



Martha E. "Betty" Smith

March 18, 1924 - November 7, 2012

TECUMSEH – Mrs. Martha Elizabeth “Betty” Woodward Smith passed away November 7, 2012, with all her children by her side at Tecumseh Place, Tecumseh, Michigan.

She was born to John and Grace (Baker) Woodward March 18, 1924 in Kansas City, MO and spent her early childhood in Ferguson, MO, then moved to Chicago, where she studied voice from the age of thirteen. At age 14, she sang in Grant Park with the American Concert Orchestra of the WPA and from then on performed on the radio and in many other venues. She continued her degree work at the Cosmopolitan Conservatory and studied opera with Ruth Heizer and taught at the Calumet Conservatory. She married Mahlon (Bud) Smith in 1946 and continued her musical studies at Miami University in Oxford, OH until they moved to Adrian in 1949 where Bud began teaching at Adrian Junior High School.

Betty Smith was a beloved voice teacher at Adrian College from 1954 to 1989. She had many private students as well and sang throughout the area, soloing with the City Band, in productions at the Crosswell, at churches and in recitals at Adrian College, all while raising five children. She directed choirs in Tecumseh, at the college, and at Adrian First United Methodist Church, where she and her family were active members. She played piano up to the last month of her life. Betty has held office in many organizations including her church, Church Women United, the Community Concert Board, Matinee Musicale, Opera Lenawee, NATS, the American Parkinson’s Foundation and

others.

Her family, her music and her church were the center of her life. She loved gardening, knitting, sewing, needlework, baking, hiking with Bud and having friends and family around her in their home.

She is survived by her children: Martha (Robert) Gale of Philadelphia; Melissa (Hal) Stimson of Keller, TX; Laura (John) Blackburn of Muscle Shoals, AL; Nathan (Kathy) Smith of Tecumseh; and Sarah (Don) Williams of Ann Arbor; ten grandchildren, three great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bud Smith, her four siblings, John, George and Richard Woodward and Janet Barclay, and her parents. A memorial celebration of Betty's life will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 11, 2012, at the Adrian First United Methodist Church with Rev. Gary Dawes and Rev. Christopher Brundage officiating. Prior to the service the family will receive friends at the church on Sunday beginning at 1:30 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to the First United Methodist Church, Adrian College Department of Music or Hospice of Lenawee. Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagley Funeral Home where condolences are welcome at www.WagleyFuneralHome.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 11. 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
1245 West Maple Avenue
Adrian, MI

Service

NOV 11. 3:30 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
1245 West Maple Avenue
Adrian, MI

Tribute Wall



“ *Martha E. "Betty" Smith*

January 28, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ *Nate, Our deepest sympathy in the loss of your mother. Our thoughts & prayers are with you & your family*

The Spreemans, (Bill, Brenda, Jeff)

Brenda Spreeman - November 15, 2012 at 07:34 AM



“ *Betty Smith was a sweet and thoughtful woman, always a lady, and a terrific musician. Our thoughts and prayers go to all of her family.*

Betsy and Michael Lackey - November 14, 2012 at 04:32 PM



“ *It is an honor to have studied with Mrs. Smith. My deepest sympathies to her family and friends. It's never easy to say goodbye to those we love.*

Beverly K. Betz Bucar - November 12, 2012 at 06:30 PM



“ *I spent many years with Betty in Bible study class at the 1st United Methodist Church in Adrian. What a very special person! She will be missed, but not forgot. May God bless!*
Garry Clift and family



Garry Clift - November 11, 2012 at 08:01 AM

SL

“ *Sherry Lee lit a candle in memory of Martha E. "Betty" Smith*



Sherry Lee - November 09, 2012 at 03:41 PM

SL

Laura, my heart goes out to you my friend. Know that I love you and will keep you and your family in my prayers. I am here for you angel, for whatever...

Sherry Lee - November 09, 2012 at 03:43 PM

LB

Thank you, Sherry Lee. This means so much.

Laura Blackburn - November 13, 2012 at 02:58 PM