



Margaret Lee Smith

February 29, 2016

Obituary of Margaret Smith

Margaret "Polly" Lee Smith died peacefully in the early hours of Monday, February 29th; born 12 February 1920, she was 96 years of age. She grew up, one of five daughters of George Roger & Netty Lee, in the turpentine camps of west Florida and southern Alabama. She withdrew from Florida State College for Women (later Florida State University) in Tallahassee to return to her home in Pensacola when World War 2 broke out. She worked with First Baptist Church of Pensacola to provide for the social and religious needs of sailors assigned to the West Florida Naval training facilities. After the war she accepted the call to direct the educational work of First Baptist Church Leesburg and then in 1947 moved to Queen's Square Baptist Church in Charleston South Carolina. Local business man, D Carl Smith thought that a poor idea and followed her to Charleston, asking her to return and become his wife. They were married in her home church in Pensacola on August 12, 1948. When Mr. and Mrs. Smith returned to Leesburg, Polly worked in the church in a variety of volunteer roles, Women's Missionary Union, Vacation Bible School and Director of Children's work were all among her passions. Carl and Polly had four sons and when the youngest entered school Polly returned to school part time and finished her degree from FSU in 1965. She taught fifth grade, first at Beverly Shores Elementary and after a reorganization of the Lake County School System at Rimes Middle School.

She was active in Alpha Delta Kappa teacher's sorority and the Leesburg Women's Club. She retired in 1987. She returned to the classroom in 1990 to teach first grade in the First Baptist Church's then new school First Academy. She served the new ministry for three years while a younger teacher was recruited. In retirement Polly and Carl traveled to the Holy Land, various sites in North America, and cruises to Alaska and the Caribbean. After Carl's death Polly moved into teaching a class of senior women, mostly widows, and instilled in them a care and love for each other that survives her surrender of the class in 2014 as her health declined.

She is survived by one sister, Georgia Ruth Lee of Shreveport LA; three sons: Dale (& wife Margaret of Gaithersburg, MD), Wayne and Roger (both of Leesburg); and three grandsons Weston (of Daytona Beach), Darion (& wife Leigh of Gaithersburg, MD), and Clinton (of Leesburg).

A memorial service will be held in the Chapel of First Baptist Church, Leesburg, 15 March at 1:30 PM.

Tribute Wall

JB

“ Polly was a member of the retired teacher's sorority, Fidelis Beta. We all enjoyed her friendship and active participation. Polly was a great lady. She will be missed.

Judy Flood, President Fidelis Beta - March 22, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ Margaret Lee Smith

L. Pierce Standridge - March 22, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ ###GESTURE###

L. Pierce Standridge - March 22, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ I'll forever remember Mrs. Smith as my fifth grade teacher at Beverly Shores Elementary. I was struggling and I know she understood. She spent time talking to me. I can hear her voice now. She always instilled in me how to do long division by having me practice on the black board after school. She inspired me to go to Camp Crestridge for Girls up in Ridgecrest, N.C. I went for two summers. I loved her dearly. Dale, Wayne, Roger and family I know your mama will be forever missed.

Mary Clarice Howell - March 18, 2016 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Loved her beautiful spirit! She will be missed!

Tami farner - March 17, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ Aunt Polly Was First Baptist church when I was growing up! She helped guide and direct so many activities and also guided us kids. I thought she ran the church when I was little since it seemed most of the activities flowed thru her capable hands. She cared for us all and we all loved and respected her. What an amazing and strong Christian woman! A true legend in Leesburg. God bless you, Smith family, as you mourn her passing. Debbie White Haywood

Debbie Haywood - March 16, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ Miss Polly was a wonderful neighbor and mentor, watching out for me when I was growing up. I will always remember her being at many special events in my life, both happy and sad. She truly left a mark on this world!

Cathy Roesel-Brown - March 15, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ Precious women of God...as a young women in the church, she inspired me to be more like Christ. She had touched many of us!

Donna almand - March 14, 2016 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ Margaret Lee Smith

Richard Kelly - March 14, 2016 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Mrs. Polly was a very awesome woman of God! We are praying for family!

Rick and Candi Harper - March 14, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ I was blessed to have had Mrs. Smith as my 5th grade teacher at Beverly Shores in 1969-1970. She was a locung woman... My inspiration to become a teacher. I am so thankful The Lord out her in my life.

Janelle Willis Hurt - March 14, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Sorry to hear about miss Polly. Was proud to know her and work with her in my years at first baptist.

Jackie Hinebaugh - March 14, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Ms. Polly was a joy! I will miss her hugs and sage advice. Her friendship is one of the is one of the blessing I received having worked for FBC Leesburg for 10 years. She will be missed. The Daughters of Ruth Bible Fellowship class lost a great mentor and teacher. My thoughts and prayers are with you Clinton. Your grandmother was an amazing lady!

Dawn Barrett - March 14, 2016 at 12:00 AM

GM

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you in the loss of your mother.

Gary and Cindi McClain - March 14, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Polly will be remembered for her love of her family, Saviour, First Baptist Church, Leesburg, and her many friends. She often listened to me during trying times and always offered her love and friendship. She exemplified Christ to me and to so many others. She was an outstanding teacher and friend. She was ready to go home and join her beloved Carl in heaven. She leaves a void that will be felt for a long time.

Joan Brown - March 14, 2016 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ ###GESTURE###

Richard Kelly - March 14, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Ms. Polly was a joy! I will miss her hugs and sage advice. Her friendship is one of the blessing I received having worked for FBC Leesburg for 10 years. She will be missed. The Daughters of Ruth Bible Fellowship class lost a great mentor and teacher. My thoughts and prayers are with you Clinton. Your grandmother was an amazing lady!###GESTURE###

Dawn Barrett - March 14, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ As a fellow teacher at Beverly Shores, we all remember Polly. She was an outstanding and much loved teacher by both fellow teachers and students. She will not be forgotten!

Mary Lee Hardaway - March 13, 2016 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ Dear Smith Family, Ms. Polly was one of the finest women I have ever met. She was fair, loving and encouraging as a fifth grade teacher and throughout my adult life. I am so sorry that my life was in such turmoil that I did not get to visit her before she passed. Take comfort in knowing that she endearingly touched so many lives through teaching and working at First Baptist. She will always be near and dear to me. Much love, Robin Wilkes

Robin Wilkes - March 13, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ Margaret Lee Smith

March 11, 2016 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Dear Smith Family: Well, we know where your mom is sitting in heaven. She is at the front of the class with God. How lucky you are to have had a devoted, God fearing Mother and grandmother. She was always serving others and putting others above herself. She would visit her friends in Avante and always stop by the office to tell me how proud she was of me, just as she did when I was her 5th grade student. I still find it hard to believe that she ever even remembered me as a student. But she did. I want to be like Polly as I age. She is one great lady. Love and peace to you all as I know these past years have been challenging, yet our duty and our calling ...

Susie Norton Sapp - March 09, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ Margaret Lee Smith

L. Pierce Standridge - March 05, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LS

“*###GESTURE###*

L. Pierce Standridge - March 05, 2016 at 12:00 AM

RC

“*Dear Roger and Family, I am so sorry to hear about your mother.
My thoughts and prayers go out for you.*

Robert Cook - March 04, 2016 at 12:00 AM