



## MELINDA POOLE GRAY

June 6, 1954 - February 19, 2021

Melinda Poole Gray, age 66, beloved wife and mother, passed from this life to the next on Friday, February 19, 2021, after a short illness. A private Memorial Service was held for the family in the sanctuary of Perry United Methodist Church on Sunday, February 21, 2021. In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests donations in Melinda's memory to The Westfield Schools, P. O. Box 2300, Perry, GA 31069, or Perry United Methodist Church, Family Life Center Building Fund, 1002 Carroll Street, Perry, GA 31069.

Melinda was born in Macon, GA, and the family moved to Perry in 1963. She graduated from The Westfield Schools in 1972, attended Valdosta State College, and graduated from Wesleyan College in 1976. Later, she obtained a Master's Degree in Education from Georgia Southwestern State University.

Melinda taught in the elementary grades at Westfield for a total of 31 years, but took some time off from her teaching career to be a "stay at home mom" when Abby and Anna were young. She retired in 2019. No one ever worked harder than Melinda at being a good teacher, or loved the children more.

After having been raised by her parents as a staunch Baptist, Melinda married into Methodism and was an active member of the Perry United Methodist Church, where she was an enthusiastic participant in the Women's Bible Study Group and a member of the Christadelphian Sunday School Class. She was formerly a long-time member of the Sogadera Club, where she enjoyed the company and companionship of her "sisters" in that ladies' civic organization.

Melinda dearly loved reading, the English language, correcting folks on their use of the same, and pointing out punctuation mistakes by others. She enjoyed being outdoors, working in the yard, planting flowers, and walking (and trying to get Mike to walk with her). She treasured the times eating out at her "favorite" restaurants and going – either to the mountains, the beach, or most anywhere else. She loved the annual family beach trip, big family Christmases and decorating for the occasion, making chocolate chip cookies for everyone, spending time with her beloved family, and attending UGA sporting events.

Left to cherish the memories they made with Melinda are her loving and devoted husband of nearly 44 years, Michael G. Gray; her daughters, Abigail G. Vaughan (Leif) of Douglasville, GA, and Anna K. Gray of Athens, GA; her grandsons, Grayson Seyfred, Bryant Vaughan, and bonus-grandson, Luke Vaughan; her mother, Helen T. Poole; her sisters, Araminta P. Almand (Charles), of Canton, GA, and Kimberly P. Nall (Tim), of Marietta, GA; her mother-in-law and father-in-law, Wanda B. and William G. Gray, Jr., of Perry; her sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Robyn G. and Mitchell Beene, of Chattanooga, TN; and many beloved nieces and nephews.

Melinda was predeceased by her father, Joseph L. Poole.

Condolences for the family may be left in the online guestbook at [www.watsonhunt.com](http://www.watsonhunt.com). Watson-Hunt Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements.

# Comments

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“ Dear Mike,  
Becky told me about Melinda’s passing. I was surprised and saddened at this news. You were always a good friend to me and I sat beside Melinda in band for two years so I knew her well also. Please accept my sincerest condolences .  
Martin Mosteller

**Martin Mosteller** - March 02, 2021 at 04:59 PM

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“ Mike. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Barbara and Jack James

**Jack James** - February 27, 2021 at 12:21 PM

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“ Mike,  
So sorry for your loss, my prayers are with you and your family.

**Sara Pottenger** - February 25, 2021 at 04:46 PM

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“ Mike  
Beth and I are have been thinking of you during this tough time  
God Bless you and your family  
Melinda was a “quiet hero” that did a lot for this community and here family  
I pray for your comfort  
Buddy and Beth Roper

**buddy roper** - February 25, 2021 at 09:04 AM

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“ I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with your family.  
Pam Ekey

**Pam Ekey** - February 24, 2021 at 09:39 PM

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“ Dear Mr. Mike, Abby, and Anna,

My family and I are so sad to hear of the passing of Mrs. Melinda. She was such a kind person, and I am so blessed to have known her. No matter when or where I saw her or how much time had passed since last seeing each other, she was always kind, warm, and friendly. Mrs. Melinda will be missed by all who knew her. Please know that we, like so many others, are lifting you all up in prayer.

Love and prayers,  
Phil and Cynthia (James) Garner

**Cynthia James Garner** - February 24, 2021 at 12:17 PM

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“ Dear Mike and family,

We are so sorry for your loss. As Melinda's cousin I have very fond childhood memories of times spent with her family and of Christmases at our grandparents' home. One of my most favorite memories as a child is playing "airplane " in our front porch swing. We had such wonderful imaginations which sometimes got us in trouble, but we always so much fun. I'm so thankful we were able to grow up with such close knit families.

My heart breaks for your loss. You and your family will remain in our prayers.

June and Michael Chester

**June Chester** - February 24, 2021 at 11:37 AM

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“ Dear Mike,

My sincerest condolences on your sudden loss. Melinda was always so kind, warm, and welcoming to me when I came to Perry and to Westfield. She never failed to ask about my daughter when we ran into each other about town - usually at Kroger. May her memories be of comfort to you and your daughters during this time of grief. I will miss her.

With love,  
Mia M. Geiger

**Mia Geiger** - February 24, 2021 at 09:37 AM



“ Mike, sorry for your loss

You are in our hearts and prayers for you and family.

**Millie and (Smitty) Smith** - February 27, 2021 at 07:26 AM



“ Dear Mike, Abbie, and Anna,  
I was deeply saddened to hear about Melinda. She was always one of the sweetest and kindest of all the people I know. Her memory will forever be in my heart. I hope her memory and love will bring you all the peace and comfort you will need to endure this.  
My prayers are for all of you,  
Linda Brannen

**Linda Brannen** - February 23, 2021 at 11:46 PM

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“ She was one of the kindest people I've ever known. There's no telling how many students and other people's lives she had a positive impact on. Her live us truly one that should be celebrated, and I know the Lord is rewarding her greatly now for her life of service.

