

Paul Carraway Butler, Jr. – The Obituary

Paul Carraway Butler, Jr. (Peter) of Portsmouth, VA died peacefully in his home on Sunday, May 11, 2025, surrounded by his family. Paul was born November 20, 1940, in Southern Pines, NC where he grew up and graduated from Southern Pines High School. He went on to study History and Government at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, graduating a proud Tarheel in 1963. Paul spent his career working as a teacher, mentor, and servant leader in Portsmouth, VA. Beginning in 1963, Paul taught History and Government at Woodrow Wilson High School. In 1973, he took on a new career path in Human Resources for Portsmouth Psychiatric Center, Maryview Hospital, and the City of Portsmouth. Late in his career, he worked in the Portsmouth Visitor's Center and Museums. Upon retiring in 2002, he returned to teaching for 10 years, leading classes in the GED Program at S.H.Clark. He was a lifelong learner; he loved teaching and the relationships he built with his students and colleagues over the course of decades.

Additionally, Paul was a revered servant leader throughout his working years and into retirement as a volunteer in Portsmouth. He volunteered on the Portsmouth Planning Commission, Civil Service Commission, was a Deacon at Green Acres Presbyterian Church, and an Elder at First Presbyterian Church, Portsmouth, where he was the teacher of the Friendship Sunday School Class. He loved gardening and took great pride in his yard and garden and became a Certified Master Gardener Volunteer for the city. A forever Tarheel, Paul loved Carolina Basketball, fishing, and being a dachshund dad. Paul was also an avid reader and student of World War II. He traveled Europe and the United States and was always awed by the wonderful people he met all over the world. He was a gentleman and friend to all.

His greatest joy in life came as the father of two daughters and the husband to Alice for 60 years. While working in the summer of 1962 at the NC Collection of the Wilson Library. A young woman (whom he remembered from his church in Southern Pines) came in and politely spoke to this "hometown boy." The rest is history. Peter and Alice were married in August 1965 and reared their daughters, Player and Leigh, at their home of 55 years in Shea Terrace. Many happy memories were made in the beautiful backyard for their young family, and again with the joyous laughter and playfulness of their three granddaughters. Unsurprisingly, Paul provided wisdom and support to his neighbors and friends; he always knew what was going on around Portsmouth. For nearly 60 years, Paul and Alice have shared their lives with their monthly "study" group, started at Green Acres Presbyterian Church. Dear friends: Bob & Suzie Barnes, Richard & Sue Corey, Paul & Carolyn Gotlieb, Dick Park, Von & Judy Piersall, Ray & Elaine Strople; they reared children, celebrated weddings, births, and anniversaries, and mourned losses together.

He was preceded in death by his father, Paul Carraway Butler; his mother, Frances Folley Butler Holbrook; his stepfather, Dr. Samuel Holbrook; and his stepbrother, Dr. Robert Holbrook.

Paul (Peter) is survived by his devoted wife of 60 years, Alice Grace Farrior Butler; daughters Rebecca Player Butler of Virginia Beach and Leigh Butler Longino (Howard Hollis Longino) of Raleigh; and granddaughters Grace Frances Longino, Martha Hollis Longino, and Lucy Lane Longino. He is also survived by his siblings, Julian Alan Butler (Carla) and Jeanne Folley Butler; his stepbrother Joseph Holbrook; his stepsister Nan Holbrook Griswold; nephews and nieces Folley Butler (Robin), Meredith Butler, and Juxon Lankford; sister-in-law Patricia Farrior Fistick (Robert); and niece and nephew Virginia Fistick Hupp (Dennis) and Kirk Fistick (Carrie). Additionally, many great nephews and nieces, and generations of cousins and loved ones from down home.

The family would like to extend deep gratitude and thankfulness to dear friends and caregivers, Sofia and Madeline Calicchio, Gregory Lucas and the many Angels who provided loving care along the way.

Interment will be held at a later date at Old Bethesda Church, Aberdeen, NC. Peter and Alice request that memorials be dedicated to the ongoing mission work provided by First Presbyterian Church 515 Court Street, Portsmouth, VA 23704

First Presbyterian Church of Portsmouth May 20, 2025



In Celebration of and Thanksgiving to God for the Life of Paul Carraway Butler, Jr.

A Service of Witness to the Resurrection Paul Carraway Butler, Jr.	
Prelude	Edna Broadhurst, Director of Music
Welcome and Sentences of Scripture	Dr. Steven E Frazier, Pastor
Choral Call to Worship	
Call to Worship	
<p>We glorify You, O Lord, for You have lifted us up. O Lord, our God, we cried out to You, and You healed us. Sing praises to the Lord, O faithful ones, and praise God’s holy name. For God’s anger is but for a moment, but God’s favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning. O God, you have turned our mourning into dancing! Let us worship God.</p>	
Hymn of Praise	“Morning has Broken”
<p>Morning has broken like the first morning, Blackbird has spoken like the first bird. Praise for the singing, praise for the morning! Praise for them springing fresh from the word.</p> <p>Sweet the rain’s new fall sunlit from heaven like the first dewfall on the first grass. Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden sprung in completeness where God’s feet pass.</p> <p>Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning born of the one light Eden saw play! Praise with elation, praise every morning, God’s recreation of the new day!</p>	
Invitation to Confession	
Prayer of Confession and the Assurance of Pardon	
<p>Holy God, you see us as we are and know our inmost thoughts. We confess that we are unworthy of your gracious care. We forget that all life comes from you and that to you all life returns. We have not always sought or done your will. We have not lived as your grateful children, nor loved as Christ loved us. Apart from you, we are nothing. Only your grace can sustain us. Lord, in your mercy, forgive us, heal us, and make us whole. Set us free from our sin and restore to us the joy of your salvation now and forever. Amen.</p> <p>(Time for silent prayer)</p> <p>Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether; the past is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.</p>	
The Apostles Creed	
<p>Christians, what do you believe? I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall</p>	

come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and life everlasting. Amen.		
Choral Anthem	“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need”	
Daughters Remember	Leigh Butler-Longino and Player Butler	
Hymn	“ For the Beauty of the Earth”	
<p>For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies For the love that from our birth over and around us lies.</p> <p><u>Refrain:</u> Lord of all to Thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise!</p> <p>For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light. [Refrain]</p> <p>For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind’s delight. For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight,</p> <p>For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child. Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild, [Refrain]</p> <p>For yourself, best gift divine, to the world so freely given, For that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven. [Refrain]</p>		
Lessons from the Scriptures	Mr. Howard Longino, Liturgist	
The Psalter	Psalm 100	
The Hebrew Scripture	Isaiah 40:28-31	
The New Testament	2 Corinthians 4:16-5:1	
The Gospel	John 6:1-13	
Meditation	Peace, Love, and a Bag of Chips	
Prayer of Dedication - Ending with the Lord's Prayer		
<p>Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.</p>		
Closing Hymn	“When the Saints go Marching In”	See Insert
Benediction		
Recessional	“Amazing Grace”	Mr. Liam Nunes, Bagpiper

On behalf of First Presbyterian Church, please join the family for refreshments in the fellowship hall.