03:35 PM

JS

“ *Pastor Jerry will be so missed. He was an inspiration to all of us and we so loved hearing his beautiful voice...it was such a joy every time he sang. You are all in our prayers.*

Judi Swafford

Judi Swafford - June 13, 2016 at 12:56 PM

GN

“ *Susie, I had the pleasure of getting to know Jerry over the years. I don't know anyone else who had the respect of everyone he ever met. Jerry was one of those rare individuals and he will be greatly missed. Every time I think of him I remember what your father, Sam, told me. He said Jerry was the finest man he ever met. No truer words were ever spoken. I will always remember the smile he had every time I saw him. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this time.*

George Nelms

George Nelms - June 13, 2016 at 10:21 AM

JK

“ *Dear Susie and Family,*

My heart breaks for you. Yet amid the sadness, there is joy because of where Jerry is now, and Who he is with. Continuing prayers for you all in the days ahead. May God give you strength to face each day and wrap you in His arms of everlasting grace.

*Love,
Julia Keeley*

Julia Keeley - June 13, 2016 at 09:09 AM

FF

“ We are sorry to hear about Jerry. He was such a great fellow and did so much good for the Newnan and Coweta County community. He will be missed. Our prayers are with all the family during this difficult time.

FRANK AND MELODY FARMER - June 13, 2016 at 08:12 AM

LM

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I know how much Jerry meant to my mom (Ruth Mealor) and I know they will have a good reunion in heaven.
Please accept my sincere condolences.
In Christ,
Linda Mealor

Linda Mealor - June 13, 2016 at 07:56 AM

BW

“ Jerry was one of the "Real Christian Gentlemen" that I have known. I will treasure the times he and I had sharing our plans and thoughts concerning our work with our senior adults. There are those in heaven, and some will be, because of this servant of God. May God add comfort and joy to all of us as we share in the knowledge of knowing that Jerry is with Jesus today. Susie, may our Lord be close to you in these days.
Buddy Waldron



Buddy Waldron - June 13, 2016 at 06:20 AM

BW

“ Please accept our sincerest condolences in the passing of Rev. Walker. We are so very sorry for your loss.

Bobby and Geraldine Welch - June 13, 2016 at 05:46 AM

JW

“ Jerry will always have a special place in the hearts of the Worth family. He was the only person I thought of when Mike died and knew he was the one to speak at a memorial service for us! Such a sweet man with a gentle yet strong voice. Our loss is Heavens gain. Just know there was a host of First Baptist folks lined up to welcome him to his reward. Praying for you, Susie and your family that God will give you strength for the days ahead.
Judi Worth

Judi Worth - June 12, 2016 at 09:41 PM

AD

“ Jerry was a special guy in school and chorus at Cairo High School. It was a pleasure to see him and Susie at our 50th Class Reunion three years ago. I'm sure he served the Lord to his best ability and was a blessing to those who came in contact with him. Susie you probably don't remember but I first met you in a Mary Kay meeting in Tallahassee many years ago. My prayer is that God will wrap his arms around you now and in the days ahead. Praying for the family,
Alice Shores Dodson

Alice Dodson - June 12, 2016 at 08:48 PM

JC

“ Susie and family, We send our heartfelt sympathy to all of you. Jerry was such a special pastor and friend to all at First Baptist Church and we will miss him very much as we know you will also. He was such a comfort to us when our father was sick and then died. Thank you for supporting him as he comforted so many. Both of you have been a blessing for us. We will be praying for you at this difficult time. Jane and Ned

Jane and Ned Chambless - June 12, 2016 at 08:37 PM

EC

“ Jerry visited with our parents, Edward and Hazel Evans, so often. They thought the world of him and always enjoyed his visits! My sister, Marie Lyle, and I were always grateful for his care, concern and love for our parents.



It was truly an honor for us when Jerry spoke at both Mother and Daddy's funerals. His remarks brought us great comfort.

Our heartfelt sympathies are extended to Susie, their family and to the members of First Baptist Church. May you be enveloped in the loving arms of Jesus, may the comfort of the Holy Spirit be yours, and may God give you the peace that passes all understanding.

*In His love,
Marie (Evans) Lyle
Edwina (Evans) Cowgill*

Edwina Cowgill - June 12, 2016 at 08:31 PM

JP

“ Dear Walker Family ~

What a blessing it has been to know our Jerry for these 30 years in service together at FBC Newnan! You are all so dear to us and remain in our prayers in the days ahead.

Thank you for sharing him with the church and community....sure you would have liked to have him with you a little more. The "eternal rewards" will be worth the sacrifice....

Our love ~ Don & Jonnie

jonnie porter - June 12, 2016 at 06:10 PM

CH

“ I attended high school with Jerry at Cairo High. He was a very nice person and a real gentleman back then. Three years ago I had the pleasure of talking to and getting reacquainted with him and his beautiful wife Susie at our fiftith class reunion. I walked away from that conversation thinking that Jerry was still a very nice person and a real gentleman. My condolences to Susie and the family. I know he will be sorely missed.

Carolyn Gilliard Hampton - June 12, 2016 at 03:13 PM

BB

“ My deepest sympathies to Susie and the Walker family and to God's family at the First Baptist Church on West Washington Street in Newnan, GA. Our brother Jerry touched many lives within our family, our senior citizens, those who visited with us, and those who came to our door for food, shelter or other assistance. The love he had for us in his heart had no limits, and that is best exemplified by the question, "What would Jesus do?" Jerry will be greatly missed, and it will take awhile before we finally realize he is gone, because he was taken way too soon, in my opinion. Heaven has been blessed by a great bass singer, and when the next thunder storm comes through, and the earth shakes, that's not thunder. That will be Jerry Walker letting us know he is fine and happy in his eternal home.

Bill Brewer - June 12, 2016 at 01:36 PM

EC

“ Jerry and I were in the same music major class at Ga. Southern. I always remember his great voice and even greater personality. He was always a neat dresser and I even used to try to dress like him. I even remember going back to the dorm a time or two to change shirts because Jerry's looked so sharp.

We were good friends at GSC and were in a class of really super and close friends that still stay in touch to this day. You will be missed by all of us.

Ellis Cannon GSC 63-67.

Ellis Cannon - June 12, 2016 at 01:32 PM