



## Reverend George Benet Shealy

May 25, 2009

Walhalla, SC—The Rev. George Benet Shealy, 76, Pastor Emeritus of St. John's Lutheran Church, died Monday, May 25, 2009, after an illness of many years. Born in Newberry, SC, he was the youngest of 11 children of the late Olin O'Neal and Cora Wise Shealy. He grew up on Mollohon Mill Village where he worked his way through Newberry College, graduating in 1953. He was a 1956 graduate of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC, where he later did post-graduate study. While in Seminary, Rev. Shealy was summer pastor of St. Timothy and Augsburg Lutheran churches in Whitmire and Union counties, and was student assistant pastor of St. Johannes Lutheran Church, Charleston.

Rev. Shealy was pastor of Trinity and St. Nicholas Lutheran churches in Fairfax, Allendale County; Silverstreet Lutheran Church and supply pastor of Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church in Newberry County; Faith Lutheran Church in Batesburg County and supply pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Ridge Spring, Aiken County; St. Johannes Lutheran Church in Charleston; St. John's Lutheran Church in Walhalla from 1968-1980; and Redeemer Lutheran Church in Greer. In later years he was instrumental in organizing Faith Lutheran Church in Pickens. He and his wife attended and were part of the family at Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church in Seneca.

Rev. Shealy was Chairman of the Oconee County Bicentennial Committee

and one of the organizers and first presidents of the Oconee County Community Theater. He also was instrumental in the restoration of the 1914 auditorium of the old Walhalla High School, which led to the organization of the Walhalla Auditorium Restoration Committee. He was on the Walhalla Sesquicentennial Committee, serving as chairman of the Historical Committee. He also served on numerous committees of the Lutheran Synod of South Carolina. He was Grand Marshall of the Walhalla Christmas parade in 1990 and 2000, making one in two centuries. He was the first person to be awarded The Award of Achievement by The Oconee Arts and Historical Society and celebrated his 50th year of Ordination in 2006.

Following a massive heart attack in 1981, Rev. Shealy had to retire from the active ministry in 1982. Friends and former members in Walhalla and elsewhere built him, his wife, and son a home in Walhalla where he and his wife have lived since. He was made Pastor Emeritus of St. John's Lutheran Church in 1989; the first former pastor to be so designated in St. John's long history.

In retirement, Rev. Shealy devoted himself to study, research and writing. He is the author of *Walhalla: A German Settlement in Upstate South Carolina* and *Gen. John A. Wagener: Charleston and South Carolina's Most Influential German American, Founder of Walhalla and MOLLOHON: A Newberry Mill and Village*. He was the instigator and co-compiler of *Shealy Family Genealogy 1752-1992*. At the time of his death he was working on a book on the history of St. John's Lutheran Church.

Rev. Shealy is survived by his devoted wife of 54 years, Gloria Hawkins Shealy; two daughters and son-in-law, L. Carol Shealy; and Julie S. and Henry Gambrell, all of Walhalla; one son and daughter-in-law, Frank O'Neal and Melody G. Shealy of Walhalla; four grandchildren and one great-grandchild, Justin and April Smith of Travelers Rest; Leslie H. and Nate

Bellamy of Loris; Zack, Erica, and Addison Smith of Rock Hill and Grant Shealy of Walhalla; a brother, Ralph C. Shealy of Spartanburg; and two sisters, Mrs. Wyman (Ruth) Frick of Mint Hill, NC; and Mrs. George P.(Reba) Lester, Jr. Besides his parents, he was predeceased by a son, George B. Shealy, Jr.; a granddaughter, Meghan Rebekkah Hellams; three brothers, Eugene, Ray and John Pat Shealy; four sisters, Mary Anna Shealy, Mrs. J. D. (Sara) Golden, Mrs. William J. (Gladys) Clamp and Mrs. Dorothy Stewart.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, May 27, 2009 at St. John's Lutheran Church at 4:00 p.m., with burial in St. John's Cemetery. The body will be placed in the church one hour prior to the service. There will also be a memorial service at Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 27.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of The Foothills, Attn: Foundation Office, 298 Memorial Drive, Seneca, SC 29672; Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church, 220 Carson Road, Seneca, SC; or St. John's Lutheran Church, 301 West Main Street, Walhalla, SC 29691.

