



Clara Smith

October 31, 1927 - May 17, 2020

Clara Smith, 92, of Miramar, FL (formerly of Riverdale, GA) went peacefully to her eternal home on Sunday, May, 17, 2020. She was born on October 31, 1927 in Caruthersville, MO to the late J.W. and Amanda Cobb. Clara attended Lee College (now known as Lee University) where she met her husband, Arthur Smith. They were married in May, 1948 and began their ministry together. They spent over 50 years pastoring in the Church of God, 44 of those year at the Riverdale Church of God. She was currently a member of New Heritage Church of God in Tyrone, GA. Clara taught school for over 20 years in the Clayton County Public School System and six years at Riverdale Christian Academy. She loved her family and nothing pleased her more than spending time with them.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, Reverend Arthur H. Smith, five brothers and one sister. She is survived by her children, Carol (Gary) Anderson of McDonough, GA; Cheryl (Mark) Medlin of Fayetteville, GA; Nathan (Kristi) Smith of Miramar, FL. Grandchildren: Jason (Stephanie) Anderson, Brent (April) Anderson, Amanda (Will) Hodge, Phillip (Amanda) Medlin, Rebekah (Matt) Armstrong, Emily (Jordan) Horne, Olivia Medlin, Clark (Samantha) Medlin, Natalie (Chip) Young and Jonathan Smith.

Great-Grandchildren: Kylie, Luke, Evan, Corban, Caleb, Max & Maggie Anderson, Jack, Aidan, Kate & Amelia Medlin, Jonah, Norah, Ava & Noah Armstrong, Lucy & Evelyn Horne, and Connor Young.

The family will have a private graveside service with Dr. Mark H. Medlin

officiating. A video of the service and a celebration of life video will be available at

www.parrottfuneralhome.com

The family is asking in lieu of flowers to donate on her behalf to the “Clara Smith Memorial Fund at Lee University (her Alma-mater). Donations can be made as follows:

MAIL a check to Lee University with “Clara Smith Memorial” in the memo line to: Lee University, Central Gifts, P O Box 3450, Cleveland, TN 37320-3450

ONLINE by going to:

www.leeuniversity.edu/give When the form loads, click fund and choose “other” in the drop down box and in the comment box list- “Clara Smith Memorial Fund.”

EMAIL the university directly with your credit card information at: centralgifts@leeuniversity.edu

Tribute Wall



“ Working at Starbucks in Fayetteville, Ga, I had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Clara. She became such a great friend and my daughter and I loved her with all of our hearts.



Kristie Williams - October 11, 2022 at 09:45 AM

DM

“ Mrs. Clara Smith was the embodiment of grace, elegance, and unwavering kindness. I had the privilege and honor of meeting her and the entire “Smith “ family over 15 years ago. Mrs. Smith and family represent the best of the “human spirit”. My life changed forever after meeting this family led by the Matriarch, Mrs. Clara Smith. Her indomitable spirit and “presence” was felt each time I would speak with her. I considered her a dear friend and I loved her deeply. It has been said that “prayer is the key to the kingdom and faith unlocks the door. Mrs. Clara Smith’s faith was as strong as a tidal wave. She is surely in heaven, proudly looking down on all of us. My life has been enriched by having her “be a part of it.” I would like to extend my deepest condolences and sympathies to the entire Smith family. May you Rest In Peace.

Your friend,

Dale C. Holly, MD

Dale C. Holly, MD - May 25, 2020 at 10:52 PM

CF

“ My Aunt Clara was my grandfather’s beautiful baby sister. I don’t remember a time seeing her that she did not have a smile on her face or laughing about something. I have so many precious memories, too many to mention, but I can say this... she was loved by many and will be missed. This is, however, but a temporary separation. We will see you soon, Aunt Clara.

Connie Fullhart - May 25, 2020 at 04:16 AM

CN

“ Clara Smith was my mother Joyce’ sister. I loved Aunt Clara very much. She was a great lady. I remember as a child going to their house. She was a great cook! I always enjoyed when she came to Grandmas house so I could see her. She was full of wisdom and love. When Uncle Arthur passed I would call her on the phone often. She always enjoyed Reminiscing. She missed her husband so much. I am thankful I saved a voicemail of her precious. She was always kind to me I can hear her say “I love you hun”. Until we meet again. I will miss you and always love you.



Cathy Hamra Naifeh - May 23, 2020 at 11:11 AM

MB

“ Clara Smith ,what a great and beautiful lady !My daughter Kristi is married to her son Nathan. She always said she had three daughters because Brother Smith and Clara always loved her from the time they started dating in High School till Brother Smith Married them in his Church ! We enjoyed talking about the Grandchildren we shared ,We had a lot of celebrations over the years, with large families it is always someone’s birthday!! I considered her a really good friend and loved her very much ! I will miss her so much 🙏🙏

Martha Biggers - May 22, 2020 at 04:32 PM

SH

“ To my dear friend Clara,

At the age of 20 I started to attend Riverdale Church of God. As I started to attend me and Sister Smith became good friends and as time went on we became even closer. I found out she liked to walked and we would walk 3-4 times a week for years. We would share and talk about our children and family. We had wonderful times on those walks. She was a wonderful and true friend, and Pastor's wife. She will surely be missed by all.

