



Bessie Mae Stewart

August 22, 1933 - April 16, 2017

Bessie Mae (Jenkins) Stewart, of Nashville, went to be with the Lord on Easter Sunday, April 16, 2017. She was born August 22, 1933 to Arthur and Bessie May (South) Jenkins, along with a twin brother Clyde. Bessie and Clyde were the last of 14 children born to the Jenkins. She graduated in 1951 from Bellevue High School, and married Harold Lloyd Stewart December 31, 1950. Together they had four children, Sally, Henry, Kathy, and Arthur.

Bessie loved music, teaching herself to play piano at the age of 12. She played drums in high school band, and in later years for the Maple Valley Community Band. She also loved to follow the Michigan Fiddlers and square dance, and tried very hard to get all her grandchildren to love it also. She loved the Detroit Tigers. Bessie was a very family oriented person, trying hard to attend all her children, grandchildren, and even great-grandchildren's special events. She was Grandma Stewart to many of her grandchildren's friends in Maple Valley.

Bessie is survived by her daughters, Sally (Bill) Martin, and Kathy (Fred) Spears, and daughter-in-law Brenda Stewart; grandchildren, Mike (Sara) Martin, Dan (Missy) Martin, BessAnn (Brian) McKillop, Sarah (Jack) Atkinson, Tara (Chuck) Walker, Jane (Steve) Enderle, Dawn (Kurt) Fairfield, Chad (Mandy) Spears, Kate (Brian) Rumsey, 22 great-grandchildren and one great-grandchild on-the-way; sister-in-law's Maureen Jenkins and Barbara Jenkins;

brothers-in-law Robert Bigford and Bill (Anita) Stewart; and numerous nieces, nephews, and friends. She was predeceased by her husband Harold in 2013; two sons, Henry and Arthur; brothers William, Robert, Kenneth, Harold, Floyd, Raymond, Loyde, and Clyde; sisters Beatrice Strawin, Elloise Barber, Alma Erskine, Virginia Smalley, Betty Good-Smith; sisters and brothers-in-law Junior and Betty Garvey, Ardeen and Barbara Barlund, Judy Bigford; and great-grandson Nicholas Atkinson

Visitation will be held Wednesday, April 19, 6-8:00 PM at Pray Funeral Home, and Thursday, April 20, 11 a.m. - 12 noon prior to the funeral. Funeral services are planned for Thursday, April 20, 2017, 12 Noon at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte with Pastor Jeffrey Swift officiating. Interment will follow at Hillside (Kalamo) Cemetery, and there will be a luncheon following the services at Vermontville Bible Church. If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to the Maple Valley High School Band. Friends and family are encouraged to share memories of Bessie on her tribute page at www.PrayFuneral.com. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Cemetery Details

Hillside (Kalamo) Cemetery

1459 S. Ionia Rd
Vermontville, MI 49096

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **19**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W. Seminary St.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Funeral Ceremony

APR **20**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W. Seminary St.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of Bessie Mae Stewart*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - April 20, 2017 at 10:59 AM



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Bessie Mae Stewart*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - April 18, 2017 at 08:56 PM



“ *Aunt Bessie was so kind. She cared very much for her family. When I think of her I mostly think of her smiling face and sweet demeanor. Loss is never easy. My thoughts go out to family.*

Stacee English - April 19, 2017 at 07:07 PM

MA

I remember her at Halloween when we were young, she was so happy to see us and loved getting homemade goodies. Even as we got older she would stop us just for a hug. She was one happy lady, she will be greatly missed. Prayers 💕

Marcee - April 21, 2017 at 09:20 AM

Ruthie Beardslee

*I never saw her without a smile! She was loved by many!
Ruth (Herman) Bus*

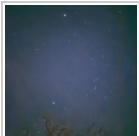
Ruthie Beardslee-Bus - April 22, 2017 at 04:07 PM



“ 39 files added to the album Life Tributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - April 18, 2017 at 08:51 PM



“ Aunt Bessie always had a smile and a hug whenever we would visit. I remember as a kid she always loved to greet us at the door with a hug and visit with us and never cared how loud we played her drum set. She had such a beautiful spirit and will be missed dearly.

Paula Bigford - April 18, 2017 at 08:46 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Bessie Mae Stewart .*



April 18, 2017 at 07:01 PM



“ *I always enjoyed my visits to Michigan visiting with relatives. Especially times with Aunt Bessie getting around the piano singing/harmonizing. We had good times together. "I will miss you."*

Judy Smalley - April 17, 2017 at 08:02 PM



*Please accept our love and prayers for the entire Stewart family! We were privileged to meet Bessie several times.
Charles & Karen Walker*

karen walker - April 18, 2017 at 04:10 PM



“ *Bessie asked me to play with the Maple Valley Community Band as a fellow percussionist. Her joyful energy and laughter were always encouraging to me. She helped me believe that I could become a professional musician. Prayers and condolences.*

-Dennis Downing

Dennis Downing - April 17, 2017 at 06:41 PM

BS

“ *I played in the Maple Valley Community Band with Bessie, and I adored her. She was a joyful soul! My thoughts and prayers are with you all! I know she will be missed immensely. Barbara Spitzley*

Barbara Spitzley - April 17, 2017 at 03:33 PM

JA

“ *My deepest sympathy to the family. Grandma and I sat through many sports events, especially wrestling. My heart is smiling as I remember her beating the drums in the Community Choir. Grandma was sure one if the good ones and we thank her for her wonderful MV spirit and big smile she greeted everyone with. She was a blessing to everyone.*

Janet Adams - April 17, 2017 at 02:39 PM