



## Jessica Smith

October 19, 2008 - October 3, 2011

Myrtle Beach...Jessica Wendy Smith was granted her angel wings on October 3, 2011 at her home, following a lifelong struggle with Alpers Disease. She was born on October 19, 2008 in Conway. Jessica's final days were spent surrounded by family and friends, that she had touched throughout her short, yet very memorable life.

Although Jessica's illness made her frail, she possessed strength, perseverance, the ability to overcome incredible odds and battle her physical challenges daily. The tremendous courage, squeezed into her small body, reminded those around her that each day was a blessing, and an opportunity from God to create lasting memories. She could spend hours cuddling close to those she loved so much. She was a very happy and beautiful little girl, laughing all of the time and always displaying her playful personality. She enjoyed music, clapping, "danceying", playing with her brother Tanner and being outdoors.

With Jessica's passing we remind others that her life is one to be celebrated, although we will miss her every day, especially her precious smile, she will remain forever in our hearts. We are so thankful for the little time Jessica was with us, and it has been a great privilege to be her parents.

Jessica is survived by her loving parents, John Wendell Smith, Jr and Wendy Doyle Smith; Brother, Tanner Smith; Paternal grandparents J. Wendell Smith, Sr. and Pam Davis Smith of Conway; and Maternal grandparents Walter P. Doyle and Connie James Doyle. Also by her four Uncles and Aunts: Woodrow

(Woody) Walter Smith, Pamela D. Smith, Kerry Doyle Brode, and her husband Steve Brode, Walter (Wally) Perlie Doyle and his wife, Dana Doyle all of Myrtle Beach; and Ashley Collier Alderman, and her husband Mike Alderman of Virginia and two cousins: Caroline Doyle and Collier Alderman along with countless other family and friends whom were blessed to know her.

Jessica also leaves behind many wonderful caregivers that provided love and support that enhanced her quality of life. Jessica's love extends to her wonderful nurses, Sue, Lajuanna and Christine. There is a special place in our hearts for "Dr. K", Shannon and the medical staff at MUSC; because of their continual dedication, love and support, Jessica was able to survive some of her toughest medical challenges.

Funeral services will be held 2:00 PM Thursday at Salem Baptist Church with Rev. Ronnie Byrd and Rev. Shafter Johnston officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery directed by Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel.

The family will receive friends from 1-2 PM Thursday in the church fellowship hall.

The family has requested in lieu of flowers, donations be given in Jessica's name to MUSC Foundation designated to the Livi Center for Pediatric Mitochondrial Disease, 18 Bee Street, Charleston, SC 29403.

Sign a guestbook at [www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com/obituaries](http://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com/obituaries)

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Salem Baptist Church Cemetery

4008 Salem Road  
Aynor, SC 29511

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 6. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Salem Baptist Church Cemetery  
4008 Salem Road  
Aynor, SC 29511

## Service

OCT 6. 2:00 PM (ET)

Salem Baptist Church Cemetery  
4008 Salem Road  
Aynor, SC 29511

# Tribute Wall

RH

“ *Rebecca & Garland Hudgins lit a candle in memory of Jessica Smith*



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**Rebecca & Garland Hudgins** - October 13, 2011 at 09:47 PM

JJ

“ *So sorry for your loss. I pray that God wraps His comforting arms tightly around you all during this time. You are in our prayers!!!  
Steven and Jan James*

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**Jan James** - October 13, 2011 at 12:53 PM

RG

“ *Dear John Wendell and Wendy,*

*I was just told the news about your beautiful girl. My heart breaks for the two of you and the rest of your family. I am truly sorry for your loss but remember, it is only temporary. Your strong faith and beliefs will guide you to better days.*



*-Roddy Guest*

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**Roddy Guest** - October 13, 2011 at 08:54 AM



“ *Lajuanna Inman lit a candle in memory of Jessica Smith*



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**lajuanna inman** - October 12, 2011 at 08:57 PM



*My heart is so heavy for you guys and I thank you very much for making a part of this special little girl's life this last year.  
Lajuanna Inman  
" Hospice Care Of South Carolina "*

