



## Gilla Faye Bradshaw

June 6, 1952 - November 7, 2024

Gilla Faye Brown Bradshaw passed away peacefully at her home on November 7, 2024, with family and friends by her side. She was 72 years of age.

Born on June 6, 1952, in Bluefield, Virginia, she was the middle daughter of the late Bertha Bratton Brown and the late Shirley Napoleon Brown.

Gilla Faye graduated from Graham High School in 1970, and attended Virginia State University on a four-year Cleo Mitchem scholarship. She was an active member of Modis Phi Modis (the pep club) and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority. Upon graduation, Gilla Faye returned home and began teaching for Tazewell County Schools. Over the course of her 40-year career, she taught at Bishop Elementary, Pocahontas Highland Graham Middle Schools. She was an enthusiastic teacher and enjoyed creating engaging activities for her students. At Pocahontas, she served as a class sponsor and head coach of the JV girls basketball and track teams. Prior to retirement, she continued to instill responsibility and academic achievement in her students through dedicated efforts to prepare her students for the annual SOL tests.

Gilla Faye was a lifelong member of Bethel United Methodist Church, where she served as Usher, Communion Steward, Administrative Board Chairperson, Chair of the Board of Trustees, Sunday school teacher and leader, Vacation Bible School director, and in positions with the United Methodist Women locally and district-wide. With her close proximity to the church, she always ensured that a path was shoveled when it snowed to open

the doors.

Gilla Faye was an avid gardener, working tirelessly to bring color and beauty to her home with a glorious variety of plants and shrubs. She had flowers bloom across her yard from spring to late fall and loved to share seeds and plants with anyone who asked.

Gilla Faye is survived by her loving son, Caleb Rexford Bradshaw, Sr., Rex's wife Valeah, and their three children: Caleb, Kacie, and Kane. She loved her three grandchildren dearly and was blessed to have newborn Kane grasp at her nightgown as she was in the closing days of her life. She also leaves behind her sisters, Deborah Neal (Delbert) of Bluefield, WV and Peggy Gray of Bluefield, VA; nephews, Bert Neal (Anne) of Burke, VA and Adrian Gray of Bluefield, VA; her three surviving aunts and uncle, Austin Bratton (Gilda) of Detroit, MI, Betty Adams of Cleveland, OH, and Normanda Thompson (Frank) of Los Angeles, CA; her son's father, Carlos Bradshaw of Bluefield, VA; and a host of cousins and friends. She also leaves her special Falls Mills daycare friends: Arlene Bowman, Teairri Scott, Jacob Stiltner, Katie Damon, and Lina Akers. Thank you for your kindness and patience.

Gilla Faye leaves us with a legacy of community service, stellar academic performance, and a deep love of family and church.

A celebration of life service will be conducted at 11:00 A.M. on November 16, 2024 at Bethel United Methodist Church, 130 Russell Street, Bluefield, VA with Pastor Carl Madison and Rev. Dr. Michael Bratton officiating with interment at Restlawn Memorial Gardens on New Hope Road, Bluefield, WV. Friends may visit with the family at the church from 10:00 A.M. until the service hour. Flower Bearers and Pallbearers will be friends of the family. The family is being served by Mercer Funeral Home, Bluefield, WV. Those wishing to share memories or condolence messages may do so by visiting [www.MercerFuneralHome.com](http://www.MercerFuneralHome.com) Mercer Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the family of Mrs. Gilla Faye Brown Bradshaw.

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, and I have kept the

faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness... II Timothy  
4:7-8

# Cemetery Details

## Restlawn Memorial Gardens

Bluefield, WV 24701

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **16**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Bethel United Methodist Church  
130 Russell Street  
Bluefield, VA 24605

## Service

NOV **16**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Bethel United Methodist Church  
130 Russell Street  
Bluefield, VA 24605

# Tribute Wall



“ 7 files added to the album Memories Album



Mercer Funeral Home - November 15, 2024 at 03:57 PM

DJ

“ Thank you to the Bradshaw family for sharing our Soror with us. Her longstanding service to community has not gone unnoticed, be proud. May her loving memory live on as she triumphantly takes her place among the beautiful doves in the sky. Soror D. Jones ABZ NNH 🇺🇸🕊️



D. JONES - November 15, 2024 at 12:14 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Mercer Funeral Home - November 15, 2024 at 11:15 AM



“ Ms. Bradshaw was one of my favorite teachers and favorite people to this day. I will miss seeing her she was truly a great person. Prayers for the family.  
Jessica Barnett



Jessica barnett - November 15, 2024 at 07:19 AM



Rex and family!  
So sorry to hear about your mom....She was always so nice and loved her grandchildren...  
Keeping you in our thoughts and prayers!  
Cindy Froy and family

Cindy Froy - November 15, 2024 at 09:38 AM



“ Condolences from Bradley and Harris family Tip top and Mudfork she a blessed lady

Gregory Bradley - November 15, 2024 at 03:41 AM

CS

“ I have good memories of teaching math with Gilla at Pocahontas. Sorry to hear of her passing. God’s grace and comfort to her family.  
Cathy Steinberg

Cathy Steinberg - November 14, 2024 at 08:37 PM

TR

“ With heartfelt sympathy, comfort and God's peace. To Deborah, Delbert and family who have been Gilla Faye's caregivers and others in whose care she was nurtured. May God bless her memory. her many years of service to others, her family and honor in God's service. Much Love to family and friends. Tish Ross

Tish Ross - November 14, 2024 at 06:22 PM

CT

“ Awwww Gilla Faye you are a piece of home to me. Thank you for being a big part of my Christian growth at such an early age!!! I am sure they will put you over VBS in heaven ❤️  
Carla Thompson

Carla Thompson - November 14, 2024 at 03:25 PM

LF

“ Love, Aunt Betty and the Smith Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gilla Faye Bradshaw.



Love, Aunt Betty and the Smith Family - November 14, 2024 at 01:45 PM



“ 6 files added to the album Memories Album



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**Mercer Funeral Home** - November 13, 2024 at 09:09 PM

FM

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you all,  
Feleesha Moran



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**Feleesha Hedrick Moran** - November 13, 2024 at 01:33 PM

CE

“ Rex, Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. She was such a great women and a very disiplined mother who raise a great son, who she shared with us. Love you, Chris & Jerry Elswick

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**Chris Elswick** - November 13, 2024 at 09:15 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Gilla Faye Bradshaw.* ”



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November 12, 2024 at 08:56 PM