

Betty McKibben



Elizabeth (Betty) McKibben, 92, of Grinnell died of a heart attack Thursday, July 13, 2006, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

A celebration of her life with Holy Eucharist was held Saturday, July 15, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church with the Rev. Charles Pope, vicar of the church, officiating. A homily was given by Sallie Verrette, organ music was by Jon Chenette, vocal music was by Milton Severe and harp music by Jeannie Chenette. Her body had been willed to the University of Iowa College of Medicine and interment of remains will take place at a later date. A memorial service also is planned at Grinnell College where she was a retired lecturer in the classics department. Memorials may be made to St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

She was born Mary Elizabeth Pence on May 19, 1914, in Chicago, Ill., the daughter of Charles Edgar and Mary Elizabeth Martin Pence. She was a graduate of Beloit College in Beloit,

Wis., who received the master of arts degree in classics from Smith College in Northampton, Mass., and did further graduate study at the University of Chicago. She had taught at the Harvard School for Boys and the Summit School in St. Paul, Minn. She was married on June 25, 1944, in Thorndike Hilton Chapel at the University of Chicago to William Torrey McKibben. They lived in Washington, D.C., while her husband was stationed there with the United States Navy during World War II. They lived in Salt Lake City, Utah, while her husband was on the faculty at the University of Utah, then spent two years at the American Academy in Rome, Italy, on a Fulbright Fellowship. They moved to Grinnell in 1951 when her husband joined the faculty at Grinnell College where she taught part-time, then was named a lecturer after which the McKibbens assumed a joint professorship. She retired from teaching at the college as a lecturer.

She was very involved in the Grinnell community, was an active member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church where she helped organize its Happy Birthdays Unlimited project and its Junior Altar Guild, helped found the Grinnell Community Day Care Center, served as an officer of Church Women United, helped found the Grinnell Hospice organization and began the Blanket Sundays of Church World Service.

She is survived by her husband William McKibben of Grinnell; one son Dr. Andrew McKibben of Osage Beach, Mo., and one sister Nancy Pence Dutro of Washington, D.C. She was preceded in death by her parents; two sons Charles and Timothy McKibben; one sister Jean and one brother Charles.

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