



A lasting memorial has been given to Spirit of Hope Church

In memory of Joyce Bergquist

May 30, 1935 - January 15, 2017



Joyce was born on a farm in Sauk Centre, Minnesota. From the start, she was spunky and adventurous. She even jumped off the barn roof once, because she was sure that she could land on all fours like a cat, graceful and unscathed. It was the kind of place where they really did walk two miles in a snowstorm just to catch the school bus. She was up at dawn to feed the chickens and milk the cows, and, as the oldest of three children, she learned to cook at an early age.

When she graduated from high school in 1953, Joyce moved to Minneapolis to live with her aunt. She had always wanted to try city life. She got a job as a secretary at Honeywell. It was there that she met a young engineer named Herb Bergquist. Within two years, they were married. In their early years, Joyce and Herb enjoyed traveling the country by car, towing their little yellow camper.

Daughter Kim was born in 1957, followed by daughter Lyn in 1962, and son Kurt in 1964. The family settled in Golden Valley in 1965, and they soon became members of Golden Valley United Methodist Church, which would later become Spirit of Hope UMC. Daughter Jill was born in 1974.

Over the years, the family took many car trips together, sometimes with Grandma in the back seat, to all different parts of the country. There were also winter skiing outings, as well as long summer weekends spent on the family boat on the St. Croix River. The tradition of boating continued with the arrival of grandsons Leo (2002), Camden (2003), and Grant (2005.)

Joyce was a wonderful mother, grandmother, cook, and gardener, an energetic person who seemed younger than her years. She was always busy working on one project or another, be it sewing costumes for her children, painting the house or the boat, or re-finishing a piece of furniture. Her last project was a "Grandma Cave" in her basement. She loved art and antiques. She also loved clothing and hats, which she wore with style and flair. Her beloved cats were named Scarlett and Chloe.

Joyce will be remembered for her devotion to her family, her inquisitive mind, her strong opinions, her lilting laugh, and her generous nature. There was hardly a charity she could say "no" to. In recent years she volunteered her time to Spirit of Hope UMC, and she was a fixture at the Sunday services and gatherings. She also helped to fund the purchase of "her" new piano. Whenever a family member suggested that she move to another part of the Twin Cities, she would respond emphatically: "But I can't leave all my friends at church!"

"Our mother, no other was Joyce
Who had a most singular voice
She looked great in hats
And spoiled her cats
And lived fully the life of her choice"

