



Betty Jane Marvin

May 24, 1937 - October 10, 2020

Betty Jane Marvin, a former area resident, met her Savior on October 10, 2020 after a brief illness. She was 83 years old and resided in Arlington, Texas. Betty was born May 24, 1937 in Elkhart, IN, the daughter of John J. & Esther (Friesner) Mishler. Betty was the wife of Pastor John Marvin, who preceded her in death in 2016. She is the mother of 4 children: Dan Marvin of Reston, Virginia, Dr. Joy Marvin of Scottsdale, Arizona, Ted Marvin of Kankakee, Illinois, and Tod Marvin of Austin, Texas. Betty is survived by her 4 children, daughters-in-law Kim Marvin and Corinne Marvin, son-in-law James Szymanski, 6 grandchildren and spouses: Eric & Amanda Marvin, Stephen & Alyssa Marvin Hobbs, Michael & Abigail Marvin Ord, Alan Marvin, Sutton Marvin, Payton Marvin, and 2 great grandchildren, Emma & Maddie Marvin. She is also survived by one brother, Robert Mishler and sister-in-law Mary Mishler of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Betty's greatest love was serving Jesus and she did that for her entire life even up to a few weeks before her death. Betty and John were married July 7, 1957 in Shipshewana, IN and began their ministry immediately. After serving in churches in Jackson, Mississippi and Wakarusa, Indiana, Betty and husband served at Grace Baptist Church and Grace Baptist Academy in Kankakee, IL for 44 years until their retirement in 2008.

Betty was instrumental alongside her husband John in starting Grace Baptist Academy now Grace Christian Academy. For many years, Betty taught music K-12 including chorus and band, produced and directed numerous elementary

and high school musicals and programs, and taught the Senior Bible class. She was such a great influence in the lives of hundreds of students that went to GCA.

“Never has there ever been another pastor’s wife like Betty” is something that was often said about Betty Marvin. And what a true statement that was. She loved inviting people into her home and cooking for them. She loved taking meals to families, picking up kids for church, driving a bus for many activities, leading junior high Vacation Bible School, going to GBC summer camp year after year and heading up the kitchen with her famous cinnamon rolls, playing the piano and the organ, singing in the choir, leading women’s ministries, working in the youth group up until she retired, and even after she retired. Anyone that knew Betty, knew she was always going and serving. And this she did because of her love for ministry and her Savior.

John and Betty’s life verse was Galatians 2:20 “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” After John’s death, Betty still felt the leading to be in ministry by occasionally teaching Bible study on Sundays, active in women’s Bible studies, sang in the choir, visited widows at home, and mentored international college students. In July 2019, at the age of 82, Betty left Arlington, Texas to move to Seattle, Washington for a year to serve on a church planting team from her local church, Fielder Church in Arlington, Texas. She was a vital part of that ministry working with Seniors and families and helping with the launch of Discovery Church, Seattle.

Betty’s love for her Savior was always evident in her life. If you had the privilege of knowing Betty for any length of time, then you knew her love for Jesus. She was memorizing and quoting Scripture up until a few days before her death. One of her very favorite sayings from an old hymn was, “Ponder anew what the Almighty can do.”

Visitation will be held on Friday, October 16, 2020 from 5-8 p.m. at Grace Baptist Church in the GCA Marvin Center. A funeral service will be held on

Saturday, October 17, 2020 at 2:00 pm at Grace Baptist Church, 2499 Waldron Road, Kankakee, IL with an additional visitation one hour prior to the service. Please wear face mask and practice social distancing guidelines. Livestreaming of the service can be viewed at <https://www.gracebaptist-church.com/live>.

Memorial gifts in memory of Betty Marvin can be given to the Grace Christian Academy Music Department or to Discovery Church, Seattle, WA. Gifts to GCA can be given here (<https://www.gracecrusaders.org>). Gifts to Discover Church can be given here (<https://www.discoveryseattle.org/donate>). Arrangements by Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais.

