

## BETTY ROSE NEAL

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**1927-2019**

*GASTONIA, N.C.:* Betty Rose Neal died on February 20, 2019, age 92, at Terrace Ridge Assisted Living in Gastonia, NC. She was born January 14, 1927 in Wichita Falls, Texas, the only child of Marvin and Elizabeth McDuff.

At age five, she began piano lessons and this developed into a lifelong love of music, performing and teaching. After high school graduation in her hometown of Chico, Texas she attended Baylor University and North Texas State University, where she majored in piano. She studied music and piano at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, Tennessee, Queens College/Charlotte and UNC/Charlotte after moving to Mt. Holly, North Carolina.

Mrs. Neal taught piano for over thirty years. She was a long-standing member and two-term president of the Charlotte Piano Teachers Forum. Through the years she participated in piano master classes along with several of her forum colleagues.

Betty was a member of music committees at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Mt. Holly where she was a member, and also helped with the children's choirs.

Her highest and greatest joy in life, and a source of great pride for her, was her family. Her husband of fifty-four years, R.E. "Pete" Neal, preceded her in death.

She is survived by her two sons and their wives: Greg and Carmen Neal of Charlotte, N.C.; Terry Neal and Marianne Marlette of Mooresville, N.C.; step-grandson Will Kiker and his wife, Elizabeth, of Mint Hill, N.C.; step-granddaughter, Erin Jongbloedt and husband, Kevin, of Sherrills Ford, N.C., and three step great-grandchildren: Hanna Kiker, Carson Jongbloedt, and Titus Kiker.

Flowers may be sent to the Lutheran Church of The Good Shepherd in Mt. Holly, N.C., or memorial contributions may be sent to the Nell Scoggins Fund (make checks to: Charlotte Piano Teachers Forum), 6200 Maple Cove Lane, Charlotte, N.C. 28269.

Services were held Sunday, February 24, 2019 at The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 110 South Main St. in Mt. Holly, N.C. Graveside service was held at Hillcrest Gardens.

*Jeffrey S. Painter Funeral Home  
Mt. Holly, N.C.*

