



Betty Sanders Gordon

December 1, 1928 - December 5, 2015

Bluefield, WV- Betty Sanders Gordon, 87, of Bluefield, WV entered Heaven on Saturday, December 5th. Betty was born in 1928 in Fairfax, SC to the late Cleo Herman Sanders and Fannie Wilson Sanders. She was a resident of Bluefield since 1962, and a dedicated member of Trinity United Methodist Church. She was preceded in death by her son, William Dudley Gordon, and is survived by her husband Dr. Will G. Gordon of Bluefield, and son Mark W. Gordon and his wife Wendy M. Gordon of Cocoa Beach, Florida, and granddaughters Hannah Gordon of San Francisco, CA and Abigail Gordon of Louisville, KY.

Betty lived a full and rewarding life, much of it committed to serving her Christian faith in support of the United Methodist Church. She was an active and recognizable delegate at the West Virginia Annual Conference for decades, presenting a strong voice on many issues and serving on many committees. She was conference vice-president of the Women's Society of Christian Service (1972-73) and United Methodist Women (1973-76) and conference president (1977-80) of the United Methodist Women. She was elected to the General Board of Global Ministries, Women's Division, as a director in 1980, and reelected in 1984. Betty was assigned to the World Division and Mission Personnel Resource Program Department, 1984-88. She was elected vice-president of the Women's Division from 1984-88. She was a delegate to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference in 1976 and Jurisdictional and General Conferences, 1980 and 1984. At General

Conference, she was chairperson of the Legislative Committee on Local Church. Betty served on the Northeastern Jurisdiction Core Planning Group of the United Methodist Women. She was a delegate to the Decade of Women Conference in Kenya, Africa in 1985. In the 90's, Betty served on the national level as a director of the Women's Division under the General Board of Global Ministries, supporting programs, mission institutions, and ministries in the United States and around the world. She later served on the Board of Global Ministries in New York City, as director, consultant and interim Associate General Secretary of the Mission Personnel Resources Program department.

Betty wrote "Strangers...Immigrants...Angels Unawares?" for the 1984 program resource book for United Methodist Women, Committed to Mission Tomorrow. As part of Women's Division update in Response Magazine, she wrote "Women's Vote Can Determine Outcomes," in October 1984 issue, and she was co-author of "Women's Peace Pilgrimage to Honduras," in the February 1984 issue. Betty also wrote "World Federation of Methodist Women, A Call" in the September 1985 Response.

Betty attended Winthrop College in South Carolina, and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bluefield State College. Betty has done additional studies at Bossey Ecumenical Institute in Switzerland. She has been involved in educational events in Africa, Japan, Asia, Philippines, Europe, the Caribbean and South America experiencing various cultures with emphasis on human rights. With all the experiences in West Virginia, the United States and throughout the world, she continued to work as a project consultant in support of the United Methodist Church.

Betty was an advocate and champion for human rights, especially pertaining to children and women, and to the AIDS Ministries. She was instrumental in the first display of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt in West Virginia in 1993.

Betty left this world a better place than she had found it, living by her convictions and uplifting, encouraging, strengthening and loving all those she

encountered! She especially treasured her role as “Grandmommy.”
Visitation will be held Tuesday, December 8th at the Mercer Funeral Home from 6-8 pm, and services on Wednesday, December 9th at Trinity United Methodist Church at 11am, with a reception to follow. As this will be a celebration of Betty’s life, BRIGHT COLORS ARE ENCOURAGED!

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Trinity United Methodist Church, 401 College Avenue, Bluefield, WV 24701.

Those wishing to share memories or condolence messages with the family may do so by visiting www.MercerFuneralHome.com

Mercer Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the family of Mrs. Betty Sanders Gordon.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 8. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Mercer Funeral Home Chapel
1231 West Cumberland Road
Bluefield, WV 24701

Funeral Service

DEC 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

Trinity United Methodist Church
401 College Avenue
Bluefield, WV 24701

Tribute Wall



“ *Betty Sanders Gordon*

October 05, 2023 at 06:08 PM



“ *Cindy (Freeman) Romano-McGraw lit a candle in memory of Betty Sanders Gordon*



Cindy (Freeman) Romano-McGraw - December 11, 2015 at 10:37 AM



“ *To Dr. Gordon and to Mark and his family. Sorry to hear about Mrs. Gordan passing she will be missed . In his service Robert & Debbie Hawkes Loganville Ga Robert Hawkes Bluefield College graduate 1983 Business Administration.*

Robert Hawkes - December 11, 2015 at 09:15 AM



“ *Knowing Betty was a privilege that graced my life and continues to give me hope! I had the privilege of working with Betty on the EMLC Priority and with the CORR, and her steadfastness for equality and justice, whether in committee or on the floor of the Annual Conference, was from the heart and to the point! Will, your support of Betty's full agenda, spending hours with a good book, as she was in meetings, is a great gift, also. My prayers are with you and the family who shared Betty, her love and strong sense of direction, with so many! Charlotte Meade, Trinity UMC, Fairmont, WV*

Charlotte A. Meade - December 10, 2015 at 08:54 AM

MP

Mr. Gordon

So sorry to hear about the loss of your wife. I hope you are doing well and that your friends are surrounding you with their love.

