



Elizabeth Herdman

April 21, 1925 - October 13, 2020

Grace Elizabeth (Betty) Staples Herdman was born April 21, 1925, in Plainfield, New Jersey, the second child of Grace Emma Beal Staples and John Auten Staples. As a family, they enjoyed walking the hills of New Jersey and hiking the mountains of New Hampshire. She died October 13, 2020, in Tulsa, OK, while a resident at Covenant Living at Inverness Village.

When Betty was fifteen, the family moved to the St. Louis, MO, area where she completed high school in University City. Betty graduated with a B.A. in Sociology from DePauw University, Greencastle, IN, where she was an active participant and affiliated with Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority. During summers she worked at a camp in northern Wisconsin. Betty received her M.S. in Physical Education from Smith College in Northampton, MA, then became an Instructor at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

Betty met Eric B. Herdman, Jr. who worked with the Bureau of Reclamation in Estes Park, CO. They married on June 30, 1951. Ric joined Phillips Petroleum Company and they moved to Borger, TX, where their two daughters were born. Additional moves took them to Amarillo and Arlington, TX; Bartlesville, OK; Aberdeen, SD; St. Louis, MO; Wheaton, IL; Greenville, MS; Raleigh, NC, and Pasadena, TX, before returning to Bartlesville in 1973. Betty volunteered in schools, communities and Presbyterian churches wherever they lived. She also conducted workshops and teacher training events. Betty's second career outside the home was in Christian Education. In Pasadena and Bartlesville, she founded and directed two preschools.

Her husband died in 2001 and Betty relocated to Inverness Village, Tulsa, OK, in 2006, where she was involved in many activities. She was a Deacon and Elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and a member of the Sapulpa congregation. Betty is survived by her children Jan, Linda, and David and their spouses Rich, Jim, and Nancy, five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, her brother John of St. Louis, nieces, and a nephew.

In the near future, a memorial service will be held at First Presbyterian Church Sapulpa. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributing to an organization of your choice in Betty's name.

Comments



“ I just loved your mother. What a wonderful and delightful light Betty was! While I was Chaplain at Inverness she was an enthusiastic partner in faith, and our friendship continued after I left with Bible and book studies where she was always a special contributor. Her beauty and goodness blessed everyone, and I look forward to seeing her again someday! She was so proud of her family and loved all of you completely. I am certain she will still be cheering you on from the other side!



Kathleen Muller - October 22 at 09:18 AM



“ Betty was a great friend! She was enthusiastic about everything she was involved in and made you enthusiastic as well. She played a great part in the lives of our daughters in their teen years. She was a great actress and played a major part in a GSPC production of "I Never Sang for My Father". We shared a love of theater and the arts. I shall miss her friendship and counsel. How fortunate you were to be parented by such special people! Jack Liggett

John Liggett - October 19 at 12:33 AM



“ Your wonderful mother played a large part in growing my faith through the years. Such a gentle and kind lady, and spunky too! She was a model for many young girls and young women of what a Christian woman should be.

Laura. (Liggett) Lingle

Laura Lingle - October 18 at 11:55 PM



“ Betty was a special light in my life while at Good Shepherd and always loved seeing her when she would return for special events.
Kim Scott

Kimberly Scott - October 18 at 10:52 PM



“ Betty was involved with all our children at Good Shepherd. Oh my the ladies Bible Study on Monday mornings, the dinners at the church, the pre-school. Mrs. Cravens was a nursery worker with Betty. I so looked forward to Betty's Christmas letter every year to hear all about her children and grands. Such fond memories of her and her faith. She truly exemplified the Christian life in every way. God Bless you David , Linda and Jan.

Candy Miller - October 18 at 06:03 PM



“ Betty was so special - I have so many fond memories of her here at Inverness, in our shared Sapulpa First Pres Church and of that great trip to New York City. How she shared Jesus' love with everyone! She lived every day to help and motivate others and she was such a success at being a great friend and resource to all of us. May she now rest in God's arms. My sympathies to her family.

Phyllis Gardner - October 18 at 09:16 AM



“ Betty had a better memory of our 1976 wedding than we did. For some reason she thought I could teach Sunday school. I managed, with her help. She was always encouraging, always involved, always faithful. She was a special lady.

Marsha Evans - October 17 at 11:41 AM