

Mary Virginia Pedersen

Mary Virginia Pedersen, nee Graham, died on February 6, 2013 at Grinnell Medical Center.

The youngest of three daughters, Mary was born to Sandy Graham and the former Gertrude Smalley on April 12, 1933 in Hot Springs, South Dakota. After growing up in Hot Springs, she moved to Denver where she attended classes at the University of Colorado. It was here that she met her future husband Mark when she and her roommate knocked on his apartment door and asked him to kill a spider in their bathtub. Their marriage took place on May 31, 1955 at the



Episcopal Church of the Ascension in Denver. Shortly thereafter, they moved to Grinnell where their two sons were born. Mary worked at the Grinnell Herald-Register and she and Mark opened Grinnell's first pizza parlor, Primarily Pizza, in their house which stood on Fifth Avenue at the time. Subsequent relocations took the family to Minneapolis, where Mary was a teacher's assistant at Breck School; and to Wheaton, Illinois, where she became the parish secretary and factotum at Trinity Episcopal Church. She later worked at Sandalwood Nursing Home and was active in outreach to the homeless community. Upon their recent return to Grinnell, Mary became active in the congregation of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the local P.E.O., and served as president of the Historical and Literary Club. She was known for her hospitality and her warm personality. She enjoyed playing bridge and cooking.

She was predeceased by her two sisters, Julia Barkely and Elizabeth Winger; and her husband of 57 years. She is survived by her two sons, James of New York City, and Matthew of Seattle, Washington; Matthew's wife Meribeth and two children, Tessa and Alex; an extended family of nieces, nephews, in-laws; and many great and long-time friends.

A joint memorial service for Mary and Mark will be held in the spring. Donations may be made to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Grinnell; Trinity Episcopal Church, 130 N. West St., Wheaton IL 60187; or the Grinnell Regional Medical Center Hospice.

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