



Rev. Brian Kenneth Dill

February 19, 1949 - October 17, 2016

Rev. Dr. Brian Kenneth Dill, 67, of Lakeland, FL, passed away surrounded by his family on October 17, 2016, following a sudden bout with an aggressive and rare form of cancer. The youngest son of Kenneth Leonard Dill and Lucille “Sue” Gibson Dill, Brian was born on February 19, 1949, in Springfield, OH. He met his wife of 45 years, best friend, and inseparable partner, Barbara, at Springfield’s Oakland Presbyterian Church when the two were in fourth grade. A graduate of The Ohio State University, Dr. Dill majored in journalism and wrote for the student newspaper, The Lantern. He received his master of divinity from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and his doctor of ministry from Louisville Theological Seminary. During their 42-year ministry, the Dills served pastorates in Park Ridge, IL; Louisville, KY; Virginia Beach, VA; Orlando, FL; and Lakeland, FL. A gifted and entertaining writer, Dr. Dill worked for several years with David C. Cook Christian Publishing Company as an editor and curriculum developer. Dr. Dill was a beloved leader in the communities where he served, participating on a variety of boards and committees including the YMCA. Dr. Dill was a talented musician and his legacy includes innumerable original compositions, including “Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!,” the bicentennial hymn for the Presbyterian Church (USA) that now appears in hymnals around the world. Recognized throughout his career with a variety of distinguished honors, Dr. Dill held a commission in the honorary order of Kentucky Colonels and gave the invocation at the commissioning of the USS Laboon. Humble, kind, creative, and an engaging listener, Brian will be greatly

missed. He is survived by his wife, Barbara of Lakeland, FL; sons Daniel Dill of Washington, D.C. and David Dill (fiancée Jillian) of Greenville, SC; brother David Dill (Martha) of Carlsbad, CA; three nieces; and one nephew. He was preceded in death by his parents and daughter, Jennifer Curry Dill. Brian and his family wish to offer a special thank you to the members and attendees of the Presbyterian Chapel in the Grove for making this last year so special and fun for him. His family also thanks the Florida Presbyterian Homes and the staff members at the Porter-McGrath Health Center for their kindness. A memorial service, conducted by the Rev. Dr. Mike Loudon, will be held Saturday, November 5, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church Lakeland. Interment will be on a later date at Ferncliff Cemetery, Springfield, OH. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made in Brian's memory to the Presbyterian Chapel in the Grove, 1540 New Jersey Dr., Lakeland, FL 33803. "Come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!"

Tribute Wall

MB

“ December 2003

On a Sunday Morning at North Lakeland Presbyterian Church - it was announced that an associate pastor had been hired and would be moving to Lakeland soon. It was asked if anyone had room in their home, for a month or so, while they looked for suitable housing for him. His wife and teen-age son, would stay in Orlando until the end of the school year.

It only took a moment for us to know we wanted to host this new man in town!

The first month he was there was December, and Bernie & I were on our way back to Michigan for Christmas. That meant that Brian had the house to himself to get acquainted with the town, the church, and making lots of new friends.

Looking for a home for the Dills continued through some of the spring, and by the time school was out for Barbara and David, there was a home for them to move into. When Bernie & I left for Michigan in the spring, the Dill's were moving into their new home.

We had had a wonderful time playing "getting - to - know - you."

We loved being a part of the Chapel last winter in Lakeland, knowing that Brian

had a flock that followed him and loved him. We're thankful for all of you there, for that time in his life.

We'll look forward to the time "when we all get together." Yes, that too, will be a time of rejoicing.

God Bless You All.

Bernie & Mary Brisbois

Mary Brisbois - October 28, 2016 at 03:18 PM

LP

“ *Barbara and family,
Don and Lorna Pierce extend our deepest
sympathy to you now and in the days to
come. Brian certainly was a most wonderful
person and pastor at Beulah Presbyterian
Church.*



Lorna Sue Pierce - October 25, 2016 at 08:23 PM

CS

“ *My deepest sympathy to the Dill family. Brian served with distinction
at Beulah Presbyterian Church in Louisville, Kentucky. He was
known for compassion, creativity and pastoral sensitivity.*

*A favorite memory was his children's sermon about the Yucca plant
- which reflected both his humor and his wonderful writing skills.*

*Come 'Sing O Church in Joy' is his theme song! What a wonderful
musical gift he leaves with his beloved Presbyterian Church USA.*

Cliff Stewart

First Central Presbyterian Church, Abilene, Texas

Cliff Stewart - October 25, 2016 at 08:53 AM

EM

“ To Rev. Dill's family, I am the interim pastor at Beulah Presbyterian Church in Louisville, KY where Brian served in the 1980s. I read the obituary and noted that he wrote the hymn, "Come Sing, O Church, in Joy." It is one of my favorites and it is wonderful to know that there is a distant connection between me and the person who wrote it. May your family be blessed in this sad time and stand firm in the promise of hope in Christ. Peace to you.

