

## Eva Dyer – Eulogy

by daughter, Shirley Lee

When someone dies, it is often asked what did they do to make an impression or what did they like best in life. Mrs. Eva Dyer liked to clean and clip coupons sometimes to the point of being obsessive about it. She also liked to grow houseplants and flowers, especially roses. However, her two most favorite things were cooking or holding babies. With her, few recipes went unclipped and no infant in her home got by without a being rocked in her arms and getting a kiss on the head. No other act of love could make her blue eyes twinkle or her smile as wide as the times she truly beamed with delight when someone praised her cooking or trusted her to keep their child.

While in her teens, Eva's daughter asked her mother "When you were young, what did you want to grow up to be." Eva's response was "Since the time I was a little girl playing with my dolls, the thing I most wanted to be was a Mom." And she was a really good mom. After her husband Joe taught her how to drive, it was her pleasure to drive her parents to the grocery store and church, take her children to school activities and part-time jobs. However, she was also happy to share that car-pooling privilege with her boys as they became teenagers, she readily allowed them to chauffeur the other children to sports, school clubs, and part-time jobs.

Eva loved her children more than anything and did her best to help them grow up to be good people. As her children got married, she did not gain a son-in-law or daughter-in-law, she just felt she had more kids. Then she got grandchildren to love and spoil within the boundaries set by their parents and sometimes beyond those limits - if it resulted in the grandchild's laughter. When great grandchildren came along, it just increased her joy and capacity to share her love.

Childhood friends of her offspring loved coming to the home of Mrs. Eva. She was always ready with a hug if you looked like you needed one. Plus she had homemade cookies or slices of cake on hand whether you wanted it or not. Before she went to work full-time, she babysat other people's children. Many of those kids called her "Mama Eva" and she felt it was her duty to keep them clean and well-fed. In her heart and mind, a chubby infant or toddler was a happy baby. Many of those same kids she babysat or those who grew up as friends of her children continued to visit Mrs. Eva after they were grown and had families of their own.

When Mrs. Dyer went to work full-time, which was after her youngest child started school, she found a job that combined her 2 greatest passions for kids and food. She became a cook at the Coppell Elementary School cafeteria where she worked hard preparing parts of the meals, including baking fresh rolls and desserts. She wasn't working so much for the money as for the reward she felt when the school children went through the line and asked "What did you make today Mrs. Dyer?" The kids wanted to know so they would know which items to request extra helpings of because Mrs. Dyer was their favorite cook. She retired from the Coppell lunch-room after her own children finished school there

and she had moved to Argyle. However, she did not stop serving meals to the children she loved just because her own children's school days ended. Mrs. Dyer also chose to work in food service at Camp Soroptimist and Argyle Independent School District.

While living in Coppell and Argyle, Eva Dyer attended the same Church as her parents, the First Assembly of God Church in Coppell. She attended every service when the doors were open, unless she had a sick child at home or was out-of-town. She made sure her daughter participated in Missionettes and her boys got to be part of Royal Rangers. To her, church was not just for building your personal faith but an important part of family life. As long as she was physically able to attend, Mrs. Dyer went to church wherever she had a home. When she moved to Honey Grove, Texas, Mrs. Dyer attended Allens Point Baptist Church.

Speaking of family life, Mrs. Dyer never missed an opportunity to spend time with her parents or her sisters. When their children were young, the sisters and their families would get together at one of their houses every Saturday night. The only exceptions were when everyone joined up instead at Shakey's Pizza for the evening, or went to Six Flags for the day, or to the lake for the weekend, or on a joint-family vacation. Once all their children were grown, Eva and her sisters would have a girls night or sister weekends. On these occasions, with only the girls together, they usually had lots of fun with a little mischief mixed in. Eva loved these outings and cherished that time with her sisters.

Eva Joyce and her husband Arthur Joe Dyer celebrated 50 years of married life in their Honey Grove home before he died in 2012. Eva and Joe were married on March 9, 1962 by Rev. Bill Dyer in the Lewisville home of Joe's parents, Arthur Lee and Bulah Dyer. Joe adored Eva and often told people what a lucky man he was to be married to her. They enjoyed taking trips together and with their adult children, and having family get-togethers at their home. The couple was also content to just sit on their front porch watching birds, squirrels, and other animals, as well as people going by.

Indeed Eva was a woman who both loved others and was surrounded by love herself. Her family and friends will miss her. However, they take comfort in knowing she is now in the ever-loving arms of her savior, Jesus Christ. She is in Heaven where there is no pain, only love.