



Catherine Foster

March 2, 1926 - November 15, 2020

Lula “Catherine” Clark Foster was born March 2, 1926 in Granbury, Texas, to Grady S. and Mary Ella Swindall Clark. She died peacefully in Austin, Texas on November 15, 2020, where she had lived since 1959. Her death was preceded by that of her parents, her husband of 56 years, and in 2002, her much beloved sister, Ann Clark Burkhalter of Ft. Worth.

She is survived by her four children, Tom, Mary, Betty Ann, and William Foster, and their spouses, Margo Foster, Harold Bay, Jr., Thomas Greenwood, and Brenda Pfeil Foster. Her five grandchildren are Catherine M. Foster, Owen J. Foster, Dylan T. Foster, and Briana and Miles Foster-Greenwood. She also leaves behind two brothers, Billy P. Clark and Donald Grady Clark, her sister-in-law Bobradine Clark, brother-in-law Marvin Burkhalter, and several nieces and nephews.

Catherine was valedictorian of her high school class in Granbury, attended Weatherford Junior College, and graduated from the University of Texas in Austin with a BBS. She met her husband, Charles Kenneth Foster, while attending UT and they were married at First Methodist Church of Granbury in 1949.

The granddaughter of two Methodist preachers, Catherine was a life long Methodist who served as a Christian Educator. She was consecrated among the United Methodist Church’s first class of Diaconal Ministers in 1977. Her specialty was children’s ministry, but she also served on various boards at the Annual and Jurisdictional conference levels, and on the staff of her local church, Saint John’s United Methodist in Austin, Texas, for many years.

Foremost a wife and mother, Catherine cared well for her family, acting as Girl Scout leader, Little League advocate, and high school band parent. She loved camping and fishing, and was an avid Longhorn sports fan. As a young mother, she sewed clothes for herself and her children, later enjoyed several forms of needle arts, especially knitting, counted cross-stitch and quilting.

Funeral arrangements are through Austin Natural Funerals. A simple graveside service is being held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 19, 2020, at Austin Memorial Park. The service will be streamed. A more proper memorial is planned for later, when it is safe to gather at her church. In lieu of flowers at this time, memorials can be made to Saint John's United Methodist in Austin, or to a charity of your choice.

Services will be streamed live at 1:00 PM CST on November 19, 2020 and can be viewed on Facebook/AustinNaturalFunerals <https://www.facebook.com/AustinNaturalFunerals/>. Please know that you do not need a link or a Facebook account to view the service. A video recording of the service be available here starting later that evening.

Cemetery Details

Austin Memorial Park

2800 Hancock Dr.
Austin, TX 78731

Previous Events

Graveside Service

NOV 19. 1:00 PM (CT)

Austin Memorial Park
2800 Hancock Dr.
Austin, TX 78731

Tribute Wall



“ Catherine Foster

October 14, 2022 at 12:02 PM

SW

“ Catherine was a mentor to me and such a beautiful soul. I absolutely adored her. She was an amazing woman who helped shape my career and my parenting. Her friendship was invaluable to me. I loved her with all my heart. Thank you Catherine for being such a great friend.

Suzann Wade - June 25, 2021 at 12:46 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Funeral Service Recording



Austin Natural Funerals - November 19, 2020 at 05:15 PM

BJ

“ Catherine and Ken welcomed me as family 50 years ago when I was a freshman at UT and a friend of Tom through the Wesley Foundation. I received grace upon grace from their generous hearts: camping, my very first ever chocolate chip pancakes, home cooked food, tv nights, hanging out with the “young ones. “ (Ha ha y’all, look at us now ❤️) She influenced me, and many other young women, to listen for the call of ministry and be brave enough to respond. What a gift of grace in 2001 to become her colleague and rejoin the family. David and I are looking forward to an in-person opportunity to hug you all and hold her in our midst. Her impact on this world is palpable, productive and penetrating far beyond her imagining as that girl from Granbury, Tx. With gratitude, Bobbi Kaye

BK Jones - November 19, 2020 at 02:58 PM

MF

Thank you for this, BK. We love you!

Mary J Foster - November 19, 2020 at 10:38 PM

BF

Thank you so much, BK! Much love to you!

BettyAnn Foster - December 13, 2020 at 03:24 PM

AZ

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Audrey Zieger - November 19, 2020 at 12:23 PM

BF

Thank you Audrey! Mom (and us) valued your friendship greatly!

BettyAnn Foster - December 13, 2020 at 03:22 PM

KB

“ Catherine was such a dignified principled loving woman. I had great respect for her. I knew that she loved me because she told me. Very few people share that much of themselves with others. I'll always remember happy times with her at St. John's Family Camp.

Kay Brock - November 19, 2020 at 09:27 AM

JM

“ We loved visiting with Catherine when she came to her son Will's place in the country. We were delighted when she made us bowl cozies for the microwave & found them one of the most useful & appreciated gifts we've ever received. Her Rum Cake was the best I've ever had. I loved listening to her tell stories of her younger days. We consider ourselves lucky to have her son Will & his wife Brenda as our friends and so fortunate to have gotten to enjoy Catherine a bit. A long life, well lived.

Julia M Masser - November 18, 2020 at 03:29 PM

BF

Thank you Julia! You all have been such good neighbors to Will and family over the years.

Betty Ann Foster - December 13, 2020 at 03:22 PM

KF

“ I knew Catherine a little from St. John's United Methodist. She was always friendly and kind, and though we were not close and I have not seen her in many years, she has been on my mind many times over the last several months. Mary hosted a knitting group in Catherine's home once and I attended. I remember seeing a large, beautiful, intricate piece of needlework framed with a garden scene and a hummingbird. Mary said that Catherine made it. Catherine has been on my mind because my quarantine hobby has been embroidery and her needlework is the standard I have been holding in my mind. My project is small and the quality pales in comparison to hers, but that memory gives me something to strive for, makes me appreciate the time and care she must have put in, and helps me know what is possible.

My thoughts and prayers are with Mary and the rest of Catherine's family. I know she left behind a legacy of love.

-Kasey Feldman-Thomason

Kasey Feldman-Thomason - November 18, 2020 at 02:08 PM

MF

Oh, Kasey, thank you for this! What a lovely remembrance - I am so grateful to know Mom's needlework continues to inspire you! ❤️

Mary J. Foster - November 18, 2020 at 11:23 PM