

## *Obituary: Helen Elizabeth Newkirk*

Helen was born Helen Elizabeth Slawson on December 23, 1929, the first child of Bernice Adele Slawson and George Willard Slawson, in Waco, Texas. She had two sisters, Joan Adele Lee and Janet (Janie) Yvonne Moore; Janie survives her.

Helen married her great love, Bill (Billy Ray Newkirk), on August 22, 1948, in Victoria, Texas, and soon after they dedicated their marriage to God. Helen and Bill had five children, Linda Joan, Patricia Susan, James Alan, David Richard and Lisa Susan, all of whom survive her. She is also survived by 12 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

Helen lived a (very) full life, and valued three things above all else – her God, her family and her care for others. These three things gave her life meaning, defined who she was and what she did and were closely intertwined for her in how she lived her life. Her world was big, and therefore so were her responsibilities. She had special “grandchildren” to care for in Colorado, supported orphaned children and the poor in Serbia, and was a long time and dedicated supporter of the UMC Missions Commission, Gospel for Asia, and the St. Labre orphanage school in Montana, to name just a few.

Helen acquired her lifelong nickname “Helen Go Want” from her father at a very young age, and many will attest to its great wisdom in describing her throughout her 83 years. (Bill often modified it to “Helen Go Now”.) As well as living in Texas, Oregon, Colorado, South Dakota, Wyoming, Virginia, Washington DC, Maryland, Wisconsin, and Arizona, she also lived in India and Chile. She has travelled many times to over 40 countries, including the Philippines, Belgium, Serbia, and Australia to visit children and grandchildren, to whom she has passed on the wander gene. They are flung so wide partly because she encouraged her children to know the world, be in the world, and to care for the world. This was her great wish—that her family and her descendants contribute to building a just and caring world, and she worked hard to ensure this happened.

“If I am not here for others, why am I?” was the signature on her emails.



A SERVICE OF DEATH AND RESURRECTION

Celebrating the life of

*Helen Elizabeth Newkirk*

December 23, 1929–February 9, 2013

Annandale United Methodist Church  
6935 Columbia Pike, Annandale, Virginia 22033

PRELUDE

GATHERING

GREETING

\*HYMN: *Come Thou Fount*

UMH 400

PRAYER

Dave Newkirk

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd: I shall not want;  
    he makes me lie down in green pastures;  
He leads me beside still waters;  
    he restores my soul.  
He leads me in paths of righteousness  
    for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
    I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
    your rod and your staff,  
    they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
    all the days of my life  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
    for ever.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

John 14:1-7

A TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

Written by Helen's Children  
Linda, Patricia, Jim, Dave, Lisa

DUET: *How Great Thou Art*

Patrick and Margaret Vaughn

HOMILY

Pastor Clarence Brown

\*HYMN: *What A Friend We Have In Jesus*

UMH 526

COMMENDATION

PRAYER OF COMMENDATION AND THANKSGIVING

God of us all, your love never ends.  
When all else fails, you are still God.  
We pray to you for one another in our need,  
    and for all, anywhere, who grieve with us this day.  
To those who doubt, give light;  
    to those who are weak, give strength;  
    to all who have sinned, show mercy;  
    to all who sorrow, grant your peace.  
Keep true in us the love with which we hold one another.  
In all we do we trust in you.  
To you, O Lord, with your church on earth and in heaven,  
We offer honor and glory, now and forever, Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN: *Amazing Grace*

UMH 378

\*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

\*POSTLUDE

\*Please stand as you are able.

*The flower arrangement on the altar is in honor of all of  
Helen and Bill's decedents, as Helen desired.*

*Helen requested that, in lieu of additional flowers, contributions be  
made to the AUMC Missions Commission, a disaster relief organization.*