



Mavis Gaither

January 17, 1937 - November 3, 2015

Mavis Gaither, our beautiful, kind, and gracious wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, and friend to all was welcomed into Heaven on Tuesday, November 3, 2015. Mavis was born in Norton, Kansas, January 17, 1937 to Raymond and Ruth Waufle in her parent's country home. She did not begin this world in a lofty style, but lifted herself during her life to be the first in their family to graduate from college.

She attended school in the Denver area and graduated from West High School where she participated in many activities, including plays and the Honor Society. She graduated Valedictorian of her high school class of three hundred and sixty and received a full Boetcher Scholarship to attend the University of Northern Colorado where she graduated with a BA in Education. Mavis married Gayle Gaither in 1958 and began a career teaching English in junior high. She eventually began teaching in an ESL program and later became a lead teacher in the Japanese Agricultural Program through Big Bend Community College. She resided in Moses Lake for forty eight years. She was an active member in the community and was co-treasurer for the Rotary Club of Moses Lake Sunrise. She was an integral part of St. Martin's Episcopal Church, where she wore many hats over the years. She was on the Vestry, taught Sunday school for a few years, and settled into taking care of all office duties. While she and Gayle had full time jobs, they purchased a one hundred and fifty acre farm in Block 40 and when they couldn't lease it, they farmed it. This petite little lady picked her share of rocks from the land.

They also owned Columbia Basin Bee Supply and her husband's parents ran that business for them. More recently she supported her husband, Gayle, with his varied responsibilities as the priest of St. Martin's. She will be remembered as a person who put others needs before her own and was most comfortable in a support role behind the scenes.

Mavis was the foundation of our family and a true role model of unconditional love. She enjoyed reading, journaling, cooking, and organizing events. She will be remembered for her strong and giving nature, her deep faith and her sense of family. Mavis is survived by her husband, Gayle Gaither; sister, Linda Bartling; children, Dawn (Jeff) McClenahan, Paul (Tara) Gaither and Debbie (Dave) Cooper; nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Services will be held on Saturday, November 14th, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Martin's Episcopal Church. Reception to follow. Donations can be made to the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation or St. Martin's Episcopal Church for the Outreach programs.

Previous Events

Service

NOV **14**. 10:00 AM (PT)

St. Martin's Episcopal Church
416 E. Nelson Road
Moses Lake, WA

Tribute Wall

CS

“ *What a joy it has been to be a friend of Mavis!!! Such a warm and supportive person. I will continue to carry with me some great memories that make me smile and feel loved all at once! Sending my love to the whole Gaither family.*



Chris Soldin - November 13, 2015 at 12:13 PM

CA

“ *My heart goes out to you, Gayle, in your loss. Jim and I appreciated so much your friendship over the years. What a blessing you both were to us during Jims year as DG. You two were such an encouragement to both of us. Treasure your many special memories of a life well lived. Please know my love and prayers are with you and your family. Carol Adamson*

Carol Adamson - November 12, 2015 at 11:32 AM

KG

“ *Gayle and family, I was very sad to learn of Mavis' passing. She was one of the most genuine, kind and loving people. She was a mentor to me at the start of my teaching career in ESL and a role model for many. Her spirit, teaching and caring lives on forever. She made a difference in what she did and who she was. Sincere condolences on your loss. I am fortunate to have known her. Kara Garrett*

Kara Garrett - November 11, 2015 at 12:59 PM

MM

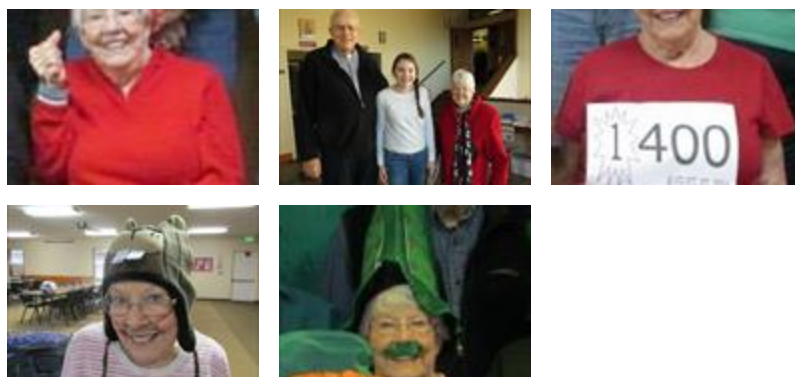
“ *Melodie Madden lit a candle in memory of Mavis Gaither*



Melodie Madden - November 06, 2015 at 12:53 PM

VB

“ *Blessings and peace to you, Gayle, and family and friends of sweet, sweet, Mavis. She may have been small in stature, but she was mighty in heart and spirit. God Bless her soul. Much love to you all.*
Vaughn



Vaughn Blethen - November 05, 2015 at 10:16 PM

KT

“ *Kathleen M Tilson lit a candle in memory of Mavis Gaither*



kathleen m tilson - November 05, 2015 at 09:10 PM

PS

“ Mavis became part of my life in 1956 when she began a relationship with my best friend and neighbor Gayle. She married Gayle in August 1958 and I was best man at that wedding. Mavis and I took courses at the University of Denver. She was one of the brightest people I have ever known. Although our lives took somewhat different directions after we graduated from college, we never lost touch and I was confident that she would continue to be a devoted wife to my friend. She and Gayle drove to Southeast Texas where she was a witness when Gayle baptized me on the back deck at our house. It meant so much to me for them to be at this important event that had been postponed for so long. I know this is a huge loss for my dear friend Rev. Gayle. I don't have the stamina to fly to Moses Lake for the service but I know the members of Gayle's church will support him at this difficult time. God Bless you, Mavis. You will be missed by many of us for the remainder of our lives.
Phillip Storms

Phillip Storms - November 05, 2015 at 12:50 PM