



## Jeanne Marie Thieman Smith

October 4, 1957 - August 18, 2015

Jeanne Marie Thieman Smith, was set free from this life August 18, 2015. She never walked into a room, she bebopped. Her entrance was invariably made with a bounce in her step, a beaming smile, and twinkling, sometimes mischievous eyes. “Hello, my friend!” she would chirp, greeting all she encountered as if they were the most important person on Earth. To Jeanne, every person she met, no matter how brief the exchange, was the most important person on Earth. She treated everyone with kindness, empathy, patience, and good will. Her grace and benevolence knew no bounds. Jeanne was a wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, aunt, friend, neonatal nurse practitioner, colleague, confidant, and heroine, to name only a few of the mantles she wore during her whirlwind life. Having helped establish Joplin’s first neonatal intensive care unit at Freeman Hospital, Jeanne ushered thousands of babies in need of her healing touch into the world, and each one of them, along with their families, received the utmost in loving care from the bottomless well Jeanne carried within her. She never seemed to tire, so vast was her drive and energy.

Unwittingly, Jeanne Smith made those around her want to be better people, though she had far too much humility to ever concede this fact. She pulled others to her like a magnet, giving freely of her wisdom, her laughter, and her hugs. There are perhaps no words to adequately describe her, as Jeanne was the type of person that comes along only once in a lifetime. She liked to fish. She often spoke of the feeling of freedom she felt on the back of her

husband's motorcycle, the wind blowing through her hair. She sang silly songs. She prayed. She fixed you with a smile that would turn darkness into light. She said quietly, firmly, "Let go, and let God." She never, ever stopped to rest. Life for Jeanne consisted of loving much, helping always, laughing often, and taking nothing for granted. During the short period of time that the world was blessed to have her, she wasted not a single second.

Jeanne would not want those who love her to feel sadness for her passing, as she has gone home. She fought a good fight, and in the end she emerged the victor, for she is with her beloved father, Harold. They are eating oats and toasted beer bread at the kitchen table, talking about going fishing, or maybe just taking a walk with the dogs. Her humble nature might cause her to be a little embarrassed at the outpouring of devotion by her loved ones, and she might caution that we are putting her on a pedestal. If so, it is a place of honor that she wholly deserves.

Among the many, many family, friends, and coworkers celebrating Jeanne's life are her husband, Clint Smith, her daughter and son in law, Melanie and Jason Mitchell; daughter and son in law Stephanie and Jason Andrews; daughter and son in law Laura and Tyson McLaughlin; son Jeremy Smith; grandchildren Jude Mitchell, Jacy Andrews, Aiden Andrews, Tre McLaughlin, Kaden McLaughlin, and Alex Smith; sister Cathy Anderson and brother in law Steve; sister Lisa Coleman and brother in law Bill, sister Angela Madden; brother- and sister in law Charley and Susan Smith; niece Erin Madden; niece Jina Zafiris; nephew B.J. Coleman; nephew Mike Madden; niece Jessica Purdom and husband Jeff; niece Kathy Chapman and husband Doug; nephew Tucker Hughes and wife Mary; niece Carol Conness and husband Jeremy; and great-nieces and nephews Noah, Luke, Ava, Grace, Brandon, Gabriel, Seth, Zane, and Clay.

Little Jeanne, we do not know how you did it. You went full throttle your entire life, and you never wore down. You lived on your own terms, guided by an uncommon heart, and when your life came to a close, your wishes were obeyed. Our hearts are heavy with loss, yet they also spill over with the love

you bestowed upon each of us. Our memories will carry us through the next step of our journey, the place where our paths diverged. We are certain that those paths will meet again one day.

Jeanne, you have impacted the lives of more people than you could ever fathom. The legacy that remains, that will undoubtedly be watched over by you, will continue for generations to come. We are all blessed to have known you, and our lives have been made all the richer by your presence. You are one of a kind. You are an inspiration. You are, simply put, magic.

Friends who have a "Team Jeanne" t-shirt are encouraged to wear them to Jeanne's services. Memorial Services will be held 2:00 p.m. Saturday August 22, 2015 at the Risen Ranch Cowboy Church, 10697 Cimmaron Road, Carthage, MO. Contributions can be made to the Childrens Miracle Network or St. Jude's in care of Ulmer Funeral Home. Online condolences can be made at [www.ulmerfh.com](http://www.ulmerfh.com). Arrangements are under the direction of Ulmer Funeral Home.

