

Obituary
Bonnie L. Nelsen

Bonnie Lee Nelsen, of Friend, was born near Cordova in Seward County, Nebraska, on September 8, 1932 to Christian H. and Viola M. (Gillan) Ziegler, the eldest of two children and went to her heavenly home after a courageous battle with cancer at the Waverly Care Center, Waverly, Neb. on Sunday, April 6, 2008 at the age of 75 years 6 months and 29 days. As a young girl she attended Seward and Saline County country schools before attending Public School and graduated with the Class of 1954. Bonnie furthered her education by attending Doane College and received her teaching certificate. She taught rural schools in Seward, Saline and York Counties for six years. On February 7, 1954, she was united in marriage to her high school sweetheart, Virgil Nelsen at the Methodist Church in Friend and to this union four children, Randall, Richard, Ryan and Risa were born.

A life-long resident of the Friend area, she and Virgil made their home in Friend and Bonnie became a busy mother and homemaker. Over the years, Bonnie worked as a librarian at Gilbert Library, clerk at Clouse' Variety Store and also babysat for several families. In later years, Bonnie worked in the laundry department of Warren Memorial Hospital retiring in 1998 after 20 years of service.

She continued her active membership in the United Methodist Church, where she was currently a member of the Administrative Council and co-historian. Bonnie served her church faithfully in many capacities and was also a member of the United Methodist Women. She also was a member of the Merry Mrs. Extension Club and a former member of PEO.

Bonnie was a avid reader and enjoyed Nebraska history and authors.

Bonnie enjoyed needlepoint, other crafts and making ham loaf for her children and grandchildren. She enjoyed country music, attending festivals and going "antiquing".

She is survived by her husband Virgil, Friend, sons and daughters-in-law, Randall "Randy" and Katherine Nelsen, Raymond, Richard "Rick" and Sonya Nelsen, Minden, Ryan and Anita Nelsen, Lincoln, daughter and son-in-law, Risa and Dale Zimmerman, Omaha, 13 grandchildren and spouses, Allison and David Graham, Oxnard, Calif., Michelle and Jared Burham, Lincoln, Aaron Nelsen, Raymond and special friend Brittany Nichols, Lincoln, Leighanne Nelsen, Alex-andrea, Courtney and Mackenzie Nelsen, all of Minden, Brianna, Kaleigh and Tyler, all of Lincoln, Lauren, Matthew and Michael Zimmerman, all of Omaha, brother and sister-in-law, Ronald and Shirley Ziegler, Omaha, sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Ardis Noeller, LaPalma, Calif., Dwayne and Gerri Nelsen, Seward, James and Marion Nelsen, Austin, Tex., nieces, nephews and a host of other relatives and friends.

Bonnie was preceded in death by her parents, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Melvin Nelsen, Fern Flannigan, Louelma and Earl Ferguson,

A Funeral Service was held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 10, 2008 at the Friend United Methodist Church with Rev. Paixao Baptista officiating. Interment was in the Andrew Cemetery, Friend. Visitation Wednesday 4-9 p.m. at Lauber-Moore Funeral Home, Friend, with the family greeting relatives and friends from 6-8 p.m. Also one hour prior to services at the church on Thursday. Memorials to Friend United Methodist Church or to the American Cancer Society. Pallbearers, Charles Trauger, Aaron Nelsen,

Jared Burham, David Graham, Dale Zimmerman, Peter Dufort, and Jameson Trauger. All the rest of Bonnie's grandchildren are honorary pallbearers. Prelude music will be country gospel with "Remember Me" by Mike Schulz as the entrance song. Charlene Huber accompanied the congregation as they sang "How Great Thou Art". "I Can Only Imagine" was played for the homily. "Thank You" was the exit song and country gospel was played again for the postlude.