



## Janna Meaders Gray

September 7, 1951 - February 5, 2020

### PERRY –

Janna Meaders Gray, 68, passed away just after midnight on Wednesday, February 5, 2020, following an unexpected, sudden illness. Visitation will be on Friday, February 7, 2020, from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary at Perry United Methodist Church.

Funeral Services will be on Saturday, February 8, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. at Perry United Methodist Church. Interment of Janna and re-interment of her infant son, Stephen Blake Gray, will be in Evergreen Cemetery immediately following the service. In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests memorial contributions to Perry United Methodist Church Building Fund, 1002 Carroll Street, Perry, GA 31069 or The Westfield School Lower School, 2005 US Hwy 41, Perry, GA 31069.

Janna was born in Mobile, Alabama, and moved to Houston County as a teenager. She graduated from Northside High School in 1969, and began her college career at Georgia Southern College. She then transferred to Middle Georgia College where met the love of her life, Steve Gray, and then transferred once more to Valdosta State College where she was in the Alpha Delta Pi Sorority and earned her degree in Early Childhood Education. Janna and Steve married on March 2, 1974. That same fall, Janna began her career as a teacher at The Westfield School in Perry. She taught second grade for ten years, was moved to third grade, and finally first grade where she would retire after thirty-two years in education at the same school. While working as a teacher and going to class at nights and on weekends, Janna earned a Master's Degree from Georgia Southwestern College. Mrs. Gray was always one of the favorite teachers of students and of parents, always loving on everyone, encouraging and nurturing those babies like they were each hers, and being just what was needed at the just the right time. She always loved children and treated thousands through the years as her own. A long-time member of Perry United Methodist Church, Janna was active with the children's department, volunteered with the youth while her kids were participating, and served on various committees through the years. She enjoyed spending time in the Word and with her friends at Bible study.

Janna's passion in life, though, was her family, and she was gifted at loving people. Janna was so proud of her children and the lives they have built. She was thankful that Adam found something that he enjoys doing and just recently, she attended several concerts and

saw him “in action” as a lighting designer for professional musicians and was thrilled to be supportive of his accomplishments. As Ashley’s art developed into a business rather than a hobby, Janna was always there to support her by assisting or advertising. After Ashley married and began having children, Janna was always available to help with the kids, even if it meant traveling to South Carolina in a minute’s notice. Becoming a grandmother was extra special to Janna, and she loved it when her grandchildren called her, “Honey,” just like her husband had always done. The other “kids” in Janna’s life were her animals, which were cherished by her and the fun times they had together. From her goats to her chickens in the magnificent coop that her husband built for her, to her precious four-legged, long-haired dog, Jenny, who has been at her feet and by her side for the past fourteen years, Janna shared special times with each and all of them. Janna was preceded in death by her father, Cleater James “C.J.” Meaders, Sr., and her infant son, Stephen Blake Gray.

Left to cherish the memories they made with Janna are her loving and devoted husband of 45 years, Steve Gray of Perry; her son and daughter-in-law, Adam Gray and Rachel McCracken of Nashville, Tennessee; her daughter and son-in-law, Ashley and Phillip Cease of Columbia, South Carolina; her grandchildren, Corbin Kirk Bushman, Elizabeth Meaders “Liza Meade” Cease, Gray Caroline Cease, and Carlyle Stephens Cease; her mother, Billie Meaders of Centerville; her siblings, Karan Slaughter (John) of Mobile, Alabama, and Cleater Meaders, Jr. of Hoschton, Georgia; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins whom she loved dearly.

Condolences for the family may be left in the online guestbook at [www.watsonhunt.com](http://www.watsonhunt.com). Watson-Hunt Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements.

# Cemetery

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## Evergreen Cemetery

720 Main Street

Perry, GA, 31069

# Events

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**FEB** **Visitation** 05:00PM - 07:00PM

**7**

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Perry United Methodist Church

1002 Carroll Street, Perry, GA, US, 31069

**FEB** **Funeral** 02:00PM - 03:00PM

**8**

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Perry United Methodist Church

1002 Carroll Street, Perry, GA, US, 31069

**FEB** **Interment** 03:00PM - 04:00PM

**8**

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Evergreen Cemetery

720 Main Street, Perry, GA, US, 31069

# Comments

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“ Steve and family, I am so sorry and wanted to tell you how much Janna meant to us. Please know you are in our prayers and we will always remember what a loving person she was. Jackie Klein

Jackie Klein - February 28, 2020 at 06:08 PM

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“ To the Meaders and Gray families,  
I am very sorry to hear of Janna Kay's passing. We were childhood friends and next door neighbors in Mobile. We had many childhood adventures back in the day exploring and playing in the neighborhood. I only have fond memories of her and am saddened she is no longer with us.

