



Sara Sands Nichols

March 27, 1961 - March 21, 2011

Sara Sands Nichols, age 49 of Dayton, died Monday evening, March 21, 2011 at her brother's home in Crossville. Sara was born in Dayton on March 27, 1961, the daughter of the late Dr. Stanford and Adeline (Burnett) Nichols. Sara lived all of her life in Dayton and was a graduate of Rhea County High School. She earned her bachelors degree and masters degree from Tennessee Tech University. Sara was a 2nd grade teacher at Dayton City School since 1986 and was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Dayton.

She is survived by her sister Lisa (Rev. Michael) Hicks of Hattiesburg, MS, and brother, Dr. Robert (Meg) Nichols of Crossville. Sara is also survived by five nieces and nephews, Jason Hicks of New York, NY, Matthew Hicks of Mobile, AL, Erin Hicks of Huntsville, AL, Katie Nichols (Solomon) Kafoure and Heath Nichols of Nashville, TN and one great-nephew Nolan Kafoure.

Funeral services for Sara will be held Thursday evening at 7:00 pm at First United Methodist Church in Dayton with her brother-in-law Rev. Mike Hicks and her pastor Rev. Ken Pierce officiating. She will be laid to rest next to her parents at Rhea Memory Gardens.

Sara's family will receive friends at the church Thursday after 5:00 pm.

Please share your memories of Sara on her on-line guest register at www.vanderwallfh.com.

Memorial contributions may be made to the First United Methodist Church in Dayton, TN, 993 Market St., Dayton, TN 37321

The family is being served by the Vanderwall Funeral Home in Dayton.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **24**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
Dayton, TN

Service

MAR **24**. 7:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
Dayton, TN

Tribute Wall



“ Sara was one of a kind - I am so sorry to learn of her passing. We were in school at Tech and have and will continue to miss her.##imported-begin##Myra Fishback##imported-end##

January 09, 2012 at 02:09 PM



“ I would like to thnkx for the efforts you have put in writing this blog. I'm hoping the same high-grade web site post from you in the future also. Actually your creative writing abilities has encouraged me to get my own web site going now. Actually blogging is spreading its wings and growing rapidly. Your write up is a great example.

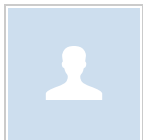
fast burning weight loss tips##imported-begin##clunkinsinc##imported-end##

July 25, 2011 at 09:57 PM



“ she was my favorite teacher i will miss her alot.##imported-begin##jacqueline##imported-end##

March 29, 2011 at 04:25 PM



“ Miss your smile and laugh.
Love you so.##imported-begin##Sally Nichols##imported-end##

March 29, 2011 at 12:24 PM



“ We were very sorry to hear of Sara's passing. We know that this is a huge loss to the family as well as the community. We especially grieve with Bob and his family.##imported-begin##Bob & Lil Andrews##imported-end##

March 27, 2011 at 10:08 PM



“ To Sara's family: I am so sorry for your loss, but at the same time rejoice that she is well and pain free in Heaven. I went to school with Sara from the first grade thru high school, and she was always a true friend. Always had a smile for everyone. I pray for God's comfort for your family at this time.##imported-begin##Karla Levengood Graham##imported-end##

March 26, 2011 at 05:55 PM



“ We were out of town and did not learn of Sara's death until late in the week. We both knew her for years at the First United Methodist Church which we both attended. Sara was very active in the church, and we loved her as an individual who daily prayed for others. We also remember her as a wonderful Sunday School teacher and superintendent. We will miss her immensely. All family members have our prayer as you grieve for Sara.

Love,

Bill and Lee Ketchersid##imported-begin##William and Lee Ketchersid##imported-end##

March 25, 2011 at 11:25 PM



“ Sorry for ur loss. My thoughts and prayers to Mrs. Nichols Family. U were a great teacher my boys enjoyed u a teacher. u will be missed. Rosemary##imported-begin##Rosemary Manzano##imported-end##

March 25, 2011 at 08:35 PM



“ A more perfect childhood I cannot imagine than the one I shared with Lisa, Bob and Sara on the hill. Always a bright light in life, I am so sad for her passing, but my faith assures me she has gone home to family and will be keeping tabs the elder Forstens and Swaffords and I am sure there is a bridge game in there somewhere. Lisa and Bob, please know my thoughts and prayers are with you and your families.##imported-begin##Deb Forsten##imported-end##

March 24, 2011 at 10:01 PM



“ Sar will be greatly missed. She was a wonderful teacher and lovely lady. My family is so sorry for your loss.

