



## Maybelle McKirdy

September 18, 1927 - September 10, 2009

Maybelle Fern Ralston was born in Grand Forks, ND on September 18, 1927 to Arnold V. and Manda (Pede) Ralston. She graduated from East Grand Forks High School in 1945 and immediately started a 13 year work stint with AT&T in Grand Forks.

She became a member of the Grand Forks First Methodist Church in her early years and felt a call to serve the “young and fearless prophet of ancient Galilee” in what ever way she could. She sang in the church choir faithfully; taught Sunday school; served on the mission commission of the church, soon becoming its chairperson, and was serving on the registration committee for the Methodist Annual Conference in 1956 when she met Wayne M. McKirdy who had come to the conference for ordination.

Maybelle and Wayne were married at Grand Forks on August 24, 1958, and began their team ministry, serving churches in Napoleon/Braddock, Tioga, Edgeley/Jud/Nortonville all in ND, and Black Hills Methodist Camp/Piedmont, Faulkton/Seneca, and Big Stone/Reville in SD and Wesley Acres Camp in ND. They retired in 1991, buying a home in Valley City, and carried on a retirement ministry in many ways from there. Maybelle was a member of Epworth United Methodist Church in Valley City, where she served as Chairperson for the Outreach committee for many years. No description of her ministry would be complete without mention of her kitchen: Not only her own kitchen that welcomed people in; but the camp kitchens, where she was often cook; and her baking kitchen, as she baked for the community.

About 9 years ago Maybelle was stricken with a dementia called Primary Progressive Aphasia, which robbed her of her ability to use words. She became a resident of the Sheyenne Care Center in September 2008, and died at Mercy Hospital in Valley City on September 10, 2009.

Maybelle’s joy and most important ministry were her 4 children, all of whom currently live on main street (I-94): Sons: Scott (Colleen) of Dickinson, ND; Stuart (Ellen) of Oregon, WI; Bruce (Lori) of Alexandria, MN; and daughter Donna Mae (Carlos Diaz) of Minneapolis, MN. She is also survived by 6 grandchildren, Grace, Emma, Nicholas, Lucas, Ryan and Ethan, and 2 step grandchildren, Josh Lovseth and Jenny Stensen. A brother Verle Ralston and sister Donna Dahl both of East Grand Forks, MN.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **18.** 12:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel  
251 Central Ave. S.  
Valley City, ND

## Service

SEP **19.** 10:00 AM (CT)

Epworth United Methodist Church  
680 8th Ave. SW  
Valley City, ND

# Tribute Wall



“ Wayne,  
*I am very sorry to hear of Maybell's passing. I will always remeber our good times at the church in Tioga.  
Pleas keep in touch.  
Love,  
Walt Khazoyan###imported-begin###Walter Khazoyan###imported-end##*

September 23, 2009 at 12:06 PM



“ Wayne: *We send our sympathy to you on your loss. May our loving heavenly Father be especially near to comfort you and your family. - Allan###imported-begin###Leona and Allan Gerber###imported-end##*

September 18, 2009 at 12:55 AM



“ Wayne,  
  
*Penny and my prayers are with you and your family.  
  
Ted###imported-begin###Dr. and Mrs. Ted Pepin###imported-end##*

September 17, 2009 at 09:00 PM



“ Wayne and family, *my prayers and sympathies are with you. My memories from our camps at Wesley Acres are of one dear sweet woman. Her struggle rests with the Lord. May she be in peace.###imported-begin###Lynn Hill###imported-end##*

September 17, 2009 at 03:19 PM



“ My sincere sympathy to the family of Maybelle Ralston McKirty. We were classmates at East Grand Forks High School. We will miss her at our reunions. She was a sweet lady and friend.  
  
