



In Memoriam

Wilma Jean Ingalls

Wilma Jean Ingalls, nee Cross, a resident of Grosse Pointe Park for 53 years, **passed away suddenly Monday, Dec. 10, 2018.** She was 89.

Wilma was born February 4, 1929 in Jackson, Michigan to parents Mildred and Arthur Cross. Her early education was in Lansing and Saginaw. She graduated from McKenzie High School in Detroit, Michigan.

She attended Olivet University in Illinois where she met her future husband, Richard. They were married in Kansas City, Missouri in 1947.

As a clergy wife in their many parishes Wilma organized and directed a Junior Choir, church school, women's guild and taught kindergarten. She also enjoyed the garden club and volunteering at the local TB hospital. She was a talented piano player and had a beautiful singing voice.

When her husband became rector at Mariners' Church in Detroit in 1965, the family moved to Grosse Pointe Park. At that time Wilma began teaching pre-school which she absolutely loved doing. At age 42 she enrolled in the College of Nursing at Wayne State University to complete her Bachelor of Science degree. She worked as an RN at Bon Secours Hospital for many years, specializing in women's health and emergency room nursing.

Wilma loved history, especially genealogy. She researched her family ancestry and became a Daughter of the American Revolution, an honor she embodied as a "vibrant, active woman who is passionate about community service, preserving history, educating children, as well as honoring and supporting those who serve our nation". She was an active member of The Women's Historical Club of Detroit, recently writing a paper about the Christmases of Laura Ingalls Wilder.

Wilma was a devoted rector's wife and faithful worshiper at Mariners' Church. During her 53 years there, she gave countless hours volunteering for a variety of committees, social functions as well as helping to re-decorate the church nursery. She was an extremely talented seamstress and used her skills to help in projects at the church. Wilma was a deeply loved mother, grandmother, neighbor, friend, teacher, nurse. She was everything a wife, mother, and grandmother could be, a role model for all.

She was pre-deceased by her husband of 59 years, Richard, an infant son, Craig, and a grandson, Rob. She is survived by her children, Richard Jr. (Lynn), Brian (Martha), Anne (Sean) Gillespie, Bette (Don) Wisniowiecki, and four grandchildren, Rick, Brian (Ashton), Andy (Kristi) and Becky.

A Memorial Service will be held at 11:00am on Jan. 12, 2019 with visitation beginning at **9:00am at Mariners' Church.** The church is located at 170 E. Jefferson, Detroit. Parking is available in the Ford Underground Garage.

Donations may be sent to Mariners' Church of Detroit, 170 E. Jefferson, Detroit, MI 48226.



A Note From A Life-Long Parishioner

Many words will be said on the passing of Mrs. Ingalls (I never got comfortable calling her Wilma, as I met her when I was 6 years old). Kindness, thoughtfulness, faithfulness, loving will all be mentioned in the same breath as her name. Of course, I agree with all of these, as I have seen an infinite number of examples from her over the years. Other words that I have always associated with her are strength, loyalty, conviction. Over the years, regardless of the curves that life threw her, she always seemed to find a way through. I am not a blood member of the Ingalls clan, but I always felt welcomed and appreciated by her as a member of her Mariners' family. I will miss the steel core wrapped in warm-hearted grace and kindness that was Mrs. Wilma Ingalls.

—Irene Tseng