



## Lee Cates

February 27, 1988 - March 15, 2012

Conway, SC...Lee Michael Cates, age 24, died at Conway Medical Center, Thursday March 15, 2012.

Mr. Cates was born in Raleigh, NC, the son of Angie Clewis Johnson of Conway, SC and Michael C. Cates of Columbia, SC. He was predeceased by paternal grandfather, Leroy Cates and maternal step-grandfathers, Archie Johnson and Paul Strickland.

Surviving in addition to his parents are, step-father, John A. Johnson of Conway, SC and step-mother, Ginger Cates of Columbia, SC; one sister, Andrea E. Johnson of Conway, SC; two brothers, Austin and Cory Cates both of Columbia, SC; maternal grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Clewis of Conway, SC and Esther Johnson Strickland of Conway, SC; paternal grandparents, Ms. Ona R. Cates of Lexington, SC and Mr. & Mrs. Richard Abbott of Columbia, SC.

Lee was an active member of Maple Baptist Church where he enjoyed playing the guitar in the praise band. He was a student at Clemson University where he studied Microbiology in preparation for Med School. Lee bravely battled leukemia for over 5 years and never lost hope for a cure. Family and friends will dearly miss this young man.

Special thanks to the Medical Teams at Palmetto Health Children's Hospital, MUSC Children's Hospital and Conway Medical Center for the great care provided for Lee.

Services will be held 3:00 PM Sunday at Maple Baptist Church with the Rev. Gary Reeves officiating. Burial will follow in Hillcrest Cemetery.

The family will receive friends 4:00-7:00 PM Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to Maple Baptist Church, 4500 Hwy 65, Conway, SC 29526.

Sign a guestbook at [www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com](http://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com)

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Hillcrest Cemetery

1000 Hwy 544  
Conway, SC 29526  
(843) 347-4909  
<https://www.hillcrestcemetery.com/>

# Previous Events

## Service

**MAR 18.** 3:00 PM (ET)

Maple Baptist Church  
4500 Hwy 65  
Conway, SC 29526-5915

# Tribute Wall



“ *Goldfinch Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Lee Cates*



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**Goldfinch Funeral Home** - March 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family. We are church friends of Teresa and Tommy Webb.*

*Andrew & Ginger Perry  
First Baptist Church  
Darlington SC*

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**Ginger Perry** - March 20, 2012 at 08:27 AM



“ *Lee was such a wonderful human being! This just broke my heart. He always had an excellent attitude when facing all of his challenges and taught all of the residents at Palmetto Health Richland so much. We will all miss him very much.*

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March 19, 2012 at 05:29 PM

MH

“ Lee was one of my favorite students in my during my first couple years teaching Microbiology labs at Clemson. He enjoyed being in the lab and always had a smile on his face. My thoughts and prayers are with your family.

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**Melissa Hayes** - March 19, 2012 at 04:30 PM



“ Samantha Wallace lit a candle in memory of Lee Cates



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**Samantha Wallace** - March 19, 2012 at 09:35 AM



Our prayers are with you all.

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**Samantha Wallace** - March 19, 2012 at 09:36 AM

AR

“ Ashley Herring Rouhselang lit a candle in memory of Lee Cates



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**Ashley Herring Rouhselang** - March 18, 2012 at 06:03 PM

CJ

“ Dear Angie and Family,

*Today is Sunday and I am just learning about Lee's death. I am sick that I did not learn about this sooner. I would have been there at the visitation. Please know you will be in my prayers and in my thoughts. Lee was an amazing young man. I remember him in my 5th grade class at Conway Christian. He was always a joy to have around and a great influence on other students. You can be very proud of him and his stand for the Lord. I will always remember his smiling face.*

*You will be in my prayers. Depend on the Lord and He will give you strenght and will get you through this hard time.*

*God Bless,*

*Connie S. Jones*

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**Connie S. Jones** - March 18, 2012 at 05:00 PM

DC

“ Debbie Freeman Christmas lit a candle in memory of Lee Cates



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**Debbie Freeman Christmas** - March 18, 2012 at 01:52 PM

BS

“ Angie and Family, Sorry to hear of your Loss and sending love your way and a prayer for comfort, peace, and strength. Love, Betsy Lee Sheffield

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**Betsy Lee Sheffield** - March 18, 2012 at 09:16 AM



“ 46 files added to the album Lee Cates



Goldfinch Funeral Home - March 18, 2012 at 09:14 AM

TH

“ Such a wonderful young man and a great family. He will be greatly missed by lots of people who adored him.

