



## Phyllis M. Gearhart

February 1, 1928 - December 7, 2017

Phyllis Gearhart, 89 of Akron, Indiana went to be with her Lord on Thursday, Dec. 7, 2017 surrounded by those she held most dear.

She was born on Feb. 1, 1928 in Warsaw, Indiana to her parents, Victor and Ellen Cook. She grew up with 10 brothers and sisters. The family continued to meet and eat together as a family as often as they could for many years.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Victor and Ellen Cook, 4 sisters, Marolyn, Frances, Jeanne, and Donna, as well as 3 brothers, John, Joe, and Bob.

Left to carry on the Cook family honor are her sisters, Judy (Frank) Swick and Karolyn (Eddie) Barrus and brother, Norman (Muriel) Cook, who will miss her immensely.

She was a 1946 graduate of Warsaw High School. She then attended Taylor University, graduated from Huntington College with a bachelor's degree, and her master's degree from St. Francis.

Phyllis was known for the many lives she touched throughout her 36 years of teaching. While her early years were spent teaching in Huntington, she was fondly remembered for her many projects such as salt-water maps, chicken hatchings, piñatas, and Halloween masks for the many children she taught in

3rd grade at Akron Elementary.

Phyllis left a strong legacy behind with those that survive. The Lord was good to her when He blessed her with 3 beautiful daughters: Lynne (Larry) Kline, Janice (James) Saner, and Patti (Robert) Newman.

Her porch on the 4th of July would be filled with her family that included her 10 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren, as well as friends of the family. Her presence for the annual reading of the birth of Christ on Christmas Eve will be greatly missed, as well as all the days to follow.

She was faithful to the Lord and was a living witness of grace and love. She never met a stranger and her presence in any room could brighten up anyone's day. She had a zest for life and was thankful for every blessing God gave to her.

She was known, on many occasions, to offer this advice to anyone feeling down or upset: Put your lipstick on and go on. In honor of her spunk and tenacity, the family asks that you Put your lipstick on and come to a celebration of her life that will be held Sunday, Dec. 17, 2017 at Akron Elementary School in Akron. Visitation will be from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm followed by a Remembrance Service at 3:30 pm. Memorials donations in her honor may be made to: Phyllis Gearhart Teacher Scholarship held in trust at Teacher's Credit Union or the Nick Patterson Memorial Fund held at the Northern Indiana Community Foundation.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Hartzler Funeral Home 305 West Rochester Street Akron, Indiana.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

DEC 17. 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM (ET)

Akron Elementary School  
202 E. Rural St.  
Akron, IN 46910

## Memorial Service

DEC 17. 3:30 PM (ET)

Akron Elementary School  
202 E. Rural St.  
Akron, IN 46910

# Tribute Wall

BA

“ *Brian Adams lit a candle in memory of Phyllis M. Gearhart*



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**Brian Adams** - December 16, 2017 at 08:28 PM

BD

“ *So sorry for your loss Patti, Rob and family. My thoughts are with you now and all through this holiday season and beyond.*

*Bonita Daine*

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**Bonita Daine** - December 16, 2017 at 05:51 PM

TE

“ *Our family was so sorry to hear of your loss!! Phyliss was a wonderful an loving teacher an person who touched many life's. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.*

*Kevin an Terri Eaton*

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**Terri Eaton** - December 15, 2017 at 11:48 PM

MG

“ My thoughts and prayers are with Patti, Lynn and Jan. I have so many wonderful memories of your mom. She was my third grade teacher and I doubt I missed a day that year! I was afraid I'd miss something exciting, I'm sure! She was beautiful inside and out. When asked for one of my favorite childhood memories, you can bet, your mom's name is involved! She made third grade fun!! May God bring peace to your hearts,, knowing she lives on within you.  
❤️ Mari Stephen Griffis

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**Mari Griffis** - December 15, 2017 at 07:15 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Phyllis M. Gearhart.



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December 13, 2017 at 08:53 AM

KR

“ KATHY ROCCHIO lit a candle in memory of Phyllis M. Gearhart



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**KATHY ROCCHIO** - December 12, 2017 at 02:03 PM

PS

“ Thoughts and prayers for each of you and your families - Lynne, Jan and Patti. Phyllis was a special lady and a wonderful teacher that made learning fun! I'm sure her name came up often when "Name your favorite teacher" was asked! She will be missed .....



Peg Shewman - December 11, 2017 at 09:21 PM

TT

“ "Mrs. Gearhart" was a wonderful third grade teacher and touched the lives of many students. I loved being in her class!!

