



Mary Jane Schaap

March 23, 1950 - July 13, 2023

Mary started her life on March 23, 1950, in the far north farm country of Minnesota to Karl and Verna Goossen. She is the youngest of five: Tom (June) Goossen, JoAnn (Ron) Pace, Harvey (Carol) Goossen and Eileen Fogerty. Five years later, Karl and Verna sold the farm and moved the family to Holland, Michigan. Mary attended Maplewood, Van Raalte, Harrington, and finished at West Ottawa. At Harrington she was a member of the Wildcats basketball team. I'm still quite proud of her for that achievement. At WO she was a marching band member, Dutch Dance, and worked in the library.

Mary says she met me in kindergarten at the old Maplewood School. Really? She says it was her, the cry-baby, the one always sitting on the teacher's lap bawling her eyes out begging to go home. From there, our paths would often cross, mostly in our church (Immanuel) elementary age Sunday School. She was 8 or 9 by then, but she was a girl so I pretty much ignored her. By 9th grade, things changed. Hmmm... I thought, this might be worth a 2nd look! I noticed she was always the cutest girl in the room. Then came 11th grade and the summer of '66. Ok, it's time. Now or never. I'm going to ask her out! It's July 1, and with a newly secured driver's license safely in hand we headed off for an adventurous evening at Tunnel Park. Things were off and running.

Four years later at our home church, Immanuel of Holland, I (Phil Schaap) took the lovely Mary Jane Goossen to be my wife. After another four years (I

had cold feet) we began to add others to the family. They are Angela (Pete) Gatz, Jen Curry and Jesse (Brett) Schaap; and then along came 9 grand kids.

Mary was always a self-proclaimed home body. She liked things simple, clear, and on the safe side. To her credit she found herself living in some far away places like the Copper Country up on Michigan's Keweenaw and Swaziland, Africa. She has been to 49 states plus Europe, Canada, Israel, and Mexico.

She loves holding babies and toddlers. For 50 years she has faithfully and quietly served the nursery at Immanuel. Our house was always filled with the sounds of Mary humming, especially the old hymns. She wasn't even conscious of her humming. Hundreds of hours were spent at the kids' sports events. Also, she enjoyed weekly gatherings with her siblings at Mom's, reading Christian novels, journeys in Facebook, helping raise our kids and grandkids.

From that July long ago to this July, it's been fifty-seven years together. Our story of doing life together has now come to a sudden end. Yesterday, Wednesday July 13, my beautiful friend and constant companion moved on to heaven to be with the true love of her life: her Savior, Christ Jesus.

Mary was recently diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia. We have been busy readying ourselves for her stem cell transplant. But that was overtaken by a hemorrhagic stroke.

She will always be remembered as one who taught us all about kindness, selflessness, patience, and authentic love.

Visitation is from 4:00-7:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 16, 2023, at Immanuel Church, 325 104th Ave, Holland, MI 49423. Funeral services are 3:00 p.m. Monday, July 17 at church. Memorial contributions may be given to Gateway

Mission Women & Children's Center.

Arrangements are by Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home, 315 East 16th St. Holland, MI, 49423. To leave condolences online, please visit, www.langelandsterenberg.com.

Cemetery Details

Graafschap Cemetery

32nd Steet at Graafschap Road
Holland, MI 49423

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 16. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Immanuel Church
325 104th Ave.
Holland, MI 49423

Funeral Service

JUL 17. 3:00 PM (ET)

Immanuel Church
325 104th Ave.
Holland, MI 49423

Tribute Wall

NH

“ Her smile - that's what I remember most about my cousin Mary. She gave us an example of a life well lived.

Nancy (Beckman) Harris - July 29, 2023 at 05:07 PM

PB

“ Oh, my little cousin is gone! (“Little” because 2 years younger than me, which when you're a kid, means “little”). Always smiling, always cute and always kind to others, she's going to be missed by a LOT of people.

—Phil Beckman, Colorado Springs

Phil Beckman - July 29, 2023 at 04:27 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Mary Jane Schaap.



July 21, 2023 at 12:01 PM

BB

“ So sad to hear of Mary's passing. Lots of memories of earlier years at Harrington and West Ottawa high school. Sympathy to all who knew her.

