



## Margaret Swilling Smith

March 29, 1928 - August 2, 2025

Margaret Swilling Smith, age 97, of Centre, Alabama passed away peacefully at her home at Cherokee Village Assisted Living Facility, on August 2, 2025, with her family at her side.

Margaret was born on March 29th, 1928, in Greensboro, North Carolina and was the daughter of Chester Gant Swilling and Lillian Ford Swilling. She was their only child.

She graduated from Auburn University in 1948 with a degree in Home Economics. She taught school for just one year. She then married Arlie Genoma Smith of Albertville, Alabama in May of 1949 and settled into being a homemaker, which was the desire of her heart.

Margaret's mission in life was to maintain a Christian home and be the best wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, homemaker and friend she could be. Her family all heartily agree her life exemplified this mission as fully accomplished.

She loved to bake, especially cookies and was an excellent cook. Her house was always ready to receive guests and she could put a meal on the table at the drop of a hat, usually with food fresh from the garden or that she had canned or frozen herself. Friends and neighbors always looked forward to packages of cookies at Christmas time and enjoyed gifts of fresh apple cake brought for no special reason. At church pot luck suppers, folks watched to see which dish she brought to be sure to get some of her home cooking.

Margaret loved flowers and always had beautiful flower gardens. She tended

them carefully and kept cut flowers in her home from her gardens. When she could no longer grow her own flowers, her grandchildren made sure she had fresh flowers to enjoy. And she loved receiving those.

Margaret also loved to sew and was an excellent seamstress. She made many wedding dresses including her daughter Lynda's dress, her daughter-in-law Karen's dress and many for friends and loved ones.

Bible study was her daily practice. At the breakfast table, the Bible and a devotion were read and a prayer of blessing was offered every day. Anyone who spent the night, no matter who, was expected to join them for breakfast and participate in their daily devotions. She taught Sunday School at First Baptist Church, Centre for over 50 years, and her class loved her. They honored her by naming the class The Margaret Smith Class.

She is survived by her children, Lynda Smith Wilson (Bobby) and Lynn Russell Smith (Karen), grandchildren Wade Wilson (Karla), Wes Wilson (Merrick), Lauren Smith and Sarah Cole (Ryan). Her great grandchildren are Taylor Abbott, Kamryn Abbott, Joshua Abbott, Carson Wilson, Brynlee Wilson, Colten Wilson, Riley Wilson, Gillian Cassady, Woods Cassady, Clara Cole and Olivia Cole.

Margaret was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 64 years, Arlie Genoma Smith and her great grandson, Corey Curtis Wilson.

The family wishes to thank all the staff of Cherokee Village Assisted Living Facility for the tremendous care and love they showed to Margaret in the time she lived there. They could not be more grateful for all the staff did for her.

They also wish to thank Dr. Sheri Frickey for her outstanding care and support of Margaret as her Primary Care Physician. Dr. Frickey's love, attentive guidance and outstanding compassion, as well as her expertise as a physician is unmatched. The family is forever grateful for all she did for her. They also are grateful to SouthernCare Hospice for the gentle support they provided.

Arrangements include visitation on Wednesday, August 06, 2025, at First Baptist Church (300 East Bypass, Centre, Alabama 35960) at 12:30 followed

immediately by a service of celebration of Margaret's life at 2:00. There will be a brief graveside gathering at Cherokee Memory Gardens following the service.

In lieu of flowers the family request memorials be given to the Centre First Baptist building fund.

# Previous Events

## Family receiving friends

AUG 6. 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church Centre - ROC  
300 East Bypass  
Centre, AL 35960

## Funeral Service

AUG 6. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church Centre - ROC  
300 East Bypass  
Centre, AL 35960

# Tribute Wall

CC

“ I first met Mrs Smith when I was 15 years old. She became an important person in my life. I was one of the lucky people to whom she made their wedding dress. I still have that dress. I had it professionally stored. Mrs Smith made a huge difference in direction my life took. She was one of the most genuinely kind person I have ever met. Thank you Mrs. Smith , we shared a lot of good memories and some not so good. You made a difference to me and so many more.

*Carol Scroggin Courson*

carol courson - August 15, 2025 at 05:30 PM

LW

Thank you for sharing this Carol. She loved you and was glad she had a small part in your life. Lynda

Lynda Wilson - August 20, 2025 at 10:25 AM



“ 149 files added to the album LifeTributes



Perry Funeral Home Inc. - August 04, 2025 at 04:23 PM

RW

“ My growing up yrs always included Ms. Margaret. She was my GA teacher and I met requirements for Queen with a Sceptre. Through her I learned to love reading my Bible. She touched the lives of all my friends through her Christian life. She is now in heaven with God whom she served all her life.

Rebecca Wynn - August 04, 2025 at 02:35 PM

LW

Thanks Beck. Your mother was another mom to me growing up.

Lynda Wilson - August 20, 2025 at 10:26 AM

SU

“ Mama Margaret, I'm going to miss you so much. I'm glad we got to spend some time together Sunday just talking. The love you had for everyone was unsurmountable. It has been an honor to have known you and loved by you. There will never be another Margaret Smith.



Sue - August 04, 2025 at 02:16 PM

EL

It was a blessing for me to know you mrs Margaret the first to welcome me and my husband to FBC Centre you were the kindest best Christian I've ever had the privilege of knowing I know your celebrating with your husband and Jesus I will miss you greatly love you forever Elaine shaw

Elaine - August 04, 2025 at 05:34 PM

LW

Thank you for your sweet comments about mom ❤️

Lynda Wilson - August 20, 2025 at 10:27 AM