

Swartzendruber, Ruth N.

Ruth Naomi Swartzendruber, 83, of Pigeon, passed away Friday, Feb. 27, 2009 at Scheurer Hospital Long Term Care in Pigeon.

She was born April 21, 1925 in Oliver Township, and was the daughter of the late Emanuel and Kathryn (Zehr) Swartzendruber.

Ruth was a woman of faith and a member of Pigeon River Mennonite Church. She loved helping the poor and needy, and was known as the "bread lady" of the community. She gave her time and money to many Christian organizations, including Rosedale Mission and Gospel for Asia.

Although not a school teacher, she had a passion to teach, which included Bible School and Sunday School, and she enjoyed helping people. Ruth often said, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again."

Ruth was a homemaker throughout her lifetime, and worked for Dr. Scheurer as a housekeeper and assistant for 40 years. She enjoyed handwork such as knitting, sewing and making toys, and also enjoyed gardening and bird watching. She especially loved her granddaughter Kailea, her "little dolly."

She is survived by her daughter, Ovidia and her husband Titus Cerna of Goshen, Ind.; a granddaughter, Kailea Cerna; and nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Mary Jantzi and a brother and sister-in-law, Harvey and Mabel Swartzendruber.

Funeral service will be conducted at 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at the Pigeon River Mennonite Church, with the Rev. Alvin Yoder, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

Visitation will be from 5 to 9 p.m. Monday and from 10 a.m. until the service time Tuesday at the church.

Memorials for Ms. Swartzendruber may be made to Bible Society or Gospel for Asia Meyersieck-Bussema Funeral Home, Pigeon, is conducting the arrangements.