**wesley hines** - February 23, 2021 at 09:36 PM

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“ My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. I loved seeing Melinda at Reflections. She and I shared many laughs. My daughter Jennifer adored Melinda and told me often how kind she was. May God bless you with peace and comfort. She will be missed by all of us who loved her.

**Eunice Andrews** - February 23, 2021 at 07:25 PM

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“ Dear Mr. Mike and family. It is with great sorrow that we learn of the passing of your precious wife and mother. Ms. Melinda was kind, energetic, happy and organized - she inspired us to be the same. We were blessed to have earned her trust to service her home. We feel honored to have known her for so many years. We are praying for your family. May thousands of wonderful memories fill you all with peace and comfort.

**Bridges Pest Control Family** - February 23, 2021 at 03:37 PM

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“ Please accept our deepest sympathy, and know our prayers are with your family.  
Randy and Melanie Loggins

Randy and Melanie Loggins - February 23, 2021 at 11:20 AM

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“ Mr. Mike and family,

I am very sorry to hear of Mrs. Gray's passing. She was such a kind and gentle lady. I saw her almost every time I went to the grocery store in recent years, and she always took time to carry on a conversation with me. She was one of my favorite teachers, and I never heard her say anything but nice words.

Thinking of you all,

Pitt and Alexis Chapman

Pittard Chapman - February 23, 2021 at 09:33 AM

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“ Mr. Mike and Family,

I am deeply sadden to hear the news of Mrs. Gray's passing. She was one of the best teachers I was lucky enough to have and will always hold a special place in my heart for her. Prayers for you and the family during this time.

Ryan English - February 23, 2021 at 08:25 AM

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“ Mike and family,

I am so sorry to learn of Melinda's passing. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Snyder

Snyder - February 23, 2021 at 05:09 AM



“ Mike- I know where you are and the pain which is upon you. I wish it would quickly melt away. You are one of the finest men I have known whose spirit will be comforted and healed by Christ. I know that this pain can only be mitigated in time. I pray that time passes quickly. I am out of town, but will contact you when I return.

Michael O'Hara - February 23, 2021 at 10:20 AM

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“ Rob and I have had you in our thoughts and prayers the last few weeks. I met Melinda many years ago, and our paths crossed in so many ways. She taught my younger sister when she was fresh out of college and was a favorite teacher when she taught Kaki and Tom in middle school. She and I shared ideas on teaching reading and grammar to middle schoolers and sometimes read the same novels with our students. We could be considered "honorary" Rotarians since we rarely missed a June or December meeting. And we learned so much together in our Women's Bible Study. I'm very thankful the Good Lord arranged for us to be friends. Melinda was such a treasure to me and to others who knew her.

**Le Ann Tuggle** - February 23, 2021 at 02:20 AM

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“ Mike, Jenny and Family,  
I am so sorry about Melinda. Praying that God will wrap His loving arms around you and comfort you as only He can. Hugs.



**Shelia (Todd) Laws** - February 22, 2021 at 11:14 PM

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“ Mike, Abby, Anna, Uncle Billy, Aunt Wanda, Robyn, and Mitchell...You and all of the other family members and friends who are blessed enough to love Melinda are in our thoughts and prayers. I cannot think of a time that I didn't see Melinda smiling. Her heart is so big that her love will live with you forever. Sending you so much love.  
Larry and Alison (Gray) White.

**Alison (Gray) White** - February 22, 2021 at 11:13 PM

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“ I so loved teaching with Melinda and attempting to show her the “new fangled” technology that came along late in her teaching career. She always took care of me and I tried to do the same for her. She was such a wonderful teacher to both Laura Liz and me (anyone who can make either of us behave MUST be special)! My very favorite memory of Melinda Gray was watching her cut loose and dance at the end of a long Grandparent’s Day practice late one afternoon... so out of character... and the crowd of kids and teachers went WILD. My heart will always be full of love for this precious soul.

**Wendy Bryan** - February 22, 2021 at 09:25 PM

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“ Mike, we send our love and prayers to you, Abby and Anna. Melinda was a wonderful neighbor and friend to us. We will certainly miss her.

**Jackie Cooper** - February 22, 2021 at 09:19 PM

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“ Prayers for all the family. Melinda was a very special person. My daughters loved her as a teacher and we will remember her well. Love to Helen

**jackie Klein** - February 22, 2021 at 08:52 PM

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“ My deepest condolences to Mike and family. Have many great memories of playing in the band with Melinda and spending time after school with her and visiting her parents store. Praying that your memories bring some peace and comfort.

**Alice Gay Nation** - February 22, 2021 at 08:12 PM

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“ Mike and family, was sorry to read about Melinda's passing. Lifting all up in prayer that God's comfort and peace will fill you thru the coming days.

**Robert & Patsy Spainhour** - February 22, 2021 at 07:37 PM

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“ So sad to hear this! I grew up knowing her and what a special girl she has always been!

**Vicki Claxton** - February 22, 2021 at 07:02 PM

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“ We are so saddened about her death. I grew up with her. She was a sweet and caring lady.

**Leelee and Bobby Lewis** - February 22, 2021 at 06:06 PM

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“ I grew up with Melinda in Perry. She was always so sweet and caring. I pray for comfort and peace. We are so sorry and sad. Joe and Judy Posey

**judy posey** - February 22, 2021 at 05:51 PM

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“ So saddened by Melindas passing. She will be missed by so many. Prayers and love for all the family

**faye wilson** - February 22, 2021 at 05:20 PM