



William Paul Morton

May 14, 1945 - July 7, 2021

Paul exited this life as he lived it, at full speed and with everyone else trying to figure out what was happening. He passed away at Hospice House in Bend after a sudden downturn in recent weeks.

Born in Philadelphia, Paul graduated from Springfield (PA) High School and attended Dickinson College, where he met Katharine, his wife of 51 years, and earned a B.A. in English Literature and Comparative Religions. He received Masters degrees in Divinity and Sacred Theology from Berkeley Divinity School at Yale University and was ordained to the priesthood in the Episcopal Church. His years at Yale in the late 60s and early 70s were marked by civil rights activism and supporting the ordination of women as Episcopal priests.

As part of the Danbury Public Library, he championed television as an information source and produced one of the first public access television channels in Connecticut. Paul got involved in cable television during its earliest years. He helped innovate and expand the industry in cable systems throughout the country, working for Cablevision in Connecticut, Chicago, and Massachusetts, and for Bell Atlantic in Virginia Beach. During his 40 years in cable, Paul advanced from director of programming to AGM to general manager and finally to the President / COO of Bend Cable Communications.

In 1998, he found his home in Bend, Oregon, and loved being part of the Central Oregon community for over 20 years. At Bend Cable Communications, he took great pride in COTV's local sports and news coverage. In front of the camera, he enjoyed co-hosting the local TV show "Opposable Thumbs" (and making bathrobes fashionable again). He was an active member of Mt. Bachelor Rotary and served as President from 2015-2016. He also served on the board of the Boys and Girls Club and volunteered with the United Way. In video production, he learned the importance of preparation and hard work, and then of improvising when it all goes wrong anyway. He did not like to be bored and never bored his audience. Paul's ability to plan events and projects, coordinate with various people, and put together entertaining presentations made him a valuable (and fun) addition to his Rotary and other community groups.

As he moved across the country, Paul continued his service as a worker priest, becoming involved in many Episcopal parishes and performing baptisms, marriages, and funerals for his co-workers, friends, and family. For over a decade, he was a supply priest in Episcopal churches throughout the diocese of Eastern Oregon. He was most active at St. Alban's in Redmond, the Church of the Transfiguration in Sisters, and Trinity in Bend.

People were the most interesting thing in the world to Paul, and one of his core beliefs was the importance of how people treat one another. His genuine interest in the happenings, challenges, and joys of everyday life made him a welcome sounding board and confidant for many. He cherished the friendships that he formed along the way, enjoyed life's chance encounters, and gleefully confused the humorless and pretentious.

Music, film, and theater were lifelong inspirations. Paul began performing at a young age and sang in churches, musical productions in college, and even in

the Bend Cable band. His daughter will miss their trips to the movie theater and arguing about who was in what film. Paul also enjoyed escaping to the beach at least once a year. Vacations at the Jersey Shore and the Oregon Coast were treasured times with his wife, daughter, extended family, and friends.

Paul was preceded in death by his father William, mother Dorothy, brother Glen, and nephew Anthony. He is survived by his wife Katharine and daughter Thea Morton; sister Alisa Morton Rolaf, brother-in-law Andre, nephews Andre and Alexander, niece Alivia, grandnephew Anthony, and grandniece Aubrey; sister-in-law Jody Morton Hawk, nephews Zackary and Seth, and grandnephews Brody and Calvin.

Memorial contributions may be made in his name to Partners in Care or any Boys and Girls Club.

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Obituary Wall*



Niswonger Reynolds Funeral Home & Greenwood Cemetery - May 18, 2023 at 02:59 PM



“ 7 files added to the album *New Album*



Niswonger Reynolds Funeral Home & Greenwood Cemetery - May 18, 2023 at 02:59 PM

JD

“Kathy, please accept my sincere condolences for the loss of Paul. I was surprised and saddened to read in Dickinson Magazine that Paul had died. I would have written to you, but had no way of knowing your address. And to think that you and your family were not that far away, in Bend, Oregon, where I visited in the 1990s. I live in Northern California (since 1980), near Santa Rosa. I well remember our senior year at Dickinson, when I first really got to know you and Paul, although of course we were acquainted before then. I remember Paul fondly, as a strong, independent, intelligent individualist, friendly and helpful. I am glad to read about the many successes he achieved in his life, and am not surprised that he was such a positive force in his work and community. I'm sure you had a good family life together, and that he treasured you and your daughter as well. Having been widowed myself, in 1999, I have some idea of the difficult time you are enduring now. Each of us finds our own way along the uncertain path of grief, but I do hope that, in time, many happy memories of your life together may bring you some solace. If you ever want to get in touch with me, I can be reached at jeandavis@earthlink.net or at 7200 Trenton Healdsburg Rd., Forestville, CA 95436. My best to you always, Jean Davis, Class of 1967

Jean M Davis - January 08, 2022 at 12:00 AM

AB

“I am happy to see that Paul continued to live as I remember him. He and I were in Clinical Training in Delaware in the Summer of 1968 and the next year he spent some time with my wife and I in Sewanee where there was a seminary conference. We had little contact after that but I do relish the memories of those far away years. God bless you who survive this very lively and gracious soul.

