

MID-WEST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

2023 Historian Report and MEMORIALS April 2022 ~ March 2023

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints.
Psalm 116:15

MEMORIALS

Sue Wilkey

March 7, 1937 ~ July 28, 2020

Born the youngest of three children to Andrew and Ruth Robb on March 7, 1937, Sue grew up in Topeka except for 3.5 years in Montana. After graduating from Geneva College, Sue worked in Los Angeles for two years before going to Cyprus where she taught in the American Academy for Girls in Nicosia for one year. After returning to Los Angeles she taught one year in a Christian school.

Sue met her future husband Sam on the way back from attending an international conference in Scotland. They were married one year later and lived in Wichita and raised their family there.

While their four children Tania, Marci, Nathan and Mim were growing up Sue worked part-time at their Christian school. After that she taught Adult Basic Education at Dunbar Adult Center. She enjoyed the challenge of working with adults who had dropped out of school.

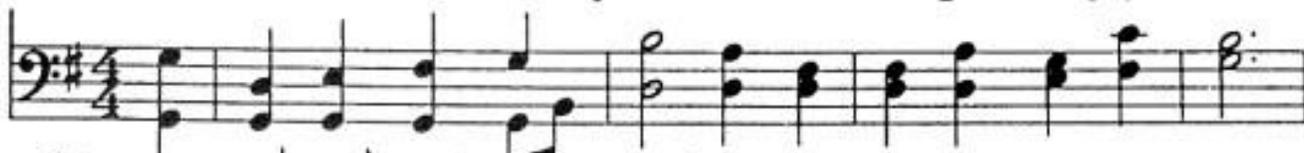
She was an outstanding Grandma to her 14 grandkids, she continued to be an artist with textiles - working with a group of ladies called, "From the Studio" where they would gather once a year to sell their art.

She was on the Home Mission Board for several years - loving that, attended a local Bible study for years, and continued to witness to those around her.

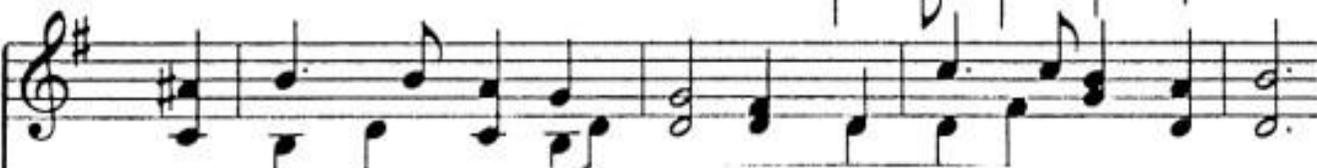
In 1996 when Sue served as Midwest Presbyterial president she wrote the following, "Watching the Lord work through His Word in the lives of our children and others we have prayed for, is one of the greatest thrills of my life and makes me more thankful everyday that I know and trust the God of the Bible. He has graciously called me and forgiven me and I trust He will continue to mold me for the rest of my life and I can spend eternity with Him."



**His saints, O praise Jehovah and thank His holy name.
You now have turned my sorrow to dancing full of joy.**



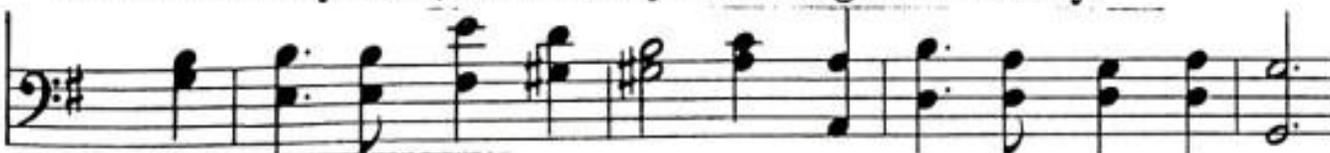
**His anger lasts a moment, His grace a whole life time.
You loosened all my sack-cloth and girded me with joy.**



**For sorrow, like a pilgrim may tarry all the night,
To You sing psalms, my glory, and never silent be!**



**But then a shout of joy comes when dawns the morning light.
Oh LORD my God, I'll thank you through all eternity.**



Nancy (Wright) Hemphill

March 8, 1942 ~August 31, 2022

Nancy (Wright) Hemphill, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend, entered into her eternal rest on Wednesday, August 31, 2022.

