

## Ramona Darlene Court

*Thank you to Kathy Court Kenny, Ramona's niece, whose comments at Ramona's memorial service greatly contributed to this article.*



(Niece Kathy Kenny and Ramona)

Ramona was born on June 17, 1929, in Belvidere, Illinois, just months before the stock market crash of '29. She and her family lived on a farm outside of town without indoor plumbing or heating. She and her five brothers rose early in the morning to do their chores before making the long trek to school. Things were tough until some years later when the Court family moved to town and life became more comfortable.

After graduating from high school, Ramona took a lifechanging road trip to Southern California, which seemed like a slice of heaven and which led to seven years of savings for a move to Spring Valley in the 1950's. Her experience at a bank in Belvidere, helped her to secure a position at a San Diego bank in 1957 and she remained there until her retirement.

Although Ramona was never married, she was engaged in her early twenties. Realizing it was a mistake, she broke it off when she discovered that she liked her fiancé less and less as time went by. Ramona never had children of her own but felt that she had been blessed by the relationships she maintained with her brothers' children, her cousins and her friends.

Ramona was very much her own person. She always said what was on her mind, and spent time doing those things that gave her joy and fulfillment.

Ramona was a devout Christian and lived her life consistent with her faith. She always considered her home church to be the First United Methodist Church of San Diego, which had a top-notch music program as well as a delicious array of donuts on Sunday morning.

She was received into membership at FUMC on September 24, 1967 by Rev. C. A. McClain, Jr., having transferred from the Lemon Grove Methodist Church where she directed the church choir for 8 years. She played the piano all her adult life and often played for the residents in the assisted living building where she resided in her later years. Although she kept her radio turned to classical music, she was also a fan of the Beatles.

Ramona sang in the FUMC choir for 25 years, attended the Cultural Events concerts, worked in the Church library, and attended regular Sunday worship services and Vespers. She also participated in Church retreats, attended classes at the San Diego School of Christian Studies, and served on the Church's Committee for Evangelism.



Ramona loved animals, and cats in particular. She also was a bird watcher, went on many bird walks and regularly checked her Sibley Guide to determine the identity of a migrating bird. Her favorite TV channel was the Animal Planet. She loved gardening, hiking, and volunteering at the San Diego Natural History Museum.

Ramona also loved reading and although her formal education ended with high school, her intellectual curiosity led to a broadened outlook and many progressive beliefs and ideals. She was very fond of book gifting, and always carefully selected and inscribed the books she gave to her young nieces and nephews.

Ramona loved corresponding in the old-fashioned way, and never owned a cell phone or computer. She was in her 80's before she owned a television, and always looked forward to reading the newspaper cover to cover, each day. She cherished her friends and stayed in touch, no matter how many years had passed or the number of miles between them. For years her closest friend Judy would call her every evening from the Midwest and they would share details about their day, often including a devotional.

First Church is ever grateful for all the blessings of Ramona's life with us and her commitment to providing for our ministries together even after her passing. She came from a large, close-knit family and will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her through the years, especially her extended faith family here at First Church.