Teddy J Hucks - March 18, 2012 at 09:05 AM

PC

“ I just found out about Lee tonight when I got home from Greenville, I know you are all hurting right now but he is in His presence and there is no pain. Because I knew Lee, I know what a real smile looks like, I know what real praise sounds like, and I know what real faith feels like. Thank you God for letting me know Lee.

Pamela Clark - March 17, 2012 at 11:01 PM

CA

“ Cynthia G. Alford lit a candle in memory of Lee Cates



Cynthia G. Alford - March 17, 2012 at 09:25 PM

KG

“ *Karen Anderson Grainger lit a candle in memory of Lee Cates*



Karen Anderson Grainger - March 17, 2012 at 08:47 PM

AS

“ *Amanda Stec lit a candle in memory of Lee Cates*



Amanda Stec - March 17, 2012 at 06:29 PM

NB

“ *Norman & Jo Ann Barnhill lit a candle in memory of Lee Cates*



Norman & Jo Ann Barnhill - March 17, 2012 at 05:27 PM

KS

“ *Kim Singleton lit a candle in memory of Lee Cates*



Kim Singleton - March 17, 2012 at 01:17 PM

KS

*You are in my prayers during this difficult time. I pray God will soon replace your sorrow with only happy memories you have of Lee. Lee touched more lives in his short time here on earth than millions of us all put together will, even if blessed with a long life. He was a blessing to so many and will be missed. So sorry for your loss. We love you, Perry and Kim Singleton*

**Kim Singleton** - March 17, 2012 at 01:44 PM

SS

“ *Susan Eargle Soucy lit a candle in memory of Lee Cates*



**Susan Eargle Soucy** - March 17, 2012 at 12:54 PM

SB

“ *Steve And Sharon Barfield lit a candle in memory of Lee Cates*



**Steve and Sharon Barfield** - March 17, 2012 at 11:43 AM

SC

“ *My love and sympathy to all of you. Following Lee's illness over the years and seeing your fairh, Angie, has blessed my life. You are a blessing to so many. I know God is carring you in His arms now. Sincerely, Shirley Cribb*

**Shirley I. Cribb** - March 17, 2012 at 09:54 AM

LC

“ You are in our thoughts and prayers. Lee certainly fought a good fight and remained faithful and courageous. He was and is an inspiration for us to have a close walk with the Lord always. He was remarkable in every way. You, his family and all extended family, have also shown much faith and Christian witness. I know God will continue to strengthen and comfort you in the days, weeks and even years to come.

Love, Dave & ou Alice Collins

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**Lou Alice Collins** - March 17, 2012 at 09:51 AM

LH

“ Your family and friends are in our prayers. We know Lee is standing in the persence of our the Lord and he is whole once again. May God keep you wrapped in His loving arms today and always until you see Lee again.

Love,  
Lyn Martin Hernandez and family

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**Lyn Martin Hernandez** - March 17, 2012 at 09:38 AM

CF

“ Charles Silvey & Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Lee Cates



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**Charles Silvey & Family** - March 17, 2012 at 08:44 AM



“ so sorry for your loss. you are in my thoughts and prayers  
Bonnie todd

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**Bonnie Todd** - March 17, 2012 at 08:28 AM



“ So sorry for your loss. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.



