



## Barbara Stafford Baker

October 2, 1944 - March 14, 2026

Barbara Stafford Baker, 81, of Anderson, Indiana, was welcomed into the arms of her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, early Saturday morning, March 14, 2026, at the Trustbridge Jupiter Pavilion Care Center in Jupiter, Florida.

Barbara courageously battled Parkinson's disease for nearly 20 years, yet no matter what circumstances she found herself in – including a broken neck and going into hospice care – if you asked her how she was doing, she would always answer, “Blessed of the Lord!”

She was born on October 2, 1944, in Vivian, Louisiana, a daughter of the late Reverend Daniel and Edna (Mann) Stafford.

On August 31, 1965, she married the love of her life, John Mark Baker, in Oklahoma City. The following year she graduated from Bethany Nazarene College with a bachelor's degree in elementary education, preparing for what would become a lifetime devoted to teaching and ministering to children.

Barbara taught in Christian schools, public schools, and through homeschooling—something she especially loved because it allowed her to invest deeply in the lives of young people. Her heart for children extended far beyond the classroom. Beginning in 1969, Barbara and John spent 45 summers traveling the United States, conducting Vacation Bible Schools in

churches across 21 states, the Cayman Islands, and Canada. Through this ministry, countless children heard the message of God's love.

She was also deeply involved in bus ministry outreach in her local church, Grace Holiness Church in Anderson, faithfully working to bring children to church and share the gospel with them. Even during the final days of her life, Barbara was still reaching out with love and concern for her "bus kids," reflecting a lifelong passion for leading young hearts to Christ.

Barbara truly had a heart of gold. She believed in doing things the right way—whether carefully quoting Scripture or helping young people learn Bible Bowl answers at Appalachian Youth Camp. More than anything, she desired to honor and serve Jesus through both her words and her actions. Her greatest concern and deepest prayer was that she and her family would always live faithfully for the Lord.

Those left to cherish Barbara's memory include her devoted husband of 60 years, John Mark Baker; her three sons, John Mark Baker II (MaryLee) of Anderson, Aaron (Katrina) Baker of Jonesboro, Arkansas, and Jason (Regina) Baker of Greenville, Ohio; her grandchildren, Kristen (David) Sterner of Jonesboro, Arkansas, Tyler (Hailey) Baker of Davison, Michigan, Everlee Baker of Jonesboro, Arkansas, Constance (Zach) Ohmes and Maverick Baker, both of Anderson, and Rylee, Jayden, and Lincoln Baker of Greenville, Ohio; three great-grandchildren, Levi, David, and Carter Sterner; two brothers, Jim (Charol) Stafford of Houston, Texas, and David (Jackie) Stafford of Bethany, Oklahoma; a brother-in-law, Jim Smith of Bethany, Oklahoma; a sister-in-law, Bobbye Stafford McElrath of Plano, TX, and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, those eagerly awaiting Barbara in Heaven include her sister, Patricia Smith, and her brother, Robert Stafford.

Funeral services will be held at 7:00 p.m. Friday, March 20, 2026, at Summitville Wesleyan Bible Church, 17345 N. 150 E., Summitville, Indiana, with Pastor Tim Wiford officiating.

Visitation will be from 4:00 p.m. until the time of service on Friday at the church.

The funeral service will be livestreamed and can be joined by Clicking Here (<https://www.facebook.com/summitvillewesleyan>).

Burial will be held privately in Maplewood Cemetery in Anderson.

Memorial contributions may be offered to the ICHA – Foreign Missions by Clicking Here (<https://www.ichaministries.com/>).

Barbara's life was a beautiful testimony of faithful service, a deep love for children, and an unwavering devotion to the Lord she served so faithfully.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Sproles Family Funeral Home in New Castle. You may offer the family a personal condolence at [www.sprolesfamilycares.com](http://www.sprolesfamilycares.com).

The Sproles family and staff are honored to serve the family of Barbara Stafford Baker.

# Cemetery Details

## Maplewood Cemetery

200 College Dr  
Anderson, IN 46012

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 20. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Summitville Wesleyan Bible Church  
17345 N. 150 E.  
Summitville, IN 46070

## Funeral

MAR 20. 7:00 PM (ET)

Summitville Wesleyan Bible Church  
17345 N. 150 E.  
Summitville, IN 46070

# Tribute Wall

RP

“ We were privileged to get acquainted with the Bakers when they first came to South Park Church in Mariam, Kansas for VBS. Through several events there and then VBS in the Cayman Islands, we loved Barb and her incredible ability to share God’s message with children!

*May God’s peace bless all those who shared her as wife and mother. You have been and will continue to be in our prayers.*

*Ron and Becky Profitt*

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**Ron and Becky Profitt** - March 20 at 11:25 AM

LA

“ Love David, Jackie, Lori & Angie purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Barbara Stafford Baker.



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**Love David, Jackie, Lori & Angie** - March 19 at 06:26 PM

JF

“ Jim & Charol Stafford, Sidney & Kristi Stafford, Susan Ochoa & family purchased the Sweet Solace Spray for the family of Barbara Stafford Baker.



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**Jim & Charol Stafford, Sidney & Kristi Stafford, Susan Ochoa & family** - March 19 at 01:23 PM

TS

“ *The ladies prayer group in Hobe Sound purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Barbara Stafford Baker.*



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**The ladies prayer group in Hobe Sound** - March 18 at 11:17 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Barbara Stafford Baker.*



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March 18 at 10:17 AM

BC

“ *Baytown, TX Bible Missionary Church purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Barbara Stafford Baker.*



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**Baytown, TX Bible Missionary Church** - March 17 at 10:21 PM

SE

“ I had the privilege of working with the Bakers in the Bus ministry for a few years. It was inspiring to see Sis Bakers love for the children and for everyone.