# Tribute Wall



“ Reverend George Benet Shealy

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January 28, 2023 at 01:03 PM



“ Frank, Sorry to hear about the loss of your dad. I just happened to read it in the Greenville news. I was in the band with you at Greer high school (class of 81) where we used to hang out on friday night's after the football games. Again our prayers are with you.

Myron Paris##imported-begin##Myron Paris##imported-end##

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May 30, 2009 at 10:30 PM



“ Gloria, we are very sorry to learn of George Bennet passing. We are sorry that we cannot be with you during this time.  
Love, Billy & Shirley##imported-begin##Billy & Shirley  
Bowers##imported-end##

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May 28, 2009 at 10:03 PM



“Gloria, I was saddened to know a beloved pastor and friend I’ve know since 1969 is now gone from our presence. I served as both an Altar Acolyte and Lay Read under his pastorate. I will always treasure our times at Luther Glen Camp above Walhalla and the many nights all the Lutheran Youth sat around the camp fire while George and his guitar caused us all the join in with some great country singing (and as few “Tear Jerkers” too). What great memories I have of those times! I always enjoyed my visits with you and George and discussing his latest book project with him. You have my card with my cell phone number and if you ever need anything please call as I’m in Walhalla once a week. The sadness of his passing was offset by the wonderful memorial service at St. John’s. May God be with both you and the family.##imported-begin##Harry Hunter McCall##imported-end##

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May 28, 2009 at 03:19 PM



“Dear Mrs Shealy, I think there is a great big hole in our hearts and in our pretty hometown of Walhalla with Pastor Shealy gone. He always filled every space around him with his happiness, his kind disposition, and his interest and love of others. You, Carol, Julie and Frank are in my thoughts and prayers. (Marlene's too as I just spoke with her this morning.) Love, Jo Karen & Richard##imported-begin##Jo Karen Busch Oliver##imported-end##

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May 28, 2009 at 12:53 PM



“ Dear Gloria,  
please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers.i know Pastor  
is in a better place.i hope he is having a good time with David. may  
God Bless You.  
Sincerely,  
Maxine Howell###imported-begin##maxine howell###imported-end##

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May 27, 2009 at 08:41 PM



“ Our deepest heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Rev.  
George B.Shealy, Oconee Community Theatre will be forever  
indebted and grateful for his service to the theatre. The upcoming  
show The First Baptist of Ivy Gap will be performed in his  
memory.###imported-begin##Oconee Community  
Theatre###imported-end##

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May 27, 2009 at 04:22 PM



“ Rev. Shealy was such a very special person, he came and spoke at  
our church several times and we came to know and love him  
through those special times. I know he will be truly missed.  
Your family is in our thoughts and prayers.###imported-begin##Tim,  
Cindy & Garrett Hafner###imported-end##

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May 27, 2009 at 01:25 PM



“ I am painfully aware that words alone cannot take away the grief and the sorrow we feel when we lose those we love. My thoughts and prayers are with you each at this sad time. George was my pasture for many years. He baptised my children, he conducted my late wife, Ann Klaren Albertson`s funeral. George was a "Salt of the Earth man" He will be sorely missed.##imported-begin##Rod Albertson##imported-end##

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May 27, 2009 at 09:41 AM



“ Carol, our deepest condolences to you, your mother, & Frank and Julie. His love will guide you...##imported-begin##Johnny & Shanda Mize##imported-end##

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May 27, 2009 at 08:40 AM



“ I've always treasured memories of Pastor Shealy and family from days in Silverstreet. You all were wonderful neighbors (and relatives as I found out years later through research!). I'm thinking of all of you and praying for your comfort in the days ahead.##imported-begin##Barbara Long Stanford##imported-end##

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May 26, 2009 at 11:59 PM



“ My prayers are with you.##imported-begin##Reg Tatum##imported-end##

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May 26, 2009 at 09:35 PM



“ Jennie and I were saddened to learn of George's death. We extend our deepest sympathy to you, Gloria, and your entire family.

George was a seminary classmate and a great saint in the church. I was pleased and proud to have a copy of his book.

God's blessing on you and your family.

