



Martha A. VanderPoel

March 19, 2020

Martha A. VanderPoel, 92, passed away on Thursday, March 19, 2020. Born in Lancaster, PA, she was the daughter of the late Daniel Luke and Elva Walter Biemesderfer and the wife of the late Rev. Frederick VanderPoel who died in January 2012.

She was a graduate of Penn Manor High School and Rider University, Trenton, NJ and worked for Armstrong World Industries from 1950-1954. Martha was a member of St. James Episcopal Church and was very active.

Martha was a loving wife and mother and most of her happiest moments were spent as a homemaker. She enjoyed music, reading, gardening, and swimming.

She is survived by her children: Carol, wife of Ray Blake, Elizabethtown, PA, Rebecca, wife of Alan Zoellner, Williamsburg, VA, Gretchen, wife of Michael Flora, Mission, KS and Peter VanderPoel, married to Carson Herrington, Arlington, VA, six grandchildren: Ian and Luke Flora, Marta and Daniel Zoellner, and Frederick and Lila VanderPoel. She was preceded in death by two brothers, Robert and Daniel Biemesderfer.

Memorial contributions in Martha's name may be made to Lancaster Farmland Trust, 125 Lancaster Avenue, Strasburg, PA 17579, or Luthercare, 600 E.

Main Street, Lititz, PA 17543.

Martha's Memorial Service will be Saturday, September 18th, 2021 at St. James Episcopal Church at 10:30 am. Visitation will take place from 9:30 am to the time of service

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **18.** 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

St. James Episcopal Church
119 N. Duke Street
Lancaster, PA 17603

Memorial Service

SEP **18.** 10:30 AM (ET)

St. James Episcopal Church
119 N. Duke Street
Lancaster, PA 17603

Tribute Wall



“ *Martha A. VanderPoel*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *My father, Bill Parmer was Martha's cousin and spent many summers as a boy at Beimsderfer's home which he spoke about fondly through the years. Jane Bender Parmer , his wife was in Martha's wedding and I was very young but remember it vividly! My mom passed away March 2020 and among her things was the mustard seed bracelet given to her as a bridesmaid. The Parmer family have many fond memories of Martha, Dan, Bob and their parents. She was also my namesake. Deepest sympathy to all of you on her passing. Martha Jane Parmer Reid, Roswell, GA*

Martha Reid - September 05, 2021 at 02:09 PM



We heard many happy stories about your parents, Mom loved them so much and always enjoyed their company. We're sorry for your loss, too. What a joy to have had such wonderful parents.

Gretchen Flora - September 06, 2021 at 03:13 PM



“ *I cared for your mom through home health visits while she was still in her apartment and have very fond memories of her recollections from the past. I am also a LANCASTER native and loved her stories about her parents and late husband. She was a remarkable lady and will be missed. Kim Crow*

kim Crow - September 05, 2021 at 08:27 AM

GF

Thank you for all you did, Kim. Mom was so grateful for the care she received, and so were we.

Gretchen Flora - September 06, 2021 at 03:11 PM

LR

“ I wasn't aware that Martha had passed until I saw her obit in the Sunday News Sept 5, 2021. I have thought about her often in the past several years as I passed Luther Acres. We spent happy times together in the massage room on Muhlenberg second floor over many seasons of our lives. I enjoyed Martha so so much. We laughed a lot. She was full of stories about her beloveds, and was unfliningly gracious. Her two great sorrows of her last years were losing Fred and losing her freedom to drive around Lancaster County. I hold Martha in blessed memory.

Louise Ranck

Louise Ranck - September 05, 2021 at 08:19 AM

GF

Thank you. It was very hard for her to give up the freedom to drive around the place she held dear. Lancaster and her friends were an important part of her life.

Gretchen Flora - September 06, 2021 at 03:14 PM

LO

“ So sorry to hear of your loss. I often sat next to Martha at services at St. James. She always had that beautiful smile, a kind word and never neglected to ask about my husband who could no longer physically make it to services. I missed seeing her when she could no longer attend as well. She is fondly remembered! Lissa Olson

Lissa Olson - April 04, 2020 at 02:20 PM

GF

Thank you, Lisa. Mom loved attending church and enjoyed the community there. The music and friends were so important to both her and Dad.

Gretchen Flora - September 06, 2021 at 03:17 PM

JQ


“ *The VanderPoel family had a great impact on me starting in the mid-70s right through the present day. As the matriarch, Martha was a very kind and generous lady, providing culinary and logistic support for her son Peter and his buddies through our excellent formative years. She had a wonderful, great laugh that lent some welcome credibility to our unending silliness. I feel fortunate to have had her in my life for that brief time.*

Jon Quigg - April 04, 2020 at 05:03 AM

GF

Thanks, Jon. I have fond memories of drives to band practice and the stops for ice cream on the way home!

