



## Ruth Willhite

September 4, 1932 - December 17, 2018

Ruth Youree Willhite, age 86, passed away peacefully at her home, December 17th, 2018. Visitation will be Wednesday, December 18, 2018 from 4:00pm to 8:00pm and Thursday from 9:00am to 10:00 am at the Main Street Church of Christ in Springfield. A Celebration of Life will be held at the church on Thursday at 10:00am. Burial will be at Pleasant Valley Cemetery in Hurricane Mills, TN on Thursday at 3:00pm.

Born September 4, 1932 in Rutherford County, Ruth grew up in Readyville, TN. She graduated from Middle Tennessee State College in Home Economics. She was named Miss Home Economics as a senior. She worked as an Assistant UT 4-H and Home Demonstration agent in Humphreys, Maury, and Sevier Counties.

Ruth met Jim Willhite in Waverly. They married on March 9, 1957. The young couple moved to San Diego where Jim and his twin brother Joe served in the Navy. After service, the Willhites moved to Columbia and then Sevierville, where Ruth worked and Jim studied agriculture at UT.

After Jim's graduation, they moved to Springfield where Edwin and Adelia were born. Jim served as the 4-H County Agent from 1962-81 and later at Commerce Union Bank then at Bank of America. Ruth, a faithful Christian, provided constant support for her husband, while he was a deacon and elder

for the Main Street Church of Christ. Their home was always open for hospitality. A tireless friend to elderly women, Ruth made regular phone calls, visits, provided food and transportation to doctor appointments.

When the children started school, Ruth greeted every family moving into Springfield with a smile and a Welcome Wagon basket. She founded the Main Street Mom's Day Out Program and directed it for 30 years, where she nurtured younger generations and gave young mothers a weekly timeout. She also loved teaching the Bible to children in Sunday School. An encourager and mentor, Ruth delighted in seeing her children, grandchildren, former students, neighbors, and friends excel.

Ruth is preceded in death by her parents George and Mary Youree and her brother Robert Youree. She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Jim Willhite; son Edwin and wife Barbara of Murfreesboro and their children David, Andrea Hollandsworth (Glenn), and Paige Willhite; daughter Adelia Gaines and her husband Andy of Coldwater, MS and children Rachel Hilliard (George), Mary Kate, and Will Gaines.

Other relatives are a brother Joe Youree of Dickson, brother-in-law Joe Willhite (Shirley) of Martin, and numerous nieces and nephews.

If desired, gifts may be made to Churches of Christ Disaster Relief, Main Street's Mother's Day Out, or Main Street's Building Fund. Any donations may be sent in c/o Austin & Bell.

Austin & Bell Funeral Home in Springfield is in charge of these arrangements.

AUSTIN & BELL FUNERAL HOME-

509 WALNUT STREET, SPRINGFIELD, TN (615) 384-1000

# Cemetery Details

## Pleasant Valley Cemetery

Hurricane Mills, TN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **19**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Main Street Church of Christ  
318 Main Street  
Springfield, TN 37172

## Visitation

DEC **20**. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Main Street Church of Christ  
318 Main Street  
Springfield, TN 37172

## Celebration of Life Service

DEC **20**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Main Street Church of Christ  
318 Main Street  
Springfield, TN 37172

# Tribute Wall

DP

“ I knew the Willhites very well while they were living here in Springfield. They were so involved in many community activities esp 4-H. Mrs. Willhite was our daughter's, Mary, teacher at the Mom's Day Out. Mary loved going there. I know her husband and family will miss her so much. She is in God's hands now. My condolences to the family.

*Donna Leding Plumlee*

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**Donna Leding Plumlee** - January 11, 2019 at 07:51 PM

RD

“ This wonderful lady was my 4-H leader in Humphreys County when I was in school at Waverly. I still have the medal she awarded me in poultry judging.

*A true Southern lady.*

*My sympathy goes out to Jim and the family.*

*Reed Dreaden*

*Waverly, Tn*

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**Reed Dreaden** - December 19, 2018 at 08:46 PM

MM

“ Adelia, we send our love and sympathy in the passing of your mother. She was such a special friend to Roberta who will miss her so very much. Even though I did not see your mother often, we had good memories of our being in college together. Give our love to your dad. I pray the Lord will continue to be with all of you and give you strength at this very difficult, sad time.

*Love and blessings,*

*Mary McCollum and family*

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**Mary McCollum** - December 19, 2018 at 08:17 PM



“ 450 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



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**Austin & Bell Funeral Home** - December 19, 2018 at 11:42 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Ruth Willhite.*



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December 19, 2018 at 10:24 AM



“ *Adelia, I know this pain you are feeling right now. Hold on to the special memories that you have with your mom. Those memories will get you through the days ahead. I know from experience that this memory that you are making on this day will one day be added to the other treasure of memories and will bring light to your day. Celebrate your mom's special life here on this earth today and just imagine the life she is living now in Heaven. Love you and we wish we could be there to hold your hand. I hope you feel our love from afar!*

*Love, Shelly and Don*

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**Shelly Embrey** - December 19, 2018 at 07:13 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Ruth Willhite.* ”



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December 18, 2018 at 11:43 PM