Sincerely,

Max Baker and the Charles R.Baker family

Max Baker - February 14, 2020 at 09:15 PM

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“ I saw Janna a few weeks ago out shopping and having a fun with a friend. She was so sweet, as always, to ask about my children and really seem to care. She was so beautiful and full of life and love. I'm so sorry she is gone for now. We will see her again. God bless her family and wrap them in comfort and peace.  
Wendy Way

Wendy Way - February 08, 2020 at 10:22 PM

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“ Walter And Pat Campbell lit a candle in memory of Janna Meaders Gray



walter and pat campbell - February 08, 2020 at 09:42 PM



“ My deepest sympathy for the family. Janna was a special person.

**Jeanie Thames** - February 08, 2020 at 01:48 PM

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“ Missing you already, Tammye Nisewonger Berry purchased the Classic Sympathy Basket Arrangement for the family of Janna Meaders Gray.



**Missing you already, Tammye Nisewonger Berry** - February 08, 2020 at 08:31 AM

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“ Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Janna Meaders Gray.



February 08, 2020 at 08:27 AM

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“ I am so very sorry to hear of Janna's passing. I enjoyed working with her at Westfield and always enjoyed catching up when we ran into each other around town. She was a joy and such a sweet person. My sincere sympathy and prayers for her family.



**VICKI YAWN ANDREWS** - February 07, 2020 at 09:46 PM

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“ Dear Steve, Ashley, Adam, Ms. Billie, and Extended Family,  
I am so very sorry for your loss! I knew Janna through our years of teaching side by side at Westfield Schools. I saw the love she had for each and every student, how she fixed her girls' hair and how she cared for each student with the love of a mother and of God. Janna was also a teacher to my own child, Christina. Although my husband was serving overseas in Korea that year, I never worried about her because I knew she would be in good hands in Mrs. Gray's class and she truly was. Janna's love went beyond the classroom. She invited Christina to spend time at her home and unknowing to me she even took Christina shopping and together they bought a Mother's Day gift for me that year. Janna was always thinking of others and loving them with a Christ like love. God blessed many through her! May He bless you now as you carry on persevering and with the promise of hope in being together again some day.

With sympathy,  
Susan Kious

**Susan Kious** - February 07, 2020 at 07:55 PM

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“ Steve,  
I am so sorry. I can not imagine what you are feeling at this time. I do pray you will find great peace in the coming days. Our Lord loves you and wants to you know He cares.

**Wren Rainey** - February 07, 2020 at 06:30 PM

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“ Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Janna Meaders Gray.



February 07, 2020 at 05:46 PM

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“ Steve, we are sending love and hugs to you, Adam, Ashley and the rest of the Gray and Meaders families. We are heartbroken for you and pray that you will find comfort and peace. God bless you all as he welcomed a beautiful soul into His kingdom.



**Bobby & Jean Davis** - February 07, 2020 at 04:07 PM

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“ Steve... we are so sorry to hear of Janna's sudden passing. Please know that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.  
David & Faye Lane

**David & Faye Lane** - February 07, 2020 at 03:54 PM

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“ Katie Bearden lit a candle in memory of Janna Meaders Gray



**Katie Bearden** - February 07, 2020 at 02:33 PM

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“ Janna was one of the first people that came to our home after our 8 year old daughter Brooke, tragically died in 1993. All that knew Janna recognized and valued her extraordinary gifts. Her specialty was making kids feel good about themselves. The Ager family (Les, Jaydee, and Forrest) send our compassion to all that knew and loved Janna. And we send our collective strength to Janna's family - to endure through such grief and sadness. May you know peace.

**Jaydee Atkins Ager** - February 07, 2020 at 01:45 PM

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“ We are so sorry. Prayers are being said for comfort for your family during this time.

David and Beverly Dunaway

**Beverly Dunaway** - February 07, 2020 at 12:54 PM

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“ Dear Steve and family,  
We are so so sorry to hear about Janna Kay's passing. She always had a twinkle in her eye and everyone loved her so. She will be missed so terribly much at loudesville Campmeeting. it just won't be the same.  
Prayers for you all  
Tent 135  
The Blacks-Pilgrims-Sosebee's and Johnson's.

