



Janet Wright Cookston

December 15, 1954 - November 21, 2018

Both Jan and I had humble beginnings and knew how to stretch a dollar. My being self-employed for 35 years, we had long periods with little or no income. I only needed say the word and Jan made our money last. I think she was thriftier than I, and that says a lot.

We lived in 3 homes. We started house keeping and lived nine months in Culver, Indiana. From then on, we lived in Indianapolis, first in an apartment for 2 years and then in our current home. Over the next 38 years we morphed our home many times over.

When we married, Jan was not a camping person. In her words the request was, "It must have a door and be off the ground." A used pop-up fit the bill nicely. We drug that thing from Florida to Upper Michigan and from Colorado to South Carolina.

We thought we were in hog heaven when we got the 5th wheel camper. Later in 2005 we bought our beloved Maggie, a 1995 32-foot motor home. I think the first season we went out 12 times. I'm sure many of you have heard some of infamous stores of Maggie; (caught on fire twice, lost the tow car 3 times, brakes failing going down Bear Tooth Mountain) and many more perils. It was always an adventure, but we were together and sharing the experience.

Jan loved to sing in choirs. The church choir even sang at our wedding. One of our dream trips was traveling with a church choir to Germany and

spontaneously singing in some of Europe's wonderful cathedrals. The reverberation of the melodies in those marvelous stone buildings was breathtaking. Trips like that create bonds of life-long friendship and through that trip we became close friends with so many special people.

Even though I traveled a lot for work, Jan seldom went with me. However, she did go with me on a business trip to Belgium. After driving that first day on an autobahn super highway in a tiny Metro car at speeds in excess of 80 mph, Jan informed me that the next day we would take the train. Go figure!

Our last big trip was with friends to Italy. Jan and I got semi lost in Venice. Many sidewalks came to an abrupt end at a dock or lagoon. The only thing we could do was swim or back track. We chose to back track.

Jan was a gifted teacher of children. Soon after we married, she went to college and received her teaching license with an early childhood and special education endorsement. [I think that helped her cope with me, being mostly like a kid at heart. Necessary?] She poured her life into those children, first at Church at the Crossing, then Amy Beverland, and finally Heritage Christian. She was never more energized than she was working with children.

It always seems odd to some people that we decided not to have our own kids, to which Jan would reply; "At 3 o'clock I can send them home".

Jan was my companion, lover, and wife for 40 years, 8 months, and 17 days. The longest we were ever apart was 18 days. On most trips I would call Jan every evening. Up until the last 2 years, Jan loved her independence. During my traveling years, if I were home too many weeks, Jan would say, "Isn't it about time you flew someplace." She was a perfect partner for me. I am abstract-random and she was concrete-sequential. She was good with planning and details; I am a 'getter done' guy. She listened to people; I talk.

It is so sweet how God has closed this chapter of my life. Jan and I were married after the blizzard of 1977-78 at North Anderson Church of God with my brother, Joe, officiating and Jan's piano teacher, Ernestine Sherer, at the organ with the church choir singing as part of the special music. Now on December 3rd at Church at the Crossing Church of God, with my brother Joe officiating and Ernestine playing the organ, Jan will be singing in the heavenly choir.

Jan is survived by her sister Glenda Housholder (Don) and Melanie Vermillion (Doug).

A celebration of life service will be held Dec 3rd at Church at the Crossing at 9111 Haverstick Rd. Visitation will be 10-Noon with a celebration service at Noon.

In leu of flowers we ask you to give to Heritage Christian school, the place Jan loved so dearly. You can donate directly at <https://www.heritagechristian.net/cookston> or send a check to HSC Elementary School 6401 E 75th St, Indianapolis, IN 46250 and put Cookston Memorial Fund in the memo line.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

DEC 3. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Church at the Crossing
9111 Haverstick Road
Indianapolis, IN 46240

Memorial Service

DEC 3. 12:00 PM (ET)

Church at the Crossing
9111 Haverstick Road
Indianapolis, IN 46240

Tribute Wall

KS

“ Hi Charlie. Such a sad and wonderful time to share with you how much I love you both. You were on my youth ministry team many years ago and some of my best friends. I remember Jans supportive and so good with the teens. We had a few hard years but you and Jan were wonderful support and friends. I am sad to hear of her passing. I pray for you, my friend, for comfort and blessing. You both are amazing wonderful people. God bless you Charlie.