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**lajuanna inman** - October 12, 2011 at 08:59 PM

SS

“ *I'm deeply sorry for your family's tremendous loss. My heart is broken for you. May you find the supernatural peace that comes only from God and comfort from His Word that He will not leave or forsake you. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. The same Spirit that raised Christ lives in you and what a glorious reunion awaits you. I will continue to pray for you in the coming days. "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Rev 21:4.  
My deepest condolences - Stacy Stonstrom*

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**Stacy L Stonstrom** - October 12, 2011 at 11:03 AM

JJ

“ Dear John Wendell, Wendy, Tanner, Smith and Doyle families, my heart is so very sad for your great loss. I see from the pictures and comments that Jessica was a special little girl. I know her life and memory will give you a depth of understanding for others who have a child that suffers with an illness, that few can know. The blessing is that you had her, albeit to short, and that she knew she was loved. That's certainly evident. Praise be to God that she is in his arms now, and that you'll be reunited with her again one sweet day. I pray that God will give you strength and peace in the days ahead. God bless you all, and all my love!

*Jack Rabon, Jr.*

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**Jack Rabon, Jr.** - October 11, 2011 at 05:10 AM

CE

“ We are praying that you & your family feel the supernatural comfort that only God can provide. May you all feel His presence & embrace every second of every day.



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**Charlotte Ebaugh** - October 10, 2011 at 07:37 PM

CR

“ JW - we have been out of town and I just learned this morning about you loss. We will have you and your family in our prayers. God Bless

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**Charley Ray** - October 10, 2011 at 10:04 AM

LC

“ Dear JW, Wandy and Tanner, prayers and love for you all. The Courtney Family.

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**lorraine courtney** - October 10, 2011 at 01:07 AM

KB

“ Thinking of your family during this difficult time. Jessica was a special little girl. She was blessed to have such wonderful parents who gave her tremendous love and care. We'll miss your sweet little angel.



With deepest sympathy~  
Karen Benedict, RN  
7A MUSC Children's Hospital

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**Karen Benedict** - October 07, 2011 at 09:01 AM

TS

“ Trent Smith lit a candle in memory of Jessica Smith



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**Trent Smith** - October 07, 2011 at 08:45 AM

MS

“ M. Trent Smith lit a candle in memory of Jessica Smith



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**M. Trent Smith** - October 07, 2011 at 08:44 AM

JC

“ *Jeanie & Paul Ciruzzi lit a candle in memory of Jessica Smith*



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**Jeanie & Paul Ciruzzi** - October 06, 2011 at 10:49 PM



“ *Debbie Beaton lit a candle in memory of Jessica Smith*



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**Debbie Beaton** - October 06, 2011 at 08:31 PM



*You all have been in my mind and heart so much these last few days...you truly are an amazing family. Just thinking of Jessica puts a smile on my face...Love you all!!!*

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**Debbie Beaton** - October 06, 2011 at 08:43 PM

CF

“ *You are one of the most amazing families I have had the pleasure to know. Take the time to grieve but know that Jessica will NEVER be forgotten.*

*I love you guys!*

*Christie "Crit"*

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**Christie Feldman** - October 06, 2011 at 07:05 PM

PB

“ Paul And Tiffany Badr lit a candle in memory of Jessica Smith



Paul and Tiffany Badr - October 06, 2011 at 06:48 PM

NL

“ You are in my thoughts and prayers. May God be with you and bless you today and always.

Nancy Lemmon



Nancy Lemmon - October 06, 2011 at 06:25 PM

CC

“ Cruz And Mary Ann Cerda lit a candle in memory of Jessica Smith



cruz and mary ann cerda - October 06, 2011 at 05:58 PM

RF

“ Robin Feagin lit a candle in memory of Jessica Smith



Robin Feagin - October 06, 2011 at 11:08 AM

RF

*Wendy, you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.*

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**Robin Feagin** - October 06, 2011 at 11:09 AM

BF

*John Wendell, Wendy, Tanner, Pam, Wendell, Pamela & Woody:*

*May God give you strength and peace to get through this very difficult time. I will be praying for all of you.*

