

*Celebration of Life
9 Beautiful Years*



"Dancing in Heaven"

*Service of Remembrance & Celebration
for
Cassidy Marie "Cassie" Swanson
Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church*

*Richmond Hill, Georgia
June 12, 2006*

*In Loving Memory of
Cassidy Marie "Cassie" Swanson
March 7, 1997 ~ June 9, 2006*

Family

*Mother Dana Swanson
Father David Swanson
Sister Skylar Anne Swanson*

*Maternal Grandparents Anne & Ricky Meguiar
Paternal Grandmother Meredith Brown*

*Maternal Great-Grandmother Althea Sheffield
Paternal Great-Grandmother Ruth Bucca*

*Aunts/Uncles Heather & Jeff Little
Heath Meguiar
Richie & Tanya Meguiar
Doug & Alice Swanson*

*Officiate Dr. David Long
Musicians & Singers Jana James
Roger Widener*

*Pall Bearers Brandon Brenna
Brent Herb
Sean Herb
Stephen Herb*

Service of Remembrance & Celebration

Prelude *“Somewhere Over the Rainbow”*

Pianist & Soloist *“Unseen Wings”*
Sung by: *Jana James*

Opening Prayer, Word of Grace & Greeting *Dr. David Long*

Poem *Mandy Gjone*

Sermon/Eulogy *Dr. David Long*

Sing-A-Long *“Tomorrow”*
“The Slumber Song”

Memorial *Written by: Dana Swanson*
Read by: Becky West

Guitar & Soloist *“The Dance”*
Sung by: Roger Widener

Closing Song *“Who Would You Be Today”*
Sung by: Roger Widener

Closing Prayer..... *Dr. David Long*

Recessional *“You Are My Sunshine”*
(all please join in singing)

*Upon exiting the Church, everyone should take
a balloon and meet the family at the Gazebo
for a Balloon Release in honor of Cassie.*

“Tomorrow” (Annie’s Song)

(everyone please join in singing)

The sun’ll come out - Tomorrow
Bet your bottom dollar
That tomorrow
There’ll be sun!

Just thinkin’ about - Tomorrow
Clears away the cobwebs,
And the sorrow
‘Til there’s none!

When I’m stuck a day
That’s gray, And Lonely,
I just stick out my chin
And grin,
And say,
Oh!

The sun’ll come out - Tomorrow
So ya gotta hang on
‘Til tomorrow
Come what may
Tomorrow! Tomorrow!
I love ya Tomorrow!
You’re always a day away!

"Slumber Song"

*(everyone please join in singing)
(to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me")*

*Let's tuck you in,
Turn out the light ~
Now it's time to say "Good night."
God is watching over you,
He keeps us safe
The whole night through.*

Chorus:

*God's love is near us,
God's love is near us,
God's love is near us,
Sleep tight,
I love you, dear.*

You Are My Sunshine"

(everyone please join in singing)

*You are my sunshine, my only sunshine.
You make me happy when skies are grey.
You'll never know, dear, how much I love you.
Please don't take my sunshine away.*

*The other night, dear, as I lay sleeping,
I dreamed I held you in my arms.
When I awoke, dear, I was mistaken,
And I hung my head and cried.*

*You are my sunshine, my only sunshine.
You make me happy when skies are grey.
You'll never know, dear, how much I love you.
Please don't take my sunshine away.*

*I'll always love you and make you happy,
If you will only say the same.
But if you leave me I will remember
That our love will never change.*

*You are my sunshine, my only sunshine.
You make me happy when skies are grey.
You'll never know, dear, how much I love you.
Please don't take my sunshine away.*

*A Poem by Kimberly McAdams©
(mother of Skyler – 5 yrs. Old – Type I SMA)*

*So Many Angels
in so little time
So many emotions
we can't define
with thoughts, with words,
with an onslaught of tears
that continuously flow throughout the years*

*Sometimes we ask why
they had to go
We don't understand
but we want to know
why within a second, a minute,
an hour, a day
our Angels earn wings and fly away*

*Do we feel anger, resentment
for our Lord
who takes our Angels
into His Heavenly Hoard?
Or do we thank Him,
praise Him for His Love
for the Gifts He's given us from Above?*

*A little of both
I can believe
when we feel lost
and can only grieve
But I can't feel anger
I can only feel pain
as our babies fall
like droplets of rain
into the arms of the Man
who sent them here to feel our Love year after year*

*Our babies, each one,
are part of a whole
A Heavenly cast
each with a role*

*to play out but
join us all together
in feeling their love
like the soft sweep of a feather*

*Some flutter by
and some remain
to continue the love
on Earth's great plain
So my child is yours
and yours is mine
as we deal with these emotions we can't define*

*We'll feel each loss
as if it were our own
as each grain of sand
in Time is blown
away by the soft breeze
of our babies' breath
as they greet each adventure
and not call it Death
but Life and Love
and Freedom to play
with our Lord and the Angels
who join them each day*

*And our babies on Earth
who continue to fight
the battle for Life
(which is their right)?
They'll work together
Angels Earth and Heaven,
an unstoppable team of powerful Brethren*

*So give me my shield
and my battle sword as I
fight for our Gifts from
our Heavenly Lord
so that others may know
that our babies were here
giving us Love year after year...*

Cassie Marie was born on March 7, 1997 along with her twin sister Skylar. She shared the exact birthday as her daddy, David. We knew she was special the day she was born. However, we soon came to realize just how special she was. She was diagnosed with the motor neuron disease Spinal Muscular Atrophy. Type 1 at the age of 5 months. Her prognosis was very grim and her life expectancy was only 2 years. Spinal muscular atrophy is the number one genetic killer of children under the age of two.

When a family is faced with the fact that just the act of breathing is a privilege, how does that change your life! You learn things, appreciate things, and don't take a single moment for granted. It is a bittersweet life. There is so much pain but then... there is equally the amount of joy.

Cassidy was born knowing she would have to fight to merely survive and she did just that. She was truly a hero on "Unseen Wings". She was a loving and caring child who worried about everyone else except herself. Despite her limitations, Cassie lived a full and rewarding life. She enjoyed her animals, going on trips, playing her computer and being truly loved everyday of her life.

Cassie would always tell us how she wanted to dance. We would twirl and spin her around in her chair. We called her a princess and she knew that she was one. She had a love for animals and told us that when she grew up she wanted to be a veterinarian princess and live in a big white castle.

Fly free with the angels, Cassie ~ today we celebrate you and your life.



Dear Cassie:

I love you very much. You are my pretty princess. You are a good big sister and my best friend. I will always miss you

Love Skylar

A Home in Heaven
(Reading by Mandy Gjone)

Dearest Princess,

I am preparing for you the most beautiful place you have ever seen! In Heaven the streets are made of gold, and the sea is like diamond crystals sparkling in the light of my love. In your heavenly home no one will be able to hurt you or any of my precious children ever again. You will never be afraid there or cry another tear. No one will ever have to die again, and all the bad things that happened in this life will be gone forever. Think about your home in Heaven, my love. You are here on this earth for a little while to tell others I love them. Then we will sing and celebrate together forever and ever!

*Love,
Your King who loves you now and forever.*

He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will remove all of their sorrows, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain.

Revelation 21:3~4

*Borrowed from one of Cassie's favorite books
"His Little Princess"*

by Sheri Rose Shepherd©

In lieu of flowers

The family

Requests donations

be made to

SMA Angels Charity, Inc.

P.O. Box 308

Richmond Hill, Ga. 31324

Thank you for

Your prayers, love, support and caring