# Tribute Wall

MP

“ *Jeanne and her family lived across the street from us in Pearsall Texas in the 70s. I became good friends with her and her sister Lisa. She was a sweet person.*

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**Mark Phillips** - May 15, 2025 at 04:36 PM

SR

“ *JEANNE MEANT SO MUCH TO ME. ALWAYS SUPPORTIVE OF THE NURSES SHE WORKED WITH. ALWAYS GIVING HER BEST. I AM SADDENED BY HER LOSS BUT KNOW SHE HAS BEEN RELEASED NOW TO A BETTER PLACE. GOD BLESS HER FAMILY AND ALL WHO WILL MISS HER BRIGHT SMILE.*

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**SUSAN J DEYOE RN** - August 31, 2015 at 06:28 AM

KC

“ *Jeanne lived up the street from me when I was growing up. She even babysat me a few times. She even help deliver My first son 28 yrs ago. My prayers go out to all in her family.*  
*Kevin*

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**Kevin Curtis** - August 28, 2015 at 08:15 PM

SB

“ Heaven gained a precious angel! There really are not words to express how wonderful she was! She was there when I delivered my baby boy, 8 weeks premature, and from that moment it seemed she never stopped caring for us. The care we received from her was beyond amazing, and I'm so thankful she was there. The comfort, peace, and reassurance she gave us in those terrifying weeks was nothing short of heaven sent. Even years later, she would see us in the halls, and ask how our son was doing, by name! She truly was an exceptional caregiver, and person as a whole. Rest In Peace, you will be greatly missed Jeanne!

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**Sarah Berry** - August 22, 2015 at 09:08 PM

KB

“ Clint & Family, So sorry for your loss of Jeanne! She was a special lady. I haven't seen either one of you Clint since my days at Dyno. May your many happy memories of her bring you comfort. Take care of each other!

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**Karen Potter Brown** - August 22, 2015 at 06:29 PM

LJ

“ Jeanne meant so much to so many people. She was one of those exceptional souls who made you feel good about yourself and challenged you to be more at the same time. Even though her physical presence is gone from us for a time, she lives in our hearts forever. May The Lord give her family and many friends peace and comfort to make it through this sad time.

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**LaDale Johnson** - August 22, 2015 at 01:21 PM

CO

“ We are sorry to hear of your loss. However we are glad to have known her during our stay at Freemon for 9 weeks. Jeanne was one of our favorites.

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**Cottinghams** - August 22, 2015 at 09:54 AM

KW

“ This was a beautifully written obituary. Jeanne was a wonderful person, who made this world a better place for countless people. I was fortunate to work with her at Freeman and send my sympathy to her family.

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**Kathy Wright** - August 22, 2015 at 08:45 AM

MQ

“ Almost exactly 18 years ago to the day, Jeanne was there in the very room when my son, Ethan, was born at 28 weeks gestation, weighing only 1 lb 14 oz. I remember her letting me glance at him for a second before she carried him out of the room in a near sprint! God was working through her and her team as she saved my sons life that day, and multiple time in the few days after. She was there with me and him the entire two months, teaching him how to tolerate feeds, litterally one tiny drop at a time. She was there watching over him and she litterally was there to teach him how to breath on his own! She is one of the reasons why my son, Ethan Joseph, is now here with me, a whooping 6 ft tall, all legs, looking forward to college next year where he wants to major in graphic design. He makes me laugh everyday, thank you Jeanne, I will never forget you and the blessing you helped keep in my life!

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**Megan Quick and Ethan Quick** - August 22, 2015 at 08:43 AM

PP

“ I first met Jeanne in 1981 at Freeman Hospital. I lost touch with her after 1985 but learned in 2012 that she was working in the same Kansas City hospital as me. I found her in the nursery there, we had a wonderful visit and got caught up on the past 30 years. So glad I took the time to go visit her. She was such a awesome nurse, she helped many babies take their 1St breath, many take their last and her compassion was incredible. To her sister Lisa who I used to work with and to her entire family, my deepest sympathy to all of you!

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**Patty Putnam** - August 22, 2015 at 01:48 AM

TS

“ So sorry Clint. You're in my thoughts & prayers

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**Trudy Smith** - August 22, 2015 at 12:47 AM

AF

“ Jeanne Marie Thieman Smith

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**Angie Franklin** - August 21, 2015 at 10:10 PM

AF

“ My deepest sympathy to all of Jeanne's family.

