

Bailey, Karen L.

Karen Lynn Bailey, 58, of Big Rapids, formerly of Dearborn, passed away on Wednesday, May 5, 2010, at home in the loving arms of her family after a long battle with cancer.

She was born on May 30, 1951, in Detroit, the daughter of Thad and Verna (Putikka) Pearl, and graduated from Edsel Ford High School in Dearborn in 1969. Karen then earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Central Michigan University in 1973

On June 22, 1974, Karen married Bruce W. Bailey. The couple moved to Big Rapids later that year and lived there since. From 1974 to 1980, Karen taught fifth grade in Reed City. She was the fifth and sixth grade teacher at St. Peter's Lutheran School in Big Rapids since 1995.

Karen was a member of Mars Hill Bible Church in Grandville. She also was active with the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly. Karen was a devoted wife, mother, sister, friend and teacher who loved life fully with passion, faith, wonder and love.

Karen is survived by her husband, Bruce; son, Matthew (Valorie) Bailey, and daughters, Sarah Bailey and Anna (Jon) Ferrell, all of Grand Rapids; sisters, Debra (Don) Taulbee of Bad Axe and Donna (Tom) Olinzock of Taylor; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were on Sunday, May 9, 2010 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Big Rapids with burial in the Yuma Cemetery in Wexford County.

Memorial contributions in her name may be made for St. Peter's Lutheran School, 408 W. Bellevue, Big Rapids, MI 49307 or Mars Hill Bible Church for Water Projects, 3501 Fairlanes Ave. SW, Grandville, MI 49418.