Shirley Holloway and Family

Shirley Holloway - May 22, 2020 at 04:11 PM

NS

She still talked about yall walking. Just 3 weeks ago she said yall walked in the morning and then decided to walk in the late evening too

Nathan Smith - May 22, 2020 at 06:08 PM

 Lynn
Thompsor

“ *I am going to miss my buddy... She always made me feel so special !! I will always remember her smile !! She could light up a room. My heart goes out to all of the Medlins and extended family in the loss of this precious lady !*

Signed: Lynn Thompson

Lynn Thompson - May 22, 2020 at 08:12 AM

MW

“ *Sister Smith was such a beautiful lady and such a big part of my life as a teenager. The Smith, Medlin & Anderson family shaped my life forever. My heart and prayers are with you all. May God wrap his arms around each of you with peace.*

*Love,
Michelle (Smith) Warburton*

Michelle Warburton - May 22, 2020 at 12:09 AM

NS

“ *This has been a crazy 11 days, filled with up's and down's, emotions, loss and void. I know that my mom is in a better place, joining my dad and all the others that have gone before her. I am so thankful for her incredible 92 ½ years and the impact she has had on my life and to the lives of so many others. It's not easy being a minister's wife for 55 years, while raising 3 children and being a school teacher for 30 years as well. Love was her first name, patience her middle and compassion her last. I am overwhelmingly glad for the 3 years we have been privileged that she has lived with us in Miami. And even in bad situations as this virus, I cannot thank God enough for the 10 weeks working from home where I was with her daily. Having breakfast, lunch breaks and coffee on the patio, evenings of TV, movies and talk. With every bad situation good can come forth and for this I am extremely thankful. She was an incredible mom, grandmother, great grandmother, prayer warrior, example, mentor, friend and I thank God daily that I could call her mom. One day we will all meet again. I love you mom!*

Nathan Smith - May 21, 2020 at 11:09 PM

ED

“ When I first met Sister Smith I was visiting Riverdale Church of God with my soon to be husband, Donald Dyche. She and Bro. Smith accepted me immediately as if I had always been there. They didn't know that I was a little Baptist girl who had never seen people run the aisles or heard people speak in a strange language that I couldn't understand. But, after I visited a few more times I almost understood what was going on. Now I feel as though I've always been a part of all that praise and worship stuff. Sister Smith always treated me with love and kindness and for that I am most thankful! I will miss seeing her but, I know that one day we will be reunited with her and our loved ones that have gone on before us!

Elaine Dyche - May 21, 2020 at 09:07 PM

DG

“ Sister smith will be missed by all of your family and her friends, she was a joy to be around and Dianne and I shall miss her although we only knew her a short time. She always reminded us that she was a go go girl. She is now in her heavenly home United with her husband and all her family and friends that went before her. She is now shouting Hallelujahs for an eternity.

David and Dianne Gilmore - May 21, 2020 at 08:21 PM

NA

“ There was nothing like hearing her laugh. She would bring you in close to her to “whisper” with her hand over her mouth before laughing and patting you on the shoulder. She loved Arthur Smith her husband, aka my “Papa”, Amarige perfume, Evian water, time with her family, statement jewelry, having her hair and nails done, “going on a drive”, “a good movie”, and just being out and about. She loved a “white chocolate mocha” (sometimes she would laugh and say “mocho”), a fish sandwich from McDonald’s, and a PayDay bar. Riverdale was her home for so many years and where she kept so many grandchildren over for sleepovers and then would make them “grandmothers toast” in the morning. She was such a beautiful person inside and out. I will miss her so.

Natalie - May 21, 2020 at 08:16 PM

BH

“ Barbara Hillis lit a candle in memory of Clara Smith



Barbara Hillis - May 21, 2020 at 08:03 PM

JL

“ Clara’s cheese biscuits would melt in your mouth! I have many happy memories of spending time with her and Arthur at their home in Riverdale. May God comfort you in the loss of your Mom/Grandmother.

Jill Lucas - May 21, 2020 at 03:57 PM

NS

Those were fun times. I remember us going to play putt putt in Forest Park

Nathan Smith - May 22, 2020 at 01:04 PM

DM

Mrs. Clara Smith was the embodiment of grace, elegance, and unwavering kindness. I had the privilege and honor of meeting her and the entire "Smith" family over 15 years ago. Mrs. Smith and family represent the best of the "human spirit". My life changed forever after meeting this family led by the Matriarch, Mrs. Clara Smith. Her indomitable spirit and "presence" was felt each time I would speak with her. I considered her a dear friend and I loved her deeply. It has been said that "prayer is the key to the kingdom and faith unlocks the door. Mrs. Clara Smith's faith was as strong as a tidal wave. She is surely in heaven, proudly looking down on all of us. My life has been enriched by having her "be a part of it." I would like to extend my deepest condolences and sympathies to the entire Smith family. May you Rest In Peace.

Your friend,

Dale C. Holly, MD

Dale C. Holly, MD - May 25, 2020 at 10:03 PM