



Barbara Jean Smith Charleston

December 21, 1947 - December 24, 2025

Barbara Jean Smith Charleston was preceded in death by her father, Oscar Lee Smith (Big House); her mother, Thelma Biggers Smith (Thelma or Heavy Hips); her sister, Geraldine Biggers (Jerry); her brothers, Carlton Smith (Baldie), Charles Smith, and Clarence Smith (Blackie); and one daughter, Gwendolyn Smith.

Barbara was born on December 21, 1947, at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia, to Mr. Oscar Lee Smith Sr. and Mrs. Thelma Biggers Smith. She grew up in the Summerhill community of Atlanta, where she attended Slater Elementary School and Price High School. A hardworking woman throughout her life, Barbara held several jobs, including positions at Shoney's Big Boy, Ashton Woods Nursing Home, Wettarau Bakery, and French's Ice Cream in Atlanta. She later moved to Connecticut, where she continued working until her retirement, before returning home to Georgia. After 78 years around the sun, and 3 days, enjoying life with all of her family and friends, Barbara peacefully fell asleep on December 24, 2025, at Newnan Hospital in Georgia.

She leaves to cherish her memory two surviving brothers, Oscar Lee Smith Jr. (June Bug) and Kenneth James Smith (Kenney Ball); two sisters-in-law, Ocie Morgan and Deborah Smith (Moody); and her children: Pamela Smith Nichols, married to William Nichols III; Aremeal Wheeler, married to Rico Wheeler; and Clarence E. Williams Jr. Through marriage, she also gained three children: Sonya Yvette Brevard, married to George Brevard; Carolyn Charleston; and

David Charleston, married to Rachel Charleston. Barbara is also survived by her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren, along with a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

Barbara was a giver of love, and everyone who encountered her felt that love deeply. She was a strong woman with a generous heart, always willing to help anyone in need. She loved cooking for her family, especially during celebrations, and she gave her life to Christ at an early age. She raised her children to trust in God and to always do what was right. One of her guiding sayings was,

"Whatever you do, make sure it's right and be the best at it."

Sewing was one of Barbara's greatest passions; she could sit at her machine for hours without taking a break. She also enjoyed cooking, solving puzzles, and playing games on her tablet to keep her mind sharp. Barbara had a true gift for gardening; she was a proud green thumb who could grow anything and revive any plant. Her home was filled with flowers, many of which she lovingly named, reflecting her deep appreciation for nature.

Barbara would give you her last if you needed it. Whether it was clothes, food, furniture, or anything she had, she gave freely. She was truly a jewel in our midst. She loved God, and she loved serving people.

Barbara met Daniel, the love of her life, in high school. Though they went their separate ways and married others, destiny brought them back together. They later married and shared one child, Pamela Yvette Smith Nichols.

Barbara's life was defined by love, generosity, faith, and resilience. Her legacy lives on in the countless lives she touched.

Rest in peace Mrs. Barbara Jean. Your brilliance will forever echo in our hearts.

Celebration of life services will be held on Sunday, January 4, 2026 at 12:00 PM in the Chapel of McKoon Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 11:00 AM until service time.

Condolences can be expressed online at www.mckoon.com.

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory (770) 253-4580

Cemetery Details

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory

38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
care@mckoon.com
<http://www.mckoon.com>

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 4. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263

Funeral Service

JAN 4. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home Chapel
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263



LIVESTREAM

*Barbara Jean
Smith Charleston*

1947-2025

A group of approximately ten graduates, both men and women, are posed for a photo. They are all wearing black academic gowns with white stoles draped over their shoulders. They are standing in a line on a paved surface, with a white car partially visible behind them on the left. The background shows some greenery and a building.



Aremeal Wheeler - January 03 at 08:27 PM

RW

“ Love you mother-in- law
Going to miss you dearly 🙏❤️ Rest No more pain 😊
Your Son Rico



Ricardo Wheeler - January 03 at 08:17 PM

“ Our Mother

*Was strength wrapped in warmth,
a steady hand in an unsteady world.
Her voice carried lessons
before we ever knew we were listening.*

*She loved like survival depended on it—
because sometimes it did.
She poured herself into her children,
even when her cup was cracked,
even when no one refilled it.*

*Her hands told stories
of sacrifice and protection,
of praying over meals,
of wiping tears she didn't cause
and healing wounds she didn't make.*

*She stood tall through storms
meant to bend her,
teaching us that dignity
is not given—it's claimed.*

*Though she rests now,
her strength still walks beside us,
in our courage,
in our resilience,
in the way we keep going
when it would be easier to stop.*

*She is not gone—
she lives in every hard choice we survive,
every dream we refuse to abandon,
every moment we rise.*

*Our mother never leaves.
She becomes the foundation
we stand on forever. 🕊️
Our mother is a Strong Black Women 👑
We love you Pamela, Aremeal & Clarence 💔*

Aremeal Wheeler - January 01 at 10:58 PM

BL

To the family of Mrs. Barbara. I just want to say to you. Thank you for sharing your daughter with me. We will miss you, but you will not be forgotten. I asked God to bless your children and keep his arms around and I said, thank you, I asked him to bless your grandchildren, grant and your great-great-great grand. Can't nobody do it but him, but we will see you again 1 day and to that day come, he will always be with you and your children. I love you. I'm so glad I can't see it enough. You are always be in my heart and thank you for being the person you were. I love you and till I see you again in Jesus' name Amen.

Brigitte Lewis - January 03 at 08:40 PM