



Katrina "Trina" Mescher

January 9, 1950 - January 29, 2021

Katrina (Trina) Mescher died unexpectedly from a heart attack at home late Friday morning, January 29, 2021, with her husband Tony at her side.

Born January 9, 1950, in Columbus, Ohio, Trina was the middle child of Bill and Sally Steck of Westerville, Ohio. She graduated in 1968 from Westerville High School and four years later from Otterbein College with a degree in Early Childhood Education. While pursuing postgraduate work in children's reading development at Ohio State University, she met through mutual friends a doctoral student in biology, Tony Mescher. Trina and Tony were married two years later, on August 30, 1975, one day after Tony's graduation, beginning a successful and mutually supportive 45-year partnership. She served as a teacher at St. Mark's Nursery School and Kindergarten in Bloomington for 27 years, retiring in 2017.

Trina loved a simple life and retained a childlike wonder of the natural world. She never failed to stop and admire sunsets from her front window, falling snow, the subtle colors of lichens, beech trees in winter, and sycamore trees year-round. In retirement her daily joys invariably began with a large café au lait while completing the NYT crossword and usually ended with a healthy dose of laughter with Stephen Colbert.

An excellent cook since childhood, she constantly enjoyed trying new recipes with little change in her specialty of pie making. Trina was a passionate reader, especially of fiction, with works by Toni Morrison, Kate Atkinson, and Marilynne Robinson among her many favorites.

Central to Trina's life was her faith as expressed here by the St. Mark's church community with whom she was deeply involved, including longtime service as the Co-Lay Leader. Trina's faith called her to action, and she was an early volunteer in Bloomington with the Community Kitchen, then still located at Monroe County United Ministries; the Interfaith Winter Shelter; and the Hoosier Hills Food Bank, where she served on the Board of Directors for many years until her passing. Passionate about social justice, Trina worked to educate and make more inclusive the many communities to which she belonged. As was said of someone she admired greatly, she would wish to be remembered simply as a good and decent person, who saw suffering and tried to help heal it, who saw wrong and tried to help right it.

Trina's greatest joys were motherhood and the pride she felt for her two sons, by whom she is survived: Ben and Jeremy Mescher. Along with Tony, and Jeremy's wife Mariah Briggs Mescher, other survivors include her sister, Gretchen Horstman and her husband David of Columbus, Ohio and her brother Fred Steck, his wife Marlene Borschel, and their son Will Steck of Worthington, Ohio.

A service at St. Mark's United Methodist Church celebrating Trina's life will be scheduled later this year. Memorial contributions honoring her life may be made to the St. Mark's Nursery School and Kindergarten Scholarship Fund. Allen Funeral Home and Crematory 4155 South Old State Road 37 is handling the arrangements and online condolences, photos and memories may be shared with family and friends at www.allencares.com

Tribute Wall

NL

“ *The world has lost a very compassionate, caring person. I recall so many times in the kitchen at St. Mark's where Trina helped wash all those dishes (Tony too was there often). She was so important to UMW as she gave unselfishly of her time. I know she will be missed by many as her generosity had no limits. My heartfelt condolences to her family and her church family. 🙏*

Nancy Lumbley - February 22, 2021 at 09:55 AM

DS

“ *Dear Tony, Ben, and Jeremy. We were so sad to hear about Trina's death. We enjoyed being your neighbors ages ago on Southdowns Drive. We send our deepest sympathy to you all. Sincerely, Dorothy and Steven Sowell*

Dorothy Sowell - February 20, 2021 at 09:47 PM

TO

“ *Tanja Ode lit a candle in memory of Katrina "Trina" Mescher*



Tanja Ode - February 19, 2021 at 10:56 AM

RR

“ Dear Tony, Jeremy and Ben,
I was so sad to learn of Trina’s passing. Our connection began at Parent’s Day Out and continued as I taught at Binford and she at St. Marks. I always felt connected to her as I believe we shared common teaching and learning philosophies. When I encountered a new family, one she had nurtured at St. Marks, I learned that she had “recommended” me as a teacher.

I remember your family like it was yesterday. I loved reading what you shared about Trina. Sending my love to you at this difficult time.

Rise Reinier (formerly Rise Paynter)

Rise Reinier - February 11, 2021 at 12:54 PM

LS

“ Gretchen, so sorry to hear about the unexpected and early loss of your sister Trina. May you and your family feel God's comfort during this difficult time.



Linda Shiotani - February 07, 2021 at 08:44 PM

GN

“ Hello, Tony. Georgie Nungester here. I am so very sorry for your loss of your beloved Trina. I cannot imagine what you are suffering, and will keep you and your family in my prayers. May the Lord provide you with strength and comfort and may your beautiful and loved memories of this precious woman uplift your soul. Stay tightly in His grip. I send my deepest sympathies to you and your family.

