



Janice Woodcock Handley

September 21, 1937 - August 4, 2025

Janice Woodcock Handley of Lakeland, FL died peacefully surrounded by her family on Monday, August 4, 2025. Janice was born September 21, 1937, in Auburndale, FL to Coy Woodcock and Evelyn Turner Woodcock.

She is survived by her husband Arthur Handley of Auburndale, FL, children Rhonda (Rick) Nelson of Lakeland, FL, John (Deborah) Newbern of Lakeland, FL, Shelda (Jeff) Gary of Polk City, FL, Jimmy (Denise) Handley of Auburndale, FL, Mark Handley of Auburndale, FL, 18 grandchildren, and 23 great grandchildren. She is survived by her sisters Linda Cruse of Ormond Beach, FL and Bobbie Sowell of Sylvania, GA.

Janice was a graduate of Auburndale High School. Her first job was a telephone operator at Peninsula Phone company. She then became a homemaker to raise her children. As her children grew older, she worked at Sun Bank and the Winter Haven News Chief. After becoming a grandmother, she dedicated her life to her love of children by being a caretaker in her home and eventually became the preschool director for St. Paul's Episcopal School in Winter Haven.

She was an active member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church caring for little ones by teaching vacation bible school and nursery. Janice was a member of the Order of St. Luke and lifted prayers for many in her community.

She was a beloved mother and an amazing “Granny Janny” to her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She will be remembered as a quick witted, God-fearing lady who would always teach the ways of the Lord. A loving, caring teacher to so many children, she loved the beach, always knew the latest gossip and loved animals and babies.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, September 20th, 2025, at 11 am at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Winter Haven, followed by the interment in the church Rose Garden. In Janice’s memory, in lieu of flowers, please donate to Good Shepherd Hospice, 3470 Lakeland Hills Blvd, Lakeland, FL 33805.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Service

SEP **20**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul Episcopal Church
656 Avenue L NW
Winter Haven, FL 33881

Tribute Wall



“ Prayers for Rhonda Nelson ant the entire family of Ms Janice. This lady was one of the best, I'll always hold my memories close to my heart especially of those lake days. You're sure to be missed however we know heaven has much laughter with your presence! RIP sweet lady!

Pam Seagers (holmes) - August 12, 2025 at 06:21 PM



Sorry about the spelling error (and) That'll teach me for not proofreading

Pam Seagers (holmes) - August 12, 2025 at 06:25 PM



“ Dearest Arthur, family and many friends you all have my deepest sympathy during this time and the days ahead as Janice was as precious here on earth as she is in heaven. I remember her coming to Lena Vista to volunteer with you all and Jimmy was one of my son, Jason Piper's classmates. Mark was one of ours at LVE too and mama was always there to help and she was a sweet blessing. You all are in my many prayers and love and know you will see your precious Janice (wife, mama, granny) in heaven. Love, Jo Piper Winnett and family ❤️🙏🥹



JoNelda Piper Winnett - August 10, 2025 at 05:21 PM

JA

“ *Such a beautiful and wonderful woman. I first met her while helping at VBS at St. Paul’s. I have. I have missed seeing her for a while now and wish I had kept in better touch. So sorry so hear about her passing. She was definitely a joy and very funny. Loved her sense of humor and her sense of good “old fashioned” morals and integrity. Her faith in God was like no other. She was truly an inspiration and a very special women.*

judith Acken - August 09, 2025 at 08:59 AM