



## Vera M. Bruce

July 31, 1923 - May 28, 2015

The Lord said "Hello Dolly" when Vera M. Bruce, 91, of Charlotte passed through the Pearly Gates Thursday May 28, 2015. Vera was born July 31, 1923 in Auburn, Indiana, the youngest of four daughters of Oscar and Amy (Davis) Shaull. Vera grew up on a farm west of Reading, Michigan, graduated from Reading High School and attended Western Michigan University where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in 1941. In 1957 she received her Master's degree from Michigan State University in School Administration and Curriculum. Vera taught and worked in the educational field for thirty-nine years. Her years of service were varied, eleven years in the classroom; twelve years as an Elementary Principal; and fifteen years as a Director of Instruction for Charlotte Public Schools where she was the first female administrator. She gained personal fulfillment in her career environment.

In 1974, Vera met and married Kenneth Bruce. Vera was a member of the Eaton County chapter of the Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel, and Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Upsilon Chapter. She was former member of the ABWA Charlotte, and the Duck Lake and Charlotte Country Clubs. Vera was an avid community supporter in many ways. She served as a volunteer at Hayes Green Beach Memorial Hospital, and was a longtime member of First Congregational Church. Vera was a Charter member of the Friends of Charlotte Performing Arts Center, and was instrumental in starting the Eaton Area Senior Center, serving as the first

director. Many will remember her as a loyal Spartan fan who enjoyed golf, fishing on the pontoon on Duck Lake, crossword puzzles, cards with her friends and spending time with her grandchildren. Vera and Ken loved traveling in their motorhome seeing new places and meeting new people.

Vera is survived by her sister, Lydia (Peggy) Neutz, of Fremont IN; daughter, Sherry (Howard) Medlock, of Dewitt; son Michael (Annette) Bruce, of Charlotte; 5 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; one great-great-granddaughter and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband Kenneth Bruce, and sisters Lettie Melchi, and Josie Shufelt.

Funeral services will be Wednesday, June 3, 1 PM at the First Congregational Church of Charlotte with Pastor Phil Hobson officiating. Visitation is Tuesday, June 2, 2-4 and 6 -8 PM at Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte. The family suggests memorial contributions to First Congregational Church of Charlotte, the Eaton Area Senior Center, or Charlotte Public Schools Education Foundation. Family and friends are encouraged to share remembrances and condolences online in Vera's Tribute Page at [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com).

# Previous Events

## Funeral Ceremony

JUN 3. 1:00 PM (ET)

First Congregational Church of Charlotte  
106 S. Bostwick  
Charlotte, MI 48813

# Tribute Wall

PV

“ I am so sorry to hear about Vera's passing. I can remember the good times we had when we were in ABWA together. She always had a smile on her face and was ready to participate or volunteer for whatever activity we might be having. She loved life and all it had to offer. My thoughts go out to you all. Remember all the good times and I know there were many and they will help you through the days ahead. Phyllis VanDeMoortel

Phyllis VanDeMoortel - June 02, 2015 at 05:21 PM



“ Spring Has Sprung Mixed Basket was purchased for the family of Vera M. Bruce .



June 02, 2015 at 12:59 PM

DA

“ I worked at Charlotte Public schools. I was a para-pro for 28 years. Vera was the best curriculum director ever. She treated us so good. So understanding & kind. Everyone will remember her. My condolences to all the family. Donna Allen

Donna Allen - June 02, 2015 at 12:13 PM

DH

“ Dave And Pam Hunt lit a candle in memory of Vera M. Bruce



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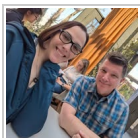
**Dave and Pam Hunt** - June 02, 2015 at 12:04 PM

AN

“ On behalf of my mother Rosalinda Pena and our family our prayers are with the Bruce family. I first met her and Ken as a little girl going to their house with my mom and playing with Geraldine (always loved seeing the paws painted!) and Ken showing my the pigeons out back - have very fond memories of both. Vera was always so kind to me and my mother and our family, a pillar in the community and a beautiful soul. She will be greatly missed.  
Andrea Pena & Pena Family

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**Andrea** - June 02, 2015 at 12:01 PM



“ I lived with my Aunt Vera two summers when I was a teenager. They were two of my favorite summers with all the kids around the lake, and they were always at Aunt Veras with me and she always had fun with us kids and was the life of the party. She was always there for me whenever I needed her throughout the years. I will love and miss her always.

