



Shirley Anne Clarke Chewning

February 8, 1933 - April 29, 2025

Shirley Anne Clarke Chewning, “Mums”, was born February 8, 1933, and went to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on April 29, 2025, at the age of 92, at Butterfield Trail Village, Fayetteville, AR. She accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior at a Bible camp as a child. She was the daughter of Roger Evans Clarke, and Lula Garland (Chiles) Clarke of Fredericksburg, VA. She is survived by her brother, Roger Evans Clarke Jr (Frances) and sister, Beverly Newlin (Donald); her three children Karen Chewning Schoch (Timothy) of Glenside, PA., John Jeffrey Chewning (Susan) of Summers, AR, and David Clarke Chewning, of Waco, TX; seven grandchildren David Barnard, Rachel Barnard, Ruth Barnard, Rebekah Chewning Kirk, Samuel Chewning, Sarah Chewning Foster and John Chewning; and eight great grandchildren. Her loving husband of fifty-nine years, Richard “Dick” Chewning predeceased her on February 17, 2015.

After receiving her teaching degree from Randolph Macon Women's College in Lynchburg, VA, and teaching for a year, Shirley married Dick in 1955. She supported Dick's further education at the University of Virginia and the University of Washington in many ways, but was especially proud of typing, proofing and editing his papers.

A teaching position at the University of Richmond landed them in Richmond, VA, where they raised their children for thirty years. They worshiped and

served at Stony Point Presbyterian Church. One unique way Shirley served and loved people was by spearheading and providing wedding receptions for couples marrying within the church. She loved being involved with events where food was served, and people could be social. Shirley's gift of hospitality and generosity flowed into hosting many college students in their home over the years, including holidays and InterVarsity events.

A lifelong involvement with the Christian Women's Club began in Richmond and continued through the different places she lived. Her heart's desire was to introduce women to the love of Christ and teach them about His love through small group Bible Studies. Shirley was also involved in the Girl Scouts on a variety of levels. When her children were teenagers, she pursued a Master of Education at VCU to better understand learning differences and dyslexia, which she was active in working with for many years.

Special family vacation times included spending a couple of weeks in the summer in Montreat, NC, at the Presbyterian Conference Center, where her family camped by the mountain stream and participated in the Conference Center's family activities. Shirley provided meals for the family under the rhododendron on a Coleman stove. These precious experiences of vacationing at Montreat have been passed down to subsequent generations.

In 1985, Shirley's next life adventure was a move to Waco, TX, with Dick's acceptance of a position at Baylor. She continued using her gift of hospitality and loving the people around her. She added a new way of teaching the next generation the love of God by being involved with Awana Children's ministry at their church. During the Waco years, Dick and Shirley lovingly and intentionally reached out to each of their seven grandchildren and took them on a "big trip with Mums and Pops", which the grandchildren helped plan in their 11th year, with the trip occurring the next summer.

Semi-retirement from Baylor, and a move to John Brown University, brought Dick and Shirley to Northwest AR, to be nearer to family. In 2008, they moved to Butterfield Trail Village in Fayetteville. Shirley continued serving her Lord and the people around her, and until her death, remained a member of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville, AR. She participated in various Bible Studies, organized a National Day of Prayer event at Butterfield, and became involved with Samaritan's Purse. Shirley found a niche by becoming extremely involved in the Butterfield recycling program by sorting and smashing cans and preparing paper bags for recycling newspapers. She was also involved in a Brain Teasers Group and posted a sheet of games weekly for her fellow residents' enjoyment. Making banana and beer bread for her family and fellow residents gave her great joy. Shirley was gifted in identifying the needs of others and helping make things better for those around her. Her attention to detail was a blessing to those whose needs she met. She was always looking outward, reaching out, and helping. She desired to connect with people in activities and plug them in, whether in the church or community. She worked hard at communication and wanted to pass along helpful information.

Truly, Shirley's whole life was compelled by John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." She strove to love the Lord her God with all her heart, and through His love, to love other people.

Shirley's loving, nurturing, and gentle spirit will be missed by many whose lives she touched.

Events associated with the celebration of God's love for Shirley will include: Visitation – 5:30 to 7:30 PM on Tuesday, May 6th at the Wasson Funeral Home, Siloam Springs, AR; Graveside Service – 9:00 AM on Wednesday, May 7th at the Oak Hill Cemetery, Siloam Springs, AR; Funeral Service –

11:30 AM on Wednesday, May 7th, Covenant Presbyterian Church (PCA), Fayetteville, AR.

Memorials may be made to The Deacons Fund, c/o Covenant Presbyterian Church, 4511 W. Wedington Drive, Fayetteville, AR 72704.

The family would like to thank the Healthcare Team and Support Staff at Butterfield Trail Village for their care and support as she completed her race.

