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# OBITUARIES

## Debbie Stephens

Debbie Stephens, of Jamestown, passed away on Friday, May 19, 2023, at Baptist Health Lexington. She was 66 years of age.

Born at home on October 2, 1956, in Creelsboro, she was the youngest of eleven children born to the union of the late Rollin and Irene Lawless Shearer, Sr. Debbie was a retired Health Information Systems employee at Russell County Hospital, with over 23 years of service. At an early age, Debbie accepted Jesus as her Savior and became a Union Chapel United Methodist Church member. Not many years later, she became the church treasurer, holding that office for almost 50 years. Debbie loved her family and spending time with them. She always looked forward to all the family “get-togethers.” Debbie also enjoyed cooking.

Debbie is survived by her husband, Richard Stephens, of Jamestown, whom she wed on July 1, 1977; her son, Ryan (and Sara) Stephens, of Russell Springs; and five sisters, Rema Needels, of Virginia, Cora Bolin, of Jamestown, Sue Ann Zimmerman, of Russell Springs, Brenda (and Mitchell) Higginbotham, of Jamestown, and Jennifer Beck, of Russell Springs.

In addition to her parents, Debbie was preceded in death by two brothers, Rollin Shearer, Jr., and Jack Shearer; and three sisters, Norma Stearns, Naomi Wooldridge, and Nadene Wilson.

Funeral services were 10:00 am. Monday, May 22, 2023, at Bernard Funeral Home, with Brother Steve Willis and Brother Robert Morris officiating. Debbie was laid to rest in Jamestown City Cemetery following the service.

Active and honorary pallbearers are Nick Shearer, Kevin Shearer, Jason Bolin, Caleb Reader, Todd Stearns, Kennedy Coffey, Josh Carey, Jordan Helm, and Steven Needels.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations of sympathy be made to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 840692, Dallas, TX 75284-0692.

Funeral arrangements for Mrs. Debbie Stephens are under the care and direction of Bernard Funeral Home. An online guestbook is available at [www.bernardfuneralhome.com](http://www.bernardfuneralhome.com).

## Marie Badgley

Marie Badgley, of Russell Springs, passed away Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at her granddaughter's home. She was 97 years of age.

Marie was born February 5, 1926, in Russell County, daughter of the late Larkin and Cora George Popplewell. Marie's mother raised eight children on her own. The three Popplewell girls learned to cook at an early age. She would share her love of cooking through the years with her own family and any guests that she would hostess. It didn't matter what time the company arrived, there would be a meal waiting.

She was a hard worker. Even into her nineties, she could work circles around her grandchildren. At 95, she was still mowing and weed-eating her own yard. She loved getting out and going to town. She was known to be the kindest person you'd ever meet. She was said to have no filter, but could still be sweet.

She was a long-time member of the Main Street Church of God in Russell Springs.

She is survived by her son, Gary Badgley, of Russell Springs; her grandchildren, Gary (and Angie) Badgley, Jr., Tracy Lynn Harmon, and Troy Don Badgley, all of Shelbyville, Indiana, Megan (and Henry) Messer, of Russell Springs, and Katherine (and Zechary) Messer, of Eli; and her great-grandchildren, Henryetta Messer, Jaclynn Messer, Henry Messer, Jr., Sophia Messer, Wyatt Badgley, Darian Trumpey, Christopher Conover and Damon Badgley.

Along with her parents, She is preceded in death by her husband, Maurice Badgley, who passed away July 6, 1990; her daughter-in-law, Lynn Badgley; her sisters, Faye Stephens and Zelma Morton; and her brothers, Londo Popplewell, Glendo Popplewell, Herbert Popplewell, Curtis Popplewell and Donald Popplewell.

Funeral services were 2:00 p.m., Saturday, May 20, 2023, at Bernard Funeral Home, with Bro. Scott Allen officiating.

Arrangements for Ms. Marie Badgley have been entrusted to Bernard Funeral Home. An online guestbook is available at [www.bernardfuneralhome.com](http://www.bernardfuneralhome.com)



## James Rollin Wilson

James Rollin Wilson, 89, native to the Salem community of Russell County, passed away Sunday, May 14, 2023, at Ivy Knoll Senior Living, in Covington.

He was born September 26, 1933, at home in Salem, son of the late Herbert and Elva Meece Wilson. He was the last surviving of the Wilson children. A Korean War veteran, he served honorably in the United States Army. He proudly wore his Korean Veteran hat, putting all his other hats aside.

“Pop” to everyone but his wife, Marilyn, was loved by all who met him. His smiling blue eyes revealed his inner happiness. He was a humorous man who loved to tell stories. When speaking of him, people would say “What a guy!”. He was so personable, he never forgot a name, recalling both first and last names of people he encountered over the years.