Christy Cotter, Danielle Catlett, and Lindsey Catlett##imported-begin##Christine Cotter##imported-end##

March 24, 2011 at 09:26 PM



“ Nila and I came to know, appreciate, and love Sara while we served First United Methodist Church in Dayton. She was a dedicated Christian and loved Jesus and her church. She also was a dedicated teacher and loved her children.
We were sorry to hear of her sickness and death. We will miss her but she is heavens gain.
We wish her family our deepest sympathy.##imported-begin##Doug and Nila Brown##imported-end##

March 24, 2011 at 06:57 PM



“ Ms. Nichols was such an amazing individual. I am now 22 years old but I was in her 2nd grade class and remember how cheerful she always was. She was such a kind and caring person. I remember that because of allergies I was always sneezing in class so in order to not have to interrupt her lessons to say "bless you" she just made a sign to hold up instead. So I made one to say "Thank you." We both always kept the signs on our desk. Its a funny memory now. She always loved to hear me sing and anytime I sang at a church program she was always there to cheer me on. I always appreciated that. I know she will be missed and I am so thankful that God allowed us to share time with such a wonderful person and form lasting memories.##imported-begin##Bradley Hickman##imported-end##

March 24, 2011 at 03:36 PM



“ mrs.nichols was my grandsons 2nd grade teacher ,she will be miss by all.##imported-begin##sheila steel##imported-end##

March 24, 2011 at 02:09 PM



“ My child is a curent student of Ms. Nichols. I must say that Ms. Nichols is beyond amazing on many levels. She is an excellent role model and I believe she had a true love for each of her students. It is a true blessing that she was able to teach my son. I feel honored that she was able to touch my childs life. As the saying goes... "To teach is to touch a life forever" and that she did. We will continue to remember her family during this difficult time.##imported-begin##Gravett Family (Parker)##imported-end##

March 24, 2011 at 12:32 PM



“ i would like to leave a message for my 8 yr old who is in her class.she was a great teacher and he loved her very much.i as a parent was very pleased with ms nichols she thought my son so much this year...she will be missed alot.....##imported-begin##kim and logan couch##imported-end##

March 24, 2011 at 11:25 AM



“ I was so sorry to hear of Sara's passing, and my prayers go out to you, Lisa and Bob, and your families. Sara was a good friend, and I will always treasure the memories I shared with her since childhood. May the Lord comfort and strengthen you as you walk through this time.##imported-begin##Jan Taylor Phillips##imported-end##

March 23, 2011 at 11:56 PM



“ We had the pleasure of getting to know Miss Nichols last year when our oldest daughter was a student in her 2nd grade class. Maeve loved Miss Nichols and dreamed of getting her as a teacher when she was in 1st grade. She spoke of her as always being beautiful with a "beautiful dress on every day. Maeve rose to the challenges that Miss Nichols gave her and began to express a desire to be a teacher as well when she grows up. We are saddened by the loss of her and will always remember her for the smiles she had for everyone, and the hugs she gave. But, most of all, the positive role model she was and the wonderful christian example she was to Maeve. Maeve prayed for her often and sent her cards. Maeve hopes she knew how much she loved her and hopes she was able to see her Birthday card she sent her. Maeve knows she will be celebrating her birthday in the arms of Jesus,as Maeve knew how much Miss Nichols loved Jesus. She will be missed.##imported-begin##Barry,Melinda, Maeve & Maddie Walls##imported-end##

March 23, 2011 at 09:55 PM



“ Sara was a true lady of grace who had a huge heart for our Heavenly Father and all of the children who were ever blessed to have her as a teacher and/or Sunday School teacher. I had the privledge to work with Sara at Dayton City School as well as First United Methodist. My son was blessed to also have had Sara as a 2nd grade teacher as well as his Sunday School teacher. My heart is saddened to have lost such a wonderful friend but is comforted to know that Sara is with the Lord and we will see her again. Our prayers are with Sara's family.

Suzy and Justin Birchett##imported-begin##Suzanne Birchett
(Suzy)##imported-end##

March 23, 2011 at 09:02 PM



“ I am deeply saddened by the passing of Sara. I visited with her at First United Methodist Church several years ago when my husband, daughter and I attended morning worship and we reminisced about our high school years and involvement in MYF. She had such a sweet spirit about her and touched the lives of many. You are in my prayers and may God comfort you during this difficult time.##imported-begin##Debbie Boyd Warren##imported-end##

March 23, 2011 at 08:55 PM



“ We saw each other very seldom but shared a common love of teaching. Sara was a devoted daughter to her father, Stan, and mother, Nina. The world is lessened by her absence.##imported-begin##Pat Nichols Fisher##imported-end##

March 23, 2011 at 07:57 PM



“ To Sara's Family, My prayers are with you all during this difficult time. Sara was a good Christian woman that lived her faith. It is a blessing for you to know that she is with our Lord. I worked with her for 15 years at DCS, a privilege. She will be greatly missed.##imported-begin##Karen Knight##imported-end##

March 23, 2011 at 05:31 PM



“ Sara Nichols was a tremendous friend and blessing to Sherry and I when we lived in Dayton. Her friendship and humble service to First UMC was an incredible testimony to the woman that she was. I am confident that she is now in the presence of her savior and that He greeted her with open arms. She will be missed terribly but will be remembered with great fondness.##imported-begin##Mike and Sherry Weller##imported-end##

