



## Betty Louise Harper

January 14, 1928 - August 11, 2017

Betty Louise Harper was born on January 14, 1928 in Earlsboro, Oklahoma to Johnnie and Charlie Holland. She passed this life at home on August 11, 2017.

As a child, Betty's father was a tool pusher, and they lived in many towns throughout Oklahoma and western Texas. In 1945 her family settled in Maysville, Oklahoma where she graduated from high school. Immediately after high school, she attended Cooke County Junior College in Gainesville, Texas. Betty worked during the summer at Narramore Welding in Maysville. While working there she met her lifelong partner Virgil Harper. Betty invited Virgil to a Sunday school party for their first date. She graduated in May, 1951 with a Bachelor of Science degree in music education from the Oklahoma College for Women in Chickasha.

In the fall of 1951, Betty became the high school vocal teacher at Putnam City High School. In the spring 1952 Virgil proposed to Betty and they married on June 29, 1952 in the First Baptist Church in Maysville.

In July of that same year, they moved to Pauls Valley and she began a 40 year teaching career in the Pauls Valley schools. She taught elementary music at Lee School and gave the gift of music to generations of Pauls Valley students. Betty provided an amazing curriculum of classical, sacred, folk and seasonal music.

Many students today remember such favorites as Peer Gynt Suites, Nutcracker Suite, Night on Bald Mountain, and of course, square dancing on Fridays.

In 1954 Betty received her master's degree in elementary education from the University of Oklahoma and later received a master's degree in guidance and counseling. She was the first elementary counselor in Pauls Valley Schools and continued that position until her retirement. In 1985 Betty earned the honor of being a National Certified Counselor and was the President of the Oklahoma Schools' Counselor Association.

Jay, her only child, was born on August 26, 1960. Jay and Debbie were married in 1984. The family continued to grow with the birth of Jay II in 1988 and Elizabeth 1989. Betty retired in 1988 to become a full time Nana.

Betty was baptized in 1951 at the First Baptist Church of Maysville. Betty and Virgil joined the First Baptist Church of Pauls Valley in 1952. She was a lifelong member of the church

choir, teacher and director of Sunday school classes, Christian training teacher, vacation Bible school leader, Falls Creek sponsor, church bus ministry leader, and worked tirelessly with the visitation committee. Many families recall the first people to reach out to them when they moved to Pauls Valley were Betty and Virgil, who of course invited them to church.

Betty was a devoted wife, and loving mother, grandmother, mother-in-law, and a faithful church member. Although she wasn't able to attend church in the later years, it wasn't any less important to her.

Betty is survived by her husband, Virgil of 65 years; her son, Jay and his wife Debbie of Pauls Valley; 2 grandchildren, Jay II and his wife Katie of Norman; Elizabeth of Chicago, Illinois; Sister, Maxine Gardner of Norman; Brother, Charles Holland and wife Loretta of Yuma, Arizona; and hosts of nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death of her parents, Johnnie and Charlie Holland; Sister, Doris Ingersoll; and brother, Albert Holland.

Services will be held at the First Baptist Church of Pauls Valley on Friday, August 18, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the First Baptist Church, PO Box 490, Pauls Valley, Oklahoma 73075. Services are under the direction of Wooster Funeral Home. You may send a condolence to the family at [www.woosterfuneralhomes.com](http://www.woosterfuneralhomes.com).

Visitation hours will be held on Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., and Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Wooster Funeral Home.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **16.** 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM (CT)

Wooster Funeral Home and Cremation Services (Pauls Valley)  
1601 South Chickasaw  
Pauls Valley, OK

## Visitation

AUG **17.** 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Wooster Funeral Home and Cremation Services (Pauls Valley)  
1601 South Chickasaw  
Pauls Valley, OK

## Visitation

AUG **18.** 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Wooster Funeral Home and Cremation Services (Pauls Valley)  
1601 South Chickasaw  
Pauls Valley, OK

## Service

AUG **18.** 2:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church- Pauls Valley  
213 N. Ash  
Pauls Valley, OK

# Tribute Wall



“ *Wooster Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Betty Louise Harper*



