

Oakfield Cemetery, 25 June 2012  
Mira River, Nova Scotia



### **Margaret "Peggy" MacNeil Paine**

passed peacefully into the presence of her Lord on Monday, November 21, 2011, at the age of 85, after a brief battle with Leukemia. Born in Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada on July 2, 1926, she was the daughter of John and Mary (MacDonald) MacNeil. She was preceded in death by her husband Earl Paine, and four

brothers, Charles, William, Ian, and Donald. Peggy was a loving mother to sons John and Pete, and adored her three grandsons Neil, David, and Stuart, and daughters-in-law Marion and Stephanie. She is survived by cousin Thelma (MacDonald) McCurdy, in-laws Ruth and George Hart, Shirley MacNeil, Jen MacNeil, and Marguerite MacNeil, eleven nieces and four nephews. Her cherished friends of many decades include Lucille MacDonald, Rose Karam, Myrtle Vaughn, Hope Beck, and Melba Forrester. Peggy had been a resident of Newport News since 1964, and a longtime member of Hidenwood Presbyterian Church.

The family wishes to express deep gratitude to Dorothy Romyak and to Riverside Hospital, particularly the nurses in the Intensive Care Oncology Unit, for the wonderful, compassionate care and love they provided on her behalf.

A memorial service will be held at Hidenwood Presbyterian Church, 414 Hiden Boulevard, Newport News, on Friday, November 25 at 11:00 a.m. Expressions of sympathy may be made to your charity of choice.

---

### **Meditation by the Reverend Bill Lamont Senior Pastor, Hidenwood Presbyterian Church**

We read the Beatitudes today because Peggy embraced so many of these herself...blessed are the merciful, the pure in heart, blessed are the peacemakers. But it's Jesus' words right after the Beatitudes that have my attention today.

Jesus says: "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste how can its saltiness be restored...You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp stand and it gives light to all in the house."

Salt and light...is how Jesus refers to his followers. He's referring to two ways that we can live out our faith in this life...but they are two very different ways.

Some people "salt-of-the-earth" types and others are "light-of-the-world" types. Both are needed, both are legitimate ways to live, but both are quite different, aren't they? Light-of-the-world types just naturally take to the limelight...they stand out in a crowd, they are shining beacons that others naturally look up to. They're an inspiration to others.

Lance Armstrong is a competitive cyclist who was diagnosed with cancer in 1996. He underwent surgery and chemotherapy and then made a comeback to cycling. In 1999 he won the Tour de France...won it again in 2000 and won it every year after that until his retirement in 2005. He was named ESPN's athlete of the year in 2003, 4, 5, and 6. He made a comeback in 2009 and placed 3rd in the Tour de France! Lance Armstrong is a light-of-the-world type not only in the sports world but to anyone who's had to overcome an obstacle and go on.

On the other hand, some people are just naturally salt-of-the-earth types. They don't make significant contributions to the world of science or sports, but they do touch people's lives in significant ways. There are lots more of these kinds of people. If you've ever watched the academy awards you know what I mean—as the Hollywood stars come to the podium to pick up

their Oscars, they all list off the people who were instrumental in them making it this far. Salt-of-the-earth people!

So we have light-of-the-world types and salt-of-the-earth types...and this is true in the community of faith too. Some people are light-of-the-world types when it comes to faith...shining examples of righteousness and faith who are an inspiration to many others in the faith. St. Francis of Assisi, Mother Teresa, Billy Graham, Frederick Buechner, a certain minister in your life, or a Sunday School teacher or youth group leader in your life. And we need lights-of-the-world types...people to look up to. But I think most of us are more comfortable as salt than light...certainly Presbyterians! Not many in my congregation are comfortable standing up in front of a microphone and speaking to the congregation, in fact they avoid it at all cost. But they live out their faith in important ways as salt of the earth types.

Salt, you see, is important. Salt is something we put on our food because it helps to accentuate the flavor of the food. And there are people like that—who don't draw attention to themselves but quietly make a difference in the lives of those around them.

I mention this because I think Peggy was a salt-of-the-earth type of person. I've never seen her in front of a microphone before, but I knew where to look to find her in church. She had her pew and she was a faithful attender of my Wednesday morning Bible study too. When Sue and I first came to Newport News, Peggy was one of the first to welcome us and was quick to let us know she was Canadian. She and Melba Forrester (another Canadian) took Sue to lunch in Williamsburg and Peggy drove. Sue never forgot that and marveled at the independence of these two women.

In the words of Peter and John, Peggy was "an empathetic person who lived for her family and friends." Peggy was a homemaker whose family meant the world to her. She was a proud Canadian from Nova Scotia. She was born in Sydney, Cape Breton, which might mean nothing to many of you, but this was where the first people settled in Canada. Life is hard on the east coast and winters are long, and people there know the importance of

pulling together. Community is important, hospitality is an industry, and family is the measure of one's wealth there.

