



## Charles R. Harris

July 5, 1952 - February 15, 2022

Charles Richard Harris, 69, passed away on February 15, 2022.

He is survived by his wife, Rebecca, sons Richard (Betsy) of Cary, NC, Louis (Stephanie), and grandsons Graham, Scott, and Owen, of Greenwood Village, CO.

Charles was the only child of Charles William and Edith Owens Harris of Dallas, TX. He graduated from The University of North Texas with a Bachelor of Music Degree and Westminster Choir College, Princeton, NJ, with a Master of Music Degree in Organ Performance. He served as Director of Music and Organist at Tyler Street United Methodist Church in Dallas from 1977-1988. He served in the same position at First Presbyterian Church at Red Bank, NJ, from 1988-2009, when he had to retire due to health issues. While in New Jersey, he conducted a community chorus and was guest organist/pianist with two orchestras. In the Spring of 2009, Charles and Rebecca were given a six-week sabbatical in Leipzig, Germany. He and Rebecca moved back to Greer, SC, in 2010. Charles was a member at First Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC.

Funeral services will be held at The Wood Mortuary on February 19, 2022, at 11:00am. A visitation will be held at the mortuary on Friday, February 18, 2022, from 2:00pm to 3:30pm. Due to Covid restrictions, the service will be limited to family and close friends. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Music Department at First Presbyterian Church at 200 W. Washington St, Greenville, SC 29601.

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

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 18. 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM (ET)

The Wood Mortuary, Inc.  
300 West Poinsett Street  
Greer, SC 29650  
(864) 877-3351  
woodmortuary@bellsouth.net

## Service

FEB 19. 11:00 AM (ET)

THE WOOD MORTUARY CHAPEL  
300 West Poinsett Street  
Greer, SC 29650  
(864) 877-3351  
woodmortuary@bellsouth.net

# Tribute Wall

SS

“ Dear Becca,

*We wanted to let you know that we love you so much. We are very sorry for your loss. Charles was quite the expert on the piano and organ. I remember him from Tyler St. UMC growing up and when I was grown coming back home to church there sometimes. Lenny passed in Oct. 2012 after 36 years of marriage so I can understand some of what you might be feeling. Lenny was very sick for several years, as well. Know you are in our thoughts and prayers.*

*Love in Christ,*

*Shana Morell Stadler (Baird), Ann Morell and Paula Morell Sarmast*

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**Shana Stadler** - March 17, 2022 at 04:24 PM

TM

“ *Such great memories shared with Charles! He was my bell director, but I like to think of him more as a friend. We had great conversations, he helped me with recommendations and he was the organist at my wedding. That is all just the tip of the iceberg! Charles, you will always be remembered!*

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**Tim Mason** - March 02, 2022 at 08:50 AM

DM

“ Rebecca,  
You and Charles were a huge part of my musical and spiritual life. I joined the Tower Hill Choir and Tower Hill Church after many years in Oratorio Choir. I so loved singing with Charles. He was an amazing musician and so inspiring. He really brought out the best in me! I have thought of you both often over the years. His last words to me at your fair well reception were "keep singing". I'll never forget the two of you!  
Debbie Macock

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**Debbie Macock** - February 22, 2022 at 11:13 PM

PD

“ Rebecca and family, my deepest condolences. Charles was a wonderful person, a fantastic organist, and a gifted teacher. I learned so much from him during the brief opportunity I had to study organ with him. There are several pieces that, to this day, I cannot help but think of him when I play them. He will be missed, but today the heavenly choirs have one more beautiful soul joining their ranks. Rebecca, thank you so much for keeping in touch with me over the past several years; it's been greatly appreciated.  
- Patti Carlisle D'Andrea

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**Patti D'Andrea** - February 22, 2022 at 10:25 PM

WP

“ Our other brother. We had so many great times. Laughing till our sides hurt. He was a joyful, witty and loving person. I'll always remember his laughter. He truly was our brother. Love you Charlie. Heaven's got one of the best. Praying for sweet Becca and the rest of the family.

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**wiley putnam** - February 19, 2022 at 09:27 PM

JP

“ *Rebecca, Richard, Louis and family, I am so sorry for your loss. Charles meant so much to me and so many others. He touched my life in ways I can not express. I can still hear the Dallas theme song being played on the organ pedals. I will forever be grateful.*

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**Jeffrey Pace** - February 19, 2022 at 02:47 PM

MF

“ *We are especially thinking of Rebecca, Richard and Louis during Charles' memorial service today and wish we could be there to attend. May you feel God's comfort and peace. Charles made an impact on so many people's lives with his amazing musical talents. He was a master at precisely organizing music during a church service or concert that tapped one's emotions leaving one wanting more musical numbers. My kids enjoyed being in the bell choirs led by Charles. He brought out the best musical skills in young people so that their performances often received ovations from the audience. Tower Hill was blessed to have Charles and Rebecca in our congregation. May God bless you and your family!*

*The Fellinghams  
Mindy, Paul, Peter and Becky*

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**Mindy Felligham** - February 19, 2022 at 08:52 AM

LD

“ There is only one Charles Harris and there will never be another. His love for the Lord and his love for people enabled him to bring out the best in each and every musician he met and worked with - in any capacity. I treasure the time I had with him as a member of the Tower Hill choir and the Oratorio choir in Red Bank, NJ. Charles is a remarkable individual who will be missed, loved and adored. Thank you, Rebecca, for sharing him with me and everyone else for a lifetime. My heart breaks for you and your family with this great loss in your lives.

