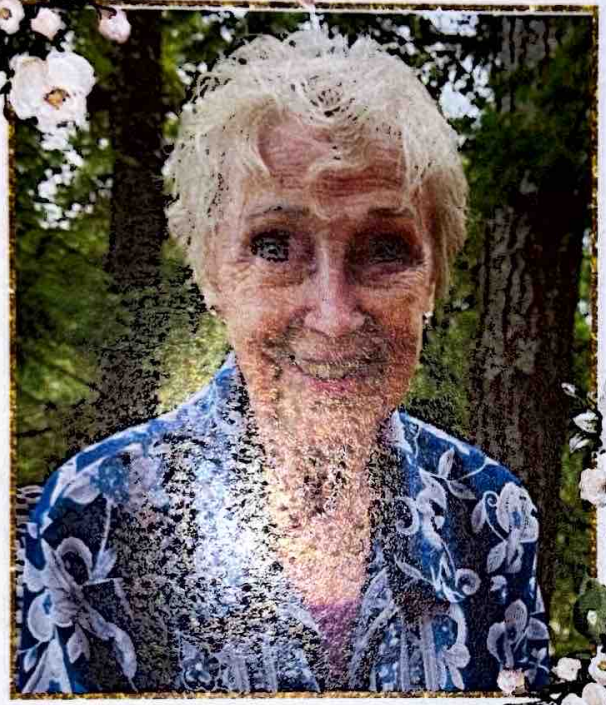
CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF



Ruth Eleanor Bremner

October 15, 1933 - February 16, 2026

FRIDAY, APRIL 10TH, 7:00 PM
HIGHLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH
3130 MCMILLAN ROAD, ABBOTSFORD, BC

1 CORINTHIANS 13

I may speak in different languages of people or even angels. But if I do not
have love, I am only a noisy bell or a crashing cymbal. 2 I may have the gift of
prophecy. I may understand all the secret things of God and have all
knowledge, and I may have faith so great I can move mountains. But even
with all these things, if I do not have love, then I am nothing. 3 I may give
away everything I have, and I may even give my body as an offering to be
burned. But I gain nothing if I do not have love.
4 Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous, it does not brag, and it is not
proud. 5 Love is not rude, is not selfish, and does not get upset with others.
Love does not count up wrongs that have been done. 6 Love takes no pleasure
in evil but rejoices over the truth. 7 Love patiently accepts all things. It
always trusts, always hopes, and always endures.
8 Love never ends. There are gifts of prophecy, but they will be ended. There
are gifts of speaking in different languages, but those gifts will stop. There is
the gift of knowledge, but it will come to an end. 9 The reason is that our
knowledge and our ability to prophesy are not perfect. 10 But when
perfection comes, the things that are not perfect will end. 11 When I was a
child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child.
When I became a man, I stopped those childish ways. 12 It is the same with
us. Now we see a dim reflection, as if we were looking into a mirror, but then
we shall see clearly. Now I know only a part, but then I will know fully, as
God has known me. 13 So these three things continue forever: faith, hope,
and love. And the greatest of these is love.

Eulogy – Ruth Eleanor (Classen) Bremner

Ruth was born in Aberdeen Saskatchewan to Henry George Classen and Sara (Niessen) Classen on October 15th, 1933, during the depth of the depression. She was the middle child with an older brother and sister, Wes and Lily, and two younger sisters, Evie and Vi. Her early years were on the family farm a few miles from Aberdeen, with her grandparents, uncles and aunts farming nearby. They were very close as a family and deeply connected to the life of the church.

Her earliest memory is of her third birthday, with a vivid recollection of jumping up and down on a green sofa in the family living room announcing to all "I am three years old today!" Another vivid memory was when she was about 7 years old, her grandparent's house caught fire and her uncle Bill rode across the field at a full gallop to get help. The bucket brigade did not prevail, and the house burnt to the ground, with only the chimney standing. She recalled with irony that a piano bench was saved from the burning house, but not the piano.

In 1944 the family moved to Coaldale so her father could attend Bible School in preparation for ministry. In 1946 they moved to a small farm in Aldergrove BC where her father served as a lay pastor at East Aldergrove MB church. Ruth attended MEI along with her older siblings and remembers long, hot summer days picking berries in Yarrow. She also remembers the summer of 1950 when she lived with her grandparents in Clearbrook and assisted her grandmother when her grandfather passed away from cancer.

1950 was also the summer her parents received the "call" from the Mennonite Brethren conference to become City Missionaries and moved to Vancouver to launch Pacific Grace Mission. She recalls assisting with the Sunday School, typing sermons for her father and

hearing stories of her father's skid row mission that provided a soup kitchen and housing for men living on the street. She and her siblings would join in street ministry by singing in harmony, while her mother played the accordion and her father preached. Ruth was proud of her parents and their ministry and remembers standing beside her father with pride as he greeted those attending. In Vancouver, Ruth graduated from John Oliver High School where she worked very hard for excellent grades and then attended Prairie Bible Institute for a year.

