

Mary Elizabeth (Streich) Kurkowski (2 Nov 1910 – 22 Sep 2007)

Mary Elizabeth Streich Kurkowski, age 96 years, died peacefully at her home on Newport Road, Newport.

She was the wife of the **Rev. Braynard E. Kurkowski**, who died in 1999 at the age of 93 years old, in the 66th year of their marriage, and she lived a loving and productive life playing an active role in each of the churches and communities he served as a pastor; Dewey Avenue Evangelical and Reformed Church, Rochester, New York, Trinity United Church of Christ in Scranton, Pa., St. John's United Church of Christ in Harrisburg, and the Newport-Markelsville Charge, in Perry County.

After retirement in 1971, they had opportunities to minister to several other churches on a part-time basis.

Born in Columbus, Ohio, on November 2, 1910, she was the daughter of the Rev. Herman L. **Streich** and his wife, **Alma (Schaefer) Streich**, and was a graduate of Harris Teachers College in St. Louis, Missouri.

She is remembered with a great affection by each member of her family. In recent years she lived with her son, **Paul Kurkowski** in the Newport home. Her other children are the **Rev. Fred Kurkowski** and his wife **Delores** of Clemmons, North Carolina, **Dr. Catherine Reimer** and her husband, **Norman** of West Chester, and **Dr. David Kurkowski** and his wife **Myra** of Cape May, New Jersey. Her grandchildren are **Heather Wolcott** of Winston Salem, North Carolina, **Sarah Simpson** of Rock Hill, South Carolina, **Michael Kurkowski** of Houma, Louisiana, **Jacob Reimer** of Chicago, Ill, **Susan Kirkowski** of New York City, **Daniel Kurkowski** of Philadelphia, and **Ellen Kurkowski** of Cape May. There are four great-grandchildren, **Kaila Wolcott**, **Taylor Wolcott**, **Kelsey** and **Rebecca Simpson**. Included in Mary's family are **Betty Streich** of Pleasant Hill, Tennessee, the wife of her brother, the late **Rev. Paul Streich**, and their children and grandchildren.

She was active in many church and community organizations. Through the years she has held leadership positions with women's organizations of her denominations, as well as Church Women United of Scranton, Harrisburg and Newport, and was designated as a "Valiant Woman" by that organization. She served as President of the Newport Civic Club. She was a long time volunteer at the Newport Public Library. During her tenure as President of the Board, she was instrumental in the construction of the new Library building in that community. In retirement, she and her husband served for several years as the administrators of the Chautauqua United Church of Christ Society at the Chautauqua Institution.

Her good life and joyful faith will be celebrated in a Memorial Service which was held at the Incarnation United Church of Christ, Newport. Burial was at Newport Cemetery.

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