



*Joyce Joan Slusher Reese*  
*December 20, 1930 - December 2, 1998*

## *Joyce Joan Slusher Reese*

A celebration for the completed life of Joyce Joan Slusher Reese, 67, of Chickasha, will be held Saturday, December 5, 1998, at 10:00 a.m. in the First Christian Church, with Reverend Jim Moore officiating and Reverend Willard T. Reece, retired minister of the Pine Valley Christian Church in Wichita, Kansas, assisting.

Joyce Joan Slusher Reese was born December 20, 1930, in Chickasha, Oklahoma, the daughter of Howard Slusher and Lottie Penney Slusher. She died December 2, 1998, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, of ovarian cancer.

Joyce grew up in Chickasha, attending Chickasha Public Schools and graduated from Chickasha High School in 1951.

She married David D. Reese, of De Queen, Arkansas in 1951, in the First Christian Church in Chickasha, after receiving her degree in Vocational Home Economics from the Oklahoma College for Women, now U.S.A.O.

They moved to Enid, Oklahoma, where David completed work on a Masters Degree in Theology, at Phillips Graduate Seminary and Joyce taught school in a nearby town.

After leaving Enid they moved to churches in Chandler, Tulsa, a Campus Ministry at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana and then worked as full time volunteers with the Ecumenical Institute and the Institute of Cultural Affairs. Work with these Institutes took them to Cleveland, Ohio; Denver, Colorado; Chicago, Illinois; San Jose, California; Orlando, Florida; Fukoka, Japan, and back to Chicago until retirement in 1994.

Joyce and David returned to Chickasha in November of 1994.

Joyce was a member of the Toastmasters Club, a past president of her Christian Womens' Fellowship and served on one of the Boards at the local Vocational Technical School. She was an active member of womens' groups related to the Institutes, was a skilled planning facilitator and studied Psychosynthesis with a mentor in California.

In the more than two years since she was diagnosed with ovarian and then breast cancer, Joyce read and researched the varieties of ways to treat this disease. She was especially interested in nutrition and alternative medicines.

Joyce was preceded in death by her father, Howard Slusher and an infant brother, Howard Kent Slusher.

Immediate survivors include her mother, Lottie Slusher, who lives next door; husband, David, of the home; three daughters and one son; Virginia Savage, of Oklahoma City; John Reese, of Olympia, Washington; Shelley Beard, of Newcastle, Oklahoma; Elizabeth Carr, of Yukon, Oklahoma; seven grandchildren, Christina Jimenez; Grace, David and Joy Beard, of Newcastle, Oklahoma; Kasey, Teri and Jonathan Carr of Yukon, Oklahoma and one foster grandson, Marcel Longpre of Olympia, Washington.

Interment will be in the Rose Hill Cemetery under the direction of Ferguson Funeral Home.

Memorials may be made to the First Christian Church of Chickasha or the Oklahoma Cancer Society, c/o Ferguson Funeral Home, P.O. Box 1887, Chickasha, Oklahoma 73023.

# JOYCE

Joyce is my spirit sister of 45 years:

She and David were our very first dinner guests; she gave me confidence and set me at ease.

As our clothesline stretched between our two tiny houses, she helped stretch my understanding.

Joyce has always been able to see and receive the gifts of others.

She has always had a fierce and protecting love and respect for her children. She has had a rich love for David, other family members, and an extended family.

Joyce has always been a realist, yet open to that which goes beyond reason.

She also has had a unique sense of humor --  
presenting us with smiles and laughter like a small child hands out bouquets.

Joyce has always been a reader, continual learner, and a gifted teacher.

She has had a love of natural things, from rocks to rainbows, sturdy to fragile.

Joyce could make every living space a "home" and friends always felt welcome.

She could plan, organize, and actualize - all tumbling out of deep pockets of awareness.

Joyce always liked to live and work in the present, conscious of the past, and hopeful for the future.

THEREFORE,

I use the word "is," not "was," --

Though her life here was, it is!

The one human entity we knew as Joyce is no longer, but all the little qualities that made her Joyce have come into our lives:

Now, there are many, many little Joyces --

residing in our hearts, our minds, our hopes, and our endeavors;  
coaching, coaxing, climbing in our consciousness;

opening areas to explore, opening doors to humor, and opening more  
gates to love and understanding.

Now, Joyce is in us!

Let us celebrate her newness and our newness and re-Joyce.

-- Ginny Reece  
12/5/98

## *THOSE WHO WAIT ON THE LORD*

*Those who wait on the Lord  
Shall renew their strength.*

*They shall mount up with wings as eagles,  
They shall run and not be weary,  
They shall walk and not faint.*

*Help us Lord, Help us Lord, in thy way.*

*Those who love the Mystery .....  
Those who serve the suffering world ....  
Those who die on the march .....  
Those who live the risen life .....*



*A Colorado  
Mountain High*



*My Roots, Oklahoma Red Earth*