



## Ann Elizabeth Caldwell

June 8, 1933 - August 12, 2012

Ann Elizabeth Derseweh Caldwell, 79, passed away peacefully on Sunday, August 12, 2012, surrounded by her loving family at home, after nearly 30 years of coping with multiple sclerosis. Ann was born on June 8, 1933 in Nashville, Tennessee to the late Arthur "Otto" Derseweh and Caroline Smiley Derseweh. Ann Elizabeth (as she was known) attended public schools with her older brother, James Robert. She graduated from East Nashville High School in 1951. Ann was an accomplished pianist, and during her four years at David Lipscomb College in Nashville, she accompanied dozens of talented performers, including a young Pat Boone. After graduation from Lipscomb, Ann moved to Atlanta in 1955 and began her career teaching elementary school music. While there, she met a Georgia Tech engineering student from Newnan John F. Caldwell, Jr. at Druid Hills Church of Christ on Ponce de Leon Avenue. Ann had to move back to Nashville to help care for her father the next year, and once John graduated from Tech, John and Ann married in Nashville on September 14, 1957 and at the time of her death, they had been married for 55 years. Soon after, John was drafted into the Army; Ann gave birth to their son, John III, in Lawrence, Massachusetts in 1959. They lived in Milwaukee, Wisconsin for a year when John was transferred to Huntsville, Alabama, where their daughter, Mary Caroline, was born in 1963. In 1968 the Caldwell family moved to John's childhood home, Newnan. In 1971, Ann resumed her teaching career as a music teacher in Coweta County Schools. Over the years, she taught thousands of elementary school students and also

gave private piano lessons. Ann was blessed with five grandchildren: Joseph, Emily, Aaron, and Ann Moore; Lauren Caldwell Searcy. The week after her first grandchild was born in 1986, Ann was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. She continued to teach elementary school music into the 1990s, but was forced by the progression of the disease to retire. She delighted in being able to still teach piano to her grandchildren. In 1995, Ann and her extended family became founding members of the Downtown Church of Christ, which she attended for the rest of her life. Beginning in the 1990s, Ann received state-of-the-art treatment and therapy for her MS at The Shepherd Clinic in Buckhead, making twice weekly trips to Atlanta with her husband, who was her loving caretaker throughout. Ann was an inspiration to all who knew her as she faced her MS and served everyone she met, never failing to smile and impart grace born from her confidence in God's love. Ann was very active, refusing to allow MS to defeat her. She attended church three times weekly. She was an active member of the East Nashville High Alumni Association until her death, attending all but the most recent reunion. She was also a valued member of the General Daniel Newnan chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Ann is survived by her husband, John F. Caldwell, Jr. of Newnan, Georgia; her children, John F. Caldwell III, Mary Caroline Moore and her husband, Russ Moore, all of Newnan; grandchildren, Joseph Moore of Orlando, Florida, Emily Moore of Decatur, Georgia, Ann Moore of Newnan and Lauren Caldwell Searcy and her husband Josh Searcy of Little Rock, Arkansas. She was preceded in death by her grandson, Aaron, 1993. Funeral arrangements are by McKoon Funeral Home at 38 Jackson Street in Newnan. The family will have visitation on Tuesday evening between 6:00 PM and 8:00 PM. The funeral service will be on Wednesday at 11:00 AM in the McKoon Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will be at Forest Lawn Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Shepherd Center 2020 Peachtree Road NW Atlanta, GA 30309. Online condolences may be expressed at [www.mckoon.com](http://www.mckoon.com). McKoon Funeral Home 770-253-4580.

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# Cemetery Details

## Forest Lawn Memorial Park

656 Roscoe Road  
Newnan, GA 30263

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**AUG 14.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home  
38 Jackson Street  
Newnan, GA 30263  
(770) 253-4580  
care@mckoon.com

## Service

**AUG 15.** 11:00 AM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home  
38 Jackson Street  
Newnan, GA 30263  
(770) 253-4580  
care@mckoon.com

# Tribute Wall

CH

“ John, I am so sorry to hear about the loss of Ann. She certainly lived a full and loving life. It was a pleasure to get to meet her over the past 3 years. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Christine - August 22, 2012 at 10:41 AM

FF

“ I HAVE BEEN THINKING OF ALL OF YOU DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME. MY PRAYERS HAVE BEEN AND WILL BE WITH YOU. FRANK

