



Muriel White Stehouwer

July 8, 1930 - June 19, 2020

On June 19, 2020, Muriel White Stehouwer passed peacefully into the presence of her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Born Muriel Lydia Hunt on July 8, 1930, in Detroit, she was the oldest of two children of typical Irish/German immigrants who scraped together a living in the Depression era. She attended Wayne State University and met Robert White, also of Detroit, through InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, a ministry she supported throughout her life. Both were dedicated Christians who felt a calling to missionary service.

Muriel graduated in 1952 with a B.A. in English and married Robert the same year. After he completed medical school at Case Western University in Cleveland, where she taught English in a public school and bore her first child, they left the United States in 1954 to prepare for medical missions in Panama and Belgium before spending 10 years in the Congo. She had children in each of these locations.

They returned to the United States in 1965. Following brief stints in Birmingham, where her youngest child was born, and Adrian, Michigan, she moved with her husband and six children to Marquette, Michigan, where she lived for 13 years. There she was active in the Marquette Missionary Church, taught English at Northern Michigan University, and was instrumental in founding Pregnancy Services of Marquette, an institution dedicated to helping women find alternatives to abortion.

Her first husband died in 1982, and just over a year later she married Dr. Edward Stehouwer, also recently widowed, of Cadillac, Michigan. She was a faithful member of the Cadillac Christian Reformed Church and a longtime member of the Cadillac Community Orchestra. She invested her boundless energy in countless civic and church-related activities. She remained in Cadillac after the death of her second husband in 2010.

She will be remembered by literally hundreds of people in many countries as a faithful friend, trusted counselor, and dedicated follower of Jesus Christ. She reveled above all in her role as wife and mother and in serving in her church. She was preceded in death by her parents, one sister, and two husbands, who she felt were the best two men on the planet. She is survived by 4 sons living in Virginia, Scotland, Germany, and Kenya, respectively, 2 daughters in the San Francisco area, 3 stepchildren, 26 grandchildren, 7 step-grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-step-grandchildren, not to mention 30 nieces and nephews and their prolific progeny. She leaves behind a legacy of a life well-lived for God to all those privileged to call her Mom, Grandma/Oma, Aunt, or simply "my friend."

A memorial service to celebrate the life of Muriel will be held at 10:00 AM on Monday, June 22, 2020, at the Cadillac Christian Reformed Church in Cadillac with the Reverend Jeff Kroondyk officiating. Muriel's final resting place will be the White Family Cemetery in Big Bay, Michigan.

In lieu of flowers, people are encouraged to donate memorial gifts in Muriel's honor to InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (intervarsity.org) or the Csehy Summer School of Music (csehy.org).

An online guestbook is available at www.petersonfh.com.

Tribute Wall

MO

“ *Beloved friend and mentor. She is now with our Jesus and not looking back. I will miss that raucous laugh and boundless wisdom ... we will meet again.* ”

Mary Miller ne Okinczyc - February 09, 2021 at 05:13 PM

CE

“ *I was honored to know her.* ”

Cynthia Evans - June 23, 2020 at 06:24 PM

MZ

“ *Muriel was a faithful musician and Board member of the Cadillac Area Symphony Orchestra and I enjoyed time spent with her for many years. She was a warm and positive person.* ”

Millie Zukauskys - June 23, 2020 at 02:32 PM

JA

“ *" Aunt Muriel" comforted me (Janet) on several occasions. I remember asking her some tough questions, and while she listened, the knitting needles would fly! She never shied away and always pointed me in the direction of Jesus.* ”

Janet and Todd Adams - June 22, 2020 at 08:01 PM

HG

“ Russ and Beth, It was wonderful to read about your inspiring mom. She clearly touched many lives. We will be praying for you as you go through this time of grieving and also a time of rejoicing to know that she is home at last.

Holly Groom - June 22, 2020 at 01:45 PM

SH

“ Such a wonderful and dear friend. We use to have so much fun together when we went to Mackinaw Island for the hospital and all our great talks! I was so lucky to have known you all these years! You will never be forgotten!! |óT¥Tñ |óT¥Tñ |óT¥Tñ

Sherry Holliday - June 22, 2020 at 12:41 PM

TH

“ I was a FB friend of Muriel and am saddened to hear of her Death. We were brief friends. There is a beautiful Gaither song, ' He touched me' . I would like to say: ' Muriel Touched me' . |óT¥Tñ |»T¶ TÁ

Tom Hunt - June 22, 2020 at 04:55 AM

PB

“ Precious to the Lord are the death of his saints. Muriel and Ed were so very special to me and my ministry at CCRC. She had the BEST children' s messages! She loved the Kingdom of God and grew it through word and deed. My family was blessed to have her in our lives. Peace and comfort to all in the family.

Pete Byma - June 21, 2020 at 06:58 PM

KN

“ *My best friend and confidante! I always told her I would have had a difficult time being a pastor's wife without her. I will miss her great wisdom and love.*

Ken and Judy Nydam - June 21, 2020 at 07:05 AM

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Ken and Judy Nydam - June 21, 2020 at 07:05 AM

KG

“ *Muriel was such a wonderful friend to my mother Marilyn Lucas. I imagine their heavenly reunion is pure joy at seeing one another again.*
I also have wonderful memories of Muriel's leadership with Women's Bible Studirs in Cadillac.
I'm rejoicing with you Muriel... ¡óT¥Tñ ¡»T᠙ TÄ

Kathy Crawford / Graul - June 20, 2020 at 04:48 PM

Jl

“ *Muriel was a wonderful woman. Truly one of a kind. I was very privileged to call her my friend. My sympathy to her family. She will be missed deeply, but how fortunate we were to have her in our lives.*

Jill Irej - June 20, 2020 at 12:57 PM

JC

“ Muriel warmed your heart anytime you were with her. She made such a difference in our community. So glad for her witness of faith and her kindness expressed in my life. She will be missed.

Judy Coffey - June 20, 2020 at 08:56 AM

MC

“ Heaven has gained a saint. Muriel was important in my spiritual development; she radiated joy and her laugh still rings in my ears.

Marianne Schutte Coughenour - June 20, 2020 at 06:24 AM

JB

“ Muriel was such a joy to work with as a fellow volunteer at the hospital. She was a great spiritual leader and will be greatly missed.

Jean Bonham - June 20, 2020 at 04:41 AM