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**Aaron Feagan** - August 21, 2015 at 07:43 PM

JF

“ Stephanie and family, We are so sorry to hear of your loss. We pray that the Lord will give you and your family peace through this difficult time. I know your mom will be missed by many. Josh, Stephanie, Gage, Brittany Keith & family, Floyd, and Lizzie

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**Joshua & Stephanie Miller and Family** - August 21, 2015 at 07:35 PM

CC

“ Our prayers are with the family for this difficult time. Jeanne was a true saint who was born to serve.

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**Chuck Carter** - August 21, 2015 at 06:19 PM

AB

“ my little friend, "Jeanne Weinie". I am blessed to have known you as a co-worker and a friend. Thank you for all you gave to everyone, all the time. So now, dance and sing all over God's heaven. Until we meet again my little friend??

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**Ann bashor** - August 21, 2015 at 05:57 PM

WO

“ Wohlenhaus has sent this Expressions of Sympathy card.

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**Wohlenhaus** - August 21, 2015 at 03:20 PM

JI

“ She was such a loving person. I don't grieve for my aunt because I know where she is and I have faith that I will see her again. Her home was always cozy, her heart warm, and her spirit strong. Many people looked to her for advice and I know why. She looked at everything with love and care. I wish I could have spent more time with her but we will have plenty of time to catch up later with God. Pray for her sisters and children. Pray that they find comfort in knowing the fight is over and she is free.

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**Jina** - August 21, 2015 at 01:34 PM

SW

“ Missing you so, and praying for the comfort of your family and friends. Watch over us, dearest friend, from the safety and peace of Jesus' arms.

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**Susan Wagner** - August 21, 2015 at 01:00 PM

SW

“ *I'm saddened by the loss of such a wonderful person. My heart goes out to Jeannie's family. Praying for God's comfort through this time.*

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**Susie (Carnagey) Weaver** - August 21, 2015 at 10:27 AM

MB

“ *Dear sweet Jeanne, I can't add to anything that hasn't already been shared on your facebook page, and the pages of all who knew and loved you. Sympathy and prayers for comfort and healing for family and friends. Until we meet again.*

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**Mary Farmer Bruffett** - August 21, 2015 at 06:50 AM

MN

“ *Ms Jeanne was an amazing nurse practitioner. I worked with her 15 years ago at Freeman. When my son was delivered 5 weeks early she was his practitioner. I remember her coming to me and telling me he needed to go to the Nicu. I was so confident in her care, I just knew everything would be ok. She just gave you the reassurance you needed as a new mom!! May God wrap your family tightly during this time. Give you the comfort that Jeanne gave each of us!! Prayers for you all! Thoughts and Prayers Missy*

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**Melissa Norris-Farley** - August 21, 2015 at 04:48 AM

NE

“ *I love you, Jeanne Marie!*

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**Nessa** - August 21, 2015 at 01:16 AM

BH

“ *Jeanne was a gentle woman with a giant personality. Her smile would light up any room she entered. I worked with her for many years. I loved her and will miss her bubbling presence. God got a special angel when he got Jeanne.*

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**Bonnie Hardin** - August 20, 2015 at 11:41 PM

DW

“ *mu thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. I was a green as green could be when I started my nursing career in Labor and Delivery at Freeman in 96, I think. He patients with my many questions and he empathy for others was beyond reproach. We may have lost an angel but heaven got a good one! God Bless you all!*

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**Dianne Waybright** - August 20, 2015 at 10:51 PM

JP

“ *Jeanne was my first Nurse Manager of my career. I entered that Nursery in 1987 so exctied for my first job. She and her coworkers made sure I was broke in right!! It was so fun in that environment when we worked we laughed and laughed. What a GREAT environment she made that nursery into!! I left there long ago to seek more intensive care oppotunities but never will forget that short, happy nurse manager who took a chance on this new grad! Please watch over all those babies Jeanne!! Love to your family as I am sure they feel the void left by you in thier lives*  
*Jill (Hosp) Proctor*

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**Jill (Hosp) Proctor** - August 20, 2015 at 10:37 PM

