

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Pallbearers

Myron Dawkins ~ Jeff Dawkins ~ Frank Lawson
Brad Eyster ~ Mark Wadlington ~ Miles Wadlington

Acknowledgement

With sincere appreciation and grateful hearts we acknowledge the many acts of kindness shown to us during our loss. Each sympathetic gesture served as a source of comfort to us during this time.

Special thanks to Oakmont of Silver Creek, Sutter Health Hospice and Minister Barry Lawrence

We pray God's blessings upon each and everyone.
~ The Wadlington Family ~



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IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Barbara Jean
WADLINGTON

JULY 16, 1932 - SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

Obituary

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2025

VIEWING 3:00 - 5:00 PM

THE CHAPEL OF PEACE MANSFIELD
753 MCPHERSON ST., MANSFIELD, OH 44903

Barbara Jean Wadlington (Babs), 93, of Mansfield, Ohio, passed away peacefully on September 23, 2025, surrounded by family.

Although she had spent the past 5 years living in San Jose, CA, Barbara was a native of Mansfield, Ohio, born to Robert and Ethel Staples on July 16, 1932. She was a graduate of Mansfield Senior High School, class of 1950, where she was the first black woman selected to be on the school's Homecoming Court. Barbara went on to attend Northwestern University in Evanston, IL, as a Classical Piano major. She married her high school sweetheart, Lewis M. (Sonnie) Wadlington, in 1953, and they shared many good years together. She loved and was devoted to raising her 4 children, and after a 30-year career in Accounting and Human Resources at General Motors in Ontario, OH, Barbara retired in 1991.

Barbara was a lifelong Christian and gifted musician, combining these two loves to serve many years as a Minister of Music at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church. Later, she learned to play the cello and became a member of the Ashland, OH Symphony Orchestra. She especially loved gospel and classical music, theater arts, high fashion, and spending time with her family and friends.

Barbara is survived by her children, Tamara (Brad) Eyster, Rome Wadlington, and Mark (Leyna) Wadlington; 5 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, and 6 great-great-grandchildren; her sister, Mrs. Rita Dawkins of Hazel Crest, IL, and a host of cousins, nieces, and nephews. She was preceded in death by her son, Lewis Michel (Mike) Wadlington, parents, half-sister, and former husband.

Barbara (Babs) will be deeply missed and forever remembered with Love.

Tribute to Mom

Our mom was a beautiful, extraordinary woman who had a heart as big as the universe for her children. She was there for us in every way. She was in our corner and was our biggest cheerleader, without fail. She considered "being our mom" to be her top priority and most important responsibility. She loved us unconditionally.

Barbara Jean Staples grew up in Mansfield, OH, one of two beautiful and gifted young women in the Staples household. She learned to play the piano at a young age and continued it through high school. She was accepted into the Northwestern University School of Music and, after high school, her dad drove her to Evanston, IL to begin her college education. She was very excited to have the opportunity to attend college. When she got there, due to racial segregation, she was not allowed to stay in the University's dorms. Instead, mom stayed in a big house off-campus known as The International House, where all of the university's women of color lived. That's just the way it was then...she absolutely loved her "sisters" in that house and she spoke fondly of her memories there.

When I started elementary school, I was the first black child to attend Brinkerhoff elementary school. My brother Mike was the 2nd. We were a novelty in the community. Most of the kids and teachers alike weren't used to having anyone like us around. We got plenty of stares, side-glances and curious questions. At times it was very uncomfortable for me, who was shy by nature. But I'll never forget the time when my mom showed up at school one afternoon, at the invitation of the principal. Nearly the entire school had been gathered into the gymnasium, and it was a packed house. Imagine the students' surprise when a beautiful black woman, long braid trailing down her back, emerged onto the floor of the gym, sat down at the piano in the center of the floor and proceeded to play one classical piano piece after another. The looks on the faces around me were priceless! They turned from surprise and curiosity to awe and amazement. When she finished, the gym gave her a standing ovation. My heart was bursting with pride for my mom at that moment. She made quite an impression that day, and the impression she left elevated us at that school. It made our acceptance at that school just a little easier.

Mom also left lasting impressions on many people, in many situations with her beauty, intellect and radiant smile. Over the years, my siblings and I have watched that same phenomena from the elementary school days repeat itself many times. Mom just had a way of attracting people to her with her smile and a kind word or compliment. Now, Mom has gone on to Glory where she will continue to shine. She was a beautiful person, inside and out, and we will all miss her every single day.

We love you, Mom.