Nancy was born on March 8, 1942, in Kansas City, Mo. and grew up in Westwood, Kan. After graduating from Trinity Lutheran Hospital School of Nursing, she went on to receive her degree in Sociology from Geneva College in Beaver Falls, Pa. There she met Richard Hemphill, son of Wendell and Mabel Hemphill, and was married in 1968.

Nancy and her young family returned to the Kansas City area in 1971. She worked as an RN for many years in the mother/baby unit, the geriatric unit, and in her father's medical practice. After retiring from nursing, Nancy turned her nurturing skills toward children, becoming Nannie to several children who became as dear to her as natural grandchildren. Nannie loved all of her grandchildren dearly and was able to meet her newest granddaughter (8-week-old Gretta) a few days before she passed.

Nancy was a longtime member of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Shawnee where she served as president of the local Women's Missionary Fellowship, chair of the Hospitality Committee, Christian Youth sponsor, and Sabbath School teacher. Nancy enjoyed needlepoint and for many years dedicated her skills to creating custom nameplates for the residents of the RP Home.

Nancy also served the Midwest Women's Fellowship faithfully over the years, holding the role of MWF president in 1991 and serving as the Memorials Coordinator from 2001-2019 ... a role that she loved! Nancy labored over her memorial packets, finding great joy in highlighting the uniqueness of each person's life. She gathered Psalms and poems that brought to life God's grace to His loved ones at the end of their earthly journey. Her carefully-curated memorial packets pointed the reader to the joy of Heaven and to the believers' eternal rest in Christ Jesus.

Nancy is greatly missed by her husband of 54 years (Richard Hemphill), her three daughters (Lisa, Lori, and Liana Hemphill), son and daughter-in-law (Ryan & Alicia Hemphill), six grandchildren (Ezra, Neri, Silas, Ruby, Mathis, and Gretta Hemphill), her brother (Jim Wright), and many beloved extended family members. She also leaves behind her "spiritual daughter," Cathy Forest and her family (Jim, Dan, and Drew Forest; Katie and Kyle Hicks).

She is preceded in death by her parents (Dr. R. Paul and Gretta Wright) and her sister-in-law (Judith Wright).

*As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness;
when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness.*

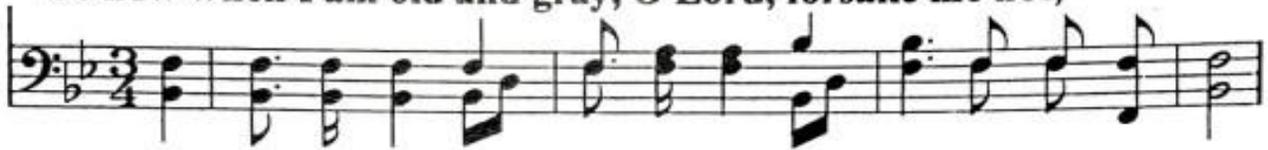
Psalm 17:15

*Once they saw through a glass darkly, Now they see their risen Lord.
Once they fought through tests and trials, Now they stand in faith's reward.
Once they had but partial knowledge, Now they know as they are known.
Once they walked a pilgrim's journey, Now their feet are safely home.*

- ROY LESSIN



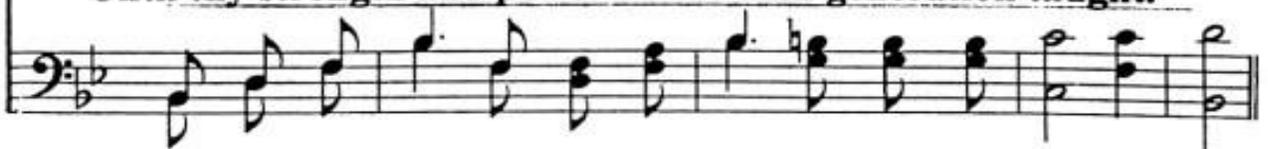
**The Lord will give the world which He Commanded to be shown:
For I will go forth in the strength of Thee, Jehovah Lord:
So now when I am old and gray, O Lord, forsake me not,**



**The women are a mighty host to make the tidings known.
Thy righteousness and Thine alone, abroad I will record.
Until Thy strength and power I have each generation taught.**



**The women are a mighty host to make the tidings known.
Thy righteousness and Thine alone, abroad I will record.
Until thy strength and power I have each generation taught.**



**Because this God will be our God
To all eternity;
Yes, even on through death itself
Our constant Guide is He.**

**But as for me, with righteousness
Shall I behold Your face.
I shall be satisfied to wake,
And see You, face to face.**

Elizabeth 'Libbie' Faye Maine October 9, 1928 ~ October 11, 2022

Elizabeth "Libbie" Faye Dougherty Maine was born in La Junta, Colorado on October 9, 1928, and went to glory on October 11, 2022. Her parents were Dr. Milton Wyle Dougherty and Velma Faye Oline Dougherty.