Mack Branham

President Emeritus, LTSS##imported-begin##Rev. Dr. Mack Branham##imported-end##

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May 26, 2009 at 05:38 PM



“ Gloria, Carol, Julie and Frank,  
I am sorry to hear about Pastor. He was a great caring man. He will be sorely missed by many. He surely has helped so many people with his wisdom and knowledge.##imported-begin##John Finkenstadt##imported-end##

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May 26, 2009 at 04:38 PM



“ Gloria, You have had a lot of struggles in your life and I know that you think this is the greatest. However, I know your faith will see you through. God bless you! You are in my thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Ann Stone##imported-end##

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May 26, 2009 at 03:56 PM



“ Gloria,  
*My deepest and heart felt sympathy to you and your family. You and George Benet both were special students of mine at Newberry High School and I am so proud of all of his accomplishments. He and I had a long talk on one of his last visits to Newberry. He will be sorely missed.*  
Betty Baker Carter###imported-begin###Betty Carter###imported-end##

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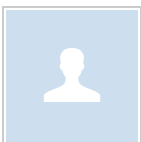
May 26, 2009 at 03:35 PM



“ *During the ten years I worked in Walhalla, Reverend Shealy was a warm, encouraging presence in all of our lives, but especially in mine. His serene smile and encouraging words always brightened my day. It was a sincere pleasure to be allowed to read his books as they were being written, and his hard work showed through clearly in the wonderful histories he produced about South Carolina and the upstate. He will be much missed and lovingly remembered.*###imported-begin###Bob McCall###imported-end##

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May 26, 2009 at 02:10 PM



“ *We send our deepest sympathy.*

*Allen, Sherry & Zeke Moore & Pop*###imported-begin###Sweet Water###imported-end##

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May 26, 2009 at 12:39 PM



“ My prayers are with Gloria and the entire Shealy family at this difficult time. I will hold in my heart wonderful memories of all my conversations with Pastor Shealy.

God Bless you all.

Lane###imported-begin###Mrs. Lane Neamand###imported-end###

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May 26, 2009 at 11:59 AM



“ God has a very special place set aside in heaven for Rev. Shealy. He was one of the most generous and caring people I have ever known. My fondest memory of him was once at a Halloween Carnival at Pine Street Elem. He, Frank and several other of us little kids, went through the spook house together which was set up in the teacher's workroom. I had a great big cone of chocolate ice cream in my hand when about half way through, somebody jumped out from cabinet the back corner. Everybody ran and we all made a mad rush for the door. When got out into the hallway, Rev. Shealy was wearing most of my ice cream and was laughing just as hard as the rest of us. That is a memory I will carry with me always. How lucky I am to have known such a fine man. Mrs. Shealey, Carol, Julie and Frank, may God comfort you and be with you always. Brett Murphree###imported-begin###Brett Murphree###imported-end###

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May 26, 2009 at 09:32 AM



“ Dear Gloria and family,

*My thoughts are surely with you all as you walk through this valley. He will be missed by many, but most of all by you. He left quite a legacy for his family and friends. I feel privileged to have known him and know that without a doubt we will meet again in heaven.*

*Love to you all,*

*Joye###imported-begin##Joye Newman###imported-end##*

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May 26, 2009 at 09:00 AM



“ Gloria, May God greatly bless and be with you in this very hard time in your life. We love you very much and wish there was something we could do to relieve your pain and suffering. May God be with you and your family.###imported-begin##Evelyn & June Black###imported-end##

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May 26, 2009 at 12:44 AM



“ Reverend Shealy was an inspiration to all who knew him. I always enjoyed and welcomed conversations with Rev. Shealy.

*He added so much to the environment of Walhalla and did his best to help us remember the legacy of our home town.*

*Rev, Shealey will be remembered for his many contributions to the Oconee area.*

*To his wonderful family, my sincere condolences.###imported-begin##John Kelley###imported-end##*

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May 25, 2009 at 09:52 PM



“ You have my deepest sympathy. Your family has always had a special place in my heart. I was very privileged to have known such a great man as Pastor Shealy. You are in my thoughts and prayers. I love you all.

Marsha Longshore Huggins##imported-begin##Marsha Longshore Huggins##imported-end##

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May 25, 2009 at 07:43 PM



“ Gloria and Family,

We extend our deepest sympathy, thoughts and prayers to the Shealy family during this difficult time. May the Lord give you strength during this time when you need him most. Know that George is walking the streets of Heaven and basking in the glory of our Lord. God bless you all.

William & Jessica Tatum  
Abby & Kinsley##imported-begin##William & Jessica Tatum##imported-end##

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May 25, 2009 at 03:58 PM