



Bonita Murphy

April 10, 1944 - June 21, 2023

Bonita L. Murphy, "Bonnie", 79, passed away on June 21, 2023 surrounded by her loving family. She was born in Covington, Kentucky on April 10, 1944 to Oscar and Mary Jane Smith.

After she graduated from high school in Erlanger, Kentucky, she attended Eastern Kentucky University and graduated with a teaching degree. She began her teaching career in Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1966 she married Jack M. Murphy in Cincinnati, Ohio and they had three (3) children: Gregory, Jennifer and Jason. In 1988 the family relocated to Lakeland, Florida. She continued her teaching career with the Polk County School System until her retirement in 2011.

After her retirement, she continued to teach and spent her time as a volunteer tutor. She also enjoyed spending time with her family, travelling, gardening, going to the beach and was an avid quilter making beautiful quilts for her family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 32 years, Jack M. Murphy as well as her parents, Oscar and Mary Jane Smith, and her brother, George Smith.

She is survived by her three (3) children: Gregory (Kym), Jennifer (Patrick) and Jason (Amanda); her sisters, Patricia and Gayle as well as her loving

grandchildren, nieces and nephews and lifelong friends.

Bonnie was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and loved by many. Bonnie will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Services will be held on Saturday, July 8, 2023 with a Visitation from 10:00 am to 11:00 am followed by a Celebration of Life Service at 11:00 am at the Erlanger Christian Church, 27 Graves Avenue, Erlanger, Kentucky.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Literacy for Haiti, an organization Bonnie felt strongly about as well as the Erlanger Christian Church Youth Group.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 8. 10:00 AM (ET)

Erlanger Christian Church
27 Graves Ave
Erlanger, KY 41018-1612
(859) 727-2076

Celebration of Life Service

JUL 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

Erlanger Christian Church
27 Graves Ave
Erlanger, KY 41018-1612
(859) 727-2076

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



jennifer murphy - August 23, 2023 at 10:49 AM

AM

“Whenever someone passes, there seems to be a tendency to exaggerate their best qualities and dismiss the rest. Bonnie never pretended to be perfect, and she never expected that from anyone else either. (Lord knows, she has seen me struggle through some of my worst and weakest moments.) I’ve been trying to find the right words to say about Bonnie Murphy. They all seem to fall short. She was so much to so many, and so many knew her and loved her way before I did. When she was with you though, she was really with you. She never hesitated to extend a helping hand. When she answered the phone, it was such a joyful greeting. It always made me feel like she had been awaiting my call and was so happy to hear from me. Bonnie was a trusted confidant. We would talk sometimes for hours and “solve the world’s problems.” She had a way of normalizing concerns and extending grace. She believed in people, and she trusted that they had the answers to their questions inside of themselves. She was gentle about sharing her experiences, and she was careful not to be pushy or presumptuous, which is not always the norm from what I gather about other mother-in-law’s. Bonnie was the beloved mother of three truly wonderful people. I lucked out and married her youngest, Jason. Yes, Bonnie was a quilter, gardener, a handyman, teacher, volunteer, watercolor painter, landscape, designer, and whatever else she set her mind to. She had a way of making things look easy. She was a hard worker and seemed to really enjoy working up a sweat. When she didn’t know how to do something, she wasn’t shy about learning how to do it, and even teaching you if you had an interest. Bonnie seemed to be good at everything she did. I don’t think that’s an exaggeration. She made the best apple pies, crust from scratch. She could walk out in the yard and cut a few flowers and make it look like an arrangement. She hung tablecloths for curtains and vines for valances. She was resourceful and complex without being complicated. She seemed to truly appreciate her family and simple pleasures, and she was easy about sharing those moments with others. I remember one time she told me she was just going to say yes whenever someone asked her to do something, and she did. She said yes to Life. She said yes to cross country meets, baseball,

games, sleepovers, makeovers, get together's, home-improvement projects, water parks, camp-outs, picnics, hikes, retreats, and road trips. She stayed open to adventure, and many times that adventure was just building a fire in the backyard, roasting hotdogs and marshmallows with the people she loved. She opened her heart and her home. She was a safe haven. Bonnie was not one for grand and sweeping gestures; however, there was never any doubt how big she loved. Bonnie taught me so many things. Little lessons like how to cut a single strawberry or nectarine into a hundred tiny pieces, and you don't have to have ALL (or any) of the ingredients to make some recipes. And sometimes you don't even need a recipe. It's okay to get creative. So much of what Bonnie taught I am still trying to learn. She was generous of heart. She didn't get caught up in dramas— not her own or anyone else's. She was wise, understanding and unassuming. I hope to channel her spirit of love and gentleness. I hate saying Bonnie was. Bonnie was a Sister, Mother, Nana, Mother-in-law, a Friend of mine and so many others. I already miss her dearly. My heart is with all of you out there loving and remembering her, and I trust she is with all of us. Yes, she left an "indelible imprint" on our hearts and our lives forever.

