



## Pastor Taylor Phelps

September 30, 1986 - January 11, 2023

He was tenderly known as “Pastor Taylor” by hundreds of people not only in Tennessee, but in Kentucky and Virginia. He suffered from a heart attack and passed away January 11, 2023, while doing one of the things he enjoyed, exercising at 5:00 A.M. each morning with the Knoxville F3- Fitness, Fellowship, and Faith group. His family and friends are still in shock by his sudden death.

He was born September 30, 1986, in Madisonville, Kentucky. He resided in Dawson Springs, Kentucky until moving to Madisonville in 2000. Taylor accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior at 9 years old at Oak Grove Baptist Church in Cadiz, Kentucky. God called Taylor to preach at the young age of 16, and he began to serve God during his high school years. In 2002, he preached his first sermon at Park Avenue Baptist Church. He graduated from Madisonville North Hopkins High School in 2005. He was the youngest student accepted at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville, Kentucky and graduated in 2010 with a B.A. in Pastoral Ministries. It was at Clear Creek College that he met and married the love of his life, Andrea Pickens. They married on August 5, 2006. Taylor’s first pastorate was at the age of 23 at Dryden Baptist Church in Dryden, Virginia where their son Clay was born in 2010. Taylor helped enlarge the church buildings and grow their membership. In 2014, God called him to leave Dryden. He visited Caney Ford Baptist Church and on June 15, 2014, accepted the position of Senior Pastor. Child number two, Evie, was born in 2017. During his nine years tenure, his

vision and creativity increased the programs at Caney Ford that had a positive impact on church members and the Roane County community. The measure of a person's life is not its duration but its donations. Pastor Taylor's donations were many! He planned the 150th Church Anniversary program to recognize the church's accomplishments and history. He wrote and published a book, Caney Ford Baptist Church A 150 Year History because he wanted "to mark this moment in time." He was always looking for ways to grow the church and help people in the community. He started the Diaper Closet Ministry to help mothers by providing diapers and children's clothing. He started the AWANA program for children and youth that has had over 40 participants. He started the UGO Food Card program to help needy families. He organized the Christmas Gift program to provide gifts for children. He started the Backpack program that provided backpacks full of school supplies for kids at the start of the school year. He personally helped pay for food and gas for people who stopped at the church needing help. He enjoyed visiting local schools during "Career Day." He helped plant a church and mentored the pastor. He served on numerous Big Emory Baptist Association Committees. Pastor Taylor continued his education while at Caney Ford. He received his Master of Arts degree in Biblical Exposition with emphasis in Human Growth and Development from Liberty University in 2021. He was working on his Ph.D. in Biblical Exposition at Liberty University School of Divinity. Pastor Taylor was preceded in death by his Grandmothers Patricia Eaves and Eva Nell Phelps, Grandfather Marvin Phelps, Father James Phelps, and uncle Eddie Phelps. He leaves to cherish his memory, his wife Andrea Phelps, his children Clayton and Evelyn Phelps, his mother Connie Phelps, his Brother James Phelps, his sisters-in-law Lauren Phelps and Katherine McNabb, and nephew Ryker Phelps,

Those who knew Pastor Taylor will remember him for his faith in God, humility, kindness, generosity, knowledge of the Bible, and his sincere concern for people's soul. He built his family foundation on faith, love, and the Word of God. This is not the end of his story. He leaves his example of a dedicated

pastor to his church and community, the legacy of the programs he started that have helped numerous people, and his family to carry on the Phelps name. As his family and friends mourn his loss, we know that Pastor Taylor would encourage us to trust that God will minister to us and give us strength to continue our walk with God.

The family will receive friends from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Saturday, January 14, 2023, at the South Harriman Baptist Church. The funeral will follow at 5:00 p.m. with Reverend Randy Roper and Reverend Matt Cannon officiating. The burial will be Sunday, January 15, 2023, at 3:30 p.m. at Bookwalter Cemetery in Knoxville. The family will meet in the parking lot of the Knoxville Expo Center 5441 Clinton Highway Knoxville, TN. 37912 between 2:45 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. for a procession to the Cemetery. Kyker Funeral Home of Harriman is serving the Phelps Family. [www.kykerfuneralhomes.com](http://www.kykerfuneralhomes.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 14. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

South Harriman Baptist Church  
626 Ruritan Rd  
Harriman, TN 37748

## Funeral Service

JAN 14. 5:00 PM (ET)

South Harriman Baptist Church  
626 Ruritan Rd  
Harriman, TN 37748

## Gathering

JAN 15. 2:45 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Knoxville Expo Center  
5441 Clinton Highway  
Knoxville, TN 37912

## Burial

JAN 15. 3:30 PM (ET)

Bookwalter Cemetery  
4300 Central Avenue Pike  
Knoxville, TN 37912

# Tribute Wall



“ *Kyker Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Pastor Taylor Phelps*



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**Kyker Funeral Home** - January 14, 2023 at 11:55 AM

PM

*Andrea,  
My heart, my thoughts, my prayers and my love is with you and Clay  
and Evie now.  
Pam Martin*

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**Pam Martin** - January 15, 2023 at 10:39 AM

JP

*Taylor you will always be missed Andrea are our prayers and our thoughts you and your children are in our hearts we love you so much and we hope the best for you and to stay strong and keep going like Taylor would want you to do just remember one day your journey you will meet Taylor again and it will be worth the whole sacrifice that you made so you live your life and enjoy the time you have left and one day God will come get you and your children and you will be reunited with Taylor once again love always the Phelps family*

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**James phelps** - January 15, 2023 at 12:13 PM

RG

*You are in my thoughts and prayers Andrea! I know this is a heartbreaking time for you and your family, just remember this wasn't your final goodbye to Taylor, you'll be reunited with him again one day! Stay strong for those beautiful children of y'all's, and with time the hurt in your heart will subside. If you ever need me Andrea, you can always call on me. I'm still at MPBC. I miss you darlin, and Love you from the bottom of my heart!*

*"When you feel like you are drowning in life, remember that your lifeguard walks on water." ❤️💋*

*RIP Pastor Taylor*

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**Rachael Gibson** - January 15, 2023 at 02:10 PM

RB

*Ms Connie, I am so sorry for your loss 😞 I looked at the pictures and, what a nice looking young man with a lovely family. I can't imagine your pain, just find comfort in knowing he's in heaven. Hold onto your memories and cherish those grand babies.*

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**Renee Bratcher** - January 17, 2023 at 07:12 PM

RB

“ *Renee Bratcher lit a candle in memory of Pastor Taylor Phelps*



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**Renee Bratcher** - January 17, 2023 at 07:43 PM

KF

“ *Our deepest condolences to Andrea, Clay and Evie. Pastor Taylor will be missed by us and many more from Caney Ford Baptist Church. Continued prayers for the family.*  
*Ted and Martha Keylon*

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**Keylon family** - January 15, 2023 at 10:36 AM

KK

“ Taylor was such a kind soul with the sweetest smile. Lifting Andrea, Clay, and Evie up in prayer.

Kim Henley Kennedy - January 14, 2023 at 06:57 PM



“ 72 files added to the album Life Tributes



Kyker Funeral Home - January 14, 2023 at 11:48 AM



“ With my deepest sympathy...May the Lord bless and keep your family all the days of your lives.  
Julia Clark



Julia Clark - January 13, 2023 at 10:45 PM

SB

“ Sharon Bowles lit a candle in memory of Pastor Taylor Phelps



Sharon Bowles - January 13, 2023 at 09:15 AM



*My prayers to this family and Caney Ford Church Family.*

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**Carolyn Clemmons** - January 14, 2023 at 03:23 AM