



Rev. Larry H. Ellis, CAPT, USN (Ret.)

May 28, 1942 - October 9, 2019

Rev. Larry H. Ellis, CAPT, USN (Ret.), age 77, went home to be with Jesus on October 9, 2019. He was born on May 28, 1942, in Cleveland, TN, to Hoyt and Estelle Ellis. He married his soulmate Jan on April 4, 1965. He was the best father in the world to Neale, Matt, Mandy, and Charity.

Larry came from humble beginnings, the son of hardworking, Christian people from the mountains of Tennessee. Following Jesus was so important that he struggled with this decision to give his WHOLE life to Jesus until he was thirteen when he told the Lord he was willing to give up everything for Jesus. His faith was pure from the beginning and summed up in what he and Jan had inscribed in their wedding rings, "ALL FOR JESUS".

His parents, Hoyt and Estelle, stressed education for their children. Larry honored his parents by studying hard, and with a gifted mind attended The University of Virginia on a National Merit Scholarship, earning a Bachelor of Arts in 1964. While in college the Lord called him to full-time ministry. He obeyed the Lord and was ordained as a minister at Deer Park Baptist Church in Louisville, KY. He attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary from 1965-1968 and pastored Hempridge Baptist Church. He was endorsed by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in December 1967. In 1968, Larry received his Master of Divinity. In 1983, he received the Doctor of Ministry Degree from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC.

Larry felt God's strong calling to be a military chaplain and was commissioned as a Navy Chaplain in 1968. His initial tour of duty was serving in the Vietnam War with Destroyer Division 52. From there he served as Chaplain at NAS Memphis (1970), Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (1972), NAS Atlanta (1975), Bureau of Naval Personnel in Washington, DC (1977), and in 1980 was appointed Regimental Chaplain 4th Marine Regiment, Okinawa Japan. In 1982, Larry became the Senior Protestant Chaplain at the United States Naval Academy. He followed his tour in Annapolis as Command Chaplain, USS John F. Kennedy, CV67. From 1987 -1990, he served as Force Chaplain for the Chief of Naval Technical Training in Millington, TN. From 1990-91, he was Force Chaplain

for Fleet Marine Forces Pacific, Honolulu HI. In 1991, Larry was honored to be selected as The Chaplain, United States Marine Corps and served in that role until 1995. His final tour before retiring from active duty in 1998 was as Command Chaplain Naval Support Activity Memphis.

Following retirement from the Navy, Larry served as Senior Pastor for three congregations. From 1998-2001, Larry pastored Blytheville Baptist Church in Blytheville, AR. In 2001, Larry and Jan moved to North Carolina where Larry served as the Pastor of the Village Chapel, Pinehurst, NC. In 2011, Larry was one of the founding Pastors of Trinity Christian Fellowship in Pinehurst, NC, serving there until he retired from full-time ministry. Larry and Jan moved to Heath, TX, in 2017, to be closer to family and there God faithfully provided a wonderful new church family in Transformation Anglican Church.

Larry was the recipient of three awards from the Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge, including the George Washington Medal, the primary national award for excellence in public address. In 1980, his family was honored to receive the Military Family of the Year "In God We Trust" award by the Family Foundation of America. His military medals and decorations include: Legion of Merit (2 Awards), Meritorious Service Medal (3 Awards), National Defense Service Medal (2 Awards), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with palm.

Although Larry earned many accolades throughout his career of ministry, the overarching desire of his heart was to be a faithful servant to God, and to his wife and family. We can testify that we had the very best husband and father in the whole world! Larry felt the Joy of the Lord when he preached. Larry was filled with the Holy Spirit and treasured every opportunity to introduce people to Jesus. Nothing else mattered to Larry and Jan but sharing the love of Jesus with anyone and everyone whom God placed in their path.

Surviving are his wife of 54 years, Janet; children, Neale Ellis and wife Angela of Heath, TX, Matthew Ellis and wife Rhonda of Nashville, TN, Mandy Erwin and husband Derek of Flower Mound, TX, Charity Cash and husband Chaplain Carey Cash currently stationed with Fifth Fleet in Bahrain, and sister, Cheryal Korfmann and husband Vincent. He is also survived by 20 grandchildren whom they pray for daily: Alexandra, Matthew, Caleb, Abigail, Joshua, Justice, Amanda, Sarah, Phoebe, Nathanael, Ella, Hadassah, Maggie, Alaia, Xavier, Beatrice, Giorgia Mae, Analuisa, Eli, and Henry, who will miss their Pops dearly.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, October 12, 2019, at 2:00 pm at Transformation Anglican Church, 701 Kensington Drive, Rockwall, TX. Fr. Bob Hackendorf and Fr. Don

McLane will serve as Celebrants.

