



Annette Childress

November 8, 1946 - May 4, 2022

On May 4, 2022, Annette Childress, 75, took her last breath on earth and with joy and awe entered into the holy presence of her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. She was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, teacher, and friend.

Annette was born on November 8, 1946, in San Marcos, Texas, to Velma and Joe Clutter. She enjoyed a simple but fun childhood in Clarksville, Texas, with her younger brother, Joe Jr., and spent many hours “playing school” with her dolls. After graduating from Clarksville High School in 1965, Annette pursued her dream of becoming a teacher, receiving a degree in elementary education, a master’s degree in early childhood education, and certification in library science.

Annette was a wonderful teacher. She used her creativity to make learning fun, exciting, and meaningful. One of the most rewarding parts of her 30 years of teaching was to have several of her former kindergarten students tell her that she was the reason they chose to become teachers.

In 1979 Annette married Mike Childress, who was truly the love of her life and her best friend. They spent forty wonderful years together and referred to their marriage as a match made in Heaven. They were blessed with a great son, Casey, precious granddaughter, Jayde, and a life filled with happy memories. Mike and Annette loved to travel. Their favorite trips were to New England to see the glorious fall foliage--Heaven on earth!

After retirement Annette started a hospital clown program for children at Good Shepherd Medical Center. She wore funny costumes and used puppets, clown tricks, balloon animals, and painting with watercolors to brighten the lives of the pediatric patients during their stay at the hospital. The children smiled as they painted away their pain!

Pets and her pet therapy ministry, Puppy Love, were also close to her heart. Annette loved her dogs and trained them to do a 40-minute program of nonstop tricks. With her husband’s faithful help, they delighted hundreds of residents at nursing homes, retirement centers, and adult day care centers with tricks such as adding and subtracting, playing basketball, bowling, and playing the piano and singing.

Serving God through her church was a priority with Annette throughout her life but her most important gift was teaching children. For over 30 years Annette and Mike taught children in Sunday School. It was especially rewarding to be able to teach I Am Special! I

Am a New Christian!, a fun, hands-on curriculum Annette wrote to help children who had just invited Jesus into their hearts and lives. Hundreds of children at Mobberly Baptist Church learned how to grow as a Christian with this God inspired curriculum.

In 2009, Annette and her husband, Mike, were prompted by God to write and illustrate a coloring book on how to go to Heaven and in 2013 completed a second coloring book on the life of Jesus. Through their ministry, Reaching Kids 4 Christ, the books were translated into 8 languages, and over 265,000 books have helped reach children in 38 countries for Christ. It was thrilling for Annette and Mike to watch how God used simple coloring books to make an eternal difference in lives around the world. Reaching Kids 4 Christ is now a nonprofit corporation 501 (C) 3 so that the ministry can continue even after Mike and Annette's deaths.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held at Rader Funeral Home at 2:00 pm on Monday, May 23, with Dr. Gregg Zackary officiating. Visitation will be held from 4pm-6pm on Sunday, May 22, at Rader Funeral Home. Private graveside will follow at Lakeview Cemetery in Longview.

Memorials may be made to Reaching Kids 4 Christ, 1204 Daffodil Lane, Longview, TX 75604

Cemetery Details

Lakeview Memorial Gardens

5000 W Harrison Rd
Longview, TX 75604-5230

Previous Events

Funeral Service

MAY 23. 2:00 PM (CT)

Chapel of Rader Funeral Home
1617 Judson Rd.
Longview, TX

Tribute Wall



“ Rader Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Annette Childress



Rader Funeral Home - May 23 at 01:10 PM



“ Rader Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Annette Childress



Rader Funeral Home - May 07 at 02:39 PM

DO

Annette, Mike and Casey were our forever friends. We lived on Tiffany Lane as young married families. Casey and our son, Brandon, were best friends. Annette was a loving creative mother and teacher. My husband, Bob, went to be with our Lord in 2010. Mike and Annette faithfully wrote beautiful letters of love and encouragement to him during his journey with cancer. I am grateful that Annette is exactly where she wanted to be; with Jesus and her life long love, Mike. Even though my heart is sad, I am rejoicing for my forever friend, Annette.

