



MARY JANE (LANGSTON) LARKIN, age 84, passed away on Saturday, April 12, 2026. Known as “Janie” to her family and Jane to everyone else, she was born in Beaumont, TX on October 7, 1941. As a child, Jane was a kind sister to her younger brother, a member of the Blue Birds, and she never lost her skate key. As a teenager, her fondest memories included the youth group at Beaumont’s Westminster Presbyterian Church, annual summers at Camp Cho-yeh, and visits to extended family in Ft. Worth and the Nacogdoches areas. Born into a family with deep Texas roots, Jane developed an early appreciation for history and a lasting love of the land. She was one of those rare individuals who cultivated and maintained close friends at every stage of life.

Jane graduated from Beaumont High School in 1959. She graduated from Austin College in Sherman, TX, in 1963 and soon moved to Houston where she lived for the rest of her life. She shared her first Houston apartment in the Uptown District with a dear college friend. Jane took a job teaching history at Garden Oaks Elementary school, and she began attending St. Philip Presbyterian Church.

At the Young Adult group of St. Philip, Jane met the love of her life in the person of Lee R. Larkin. Jane and Lee married on April 17, 1965 and remained congregants at St.

Philip for the rest of their lives. The pair set up housekeeping in Sharpstown, where they would raise their two sons and continue to make lifelong friends. In 1967 Jane gave birth to son James William, followed in 1969 by son John Patrick. She was an excellent cook and loved to entertain. In 1993, Jane and Lee moved back to the Galleria Area and continued to nurture friendships and host events. Through all the years of Houston’s growth, Jane retained an encyclopedic knowledge of the city and was not shy about sharing her knowledge of the best places to go and best ways to get there. Jane respected and connected with individuals at local businesses, allowing “her” Houston to have the feel of a small town.

Jane was a strong and capable leader in the best tradition of Texas women. She made sure her sons were raised to believe in women’s rights and equality. When Lee proposed marriage, Jane famously responded, “OK, but you need to understand that I have a brain in my head, and I intend to use it!”. Jane would retain a small, lasting grudge towards HISD’s Administration for requiring her resignation during her first pregnancy, which was common at the time.

HISD’s loss would benefit many others, as Jane went on to serve and lead multiple volunteer organizations. A small sample of her work includes her service with The Houston Bar Association Auxiliary, where she sat on the board multiple years, ultimately serving as President in 1988-1989, and receiving a Lifetime Volunteer Service Award in 1998. For more than 50 years Jane was a faithful member of P.E.O.’s Chapter E, serving as Chapter President in 1978-79, followed by a term as president of P.E.O.’s Houston Area Council.

The greatest recipient of Jane’s volunteer service was the Presbyterian Church. At St. Philip, Jane served multiple tenures as a deacon, elder, and trustee. When Presbyterian General Assembly visited Houston in 1981, she served Chair of the Committee for Local Arrangements, organizing and welcoming Presbyterian representatives from every corner of the United States. In 1982-1983 she served as the Moderator for Presbytery of New Covenant. Jane also served multiple terms on the boards of Presbyterian Pan American School in Kingsville, TX, Brazos Presbyterian Homes, and Presbyterian Historical Society of the Southwest.

When her son married, Jane welcomed her daughter-in-law and made sure the families were joined in friendship, easily sharing all holidays. Jane celebrated the arrival of her granddaughter by hosting numerous showers and remained a joyous celebrant at all family occasions. At all stages of life, and especially in retirement, Jane and Lee enjoyed travelling far and wide, usually with an educational component and often with dear friends. Jane was a strong woman to the end, frequently responding to unsolicited (or unwelcome) advice with the suggestion that the advice giver “G.O.I.” (Get Over It).

Jane was preceded in death by her parents O.M. Jack Langston and Mary Richards Frierson Langton; her husband Lee Roy Larkin, and her son John Patrick Larkin.

Jane is survived by her son Jim and wife Penny, granddaughter Amelia, brother John B. Langston and wife Patti, cousin Sally J. Langston, cousins Myke Chandler and husband Joe, sister-in-law June Larkin, numerous nieces, nephews, cousins of multiple generations, and a host of very dear friends.

The family wishes to acknowledge and thank Jane’s caregiving team members from The Hallmark, LiveWell, and Ultrastaff.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that donations be made in Jane’s name to either St. Philip Presbyterian Church—saintphilip.net, 4807 San Felipe St., Houston, TX 77056; or to Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly – moranch.org, 2229 FM 1340, Hunt, TX 78024; or to a charity of the donor’s choice.



**THE COMMUNITY OF ST. PHILIP
AT WORSHIP**

MAY 9, 2026

A SERVICE OF WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION

IN MEMORY OF

MARY JANE LARKIN

OCTOBER 7, 1941 – APRIL 12, 2026

PRELUDE

OPENING SENTENCES

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

✦ **HYMN 236**

The Strife Is O'er

✦ **PRAYER**

Eternal God,
our strength and our comfort,
our hope and our help,
your love cares for us in life and watches over us in death.
We praise you for the great company
of all those who have kept the faith,
finished their race,
and who now rest from their labor.
Especially we thank you for Jane,
whom you have now received into your presence.
We are grateful for all she gave us,
for the memories that will abide with us,
and for the assurance that she lives forever
in the peace and joy of your unending love.
Take from us now our regrets and sorrows,
and grant us your grace, we pray,
that as we face the mystery of death
we may see the light of eternity,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

silent prayer

Holy One, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

✦ **DECLARATION**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 90:1-6, 10-12

Romans 12:9-18, 21

1 Peter 1:3-9

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN 803 *(seated)*

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

SERMON

SOLO

Give Me Jesus

Moses Hogan

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil;
for Thine is the Kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. **Amen.**

✦ **HYMN 326**

For All the Saints

✦ **COMMENDATION**

✦ **BLESSING**

✦ **RECESSIONAL**

*Following the service, everyone is invited to a reception
in the Gathering Area adjacent to the Sanctuary.*

Worship Leaders

The Rev. Dr. John W. Wurster

The Rev. Keatan King

The Rev. Omar Rouchon

Matthew Dirst, organist

Julia Fox, soloist