

Stephany Lynge Halverson Sept 7 1943 – Aug. 28, 2006



Stephany L. Halverson passed away unexpectedly at Meriter Hospital in Madison on Monday, Aug. 28, 2006. She was born on Sept. 7, 1943, in Dallas, Texas, the daughter of Gene and Doris Lynge. She attended the University of Texas in Austin, Texas.

On June 28, 1968, she was united in marriage to Ron R. Halverson in Dallas, Texas. They moved to Madison in late 1968. Stephany was a proud member of Bethel Lutheran Church, University Hill Farms Circle and PEO Chapter BL. Stephany loved being an exceptional wife, mother, daughter, sister, aunt, grandmother, best friend, philanthropist and counselor. She took care of everyone around her and doing that made her the happiest person alive. Stephany always knew how to reach out to people in situations where no one else would or could and often found the smallest token for someone, just because. She befriended people everywhere constantly turning strangers into friends. Stephany lived the motto “never think backwards.” Stephany was Stephany. Takke for alt (thanks for everything). Stephany is survived by her husband of 38 years, Ron Halverson of Madison; her mother Doris Lynge of Plano, Texas; her son, Eric (Aimee) Halverson of Oregon; her daughter, Ann (Todd) Christian of San Jose, Calif.; her two grandchildren, Austin Christian and Hannah Halverson; her niece, Beth (Steve) Nickerson of Scottsdale, Ariz.; her brother-in-law, Bruce (Mona) Halverson of Brentwood, Tenn., and their children Krysten, Danielle, Mike and their families. Stephany was preceded in death by her father, Gene Lynge; and her brother, Gene Lynge, Jr. A visitation will be held on Friday, Sept. 1, 2006, from 4p.m. until 7p.m. at CRESS FUNERAL HOME. A funeral service will be held at BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH on Saturday, Sept. 2, 2006 at 9:30a.m. with a visitation one hour prior to the service and a reception following the service at the church. Stephany will be cremated and buried in Plano, Texas, at an undertermined time and date. Memorials may be made to HospiceCare Inc, Bethel Horizons, or to the charity of one’s choice. Stephany was a wonderful and generous woman who will be greatly missed by anyone who was fortunate enough to have known her!!

## Excerpt from Stephany's funeral:

Ron said that years and years ago, when Stephany worked for *Braniff Airlines*, in Reservations, she called a man to tell him the flight was delayed. He said he wanted to cancel his ticket. Stephany responded, "What are you going to do, walk?"

Luckily phone conversations weren't recorded back then.

But many of the conversations, and events, in the life of Stephany Halverson are surely recorded in your hearts as you gather here today. Memories of a giving, loving person, wanting to be connected, longing to help the next person in need, and making the world a more beautiful place, often involving a beautiful flower or two.

Some say we're born with our personalities, others contend our parents, economic prosperity (or the lack of it), culture and education are the major influences.

Maybe we can't exactly know what forces shape who we are. All we know is today we gather to remember and give thanks for someone timid, shy, reserved, and somewhat of a recluse.

I said to some of Stephany's family this week, "The problem I had with Stephany is that you just never knew where she stood!"

No doubt childhood shapes us in powerful ways, and I'm sure Doris could tell us stories of an energetic young girl, full of life and love. I've only known Stephany for five years, and what I've come to know from our encounters and conversations is that much of who she was, and how she was, came from her deep and abiding faith in Jesus - his promise and his presence, his life and his love.

O.K., there was a part of Texas that never left Stephany - that southern hospitality, and perhaps a mild frustration with the way we do things here.

I sometimes wonder if she was secretly sent on a mission from God to bring some zip and pep to midwestern Scandinavian Lutherans. If so, she succeeded!

Stephany succeeded in bringing joy and hope; comfort and encouragement.

The author of Hebrews wrote, *In response to all he has done for us, let us outdo each other in being helpful and kind to each other and in doing good.*

Once again, Stephany succeeded.

Now, not everyone with a strong faith has Stephany's energy and get-go, but this is how she lived out being who she was, one of God's children. Stephany's trust in the hope of an eternal future, and the promise of a past forgiven, was lived out in a life where she felt free to be who she was.

"Stephany was...Stephany," and we all know what that means... But it also means something different for each of us here (and for Ann, Todd, & Austin as well).