

Anita Byrum Eppley

Mrs. Anita Byrum Eppley, 72, of Boone, died unexpectedly Saturday, March 5, 2005, at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte.

She was born Dec. 20, 1932, in High Point, to the late Frank and Mary Stanley Byrum. After attending Allen Jay High School and graduating from High Point Central High School, she graduated from Brevard College and UNC-G with a major in music. During her high school years, she hosted the "Anita Byrum Sings" radio show on WHPE. She was active in many music positions with the Methodist Church. She and her husband were educational missionaries for five years in Bolivia, South America. After returning to the United States, they became residents of Boone and she began a 28-year teaching career with Watauga High School. During this time, she earned a Masters degree from Appalachian State University. Mrs. Eppley was proficient in Spanish and after retirement, assisted with language interpretation. She was a member of the North Carolina Association of Educators.

Her greatest love was family, friends, former classmates and the more than 4,000 students she taught during her musical and educational career. She loved meeting former students and their families and learning about their lives.

Mrs. Eppley was an active member of Boone United Methodist Church for the past 42 years. She loved her church and the many special friends who gathered to quilt and knit items for church activities and newborn babies at Watauga Medical Center. Recently, she was beginning to enjoy drawing and painting. As a member of the Red Hat Society, she enjoyed celebrating with the other ladies.

Survivors include her husband, Ernest D. Eppley; three sons, Luke Eppley and wife, Janet, of Lewisville, West Eppley and wife, Connie, of Boone, and Brad Eppley of Sarasota, Fla.; three granddaughters, Diane Eppley and Maralyn Eppley, both of Lewisville, and Kalie Eppley of Boone; three grandsons, Chris Eppley of Wake Forest, Chad Eppley and Dylan Eppley, both of Boone; one great-grandson, Luke Eppley of Lewisville; two brothers, Jerry Byrum and Lyndon Byrum, both of High Point; four nephews, Chuck Byrum and wife, Joann, of Concord, Michael Byrum of High Point, Scott Byrum and wife, Algene, of Reston, Va., and Grant Byrum of Atlanta, Ga.; two nieces, Laura Bame and husband, Chris, of Summerfield and Susan Byrum of Denver, Colo.; one great-nephew, Tyler Byrum of Reston; and one great-niece, Melinda Byrum of Lugoff, S.C.

A Celebration of Life service will be conducted Thursday morning at 11 o'clock at Boone United Methodist Church, with Dr. George Naff officiating. Burial will be in Guilford Memorial Park in High Point.

We will miss her greatly, but she left us with many special moments of her life to treasure and celebrate for a lifetime. Our Lord blessed us and our communities by placing her among us so that we could journey with her for awhile. Let's celebrate her HomeGoing!