



Mary Margaret Lusk Barlage

March 17, 1936 - April 5, 2023

Mary Margaret Lusk Barlage, Music Educator, left her earthly journey and entered into the glorious Kingdom of God on Wednesday, April 5, 2023. Born March 17, 1936, in Athens County, Ohio, the daughter of Raymond Edward and Clara Grace Johnston Sanborn.

Married to the Rev. Harold W. Mowery January 3, 1953. Two children were born to this marriage and they are Margaret Maria Mowery Barnhill (Wesley) and Harold Waldo "Hal" Mowery, II.

Married to Ned Eugene Lusk on June 22, 1961. Three daughters were born to this marriage. Bonita Bonnie Jean (Mike) Raypholtz, Amy Beth (Chip) Noykos, and Melissa Kae (Eric) Pfenning. Ned died October 25, 2003.

Married Alvin L. Barlage December 30, 2006. He passed away July 24, 2015. Six step-children survive. Anthony (Kris) Barlage, Theodore (Linda) Barlage, Brenda Barlage, Brian (Traci) Barlage, Tresa (Joseph) Zianno, and Steven (Tricia) Barlage.

33 grandchildren, 32 great grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren survive.

A lifelong student of music, Mary studied vocal with professors from Ashland Junior College in Ashland, KY. She was an honorary member of the class of 1954 Nelsonville High School, Nelsonville, Ohio. She was a graduate of Windsor High School, Aid, Ohio in Lawrence County, Ohio.

Two brothers have preceded Mary Margaret in death. Robert Ray (Joan) Sanborn and Charles W. Sanborn. A sister in law, Jo Carol Sanborn also

survives as well as several nieces and nephews.

Teaching as a private instructor of music from 1951 with retirement in the year of 2011. Apprentice instructor at the age of 15 when her private teacher set her up with her beginner students.

Church pianist at the age of nine years in Nelsonville Church of the Nazarene
Traveling pianist for the Princeton Seminary Summer Mission Tours 1949-1952. Church and Music instructor at youth camps 1953-1960.

Adjudicator for Teen Talent contests Central and N.W. Ohio 1968-1972.

Organist Patrick Heintz Funeral Home 1976-1988 and Bayliff and Eley Funeral Home, 1988-2018.

Columnist for Wapakoneta Daily News, "Looking Backward" 1987-1990.

Author of numerous pieces of poetry and creator of "Snippets of Joy Mary Margaret" 2017 -

Member of Ohio Alliance for Arts Ed., director and leader of "The Singing Lusk Family". Minister of Music Wapakoneta Church of the Nazarene 1968-1976, Cridersville Church of the Nazarene, 1976-1983, Organist First Presbyterian Church, St. Marys, OH, Minister of Music Botkins United Methodist Church 1986-88, Minister of Music Salem United Methodist Church 1988-2000, Organist The Byron Church, Fairborn, Ohio 2000-06, Co-organists Botkins United Methodist and Uniopolis United Methodist 2006-2009, Organist Uniopolis United Methodist Church until retirement in June, 2017.

She had been a member of the Ladies Auxiliary Knights of Columbus, Women's Civic League, Wapakoneta. The choral Music Society and the Auglaize County Historical Society. She was a member of the PERS of Ohio, Northwestern Ohio Music Teachers Association, Ohio Music Teachers Association and the National Music Teachers Association.

Services will be held Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 11:00 am with her son-in-law, Rev. H Wesley Barnhill, officiating. Friends may call on Tuesday, April 11,

from 3:00 to 7:00 pm and also an hour prior to the service on Wednesday.
Interment will follow the service at Greenlawn Cemetery, Wapakoneta.

In lieu of flowers, Memorial Donations may be made to:

The Wapakoneta Women's Civic League Scholarship Fund, Ohio Living
Dorothy Love and
Ohio's Hospice of Miami County.

