

## Bernice “Bernie” Marie Szymanski



Bernice “Bernie” Marie Szymanski was born November 14, 1930, in Campbell County, WY, to Guy and Elaine (Nordgren) Kephart. The family moved to Western South Dakota in 1938, and in 1949, she graduated from Sturgis High School. In 1952, Bernice married George Szymanski at the First Presbyterian Church in Sturgis with the Rev. C.D. Erskine officiating. Bernice and George raised four children.

Bernice began her career in banking at Bear Butte Valley Bank before joining the staff at the First National Bank, both in Sturgis.

She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church for 73 years. Bernice remained active in the church and choir throughout her life. She also was a member of the bell choir and was an ordained elder and deacon. Bernice will be remembered for always acknowledging her friends and family by sending cards and greetings.

Some of her best times after retirement were spent motorcycle riding with George and their friends they met along the way. They logged many miles on the motorcycle.

Bernice died Monday, December 11, 2017, surrounded by her family.

She is survived by her sister, Elsie Kephart; three daughters, Kathryn "Kate" (Henry) Karrels and Elizabeth "Beth" (Linn) Bauer, both of Sturgis, and Mary Szymanski (Bill Martin) of Live Oak, TX; one son, Bill (Pamela) Szymanski of San Antonio, TX; 8 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her brother, Gale; parents, Guy and Elaine Kephart; and her husband, George.

A memorial has been established to the First Presbyterian Church.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.kinkadefunerals.com](http://www.kinkadefunerals.com).



## *In Loving Memory Of*



## *Bernice Marie Szymanski*

*1930 ~ 2017*

*A Mother holds her children's hands for a while. . . .*

*Their hearts forever.*

*The family would like to invite you to join them for fellowship and lunch following the service in the church basement. We thank you for your presence and condolences.*



## MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM HEAVEN

I STILL HEAR THE SONGS,  
I STILL SEE THE LIGHTS

I STILL FEEL YOUR LOVE ON COLD WINTERY NIGHTS

I STILL SHARE YOUR HOPES AND ALL OF YOUR CARES  
I'LL EVEN REMIND YOU TO PLEASE SAY YOUR PRAYERS

I JUST WANT TO TELL YOU, YOU STILL MAKE ME PROUD  
YOU STAND HEAD AND SHOULDERS ABOVE ALL THE CROWD

KEEP TRYING EACH MOMENT, TO STAY IN HIS GRACE  
I CAME HERE BEFORE YOU TO HELP SET YOUR PLACE

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE PERFECT ALL OF THE TIME  
HE FORGIVES YOU THE SLIP, IF YOU CONTINUE THE CLIMB

TO MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS,  
PLEASE BE THANKFUL TODAY  
I'M STILL CLOSE BESIDE YOU,  
IN A NEW SPECIAL WAY

I LOVE YOU ALL DEARLY,  
NOW DON'T SHED A TEAR  
CAUSE I'M SPENDING MY  
CHRISTMAS WITH JESUS THIS YEAR



*In Loving Memory Of*

## *Bernice Marie Szymanski*

*Born*

November 14, 1930  
Campbell County, Wyoming

*Died*

December 11, 2017  
Sturgis, South Dakota

*Funeral Service*

Tuesday, December 19, 2017, at 10:30 a.m.  
First Presbyterian Church  
Sturgis, South Dakota

*Officiant*

Reverend Denzel Nonhof

*Accompanist*

Brenda Schaffer

*Soloists*

Henry Karrels  
Doug Ruhnnow

*Musical Selections*

“On Eagle’s Wings” “Here I Am, Lord” “Holy Night”

*Pallbearers*

Dean Szymanski ~ John Szymanski ~ Sean Karrels ~ Jacob Karrels  
Adam Karrels ~ Ben Bauer ~ Brenna Bauer ~ Lia Hare

*Interment*

Black Hills National Cemetery at 1:00 p.m.  
Sturgis, South Dakota