



Celebration of Life

The Cedars Event Center
 McPherson, Kansas
 Monday, April 14, 2025, at 2:00 PM

Officers

Rev. Karen Cox ~ Rev. Chris Whitacre

Photo Tribute

“Moonlight Serenade” (G. Miller)
 "Just Walkin' In The Rain" (Johnnie Ray)
 “Autumn Leaves” (J. Kosma, arranged by R. Miller)
 “Sunrise, Sunset” (J. Bock)
 "Brown Eyed Girl" (Morrison)
 “The Swan” (C. Saint-Saëns)

Congregational Hymns

“In Christ There Is No East or West”
 “His Eye Is On The Sparrow”
 Connie Burkholder, pianist

Special Music

“Ave Maria” (Bach/Gounod)
 Amy Haddock & Jamie Makatche
 “The Old Rugged Cross/On Eagle’s Wings”
 (Bennard/Joncas, arr. by G. Haddock)
 Amy, Greg, & Tyler Haddock

Ushers

Jay Warner ~ Ellis Yoder

Private Inurnment

Monitor Cemetery

Memorial Contributions

Memorial contributions may be given to Brethren Volunteer Service, Brethren Disaster Ministries, Heifer International, Gentiva Hospice, or the organization of the donor’s choice in loving memory of Kay.

Appreciation & Reception

On behalf of Kay’s family, we wish to express their sincere appreciation for all your kindnesses, evidenced in thought and deed, and for your presence. A reception will be held immediately following the service, with family present until 4:30pm.

Stockham Family Funeral Home

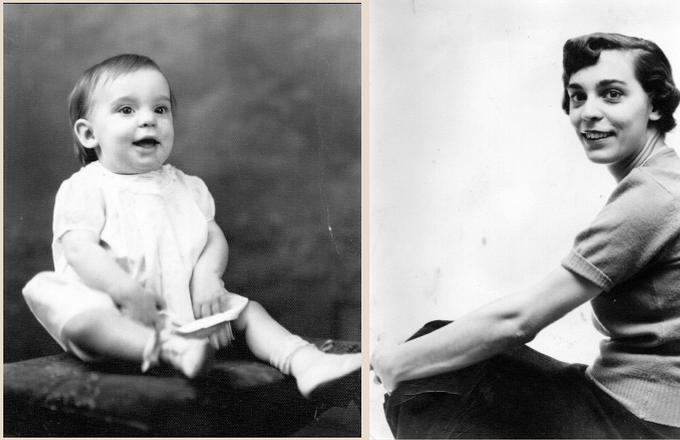
Celebrating THE *Life* OF



Edith "Kay" Billhimer
1936 ~ 2025

***In Loving Memory
Edith "Kay" Billhimer***

February 27, 1936 — February 26, 2025



Edith Kay Brunell (Kay) was born in Olean, New York on February 27, 1936, to Howard Leon (a widower) and Bertha Shaver (Shollenberger) Brunell. Kay grew up in a village that had about 12 homes in the foothills of the Allegheny Mountains in southwest New York State.

Kay joined older sister Sally and half siblings Jeanne, Richard (Dick), and Betty Lou. Later sister Nancy and brother Howard (Butch) joined the family.

Kay started first grade at age four, when the one-room schoolhouse teacher finally gave in to Sally and Kay's visits. As a teen, Kay belonged to the Athletic Club and intramural sports, as organized women's sports were not available. She also played baritone and sousaphone in the band. Graduating at sixteen, she attended

Wright Junior College in Chicago completing the medical technology program. Training at St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester, NY Kay passed her registry as a medical technologist in 1956, proudly maintaining her credentials well into retirement.

When still in Chicago, Kay met Hugh Billhimer, whom she called "Bill," at a YMCA dance. Hugh was from the mountains of Virginia. They married November 29, 1957, at the Methodist Church in Allentown, NY.

Kay worked as a medical technologist in various hospitals in New York and Virginia. Hugh and Kay first lived in Harrisonburg, VA. There Hugh opened "Hugh's TV and Radio Service," and they were joined by daughters Leslie Ann and Helen Louise. Later the family moved to Buffalo, NY where Hugh earned his teaching degree and daughter, Amy Lynn, was born. In 1973, after teaching in NY and PA, Hugh's teaching career landed Kay and family in Charlottesville, VA.

Following retirement, the couple served for a year in Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) in Massachusetts. In 1997, they moved to McPherson, KS to be closer to family. Kay later served in BVS, on her own, near Cleveland, OH.

Hugh and Kay visited all 50 states as well as several countries in Europe. Kay planned trips

to include historical sites and presidents' homes. Hugh and Kay enjoyed spending time with their four grandchildren, especially taking them on special trips. Hugh and Kay were married for 55 years, until Hugh's death in 2013.

There's Always Room for One More, a wall hanging in the home, notes a love of hosting family and friends. Kay especially enjoyed jam sessions around the piano, games, puzzles, and sharing meals. In Kay's later years, she was proud to welcome three great-grandchildren promoting her to Gram. Kay served in various offices at the Charlottesville and Monitor (KS) Churches of the Brethren, including as deacon. She did disaster relief in Puerto Rico, New Orleans, Nebraska, and Virginia, and was a volunteer at McPherson Hospital.

Kay is preceded in death by her husband, parents, and siblings - Jeanne, Dick, and Nancy.

Surviving family includes her siblings: Sally (Doug) Fancher and Butch (Jan) Brunell; children: Leslie (Jonathan) Frye, Helen (Hugh Peterson) Billhimer, and Amy (Gregory) Haddock; grandchildren: Jamie (John) Makatche, Cindy Haddock, Tyler (Susannah) Haddock, and Jake Frye; great-grandchildren: Ruth and Vera Makatche and Rainn Nascimento; along with many nieces and nephews.