Prayers of comfort are with you  
Tana Tinkey



tana tinkey - December 11, 2017 at 01:32 PM

TB

“ So sorry Patti and family for your loss ! Praying god offers comfort to you all .

God bless  
Teri & Jim Brown ( Breidert )

teri brown - December 11, 2017 at 05:57 AM

RJ

“ What a wonderful person Phyllis was!!!! She will be missed by many! Prayers are with her family during this difficult time!  
Ron and Pat(Holloway)Jones



Ron and Pat Jones - December 10, 2017 at 09:44 PM

RB

“ Sorry to hear of the loss of your mother. She was a wonderful lady, contributing much to her community. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

*Rose Berger*

Rose Berger - December 10, 2017 at 06:52 PM



MC

“ She was my favorite teacher bar none. I remember making a huge tepee in the middle of the classroom and dressing up as pilgrims and Indians and brining our lunch back to the rooms and eating inside the tepee.,She made learning so interesting and so much fun.

Melinda Cabrera - December 10, 2017 at 05:43 PM

LP

“ Phyllis had a special way of bringing the best out of her students. Brent has fond memories of her as his teacher. Her special gifts are evident in her children and grandchildren who have followed in her path, encouraging students in their educational endeavors.

Lisa Paxton - December 09, 2017 at 06:32 PM



PV

“ Many great memories of Phyllis as a teacher and all around fun, hard working lady. She loved her family and her students. She will be missed. My thoughts and prayers for her family.

Pam Vandermark - December 09, 2017 at 06:24 PM

MR

“ *Miriam Ruppel lit a candle in memory of Phyllis M. Gearhart*



Miriam Ruppel - December 09, 2017 at 05:27 PM

MR

*Teaching 3rd grade with this wonderful lady was such a joy. She made daily life and field trips so interesting. After retiring she would come in costume to visit us on Halloween and what a character. She left joy where ever she went. Always looking to the brighter side. Phyllis will be missed but her legend will live on. God has gained a joyful angel. ( Bill & Miriam)*

Miriam Ruppel - December 11, 2017 at 07:55 PM

CS

“ *Christa Smith lit a candle in memory of Phyllis M. Gearhart*



christa smith - December 08, 2017 at 09:46 PM

MC

“ *Phyllis was always a cheerleader for whatever crazy idea I had for the library.  
Her smile lit up a room. She will be missed.  
Love, Ann*

Mary Ann Chubb - December 08, 2017 at 09:45 PM



“ *Phyllis was my 1st grade teacher & I was so happy & excited to have her as my 3rd grade teacher. She was such a great teacher, she made school a fun place to be. I will always remember the paper mache crafts for every holiday. Such a special lady. Rest in peace Mrs. Gearhart.*



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**Debra Mathias** - December 08, 2017 at 08:29 PM

JK

“ *Joyce Krieger lit a candle in memory of Phyllis M. Gearhart*



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**Joyce Krieger** - December 08, 2017 at 06:46 PM

Lorrie Warner

“ *Lorrie Warner lit a candle in memory of Phyllis M. Gearhart*



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**Lorrie Warner** - December 08, 2017 at 04:51 PM

JR

“ *Such a sweet lady and wonderful neighbor while we lived in Akron.*



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**Jo Anna Rice** - December 08, 2017 at 04:44 PM

BC

“ *She was a wonderful lady & neighbor!! Loved seeing her out taking care of her yard!! She will be greatly missed.*



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**Brittany Coughenour** - December 08, 2017 at 03:57 PM

MR

“ *Marilyn Ruberg lit a candle in memory of Phyllis M. Gearhart*



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**Marilyn Ruberg** - December 08, 2017 at 11:12 AM

MR

*A very dedicated teacher who could put a smile on the faces of everyone!*

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**Marilyn Ruberg** - December 08, 2017 at 11:18 AM

JO

*Phyllis was a wonderful Christian lady who loved the Lord. She had a smile for anyone and everyone! She was an excellent teacher and all the kids hoped they would be in her class at school. She will be missed by many!*

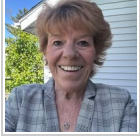
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**Janet Ogle** - December 09, 2017 at 04:26 PM

SG

*I have known Phyllis for many, many years, she always had a smile and good humor. She will be missed by all.*

*Shirley Gray*

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**Shirley Gray** - December 10, 2017 at 07:12 PM



“ *A wonderful teacher and genuine person.* ”