Love to Casey, Jayed and her family

Donna Oates

Donna Oates - May 08 at 09:45 PM

PF

Annette was a special gift from God. She was an outstanding teacher; so very creative and loving. It was a blessing to know Annette and her family.

Pat Frase

Patsy Frase - May 14 at 08:55 AM

VE

“ *I taught Annette's son, Casey when he was in second grade, which was my first year as a teacher. I still remember her well. In love and respect I share our condolences and love for his wonderful mom! ❤️ She leaves a lasting legacy.*

Vickie Echols - May 28 at 10:48 AM

SP

“ Mrs. Childress had such an enormous heart and she touched my life as well as the lives of so many other children growing up. She was a passionate teacher that embraced the artistic skills of her students and encouraged them to do their best. I will always cherish the memories of creating a piece of artwork that was nationally recognized and had it not been for Mrs. Childress then I would've never known how it felt to be a winner of a RIF poster contest. Together we were able to accomplish a dream that will live on for many years to come. I never had the opportunity to let her know how much she impacted my life, but I find solace in knowing that the impact she made on this world will continue to live on through her memory.

Sharonica Powell - May 25 at 11:44 PM

NR

“ Please accept my heartfelt sympathy in the passing of this wonderful lady that..... always had a smile on her face whenever our paths crossed. May she always Rest In Peace.

❤️ NatalieRabicoff

natalie rabicoff - May 23 at 12:02 PM



“ Sacred Garden Spray was purchased for the family of Annette Childress.



May 21 at 12:03 AM

SM

“ Annette was such a caring, creative, and generous person! When my mom (Helen Taylor) lived in Longview, Annette and Mike were so kind to her. They invited her to lunches, birthday celebrations, and service activities. Annette so often called to check on her, and was always willing to help her in any way she could. I will always be grateful! She truly had a servant's heart and will be greatly missed!

My sincere condolences to her family,

Susan Motley

Susan Motley - May 20 at 05:01 PM

CB

“ I met Mrs. Childress in 1988 when I transferred from Mozelle Johnston Elementary to G.K. Foster Elementary as an Instructional Assistant. I would help out in the office there & help her in the library with inventory & book fairs. My daughter was 6 years old & loved the schools book fairs, so I made sure to have plenty money on hand to buy books. Annette would also request for my daughter to come help her with little things in the library too. She found out my daughter could sing & an opportunity came for the school to enter a contest & she chose my daughter & a little boy to do a radio skit with my daughter singing *On The Sunny Side of The Street*; and they won. Her husband Mike would visit her at the school sometimes, helping her with events, activities & bringing food when we had *Fat Fridays* & other holiday eats. One year she invited the staff to her home for a Christmas party. She retired after working several years at G.K. Foster. Little did she know, many years later, her & her library would be part inspiration for me becoming a children’s book author. I had planned to mail her my books with a letter to tell her & thank her for the seed of writing inspiration she helped to plant, only to find out I had waited too late because she had passed; I was heart broken. She was always a pillar of warm smiles & a kind bright light & her puppies were just as bright & friendly. Annette will be dearly missed but Heaven has gained a true Angel. (Corletia Dunlap Banks)

Corletia Dunlap Banks - May 19 at 10:32 PM

JS

“ My first teacher at Spring Hill that I will always remember. I have great memories of her during my lifetime and the advice she shared with me throughout the years. I was also able meet Mike when I graduated from law school and got involved in the community. They were an awesome team!! Her kindness and love for people had a huge impact on me and her smile will always live in my mind. RIP.

Love,
Jose Sanchez

jose sanchez - May 11 at 07:04 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Annette Childress.