Libbie had the privilege of growing up with her sister Esther in a loving Christian home near Morning Sun Iowa. At an early age, she publicly professed faith in Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior, and joined the Sharon congregation of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America, where her father was the pastor.

After graduating from Morning Sun High School, she studied Home Economics at Sterling College in Sterling Kansas, and then was united in marriage to Robert "Bob" Bruce Maine of Wapello Iowa on April 15, 1949. Together, they raised three children: Kathleen Michelle "Shell" Maine (Robinson), David "Dave" Bruce Maine, and Kevin "Kev" Robert Maine.

She continued in her love of Jesus Christ, His worship, and His church. In the course of time, she taught children's Sabbath School, served in the Women's Missionary Fellowship at the local and national levels, and served 8 years on the denomination's Home Missions Board. She was a gifted seamstress, gardener, pianist, and singer. She especially delighted in singing the Psalms.

In 1985, Bob and Libbie retired to "Maine Haven", their home on Truman Reservoir near Osceola, Missouri. For the remainder of their lives, despite their distance from "the city", they were active members of the Shawnee Reformed Presbyterian Church in Shawnee, Kansas. Libbie's playful personality and servant's heart were constantly apparent, especially as she played games with her grandchildren each time they visited, and as she made "Maine Haven" the hub of lavish holiday meals and the "base camp" for Bob and Dave's duck hunting each year. Sadly, in 2008, their daughter Michelle was stricken with a brain tumor, and passed away.

After Bob's passing in 2013, Libbie settled into an apartment in Lakeview Village, a retirement community in Lenexa Kansas. She was soon enjoying the Lakeview community choir, and she continued her habit of walking for exercise. In 2020, Libbie moved into the nursing facility at Lakeview. During those years, her son Dave visited often, and they sang Psalms together during almost every visit, often with her son Kevin joining virtually from Wichita.

On October 7, 2022, Libbie was brought low by a sinus infection and then a high fever. Two days later, on that Lord's Day, which was also her 94th birthday, with Kevin present from Wichita via FaceTime, Dave and Kevin had their final visit with her. Though she was in a nearly unconscious state, she mouthed the words of the 23rd Psalm as Dave sang them. Then, early in the morning of October 11, the day Kevin was planning to arrive, she quietly passed to Glory, with Dave at her side, and his wife Patty holding her hand.

Libbie is survived by her two sons, six grandchildren, fourteen great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren.

Margaret “Kathleen” Blackwood June 19, 1933 ~ December 12, 2022

Margaret “Kathleen” Blackwood, 89, of Sabetha, KS, formerly of Denison, KS, passed away Monday, December 12, 2022 at the Apostolic Christian Home in Sabetha, KS. She was born June 19, 1933 in Mayetta, KS, the daughter of Albert David and Ruth Margaret (Laughlin) McCrory.

Kathleen graduated from Sterling College in Sterling, KS and earned her Teaching Certificate from Washburn University. She was a school teacher at Holton and Denison schools for 30 years.

Kathleen married Dale K. Blackwood on October 8, 1955 in Denison, KS. He preceded her in death on March 10, 2014, after 59 years of marriage. She was also preceded in death by her parents, Albert and Ruth McCrory; a daughter, Louise Scoby.

Survivors include 2 daughters, Wanda Armfield (James) of Topeka, KS and Janet Tippin (Stan) of Overland Park, KS; son-in-law, Jim Scoby (Laura) of Morrill, KS; 11 grandchildren, Andrew Scoby, Jacque Niles, Joshua Armfield, Rebecca Santel, Martha Steinmetz, Eric Scoby, Melanie Parker, Lydia Scoby, Samuel Armfield, Kristin Church and Bradley Tippin and 20 great-grandchildren.

Granddaughter Jacque writes... “Most of my memories of my grandparents center around three things: food, Jesus and the simple act of showing up.

