

*The family thanks you for the gift of your presence today and  
for every expression of kindness.*

*Following the service, the family cordially invites you  
to join them in the Christian Education Building for a time of  
fellowship and refreshments prepared by the Presbyterian  
Women of Northwood and the Kitchen Krew.*

*In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be  
made to:*

*American Heart Association*

*Heart.org*

*or*

*Northwood Presbyterian Church,  
2875 State Rd. 580, Clearwater, FL 33761*



**To the Glory of God &  
In Loving Memory of**

**Barbara Ann Schlerf**

November 5th, 1934– December 25, 2023

**Northwood Presbyterian Church**

2875 State Road 580, Clearwater, FL 33761-3231

727-796-8090

[www.northwoodpc.org](http://www.northwoodpc.org)

Rev. Dr. E. Chris Curvin, Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Paul D. Means, Associate Pastor  
David Furr, Organist



# In Gratitude to God for the Gift of Life of Barbara Schlerf

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Saturday, January 20, 2024  
10:00 A.M.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Paul Means, Associate Pastor

INVOCATION

\*HYMN #625 “How Great Thou Art” HOW GREAT THOU ART

Oh Lord, my God when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
thy power throughout the universe displayed:

*Refrain:* Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:  
how great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee:  
how great thou art! How great thou art!

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,  
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
he bled and died to take away my sin: *Refrain*

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,  
and then proclaim, “My God, how great Thou art!” *Refrain*

OLD TESTAMENT LESSONS

Lamentations 3:21-23; Proverbs 31:31

Psalms 23 (Unison)

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul:  
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;  
Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.  
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:  
Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:  
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

\*HYMN #39

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

FAITHFULNESS

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.  
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

*Refrain:* Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. *Refrain*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS

Matthew 5:16; John 16:22

MEDITATION

Chris Curvin, Pastor

SOLO

“In the Garden”  
Michele White

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN #649

“Amazing Grace”

AMAZING GRACE

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;  
‘Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;  
He will my Shield and Portion be, as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

\*BENEDICTION

\*RECESSIONAL

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

Robert Hobby

(Please remain in the pews while the family is escorted from the Sanctuary.)

\*Please stand if able.

## **Obituary of Barbara A. Schlerf**

Barbara was born and raised in Newark, New Jersey, attended local schools and graduated from Drew University with a degree in German Literature. In 1957 she married Robert (Bob) Schlerf, her college sweetheart and they set up housekeeping in Dover, New Jersey, and began their careers as educators and had two daughters.

The family moved to Florida in 1971 where they continued to teach and Barbara earned a Master's degree in Reading from the University of South Florida.

Barbara was a lifelong educator: special needs teacher, elementary classroom teacher, reading specialist, Assistant Principal and Principal of schools in both states. She strove to bring out the best in every student and influence a thriving family environment. Outside the classroom, Barbara mentored troubled youth at the Eckerd Ranch and tutored students at home. Her desire to strengthen the profession led her to mentor other education professionals while respecting their unique qualities and personal values. As a member of Alpha Delta Kappa International Honorary Organization for Women Educators, she continued to impact the community.

A lifelong Presbyterian, Barbara's faith guided her daily activities and beyond. She served as a deacon at Northwood Presbyterian Church, took communion to the homebound, was an outstanding moderator of Northwood Presbyterian Women and was recognized for her embodiment of the objectives of Presbyterian Women with an Honorary Lifetime Membership.

Barbara's devotion to animals is legendary. A sick cat? An abandoned dog? Call Barbara, she always has room for one more. Her open arms had no limits. Leisure time was spent attending concerts, musical venues and outings with friends.

Water was her natural habitat, the backyard pool her second home. If she could not be in the water, she was on the water, cruising being a favored vacation. She enjoyed time spent on Sanibel Island - sea, sand, sunshine and seashells - optimum relaxation.

Barbara was a loving daughter, wife, mother, grandmother and steadfast friend. She was preceded in death by her parents, Ronald A.G. Simpson and Mary Elizabeth Simpson and her loving husband, Robert. She is survived by her daughter Nancy (John) Walker of Franklin, Tennessee, daughter Christine of Palm Harbor and grandson Matthew Walker of Melbourne, Florida.

Barbara will be remembered for her love and respect of others and her gentle smile that was infectious and brought happiness to all who knew and encountered her.

Barbara loved Jesus Christ, her Lord and Savior.