



Ethelmae McSparren

February 8, 2017

On Wednesday, February 08, 2017 Ethelmae McSparren, 83, died at Brethren Village after a 13 year journey with Alzheimer's disease. She was born in Reading, PA. Her parents, both deceased, were Alton and and Garnella Herb Auchenbach. Ethelmae moved with her parents to Lancaster in eighth grade, where her father, master machinist, became professor of machine shop and math at Thaddeus Stevens Trade School.

She graduated from McCaskey High School in 1951 and Millersville State Teachers College (now Millersville University) in 1955 cum luade, with a BS in Psychology. There she was President of the Dolphins Swim Club.

Ethelmae was married to Clark McSparren, Jr., celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary in August 2016. Although she first met Clark in 8th grade, the two fell in love during college, then married Aug. 25, 1956, after Ethelmae's first year teaching fifth grade in Wayne, PA, and Clark having finished his first year at University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

She is survived, in addition to her husband, Clark, by three daughters: Lisa Hatheway, married to Frank, Washington, DC; Susan Fellman, married to William, Honey Brook, PA, and Jennifer Miller, widow of Mark, Downingtown, PA. Ethelmae is also survived by six grandchildren: Kate Hatheway, Clark Hatheway, married to Jia Coco Liu, Ian Miller, Colin Miller, AlyssaRose

Fellman, and Lindsey Fellman.

Ethelmae taught 5th grade for two years at Wayne Elementary School, then “retired” to raise their three daughters, Lisa and Susan, born in Philadelphia, PA, and Jennifer, born in Portsmouth, NH. The family returned to Lancaster, PA, in 1964 for Clark to join Lancaster Pediatrics Associates, in partnership with Charles H. Kurtz, MD.

When youngest daughter, Jennifer, was a senior in high school, Ethelmae returned to Millersville University, graduating in 1983 with a Masters Degree in Clinical Psychology. Her Master’s thesis was entitled, “Fetal Alcohol Syndrome”. For the next 22 years she practiced at Lancaster Guidance Center and other non-profit groups as a clinical therapist, working successfully with adolescents and young adults.

Music had always played an important role in Ethelmae’s life. Her father, whose first job in high school was playing background music in the local silent film theatre, was Ethelmae’s first piano teacher. Later she was an accompanist for her highschool and college choirs and was soprano in State Chorus while at Millersville. During the 70’s she pursued a growing interest in Classical and Renaissance music, which prompted her husband to build her a dual manual harpsichord, which she played in several recitals at St. James Episcopal Church. These included a performance of JS Bach’s Christmas Oratoria, with professional musicians from Lancaster and Philadelphia.

As a member of the Junior League of Lancaster, Ethelmae served as Patron Chair for the Fulton Follies of 1975, chaired Admissions, Placement, and Newssheet Committees, served on the Task force on Child Abuse, and conducted hearing exams for Head Start preschoolers.

Ethelmae served for 12 years on the Board of Trustees of Lancaster Country

Day School, during which time she established the Alumni Office and served as its first Alumni Secretary for six years. Years later, she was reading tutor at Carter & MacRae Elementary School and homework helper at Boys & Girls Club of Lancaster's Jack Walker Clubhouse, where she was awarded Volunteer of the Year in 2003.

As a member of St. James Episcopal Church in inner city Lancaster since 1976, she served three terms on Vestry, chaired Annual Giving in 1980, served breakfast at Anchorage, established a bereavement group for parish widows and widowers, and organized, vetted and awarded college scholarships for students of the church.

Ethelmae enjoyed playing tennis for years, designing and sewing her own clothes, planting and enjoying flowers, swimming, summer jaunts with her family to Avalon, NJ, and trips to Europe with husband Clark. However, her most cherished moments were preparing holiday meals for her children and grandchildren and bonding with each of those grandchildren during their first week of life.

In spite of the relentless decade of progression of Alzheimer's dementia, Ethelmae's ability to light up and respond to music, any music, remained intact, offering her continued joy, a joy which she had imparted to so many others.

A Requiem Eucharist that celebrates Ethelmae's life, assisted by Groffs Family Funeral Services, will be held at St. James Episcopal Church, Duke and Orange Streets, Lancaster, on Saturday, February 18, 2017, at 11:00 AM, with The Rev. David Peck officiating. There will be an opportunity to meet with family and friends on Saturday at 9:30 until 10:45 when a musical presentation will begin. Interment following the service will take place in St.

James Memorial Garden.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to St. James Episcopal Church, Duke and Orange Streets, Lancaster, PA 17602 or Carter & MacRae School, to benefit Ollie's Closet, 251 S. Prince St., Lancaster, PA 17603.