**Kathy Pilgrim** - February 07, 2020 at 11:12 AM

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“ Steve and family....my love and condolences for your/our loss of beautiful Janna! I cherish those fond memories of the wife's meetings we had with our Elanco Family. Janna had a glow about her with sweet smile. I'm going back to some of my album pictures from those great times when our wives were treated to a getaway, usually on the Atlantic Coast, in the Southeast.  
My prayers and thoughts are for you and with you and yours.  
God love and bless her loving soul.  
Faithfully yours,  
Bob Warren  
Jupiter, Florida

**Bob Warren** - February 07, 2020 at 10:44 AM

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“ Theresa Sledge lit a candle in memory of Janna Meaders Gray



**Theresa Sledge** - February 07, 2020 at 10:44 AM



“ Steve & family. So sorry to hear of your loss. You & Janna were so welcoming when a young, first-time head golf professional came to Perry.

**Mike McCollum** - February 07, 2020 at 09:27 AM

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“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.

Butch and Fronzie Skinner

**Butch and Fronzie Skinner** - February 07, 2020 at 09:19 AM

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“ Lena, Kevin, Ava, Nora, Eli, Luke & Blake purchased the Simply Lily for the family of Janna Meaders Gray.



**Lena, Kevin, Ava, Nora, Eli, Luke & Blake** - February 06, 2020 at 10:55 PM

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“ Steve and family, sorry to hear that you all have lost a very great person. She was always at Bible Study and sharing what we were studying. She was very interesting and funny at times. Please be thankful for the time she spent with the Family and us. Prayers and blessings for the time ahead.

Elaine, Ben, Mo, Jess and Dan Wright

**Elaine Wright** - February 06, 2020 at 10:47 PM

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“ Sandy Harbin & Family (Tent 142) purchased the Bountiful European Dish Garden for the family of Janna Meaders Gray.



Sandy Harbin & Family (Tent 142) - February 06, 2020 at 10:45 PM

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“ Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers was purchased for the family of Janna Meaders Gray.



February 06, 2020 at 09:36 PM

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“ Janna was such a special person to me when I was in school she was the sweetest. My thoughts and prayers are with her family I'm so sorry for your loss

Tina Ransom - February 06, 2020 at 08:58 PM

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“ Blue & White Sympathy Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Janna Meaders Gray.



February 06, 2020 at 06:12 PM

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“ I distinctly remember Mrs. Janna as a child in my early years at Westfield and through many years at church. Her sweet warm smile made everyone around her feel very loved. There is no telling how many lives her loving spirit touched through the years.... I'm just thankful I was able to know her. Prayers for strength in the coming days!

**Jana (Bohanan) Lafferty** - February 06, 2020 at 05:44 PM

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“ Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Janna Meaders Gray.



February 06, 2020 at 05:30 PM

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“ Lindsay G. purchased the Floor Plant for Sympathy for the family of Janna Meaders Gray.



**Lindsay G.** - February 06, 2020 at 05:28 PM

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“ Steve, I am so very sorry to hear about Janna's passing. Although it's been quite a few years since I had the pleasure of seeing Janna, I have many fond memories of her. Please know that you and your family will be in my thoughts and prayers.

**Teresa Pierce Hobbs** - February 06, 2020 at 05:25 PM

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“ As a former neighbor of Steve and Janna for over 37 years, we saw the love you felt for each other, your family, your children, your neighbors, God, and this country. Janna was a beautiful person, with a quiet, gentle spirit, who will be greatly missed. May you find peace and comfort in so many others reaching out to you and praying for you. God bless all of your family,

**Jane and Tommie Collier** - February 06, 2020 at 05:04 PM

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“ So very sorry to hear of Janna's sudden passing. Prayers for strength and comfort for all the family. Faye Wilson

**Faye Wilson** - February 06, 2020 at 04:51 PM

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“ I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with your family and your many friends. My heart breaks, Pam Ekey

**Pam Ekey** - February 06, 2020 at 04:41 PM

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“ I grew up in the midst of 3 brothers and no sisters. I couldn't have been more excited when Steve found Janna. Finally... a sister!  
If I could say anything to Janna I would thank her for loving my brother the way she did.

But before Steve was a wonderful family who loved Janna from the beginning. We all became a part of the Meaders family too, not just Steve. We shared many fun times at campmeetings over the years. Great memories!

