

## Ruth Shannon Anders

June 21, 1940 - April 3, 2026

Ruth Shannon Burnett Anders passed away peacefully on Friday, April 3, 2026 (Good Friday), surrounded by love, leaving behind a legacy of kindness, faith, and service that touched generations.

She was born on June 21, 1940, in Kevil, Kentucky, the daughter of Reverend Voris Hurt Burnett, a Methodist minister, and Lucille Bruce Tewmeyer Burnett.

Shannon graduated from Huntingdon High School in Huntingdon, Tennessee, earned her bachelor's degree from Bethel University in McKenzie, Tennessee, and completed her master's degree in education with a specialization in physical education at Memphis State University (now the University of Memphis). It was there that she met the love of her life, Joe Harold Anders. They were married on June 2, 1963, in Brownsville, Tennessee, and together built a life rooted in faith, learning, and service to others.

A devoted educator, Shannon spent her career shaping young lives at Scott City High School, University High and in the Cape Girardeau Public School System. At Scott City High School, she was also well known as a dedicated and beloved cheerleading coach, inspiring confidence and teamwork in countless students. Her passion for teaching extended beyond the classroom—through the Kiwanis Learn to Swim program, she taught swim lessons and water aerobics for many years, helping children and adults alike gain

confidence in the water and skills that lasted a lifetime.

Shannon was a woman of deep creativity and heart. She loved writing poetry, expressing beauty, faith, and feeling through her words. Whether teaching, coaching, writing, or simply listening, she had a gift for making people feel seen and encouraged. She was a faithful member of Centenary United Methodist Church, where her spirit of service and grace was a reflection of the values she lived every day.

She is survived by her sons, Michael Shannon Anders (Betsy) and Matthew Kenton Anders (Janet); her grandchildren, Joshua Anders, Ryan Aufdenberg, Cody Aufdenberg, Abby Anders, and SJ Anders; and her great-grandchildren, Emelia Aufdenberg and Jeffrey Aufdenberg. She is also survived by her siblings, Rev. Kenton Burnette, Mary Rentrop, and Sarah Burnett Frates.

She was preceded in death by her parents and five siblings: Zilpha Mae Burnett Birk, Voris Kelly Burnett, William Franklin Burnett, Marvin Wells Burnette, and Rachel Flo Burnette.

The family extends heartfelt gratitude to the nurses, aides, and staff at Auburn Creek Assisted Living, Ratliff Care Center and Mercy Hospice for their compassionate care and kindness.

Visitation will be 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm Friday, April 10 2026 at Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel in Cape Girardeau.

Memorial service will follow at 5:00 pm at the funeral home with the Rev. Carl Palmer officiating.

In keeping with her lifelong belief in service and in advancing medicine, Shannon wished to donate her remains to Washington University School of

Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri. This choice reflects the same commitment made by her husband, Joe, and honors their shared devotion to helping others through medical science.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or the Kiwanis Club of Cape Girardeau Scholarship Program.

Shannon's life was a testament to grace, generosity, and purpose. Her lessons live on in every student she taught, every swimmer she encouraged, every poem she penned, and in the family she cherished so deeply.

Online condolences may be made at [www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com](http://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com).

Ford & Sons Funeral Home - Mt. Auburn is in charge of arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 10. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel  
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

## Memorial Service

APR 10. 5:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Funeral Home - Mt. Auburn  
1001 N Mt Auburn Road  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

# Tribute Wall

QF

“ Quest Oncology Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Ruth Shannon Anders.



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Quest Oncology Family - April 09 at 02:10 PM

TM

“ Tim and Sherri McKeon purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Ruth Shannon Anders.



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Tim and Sherri McKeon - April 05 at 05:10 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ruth Shannon Anders.

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April 05 at 11:09 AM



“ Angel's Embrace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ruth Shannon Anders.



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April 05 at 11:09 AM

JD

“Mike, Matt, and families, Shannon was a highlight of lunch at Scott City. It was usually a contest to see which of us spilled something on our "shelf". Not sure if there weren't a few bets laid on it. We spent lots of years together in our supper club group and she and your dad were such gracious hosts and we always laughed a lot together. Our sincere condolences for her loss. Joyce and Bill Daniels

Hurting your mother with your words, or with silence, is one of the worst things any child can do. She carried you next to her heart for 40 weeks. She was the first to love you. And she loves you still. Love her while you still can.

Joyce Daniels - April 04 at 05:10 PM

LP

Those are memories your students hold on to ❤️ will always be grateful for that 🙏❤️

Laurie Powers - April 05 at 12:07 PM

BN

“Matt and family so very sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Barbara Nobile - April 04 at 04:30 PM

JP

Loved Mrs. Anders as my p.e. teacher and cheer coach. She always had a smile and laughed a lot. I'm so sorry for your loss. Jill Estes Pinkston

Jill Pinkston - April 04 at 05:07 PM

TW

“ Shannon was also a teacher and cheerleading coach in Caruthersville MO. In the early 60's. She was amazing! She will be missed.

Terrie Pickens Welch - April 04 at 04:00 PM

KS

“ I have wonderful memories of her from my years at Scott City High School. Prayers for Mike, Matt and their families during this time of loss. She was a gem.

Kathy Snyder - April 04 at 03:51 PM

LB

“ I am so sorry to read this. I do know that Shannon had a strong faith and thought of death as a part of life not to be feared. I will always see her smile when I think of her. Prayers of comfort to Mike, Matt and the entire family.

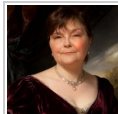
Lisa Bishop - April 04 at 02:25 PM

LP

“ So sorry for your loss, may your wonderful memories comfort you all 🙏❤️



Laurie Powers - April 03 at 04:20 PM



She was my gym teacher at Scott city schools. Prayers for her family and friends

Lisa Mciver-miller - April 04 at 10:49 AM



*I worked with Shannon at Schultz Middle School. Shannon was a caring and devoted teacher who loved her students.*

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**Carolyn Vandeven** - April 04 at 02:53 PM