



JoAnn (Denman) Baker

October 29, 1931 - February 3, 2025

JoAnn Baker, longtime resident of Lindsay, Oklahoma, passed from this life to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on February 3, 2025. She was born to Orvel and Mable Denman on October 29, 1931, near Purcell, Oklahoma, and grew up in that rural community. At an early age, JoAnn was taken to a small country church and studied the stories of Jesus from small cards with favorite pictures of Jesus as He went about doing His work. Later, her Mother and Dad began attending church and her Dad began leading the song service for the church. JoAnn loved to pretend playing the piano and started piano lessons with a teacher in the community. She began playing for the song service at an early age, even though she was limited in her hymn selection. At the age of ten, JoAnn was at a revival service when she felt the Holy Spirit tugging at her heart and she went to the front to surrender to Jesus. At the altar, JoAnn met her mother, father, and older sister, and together they joined hands and surrendered to Jesus. It was a glorious night. JoAnn continued with piano and became pianist for the church.

JoAnn graduated from Wayne High School in 1948, and for the summer months assumed a position as secretary with an Attorney-At-Law in Purcell, Oklahoma. She attended OCW (Oklahoma College for Women) in Chickasha, Oklahoma, for one year, then returned to her secretarial position for another year.

JoAnn was married to Reso Baker, on March 10, 1950, and moved to Payne, Oklahoma, where their three sons were born. She served as pianist at Payne Church until they moved to Lindsay, Oklahoma. At First Baptist Church in Lindsay, JoAnn served as leader of the young girls' missionary auxiliary and pianist for the youth choir. She was also assistant church organist. In 1972, JoAnn became pianist of Calvary Baptist Church in Lindsay, and in 1975, she was selected as organist for the church, where she remained until 2014. JoAnn was also pianist for a men's quartet.

In 1961, JoAnn enrolled at Oklahoma University. In 1965, she graduated with a Bachelor of Music Education degree. JoAnn opened a piano studio and concentrated on private lessons.

In 1973, she enrolled again at Oklahoma University for two semesters, and she studied Piano and Piano Pedagogy with Dr. Clarence Burg. In 1970, JoAnn began teaching in Lindsay Public Schools as Elementary Music teacher. Working with younger children was her passion. JoAnn loved interacting with the children and spent hours writing parts for their music programs that were presented. In 1980, JoAnn requested a leave of absence from Lindsay school, to teach at Chickasha school for five years. In 1991, JoAnn returned to Lindsay as the Elementary Music teacher until 1997, when she retired.

JoAnn, along with her husband Reso, was a member of a musical group who entertained at nursing homes in Lindsay, Pauls Valley, Lexington, and Purcell, Oklahoma. She played the keyboard and was a vocalist for the group, and Reso played the fiddle.

JoAnn was affiliated with the Lindsay Philharmonic Society, National Guild of Piano Teachers, and Oklahoma Music Teachers Association.

Other hobbies and interests of JoAnn's life were sewing and flower gardening.

She was a member of the Payne Home Demonstration Club and entered her work in local fairs.

JoAnn is survived by her children, Rick and Pam Baker, Doug and Billie Baker, daughter-in-law, NaDonna Tibbits, her grandchildren, Pete Baker and wife Angela, Nicki Dewoody and husband Lynn, Tarren Baker and wife Chelsea, Jesse Romine and husband Gregg, and great-grandchildren, Makayla Huff, Layla Baker, Braeden Baker, Kenzie Baker, Lexi Jo Romine, Molly Romine, Lydia Dewoody, Charlie Dewoody, and Bennett Baker.

JoAnn is preceded in death by her husband, Reso Baker, her son, Joe Baker, her grandson, Royce Baker, her parents, Orvel Denman and Mable Denman, and her sisters, Imogene Wolfe and Marjorie Payne.

A funeral service to honor JoAnn's life is set to be held on Friday, February 7, 2025, at 2:00 P.M., at Calvary Baptist Church in Lindsay, Oklahoma. Following the service, she will be laid to her final rest at Greenhill Cemetery in Lindsay, Oklahoma.

Services are under the direction of Scott and Angel Wilbourn of Wilbourn Family Funeral Home in Lindsay, Oklahoma. Condolences may be made online at www.wilbournfamilyfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Green Hill Cemetery

100th Street
Lindsay, OK 73052

Previous Events

Funeral Service

FEB 7. 2:00 PM (CT)

Calvary Baptist Church
410 W Chickasaw St
Lindsay, OK 73052
(405) 756-2781

Tribute Wall

TL

“ Ms. Baker was my music teacher all through my elementary school years at Lindsay Elementary School; which would be 1972 to 1977. I learned a lot about music from her. She could be firm with students (which she had to be with rambunctious boys like myself) but she was so caring.

In addition, she was very involved managing the plays that the elementary students performed. I could not sing to save my life and though I always wanted a lead role, I was not given one because I couldn't carry a tune.

BUT in my 6th grade year; we put on the Christmas play and Ms. Baker came up to me and suggested I play Santa Claus, a lead character in the play. At 1st I was put aback because I was an athlete and not chubby. Ms. Baker assured me that is not why she wanted me for the part; and that pillows would make me look 'in-character'. I agreed & loved (finally) having a lead part in our grade's play. Years later it dawned on me the role did not sing in the play. I often use the mystery fact: "he played Santa Claus in his 6th grade play" in ice breaker activities. All because Ms. Baker knew I couldn't sing; but perhaps saw that I could at least act out a lead part in an elementary play.

One last memory I'll share... in the 1st grade play I had to lead the audience the pledge of allegiance and the Lord's prayer. After the pledge of allegiance, I stood there in front of the auditorium and forgot the 1st words to the prayer. I just stood there in front of the microphone panicked. Then I looked down and Ms. Baker was mouthing the words "Our Father". I then said Our Father; and the audience then took over the rest. She bailed me out! It is silly I know, but it's a reason I have fond memories of Ms. Baker. And often times it can be the small things in life, especially when one is an impressionable 1st grader.

Trey Long - February 24, 2025 at 10:20 AM

TI

“ *She was a great lady, loved her family, and was an outstanding lady.*
Tom Inman

Tom Inman - February 08, 2025 at 02:42 PM

MB

“ *A precious lady. We had many, many laughs and special times In the past. She taught my grandson piano lessons, we went to same church, taught @same school, lived a few blocks apart.....just so many fun times and memories of this precious lady.. God grant the family peace and comfort. Sending my love. Mary Magby- Baird.*

MARY M. Baird - February 05, 2025 at 10:00 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of JoAnn (Denman) Baker.*



February 05, 2025 at 02:34 PM

VJ

“ *She was one my favorite teachers. She was a very lovely and sweet lady. Go with Jesus Christ and Rest in His love.*

vicky hughes janway - February 04, 2025 at 11:07 AM