



Dr. Joe David Elder Jr.

March 5, 1963 - January 3, 2025

Joe David Elder, Jr, who dedicated his life to worshipping God on earth, is now worshipping his Father in heaven face to face. His faith has become sight.

David was born March 5, 1963 in Athens, Georgia. He grew up in Cocoa, Florida, and attended high school in Boca Raton. While attending the University of Florida for his Bachelor of Science in Microbiology, he met his wife of 39 years, Marcia Blanton Elder, at Westside Baptist Church where they were married and volunteered in music and children's ministry.

One year after being married, they moved to Fort Worth, Texas for David to attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary where he received his Master of Music degree. Years later, he went on to earn a PhD in Music History from the University of Florida.

David and Marcia served together at Granbury Baptist and Beverly Hills Baptist in Texas, and in North Florida at Middleburg Baptist, Kingsley Lake Baptist, Chets Creek Church and he finished his ministry at Anastasia Baptist in Saint Augustine from 2005 until he retired due to illness in December 2023.

David had a passion for music, ministry and history. His doctoral dissertation was a "History of Florida Baptist Music." He authored several articles on the

subject. His love for music and the Word of God led him to write several songs. The one his family loves most is based on Psalm 1, which they feel he lived out daily. He loved sharing the story behind the hymns/songs we would sing in services. During the pandemic, he published a weekly article telling the story behind different songs.

David was a humble man. When Marcia told him she was going to write “David was a humble man – as humble as a trumpet player can be,” in his obituary, he corrected her and said, “LEAD trumpet.” This shows his humor, which we all enjoyed greatly. He was the king of Dad jokes.

David made choir and orchestra rehearsals a fun and worshipful experience. He had a passion for words. God’s word and the words of Christian songs were very important to him. As he planned worship services, he asked God to direct him to lead the congregation to change in the way He desired. That was reflected in every service he led.

David was a LifeGroup / Sunday School teacher during most of his ministry. He had an amazing knowledge of God’s word and was able to communicate it well.

David is survived by his father and mother, Joe and Marie Elder; his wife, Marcia Elder; sons, Jamison (Amanda) and Brandon (Amber) and six grandchildren who held his heart completely – Grayson, Jude, Henry, Ezekiel, Mabel and Shiloh; sisters, Denise Page (Danny) and Donna Brannon (Bill); and Marcia’s mother, Louise Blanton, siblings, Rhonda (LeGran), Brenda (Boomer) and Donnie (Madalyn); and multiple nieces and nephews.

A celebration of David’s life will be held at 11 am on Saturday, January 11, 2025 at Anastasia Baptist Church. A visitation beginning at 10 am will precede the service. Those unable to attend can the service live streamed at: <https://www.anastasiachurch.org/livestream.aspx>. In lieu of flowers, donations in

David's memory can be made to: Anastasia Baptist Church Building Fund,
1650 A1A South, St. Augustine, Florida 32084 or to Community Hospice of
NE FL., 4266 Sunbeam Road, Jacksonville, Florida 32257

St. Johns Family Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 11. 10:00 AM (ET)

Anastasia Baptist Church
1650 A1A South
St. Augustine, FL 32080

A Celebration of Life

JAN 11. 11:00 AM (ET)

Anastasia Baptist Church
1650 A1A South
St. Augustine, FL 32080

Tribute Wall



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Dr. Joe David Elder Jr..*



January 10, 2025 at 03:14 PM



“ *Beau Crum purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Dr. Joe David Elder Jr..*



Beau Crum - January 08, 2025 at 12:58 PM

JM

“ When David and Marcia first came to the Victorian Carolers, I didn't know what a treasure we received. They were a very handsome couple, but I had not heard their voices. They added strength and musical artistry to our group. Soon, David was a soloist at our DisneyWorld Performances, our trumpeter, also in the men's small ensemble. Marcia became a soloist also. When Jamison and Brandon were old enough, they joined the Victorian Carolers also. My Husband, Tom, especially enjoyed singing with David, and the Elder men and Mezzano men became a powerful force across the back row of the choir. David was one of the 3 Kings and one of the Merry Gentleman. We were grateful every year for his family's participation. They were always there, and I could always count on them for 25 years. Singing at Disneyworld was an amazing experience, and seeing our kids grow up and join the group and sing with us was priceless. We also were invited to sing at Anastasia Baptist 1 or 2 times. As parents, the family experience provided life long memories. David was so humble despite his great contribution and talent. He was always respectful and quiet at rehearsals. 😊

We came to worship several times at Anastasia Baptist and received the musical grace of David and his family. I appreciated him more everytime I saw his gifts being shared. Thank you David, for your loving kindness, and sharing your voice, trumpet descants and family with Disneyworld, The Victorian Carolers, and our Christmas Album. We miss you so much. Love, Jeannie & Tom

Jeannie Mezzano - January 08, 2025 at 12:38 PM

WF

“ I didn't know Pastor David well, but I always admired, respected and appreciated him for his talent, humor and dedication to his family and his church. I loved his choice of songs for the choir, and I loved it when he and Marcia sang together and when they sang individually. Although there is peace in his passing, there is also grief; but we know Pastor David is now singing in the presence of the God he served and loved. Wanda Fuller

Wanda Fuller - January 08, 2025 at 09:05 AM

RH

“ Rachel Hart lit a candle in memory of Dr. Joe David Elder Jr.