The first of those categories is just fun. Family traditions across the globe often center around food, and the Dale and Kathleen Blackwood family is no different. There’s tin-can banana bread and grapes at church potlucks, pretzel salad that’s liable to show up at any sort of occasion, cookies pulled from the freezer at a moment’s notice and cutting frozen pizza with scissors, a trick I still employ to this day.

There’s that interminably long week every summer when Grandma arrived early in the mornings to spend the entire day elbow deep in sweet corn. It was not, I learned later, her favorite thing to do. Clearly, she never let on.

Recently, my sister and I decided to resurrect a long-dormant practice of canning cinnamon rings, and just the taste brought back a flood of memories for both of us. Lydia remembers asking Grandma most years if we could have cinnamon rings at Thanksgiving. Grandma would never commit outright. “We’ll see,” she’d say. But inevitably, there would be a jar of rings on the table every Thanksgiving. Having been through a few rounds of preparing those rings, I now realize just what a labor of love that really was.

The third category is a blessing. It’s not every person in the world who can say they knew all of their grandparents as well as I knew mine. Grandma and Grandpa Blackwood were constant presences in my life. Basketball games, softball games, track meets, piano recitals. They were regulars. And not just for me, but they did the same, as much as they could, for all their grandkids.

Now, it could be said, accurately, that Grandma didn’t give two hoots about basketball. Probably even less about javelin throwing. Still, she knew that I did, and she was more than willing to support that.

I intentionally skipped the second of the three categories for a reason. Where food is fun and her presence was a blessing, this one – her deep, steadfast, abiding faith in Christ – is a legacy. Grandma was a Sabbath School teacher, and Awana instructor, and active in the Denison congregation. But she didn’t stop there. She impressed upon all her grandchildren the importance of scripture and of committing it to memory. There were prizes for completion of different tasks. Twenty bucks, for example, for anyone who could recite the first 20 verses of Luke 2, no prompts and no mistakes. Same for the 23rd Psalm and the books of the Bible or the Westminster Shorter Catechism. Hers was a life of service, to her family, her church and her Savior, and I’ll forever be grateful to have called her Grandma.”

Nellie Perry

August 1, 1932 ~ February 14, 2023

Nellie Elizabeth Perry was born August 1, 1932 in Quinter, Kansas, the daughter of Scott and Edith (McElroy) Milroy. For most of her childhood the family lived and worshiped in Stafford, Kansas, but when Nellie was in high school they moved to Winchester where they were active in the Winchester congregation. Nellie graduated from Winchester High School in 1950. She married David Perry on November 28, 1957 in Winchester.

Nellie and David settled in nearby Oskaloosa where they raised their two children and were both very active community members. Over the years Nellie worked as a bank teller, school cook, city clerk, at the Oskaloosa flower shop, and as a waitress/hostess at the Tearoom in Oskaloosa. She was a skillful seamstress, cook, and homemaker. She was handy and thrifty. Nellie and David passed along a love for farming—especially horses, mules, and livestock—to their children and grandchildren.

At church Nellie was very involved with WMF, and was always willing in turn to host meetings in her home. Working side by side with Hazel Sass she organized and served countless funeral dinners and kept the kitchen cleaned and stocked. She helped host showers and often supplied flowers for the pulpit.

Nellie was perhaps best known for having a smile that not only lit up her face, but the whole room, as no one could help smiling back. As written in her official obituary, “She was known by most and loved by all.”

Nellie didn't have much use for big words. She didn't relish theological conversation. But she had a very strong and simple faith that she held fast to throughout the ups and downs of life. She was always very gracious about the difficult decision when her children decided it was time to move her from her home of decades to the F. W. Huston Senior Living Center in Winchester in August of 2021.

Nellie was preceded in death by her husband, David, on December 27, 1998, after 40 years of marriage. At the age of 90, early in the morning of February 6, 2023, Nellie suffered a severe stroke and a few days later on the morning of February 14, 2023 entered the presence of her Savior. Nellie is survived by her daughter, Catherine (and Fred) Smelser and her son, Philip (and Rhonda) Perry; four grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren; and two brothers and one sister.

“Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.” Psalm 116: 15

Gloria Troute

September 16, 1930 ~ September 2, 2022

She was born in Muscatine, IA on September 16, 1930 to Harold and Vina Cunningham.

