



## James Neil Anderson

June 21, 1935 - March 19, 2017

MOCKSVILLE – Mr. James Neil Anderson, 81, died Sunday, March 19, 2017.

Jim was born June 21, 1935, to J. Millard and Sarah A. Anderson. He taught English for over 35 years with the most of them spent at West Forsyth in Clemmons. Jim was very talented in music and helped start the musical dramas at West Forsyth. He played piano at Center Methodist Church for over 40 years, loved singing with the choir at First Methodist in Mocksville and played for numerous weddings and funerals.

Jim never married but touched the lives of countless young people.

He is survived by his sister, Alice Barnette (Mike); niece, Sabrina Conrad (John); nephew, Greg Barnette (Amanda); great-nephews, Luke, David (Alexandra), Bristol, Marshall and Broc; great-nieces, Mattie and Bella; great-great-niece, Scarlett; and numerous cousins.

The celebration of his life will be at 2 p.m., Thursday, March 23, at Center United Methodist Church, 1857 US Hwy 64 W, Mocksville with Rev. John Erwin and Dr. Glenn L. Myers officiating. The body will be placed in the church thirty minutes prior to the service. Interment will follow in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends at the church immediately following the service.

Memorials can be made to Hospice & Palliative CareCenter, 377 Hospital St., Ste. 103, Mocksville, NC 27028; Center Methodist Church Scholarship Fund c/o Linda Owings, 720 Wilkesboro St., Mocksville, First Methodist Church Choir Fund, 305 N. Main St., Mocksville; or West Forsyth Music/Drama Department, 1735 Lewisville Clemmons Rd., Clemmons, NC 27012

Online condolences may be made at [www.eatonfuneralservice.com](http://www.eatonfuneralservice.com)

# Cemetery

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**Center United Methodist Church Cemetery, MAR  
Mocksville**

1857 US Hwy 64 W  
Mocksville, NC, 27028

# Events

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**Funeral Service** 02:00PM

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**23**

Center United Methodist Church,  
Mocksville  
1857 US Hwy 64 W, Mocksville, NC,  
US, 27028

# Comments

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“ A tribute video has been added.



**Forbis & Dick Funeral Service** - March 22, 2017 at 03:54 PM



“ great video of Jimmy and family

**Linda Owings** - March 23, 2017 at 09:52 AM



“ Wonderful video tribute!

**Jerry** - March 23, 2017 at 04:43 PM



“ Mr. Anderson was an excellent teacher, not only because he got us through The Canterbury Tales with wit and humor and prepared us well for college, but because he was a devoted mentor, advocate, encourager, cheerleader and friend. He took more interest and invested more time in my life and future than any other teacher I ever had. He was there at the piano as long as necessary, cheering us onward in musical production rehearsals when we were in over our heads, helping us believe we could really do it. He was there at the piano again, when a few of us decided to put together a new small group to perform at community events, traveling along wherever we went to play for us, working just as hard as the rest of us and having, I believe, just as much fun. He was there whenever I got jobs playing for weddings; I would play piano and he would be there at the organ. After I graduated from West he was there in the audience for concerts I was a part of in Chapel Hill. I could really go on and on. If he knew about it, he would do everything he could to be there. Mr. Anderson made you feel like what you were doing was important and valuable and worth celebrating. He made you feel like you could accomplish just about anything. I think every group he worked with, in the classroom or out, could sense how much he really enjoyed being with them. I can certainly remember his smile and laughter well. I have three high school students of my own now: a senior, a junior, and a freshman. Two have made it through The Canterbury Tales already. I wish they could have had Mr. Anderson lead them through. I've told them stories about him and occasionally they've heard me say, "We are not amused." But I wish they could have known for themselves such an incredibly kind, gracious, caring, talented, witty and wise man. I am very grateful that I did.

**David** - March 24, 2017 at 06:18 PM

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“ Mr. Anderson was what a teacher should be. Hard but fair and always there to help. He made learning English fun. We have lost a great man. Class of 1969

**Shirley** - March 23, 2017 at 01:17 PM

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“ OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS TO THE FAMILY,JIMMY NEIL WILL BE MISSED BY SO MANY, ELBERT ALLEN ,SON OF BETTY ANDERSON ALLEN

**ELBERT ALLEN** - March 22, 2017 at 10:56 AM

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“ Mr. Anderson took a girl who just wanted a bit part in the spring musical at West Forsyth in 1980 and gave her the leading role. He saw something she didn't see in herself or know she had in her. He did it again the following year, and it gave her memories and experiences that she has never forgotten. I am that girl, and am so thankful for his belief in me. Though I never ended up in musical theatre as a profession, I have continued to sing throughout the years...church, weddings, funerals, and other events.

