



Lamplighters Newsletter

LOVE THE PEOPLE & TEACH THE WORD



AUSTIN BAPTIST
CHURCH
LET THERE BE LIGHT

News and Announcements

Volume 14 No. 3, March 2026



February 28, 2026

Aww Yes, there is something special about gathering at a favorite Diner! We had a full crowd and it was delightful to have Gaylord Armstrong and Tracy Campbell join the gathering. Another familiar face appeared: Cherie Copus, who was enjoying the morning with a different group.



Austin Diner February 28, 2026





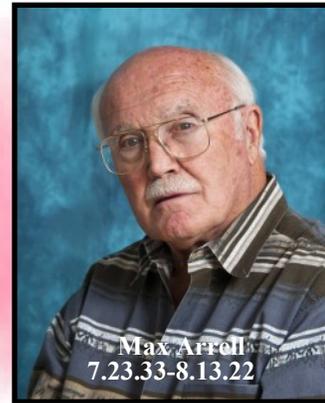
Betty Jene Baty Arrell

November 28, 1935

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January 21, 2026

Wife to Max Arrell



Betty made her journey to her heavenly home on January 21, 2026, in Austin, Texas.

She was born on Thanksgiving morning, November 28, 1935, to the Rev. and Mrs. Milton Baty. She was the second child born and remained the delight of her father throughout her life. Betty's father was a Southern Baptist pastor, and her mother, Tommie Lue, was deeply involved in church life, particularly in the Woman's Missionary Union.

From the beginning of her life, Betty was surrounded by love and grounded in God's Holy Word. She often said she could not remember a time when she did not know that God loved her and sent His Son, Jesus, to die for her sins. She was cherished not only by her parents but also by her older brother, Ben whom she lovingly described as her hero and guardian angel. He watched over her throughout her life. She proudly bore the name "Jene," after her mother's older brother, whom she adored.

At the age of five, Betty accepted Jesus, gave her life to Him, and for the rest of her life sought to serve Him and bring others to faith. She lived this calling by serving those who were hurting or whose lives had been broken.

Because of her father's ministry, the family moved frequently during her childhood, and Betty lived in many cities across Texas. In each place, she was embraced by the congregations her father served. She began school in Covington, Texas, and graduated from high school in Tuscola, Texas, in 1954. That fall, she entered Hardin-Simmons University on an academic scholarship and graduated as valedictorian of her class. She studied social work and followed this profession for more than fifty years. Even after retiring to focus on her home and family, she continued to use her skills as a caseworker, volunteering primarily with Baptist agencies. She delighted in offering her services without charge, often saying she owed it in gratitude for the many blessings she had received as a product of Texas Baptist life.

While attending Hardin-Simmons University, Betty met Vernon Maxwell Arrell, known as Max. They married on May 28, 1959, shortly after he completed his education. Throughout her life, Betty referred to Max as "the man God gave to me." She adored him, never loved another, and often called him the man of her dreams. Though life was not without challenges, they shared a strong and loving marriage, and Max consistently encouraged Betty to follow what she believed the Lord was calling her to do.

Betty Arrell, con't

Betty worked as a social worker at Abilene State School as an intake caseworker, presenting cases for admission and care. She also served at Methodist Hospital in Lubbock in the emergency room, at Buckner Home in Dallas handling adoptions and a mother's aid program, and at the West Texas Rehabilitation Center in Abilene as a medical social worker helping determine appropriate treatment and aftercare.

After Max was transferred to Austin for work, Betty retired from her professional career to focus on family life. Their only child, Elizabeth Luann, was born, and from that point forward Betty's primary devotion was to her husband, her child, and, as time allowed, her church.

Betty followed her parents in developing a deep love for missions. She often said she participated in missions for the sole purpose of using whatever she did as a way to earn the right to share the hope that was within her.

