



William F. Davidson

July 30, 1926 - June 21, 2020

William F. Davidson died peacefully on June 21, 2020, at C.C. Young in Dallas and is making heaven smile with his merry whistle. Bill was born in Goose Creek—a little neighborhood in Houston—on July 30, 1926. He grew up in and around Goose Creek, Baytown and Pelly.

His parents, James and Agnes Davidson were newcomers to the States from Belfast, Ireland. They emigrated in the first decade of the 20th century to Winnipeg, Canada, and quickly made their way south to the sunnier climes of Texas.

In 1943, Bill enlisted in the Navy after convincing his parents to let him join at 17. He served in the South Pacific as a machinist mate first class on a repair barge. He remembers being “not too smart” but he was just a kid. He kept the engine room spick and span and kept the coffee pot percolating. He enjoyed the experience a lot.

After the war, Bill returned to Houston and became involved in a neighborhood church and was especially active in the young adult group. A married couple encouraged him to consider the ministry—and Bill never looked back.

He went to college at Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma, where he met Marilyn Madsen, a lovely young lady from Minden, Nebraska. Marilyn remembers looking out of her second-floor dorm room with a friend and noticing a lanky, handsome fellow walking across the green. That was Bill.

They were married and set off to Fort Worth, where Bill received his Doctor of Divinity degree from TCU’s Brite Divinity School. They served student churches in Alice and Bowie before moving to Liberty, Missouri, in 1955. Son Craig was born in Bowie in 1955 and Doug in Liberty in 1957.

After Liberty, Bill and Marilyn’s ministry included churches in Liberal, Kansas; Kirksville, Missouri; Frankfort, Indiana; and Dallas, Texas.

Bill had always hoped to return to his Texas roots, so the call to serve Casa View Christian in East Dallas in 1980 was a happy homecoming. Bill and Marilyn served Casa View until Bill's retirement in 1991.

In retirement, Bill wasn't very retiring. He stayed active caring for Marilyn until her death from Parkinson's Disease in 1995, was president of the Dallas Area Parkinsonism Society, tutored third-grade students and served multiple churches in North Texas as interim ministry. He was a faithful member of Highlands Christian Church in Lake Highlands.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, James and Agnes Davidson; brother, James E. Davidson; wife, Marilyn Davidson; and son, Craig Davidson. He is survived by son, Doug Davidson; daughter-in-law Janice Davidson; grandsons Cameron Davidson, Christopher Davidson, James C. Davidson Jr. (Manessah), Jeremy Davidson (Jennifer), Joshua Davidson (Grace) and granddaughter, Camilea Davidson. He is also survived by nephews, Kerry Davidson and David Thiel, and niece, Lyn Heng—and by a host of friends who will cherish his memory, including dear friend, Pearl Mann.

Bill loved life and lived every day with a kind heart, joyful faith and love of beauty that enriched everyone he met. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Bill's honor to Highlands Christian Church or the Dallas Area Parkinsonism Society. The family would like to thank and honor the courageous caregivers and hospice team at CC Young, who provided unflagging love and comfort.

Due to Covid-19 public services have been postponed at this time.

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Restland Funeral Home and Cemetery - June 24, 2020 at 01:08 PM



“ Bill was a kind, gentle, most wonderful neighbor. I was Always happy to awaken to his joyful whistle and know that he was looking out for me and all of Town North. And I'm sure he is keeping an eye out for us from heaven. I know he derived strength and courage from his deep faith. Rest In Peace my friend.

Ann McCoy - July 15, 2020 at 09:38 PM



“ I have known Bill for what seems like my whole life. I have so many memories. Being a kid and squeezing in beside him for his children's sermons. Hearing his calming voice and knowing that everything would be alright...even during tumultuous times in my life. He officiated our family's joyous occasions. Being so happy and surprised when in my young adult life he reappeared right when I needed him most. He gave the best prayers before meals. Having him sit with my husband and children always engaged and listening to the stories to we had to tell. Getting to have him at family gatherings to celebrate holidays. Joking with him about how much satisfaction we both got from vacuuming. Attending his 90th birthday bash. Having him tell my children how much he loved their great grandmother. Knowing that every time I got to see and talk with him, I was the only one in the room...how he made me feel that way in a house full of people always left an impression. He taught me that God is Love. He taught me that family is love. He loved me and I loved him. He made this world a better place and will be missed.

Andrea Zacharias

Andrea zacharias - June 27, 2020 at 01:55 AM



“ Bill was my pastor at Casa View Christian. I attended Casa View from the time I was 5 years old until I left for college. I loved both him and Marilyn so much. They had the kindest souls. They always had a hug for you and a smile to share. They were giving and selfless. Both him and Marilyn were such positive role models for the members of the church.

When I think of what a pastor should be Bill is the first person to come to mind. I have been to many churches in my time and none of their pastors will ever compare to Bill. A few years ago we had a flood at our church. We decided to go back to visit Casa View. I wanted my husband to see where I grew up. I could not believe my eyes when Bill walked in! I was SO excited to see him. I totally flashed back to the wonderful years I had under his leadership. I immediately ran up to him and gave him a hug. I was so thankful God placed me there on a Sunday him and Pearl would be in attendance.

Please know that I am praying for your families. I pray that you will find peace and comfort. He will be missed by many I am sure of that!

Aimee M. Danyluk-Jenkins - June 26, 2020 at 04:37 PM



“ Doug and family,
As you said, your Dad ran the good race. His life was pleasing to God and a joy to those around him. He was always Uncle Billy to me and Cheryl and my daughters. His smile was ever present and infectious. I enjoyed talking sports with him when we talked on the phone. You don't know this but he took me to my first professional baseball game at the old Buff Stadium in Houston. The most memorable moment of the game was a foul ball into our section that Billy tried to catch bare handed. After the ball dropped to another fan, he said he wouldn't be trying to catch a baseball that way again.
Peace and grace be with you.
Kerry, Cheryl, Holly, Angie

Kerry Davidson - June 24, 2020 at 07:17 PM



“ Doug & family, I'm sorry for your loss. -Deidra Cunningham-

Deidra Cunningham - June 24, 2020 at 09:22 AM