Gretchen Flora - September 06, 2021 at 03:18 PM

 Barb
McConnell

“ *So sorry to hear of Martha's passing. I really only found out because my mom (Betty Fox) just passed on the 25th and I'm looking at Groff's website as I write her obituary to see what happens when you click on www.TheGroffs.com! I got to know Martha when I handled the subscription tickets for the Lancaster Symphony for 25 years. She was always a joy to talk to & I looked forward to her call every year at renewal time. Blessings to you and your family - may your memories bring you happiness.*

Barb McConnell

Barb McConnell - March 29, 2020 at 06:38 PM

GR

Thank you Barb. The symphony was something she truly enjoyed. She always told me about the world class performances she had experienced whenever I spoke to her. I'm sorry for your loss as well.

Gretchen - March 31, 2020 at 12:48 PM

RV

“ We are so sorry for your loss. We spent many Sundays sitting behind her at St. James services. She was a very sweet lady and I know you will all miss her greatly. We did meet Rebecca and her daughter with whom we enjoyed sharing the peace. Yes, the photo of Martha is just lovely. Remember she is in a better place!

Ron and Ann Vail

Ron and Ann Vail - March 26, 2020 at 11:52 AM

GR

Thank you Ron and Ann, Mom felt St. James was truly home for her. The fellowship was an important part of her experience.

Gretchen - March 31, 2020 at 12:50 PM

BS

“ My Sympathies upon Martha's passing. Your photo is exactly as I remember her when I'd see her. She and Fred frequented the Oregon Dairy as did my wife and I. Martha was one of my mother's favorite cousins it was great to see her at family gathering's. I remember Fred's awesome photography work of Lancaster Co even had a book published as I recall. Wishing you wonderful memories!

Bill & Suzie Schnell

Bill Schnell - March 25, 2020 at 10:08 AM

GR

Thank you, Bill and Susie, Mom and Dad both loved the Oregon Dairy. It was a great place for the whole family and the grandchildren always had fun. Mom loved her family so much, and enjoyed telling us about her adventures as a young person.

Gretchen - March 31, 2020 at 12:52 PM

JP

“ *After Gretchen shared with me about Martha's passing, I was emailing with Mary Spratt, whose husband George had served with Fred at St. Andrew's in Kansas City, Mo. Mary was saddened to hear the news and shared with me that Fred and Martha had Mary and George to Easter Dinner following their young son Christopher's (age 4 or 5 I think) unexpected death. They were such a gracious couple.*

Seeing that Martha's dad was President of a school is not surprising. She had a beautiful manner about her that represented a "wonderful upbringing." I told Gretchen that I would always remember Fred and Martha in our backyard on a beautiful summer day celebrating our youngest daughter's baptism. Martha and Fred will always have a warm place in our hearts.

jim porter - March 24, 2020 at 04:48 PM

GR

Thank you, Jim. Mom and Dad really valued your friendship.

Gretchen - March 26, 2020 at 09:15 AM

HM

“ *We are so sorry to learn of your loss. Hearing of this we could not help but wonder if Fred was waiting with a bagpipe serenade as your dear mother greeted him again. Peace, Diane & Henry+ McQueen*

Henry McQueen - March 23, 2020 at 02:20 PM

GF

What a happy thought! Thank you. Gretchen

Gretchen Flora - March 24, 2020 at 12:43 PM

LB

“ *Please accept my sympathy for Martha’s passing. I met Martha at St. James Episcopal Church, and always enjoyed my conversations with her and Father Fred. Our talks about Lancaster were especially animated; they both loved the county so much! Their enthusiasm was contagious, and sparked in me a new awareness of preserving our farmland. I feel privileged to have known the VanderPoels. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.*

Linda Bruce - March 23, 2020 at 10:33 AM

GF

Thank you so much. Lancaster County has always been near and dear to Mom and Dad’s hearts.

Gretchen Flora - March 24, 2020 at 12:45 PM

DW

“ *I am so glad our paths crossed beginning at St. James. Martha was such a wonderfully kind and loving lady. It was my pleasure to visit with both her and Fred. I have such fond memories of them together and then of Martha after Fred died. I will keep all of you in my prayers. May God’s peace surround you, comfort you, and hold you.*
Debbie Wetzel

Debbie Wetzel - March 23, 2020 at 09:59 AM

GF

St. James has been an important part of our families lives. Thank you so much for your thoughts.

Gretchen Flora - March 24, 2020 at 12:46 PM

JM

“ I enjoyed your mother after I came here to Luther Acres about five years ago. Many years ago my mother was a student at Millersville Normal School while Martha's father was president there. I remembered good memories my mother shared of him. So I was delighted to become a friend of Martha, his daughter. It was a wonderful family who were with her often going with her to concerts in Lancaster. She was a lovely and gracious woman. Jean Miller

Jean Miller - March 22, 2020 at 03:53 PM

GF

My mother was a very proud daughter. Thank you for your friendship with her and your comfort to us.

Gretchen Flora - March 24, 2020 at 12:47 PM

RE

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Rebecca - March 21, 2020 at 10:36 PM

RE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Rebecca - March 21, 2020 at 10:34 PM

RE

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Rebecca - March 21, 2020 at 10:31 PM

GF

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Gretchen Flora - March 21, 2020 at 09:33 PM

CB

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Carol Blake - March 20, 2020 at 06:59 PM

CB

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Carol Blake - March 20, 2020 at 04:33 PM