

Helen Keck Vanderlip



66, a resident of Fayetteville, Arkansas, passed away March 18, 2007 at the Washington Regional Medical Center in Fayetteville. She was born December 28, 1940 at Fayetteville, Arkansas, the daughter of Albert and Ruby Ellen McClendon Guist.

Helen was a member of the Lincoln United Methodist Church. Helen was a member of the Cardinal Booster Club and the Helping Hand craft club.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Roy Lee Keck and her second husband, Garold R. Vanderlip.

Survivors include one son Roy O. Keck of Lowell, Arkansas, and fiancé' Janet Harper of Springdale, Arkansas; one daughter Teresa Ward and

fiancé' Joe Rasberry of Rogers, Arkansas; three sisters, Virginia Welch and Shirley Guist of Prairie Grove, Arkansas and Lola Lindsey of Baytown, Texas; Eight grandchildren, Jenica Sudduth and her husband, Bruce Sudduth of Farmington, Arkansas, Russell Keck of Manhattan, Kansas, Matt Vanderlip of Fayetteville, Arkansas, Tyler Harper of Fayetteville, Arkansas, Ashley Aurand of Fayetteville, Arkansas, Megan Rasberry of Rogers, Arkansas, Jasmin Rodgers and Allie Rasberry both of Farmington, Arkansas; one uncle and aunt, S. W. and Loise Guist of Fayetteville, Arkansas; two great grandchildren, Christian and Declan Sudduth, along with a host of Wal-Mart extended family, and a special friend Mabel Moore.



APPRECIATION

On behalf of the Keck family, we wish to express their gratitude for your many acts of kindness, and for your attendance at the funeral service.

**Luginbuel Funeral Home
Prairie Grove, Arkansas**

online guest book, visit www.luginbuel.com



Martha Helen Keck Vanderlip
December 28, 1940 - March 18, 2007

MAMA'S HANDS

Mama's hands are like a book
That's been well worn with time
Gentle, loving, tender hands
That once held onto mine.

Mama's hands held Daddy's hand
'Til he was called away
Now Mama's hands must work alone
'Til they meet again some day.

She rocked the cradle where I lay
And soothed my fevered brow
Her busy hands were clasped in prayer
Her head was humbly bowed.

Mama's hands are never still
Though she is growing old
"Idle hands are mischief bound,"
Is what she once was told.

She raised a family, made a home
And she's hoed a long hard row.
Someday she'll clasp the Savior's hand
When she goes where Mamas go.



CELEBRATING THE LIFE & MEMORY OF Helen Keck Vanderlip

VISITATION & DEVOTIONAL

Tuesday, March 20, 2007 - 6:00 until 8:00 p.m.
Luginbuel Chapel - Prairie Grove
Chaplin Lance Klotz

DATE, TIME & PLACE OF SERVICE

Wednesday, March 21, 2007 - 2:00 P.M.
Farmington Baptist Church - Farmington, Arkansas

ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude Music

Josh Petree

Scripture & Prayer

"Rock of Ages"

Statler Brothers

Eulogy

Connie Phillips

"Holes in the Floor of Heaven"

Family Memories Video

"My Heart Will Go On"
"I Believe"
"I'll Wait for You"

Postlude Music

GRAVE SIDE SERVICE

Wednesday, March 21, 2007 - 4:30 P.M.

PALLBEARERS

Matt Vanderlip - Gary Kealy - Sam Baker - Jeff Reaves
Ryan Marshall - Shane Brewer - Ryan Spears - Josh Petree

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Jimmy Stanley - Ralph Butler - Coach Brian Law - Christian Sudduth
Declan Sudduth - Lloyd Keck
along with all of Coach Law's players

Grace and Mercy from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

As a chaplain at Washington Regional Medical Center our opportunity to meet families and friends of families is not usually when we are having a party or a celebration. It is usually one of uncertainty, chaos, pain and sorrow. Tonight, you have asked me to share with you some words from Scripture that might give you hope and comfort during this time of sorrow as you mourn the death of Helen – your mother, your sister, grandmother, friend, and co-worker.

One of the best ways that I can do that is by sharing Scripture, words from the Bible, that our Lord gave to each of us. One of my favorite passages comes from John 14:1-6, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know that way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

I invite you to remember what went through your head on December 26, 2005. On that afternoon, a Tsunami hit the area of Indonesia. Many thousands of individuals were going about their daily routines when their lives and their families were changed forever. There was no warning, it came suddenly, it was unexpected, there was unbelief, and there was much pain and sorrow.