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**Kecia Richardson** - March 17, 2012 at 08:22 AM

MT

“ It was with a heavy heart that I heard yesterday of the passing of this wonderful young person. He was a light in this world. I am most assured that he is now resting in the light of God's love. God bless you during this difficult time and forever after.  
*Michael Lynch*

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**Michael A. Lynch Spanish Teacher** - March 17, 2012 at 08:17 AM

CM

“ Praying for all of you. May God wrap his arms around you and comfort you. I love you all .



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**Cori Murrell** - March 17, 2012 at 07:23 AM

AP

“ I'm so very sorry for your loss. Your family is in my thoughts.

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**angie porter** - March 17, 2012 at 06:18 AM

BY

*so sorry for your loss. you are in my prayers.*

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**bruce young** - March 17, 2012 at 08:46 AM

AP

“ *Angie Porter lit a candle in memory of Lee Cates*



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**angie porter** - March 17, 2012 at 06:16 AM

DR

“ *Debbie Doyle Rabon lit a candle in memory of Lee Cates*



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**Debbie Doyle Rabon** - March 17, 2012 at 06:11 AM

AT

“ *Audrey Brown Todd lit a candle in memory of Lee Cates*



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**Audrey Brown Todd** - March 17, 2012 at 06:08 AM

AT

*Your all in my thoughts and prayers.*

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**Audrey Brown Todd** - March 17, 2012 at 06:11 AM

LH

“ *Lisa Anderson Hollywood lit a candle in memory of Lee Cates*



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**Lisa Anderson Hollywood** - March 17, 2012 at 04:00 AM

DH

*Dear Angie, You and your family are in my thoughts and prays.  
Denise Huggins, from Womens Medical Center*

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**Denise U Huggins** - March 19, 2012 at 07:16 PM

AH

“ *Alison Hammond lit a candle in memory of Lee Cates*



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**Alison Hammond** - March 17, 2012 at 03:51 AM

MM

“ *Mary Catherine Mintz lit a candle in memory of Lee Cates*



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**Mary Catherine Mintz** - March 17, 2012 at 12:14 AM

AB

“ Lee showed more maturity, love, grace, humility, and strength during his 24 years than most people do in a lifetime. We were - are - lucky to call him a friend.

-Ben & Adrienne Burris

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**Adrienne Burris** - March 16, 2012 at 10:30 PM

MT

“ You have never been out of our prayers. We know Lee is rejoicing in heaven but the tears of grief and separation sting and hurt. We love you and pray God's comfort and grace. This has been hard for our son Timothy because he has followed Lee through the years and bonded with him since our son Tim has also battled this demon of cancer. He is now 16 and goes to the cancer clinic every 2 months. We understand what it is to live literally day by day! Michael, to you and your precious wife and sons, we send our condolences. We love you so much and cry with you. God bless dear friend.

Marvin Rose, Melinda & Tim Rose

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**Marvin & Melinda Rose & Timothy** - March 16, 2012 at 10:28 PM

MT

“ Marvin & Melinda Rose & Timothy lit a candle in memory of Lee Cates



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**Marvin & Melinda Rose & Timothy** - March 16, 2012 at 10:21 PM

LT

“ *Linda Todd lit a candle in memory of Lee Cates*



Linda Todd - March 16, 2012 at 10:17 PM



*You all are in my prayers ,May God bring you pease and comfort.*

March 16, 2012 at 10:19 PM

RH

“ *Russell & Debbie Hucks lit a candle in memory of Lee Cates*



Russell & Debbie Hucks - March 16, 2012 at 10:09 PM

RH

*You are all in our thoughts & prayers.*

Russell & Debbie Hucks - March 16, 2012 at 10:10 PM

JC

“ *James And Latricia Clardy lit a candle in memory of Lee Cates*



James and Latricia Clardy - March 16, 2012 at 09:58 PM

LC

“ We are so sorry to hear of Lee's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

*Lisa and Scott Carmona*

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**Lisa S. Carmona** - March 16, 2012 at 09:55 PM

TS

“ My heartfelt sympathy to Lee's family. Thoughts & prayers are with you during this difficult time. Treasure every memory, every day.

