

In Memoriam

Susan Denice Johnson-Miller was born on May 23, 1947, in Henderson, Kentucky, but spent most of her growing-up years in Detroit. She was the daughter of the late Horace Andrew Johnson and Cornelia Mae Brack Johnson. She is survived by Darryl Ray Miller, her husband of 44 years, and their daughter, Annie, born in Florida on November 25, 1986. Annie and her husband, Luke Iverson, are the parents of Noah, age six, and Willow, age four. She also is survived by her brother, H. A., Jr. (Butch), his wife, Wilma, niece Deby, nephews Chris (Michelle) and Brad (Paola), their children Alex, Kaia, Jarrett, Kaetlyn, Bradley, and P.J.

Miss Susie, as she was affectionately known by children around the world, spent 45 years in pastoral ministry, serving seven churches as children's pastor in five states: First Church of the Nazarene Church, Xenia, Ohio; Lakeview Park Church of the Nazarene, Oklahoma City; First Church of the Nazarene, Nashville; Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, Fort Lauderdale; Belmont Church, Nashville; and Christ Presbyterian Church, Nashville. After retiring from the ministry, she joined the staff of Metro Nashville Public Schools where she taught Pre-K for seven years and partnered with Vanderbilt University in young children literacy. From 1981-1985, she was on the teaching faculty of Trevecca Nazarene University where she taught education courses and created and implemented an early learning center called *Kinderhaus*.

She was educated at Olivet Nazarene University, Nazarene Theological Seminary, Wayne State University, Middle Tennessee State University, and Knox Theological Seminary. She often referred to herself as a "denominational maverick", but she joined Darryl as a member of St. Andrew Lutheran Church where she appreciated the emphasis on the Scriptures and traditional hymnody. Susie cherished the hymns of the Christian church, especially the hymnody of the Church of the Nazarene, and sang many of the hymns by memory.

Susie was called "Yaya" by Noah and Willow. She especially enjoyed spending time with them, reading to them, creating projects with them, telling them stories of her life, and sharing with them the books she had written and illustrated for them. A "Yaya tree" will be planted where her ashes will be buried among the roots to help the tree grow strong, and where Willow, Noah, Luke, and Annie can watch it grow, celebrating and giving thanks for her life.

Memorial gifts can be given to St. Andrew Church for the Pipe Organ Fund, or Kid's EE at Evangelism Explosion (PO Box 753, Arden, NC 28704).