



Jeanelle Smith Stephens

July 7, 1945 - June 2, 2021

Jeanelle Smith Stephens, passed away peacefully to be with her Lord and Savior, on Wednesday, June 2, 2021, at Signature Health Care in Georgetown, Kentucky. She was preceded in death by her beloved daughter, Mara Beth Crosthwaite, her parents, Jim Smith, and Geneva Lynn Inmon Smith, her brothers, Ocial Smith and Frank Smith, and a twin sister, Jeanette Smith Sparks.

Born July 7, 1945, in Kenton, Ohio, Jeanelle moved back to Breathitt County Kentucky with her family after World War II. She graduated from Breathitt County High School and received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Morehead State University. Jeanelle met Bob in July 1988, and they married in February 1989.

Survivors include Jeanelle's husband, Robert (Bob) Stephens, two stepchildren, Thomas Barrow Stephens (Leigh), Nancy Lindley Phillips (Mark, Jr.), and four grandchildren, Mark Dudley Phillips III, Elizabeth Barrow Buchanan Stephens, Robert Walker Phillips, and Thomas Clay Phillips. Survivors also include three nieces, Karen Smith, Edmona Brooke Smith, and Elizabeth Hodges, and two nephews, James Sparks and Randy Smith, and numerous great nieces and nephews.

Jeanelle was a cherished mother to her daughter Mara Beth, whom she lost in

an automobile accident in 1998, at the age of 23. She was a doting grandmother who was lovingly called Mimeo. Jeanelle was a 44-year member of South Frankfort Presbyterian Church, who served her faith in many capacities; among these were Deacon, Sunday School teacher, and as a soprano in the Choir. She was a talented and hardworking Deacon who took care of her flock, and her sense of fairness was legendary. Along with her church life, Jeanelle was a proud member of the SFPC Friday Night Group. A professional educator, Jeanelle taught elementary education in South Carolina before returning to Kentucky where she then taught 34 years at Hearn Elementary School in Frankfort. She taught with distinction with her friends and teammates Lucy Sherrard, Ruth Derrington, Amy Ballard, and Becky Bishop. After retiring from public education Jeanelle taught kindergarten at the Frankfort Christian Academy.

Visitation will be Saturday morning on June 5, 2021, at 11:00 AM and will be followed by a memorial service at 12:00 PM at South Frankfort Presbyterian Church, located at 224 Steele Street in Frankfort, KY. Attendees are asked to exercise CDC guidelines while at the church services. A burial service will follow at the Frankfort Cemetery at 1:00 PM conducted by the Rev. Marian Taylor. Pall bearers will be her grandchildren, great nieces, and nephews. The family wishes to recognize Stacy Caldwell with Home Instead Senior Care, the staff at Signature Healthcare, and the staff of Bluegrass Navigators (Hospice Care) for the special care they provided. Contributions in her honor may be made to South Frankfort Presbyterian Church, 224 Steele Street, Frankfort, KY 40601.

Arrangements are under the direction of Harrod Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 5. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

South Frankfort Presbyterian Church
224 Steele St
Frankfort, KY 40601

Service

JUN 5. 12:00 PM (ET)

South Frankfort Presbyterian Church
224 Steele St
Frankfort, KY 40601

Tribute Wall



“ *Jeanelle Smith Stephens*

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *Sending sincere condolences to Bob, and to all Jeanelle's family. May God comfort you. Remember you will be together again, where there are no tears or pain.*



Laura Malena - June 05, 2021 at 07:37 PM



“ *Cindi Rutledge Parrish lit a candle in memory of Jeanelle Smith Stephens*



Cindi Rutledge Parrish - June 05, 2021 at 09:33 AM



Jeanelle was a wonderful person. Her and Mara Beth were our neighbor for years on Birchwood. She was so full of life and love. She will be missed. Condolences to Bob and family.

Cindi Rutledge Parrish - June 05, 2021 at 09:36 AM

VB

“ *My heart hurts at the loss of my friend, Jeanelle, but I know she is rejoicing in heaven with Mara Beth and Jeanette. She has missed them so. Her sweet smile and generous nature will be missed by all who loved her. My prayers go out for Bob and all of her family and friends. She will be missed.*

Vanessa Betsworth

Vanessa Betsworth - June 04, 2021 at 08:37 PM

BC

“ *Bill And Edmonia Cooley lit a candle in memory of Jeanelle Smith Stephens*



Bill and Edmonia Cooley - June 04, 2021 at 07:34 PM

JS

“ *Jenny L. Smith lit a candle in memory of Jeanelle Smith Stephens*



Jenny L. Smith - June 04, 2021 at 06:37 PM

WH

“ *Jeanelle was not only one of my favorite teachers, but favorite people. She always had a zest for life and an infectious laugh. She was also very helpful to me after I lost my daughter. While I am sorry that this world is a little more dim without her here, I am so thankful that she is no longer dealing with diabetes, cancer, and effects of a stroke. She is rejoicing with her siblings and her beloved Mara Beth. Prayers for Bob and her entire family as they say goodbye to an amazing woman, teacher, and friend.*

I'm sure they had some diet coke waiting for her in heaven! :)

Whitney Howard - June 04, 2021 at 03:54 PM

JM

“ *Jeanell will be remembered for her valuable contribution to the education of many children and for her many friendships*
Jo Carole Morris

jo Carole Morris - June 04, 2021 at 01:58 PM

AW

“ *I am so very sorry to hear of Mrs. Stephens passing. She was a wonderful teacher to my daughter. I know she will be missed by her family and friends. Prayers for all who loved her.*

Angie Wallingford - June 04, 2021 at 12:05 PM