



Elizabeth Esther "Betty" Peterson

May 19, 1921 - December 2, 2013

Elizabeth Esther "Betty" Peterson went to be with her Lord Jesus, Monday evening, December 2, 2013 at Keelean AFC Home. She was 92 years young.

She was born May 19, 1921 to Harold and Ruth Anderson. She was raised on a farm on South 39 Road, Southeast of Hobart.

Betty loved children and teaching them. She began her teaching career in the small one room Nixon School on South 29 Road, Southwest of Cadillac. She continued teaching at Saint Ann Catholic School in Cadillac and then taught first grade for 17 years at McBain Public Schools.

As a result of her daughter Marcia's disability, Betty was the first person from Cadillac to make contact with United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan asking for their assistance in the development of a special school for people with disabilities. This was prior to the State of Michigan mandating special education for people with disabilities. She worked tirelessly with her husband, Russ, and many other parents of children with disabilities in the formation of the Tri-County Handicapped School. The first location of this school was at the former White Pine School on Cadillac's Northwest side.

Betty demonstrated her love for people and Christian ministry by financially

supporting numerous ministries as well as her church, Temple Hill Baptist. She always remembered birthdays and anniversaries of her family; her children and grandchildren. She lived out her Christian life by showing great love and compassion for others.

On October 6, 1946 in Cadillac she married Russell P. Peterson who passed away August 2, 2013. She is survived by her children: Dan (Delores) Peterson and Bonita "Nita" (Jack) Bonge all of Cadillac; grandchildren: RaeLe (Richard) Stinger, April Liedeke, Steven (Bridget) Liedeke, Jeremy Liedeke, Aaron (Heather) Peterson, Joshua (Ashley) Peterson, Philip Peterson (Jordan Bomboske) and Nathan Peterson; 8 great grandchildren; a step sister, Claire Josephine Hector; step brother, David (Karin) Wier and sisters in law: Hilma Wier of Cadillac and Kathy Anderson of Traverse City.

Funeral services will be held 11:00 AM Friday, December 6, 2013 at the Temple Hill Baptist Church in Cadillac with Reverend David Roose officiating. Burial will be a Maple Hill Cemetery in Cadillac. Friends may meet the family from 2-4 & 6-8 PM on Thursday at the Peterson Funeral Home in Cadillac. Memorial contributions may be made to the Salvation Army. An online guestbook is available at www.petersonfh.com.

Tribute Wall

RH

“ I was saddened to hear of Betty's passing. I had the wonderful opportunity to see and speak with her at Russ's service. Betty was one of the kindest, most gentle and caring people I have ever known. She was a true visionary. She and Russ were at the forefront in the early days of the special education movement. They worked tirelessly giving of their time and talents to establish quality programming. Their tenacity and efforts established programs that became models statewide. Their ground breaking work led the way for the many wonderful opportunities offered today. Betty was an inspiration to many, myself included. Her positive influence on countless numbers of students was beyond measure. Thanks for everything. Love and Peace - Ron

Ron Hellenga - December 06, 2013 at 07:56 PM

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Ron Hellenga - December 06, 2013 at 08:27 AM

MA

“ *we knew her when growing up.*

mason - December 05, 2013 at 01:43 PM

DW

“ *Sorry for your loss*

Dan Wilson - December 05, 2013 at 01:09 PM

SP

“ *Betty's quiet Christian demeanor was a powerful influence in many lives in our community. She was a blessing to us.*

Sue Peterson - December 04, 2013 at 08:52 AM

CC

“ *There is another angel in heaven today. Betty was a wonderful blessing to all of us who were blessed by being allowed to call her friend. Both Betty and Russ were such giving people and I thank God for placing them in my life at First Covenant Church. God be with you, her family. May you feel his peace and know she is cherished by so many.*

Carolyn Cochran - December 04, 2013 at 08:38 AM

JB

“ *Both Betty & Russ will be missed so sorry for your loss. Great memories serving on the Salvation Army board, dad was a hoot!*

Jan Boyd - December 04, 2013 at 06:57 AM