



Karen McFadyen

April 15, 1944 - May 1, 2011

Karen's Story

Karen Elizabeth Bostian McFadyen, age 67, passed away on Sunday, May 1, 2011, from complications after a two-year battle with cancer.

Karen was born in Winston-Salem, N.C., to Marvin and Daisy Bostian. She graduated from Woman's College in Greensboro, N.C. (UNC-G) in 1966 and taught Spanish for more than 30 years in high schools and colleges. She began her teaching career in Charlotte and High Point, N.C. She taught for 10 years at Tampa Preparatory School in Tampa, where she was head of the Spanish department and a college advisor. In Orlando, she was an international student advisor at Valencia Community College. She then taught at Ana G Mendez University, where she was director of student teaching.

"Karen's Spanish was so excellent that frequently native speakers would ask her, "'Where are you from?' and she would say "'North Carolina.' They couldn't believe it and would say "'No really, where are you from?'" said Richard McFadyen, her husband of 41 years.

She was an active campaigner for peace and justice. She visited Nicaragua during the Contra "Sandinista war in the 1980s to bear witness to what she saw there. She was very active in the Habitat for Humanity movement. In

Jacksonville, Fla., she was on the board of Habijax, the local Habitat organization.

She loved politics and was very active in the presidential campaigns of John Kerry, Al Gore and Barack Obama. With a group of women that she met in the Kerry campaign, she and her friends helped to bring a Ten Thousand Villages store to Winter Park. She and her husband volunteered there on a regular basis.

At the time of her death, Karen was an active member of St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Orlando, where she was significantly involved in the church's mission outreach program. Most recently, she coordinated the delivery of surplus food to the West Orange Christian Service Center. She was also on the committee to determine the recipients of gifts from the church's Mission Capital Endowment Fund.

She also enjoyed traveling and spending time with her family and friends. Her most recent trip in 2010 was a cruise up the Nile River in Egypt. She was an accomplished photographer whose photo of the Sphinx was published in the Orlando Sentinel.

She was a people person and a real organizer. She loved keeping up with all of her friends and never forgot to send a card on a birthday or an anniversary.

Karen will be missed by her many friends and family. She is survived by her husband, Richard, two sisters, Sheila Johnson, her twin, and Brenda Davenport, four nieces, Tracy, Melody, Elizabeth, and Michelle, four nephews, Juston, Doug, Henry, and Andy, two grand nieces, Reed and Julia and three grand nephews, Tate, Shawn and Chase.

A celebration of her life will be held at 2:00PM, Saturday, May 21st, at St.

Luke's United Methodist Church located at 4851 S. Apopka-Vineland Road, Orlando, FL 32819, telephone 407-876-4991. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to St. Luke's United Methodist Church Mission Capital Endowment Fund at the address above.

Arrangements are entrusted to DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory, 9001 N. Orlando Avenue, Maitand, FL 32751, telephone 407-695-2273. Online condolences can be made at www.DeGusipeFuneralHome.com.

Tribute Wall



“ Karen, my dear friend...my gringuita who speak Spanish!!!...We are going to miss you....The Lord is good and now you are next to him!!!...Be blessed!##imported-begin##Abigail##imported-end##

May 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Karen undoubtely was a forever will be a great woman, always remember you with special love. We pray to God for yout peace of mind and sympathy for your family. With love fam.
Bossolo##imported-begin##Lissette Bossolo and Fam.##imported-end##

May 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Richard-
My thoughts and prayers are now with you as you go through this difficult time. I will miss your sweet Karen. Please pass on my condolences to her sisters too.
Carol Lefkov##imported-begin##Carol Lefkov##imported-end##

May 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Karen was one of our favorite people--she touched everyone in her world in a positive, meaningful way that none of us will ever forget-
We will always love her and join you, Richie, in deep sorrow. With love, Elaine and Bernie##imported-begin##Elaine and Bernie##imported-end##

May 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Sheila and Family, Kathy and I express our deepest sympathy in the loss of Karen. May God bless you and the family.##imported-begin##Bob and Kathy Lyons##imported-end##

May 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ I appreciate the loving kindness that Mrs. McFadyen shared with me in high school Spanish class. She was known to be a wonderful and inspiring teacher at High Point Central High School in High Point, North Carolina.##imported-begin##Kristin##imported-end##

May 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Sheila - My thought and prayers are with you and my deepest sympathy in you loss. Your loss will also be a great loss for everyone Karen came in contact with. May God Bless you and bring you peace and comfort during this very difficult time. Love, Cindy##imported-begin##Cindy Kelley##imported-end##

May 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Richard (& Sunshine)

My thoughts and prayers are with you...I pray that you find joy and comfort during this time, knowing she is in a better place. Karen was such a dear friend and it's still sad for me to know she is gone. I loved her great sense of humor, her wittiness, and smile. Each time I was with her, I couldn't wait for the next time we were together. You both were a great impression and you were like family. Karen will be deeply missed.##imported-begin##Carolyn Green##imported-end##

May 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Sheila, I am just heartsick for you and your family. What an accomplished woman Karen was!! It seems she always gave 200% of herself to her family and her community. She will be missed by so many, but loved forever by those she leaves. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this hardest of times.##imported-begin##Jeanne Rouse##imported-end##

May 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Richard,
Our prayers are with you. Karen ---and you--- are very special people I am glad that you had the company of each other. I am forever glad that I had Karen as a friend. The world is a better place because of her.##imported-begin##Jane and David Egbert##imported-end##

May 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Karen was teaching Spanish when I first came to Tampa Prep 24 years ago. She was always funny and good-natured, and I loved her Southern accent. I especially remember one day when she really made me laugh. One of our colleagues was always very talkative, chattering away about nothing every day before school in the faculty room. Karen said, "Vi, it's too early in the morning to be so cheerful." Her dry wit was right on target, and I loved the way she spoke what we all were thinking but had not Karen's gentle wit to express. She also taught some non-Southern people the reason she said, "I swannee." She explained that Southerners do not swear, so the expression took the place of "I swear."
I offer my condolences for your loss of a wonderful woman.##imported-begin##Marjorie McDuffie##imported-end##

May 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM