



## Christine Payne Mattern

September 29, 1967 - March 17, 2018

Christine A. Payne Mattern transitioned into eternal life on Saturday, March 17th (St. Patrick's Day) at 5:00 a.m. She was living at her mother, Priscilla Payne's home and her father, Jay Payne was caring for her at the time she began to pass. He had just begun to play, "Oh, What A Beautiful Morning" by one of her favorite artists, James Taylor.

Christine's dad immediately woke up the rest of her family members and they surrounded her with love and lifted her up with prayer.

Christine was born into this world as a free-spirit on September 29th, 1967 in Detroit. She lived in Grosse Pointe with her family until they moved to her never forgotten home of Traverse City in 1973. Christine spent her early childhood playing with lifelong friends she met while living in the Huron Hills neighborhood. In 1977 her parents bought a home on East Shore Road where she spent the remainder of her childhood playing in the waters and sands of East Bay. She swam like a fish and spent her teenage years as one of Traverse City's lifeguards during the summer months and taking ballet lessons in the winter, dancing her heart out as a beautiful ballerina.

Remembered as a sweet and quiet girl, she attended St. Francis grade school and then transferred to the Traverse City public schools until 1985 where she spent her senior year at Pathfinder School, graduating in 1986. She pursued a liberal arts education at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, which she loved for its intimate community and beautiful natural setting. Later she attended Kendall College of Art and Design, graduating in 1992 as an Interior Designer. For a short time she worked at the Grand Rapids Press until she became a full time mother. She continued her interest in the arts, helping friends and family design their homes from time to time. She worked for Yeary-Van Tol Designs in Grand Rapids and Nest of Grand Traverse. She then founded her own company, Christine & Co. where she continued her artistic pursuits.

She was married in Grand Rapids in 1990 and in 1994 she welcomed her first daughter, Madeline Andrea into the world, and then her son, Edward Jay (E. J.) born in 1996. She was divorced in 1998 and later rekindled her relationship with her high school sweetheart and the love of her life, Russell C. Mattern. They married in 2000 and soon after welcomed their second daughter, Lillian Prudence. Christine was an amazing mother who

was unconditionally devoted to her three children. She taught them to trust themselves, to be compassionate, to listen, to observe and to let their roots be unmoved by life's difficulties. She was a beloved mother, daughter, daughter-in-law, sister, sister-in-law, cousin, aunt and friend. We will never forget her beautiful smile, her thoughtful nature and how she touched the spirit of everyone who knew her.

She will be sadly missed by her three children, Madeline Andrea Vander Velde, Edward Jay (E.J.) Vander Velde and Lillian Prudence Mattern; her father and step-mother, Jay and Holly Payne; her mother, Priscilla M. Payne; brothers, Gregory J. Payne (Amy) and Jonathan M. Payne; her parents-in-law, Dan and Mary Jo (Mattern) Flory, and Marlene Jade and Edward J. Vander Velde; sisters-in-law, Jillian M. Bushman (Kent) and Lynn Mattern; and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. She was preceded in death by her two sisters, Johanne Marie Payne and Jennifer Suzanne Payne; her husband, Russell C. Mattern; father-in-law, Richard C. Mattern; grandparents, Prudence H. and Wm. D. McIntyre; her adopted grandmother, Nellie C. Schardt, her uncle, William D. McIntyre Jr. and aunts, Jan M. Linsenmeyer and Sharon M. Malone. Christine's Visitation will be held on Thursday, March 29, 2018 at Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home in Traverse City from 3 – 5 pm and again from 6 – 8 pm.

# Events

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**MAR** **Visitation** 03:00PM - 05:00PM

**29**

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Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home  
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

**MAR** **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

**29**

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Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home  
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

# Comments

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“ I am in Florida and only recently heard of the loss of Christine. I am so sorry for the sadness it has brought her family and friends. It is at this time your faith is tested to its deepest depths. The beautiful space she occupied in your life feels so empty and it sometimes feels hard to find any joy but then you see the beautiful children she has brought you and you know a new way of life will go on. Each day as the children develop and blossom you will see more of Chris in them and fond memories of your time with her will bring a smile to your face. Life will never be quite the same without her beautiful face and heart, her kindness and strength, her enthusiasm and laughter but God’s journey will take a path that will at some point become peaceful....for He has promised to comfort and love us and you will find a different kind of serenity. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this time while Christine is in the arms of her loving Savior.

Joanne Smith - April 03, 2018 at 01:59 AM

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“ I first met Christine in 2011 while volunteering to assist the TC Senior Center in decluttering and reorganizing their offices. I remember thinking how innovative and talented she was. As I was talking about what could be done, Christine started moving furniture around. I remember thinking, ok, this gal's a go-getter! We shared many personal and spiritual times together and although she was the talented one, she made me feel like I had gifts to share too. Although our get togethers were few and far between, they were rich and I will miss this sweet yet powerful soul.



Robin Pearson - March 29, 2018 at 02:23 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Christine Payne Mattern.



March 29, 2018 at 01:02 AM

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“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Christine Payne Mattern.



March 28, 2018 at 06:05 PM

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“ Bob and Carol Goff purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Christine Payne Mattern.



**Bob and Carol Goff** - March 28, 2018 at 07:06 AM

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“ Love, Lisa and Ruan de Gier purchased the Heartfelt Memories for the family of Christine Payne Mattern.



**Love, Lisa and Ruan de Gier** - March 27, 2018 at 10:10 PM

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“ I feel very blessed to have known Christine since our junior high school years. We kept in touch over the last few years and I admired her faith, courage and positive attitude throughout her illness. Sending my heartfelt condolences to family and friends as you grieve the loss of our sweet Christine.

**Holly Jones** - March 27, 2018 at 09:19 PM

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“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Christine Payne Mattern.



March 27, 2018 at 09:40 AM

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“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Christine Payne Mattern.



March 26, 2018 at 12:09 PM

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“ Christine was more than just a friend. She was a sister to me. I was her guardian angel here and now she is mine. She will always be in my heart and I will miss her everyday! Our friendship was more special than I can express we became closer than sister's. I was blessed to have her and her family as a part of my life. Thank you for all the lovely memories. I will miss her dearly! But I know we will see each other again! Love your sis Joan!

**Joan Spicuzza** - March 25, 2018 at 06:34 PM

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“ My dear Christine-not only were you my cousin, but you were my first friend. I remember playing together, traveling together, playing hide and seek at the family Christmas in Monroe, laughing together, and sharing stories of our kids as we navigated adulthood. My thoughts and prayers are with your family especially your beautiful young adults.

**Michele Payne Strasz** - March 23, 2018 at 09:24 PM

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Christine Payne Mattern.



March 21, 2018 at 12:31 PM

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“ Beautiful Christine, I have so many memories with you -- from looking up to you as a little kid, to receiving handmade/sewn fabric hair bows from you as a bigger kid, to spending family and one-on-one time with you at holidays and in between, to visiting you in Grand Rapids for your 40th (my 29th!) birthday, to having you visit me and my family in Chicago with Lilly and Maddie to obtain visas for Maddie's travels abroad, to you sweetly entertaining 2.5 year-old Kyle at Colleen's wedding while I attended to my "woman of honor" duties and a 7 week-old baby. These past few months you have shared your highlights and struggle with me through regular messages. In your last message to me on March 9, 2018 you asked me to "kiss my adorable kids for you". They've been praying for you along with me throughout these many months. I will kiss them and treasure them for me and for you for the rest of my life. Rest in peace, dear cousin/godmother. Please kiss your dear sisters in heaven for me. xox

**Maureen Connell** - March 20, 2018 at 06:05 PM