

Marilyn L. Burnham



Marilyn L. Burnham, 76, of Grinnell died Friday, May 25, 2007, at her home.

A memorial service was held Thursday, May 31, at First Friends Church with the Rev. Todd Follette, pastor of the church, and the Rev. Keith Briggs, retired, officiating. Music was by Lowell and Kathy Vanderploeg, Josh and Angie Burnham and Brockie Follette. Memorials may be made to the church.

The daughter of Dwight Alvin and Merle Verlee Keener Sparks, she was born May 8, 1931, in Grinnell. She was raised in Lynnville and graduated as salutatorian with the Lynnville High School class of 1949. During her senior year she was employed at a drug store in Lynnville. After graduation she moved to Grinnell and was employed at Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company from 1950 to 1952. On Oct. 20, 1951, she was married to Robert Lee Burnham at her parents' home in Lynnville. The couple lived in Knoxville and Newton prior to returning to Grinnell in 1955. She was a homemaker and also was employed for 30 years as secretary in her husband's business, Bob's Woodworking. She retired in 1992.

She was a member of First Friends Church and active as church pianist and organist; taught Sunday School; served as Sunday School treasurer, and chair of the social committee. She also served on other church committees, was actively involved in building the church at its current location, and was a volunteer in the church nursery for many years.

She also was a member of PTA, and enjoyed painting including oil, toll and scroll saw; playing the piano, cooking and baking. In addition, she enjoyed fishing and boating; camping, and spending time with her grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband Bob of Grinnell; one son Bruce Burnham of Kingsley and one daughter Kathy Vanderploeg of Grinnell; one sister Frances Thomas of Fresno, Calif.; ten grandchildren and five great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; one son Steve Burnham and one brother Roger Sparks.

HR
5/28/07 + 5/31/07