*Gloria Anderson Overboe###imported-begin###Gloria Overboe###imported-end##*

September 17, 2009 at 02:55 PM



“ My heart goes out to the family on the loss of your mother. Mothers leave a big hole when they leave. Praying for you. ##imported-begin## Deb Howie ##imported-end##

September 16, 2009 at 11:34 AM



“ Dear McKirdys,  
While it's been many years, the memories are still like yesterday of the times we spent growing up together. Maybelle was truly one of a kind and a gift from God to us all! Here's to celebrating all the good memories...I'd drive a thousand miles for one of her caramel rolls! Don't forget to smile and to laugh as you recollect the happy moments...Peace to you all... ##imported-begin## Pete Miller ##imported-end##

September 16, 2009 at 07:38 AM



“ Special thoughts and sympathy to each of you. Maybelle was such a gentle lady and enjoyed meeting her along with our history meetings. Sincerely, Rita - Langdon, ND ##imported-begin## Rita Maisel ##imported-end##

September 15, 2009 at 10:10 PM



“ Our sympathies!. What a grand lady, and will always be remembered for her "open door"; listening heart; and her fun "pancake" suppers. We were neighbors and friends. God Bless you all and may God grant you peace in knowing that we care.  
Don & Joan Reiffenberger, Big Stone City SD; (Tami and Karin and families too) ##imported-begin## JOAN REIFFENBERGER ##imported-end##

September 15, 2009 at 09:38 PM



“ Dear Wayne and Cousins,  
My prayers to each of you. My favorite memory is the wedding of Wayne and Maybelle. How special it was for me to attend with Mom, John, Irene and John Enger. Also all the times you stopped to visit when passing through Taylor. More than once you gave me a ride to my job at the local telephone compay!  
Scott, i am so happy we have had a chance as cousins/family to really get to know each other.  
My prayers are with each of you.

Love, Judith##imported-begin##judith gullickson bowden##imported-end##

September 14, 2009 at 11:32 AM



“ Our hearts are saddened with your loss but knowing she is at a better place brings us joy. Thoughts and prayers are with you all.##imported-begin##Carol & Sam Lett##imported-end##

September 14, 2009 at 10:10 AM



“ You are continually in our prayers! Maybelle was truly a Wonderful Person!##imported-begin##Sharman Zachrison##imported-end##

September 14, 2009 at 10:03 AM



“ Wayne sorry to here of your loss. We will all miss Maybelle. She was such an inspiration to all of us.##imported-begin##Ed Schmidt Family##imported-end##

September 13, 2009 at 11:42 PM



“ So sorry to hear of your loss. It is hard to lose a parent in so many ways. Know that our thoughts and prayers are with you as you go through this mourning period BUT remember the good times and you will get through it. Love To All##imported-begin##Rose & Larry Carson##imported-end##

September 13, 2009 at 09:45 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Love, Kris and Phil##imported-begin##Phil and Kris Huyck##imported-end##

September 13, 2009 at 09:03 PM



“ Wayne and family:  
We were sorry to hear about Maybelle, we hope she is in a better place now and done suffering. Our thoughts are with you all.

Love Mike and Barb##imported-begin##Mike and Barb Ralston##imported-end##

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September 13, 2009 at 05:13 PM



“ She will be missed.##imported-begin##Amy Noble##imported-end##

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September 13, 2009 at 04:24 PM



“ Thinking of you always. You are in our prayers.  
Love,  
Patty##imported-begin##Pat Walker##imported-end##

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September 13, 2009 at 02:14 PM



“ Dear Wayne, Family and Friends,  
We feel your sorrow at Maybelle's passing but know your joy as well, that you will be together again with Jesus when the time is appropriate. Wayne, you have always been like an older brother to me. I remember the times you lived with us, our many hikes exploring favorite spots in the Heart River and Gladstone area, skiing, your cautions about handling a '22' and more. As your wife, Maybelle became a sister-in-law in my eyes and I have always admired the model you two gave us of a Christian marriage and family. She was always the most gracious hostess radiating love to us all. We will miss her but look forward to the day we meet and rejoice with her again. John and Joan Enger##imported-begin##John & Joan Enger##imported-end##

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September 13, 2009 at 02:01 PM



“ Our hearts and prayers are with you and your family.##imported-begin##Rick & Sheila Grogan ##imported-end##

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September 13, 2009 at 12:17 PM



“ Wayne and Family

*You have our deepest sympathy.  
Richard and Barb*

*I hope to attend the service on Sat. with Josh and Jenny##imported-  
begin##Barbara Engesmoe##imported-end##*

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September 13, 2009 at 10:39 AM



“ Praying you find comfort in knowing Aunt Maybelle has found true peace. Hugs  
and our love, L & D##imported-begin##Laurie and Doyal Kimmell##imported-  
end##

