



Marena Sue Babcock

July 21, 1955 - February 2, 2025

Marena Sue Babcock, 69, of Greenfield, passed away peacefully at Simon Cancer Center February 2, 2025 surrounded by her loving family. She was born July 21, 1955 in Indianapolis to the late Donald and Mary Ann (Rife) Rivers. Marena was a graduate of Thomas Carr Howe High School in 1973. She married Bob Babcock August 9, 1975. Marena was a prolific freelance writer whose work included the book "Frugal Cooking", the newsletter "Frugal Times", and her Indianapolis Star column "Thrifty Thoughts". She was a lifetime member of the Church of the Nazarene and for the last 30 years has attended Fortville Church of the Nazarene. Her faith was incredibly important to her, and she deeply valued her friendships in the church.

Marena enjoyed cooking, sewing, and arts and crafts. She had previously owned and operated a daycare in her home called "Mother's Day Out" and loved spending time with family. She was a proud mother of two sons, Michael and David; loved having fun with her granddaughter, Caroline; and referred to her husband Bob as "My Rock".

Visitation will be Thursday, February 6, 2025 from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at Fortville Church of the Nazarene, 701 S. Maple Street, Fortville, with funeral services there Friday at 10:00 a.m.

Marena is survived by her loving husband of nearly 50 years, Bob Babcock; sons, Michael Babcock and David (Katie) Babcock; granddaughter, Caroline Babcock; sisters, Pam Harsin and Sandra (Steve) Moore; brother, Jon

(Chrissy) Rivers; and many nieces, nephews and cousins. She was preceded in death by her sisters, Marsha McMasters and Teresa Gorton; and brothers, Mark Rivers and Ronald Rivers.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to Nazarene Missions International online at <https://nazarene.org> Final arrangements and care are entrusted to Shirley Brothers Washington Memorial Chapel.

Cemetery Details

Washington Park East

10612 E. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46229

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 6. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Fortville Church of the Nazarene
701 S. Maple Street
Fortville, IN

Funeral Service

FEB 7. 10:00 AM (ET)

Fortville Church of the Nazarene
701 S. Maple Street
Fortville, IN

Tribute Wall

MF

“ Mike Rife and family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Marenda Sue Babcock.



Mike Rife and family - February 06, 2025 at 07:21 AM

MF

“ Mike Rife and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Marenda Sue Babcock.

Mike Rife and family - February 06, 2025 at 07:21 AM

EF

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Eugene Ficker - February 05, 2025 at 02:05 PM

EF

“ What a blessing you are, Marenda...such a privilege, honor and joy to share so many times and memories with you and Babcock family overall...we are broken-hearted now but still we earnestly thank our Heavenly Father, in Christ Jesus, simply for your life...we miss and love you so very much, always and forever - Gene & Thelma Ficker

Eugene Ficker - February 05, 2025 at 02:00 PM

BR

“ *Marenda was without a doubt one of the most generous people. She loved hearing about your life. We will miss her sense of humor. Prayers for her family. Bill and Becky Rife*

Becky Rife - February 05, 2025 at 12:58 AM

KL

“ *Kelly, Shannon, Courtney and Ladd purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Marenda Sue Babcock.*



Kelly, Shannon, Courtney and Ladd - February 04, 2025 at 11:00 PM

TS

“ *The children of William Rife Sr. purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Marenda Sue Babcock.*



The children of William Rife Sr. - February 04, 2025 at 09:24 PM

SC

“ *Marenda was an over-the-top joy filled lady. She blessed everyone with her wonderful cooking, hilarious sense of humor and genuine interest in hearing about your life. I loved calling her “cuz”. She brought life to the party. Love her!*

shirley Coleman - February 04, 2025 at 09:02 PM

LA

“ *May the peace that passes all understanding be with your family. May your happy memories be a blessing and comfort to you always .From an Everyday Outreach YT bible study friend. MI Daffodil*

LaDeanna - February 04, 2025 at 08:56 PM

MO

“ *Miss you Marenda, my friend and sweet sister in Christ. I met Marenda through Everyday Outreach Online and we walked a similar cancer journey together. I am blessed to have known you and still praying for Bob and Michael. We mourn with Hope, knowing we will see you again one day. You have run your race well, and crossed the finish line. Precious in His sight, are the death of His saints.*