One of my fondest memories of him was when all the cast members came to my family's house and Mr. Anderson got on the trampoline! We still have the pictures! He was a tough teacher, and pushed us to do our best, but he knew how to have fun and had a quick wit. What a treasure he was to us all!

My prayers are with your family.

Sincerely,

Terese Wilson Christian

**Terese Wilson Christian** - March 22, 2017 at 10:36 AM

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“ Alice, I did not know your Brother, (from reading about him, sounds like a really good man) But I do know you and I know you are hurting right now. But you can get peace in knowing he is with God right now and all of his Angels. Just wanted you to know I care and am thinking of you.

You may not remember me as much as you did Bill Wiseman, my husband. He was a better bowler than me and everyone wanted him on their team. He died in 2010 as you may know. And I am Jane Kimmer's cousin. I will pray for you and your family and friends.

Sending Love, Peggy Myers Wiseman.



**Peggy Wiseman** - March 22, 2017 at 09:04 AM

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“ So sorry to hear of Jimmy Neil's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Sue Shuster, daughter of Betty Anderson Allen

**Sue Shuster** - March 22, 2017 at 06:40 AM

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“ Jim Anderson was one of the greatest giants I have ever known. He planted a seed of hope in my heart when my heart was barren. He gave me courage when I had none to be found. He gave me passion to fill the void of fear and apathy. He gave me understanding to comprehend chaos.

Even with all this, there is nothing that I can say that will truly express his impact on my life. I am not unique with my experience, as this was Jim's way with everyone. However, Jim's way was also to make sure you felt unique, which, in turn, was what made him unique.

To Alice, Mike , Sabrina, John, Greg, Amanda, Luke, David, Bristol, Marshall, Broc, Mattie, Bella,Scarlett, the many cousins, and especially Terry Hicks, my heart full of compassion and is with you all.

To Jim, you have lived the dream, but now it is time to truly awaken. May God take you swiftly like an arrow shot into the sun.

May you finally be amused, old friend.

Until we meet again...

~David Joy

David Joy - March 22, 2017 at 03:17 AM

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“ Class of 1983. Honored to be in his classroom and his singing group at West Forsyth. College papers were easier because He cared so much with that red pen. I talk about things I learned from him at least once a month. When I aspire to be a great teacher myself, he is a role model for me. Blessings for his family and thank you for sharing h with all of us.

Kim Campbell - March 21, 2017 at 08:18 PM

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“ I am sad to hear that Mr. Anderson passed away. He was a great person and a true Renaissance man. I had the good fortune of being his student for three years at West Forsyth, where he saw me at my best and my worst, but always kept me laughing and learning. He didn't take any guff but he loved the school and his students. I can't ever hear the royal "We" without thinking of him. I hope that all of his family and friends find comfort. I know you are all proud of his accomplishments and the Performing Arts Center that honors his legacy. His influence on West will carry on for years and years.



**Chad Bumgardner** - March 21, 2017 at 08:01 PM

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“ West Forsyth class of 1982 --- Mr. Anderson was not always the easiest of teachers. In some cases, he was demanding of his students. I'll never forget telling him early in my junior year, that I was planning to attend medical school. Later that year, he marked up one of my papers with lots of red. I asked him about it and he responded, "do you think it's going to be any easier in medical school"? That quote has stuck with me to this day. It never gets any easier and you work for everything in this life. Mr. Anderson was tough at times. But, he was very fair. He epitomized a great teacher!

God bless you, Mr. Anderson. You were genuine, respected and one great educator!

**Chris Koontz** - March 21, 2017 at 07:37 PM

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“ West Forsyth Class of 86 and Mr. Anderson was one of the best teachers I ever had. Strict and proper, yet full of love for English and his students. With his guidance, I learned to live The Canterbury Tales and better understand the Old Testament. Thirty-one years later, I still think of him often. The world lost a great man and a great teacher. Thank you to his family for sharing him with generations of young people.

**Leigh Cameron Atkins** - March 21, 2017 at 06:57 PM

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“ Alice, I am so sorry for your loss. I am thinking of you at this time and extending heartfelt understanding and sympathy. May your loving memories bring you comfort, warmth and peace. You and your family are in my prayers. God be with you.