-Rev. Emma Nickel

Interim Pastor at Beulah Presbyterian Church in Louisville, KY

Emma - October 24, 2016 at 01:13 PM

BE

“ Barbara, David and Daniel, there are no words to express our deepest sympathy to you at the passing of your loved one. I had the pleasure of working with Brian when he was pastor of the St Stephen Presbyterian Church in Orlando, FL Our prayers and thoughts are with you all.

Betty - October 21, 2016 at 01:02 PM

JE

“Dear David and family, I'm so shocked to hear of your little brother Brian's passing. Something so unexpected. I didn't really know Brian as well as I knew you and your parents. He was 9 years younger than we were. But what an amazing life he lived to the fullest. WOW! He was the quintessential leader and human being. I know you are very proud of him and your Mother and Father are as well I'm sure. What a wonderful heavenly reunion that will be! In our class you were voted most likely to succeed and you have certainly done that but you haven't written a hymn yet. I'm still waiting. Sorry for that David, I just thought one needs a little levity at a sad time like this. I hope it helps David to know you have many friends keeping you and yours in our thoughts and prayers. We wish you happier days ahead. Love, hugs, and blessings, Joy Eubanks

Joy Eubanks - October 20, 2016 at 10:09 PM

DH

“Brian Dill did not shy away from difficult situations or people. He made me laugh when I was filled with sorrow. His sermons were inspiring and provided comfort to heal the pain of disappointment. Somehow, he will be with those of us who knew him for the rest of our lives. When I fought cancer, when I hoped for miracles with my children, when I fought for balance in an unfair world, he was always there. At the Chapel in the Grove and at North Lakeland Presbyterian, he was a unifier and an instrument of peace. We are all blessed to have such a musician, philosopher and poet in our midst. I will miss his Bible Studies. His family is more aware than we are of the light he shared in his life. May the coming days bring us his sense of humor. Fair winds and following seas, Pastor Dill.

Very truly yours,

Diana Marie Hairston

Diana Hairston - October 20, 2016 at 05:38 PM

KW

“ I have fond memories of my spending lots good times with my neighbor Brian and his brother David. Brian was a very intelligent, thoughtful and witty guy. Thoughts and prayers remain with Barb and the family as Brian will be missed. Looking forward to a Heavenly Reunion.

*With the Love of Christ,
Ken Walls*

Ken Walls - October 20, 2016 at 11:43 AM

EO

“ Brain was a special man we were so lucky to have him in our family's life and he will always be in our hearts love you

Erick Olson - October 20, 2016 at 10:12 AM

JJ

“ Dear Barbara,
We are so sad. But at the same time feel such a strong inner warmth and blessing to have known and loved Brian as our pastor and friend. He truly led us to a deeper christian faith by his love, his faith, his example, his friendship, and his guidance. Likewise, Barbara, we have grown to love you and pray that God may bless and care for you as you make your way through this difficult time.
Much love,
John and Shirley Johnson

John and Shirley Johnson - October 20, 2016 at 07:59 AM

RM

“ We were sadden to hear about your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family. Rita Martin

Rita Martin - October 20, 2016 at 06:13 AM

DH

“ My heart goes out to the family for the loss of such a special man. I am so thankful for him being there for my family when he was needed. I feel especially blessed that he baptized and confirmed our son Justin. He loved the time he spent with Pastor Dill during his classes. I know he is in heaven singing and playing his clarinet. May God give you peace. We love you!



donna haas - October 19, 2016 at 08:39 PM

MH

“ Dear Barb, Daniel, David and Jillian,

Doug and I are so saddened to learn of the passing of Brian. Brian was a very special man who had a kind heart and was such a caring person. He was a fantastic Pastor and friend. What a good listener and absolutely loved a good time. We feel blessed to have had Brian in our lives. We will continue to pray for you all at this sad time.



Marilyn and Doug Hodge - October 19, 2016 at 06:52 PM