

MARY ALICE KEMP

Mary Alice Kemp died in the care of hospice on July 30, 2026. A remarkable woman whose life reflected her genuine commitment to serving others and bringing people together, Mary Alice had a heart for unity, compassion, good government, and community, leaving a far-reaching impact. She loved well and was well loved.

Born in Acworth, Georgia, to Mary V. Orr Kemp and Edward H. Kemp, Mary Alice was the youngest of four Kemp siblings. She left Acworth at 16 to attend Maryville College, and transferred to Agnes Scott College, graduating with a BA in 1955. Mary Alice married Bill Henning, and their adventures took them from Georgia to Texas, to California, back to Texas; and finally they returned to Georgia with their four daughters, Mary, Alicia, Nancy, and Rachel. Mary Alice was a loving mother and a teacher for her daughters throughout their lives with her.

After ending her marriage, Mary Alice was determined to find satisfying work that would help her support her family. She found success in residential real estate and helped many people find homes in metro Atlanta. From there, she joined the Resolution Trust Corporation as an Affordable Housing Specialist, and she retired from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. In “retirement”, Mary Alice served two terms on the Decatur City Commission and on the boards of nonprofits - Initiative for Affordable Housing, Our House, and Green Bough House of Prayer.

Mary Alice had an enduring faith in God, inspiring many. She was a faithful, active, and beloved member of North Decatur Presbyterian Church for 53 years and served as a respected leader there and in the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. She found great peace and spiritual nurturing at Green Bough House of Prayer in Scott, Georgia, where she was an associate. She also held a lifelong heartfelt connection with her home church, Mars Hill Presbyterian in Acworth.

Mary Alice is survived by her daughters: Mary Clare, Alicia Henning, Nancy Jones, and Rachel Henning; sons-in-law: Gerry, Scott, and Gary; grandchildren: Sara, LuciMac, Megan, Reed, Mary, and Alice; great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews, and many dear friends. She was preceded in death by her granddaughter Jenna.

In addition to great gratitude for all of the communities that have loved and supported Mary Alice, her family is grateful to the wonderful people at Arbor Terrace of Decatur, Fountainview Center, and Hospice Atlanta for the care and support they provided in the last years and months.

In lieu of flowers, contributions honoring Mary Alice can be made to one of the organizations she served, including Common Cause of Georgia and those mentioned above.

WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION

MARY ALICE KEMP

September 19, 1934 – July 30, 2026



August 8, 2026
11 a.m.
NORTH DECATUR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
611 Medlock Road
Decatur, Georgia

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*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 our God is good, whose steadfast love endures forever, and faithfulness is to all generations.**

*HYMN *For the Beauty of the Earth* GLORY TO GOD #14

GATHERING PRAYER

Eternal God, before you we acknowledge the uncertainty and fragility of our lives. We are given but a handful of days, a span that seems nothing in your sight. All flesh is grass; our beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades. But your Word is forever. In you we have our hope, for you are our God. Even in the valley of the shadow of death, you are with us.

Speak to us today a message about life and death. Help us to live as those who are prepared to die, so that when our days here are ended, we may die as people who go forth to live. Whether we live or die, we belong to you. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

REMEMBRANCES Rachel Henning
Faye Key (read by Oliver ?)

READINGS Colossians 3:12-17

HOMILY

MUSIC *There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit* GLORY TO GOD #408
1st verse & chorus are solo, 2nd verse & chorus all sing together

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our [Divine Parent] in heaven, holy is your name. Your kin-dom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*COMMENDATION

*HYMN *I'll Fly Away*

*BENEDICTION *May I Be Filled with Loving Kindness*

POSTLUDE

* *Please rise in body or spirit.*

The family invites you to gather in Fellowship Hall after the postlude for a reception.

PARTICIPANTS
Rev. David Lewicki, Pastor, North Decatur Presbyterian Church
Rev. Mary Anona Stoops, Pastor, North Decatur Presbyterian Church
Huu Mai, Music Director, Pastor, North Decatur Presbyterian Church