*Her niece Amy Monroe*

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**Amanda Bair** - May 31, 2015 at 01:11 PM

AN

*Amy--She loved you guys lots---she often talked about how much fun she had with you growing up and now !!*

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**Annette** - June 01, 2015 at 08:37 AM

BO

“ *Mrs. Calhoun was the best teacher I ever had. Started in Allen and continued in Quincy. I am so sorry for your loss. One great Lady!*

**BETH A OWEN** - May 31, 2015 at 08:56 AM

AN

*Thank you--she was great at what ever she did and had a way with kids,,,*

**Annette** - June 01, 2015 at 08:37 AM

MC

*I can remember Vera (Calhoun at the time) in Allen school. She worked with my mother (Maybelle Condra) there and in Quincy. She was always cheerful and beautiful !*

**Marshall Condra** - June 04, 2015 at 05:16 PM

CH

“ *Sending prayers to family and friends. When I began teaching 20 years ago, B.C. Johnson introduced me to her dear friend, Vera. She always had a smile on her face and kind words of encouragement as I began my new career as a teacher.*

**Cindy Hosek** - May 30, 2015 at 03:25 PM

AN

*Thank you --she loved her career and kids*

**Annette** - June 01, 2015 at 08:39 AM

DH

“ I met Vera and Ken when they would visit family next door to me in the late 70's. I ended up bowling with Vera at Charlane's, and Ken would come with her and watch us.. Ken had this habit of offering the gals on the team a quarter if they got a strike, we all did our best to come up with strikes. I loved Vera and Ken and I balked at calling them by their first names so she said just call us Aunt Vera and Uncle Ken then. I continued to call her that on and off 30 some years. Oh my I will miss her voice and her stubbornness, her advocating for the Senior Center, and her hugs. I will miss her greatly.

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**Diane Hudson** - May 30, 2015 at 02:56 PM

AN

*True story---they were a team together--what one didn't come up with the other one did !!*

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**Annette** - June 01, 2015 at 08:40 AM

JT

“ Our thoughts and prayers to the Bruce family in this difficult time. I bet the good Lord has already been sold a raffle ticket by Vera for some good heavenly cause!

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**Jon and Kathy Tomlanovich** - May 30, 2015 at 02:15 PM

AN

*Thank you Jon & Kathy--we miss you guys*

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**Annette** - June 01, 2015 at 08:41 AM

HR

“ Down here in Branch County we knew and loved "Mrs. Calhoun"!! She was the first principal that I remember at Allen School and she went to Quincy Elementary with us when the school was closed when I was in third grade. I have very fond memories of her. We loved her and one of my strongest memories was that she was given to us as an example of why we should never run with scissors. The story was that scissors had something to do about her eye but having been so many years ago I'm not sure that story was ever confirmed!! My condolences to the family.

Heidi Rawson  
Quincy Class of 1971

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Heidi Rawson - May 30, 2015 at 12:46 PM

AN

Theres always one teacher that leaves a good mark--glad it was her for you !!

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Annette - June 01, 2015 at 08:42 AM



“ What a wonderfule lady she was there for everybody when we need some advised Rest In Peace my friend you will be sadly missed ,

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Matt Silvas - May 30, 2015 at 11:40 AM

AN

Thank you Matt--

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Annette - June 01, 2015 at 08:43 AM

DC

“ Sincere condolences to the whole Bruce family. Vera was an extraordinary woman who will be deeply missed by all of us. Her family and all of us whom she touched with her love, must be her legacy in paying forward the blessings we have received from Vera. God bless you and keep you as you mourn her loss.

*Blessings with love, Dawn Christenson*

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**Dawn Christenson** - May 30, 2015 at 11:14 AM

BB

*It's sad when memorable friends are no longer a telephone call away. However, they'll be in our thoughts for a lifetime. May God's grace fill your feeling of emptiness.*

*Love & fond memories of a special person*

*Peter & Bonnie Brenner*

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**bonnie brenner** - May 31, 2015 at 08:02 PM

AN

*Think of you often and Vera did to Thanks Bonnie and Peter*

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**Annette** - June 01, 2015 at 08:37 AM

AN

*Thank you Dawn---*

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**Annette** - June 01, 2015 at 08:44 AM

NM

“ My condolences to Mike and Annette and their families. Your mother was a very kind lady. My prayers are with you all. Nita McIntyre

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**nita mcintyre** - May 30, 2015 at 10:40 AM

AN

*Thank you Nita*

**Annette** - June 01, 2015 at 08:44 AM

DM

“ Mike, Annette and family. So very sorry for the loss of your Mother. What a full and accomplished life she had with many loving family members and friends. We should all be so Blessed. Hugs and Prayers for you all.

