



Shirlee A. McGuire

August 6, 1942 - August 15, 2021

Shirlee A. McGuire, age 79, of Bourbonnais passed away Sunday, August 15, 2021 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee. She was born August 6, 1942 in Roanoke, VA, the daughter of George & Shirley (Bucklew) McGuire.

Shirlee was an English Professor for over 30 years at Olivet Nazarene University, retiring in 2008. She was a member of Cornerstone RCA and the Olivet orchestra. She played the cello and was an avid reader. Her religious faith was also a big part of her life.

Shirlee was a member of Grace Community United Methodist Church in Bourbonnais.

Surviving are special friends, Nancy Johnson and Leon & Teri Blanchette; two sisters, Ellen Kay McGuire of Asheville, NC and Mary Jeanie McGuire of Asheville, NC; and one brother and sister-in-law, George & Myra McGuire of AL. Shirlee is preceded in death by her parents.

A memorial visitation will be held from 5 p.m. until the time of the 6 p.m. memorial service on Thursday, August 19, 2021 at Grace United Methodist Church in Bourbonnais. Rev. Steven Hudspeth will officiate the service. Private burial will be at Ashelawn Gardens of Memory Cemetery in Asheville, NC.

Memorials may be made to the Shirlee McGuire Scholarship Fund for Olivet Nazarene University English Students.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

AUG **19**. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Grace United Methodist Church
735 Main St. NW
Bourbonnais, IL

Memorial Service

AUG **19**. 6:00 PM (CT)

Grace United Methodist Church
735 Main St. NW
Bourbonnais, IL

Tribute Wall

MB

“ I'll always remember Shirlee as a caring and thoughtful, intelligent and outspoken Friend. An excellent musician, faithful Christian and confident friend. Her former pastor, Mary Brady

mary brady - September 08, 2021 at 03:51 PM

SW

“ I am sorry to hear about Shirley's passing. She was a great friend and colleague at ONU. We worked together over 25 years. I appreciated Shirley's creativity and her passion for literature. She added vivid color and dimension to our English department. Thankful for that!

Some of my favorite memories are travel experiences when the department went to England to prepare for the literary study trip. She was a world traveler who understood and appreciated other cultures. She was at ease in travel and enjoyed the cultural experiences. Her knowledge of literature, history, and culture enriched my life. Those were good times.

Shirley had quite an imagination! One of my favorite memories is her beloved Rob Roy, her stuffed bear who traveled with her. To some of us, it seemed odd that she would take him on an airplane, but then I realized that she was rather coy. She used Rob Roy as a decoy to keep the next seat open if she could. Brilliant!

When I became chair, Shirley often stopped by my office to encourage me and say she was praying for me. That was a treasured gift! She was a wonderful Christian woman who truly cared for others. I know she is now rejoicing in heaven and playing her cello in the heavenly orchestra.

You were an inspiration to many of us, Shirley.
Sue Williams

Sue Williams - August 19, 2021 at 12:17 PM

CP

Shirlee was a wonderful and unique Christian women..Her knowledge and memories were a welcome gift and added much to every discussion and event she attended...She will be missed by us earthlings but treasured by those in heaven. RIP Shirlee

Connie Perry - August 22, 2021 at 12:28 PM

WA

“ Dr. McGuire was a great cellist and mentor to me in the Olivet Orchestra and the Kankakee Symphony. She had a fun and quirky personality that made every event memorable. Teresa Woodruff

Wanda - August 19, 2021 at 11:31 AM

WA

“ My dear friend Shirlee and I enjoyed many good times together including concerts and just being together and chatting.
Wanda Woodruff

Wanda - August 19, 2021 at 11:29 AM

LD

“ Dr. McGuire was a special person. I first met her as my English prof my freshman year at Olivet. She was brilliant! Throughout my four years at Olivet, we played in the orchestra together and I got to know her as a kind staff member. Years later, I bought a home on her street- she became a wonderful neighbor and friend. Every day she would walk around the neighborhood with a beautiful hat and white gloves. As I noticed she enjoyed hats for the past couple years I brought her back one from Florida. She would wear it and always stop and talk. Every year, she would stop and tell me she was praying for my school year and especially lifting me up as a teacher. She would invite me over to see her roses and beautiful yard she was so proud of and worked so hard on. She was kind and fun to talk to. One day she made me a delicious cake and it had the tiniest slice out of it I have ever seen. She chuckled and said that was something she did to make sure it was good. It was delicious! I will miss our neighborhood talks and her kind spirit always showing Jesus in her life.