Throughout her life, Betty participated in many mission projects. Among the most significant was her twenty-five years of service in AIDS ministry to those infected with HIV and their loved ones. During this time, she not only ministered directly to those affected but also worked to educate fellow Baptists and encourage involvement. She learned early that fear often prevents people from following God's leading, and she sought to live as an example of faithful obedience.

She also loved serving as a "blue cap" with Texas Baptist Men, responding wherever disasters occurred. Another ministry close to her heart was serving as an "angel chief" at the Fisher Houses at Brooke Army Hospital in San Antonio, supporting wounded warriors and their families. A proud American, Betty believed deeply that those willing to fight and die for this nation deserved profound gratitude and lifelong care.

Betty often referred to her work in missions as "her journey of joy." She liked to say she did it because it was the noble thing to do, but she freely admitted the truth was that it brought her great joy.

A woman of strong faith, Betty believed God was sovereign and that nothing entered her life without the foreknowledge of her Savior. Because of this, she faced life's challenges with strength and trust. This did not mean she was never afraid or hurt by the choices of others, but she consistently placed the outcome in the Lord's hands. This faith carried her through breast cancer and other difficult seasons, grounded in her assurance that her "Heavenly Father watches over me."

Beyond her family, Betty's greatest love was her local church. At the time of her death, she was a member of Austin Baptist Church in Austin, Texas. Throughout her life, Betty held many positions of responsibility within the church. She served as a Bible teacher, WMU Director, member and officer of her local Baptist Association, member of the Board of Hardin-Simmons University, member of the Texas WMU board, and member of the Executive Board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Betty's many loves included her Lord and His church, her husband, her daughter, her grandchildren, Katherine Elaine and Braden Michael, and her extended family.

Betty was preceded in death by her husband, Vernon Maxwell Arrell. She is survived by her daughter, Elizabeth Luann Dickerson; her grandchildren, Katherine Elaine and Braden Michael; and extended family who will cherish her memory.

In Remembrance of Lamplighter's Class Member



Jeanne Kittredge

May 28, 1945

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January 25, 2026

Wife to Norman Kittredge



Jeanne Kittredge, 80, of Carrollton, died peacefully on January 25, surrounded by her family. She was born on May 28, 1945, to William George (Bill) Ross, Jr. and Josephine (Jo) Brown Ross. She lived the first few months of her life with her mother and grandparents on their farm in Jollyville, waiting for her father to return from service in World War II. Upon his return, they moved to Austin, where she graduated from Austin High School.

After graduating from Baylor University with a major in elementary education and a minor in sociology, Jeanne married the love of her life, Norman Kittredge, on April 8, 1967. They celebrated 58 years of marriage together. A lifelong teacher, Jeanne started her career in third grade, when she was given a reading group of her peers to supervise. Jeanne taught fourth grade at Govalle Elementary School, the same school where she led that reading group as a child.

She taught preschool at Windsor Park Baptist School and the Austin Baptist Community Center. She later worked in information technology for the State of Texas and the private sector. After Norman retired, she became the office manager at her sister's psychotherapy office, doing billing and scheduling.

After giving her life to Jesus Christ at age 10, she began teaching the Bible to children when she was 13. Teaching the Bible became her most rewarding lifelong vocation. She actively served in children's ministry at various Baptist churches in the Austin area, most recently at Austin Baptist Church. She exercised her and Norman's creative abilities to include props to illustrate her lessons. These ranged from felt boards of Biblical stories to a full-size boat.

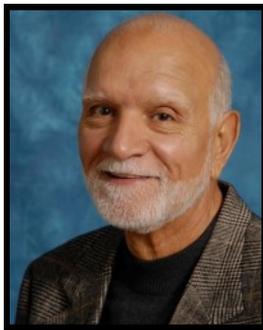
Jeanne loved spending time with her family. Gatherings always included games, food, and homemade ice cream. The family took yearly fishing trips to Rockport, Texas. After a successful catch, fish fries became a regular occurrence after they returned home. She enjoyed sunsets, the beach, and watching the wildlife in her backyard, including birds, squirrels, and deer. She especially enjoyed watching the squirrels as they tried to get the birdseed out of the bird feeder hanging outside her kitchen window. She loved to worship and serve at her church among her dear church family.

