

The couple relocated to Memphis where Sandy joined the faculty of The University of Memphis Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music, teaching voice and undergraduate and graduate vocal pedagogy. Afterward, and for the past fourteen years, she has been an Adjunct Professor of Voice at Rhodes College.

As a Singing Voice Specialist and Vocal Pedagogue, Sandy specialized in the care of the professional voice. She joined the Voice Team in the office of Jan H. Petri, M.D. / Voice Care Associates in 1996, has assisted several local physicians in the diagnosis of voice patients, and has directed research projects, seminars, and masterclasses throughout the Southeast.

Her beautiful soprano voice was heard regularly throughout the Mid-South area. She performed as a soloist with Opera Memphis, the Oxford Community Chorus, the Memphis Vocal Arts Ensemble, the Rhodes Master Singers Chorale, Germantown Presbyterian Church, and as a recitalist with the Memphis Chamber Music Society.

Her last public solo was an acapella version of Sweet Little Jesus Boy, her crystal-clear voice pouring out over a church sanctuary that was otherwise perfectly silent and perfectly still.

Sandy maintained a private voice studio where she taught hundreds of students with diverse musical styles through the years, some of whom went on to pursue careers in musical performance.

Her singing voice was just one of her amazing talents. She had a way about her that drew people to her. She had a beautiful smile and a warm personality that made people want to be her friend. She was so easy to love, and she made those around her feel like they were the most important people in the world to her.

She served professionally as Treasurer and current President of the Memphis chapter of NATS, a presenter at The Voice Foundation's Symposium on the Care of the Professional Voice, and a contributor to the book *The Larynx*, edited by Robert H. Ossoff.

She served her community, spending a portion of ten summers working with young singers as vocal coach and director in the Opera Memphis Conservatory program.

She served her church as Coordinator of Children's Choirs at Germantown Presbyterian Church for more than a decade, and as a choir member, soloist, and choir assistant there for twenty-five years.

She enjoyed traveling with her family, shopping with her niece whom she regarded like a daughter and baseball games with friends. But more than anything she loved her family. They remained her first concern even as her health was failing.

Sandy was suffering and now is at rest. We will so miss all that she has shared with us through the years, but she leaves behind a rich legacy of teachers, singers, young Christians, family, and friends. She was as grateful for you as we are grateful for her

Memorials can be made in her memory to the Germantown Presbyterian Church Music Fund.

Germantown Presbyterian Church



*A Service of Worship
in Witness to the Resurrection
and in Celebration of the Life of*

Dr. Sandra Elizabeth Franks



July 25, 1969 - April 12, 2021

*April 21, 2021
2:00 P.M.*

**Please stand.*

Prelude Dr. Alex Benford, piano

Welcome Dr. Will Jones

***Call to Worship** (from Psalm 96) Dr. Jones

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

People: Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim God’s salvation day after day.

Leader: Declare the Lord’s glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

People: For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise, he is to be feared above all gods.

Leader: Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it.

People: Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.

Leader: Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth.

People: He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness.

***Hymn (see insert)** *Abide with Me* EVENTIDE

Opening Prayer Rev. Mike Lyle

Personal Remembrances Dr. William Skoog
Dr. Jerold Teachey

Prayer for Illumination Mr. Tom Sauer

Readings from Holy Scripture

Old Testament Mr. Sauer
Psalm 116:7-9, 15
Isaiah 57:1-2

New Testament Dr. Jones
Matthew 11:28-30
John 14:1-3

Meditation Dr. Jones

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles’ Creed (in unison, please remain seated) Rev. Lyle
I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin

Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Special Music *How Great Thou Art* arr. Rouse and Kirkland

Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer (*sung by ensemble*) Dr. Jones
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen

***Hymn (see insert)** *Amazing Grace* AMAZING GRACE

***Commendation and Benediction** Dr. Jones

***Choral Benediction** *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* John Rutter

***Postlude** Dr. Benford



OBITUARY

Dr. Sandra Elizabeth Franks, 51, succumbed to pancreatic cancer at her home in Cordova, TN on Monday night, April 12, 2021, with her husband at her bedside and son nearby.

She is survived by husband Paul Woodie Whited III, son Johnathan Carter Whited, mother Betty Jean (Long) Franks of Saltillo, MS, brother John Michael Franks (Johnette Bramlett) of Saltillo, niece Leah Brooke Franks (Bailey Davis and Ella) of Phillip, MS, stepbrother Steve Sprinkle (Beth) of Saltillo, and stepsister Stephanie Gooch (John) of Saltillo. She was preceded in death by her father Junior Dean Franks of Saltillo, grandparents Aaron and Vadis Franks of Mantachie, MS, and Leland and Mabel Long of Saltillo, and stepfather Wayne E. Sprinkle of Saltillo.

Sandy was born July 25, 1969, in Tupelo, Mississippi, the eldest child of Junior and Betty Jean Franks. She grew up in Saltillo, Mississippi, and had a passion for singing her whole life. She was in the youth choir and youth ensemble and was always ready to sing solos at church. It was clear to her, even at an early age, that music would be her life’s work.

After graduating with honors from Saltillo High School, she attended The University of Mississippi in Oxford, MS where she earned a Bachelor of Music degree. She continued her education at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, LA, completing a Master of Music, and then a Doctorate of Musical Arts from The University of Mississippi where her concentration was vocal pedagogy.