In 1954 she married Jake Wedel who was a friend of her brother Wes and a volunteer at Pacific Grace Mission. They had three children together including Sheryl, Wayne and Darrell. Jake struggled with his commitment to family life and left in 1962. This was a painful time for Ruth as she absorbed a deep sense of rejection along with challenges of raising three young children on her own. They moved often and at times alternated between lower rental housing projects and living with her parents who were always supportive and at times were a second set of parents for the children.

Ruth regained her strength and began working at the Workers Compensation Board and was pleased to be able to earn an income and support her children. None the less, times were difficult, some days going without enough food for the family, and not being able to replace a pair of shoes that wore out after walking 2 miles to work and back each day. There was no daycare back then, so the children were watched by neighbors after school, and at times they could not be found after she came home from work. At that point Ruth decided the children needed at least one full-time parent, and with a deep sense of shame and purpose, decided to apply for welfare so she could take care of her kids.

In 1967 Ruth met Bob Bremner while they were both patients at the hospital in Vancouver. They married later that year. Bob had just overcome a series of medical issues and was starting a new life. He worked as a longshoreman, provided for the family and was a step-father to the children. Over the next few years his health declined, and in the process, he changed as well. In 1972 he decided to leave the family. This was a very painful time for Ruth as she absorbed this loss with a deep sense of rejection. She found a job as a bookkeeper, moved to Nanaimo with her boys to be closer to her sister Vi while Sheryl finished High School and attended PBI. Bob passed away in January of 1975 leaving Ruth and the kids with lingering questions.

In 1978 Ruth moved to Surrey and enjoyed being closer to her sister Evie. She began working at Canada Post in Vancouver, sorting mail by hand and by machine. She was quite pleased when she received an award for 100% accuracy at a high rate of speed. Through much of her life she had been known for being very methodical and a bit of a perfectionist, and not as fast as others. So, she felt a little bit of pride and some vindication to have received an award for both speed and accuracy! Ruth worked at Canada Post for over 20 years until her retirement in 2000 and enjoyed keeping in touch with friendships that were formed at work.

In the early 1980's Ruth moved to Richmond to live in the same apartment building as her parents in order to support them in their golden years. She enjoyed the ease of daily visits with her parents and many evenings in deep conversations around the kitchen table. In Richmond Ruth attended Fraserview Church and joined the choir which was a highlight for her as she was able to reconnect with her love of singing gospel songs in harmony. The choir also became a circle of dear friends where she felt a sense of belonging.

In the last few years Ruth opened up to her children about having experienced abuse as a child. While she was hesitant and recoiled in the telling, she also experienced a sense of relief in sharing a trauma that she had carried alone almost all of her life.

Ruth loved deeply and was generous in caring for others. She sought peace in relationships and would rather put differences aside and forgive injuries so that the circle would not be broken. She deeply enjoyed visiting with her siblings, exchanging stories and laughter around the kitchen table, hosting when relatives came from out of town, sleep overs with the girls, and keeping in touch with her extended family of aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews. Her greatest delight was spending time with her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, exchanging hugs, watching them grow, and celebrating milestones together.

Ruth passed into the presence of God in the afternoon of Monday, February 16th, 2026. She was predeceased by her mother and father, all of her siblings, almost all of her cousins and a few of her nieces and nephews. She is survived by all of her children, Sheryl, Wayne and Darrell and her children through marriage David, Larry, Diane and Miriam; seven grandchildren including Jordan, Ben, Sara, Jonathan, Adrian, Myles and Sonia and her grandchildren through marriage including Brenda, Shae, Victoria, Eden and Josh; and five great grandchildren including Danny, Neko, Ahni, Frieda and Isaac.

Her prayer was that they would all experience the love of God, find a soul mate who will love them for who they are, and know that she will always love and care for them deeply even from afar.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

Ruth Bremner

Gathering Song

Michael Jantzen

Welcome & Invocation

Jonathan Janzen

Opening Song

Michael Jantzen

Eulogy

Read by Jonathan Janzen

Video of Ruth and sisters Singing

What a Day That Will Be

Responsive Singing

led by Michael Jantzen

Sharing by

Sheryl Brown & Wayne Bremner

Memories in Pictures

by family

Invitation to Share a Memory

(accompanied by Michael Jantzen)

Make me a Channel of Your Peace

sung by Michael Jantzen

Reflections

Jonathan Janzen

Be Thou My Vision

sung by Michael Jantzen

Closing and Invitation to stay for refreshments

Jonathan Janzen

I AM WITH YOU STILL

I give you this one thought to keep
I am with you still - do not weep.
I am athousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond that glints on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autum's rain
When you awaken in the morning's hush,
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not think of me as gone -
I am with you still - in each new dawn.

THANK YOU

The family of Ruth would like to extend heart felt appreciation for all expressions of sympathy and support. In addition we extend our deepest appreciation to the staff and volunteers at Highland Community Church for the love, support and hospitality for Ruth over the years and for the memorial service.

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS

In lieu of flowers, you are invited to make a donation to the MCC End Abuse program.
https://mcc.org/get-involved/giving/designations/ending-abuse-bc-homes