



“Heavenly Perspective”

Death – O glorious rest – Of all of life the best.

The entrance into heaven’s bliss – Oh, naught of life compares with this.

’Twas for this day life was begun, twas for this prize the race was run.

O Christian, do not fear the grave, from sting of death He came to save.

Welcome now this celebration, the day of promised jubilation;

When we shall stand before His throne, and hear the Lord say, “Welcome home!”

To join with those who’ve gone before, to praise Him Whom we all adore.

This garment shell of mortal flesh is shed – replaced by glorious dress.

Now occupied that mansion bright, where dark and shadows yield to light!

Where hope is substance – faith is sight, where suffered wrongs will be made right.

...Yet as for now we do not know the appointed hour for us to go.

So Lord, allow us while we wait in all we do to estimate

The value from Your Heavenly view, of all we say and all we do.

What part of life will matter more as we look back from “yonder shores”?

What of our lives will stand the test – what is “good”, but not the “best”?

What will last and what will burn? O teach us now how to discern,

So when that glorious day is here, and You have come to draw us near,

The investment of our lives will be an honor and a praise to Thee.

And You can say to us, “Well done – the prize is Yours – the Victory’s won!”

Barbara Brown Barker

Service of Celebration
for the life of
Barbara Brown Barker



Briarwood Presbyterian Church

January 23, 2022

*“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
and all these things will be added to you.”*

Matthew 6:33

Barbara Brown Barker

March 26, 1936 - January 13, 2022

Barbara was preceded in death by her husband
Frank M. Barker, Jr

Her parents
Richard Hale Brown and Anita Shepard Brown

And her sister
Anita Brown (John) Cowart.

She is survived her children
Anita (Billy) Barnes, Frank (Pam) Barker III
Peggy (Tim) Townes

And fourteen grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren (plus two on-the-way).

Barbara grew up in Birmingham and attended Lakeview Elementary and Shades Valley High School. At the age of 12, she began pursuing her dream of a career as a professional ballerina with an opportunity to train at Ballet Arts in New York City.

Later, she studied theatre at Northwestern University while dancing with a company in Chicago.

Life presented her with exciting opportunities in the world of the arts, but she gladly exchanged those dreams for the thought of marrying a wild navy pilot (and childhood crush) named Frank Barker.

Little did she know that he would become a preacher, and in 1961 she would become a preacher's wife!

God brought them each to a knowledge of salvation by grace and knit their lives together in such a way that for 60 years they would serve the Lord as a team.

In 1980 Briarwood Church invited Barbara to start a ballet ministry. Armed with the conviction that the arts could be used for God's glory, Barbara began Briarwood Ballet with 45 students.

Since then, thousands of students have been trained for the glory of God.

She also formed two companies, *Ballet Exaltation* and *Immanuel*, which perform internationally as the missions' arms of the ballet school.

Barbara wrote both poetry and hundreds of Bible studies and she spoke nationally and internationally. Nothing, however, brought her more joy than serving the Lord with Frank and opening her home to share Jesus Christ.

Order of Worship

Prelude.....Rev. Daniel Cason and Mr. Hunter Goff
"Come to Jesus" - Briarwood Ballet

Processional.....Rev. Daniel Cason and Mr. Hunter Goff

Call to Worship – A Trophy of Grace.....Dr. Harry Reeder

"My Jesus, I Love Thee".....Dr. John Haines

*My Jesus, I Love Thee, I know Thou art mine –
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou:
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.*

*I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow:
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.*

*I'll love Thee in life, I will love Thee in death,
And praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath;
And say when the death-dew lies cold on my brow,
"If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now."*

*In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow,
"If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now."*

God's Ministry through Barbara..... Rev. Tom Caradine

"O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus"..... Grandchildren

Reflections from the Family Mrs. Peggy Townes

"Lift Up a Song" Briarwood Ballet

Ministry of the WordRev. Billy Barnes

"The Blessing" Briarwood Ballet

Benediction.....Dr. Harry Reeder

Recessional.....Dr. John Haines

"To God Be the Glory"
Former ballet students are invited to sing 1st stanza.

PostludeRev. Daniel Cason and Mr. Hunter Goff

Following the service, a time visitation will be hosted in the Foyer.