Amanda Murphy - July 09, 2023 at 12:22 PM

KC

Beautiful tribute Amanda. I taught briefly with Bonnie at RBW and although I only knew her a short time, I knew her to be kind, gentle, funny, an incredible educator and friend. Peace, love and light to all who knew and loved Bonnie.

Katy Cortelyou - July 26, 2023 at 08:32 AM

JM

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Jennifer Murphy - July 07, 2023 at 12:50 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Bonita Murphy.



July 07, 2023 at 08:05 AM



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

July 07, 2023 at 08:05 AM

JM

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Jennifer Murphy - July 04, 2023 at 11:37 AM

JM

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Jennifer Murphy - July 04, 2023 at 11:36 AM

JM

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Jennifer Murphy - July 04, 2023 at 11:35 AM

JM

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Jennifer Murphy - July 04, 2023 at 11:34 AM

JM

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Jennifer Murphy - July 04, 2023 at 11:33 AM

DW

“ Bonnie was a treasure of a gal! Always thoughtful, helpful, kind... and her SMILE could light up a room! She was a faithful follower of Christ and an encourager to many. Bonnie made this little card plaque for me so many yrs ago. I have always displayed it in my craft room and it has encouraged me often. I will treasure the compassionate kindness of Bonnie ❤️



Diane Wilson - July 02, 2023 at 03:33 PM

JM

Diane, thank you so much for sharing this about our mom. It moves me to know she shared this with you. Towards the end of her life she asked me to include this in her service so we would all be encouraged by it. ☐

Jennifer Murphy - July 02, 2023 at 04:56 PM

JM

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Jennifer Murphy - July 02, 2023 at 02:20 PM

JM

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Jennifer Murphy - July 02, 2023 at 02:19 PM

JM

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Jennifer Murphy - July 02, 2023 at 11:57 AM

JM

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Jennifer Murphy - July 02, 2023 at 11:56 AM

JM

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Jennifer Murphy - July 02, 2023 at 11:55 AM

GP

Glad that I could make her smile

Gilbert Paul - July 05, 2023 at 01:53 PM

JM

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Jennifer Murphy - July 02, 2023 at 11:54 AM

LW

“ Greg, Jennifer and Jason, I was blessed to meet your mom Aug, 1962, EKU, Burnham Hall annex . From our first meeting to our last get-together in Danville a few years ago, she made me smile. Bonnie brought you kids to my house in Stanford in the mid 80's. We took you all to the Country Club to swim. I send my deepest sympathy for the lost of a very special person. *Lea Scott Wooldridge (the third bride's maid)*



Lea Scott Wooldridge - July 01, 2023 at 05:08 PM

JM

Leah, a/k/a third brides maid! Thank you so very much for posting these pictures of our mom and especially the wedding photo. Thank you for sharing your memories of our mom. We appreciate it very much...Jennifer, Greg and Jason.

Jennifer Murphy - July 01, 2023 at 05:30 PM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Bonita Murphy.



July 01, 2023 at 12:55 PM



“ Jenny, Greg and Jason, What a blessing knowing your mom all these years in Lakeland. Her smile, her facial expressions especially when you knew was a listening, her yummy Kale, sausage & potato soup. Her gardening skills. And Bonnie made the best handmade cloth COVID masks. I just miss her. I know you do as well. Hoping you find comfort knowing your mother was at peace and very happy seeing you all three of you working together at her side. May God bless you. Mike Willison

Mike Willison - July 01, 2023 at 12:01 PM

JM

Thank you so much Mike for sharing this about our mom. She did make the best soup didn't she? We miss her. Thank you for all of your support over the years and everything you did for her and our family...Greg, Jenny and Jason....

Jennifer Murphy - July 01, 2023 at 05:25 PM

JM

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Jennifer Murphy - June 30, 2023 at 03:58 PM

JM

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Jennifer Murphy - June 30, 2023 at 03:57 PM

JM

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Jennifer Murphy - June 30, 2023 at 03:56 PM

JW

“ I cannot easily put into words how much Bonnie (aka Mrs. Murphy) meant to me. She has been a part of my life for almost 50 years! She and your dad were such a foundation for us in our youth group at Trinity. Here are just a few memories that come to mind...

- That big white passenger van that we would fill up to go out on youth group outings and to retreats. We all thought that was the most amazing invention! Of course the upgrade to the Jeep years later was just an entirely different level!

- Watching *Days of Our Lives* down in your basement. Of course your dad had his Diet Pepsi and it was so cool, dark, safe, and relaxed.

- One time Jenny pulled into my driveway in that Arrow to pick me up for one of our shopping trips or something. She didn't have her driver's license yet, so I was stunned to see her driving all by herself. I went to the car and your mom popped up from her hiding spot in the backseat - just cracking up and laughing! She could find joy in the simplest of moments!

