



Stacey Simpson Duke

June 4, 1971 - February 27, 2023

The Reverent Doctor Stacey Simpson Duke, age 51, of Ann Arbor, died on Monday, February 27, 2023.

Stacey was born in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. As an Army brat, she moved seven times by the age of 10 and attended a different school every year until junior high. After graduating high school in Columbus, Georgia, she attended Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina, where she graduated with her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Religion in 1993. She then went to seminary at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, in Atlanta, graduating with her Master of Divinity Degree in 1996. She later went back to school and earned her Doctor of Ministry Degree with a focus on Gospel and Culture from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia in 2017.

Stacey was married to the Reverend Dr. Paul Simpson Duke on February 10, 2001; he survives her. Together they served as Co-Pastors at First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor for the past 22 years and as the American Baptist Campus Ministers to University of Michigan students. Since 2011, Stacey also served as the Minister to Youth at First Baptist. Prior to their shared ministry in Ann Arbor, she served as pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church in Edison, Georgia, for almost 5 years. At the time she was one of only two female Baptist pastors in the state. The Lily Foundation selected the church as one of America's outstanding Protestant churches.

Stacey was vibrant, fierce, funny, creative, resilient, filled with life and love. She loved writing, teaching, preaching, knitting, running, singing, reading, improv, cooking, baking, and being a good friend and a great mom. She had a large online following. Stacey lived with stage-four cancer (leiomyosarcoma) for 6 years, and her many posts, honest and brave, about her experience with cancer were an inspiration to many. She leaves a legacy of countless people whose lives were deeply touched by her example, her faith, and her love.

Stacey is survived by her husband, Paul; her twin sons, Robert “Rob” and Charles “Charlie”; her brother, Sloan Simpson of Athens, Georgia; her like-a-sister cousin, Sheree (Ty) Tolbert of Columbus; her daughter-in-law, Stephanie (Leonard) of Baton Rouge, Louisiana; her son-in-law, Chris (Lindsay) of Ann Arbor; her brother-in-law, John Duke of Birmingham, Alabama; her sister-in-law, Marcia Duke of Liberty, Missouri; her nephew, Wesley (Katie) Duke of Kansas City, Missouri; her niece, Hillary (Jason) White of Arlington Heights, Illinois; her great nephews and great nieces; and many more beloved relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her mother, Bernice Simpson; her father, Colonel Robert B. Simpson; her mother-in-law, Wilma Duke; and her brother-in-law, David Nelson Duke.

A Memorial Service will be held at First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor at 1:00 P.M. on Friday, March 10, with the Reverend Dr. Heather Entrekin officiating. Visitation will take place from 12:00 P.M. until the time of service at 1:00 P.M. Following the service, a reception will be held at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Stacey’s name may be made to First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor, 517 East Washington Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, or Amos Health and Hope (c/o the church), or Leiomyosarcoma Support and Direct Research (LMSDR), Post Office Box 52697, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74152. To sign her guestbook or for directions please visit www.rbfhsaline.com.

Cemetery Details

Forest Hill Cemetery

415 Observatory Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
<http://foreshillcemeteryaa.org/>

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 10. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor
517 East Washington Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
<http://www.fbca2.org/>

Memorial Service

MAR 10. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor
517 East Washington Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
<http://www.fbca2.org/>

Reception

MAR **10**. 2:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor
517 East Washington Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
<http://www.fbca2.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Stacey Simpson Duke*

October 23, 2023 at 01:07 PM



“ *I never met Stacey but I followed her online, enjoying her stories of motherhood, knitting and her work. I am so very sorry to learn of her death. I admired her energy, compassion, humour, and the grace and honesty with which she faced her illness. I won't forget her. With love to her family.*

Ellie - May 24, 2023 at 08:59 PM



“ *So sorry for our loss, i give you my condolences to the Simpson-Duke Family. Only met a couple of times. Along with Paul, Stacy welcomed us with warm and loving arms. She was caring, full of happiness, love and compassion and a heart for Jesus. She'll never be forgotten, her physical body is gone but her spirit will remain in us forever. Loved her accent and her sermons. May she Rest Peacefully in Heaven.*

Michael Gatien - March 29, 2023 at 05:13 PM



“ *Susan H. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Stacey Simpson Duke.*



Susan H. - March 19, 2023 at 03:39 PM

SE

“ *The knitting community is very special to me. I've met so many knitters in person and online from around the country and around the world. Earthchicknits was the very first knitting blog that I ever followed online. I even won some goodies in one of Stacey's contests! Stacey was a beautiful person. I loved her positive energy and outlook! I still can't believe this news, I will miss her very much. My deepest condolences to all of her family and friends.*



