

MID-WEST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

2024 Historian Report, President's Page and MEMORIALS April 2023 ~ March 2024

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints.
Psalm 116:15

MEMORIALS

Elva McCrory

October 13, 1930 ~ September 26, 2023

Elva Margaret McCrory, 92, Holton, KS, died Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at the Holton Community Hospital. She was born October 13, 1930, in Idana, KS, the daughter of Robert James and Amelda J. (Black) Mann.

Elva graduated from Clay Center High School. She worked for Duckwalls in Clay Center. She was a member of the Idana RP Church until 1955 when her membership was transferred to the Denison RP Church. Psalm 139 was one of her favorite Psalms. She could often be found reading her Bible until a brain injury affected her ability to read.

Elva married Harold McCrory September 5, 1955. He preceded her in death June 6, 2006, after 50 years of marriage. She was also preceded in death by a sister, Clara McCrory, and brother, Howard Mann.

At her home north of Denison, she was a homemaker, farmwife and childcare provider. She taught children's Sabbath School classes and was active in the Women's Missionary Society. Elva was always willing to provide food for fellowship or funeral lunches and eager to help with cleaning up. She dried dishes after church lunch until her fall in December 2022. Most recently, while living with her daughter Barbara, Elva developed a special relationship with her great-grandchildren, Oliver and Everly.

Survivors include her daughters, Linda Mierau (Cameron) Portland, OR, and Barbara Harman (Dale) Holton, KS; 5 grandchildren, Ian (Julia), Jeff (Monica), Luke (Angela), Micah (Hannah) and Rachelle (Richard); 4 great-grandchildren, Felix, Oliver, Everly and Indy; 2 step-grandchildren, Dale and Gayli; 4 step- great grandchildren, Danielle, Alysa, David and Clyde.

Carolyn More

July 7, 1940 ~ September 19, 2023

Carolyn More went to heaven to be with her LORD and Savior from her home in Eudora on September 19, 2023 following a 6 month struggle due to breaking her hip.

She was born to John Clarence and Vera Phelps Sterrett July 7, 1940 at home in rural Quinter, Kansas to give an added blessing to harvest. Starting at kindergarten at the Phelps one room in Sheridan County, she attended Quinter schools and graduated from High School in 1958. She graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Home Economics from Fort Hays State.

Through the years she was a member of the Reformed Presbyterian (RP) Church in Quinter, Kansas City, Shawnee, Grandview, Lawrence, and Topeka, including helping in the construction of the Shawnee building.

She married Wilbur More of Shawnee Mission September 1, 1962 in Quinter, and lived in Belton, Overland Park and Shawnee raising their sons Wilbur and John. Her husband Wilbur died April 24, 1990.

She worked on the farm, as well as, homemaker, rural telephone operator, Gambles House of Fabrics manager, Montgomery Wards analyst, and Sprint accountant before retiring.

In retirement, she quilted and helped take care of her father and helped raise her granddaughters Becky and Daisy.

She is preceded by her husband Wilbur More, father Clarence Sterrett, mother Vera Sterrett, step-mother Wilma Look, uncles Laurence (Luella) Sterrett, Cecil (Edith) Phelps; aunts Stella (Murl, Roy Sumner) Simon, Jennie (June) McElroy, Pearl (Walter) Johnston, Thelma Phelps, and Doris (Frank) Johnson; brother-in-laws Robert Skeens, Robert More and Garry Roberts, and niece Joni Harding.

She is survived by her sons Wilbur (Cathy) More, Olathe and John More, of the home. Granddaughters Rebecca More and Daisy More, Gardner. Brother Richard (Elaine) Sterrett, Quinter; sisters Deanna Roberts, Quinter; Barbara (Terry) Wiechman, Valley Center; Carolyn Skeens, Overland Park; and Ruth More, Almonte, Ontario. Nephews and nieces: Robert Skeens, Overland Park; James (Janette) Skeens, Olathe; Robert (Shelley) More, Almonte, Ontario; Sarah More, Almonte, Ontario; Denise (Mark) Coberly, Nevada, Iowa; Kim Roberts, Quinter; Darrin (Tanya) Roberts, Quinter; Jennifer (Scott) Lindberg, Colby; Aaron (Jill) Wiechman, Valley Center; and Andrea Wiechman, Valley Center; and a host of friends.

