

Celebration of Life



RUTH B. PORTER

Saturday, October 19, 2024

✦ Receiving Friends 1:00-1:30 p.m.
✦ Informal Sing-Along 1:30-2:00 p.m.

✦ Remembrance Service 2:00-3:00 p.m.
✦ Fellowship 3:00-4:00 p.m.

*Video of this service will remain available at www.faithloves.org/RuthPorter
We are grateful for the sign language interpretation provided by Brenda Sellers and Suzanne Branson.*



CALL TO WORSHIP

Helen Dickey with Ruth's Music Box

- ✦ *Unter dem Doppeladler Marsch*, 1893 by Josef Wagner (*Under the Double Eagle March*)
- ✦ *Rosen aus dem Süden*, 1880 by Johann Strauss II (*Roses from the South*)

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Eric Bronkala, Director of Chaplain Services,
Shannondale Retirement Communities
Maryville and Knoxville, Tennessee

MUSICAL REFLECTION

David Porter, tuba & Lynn Rognsvoog, piano

- ✦ *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* by Johann Sebastian Bach

FAMILY SHARING

Peter Porter

SCRIPTURE READING

Sarah Bigelow

Colossians 3:12 & 14 Revised Standard Version

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, and above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

led by Sandra Bohlken, Bill Porter, and Helen Dickey

They'll Know We Are Christians by our Love

Verse 1

We are one in the Spirit
We are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit
We are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity
May one day be restored

Chorus

And they'll know we are Christians
By our love by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians
By our love

Verse 2

We will walk with each other
We will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other
We will walk hand in hand

And together we'll spread the news
That God is in our land

Verse 3

We will work with each other
We will work side by side
We will work with each other
We will work side by side
And we'll guard each one's dignity
And save each one's pride

Verse 4

All praise to the Father
From whom all things come
And all praise to Christ Jesus
His only Son
And all praise to the Spirit
Who makes us one

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SCRIPTURE READING AND FAMILY SHARING

Helen Dickey

2 Corinthians 9:7 Revised Standard Version

Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

SCRIPTURE READING

Reverend Eric Bronkala, Director of Chaplain Services,
Shannondale Retirement Communities
Maryville and Knoxville, Tennessee

2 Timothy 4:7-8 New International Version

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

HOMILY

Rev. Eric Bronkala, Director of Chaplain Services,
Shannondale Retirement Communities
Maryville and Knoxville, Tennessee

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

led by Sandra Bohlken, Bill Porter, and Helen Dickey

Hymn Of Promise

Verse 1

In the bulb there is a flower
In the seed an apple tree
In cocoons a hidden promise
Butterflies will soon be free
In the cold and snow of winter
There's a spring that waits to be
Unrevealed until its season
Something God alone can see

Verse 2

There's a song in every silence
Seeking word and melody
There's a dawn in every darkness
Bringing hope to you and me

From the past will come the future
What it holds a mystery
Unrevealed until its season
Something God alone can see

Verse 3

In our end is our beginning
In our time infinity
In our doubt there is believing
In our life eternity
In our death a resurrection
At the last a victory
Unrevealed until its season
Something God alone can see

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FAMILY SHARING

David Porter

SCRIPTURE READING AND FAMILY SHARING

Sarah Bigelow

Psalm 96:1 Revised Standard Version

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!

Deuteronomy 30:19b-20a

Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him.

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

led by Sandra Bohlken, Bill Porter, and Helen Dickey

God Be With You

Verse 1

God be with you till we meet again
By His counsels guide uphold you
With His sheep securely fold you
God be with you till we meet again

Chorus

Till we meet till we meet
Till we meet at Jesus' feet
Till we meet till we meet
God be with you till we meet again

Verse 2

God be with you till we meet again
'Neath His wings securely hide you
Daily manna still provide you
God be with you till we meet again

Verse 3

God be with you till we meet again
When life's perils thick confound you
Put His arms unfailing 'round you
God be with you till we meet again

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BENEDICTION PRAYER

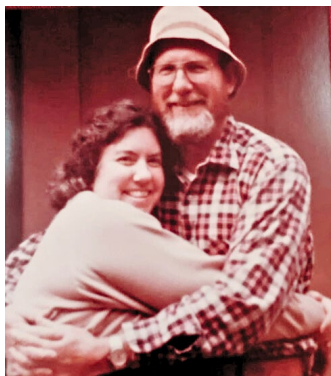
Rev. Eric Bronkala, Director of Chaplain Services,
Shannondale Retirement Communities
Maryville and Knoxville, Tennessee

DISMISSAL

✠ *Amazing Grace*

Tracy Jenkins, bagpipes & Bill Porter, snare drum

Please join the family in the entry lobby for a light reception.



RUTH B. PORTER **May 9, 1938 – July 23, 2024**

Elsie Ruth Barker Porter was born on May 9, 1938 in Murphy, NC, to the late Rev. Paul A. Barker and Esther Temperley Barker, and passed away 6:05 A.M. Tuesday, July 23, 2024. As a youth, Ruth was very active in the United Methodist Church, fulfilling her role as a “P.K.” (preacher’s kid) with grace and enthusiasm. After high school, Ruth attended University of Tennessee, Memphis, then left to marry Rev. Jack Porter in 1956, a union of 64 years before Jack’s death in 2020. In her mid-thirties, Ruth went on to earn her LPN, also becoming a member of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi at the University of Tennessee Chapter in Knoxville, in 1976. Known for her calm demeanor, her love of children, and her ability to challenge others to successfully develop their potential, Ruth worked as Jack’s right hand woman throughout their ministry in United Methodist Church camps in Tennessee, Oregon, and North Carolina. Whether running the camp kitchen, acting as Camp Nurse, or taking on the role of Business Manager, a center of love and acceptance expanded from Ruth’s presence. A fall resulting in a broken arm brought Ruth from her current residence at Morning Pointe Assisted Living in Knoxville, Tennessee to rehab at NHC Fort Sanders. There, in spite of truly excellent skilled nursing care, several underlying health concerns multiplied quickly. Ruth left this world to join God and her beloved Jack, in glory, on July 23, 2024.

Ruth is survived by four children and their spouses, William Davidson Porter II (Judy), Peter Bennett Porter (Phyllis), Sarah Esther Bigelow (Jay), Deborah Helen Dickey (Mark), five grandchildren and their spouses, and seven great-grandchildren, brother Paul Anthony “Tony” Barker, Jr (Pam), and sister Martha Barker Davidson (John). Preceded in death by husband, the Rev. Jack Porter, and parents, the Rev. Paul A. Barker and Esther Temperley Barker. On July 27, 2024 a visitation was held at Biereley-Hale Funeral Home, Madisonville, TN, and a graveside service was held at the Hiwassee Community Cemetery, 225 Hiwassee Community Dr, Madisonville, TN 37354, presided by the Rev. Randy Tingle.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the charity of your choice or to the Porter Scholarship Fund for sending children and youth to camp. Please make checks payable to Holston Conference Camp and Retreat Ministries, and put Porter Scholarship Fund in the memo line. Please mail to Mary Thompson, CRM Executive Director, P.O. Box 850, Alcoa, TN 37701.