The Life, Love, Faith, and Ministry of Lois Stiles
will be remembered and celebrated at
Locustwood Cemetery, 1500 Marlton Pike West, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002
Saturday, October 17, 2026 at 11:00 AM.



The world was graced with Lois's presence

July 18, 1936 – June 4, 2026

When Lois Stiles daughter texted earlier this week to invite me to lead Lois's graveside service, I knew immediately the words that should open her service: "I now see God. I myself now see, and my eyes now behold God, the One who is my friend and not a stranger." Lois certainly knew God as faithful friend.

If you were in this community before COVID, you would have known Lois Stiles. You would have seen her coming at any distance with her often-flaming red hair, her red lipstick, and her bright smile. You would have seen her with open hands and an open heart every single day.

Lois gave her whole heart to this community because she experienced it as a place where she met God. She knew it as a place where God was waiting to meet her. A quick glance at the photos in St. Peter's 2008, 2013, and 2017 directories reminds us that Lois served as warden, as a mission committee member, as an Altar Guild member, as the faithful driving force behind St. Peter's steady and substantial contributions to the food bank at St. Francis, and as a spirited member of the community, even sporting a festive Mardi Gras face mask at the Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner. Lois Stiles was unquestionably a force in God's ongoing work of creating and re-creating our community.

When I applied to the Diocese of New Jersey for admission as a postulant to the priesthood, I needed two letters from this community in addition to a letter from the mission committee. Mary Allen and Lois Stiles wrote those two letters. As I reflect today on Lois's life, it seems very clear to me that I should have been the one writing a letter for Lois. Lois Stiles had the heart of an Episcopal deacon. She could have been ordained. (I am sure she would have been shocked by that suggestion.)

Ordained or not, Lois unquestionably lived the life of a deacon. She served all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely. She helped our community to hear God's call to step out of ourselves to address the needs, concerns, and hopes around us. She drove for Meals on Wheels for years, carrying food to strangers who came to see her as a friend. I see in all of that the heart and soul of a deacon.

As with all of us, Covid took its toll on Lois. She became very accustomed to life in her house alone with Lily, her quirky little dog, and occasional visitors. She came to know the peace in being in the presence of God in her own home. Surely that was a beautiful gift. But covid also took somethings from Lois that she would not have otherwise let go easily. Altar Guild was one of those things.

To Lois, Altar Guild service was a privilege, something she treasured. It was a paired service in pre-covid days, so Lois always partnered with another person when serving in this ministry. That paired service always reminded Lois that God was not only at work in her, but was at work in the whole of the community. Her service was never hers alone for she was an integral part of a whole community of service. service was always connected to other services.

Aging took its toll and not everyone got to know the Lois of pre-covid days. But Lois was still Lois, no matter when you met her. In our Wednesday Lunch Bunch Lois shared stories that could make every one of us smile no matter where we had heard them before. She had stories of the one-room schoolhouse in which she studied, stories about her collection of high school friends, her marriage to Tom, and stories of her children… even a story about how God inspired in her creative ways to meet up with Tom on Friday nights when he was drafted shortly after their marriage.

No matter what story Lois told, I heard her underlying theme: God was always with her. God carried her through the hard times. God gave her the courage to speak up when she needed to do so, whether for the good of the community or for the good of an individual. God was with her from her first breath to her last, guiding her though the many challenges of life.

If you can do so, join me at Locustwood Cemetery at 11:00 a.m. Let us together bear witness to the truth that Lois now looks upon the face of the God who is surely her dearest friend and not a stranger.

May our lives be lived ever more deeply in response to the God who is Love -

Genevieve

(a few pictures follow)

Food Pantry



Lois Stiles faithfully transports groceries, "purchased" by parishioners from our food cupboard, to the local food bank.



St. Peter's Mission Committee

Left to Right first row: Lois Stiles, Patricia Feeney, Donna McGrath, Susan Blauvelt, Adele Mount, Marie Stone

Second row: Owen Caffrey, Randy Waterfield







Lois in her home, June 8th, 2023