

Gloria Jean Stevens Odens

1943

July 13, 2018 (74)

Eden Prairie, MN

On July 13, 2018, the Lord Jesus mercifully received **Gloria Jean Stevens Odens**, age 74, into His Presence. She suffered from her chronic renal disease no more, and, more fully alive than ever, she looked in the face of the Savior she loves so much.

Gloria was born in Joliet, IL, to Richard and Carmen Stevens. In 1961, she graduated from West High School in Rockford, IL. She attended Pillsbury Baptist Bible College in Owatonna, MN, where she met the love of her life, Donald Odens, and married him on July 24, 1965. She graduated from Pillsbury College in 1966.



Gloria spent her life supporting her husband in his pastoral ministry in every way she could. This included serving in the nursery, teaching Sunday School and children's church, singing in the choir, mentoring college age and young married women, teaching English as a second language, organizing ladies' ministry events, volunteering at the local crisis pregnancy center, hosting countless meals in her home, and bringing meals to those in need. She loved animals, flowers, and beauty of every kind. She loved to sing and laugh. She loved life and people – especially her family. Most of all, she loved her Savior.

She lovingly, creatively reared her four children and delighted in her four grandchildren. Gloria was preceded in death by her parents, Richard and Carmen, and by her sister, Carol Miller. She is survived by her husband, Don, of 53 years; her son, Nathan (Bridget) Odens; her daughters, Melissa Odens, Marcie (Jeff) Odens Peck, and Michelle (Dan) Lenz; her grandchildren, Riley and Sophie Peck and Jasmine and Aleia Lenz; her sisters, Ruth Ann Elms, Sylvia (Cy) Stanfa, and Barb (Peter) Giolitto; and her brother, Jerry Stevens.

Her family will receive visitors from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 17th at Washburn McReavy Eden Prairie Chapel, 7625 Mitchell Road, Eden Prairie, MN, and from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 18th at Fourth Baptist Church, 900 Forestview Lane North, Plymouth, MN. Her funeral is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 18th at Fourth Baptist Church on Broadway in Crystal, MN.

Reference:

<https://www.washburn-mcreavy.com/obituaries/Gloria-Odens/#!/Obituary>