



We welcome all.

North Decatur Presbyterian Church is called by God to be a community of faith and worship, dedicated to Christian education and nurture so that we may go into the world to serve, work for peace and justice and share God's love with all people.

611 Medlock Road, Decatur, GA 30033
www.ndpc.org

SERVICE OF WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION

FOR

FRANK BURTON VARDEMAN, JR.

February 2, 1925 – September 13, 2020

Saturday, November 7, 2020

PREPARATION & ADORATION

PRELUDE

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

WELCOME

Welcome to all of Burt's family and friends. We are honored by your presence. Please sign your name in the chat feature of the Zoom call and let us know that you are with us today.

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 100)

One: Know that the Lord is God! It is God who made us, and we belong to God;

All: We are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.

One: Enter these gates with thanksgiving, and these courts with praise!

All: For the Lord is good; God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness is to all generations.

HYMN (verses 1, 2, 5)

The Church's One Foundation
NDPC Choir

AURELIA

The Church's One Foundation 321

1 The chur-ch's one foun-da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord.
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op-pressed,
 4 Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war,
 5 Yet she on earth has un - ion with God, the Three in One,

She is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
 by schis - ms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis-tressed,
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more:
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won:

From heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride.
 One ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we,

With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.
 And soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song,
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 like them, the meek and low - ly, may live e - ter - nal - ly.

This hymn was one of twelve written by an English curate to affirm the articles of the Apostles' Creed with biblical allusions such as 1 Corinthians 3:11 here. Though not created for this text, the tune was joined to it in 1868, and the two have been inseparable ever since.

REFLECTIONS FROM FAMILY

The Rev. Frank Burton Vardeman, III

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 121 (KJV)
1 Corinthians 13 (NRSV)
John 3:15-17

SONG

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
Rev. Rick Neale and Gillian Hollis

SCRIPTURE

Luke 14:7-11

HOMILY

Rev. Agnes Norfleet

PASTORAL PRAYER

SONG

Blessed Be the Tie that Binds (vs. 1 & 4)
Jerrell Melton

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Hallelujah,” from *Messiah* by George Frideric Handel
Stillman College Choir

RESIGNATION

IN MEMORY:

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to either:

- North Decatur Presbyterian Church: www.ndpc.org/donate
- The Kiwanis Foundation of Atlanta: <https://kiwanisatlanta.org>

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP TODAY:

Rev. David Lewicki, pastor, North Decatur Presbyterian Church
Rev. Beth Waltemath, pastor, North Decatur Presbyterian Church
Rev. Mary Anona Stoops, pastor, North Decatur Presbyterian Church
Jerrell Melton, piano
Jason Schoeneberg & Tim Merritt, Audio/Video coordination

NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

Music Credits:

The Church's One Foundation. Text: Samuel John Stone, 1866, alt. Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need. Text: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt. Music: American Folk Hymn: Southern Harmony, 1835, Arranged by Mack Wilberg.

Blest Be the Tie That Binds. Text: John Fawcett, 1782. Music: Johann Georg Nägeli, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1845

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Frank Burton Vardeman, Jr., 95, passed away peacefully at home in Wesley Woods Towers in Atlanta on September 13, 2020 with his beloved wife, Martha, by his side.

Burt was born in Columbus, GA on February 2, 1925, the eldest of 4 sons, to Lucile Blau & Frank Burton Vardeman, Sr. Besides his parents, Burt is predeceased by 2 of his brothers, Robert Edwin & William George Vardeman. A native of Covington, GA, Burt was drafted into the US Army Air Forces in 1943. During WWII, he served as a Flight Radio Operator on B-24 Liberator bombers with the 15th Air Force, surviving 31 combat missions over Nazi-occupied Europe. Burt's Bomb Group was frequently escorted by the Tuskegee Airmen. "I owe my life to the Red Tails," Burt said. Burt attended Auburn University through the GI Bill. There he met his "Sweetie Pie", Martha Frances Hay, and they married in 1948. In 1949 he graduated with a B.S. in Building Construction. Martha's father was called by the Presbyterian Church to serve as president of Stillman College, a historically black college in Tuscaloosa, AL. After graduation, Burt & Martha joined him at Stillman where Burt served as Business and Property Manager for 16 years against the backdrop of the Civil Rights Movement. Burt oversaw the construction and management of 10 major buildings, which contributed to Stillman's accreditation as a four-year college. Burt considered this his greatest professional accomplishment.

During this time in Tuscaloosa Burt & Martha were busy rearing their 4 children, Frances, Frank, Cile, & Marty. Burt and family moved to Atlanta in 1965 where he oversaw the building and administration of the Presbyterian Church (US) headquarters. Burt continued in the field of property management until his retirement in 1989. Burt gave his time and talents to Kiwanis, BOMA, North Decatur Presbyterian Church, and the larger Presbyterian Church (PCUSA). He took on leadership roles and served on numerous committees in each organization.

Burt genuinely liked and respected all people, wanting all to feel welcome. He was often at the door to offer a warm greeting at gatherings. He was known for his smile and bowties, which he took pride in tying himself, even on his 95th birthday. In retirement, Burt shared his WWII experience and deep gratitude for the heroism of the Tuskegee Airmen through multiple interviews and speaking engagements. On behalf of his Bomber Group he donated paintings of the "Red Tails" in action to the Tuskegee Airmen Museum (AL) in 2010. He was made an Honorary Tuskegee Airman. Burt became a ham radio operator after the War and enjoyed it into his 90s, leading the Country Cousins in nightly prayer. He enjoyed golf and fishing, but he most enjoyed spending time with his family. Burt and Martha built their family on a foundation of love and support; their strong marriage an inspiration for us all. From holidays and family reunions to birthdays, their home was a place of gathering and celebration. They started a tradition of an annual family beach trip in the 1950s, which continues today with the next generations.

Burt is survived by his wife of 72 years; his 4 children: Frances Hay Carruthers, Rev. Frank Burton Vardeman, III (Heidi), Cile Clarke Vardeman & Marty Hay Tomlinson (Scott); his 9 grandchildren: Courtenay, Meredith, Dalton (Brandon Hunt), and Kennedy (Mark Embree) Carruthers; Ann (Seth Hahn) & Jane (Andy Shannon) Vardeman; Martha Scott, Sarah Frances & Spencer Tomlinson; his 7 great-grandchildren: Miriam & Jakob Hahn; Gibson & Reeves Hunt; Marlowe & Alden Embree; & Aaron Shannon; his brother John Roscoe Vardeman (Peggy); and many dear nieces and nephews.