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Nancy Goad was born on August 28, 1938, in Athens, GA to Eugene Glenn and Howard Coggins. Nancy explained that her mother was named after her dad's favorite uncle, so her name is Eugene. Her parents were educators, and she began playing the piano at age 7. She was raised Episcopalian. She began taking classes at Tift College for 2 years.

When she was 19, she met Tom Rouse, who played the trumpet, and she played the piano. She said the two of them hit it off and married after a short engagement. Tom went into the Army, and she became a military wife for about 7 years. During that time, she met many wonderful people, but her friend Wilma and she became very close and remain friends today. Wilma started going to the Catholic church on base every morning at 6 AM and Wilma talked her into going to the church. As they continued to grow in the Catholic faith, both couples joined the Catholic Church.

Nancy and Tom had 4 beautiful children, Elizabeth, Howard, John and Georgia. He continued in the Army reserves after his 7 years in the Army. But as time went by, their marriage became rocky, and she knew she was going to have to return to school. She returned to Tift College in GA where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. As she worked, she continued working on her master's degree. She taught 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades for about 10 and half years in a small school named King's Chapel School in GA just below Macon. During all this, she continued to play piano. When her mother passed, she found it very difficult to continue to teach, so she got a job at Macy's which she loved for 10 and half years.

She was now divorced and came to visit her friend Wilma in Vermont. She had many rental properties in GA and was helping Wilma find a home in Montgomery Center in 1990. They looked at property and found a small cabin in the woods. She just loved this tiny cabin and told me that God said to her, "Nancy you could be happy here!" Her friend Wilma did not want it, so Nancy bought it that same day! She rented it out during the winter months until she returned in May.

All of her children were grown and out of the house, so in 1991, she began her new adventure as a single woman. She started her own business as a housecleaner - Hannah's Helping Hands House Care. She did well for about three years and the doctor told her she could not work with all that dust. Her son Howard was in an accident and moved to Vermont where Nancy assisted him after his hospitalization. She finally had to place him in a home that helped him with his disabilities. After a few years, Howard passed away from heart failure.

She said, "here I am 55 years old, what I am going to do?" She was convinced by a friend that she could help older people like herself to get a job." So, she did. She worked helping people over 55 return to employment for the next 10 years or so.

She visited St. Mary Star of the Sea with Wilma, her friend. After Mass, they went up to Fr. Rouelle asking him where the music was? Of course, he asked, "Do you play?" Wilma said, "Oh no, but Nancy does!" This began a working relationship with St. Mary where she began playing for funerals throughout Orleans County-Newport, Island Pond, Troy and even in Canada.

She joined St Mary Star of the Sea and played when the regular organist, Agnes Fedele could not. After Agnes retired, Nancy began her journey as organist at St Mary's working with Sr. Edmund and Sr. Frances. She has worked with many beautiful voices and loves making music for the Lord.

Nancy met Frank Goad and dated for 14 years before tying the knot. They married July 31, 2006. She has three wonderful stepdaughters- Andrea, Susan, and Lori. Their blended families has given them many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

At 84 years old, Nancy decided she had to retire from her position as organist due to health reasons, but her 30 years of praising the Lord in music and song has been so important to her.

As this author has found out, Nancy is a very religious woman and she prays and worships as all of us do, but with her talented hands, she makes praises to God in the most beautiful prayer of all - her music. Thanks so much for giving yourself to all of us each week for the past 30 years, that our prayers of praise, worship and" making melody in your heart to the Lord" (Eph.) blessed us all. We will miss you!

