



## Mary Helen Frisbie Ryckman

Mary Helen Frisbie Ryckman - beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend - was born in Detroit on August 16, 1946 to Robert Virgil Frisbie and Helen Elizabeth Kuhn Frisbie. She passed away on Saturday, January 1, 2011 at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Michigan after suffering an aortic dissection.

Mary grew up in Highland Park until 1961, when Ford Motor Company transferred her father to Sao Paulo, Brazil. She graduated from Albion College in 1968 with a major in Mathematics and minor in Chemistry. She pursued a life-long vocation in teaching: Pontiac City Schools (1968 - 1972), Bloomfield Hills Academy (Chairman of Mathematics 1973 - 1977) and as a substitute teacher in Bloomfield Hills and Forest Hills. She retired from The Roeper School, Birmingham, in June of 2010 after serving 14 years there.

She met her future husband, Leslie Howard Ryckman, when they were children in the Sunday School Nursery at Metropolitan United Methodist Church in Detroit, where both their families were active members. They were married in the Metropolitan sanctuary on June 9, 1973 and continue to be devoted leaders and advocates for Metropolitan UMC. Les and Mary purchased their first home in Troy (1975), moved to Grand Rapids in 1983, and then returned to Troy in 1988. They also enjoyed spending time at their cottage on Lake Louise in Boyne Falls, Michigan.

Their 37-year union was blessed with three sons: Timothy (Christine), Gregory (Michelle) and Michael (fiancée Kirssa) and two grandchildren: Alaina and Colin. Mary eagerly anticipated the birth of triplets - two boys and a girl - due in April, and was blessed to meet them via ultrasound just last week. Her pride and joy was her family, and above all else, she devoted herself to them. "We will all miss hearing her voice, learning from her, enjoying her cooking and receiving her hugs."

Mary poured out her life in service to others. She created a home of warmth, love and hospitality, where her ever-widening circle of family and friends were always made welcome. She was an eager and thoughtful hostess, who sought to create a perfect atmosphere to make everyone truly feel at home.



## Mary Helen Frisbie Ryckman

Her life of service extended beyond hearth and home: Mary shared generously of her gifts and time with church and community. At Metropolitan UMC, she taught Sunday School, Confirmation, Disciple Bible Study and the Addis Thompson Class for adults with special needs. She brought wisdom and discernment to the United Methodist Women, the Staff Parish Relations and Centennial Planning Committees. She knit prayer shawls and sweaters for Head Start children and served as a Camp Director some summers. She and Les have been members of the Aldersgate Sunday School Class for more than 35 years.

Mary also volunteered and served in a leadership capacity with numerous charitable organizations including the Lake Louise Board of Trustees, P.E.O., Prevention Network, Birmingham-Bloomfield Families in Action and Maplegrove Community Education Center. She also provided service to innumerable professional organizations which promoted excellence in education and championed healthy living for youth and families.

Mary will be remembered for her welcome smile, her kind words, her wisdom, her gentle tact, her warm heart, her giving nature and her principled character. She is survived by her husband Les and their sons Timothy (Christine), Gregory (Michelle), and Michael (fiancée Kirssa); grandchildren Alaina and Colin; siblings Robert and Raymond (Beverly) Frisbie, and Ruth (Steven) Jamieson; a large extended family; and a host of friends and colleagues.

After 64 years of lighting our lives and sharing her wisdom with the world, and just hours after hosting family and friends in her home on New Year's Eve, the Lord called her and said, **"well done, good and faithful servant."**