Cemetery Details

Greenlawn Cemetery

Presar Road
Wapakoneta, OH

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 11. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Eley Funeral Home & Crematory
1102 Lincoln Ave.
Wapakoneta, OH 45895
eleyfuneralhome@gmail.com
<http://www.eleyfuneralhomeandcrematory.com>

Visitation

APR 12. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Eley Funeral Home & Crematory
1102 Lincoln Hwy
Wapakoneta, OH 45895
(419) 738-7676
eleyfuneralhome@gmail.com
<https://www.eleyfuneralhomeandcrematory.com/>

Service

APR **12**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Eley Funeral Home & Crematory

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Tribute Wall

JH

“ Mrs. Lusk was my piano teacher for 11 years and my voice teacher for 7. She had an immeasurable impact on my life. Her kindness, her faith, and her talent made her a one of a kind teacher. Mrs. Lusk was family to me. I have shared so much of her knowledge and stories with my own students. Without her my life would have been very different. Mrs. Lusk, I can hear you singing from heaven. I will see you there...save me a row in the chorus. Much love and prayers to the entire family...you were everything to her.
Jennifer (McPheron) Hicks

Jennifer Hicks - September 01, 2023 at 08:41 AM

BW

“ My favorite memories of Mary are of her directing our church Cantatas, and Amy playing the piano. It was so special being in her choirs. Sending condolences to all the family at this sad time..!!

Beverly Wood - April 18, 2023 at 08:27 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Margaret Lusk Barlage.



April 11, 2023 at 08:34 AM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Margaret Lusk Barlage.*



April 10, 2023 at 05:37 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Mary Margaret Lusk Barlage.*



April 10, 2023 at 04:49 PM



“ *Barry, Donna, Stacy, Steven, Jason, Lexi & Ricky purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mary Margaret Lusk Barlage.*



Barry, Donna, Stacy, Steven, Jason, Lexi & Ricky - April 10, 2023 at 10:39 AM



“ *Love and prayers Lynne, Bob and Becky purchased the Pink Potpourri Bouquet for the family of Mary Margaret Lusk Barlage.*



Love and prayers Lynne, Bob and Becky - April 10, 2023 at 10:27 AM

“ I met Mary during the last 5 years of her life. We became fans of each other’s writings. When I wrote about the Lusk family she invited me to her home to let me borrow some books about the family.

Her trust in people was amazing and unheard of in this day and age. She knew nothing of me other than what I wrote but yet invited a total male stranger to come to her home. That first meeting we sat in her living room and had a wonderful time talking with each other. When it was time for me to go she even offered me a hug. Later after I was done with the books I took them back and again we sat down and talked a good long while and learned she knew my mother well because my mother used to do her hair.

We became quite close on Facebook then. My mother and Mary were about the same age. Last year my mother hit a hard spot in her elder years that many of us have or will face when living into the elder years.

Mom was at a point that all her siblings had passed and nearly every friend was gone. She became quite lonesome. When talking with Mary about it Mary asked for her phone number and gave her a call.

My mother was so glad to hear from her and they talked a good hour and did some catching up. This was the kind of heart Mary had, she reached out to a soul in need.

Mary lived a couple streets over and wanted me to bring mom over for a visit. Unfortunately both ladies health got bad and the visit never happened.

But one summer evening after leaving moms I went down Marys street to come home. I looked over as I drove past and saw Mary sitting out on her front porch. I drove past but something in me had me pull in a drive a few doors down and come back.

When I pulled in the drive I knew she didn’t know who I was. Her sight had gotten very bad. She called me a name she thought I was and I said nope. She apologized for her eyesight and I then told her who I was.

She got the biggest smile on her face and said “my favorite writer”. I came up on the porch and sat down in a chair and we began to talk.

We talked about family and writing. She talked so highly of her family and all they had done for her and made sure she was visited often. She told me that evening on the porch how lost she felt not being able to drive anymore due to her vision and the huge impact it had on her independence.

I hadn't written in a couple years due to life circumstances and she made me promise her I would get back to it. This is a promise I intend to keep. She also talked a lot about all the beautiful flowers around her home and porch.

By then it was getting dark and was beginning to rain. She said to me "doesn't that rain smell wonderful" to which I agreed. But it was time for me to go and as I stood she gave me another hug and thanked me for stopping and how much it meant to her I took the time to stop.

I never saw her again. But just those three visits also meant so much to me. Mary truly touched my heart with her kindness and trust and that beautiful smile. My only regret with Mary is our friendship was short. But she has a very special place in my heart. R.I.P. my friend, you'll be missed.

Scott Knerr - April 08, 2023 at 03:12 AM

JH

“ *Mary has been a longtime dear friend and I'm so glad that I had a chance to talk to her when she was still able to talk. Mary was a very kind lady and she will be missed.*

jean howard - April 07, 2023 at 02:18 PM



“ *Your Light Shines was purchased for the family of Mary Margaret Lusk Barlage.*



April 07, 2023 at 11:53 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Margaret Lusk Barlage.*



April 07, 2023 at 11:39 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mary Margaret Lusk Barlage.*



April 06, 2023 at 09:28 PM