

**Memorial Minute for Edith H. (Buck) Wilson**  
**(1/6/1919 – 10/19/2018)**

Edith H. Wilson died October 19, 2018, a little more than two months shy of her 100th birthday. She was born to Ruth and George Buck on January 6, 1919, in Pitcairn, PA, where she grew up and married her soul-mate, W. Wayne Wilson. Edith attended the University of Pittsburgh, raised three daughters, and volunteered for many years with the Girl Scouts and the YWCA. A life-long learner, Edith was curious and concerned about current events and nature. She manifested her concern for the natural world by gardening and bird watching. She took up oil painting in her 40s. After having been widowed in 1975, she moved to Delmont, PA, then graduated from Mt. Aloysius College as an Occupational Therapy Assistant, a profession in which she worked for 5 years before retiring. Drawn to The Religious Society of Friends in mid-life, she joined Pittsburgh Friends Meeting. On moving to Parkside Senior Living in North East, PA, to be near a daughter, she became a founding member of the Erie Friends Worship Group (under the care of Pittsburgh Meeting). According to an entry in the diary she kept for most of her adult life, Edith wrote at age 75, “More and more I sense that, as Jesus (and other religious leaders) have said, LOVE—the act of loving—is THE most important ingredient in this universe. Not because they said so, but because it is true.”

She tried her very best to live that love in day-to-day life. When she suggested to the Parkside administrator that some of the residents were interested in gardening, a local grant subsequently funded the conversion of a neglected courtyard into beds tended by residents. When gardening became too physically difficult, she continued to encourage other residents. Then she formed an artists’ group. Although self-taught when she took up painting in her mid-40s, Edith claimed she painted in the style of Grandma Moses. Providentially, her paintings of children and her children’s memories evoke a deep personal love of and caring for people and nature. Those paintings remain the proud possessions of her daughters. As her general interest in painting waned, she convened a small Bible study group for neighbors.

A second hip fracture necessitated her move to Erie’s Sarah Reed Senior Living in 2014. Edith was a gentle soul who tried her best to live a kind life exemplified by considerate interactions with those she knew or met. She was preceded in death by her infant daughter Barbara Jean, her beloved husband of 35 years Wayne Wilson, her parents, a beloved aunt Edith Jenny, and her brother Jack Buck. She is survived by her daughters Carol Wilson of California, Lorraine Wilson of Colorado, Donna Wilson (Terry Wayne) of Erie, PA, her sister, Georgia Greer, of Jeanette, PA, several nieces and nephews, and her friends in the Erie Friends Worship Group whom she taught to age meaningfully and gracefully.