*Love,*

*Becky Davis Farrar & Family*

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**Becky Davis Farrar** - October 06, 2011 at 02:47 PM



Hannah  
Parrish

“ *My heart and prayers are with all the lives that Jessica touched.*

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**Hannah Parrish** - October 06, 2011 at 09:39 AM

DP

“ *JW, Wendy, & Tanner,  
My Heart goes out to you today and may God bless you today and  
guide you in the days ahead.*

*With Blessings,*

*Deanna Proehl*

*Le Sueur, MN*

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**Deanna Proehl** - October 06, 2011 at 09:29 AM

NS

“ *Your family is in my thoughts and prayers today. I feel so lucky to have had the chance to care for and know sweet Jessica. I just know that she is smiling and playing right now in a much happier place. Please stay in touch will all of us and know we will always remember Jessica.*

*Sincerely,  
Nessa Snyder*



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**Nessa Snyder** - October 06, 2011 at 08:31 AM

BP

“ *BILL PAULS lit a candle in memory of Jessica Smith*



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**BILL PAULS** - October 06, 2011 at 08:29 AM

BP

*My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

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**BILL PAULS** - October 06, 2011 at 08:30 AM

JK

“ *Jean M King lit a candle in memory of Jessica Smith*



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**Jean M King** - October 06, 2011 at 08:08 AM

WE

“ It was such a blessing and honor to have taken care of Jessica. She was an inspiration to us all here at the Children's Hospital. Her smiles would light up the room. She was loved here on earth and will continue to be loved very much. We will all miss you lil angel.

Wendy Schmunk RN  
MUSC Children's Hospital 7A

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Wendy - October 06, 2011 at 07:29 AM

AA

“ My sweet little Jessica..... she will be in my heart forever! I am so relieved that you are no longer struggling. Now Tanner will always have his sissy looking after him!!

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Ashley and Mike Alderman - October 05, 2011 at 10:19 PM

DM

“ J.W, Wendy, Tanner and extended family,  
God in his infinite wisdom loaned Jessica to you for a short time. He knew she would need a special family to love and care for her and he chose you. From reading the comments, it's obvious that Jessica touched many lives, although none moreso than yours. He knows and understands your heartache and struggles. The good news is that He makes the necessary preparations for our ultimate needs and will hold you close as you grieve. Trust in your faith, hold each other close as you travel this unfamiliar road, and remember the words in Psalm 46:1 – God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. You are in my prayers.

Debbie Montgomery (former Carolina Winds Homeowner)  
Lynchburg, VA

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Debbie M Montgomery - October 05, 2011 at 09:19 PM

JJ

“ *John Wendell, Wendy and Tanner,  
Thank you for the joyous opportunity to be part of Jessica's earthly life. Her journey has just begun, one without sickness, in God's keeping, safe in the arms of Jesus. . . .Nothing loved is ever lost and in the hearts of all she touched she is living sure and strong, and walking around with her angel wings. She was blessed with a loving and faithful family and she relied on your steadfast love and strength. Our family is praying for yours. May God's loving arms surround you today and always. In Him, Jennifer Jennings*

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**Jennifer Jennings** - October 05, 2011 at 08:51 PM

DP

*John Wendell, and Smith Family,  
I am so sorry to learn of the death of your precious daughter. Please know you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.  
De Lis Melton Polatty (wife of late Jim Polatty)*

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**De Lis Melton Polatty** - October 05, 2011 at 09:00 PM

MP

“ *Mary Grace Phillips lit a candle in memory of  
Jessica Smith*



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**Mary Grace Phillips** - October 05, 2011 at 08:36 PM

LP

“ *I know some days will be harder than others,  
but I hope you will find a touch of comfort  
knowing that Jessica is without pain and  
smiling down on you.*



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**Latrell Phillips** - October 05, 2011 at 08:27 PM

BF

“ Praying for your family during this time. *Belinda Holt Fischer*

Belinda Holt Fischer - October 05, 2011 at 08:07 PM

TM

“ Praying for the strength of the Smith Family during this difficult time.

T'Mars McCallum - October 05, 2011 at 07:46 PM

WB

“ For some moments in life there are no adequate words. My deepest condolences to all of the family.

