

An assistant principal at Atlantic Shores Christian Academy was wounded Friday in this classroom.

"As soon as Hutch tackled him, another shot went off. At that time, as soon as I saw Hutch get a little control over him, some guys and I went over and got the gun from him and I proceeded out the door."

Wright carried the gun outside to take to the pastor.

"I was in shock and a little dazed," Wright said. He headed toward the nearby sanctuary, but saw a teacher first. "I told the teacher to take the gun, I don't want it anymore. I was told to go to the sanctuary."

In the sanctuary, Wright said, "Everyone just prayed. Some people were in prayer groups, and some people were just praying alone.

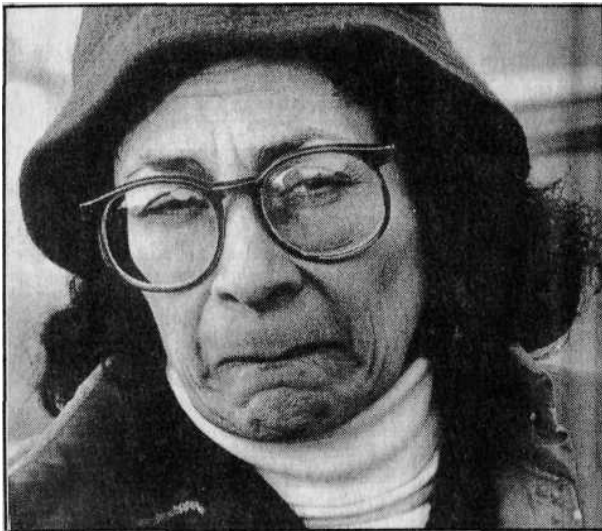
"The locking up of the gun — that was just a miracle in its own. That's what you call a true miracle."

About 40 children witnessed the shootings. The chaos that followed saw students and teachers crying and anxious parents arriving to take their children home. Administrators quickly put the children in the church and convened an emergency meeting. They soon realized Farley was missing.

Police then began a search of the classrooms. When one officer could not open the door to Farley's portable, he broke the glass and found her dead by the door.

"How do (the students) cope with this?" asked James Cornish, supervisor of emergency services unit for Virginia Beach Comprehensive Mental Health Services.

Cornish said the staff will be on alert for the next 72 hours to help students and teachers deal with post-trauma stress. He said the most severely affected are students who were in the classroom at the time of shooting.



Donna Atol, from the Virginia Beach Social Services Trauma Team, is overcome outside the school.

Marino, the father of children aged 4 and 7, was treated for a gunshot wound through the shoulder at Sentara Norfolk General. "He's doing well; he's doing well," said Jackie Marino, Sam Marino's 36-year-old wife who was at her husband's hospital bedside.

"God knows everything that is supposed to happen," she said, and smiled. "He knew this would happen — He knows the future, the past and the present. I get my strength from Jesus Christ."

Sweet said his church is ministering to the faculty members, families and students at the school. He said the students are "shocked and stunned."

The church offices will be open Saturday to offer "counseling and consultation."

"Now it is up to us as Christians to pull together," Sweet said.

The school originally planned to close on Wednesday for Christmas but now will be closed Monday. Sweet said it possibly may open for some special sessions for the

children, but he will consult with professionals to get their advice.

"It might be a good idea to bring them back for a bonding situation," Sweet said.

A memorial service will be planned in conjunction with the funeral. Farley was a member of Faith Baptist Church in Chesapeake.

To keep parents informed and put them at ease, the church held a special meeting for parents at 7 p.m.

Atlantic Shores Baptist Church has been in existence seven years; the school has been open four years. The church began with 65 students and now has 510.

"I used to think that you'd be safe in a church," said Dianne Elliott, whose son is a ninth-grader. "This proves this can happen anywhere."

Dianne Elliott is of no relation to the suspect.

Kathy Pollak, whose daughter took geometry from Farley, said other parents were shocked that the incident took place at a Christian school, but they shouldn't be.

"Not everyone who goes to a Christian school is close to the Lord, saved or perfect. What can I say?"

Mark Shallenberg, a 12-year-old seventh-grader who had Farley as his second-bell math teacher and counted the suspect as one of his friends, said: "This morning I noticed when I said 'Hi' to him he seemed kind of distant, like he was thinking of something.

"I just didn't know. ... He wasn't one of the most popular kids around school but, yeah, he had friends.

"He was always real nice and happy. He was never angry."

Contributing to this story were staff writers Mark O'Keefe, Rose Ellen O'Connor, Debbie Messina, Beverly Shepard and Joe Jackson.