JH

“ *Jeanne. Was with us with 4 of our neonatal grandbabies. She was such a blessing to our family. As I know a blessing to others as well. In such a high stress environment as the NICU. She really did always handled it so easily, and readily. A bright light in some of our darker moments. She really was an angel. And heaven is rejoicing her home coming.. condolences to her family and her NICU family as well.*

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**Jeannie Hill** - August 20, 2015 at 09:52 PM

KW

“ *For the short period of time that Jeanne was part of our world, it was a much better place. We lost a bright ray of sunshine since she has went to be with her savior... Thanks for the light while you were here...*

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**Keith & Arlene Wilcox** - August 20, 2015 at 09:04 PM

SH

“ *So very sorry to say goodbye to a good friend. I'm glad the pain is now gone, and I imagine that smile lights up heaven.*

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**Sharon Henderson** - August 20, 2015 at 08:52 PM

JL

“ *She was a wonderful person, I did not know her well, but I also knew Harold, loved talking to him. I still see his old truck around and I smile when I see it and imagine seeing him and his dog.*

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**John LeMasters** - August 20, 2015 at 07:56 PM

RC

“ *you will be missed by many people keep an eye on all of us from HEAVEN*

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**Rhonda Courtney** - August 20, 2015 at 07:23 PM

DO

“ Sending my condolences. I had the privilege of working with both Jeanne and Melanie for a time at Freeman Hospital. Jeanne's smile, knowledge and confidence always made a situation better. She was a blessing to all of us.

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**Donna Osterdyk** - August 20, 2015 at 06:03 PM

MM

“ My heart is heavy with the news of Jeanne's passing. Although I have not seen her in a number of years, she left an imprint on my heart that will last a lifetime. I started working at Freeman's NICU right out of college, and was obviously scared silly. She had such a kind & gracious heart, going above and beyond, not only teach, but to make a new grad feel like an experienced part of the team. I've thought of her many times over the years, and I am so appreciative of the lessons she taught. Many prayers to her family and loved ones as they mourn the passing of this amazing woman. No doubt, such a larger than life character (in a small package ?) will leave quite the void. May God grace you with His presence, and heal your broken hearts.

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**Margo Monroe** - August 20, 2015 at 05:57 PM

TS

“ *Jeanne was one of my son's NNPS at Centerpoint during his 12 week stay. She got diagnosed while we were there but we always checked on sweet Jeanne and even got to visit with her when she was there getting a treatment. The memories I will hold in my heart of Jeanne are that she cared for those babies as if they were her own. She gave amazing hugs and was a comfort during the worst time in my life. I miss her smile, her laughter, and her jokes making fun of her shortness lol. I may have only had the pleasure to know Jeanne a short while, but even still she had an impact that I'll hold forever. Thank you Jeanne for loving my baby and my family.*

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**Teri Salyer** - August 20, 2015 at 05:50 PM

JP

“ *Jeanne was an amazing NICU nurse! She was there when my firstborn came into this world! She let me kiss his little head and carried him away. She helped save my baby when he couldn't breath on his own. She always made sure I was OK and made sure I was able to hold my baby as much as possible. And though I haven't seen her in quite a few years, she will definitely be missed! Thank you, Jeanne for all you did for my baby boys!!*

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**Jamie Peterson** - August 20, 2015 at 05:49 PM

SE

“ *My life is richer because I had the pleasure of working with you and calling you friend Jeanne. God speed. Farewell for now.*

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**Stephanie Edwards** - August 20, 2015 at 05:32 PM

DA

“ *Jeanne was a great person and a great nurse. She was also a great teacher. I will never forget the impact she had on me during my time spent as a nurse at Freeman. My heart goes out to you, her family. Rest in peace Jeanne, you've earned it.*

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**Dee Alejandro** - August 20, 2015 at 05:22 PM

LP

“ *Prayer to Jeanne's family. She was such a powerhouse of a personality that touch my life for the better.*

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**liz pittman** - August 20, 2015 at 05:01 PM

MJ

“ *Such a blessing to so many. Though I only worked with you once or twice, your kindness and sweetness left a huge impression on me. Rest well Jeanne. Prayers to you and your family.*

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**Megan Johnson** - August 20, 2015 at 04:54 PM

NM

“ *Your mom was a wonderful person . I hope you can find peace in knowing she touched hundreds of people. I rejoice in knowing she is healed in heaven and smiling her great smile*

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**Nancy Murphy** - August 20, 2015 at 04:25 PM