



## Brenda Robeson McFarland

October 8, 1949 - August 25, 2019

Brenda Caroline Robeson McFarland, daughter of the late Catherine Blue Robeson and the late William Raeford Robeson, was born October 8, 1949, in Lumberton, North Carolina. She left this earth peacefully on August 25, 2019, at her home in Apex, North Carolina after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. She was 69 years old.

Brenda grew up in the Roseland Community near Aberdeen, North Carolina. She earned her Associates Degree at Sandhills Community College and received her BA from The State University of New York New Paltz, completing her final coursework at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. She married Keith McFarland on August 3, 1969.

Brenda enjoyed working with youth in her church, served as a Stephen Minister, and helped create the Comfort & Care ministry at Peace Presbyterian Church in Cary almost 20 years ago. Beyond her love of caring for and serving others, Brenda was an artist and loved all forms of art. She was an art appreciator, advocate, and she even made and sold crafts and paintings of her own. She worked at Hallmark for 10 years. During her battle with cancer, she continued her love of art and found great joy in the Zentangle Method. Brenda was a devoted wife, mother, and friend. She greatly enjoyed spending time with people and Jesus.

Brenda is survived by her husband of 50 years, Keith McFarland; her son Cameron and his wife Jen, and granddaughter, Katy Mae of Cary; her son Seth and his wife Kelley of Cary; and her daughter Skye and her husband Ben of Johnson City, Tennessee. She is also survived by her brother Mark Robeson, sister Christy Lawson, and brother Lindsay Robeson.

A memorial service to celebrate Brenda's life will be held at Peace Church in Cary, NC, on Tuesday, September 3, 2019, at 11:30 am. The service will be followed by a light lunch reception in the Fellowship Hall. Brenda will make her final rest at Raleigh Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Peace Church's Comfort & Care ministry,

<http://www.peacepca.org/giving> (make a notation that it goes to Comfort & Care) or to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network to help continue research of pancreatic cancer, <https://www.pancan.org/ways-to-give/>.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

SEP 3. 11:30 AM (ET)

Peace Presbyterian Church  
1777 W. Chatham St  
Cary, NC 27513

# Tribute Wall

WA

“ *Brenda was a really sweet lady who cared for others more than herself. She was a bright smile to greet you every Sunday morning, who will be missed!!!*

Walter - August 29, 2019 at 03:11 PM

LG

“ *Brenda's family is close to our hearts in prayer. She was a dear friend since our early college years. We spent lots of time together painting, making crafts, visiting with family and friends, praying and laughing. Brenda will be greatly missed.*

Lorraine A Greco - August 28, 2019 at 10:57 AM

LM

“ *Brenda and Keith were my youth leaders at Westover United Methodist Church. They let us have fun...but not too much fun! Brenda was one of the kindest people I've ever known and someone who always represented, in my mind, the type of person I'd most like to be. Love to the family.*

Lisa Mills - August 28, 2019 at 12:05 AM

MH

“ *Praying for God's grace as you traverse this road of grief. May God grant his everloving peace and compassion.*

Marcy T. Hawley - August 27, 2019 at 10:22 PM

LH

“ *Brenda and I often worked the same shifts at Hallmark together. I knew it was always going to be a good shift when I got to work with her. She really was the sweetest lady I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. Her presence will be missed greatly. Sending love and prayers to her family and friends.*  
*Lauren Haynie*

Lauren Haynie - August 27, 2019 at 08:49 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Brenda Robeson McFarland.*



August 27, 2019 at 05:05 PM

KM

“ 1 file added to the album 50 Years



Keith McFarland - August 27, 2019 at 04:34 PM



My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. May she rest in peace.  
Barbara Miller Stone

Barbara Stone - August 27, 2019 at 04:40 PM

PP

So many good memories of Brenda... Sunday School class... Methodist Women.. craft & lunch group... our October birthdays... many Blessings... love her dearly... sure will be a void in so many ways... sympathy and prayers for your family...

Patsy & John Penn - September 01, 2019 at 12:22 PM

TM

“ Brenda was one of the first friends I made while working at Hallmark. Her faith, beautiful smile and positive outlook were an inspiration to me. Working retail is not easy. Customers are not always pleasant. While I would mumble under my breath about rude people, she would say "Oh, that poor person is having a bad day". She had a smile and kind word for everyone. I will miss her so much, but I am glad to know she is in the arms of our Lord.  
McFarland family, my thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

Toni Maher

Toni Maher - August 27, 2019 at 04:13 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Brenda Robeson McFarland.



