
Scriptures

“For thou art my hope, O Lord God: thou art my trust from my youth.”
Psalm 71:5 KJV

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.”
Hebrews 11:6 NIV

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.”
Proverbs 3: 5-7 KJV

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.”
John 3:16 NIV

“Good people pass away; the godly often die before their time. But no one seems to care or understand why. No one seems to understand that God is protecting them from the evil to come.”
Isaiah 57:1 NLT

“Well done, good and faithful servant...enter into the joy of your Lord.”
Matthew 25: 21 KJV

*Thank you for your continued prayers and coming today to honor Bonnie.
The Szymanski family invites you to join us in the Community Room
for lunch and fellowship after the service.*



*Memorials if desired may be made to
Houghton Wesleyan Church (check memo: Bonnie Szymanski Memorial)
P.O. Box 127
Houghton NY 14744*

or

*Houghton College (check memo: Bonnie Szymanski Memorial)
Tanzania Scholarship Fund
1 Willard Avenue
Houghton NY 14744*



Bonnie Mae Szymanski
October 18, 1990--March 2, 2014

**Wesley Chapel
Houghton College
Houghton, New York
March 9, 2014
2:30 P.M.**

Prelude Judy Congdon, organ

Hymn 377 *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

Welcome and Prayer Michael Jordan

Scripture Reading *Psalms 116: 1-15* Anna Schilke

Hymn *In Christ Alone*

Personal Reflections Abby Mann, Donnie Stockin, Paul Shea

Song *Blessed Be Your Name*

Congregational Reflections

My Tribute (To God Be the Glory) Laurie Smalley, harp

Scripture Reading *Philippians 4:4-9*

Homily

Duet *In Christ Alone* Mike & Amanda Cox

Benediction

Song *There is a Higher Throne*

Recessional



Officiant: Rev. Dr. Wesley D. Oden

Bonnie Mae Szymanski was born on October 18, 1990, in Buffalo, NY, where her family lived until she was four. The only child of Jim and Karen (Swanekamp) Szymanski, she was a much prayed for baby and a joy to her parents. At the age of seven, Bonnie made a decision to follow Jesus, a decision that would affect the rest of her life. From the age of 4 – 14 Bonnie lived in Jos, Nigeria, West Africa, as a missionary kid. She loved the African people and always considered Africa to be her true “home.” School was difficult, but she worked very hard to get good grades because she always wanted to do her best for the Lord. She received awards for good character from Hillcrest School in Nigeria where she attended grades 1-7. She was homeschooled during 8th grade when her family returned to the US. With Houghton, NY, as a home base, Jim and Karen continued to work as missionaries helping to start Christian schools in Africa. Bonnie attended Houghton Academy during grades 9-12. At her high school graduation she received the Faculty Award, which was awarded to “students who make an overall contribution to Academy life which is significant and deeply appreciated by the faculty and students’ peers as well.” She was known for going out of her way to be kind to people who looked like they might be feeling left out.

Bonnie received her BA in May 2013 from Houghton College in Intercultural Studies/ Missions with a minor in History. She graduated “summa cum laude”. Her love of reading, exploring and appreciation of quiet places led her to begin a Master of Library Science at the University of Buffalo. It was her heart’s desire to return to Africa as a missionary but she often talked of working at the Houghton College Library where she worked part-time during college.

She loved adventures. During high school she attended, and then was a Counselor in Training, at a sailing camp in Mystic, Connecticut. She started college by attending the Highlander adventure program where she made many friends. She spent time studying in Morocco and Costa Rica and even traveled alone one summer to participate in an archaeological dig in Israel. But her most favorite adventure was a semester abroad in Tanzania, which reminded her of “home.”

Bonnie loved to sing and act in dramas, including her role as the Fairy Godmother in *Cinderella* at Houghton Academy. She enjoyed encouraging friends with anonymous notes. She liked to keep her hands busy by doing crafts, making friendship bracelets, and creating beautiful Barbie dresses, jewelry and cards. Her laughter could be heard throughout the house in the evenings when she often watched old TV shows and movies.

Bonnie was diagnosed with brain cancer in March 2013, two months before she graduated from Houghton College. She spent six weeks undergoing radiation treatments in Bloomington, Indiana, in the spring of 2013. Bonnie was able to enjoy the summer and fall until the cancer began to affect her ability to breathe and walk in November. On March 2, 2014, Bonnie went home to be with Jesus.

We will miss her laughter, smiles and caring ways. Words cannot express how much we feel her absence, but after her yearlong struggle with cancer, we are thankful to God for taking her to heaven where she is whole once again.