

Marian Kathleen Eatherton



Marian Eatherton described herself as “a woman who wears many hats.” And so she was. Wife of 68 years to James A. Eatherton, mother of three daughters (Laurie, Debra, and Gwen), grandmother (David, Andy, and Jane), church organist, substitute teacher, piano teacher, Whitewood Elementary School music teacher, and feature writer for the *Meade County Times-Tribune*.

Marian was born at home to Louise and Harlan Jenson on November 3, 1930, near Woonsocket, SD. She attended the one-room Berlin School a mile west of Woonsocket from 1st through 8th grades. She is a 1948 graduate of Sturgis High School and attended Black Hills State College.

Marian and Jim were married July 16, 1950, at the Whitewood Presbyterian Church. They built their home on Park Street in Whitewood next door to where he had grown up and near her parents.

She was active in 4-H as a youth and helped start The Loyal Lassies club in Whitewood. Her love of gardening and flowers, particularly roses she and Jim grew, led to annual entries in the Meade and Butte County Fairs.

Marian loved to sing and play piano, which she taught for 60 years. After the girls had grown, she was a feature writer at the *Meade County Times-Tribune*. In addition to penning a column of personal reflections called “Observations,” she especially enjoyed assignments that enabled her to interview motorcyclists during the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally and to be on the set during 1989’s production of *Dances With Wolves*.

She was active in both the Whitewood and Sturgis Presbyterian churches, played piano and organ, and sang in their choirs. She organized musical entertainment at the Sturgis Senior Center and sang in the center’s choir.

Marian and Jim moved from Whitewood to their home on Fulton Street in Sturgis in 2015.

Their daughter, Laurie, and husband, Jeff Warfel, reside in Yankton. Deb and Ned Leonard live in Arlington, VA, and Gwen and David Brandfass in Sedona, AZ.

Marian passed away Sunday, January 6, 2019, in Sturgis from complications resulting from fractured vertebrae that hospitalized her in October.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Mary Lou Teller; and half-sister, Helen Jean Personius.

A memorial gift will be made to the South Dakota State University Department of Music.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.kinkadefunerals.com.

In Loving Memory Of Marian Kathleen Eatherton

1930 ~ 2019



*Death leaves a heartache no one can heal;
Loves leaves a memory no one can steal.*

I Do Not Go Alone

If Death should beckon me
with outstretched hand
And whisper softly of “*An Unknown Land*”,
I shall not be
afraid to go,
For though the path I do not know . . .

I take *Death's Hand*
without a fear,
For He who safely brought me here
Will also take me
safely back,
And though in many things I lack . . .

He will not let me
go alone
Into the “*Valley That's Unknown*”,
So I reach out
and take *Death's Hand*
And journey to the “*Promise Land*”!



*And now may the silence of the hills,
the joy of the winds, the peace of the fields,
the music of the birds, the fire of the sun,
the strength of the trees, and the faith of a little child,
all of which is God, be in your hearts now and forevermore.
Amen.*

In Loving Memory Of

Marian Kathleen Eatherton

Born

November 3, 1930
Woonsocket, South Dakota

Died

January 6, 2019
Sturgis, South Dakota

Memorial Service

Friday, January 11, 2019, at 11:00 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church
Sturgis, South Dakota

Officiating

Rev. Denzel Nonhof
Rev. David Brandfass

Accompanist

Brenda Schaffer

Special Music

Addie and Grace Hill

Trio

Chris Kaitfors ~ Hillary Hill ~ Kelsey Kaitfors
“Hymn of Promise”

Musical Selections

#521 “Abide With Me”
#438 “On Eagle's Wings” #358 “Love Divine”

Inurnment

Black Hills National Cemetery
Sturgis, South Dakota

*The family invites you to join them for fellowship and lunch in the Erskine Club
Room in the church basement immediately following the memorial service.
We thank you for your presence and condolences.*