

A Celebration of Life



Mary C. Hardin
1917–2011

A Memorial Service Celebrating the Life of Mary C. Hardin

Organ Prelude		Ruth Ann Ostergren
Greeting and Invitation to Worship		Rev. Jon Carlstrom
Invocation		
Celebration Hymn	<i>Precious Lord, Take My Hand</i>	Hymnal #684
Record of Life		Rev. Carlstrom
Scripture Readings	<i>Psalm 23 1 Corinthians 13</i>	
Solo	<i>His Eye Is On the Sparrow</i>	Dan Hartley
Reflection	<i>The Gift of Life</i>	Rev. Carlstrom
Hymn	<i>Simple Gifts</i>	see back page
Scripture Reading	<i>John 15: 12</i>	
Meditation	<i>Love</i>	Rev. Dr. Gary Reif
Prayer of Commendation		Rev. Carlstrom
Benediction		
Organ Postlude		Ruth Ann Ostergren

*The family invites you to continue reflecting on and celebrating
Mary's life by joining them for a reception in Trimmer Hall*

Mary C. Hardin

Mary C. Hardin, 94, died peacefully on December 31 at Westminster Health Care.

Mary was a consummate nurturer of her family, her friends and her community. With her keen love of letter-writing and her superb listening skills, Mary excelled in creating lasting bonds with, and among, family members and friends. She also was a global citizen, making lifelong friends in countries she visited as the wife of Lowell S. Hardin.

Born in Providence, RI on April 3, 1917, she moved to West Lafayette, IN three years later with her parents, Professor Roy Cooley and Jenny Koehler Cooley. She attended public schools here and graduated from Purdue as a home economics major in 1939, having served as co-ed editor of the student newspaper and as a counselor in the women's residence hall.

Mary worked after graduation in the test kitchens of Jewel Tea Company in Chicago and later for the electrical power company near Buffalo, NY. She and Lowell were married in September 1940 in a garden wedding at the home of her parents. When Lowell was a graduate student at Cornell University, Mary helped in his research, establishing a pattern of shared work that continued throughout their years together.

That partnership spanned Mary's years as a Purdue faculty wife, between 1943 and 1965, including a life-changing three-month-stay in Tokyo in 1960; and residence in New York City between 1965 and 1981, when Mary immersed herself in cultural and educational opportunities and traveled widely with Lowell.

Mary was an expert seamstress and decorator; she learned in Japan to make artful floral arrangements; and while in New York, with an architect's help, she designed a family home to be built near Monticello. She loved to read and was an enthusiastic member of the University Wives' Book Club. She belonged to the Federated Church, Round Table Club, and the Therapeutic Bridge Club of West Lafayette.

Surviving along with her husband are two sons Thomas S. Hardin of New Haven, CT, Peter L. Hardin (wife Karen MacPherson) of Takoma Park, MD, a daughter Joy Hardin (husband James Elferdink) of McKinleyville, CA, a brother, Donald Cooley (wife Diane) of Watsonville, CA, and a sister Catherine Woodward of Carlisle, MA. She leaves four grandchildren: Katie and Jeff Hardin of CT and Sally and Tim Hardin of MD.

She was preceded in death by a brother Robert Cooley, a sister Margaret Payne.

Simple Gifts

by Elder Joseph Brackett Jr., 1797-1882

'Tis the gift to be simple,
'Tis the gift to be free,
'Tis the gift to come down where you ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
It will be in the valley of love and delight.

Refrain

**When true simplicity is gained,
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed.
To turn, turn will be our delight,
'Til by turning, turning we come 'round right**

'Tis the gift to be loved and that love to return,
'Tis the gift to be taught and a richer gift to learn,
And when we expect of others what we try to live each day,
Then we'll all live together and we'll all learn to say,

(repeat refrain)

'Tis the gift to have friends and a true friend to be,
'Tis the gift to think of others not to only think of "me,"
And when we hear what others really think and really feel,
Then we'll all live together with a love that is real.

(repeat refrain)

Note: The second and third verses are contemporary additions to this original 1848 Shaker hymn.



Federated Church

Where individual belief and a vibrant faith community meet.

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