



Karen Jane Yount

May 20, 1939 - November 23, 2025

Karen Jane (Smith) Yount was born to Kenneth Herbert and Elsie Lucille (Higdon) Smith on May 20, 1939, in El Dorado, Kansas. She went home to our Lord and Savior on November 23, 2025, in Springfield, MO.

Karen attended and graduated from Hazel Green Academy in Hazel Green, Kentucky. Karen earned a Bachelor's in Divinity from Philips University in Enid, Oklahoma after high school. While at Philips, Karen met Bennie Yount, and they were married on August 23, 1959.

Karen became an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on July 21, 1963, and served churches in Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri. She was a fourth-generation member for Lifeline for Christ in Potwin Christian Church, Potwin, KS. Karen served in leadership roles on the local, regional, national, and international levels of the church. Karen became involved in mission work for the church, especially in Haiti where she made over 25 trips. Her legacy in Haiti is remembered by the naming of the Karen School of Nursing and Assistants in the activity center of the National Spiritual Council of Haitian Churches in Port-au-Prince.

In addition to her work with the organizations of the church, Karen had a true gift with her musical talents, playing piano, marimba and singing. She led many a church choir in regular Sunday anthems as well as Christmas &

Easter cantatas. She directed bells choirs as well. This love of music is one that Karen passed on to her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Karen enjoyed spending time with family and attending the many activities that her children were a part. There was many a vacation that she organized going to and coming home from the general assembly of the church. She enjoyed being with her friends at Raymore, MO and recently was making new friends in Ozark, MO, playing bingo.

Karen's musical gifts, biblical teachings and positive influence on many lives all around the world will be missed.

Karen is preceded in death by her parents and husband, Bennie, of 62 years.

She is survived by her four children:

Ernest Yount (Windy) of Papillion, NE

Kenneth Yount (Carri) of Bella Vista, AR

Anita Detherow (Don)of Ozark, MO

Philip Yount (Beth) of Republic, MO

8 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held for Karen at 11:00 am on Saturday, January 3, 2026, at the Raymore Christian Church, 500 Peace Dr, Raymore, MO. 64083. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Raymore Christian Church.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN 3. 11:00 AM (CT)

Raymore Christian Church
500 Peace Dr.
Raymore, MO 64083

Contact Raymore Christian Church for more information at (816)322-0561.

Tribute Wall

RJ

“ Karen was a great friend and example of how to thrive as a Christian. She was quite supportive of my own ministry--and I always enjoyed her company. I regret that I am unable to attend her service.

Rev. Dr. Paxton Jones - January 02 at 10:31 PM

JS

“ To Karen's family,

I considered it an honor and privilege to call Karen my sister-in-Christ. I especially remember when she played the piano for our Disciples Women's retreats at Tall Oaks camp in Bonner Springs, KS. I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers and my husband and I plan to attend the memorial service here in Raymore.



*Judy Southard
(formerly of Lenexa and Shawnee, KS and now a resident at
Foxwood Springs)*

Judy Southard - December 11, 2025 at 09:15 PM

JS

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I considered it an honor and privilege to call Karen my sister-in-Christ. I especially remember all the times she played the piano for our Disciples Women's retreats at Tall Oaks camp in Bonner Springs, KS. I will keep you all in my thoughts and prayers and my husband and I plan to be at her memorial service here in Raymore.



*Judy Southard
(formerly of Lenexa and Shawnee, KS and now a resident at Foxwood Springs)*

Judy Southard - December 11, 2025 at 08:58 PM

PS

“ *Karen was a terrific leader of Disciples here in Kansas City. She played the piano in so many ways like activities of regional Christian Womens Fellowship. She was a example of spiritual inspiration. She was a significant advocate of our regional and general church levels. She and Benny are examples of what it is to be genuine followers of Jesus Christ.*

Paul Southard - December 11, 2025 at 02:24 PM