



## Stephen Alan Shirk

February 21, 1950 - January 25, 2016

Stephen (Steve) Alan Shirk, age 65 of Murphysboro passed away Monday, January 25, 2016 at 11:50 am in Fort Leonardwood, MO from a heart attack.

He was born February 21, 1950 to Lyndell and Louise Shirk in Paducah, KY. He has one sister, Linda Washburn.

He married the love of his life, Betty Jo Thompson on September 10, 1971 in Cottage Grove TN. Together they shared 44 wonderful years.

He had attended Murray State University. In 1987 he was ordained as a Minister, serving faithfully in evangelism for 26 years. He was a full time church minister for over 20 years. He currently was employed at Murdale Baptist Church in Carbondale.

Steve was known first for his love for the Lord and passion for evangelism, for who he was as a husband, father and granddaddy....for his wonderful tenor voice and sense of humor...a friend to everyone and enriched the lives of all who encountered him.

He is survived by his loving wife, Betty Jo Shirk; his precious children, Stephanie Jo Newton and husband Jay; Joseph Shirk and wife, Amanda and Andrew Shirk, his adorable grandchildren, Judah and Norah Jo Newton and

Alana and Aiden Shirk, who affectionally called him granddaddy; he was Papa Shirk to Jose P. Renda; and a wonderful brother to Linda Washburn; other relatives and many friends.

Visitation will be Thursday, January 28, 2016 from 5 pm to 8 pm at Murdale Baptist Church, 2701 W Main St., Carbondale and on Friday, January 29, 2016 from 9:00 am until the hour of the service.

Funeral Services for Steven Shirk will be Friday, January 29, 2016 at 10:00 am at Murdale Baptist Church with Rev. Paul Hicks officiating.

Graveside services will be Friday, January 29, 2016 at 3:00 pm in Woodlawn Memorial Garden in Paducah, KY.

In lieu of flowers, Memorials can be made to the Murdale Baptist Church Building Fund.

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Stephen Alan Shirk*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *Betty Jo, I just saw Tommy today and had not heard this about Steve. I am so sorry to hear this happened and my prayers are with your family. Seek comfort in the Lord, he has helped my greatly here of late.*

*Susan Stewart, Paris, TN*

**Susan Stewart** - February 14, 2016 at 03:26 PM



“ *Betty Jo and family,*

*Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers to all of you. Wesley and I enjoyed the times that we spent visiting at family reunions and Steve was a special blessing to everyone around him. Keeping all of you close in thought. Love, Kaye & Wesley Pryor*

**Kaye Pryor** - January 31, 2016 at 05:24 PM



“ *Betty Jo,*

*We are so very sad to hear of the home going of Steve. We are so glad that we got to see all of you recently. You were great neighbors and consider you friends.*

*Love you*

*Bob and Chug Burroughs*

**Marilyn Burroughs** - January 29, 2016 at 06:49 PM

LH

“ My condolences to Betty, Linda, and the family. Linda will remember me from Metropolis because my name is also Linda Carol. She always joked that I was named after her. Although Steve and Linda were a few years older, I have fond memories of them from First Baptist of Metropolis. Our parents were wonderful friends and after the Shirks moved, our parents still kept in touch. I have wonderful memories of visiting the Shirks in KY when my son was 2. (He's now 35.) We were with my parents, Bill and Mary Corson, along with Bill and Grace Estes. One of my favorite pictures of my son is outside Lyndell & Louise's home with Bill Estes pulling him in a little red wagon. I had no idea that Steve was at Murdale. Both of my boys were born in Carbondale and we went to Murdale for several years. Paul Hicks is a wonderful pastor and I can only imagine there is a celebration of Steve's life not only at Murdale, but also in heaven today! My brother, Bob, died of a heart attack on June 30th last year. It was a great loss to me, so I'm feeling your pain and sorrow right now. I am thankful to our Lord and Savior to know that we will see our brothers again one day and that our parents are putting their arms around him and singing joyous songs of praise. May the Lord be with each of you as you go through this sorrow and I pray he gives you peace. There's another bright star in tonight's sky. [Linda, I'm on FB if you want to reach out to me.] Linda Corson Haider (Belleville, IL)

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L Haider - January 29, 2016 at 12:12 PM

SS

“ Growing up in Metropolis, I knew Steve, Lyndal, Louise and was classmates with Linda. I had reconnected with Steve through our Senior Center when he sang for us. I as many others were, shocked at his passing. My condolences go out to the Shirk family for his loss.

