

Graveside – Clarina Ashcraft

Opening Words: Russ

Joe Ashcraft's funeral was one of the first that we conducted after coming to Charlotte 11 years ago – but the Ashcraft presence has been steady at Park Road Baptist Church since... well, since the very beginning! So each time we lose an Ashcraft it is a loss, keenly felt, yet we know the legacy will live. Ashcraft is just in our blood!

I went back to my notes from Joe's service, and I had quoted the words of the poet, Dylan Thomas, written as his father was dying. Those opening lines seem appropriate today as well:

Do not go gentle into that good night, / Old age should burn and rave at close of day; / Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

In her own way, Clarina, also raged... but it was the peaceful protest of the southern charm in which she was raised. Who would have expected anything different!? I don't think I ever saw Clarina that she didn't have a smile on her face. My last visit with her was truly delightful. She was warm and welcoming. I felt completely at home, even though I cannot say I knew her well.

I remarked of Joe that the dignity of his death spoke well of his life, and I think the peacefulness of Clarina's passing, also speaks of a note of calm within her soul. Who could ask for more than to live 90 years, raise a family, know the joys of good friends, and the commitment of 57 years of marriage, share a quiet but confident faith... and die in your sleep.

For Clarina Ashcraft's quiet, faithful life, and her quiet, faithful death... thanks be to God!

Prayer: Amy

When Peace like a river, attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say
It is well, it is well, with my soul

It is well (it is well) | With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

BENEDICTION: Russ

Now, Clarina, May the Lord Bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you, and give you peace, both now and forever. Amen.

Graveside Reading of Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

For my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul:

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

For... the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith...

The one who is righteous will live by faith.

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.

I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

For thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

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.

For I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Psalm 23 is from the KJV; all other scriptures (Philippians 4.19, John 14.27, Romans 1.17 and 8.38, John 10.10, 2 Timothy 4.7-8) are NRSV.

Observer Obituary
Clarina Ashcraft

Condolences may also be expressed at
www.harryandbryantfuneralhome.com.

Mrs. Ashcraft of Charlotte, NC, passed away on Thursday, December 8, 2011 at Southminster. She was born on May 18, 1921 in Georgetown, SC to James Ernest Bevis and Clarina Porter Bevis. Mrs. Ashcraft was married for 57 years to the late Joseph Hough Ashcraft, who died on December 17, 2000.

For many years she was a dedicated volunteer at Presbyterian Hospital. She and her husband, Joe, were longtime members of Myers Park Country Club and were founding members of Park Road Baptist Church. She attended Queens College and Salem College.

Mrs. Ashcraft is survived by two daughters, **Linda** Ashcraft Edwards of Surfside Beach, SC and **Nancy** Ashcraft Hinchey and her husband, James J. Hinchey, Jr., of Awendaw, SC; five grandchildren, Anna Paduhovich, Nancy Cole, Nell Hinchey, Kate Wenger, and James J. Hinchey, III; great-grandchildren, Joseph Wenger, Mary Nell Miller, James Wenger, and John Geary Wenger; and her sister, Virginia Guignard, of Charlotte.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Monday, December 12, 2011 in the Chapel at Southminster, with the Reverends Russ and Amy Dean officiating. The family will receive friends following the service. Interment in Elmwood Cemetery will be private. Pallbearers will be James J. Hinchey, III, Thomas J. Ashcraft, Hugh G. Ashcraft, III, Marshall C. Ashcraft, Kevin Cole, Nathaniel C. Miller, David F. Wenger, Theodore R. Morris, and James Hogshead.

Memorial contributions may be made to Park Road Baptist Church, 3900 Park Rd., Charlotte, NC 28209, or to Southminster, 8919 Park Road, Charlotte, NC 28210.