Moni - February 04, 2025 at 07:34 PM

CT

“ *Marenda was a very special lady! We have not been in touch now for several years but I will always be so grateful to her and Bob for helping my children learn so much about the Word of God through the Children’s Bible Quizzing program! They were so involved and showed so much love to the kids. They put God first in everything. She was a dear friend and always gave encouragement and had a kind word for everyone. I thought to myself today, she beat me! She got to Heaven first! Her men and granddaughter will be in my prayers.*

Connie Thompson - February 04, 2025 at 05:03 PM

BT

“ I loved this lady. She was so sweet and had a Wonderful personality and seem to always cheer me up when I could see her even when she wasn't feeling well. She will be missed. I'm praying for the family 🙏. Barb Terrell



Barb Terrell - February 04, 2025 at 04:46 PM

AP

“ Rejoicing in her graduation though sadly will miss her comments through Everyday Outreach. She brought me many blessings with her encouragement and kindness. Thank you Marenda! May God give great comfort and peace to all the family as they travel this new journey.

Amy Packer - February 04, 2025 at 10:49 AM

SF

“ We know each other from Everyday Outreach an I hope we see each other at the EO corner in Heaven. You will be missed and my sympathies to you family.
Sandy Fox, AZsand

Sandy Fox - February 04, 2025 at 10:14 AM

SG

“ Prayers for the family that they will have a peace beyond understanding a faith they they will be with her again one day in Heaven. She was\is loved and missed by all it the EDO bible study group.

Steve Gunner - February 04, 2025 at 09:39 AM

TW

“*Marenda remains a blessed part of our daily online Bible study family. Always kind and uplifting, her absence will be missed but not from our hearts.*

Tyler Woods - February 04, 2025 at 09:37 AM

MP

“*Marenda was a caring loving sweet lady and she will truly be missed !prayers to the family!*

Michelle perr - February 03, 2025 at 11:19 PM

BR

“*Marenda was my cousin by marriage. Although we have known each other since we were little girls. Richard and I had our first date with Bob and Marenda. So many memories with her. She will be sorely missed.*
I know Richard was so happy to see her when she went home.

Brenda Rife - February 03, 2025 at 08:30 PM

BH

“*Marenda was not only my sister in law but also a cherished friend. We shared many laughs and adventures over the years. Even almost 50 years later we would still laugh hysterically over an incident that happened in a restaurant in Gary IN. As I sat with her at the hospital on Saturday is was wonderful to be able have fellowship and remember our long history together. She will be missed. May her memory be a blessing*

Beverly Hunt - February 03, 2025 at 05:55 PM

MC

Marenda was a treasured friend. We could laugh at little things until our sides hurt and tears ran down our faces. She was a fabulous writer and her stories were so funny. She would send them to me and I would convert them into word documents and print them off and then she and I would put them in a three-ring binder that we made one Christmas. I will miss the phone calls where she would say "Hey sweetie what you doing." She had the kindest heart. Her faith was unwavering and her inner strength was prevalent in her life. She will be missed by all of us that loved her dearly.

Mitzi Carter - February 03, 2025 at 07:30 PM

CS

So many memories run through my mind. Church activities, dinners out with our husbands and other friends, movie nights, our Annual White Christmas parties, my only trip to Wisconsin to attend a wedding with them, dance lessons in preparation for our daughter's wedding and on and on and on. She was one of the few I would call on if I needed prayer for anything. Her faith was steadfast. I will miss her so much, but so glad to know that without a shadow of a doubt she is with her God. Heard the song "I Can Only Imagine" today and thought that she no longer has to imagine - she's seen her Lord and Savior.

Cathy Strong - February 03, 2025 at 08:08 PM

AH

Marenda and I shared a special bond...grandmas to Caroline. She loved Caroline so much and appreciated all the times they shared at pumpkin patches, cracker barrel, the vegetable stand, garage sales. And of course, wolf lodge. I loved the story marenda would tell of caroline excitingly knocking on the hotel door with, "Gramma, Gramma, what are we gonna do next!" Rest in peace my sweet friend.

Ann Hansen - February 04, 2025 at 05:15 PM