



Elizabeth Mabry Tucker was born on December 16, 1941.

She is the oldest of three children, all daughters, born to Elvin and Otelia Mabry. The Mabry's owned a farm on Route 40 in Dinwiddie County, approximately 9 miles West of Stony Creek; where they grew peanuts, tobacco, corn and cotton.

Ms. Tucker attended Masontown Elementary School in Dinwiddie County and graduated from Southside High School in 1960.

During her senior year, Elizabeth met Reynold Tucker. Mr. Tucker was a native of Dinwiddie County and was a professional bricklayer and carpenter.

After graduation, Ms. Tucker worked with her father on the farm. She remembers driving the mules as they pulled the lime sower along the rows of peanuts. She also remembers when Hurricane Hazel blew through and knocked down all of their peanut shocks, which had to be rebuilt quickly in order to save the crop. Farming was hard work, but very rewarding.

Elizabeth's first job away from the farm was with Virginia Linen in Petersburg.

While working at Virginia Linen, she learned that the Principal of Southside High School was in need of a secretary/bookkeeper. As a child, Elizabeth wanted to own a store and then wanted to be a nurse; but since she always enjoyed bookkeeping, Elizabeth applied for the job. She began working at Southside High School in 1964. Over the years, this position fulfilled both of her childhood ambitions. She kept the books for the school and was the "storekeeper" or go-to person when students needed items for an assignment or project. She was also a "nurse" to many students who came to her with minor ailments and/or complaints. Students loved her and she loved them.

Elizabeth Mabry married Reynold Tucker in 1965 and the couple made their home in Dinwiddie County. They raised two daughters, Chevone and Allison; and one son, Monte.

During her career, Mrs. Tucker worked under 11 principals, but never left the building where she started. Following integration, Southside High School became Dinwiddie County Junior High School, and eventually Dinwiddie Middle School. Mrs. Tucker retired in 2010, after 46 years of employment.

Mrs. Tucker has nothing but fond memories of her career. She was working during the "Freedom of Choice" years, and recalls that full integration took place in 1969, while she was on maternity leave. Despite what was happening in many schools across the nation, she doesn't recall any significant issues in her building. Mrs. Tucker shared that she "enjoyed working with all students."

She remembers when bookkeeping was done through a "double entry" system. This was time consuming but efficient. When the County transitioned to the "One Write" system, Mrs. Tucker remembers thinking it was much easier. When the directive came that

they would begin using the computer-based “Manatee” system, Mrs. Tucker got nervous. This was entirely different from the pen and ledger systems she was accustomed to, and she wasn’t sure she could do it. Mrs. Tucker took the advice that she regularly gave to students and her own children, “If you set your mind to it, that’s what you’ll do.” She attended a 1-day training on the new system and instantly knew that this was going to be a good move.

Mrs. Tucker was known for her impeccable and meticulous bookkeeping. She remembers an auditor, at one point, telling her principal that “Everything here is roses”.

Ms. Tucker has been a member of Little Bethel Baptist Church since she was 11 years old. Her pastor is Rev. David L. Banks, Sr. She sings in the Senior Choir, serves as Secretary of the Usher Ministry and helps coordinate programs and activities for the youth, Children’s Day and Christmas. Ms. Tucker continues to enjoy preparing the church bulletins each Sunday, as she has done for the past 45 years.

Ms. Tucker is a member of the Southside High School Alumni Association and currently serves as Treasurer. After all these years, she’s still keeping the books!

In her free time, Ms. Tucker enjoys her computer, and has plans to re-engage with the Golden Living Nursing Home, where she volunteered in the past. She enjoys talking with people and helping whenever and wherever she is able.

Ms. Tucker is especially proud of her three grandchildren: Nichelle, Sa’myah, and Grayson; as well as her two great-grandchildren: Aniya and Jaiden.