President Rita Lyon

2023-2024



Rita served as president of the Midwest Presbyterial from 2005-2006 so readers may refer to her previous biography there.

Since that time she and Bob have become empty-nesters and her very part-time job writing creative copy for a non-profit marketing agency has increased in hours, although remains part-time. She plans to retire in about a year.

Caretaking has been a large part of Rita's life, first with her own children, then with her parents in their declining years, and now with her seven grandchildren which involves some travel since they live four to fifteen hours away.

Rita remains active with church serving in a variety of capacities. For most of the past 35 years she has either taught Juniors or a Sabbath School class, although this year she is not. She's been the coordinator of Winchester's Vacation Bible Schools and precepts. She is newly on the church's library and missions committees.

In the community, Rita has been the story time coordinator at the public library for decades and has served two terms on the board. She also volunteers at the county historical society and served on the board there for a short time.

Rita is looking forward to Stillwater's hospitality and the teaching and fellowship of the 2024 retreat.

2023-2024 Historian Report

This is the 105th meeting of the Midwest's Women's Fellowship. Organized as Midwest Presbyterial in 1915, meetings have been held annually except in 1932 or 1934, years of the Great Depression; 1942 during World War II; and 2020 and 2021 when meetings were restricted during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

This is the 1st time Stillwater has hosted so I'd like to review the history of their congregation.

Location: Stillwater, Okla.; Presbytery: Midwest
Organization: July 1991, now more than 34 years
Membership: 41 communicant; 11 baptized
Pastor: Bruce Parnell
Website: StillwaterRPC.org

As they reflect on their history, they thank God for His faithfulness and rejoice that "the Lord has done great things for us!" (Ps. 126:3). They pray for God to "teach us how to count our days and set our hearts on wisdom's ways" (90:12).

Part of Stillwater RPC's history can be linked to God stirring the RPCNA to evangelize and plant churches. At RP International Conference 1988, the Home Mission Board presented a vision to the denomination: "Seven More By '94." The specific prayer was that the RPCNA would have seven more congregations by 1994. But more importantly was the underlying prayer that God would stir us up as a church to reach out to the lost and to plant new churches. In God's providence, the Stillwater RPC was one of those seven more by '94.

As they reflect on their history, several characteristics of the congregation rise to the surface, graces from God that continue to shape the life of the congregation.

Prayer. The original core families labored diligently in prayer that God would establish an RP church in Stillwater. In keeping with this vital means of grace, the congregation has renewed its commitment to the importance of prayer. Following Barry York's article in Gentle Reformation, they formed "prayer societies," giving a variety of opportunities and encouragement to meet together and to pray.

Fellowship. From the beginning, Stillwater RPC has hosted a fellowship lunch after Sunday morning worship. This has addressed a number of different needs, but primarily it is an expression of shared warmth and friendship.

International. Throughout the years, God has given opportunities to share the gospel with men and women from many countries. People from over a dozen nations have been part of Stillwater RPC. They have also had the privilege to send members of the church to serve internationally as short-term and long-term missionaries.

Training. Speaking of short-term missions, they have been blessed to receive a number of RP summer mission teams. With an active group of junior and senior high school students, Stillwater RPC has used the summer mission teams as a way to help train their young people in evangelism and service. This has included outreach in the community, vacation Bible school, door-to-door distributions, evangelism training, and service projects.

Resources. Based on the expertise and enthusiasm of a couple of tech-savvy students at Oklahoma State University, they started to post audio recordings of the preaching and teaching at Stillwater RPC in 1999, on the church's website. This continues on Sermon Audio.

Church Planting. The Oklahoma City mission church was established in December 2022. Stephen Mulder is pastor.

Three Stillwater RPC women, Liz Noell, Lisa Fisher and Abigail Parnell have served Midwest Women's Fellowship as officers.

I plan to continue serving as historian, compiling information each year.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitzie VanHorn, Historian