



Carol W. Bernard

November 26, 2020

Our favorite teacher Carol W. Bernard entered into her heavenly home with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on November 26, 2020. Beloved wife to Bill for over 50 years, caring mother to Holly and Pete Schoenhoff, Robby and Jennifer Bernard, loving grandmother to Kaylan, Brandon, Erich and Benjamin, sister to Charlotte and Scott, aunt to Laura, Lynn, Kate, Will, Scott, and Grayson, and daughter to Stafford and Marjorie, Carol's life here with us was about loving God, kindness to children, and serving others before herself, with compassion and grace.

Carol inspired kindness in everyone she met, with a vibrant smile, a hand to help where she could, and encouraging words. She was a child's best advocate, and had a way of knowing just who needed a little extra encouragement to succeed, patiently mentoring both students and her fellow teachers. She taught many children to read over the years, including one who was motivated by Snickers bars and another who grew up to be a Reading Specialist. A lifelong Hampton High Crabber and James Madison Duke, she held many leadership roles at Madison, including president of the student body her senior year, and as a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority. She taught for 18 years in Chesapeake Public Schools, was Western Branch Intermediate Teacher of the Year in 1992, and also enjoyed teaching children and adults in Sunday School as a longtime member of Green Acres Presbyterian Church.

She was a talented artist with pencils, watercolors, words in print, flower arranging, or creations from her sewing machine. From reading Berenstain Bears bedtime stories to her grandchildren, putting her green thumb to work in her flower gardens, attending ODU and Tides games with Bill, baking cookies and filling a dining room table with buttercream Easter eggs to share with friends, she never stopped teaching us and showing us a true example of putting others first. She loved all animals, but especially those very lucky basset hounds and beagles adopted into the family over the years. As we walked with her through her last years as she bravely fought dementia, she continued to teach us lessons in compassion, steadfastness, faith, patience, and most of all enduring love.

In lieu of flowers and in celebration of Carol's memory, we ask that you to pass on a random or intentional act of kindness and compassion as Carol always did, or consider a gift to the Chesapeake Humane Society (www.chesapeakehumane.org) in Carol's memory.

An outdoor memorial service and entombment will be held Friday, December 4, 2020 at 1 p.m. Green Acres Presbyterian Church Columbarium, 3135 Hanley Avenue, Portsmouth, Va 23703.

Cemetery Details

Green Acres Presbyterian Church Columbarium and Memorial Garden

3135 Hanley Avenue
Portsmouth, VA 23703

Previous Events

Service

DEC 4. 1:00 AM (ET)

Green Acres Presbyterian Church Columbarium and Memorial Garden
3135 Hanley Avenue
Portsmouth, VA 23703

Tribute Wall

FM

“ *Dear Bill and Family,*

Bob and I are so very sorry for the loss of Carol. She was a very nice lady and I enjoyed knowing her. She was the one who asked and invited me to join the garden club that I have enjoyed now for several years.

I remember one meeting at your home when Carol was the hostess and her dessert was the "Hummingbird Cake". Carol's creation of this delicious cake was the best I had ever eaten! She was always kind and thoughtful and I have missed seeing her.

Bob and I also remember when we enjoyed being with both of you on our New Year's Eve tour trip to New York City. Most fun! I will always admire Carol for her love of her flowers, home, and being a lovely lady. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

*Sincerely,
Fran and Bob Mueller*

Fran Mueller - December 04, 2020 at 10:52 AM

DH

“ *Bill and family, so sorry for your loss. I just now saw this in the obituary. You and Carol are two of the very nice people I remember during my over 10 years at Green Acres Presbyterian Church in the 1990s. May God bless you with the peace of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ Our Lord and Savior. Sincerely, Denny Hollowell*

Denny Hollowell - December 03, 2020 at 12:10 AM

JB

“ I’m so very sorry for your family’s loss. We knew each other, but my mother went to school with her and they were childhood friends. The obituary was a loving tribute of a First Lady, family member and administrator. Thoughts are with you all during the sadness and journey ahead.
Sincerely Jeff Barbour



Jeff Barbour - December 02, 2020 at 09:38 PM

SG

“ Carol and I were fellow Hampton Crabbers and reunited with HHS Class 1961 lunch group many years later in life. She was a very gracious lady. My thoughts are with her family.

Susan Strahorn Godley

Susan Godley - December 02, 2020 at 05:41 PM

BG

“ I student taught with Carol so many years ago. She was a model teacher for me and I was always grateful for everything she taught me. It is so hard to lose a loved one but she’s already seen Jesus and probably painting the sunrise.
Betsy Gardner.

Betsy Gsrndner - December 02, 2020 at 05:31 PM

TC

“ *Bill, Holly, Robby,*

Your tribute to Carol is beautiful and embodies her life. She was a lovely person inside and out. We will miss her but will remember our good times together. She is now safe and free of any pain and is whole. You will be with her again.

Bill, please keep in touch.

Patsy & Lonnie

The Crosses - December 02, 2020 at 01:53 PM

BD


“ *Bill, Holly and Robby,*

I am so sorry for your loss. I will always treasure my time with Carol. She was a dear caring friend. I know God has opened his arms for her. I know that someday we will be together again.

God Bless

Bernie Demkowski

Bernie Demkowski - December 02, 2020 at 08:41 AM

 Holly
Schoenho

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Holly Schoenhoff - November 30, 2020 at 11:20 PM

SP

Sorry for your loss, Robby. May the Lord give your family His peace and comfort.

Sharon Patrick - December 01, 2020 at 07:03 PM

SH

May your beautiful memories together and the knowledge of her present with Jesus bring you comfort during this difficult time.

Suzi Hersey - December 01, 2020 at 07:14 PM

TM

Holly and family, I am so sorry for your loss. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Tommie Ann Molleen - December 02, 2020 at 08:34 AM

PS

Carol was Erin's, our daughter, 5th grade teacher. Erin agrees with me that Mrs. Bernard was one of the best teachers she ever had. She truly cared about her students and worked hard to help bring out their best. As a result, that 5th grade year was something special in our lives. She was a lovely, gracious person. Our heartfelt condolences, Phyllis and Randy Shannon

Phyllis Shannon - December 02, 2020 at 03:54 PM

HH

My deepest sympathy to Bill and Family.

Harold Heafner~

HAROLD Heafner - December 03, 2020 at 02:13 PM