

Memorial Minute for Marilyn Ruth Milne Gallagher

(February 21, 1930-June 23, 2018)

Marilyn Milne Gallagher was born on February 21, 1930 to Rev. William Arthur and Ruth Blackmon Milne in White Plains, NY. She and her younger brother Bill grew up in Methodist parsonages in Columbus, OH.

After three years at Oberlin College, Marilyn married Paul LaRue and completed her degree in Religion and Philosophy at Boston University. Marilyn and Paul settled in Idaho, where their three children, Mary, Martha and Arthur, were born. A Methodist minister's wife, Marilyn resisted some of the traditional aspects of that role while still involving herself deeply with Methodist Women and PEO, a philanthropic organization in which women celebrate the advancement of women. She also taught piano and participated in community theater.

Marilyn returned to school and earned a M.Ed. in Counseling degree during the same time that her marriage to Paul LaRue was ending. A chance encounter with Gene Gallagher on an Amtrak train led to their marriage in 1977. They lived in Lexington, KY where Marilyn earned a Master of Social Work degree and worked as a social worker. It was during this time that Marilyn first became involved with Friends, and the Lexington Friends Meeting became the spiritual home for Marilyn and Gene. Marilyn missed the Methodist hymn singing and her ministry during the mostly silent Meetings for Worship usually took the form of song.

In 2004 Marilyn and Gene retired and moved to Kendal at Oberlin in Oberlin, OH and thereafter Marilyn joined Oberlin Friends Meeting. Marilyn served on the Ministry and Nurture Committee and her ministry during worship usually was a song or hymn. Her musical ministry is missed in the life of the Meeting.