



A lasting memorial has been given to  
**Good Samaritan Church**  
in memory of  
*Nancy Garrison Manolis*

*August 30, 1937—Cincinnati OH*

*October 28, 2015—Hopkins MN*

Nancy was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio, although her mother originally was from Minneapolis. She grew up with a conservative Methodist tradition, and her young years attending the Westwood Methodist-Episcopal Church firmly shaped her values and joy in church involvement.

Nancy attended the University of Cincinnati for three years, where she met her lifelong friends Jan and “Grassy” (Jane). The threesome moved together to Minneapolis in 1958 where Nancy soon met her beloved Deane and they began their grand adventure of married life in 1961. Their journey together included stints in Orange, CA and Fairbanks, AK. But soon they returned to MN and settled in Edina, where they raised their three children and lived for 32 years before relocating to Hopkins.

Beginning at age 4, Nancy nurtured and maintained deep friendships. There were the Cincinnati “Moosekateers” from grade and high school, her college roomies, Jan and Grassy, the California intern wives, the Edina “Trend Trippers”, her bridge buddies, and many friends in her Hopkins and church communities. A friend to all, and close confidante to many...

Schooled in home economics, Nancy always felt her roles would be wife, mother, and homemaker—and she excelled in all. She was a supportive wife to a frequently absent physician husband, and a warm and loving mother to her three children, as well as others who became surrogate children. Her home, which she designed and decorated, was a welcome place for all, children and adults alike.

Always artistic, in another life Nancy would have been an interior designer. She loved her personal art and craftwork—designing original handbags, “wearable art”, and “hangable art” as well. Fascinated by textures, she used mixed media to create expressionistic wall art adorning both her homes. Denying the label “artist”, she insisted: “I’m just playing around.”



Nancy loved her family with all her heart, especially her six grandchildren. She loved watching and hearing about their varied activities, listening to their stories, and sharing her special hugs with them.

Nancy and Deane came to Good Samaritan in 1974, and her religious belief thrived in the liberal, socially conscious tradition of this caring congregation. Early on, she was involved in many church projects, and she helped initiate Good Sam’s involvement in the Appalachian Service Project, sending young people on mission trips to Appalachia; this deeply valued annual event has touched many lives for 38 years.

Nancy considered Good Samaritan Church part of her extended family. She gave to and received so much from her church family, especially the love and support during the final stages of her illness. It was in this tradition that she decided to gift the new portico-entry to the church before her death. She dealt with her illness with grace and grit, to her final breath.

In the words of Nancy’s Mayo Clinic oncologist: “I will remember her always for her personality and perseverance...what a grand lady.”

***“She was a Phantom of delight...”***

This phrase from William Wordsworth’s poem described Nancy perfectly for Deane when they first met in 1959. As their lives together unfolded, Nancy fulfilled the entire poem—becoming “a perfect woman, nobly planned... and yet a Spirit still, and bright with something of angelic light.”

