

“THE MOTHERS IN MY LIFE”
MOTHERS DAY 2013
Satilla Baptist Church
1452 Satilla Road, Wray, GA 31798
Pastor William Pope
www.satillachurch.com
pastor@satillachurch.com

I. INTRODUCTION

- a. Different type of Mother’s Day message today.
- b. Last Year we heard from 3 mothers who shared “What it means to me to be a Mother”. Today I want to share with you “What it means to Have a Mother”.
- c. Not just “a” Mother, but there have been several women in my life who have “mothered” me. I want to share them with you today.

II. NANCY LEE GILLIS (1917-1991) My Maternal Grandmother

- a. Grandma Gillis
- b. Born 1917 on Billy’s Island in the Okefenokee Swamp to Lester and Verdie Lee, whose ancestors had lived in the Swamp since the early 1800’s
- c. Father died in the Flu Epidemic of 1918 and is buried on Billy’s Island. She never knew him.
- d. Two Brothers, James and Lester.
 - i. James who was 3 years older than her would be killed at the age of seven after stepping in front of a train on Billy’s Island.
- e. Her mother remarried and moved to Pearson, GA, where she met and married on Christmas Day, 1941, a man 22 years her senior, Lawrence James Gillis.
- f. Had two children, Jimmy in 1942 and Shirley in 1944.
- g. At the age of 46, in Nov of 1963, she had her first grandchild – me
- h. What she gave to me, perhaps by talking about what she could not give to me.
 - i. Kitchen – Her sink. Two galvanized pipes that came through the wall, and two water spigots, one for hot, one for cold.

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1. But the best meals I have ever eaten were cooked in that kitchen.
2. Food was excellent, Atmosphere was Divine.
- ii. No Central Heat or Air, Not even a window unit.
 1. Comfort in that home.
- iii. No Driver’s Lic. or car.
 1. That did not limit what she did for me.
- iv. One word to describe her: **“Love”**

1. 1 Cor 13

III. ANNIE LEE HARRELL POPE 1917- (My Paternal Grandmother)

- a. Born the same year as my Grandma Gillis
- b. She was “Grandma Pope”
- c. 1939 she married a tall lanky man 3 years her senior, named DW Pope. She was 22, he was 25
- d. Had two children in quick secession and then a third Harrell Dewight.
- e. When he was about a year old in 1945 he became very sick (tell story of Grandpa Daddy and son being sick at same time)
- f. Grandpa Pope contracting blood clots in his legs in the late 1950’s. Being Unable to work
- g. Nov of 1963 had her first grandchild - me
- h. Was hired as the Dietician at the old Coffee County Hospital.
- i. Sent a son off to Vietnam in the late 1960’s
- j. Feverish comments when we thought she was dying.
- k. “Living have to go on Living”
- l. She taught me **“Perseverance”** She is still living today.96

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- i. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; 2 Cor 4:8-9 (KJV)*
- ii. 16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; 18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. 2 Cor 4:16-18 (KJV)*

IV. SHIRLEY GILLIS POPE (1944-) My Mother

- a. Married Clifford Pope in Nov of 1962, she was 18, he was 22.*
- b. One year later Nov of 1963 her first born son was born – me*
- c. Early Memories*
 - i. Reading Bible Stories to us at night. “Golden Treasury of Bible Stories”*
 - ii. Taking us to Church.*
 - iii. Singing around the piano.*
- d. Ran the Home*
 - i. Cook Breakfast every morning*
 - ii. While Daddy was away for sometimes 2 weeks or more, we were young in our early teens. Mama would keep the home first burning.*
 - iii. Daddy would plant squash and truck crops and we would pick them. (No Mexicans when I was growing up)*
- e. Word for Mother (Not just one word ---- Mother)*

V. Loye Carver Pope

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- a.* Loye – Faithful
- VI. Others**
 - a.* Wawena (Family)
 - b.* Amelia (Helper)