



Karen Rhae Lankford Smith

March 4, 1947 - January 19, 2026

Loving wife, mother, sister, grandmother, aunt, and friend, Karen Lankford Smith, 78, of Springdale, entered eternal life on January 19, 2026. She was born on March 4, 1947, at City Hospital in Fayetteville, Arkansas, to Martha Reder Lankford and Raymond Lankford.

She married Charles Smith, the love of her life, in 1966 and attended the University of Arkansas to become a teacher. She taught elementary school in Springdale until her retirement in 2005. While she enjoyed being a teacher, her deepest joy came from her family and living out Jesus' words to 'feed my sheep.'

Whether serving at First Christian Church of Rogers, supporting community events, hosting family gatherings, or watching countless games as a coach's wife, caring for others was at the center of her life.

She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Charles Smith; her son, Allen (Carrie) Smith of Springdale, and grandchildren Shelby (Nicco) Bersi, Tyler Smith, and Abbey (Hunter) Wood; and her son, Chris (Kristie) Smith of Conway, and grandchildren Saxon (Julie) Smith, Slayde Smith, and Kennedy Smith. She is also survived by her sister, Kathryn Lankford Birkhead of Springdale; her brother, Mike (Gwen) Lankford of Pine Bluff; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her sister, Frances Lankford Sullivan, and her parents.

A Celebration of Life will be held at First Christian Church of Rogers on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at 11:00 a.m., followed by fellowship with the family. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Saving Grace at savinggracenwa.org in memory of Karen Smith.

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.” 2 Timothy 4:7-8

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN 31. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Christian Church of Rogers
905 South 13th Street
Rogers, AR 72758

Tribute Wall

JD

“Charlie, Kathy and Mike and Frances, your parents, and family, knowing you, nearby neighbors, was a special part of my life. I lift you up and release the BLESSING upon everyone, God’s peace, that His perfect will, His Masterplan is done in your lives, in Jesus Name. I’ll share with Jean and Diane. Jan DeWese



Jan DeWese - February 01 at 11:18 AM

JD

And Allen, I remember when you were born! Your parents lived down the hill from the AQ CHICKEN HOUSE!

Jan DeWese - February 01 at 11:44 AM

JD

The man on the right in the image is Brian Shaw, Diane’s son.

Jan DeWese - February 01 at 11:45 AM

JD

Jean is on the left; I’m in the middle.

Jan DeWese - February 01 at 11:46 AM

LJ

“Karen and Charles were bright spots in our day when they came in for special cards (for family and friends). Karen leaves a positive legacy for many to follow. Springdale is a better place for having been touched by her life. Our sympathy and prayers are with all the family, especially with Charles.

Light Keepers Bookstore, Charles & Joyce - January 31 at 01:11 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Karen Rhae Lankford Smith.



January 30 at 11:52 AM



“ Arlynn & Greg Rector planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen Rhae Lankford Smith.

Arlynn & Greg Rector - January 30 at 11:52 AM



“ Jerry Sue, Sam, and Sally purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Karen Rhae Lankford Smith.



Jerry Sue, Sam, and Sally - January 30 at 10:01 AM



“ Larry & Roberta Ford planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen Rhae Lankford Smith.

Larry & Roberta Ford - January 28 at 10:17 AM

LF

“ Larry & Roberta Ford purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Karen Rhae Lankford Smith.



Larry & Roberta Ford - January 28 at 10:17 AM

CH

“ Charles Huskey planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen Rhae Lankford Smith.

Charles Huskey - January 27 at 10:15 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Karen Rhae Lankford Smith.



January 27 at 10:15 PM

LT

“ Linda Fitch Green Treat and Jim Treat planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen Rhae Lankford Smith.

Linda Fitch Green Treat and Jim Treat - January 27 at 04:21 PM

LT

“ Linda Fitch Green Treat and Jim Treat purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Karen Rhae Lankford Smith.



Linda Fitch Green Treat and Jim Treat - January 27 at 04:21 PM

DB

“ Denise (Easterling) Bugos purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Karen Rhae Lankford Smith.



Denise (Easterling) Bugos - January 27 at 09:23 AM

JH

“ I am so grateful to have met Karen. She supported me as a first generation college student and truly believed in me. Sending prayers and condolences to Charles and the Smith family- former Smith Stallion💙

Juana Campuzano Herrera - January 26 at 06:25 PM

MH

“ Karen taught my daughter when she was in 2nd grade at Lee. She was a loving and caring teacher.

Michelle Higgins - January 26 at 03:18 PM

MP

“ Mike and Pam purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Karen Rhae Lankford Smith.



Mike and Pam - January 26 at 02:35 PM

MP

“ Mike and Pam planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen Rhae Lankford Smith.

Mike and Pam - January 26 at 02:35 PM

JH

“ Juana Campuzano Herrera purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Karen Rhae Lankford Smith.



Juana Campuzano Herrera - January 26 at 12:56 PM

TG

“ The Groves purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Karen Rhae Lankford Smith.



The Groves - January 25 at 07:18 PM

MH

“ Mark H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen Rea Lankford Smith.

Mark H. - January 24 at 04:07 PM

JL

“ Sending prayers for peace and comfort for you, Charles and the family. Karen was a very special and caring Lady. 🙏

Janet Gibbs Lager - January 23 at 09:37 PM

RC

“ Rick & Brenda Collins planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen Rhea Lankford Smith.

Rick & Brenda Collins - January 23 at 09:13 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Karen Rhae Lankford Smith.



January 23 at 09:13 PM

KD

“ Karen taught my daughter, Abby, first grade We all loved precious smile and very sweet nature. I know where you are Karen. Know that our prayers remain for you and your family. RIP my friend!

Kathy Dotson - January 23 at 09:08 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karen Rhae Lankford Smith.



January 23 at 08:38 PM



“ Jerry Ferguson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen Rhea Lankford Smith.

Jerry Ferguson - January 23 at 08:38 PM



“ Karen was a jewel. Very kind and sincerely cared for others. She was very attentive to my mom, Anita which touched my heart and I appreciated.
Sincere condolences to her family.

Karen and Frank Walls - January 23 at 08:28 PM



“ Jill Arbuthnot lit a candle in memory of Karen Rhae Lankford Smith



Jill Arbuthnot - January 23 at 07:05 PM

KR

“ Karen Rogers lit a candle in memory of Karen Rhae Lankford Smith



karen rogers - January 23 at 06:36 PM

KR

“ My prayers and condolences 🙏 to you for the amazing lady

karen rogers - January 23 at 06:35 PM

AW

“ Amanda Williford purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Karen Rhae Lankford Smith.



Amanda Williford - January 23 at 06:35 PM

KH

“ At my first retreat sponsored by FCCR/SIS... Karen and I shared a room one night and got to know each other. I was a young Christian and that meeting was very important. I have loved. Karen since

Karen Henderson - January 23 at 06:32 PM