



Mrs. Helen Thornton

November 13, 1916 - October 16, 2014

Thornton, Helen Nov 13, 1916- Oct 16, 2014.

Was born in Seattle, WA to the late Frank and Tilly [Krack] Knott.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Harry Bert Thornton.

Earned her PHD from Ohio State University and worked at St Louis University as a Microbiologist in Cancer Research.

Graveside Services will be Monday at 10 am Oct 20 at Bellerive Cemetery.

Memorial Service will be Tuesday Oct 21 at 2:00 pm at Central Presbyterian Church in Clayton.

Memorial contributions to the Central Presbyterian Church, Clayton.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT **21**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Central Presbyterian Church
7700 Davis Drive
Clayton, MO 63105

Tribute Wall

“ This is a paper that my sister found among Helen's things that describe her growth in faith. These are Helen's words:

"My parents sent me to Sunday School (I walked there alone) when I was probably 6 years old, maybe 5. I continued going to the same church until I was 16 years old. I was baptized then, and believed in Jesus as my Savior.

In undergraduate college I belonged to a Christian organization - not large, but consistently Christian, called the University Christian Union. My close friend belonged to this group: I met her because we both took pre-med courses. She was a glowing, strong, Christian and influenced me to deepen my faith.

When I finished undergraduate school I had a chance to work for a Master's degree in the same department, Bacteriology and pathology. As I worked to accomplish research that would lead to a Masters, I spent less time attending church and Christian events; my associates weren't Christian, as far as I could tell. The subject never came up. I decided to apply to another University for financial aid towards a doctorate degree, which I found as a graduate assistant at Ohio State University. I really spent all my time (nearly - I had a friend) working on my problem. Before I finished my work completely, I applied for and got a job as an instructor at the University of Kentucky.

At the University of Kentucky, WWII was starting and a class of soldiers studying Chemical Engineering was on campus. The rest of the story - I met and married one of these soldiers, stayed at the University of Kentucky for 1 more year, then traveled with him. He said, "Let's go to church - so after years away from God, we went back to church, when we could.

After the war we settled in my home town, Seattle, Washington. We went to church some, but not regularly. We moved to the Midwest where my husband had lived, and began to attend a church because the minister came to visit me in our little apartment on a Monday morning as I was preparing to take our clothes to a laundromat. We went every Sunday after that, transferred memberships from a Presbyterian church in Cincinnati where we had lived for a year. As we grew in the church, we grew in Christ,

and spent as much time as we had, since we both worked in what service we could do...for example, teaching Sunday School. I joined the Women's Minsitries as soon as I changed to working part time instead of full time. Devotion time is very important to me as is a prayer group that I attend."

These were the words of my dear Aunt Helen....she was so blessed with the support of her friends and her church family. She and Bert may not have had children of their own, but they had many children and grandchildren that adopted them. Rest in peace Aunt Helen...I know that you are in the loving arms of Bert and Jesus Christ....we love you.

Beth Thornton Elchert - October 20, 2014 at 04:01 PM

BE

“*My Aunt Helen was a wonderful example for my sisters, brother and myself....she was a strong independent caring woman, who was not afraid to speak her mind, had a grand sense of humor and was always loving, and kind. She lived her life showing us that we could be assertive, go after our chosen careers and be loving family members. Though she and Uncle Bert never had children of their own, they more then made up for this through the strong bonds they made with many other families. Though we always lived many miles apart, I remember always looking forward to the times we could spend with our Aunt and Uncle....my favorites were a trip to Canada with them, several 4th of July holidays and of course the quirky gifts they would send us when we were children and then later the fun gifts they sent to our children at Christmas time.*

But one of my dear Aunt Helen's wonderful gifts was her strong faith in god and Jesus that she possessed. Our father was a pastor and I have to say that her faith was every bit as strong as was his and a great example for us. As we have been going through her things, we came across a paper that she wrote, describing how her faith has grown over the years.

Beth Thornton Elchert - October 20, 2014 at 03:48 PM

BT

“ 46 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Bruce Thornton - October 20, 2014 at 08:27 AM