



## Elsie Collins Vaught

August 6, 1924 - February 6, 2020

Conway.....

Elsie Arline Collins Vaught, 95, died on February 6th at home, surrounded by her loving family. Born in Tilly Swamp to Jonah David and Emma Jane Parker Collins, she was a graduate of Conway High School and Spartanburg Methodist College. Mrs. Elsie taught at Red Bluff Elementary and Tilly Swamp Elementary schools. In 1946 she married the love of her life, her childhood friend John Marion Vaught, Jr., after he returned home from serving during WWII. She then worked as bookkeeper and clerk for Schild's Department Store, as in that era school teachers were not allowed to teach while pregnant. They lived in Myrtle Beach for a period of time until the Korean War began. Mrs. Elsie became a military wife after her husband was called back into active duty for the Korean War, which sent them and their young son Johnny to Fort Benning, GA.

When Marion was discharged from service, he and Mrs. Elsie returned home to SC, purchasing the old Tilly Swamp School property located at the intersection of Highway 90 and Bear Bluff Road. Dismantling the original school, they renovated the lunchroom to be their home, using excess materials to build a general store/gas station, along with an automotive shop, naming it Vaught's Variety Store. Mrs. Elsie served as bookkeeper, clerk, and manager of the store until it closed in 1967. During the years of 1949-1955, she also delivered four children. Later, her love for books and education led her to a sales job, representing World Book and Childcraft Encyclopedia,

becoming one of their top sales persons in the area and winning a trip to Chicago, a highlight of her brief time with the company.

Mrs. Elsie used her God-given talent to teach Sunday School at Tilly Swamp Baptist Church for over 50 years, started a Vacation Bible School program, and presided over it for two decades. With her daughter Ruthie and Mrs. Andean Campbell, she helped begin a VBS program at True Vine Missionary Baptist Church. As her children grew older, she returned to the classroom as a substitute teacher, embracing elementary students again. She and Marion joined the International Gideons and began to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ by making Bibles available in hotels and hospitals and New Testaments to elementary schools. Their passion for making Bibles available to all people led them to serve in local and state positions on the staff of SC Gideons International. When Marion retired from Santee Cooper, they enjoyed traveling, particularly with a group of Conway friends to the Grand Canyon. They enjoyed traveling to Dollywood, attending family reunions near and far, and visiting their children and grandchildren in Kentucky, Hawaii, New York, Virginia, and Kansas.

Mrs. Elsie was a Proverbs 31 wife and mother: "Who can find a virtuous woman, for her price is far above rubies? The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. She reaches forth her hands to the needy. Strength and honor are her clothing; she opens her mouth with wisdom and in her tongue is the law of kindness. Her children arise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her."

Mrs. Elsie's husband of 69 years, John Marion Vaught, Jr, predeceased her in June of 2015. She was also preceded in death by all her siblings: Luther, Victor, Lumina, Pauline, Lindsay and Grady. Her children, John Marion "Johnny" Vaught, III (Margaret Ann), David Collins Harmon-Vaught (Darlys), Emma Ruth "Ruthie" Vaught Warren (Kevin) and Paula Vaught Adams (Jon) will miss her guidance and loving presence. Her grandchildren, Jonathan (Stephanie) Vaught, Jeremy (Andrea) Vaught, Jonathan "Jon" Adams

(Michelle), David Adams (Caitlin), Christian Warren, Collins Warren, Mark Harmon-Vaught, Sarah Harmon-Vaught, Emily Thompkins and John Kelly Thompkins will miss her hugs and smiles, as will her great-grandchildren Bre' Peoples, Joshua Vaught, Sydney Vaught, Courtney Vaught, LJ Vaught, Kendall Vaught, Clara Adams, and Elsie Adams.

The family expresses its heartfelt gratitude to Jackie Weaver and Hallie Palmer who became part of our family through their loving care of our mother and us in the final year of her life.

As we celebrate our mother's life, our farewell is to "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

A Celebration of Life service will be at 3PM, Thursday, February 13, 2020, at Tilly Swamp Baptist Church, Highway 90, with visitation from 2PM until 3PM at the church. A private burial will be held by the family at Tilly Swamp Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Tilly Swamp Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, 4619 Highway 90, Conway, SC 29526 or Gideons International, Conway Chapter, PO Box 304, Conway, SC 29528. Please sign an online guest book at [www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com](http://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com) <<http://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com>> Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel, is serving this family.

# Cemetery Details

## Tilly Swamp Baptist Church Cemetery

4619 Hwy 90  
Conway, SC 29526

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 13. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Tilly Swamp Baptist Church  
4619 Hwy 90  
Conway, SC 29526

## Funeral Service

FEB 13. 3:00 PM (ET)

Tilly Swamp Baptist Church  
4619 Hwy 90  
Conway, SC 29526

# Tribute Wall



“ Goldfinch Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Elsie Collins Vaught



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**Goldfinch Funeral Home** - February 28, 2020 at 03:41 PM

AW

“ Dear David, Johnny, Ruthie and Paula, No love on earth is greater than the love of a mother, and that love is missed more than any other. You know she will be the Angel with you to the end of time as she walks side-by-side with our Lord and Saviour. I remember her serving as one of our room mothers, David. Such a sweet spirited lady and mother to all of us as we traversed those wonderful school days at Waccamaw Elementary. May your greatest memories sustain you in these difficult days.

*In loving memory,  
Annette Stalvey Walthes*

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**Annette Stalvey Walthes** - February 25, 2020 at 08:39 AM

EJ

“ Edward Jordan lit a candle in memory of Elsie Collins Vaught



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**Edward Jordan** - February 16, 2020 at 04:51 PM

DA

“ We were grateful to be with family this week, and love this memory of Grandmommy singing to her great-granddaughter, Elsie.