Merry Christmas and

Remember your former students are thinking about you and sending their love and support. We love you and will pray for your healing during your loss. Ken & Mary Ann Price

Mary Ann Price - December 19, 2015 at 11:06 AM

SM

“ *Such rejoicing in Heaven as this beautiful child of God made her arrival! Prayers for all of you during this time. Love to you Mr. Gordon. Shirley Chapman Meador*

Shirley Chapman Meador - December 09, 2015 at 09:10 PM

WC

“ *Please accept my condolences in the passing of your wife. I never met her in person, but I knew her through you. Wayne Chambliss '74*

Wayne Chambliss - December 09, 2015 at 03:00 PM

LC

“ *You are in our thoughts as you celebrate Betty's life and the love she so freely shared with so very many. We are with you in spirit. Lynn, Tony and family*



Lynn Colina - December 09, 2015 at 08:00 AM

TB

“ Thinking of you all today as you celebrate your mom's life...Skip and I are with you in spirit



Teri Beeler - December 09, 2015 at 06:48 AM

JM

“ In 1984, I joined the Conference team of United Methodist Women. We were installed by Betty. She had made rainbow candles just for us. That small gesture expresses the attention to detail that marked Betty Gordon. She brought out all the gifts and talents of her team. We were so proud that she represented us as The Vice-President of Women's Division. I headed up the effort to make the Betty Gordon quilt. That was a true labor of love and I am proud that some of my stitches are in it. Much love, Jane Morse

Jane Morse - December 08, 2015 at 05:49 PM

AM

“ We will all miss Betty;s mentoring and guidance at Trinity United Methodist Church. To Mark, who was in my Sunday School Class at Trinity my condolences and to Will who was Bob's coach on the Trinity Ball Team years ago we send you our love and prayers. Sincerely, Bob and Anita Martin



Anita Martin - December 08, 2015 at 05:29 PM

DH

“ *Dolly Hambrick lit a candle in memory of Betty Sanders Gordon*



dolly hambrick - December 08, 2015 at 05:08 PM

DH

“ *Betty was a sweet person we new & learned to love her from weight watchers she was always a loving & caring person,my sister Margaret Broyles & my self Dolly Hambrick send our love & prayers to her family,she will be greatly missed by many.our condolences, Dolly an Margaret*

dolly hambrick - December 08, 2015 at 05:04 PM

SE

“ *Such a beautiful woman who mentored so many of us!! Rest in Peace dear one!*
Susie Echols

Susie Echols - December 08, 2015 at 02:35 PM

DM

“ *I am so very sorry for your loss. Betty and I shared a "birth"day. She was such a strong faith example growing up in Trinity UMC. I have such fond memories of her. May you feel God's hand of comfort during this time. You are in my prayers.*

Denise White McCreight

Denise White McCreight - December 08, 2015 at 12:08 PM

KW

“ *What an amazing, accomplished woman of GOD. Our prayers go out to you all at this difficult time of loss.*

kathy walley - December 08, 2015 at 09:13 AM

R1

“ *Betty was a strong, caring, and dedicated person. She will be missed*

robert L Perry 111 - December 08, 2015 at 07:47 AM

PM

“ *Paul and Marisa purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Betty Sanders Gordon.*



Paul and Marisa - December 08, 2015 at 01:48 AM

KB

“ *I am so very sorry for your loss. My love, thoughts and prayers are with your family. May God bless you and comfort each of your hearts.*



Kristin Burri - December 08, 2015 at 12:23 AM

MR

“ My deep condolences to the whole family. I can understand your pain give the quality of a person and a woman that Betty was and will continue to be in our memories as long as we live. She had the courage and the grace to be a leader in many struggles for human rights and justice for all. I saw Betty from the perspective of our common work in the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church. Church and world will miss her as shall we, personally, who knew her and had the privilege of sharing her journey of faith and service. God bless you all.

Michael Rivas

Michael Rivas - December 07, 2015 at 10:28 PM

FC

“ Frank Carter lit a candle in memory of Betty Sanders Gordon



Frank Carter - December 07, 2015 at 09:00 PM

EZ

I grew up in Fairfax, SC with the Sanders four girls. I knew both of Betty's grand mothers and her parents. They were all very dear friends of our family. Margaret was my age and Betty was my sister age, (Virginia Zeigler) we played together and just enjoyed living in Fairfax at that time.. I just learned today of Betty's death. It is a sad time but as we were all near the same age...life must go no. My concern and prayer are with you at this sad time. Ed Zeigler....North Augusta, SC

Ed Zeigler - December 07, 2015 at 09:43 PM

GF

“ My parents, Josie and Heyward Bennett, grew up with Mrs. Betty in Fairfax. I had the pleasure of seeing her several years ago, when she was in Fairfax caring for her sister. She was such a lovely lady and I am so sad for your loss. The Bennett family sends our prayers and condolences. Georgia Bennett Famuliner

Georgia Bennett Famuliner - December 07, 2015 at 08:25 PM



“ Fruits and Blooms Basket was purchased for the family of Betty Sanders Gordon.



December 07, 2015 at 12:23 PM

SS

“ Sally Stolp lit a candle in memory of Betty Sanders Gordon



Sally Stolp - December 07, 2015 at 10:41 AM