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**Jama Shank-Oldsen** - December 08, 2017 at 10:57 AM

DS

“ *Diane Sheetz lit a candle in memory of Phyllis M. Gearhart* ”



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**Diane Sheetz** - December 08, 2017 at 07:13 AM

BS

“ *A wonderful teacher and person.* ”



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**Beth Ann Straley** - December 08, 2017 at 07:05 AM

TJ

“ *Terri Johnson lit a candle in memory of Phyllis M. Gearhart* ”



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**Terri Johnson** - December 08, 2017 at 06:41 AM

VC

“ *Virginia Clampitt lit a candle in memory of Phyllis M. Gearhart*



Virginia Clampitt - December 08, 2017 at 04:32 AM



“ *Mary Reese lit a candle in memory of Phyllis M. Gearhart*



Mary Reese - December 08, 2017 at 04:17 AM

TD

“ *She was one of two people who helped me love history. It is my passion and I thank her for taking time with me to answer a million questions*

Teresa wallace Dosch - December 08, 2017 at 01:55 AM



“ *One of my favorite teachers!! I have such great memories of her growing up in Akron!*



Ty Ann Sutton - December 08, 2017 at 01:05 AM

MS

“ *Mary, Steve Sundine lit a candle in memory of Phyllis M. Gearhart*



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**Mary, Steve Sundine** - December 07, 2017 at 11:57 PM

SB

“ *She was indeed a special lady, her laughter was contagious and her smile so dear. Every memory I have of her always makes my heart smile, my thoughts and prayers are with all of her family and friends*



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**Shelly Bickel** - December 07, 2017 at 10:04 PM

JW

“ *Judy Walgamuth lit a candle in memory of Phyllis M. Gearhart*



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**Judy Walgamuth** - December 07, 2017 at 09:24 PM

CS

*Phyllis was my favorite teacher, because she made learning so much fun. I specifically remember learning the states/capitals and the U.S Presidents. The paper mache projects will always remain in my wonderful memories from 3rd grade.*

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**Christa Smith** - December 07, 2017 at 09:53 PM

PO

“ *Patty Ousley lit a candle in memory of Phyllis M. Gearhart*



Patty Ousley - December 07, 2017 at 09:15 PM

PO

*She was truly one of a kind teacher.. I have so many fond memories of her from grade school and growing up in Akron. I think anyone who had the privilege of knowing Mrs. Gearhart was a lucky person.. RIP <3*

Patty Ousley - December 08, 2017 at 01:24 PM

KN

“ *Kathy Nelson lit a candle in memory of Phyllis M. Gearhart*



Kathy Nelson - December 07, 2017 at 08:57 PM

JS

“ *Our 3rd grade class was sitting in Mrs. G's living room the day that President Reagan was shot. She encouraged us to write him letters, & we were so very excited when we each got a letter & a signed picture back from the President. She showed a bunch a children in a tiny rural town that our voices could be heard. She was always encouraging, always fun, always amazing. I haven't seen her in 30+ years, & yet here I sit with tears in my eyes, awash in amazing memories of a remarkable woman. Truly an angel.*

Jill Butt Sawtelle - December 07, 2017 at 08:52 PM

CB

“ Christine (Hileman) Bixler lit a candle in memory of Phyllis M. Gearhart



Christine (Hileman) Bixler - December 07, 2017 at 08:48 PM

SJ

“ Favorite memory...Phyllis and Patti helping me do back handsprings in the living room and all of her clever paper mache projects that she created over the years.

Sherri Johnson - December 07, 2017 at 08:43 PM

JM

“ Jeannie Mathrny lit a candle in memory of Phyllis M. Gearhart



Jeannie Mathrny - December 07, 2017 at 08:20 PM

JM

So sorry for the loss of Phyllis. Prayers to all. God bless.

Jeannie Mathrny - December 07, 2017 at 08:21 PM

CS

Many years I worked with this wonderful lady and friend. We will miss her. One in a million like her. May she rest in peace.

Con and Sherri Shewman - December 07, 2017 at 08:54 PM

JB

“ *Jim And Shirley Bickel lit a candle in memory of Phyllis M. Gearhart*



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**Jim and Shirley Bickel** - December 07, 2017 at 06:43 PM

MS

“ *My heart goes out to the family, my prayers for all, Phyllis was a very special lady and will be missed by all, love you Phyllis and hope someday we will be together and laugh up a storm, RIP*



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**mary saner** - December 07, 2017 at 06:05 PM