



## Bruce Wallace Burkett

*February 25, 1957- March 14, 2025*

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Bruce Wallace Burkett, 68, of Williamsburg, Virginia, who peacefully and unexpectedly left us on March 14, 2025. He was born in Urbana, Ohio, to Jack C. and Jacqueline Olson Burkett, and spent most of his school years in Marysville, Ohio, where he graduated high school in 1975. In Marysville, and during his time at The Ohio State University, he made life-long friends, particularly through playing sports including football, baseball, basketball, and rugby. He moved to Williamsburg, Virginia in 1975 and started his business, Green Services, Inc. in 1986, where he working in the lawn care and landscaping industry until he retired in 2019.

Bruce enjoyed being active and spending time outdoors, finding particular peace and joy in the sun, working on home projects, and tending his yard, garden, and flowers. He was an avid reader, loved listening to his extensive music collection, enjoyed poetry, history, and traveling to new places and to visit family and friends (a bonus was when he was able to attend baseball games nearby). He was an enthusiastic sports fan who passionately supported his children's sports, Ohio State Buckeyes, Cleveland Browns, Cincinnati Reds, and Cleveland "Indians".

Bruce was a man of deep faith. He had a genuine passion for helping others and he found true fulfillment in making a difference in people's lives. His thoughtfulness, commitment to service, and willingness to lend a hand to family, friends, or strangers in need made a lasting impact on his community.

Above all, Bruce was a loving husband and the best dad, grandfather, and friend anyone could ask for. His warm presence, wisdom, gentle encouragement, and generous spirit will be deeply missed by all who knew him. He took particular pride in his children, always offering them unwavering love and support, and reveled in being a grandfather, having joyfully welcomed two new granddaughters this past year.

Bruce was a member of Chickahominy Masonic Lodge for 12 years, serving in officer roles for many years, and as Worshipful Master of the Lodge in 2020. He was well loved and respected by the Brethren of the Lodge and will be missed greatly.

Bruce is survived by his loving wife of 42 years, Marcia Symbolik Burkett, his high-school sweetheart; daughter, Sarah Burkett (Jason) Steiner, son, Scott (Rachel) Burkett; grandchildren, Sasha, Leo, and Stella Steiner and Sawyer Burkett; siblings David (Londa) Burkett, Barbara (Bill) Winfree, Dale (Carrie) Burkett, and Brian Burkett; brother and sisters-in-law, William Symbolik, Lorraine (Steve) Adams, Deanne Symbolik, and Nancy (Kelly) Symbolik, and many nephews and nieces. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother-in-law, Steve Sneider. God has welcomed him home. We will miss his sparkling blue eyes, gentle smile, and comforting warm hugs.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider donating blood to your local Red Cross office, contributing to The Masonic Relief Fund (<https://grandlodgeofvirginia.org/about/charity/masonic-relief-fund>), or to the Friends of the Williamsburg Library Fund (<https://www.wrl.org/give/make-a-gift/>).



We know that Christ,  
being raised from the dead,  
will never die again;  
death no longer has dominion over him.

Romans 6:9

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Assisting with Worship: Rev. Meghan Roth Clayton

Organist: Thomas Marshall

Sound: Jimmy McCarter

Video: Josh Clayton

Permission to stream the music in this service is granted by One License #A-737740; CCLI #3168974; CCS/WCL #12349

A Service of Worship  
in Celebration of the Life of  
**Bruce Wallace Burkett**  
February 25, 1957 – March 14, 2025

March 22, 2025 2:00 p.m.  
Williamsburg United Methodist Church

ENTRANCE

PRELUDE

GATHERING

THE WORDS OF HOPE AND GRACE from John 11; Revelation 1, 22

Jesus said, I am the resurrection and I am life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, yet shall they live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. I died, and behold I am alive for evermore, and I hold the keys of hell and death. Because I live, you shall live also.

GREETING

Friends, we have gathered here to praise God and to witness to our faith as we celebrate the life of Bruce Burkett. We come together in grief, acknowledging our sense of loss. May God grant us grace, that in pain we may find comfort, in sorrow hope, in death resurrection.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who gave us birth, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray.

**You know our needs before we ask, and our ignorance in asking.  
Give us now your grace, that as we stand before the mystery  
of death we may see the light of eternity,  
and live as those who are prepared to die.  
Show us in these days of our loss that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from your love, and give us the peace of knowing  
that living or dying, our life is in you. Amen.**

\*HYMN How Great Thou Art UMH 77 v 1, 2 & 4 (red book)

A TIME OF FOND REMEMBRANCE Steve Adams, Brother-in-Law  
Jim Payne, Family

READING OF PSALM 23

**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 It is Well with my Soul UMH 377 v 1 & 4 (red book)

READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT Ecclesiastes  
3:1-8

READING FROM THE GOSPEL John 14:1-3

MESSAGE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory forever. Amen**

\*HYMN Amazing Grace UMH 378 v 1, 3, 5 (red book)

\*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

\*POSTLUDE

Friends and family are invited to a reception in the Atrium following the service.

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"Every area of life is enriched by pioneers of the past dating into antiquity. This heritage is ours to claim or ignore. We are standing on the shoulders of those who went before us. But will our posterity be able to stand on our shoulders? We are obligated to leave something for those who come after us. If we do not, in some small way leave the world a better place than we found it, we have no excuse for ever having existed."  
- Ophelia O'Flaherty Geoghegan (taken from "Not by Bread Alone")