



Ann Lois Russell

July 31, 1937 - March 16, 2025

For a lifetime, Ann Lois Russell has been telling anyone who would listen about the goodness of Jesus. For decades, when she spoke about leaving this earthly world and finally seeing Him face to face, it was not in fear, but in faith. She knew heaven was real; that Jesus promised her a home over there.

On Sunday March 16, 2025, she stepped into glory with grace. Welcoming her at Heaven's gates was her Daddy, her beloved sisters, Lucretia, Ella Bell, Lucy, and Clara; her brothers, Roland, Tom, James, Calvin, and Fred Williams; and her mother, whom she hadn't seen since she was four years old.

While those she left behind wept, heaven rejoiced.

Ann Lois Russell was born on July 31, 1937, in Demopolis, Alabama, to Roland Williams and Ella Harris. She grew up surrounded by family, always just around the corner, learning early on the power of hard work, "being clean," dressing sharp, and the strength that comes from knowing who you are and Whose you are.

From Daisy Street to Greendale Avenue, she believed in doing things decently and in order. For 21 years, she was a dedicated employee at Gorman Rupp, retiring on October 1, 1999.

Ann was the quintessential Proverbs 31 woman-clothed in strength and dignity, rising early to prepare for household, and get on her knees and pray-calling nearly every single member of her family out by name daily. With all her heart, Ann poured her everything into her sons, Vincent and Van.

Vincent, her rock-her firstborn, her sports all-star, the one she could count on for anything was with her until every end. The protector, the steady hand, the one who carries the mantle of her wisdom and her quiet strength.

Van-the original mama's boy-the one who filled her days with stories that would "tickle me so bad," and with stories that would "tickle me so bad", and with love that ran deep. They lived together, laughed together, and had a special bond that only a mama and son know. She raised her sons to stick together, and because of her, there are no closer brothers in this world than Vincent and Van – a testament to the Williams family legacy and the love she instilled in them.

Most of all, Ann cherished her only granddaughter, her pride and crowning joy, Che'rie. Ann had always said she wished she had daughters like Lucy, Ella Bell & Creasie-and in God's perfect way of blessing us with the desires of our hearts in ways we least expect it -she found her daughter in Che'rie. As aunt Lucy used to tease "It's always Che'rie this' and Che'rie that. I gotta go meet halfway to get Che'rie' I gotta get Che'rie some school clothes. I gotta send this to Urbana for Che'rie. Che'rie coming for the summer.' Che'rie, Che'rie, Che'rie.

There was no better grandmama in all the world than Ann Lois Russell. She and Che'rie loved to put on makeup, good smelling perfume, have photo shoots at Kingwood Center with throw away cameras, and wear matching jewelry. Even today, if you look closely, you'll notice that they are still matching

earrings-a final, silent tribute to the deep connection, tradition and memories between them that will live on beyond the grave.

But if there was one thing that would bring an even brighter light to Ann's eyes, it was her double portion-her twin great-grandchildren, Ainsley and Roman James. They were to joy of her later years and the living proof of the prayers she had prayed for generations to come. Ann said her greatest peace come in knowing that Che'rie had found her true love and a good husband and father in Andreas James. When they got married, she would often say. "I can rest now." Until her last breath, she covered them all love, in wisdom, and most of all, in prayer.

Beyond her immediate family, Aunt Lois was crazy about all of her nieces and nephews. She cherished her memories of sleepovers, gardening sharing recipes, and just doing nothing but sitting around laughing and talking. She was known for letting nieces put on makeup at her house but hurry up and wash it off before their parents came to get them. Most of all, she always said she never woulda made it without Gwen & Debbie. They were her heart and stuck by her through it all.

Ann will be deeply missed by her only surviving sister Beck (Leon), and all those who were blessed to call her friend or family. Whether it was a phone call early in the morning, a warm meal, or a few dollars folded up and handed to you in secret, Ann made sure the people she loved never felt alone.

Ann loved Jesus, loved to serve at Crossroads Church, and loved to tell people like it is especially her kids, grandkids, and any all telemarketers calling her phone She loved to laugh dress, clean, shop for sales, bake pies study the Bible, and watch the news. If anyone reached heaven and heard, "Well done, thy good and faithful servant," it was Ann Lois Russell. To God Be

the Glory.

The services will be held Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 11 am, with one-hour prior calling to the services at Crossroads Church – Ontario Campus, 636 Lexington Springmill Rd. S., Mansfield, Ohio 44906.

