

# VAUGHN-PARKER, Mary Edith

Edith Vaughn-Parker, 92, of Lexington, died Monday, January 6, 2014 at Benjamin Borden Center in Lexington. Edith was born in Pulaski, Virginia, on September 24, 1921. Her parents were Dora Fitzgerald Vaughn and Everett Sidney Vaughn. She was the middle child of five; an older brother and sister, and a younger brother and sister. They are Dorcas Vaughn Goodman, E. Sidney Vaughn, Jr. (deceased), Charlotte Vaughn Keyes and Robert Max Vaughn (deceased).

Edith attended grade school in Goshen, Va., and her last year of high school in Pulaski, Va. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg, Va., and her Masters of Religious Education from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary of Louisville, Ky. She also completed special studies at Lynchburg College and at the New Orleans Baptist Seminary. Edith taught high school in Allegheny County for two years. She went on to be a missionary near Norton, Va., for two years and also worked in social ministry in Louisville, Ky., for two years. As a child in Goshen, Va., when she walked down the aisle of the small Baptist church, she felt she was answering "Yes" to Jesus. Then she seemed to hear Him say: "If you really love me, it will take you a long way from Goshen." Edith never got away from this feeling of "call." From 1952 until 1987, Edith served as a missionary in North-Eastern Brazil. After a year of Portuguese study, she helped establish "Friendship House" in Recife. She worked in Recife for 27 years, then moving to Triunfo for eight years. There she worked in evangelism and the establishment of small churches. Upon her retirement in 1987 she took up the care of her aunt, Delrhay Fitzgerald.

On October 25, 1997, Edith married John A. Parker, a retired missionary to Chile. They enjoyed working together with their church in Lexington, VA, and also a truck-stop ministry and various retirement and nursing homes.

Also surviving Edith are her stepchildren, Kenneth Parker and Melissa of San Antonio, TX; David Parker and wife Phyllis of Lexington, VA; step-grandchildren, Laura Parker and husband Nathaniel Thomson of Australia; Nealin Parker and husband Alex Bick of Washington, DC; Anson Parker and Molly Miller of Charlottesville, VA; step-great granddaughter, Amelia Sophie Parker-Bick of Washington, DC.

A funeral service will be conducted 11 a.m. Friday, January 10, 2014 at Manly Memorial Baptist Church with the Dr. J. Michael Wilkins and Dr. Tom Harvey officiating. Edith Vaughn-Parker will be buried by her parent's in Oakwood Cemetery, Pulaski, VA at 3 p.m. Friday, January 10, 2014. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Friendship House, c/o Manly Memorial Baptist Church, 202 S. Main Street, Lexington, VA 24450. Arrangements are being handled by Harrison Funeral Home & Crematory, Lexington, VA.