This past Saturday on March 17 all of you who are here tonight were doing many of the same things that the people in Indonesia were doing - going about your own business when all of a sudden something happened to Helen that had no warning, that came suddenly, and was unexpected. You could not believe it, and it has brought much pain and sorrow.

For you Teresa, everything was happening at once so quickly and you caught her as she fell. What a wonderful gift that you could give your mother to be there with her as she was stricken with her illness.

To the nurse and the paramedic who were in Wal-Mart at the time Helen became ill, the words from Acts 20:35 say, "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak." And

remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." For they truly put those words into action and helped Helen when she most desperately needed medical treatment.

The time at the hospital became very long for friends and family, from being able to see Helen in the emergency room, visiting her in CCU, having the cardiologist share with you about how serious Helen's condition really was, to later in the evening when she had another serious and critical episode, to early the next morning about 5:15 a.m. when Helen's heart could no longer keep her alive.

The fears and the unknown were scary for everyone, but as I shared in my devotions with you at the hospital remember that God continued to be at your side. In many ways it was a test of your faith. For the Lord tells us in Psalm 139:23 – 24, "Search me, O God and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." For the Lord is testing us to see if we will believe in him when life becomes difficult and almost unbearable. Many of you have endured struggles and even disasters that have caught you by

surprise. These events may even cause us to question our faith and God's faithfulness to us.

Isaiah gives us a much needed reminder that no matter what we may encounter in life, God stands by the promise to be our constant companion. We will never be alone, even when it may feel that way. We have the promise of God's presence, love, and compassion. This message is to give encouragement and strength to the people of Isaiah's time. This message is also a message of encouragement to us.

The story that I continued to hear of Helen was that she was the grandma or granny of Walmart. People looked to her for advice and appreciated her sense of humor. She was a supporter of Farmington High School, being on the Cardinal Booster Club, and always helping at the Helping Hands Craft Club. That is a wonderful remembrance. She was also a loving mother, sister, and friend to many. You could tell by the pictures that were shown this evening.

But like me and all of us, we all fall short of the glory of God, so we give thanks to God for His death and resurrection. For on Saturday, March 17th, the Lord knocked on Helen's heart and said to her, Here I am! I stand at the

door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

Will you be ready? For when the Lord knocks it is not like having call waiting or an answering machine that says we will call God back later. For the Lord called unexpectedly to Helen Keck Vanderlip this past Saturday and the Lord will knock at everyone's heart one day and the important thing for each of us is to be ready.

In the book of Job, Job learned from his suffering, that God often uses suffering to test and to teach us. Job can serve as an example for us when we experience loss. Like Job, we can honestly express our feelings and go on to praise God. Praising God helps us all remember that God watched God's only child die and therefore understands our grief. God is greater than our loss and can bring good from any situation. Our life is temporary, and we look forward to heaven where sorrow will be no more.

Let me close with this story as we see how Christ lives in you: There is a knock on St. Peter's door. He looks out and a man is standing there. Saint Peter is about to begin his interview when the man disappears. A short time

later there's another knock. St. Peter goes to the door, sees the man, opens his mouth to speak, and the man disappears again. Hey! St. Peter calls after him, "Are you playing games with me?" "No" the man's distant voice replies anxiously, I'm in the hospital and they keep trying to resuscitate me.

I hope that each of you here tonight will have no uncertainty about the direction your life is taking. I hope you will feel absolute assurance of God's love for you, His total forgiveness of all your sin, and your worthiness to be a member of His family. It's a done deal! There is no waffling on God's part. You belong to Him and He won't let you go. We will have times like now when we will feel overwhelmed by our circumstances and scared for our future. When that happens, don't come and and go in your faith in the Father. Instead, listen and be encouraged by these words from Philippians 4. 'Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let your petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry and pain at the center of your life. (6-7 MSG)

Christ not only “displaces worry at the center of your life, He will live in the center of your life. You will not find greater assurance than that.

My prayer for each of you as you mourn Helen’s passing is that we look past the sadness like so many did on Good Friday and instead rejoice like they did on Easter.

Let us pray:

Dear Lord, we thank you for the life of Helen Keck Vanderlip, for we are grateful for the witness that she gave to her family and friends, and for the memories that she gave to all of us. Continue to be with Teresa, Roy, Virginia, Shirley, Lola, the eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren, and her many friends that they may continue to be a support to each other during this difficult time. We are thankful for her faith and the assurance of everlasting life that you not only gave to Helen but also to everyone here this evening. We ask this in your name. Amen.

Lance Klotz