The family has entrusted Small's Funeral Services with the arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **26**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Crossroads Church - Ontario Campus
636 Lexington Springmill Rd. S.
Mansfield, OH 44906+

Services

MAR **26**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Crossroads Church - Ontario Campus
636 Lexington Springmill Rd. S.
Mansfield, OH 44906+

Tribute Wall



“ *This Queen was a beautiful sweet soul ..inside and out..She always told me she prayed for her granddaughter Rashaun husband and thank me raising a great man of God..She loved her so ❤️ much. Good and faithful service well done.*

Dorothy James - April 09, 2025 at 01:54 PM

QD

“ *Vincent and Van my childhood friends, I am so sorry to learn your mother passed. I have many wonderful memories of your mother and will never forget her. Your family is definitely in my prayers. God bless.*



Queen Owens Dulin - March 26, 2025 at 09:31 PM

RC

“ *Praying for the family. Miss Lois was a very nice person with a pleasant smile*

Rosie Curry - March 26, 2025 at 11:31 AM

JH

“ *Juanita Harris lit a candle in memory of Ann Russell*



Juanita Harris - March 25, 2025 at 09:55 PM

BF

“ *With deepest heartfelt sympathy in the loss of your mother, Miss Lois. She was one of the sweet mothers we grew up with on Daisy Street. A very special lady with a sweet, loving spirit.*

Billie Jean Feagin - March 25, 2025 at 02:44 PM

DJ

“ *Debbie Jefferson lit a candle in memory of Ann Russell*



Debbie Jefferson - March 25, 2025 at 01:00 PM



“ *Heavenly and Harmony was purchased for the family of Ann Lois Russell.*



March 25, 2025 at 12:02 PM

BS

“ *Condolence to the Family
I will always cherish the Memories of Ann.
Prayer & Love
Barbara Simms*



Barbara Simms - March 24, 2025 at 08:51 AM

DS

“ Didn't know her name until today, she always had me call her grandma. I always got a hug a a kiss on the cheek every Sunday and a God Bless you. I would hug her back and tell her to have a Blessed week. I loved her dearly and she will be missed. But she is with Jesus now. You all will be in my prayers.

Deb Simmering - March 23, 2025 at 02:02 PM

JH

“ My condolences to Vincent and Van who were once neighbors and classmates. And to the entire family. May God comfort and strengthen all during this time of bereavement 🙏🙏🙏

Jodi Hunter - March 23, 2025 at 06:24 AM

TW

“ What a Beautiful Gem of a Woman. To know her was to Love Her.

Rest In Heavenly Peace Ms Lous



Twyla Wilkins - March 21, 2025 at 11:18 PM

DH

“ To the entire family please know you are in my prayers. Aunt Lois was such a beautiful soul and I’m sure I’m not the only one who remembers her calling you into that house to have a long and encouraging conversation about the do’s and don’ts of life and our walk with Jesus. Those memories will be forever cherished. May she forever rest in HIS arms. My condolences and love to you all.



Love - Dr. Monica K. Harris & Family

Dr. Monica K. Harris - March 21, 2025 at 09:31 PM

JB

To the entire family you are in my prayers she was one of a kind Beautiful woman May her soul rest in heaven love to you all.

John& Sandra Bentley - March 25, 2025 at 09:06 PM

TF

“ Tim Hill & Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ann Lois Russell.



Tim Hill & Family - March 21, 2025 at 09:27 PM

TF

“ Tim Hill & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ann Lois Russell.

Tim Hill & Family - March 21, 2025 at 09:27 PM

MF

“ Our condolences to Mrs. Russell family and loved ones, you're in our thoughts and prayers.



Minister Behavior Bryant & Family - March 21, 2025 at 08:10 PM

WF

“ Condolences and prayers to Vincent, Van and their entire family. She always had a warm and inviting smile that radiated from within. Praying that all the special memories will lighten your hearts in the days to come.

Jean, Elaine, Burke Jr, Clarence & Carmen

Webb Family - March 21, 2025 at 07:59 PM

SC

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the family We laughed many days together

Shirley Crawford - March 21, 2025 at 05:18 AM

WM

“ My condolences to Vincent, Van and their family.

Willa Young Moore - March 21, 2025 at 02:21 AM

KW

“ From the first day I meet Ms. Lois while visiting Bobbie, her sister in law, she became one of my favorite ladies! Always a smile, a word of encouragement and Karen I haven't seen you in a while. All of the time you saw the Godly love that radiated from her. I can truly say ... Rest in Heaven my beautiful lady. Much loved and much missed! 🙏 Karen Bronson White

Karen White - March 20, 2025 at 08:14 PM

CR

“ Praying for the Family.

Charles and Patti Ray - March 20, 2025 at 05:29 PM

KA

“ I will never forget "Big Sister", as I used to call her. My wife and brothers, would often stop by and visit. We always had a great time laughing and telling stories. We will miss you my sister. May you rest in Peace and Paradise

Khalil and Joyce Ali - March 20, 2025 at 02:10 PM

MJ

“ Mrs Anne Russell was a great person she never met a stranger she always recommended Christ to them she was one who worked with my husband Ben Williams Jr and witness to him on the job he accepted Jesus Christ as his personal at the Gorman Rupp company on Elm Street 1978, he also was the one who gave me my wedding bridal shower. We love to be in her presence because she always has something good to say about Jesus and something good to keep you laughing, she will be greatly missed Mr and Mrs Ben Williams Jr.

Mr.&Mrs BEN WILLIAMS JR - March 20, 2025 at 12:11 PM