



Karen Duncan Smith

July 18, 1958 - January 15, 2022

Karen Duncan Smith, age 63, passed away peacefully on January 15, 2022, after an eighteen-year-long and hard-fought battle with colon cancer.

A life-long Newnan resident, Karen was born on July 18, 1958, to the late Reverend Carey Duncan and the late Betty Duncan Burks. She and her younger siblings grew up in the Welcome community. She was a member of the 1976 graduating class of Newnan High School. She went on to earn an associate degree in music from Clayton State College.

Karen dedicated her life to raising her daughter, Katie, her pride and joy. Anywhere she went, her traveling buddy, Katie, was in tow.

Karen held various jobs from retail to banking, but she never faltered from her true passion of piano. She spent a lifetime spreading her love of music through teaching piano to thousands of students and playing for countless weddings, funerals and revivals. Her dedication to serving Christ through church music programs never wavered. She never claimed her talent as her own, but was always quick to tell anyone that she was merely the vessel for her Lord's work. While people remember her being at the piano for every service, she also spent many hours behind the scenes in rehearsals and preparation to fulfill the music needs of the church, including practices with vocalists and other instrumentalists.

Karen was a loving sister, mother, aunt, and grandmother. After the death of her mother, she assumed the role of the matriarch of the family and took her duties seriously and performed them well. As a mom, she was dedicated to all things Katie. Of all her performances, she shone brightest in her role as a mother. While Karen would never be mistaken for a rule-follower, the rule book went up in flames when she became Aunt Kane to her two nephews and, later, Apple to her three grandchildren. Whether it be driving in her lap, sharing a Dr. Pepper, or the complete disregard for any routine established by their parents, she was always up for a good time with the kids.

Karen is preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her daughter, Katie Smith Glover and her husband, Wilson Glover, and their three children, Ella Grace, age 11, Wilson and Caroline, age 9, her siblings, Kim Duncan and his wife, Cathy, Mary Ellen Corley and her husband, Billy, David Duncan and his wife, Leslie, and her nephews, Trevor Duncan and Eli Corley. Karen also leaves behind a multitude of loving and devoted friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions be made in Karen's name to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Georgia or your local church.

To honor Karen's wishes, there will be a private service for immediate family only at a later date.

Condolences may be expressed online at www.mckoon.com

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory (770) 253-4580

Comments



“ I'll never forget the smile on Karen's face whenever she was playing the piano! What an amazing talent she shared with everyone! She had a quick wit and could really make you laugh...you never knew what she was going to come out with! We will miss you Karen. I'm sure your fingers are dancing over piano keys in heaven now. Play on sweet girl! Becky Crawford

Becky Crawford - January 26 at 10:08 AM



“ Karen taught my girls, Becca and Megn, piano when they were young. Of course, neither one of them were wild about it! But it had always been a dream of mine to play, so I enrolled as well. She was a fabulous, tough teacher and I practiced daily between lessons. Sweet little Katie always sat in the same room playing with her toys, quiet as a mouse. Katie, I can't believe all these years have passed, but I agree with everyone else - your Mama loved you beyond anything on this earth. You were a very lucky little girl, and a very fortunate young woman to have your mom as an adult friend. I never saw her without a huge smile and that bubbly laugh. The world is a dimmer place today without her in it. -Jennie Stone Moore

Jennie Pursley Moor - January 21 at 03:12 PM



“ Karen always made me smile and laugh. She was always bright and funny. She will be greatly missed by Katie, her grandchildren, her brothers and sister. I know she already is sitting at a piano in heaven playing away. Lane and I have all of you in our prayers.

Delia Jackson - January 21 at 10:36 AM



“ Karen always had a smile on her face and I can still hear her laugh. So sorry for your loss but we all know the music in heaven is even more beautiful with her at the piano. Rest In Peace dear friend, you are home now. Love and prayers to all her family and friends.

Jenny Beard Moore - January 21 at 12:02 AM



“ With Karen's struggles with colon cancer for 18 years, I am glad that is over for her. She will be missed by all of us that worked with her and those of us who loved her piano playing. She tried to teach me to play a while back. Think we both decided I was not destined to go anywhere near a piano or keyboard. But we laughed a lot every time we tried!! Prayers for peace for all.



Pam Clemons - January 20 at 11:36 AM



“ So sorry to hear the passing of Karen. Praying for comfort and peace for the family.