Betsy Koppenaar Bertalan

Betsy A. or John M. Bertalan - July 19, 2023 at 09:05 AM

TH

“ We just learned of Mary's passing and are deeply saddened by the news, but we know without a doubt that she is in her forever home in the arms of the Lord. We have such warm happy memories of Mary, Phil and the children, along with Eileen, her family and all the Goosens during the years Eileen cared for our son Rich. We were blessed that he could join in those half days at Goosen's, surrounded by love and laughter. Mary was a gentle soul, bright, sparkly and full of life and love. She was kind in every case and shared her love and faith in authentic compassionate ways. We are blessed that our family's journey paralleled Mary's and Phil's family's journey when all of our children were young. May all the sweet memories be comforting. Praying for the family. Tom & Kathy Herrick

Tom & Kathy Herrick - July 17, 2023 at 03:46 PM

KB

“ Mary Jane was consistently a kind & honest soul. Even thru those elementary and high school years, it was always clear that she put her spirituality first.. always. Impressive for a young person~ to know her path and stay on it. Being her Dutch Dance partner and friend through out elementary & high school, I was blessed to know her. Sympathy to her family, friends and others she has touched. Kathy Bright

Kathy Bright - July 17, 2023 at 11:42 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Jane Schaap.



July 17, 2023 at 11:32 AM

CH

“ Mary was the most precious person you would ever want to meet. Our friendship grew over 8 1/2 years and she was always the same. Kind, patient, loving and loyal. We shared many good and hard times together. But this has, by far, been the hardest. Can't wait to see her again when the Lord takes me to heaven to see her and many family members. Love you Mary. Love and prayers to Phil and family. Char Hitchcock

Charlene Hitchcock - July 16, 2023 at 03:33 PM

PA

“ I was privileged to have Mary babysit for my boys when they were young & I was teaching 1/2 days... when I would come to Pick them up they would always want to stay just a “ little “ longer! She was kind & loving & we were blessed to know her.... My deepest sympathy to you all in her loss, may your sweet memories bring you comfort & the sure knowledge that she is in heaven. Patti Arndt

patti arndt - July 16, 2023 at 02:07 PM

MZ

I am so saddened to read of Mary's passing. Phil and Mary lived next door to us for several years and they were such wonderful neighbors, always so kind and helpful. Mary was the sweetest and most cheerful gal, always smiling with a kind word for everyone. My heartfelt condolences go to Phil and their children, as well to the Goosen family. Take comfort in knowing she is in heaven with her Savior. Margo Hakken Zeedyk

Margo Hakken Zeedyk - July 16, 2023 at 02:21 PM

KO

“ Deepest Sympathy from the Holland High School Class of 1968.

Kathleen Piersma OConnor - July 16, 2023 at 09:05 AM

EG

Our sympathy, love and prayers to all, Phil and the Goossen siblings. We do grieve with you, but we also rejoice that Mary is with the Lord !!!

Elaine & Dan Gentry - July 16, 2023 at 09:08 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mary Jane Schaap.*



July 15, 2023 at 09:32 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mary Jane Schaap.

July 15, 2023 at 09:32 PM

SK

“ *So sorry to hear of Mary's passing, but we know she is in the best place and we will see her again. I was in band with her in HS. Then this pretty lady sat next to me at a Hark Up concert and said "Hi" I didn't recognize her at first, (it was Mary) she got even prettier as she got older!*

Sharon Allen Kuipers - July 15, 2023 at 07:17 PM

PM

“ *Phil, we both send our Christian Love with Mary's passing. We did not know her well but she was so nice when we met her. We just wish we gotten to know her Phil. You were blessed with a beautiful wife. Love In Christ 🙏 Phil and Jan Matz*

Phil & Jan Matz - July 15, 2023 at 07:12 PM

LA

“*Mary was a lovely person who was always serving others. I am thankful for her years in the nursery at Immanuel as she lovingly held all four of our children. Praying for Phil and the family, for God’s comfort and peace. What an eternal hope we have.*”

Laura Anthony - July 15, 2023 at 07:04 PM



“*Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Jane Schaap.*”



July 15, 2023 at 04:15 PM

SL

“*What a wonderful tribute to an amazing woman, wife, mom, and grandmother. We are sad we didn’t have the opportunity of getting to know her. Prayers for the days ahead for the family, especially Phil. Cherish the many memories!!*”

David and Susan Lentz

susan lentz - July 15, 2023 at 11:55 AM

PM

“*Mary was a member of the Women's prayer group at Immanuel. She diligently prayed every week she could come. She was an encouragement to all of us in the group with her listening ear and trust in her Savior. She will be greatly missed.*”

Peter and Sally Mulder - July 15, 2023 at 10:28 AM



“ *Jen/(Robb) and Phil - so sorry to read of your mom's (Mary) passing. Cherish the great memories! Prayers to you and your family.*

Jim and Elizabeth Root

James Root - July 15, 2023 at 01:11 AM