March 23, 2011 at 02:46 PM



“ Dear family of a wonderful friend,role model,and most of all a sister to us all.I am very sorry for the lost of your loved one she will truly be missed by all who got to know her. my daughter Sylvia didnt have her as her teacher but she still talked to her when she could and liked her alot.she would always say how Miss.Nichols always had a pretty smile all the time.WE LOVE YOU MISS.NICHOLS AND YOU WILL BE MISSED BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN!##imported-begin##April Diaz##imported-end##

March 23, 2011 at 01:52 PM



“ My prayer are with you all. Sara touched so many lives at Dayton City School##imported-begin##Donna Belisle##imported-end##

March 23, 2011 at 11:10 AM



“ Will be missed.##imported-begin##Jamie Wilkerson##imported-end##

March 23, 2011 at 10:58 AM



“ I taught with Sara for 15 years at DCS. She was a dear friend and coworker. She and I were both early people--she always opened up the school and I came in second for many years. I would go in to see her, and we shared concerns and prayer requests. She was a good listener and touched many lives. I know her trust was in the Lord and now she sees Him face to face. May His strength be yours during this hard time.##imported-begin##Ruth Ross##imported-end##

March 23, 2011 at 09:48 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear about Ms Nichols passing. She was my daughter's teacher one of the first years she started teaching. She was a great teacher and I'm sure will be greatly missed. My prayers are with her family and friends.##imported-begin##Jean Herston##imported-end##

March 23, 2011 at 07:26 AM



“ For Sara's family: Matt received her card and graduation gift yesterday. He was so surprised and pleased that she thought of him. The news this morning broke our hearts. We never even got to thank her. It is both precious and humbling to know that one of her last acts of kindness was remembering a student. We loved her. Bless all of you.##imported-begin##Rickey, Sharon, Laura, and Matt Stockton##imported-end##

March 22, 2011 at 10:51 PM



“ When I moved to Dayton people verbally welcomed me. Sara did this as well but she went beyond the words. She took time to find out what I needed and met my needs. If she found something she thought might help me - she gave it to me. If you were blessed to have Sara as your friend you were bleesed with a true friend.##imported-begin##Heidi North Catron##imported-end##

March 22, 2011 at 10:24 PM



“ Miss Nichols I really am going to miss you so much. I enjoyed having you as a teacher and made learning fun. you are one of the nicest teachers I have had.

Love you Ryan Ellis

I went to DCS K - 8 and I always wanted to have her as a teacher but I never did get her, but she knew me and always spoke. Miss Nichols always has a smile on her face and loved her students like her own kids. I am going to miss her. Right now shes in heaven watching over us . Miss Nichols you are going to be truely missed .

Love Always

Amber Ellis##imported-begin##Ryan Ellis ##imported-end##

March 22, 2011 at 09:46 PM



“ Sara was not only a dedicated and compassionate school teacher, but an encouraging and supportive friend. A Godly woman who shined for Jesus in a way that few people do. Our deepest sympathies to her family and close friends. She will be greatly missed. How fortunate for her to hear our Savior's loving words, as He welcomed her home with, "Well done, my good and faithful servant."###imported-begin##The Chris Tallent Family###imported-end##

March 22, 2011 at 09:46 PM



“ SUCH A SWEET LADY. SO SORRY.###imported-begin##STEVE AND TERESSA WILSON###imported-end##

March 22, 2011 at 09:01 PM



“ Lisa and Bob, My husband and I are out of town this week and I was saddened to hear of Sara's passing. I am praying for all of you and know that Sara is pain free and in a better place. I miss her already. My love to you all, Teresa###imported-begin##Teresa Calbaugh###imported-end##

March 22, 2011 at 08:31 PM



“ Mrs. Nichols had 3 of my children,such a dear woman, Im so sorry for your loss, May God comfort you in your time of loss###imported-begin##Sandra Sugden###imported-end##

March 22, 2011 at 05:46 PM



“ Dear Family of Sara Nichols,

I have such fond memories of Sara in my math classes. She was above being top notch. Sara was one of those students who could have done anything that she wanted.

She choose 3 good things in my opinion.

- 1. to teach*
- 2. to be a wonderful person*
- 3. to love the Lord*

I am certain there must be more, but to love the Lord and to take Him as one's savior is the best choice anyone can make. We will be praying for the family during this time.

Ken Hurley, Chandler, AZ##imported-begin##Ken Hurley##imported-end##

March 22, 2011 at 04:42 PM



“ To: Lisa and Bob (and their families), I was so sorry to hear of Sara's illness and then passing last night. I cannot imagine what it is like losing a sibling. She always had a smile on her face every time I would see her.

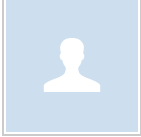
Our families go back a long way. Thinking and praying for you at this time.

I am sorry I cannot make it to Dayton on Thursday (due to school obligations), but please know I will be thinking of you often as you grieve the loss of your sister.

Love,

Donna##imported-begin##Donna Carter##imported-end##

March 22, 2011 at 03:27 PM



“ *Miss Nichols was such a sweet person and an inspiration to her students. She continued to be my teacher and a positive influence long past the 2nd grade.##imported-begin##Angie Smith##imported-end##*

March 22, 2011 at 03:22 PM