May 11 at 06:55 PM

BM

“ *Brenda Mahone lit a candle in memory of Annette Childress*



Brenda Mahone - May 11 at 04:13 PM

IH

“ Casey,
Your Mom was such a beautiful lady and a great teacher. Condolences to you and your family.
The Holyfields

Iva Holyfield - May 10 at 03:58 PM

SB

“ *Annette was a very special person to many of us. She loved God, her husband, her son, a host of friends, and the many children that she taught and/or shared a children's ministry. Her pet therapy with her greatly loved dogs brought smiles to both children and adults particularly in times of illness. We will miss her greatly since she has graduated to Heaven where I am sure she was greeted by her beloved husband, Mike. My deepest sympathy is extended to her son and all her family.*

Sally Barron - May 10 at 12:31 PM

BW

“ *Beverly Walker lit a candle in memory of Annette Childress*



Beverly Walker - May 09 at 04:16 PM

RC

“ *Annette and I worked together at G.K. Foster (LISD) She is the reason that I decided to get my Library certification. Her dedication and love for children was evident in all that she did. My sincerest condolences to her family and friends.*

Rene' Centers - May 09 at 02:42 PM

RC

“ Rene' Centers lit a candle in memory of Annette Childress



Rene' Centers - May 09 at 02:37 PM

QB

“ Queen Bell lit a candle in memory of Annette Childress



Queen Bell - May 09 at 01:35 PM

QB

I worked with Annette in Longview ISD. All Sympathy to entire family.

Queen Bell - May 09 at 01:37 PM

BL

“ Annette was such a delight to know. Her smile and loving spirit radiated all around her to others. Such a blessing. She touched so many lives with her many talents and ministries. It was a true joy to have known her.

Brenda Liverman - May 08 at 06:22 PM

MC

“ Annette was one of the most talented and creative people I have ever known. Her easy smile and beautifully manicured, red polished nails made her unforgettable. Mike and Casey, you and your extended family are in our thoughts and prayers. May the memories you shared bring you comfort and peace.

Mary Curry - May 08 at 07:55 AM

CW

I had the privilege of knowing Mike from our Kilgore College days to our First Baptist Days in Sunday School and when I taught Casey in first grade choir. All the while, I taught with Annette at Spring Hill Primary. I had the distinct privilege of match making which led to their uniting their talents, ministries and interesting lives together in marriage. She always said it was a match made in heaven though she was quite reluctant at first, but Mike's charm and determination quickly won her heart.... and Casey gained a loving mother.

We found ourselves serving at Mobberly simultaneously in Sunday School and she followed me in the prayer room each week. Then their ministry with new Christian children began. What a charming pair they were.

I cannot remember a time that she didn't wear a beautiful smile and everything that she did made a life changing, beautiful difference in the lives of people.

She loved with her whole heart and was one of the most talented, creative, and loving persons I ever met.

We had just begun to meet to eat at Luby's on Wednesdays when Covid struck and Luby's closed its doors.

Every moment spent with Annette was a pleasure. I'll miss her. Heaven gained a jewel!

Carolyn Wynn - May 09 at 08:48 PM

DC

Annette was my eldest 1st Cousin, her Father Joe Paul Clutter Senior was her Uncle Grant Clutter's (my Father) older Brother... We spent many a times visiting our Grandmother Edna Clutter in our earlier days and then after her passing in 1977, many visits with our Aunt Dema Newcomb of Bonham Texas.. Mike was an absolutely wonderful man and husband to Annette and we spent many hours on the phone both when my spouse Scott and myself lived in California, then moved back to Osteen, Florida, where Annette's Grandmother Clutter established roots back in the 1940's as well as in Bonham Texas. My Brother William was extremely close to Annette, visiting her in Longview and they were more like Big Sister and little Brother William in her eyes. Her Clutter families in Central Florida loved her very much including my Mother, her Aunt Joyce Clutter Parker. Mike went through so much over the years in his own battle with cancer & spent hours on the phone with him and Annette and then helping her to grief his loss.. It is so tragic that Annette was taken so early in her life and we miss her terribly. RIP my beautiful 1st Cousin.. Love Dwayne and Scott - Ormond Beach, FL

Dwayne Clutter - May 17 at 03:45 PM

DC

Annette was a beautiful person. I enjoyed the time we spent working together at Spring Hill. As others have already mentioned, she had a sweet, loving smile for everyone. My sincere sympathy for the family of this remarkable lady. She will be missed here on earth but I know she is rejoicing in heaven today.

Donna Cook - May 21 at 03:07 PM