

Obituary Published in Goshen News on December 2, 2020

Dorothy Phinezy Word passed away on November 1, 2020, in Green House Village of Goshen. She was born in Fort Wayne, IN on February 12, 1938. She is survived by a son, Bryce D. Word and a host of nieces and nephews. In the 1950s she was a pioneer member of Fairhaven Mennonite Church in Fort Wayne and later a member of Parkview Mennonite Church in Kokomo, IN. She was also active in United Methodist Women organizations and Church Women United in Kokomo.

Dorothy attended Fort Wayne Community Schools and graduated from Central High School in 1956. After beginning her college studies at Goshen College she completed a Bachelor Degree in Education from Indiana Wesleyan University (formerly Marion College) in Marion, IN in 1962 and in 1967 a Masters Degree in Education from Indiana University in Bloomington, IN.

In the 1960s she returned to Fort Wayne and taught at Harmar and Study Elementary Schools and an Adult Evening Class at McCulloch Elementary School. She taught Head Start in Nashville, Tennessee, and the Blue River Valley School System which included the Migrant Mexican Programs, Special Education, L.D. classes and Second Grade.

Dorothy ended her teaching career in the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation in June 1995. After retirement she tutored students and taught English as a Second Language (ESL). Also she became a freelance newspaper writer for Our Times in Evansville, Kokomo Tribune in Kokomo, and Frost Illustrated in Fort Wayne.

In 2004 Dorothy returned to Fort Wayne to be closer to family, and she resumed her participation in the Fairhaven Mennonite Church, teaching Sunday School and developing a prayer partner program matching each child with an adult. Dorothy was known to be a person of her word, always following through with excellence in the commitments she made.

In 2013 Dorothy relocated to Goshen, IN where she received care at Waterford Crossing, then to Golden Living in Elkhart, IN, and in 2018 back to Goshen in the Green House Village.

On November 6 there was a visitation at the Ellis Funeral Home in Fort Wayne, followed by a private family burial service led by Lillian and Jacob Elias at Covington Memorial Garden, also in Fort Wayne.