He was a Christian man of Baptist faith who would so diligently study his Bible, he would have to replace a worn-out copy with a new one. He enjoyed watching Shepherd's Chapel on television for many years.

He was a hard-working, humble man. He enjoyed gardening and canning the rewards; he liked working on his tractors and going fishing. He loved to travel; especially to many of the National Parks.

He sure loved his grandchildren and was so proud of them.

He is survived by his wife, Marilyn Rider Wilson; his son, James Clinton Wilson, Walton; his daughter, Cheryl (and Tim) Brookbank, Erlanger; his grandchildren, Anthony Brandon Wilson, Robert Nicholas (and Martha) Wilson, and Ryan Matthew (and Jennifer) Wilson; five great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Along with his parents, he is preceded in death by his daughter, Renita Gail Wilson; his brothers, Lewis Wilson, Phillip Wilson, Harold Wilson and Wilkie Wilson, and one brother who died in infancy; and his sisters, Viola Weddle, Gladys Martin, Lynn Smiley, Maretha Clayton and Edna Weddle.

Funeral services were held 1:00 p.m., Sunday, May 21, 2023, at Bernard Funeral Home, with Bro. Harold Gosser officiating. Interment followed in the Salem Cemetery. Pallbearers were Jerry Roaden, Leonard Wilson, Nick Wilson, Ryan Wilson, Tony Wilson, Clint Wilson and Tim Brookbank. Military Honors were conducted by the Russell County Honor Guard.

An online guestbook is available at [www.bernardfuneralhome.com](http://www.bernardfuneralhome.com)

## Margaret Reeder

Margaret Reeder, 87, Russell Springs, passed away Thursday, May 18, 2023 at home.

Funeral Service will be held on Sunday, May 21st at H. E. Pruitt Memory Chapel in Jamestown, KY.

Burial in the Russell County Memorial Gardens.

## Audrey Mae Davis Spivey

Audrey Mae Davis Spivey, age 82 of Russell Springs, Kentucky, died Friday, May 19, 2023, at Russell County Hospital.

She was born on October 8, 1940, the daughter of the late John R. and Christine Ore Davis.

Funeral Services were held Sunday, May 21, 2023, at Wilson Funeral Home Chapel with Bro. Delvin Wilson and officiating.

### Obituary Policy:

Obituaries must be submitted by a licensed funeral home or a copy of one previously published in order to be placed on the obituary page. Funeral providers determine the size and content of all obits provided to our newspaper and most others. This newspaper continues to offer a free posting as well as various upgrade options.



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## Financial Focus

### FAILURE TO PLAN: IS IT PLANNING TO FAIL?

Benjamin Franklin once said, “If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail.” But as you chart your financial course, what steps should you take to help you keep moving forward to where you want to go?

Consider these suggestions:

Establish and quantify your goals. Throughout your life, you'll have short-term goals, such as an overseas vacation or a home renovation, and long-term goals, the most important of which may be a comfortable retirement. You'll want to identify all your goals and put a “price tag” on them. Of course, it's not always possible to know exactly how much it will cost to achieve each goal, but you can develop reasonably good estimates, revising them as needed.

Create an investment strategy to achieve your goals. Once you know how much your goals will cost, you can create the appropriate savings and investment strategies to potentially help you reach the needed amounts. For your retirement goal, you will likely need to contribute regularly to your IRA and 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. But for shorter-term goals, you may need to explore other types of investments. For all your investment moves, though, you'll need to consider your risk tolerance. You won't want your portfolio to have such a high-risk level that you're constantly uncomfortable with the inevitable fluctuations of the financial markets. On the other hand, you won't want to invest so conservatively that you jeopardize your chances of achieving the growth you need to reach your goals.

Control your debts. We live in an expensive world, so it's not easy to live debt-free. And some debts, such as your mortgage, obviously have value. But if you can control other debts, especially those that carry high interest rates, you can possibly free up money you can use to boost your savings and investments.

Prepare for obstacles. No matter how carefully you follow the strategies you've created to achieve your goals, you will, sooner or later, run into obstacles, or at least temporary challenges. What if you incur a large, unexpected expense, such as the sudden need for a new car or a major home repair? If you aren't prepared for these costs, you might be forced to dip into your long-term investments – and every time you do that, you might slow your progress toward achieving your goals. To help prevent this, you should build an emergency fund containing several months' worth of living expenses.

Review your strategy. When you first created your financial strategy, you might have planned to retire at a certain age. But what if you eventually decide to retire earlier or later? Such a choice can have a big impact on what you need from your investment portfolio – and when. And your circumstances may change in other ways, too. That's why it's a good idea to review your strategy periodically to make sure it still aligns with your up-to-date objectives.

None of us can guarantee that our carefully laid plans will always yield the results we want. But by taking the right steps at the right times, you can greatly improve your chances.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Member SIPC



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