Lyn McIntosh Daniels - August 18, 2021 at 09:04 PM

JC

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Jasmine Cieszynski - August 18, 2021 at 03:03 PM

JC

“ I came to know Shirlee during my time at the IT Help Desk at Olivet Nazarene University. She often sought help for the school for the resources she continued to use as an adjunct, speaker, student, etc. but her self-diagnosed "technical illiteracy" meant her visits extended beyond the typical issues/questions any of the other technicians felt comfortable addressing. So I took for myself the great honor of getting to know and assisting Shirlee whenever I could. She appreciated that very much and began calling ahead to ensure she could work with me specifically. Our interactions brightened my days without fail. I would greet her outside my office and sometimes even walk her to her car afterwards. She was infinitely interesting, with detailed stories, varied interests, and such a positive disposition. She took an interest in me, my work, and my little family -never failing to ask about them by name. Her calls, visits and emails always made me smile. I will miss her.

Joe Cash - August 18, 2021 at 02:51 PM

JL

“ Shirlee became my friend and colleague when we both taught in the English Department at Olivet Nazarene University. (Mid-1970s - Mid-1980s) When I married in 1981, she accepted my husband into our friendship. For awhile we lived in an apartment down the hall from her. Jim and I stayed in touch with her even after we moved to Florida in 1986. She came to visit us once after our move. I saw her often when I came back to Olivet for special occasions. I will remember her giving spirit, her love of tea, and dear Rob Roy who was always in a prominent place in her home. She was one of God's dear children and my sister in Christ. Jim and I cherish her memory and send our love and prayers, especially to Ellen Kay and Mary Jeanie, whom we have met and to George and Myra who were spoken of lovingly by Shirlee. God comfort all of you,
Jim and Leora Legacy/Jacksonville, FL

Jim and Leora Legacy - August 18, 2021 at 10:31 AM

JC

“ Ms. Shirlee was a special friend to our family. She brought my infant daughter a Pokey Little Puppy book, including a handwritten recipe for chocolate pudding. When the girls were a bit older, we had gingerbread baking dates at her home. She was a life-long learner, pursuing her own creative writing, taking classes with undergraduates, and traveling the world without fear or reservation. We all loved and were enriched by knowing her.

Jasmine Cieszynski - August 18, 2021 at 09:39 AM

BW

“ Dr. McGuire was a person worth knowing. A special remembrance for me, was of Shirley singing a lovely French Carol (solo)...in French...as we wandered the halls of a local nursing home while caroling during one Christmas season. The other carolers from Grace Church had somehow left us behind. Shirley said she saw no reason to stop spreading the JOY.....and continued singing....most joyfully! That one small moment, made my Christmas! She will be missed.

Barbara Wettergren - August 17, 2021 at 06:05 PM

PM

Without question Shirlee was a Christian and knew Christ personally. I remember being in Sunday School with her and how she made the class so interesting. No matter what we studied she had visited this area and was full of memories. Once she came to class with a sack full of fresh figs. Since none of us had ever had a fresh fig she cut it into pieces and we had a snack. When she left our class to teach the children I felt sad for me but knew the children would never forget her. She will be missed but I am sure she is in Gods arms.

Phyllis Manker - August 18, 2021 at 09:00 PM

JJ

Shirlee was a wonderful friend and under her leadership, our Bible Study grew in knowledge and attendance because she made the Bible studies come alive with her interesting stories. She was very creative and loved working with the children and teaching and singing with them. She was a blessing to our Grace church family and we will miss her. To God be the Glory!

Judy Johnston - August 19, 2021 at 08:03 PM