**Deb Moore** - May 30, 2015 at 09:24 AM

AN

*Thank you Deb!!*

**Annette** - June 01, 2015 at 08:45 AM

DC

“ Diane L. Coleman purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Vera M. Bruce .



**Diane L. Coleman** - May 30, 2015 at 07:32 AM

TH

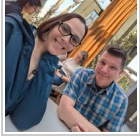
“ Keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers. She was a great lady and will be deeply missed. Love to all. <<Hugs>>

**Tami and Rod Hector** - May 30, 2015 at 07:13 AM

AN

*Thank you love to you !!*

**Annette** - June 01, 2015 at 08:36 AM



“ Aunt Vera was truly a remarkable woman! I always loved hearing her stories. It was nice to hear about family history that I might not have otherwise learned if it had not been for her. She was so full of life and so much fun to be around. One of my favorite memories of Aunt Vera was at our wedding. She went out in the middle of the dance floor and danced to Proud Mary while a circle gathered around her. My friends couldn't believe that my 83 year old aunt was out there dancing with everyone cheering her on. That was Vera though so much fun and full of life. Later I told this story to my daughter Bailey who loves to dance and one day we asked her how she learned to dance like that, and she said I got my moves from Aunt Vera! I am so thankful that Bailey got to meet Aunt Vera and have some memories of her because she was such an amazing person! She touched my life and I am so grateful for the memories I have with her.

Mike and Annette I am so sorry for your loss and send my sympathy. I like to think that heaven is having a party with Vera's arrival and she is there dancing with Uncle Ken and my grandparents!

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**Amanda Bair** - May 30, 2015 at 05:41 AM

AN

*She loved your family---*

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**Annette** - June 01, 2015 at 08:35 AM

SS

“ Sending my deepest sympathy to the family. Vera was a classy and amazing woman. I always enjoyed growing up and going over to her house where on many occasions she played the organ and sang. I remember seeing pictures of her on stage in Las Vegas. As a child I spent many nights at Vera's house at Hemlock Lake and later went to Charlotte on many occasions to spend the weekend with her. I always enjoyed the conversations and fun moments together. She was a guiding light, an inspiration and a role model to me as I ventured into the world of education. Take comfort in the fact that she will live on in our memories and that she touched and influenced so many lives. She lives on in each of us.

*Stacy Joy Sherman  
(Daughter of Stan & Joy Sherman)*

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**Stacy Sherman** - May 29, 2015 at 10:03 PM

AB

*Thank you Stacy---She loved your parents---fun fun times she and Ken had with Stan & Joy*

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**Annette Bruce** - May 29, 2015 at 10:16 PM

AV

“ *She was a remarkable lady who touched the hearts of many. She made a difference. I feel privileged to have known and worked with her.*

*Al & Mary Vercellino*

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**Al Vercellino** - May 29, 2015 at 07:47 PM

AN

*she loved you guys and had lots of fun time and work with Al*

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**Annette** - June 01, 2015 at 08:34 AM

CG

“ *What a wonderful obituary and tribute to Vera. She has been like a member of our family for as long as I can remember. She and Ken were great friends of my parents, and I treasure knowing her. I talked to her after my father died, and it was a joy just to hear her voice. We will miss her, but will always remember her smile, twinkling eyes, and her laughter. She was full of laughter! Bless you all, and know that she made such a positive impact on so very many people.*

*Mike and Cathy Galloway  
Daughter of Stan and Joy Sherman*

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**Cathy Galloway** - May 29, 2015 at 06:11 PM

AB

*Thank you Cathy--What fun they had with Stan & JOY-- and Mike & I did too,,,,Went up north with them to meet your parents--it was blast of a weekend....*

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**Annette Bruce** - May 29, 2015 at 10:24 PM

CG

*Yes...my parents enjoyed the time with you too. They spoke of you often as they did of your folks.*

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**Cathy Galloway** - May 30, 2015 at 09:26 AM

PB

*My condolences to the Bruce Family.*

*She was quite the lady. I enjoyed playing bridge with her and I also worked with her at the Senior Center when I first moved to Charlotte. She was a fun lady to be with and I will have fond memories of her.*

*Pauline Borgman*

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**Pauline Borgman** - June 01, 2015 at 06:57 AM

JW

*It was an honor and privilege to work with Vera. What a talented remarkable lady. She will be missed by all who knew her. John and Marilyn Ward*

**John Ward** - June 02, 2015 at 08:24 AM

AB

*John she loved her career and kids--Work hard , play hard--*

**Annette Bruce** - June 02, 2015 at 08:59 AM