Her devotion to God led her to be a member of the Sharon Reformed Presbyterian Church of Morning Sun, IA. She enjoyed playing music and singing with her family. Her famous line was “I have everything I need.”

Peggy Hays

June 20, 1952 ~ January 23, 2023

Peggy Hays, 70, of Morning Sun, was ushered into her eternal inheritance on Monday, January 23, 2023. She now stands in the radiance of His glory.

Peggy Ann Hays was born on June 20, 1952 in Carroll, Iowa the daughter of John Milford and Margaret Joan (Kline) Hays. Peggy was a 1970 graduate of Mediapolis High School and received her Master's Degree from the University of Northern Iowa. Peggy was a 6th grade teacher at Central Middle School in Muscatine for 32 years. She was a member of Sharon Reformed Presbyterian Church since she was 12 years old and a past member of T.T.T. She enjoyed crafting, making cards, traveling worldwide, baking, cooking, her cabin on the river in Muscatine and boating.

2022-2023 Historian Report

This is the 104th meeting of the Midwest's Women's Fellowship. Organized as Midwest Presbyterial in 1915, meetings have been held annually except in 1932 or 1934, years of the Great Depression; 1942 during World War II; and 2020 and 2021 when meetings were restricted during the Covid-19 Pandemic. **This is the 13th time Sterling has hosted.**

1915 Rev. Carrithers from the Indian Mission spoke to the convention on "The Sure Foundation." Prayers were offered for the Syrian mission, particularly Mrs. Samuel Edgar and family, as Mr. Edgar had been deported.

1924 "Christ for the World" was the theme. Rev. Alvin Smith conducted Bible studies from I John. Members of the eleven Junior Societies had written character sketches of their favorite Bible people. Top entries were presented with Sterling's placing 1st and Olathe, 2nd. Winchester had the largest group with 46 after promoting 12 to CYP. At the request of the Foreign Mission Board it was voted to raise Rose Huston's yearly salary to \$930. Miss Huston said, "Things that make a nation great are Christian homes, Christian schools and Christian churches." She told of the transformation of these three institutions in China, from pagan to Christian.

1935 Resolutions presented at this convention were that "Our chief executive and his advisors be brought to realize that it is not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts" and regret for the nationwide lapse in morality.

1940 Presbyterial celebrated its 25th anniversary with the theme "Advance." Rev. Lester Kilpatrick told of the horrible conditions of the people of China. Ports were being closed to missionaries and he believed it was necessary to move to the interior of China to carry on the work. Japan's war on China made the burden of relief fall squarely on the shoulders of the missionaries. Meals were available at the college cafeteria for 25 cents a plate.

1951 "Let the God of my salvation be exalted" was the theme. Clarinda delegates were delayed due to floods. Mr. Glen Black, injured after 55 missions in Korea, urged prayer for the spiritual as well as the physical well-being of our servicemen. Ella Margaret Stewart, who was asked by Chinese Christians to leave China in 1950, due to the "hate America" attitude, prayed for pastors and church leaders in China, since the Communist takeover.

1959 "Thus saith the Lord, this thing is from me" was the theme. Robert McMillan gave "A Glimpse of Wichita", his wife told of her life from age 3 in Moscow and the family sang Psalm 2. Mrs. Clark Copeland took the convention on "A Visit to Cyprus."

1965 The 50th Anniversary was celebrated. "God, Our Refuge In All Ages" was the theme.

1974 Theme was "Praising the Lord." \$200 was sent to Gene Spears to help with transportation to their daughter Carol's wedding.

1984 "Serve the Lord with Gladness" was the theme with Bible studies led by Fran Mann.

1993 The 76th convention theme was "Joy in Adversity, how to hand trouble," a Bible study based on Philippians 1-2, led by Erma Prutow.

2002 Pioneer Women in the Modern Day Church was the program presented at the 85th Presbyterial by Sisters in Grace, a ministry team from Clarinda, Iowa. Cari Ann Faris spoke on Foreign Concerns.

2012 The 95th Presbyterial Retreat's theme was "Me? Study Leviticus??" with three sessions discovering how sacrifices, offerings, feasts and laws in some way point to Christ and are fulfilled in Him, led by Mrs. Erma Prutow. Missions speaker was John McFarland, telling about the opening of the Central Presbytery and God's work in that region of the world.

Respectfully submitted, Mitzie VanHorn, Historian