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**Wooster Funeral Home & Cremation Services** - August 15, 2017 at 11:52 AM



*such a wonderful video of the life of Betty Harper she had a big heart for people and especially her family , had the heart of a counselor , escouraged you to be your best*

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**David Holland** - August 17, 2017 at 07:08 PM



“ *Betty Louise Harper*

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November 12, 2022 at 02:44 AM



“ *Betty,*

*It was such a joy to have you and Virgil as our single Sunday School teachers at the first Baptist Church. You were always so positive. Rest in Peace.*

*Sharon Moore Danak*



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**Sharon Moore Danak** - August 29, 2017 at 05:56 AM



“ *My deepest sympathies to the Harper family especially Jay . May God give you the strength to carry on. Prayers and Hugs.*

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**Rita Hines** - August 26, 2017 at 12:40 PM

TW

“ Jay, Debbie & family,

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

*Tonya*

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**Tonya Wise** - August 23, 2017 at 05:07 PM

MR

“ Mrs. Harper was my 6th grade teacher at Lee School. I will always remember her kindness and guidance she showed us "young" kids. Virgil and Jay, I am saddened for your loss but know from her faith in God that she is walking with him in Heaven. My He give you peace and love during his hard time.

*Mike and Emma Roberts*

*Pauls Valley*

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**Mike & Emma Roberts** - August 18, 2017 at 09:27 PM

MN

“ Mrs. Harper was my favorite teacher out of many great ones at Lee Elementary School. Mr. Standridge once joked that a college student could not pass one of her sixth grade tests She is greatly loved and greatly missed !

*Michael R. Nelson*

*PVHS Class of 1972*

*Lee School Graduate*

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**Mike Nelson** - August 18, 2017 at 10:44 AM

KF

“ Praying for you all as you say, "Until we meet again!"

*With sincerest sympathy,*

*Janice Manley*

*Wayne and Kathy Nan Fagala*



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**kathy fagala** - August 18, 2017 at 08:08 AM



Christalyn Sotelo

“ Aunt Betty and her siblings (Granny D, Aunt Maxine, and Uncle Charles) were instrumental in watching over my mom and uncle after they lost their father; (Aunt Betty, Granny's, Aunt Maxine, and Uncle Charles brother). And then even more so after my brother and I were born. When my mom and dad needed help, they were there to rally the family. I will never forget how they all stepped in to make sure my brother and I knew everything would be ok, that we were loved, and that family could overcome what seemed like insurmountable odds; all the while still caring for my mother Linda and Uncle David. I shared many adventures, many phone calls, many letters, many gifts, and many acts of love from dear Aunt Betty. She, like her sisters, were raised to love the Lord and to be strong, gracious women, and in their God given strength, to raise more generations like them. They are all I aspire to be, and the best role models I could ever have. I'm going to miss Aunt B's love, her kindness, her smile, her encouragement, her humor, her letters, her emails, her prayers and wise counsel, and her passion to invest in my life and others. She is another reason I can't wait to get to heaven. What a glorious day that will be!!! May we all find peace and comfort in her eternal salvation. Until I see you again Aunt B, all my love....



Christalyn Sotelo - August 17, 2017 at 11:46 PM



“ Mrs. Harper was everything I wanted to be. She taught me more than I'll ever have a chance to recall. Betty gave me five years of inspiration that resulted in decades of joy. She was my hero. I'm deeply sorry for your loss.

Camilla Clymer  
 PVHS Class of 1965  
 Lee School Graduate



Camilla Clymer - August 16, 2017 at 11:14 PM



“ I only recently met Betty, but in the short time I got to know her, she deeply touched my heart. She loved her family and friends beyond measure and was such a loving and devout christian. I am blessed to have known her.



Stephanie Luckinbill - August 16, 2017 at 12:49 PM

HP

“ *Betty was a wonderful person and a wonderful teacher.  
Condolences to her family. She will be missed. God Bless.*

*HM and Betty Pannel*



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**HM & Betty Pannell** - August 16, 2017 at 11:49 AM

TH

“ *So sorry for your loss. Will keep you in my thoughts and  
prayers.*



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**Tina McCarty Hume** - August 15, 2017 at 01:38 PM