Cemetery Details

St. James Memorial Garden

Lancaster, PA 17603

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 18. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. James Episcopal Church
119 N. Duke Street
Lancaster, PA 17603

Service

FEB 18. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. James Episcopal Church
119 N. Duke Street
Lancaster, PA 17603

Tribute Wall

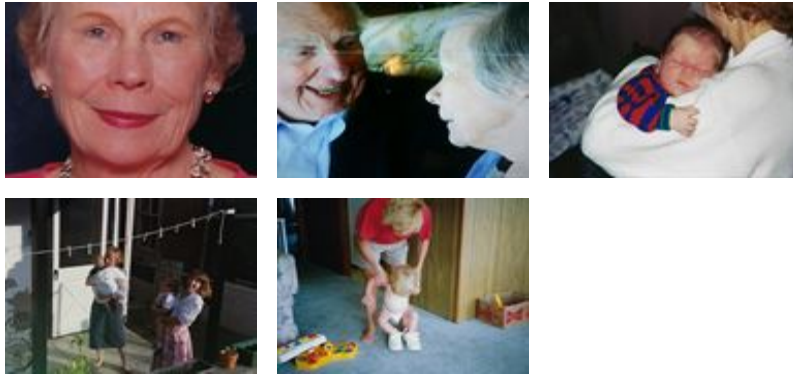


“ *Ethelmae McSparren*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *58 files added to the album Life Tributes*



The Groff's Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - February 14, 2017 at 03:23 PM



“ *The Hager family sends their sympathy to you, Dr. McSparren and your family. May the wonderful memories you and your wife shared bring you comfort.*

Please know that we are keeping you and your family in our prayers.

Fondly,

Anne Hager Marcarelli

Anne Hager Marcarelli - February 13, 2017 at 08:03 AM

JM

“*Sadly, we did not have the pleasure of knowing Ethelmae when she was a vibrant and gifted member of our St James community. We offer our condolences to Clark and the entire McSparren family. Robert and Jeanne Mosebach*

Jeanne Mosebach - February 12, 2017 at 02:48 PM

DG

“*Clark, We write this from California where we saw this online. We write this with our sadness nourished by our roles as friends, colleagues and as a physician. Dorothy appreciates they mentoring that Ethelmae providing to her and has fond memories of the excursions taken together. Dorothy and Bob Gottlieb*

dorothy and bob gottlieb - February 12, 2017 at 11:54 AM



“*Mr deepest sympathy to a beautiful family . I remember our days in lancaster with the McSparren family . Ethelmae had a light that shines brightly . She was very much loved by all . Sending prayers and love . Tracy Stauffer . Gayle and Bills daughter xoxo*

Tracy Currie - February 11, 2017 at 06:18 PM

BC

“*Sorry for your loss. Our deepest sympathy is with you and your family.*

*R. Michael Cain (Patient from 1967 to 1986)
Bonnie Cain*

Bonnie Cain - February 10, 2017 at 09:03 AM

K(

“ Clark and Ethelmae attended a marriage prep session when my husband and I were engaged and talked about lifelong marriages. My husband, Matt, really enjoyed meeting them and we learned a lot! I also remember her love of children and how even when she was ill in the later years, she still experienced great joy when she volunteered in the nursery at church. She will be greatly missed!

Karen Allen (Hovinen) - February 09, 2017 at 03:23 PM

SG

“ Ethelmae was indeed one of God's children on earth, serving her family and community. To be in her presence was always a joy. She now rests from her struggles & can remember all of her loved ones, shining a light on them for ever. Susan & John Garofola

Susan Garofola - February 09, 2017 at 06:53 AM

SU

Ethelmae was a delightful reading buddy to many of my students. They actually cried when it was not their turn to read to her. My sincere condolences to the family. She will make a beautiful angel. Sue

Sue - February 09, 2017 at 12:34 PM

DK

Ethelmae touched everyone with a twinkle in her eye and a beautiful smile. She welcomed us very graciously when we came to Lancaster over thirty years ago. Her energy was contagious. May she rest in the peace she so deserves.

Regina and Dan Kegel

Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Kegel - February 09, 2017 at 08:20 PM

JR

I will always remember Ethelmae as a beautiful lady and wonderful hostess to our many Lancaster Pediatric gatherings back in the 70's and 80's. What a perfect couple you were and WILL BE AGAIN. She is waiting, just around the corner, where we all will meet our loved ones again.

Love and prayers.

Josie Rice

Josie Rice - February 10, 2017 at 10:42 AM

ML

Dr. McSparren and family,

Deepest condolences from three of your grown-up patients, Farida, Aleyah, and Omar Hamid and their Mother Marilyn Lieber. May your dear wife rest in peace.

marilyn lieber - February 14, 2017 at 01:03 PM