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September 13, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ In you passing you will be missed. We rejoice in your journey home and look  
forward to seeing you again someday. Although you are physically no longer with  
us your memory will live on.##imported-begin##Jim & Cheryl Pepin##imported-  
end##

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September 13, 2009 at 08:07 AM



“ Wish I could be there to give you a hug so consider this a virtual hug from me to  
you. may god be with you always

*with love your niece  
Susan##imported-begin##Susan Grogan##imported-end##*

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September 12, 2009 at 11:44 PM



“ Uncle Wayne and cousins,  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you to help carry you through this very sad  
time. We love you!##imported-begin##Joyce, Zach, Tony, and Caitly  
Russell##imported-end##

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September 12, 2009 at 11:34 PM



“ So sorry for your loss...Heaven just got another angel! I will always remember growing up across the street from your family--you were my other family & will always be special to me. I share your loss of a wonderful lady.  
Keeping you all in my thoughts & prayers,  
Betty Hadrick Geist###imported-begin###Betty Hadrick Geist###imported-end##

September 12, 2009 at 07:01 PM



“ I'm not sure I ever met Maybelle or Wayne, but I considered Scott and his family dear friends and among the best, most progressive leaders in the UMC. Surely much of that came from home. Thank you. Blessings.  
Elsie###imported-begin###Elsie Gauley Vega###imported-end##

September 12, 2009 at 01:35 PM



“ Dear McKirdy family  
  
May the Lord bless and comfort you during this time.###imported-begin###Kyle Reinhiller###imported-end##

September 12, 2009 at 12:25 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I extend to all my sympathies and will keep you all in my prayers. Scott, I didn't know your mother but I know she was a good mother because otherwise you and yours would not have turned out so well.###imported-begin###sandi neil###imported-end##

September 12, 2009 at 12:12 PM



“ I'm so sorry.I have all of you in my prayers and I'm thinking about all of you.Is there any thing I can do?###imported-begin###Raileen Clark###imported-end##

September 12, 2009 at 12:02 PM



“ Greetings,  
How fondly I remember stopping on the way to the Fargo airport for a Youth VIM trip to Lithuania. Maybelle provided delicious waffles for the whole team. May God's peace and blessings surround you in this time of celebrating her life and giving thanks to God for her ministry.  
In Christ's love,  
Mary Ann Sheldon###imported-begin##Mary Ann Sheldon###imported-end##

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September 12, 2009 at 10:18 AM



“ I have fond memories of the McKirdy's at Faulkton where I grew up and my parents', Ermel and Ellen Hillman lived. Both shared wonderful ministries in Faulkton. I especially remember Maybelle's baking for the community. When they left, folks knew there would be another minister, but mourned Maybelle's leaving as her baking would not be continued.###imported-begin##Donna Hillman McLaird###imported-end##

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September 12, 2009 at 10:04 AM



“ My sympathy to the family.  
Maybelle was the kind of person where you could pick up your friendship even after several years on not seeing one another. We first met at Napoleon.###imported-begin##Lenora Harrison###imported-end##

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September 12, 2009 at 07:58 AM



“ I'm so sorry.I'm part of the family###imported-begin##Raileen Clark###imported-end##

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September 12, 2009 at 12:29 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with you. I hold dear the memories at Wesley Acres with Wayne and Maybelle.  
  
All my love,  
Raylee###imported-begin##Raylee Norton Vosburg###imported-end##

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September 11, 2009 at 11:11 PM



“ Wayne & family

*So sorry to hear of the loss of your wife and companion, and mother and friend to everyone. My God's peace go with you.*

*Don Nash###imported-begin##Don Nash###imported-end##*

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September 11, 2009 at 10:19 PM



“ Dear Wayne and Scott (and your families), It was our pleasure to know Maybelle.

*Although it wasn't over a long period of time, we knew she was a special lady.*

*What a lovely legacy she has graced your family with! Please accept our hugs of*

*sympathy. Sincerely, Pat and George Breidenbach###imported-begin##George*

*and Pat Breidenbach, Mitchell, SD###imported-end##*

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September 11, 2009 at 09:44 PM



“ Thinking of you and your family. God Bless!

*Groton, SD###imported-begin##Kay Brandt###imported-end##*

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September 11, 2009 at 09:24 PM