Wayne Brode - October 05, 2011 at 03:10 PM

JG

“ Our heartfelt sympathy to the Smith family...  
we are so sorry for your loss.  
*JoAnn Greene & Paul Jaszy*



JoAnn Greene - October 05, 2011 at 02:58 PM

MP

“ *Marissa Phillips*

*Jessica was so beautiful and always smiling  
as if she loved life more than anything. I will  
always remember her in my heart ?*

*God's loving arms now embrace  
the one you loved, in heaven.  
Praying that those very same arms  
hold you close to comfort  
your heart.*



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**Marissa Phillips** - October 05, 2011 at 02:35 PM

NS

“ *Natasha A Smith lit a candle in memory of  
Jessica Smith*



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**Natasha A Smith** - October 05, 2011 at 02:34 PM



“ *Jw, Wendy, Tanner and family,  
It has been a honor to have Jessica in my life and she will be missed so much by all of us at Carolina Winds Resort. She was a beautiful little girl with the fight of a giant. Thanks so much for sharing Jessica with me and letting me be a part of her life as well as yours. You all mean so much to me and I love you all.. Always remember I am here for you all and have a listening ear day or night. God has another beautiful angel and flower in his kingdom and one day we all will be there with her. God Bless you today and always... Peace be with you...  
Much Love Always,  
Lynn, Mr Judy, and Mrs Linda Dennis*

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**Ms. Dennis** - October 05, 2011 at 02:22 PM



“ *May God bring you peace during this difficult time.  
Sincerely,  
Cindy Cox*



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**Cindy Cox** - October 05, 2011 at 02:15 PM



“ *Ms. Dennis lit a candle in memory of Jessica Smith*



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**Ms. Dennis** - October 05, 2011 at 02:14 PM

GB

“ *Georgana Brown lit a candle in memory of Jessica Smith*



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**Georgana Brown** - October 05, 2011 at 02:14 PM

SM

“ *Sue Miller lit a candle in memory of Jessica Smith*



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**Sue Miller** - October 05, 2011 at 01:55 PM

SM

“ *My time with Jessica was so special. I'll miss my night time friend. God picked well when her chose her parents I was truly blessed to be part of her life.*

*Sue Miller - Jessicas night nurse*

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**Sue Miller** - October 05, 2011 at 01:54 PM

AR

“ *Jessica will always have a special place in my heart! I am very sorry for your loss. My thoughts are with your family during this very difficult time.*

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**Abby Senkal (MUSC-7A RN)** - October 05, 2011 at 01:41 PM

JF

“ Ashley Alderman and Family,  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. God  
has a special little angel. Bless you.

Jennifer Flippin  
Lewis Gale Hospital Montgomery  
Blacksburg, VA

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**Jennifer Flippin** - October 05, 2011 at 01:25 PM

PB

I convey my tender feelings of sympathy and support to you on the loss  
of your tender and sweet Jessica.

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**Pam & Andy Blackwell** - October 05, 2011 at 07:50 PM

MJ

“ Pamela - praying for comfort and peace for you and your family.  
Heaven has one precious angel.

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**Melanie Jerdon** - October 05, 2011 at 12:57 PM

SB

Jessica is a beautiful little girl. I was sad to learn of her illness while  
visiting my Mother (Deanna Proehl) at Carolina Winds. She really loves  
your staff as her own family. We are both praying for you. She is still  
smiling.

Staci Bergemann  
Lake Crystal, MN

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**Staci Bergemann** - October 05, 2011 at 01:25 PM

BV

“ *Brenda Viers lit a candle in memory of Jessica Smith*



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**Brenda Viers** - October 05, 2011 at 12:26 PM

DF

“ *David & Lynn Fox lit a candle in memory of Jessica Smith*



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**David & Lynn Fox** - October 05, 2011 at 11:08 AM

AH

“ *Smith family, know that your precious little girl touched a lot of people and left a very valuable impact on the world in a short period of time. I pray for peace and comfort for you in the days for follow. Sorry we can not be there. The Hill's, Wayne, Annsley Christopher and Megan*



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**Annsley Hill** - October 05, 2011 at 10:36 AM

