



Barbara Strickland Smith

January 17, 1933 - September 25, 2021

Barbara Strickland Smith, 88, met the beloved Savior she always called "the Lord Jesus Christ" on September 25, 2021 in Greer Memorial Hospital, of new and aggressive cancer in her spine.

She was born January 17, 1933 in Sciotoville, OH, to Sally and Noah Strickland, of nearby Wheelersburg. They had three girls and three boys, of which she was the fourth child. She attended Wheelersburg High School, and then worked at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant at Piketon, OH, which enriched uranium.

She met and married Robert Don (Bob) Smith in Albuquerque in 1969. They combined their families—five children and poodle, Tuffy—and during their 51.9-year marriage, they lived in Albuquerque, Denver, Colorado Springs, Potomac, MD, Chattanooga, Stamford, CT, and six years in the London borough of Richmond, England. They came to Greenville in 1993, and each lived here longer than any other place. Both have loved it and its people.

Very friendly and sociable, Barbara joined Newcomers of Greater Greenville almost immediately, and in her second year, she was nominated for President, where she served well as Newcomers grew. In those days, one had to drop out after three years, and she hated to leave that multitude of new friends.

She and Bob joined Shannon Forest Presbyterian Church (now Eastside Presbyterian) the first year. There, she was known by everyone as "the sweetest lady in the church," but especially by the children, who loved her. She never failed to speak to them, listen to them, joke with them, compliment and encourage them—at church, in her neighborhood, in Publix, Walmart...anywhere. She also had a gift for bonding with women—really knowing them, then empathizing, sharing, supporting, and encouraging.

Growing up with brothers, she was always athletic. She loved tennis and golf and played them pretty well, even making a hole-in-one at Thornblade and winning their Ladies Net Championship in 1999.

Her joyful, positive nature served her and her family very well as she struggled with dementia. She never lost her sense of humor; she was a joy until the cancer and other problems overwhelmed her body, and all who knew her were blessed in some way.

She is survived by her husband, younger sister, Judith Raker (Jay) of Franklin, TN, sister-

in-law, Anne Strickland of Cocoa Beach, FL, daughters Leslie Anita Woods (Bobby) of Anderson, SC, Kimberly Ann Gallo (Danny) of Stamford, CT, Patricia Gail Stevenson (Tom) of Weston, CT, sons Richard Daniel Smith of Bahir Dar, Ethiopia, and Michael Allen Smith of Colorado Springs, seven grandchildren, and thirteen greatgrandchildren.

A visitation for all will be held at 11:00am, Saturday, October 9, 2021 at Eastside Presbyterian Church, 830 Garlington Road 29615, followed by a celebration of her life at noon. All are welcome, and masks are at the visitor's discretion. The service will be streamed on the YouTube and Facebook channels of Eastside Presbyterian Church. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Eastside Presbyterian Church (EastsidePres.com) or the Alzheimer's Association (Alz.org).

Online condolences may be made to www.thewoodmortuary.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

Eastside Presbyterian Church
830 Garlington Road
Greer, SC 29651

Memorial Service

OCT 9. 12:00 PM (ET)

Eastside Presbyterian Church
830 Garlington Road
Greer, SC 29651

Tribute Wall

CF

“ *Cindy and Larry King and families purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Barbara Strickland Smith.*



Cindy and Larry King and families - October 07, 2021 at 09:03 PM

CK

“ *We are so very sorry to hear of Aunt Barb's passing but know and believe she is without pain and suffering and now at peace in the presence of our Lord. Our family will always be grateful for and will never forget the fun times we spent together in Ohio, along with her sister Judy. Barb was truly an extraordinary person and will be greatly and sadly missed.*



Sending our love to Uncle Bob and all of the family,

*Cindy and Larry King and girls (Krista/Jer, Erica/Curtis, Anna/Kaleb)
Tim and Jeff Shumate*

Cindy King - October 07, 2021 at 08:54 PM

KT

“ *Oh Bob, Gail, Kim and Anita (and all of your family}. You're mom was one of a kind. She was just such a sweet woman and I can't remember when she wasn't smiling!!! She brought so much joy to soooo many lives!!! Now she's with God, what could be greater!!!!*

*Love you all,
Kim Tussey*

Kim Tussey - October 05, 2021 at 08:58 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Barbara Strickland Smith.*



October 04, 2021 at 12:20 PM



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JG

“ My grandmother Smith was truly a gift in this world. Her love would radiate with everyone she came in contact with. Her laughter, her smile, and words of encouragement is what I see when I think about her. I am very blessed to have had this woman as my grandmother. When times were hard she would always make me feel better and help me put things in proper perspective. Grandma, something inside told me to call you 3 days before you left and I am so thankful that your last words to me were "I love you". I love you grandma and I look forward to a big family reunion in paradise. Thank you for all you have done for me in my life.

I miss you and love you very much!

Jason Gage - October 03, 2021 at 11:44 AM

JD

“ *When I think of Grandma, I see the goodness of God, and the light of Jesus. She was upbeat, always happy, and a ray of sunshine. She made you feel welcome, and listened to every word you said, making you feel important, and like you were the only person in the room. She had a great sense of humor, and exuded such a peace about her. She was a kind, and beautiful person. She was the type of person that everyone would hope to brush paths with, at least once in their lifetime, then there would be no question for anyone at all to wonder about the existence of God.*

josie desimone - October 02, 2021 at 07:57 PM

CK

“ *Grandma Smith is a beautiful soul with a wonderful and infectious smile and laugh. I will forever remember the ways that she would just sit and listen to whatever it is you wanted to talk about and she was so genuinely interested. She paid attention to the details. She was always so excited about life and testing her skills. She introduced me to Tennis, golf, and bowling to which she was the best player I knew of any of them. I know that the people that knew and live her will miss her for all the same reasons in do.*



Chris Kotke - October 01, 2021 at 09:22 PM

RB

“ *Uncle Bob, we are all so sorry that Aunt Barb is no longer with you here on earth. We know that she is not only without pain now but joyous in the presence of her savior and the beloved saints of her family who have gone before her. May you find comfort that the two of you found each other in life and that you both loved and were loved well by one another.
You are in our prayers.
Bob and Rayna Browning*

Rayna Browning - October 01, 2021 at 07:35 PM

JN

“ Barbara is an incredible woman. Theresa and I love the spunk and humor Barbara shared with the room. We always felt included and valued by her in our time with her. When our families came together Barbara brought her smile and the love of Jesus - that is, the literal living presence of God Himself. We enjoyed many years in a small group together with Bob and Barbara and found ourselves thankful for their interest in the lives of others. I will remember Barbara for her smile and the way she brought positive energy into the room. Barbara = fun, uplifting and exciting.

I look forward to celebrating with Barbara again better than any Super bowl party or dwindling ceremony - Eternity above and beyond our wildest expectations - enjoy all things new and made right, Barbara. See you soon.

Josh Neuer - October 01, 2021 at 10:21 AM

GE

“ We loved seeing Barbara at our annual Christmas parties. She lit up the room as much as the decorations. We were blessed to know her and will miss her, and are grateful that part of her will live on in Bob and her family.

Greg English - September 30, 2021 at 09:45 AM