Georgie Nungester - February 07, 2021 at 02:29 PM

CM

“ I seems a lifetime ago that I last saw Trina, but I remember her as a compassionate, giving, gentle, beautiful soul--a Teacher in the truest sense to all whose lives she touched. I am so very sorry to learn of her sudden passing, and I pray for peace and healing for Tony, Ben and Jeremy.

Carol McCracken (formerly Carol Owen)
Carol McCracken (

Carol McCracken - February 07, 2021 at 01:16 PM



“ Jil Washburn lit a candle in memory of Katrina "Trina" Mescher



Jil Washburn - February 05, 2021 at 01:06 PM

TJ

“ Tony, Words can not express the deep shock I felt as I learned the news, and my deepest feelings of compassion, love, and healing for you. I won't share a lot about my admiration for Trina--and I didn't see her in all of her many roles, but I will share my affection for you and the kindness you have shown to me and my family. There are no words, no Scriptures, no prayers that are sufficient in times like these, but I pray that your solid catholic/universal Church faith will help sustain you in darker moments. And I pray that God in his mercy will somehow light the way for you during these difficult days. Speaking for me, Elma, and Dr. Ruth

Tim Jessen - February 04, 2021 at 11:06 PM

DS

“ Dear Tony, Ben, and Jeremy,

Please accept our sincere sympathy for the loss of your wife and mother Katrina. We will keep all of the Mescher family members in our prayers. God bless you!

Dave and Joann Schindler

David Schindler - February 04, 2021 at 10:02 PM

JG

“ Tony, I'm so deeply sorry to hear the news of Trina's passing. What a beautiful tribute obituary. The community has lost an extraordinary Light of service and commitment. I will keep you and your family close to my heart.

Jan Grant

Jan Grant - February 04, 2021 at 05:56 PM

VH

“ Dear Tony, I read about your tragedy this morning and I can't tell you how much I feel for you. I only wish Emeriti House were open so that you could receive the outpouring of love and condolences of your community in the flesh. In the absence of such opportunities, please accept my condolences to you on the internet. Trina's obituary was exquisite. Thank you for sharing her with us through her story. May her memory be for a blessing.
Love, Victoria

Victoria Hilkevitch - February 04, 2021 at 04:06 PM

CC

“ *Trina will be so missed.*

I remember her fondly as my preschool teacher all these years later. I hope that she knew the deep impact she had on me during my formative years and the lasting joyful memories she created. I wrote her a letter last year expressing my gratitude for her role in my life and for her love, that I'm not she sure got, but everything in that letter is still true today. Trina taught me how to share, how to love others who are different from me, to be thankful, not to be afraid, to have fun, and to always wish others well. She had the unique ability to connect with children on a fundamental level that not many adults have--she really knew how to have fun. I specifically remember her letting the cicadas (who were in full swing in the early 2000s) crawl on her arms and showing a very squeamish young me the value of their cicada-y lives and the specialness of all God's creations. Many of the bonds and new friendships Trina helped me forge are still existing today--some of my very best friends in the world were with me in Marcia and Trina's bucket class. The impact of her life on mine will never be forgotten.

*Sincerely,
Claire Carney*

Claire Carney - February 04, 2021 at 03:46 PM

DG

“ *Tony, Sorry to learn of your loss. Did not know your wife , but she seems like a wonderful person . Glad you had the time you did with her .*

Doug Giesige - February 04, 2021 at 03:36 PM

AL

“ I have such wonderful memories of Trina from my childhood at St. Mark's. She was just such a warm, kind, reliable, and trustworthy fixture during those important years of my life. Tony, Ben, and Jeremy - I am incredibly sorry for your loss. She was such a bright light in the world.

-Arlyn Llewellyn (formerly Arlyn Keith)

Arlyn Llewellyn - February 04, 2021 at 03:18 PM

CC

“ I am so sorry to hear this. My oldest daughter was one of Trina's students at St. Mark's and she was a beloved teacher. My wife and I appreciated her kindness and warmth to my daughter and our whole family.

Chuck Carney - February 04, 2021 at 02:53 PM

CC

“ Cheryl Craig lit a candle in memory of Katrina "Trina" Mescher



cheryl craig - February 04, 2021 at 02:39 PM

VO

“ Tony, Ben, Jeremy and Mariah,
My heart breaks for you all during this most difficult time. Trina was an energetic force, humorous, and kind - I always loved interacting with her! May you be comforted in the fact that she had a positive impact on so many individuals! Our thoughts are with you all.
Valerie & Bob O'Loughlin

Valerie and Robert O'Loughlin - February 04, 2021 at 10:55 AM

MM

“ We were shocked and saddened to learn about Trina’s passing. Our hearts go out to Tony and the extended family. We knew Trina through St. Mark’s, where she was so kind to my ill and aging mother who passed last year (Susie Voelkel). Even after my mother didn’t recognize anyone, Trina approached her every Sunday with a smile, a touch, and kind words, which clearly comforted my mother. Trina’s thoughtfulness will stay imprinted on our memories. Our prayers surround her family now.

Martha & David Moore

Moore Martha - February 04, 2021 at 09:26 AM