



Carolyn Sowards

December 25, 1940 - May 8, 2025

Carolyn June Sowards passed away on May 8, 2025, at the age of 84. She was born on December 25, 1940, in Stout, Ohio, to Coleman and Virginia Lucas.

Carolyn was preceded in death by her devoted husband of 58 years, Jim; her parents; her brother, Charlie, and many beloved aunts, cousins, nieces, and dear friends.

She is lovingly remembered by her son, Dr. J. Gregory Sowards (wife Nancy), and their children Gabe (wife Anna), Savannah, and Elizabeth; her daughter, Cheri Rettstatt (husband Jeff) and their children Michael, Cole, and Lily; her brother, R.C. Lucas (wife Rita), sisters-in-law, Lamona Lucas and Carol Sowards; and a large extended family of cousins, nieces, nephews, and countless friends.

Carolyn was raised on the banks of the Ohio River, and her family, past and present is intertwined with the riverboat business. Life on the river left her with many fond memories and pride in her family's river legacy.

Carolyn graduated from Mount Vernon Academy in Mount Vernon, Ohio, and earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from Columbia Union College. After college, she married Jim Sowards and settled in his hometown of Columbus,

Ohio. There, she dedicated many years to nursing at Harding Hospital and other medical offices through the Columbus area.

A devoted mother and servant of her church, Carolyn's greatest joy came from supporting her children and serving the Worthington Seventh-day Adventist Church. She held numerous roles over the years, including Minister of Music, Church Secretary, Church Board chair, Trustee of the Church Corporation, member of the Church Building Committee, and organizer of children's and youth programs, fellowship luncheons, and other ministries.

Carolyn's deepest passion was serving Christ through music. A gifted pianist and organist, she served her church in this role for 63 years, offering her talents humbly and faithfully in all areas of worship -from children's programs to professional accompaniment. She

organized music for countless worship services, vespers, weddings, and funerals with grace and care.

Carolyn found immense joy in the presence and accomplishments of her family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She will be missed by family and countless friends made over the years doing the things she loved most.

She often said, "When I stand before Jesus, I want all of my gifts to be used up." Indeed, she used every gift to its fullest in service, love, and music.

The family will receive friends from 5:00-8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 13 at the Rutherford-Corbin Funeral Home, 515 High Street, Worthington, Ohio. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 14, at the Worthington Seventh-day Adventist Church, 385 East Dublin-Granville Road, Worthington, Ohio. Interment will be at Kingwood Memorial Park.

Cemetery Details

Kingwood Memorial Park

8230 Columbus Pike
Lewis Center, OH 43035
(740) 548-5509

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 13. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Rutherford Corbin Funeral Home
515 High Street
Worthington, OH 43085

Funeral Service

MAY 14. 11:00 AM (ET)

Worthington Seventh-Day Adventist Church
385 East Dublin-Granville Road
Worthington, OH 43085

Tribute Wall

DG

“ Linda and I were so sorry to hear of the loss of our dear friend and accompanist for all the years while we were in Worthington. We know that she will really be missed for all her music and other posts she filled in our church. Linda and Dan Griffin--Gilford New Hampshire.

Dan Griffin - June 18, 2025 at 12:16 PM

CE

“ To the Family,
May God's comfort sustain you during this time of grief.
I met and fellowshiped with Carolyn during the time attended Worthington Church for seminars offered there. I was a member of the Ephesus Church at that time.
Her musical gifts uplifted and inspired me during worship service .
She reflected the love of God to those she encountered.
With anticipation of our soon coming Savior.

Connie J Early

CONNIE J EARLY - May 14, 2025 at 09:49 AM

LH

“ Carolyn was was such a big part of my life. She was my Sabbath School teacher, my pathfinder leader, my ministry partner, my mentor and my friend. But most importantly, Carolyn was my spiritual compass. She naturally exuded grace and love to everyone and those are qualities that I work to emulate. She and Jim were a beautiful example of a loving and Godly marriage, again, something I work hard to emulate. And she had style! Carolyn had a great eye and sense of coordination, and I just loved going to her home around Christmas to see how she decorated! She made everything she touched beautiful! Because of you Carolyn, I am forever changed. LOVE YOU!

Laura Hanley - May 14, 2025 at 09:38 AM

TR

“ The Rickards purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Carolyn Sowards.



