



# Barbara Jane Williams Sands

JUL 14, 1944 - OCT 22, 2025



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MEMORIAL PARK  
Funeral Home & Cemetery

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# Barbara Jane Williams Sands

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## **B**arbara Jane Williams Sands 1944 - 2025

Barbara Jane Williams Sands passed peacefully in her home, surrounded by her family on October 22, 2025. Born July 14, 1944 in Charleston, West Virginia, she lived in Memphis since 1953. After graduating from Messick High School and the University of Memphis (where she served as music director of Alpha Gamma Delta and earned the crown in the Miss Frayser Pageant), she started a career in education, teaching Religion and English at St. Mary's Episcopal School, Language Arts at the Hutchison School, freshman English at University of Memphis and later serving as Assistant Director of Governor's School for International Studies.

She was active in Holy Communion Episcopal Church and taught Sunday school, led the music curriculum for summer camp, and participated in various book groups and Bible studies. Barbara and William (Sandy) spent many years hiking with their friends and critiquing films with their movie group. Barbara also loved her Mah Jongg groups and Dilettante friends, serving as president of the study group in 2014.

She lived life to the fullest and enjoyed many talents, including singing, dancing, sewing (her blue ribbon quilt, smocked dresses, a dress line) and cooking (her beautiful pies). She was an accomplished writer, going back mid-life to earn a Master's in English, winning awards from Memphis Magazine and Southeast Review and doing post-graduate work at the University of Mississippi and Wesleyan College. However, above all else, she loved her family and the time they spent together playing board games, swimming, hiking in the Smoky Mountains and, in later life, enjoying their cabin at Greers Ferry, Arkansas – boating and watching stars around the bonfire. She was known for her annual Christmas party, where the family gathered and children performed, and for making friends everywhere.

Barbara is survived by her husband of 60 years, William A. Sands, Jr, her sons, Christopher Sands (Michelle), Stephen Sands (Cindy), her daughter Angel Sands Gunn (Kirt) and grandchildren



## Obituary

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Russell Sands, Emma Sands, Lilly Sands, Weston Sands, Caroline Gunn and Stella Gunn, her sister Linda Overton, sister-in-law Kay Sands, and five nieces – Melissa (Jonathan/child Mars), Heather, Kathy, Kelly, and Sharon and a large extended family. She was an exceptional human and will be remembered for her elegance, intelligence and steadfast love. She continues to be a beacon of hope and determination for all who knew her.

A celebration of life will be held at Memorial Park Chapel on December 22, 2025 at 2pm. In lieu of flowers, gifts can be given to Holy Communion Episcopal Church's Food Recovery Ministry or to Calvary Episcopal Church in Memphis in her honor.

[The Holy Communion](#)

[Calvary Memphis](#)




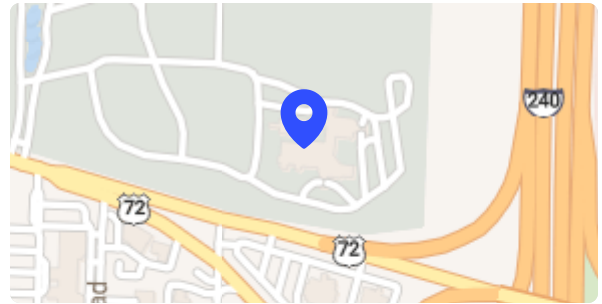
# Events

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## Cemetery Details

 **Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery**  
5668 Poplar Avenue, Memphis TN 38119





# Tribute Wall

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**Sona V.** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Barbara.



December 22 at 1:16 PM



**Sona V.** posted:

Mimi's love for board games always made me smile in the short time I knew her. She carried her competitive spirit with a regal grace that I have always admired. The joyful, youthful spark in her eyes is unmistakably reflected in the eyes of her children and grandchildren. ☐☐

December 22 at 1:12 PM



**Janie Barnett** posted:

Thank you Mrs. Sands for teaching me about grace, and about how a woman can be gentle and also strong and smart — the hidden curriculum in your Bible class. And thank you for teaching me the beatitudes in a way that lit up my spirituality. My prior experiences as a Jew in Bible class were a little dicey; thanks for making me feel welcomed and captivated by the best of Christianity. I have always and will always remember you for that.

November 19 at 2:22 AM



**Angel Gunn** December 2 at 8:32 PM  
So lovely! Thanks for sharing this, Janie.



**Melissa Holden** lit a candle in honor of Barbara.

Dear Angel- sending love to you and your family during this difficult time. Your mom was clearly a beautiful person who touched so many people over her life. Melissa & Randy



November 7 at 7:45 AM



**Chris Sands** shared 5 photos to the **Memories Album** album.



October 25 at 3:10 PM



## Tribute Wall

**Barbara Jane Williams Sands**

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**Angel Gunn** shared 10 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.  
We miss you, Mama! You are still the center of our universe.

October 25 at 3:10 PM



**Memorial Park Funeral Home And Cemetery** shared an album called **Memories Album**.

October 25 at 3:10 PM





# Media

**Barbara Jane Williams Sands**

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**Chris Sands** shared 5 photos to the **Memories Album** album.

October 30 at 2:12 PM





# Media

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# Media

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Angel Gunn shared 10 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

October 30 at 8:08 AM

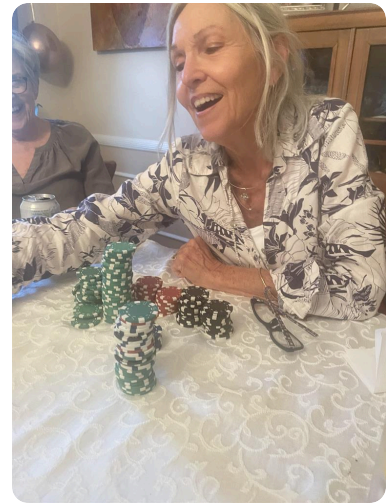




**Media**

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## Media

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**Memorial Park Funeral Home And Cemetery** shared 5 photos to the **Memories Album** album.

October 25 at 3:10 PM





**Media**

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## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Barbara by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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