Lynn Yeager - January 20 at 10:20 AM



“ Katie , I sure do love you & your Mom ! She was a Hoot , a Sweetheart course she didn't want anyone to know that! No one could play that piano like her! I told Allison she could make me sound good when she played for me to sing. So many times she'd look up at my and say Just Shut Up and Sing ! 😊 We had the best choir i ever had the privilege to sing in. We all were so close in that choir. She would move us if me & Allen had to much fun 😊 I loved not know ing what color her hair would be from Sunday to Sunday! You had an Amazing Mom ! She loved you so much ! I'm sorry time made us grow apart but where ever we saw each other we could always start up from where we left off ! Please know that you & family are in my thoughts & Prayers! 🙏🙏🙏

June long - January 20 at 02:49 AM



“ We are sorry for the loss of your loved one. We pray that you are able to find peace in knowing God is with her and is watching over you all.

Polly and Jimmy Craft

Jimmy Craft - January 19 at 09:40 PM



“ I worked with Karen in banking... she was a vibrant person with an amazing personality.. I was always in awe of her as she would be fighting her cancer battle and be so upbeat and positive! She will be missed!

sasha white - January 19 at 08:35 PM



“ I had the pleasure of working with Karen. She had a wicked, wonderful sense of humor and was a kind, sweet person. We shared so many laughs, working was almost fun! I am so sorry to hear of her passing! Love and prayers to her family!

Kelly Ayers - January 19 at 08:18 PM



“ Karen was a great friend. We shared a lot of times together when I took piano lesson from her and work at the bank together. She could always say some crazy things and make you laugh. She always had a smile for you. She was great at what she did. She played the music at my wedding. Would not have had it any other way. She was always a joy to be around. She will be truly missed. Go rest high on that mountain friend you deserve it.

Love your friend
Rachel Orr Hood

Rachel Orr Hood - January 19 at 07:39 PM



“ I’ve known Karen since middle school and I can’t remember a time she wasn’t laughing while talking to someone. She taught my youngest son piano for his first two years of lessons. I did love to listen while her fingers danced across the piano keys. The choir in Heaven surely has a richer sound with their new pianist joining in. May God comfort her dear Katie, grandchildren, and loved family members.

Laura Cash - January 19 at 06:51 PM



“ I am so very sad to hear of Karen’s passing. Loved the fellowship we had when she was at Northside. She was so talented and Knew how to tickle those ivory keys. Her and Bill couldn’t be beat. I cherish knowing her and all the good times we had together. RIP my friend!

Margaret Shaddix

Margaret Shaddix - January 19 at 06:40 PM



“ I am so very sorry to her of Karen’s passing. May she Rest In Peace.



Geraldine Welch - January 19 at 05:39 PM



“ Where do I start. Karen and I became friends as children, but when our girls were born in July, 1979, our true journey together began. We shared many days, nights, and weekends raising those two wonderful girls. We laughed, broke up arguments, mended scraped knees and cried many tears together for both of them. She was always there for me and I hope I was there as much as possible for her. After the girls grew up and moved on, we still spent as much time together as our busy lives would allow We could spend hours sitting and talking at one of our homes, on the phone or over lunch after church. We laughed, cried, listened, and comforted each other throughout life.

She was a prodigy on the piano from an early age and I don't believe I have ever known anyone that could play so beautifully with such ease. I will miss my sweet friend and look forward to seeing her again in that beautiful place called heaven. I loved her so much.

Cynthia

Cynthia Denny - January 19 at 05:22 PM



“ I loved playing the bass while Karen played piano at Providence Baptist Church. For nine years I attempted to keep up with Karen's God-given, magnificent talent on her instrument. Most trained piano players can only play what's on the printed page and are unable to improvise, follow guitar chords, or play by ear. But Karen could do all that with flair. Karen was a superior pianist. I have fond memories of chasing her key changes and her skill in general, but she always had the upper hand. I'll miss her talent, her laugh, her encouragement, and our friendship to Cynthia and me.

Andy and Cynthia Denny

Andy and Cynthia Denny - January 19 at 05:06 PM



“ Karen was my longest friendship, we grew up together, went to church together, went to school together and grew old together. I will never have a better friend. No matter how much time passed between visits with each other, we would pick right up where we left off. She was a part of my whole life, young girl fun, teenage adventures, marriages, my kids lives, her Katie's life (and Katie was HER life), our aging woes, but most of all my sister in Christ. There has never been a more faithful servant of our Lord, than Karen. My heart is broken that she is gone from this earth but my spirit is excited that when we meet again, she will be perfectly healed and happy. I can't wait to pick up right where our last visit ended.....Angie Craft Morgan

ANGIE MORGAN - January 19 at 04:03 PM