Rachel Hart - January 07, 2025 at 09:19 PM

RH

What a wonderful man of God was he with compassion. Will miss you on earth.

Rachel Hart - January 07, 2025 at 09:21 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Joe David Elder Jr..

January 07, 2025 at 08:06 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Joe David Elder Jr..



January 07, 2025 at 08:06 PM



“ Love, The Daffins purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Dr. Joe David Elder Jr..



Love, The Daffins - January 07, 2025 at 02:45 PM



“ The Stevens sisters from Bonny Drive purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Dr. Joe David Elder Jr..



The Stevens sisters from Bonny Drive - January 06, 2025 at 04:35 PM



“ The Stevens sisters from Bonny Drive planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Joe David Elder Jr..

The Stevens sisters from Bonny Drive - January 06, 2025 at 04:35 PM

KW

“ I knew David Elder because I went to the same church he directed music for. Even though I'd gone to the church since I was 6 years old, I had a hard time making friends and in high school I had a hard time feeling I belonged anywhere. David Elder allowed me, when I was a teenager, to join the adults and play in the orchestra with them and I really felt like I really belonged somewhere in the church. David was one of the kindest and most sincere people I've ever met.

Kenny Worth - January 06, 2025 at 01:30 PM

MA

Kenny who sure could use your talents again, we miss you. Know you are busy with family and work. But wanted you to know!

Margaret - January 06, 2025 at 05:49 PM

FR

“ I knew David from Boca Raton High School as we were both in band. A mutual friend alerted me to his passing. Such sad news. Our loss is Heaven's gain of a new Lead Trumpet.

Frank - January 06, 2025 at 09:47 AM

“ Sorrowful, yet rejoicing.

David Elder and Marcia Blanton Elder will never know how many lives were impacted for the kingdom of God because of their willingness to follow God's call on their lives - including mine.

This couple served at our church, First Baptist Church of Middleburg, from the time I was in middle school through high school. David was our Minister of Music and Marcia was not only his bride - she was a rock for him. The two were a dynamic couple for Jesus with angelic voices.

And during that time, our church went through a split, and we were suddenly in need of a youth minister. David (and Marcia) stepped up - and they were exceptional leading the youth, too. They helped us refocus on Jesus and not the church's challenges. I didn't know at that time how God used their discernment, wisdom, faithfulness, discretion, trust, righteousness, humility, grace, and strength to get us through that tough time and model for other believers how to respond if/when in a similar situation. I know now. And I am eternally grateful.

They took the time to get to know each of the youth individually, while also raising their sons, and while also serving as the adults in the Music Ministry.

Then, when I was a freshman at UF, imagine my surprise when I walked into Music Appreciation and standing at the podium was Mr. Elder! Apparently, God knew I needed the Elders in my life to teach and guide me beyond my high school years.

Over the years, they also encouraged me, prayed with me, and spoke truth in love to me, and I am eternally grateful.

While my heart aches that this man's ministry has come to an end, his legacy will live on through the lives of those he impacted, which

will impact the next generation...and then the next...and so on.

Marcia, Brandon, Jamison, and family - our hearts and our prayers are with you. Thank you for sharing your husband, dad, grandpa, son, etc. with so many like me. We are blessed.

Susan Tucker Johnson - January 05, 2025 at 06:16 PM

MC

“ My first memory of David was speaking with him over the phone during an interview as I was part of the search committee to bring new Minister of Music. The whole conversation was so comfortable and real. I could feel his genuine love for the Lord and could tell he would focus on sharing that love with all he came in touch with. I remember laughing so hard during orchestra each week and wondering what bit of humor he would put into each weekly practice. I remember working with him at SAHS as band parents especially during band competition. He was the parent who drove the vehicle to pick up trash, where the girl student volunteers were talking about new cute boy in band. He would ask them questions egging them on to show him who they were talking about even though he already knew and then drove up and said hi to Jamer. The girls were mortified but David had such fun with it. Then it came time for my daughter Julia to leave for college. My husband gave her a special stool for sitting on while playing string bass. It was painted like a cow with udders. Well she left it to David for safe keeping while she was gone. Of course he used it in the choir room to sit on during choir rehearsals. But these are only a few of the many memories I have in my heart. We also shared Sillysocks with each other regularly. Besides his sense of humor he also knew just the right thing seriously when it needed to be said. Family came first and he was the first to say if there was a family event on a Wednesday or Sunday that we should be with family. I remember him as my Life group leader who would say I may not always be able to answer you questions about the scripture but we can ask them when we get to heaven. Heaven gained a wonderful Christian man, excellent trumpeter and singer. But I'm sure he is talking with others who went there before him all about history of music they wrote. Marcia and family my prayers and love are ever present. Please reach out, Margaret Cody

Margaret Cody - January 05, 2025 at 02:54 PM

KS

“ *Karalee & Stan purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dr. Joe David Elder Jr..*



Karalee & Stan - January 05, 2025 at 02:16 PM