Cemetery Details

Kankakee Memorial Gardens

15 S. 3000 E. Rd.
Kankakee, IL 60901

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **16**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Grace Baptist Church- GCA Marvin Center
2499 Waldron Rd.
Kankakee, IL 60901

Visitation

OCT **17**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Grace Baptist Church
2499 Waldon Road
Kankakee, IL 60901

Funeral Service

OCT **17**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Grace Baptist Church
2499 Waldon Road
Kankakee, IL 60901

Tribute Wall

DS

“ I so long to be there this weekend to honor Betty and the kids! John and Betty mentored me and impacted my life and ministries like no other for over six decades. Only recovering from knee replacement last week has kept me in Florida. Beyond words my heart is with you all... much love and prayers both now and into the future, Diane Sechrist

diane sechrist - October 17, 2020 at 02:58 PM

LC

“ Laura Barnhart Cook lit a candle in memory of Betty Jane Marvin



Laura Barnhart Cook - October 17, 2020 at 04:47 AM

LC

So sorry for your loss

Laura Barnhart Cook - October 17, 2020 at 04:48 AM

LS

“ Dear Dan, Joy, Ted, Tod & family...Len & Pam Seidel send our deepest sympathy, love & prayers in Your earthly loss of your oh sooo precious mother, grandmother, & great grandmother, Betty 💔😭 Len & I joined your parents serving the Lord with them in August 1962 at First Christian Church, Wakarusa, IN. Len had just graduated from BJU & we were married July, 28,1962. Len became Assistant Pastor, Youth & Music Director following our honeymoon. They were dear mentors who truly loved Jesus, His Word & others!! God gave them exceptional strength, abilities & wisdom & a long & fruitful ministry! 💕💕But there was no one like Betty!! She did everything



Len & Pam Seidel - October 17, 2020 at 03:25 AM

RM

“ Rita Morris lit a candle in memory of Betty Jane Marvin



Rita Morris - October 15, 2020 at 11:36 PM

LO

“ Prayers to the family and friends of Betty Marvin. I have known the family for many years as my Pastoral family. Today Betty leaves with us a legacy for serving the Lord all her life right up to her last days on earth. Betty leaves behind children and grandchildren who Know and Love and Serve the Lord daily in many ways with their walk with Him! Our Lord says Welcome Home You have been found to be Faithful Betty Great is your Reward! I believe Betty's love for music I can't help but believe she is singing with a Joyful voice and radiant smile in Heaven today! Heaven has gained one of our angels our loss Heavens gain! God Bless all who knew this servant of God! With Sincere Sympathy. Leila Owen



Leila Owen - October 15, 2020 at 06:19 PM

RE

“ Oh to hear Betty say, "Reba I need some costumes!" again. There are no words to describe Betty and her life for the Lord. Love her and miss her.

Reba L. Estes - October 15, 2020 at 08:11 AM

JH

“ Betty Marvin touched my life with the great love of Jesus. I was only at GBA for 3 years. She was my band and choir director. There were so many bus rides (and breakdowns) because of music or sports. That bus took our choir to DC and we sang on the White House lawn! I am a better child of God because of Mrs. Marvin's example. She was so very real in living her faith. While only the Spirit moves us, the Kingdom is bigger because of her! Well done, good and faithful servant. Love to the Marvin family. Jean Kamperschroer Hoger

jean m Hoger - October 14, 2020 at 05:17 PM

MD

“ Betty was one of the finest Christian loving ladies I have ever had the privilege of knowing and she prayed with me after a GBA chapel service that I attended when my children were attending the school. My children all loved her and the plays she directed with the children. I am so sad 😞 for the family but know she is in the arms of the Lord right now. My deepest sympathy to her wonderful children and their families. 🙏🏻🙏🏻

Marianne Dyon - October 14, 2020 at 02:40 PM