- My memory might have this story wrong, but this is how I recall it...She told me about when she and your dad got married. They went on their honeymoon, but came back early. She said they just wanted to be in their own home and she was excited that they could eat crackers in bed if they wanted to! That detail could be wrong, but that is exactly how I remember it (40 years later)- the freedom to eat crackers in bed . The thing about that story is that it shows how down to earth your mom was. She did not need a big fancy honeymoon or even road trip to a hotel. She knew what was important and celebrated it. She was absolutely the salt of the earth, kind down to her core, non-judgmental, just so easy to please and to be around. She made everyone feel safe, loved, and comfortable.

Greg, Jenny, and Jason...you each have all of the best qualities of each of your parents. You lost both of them too soon and that is so heart breaking. And, their goodness, their honesty, their integrity, it is all in you. What an amazing legacy! Sending love and blessings to each of you as you navigate this new chapter.

Jen (Sikute) Wigton - June 28, 2023 at 03:47 PM

JE

Thank you Jen for sharing the beautiful memories of our mom! We appreciate it so much.

Jen - July 01, 2023 at 05:21 PM

JM

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Jennifer Murphy - June 27, 2023 at 09:29 PM

JM

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Jennifer Murphy - June 27, 2023 at 09:24 PM

JM

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Jennifer Murphy - June 27, 2023 at 09:22 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Bonita Murphy.*



June 27, 2023 at 07:59 AM



“ *3 files added to the tribute wall*



Jennifer Murphy - June 26, 2023 at 11:52 PM

CO

“ Oh, you guys, I’m so sorry! I literally was just thinking about your Mom this past weekend and made a mental note to call and check-in. I have many memories of our childhoods at your house or mine or George and Diane’s. Lots of camp outs, lots of laughter, etc. I remember very much the love your parents showed each other. At some point I recall Mom and Dad sitting me down and informing me that if anything were to happen to them, we would go live with your family. Your parents had agreed to be guardians. May seem creepy to you that they had this chat with me at such a young age, but given the business, it made sense to me. All I knew was that of all the people in the whole world, they trusted your Mom the most! There is no higher compliment in my book. I always felt secure in knowing this. I loved all of you and your mom made me feel safe and loved.

Over the years, I liked hearing stories of Bonnie’s visits to Oscar’s and of her beautiful home in Florida. Whenever we spoke she updated me on your lives. When my Mom was sick she was a big support to her and Dad. As you know, you never forget who was “there” during those worst of times. And she and I talked with some regularity in recent years when she checked on Dad or I checked on her. Looks like our last text chat was on Christmas.

I loved your Mom’s humor. Her smile. She always brought light into the room. I know I’ve got pictures. I’ll see what I can come up with and post here. Much, much love at this time.

Cheryl Owen

cheryl Owen - June 26, 2023 at 11:33 PM

JM

Cheryl, this is so beautiful. Thank you so much for sharing - from all of us. Our parents knew how to have fun didn't they? What a special friendship they had and that now continues on with us! Love to you..

Jennifer Murphy - June 27, 2023 at 08:35 AM

BR

“ *A wonderful, loving aunt who was a joy to be around .*



Beth Roberts - June 26, 2023 at 09:40 PM

JM

Love you Beth.

Jennifer Murphy - June 27, 2023 at 08:36 AM

JM

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Jennifer Murphy - June 26, 2023 at 07:23 PM

JM

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Jennifer Murphy - June 26, 2023 at 07:22 PM

JM

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Jennifer Murphy - June 26, 2023 at 06:53 PM

BS

“ I have such wonderful memories of Bonnie as we did projects together at Trinity UCC in Cincinnati. She was very creative, and we enjoyed working together for the Sunday School program. She loved being a wife and mother, and I will cherish our time together. Condolences to her family.

Bill and Janet Sikute - June 26, 2023 at 06:47 PM

JM

Mrs. Sikute...thank you for sharing this with us!

Jennifer Murphy - June 27, 2023 at 08:37 AM

JM

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Jennifer Murphy - June 26, 2023 at 05:34 PM

LO

“ *My favorite memories are those spent hanging poolside just talking and laughing. Bonnie had a great sense of humor and a wonderful laugh.* ”

Lori - June 26, 2023 at 04:50 PM

JM

Love you Lori.

Jennifer Murphy - June 27, 2023 at 08:36 AM

JM

“ *3 files added to the tribute wall* ”



Jennifer Murphy - June 26, 2023 at 02:11 PM

JM

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall* ”



Jennifer Murphy - June 26, 2023 at 02:06 PM

JM

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Jennifer Murphy - June 26, 2023 at 01:55 PM

JM

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Jennifer Murphy - June 26, 2023 at 01:50 PM

JM

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Jennifer Murphy - June 26, 2023 at 01:49 PM

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Jennifer Murphy - June 26, 2023 at 01:47 PM

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Jennifer Murphy - June 26, 2023 at 01:46 PM

JM

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Jennifer Murphy - June 26, 2023 at 01:44 PM

JM

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Jennifer Murphy - June 26, 2023 at 01:43 PM

JM

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Jennifer Murphy - June 26, 2023 at 01:40 PM