



## William C. Evans

March 24, 1947 - January 3, 2020

William C. "Bill" Evans

Age 72, of Highland Park, formerly of Upper St. Clair, passed away on Friday, January 3, 2020.

Beloved husband for 46 years of Linda Evans; loving father of William Thomas (Allison) Evans and Kristen Lynn (Stefan) Grill; and grandfather of Emily, Lily, Abigail Evans, Mary and Zoe Grill.

Bill was the Director of Music and Sacred Arts at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Upper St. Clair for 13 years, where he directed a multi-faceted program for all ages. He was a native of Oneonta, NY. Bill was educated in Philadelphia at Curtis Institute and Temple University, Baltimore at Peabody Conservatory, and New York studying such well known teachers as Alexander McCurdy of the Curtis Institute of Music, Robert Elmore, and Robert Baker.

His life was devoted to the Church and its chief musical instrument, the organ. Known for his leadership in the musical ministries of several of the nation's great congregations, Bill served St. Matthews Cathedral, Washington, D.C. where he gained national prominence when he played for the John F. Kennedy Memorial Mass. The Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ in Des Moines Iowa, Good Samaritan Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, PA, First Presbyterian Church in Evanston, Illinois, Wellshire Presbyterian Church in Denver, CO, Roswell Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, GA.

As a recitalist, Bill was well known for his imaginative and alluring programs which appealed to listeners of all ages. His skill with transcriptions delighted hosts of people throughout his career. Robert Baker said: "If the 1990's can produce a baker's dozen of Bill Evans' there might yet be hope for the organ as a concert instrument. Brilliant virtuosity, imaginative programming, impeccable musicianship; he has it all. Engage him!"

As a teacher of Organ and Piano he encouraged many to become church organists. He was a beloved teacher and mentor to many. Bill was a pilot and excellent teacher launching many into professional commercial and/or military pilots. He founded the Pgh Pro Air Services at Allegheny County Airport before 9/11 when general aviation was thriving.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2040 Washington Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15241 on Saturday, January 25, 2020 at 11:00 am with a luncheon to follow.

Memorial donations may be made to Gateway Hospice, <http://www.gatewayhospice.com>, and/or the Westminster Presbyterian Church Organ Fund, to help maintain the Austin Organ or the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center for the Lewy Body study. He was a part of the brain donation study for Lewy Body research.

# Comments

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William C. Evans.



January 24, 2020 at 08:44 PM

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“ What wonderful memories my husband and I have of Bill! My husband, Jack, shared countless hours in planes with Bill learning how to fly. Bill was a fantastic pilot and a huge influence on Jack. We also enjoyed many good times in the choir at Westminster with Bill and Linda. Prayers and much love to Linda and the extended family!

Jack and Mary Barnes

**Mary Barnes** - January 12, 2020 at 08:01 PM

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“ I have just learned of the death of Bill. We used to be such good friends. My North Carolina Boys Choir sang concerts both at The Episcopal Church in Paoli, PA and Westminster Presbyterian Church near Pittsburg where Bill served. We even helped him and Linda move into their home while there. Bill played recitals in nearly every church I served including First Presbyterian Church in Durham, NC and the dedicatory recital of the new Reuter Organ at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Durham. I've known Bill since we were in our 20's. I am so saddened at this news. My thoughts and prayers go out to Linda and the family. I still have a video of that wonderful recital here at Westminster. Bill Graham



**Bill Graham** - January 08, 2020 at 03:54 PM

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“ Our love, sympathy and prayers go out to Linda and all the family. Bill was such a great talent and we remember him fondly when he served as our music director at Roswell Presbyterian Church in Roswell, GA. We were so honored to have him play at our Wedding 15 years ago. He will be missed by the many here in the Atlanta area who knew and loved him.

Dolores and Carl Duvall

**Dolores Duvall** - January 08, 2020 at 06:30 AM



“ I am so sorry to read of Bill's passing. I knew him in high school - he took me to our Senior Prom. To this day he is the most talented musician I have ever met. I'm so happy to find that he led such a happy fulfilled life with a wonderful family and great career. He will live on in all of our memories.

**Nancy Wright** - January 31, 2021 at 04:20 PM