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**Tammy Marlowe Siegel** - March 16, 2012 at 09:54 PM

TS

“ Tammy Marlowe Siegel lit a candle in memory of Lee Cates



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**Tammy Marlowe Siegel** - March 16, 2012 at 09:52 PM

TT

“ Toni Booth Todd lit a candle in memory of Lee Cates



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**Toni Booth Todd** - March 16, 2012 at 09:43 PM

TT

*My prayers are with you all. Lee is going to be truly missed by all. Love each and everyone of you and please know my prayers are with you during this difficult time.*

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**Toni Booth Todd** - March 16, 2012 at 09:51 PM

HS

“ My condolences to the Cates family. Lee was great - we weren't close, but he always made a point to chat - or at least say "hi" - when I saw him in passing. He was a great friend to Kelly and a great help to me my freshman year in Holmes. He will be missed, though I'm glad he's no longer in any pain. Stay strong!

*Heather Sprague*

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**Heather Sprague** - March 16, 2012 at 08:25 PM

MH

“ Although I never got to meet Lee, there was never a day that went by that I didn't think or pray for him. I am deeply sorry for your loss, but I know that where he is now he is stronger than ever before. We know that he will be greatly missed. Love and prayers to you all.

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**Michelle Holland** - March 16, 2012 at 08:23 PM

MH

“ Michelle Holland lit a candle in memory of Lee Cates



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**Michelle Holland** - March 16, 2012 at 08:20 PM

BG

“ Lee was a special young man with such a bright smile. We would like to send our condolences from the our family.

*Wesley, Beth and Isabelle Gossett*

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**Beth Gossett** - March 16, 2012 at 07:31 PM

TP

“ *Tonya Martin Peavy lit a candle in memory of Lee Cates*



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**Tonya Martin Peavy** - March 16, 2012 at 06:49 PM

TY

“ *Lee was a very special young man. We extend our deepest sympathies to the entire family. May God's peace be with you during this difficult time.*

*Tim and Paige Youmans and Family*

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**Tim Youmans** - March 16, 2012 at 06:43 PM

BM

“ *Michael, Ginger, and boys, we are so sorry to learn of Lee's passing, but we are rejoicing that he is pain-free and in the presence of Jesus. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers. We are happy for Lee but sad for the friends and family he left to miss him.*

*In God's love, Babs Martin and Evelyn Bundrick*

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**Babs Martin** - March 16, 2012 at 06:35 PM

KS

“ *We are so sorry for your loss.....words cannot express. But he is a saint being welcomed to his new home in heaven to be with Jesus. He is no longer in pain.*

*Love and prayers to your family.  
Brent and Kimbra Nash Stenson  
McDonough, Georgia*

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**Kimbra Nash Stenson** - March 16, 2012 at 05:04 PM

WF

“ Lee was certainly a blessing in his sharing his talents during our services at SSBC. His warm disposition and sincerity made the worship service more meaningful. He will be missed. Jane and I send our deepest sympathy and prayers to you folks as the days ahead will be difficult. God's comfort is sufficient.

God bless,

Weldon and Jane Fallaw

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Weldon Fallaw - March 16, 2012 at 04:52 PM

LM

“ Micheal and family I am so sorry to hear Lee passing away. But you guys have been amazing through out this ordeal. Both Jeff and I will be sending you prayers. God bless you all! Jeff and Leslie Marsh  
Ringgold, Georgia



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Leslie Marsh - March 16, 2012 at 03:55 PM

JS

“ We are so sorry to hear of Lee's passing.  
May our Lord bless your Family.

Bob and Jo Shealy  
State Street Baptist Church  
Cayce, SC

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Jo Shealy - March 16, 2012 at 03:17 PM



*So sorry for your lost will be lifting you and the family in pray.*

*Hilda Jordan  
Sumter SC*

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**Hilda Jorda** - March 17, 2012 at 04:27 PM