Jeanne was preceded in death by her parents, Bill and Josephine Ross. She is survived by her beloved husband, Norman Ray Kittredge of Carrollton; her children, son Kevin Ray Kittredge and wife Lori of Lewisville, and daughter Kimberly Gail Yandell and husband Randy of Temple; and her grandchildren, Katie and Karoline Kittredge, and Shauna, Carson, and Tanner Yandell. She is also survived by her sister, Marilyn Ross of Austin; nieces and nephews Sharon Smith of Fredericksburg, Leigh Kittredge Robinson and husband Eddie of Sunnyvale, CA, Lael Kittredge Smit and husband Harald of Austin, Steven Kittredge and wife Jennifer of Gatlinburg, TN, and Christopher (Theo) Hoeffner-Ross of Austin; and grandniece and nephew, Olivia Kittredge and Owen Kittredge.

The family wishes to thank the staff at Briarview Assisted Living Center and Kindful Health for their assistance in the last months of her life. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Austin Baptist Church or the Cancer Research Institute.

Jeanne's prayer is that everyone reading this will accept Jesus' gift of forgiveness and eternal life and join her in heaven, praising and worshipping our Lord and Savior.

In Remembrance of ABC Church Member



Joseph Noel Guedea SR.

February 15, 1935

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January 28, 2026

Husband to Kay Guedea



Joseph Noel Guedea Sr. (Joe, lovingly known as P Joe), age 90, of Temple, Texas, went to his eternal home to live with his Lord and Savior Jesus on January 28, 2026, with his beloved wife of 63 years, **Kay Guedea**, by his side.

Joe was born on February 15, 1935, in Dallas, Texas, to Thomas and Virginia Guedea. He was the middle of three sons and carried with him a steady, dependable spirit that defined his life as a husband, father, grandfather, and friend.

Joe worked for and proudly retired from the State of Texas. After retirement, he found work he truly loved—guarding the kitchen at Austin City Hall. Joe dedicated more than 20 years to this role, and in honor of his service and presence, the kitchen at City Hall proudly bears his name: The Joe Guedea Kitchen. He spent his final 10 years continuing to guard the kitchen he loved, a place where he became a familiar, trusted, and cherished figure.

Joe enjoyed fishing and playing cards with his lifelong friends, Larry and Nancy Walker. He also enjoyed playing golf with his brothers and his sons—time spent together that meant a great deal to him. Above all else, Joe was deeply proud of his grandchildren and never missed an opportunity to share that pride with those around him.

Joe is survived by his wife, Kay Guedea of Temple, Texas; his son Joey Guedea and wife Susan of Fort Worth, Texas; and their children Jonah and Jamie Guedea of Windsor, Colorado, and Afton Guedea of Houston, Texas. He is also survived by his son Bubba Guedea his grandson, Joshua Guedea, and his mother Cathy Curtis of Austin, Texas. He is further survived by his brothers, Tom Guedea and Xavier Guedea. His nieces, Sonia Roberts, Annette Reyes (Rene), Yvonne Wilson (Jimmy), Phaedra Guedea. Nephews, Tommy Guedea (Debbie), Michael Guedea (Letty), Efen Guedea (Elda Rose), Xavier Rene Guedea (Annie).

He was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas and Virginia Guedea.

Joe will be remembered for his devotion to his family, his strong work ethic, his steady presence, and the joy he found in simple moments shared with those he loved. His legacy lives on through the generations he cherished—and in the kitchen that carries his name.

In Remembrance of Lamplighter's Class Member



Bette Napier Pritchett

April 16 1940

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February 21, 2026

This post is from her Son, Jim Pritchett

Bette Napier Pritchett of Austin, Texas passed away on Saturday, February 21, 2026. She was born on April 16, 1940 in Okmulgee, OK. She was the daughter of Saline & Ermin Napier each of whom preceded her in death.

