



## Jean R. Meek

February 18, 1929 - December 6, 2015

Jean Rosalyn (Grimes) Meek was born February 18, 1929 and passed December 6, 2015. To all whose path crossed hers, she embodied kindness, compassion and unconditional love. She was most widely known as a teacher, though her disciplines were far-flung: music, the classroom, piano, chorus, and countless individualized curricula for thousands.

Jean's classroom extended across the globe when she and her husband Woody lived and taught English in China. They touched an enormous number of young students' lives, creating a long-lasting bridge that has spanned decades and yielded a community of Chinese English speakers with a surprising northern Michigan accent.

She was born in Lansing, Michigan to Myrlan and Bertha (Stowell) Grimes and grew up in the same town with her brother and sister, Robert and Janet – both of whom survive her.

She married Forrest B. Meek in 1953 in Lansing, Michigan. Like Woody, she found her calling as a teacher and moved with him and their four children to Clare, Michigan in 1963. She is survived by her children, Sally (Don) Dunlop, Thomas (Giovanna) Meek, Nancy (Allen) Nickels, and Charles (Kimberly) Meek; her grandchildren Nora (Karl Klockars) Dunlop, Diana Horton, Maxwell (Karla) Dunlop, Spencer Meek, Tong Meek, Alexander Meek, Moira Meek and Conner Meek; her step-grandchildren, Jennifer Kirkwood and Allen Nickels; her siblings Robert (Joyce) Grimes and Janet Grimes, and many beloved nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Forrest B.

'Woody' Meek, her daughter-in-law, Kathie Van den Brink Meek and her grandson, Paul Horton.

Her family is especially grateful to her friends and caregivers at The Horizon Senior Living Center in Clare, Boardman Lake Glens in Traverse City, Hospice of Michigan, and the Clare United Methodist Church.

Memorial services will be held on Saturday, December 12, at 11:00 AM at the Clare United Methodist Church with Pastor John Kasper officiating. Friends may meet with her family on Friday, Dec. 11, from 4 to 8 PM in the Meeting Room of the Pere Marquette District Library (Corner of E. Fourth St. and Pine St., Clare, Michigan). Memorials in Lieu of flowers, may be made to the Clare United Methodist Church or to Hospice of Michigan, 10850 E. Traverse Hwy., Traverse City, Michigan, 49684.

# Cemetery Details

## Cherry Grove Cemetery

1000 Cedar St.  
Clare, MI 48617

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 11. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pere Marquette District Library  
185 E. Fourth St.  
Clare, MI 48617

## Service

DEC 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

Clare United Methodist Church  
105 E. Seventh Street  
Clare, MI 48617

# Tribute Wall

S)

“ *What a very lovey wonderful lady . Loved her as a teacher later friend may God wellcome you in his loving arms my deepest sympathy for the family*

Sandra (Cunningham )Turley - December 15, 2015 at 07:27 PM

AS

“ *Our condolences from our family to yours.  
The Schumm's*

Al Schumm - December 12, 2015 at 01:28 PM

KH

“ *Chuck,  
Prays and my deepest regrets to you and your family. Each time we talked the conversation always turned to her kids and the fond memories of the white house with the tire swing in the tree. A wonderful lady.*

Kevin Haynak - December 11, 2015 at 06:55 PM

JK

“ *Jennifer Kirkwood purchased the Condolences Sacker for the family of Jean R. Meek.*



Jennifer Kirkwood - December 11, 2015 at 01:00 PM

JK

“ Jennifer Kirkwood purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Jean R. Meek.



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**Jennifer Kirkwood** - December 11, 2015 at 12:52 PM

RV

“ My heartfelt condolences to Jean's family. Ones passing ushers In a period of reflection for family and friends. For many years Jean served as organist for Mid Michigan Community College's commencement ceremonies. Her music was an integral element of these ceremonies, many of which were held outdoors. I fondly recall those beautiful spring mornings with the wild cherry in blossom, the expanding oak buds, a light breeze and Jean's music creating the background for an event so important to graduates and their families. And although at the time I enthusiastically thanked her, as I now reflect I may not have thanked her enough.  
Ron Verch

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**Ron Verch** - December 11, 2015 at 11:39 AM

JK

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



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**Jennifer Kirkwood** - December 11, 2015 at 11:33 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Jean R. Meek.



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December 10, 2015 at 10:09 PM



“ Jean played the organ at Lansing Central Free Methodist Church when I was a little girl. I remember Grandma, Dad and Mom talking about what a good job she did. Mom also told me when Jean saw me for the first time, she said "There is a girl with personality!" (I don't remember :-), but wondered how would she know that?) I do remember her smile and always felt her genuine interest in me and all those around her. To Sally, Tom, Nancy, and Chuck. and (Bob and Janet) know we will all think of her with love and thanksgiving to God for her life.

Lorraine (Frederick) Wilber

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Lorraine Wilber - December 10, 2015 at 09:33 PM



“ Some of the best times I had in high school was in Mrs. Meek's class and in our school musical productions she and Woody facilitated. She will always be our beloved Mrs. Meek to me, her husband will always be known as "Woody". I will never forget what a sweet, kind and gracious lady Jean Meek always was!

