



## Shelley Renee Mathes

February 7, 1972 - October 17, 2025

Shelley Renee Mathes, 53, of Cape Girardeau, Missouri died Friday, October 17, 2025 at St. Louis University Hospital.

She was born February 7, 1972 in Cape Girardeau, MO to Jerry and Ruby Claudine (Goforth) Smith.

Shelley lived life entirely on her own terms - vividly, bravely, and without hesitation. A born explorer, her passport was a patchwork of adventures. From quiet sunrises in faraway places to spontaneous road trips with friends, she found joy in discovering the beauty of the world and the people in it. She never met a stranger - only friends she hadn't gotten to know yet.

Shelley had a rare and beautiful duality. She could be the sweetest, most thoughtful person you'd ever meet - or a full-force whirlwind of energy, laughter, and mischief when the moment called for it. She lived large, loved deeply, and left behind countless stories that will be told with smiles for years to come.

Her spirit continues to travel through the hearts of everyone she touched, reminding us to live boldly, love openly, and embrace every adventure that comes our way.

Survivors include father, Jerry Smith; sister, Kimberly (Richard) Keser of Creal Springs, IL; brother, Michael (Linda) Smith of Cape Girardeau, MO; two nephews, Gage Smith of Cape Girardeau, MO, Nicholas Keser (Molli) of Mooresville, NC; great-niece, Violet Rae Keser of Mooresville, NC; close friend, Chris Seabaugh of Jackson, MO.

She was preceded in death by her mother; beloved fur baby, Boogie; grandmother, Ruby Goforth.

Visitation will be 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm on Friday, October 24, 2025 at Ford & Sons Sprigg St. Chapel in Cape Girardeau.

Graveside Service will be at 2:00 pm Friday, October 24, 2025 at Cape County Memorial Park in Cape Girardeau.

Burial will be at Cape County Memorial Park in Cape Girardeau.

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

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

# Cemetery Details

## Cape County Memorial Park

2315 Highway 61 N  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **24**. 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Sprigg St. Chapel  
118 S. Sprigg St.  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703

## Graveside Service

OCT **24**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Cape County Memorial Park  
2315 Highway 61 N  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

# Tribute Wall



“ Prayers to her family... My heart breaks for ya'll....

Teresa Giacomo - October 23, 2025 at 08:14 PM

AH

“ How could Shelley Smith be gone? Our school years at Nell Holcomb were a whirlwind of sleepovers and passing notes when the teachers weren't looking! She was one of those friends that I hadn't seen in years, but I know we would have picked up right where we left off. What a sad loss. This truly breaks my heart and to Mike and Kim and Shelley's Dad, I hope her memory will comfort you a little bit in the next hard days. Goodbye old friend. You will be forever remembered in my heart.

Anna (Sticht) Howard - October 22, 2025 at 04:33 PM

MB

“ Misty Bogard lit a candle in memory of Shelley Renee Mathes



Misty Bogard - October 21, 2025 at 11:23 AM

TM

Im still trying to process this. I recently talked with Shelley about coming to MN for a visit. She was like a sister to me, growing up and her family, like a second family to me. The Smith family and friends are in my prayers.

Tamara Massey - October 21, 2025 at 04:22 PM

BG

“ So sorry to learn of Shelley's passing. Prayers for family and friends.

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**Bryan Greaser** - October 21, 2025 at 09:19 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Shelley Renee Mathes.



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October 20, 2025 at 05:59 PM