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**Lynn Daniels** - February 18, 2022 at 12:22 PM

SG

“ So many wonderful memories of Charles' time with the Tower Hill Choir. He touched and influenced so many lives during his time as Director of Music at Tower Hill, First Presbyterian Church, Red Bank, 1988-2009, as well as his relationship with The Shrewsbury Chorale, and Ocean Grove Camp Meeting. We are thankful for his life dedicated to praising and worshiping God through music. Soli Deo Gloria.

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**Susan Gardiner** - February 18, 2022 at 09:55 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Charles R. Harris.



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February 17, 2022 at 05:40 PM

MJ

“ *My sincere condolences to your family. Charles was such an amazing musician and person. I always remember him so fondly. I was in the Tower Hill youth choir and my first musical with him (a long time ago!). I also played bells with Judy. My experiences there really shaped my adult musical life. Sending you my love.*

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**Molly Joiner** - February 17, 2022 at 11:04 AM

EF

*I am saddened by your loss. I pray peace and wisdom is yours especially during this time of adjustment. Love you, Elaine Freeman*

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**Elaine Freeman** - February 18, 2022 at 03:02 PM

CP

“ *Rebecca, I'm so sorry for your loss. May God wrap His arms of comfort and peace around each of you now and in days ahead.*

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**Carole Pearson** - February 17, 2022 at 09:29 AM

NN

“ *Rebecca and boys. Jean, Rob, Ted and I send our sincere condolences over the loss of your husband and dad. He was a talented musician, total gentleman and great family man. We miss you all at Tower Hill. Rob misses Rebecca's piano lessons -). RIP, Charles. Ned/Jean Newland*

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**Ned Newland** - February 16, 2022 at 09:34 PM

CG

“ *Our condolences to Rebecca & family. We will always remember our Austrian tour of the Alps, playing handbells at the United Nations in Salzburg & all the fun Charles brought to music. Claire Garland*

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**Claire Garland** - February 16, 2022 at 06:09 PM

RS

“ Remembering Charles from his Tyler ST days. Prayers for Becca and Family.



Rex Stark - February 16, 2022 at 05:40 PM

WR

“ Wayne Reed lit a candle in memory of Charles R. Harris



Wayne Reed - February 16, 2022 at 03:12 PM

VK

“ Oh, my goodness! i am just heartbroken over this! Rebecca, you have my deepest sympathy.  
Vicki Kennedy

Vicki Kennedy - February 16, 2022 at 02:56 PM

CK

“ Our dear friend, Charles Harris, died today. He was struck by illness a number of years ago, but he faced the challenge with grace and humility. He was a most gifted musician, especially as organist and choir director. We knew him at Tyler Street UMC in Dallas, TX. We were so drawn to his friendly and humorous personality. He and his wife, Rebecca, were a real team in ministry. Our prayers go out for the whole family.

Charles and Verna Kay - February 16, 2022 at 12:17 PM

MT

“ We are so very sorry to hear about Charles. He was an extraordinarily gifted musician and a wonderful person. Rebecca, we are praying that God will wrap his loving arms around you and your family.

*Dave and Maggie Tripold*

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**Maggie Tripold** - February 16, 2022 at 11:36 AM

SS

“ We have so many wonderful memories of Charles. His musical gifts were an amazing thing to behold, his ability to coax the very best out of the singers he worked with was unparalleled, but most of all we will treasure the memories of his kindness and friendship. He was kind, sweet, funny, wonderful person, and we were so blessed to have known him. Our deepest love and sympathies to Rebecca and his family. -Sean, Sue, and Katharine Starke

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**Sean Starke** - February 16, 2022 at 11:02 AM

DH

“ Dawn Hayes lit a candle in memory of Charles R. Harris



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**Dawn Hayes** - February 16, 2022 at 10:32 AM

RJ

“ One of the most amazingly gifted musicians to ever walk out of Westminster Choir College. The best years of my musical life were spent with him in Red Bank. Love you, Rebecca. I'm so sorry.

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**R Allen Morris Jr** - February 16, 2022 at 10:19 AM

JT

*Rebecca, I can't believe sweet Charlie is gone. I love him just like a brother. All the funny stories we shared on our rides home from St. John's and the wonderful experience we had with him in choir at St. John's. His favorite saying was, "It sounds great but it's not right". My grandchildren loved to go to church with us just to hear Charlie make that piano talk. He will be greatly missed and we will certainly be praying for the family*

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**Judy Tipton** - February 17, 2022 at 10:57 PM

LP

*I agree with the person who stated here, "There is only one Charles Harris, and there will never be another". My husband and I are nearly 80, and Charles was often with us 50 years ago, during his college years and the few years that followed. He was the most gifted and talented musical prodigy I ever knew. When we gave him the a complex Cesar Franck piece upon his college graduation, he sat down at that fantastic Tyler St. church organ and played it without hesitation, without studying it and without a bobble. He spent many a weekend night at our home playing board and card games and discussing everything under the sun. We were all musicians, so we spent many a Saturday night bellowing out musicals with Charlie accompanying - in any key - by ear - just for fun. If he had heard it, he could play it. I can still see his sweet, face - laughing and smiling at our kitchen table and piano. He loved our family, and we loved him. We always will. Keep them on key up there, Charlie.*

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**Lynne Tuttle Phillips** - February 18, 2022 at 07:21 PM

EN

*Rebecca, I was a friend of Charles in the late 70s at Westminster Choir College. We had a lot of fun times together, studied with the same teachers, discussed music and shared our love of the organ. He would look forward to the letters you would send him with the cute pictures in them. I will always remember him.*

*Ed Napolski  
Westminster Choir College*

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**Edward Napolski** - June 03, 2025 at 05:47 PM