GB

“ *My prayers are with you. She was clearly a sweet blessing from God. May He comfort you with His peace and presence during this time and the many days to come. Glena (Parker) Bozard*

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**Glena (Parker) Bozard** - October 05, 2011 at 10:32 AM



“ Michelle Faircloth sent a virtual gift in memory of Jessica Smith



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**Michelle Faircloth** - October 05, 2011 at 09:39 AM

MF

“ Prayers and lots of love for yall at this sad time... The family now has a beautiful precious little angel watching over all of you. My heart goes out to all of you!!! Play and be happy little Jessica , for we all will be together again one day soon my precious little ANGEL<3<3<3

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**Michelle Suggs Faircloth** - October 05, 2011 at 09:37 AM

KB

“ I will never forget that sweet smile, it is forever playing in my memories! Dancey, Dancey, Dancey Baby! Aunt "T" loves you!



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**Kerry Brode** - October 05, 2011 at 09:08 AM

DM

“ Love and Prayers for all.....my heart is full of sadness for you.



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**Debbie Myrick** - October 05, 2011 at 08:51 AM

JC

“ *Praying for Comfort and Peace for the family  
~The Clardy Family*

Julie E. Clardy - October 05, 2011 at 08:35 AM

DC

“ *Danny And Cindy Calhoun lit a candle in  
memory of Jessica Smith*



Danny and Cindy Calhoun - October 05, 2011 at 08:34 AM

LA

“ *John Wendell, Wendy & Tanner,  
We are so sorry for the loss of your precious  
daughter & sister. You all have been in our in  
prayers & thoughts daily and will always be.  
May God put His loving arms around you  
during this difficult time for Wendy is beside Him now. Please accept  
our deepest condolences.*



*Lisa & Joey Alston*

Lisa Alston - October 05, 2011 at 08:32 AM

BS

“ *Thoughts and prayers to your whole family from Virginia.  
Please accept our sympathies,  
Lewis Gale Hospital Montgomery and friends of Ashley's*

Beth Sohrabi - October 05, 2011 at 08:30 AM

BC

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you John & Wnedy. We are sure Jessica is with the Lord. Please accept our deepest sympathy.  
*Bob Rochon & Ron Calhoun*



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**Bob Rochon & Ron Calhoun** - October 05, 2011 at 08:11 AM

FT

“ *Fynette Rabon Tyler lit a candle in memory of Jessica Smith*



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**Fynette Rabon Tyler** - October 05, 2011 at 07:34 AM

WH

“ *Wendy, my heart felt sympathy goes out to your family, GOD Bless You and comfort you.....*

*The Hooks Family,*

*Wesley, Anna and Gabriel*



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**Wesley A Hooks** - October 05, 2011 at 07:18 AM

BS

“ *Buddy & Debbie Smith lit a candle in memory of Jessica Smith*



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**Buddy & Debbie Smith** - October 05, 2011 at 06:22 AM

JH

“ *Jennifer Horsley lit a candle in memory of Jessica Smith*



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**Jennifer Horsley** - October 05, 2011 at 06:02 AM

MS

“ *Marcy Fowler Shaffer lit a candle in memory of Jessica Smith*



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**Marcy Fowler Shaffer** - October 05, 2011 at 03:53 AM

BF

“ *Bridgett Fowler lit a candle in memory of Jessica Smith*



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**Bridgett Fowler** - October 04, 2011 at 08:01 PM

MH

“ *If only words could express what our hearts hold for you, dear Smith family! What a beautifully written celebration of life for precious Jessica! We are beyond sorry for the pain that is left on earth as she has entered her eternal home, but how thankful we are that the arms that welcomed beautiful Jessica into Heaven are the same sweet arms that hold your hurting hearts today! We can just imagine her "danceying" with Jesus, and we give thanks that through Him we have the blessed assurance of joining their dance one day! We lift you and your broken hearts high in prayer. May God hold you each so closely that you can feel His sweet breath! We love you all! Love and blessings, Christman, Molly, Mazi Grace, and Bronson Howard and family*

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**Molly B. Howard** - October 04, 2011 at 07:34 PM