The Rickards - May 13, 2025 at 04:56 PM

TT

“ The Praise Team purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Carolyn Sowards.



The Praise Team - May 12, 2025 at 11:02 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Carolyn Sowards.

May 12, 2025 at 10:02 PM



“ Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Carolyn Sowards.



May 12, 2025 at 10:02 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Carolyn Sowards.



May 12, 2025 at 09:49 PM



“ I can't remember a time when Carolyn was not in my life, even though at a distance. She always found the humor in things; she and Jim made me laugh so many times! What a wonderful musician she was - soulful, uplifting, joyous! Such a lifeforce in the Worthington church and community. A life well-lived - she will always be remembered with love and admiration.

CB Buller
Palm Desert, CA

CB Buller - May 12, 2025 at 02:05 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Carolyn Sowards.*



May 12, 2025 at 01:39 PM



“ *Hatch, Slonaker and Wickline Family purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Carolyn Sowards.*



Hatch, Slonaker and Wickline Family - May 12, 2025 at 01:36 PM



“ *Carolyn (and Jim!) brought so much light and laughter into the world that their joy will continue to shine and echo through our memories. They are safe in God's hands and in our hearts always.— Suzy and Thom Juarros*

Suzanne Juarros - May 12, 2025 at 11:16 AM

MF

“ Though it has been years since we last saw Carolyn, we used to occasionally attend Worthington Adventist Church in the days when our son, Mark, was associate pastor there. I was always blessed by Carolyn's smile and her exquisite keyboard artistry that testified of Jesus. How blessed we are to have His promise of resurrection and reunion!

*Martin W (Marty) Feldbush
Vail, AZ 85641*

Martin W. Feldbush - May 12, 2025 at 04:11 AM

MF

“ *Reverie*

Fingers glide effortlessly over glossy keys, gently pressing out their sweet sounds, sounds that spill into my soul, penetrating to the depths of my being.

Those sweet sounds melt away my stress, speaking peace to my heart. In them come words flooding my memory, words of grace from heaven's heart of love.

I want to be in that place, where acceptance awaits me. I feel at home there. I want to do heaven's bidding, now and always.

Come into my heart Lord Jesus. Hold me close. Never let me go.

*Martha J. Feldbush
February 7, 2025
Corona de Tucson, AZ*

Note: The inspiration for these lines came while listening to Carolyn Sowards CD, recorded years ago.

Martha Feldbush - May 12, 2025 at 12:56 AM

GS

“ I will miss Grandma very much. She lived a great life and served as an example of what it means to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. I remember many conversations over the past decade with Grandma that concluded with her simple but true advice of, “as long as you have your relationship with Jesus, it will be okay.” She loved her family and her church, and I am forever grateful that I am her grandson. While I am sad I will not get to talk to her anymore or hear her play the piano again, her legacy lives on through a family that loved her dearly in this life. And I know I will get to see her again, someday. Thank you for everything, Grandma.

With all of my Love,
Gabriel Sowards (and Anna, James, and Jordan)

Gabriel Sowards - May 11, 2025 at 06:33 PM

CM

“ Corleen Martz purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Carolyn Sowards.



Corleen Martz - May 11, 2025 at 04:29 PM

CM

“ Corleen Martz planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carolyn Sowards.

Corleen Martz - May 11, 2025 at 04:29 PM

SC

“ She was a great Pathfinder leader to me and my brother. One of my fondest memories is of her and MaryFran going with us on the Swallow Falls Maryland Camporee - so many muddy laughs 😊. She was a great friend of my Dad's as well (Roger Grant)

Love and prayers to the family- Shelly (Grant) Cunningham

shelly Cunningham - May 11, 2025 at 04:14 PM



“ Your Light Shines was purchased for the family of Carolyn Sowards.



May 11, 2025 at 01:24 PM

SB

“ What a wise and funny lady. While that may sound unusual, humor and quick wit go hand in hand, and "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Pure pleasure to know and work with you. I'm looking forward to meeting up with you on the other side, My Dear.

Shirleen Brown - May 10, 2025 at 01:18 PM

JC

“ What an honor to have known you and Jim over the 40+ years I have been a member of WSDA church. My fondest memories are when Bill & I were members of the choir and you the pianist. What a wonderful time of fellowship as we praised and worshiped the Lord thru music. Rest in peace oh faithful servant of the Lord.

Janet Collins - May 10, 2025 at 11:29 AM