

Homegoing Celebration for

Mr. Walter L. Jarvis Sr.

SUNRISE

October 10, 1917
Surry County, NC

SUNSET

March 21, 2013
Prince George's
County, MD



Thursday, March 28, 2013
Eleven o'clock

Friendship Progressive
Primitive Baptist Church
Ararat, Virginia

Elder Eric Helton, *Officiating/Pastor*
Reverend Walter L. Jarvis Jr., *Eulogist*
Interment
Skyline Memory Gardens
Mount Airy, North Carolina

Order of Service

Earth's Final Glimpse	10:00 until 11:00 am
Prayer of Comfort	Guest Minister
Selection	
Words of Comfort	
Scripture	Old Testament
	Guest Minister
	New Testament
	Guest Minister
Selection	
Obituary	read by Carla L. Jarvis
Acknowledgements/Church Resolutions	
Family Reflections	
Solo	Marcy Jarvis
Eulogy	Rev. Walter L. Jarvis Jr.
	Hillandale Baptist Church, Adelphi, MD
Recessional (people standing)	
Committal/Benediction	Elder Eric Helton
Interment	Skyline Memory Gardens
	Mount Airy, North Carolina
Final Flight	Spencer Funeral Home Staff

Repast will follow in the Friendship Fellowship Hall

Flowers Bearers

Granddaughters

Casket Bearers

Scott Davis	Gary York	Gene Reese
Walter L. Jarvis III	Larry Scott	Johnny Pilson

Honorary Casket Bearers

Cecil Thompson	Thomas Taylor	Aaron Roberts
William Hines	Terry Carter	Eddie Forest

The Obituary

Deacon Walter Lee Jarvis, Sr., 95, known to family and friends as "Teen" of Mount Airy, North Carolina, passed away on March 21, 2013, at Hillhaven Nursing and Rehab Center in Adelphi, Maryland. Deacon Jarvis was born in Pilot Mountain, NC, on October 10, 1917, and was the last surviving child of the late Edgar Jarvis and Bertha Revels East Jarvis.

Deacon Jarvis attended school in Pilot Mountain through grade seven during a time when schools were not integrated. It was also told that Deacon Jarvis "didn't use the 'back door' in Pilot," contrary to the racial customs of that era.

Deacon Jarvis once said that he "kept a job of some kind all the time." While growing up in Pilot Mountain, he worked at a garage, a drug store, a chicken hatchery and the G.M. Nichols shoe shop. While working at the shoe shop, Deacon Jarvis developed a lifelong friendship with Bobby Nichols, the proprietor's son.

When speaking of cars, Deacon Jarvis once told that he worked at the Pilot Mountain Motor Company (Ford place). He recalled that he "did (auto) body work and painted around the bottom (chassis) to make it look good before they tried to sell it." Deacon Jarvis also worked for Robert Jackson, a garage shop owner in Mount Airy.

Deacon Jarvis was introduced to Miss. Mary Elizabeth Satterfield of Mount Airy by a "buddy," Baxter Lovell. He once told of a blue 1929 A-Model Ford with a rumble seat that he bought and drove to visit Miss. Satterfield, whom he married on December 25, 1939. They were married 70 years until her death on January 30, 2010. He affectionately called her "Mommy" and desired nobody's cooking but hers.

In 1941, their son, Walter Lee Jarvis, Jr. was born. And, in September of 1944, Deacon Jarvis enlisted in the United States Army. He worked in the motorpool and was ranked Private First Class. During this time, the family lived in Pennsylvania. However, midway through his Army tour, Deacon Jarvis "brought Walter Lee and Mary back home."

He once told this Army story:

“We were outside Baltimore. Every night, a bunch of us would load up on the bus to see them play hockey, I was the only Negro in the bunch. The bus would be loaded. Be sure to put this in, it’s important. On the way to the barracks, (there were) a bunch of eating places made out of cargo boxes—trains. Everybody started to get out and go in. When I got in line, I was in the middle of them. The clerk told them, ‘We can’t feed him in here.’ One of the soldiers told (the clerk), ‘You’ll feed him or we’ll tear this place up!’ They fed me too. See how far we’ve come since the 1950’s.”

Deacon Jarvis suffered an injury which caused him to be hospitalized for several months. As a result, he was discharged in June of 1946 and became a disabled veteran.