Steve Shappard

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Steve Shappard - January 29, 2016 at 09:50 AM

LB

“ Steve was a very special neighbor, there are no words to say how sorry Gary and I feel. We love you Betty Jo, you have always been there for me. May Gods blessings be always there for you and your family. Lois Baker and Gary King. You are in our prayers.

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**Lois Baker** - January 28, 2016 at 09:55 PM

LR

“ Dear Betty Jo and family, we grieve with you all the loss of our dear friend, Steve. We will miss his always ready and loving witness for Christ, his joyful jokes and his ability to lift the spirits of all he met. We are holding all of you up in prayer.  
Our love to you,  
Lloyd and Gwen Roberts

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**Lloyd Roberts** - January 28, 2016 at 12:13 PM



“ I wish I was as eloquent with words as Steve. He always knew just what to say and do. He would always call at just the right time, with an uplifting word of encouragement or a really corny joke that would evoke just as much pain as it would laughter. He has been my friend, my confidant, my classmate, and a wonderful example of what the Christian walk is all about, for almost my entire life. His parents and mine were best buddies and we grew up becoming the same. We were far apart geographically but so very close in matters of the spirit and life. I will miss him deeply, and I know Betty Jo and the family will miss him even more. Our comfort lies in the beliefs he represented so very well and the reward he is being given as a good and faithful servant. May God continue to comfort and bless you Betty Jo, and your very beautiful family. We are there in spirit and wish we could be there in person. Just know how much we love you and will continue to pray for you as you press on. We stand with you.

*Frankie and Glenda Crain, Kathy and Ashley Murray, Floe Crain,  
and all the kids and grandkids.*

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**Frankie Crain** - January 28, 2016 at 11:10 AM



“ You and your family have always been such angels in so many people's lives. I feel honored to have known you growing up and still keeping in touch with your family. May you rejoice and keep singing in heaven. Watch over those grandchildren and your beautiful wife. You will be missed on earth.

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**Sarah White** - January 27, 2016 at 09:07 PM



LT

“ To Steve's Family and Church family you have our sympathy. Steve sang beautifully at my fathers funeral in March of last year. We had visited Murdale Church a few times before when visiting family and met Steve. I told him at Dad's funeral and he was very humbled when I told him as the minister of music he reminded me of the music minister they have on Charles Stanleys program. So, sad to hear of his passing and looking forward to the day we'll all see him again in Heaven.....Laura and Steve Thomas Astoria,Il.



Laura Thomas - January 27, 2016 at 11:07 AM

LT

Robert Harris was my Father. Nancy Harris of the Murdale church is my sister

Laura Thomas - January 27, 2016 at 11:12 AM

SR

Betty Joe and family. You are in my prayers as is our family. Everyone liked Steve. He was a wonderful person and I certainly know what you are probably feeling. Take a day at a time and let God be your guide. I love you and your family as Sam did. He thought the Shirk family was a wonderful Christian family. I remembered a concert we attended and your family was singing as a group. Later someone ask Sam to sing and Louise was ready to play the piano. I remember the song When I think Of Jesus Love. Somewhere there is a video of it. God is love. Keep the faith. Sue Reeder

Sue Reeder - January 27, 2016 at 06:02 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Stephen Alan Shirk.



January 27, 2016 at 10:43 AM

KM

“ Sending my condolences to the Shirk family. Pastor Steve was very kind to me. Admired his missions and music capabilities in representing the earthly Leader of many singing souls wherever He roamed. A faithful man to his family, to God, to His work, and to His ministries. Will miss Him dearly but understand the body has times when parts fail and eternal rest is sometimes more of a healing than a quick fix. Angels were with Him when He was driving and helped carry Him home gently and sweetly to the Lord's choir of angels in which Pastor Steve taught graciously all these weeks. The spunk and spirit will be missed here ....but heaven has accepted that spirit with ease and grace. Keep his legacy in your hearts, souls, and minds. He loved you all and showed it in his times together with all lives touched by Him. Hugs and prayers. Love, Karen McNeely McMinn Carbondale IL

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**Karen McMinn** - January 27, 2016 at 07:24 AM