FRANK FARMER - August 21, 2012 at 01:30 PM

JE

“ John and Family, My thoughts and prayers are with you. I would always get a smile on my face anytime I would see Ann on my schedule at the dental office. She was such an inspiration and will be missed. Jodi Edner

Jodi Edner - August 18, 2012 at 07:22 AM

CT

“ Dear Moores, We're so glad that you had the influence of such a remarkable woman. No wonder you are all so musical. I knew it had to come from somewhere. As you grieve about her being gone from you, remember what Emily said in her beautiful letter. "And, I'll always remember her comment 'Every time the wheels go around we're getting that much closer.'" As our wheels keep going around, Carole (Mrs. T) and Charles (Dr. T)

Charles and Carole Thaxton - August 15, 2012 at 11:02 PM

CF

“ Please know we are thinking about you and your family. John you have been a wonderful caregiver. Jean and Craig Fox

Craig Fox - August 15, 2012 at 02:37 PM

PB

“ You were loved very much. We will miss the love and light you brought to Downtown Church of Christ. What an example of the Christian life you were! Thank you Miss Ann for your beautiful life!! Patti and Mark Bradberry Rick and Tina Harrison

PATTI BRADBERRY - August 15, 2012 at 01:03 PM

BT

“ Mr. Caldwell and Family, You have my sympathy in your loss. My prayers and thoughts are with you. Barbara Thompson

Barbara Thompson - August 15, 2012 at 10:05 AM

PB

“ John and Family. I am so sorry for your loss. Ann was truly an inspiration to so many.

Pat Brown - August 15, 2012 at 08:56 AM

LC

“ Mary Caroline and family, We were so very sorry to hear of your Mom's passing. She truly was an inspiration to all who knew her.

Linda Craddock - August 14, 2012 at 09:42 AM

WD

“ *My sincere condolences to your family. I never had the pleasure of knowing Mrs. Caldwell, but she raised a wonderful daughter and grandchildren. I applaud her courage and tenacity, as well as the use of her many talents. The gift of learning from a caring teacher never dies.*

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**Wayve Dennison** - August 14, 2012 at 09:39 AM

CC

“ *John, Know that our thoughts are with you and our prayers are for you and the family. --Creed and Linda*

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**Creed Caldwell** - August 14, 2012 at 09:38 AM

PC

“ *John and Family, We are saddend over the loss of your Sweet Ann. The obit is a beautiful public testimony of her quiet life and dedication to her Christian Fait;h and musical talent. I fondly remember my time with Ann at East Newnan School and always a smile on her face. May you find peace and comfort in knowing that she is now with the Lord - no more pain and suffering. Love to Yur All, Pat*

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**Pat and Gene Craven** - August 14, 2012 at 08:08 AM

LR

“ *I always remember Ann with such inner grace and sweetness. Our family will certainly keep yours in our hearts and prayers.*

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**Linda Russell** - August 13, 2012 at 11:13 PM

AN

“ John, John III & Mary Caroline, all of you know how much I thought of Ann Elizabeth. She was like a big sister to me. You all may not have known it, but I was 6 years old when my daddy passed away. Ann Elizabeth took care of me for my mother during that time. I will never forget all of the good times I had at Mrs. Derseweh's house over on Stockell Street. Ann Elizabeth would always get her dolls out for me to play with. I was an only child so I considered her my big sister. I love all of you very much. She will surely be missed, but she is in a much better place. Love always, Ann Napier

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**Ann Napier** - August 13, 2012 at 09:28 PM

JG

“ I am so sorry to hear such news, John, but I am confident that she is at peace and not in pain any more. It has been my pleasure to know you and Ann through the Shepherd Center. I will truly miss her.

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**John W. Gatz** - August 13, 2012 at 09:21 PM

RG

“ Praying for peace and comfort for you during this difficult time.

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**Regenia (Hamby) Guariglia** - August 13, 2012 at 07:50 PM

ML

“ So Sorry to heard of your mother's passing. It's difficult to lose a mother no matter how old we are. Our sympathies are with you.

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**Marjorie Lechner** - August 13, 2012 at 05:32 PM

JW

“ *Mary Caroline, we are all thinking of you during this difficult time! I remember your mom teaching music at Elm Street. Our thoughts are with you.*

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**Jennifer Welch** - August 13, 2012 at 05:24 PM

GS

“ *Such a sweet, sweet lady! She will be greatly missed. Our prayers for the family are for comfort, strength and peace. God bless you.*

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**Gayle Swafford** - August 13, 2012 at 02:31 PM