

*Celebration of Life Services from*  
Community of Christ Church  
Shenandoah, Iowa  
Sunday, June 2, 2013  
2:30 p.m.

*Words of Comfort*  
Tammy Stettler  
Mick Williams

*Memory Register*  
Marla Mattes

*Caring for Flowers*  
Mary Maher  
Charlotte Carper

*Ushers*  
Ron Sanson  
Kyle Sparks

*Special Music*  
"The Old, Old Path"  
Ann Sanson ~ Pianist

*Honorary Bearers*  
Jim Waldron            Esta Martin  
Doug McElroy        Ross Annan  
Val Black                Glen Brink  
Donald Rolf            Reldon Bryte  
Russ Patience        Kirk Shearer  
Dick Hunt

*Interment*  
Rose Hill Cemetery  
Shenandoah, Iowa  
April 12, 2014 at 10:30 a.m.

*Services entrusted to*  
Hackett-Livingston Funeral Home  
Shenandoah, Iowa

***Joyce K. (Mattes) McElroy***

*Joyce Kathleen (Mattes) McElroy, 84 was born September 23, 1928, on a farm southwest of Hamburg, Iowa and was the daughter of Alfred and Pearl (Cheney) Mattes. She entered into peace Wednesday, May 8, 2013 at the Shenandoah Memorial Hospital.*

*Joyce attended schools in rural Farragut, graduating from Farragut High School in 1946. She was married to Robert Thomas McElroy on September 17, 1950. This union was blessed with one son, James Robert McElroy.*

*Joyce participated as a volunteer in many church, school, county and other worthwhile projects for a number of years. She enjoyed her 24 years as secretary/office manager for All-America Rose Selections. Her boss and AARS declared her work "exceptional". She was a life-long member of the Community of Christ Church in Shenandoah.*

*With many health concerns facing her, she developed a close relationship with God and felt led to write "On The Brighter Side", a spirit-lifting newspaper column, published first in the Evening Sentinel and later in the Valley News for nearly 19 years. Joyce organized and led the Shenandoah's area chapter for the American Diabetes Association for over 10 years. She served on the national ADA's board of directors and was vice-president of patient education. She was a 66-year survivor of Type One Diabetes (a rare feat indeed) and had been recognized several years ago with a special award from the American Diabetes Association.*

*Joyce had lived at Windsor Manor for the past 11 months. She thoroughly enjoyed the fellowship with the other residents and greatly appreciated all the loving care shown to her from the staff.*

*Her husband, son, parents and five siblings preceded her in death. Those left to cherish her memory include her sister-in-law Norma Mattes; numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.*

*As her parting gift, she willed her body to the Nebraska Medical Center for the purpose of training new doctors and for medical research.*

# Thoughts for grieving

## On the Brighter Side

by  
Joyce  
McElroy



These are thoughts for those who grieve.

Joyce Sequitchie Hifler brings these comforting words to any who have lost a loved one:

We never really lose anyone. If they were ever a part of our lives, they are always a part of our lives. The important thing is not to regret what has gone before, but to take from it the lesson, the experience that was in it for us. Life is a two-way street, not always sunshine and flowers, but a few clouds, a few tears go with it. It is a complex mixture of many things we are supposed to glean from it. We cannot park by what went wrong, nor can we linger forever by something we might have done right. It is a progressive, moving time filled with new experience, memories, both good and not so good, and many promising hours. It is possible to put our emotions aside and remember joy. But above all, the best is yet to be.

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The following quotes are from by "Gems of Thought":

All of us are material in the raw, valueless and useless until tempered and made over into needful things. It takes adversity and hardships to bring out the best qualities.

Yes, knocks are needful to make us serviceable.

There is no human diamond that has not been crystallized in the crucibles of affliction. There is no gold that has not been refined in the fire.

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Inevitably in every life there are trials. But just as seeds need darkness in which to germinate, so must people who are vitally alive experience some of the gloom of misfortune if they are to realize the potential which is within them.

We grow by overcoming our disasters. Without faith, we are constantly in danger of being overwhelmed by adversities. With faith, we unite ourselves with the deep stream of the Eternal's purpose and meaning and are thereby enabled to accomplish the impossible.

This does not mean that in our lives events and conditions can always be made to work out precisely as we would have them. It does, however, mean that we have the power to direct our energies and will in furthering God's goal.

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Consider this:

Men think God is destroying them because He is tuning them. The violinist screws up the key till the tense cord strikes concert pitch, but it is not to break it, but to use it tunefully that he stretches the string on a musical rack.

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And now I pray that God may bless you and soften your grief.

Best wishes.

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## *In Loving Memory*



*Joyce Kathleen McElroy*

*Born*

*September 23, 1928  
Rural Farragut, Iowa*

*Entered Into Rest*

*May 8, 2013  
Shenandoah, Iowa*