She graduated from W.B Ray High School in Corpus Christi, Texas. She attended Delmar College and graduated from the University of Texas, Austin in 1991 and later completed her master's degree.

Although she lived in Kansas City, Mo. for several years, she spent most of her life in Texas. In 1959, Bette married James Darrell Pritchett, a mechanical engineer (University of Missouri)— who passed away in 1987.

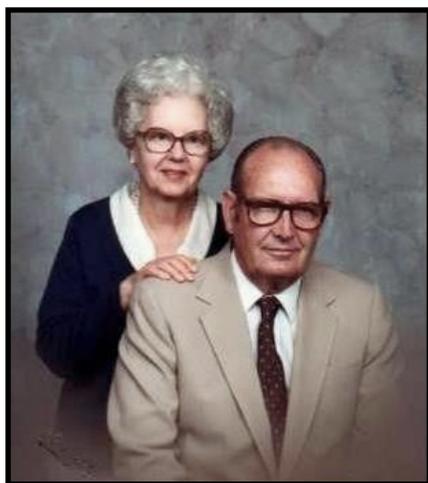
Bette is survived by her two children: James Darrell Pritchett II, John Kirby, and Grandson James Darrell Pritchett III who lives in Highland Village, Tx. Bette is also survived by her brother Warren Napier and his wife **Cheryl Fassnacht Napier** of Austin.

Bette was an active member of the First Baptist Church in Austin, Texas for many years and later became a member of Austin Baptist Church. She was in a Bible study class of 300 with whom she corresponded extensively on various topics. She was a fitness enthusiast when she was healthy. In her 30s, she ran in the Capital 10,000K, where she came in first for her age group. She also skied for several decades; on one occasion she entered a downhill race where she came in first for her age group.

She struggled substantially over the last two decades with various physical maladies. While in many hospitals, Bette managed to cope with orthopedic conditions. During those many stays, she managed to converse with a friendly and cooperative attitude that fostered many friends among other residents and staff members. They discussed a variety of topics such as medicine, and politics. She observed that these actions with this attitude often inspired those nearby folks to adopt a far more positive attitude, which in turn typically helped her to improve her own health.

A celebration of life service will be held at a later date at Austin Baptist Church in Austin Texas

Bette Pritchett, con't



Bette Pritchett, con't



I wish to thank each and every one of you who prayed for me during my surgeries and illness challenges. I am living proof of the power of prayer and the healing hand of our Lord Jesus Christ.



2026



Give a Happy Birthday Shout out to the Folks either in the Photos or that have their Name in Colored Boxes as they are Celebrating Their 80+ Birthdays This month.



One of the 1st Grade students in our Generational Prayer Program has their name written in Black. Please add them to your prayer list.

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2 	3 Terry Clodfelter Polly Eagle Stevie Logsdon	4  Chris Forbes	5  Kay Gledea	6  Barbara Leeper	7  Dot McCreary
8  Bob Newsom	9 Tim Smith	10 Mary Chappell	11 Doug & Lucy Sommerdorf 37 Years Harlan & Lori McMorris 26 Years Chip Graves	12  Sue Hammock Jim & Polly Eagle 43 Years Terry & Janet Parks 43 Years	13 Larry Logsdon	14 Caral Morgan
15	16 Kay Benkendorf	17 	18 Gregory & Dawn Crouch 20 Years Randy Ferguson Jeff Hammock Madison Scholl	19	20  Sharon Leach Mark & Bobby Morgan 70 Years	21  Lucille Casner Linda Carter
22  Mark Morgan	23  Jim Hammock  David Jones	24	25 Gary & Mary Pettit 54 Years Billy Morehouse	26 Marty Blackmon	27 Mark & Carol Caesar 33 Years	28 Christina Mendoza
29  National Vietnam War Veterans Day	30  Shirley Newman	31 Nancy Deis Audie Wiggam				