



Elizabeth Johnson Pense

February 2, 1944 - February 29, 2020

FORT WORTH - Elizabeth "Betsy" Johnson Pense, 76, passed on Saturday, Feb. 29, 2020, with her husband Glenn by her side.

Betsy was born Feb. 2, 1944, in Newark, Ohio, before growing up in Midland, Texas. From there, she attended Austin College for her undergraduate degree, and received her Master of Divinity from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She became one of the first women ordained by the Presbyterian Church in 1969, and she dedicated her life to teaching others about God. She served in many Presbyterian churches around the state in Associate and Interim Pastor roles, as well as numerous committees within the Presbytery, before retiring in 2011.

Betsy and Glenn met in the singles group at the First Presbyterian Church in Fort Worth, and they were married in 1975. They spent 44 years sharing memories of live theatre, collecting travel mugs, watching daily Jeopardy!, and hosting family reunions at their cabin in Colorado. One of her favorite activities was sitting in her rocking chair with a good book and mountains in the background, while hummingbirds buzzed in the window and windsocks danced in the air.

Betsy took great joy in her daughter Rebecca, and her two grandchildren, Ashleigh Margaret and David Logan. She loved listening to Ashleigh play the piano or teaching her how to sew. She loved reading with Logan, including her extensive collection of Thornton Burgess books that belonged to her father. As for Rebecca, the get-away lunches were always accompanied by "lists" - a quality passed down from mother to daughter.

She was an avid reader of both biblical studies and novels, and a member of several book clubs. She always had a book on reserve at the Fort Worth Public Library and never turned in an overdue book. One of the first tasks after she passed was to make sure her book was returned promptly, as she would not have it otherwise. Betsy also loved listening to classical music, playing bridge with her friends, and winning at Monopoly.

Betsy never lost her curiosity and love of God. Despite her illness late in life, Betsy still taught Sunday School at First Presbyterian Church to the very end. She also never stopped serving, including on the boards of New Day - a charity providing meals to children - or Texas Camerata - a nationally-acclaimed classical music group.

Betsy loved butterflies, and she was rarely without a butterfly broach or pin. Her spirit is reflected in their beautiful colors, vibrant and inquisitive nature, spirit of transformation.

Betsy was preceded in death by her father, Donald; mother, Bertha; and brother, David.

Survivors: Brothers, Stephen and Rom; along with her husband, daughter, son-in-law, and two grandchildren.

Memorials: In lieu of flowers please donate to NEW DAY, P.O. Box 171722, Arlington, Texas 76003, (www.newdayarlington.org) or to Texas Camerata, P.O. Box 100295, Fort Worth, Texas 76185 (www.texascamerata.org).

Events

MAR **Memorial** 02:00PM

7

First Presbyterian Church of Fort Worth
1000 Penn St, Fort Worth, TX, US, 76102

Comments



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Elizabeth Johnson Pense.



March 06 at 04:15 PM



“ Betsy was a member of my AAUW book group for many, many years. What an inspiring and brilliant lady! We will miss her insights, recommendations and kindness. I so respect and admire her service to the church and the DFW community. She lead by example. I will never forget her. Bless her family, as they grieve.

Margaret McClure

Margaret McClure - March 03 at 01:29 PM