I am sorry for the pain they are feeling.... the loss of a daughter, sister, aunt, cousin...and

I pray God gives them comfort and peace in the days ahead.

Lee Gray Brown

**Lee Brown** - February 06, 2020 at 04:38 PM

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“ Steve, Adam, Ashley,  
I am so sorry for your loss. Janna was such a sweet person, who touched so many lives with her kind and caring personality. Praying for all of her dear loved ones for the peace and understanding that only He can provide. I will remember Janna fondly.



**Shelia (Todd) Laws** - February 06, 2020 at 04:34 PM

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“ Solid White Standing Heart With Red Rose Break was purchased for the family of Janna Meaders Gray.



February 06, 2020 at 04:27 PM

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“ Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

Gayle, Frank and Brandon Borah

**Gayle, Frank and Brandon Borah** - February 06, 2020 at 04:21 PM

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“ The world, and especially the Meaders and Gray families, have lost a most precious soul! Janna was light and life, beautiful inside and out and forever young. To the family, may the peace of the Father overwhelm and sustain you. With you we grieve, but not as those without hope.

**Elizabeth Messer Mitchum** - February 06, 2020 at 02:54 PM



“ We are so very sad and our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

**Joe and Judy Posey** - February 06, 2020 at 03:36 PM



“ Steve and family, you are in my prayers, love and peace in Jesus

**Diane Rider** - February 07, 2020 at 08:56 AM

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“ White Sympathy Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Janna Meaders Gray.



February 06, 2020 at 01:52 PM

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“ Janna is the best of us. She never held back a smile and always wanted to know what was new in our world. She is missed. This world will not be the same without her.

We are sending our love to all of you.

**Jim and Dawn Kyle** - February 06, 2020 at 01:42 PM

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“ Classic Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Janna Meaders Gray.



February 06, 2020 at 12:15 PM

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“ Sending prayers to Steve and the whole Gray family. I am so, so sorry for your loss. May God comfort and hold you.  
Janis Tripp

**Janis Tripp** - February 06, 2020 at 12:11 PM

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“ Thoughts and prayers for all of you during this time of loss and grief. Janna was a wonderful person and will be missed by more people than you will ever know.

**Eunice Andrews** - February 06, 2020 at 12:05 PM

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“ White Standing Wreath was purchased for the family of Janna Meaders Gray.



February 06, 2020 at 11:56 AM

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“ Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Janna Meaders Gray.



February 06, 2020 at 11:49 AM

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“ I cannot imagine the depth of grief you all must be experiencing. From the moment Steve introduced me to Janna at a PHS '69 reunion, I was captivated by her devotion to family and friends and her steadfastness in always showing her faith and love. Mostly online, but never diminished, her compassion shown through. Love to Steve and all of your precious family

**Linda Rodgers Goodman** - February 06, 2020 at 11:49 AM



“ Janna was one of the sweetest friends I have ever had. She had such a purity about her. Her devotion to the Lord, Steve and her children and grandchildren was very precious and always evident. She truly experienced the joy of the Lord and will be greatly missed by so many. We were blessed to have been a part of her life. Our love, sadness and prayers are with you, Steve, Ashley, Adam and the entire family.

With much love,

Lynda and Bob Kelly

**Lynda Kelly** - February 06, 2020 at 12:48 PM



“ So sorry for your loss. I didn't know Janna well but every time I saw her she had a beautiful smile on her face. Perry has lost a beautiful spirit. Praying for God's comfort and strength for all of you. Randa Parker

**randa Parker** - February 06, 2020 at 01:13 PM



“ Stanley and I were very sad to hear about Jana. Please know Steve that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. Stanley and Mary Lewis

**Mary Lewis** - February 06, 2020 at 03:09 PM

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“ Steve and family, so sad to hear about Janna's passing. I pray you'll find peace and comfort in knowing it's God's plan and not ours when we loose someone so quickly. She will be at home in that land of endless tomorrows. Robert & Patsy Spainhour

**Robert Spainhour** - February 06, 2020 at 11:39 AM



“ Wyatt and I send our deepest sympathy to all of Janna’s family. We have such wonderful memories of our friendship and will always be grateful to Janna and Steve for setting up our first date that turned out to be a lifetime marriage! Janna will always remain in our heart and mind. Love, Emily and Wyatt Spann

**Emily Spann** - February 06, 2020 at 11:36 AM