



**C**arolyn (Crane) Sears, 73, passed away in peace in the comfort of her home with her family in Bozeman, Montana on September 29, 2008. Carolyn was born in Starkville, Mississippi on February 6, 1935 to Russell and Irene (Ames) Crane.

She moved many places with her family during her youth, including Virginia, Ohio, and West Virginia. She graduated from high school in Lexington, Virginia. She earned a Bachelor's Degree, and then a M.S. in Child Development from West Virginia University in 1970.

Forced to care for three children, Karen, Russell and Cheryl, while earning a living and finishing her degrees, Carolyn earned the respect of all who knew her. She was the hero of her children, and has been the best friend of her daughters for years.

While in Morgantown, she met John Sears. They were married on August 12, 1971 and she remained the light of his life throughout their 37 years together. Carolyn was at that time Director of the West Virginia Laboratory Nursery School. A few years later, she co-owned and co-established a craft and gift shop "Fayette House" which is still fondly remembered by the community as a shop with many wonders, and a variety of artisans exhibited there.

Upon moving to Bozeman twenty-six years ago, Carolyn became active at St. James Episcopal Church where at various times she was a Lector, Chair of Altar Guild, founding member of the Order of St. Luke Healing Ministry, Eucharistic Minister, Sunday School Director, choir member, Even Song Choral member, Vestry member, and on the Rector's Search Committee. She also finished EFM – Education for Ministry, and contributed to establishing Canterbury Garden at St. James.

Carolyn enjoyed gardening, and was active with the BWAGS - Bozeman Women's Activity Group. She loved to ski and hike and became ever more adventurous as she grew older. The beauty of the flowers on a hike were her inspiration, as was a white sparkling mountain day. Fellow hikers could always ask her the name of that flower.

She was preceded in death by her parents. She will be dearly missed by her children, husband, and extended family.

Carolyn is survived by her husband, John; children, Karen (Kincaid) Wittich and husband, Pat; Russell (Nancy) Kincaid;