I also admired her for not letting her circumstances stop her from praising the Lord.

I remember a few services where she would stand during the song service and her hand was raised in praise. She will be missed. We are praying for the family.

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**Stanley Easley** - March 17 at 06:31 PM



“ Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Barbara Stafford Baker.



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March 17 at 05:46 PM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Barbara Stafford Baker.



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March 17 at 02:33 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Barbara Stafford Baker.



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March 17 at 09:24 AM

UA

“ *Union Bible College & Academy purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Barbara Stafford Baker.*



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**Union Bible College & Academy** - March 16 at 10:20 PM

TG

“ *Ella Ruth and I first met Barbara when we enrolled in Bethany Nazarene College. I lived off campus next door to a parsonage, and Barbara and the pastor's daughter came over to get acquainted with us new college boys. She was fourteen, and the rest of us were eighteen and older. A little over two years, after my wife and I married, we attended the same church the Staffords attended, and became good friends of their family. John Baker and I had classes together at the college, so we felt fairly close to them. We have had connections with Barbara and John all through the years and have utmost confidence in them. There is no question in our minds that Barbara is presently worshipping at the feet of Jesus. We are praying for John and the Baker family that each of you will feel God's comforting grace, and will purpose to someday join her in the land that will never end.*

*Terry D. and Ella Ruth Going*

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**Terry and Ella Rith Going** - March 16 at 09:43 PM

KL

“ My wife and I will never forget the years that John and Barbara Baker came to Galax, Virginia to lead our Vacation Bible Schools. They poured their hearts and love into those kids year after year. What a blessing! They made the stories come alive with their props and heartfelt passion. And then, "Into My Heart, Come Into My Heart." So many children would bow at the altar as we sang those words and ask Jesus to come into their hearts! Heaven will be rich indeed with the fruit of their labors. May God cause their tribe to increase! May the Lord comfort Brother John Baker and family during this time of separation. Keith and Linda Ledford

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**Keith Ledford** - March 16 at 08:58 PM

LS

“ Love, Teri Sandidge purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Barbara Stafford Baker.



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**Love, Teri Sandidge** - March 16 at 04:26 PM

SG

“ Dear Bro. John, John Mark, Aaron, Jason and families,  
Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to you in the loss of a wonderful,  
wonderful, lady. We have so many precious memories of Sister  
Barbara. She did such a fantastic job of setting up a 3 month  
deputation schedule for us many years ago. It was a real delight to  
take part in some of your DVBS programs and to worship together  
when we went to the same church for a while.  
May the Peace of our Lord be with you, comforting and guiding in  
the days ahead.

Our love,  
Steve and Janet Geise  
Guatemala

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**Stephen Geuse** - March 16 at 12:34 PM

DF

Bro John our hearts aches for you and family dear sister Barbra was a  
true saint and we will miss seeing you her, prayers for you and the  
family 💕🙏

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**David Franklin** - March 16 at 09:17 PM

JD

*I thank God for the influence and friendship of the Baker's over the years. Sister Barbara would come to my house and call on me wherever i moved, showing the consistent love of Jesus; in health, in sickness, suffering and even through her death showing us the faithfulness of Jesus and His wonderful love.*

*She was still reaching out and ministering to the lost souls in hospice care inviting them to come to heaven someday.*

*Matthew 5:3-9*

*The Beatitudes*

*I've seen lived out in real time through the life of John and Barbara Baker.*

*I thank God for their love and commitment to follow Jesus and share that love with others such as myself.*

*I'm forever grateful for Barbara's Godly influence and example in my life.*

*God bless the Baker family!*

*May we all strive to be more like Jesus and live that out daily in the lives of others like Sister Baker showed us.*

*I'm forever grateful and blessed to have called her my friend.*

*Sincerely,*

*Janene Davis*

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**Janene Davis** - March 18 at 06:14 AM

WH

“ *With love, Mitch and Dara Hardy purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Barbara Stafford Baker.*



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**With love, Mitch and Dara Hardy** - March 16 at 09:50 AM

JF

“ Barbara was my sweet friend. I enjoyed combing her hair for her when they spent winters in Florida when I also lived there. Every time I asked her how she was, she always replied with a smile and said, “ Blessed of the Lord”! I plan to adopt that greeting and carry it on for the rest of my lifetime. She was a very; special lady. I’m glad I was privileged to know her. She will be holding praise services in heaven for all the children! I can only imagine!

Jackie Foley - March 16 at 04:26 AM

NB

“ Sister Baker was the most genuinely enthusiastic Christian I’ve ever known. I will miss seeing her at the BHC in Ponchatoula when y’all passed by. Love, Nancy

Nancy Bardwell - March 15 at 10:47 PM

HS

“ I’m so sorry for your loss; The Baker family is in my thoughts and prayers. My family and I greatly enjoyed their vacation bible school every summer at Beavertown God's missionary church. Mrs Baker was such a loving, kind, christian lady; her love for helping children learn about God surely showed. I hope that her family finds comfort in knowing that they will one day be reunited with her in Heaven. God bless.  
With Love,  
The Shultz Family.



Heather Shultz - March 15 at 09:42 PM

BF

“ *Bobbye & family purchased the Ocean Breeze S  
pray for the family of Barbara Stafford Baker.*



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**Bobbye & family** - March 15 at 04:54 PM