



## Bo Parris

February 16, 1954 - September 4, 2023

Bo Parris was called home to be with Jesus on September 4, 2023, at 69 years young. He always claimed to be only "3 years old" and never acted or looked old enough to be a senior citizen. He had a child-like faith. He knew that he had a home waiting for him in Heaven and never once questioned his eternity. His family and friends were shocked at his unexpected departure from his earthly body, but God was already expecting his arrival and had a place prepared for him.....probably in the garden. Bo's happiest times on earth were those spent in his vegetable garden with Sheila, a country converted city girl, his children, and his grandchildren. He enjoyed teaching them how to grow their own vegetables. He enjoyed his time alone with God in the garden and treasured their conversations. He was also teaching the grandkids how to raise their own eggs and how to take care of chickens and ducks.

Bo always had a strong work ethic. As a youth, he helped his mother, Vinnis Williams Parris, by raising chickens. They made enough money to purchase their land in Websters Chapel. He loaded hay bales, picked cotton with a sack that was heavier than him, and loaded lumber for a nearby lumber yard. Bo graduated from Alexandria High School in 1973. After graduation, with the assistance from coach and friend, Van Newman, Bo became the manager of the basketball team at Jacksonville State. He joined the U.S. Air Force and completed his degree in electronic engineering. As an adult, Bo was a good provider for his family. In 1983, he began work at Rockwell International in

Denver. He was thankful for the job opportunity but longed to move home to Alabama. In 1987, a job offer from KW Control Systems made the move home a reality and they were able to reunite with their family. In 2000, Bo would begin the job at Alabama Power that he planned to be with until retirement. After working long hours most of his life, he was looking forward to retiring from Alabama Power next year. Bo worked at home when he wasn't at work. He remodeled the house in Denver, the house in Pinson, and their beloved final home together in Blountsville. Bo worked hard in his gardens through the years, beginning with the one in Webster's Chapel, then backyard gardens in Denver and Pinson, and finally the garden of his dreams at Froggy Meadows in Blountsville. He had a green thumb and prided himself on his delicious homegrown vegetables and enjoyed sharing them with others. He was strong and could outwork most young men, just ask his grandkids. He was gifted with a natural ability to repair absolutely anything. His family referred to him as "Bo-Gyver" since he was often able to repair something from nothing.

Bo always had a strong faith in God, even before he had been baptized or joined a church. When he moved to Denver in January 1983, a precious Lutheran widow who became "Grandma Midge" to all of us, invited Bo to visit her church. When Bo and Sheila were married two months later, Bo was baptized and both of them were confirmed at Redeemer Lutheran Church. He was a faithful member and even helped Sheila teach the preschool Sunday school class. In December 1987, when Bo and the family were able to move home to Alabama, they found a new church home at The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills in Birmingham. Bo became an elder, assisted Sheila with Sunday School outings, children's programs, and social ministry projects. In 2009, Bo and Sheila purchased a small 100-year-old farmhouse in Blountsville. After 22 faithful years the distance made it necessary to seek a new church home. Bo and Sheila began their search for a church. They visited several churches and God led them to Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran

Church in Hartselle. Bo and Sheila felt that the little farmhouse and the small but mighty congregation at COR were all part of God's plan for their lives.

Bo leaves behind a family who loved him beyond measure. Bo and Sheila were blessed with 40 wonderful years of marriage. There has never been a couple that was happier together. Every morning for over 40 years, the first words to Sheila when he woke up were "Good Morning, Beautiful! I love you!" They shared their special love with their blended family of four daughters: Sarah Hickman (Brett), Mandie Atkins (Ty), Stephanie Jeff (Jimmy), and Jessica Parris (Colt). They love to share stories about all four of their daughters. They would often confuse people they would meet in public with their two sets of daughters who weren't twins but loved to pretend that they were. Sarah and Mandie are three months apart in age. Stephanie and Jessica are seven months apart in age. Biologically his, hers and theirs.....but genetics never made a difference. They are a family and nothing else matters! What truly matters is that they have always loved them all! Bo and Sheila can light up a room talking about their grandchildren: Brandon Kiker, Brady Kiker, London Hickman, Brock Hickman, Jakob Abbott, Samantha Jeff, Mackenzie Parris, Colton Hickman, Benjamin Jeff, Carrie Grayce Hickman, and Jonathan Emmanuel Templeton, "Jet." Prospective Grandchildren; Emily Courington, Annabelle Beasley, Robert Carraway, Juliana Decatsye, Timberlyn, Raelynn, and Jaxten Templeton.

He leaves behind his baby brother, Miles Parris (Janie). They have always loved each other and been together through the good times and the not so good ones. He leaves behind extended family and dear friends who are "chosen family." Bo wouldn't want to list friends by name. There are so many that he wouldn't want to leave anyone out! May God bless each and every one of you! As Christians, we can rest in the assurance that we will be reunited

with Bo and our other loved ones in Heaven.....just look for Bo in the garden.

There will be a "Celebration of Life Memorial Service" at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, September 17, 2023, at the Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Hartselle, 721 Pickens Street SW, Hartselle, AL 35640. The family will receive friends from 1:00 p.m. until service time at 2:00 p.m. Following the service there will be an ice cream social in the fellowship hall.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the church in memory of Bo Parris.

[www.corhartselle.org](http://www.corhartselle.org)

YouTube page: Christ Our Redeemer Hartselle, AL

Facebook: Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Hartselle, AL

# Previous Events

## Family to receive friends

SEP 17. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
721 Pickens Street SW  
Hartselle, AL 35640

## Celebration of Life Service

SEP 17. 2:00 PM (CT)

Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
721 Pickens Street SW  
Hartselle, AL 35640

# Tribute Wall

AV

“ *this is my besties granpa and i now how much she loved him but we got each other so she is with me and he is in a happy place*

avery - September 18, 2023 at 02:30 PM

MA

*i luv u avery*

mackenzie - September 18, 2023 at 02:33 PM

AV

*i lovu*

avery - September 18, 2023 at 02:40 PM

AV

*live love strong*

avery - September 18, 2023 at 02:44 PM

SS

“ *Steve S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bo Parris.*

Steve S. - September 13, 2023 at 01:32 PM

NC

“ *Bo was always so good at keeping our av equipment repaired at Pinson Elementary School. While there , teachers hit him up with another job they needed help with. He was always glad to help in any way. Nancy Callahan*

Nancy Callahan - September 13, 2023 at 10:51 AM



*yes he was*

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**mackenzie** - August 14, 2024 at 10:36 AM