

'Peace

Pilgrim'

Killed

HAMMOND — The Unity Church of Hammond will hold a memorial service today for "Peace Pilgrim," a 73-year old woman many say should win the Nobel Peace Prize.

The service is scheduled for 8 p.m. at the church, 740 River Drive.

Peace Pilgrim was the name used by Mildred Norman, who died in an auto accident Tuesday while on her way to Elkhart, Ind. Euell Ward, 72, her friend and driver, also died in the accident, a head-on collision with a car driven by an 18-year-old woman.

Norman was known as the "angel of peace." She was known across the country and spoke at more than 1,200 churches and every major college and university. She walked more than 25,000 miles in all 50 states, the Rev. Grace Free of Unity Church, said.

"She just radiated peace," Unity Church Secretary Rose Iatarola said. "She was so calm and serene. She was a tiny woman and very thin."

Norman spoke at two services of the Hammond church on June 1, where Free said she was well-received. Peace Pilgrim also appeared on television and radio in Chicago, Milwaukee and Hammond.

Mrs. Iatarola said Norman's belongings consisted of what she carried with her. She existed through the goodwill of people who fed her and gave her shelter, Mrs. Iatarola added.

She was born on the East Coast, Free said, adding that the Peace Pilgrim didn't want people to know much about her, "because she wanted emphasize the community and peace, rather than her own personality."

Free said the woman began her trek across the country in 1953, as an expression of her crusade for peace. She gave up a successful business career for full-time social work.

"She felt that walking was her mission from God," Free said.