Alex Barron - October 01, 2021 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Paul Morton hired me to work at Bend Cable in 1999 and was my manager and mentor for his remaining years with the company. It was great fun working with Paul - his humor and wit kept me laughing through the daily grind. He truly cared for the people that worked for him. Work hard and play hard applied, as I also had the honor of playing music with Paul in the Bend Cable Band. We played for the company's Christmas parties, a friend's wedding and even at the old lodge on the McKenzie pass. One of my favorite memories is of Paul and Dave Jones (who was also in the Band) and their banter on Opposable Thumb movie reviews, with Paul wrapped in his bathrobe heading to the studio. Paul you will always have a special place in my heart.

John Farwell - August 18, 2021 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ He is and will be forever remembered by All Saints Episcopal Church of Oakville, CT. As our interim, he was well loved and admired for his humanity, thought provoking and wonderful sense of humor. We sorely wanted to keep him, but it was not to be. God blessed us with him, and his wife was a treasure. We shall remember him always and thank God for his good works! Peace and God Bless, Paul. Susan Lamphier, ASC

Susan B Lamphier - July 30, 2021 at 12:00 AM

“ Paul and I first met when we were in elementary school. At age 10 or so we were both members of the boys choir at the Church of the Redeemer in Springfield, PA. My only real memory of Paul at the time was that he was one of the bigger members of the choir and therefore tended to be dominant in our "king of the mountain" games on the front lawn of the church after choir practice. We didn't get to know each other then because we attended different elementary schools and lived in different neighborhoods but when we both attended the same high school we became close friends and co-conspirators. Among my memories of Paul in high school was his wonderful singing voice. We were both members of the school chorus and it was a really outstanding chorus. Every year we would send multiple singers to the regional and state choruses. Paul was always one of them. As seniors, a group of us organized a performance of HMS Pinafore. Paul was one of the leads. I was a common sailor. We both remained very active in our church and while I served as vice-president of the youth organization, he was the president. I remember many long conversations with Paul about the civil rights movement. He was skeptical but came to think very differently and act accordingly. When we went off to college we went to different schools and in very different directions with respect to the church but every summer we were back together. Paul helped me get a job at the ACME Bakery in Philadelphia, then the largest commercial bakery in the country, and as a result we became "brother" members of the American Bakery and Confectionery Workers union. And there were multiple visits down the shore, usually in my old 1951 Ford which tended to need water far more often than gas!. We would double date from time to time. Paul was quite the ladies man and I was a bit slower than he. I once had a woman turn me down for a date because I proposed that we double date with Paul and his then girl friend! In 1970, I returned from two years in the Peace Corps in Africa. Very soon after I bought a car and headed to New Haven to see Paul who was at Berkeley Divinity School. I believe that was the first time I met Kath. The first evening we were sitting by the bay window at the front of their apartment when a bomb went off in the library across the street. No injuries but

all the doors and windows of the library were blown out. It really rattled the windows in the apartment. We quickly joined a human chain in front of the library. I have no idea what we thought that would accomplish but there was a sense of camaraderie. The shooting of students at Bowling Green took place about the same time. I asked Paul to be part of my wedding party but we were married the same day as he became a deacon of the church. In following years I saw or heard from Paul only very occasionally as I was overseas most of the time but when he settled in Bend and I retired the connection was renewed. Occasional phone calls and we visited Bend twice. In 2013, I nagged him enough that he finally came east for our 50th high school reunion. He later admitted that he had a great time. In 2018 he and Kath visited us in Brevard and enjoyed a performance of Leonard Bernstein's Mass at the Brevard Music Center. That was the last time I saw Paul but the phone conversations continued. I will miss them greatly. He was a very memorable individual, someone I knew longer than any other friend.

Peter Chaveas

Peter Chaveas - July 28, 2021 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ On behalf of All Saints' Episcopal Church in Oakville, CT I extend our deepest sympathy to Katherine and Thea Morton. The time he spent with All Saints' parishioners is treasured by us and he is remembered with fondness.

Linda Caesar - July 20, 2021 at 12:00 AM

KP

“ Tall inspiring trees mirror the life and work of dear Paul who was one of my husband's best friends and favorite co-worker.

Kathryn and Alex Porter - July 18, 2021 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ Paul Morton and his dear friend Bill Ellis were like the knights of Camelot. They gave such beautiful insights with their sermons and interactions with each and all of us. One of Paul's most beautiful sermons was his story of Halloween. He gave the key to compassion through the actions of his childhood friend who saves the life of a bitter old woman while out trick or treating- striking right to the heart of what it is to be Christian. Farewell dear friend, Bob and Sylvia Knudtson

Sylvia Knudtson - July 16, 2021 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ Paul said thought-provoking things. I liked that. Here is a paragraph from one of his sermons: "I believe that contemporary religion is like Jazz in many ways. It is always an individual interpretation of a general style, but it must have a "soul" for it to be real. For you see, religion, like jazz, has too many possibilities of meaning and style, expression and even music to be fully explained. Someone once said if you had to explain jazz, you would never really get it. Music and religion are so closely intertwined because they both may be purely institutional or deeply mystical." Thankfully, I have the entire sermon. Thank you, Paul. Shalom. Ken Sandine

KEN SANDINE - July 14, 2021 at 12:00 AM

CA

“ Paul was a true friend, He shared his love of God and cemented my faith and hope in life, . Carol

carol - July 14, 2021 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ William Paul Morton

Bend Funeral Homes - July 12, 2021 at 12:00 AM