August 27, 2019 at 03:27 PM

“ Growing up, Brenda being 6 years older than me. I looked up to her and I loved everything she listened to on the radio. She had a plug in clock radio that she took with her room to room until it wouldn't even work anymore. The BeeGees, The Beatles, some artists that I can still sing along with today but never knew the names of the songs. We shared a bedroom so there was that...not the best situation for her but I didn't care! She put art on all the walls and in the 60's that was just so cool! When she was 19 she married Keith “in the summer of '69- oh yeah” and my mama cried for days. She would come into “my” room and say “hang up something on the walls” So I found some posters, a calendar- nothing like it was when it was covered by an art student's many drawings, sketches, etc. My mother and Brenda were close and now she was upset she let her go so young! Brenda & Keith moved to the Catskills in upper New York- so very far away. She continued her art studies at New Paltz State and the next summer we visited her and Keith in those mtns in their little red cabin. I thought that was awesome but I never wanted to move away from my hometown! Brenda was raring to go-to travel, to live in the city and so they finally ended up in Raleigh, NC and my mama was happy again cause they were close to home. We had years of traveling back and forth and Brenda and I became closer as we both had our babies, we found out they responded to each of us because our voices were so similar. So we could always calm down each other's babies when they cried. Brenda & I went through many happy times together and also the sad times when our parents passed away. We were always there for each other. I learned so much from her and seeing how my parents and then Brenda & Keith also were so faithful to God, serving Him in many ways- I chose that path also. Coming from religious families on maternal & paternal sides of the family, we were truly blessed to be brought up in that atmosphere. Brenda was so full of life and it was such a shock when she found out she had cancer. She fought the dragon with everything she had and lived to keep traveling and serving God. Everyone that ever knew her will always remember her kind ways, her self-less giving and her love of sports. We miss her postings on FB of every kind of ball game schedule and her posts of beautiful art and her posts when she travelled. I am proud to have had a sister as good as she has always been. In many ways like our daddy- a kind, quiet soul and like our mama-teaching by the way she lived everyday. I will miss you always Brenda. My heart aches for you to still be here and yet we all can also rejoice that you are truly back home with Jesus and no longer in pain and we will all be reunited again one day soon.

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Christy Robeson Lawson - August 27, 2019 at 03:23 PM

JD

“ As a newcomer to N.C., Brenda made me feel welcomed as I started working part time at Hallmark in Beaver Creek. She was one of the warmest people I have ever met. I loved seeing her FB posts about her family and art. May hearing the loving memories of those who knew Brenda bring comfort to her family. ❤️

jJudith Diab - August 27, 2019 at 03:15 PM

SS

“ Stella Singleton lit a candle in memory of Brenda Robeson McFarland



Stella Singleton - August 27, 2019 at 02:53 PM

KM

“ You will forever be in my heart. I will forever think of you when I bake cookies with my girls at Christmas time, as you baked with me many summers when I was little and around the holidays. You made me laugh many times and instilled traditions within me that I carry on to this day. You made growing up a joy! Thank you for loving me like your own and for the friendship you had with my mother. I can see you now....dancing on streets of gold and free from pain. Until we meet again...hug my Aunt Nancy and Uncle Harvey Drew, Grandparents, the sister and two brothers I never got to meet, my brother in law Joshua and the many other loved ones that are with you and Jesus now. Love always.

Kendra McLean - August 27, 2019 at 01:57 PM

JD

“ To my long time BFF sister,  
Things I need you to know:

*You will always and forever be close to my heart. You fought such a courageous battle with Jesus, faithful family, doctors and friends by your side. While you looked fabulous in your hats, as you wished, they are no longer needed.*

*Fall, Christmas, Spring, snow (minus the cold), birds, flowers, mountains, beach, fireworks, Tuesday squad lunches, UNC basketball, Pittsburgh Steelers, Bluegrass music, art, decorating, J.Jill, Home Goods, Hobby Lobby, Panera (Mango Smoothies), tea rings/gingerbread men, hot tea (offering it when I was nauseated during pregnancy), neighbors on Old Apex Rd (just us, the train and God is what you said when we met in 1974), playing cards, acts of kindness, Scrabble, chatting on messenger almost daily for the last 20 months are just a few of the things that will always remind me of you.*

*You have been such a blessing to me and I am honored to have been your friend. Being a kind, sweet, Jesus in the flesh person, you have made a permanent imprint on my heart.*

*Since we decided that there must be chocolate lakes in heaven, meet me there when I come home. However, I'm going to ask God if you can please still play Scrabble and message me daily while my heart heals. Until then, I will miss you every day.*

*Thank you for being a part of my journey and allowing me to be a part of yours.*

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**Jane Davis** - August 27, 2019 at 11:27 AM

CG

“ Brenda is a warm, kind and special person. Our deepest sympathy to Keith, Cameron, Seth and Skye. Her family brought her so much joy. I hope that wonderful memories can provide some solace and this very difficult time.  
All our love,  
Jeff, Catherine, Nick and Joe Greco

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**catherine greco** - August 27, 2019 at 07:35 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Brenda Robeson McFarland.



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August 27, 2019 at 07:30 AM