



## Betty Jean Greear

November 7, 1923 - April 21, 2023

Betty Greear, 99, of Centralia, passed away Friday, April 21, 2023 at Heritage Woods in Centralia, Illinois.

She was born November 7, 1923, in Centralia, daughter of Charles and Opal (Bruce) Ray. She married Frank "Bud" Greear on January 10, 1942 and he preceded her in death on March 30, 2009.

She is survived by her son: Dr. Randall Greear and wife Angie of Knoxville, TN; a daughter-in-law: Janet Greear of Centralia; one brother, Wayne Ray and wife Yukari of Fair Oaks, CA; a sister-in-law: Becky Ray of Port Isabel, TX; five grandchildren: Eric Greear and special friend Kristie Blackman of Salem, Jennifer Coppock and husband Jeff of Knoxville, TN, John Greear and wife Veronica of Oak Ridge, TN, Matthew Greear and wife Trisha of Oakwood, OH, and Aaron Greear and wife Jodie of Memphis, TN; Sandra Greear, mother of Jennifer, John, Matthew, and Aaron all of Knoxville, TN; eight great-grandchildren: Josh, Brady and wife Brooke, Cade, Camdyn, Griffin, Amelia, and Ben; two great-great-grandchildren: Aleysia and Mycah; several nieces and nephews; and a very special friend and caregiver: Diana Schram.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, son: David Greear, two brothers: Dale and Alden Ray, sisters and brothers-in-law: Ernest and Mildred Greear, Kenneth and Dorotha Greear, Darrell and Reba Greear, Wesley and LaDonne Schnake, Wilson and Maxine Nettles, Harold "Ed" and Betty Ann Womble, and Dale and Mary Ray, and one grandson: Jeff Greear. Mrs. Greear was a graduate of the Class of 1941, Centralia Township High

School, and attended Brown's Business College. She was a homemaker and secretary, employed by Lear Siegler, Inc. and Irvington Mental Health Center (forerunner of Community Resource Center). She and her husband owned and manage rental properties, from 1967-2010.

Mrs. Greear was a lifelong member of Demaree United Methodist Church (now Cornerstone UMC since merger with Faith UMC) and was active over the years in many programs and offices of the church; was Choir Director for 35 years. She was Demaree's first president of the Wesleyan Service Guild Mission Group organized in 1947, served as Vandalia District's Secretary of the Guild, was the first Secretary of Christian Personhood for the newly formed United Methodist Women (a merger of Women's Society of Christian Service and Wesleyan Service Guild), Southern Illinois Conference. She also served on several committees and boards of the Southern Illinois Conference. She was a licensed lay speaker of the UMC. She loved to travel and spoke of her journeys at local mission groups. She also led Spiritual Life Retreats for United Methodist Women and Church Women United, where she served as president, 1979-1980.

Mrs. Greear has gifted her body to St. Louis University for research and cremation. A Celebration of Life Service will be held May 6, 2023 at 11:00 AM at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home in Centralia with Pastor Therese Melena officiating. Visitation will be held Saturday, May 6, 2023 from 10:00 AM until the time of service at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Cornerstone UMC and or the donor's choice and will be accepted at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home at 235 North Sycamore Street Centralia, Illinois 618-532-3523, who is honored to be of service to the Greear Family. Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting [www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com](http://www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com) and the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home Facebook Page.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 6. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home  
235 N. Sycamore Street  
Centralia, IL 62801

## Celebration of Life

MAY 6. 11:00 AM (CT)

Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home  
235 N. Sycamore Street  
Centralia, IL 62801

# Tribute Wall

DS

“ My dear friend Betty what a blessing u have been in my life we shared many good times at cornerstone u have been such a wonderful lady sharing ur life with me and ur memories thank u for letting me read ur book that u wrote. Miss picking u up to take u to cornerstone and having lunch with u. I am so happy u are with the lord as u was looking forward to going home with ur lord love u always ur friend Diana schram



diana schram - May 02, 2023 at 11:36 PM

AB

“ Betty Rose we shared many lunches with the class of 1941-Such a sweet lady-she even remember my mom from high school--May you be in the arms of the angles-You wont be forgotten

Ann Breuer - April 25, 2023 at 05:29 PM

LW

When Betty lived at Plaza Verde I taught her and others how to play Mah Jongg. She later called me telling me that the players were not playing correctly. She took the game seriously. She was so sweet and pretty. We mah jongg players just loved her.

Lydia West - April 30, 2023 at 02:51 PM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Betty Jean Greear.



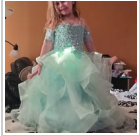
April 23, 2023 at 04:33 PM

MM

“ One of God's Angel has left us, such energy, I saw her a while back and she remember me which amazed me have only taken care of her for a little while, she said how could I forget you! I have been Blessed to have known you sweet Lady.

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**Mary Martin** - April 23, 2023 at 12:41 PM



“ Miss Betty, I feel so blessed to have gotten to by your friend, CNA and your Ombudsman. I am so happy that I was able to spend some last moments with you, holding your hand and helping you feel at peace during our conversation. You and I had Thursday. I will remember that precious smile and sincere disposition. Never having haste with anyone. Each one of us CNA's will miss you dearly, and as your Ombudsman, it was a pleasure helping you the best that I could. I will keep your family in my thoughts and prayers as well as your brothers and sisters in Christ as well as all of your lovely friends.

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**Cassandra Stinde Kinney** - April 22, 2023 at 10:51 PM

CS

“ My sweet Betty is at peace now. She has impacted me with her love for God from our first meeting at Demaree I was 26 yrs old. Betty was my first Bible teacher. She seeded me in the word of God. Encouraged me in ministry. My family spent many hours studying, singing around her piano, sharing meals around her table. It's hard to say goodbye to my dear sister, friend, teacher, mentor. Rest in peace dear Betty, till I see you again. ❤️

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**Christine Sharpe** - April 22, 2023 at 08:13 PM

RS

“Ray Sharpe:  
“Grandma” Betty, we love you! Your life made a lot of impact on so many for the sake of Jesus’ Kingdom. I remember when we first got saved @ Demaree Methodist, and you invited us over for dinner. We didn’t know we had been invited into a process of intentional discipleship. You taught us how to pray and how to worship with pure hearts. You and Bud were like an extra set of grandparents to our kids. You invited us into our first ministry at the prison. You challenged us to be filled with the Holy Spirit & answer God’s call. You supported us in prayer and finances, while we worked our way to China & back. We always knew when you were praying for us, we could feel your love and concern. You have been a wonderful friend and an example of vibrant Christian faith. We miss you, but know we will see you again! Well done, good & faithful servant, enter into your rest...

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**Ray Sharpe** - April 22, 2023 at 08:12 PM

DF

“Aunt Betty, God received a new choir director. I can hear you playing the piano. I am not sure why but when I hear "In the Garden" I always think of you. Prayers to your family. Dena Schnake Fields (Larry and Barbs daughter)

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**Dena Schnake Fields** - April 22, 2023 at 01:54 PM

JM

“Betty , was everyone’s friend at Demaree church my first memory was her being the choir director, a beautiful lady, inside and out!

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**John McKinney** - April 22, 2023 at 01:22 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Betty Jean Greear.* ”



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April 22, 2023 at 07:45 AM