



Jean Louise Miller DeChant

Jean Louise Miller DeChant, 76, died July 14, 2008 at her home in Bloomington, IL.

Her funeral will be held at 10:00 AM Saturday, July 19, at Second Presbyterian Church, Bloomington, where she was a member for 39 years. Dr. Charles B. Hardwick will officiate, assisted by Rev. Peggy Vogelsinger. Interment will follow at East Lawn Memorial Gardens, Bloomington. Visitation will be held from 5-7 PM Friday, July 18, at Calvert & Metzler Memorial Home in Bloomington. Calvert & Metzler Memorial Home, Bloomington, in charge of arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Community Cancer Center or BroMenn Hospice, both of Normal, or Second Presbyterian Church Youth Choir Programs, Bloomington.

Jean was born January 11, 1932 in Lancaster, PA, a daughter of Walter C. and Mabel Weimer Miller. She was married to Robert D. DeChant on October 26, 1951 in Skippack, PA by his cousin Rev. Edward DeChant.

Jean is survived by her husband Robert, and four children, Catherine (William) Schowen-gerdt, Champaign, IL; Marcia (James) Larson, Towanda, IL; Douglas (Charlotte) DeChant, Edwards, CO; Melissa (Peter) Gross, Fairplay, CO; Eleven grandchildren: Kate (Christopher) Rogers, Christine and Cassandra Schowengerdt; Michael and Caroline Larson; Samuel, Joseph, David and Susanna DeChant; Addison and Nicholas Gross; 1 great-granddaughter: Adeline Rogers; her sister, Elizabeth Ann (George) Kratzert, Lancaster, PA; a niece, Lorie Kegerise, Lancaster, and two nephews, Kevin Kratzert, Lancaster and Keith Kratzert of Florida. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, George W. Miller.

Jean attended Wilson College, Chambersburg, PA and lived in LeRoy, OH (subsequently named Westfield Center, OH) for seventeen years. During her forty years in Bloomington-Normal, IL, she lovingly raised four children to appreciate all life has to offer, and actively participated in her church's Chapel Choir, Bible Study Fellowship, BroMenn Service Auxiliary, the David Davis Mansion, PEO Chapter FH and Bloomington Women's Club.

Jean was a classically trained pianist, receiving a number of National Music Federation Awards. She also had the extraordinary privilege of playing the Netherlands Carillon at Arlington National Cemetery. She was a great lover and supporter of the arts as well, and shared her gifts in many ways, including directing Children's Choir, playing the organ and piano at church, and instructing young people on the piano. Sadly, illness and disease over the past twenty-five years robbed her of the immense enjoyment she received from her gifts of music and writing, but also paved the way for her love of Jesus Christ.

Jean enjoyed traveling, photography, knitting, crewel embroidery, and growing flowers. She especially treasured time spent with and teaching her grandchildren.