Kurt Salierno - December 04, 2018 at 08:26 PM

MQ

“ Hi Charlie,
I am so sad to learn of your precious wife's home going. I did not have an opportunity to meet Jan personally, but I feel like I knew her through you sharing your amazing adventurous vacations with all of us at work. The picture you had of her hanging over your desk displayed her beautiful smile. I will always remember how your face would light up as you shared your stories about her. You two were truly a match made from heaven. I praise God for Jan's wonderful life and I trust Him for the new adventure you have embarked upon. I know it will be very different now but that is what your adventures are all about - discovering new, exciting and wonderful things acknowledging God's awesomeness (we will always remember those wonderful Falls from your videos). Continue to trust God through the difficult times, He will see you through! We love you Charlie.

Maxine Quarles

Maxine Quarles - December 03, 2018 at 08:08 AM

SC

“ Dear Charlie and family,

I will always remember my brief time of knowing Jan with great fondness. When first I met her I knew immediately that here was a lady, a sister in Jesus Christ, to be cherished.

I had moved to Indianapolis a year or so before we met, and during that year, I had searched for a church home. God directed me to Castleton Church of the Nazarene, and I knew when I walked through the door that I had found what I was looking for. Jan was one of the dear people who confirmed that; she was so warm and welcoming.

In the course of our conversation, I told her of my passion for teaching and my love of children. Now, Charlie, after reading your beautiful tribute to her, I more deeply understand that we shared that passion at the heart level.

That morning, Pastor Hiehle announced a need for a Sunday school teacher. My heart beat a little faster. I chanced to look down the pew to see Jan leaning forward and smiling. She knew exactly what I was thinking--my heart's desire! I did have the joy and blessing of teaching that wonderful class of pre-teens. Jan sat in for a few Sundays, and I loved having her there.

Jan is a very special lady. I thank God for allowing our lives to intersect at Castleton, and I look forward to that Great Day when we can meet again in the Presence of our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus. Blessed assurance!

*Because of Christ,
Sharon Kirk Clifton*

Sharon Clifton - December 03, 2018 at 07:09 AM

KW

“ I remember you and Jan in the youth house at North Anderson. You were dating and Jan was undecided is my recall. Eventually you won her over and I recall being so happy for both of you. Then the wedding and your eyebrows going up and down in your nervousness just like my grandmothers - another Wright woman. We chuckled in our aisle and tried to behave. Life continued and we saw or heard of you guys only periodically. Your words of the life you two shared was so loving and spoke to the amazing life you two built together. I'm so sorry for your loss. But I'm happier for the life you had together, for the time you shared and the joy you brought to each others lives.... not to mention others. That is the memory I will hold onto.

Kendra Wood - December 02, 2018 at 10:22 PM

JS

“ Charlie, we are so sad to hear of Jan's passing. It was always a lovely moment for us to look out over our lawn and wave hello to you and Jan (and your dog) walking to the end of the street, stop and kiss, and turn to walk back down the street. Our prayers go with you.
From your neighbors Tim & Jeannie

Jeannie Sparks - November 30, 2018 at 08:38 AM

JC

“Charlie, my heart is saddened at the passing of your sweet wife, Jan. I had the privilege of sharing with Jan in the development of the Early Childhood Center of our church, The Church at the Crossing. Jan was an excellent teacher of young children, and a strong staff member during those beginning years! She was always well organized, dependable, and helpful as she related to children and parents. Jan’s life truly reflected her love for Christ and His teachings. She was a joy to many!
May you be blessed and comforted by God’s loving care and presence in the days ahead!

Jan Cox - November 29, 2018 at 08:45 PM