Samantha Edwards - March 09, 2023 at 12:36 PM

LW

“ *Laura Weeks lit a candle in memory of Stacey Simpson Duke*



Laura Weeks - March 07, 2023 at 02:43 PM

JW

“ *Stacey and I met on our Freshman hall at Furman. Since I met her, Stacey was always full of energy, light, and love. My heart goes out to and prayers go up for her family and friends who will most keenly miss her presence. May you find comfort in the many memories you shared and in re-reading the beautiful words she wrote throughout her journey. It was clear just how much she loved you all!*

JULIE Wayne - March 07, 2023 at 09:05 AM

SJ

“*She leaves a legacy of countless people whose lives were deeply touched by her example, her faith, and her love." I'm among those countless so blessed. Deepest condolences to all.*



Sylvia Jones - March 05, 2023 at 09:38 PM

RF

“*Rev. Kathy Manis Findley lit a candle in memory of Stacey Simpson Duke*



Rev. Kathy Manis Findley - March 05, 2023 at 07:25 PM

EM

“ I knew Stacey through the Women Touched By Grace Program originally held at Our Lady of Grace monastery in Beech Grove, Indiana. I laughed with her during early morning coffee gatherings, shared with her in daily prayer times, enjoyed making music with her, playing basketball with her in a “friendly game” with the sisters, and exploring life, faith and theology with her one on one and in groups over many years time. There were 30 of us women in the program. When we started in 2003, Stacey was the youngest, and I was next after her. When she started, she was pregnant with Rob and Charlie, and we all followed her adventures with Paul and the boys through the years ... I especially loved getting to travel to Italy with Stacey and other WTBG women as part of the program, and we all shared in Stacey’s joy at finding just the right boots - among other things- to buy and bring home. Her joy was always contagious. I also especially remember a special conversation we had during a mentoring session we shared in, where Stacey and I shared together how important the concepts of “integrity” and “integration” were to us. May her light continue to shine through her family and all of us. And may her memory always be a blessing. - Erin Matteson.



erin matteson - March 03, 2023 at 11:58 PM

DE

“ Very sad to hear this news. Stacey was such an inspiration and the love she had for family was evident when she talked with and about them. The world has lost a very special person, and I thank God for allowing me the privilege of meeting her.



Deb Evans - March 03, 2023 at 09:29 PM

ED

“ I went to high school with Stacey and I am lighting a candle for for her and I sending payers to her family and friends, and may your hearts be filled with sweet memories to cherish.



Erin (Mize) Davis - March 03, 2023 at 08:09 PM

RK

“ Stacey was part of a sacred sisterhood of women clergy. We formed in 2002, and 20 years later she is the first one to be released in the arms of God. I carry her fierce creative funny and faithful spirit with me. Love and prayers for her family and all who feel her loss.

Rev Dr Patti Kenney - March 03, 2023 at 07:48 PM

JC

“ While I did not know Stacey personally (friend of her brother Sloan and fellow Furman alum), I have heard many wonderful and inspirational stories about her over the years. Sending much sympathy, love and comfort to her family & friends during this time.



Jayne S Clamp - March 03, 2023 at 07:11 PM

CW

“ Casina Washibgton lit a candle in memory of Stacey Simpson Duke



Casina Washibgton - March 03, 2023 at 06:34 PM



“ *Georgianna Miller lit a candle in memory of Stacey Simpson Duke*



Georgianna Miller - March 03, 2023 at 05:55 PM



I will always remember Stacey as the strong and talented woman I met on the internet. May her family have peace in the knowledge that grief last only for a moment, but hope and the love of God last for eternity.

Georgianna Miller - March 03, 2023 at 05:57 PM

RF

Grace and peace to Stacey's family. May her memory be eternal, and may your memories of her give you comfort as you weep, smile, laugh and mourn your loss. May God make it so.

Rev. Kathy Manis Findley - March 05, 2023 at 07:22 PM

RP

I only met Stacey once in person at an Alliance of Baptist meeting in Austin though I have been friends with Paul for several. Stacey was as full of life as anyone I have known. As she posted on FB about her multiple surgical procedures with both raw honesty and profound hope, I came to delight in her spirit and be in awe of her courage. I am deeply saddened by her death and by the grief that all of her family members endure.

Rev. Dr. Roger Paynter - March 07, 2023 at 04:46 PM

SR

I will never forget Stacey teaching kids at Eberwhite elementary in Ann Arbor how to do the "Sprinkler" at the annual dance. Her unselfconscious joy and sense of adventure in life were felt throughout the auditorium by dozens of third-fifth graders! What a passionate, fun soul Stacey was and still is.

Sara A. R. - April 08, 2023 at 06:11 PM

BA

I knew her “online” only through social media. An utterly Amazing woman — fearless, committed, courageous, passionate, kind. Cancer did Not really win this one....STACEY did. Nothing could rob her of her joy. 💕

Barbara - May 18, 2023 at 06:02 PM