



Jim R. and Mary R. Wilcox

(Mary: December 9, 1931 – November 12, 2021)

(Jim: January 20, 1931 - December 13, 2023)

Relationship to St. Andrew:

Mary was an original member of the St. Andrew United Methodist Church after moving to West Lafayette. She especially enjoyed the fellowship of small groups within the church. She treasured the close friendships she developed as a member of two successive Koinonia groups and in the Dinners for Nine gathering as part of the church program. Mary was a lifelong member of the Methodist Church. She and Jim were guidance counselors of a Junior High youth group in the St. Anthony Park Methodist Church in St. Paul, MN. Later they led a high school Sunday School class in the Methodist Church while living in Long Beach, Mississippi.

Family:

Husband: James R. Wilcox

Son: Steven Bradley Wilcox (Melissa)

Daughter: Barbara Jean Richards (Kenneth)

Granddaughter: Cassie Elise Wilcox

Above all Mary treasured her family. This was so evident when she held her new daughter, Barbara Jean, on the trip from Des Moines to their home in Ames, Iowa. Three years

later it was again evident when she lifted her new son Steven Bradley from his cradle and held him in her arms for the first time.

Mary's extended family include her brother Harlan Roepke (deceased), his wife Judy and their two children, Janet and Douglas Roepke. The two families frequently spent Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter holidays together. Mary's sister, Elizabeth (Roepke) Seitz, her husband William (Bill) Seitz, and their daughter Jennifer lived in Alaska for many years. Mary had wonderful visits with them several times. When the Seitz family moved to Colorado, this provided more opportunities for shared time. On visits to Colorado, the two families often camped together in the mountains, spending their nights in a teepee.

Recognitions, Activities, Special Interests:

Mary R. Wilcox was born December 9, 1931, in Toronto Canada to Martin Henry Roepke and Edith Juanita Roepke. The family returned to the U.S. in 1931. Mary spent her early years in St. Paul, MN where she attended Murray High School. She studied Occupational Therapy at the University of Minnesota and graduated with Distinction in 1954. She married James R. Wilcox, a lifelong friend, On June 25, 1955.

Mary enjoyed traveling and the new experiences this provided. She traveled in many European countries, in Finland and in Norway. During these travels she quickly developed a rapport that frequently became friendships with citizens of these countries. In a trip to Asia she was thrilled to ride an elephant down a jungle stream in Thailand.

After Mary and Jim retired, they bought a cottage on Bear Island Lake in northern Minnesota where for twenty years they spent summers from mid-May to mid-October. Mary greatly enjoyed entertaining family and long-time friends at the lake cottage. She was active in the Ely United Methodist Church, was a member of the Ely Library and the local P.E.O. chapter.

In later years Mary often commented on what a wonderful life she had lived and how blessed she and Jim had been throughout their sixty-six year marriage. Mary was deeply loved by her family and is greatly missed.

Use of Funds:



A park bench was placed under a shade tree in a landscaped area near the picnic shelter and basketball goal.

Obituary:



1934-2021

Mary R. Wilcox

West Lafayette - Mary Amelia (Roepke) Wilcox was born December 9, 1931, in Toronto, Canada to Martin Henry Roepke and Edith Juanita Roepke. The family returned to the U.S. in 1934. Mary spent her formative years in St. Paul, Minnesota. She attended Murray High School in St. Anthony Park and worked part time in the local library. After high school Mary studied Occupational Therapy at the University of Minnesota. She graduated with distinction in 1954. Following graduation, she worked as a Registered Occupational Therapist at the University of Minnesota hospitals.

She married James R. Wilcox, a lifelong friend, on June 25, 1955. She continued working at the U of M hospitals while her husband completed his U. S. Army commitment and pursued graduate studies at the University. Mary and her husband moved to Ames, Iowa, in 1959. Mary worked at the Ames Methodist Church and later at the Dairy Department at Iowa State University. Their daughter, Barbara Jean, was born while they lived in Ames. Mary and her husband moved to Gulfport, then to Long Beach, Mississippi in 1961. Mary quickly made close friends with many of their neighbors and was active in the Long Beach Methodist Church. While in Mississippi their son, Steven Bradley, was born. In 1966 the family moved to West Lafayette, Indiana. Mary worked part time as an Occupational Therapist at the Americana Nursing Home, now St. Mary's, and later at Home Hospital.

After Mary and her husband retired, they bought a cottage on Bear Island Lake in northern Minnesota where for twenty years they spent summers from mid-May to mid-October. Mary greatly enjoyed entertaining family and longtime friends at the lake cottage. She was active in the Ely United Methodist Church, was a member of the Ely Library, and was active in the local PEO chapter. She greatly appreciated the love and friendship of her PEO sisters in Minnesota. Mary enjoyed people and was very social. She enjoyed visiting with her extended family and with friends, and readily conversed with strangers she met. She was an active member of St. Andrew United Methodist Church, PEO chapter CW, and the American Literature Club in Indiana.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, a brother, Harlan Hugh Roepke, a brother-in-law David N. Wilcox, his wife Phyllis (Bowe) Wilcox, sister-in-law Susan (Wilcox) Ault and her husband Gerald R. Ault. Mary is survived by her husband James, daughter Barbara Jean (Wilcox) Richards, husband Kenneth, her son Steven Bradley Wilcox, his wife Melissa (Fyffe) Wilcox, her granddaughter, Cassie Elise Wilcox, Cassie's mother, Theresa Wilcox, and her sister-in-law Judith (Bole) Roepke.

A Memorial Service will be held at St. Andrew United Methodist Church in West Lafayette at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 4, 2021. You may leave condolences and memories at www.soller-baker.com.

Posted online on November 27, 2021