Around 1950, Deacon Jarvis decided if he could work for someone else then he could work for himself. His drive and determination lead him to own the South Street Body and Fender Shop on South Street in Mount Airy. Deacon Jarvis’ employees included Leonard Moore, the late Ray Hines and the late John Lee Mittman. By 1964, Deacon Jarvis relocated his shop to Wards Gap Road where he established the Jarvis Body and Glass Shop. The body shop still remains at the same location. He worked with his longtime employee, the late Junior Hughes, for more than thirty years. And, Deacon Jarvis retired officially in 2008 at age 91. During the years of working in the auto repair business, Deacon Jarvis met many people who would become dear friends inclusive of Gary York, Larry Scott and Gene Reece.

In 1970, Deacon Jarvis made local history as the first African American to run for Surry County Commissioner. According to a Mount Airy newspaper article, he said that he was “not running... to break the race barrier... (but) to serve the people of Surry County.” When he talked about this experience, he said “I got a lot of support but I didn’t get enough to win.”

Deacon Jarvis joined Samuel's Grove Primitive Progressive Baptist Church in 1965. (The church is now known as Friendship PPBC.) Deacon Jarvis was a faithful member and chairman of the Deacon board. He attended Bible study and Sunday School as long as his health permitted. He once sang in the choir and his favorite hymns were "He Arose," "He Touched Me," and "Lead Me, Guide Me."

Deacon Jarvis will be greatly missed. Some thought he was very stern, but he loved children and he believed your "word" was your bond. He loved his family and he was a strong pillar for many. He was a proud man and when he smiled, he would raise his eyebrows and his grin seemed to stretch from ear to ear. In his elder years, Deacon Jarvis ("Teen") spent many days lounging on the back porch or sitting in his living room chair, facing the opened side door to catch the warmth of the sun and watch the cars go by.

Deacon Jarvis is survived by his son, Walter L. (Donna) Jarvis Jr. and grandchildren: Marie (Donnie) Nicholson, Marcy Jarvis, Carla L. Jarvis, Walter L. (Tammy) Jarvis, III, Scott (Morgan) Davis, Kelly Davis and Lisa Davis. Fifteen great-grandchildren. Sister-in-law Essie Joyce, Nieces: Tossie G. Reynolds, Joyce E. Palmer, Joan J. Taylor, Henrietta M. Sawyer, Carolyn M. Sullivan and Patricia J Stewart. Devoted cousins: Jessie M. Brim and Rosa Lee Revels. A host of great nieces and nephews, great-great nieces and nephews, other relatives and friends.

Deacon Jarvis was preceded in death by his wife, Mary, and his brothers and sisters: Willie East, Edison East, Alice E. Gaston, Lessie J. Hammock, Daisy J. Forrest, James C. Jarvis, Vecolia J. McCurdy and Essie J. McGrady.

Thank You

*Life brings tears, smiles and memories:
the tears dry, the smile fades,
but the memories live on forever.*

*Thank you sincerely for sharing our sorrow.
Your thoughtfulness is appreciated and
will always be remembered.*

When Tomorrow Starts Without Me

When Tomorrow Starts Without Me and I'm not here to see,
If the sun should rise and find your eyes all filled with tears for me.

I wish so much you wouldn't cry, the way you did today,
while thinking of the many things we didn't get to say.

I know how much you love me, as much as I love you,
and each time that you think of me, I'll know you miss me too.

But when tomorrow starts without me, please try to understand,
that an angel came and called my name and took me by the hand.

And said my place was ready in heaven far above,
and that I'd have to leave behind all those I dearly love.

But as I turned to walk away, a tear fell from my eye,
for all my life I always thought I didn't want to die.

I had so much to live for and so much to do,
it seemed almost impossible that I was leaving you.

I thought of all the yesterdays, the good ones and the bad,
I thought of all the love we shared and all the fun we had.

If I could relive yesterday, I thought for just a while,
I'd say good bye and kiss you and maybe see a smile.

But then I fully realized that this could never be,
for emptiness and memories would take the place of me.

So when tomorrow starts without me,
don't think we're far apart;

For every time you think of me—
I'm right here — **IN YOUR HEART.**



The Family of
Mr. Walter L. Jarvis Sr.
2252 Wards Gap Road
Mount Airy, North Carolina 27030