

In Memory of Ruth Funkhouser

On this earth, there has never been or ever will be again, a more selfless, loving, caring, servant of the Lord than our Ruth Funkhouser. In 2011, Ruth went home to be with our Lord. She left a hole in our hearts, an empty place at Galen's table, and an empty pew at Columbia Furnace Church of the Brethren. The church committees, the women's group, the Funkhouser family, the church family are still suffering from the loss of mother Ruth.

There never was a day that Ruth failed to read her Bible, pray to God, witness and share Christ. She was the evangelist to the Wal-Mart store. She never met a stranger—welcomed all into her heart, welcomed all to her Jesus, and invited all to her church. She was not just a “Sunday go-to-meeting” Christian. Everywhere she went she carried the fragrance of Jesus, and when people saw the glow of the Spirit on her face, they knew she knew Him.

I remember looking back to our summertime Holy Spirit Conferences at Eastern Mennonite College and Bridgewater College during the 70's, 80's, and 90's—she was always surrounded by her children and grandchildren—bunches of them. She carried them to Spiritual conferences, instilled within them the love stories of Jesus, taught them to praise and worship, and molded them into successful human beings. She cared for the Senior citizens, served on all the committees, came to all the meetings, helped run the conference and share groups without getting a stain on her pretty dress or mussing up her hair.

If there was a lunch at church, she was in her kitchen in the early hours baking pies and fixing loads of food before most people got out of bed. She set the example of the Proverbs 31 woman. Never did an evil word proceed from her mouth—may we who are left behind learn from her example—love your Jesus, love your husband, love your family, love your church family, love your neighbor and community with all your heart. What an asset to the Kingdom of our God! We love you, Ruth.

Carolyn D. Cecil
Holy Spirit Conference Committee