



Ruth G. Watermulder

September 24, 1922 - October 23, 2021

Ruth Gullyes Watermulder (September 24, 1922 – October 23, 2021)

Ruth G. Watermulder died at her home at Waverly Heights, Gladwyne, PA. on October 23 surrounded by her three children. She was the wife of the late Rev. Dr. David B. Watermulder. She is survived by their three children: Paul Gustav (Eugenia) of San Mateo, CA, Peter Joseph (Christine) of Horseshoe, NC, and Martha Ruth of Casco, ME. Six grandchildren: Rebecca Ruth Bales (Andrew) of New York City, David Gustav (Lisa) of Los Gatos, CA, Sarah Eugenia (Anton Belo) of Half Moon Bay, CA., and Timothy Edward (Mia Simon) of Oakland, CA, Jonathan Louis of Boulder, CO, and Jennifer Louise Flood (Megan Flood) of Tryon, NC. Also, ten great-grandchildren.

A Memorial Service is Thursday, October 28 at 2 pm at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, 625 Montgomery Ave., Bryn Mawr PA 19010

Ruth was born in Ambridge, PA to Joseph and Irene Gullyes, the middle child between two brothers. She was raised in a family deeply involved with its church, with helping people in need, and with the extended family throughout the Pittsburgh region.

She is an alumna of Muskingum College (where she later served on the Board of Trustees and was subsequently received the 1997 Distinguished Alumni

Service Award). She began a lifetime of combining deep religious faith, family values, and pioneering advancement of children's education and in developing leaders for tomorrow.

Seeking to become a missionary, she worked as director of the Lower Church School and was a teacher in the Weekday School of the historic Brick Presbyterian Church of New York City. In 1946 she married and began a lifetime of activity as a pastor's wife.

The couple served in New Jersey, Watertown, NY, suburban Chicago, and finally Bryn Mawr, PA working with a wide diversity of people in both advantaged and disadvantaged circumstances.

Ruth was much involved in the school life of her children and soon became aware of the problems of children who are visually impaired. She formed a group that initially prepared large print copies of tests and other class materials and ultimately brought forth large print textbooks to public schools. This "seeing awareness" led to the founding of a local organization that soon affiliated with the National Association for the Visually Handicapped (NAVH). These efforts in turn gave way to new technological advances and the induction of state aid providing material for the visually impaired.

Ruth served as chair of the Montgomery County Association for the Blind, also on the Board of the Emergency Aid Society of Pennsylvania Foundation where she served as president, as a volunteer with Meals on Wheels, and at the Timothy School (for children on the autistic spectrum). She was a district chair for the United Fund of Philadelphia, and a member of FISH.

Ruth Watermulder's religious devotion has been unwavering. She organized a "Y" group for young women and a mother's group and has led women's workshops for her congregation. She has worked with the Sunday school,

established a Weekday School, and directed the Nursery and the Kindergarten departments in Bryn Mawr, PA. She has also served on mission tours of South Korea, Japan, and various countries in Africa.

Reflecting on her achievements, she says, “My deepest satisfactions have come in teaching preschool children in the church, counseling their parents and helping to develop leaders for tomorrow.” Her family will always treasure the elegant meals she prepared, and the warmth of family holiday gatherings especially times around the piano with hymns and carols,

Ruth Watermulder's legacy of Faith, Hope and Love is rich inspiration for many.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in her memory to Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church.

The service will be livestreamed on <https://www.bmpc.org/livestream>

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT **28**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church
625 Montgomery Avenue
Bryn Mawr, PA

Tribute Wall

KL

“ *My parents cherished their many-year friendship with Ruth and Dave. Such wonderful people. Condolences to all the family. Karen Sims Langdon*

KAREN SIMS LANGDON - August 11, 2022 at 01:53 PM

DM

“ *We were so fortunate to know Ruth and David Watermulder! Even more so with the addition of Paul (their son) who became our minister at Burlingame Presbyterian church in Burlingame, CA. One fun time was a birthday of Paul, and they came to California as a surprise. They stayed in our home overnight to keep away before the birthday party. We always enjoyed them so much and were very proud to know them and their family - especially Paul & Genie! Our love is there for all of you. Blessings to you, Dona Morley (Mrs. Jack R.)*

Donalee Morley - October 27, 2021 at 12:21 PM

SW

“Grandma Ruth is the best. I know she is free now, in God’s embrace, united again with Grandpa. What a pair, those two. So many thousands of memories of Granny Goose that communicate hospitality, care and faith. I feel her spirit with me, I miss her so much.

One memory for me is that Dave and I got to go for a week to Grandma and Grandpa’s house, in 4th grade (for me)- a first plane trip without parents! She bought me my first clothing that was black- a big deal at the time. I remember sitting and explaining each member of the group ‘New Kids on the Block’, and then I would test her- and she allowed herself to show interest in what was going on for me. Such a beautiful example of God’s love, counter to our me-first society. Her hospitality during my college years, and later grad school and Princeton years - I loved the thanksgiving long weekends at her house, and Easter weekends, she never failed to put time into preparing for our visits and I felt wrapped in bright love. She loved my Isaiah fiercely, even though his coming to the world was not in traditional family way. I remember hearing how much she loved hearing the joy in my Dad’s voice when he talked of his relationship with his grandkids, and Grandma Ruth was so supportive of those deep connections. She really formed my Dad into who he is- and I am so grateful for that. When my daughter Rey was born, Grandma Ruth followed along with her development, even from afar, and somehow extended that warmth across the country, so that Rey could sense what it is to be loving, to pay attention to others. I only wish I had lived closer to sit with her more frequently. The last time I was with Granny Goose was in May 2021, when I went with Tim for a visit, before his baby was to be born. She repeated herself over and over and over:

‘Tim, you’re starting a whole new adventure! You’re going to be such a wonderful father, I am so proud of you.

And to me- repeated over and over how well I am doing caring for my little family, with kids who have very different temperaments, and how proud she and Grandpa are of me. To keep doing good in the world.

We had the pleasure to sit and listen to stories of her childhood, recounting her parents- her mother was an adult bible study teacher- firm and strict and also loving. Her father- cared for the community, had a loving relationship with Grandma, he would be called on to 'go rescue men from the bars' and drive them back to their homes. She is reunited with them and with my Grandpa. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

My heart is especially with Auntie Martha, uncle Peter and my Dad Paul.

Sarah Watermulder - October 26, 2021 at 03:44 PM