Cemetery Details

Oak Hill Cemetery

2122 W. University St.
Siloam Springs, AR 72761

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 6. 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM (CT)

Wasson Funeral Home
441 U.S. 412
Siloam Springs, AR 72761
(479) 524-5131
wasson@wassonfuneralhome.com
<https://www.wassonfuneralhome.com>

Graveside

MAY 7. 9:00 AM (CT)

Oak Hill Cemetery
2122 W. University St.
Siloam Springs, AR 72761

Funeral Service

MAY 7. 11:30 AM (CT)

Covenant Presbyterian Church
4511 W. Wedington
Fayetteville, AR 72703

Tribute Wall

PM

“ I was blessed reading about Shirley's life, and the amazing way that God used her over her many years. Her legacy goes on in her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and all the people she touched with the love of Jesus. Praying for you Karen and the rest of your family as you grieve the loss of someone so dear.

Paul Myers - May 05, 2025 at 05:24 PM



“ Cherished Memories - All White was purchased for the family of Shirley Anne Clarke Chewning.



May 05, 2025 at 03:29 PM

DC

“ I've been blessed by Shirley through her love, influence, and witness to her daughter Karen Schoch. Karen has been a wonderful witness and her testimonies and influence in our interactions at home group (Bible study) had a wonderful impact in my life. Looking forward to meeting Shirley when our Lord calls us!

Daniel Cho - May 05, 2025 at 11:51 AM

KS

Thank you Daniel, you are kind to me!

Karen chewing schoch - May 05, 2025 at 01:13 PM

JS

“ I have pleasant memories of my time with Shirley while I was a member at Covenant Presbyterian. She always had a sweet smile and encouraging words for everyone. Her love for others was a testimony to the close relationship she had with Christ. She gave us all an example to follow!

Jenny Shields - May 05, 2025 at 09:15 AM

RC

“ Robert W Chewing purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Shirley Anne Clarke Chewing.



Robert W Chewing - May 04, 2025 at 01:06 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Shirley Anne Clarke Chewing.

May 04, 2025 at 12:01 PM



“ Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Shirley Anne Clarke Chewing.



May 04, 2025 at 12:01 PM

JC

“ Aunt Shirley was my husband Rush's godmother, and we agree that she was one of the kindest and most cheerful persons we have ever known. Add generous to that thought...she and Uncle Dick would send a box of delicious toffee to us every Christmas, and one year I mentioned that Rush and our boys had gobbled it up in record time. From then on, two boxes of toffee arrived each Christmas! Thanks for everything, Shirley, it was a great privilege to know you. Love you forever!

Joanne Chewning - May 04, 2025 at 09:18 AM

MW

“ As a young single woman attending Stony Point , Mrs Chewning (Shirley) blessed me with examples of hospitality and loving God by serving others . Her wisdom and kindness and love for Dick helped me to learn what a Godly woman was. Her love for her children taught me how to love and serve as a Christ honoring Mother .She became a sweet friend and I was blessed to have her help with my wedding reception 💕💕 . Much love to her family . I thank God our paths share our saviors grace and peace and all the promises in Jesus .

Myra Whitener - May 03, 2025 at 11:15 AM

AB

“ I was forever impacted by Shirley's love, kindness, good humor, and joy. She exemplified gracious living, loving, and laughing. Many of the important convictions about raising our children were directly influenced by Shirley's wisdom as she shepherded me through early motherhood. I am indebted to her forever. She ran a very, very good race. I hope to keep up with her. Amy Beck, Alliance Bible Church, Waco

Amy Beck - May 02, 2025 at 06:01 PM

MS

“ Shirley blessed me with the love of God.

margaret sttephan - May 02, 2025 at 05:21 PM

DG

“ I was blessed to know Dick and Shirley at Stony Point Church. Shirley used her gift of hospitality by coordinating my wedding reception, as she did for many members of the church. She was a great role model to us younger women, with her deep love for Christ and sharing His love with others.

Debbi (Up shaw) Garber - May 02, 2025 at 05:16 PM

SY

“ I was a member of Alliance Bible Church in Waco, Texas when Shirley and Dick attended. Shirley was heavily involved in our Awana program. She was such a fun person!

sheryl young - May 02, 2025 at 01:52 PM

KS

Thank you Cheryl for sharing your memories of our mom. She was a special lady.

Karen chewing schoch - May 03, 2025 at 09:36 AM



I was blessed to know Shirley and Dick at Stony Point RP Church when I lived in Richmond, VA. I learned so much about my faith from both of them as they taught and lived godly lives.

Anne Jack - May 03, 2025 at 01:04 PM



What a lovely person. She was such a gift from the Lord and a big positive influence in my life. Karen W Scott

Karen Scott - May 04, 2025 at 09:08 PM