Myrtis Hellard

**Myrtis Hellard Watts** - March 21, 2017 at 04:46 PM

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“ Dear Alice, You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. I am very sorry for your loss. I had the pleasure of meeting your brother a number of years ago. He was a wonderful musician and a delightful person. He will surely be fondly remembered and greatly missed by everyone who knew him.

Jeannette Norfleet

**Jeannette Norfleet** - March 21, 2017 at 03:37 PM

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“ Jim was a wonderful friend and fellow faculty member at West Forsyth. I have many fond memories of chaperoning proms and having our photo made together with fellow teacher-chaperones. He truly loved teaching and his students! At learning of his passing my thought was, "We are not amused!"--a favorite phrase of his. The performing arts center named for him at West will surely keep his memory and presence alive there for many years to come. It was wonderful that the naming ceremony was held while he could still appreciate it. My condolences to his family and all of us who loved him.

Sandy (Walls) Bundgaard

**Sandy Bundgaard** - March 21, 2017 at 03:15 PM

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“ Mr. A was one of the most wonderful, talented teachers ,kind and gentle. His manners and class were something his students respected and needed in their lives!  
I came to west in his first years. I have held fond memories of him all these years. My deepest sympathy to the Conrads and entire family. I can hear the angels singing!  
God bless.....  
Sincerely, Mrs. Bonny Brogdon Moran  
West Forsyth Class of 1980

**Bonny Moran** - March 21, 2017 at 09:56 AM

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“ I was fortunate to have Mr. Anderson 3 of my 4 years at Boyden High School in Salisbury. I was in an accelerated English class so we pretty much stayed together year after year so we got to know him not only as a great teacher but as a great person. Our freshman year the music department decided to put on its first musical and Mr. A was one if its directors. He kept us entertained with tales of rehearsals. To this day I use skills in my writing that I learned from him. I also credit him with me being able to stand in front of a group and speak. The best advice he gave us when speaking in public was ""stand up, speak up and shut up". I was just thinking of him a couple of weeks ago when someone brought up diagramming sentences. I remember well the number of times I had to use multiple sheets of notebook paper in order to diagram one of his assigned sentences. To his credit, my freshman year in college there were 2 of us from that accelerated class in this particular freshman English class and we were 2 of only 6 that achieved the highest grades awarded by that professor. It wasn't just English Mr. A taught, but he taught us life skills that I for one still use. My deepest sympathy to his family. I am so very glad I learned that the auditorium at the high school was named in his honor rather than in his memory as he deserved to know how much he touched the lives of so many young people.

**Kitty Price Wright** - March 21, 2017 at 08:51 AM

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“ Mr. Anderson had a major effect on my life. Far more than just our teacher, he was a great friend who taught us that laughing till we hurt in the company of those dearest to us was a true blessing.

"Land Ho" Jim Anderson...we'll look forward to seeing you again in Heaven. Something tells me you already have GOD chuckling.

John Collins  
WFHS Class of 1977  
Madison, Al  
1 Peter 5: 2-4

**John Collins** - March 21, 2017 at 08:46 AM

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“ I remember him as a wonderful teacher and likable, charming man. I graduated BHS in '61 and Mr. Anderson often came to our class reunions. I always enjoyed seeing him and talking with him. Sad news.

**Dorothy Kirk** - March 21, 2017 at 07:24 AM

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“ This man taught me more about life than English!!!! Forever in my heart. Prayers for the family and praise to my God!!

**David Robertson** - March 20, 2017 at 08:24 PM

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“ I always looked up to Jimmy Neil. He was my cousin and ironically one of my high school teachers my senior year. He would come to my Grandmother's home and visit often when I was growing up. I found him to be one of the kindest, most intelligent, and talented men I had ever met. He could make playing the organ seem so easy. When I found out he was going to be one of my teachers, I asked him what I should call him. He looked at me and replied, "You better know what to call me."  
Jimmy Neil is going to be missed by many because he was well liked, admired, and loved by everyone who knew him. But his life is just beginning now because he is in the arms of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Those of us who remain should celebrate his life, the man he was. We can mourn our loss, but we must keep those happy memories in our hearts. Jimmy Neil touched the lives of everyone he knew. Heaven just became a little sweeter and the stars are shining a little brighter.

Beverly (Tomlinson) Watts

**Beverly Tomlinson Watts** - March 19, 2017 at 07:55 PM

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“ I am so very sorry about the passing of Mr. Anderson. He taught me English my senior year at Davie. Nothing I learned in HS helped me more in my professional life. Thank you, Mr. Anderson

**Brantley York** - March 19, 2017 at 05:00 PM