



## Miss Elizabeth M. "Bessie" Howell

August 31, 1926 - January 23, 2015

Our beloved aunt, Elizabeth M. (Bessie) Howell passed away peacefully in the presence of family on January 23, 2015. Bessie dedicated her life serving the Lord. In 1947 she received her B.A. from Florida Southern College, where she was crowned Miss Florida Southern in her senior year. After graduating from Florida Southern College she was sent, by the Board of Missions of The Methodist Church, to Japan, arriving there in 1948. She served the next three years at Seibi Gakuen Girls School in Yokohama. But for brief visits home to her native Florida and time to earn her Master's Degree from Scarritt College in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1953, she would spend 44 years teaching English at Fukuoka Jogakuin Girls School in Fukuoka, Japan. Over her career she served the Fukuoka Jo Gakuin School in many capacities including Acting Chancellor of the School and Acting Principal of the Junior-Senior High School. She gained much joy in teaching girls not just English but the ways of Christian charity and goodness. She stayed in touch with many of her students over the years. She was active in her Church and community and her influence was broad and wide. Bessie retired back to Florida in 1996 but made several return visits to Fukuoka before she moved to spend her remaining years at the Brooks-Howell Home in Asheville, NC. There she was cared for by a loving and dedicated staff. She will be greatly missed by her nieces Deeda DeLillo, Stacy Burke, Marla Karsten, Marci Johnson, and by the hundreds of girls whose lives she enriched through her guidance and friendship as well many friends from around the world. She never met a

stranger and always had a smile. Thank you to Morris Funeral Home in Asheville, North Carolina. Memorial contributions may be made to United Methodist Women, 475 Riverside Dr. New York, NY 10115 [www.umwmission.org](http://www.umwmission.org)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Miss Elizabeth M. "Bessie" Howell*

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October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *Our paths only crossed once a year or so at missionary conferences in Japan, but that was still quite a few times, from 1972 until she left Japan. And we also visited her at Brooks-Howell 3 or 4 times when on home assignment when my wife and I also visited Harry Burton-Lewis. She had a long and meaningful life and now has one that is even more so — and vastly longer! Our condolences to her loved ones.*

*Blessings,*

*Tim and Juji Boyle*

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**Timothy Boyle** - January 29, 2015 at 02:19 AM