David Adams - February 15, 2020 at 07:44 AM

PA

*I will always treasure this! Elsie 1 singing to Elsie 2 !!*

Paula Vaught Adams - February 15, 2020 at 11:14 AM

GJ

*Precious and priceless!*

Glenda Johnson - February 20, 2020 at 01:55 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Elsie Collins Vaught.



February 14, 2020 at 11:00 AM

DC

“ *Ruthie, Paula, David and Johnny,  
It is so hard to find the right words at this time. What a blessing it was for you to have Ms. Elsie as your mother. She was so very special to so many, and her goodness lives on in and through you. May God give you comfort during this time, know that Ms. Elsie is always with you.*

*Dee Adams Coleman*

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**Dee Adams Coleman** - February 13, 2020 at 11:39 AM

PA

*Thank you,Dee, for your visit to see Mama and your kind words. It meant a lot to her and us.*

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**Paula Vaught Adams** - February 23, 2020 at 04:07 AM

SV

“ *I am very sorry to hear that mrs. Elsie has passed away .may God give you pease knowing that she is in GOD'S loving arm's.  
Steve Vaught*

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**stephen p vaught** - February 13, 2020 at 11:20 AM

KO

“ *Paula & Family, so sorry to hear about your Mother. May she Rest in Peace.*

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**Kenny Oliver** - February 12, 2020 at 08:11 AM

 Tina Vaught

“ *We Love you Gigi... I thank the Lord that He brought you into our lives! Prayers for our family.. PJ, Uncle David, Aunt Ruthie, and Aunt Paula Prayers for Jeremy and Jonathan and all the spouses, grands and great grands... We love you all- Tina, Courtney, Kendall*

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**Tina Vaught** - February 11, 2020 at 02:09 PM

RW

“ *Ruthie Vaught Warren,  
My deepest sympathy to you and your family during the passing of  
this beautiful matriarch. My prayers for strength and comfort during  
this time of bereavement. May you love and cherish every memory  
of this beautiful soul.*

*Love,  
Rosita Dukes Woodard*

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**Rosita Woodard** - February 10, 2020 at 11:59 AM

RT

*Paula and family,  
I am praying for you in the loss of your sweet mother. I enjoyed getting  
to know her when I took my mother to high school reunions in the latter  
years of her life. I will not be able to attend today's service because of  
a doctor's appointment I need to go to with my husband. I'm sorry. Rilla  
Altman Thomas*

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**Rilla Thomas** - February 13, 2020 at 10:23 AM

KB

“ *Sorry to hear about your Mother's passing. Sending prayers and  
thoughts to you and your family. May you find peace and comfort  
during this time.*

*With love and sympathy,  
K. Banks*

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**Kin Banks** - February 10, 2020 at 11:19 AM

FB

“ *Ruthie, Paula and family,*

*You are in our thoughts and prayers. May time ease the pain and only happy memories remain.*

*Tony and Faye Barker*

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**faye barker** - February 10, 2020 at 10:39 AM

AC

“ *Mrs. Elsie touched the lives of so many people. She was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, teacher, Sunday School Teacher, a matriarch in the community. I will never forget 20 years ago when my precious daughter was born, Mrs. Elsie picked the most beautiful flowers from her garden and WALKED to my house and brought them to me and Caroline. Such kindness I will never forget.*



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**Andrew & Terri Cooper** - February 10, 2020 at 09:25 AM

DF

“ *Diane Hamilton Forbes lit a candle in memory of Elsie Collins Vaught*



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**Diane Hamilton Forbes** - February 09, 2020 at 11:30 PM



“ *Mrs. Vaught has always been a beautiful angel, I know that she will be missed! Sending love to all!*  
*Dorothy Jordan Dunn*



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**Dorothy Jordan Dunn** - February 09, 2020 at 10:56 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Elsie Collins Vaught.*



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February 09, 2020 at 08:09 PM



“ *Johnny, David, and Ruthie,*

*I am so sorry to hear of your mother's death. Please know that my thoughts are with you at this time, and if I can do anything for you, please let me know.*

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**Chip Brown** - February 09, 2020 at 06:03 PM



“ *Your Mother was a very kind and nice person, full of laughter and jokes I really enjoy working with her & the family, May God continue to bless each and everyone of you* 💕💕💕💕💕

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**Jackie Weaver** - February 09, 2020 at 06:01 PM

MR

“ *Your Mother was a wonderful woman. My thoughts and prayers are with you in this time of loss.*

*Michelle Davis Reed*

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**Michelle Davis Reed** - February 09, 2020 at 01:51 PM

KG

“ *Kay Watson Graham lit a candle in memory of Elsie Collins Vaught*



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**Kay Watson Graham** - February 09, 2020 at 11:06 AM

CB

“ *Paula, David, Johnny, I am so sorry for your loss. Your mother was such a sweet lady and I have fond memories growing up with her and the family.*

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**Connie Zattau Boyd** - February 08, 2020 at 11:40 PM

TL

“ *Ruthie, Paula, and Family,  
We are thinking of you all and sending our love. I do wish I could bring Nana home for the memorial but she is just not able. We will both cherish our visits to the house these last few summers and are so thankful for the opportunity to relive so many family memories. We are praying for your strength and comfort.  
Much love, Cousins Billie, Andy, and Tracy Lee*

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**Tracy Lee** - February 08, 2020 at 09:42 PM

ES

“ *Elaine Magann Sarvis lit a candle in memory of Elsie Collins Vaught*



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**Elaine Magann Sarvis** - February 08, 2020 at 06:22 PM