

In Memory of

Richard E Barnes

March 25, 1938 - March 30, 2014

Richard E. Barnes, passed away on March 30, 2014. He was the son of the late Jasper and Mabel Barnes.

His Bachelor of Arts degree was from James Madison University. He received a Master of Music degree from Northwestern University in 1966. Dick was an accomplished pianist, organist and singer who had a long and productive career as a music teacher, director of show choirs and choral groups in many venues. He taught music at Wilson High School, Oscar Smith High School and Churchland High School. He served as head of the Music Department at Tidewater Community College and taught for a time at Old Dominion University as director of the show choir.

Dick served many area churches as Minister of Music including 20 years at Monumental United Methodist Church in Portsmouth, where as a 21 year-old musician he succeeded his admired mentor, Professor A. J. Lancaster.

Dick worked as accompanist and show choir director for the Fred Waring organization. He taught show choir seminars with Norman Luboff. He was hired for several seasons as director of musicals produced by the Cavalier Dinner Theater in Norfolk. Dick's great passion was the encouragement of singers, and most recently he was devoted to the several musical groups he directed, one of which was the Dick Barnes Chorale. He strongly believed that his talent was God's unexplainable gift, and with any opportunity he generously shared it with many, many people.

Dick is survived by his daughter, Julie Barnes Dunn; two grandchildren, Ian Dunn and Sydney Dunn; his former wife, Mary Barnes; his "Sister", Hunter Jones; and other relatives and friends.

The family welcomes the community to a memorial service at Aldersgate United Methodist Church on Saturday, April 5, 2014, at 11:00 a.m., with a reception following in the Fellowship Hall. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Portsmouth Community Concerts, or to the Lancaster Memorial Scholarship Fund at Monumental United Methodist Church.