



Beverly Wright Rice

April 14, 1936 - January 2, 2021

Beverly Wright Rice was born April 14, 1934 in Pontiac, MI & passed away Jan. 2, 2021. Loving wife for 64 years of Charles W. Rice, beloved mother of Charles David (Carole Woods), Elizabeth (Janet Neubecker) & Amy Rice-O'Rourke (David O'Rourke) & amazing Grandmother to Jesse & Isaac. Beloved sister to Gary (Kitty) Wright. Beverly married Charles in 1956. They lived in Albany, NY, Elyria, OH & settled in New Baltimore, MI where they lived since 1966. Beverly graduated from Pontiac High in 1954 & from Michigan State University in 1958 with a degree in education. She continued her studies at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL, where she earned her Master's in Theology. She became ordained as Diaconal Minister in the United Methodist Church (UMC) in 1984. She was active in the UMC, serving for years as the Sunday School Superintendent & teacher at the 1st UMC in Mount Clemens MI also teaching after retirement at Grace UMC. Beverly enjoyed many volunteer opportunities including Cub Scout Den Mother, Girl Scout Leader and Vacation Bible School Teacher which involved one of her true passions; teaching children about the love of Jesus. Beverly harnessed her determined energy and favorite word 'enthusiasm' while working for the Detroit Methodist Conference; traveling through Eastern Michigan & the Upper Peninsula in her "Skills on Wheels" van, which would accrue over 100,000 miles. Her position to be an independent woman persisted as she challenged roles both in and out of church. Beverly professionally trained teachers in a manner that provided unique learning

opportunities to educators of small & large churches. She transported hundreds of books, provided resources & modeled innovative practices such as 'Godly Play'. She was an advocate for children's intelligence & championed the belief that children learn best through play; even in Sunday School. As such, she encouraged utilizing models, play sets & playscapes to retell Bible stories and incorporated new practices to imbue the importance of church traditions and sanctity of rituals to even the youngest of God's children. Once Beverly retired in 1997 she moved into another role she cherished; Grandmother. This allowed important time with her grandsons, being an essential part of their early years through regular childcare & also yearly individual trips to Universal Studios, FL, the Field of Dreams, to see airshows in WI & NY & steamship rides on the Mississippi as well as many other adventures. Here again, she embraced looking at the world through their eyes & relished time spent with them, reading stories & taking many trips to the mall, park, libraries & museums. Sadly, she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2010, a difficult diagnosis for anyone but extremely difficult for someone who thrived on learning, reading, and traveling as much as Beverly. Her husband, Charles, who has been waiting for her to join him by God's side, helped her hold on to her love of traveling by taking her to the Holy Land, Europe, exploring the States in their RV and coordinated family Caribbean Cruises which brought smiles to her face. She is also known as Aunt Beverly to many nieces & nephews who recall how she would bring an 'extra' small gift for the other kids when it wasn't their birthday, just so they did not feel left out. Throughout Beverly's life, her remarkable faith was unwavering. She leaves a legacy that embodies the importance of the volunteering, the significance of teaching, the importance of valuing a child's perspective, & also the importance of engaging in life with enthusiasm & the value of living each day to its fullest with hope, love, strength & sometimes a little bit of sass.

Tribute Wall



“ *With loving memories of "Beverly Rice",*

June 11, 2021 at 12:00 AM



“ *Over so many years of working together and sharing blessed conversations at Conference, District and local church events, there was no one I looked forward to seeing more than Bev. She will hold a special place in my memories, and I pray God's comfort and peace for all of her loved ones. Her release is our loss, but her life and ministry won't be forgotten by those of us who knew her. So sorry I missed her passing earlier. Rev. Bob Schoenhals*

June 09, 2021 at 12:00 AM



“ *A really special 'lady' who shared her love of all God's children. Great leader on the Port Huron District. Also special Mom to Amy @ Hampton Elementary School in Rochester! She has been a wonderful gift to all who met her!*

January 16, 2021 at 12:00 AM



“ *Giving thanks for Bev's ministry in my churches and most of all, for her wonderful smile and great joy. May you know the peace of Christ in the sure hope of Glad Reunion. -Jack Harnish*

January 13, 2021 at 12:00 AM



“ *Beverley and her "Skills on Wheels" were greatly appreciated at Trinity UMC in Lapeer. She was a special lady. My condolences to her loved ones.*

January 13, 2021 at 12:00 AM



“ *To Beverly's family members: I have such grateful and fond memories of Beverly. She was a tremendous inspiration to me as a young pastor in the former Detroit Annual Conference. She was an exceptional teacher and a stirred up in me a great awareness of how to be effective, both as a teacher and a leader. I remember her wit, her kindness, her passion, and her faith. My prayers are with you. May the God of all peace, which passes understanding, hold you in this time. And may sweet remembrances renew the treasures you hold of your beloved. Joy Barrett, Michigan Annual Conference pastor*

January 12, 2021 at 12:00 AM



“ *Many years ago, I met Bev as she traveled around the Detroit Conference in her "Skills on Wheels" van; even coming to the Upper Peninsula where my husband King served as a pastor for 22 years. She introduced me to "Godly Play" which I still do for the children at Manchester United Methodist Church. What a wonderful way to help children in learning how to participate fully in worship. May God be with you and bless you especially at this time. Anne Marie Hanna*

January 12, 2021 at 12:00 AM



“ *In loving memory of our Mom who taught us all living things are made by God's hands. May these trees grow and blossom for all to appreciate.*

January 08, 2021 at 12:00 AM



“ *I miss you Mom. So glad you're with Dad again!*

January 07, 2021 at 12:00 AM



“ *Aunt Beverly will always live on in the lives of those she touched. We'll miss her.*

January 05, 2021 at 12:00 AM