

A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

for

Vivian Smith Golding

June 23, 1931 – April 17, 2025

April 24, 2025 1:00 p.m.

Williamsburg United Methodist Church
Williamsburg, Virginia

ENTRANCE

GATHERING MUSIC

PRELUDE *Morning Has Broken* Anthony Williams, solo

THE WORD OF 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 AND OPENING PRAYER

Friends, we have gathered here to praise God and to witness to our
faith as we celebrate the life of Vivian Golding. 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 the promise of resurrection.

*HYMN *Abide with Me* UMH 700 (red book)
(verses 1-2, 5)

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE Krista Smith

SCRIPTURES Psalm 23, Colossians 3:14-17

**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.**

WORDS OF FAITH

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895 (red book)

*HYMN *How Great Thou Art* Jenn Staggs, flute

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Vivian Smith Golding



It is with deep love and gratitude for a life well-lived that we announce the peaceful passing of Vivian Smith Golding on April 17, 2025, at the age of 93.

Born in 1931 in Birch Grove, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, Canada, Vivian was the youngest child of William James and Margaret May Smith (MacDonald). From an early age, she held a dream of becoming a teacher — a dream she fulfilled when she graduated from the Nova Scotia Teachers College in 1949. Her

teaching career began in Nova Scotia and later brought her to Williamsburg, where she continued to inspire young minds.

Vivian's passion for education and unwavering commitment to her students earned her widespread admiration and respect. In 1973, she was honored as an Outstanding Elementary Teacher of America, "for her contribution to the advancement of elementary education and service to the community."

In 1954, Vivian met Albert Franklin Golding, a young U.S. Navy sailor, during a visit by the USS Columbia to Nova Scotia. That chance meeting blossomed into a beautiful 62-year marriage grounded in love, faith, and mutual devotion, until Al's passing in 2017. They moved to Williamsburg in 1956 and built a rich and fulfilling life together as dedicated members of the Williamsburg United Methodist Church. Their faith was a cornerstone of their partnership,

and they were active in Sunday School, Bible Study, and numerous other church ministries — always serving with joy and humility.

Vivian never forgot her Cape Breton roots. She and Al made annual trips to her beloved Birch Grove, a tradition lovingly preserved over the decades and affectionately remembered as part of their marriage vow. These visits became treasured family adventures, enriching the lives of many.

Vivian was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Al; her sons, Jeff and Darrell; her brother, William Gordon (Sara) Smith; two brothers who died in infancy; and her sisters, Irene (Mike) Sewchuk and Katherine “Kay” (Roy) Evans.

She leaves behind a loving extended family: her nephew and niece, William Norman and Diane Smith; great-niece, Krista Smith (Wilhelmus van Hal); great-nephews, Dr. Matthew Smith (Dr. Kerri Purdy) and Geoffrey (Sharilyn) Smith; and eight adored great-great-nieces and nephews — Owen and Carter Smith, Gracey and Emma Smith, Cameron van Hal, and Charlotte, William, and Harrison Smith. Each of them cherished the special bond they shared with Vivian.

Vivian also leaves behind many treasured friends, who were her Williamsburg family — including Judy Emanuel, Joyce Hedgepeth, Ken and Peggy Hook, and special neighbors and friends, Steve and Nancy Tatum. Their enduring friendships were a true source of joy and companionship in her life.

Vivian was known for her sense of humor, her love of shopping, and her vibrant fashion sense — the brighter and more patterned, the better. She delighted in eating at her favorite restaurants and visiting Colonial Williamsburg to hear the fife and drum performances, which never failed to bring her joy. Her playful spirit was perfectly captured in her college yearbook, which read: “Vivian never says much in class, but she is first in line when mischief is afoot. She has every chance of success — friend to the friendly, we always say!”

The family extends their sincere gratitude to the caregivers at Commonwealth Senior Living, whose kindness and support over the past year brought comfort and care to Vivian. A heartfelt thank you to Sandra and Judy Ann, in particular, for their compassion and attentiveness. Deep appreciation is also extended to the At Home Care Hospice team, especially Laurie, Mac, and Hope, whose presence during Vivian’s final days offered peace, comfort, and dignity.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to Williamsburg United Methodist Church, in honor of Vivian’s lifelong faith and service.

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

CLERGY

Rev. Dave Rochford, Meghan Roth Clayton, Troy Sims

MUSICIANS

Lou-Anne Smith, Tom Marshall, Jenn Staggs, Anthony Williams



whoever believes in him
shall not perish
but have eternal life

John 3:16b