



## Ann DeWolf Janzen

February 3, 1926 - May 16, 2022

Ann DeWolf Perry Janzen passed away on May 16 after a long and happy life. She was born February 3, 1926 to James DeWolf Perry II and Elizabeth Olivia Hamman Perry. After graduating from Queens College, Charlotte, NC, she attended Union Theological Seminary in New York, where she met her husband, Harry Wallace Janzen. They were married immediately after graduation and raised three children together in West Virginia. Ann dedicated her life to helping others. She was a Deaconess in the United Methodist Church while in West Virginia, North Carolina, Oregon and Alaska, where she was adopted into the Tlinget Tribe. Her mission work frequently involved travel to disaster-stricken areas of the United States and its territories. Among her many accomplishments, she was influential in establishing childcare as a priority in disaster response, starting in Buffalo Creek, West Virginia; reinstating the standing of a native American tribe in Klamath Falls, Oregon; and reestablishing a Methodist Church presence in Dutch Harbor, Alaska. Ann and Harry received the Denman Award for mission work in 1991 to recognize their contributions. Her desire to help continued after her retirement when she volunteered at the Asheville Police Department and served on the board of directors for Saint Paul's Church and the Brooks Howell Home. She continually approached life with a sense of laughter and was a force of nature when she felt something needed to be done to help others.

Ann was predeceased by her parents; her brother, James Perry; her husband, Harry Janzen; her son Christopher Janzen; and her great-grandson Miles Vick. She is survived by her daughter Leslie Wilson; her son, William Janzen; daughters-in-law Kristine Janzen Cahoon and Ginny Janzen; her three granddaughters, Justine Parkhurst, Michelle Elms and Laura Medina; and her great-grandson Daniel Elms. She will be missed by all who knew her.

A memorial service will be held on June 2 at 3:00 at the Brooks Howell Home at 266 Merrimon Avenue in Asheville. In lieu of flowers, donations are requested to: Brooks Howell Home; 266 Merrimon Avenue, Asheville NC 28801: <https://www.brooks-howell.org/>

The American Civil Liberties Union: <https://www.aclu.org/>

Please include "in memory of Ann Janzen" in the memo line of all checks.



# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUN 2. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Brooks Howell Home  
266 Merrimon Avenue  
Asheville, NC 28801  
<http://www.brooks-howell.org>

# Tribute Wall

JS

“ *Harry and Ann Janzen were an important part of our lives when I was their pastor at Sitka, Alaska from 1988-1995. They were a great "gift" to the United Methodist Church at many levels. We cherish the time we were able to spend together.*

*John J. and Barbara Dadd Shaffer  
Auburn, Washington.*

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**John J. Shaffer** - May 30 at 08:21 PM

FF

“ *From Paul Furukawa purchased the Memorial Trees for the family of Ann DeWolf Janzen.*



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**From Paul Furukawa** - May 27 at 09:23 PM

MG

“ *My condolences to the family of Ann Janzen. You don't know me, but it was my privilege and pleasure to know both Ann and Harry when they resided in Sitka, AK. I was there as a short term volunteer in mission from July of 1993 to July of 1994. Before the year was over, I decided to adopt them as my Alaskan grandparents. I was especially fond of spending time at their apartment on many Friday evenings which Ann dubbed a "simple supper of soup and bread". She made me her guinea pig for new recipes to try out. It was always delicious. Dinner was usually followed by a movie, which always made me smile because of Harry's limited vision. More than the dinner and movie, I cherished every moment I got to spend with them. I was able to visit Ann one time for a day or two at Brooks Howell not long after Harry passed. She took me to his grave which made me cry. Thank you for sharing Harry and Ann with many people who they helped in their years in mission. I loved them both.*

*Marsha Gehret, Highspire, PA.*

*mjgehret549@gmail.com*

*Marsha Gehret*

*Friend*

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**Marsha Gehret** - May 25 at 12:15 PM

MP

“ I have wonderful memories of Ann and truly cherish the time I spent with her at the Hinton Rural Life Center. She was a remarkable woman who lived the faith she believed. I will remember her always.

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**Marsha Prescott** - May 24 at 03:47 PM

JH

“ From the first day I met Ann, I was struck by her contagious faith, her compassion, and her joy of life itself. I cherish my memories of time with her.  
Joyce Hill

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**Joyce Hill** - May 22 at 02:39 PM