Virginia can thank the Quebec separatist movement for the arrival of the Paines in Virginia in 1963. In 1965 the Paines joined Hidenwood Presbyterian but later gravitated to First Presbyterian Church in Newport News when Walter Kennedy was there. Peggy rejoined Hidenwood in 1995 after her husband passed away. She was active in two circles, took part in the tutoring program at Hidenwood Elementary school, and was involved in several Bible study classes over the years, including my Wednesday morning class.

Peggy was one of the dearest women you could ever meet. Part of what made her so dear was that she was a truly humble person. She put others ahead of herself. Some people are able to feign humility, but Peggy actually lived it genuinely. She wouldn't have chosen today for her memorial because this is the biggest retail day of the year and she wouldn't have wanted to keep anyone from the mall! She loved shopping herself. Her biggest love by far however was her family. I would ask her about her boys whenever we met and her eyes would light up as she shared news of them. Peggy was also a deeply gracious person who appreciated anything that was done for her by others.

I never saw Peggy look disheveled...she always looked like a million bucks! Well dressed, hair coifed, and makeup on. I suppose she was one of those persons who never left the house without looking her best...didn't matter whether she was going to church or taking the trash to the roadside for pickup, she looked smashing. It was important to her.

Audrey Hepburn wrote when asked to share her Beauty Tips for Life:

*"For attractive lips, speak words of kindness.*

*For lovely eyes, seek out the good in people.*

*For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry.*

*For beautiful hair, let a child run his/her fingers through it once a day.*

*For poise, walk with the knowledge that you never walk alone.*

*People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed, revived, reclaimed, and redeemed; never throw out anyone. Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, you will find one at the end of each of your arms. As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands; one for helping yourself, and the other for helping others."*

Most of all, Peggy was a person of faith. It was an integral part of who she was as a person—as a friend, as a neighbor, as a mother and grandmother. She came to church and Bible study as long as she was able. She lamented not being healthy enough to get to church anymore and looked forward to the day she could get back to her church again. She had a deep faith and knew that her life was secure in Christ no matter what happened to her. She trusted that love.

And today we entrust her to that love. And God, who made her and gave her to us, will keep her and restore her to new life in Christ in the age to come. Because Christ is the true life and we are but reflections of that life. So we give thanks to God for the gift and entrust her to God's care till we meet again in glory.

Well done good and faithful servant...enter into the joy of your Master!

Amen

---

[petepaine@cox.net](mailto:petepaine@cox.net) 757.880.1801 10 Sir Francis Wyatt Place  
Newport News, VA 23606

[jnpaine@gmail.com](mailto:jnpaine@gmail.com) 757.615.7353 3305 Ash View  
Williamsburg, VA 23185



<http://sharedveracity.net>

Videos of Peggy

<https://vimeo.com/32628451>

<https://vimeo.com/34195139>

<https://vimeo.com/32628656>



<http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/en/site/21384/details/pabbay/>











*A Celebration of the Life  
of  
Margaret MacNeil Paine*

*Hidenwood Presbyterian Church  
Newport News, Virginia  
Friday November 25, 2011 \* 11:00 am*

\* \* \* \* \*

**Prelude**

**Words of Welcome** .....Rev. William G. Lamont

**Call to Worship** (*Leader; People*)

*I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come?  
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and  
earth.*

*The Lord will keep you from all evil;*

*He will keep your life.*

*The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in,*

*From this time on and forevermore.*

**Hymn** ..... C. Austin Miles

*“In the Garden”  
(See bulletin insert)*

**Opening Prayer**

**Scripture Readings**

Matthew 5: 1-12, Neil Paine

Ephesians 2: 1-10, David Paine

**Special Readings**

“Beauty Tips for Life,” Audrey Hepburn

“Love That Offers Eternal Life,” Henri Nouwen

**Message** .....Rev. William G. Lamont

**Affirmation of Faith** (Unison) ..... Romans 8: 35, 37-39

Who will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine,  
or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Musical Tribute** ..... “I Can Only Imagine”

Wayne Hare

**Closing Prayer & “The Lord’s Prayer”**

**Hymn** ..... Amazing Grace

*“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”*

(See bulletin insert)

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

\* \* \* \* \*

*Officiating*

The Rev. William G. Lamont, Pastor  
Hidenwood Presbyterian Church

*Musical Accompaniment*

Mr. Wayne Hare  
Interim Director of Music

*Ushers*

Rob Campbell, Deck Hankins, Dave Rudy

*Bereavement Team Coordinator*

Audrey Carter

*The family invites you to join them in McKeithen Hall following the  
memorial service for a time of refreshment and fellowship*

