

Wheeland

A celebration of the life of Cherie Pedigo Wheeland, 56, was held on March 5, 2006, at the First United Methodist Church of Livingston.

Cherie died on Saturday, March 3, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. She was born and raised in Livingston and upon graduation from Livingston High School, she made the decision to make Livingston her life-long home. At the age of 17, Cherie began working at her father's local furniture store, Pedigo Furniture, where she dedicated her time, efforts and heart to the store and its employees for the duration of her life.

Cherie's heart was committed to the Lord and this was evidenced through her continued service to His people and His church. She gave her heart to the Lord as a child while spending her formative years as a member of Livingston's Central Baptist Church. After she married, she became a member of the First United Methodist Church of Livingston, where she served on every committee imaginable from Pastor Relations and Education to Worship and Finance. She had a special fervor, however, for Missions in the church, as it was the epitome of sharing Christ's love with others. Cherie was also a member of the church's fun-loving handbell group known as the Ding-a-Lings, through who she nourished special Christ-centered friendships while praising our Lord through music.

After losing her mother to cancer and then enduring a 13-year battle with breast cancer, herself, Cherie made the decision to enlist her service in the search to find a cure for the devastating disease. As a result, she initiated Polk County's first Relay for Life to benefit the American Cancer Society. Cherie served as co-chairman of the event for two years, and in 2004, the local Relay was dedicated to her for her continual efforts toward the cause. Her passion in the battle against cancer also fueled her desire to establish the Livingston chapter of the American Cancer Society's Road to Recovery that provides transportation assistance for Livingston area residents who must travel outside the area in order to receive treatment for cancer. Even while she was receiving treatments for her own bout with cancer, Cherie would dedicate her own time and energy to providing transportation for others receiving treatment.

Cherie served as a board member of the First National Bank of Livingston and was a member of the Livingston Pilot Club for several years. She was a past recipient of the Livingston Rotary Club's Paul Harris Fellow Award, and was recognized as an Outstanding Graduate of Livingston Independent School District. In 2006, and this past January, she was named Polk Countian of the Year.

Cherie's family was always the center of her world, and there was nothing more she would rather do than spend time with her children, her grandchildren and the many members of her extended family. She was known as a selfless individual and epitomized every characteristic of a child of God through her servant's heart. She was forever giving and receiving love, and she displayed her faith and hope in the Lord through every aspect of her life.