Audrey Church McIntyre

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Rev. Audrey Church McIntyre - December 10, 2015 at 09:32 PM

BM

“ My lovely Aunt Jean was a very special lady. My mother, Martha Meek (they married brothers Paul - my father, and Forrest, my Uncle), my sister Brenda and her husband John, and I would meet her on Friday evenings when she was living in Assisted Living in Clare. It was nice visiting with her.

Quite a few Friday evenings, she would be finishing piano lessons with some students. The Assisted Living facility there set up her piano in the facility's living room, entry area. We would wait patiently while she finished the lesson. That was such a fond memory I had of my Aunt. We'd often visit their home in Clare; years earlier, and she would have students over for piano lessons. What an amazing woman, sharing her gift of music with so many students over the years!

But after she was done, she would sit in a comfortable chair, and most of the other residents were in their room, so we had the entire living room there to ourselves, to chat, reminisce, talk about family, the weather...whatever really. After an hour or so, we would see her to her room and head back home ourselves. My mother and I live(d) in Cadillac, and Brenda and John live in Mt. Pleasant.

We visited often when Uncle Woody was still there. We built such wonderful bridges of love while they were here. But, now it is nice to know that they are together again.

Me and my family send much love and condolences to my cousins and their families. I am sorry I cannot make the visitation or the funeral. But know that I am there in Spirit.

Love,  
Brian Meek

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Brian Meek - December 10, 2015 at 07:58 PM

DB

“ Jean was the organist when I arrived at Clare UMC as pastor. She was always kind, co-operative and often told me I was her favorite pastor. I still remember the tears we both shed when she told me she could not continue to play for our worship services. Jean always expressed her thanks for sermons, and she gave me the opportunity to preside at Forrest's service. I shall miss her very much, and regret I shall not be able to be there to support her family and Rev. Kasper as he celebrates her life. To the family, my prayers and deepest regrets. Pastor Dennis Bromley

Dennis Bromley - December 10, 2015 at 05:32 PM

MS

“ We will never forget Jean's sweet smile and encouraging words as she cared for others. Her gentleness and excellence influenced all her relationships. It is a privilege to have had this dear Christian lady as my friend. To her children I send my love.

Marjorie Schumm - December 10, 2015 at 02:36 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Jean R. Meek.



December 10, 2015 at 01:38 PM

HR

“ Music is my main memory of Mrs Meek. Loved to hear her play the piano and organ. Her friendly smile and gentle spirit will be greatly missed. Sending my love and prayers to Sally, Tom, Nancy, Chuck and their families. Love, Heather Horden Reed

Heather Horden Reed - December 10, 2015 at 12:30 PM



“ *A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of Jean R. Meek.*



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December 10, 2015 at 09:26 AM



“ *The children of Weldon and Hazel Meek purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Jean R. Meek.*



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**The children of Weldon and Hazel Meek** - December 10, 2015  
at 08:57 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Jean R. Meek.*



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December 10, 2015 at 08:01 AM

AP

“Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness: kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile.” ? Mother Teresa...Mrs. Meek is in my heart until we meet again. I have her fine family Chuck & Kim Meek and sons to remind me...Mrs. Meek had asked my mother to translate 'I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing' in Japanese for our 4th grade music class...together on the piano can still hear their laughter, their voices, see their smiles cajoling...instructing...Mrs. Meek brought her global passions through her many talents even to wee little me. Her organ music at the church...hymns continue to touch my soul. Thank you God for her every day.

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**Amy Abbey Potokar** - December 10, 2015 at 07:34 AM

LB

“ I had the pleasure of taking care of Jean while she lived at Horizon Senior Living it was always a joy to hear the sound of the piano as she gave one of her many lessons. Jean was an amazing lady and will truly be missed.

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**Lindsey Baugher** - December 10, 2015 at 06:58 AM

CM

“ My grandson, Aris, and I became acquainted with Mrs. Meek when we took piano lessons. Aris started at 7 yrs of age and continued through 12th grade. We appreciated her kindness along with her expert instruction. We loved her and are very blessed to have known her.

*Carol Marsh*

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**Carol Marsh** - December 09, 2015 at 04:30 PM

BH

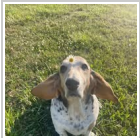
“ *A truely amazing, giving, loving woman. She will be missed by many, and it is a priviledge to have been one of her students, colleague and friend.*

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**Bruce Hales** - December 09, 2015 at 03:43 PM

CC

“ *Jean was a dear lady.  
Always spoke softly .  
was a joy to be around  
Cathy Collins*

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**Catherine D COLLins** - December 09, 2015 at 02:47 PM



“ *Chuck and Kimberly,*

*My thoughts and prayers are with you and your entire family as you celebrate the past life and eternal life of your dear mother. I remember her so fondly, and always with a smile.  
Sincerest condolences,*

*Julie Gedney Rank*

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**Julie Gedney-Rank** - December 09, 2015 at 10:52 AM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of  
Jean R. Meek.*



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December 09, 2015 at 10:30 AM

KV

“ *Jean was my inspiration as a child, my mentor as an adult. I know that I am a better person for knowing her and I will miss and love her forever. My thoughts and prayers are with the family. I know the angels are singing to her beautiful music as I write these words.*  
*Sincerely, Kristi Vida-Hitchcock*

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**Kristi Vida-Hitchcock** - December 08, 2015 at 09:51 PM