Any memorials should be given to Transformation Anglican Church.

Cemetery

Arlington National Cemetery

1 Memorial Ave

Fort Myer, VA, 22211

Events

OCT

12

Funeral Service

02:00PM

Transformation Anglican Church

701 Kensington Dr, Rockwall, TX, US, 75032

Comments



“ Pastor Larry was a wonderful caring person who showed his love for family and his flock gave great hugs and always had a smile. His singing voice was a blessing as well it was a pleasure singing with him in the choir as well as when he blessed us with it during a sermon. I will miss him and continue to think/pray for his family.



Helene - October 27, 2019 at 12:10 AM



“ Pastor Larry Ellis was the best representative I have ever known of what Jesus wanted us to be. Watching him teach, preach smile, give, and love his wife Jan, his family, and his fellow man, inspired us all. A truly great man whose loss here is Heaven's great gain. May the words of his mouth and the meditations of our hearts that he touched always be acceptable in the sight of our Lord, our Strength, and our Redeemer. Our deepest sympathy to Jan and family. Thank you, Larry.

John Vann - October 19, 2019 at 12:21 PM



“ One of the great saints has gone home. Pastor Larry will always hold some of my fondest memories. I can't read "Those that have ears, let them hear what the spirit is saying to the church" without thinking of him.
Let us know when the service at Arlington is. If we can and it's not just a family service, Joe and I would love to come.

CAROL PIZZI - October 19, 2019 at 10:11 AM



“ Dr. Ellis was our first Pastor when we arrived in Pinehurst. I remember listening to, and being moved by, his anointed sermons. Years later, we saw each other at a funeral; he encouraged me in my ministry with sincerity and brotherly love. I never forget how he made me feel that day. He will forever be my Pastor and loved by our family.

“To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord”

Well done thy good and faithful servant!

Ashley & Vickie Smith (Abigail, Sarah, Hannah, Landen)

Rev. Dr. Ashley Neil Smith- Pinehurst NC - October 19, 2019 at 08:21 AM



“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Bob Brown - October 12, 2019 at 09:34 AM



“ What can we say to really express the impact Dr. Larry Ellis made on our lives and in our community when he served as Pastor in the Pinehurst, NC area? I remember Larry as a Christian deeply devoted to his Lord Jesus Christ, one who radiated love for his gracious wife, Jan, whom he often held high to all as a godly woman who supported him when he served as a Navy Chaplain and who raised their children alone when he was often away for long periods of time in service to his country, and then was always at his side as he served as pastor to a large congregation. Fiercely loyal to the Word of God, his ministry, the Navy, and to all whom he held dear, Larry will remain in the hearts of all who knew him.

Perhaps most memorable to my husband and me is recalling how Larry was often filled with emotion as he preached the gospel, always ending his message with the words, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Now with the Lord He loved and served, He rejoices while we who are still here on earth will miss his hearty laugh, his wisdom, and his example for a very long time.

June Vetter

June Vetter - October 10, 2019 at 04:48 PM



“ Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord! You will be missed, Chaplain Ellis. May you rest in the peace of Christ.

Debbie Miller Nowak

Debbie - October 10, 2019 at 08:49 PM



“ Well done faithful servant, Rest in Peace.

Mark - October 11, 2019 at 03:08 PM



“ I first met Larry and Jan, and their children, while assigned to NAS Memphis Tennessee in 1988. Larry and Jan were faithful encouragers and examples to all the chaplains assigned to the area and I was very fortunate to be mentored by him on several occasions thereafter. I thank God for his untiring witness for Jesus and devotion to his wife and family. He was a beacon of truth in a compromised world. I offer my sincerest condolences to Jan, Mandy, Neale, Matt, Charity, and the rest of the family. What a prince of a man who now stands before the King of Kings. Laus Deo! Chaplain Jack Lea

Jack Lea - October 11, 2019 at 04:39 PM



“ There are no words to express the loss that Debbie and I feel at the passing of our dear pastor, friend, mentor, and spiritual guide Larry. We first met Larry at the Village Chapel in Pinehurst, NC, where as Senior Pastor he brought scriptural truth, sincerity and personal testimony to his preaching in a way that we had never experienced in our many years of church-going. For several years, Debbie worked closely with Larry as Director of Children's Ministries, while as a retired Navy officer, I immediately felt a bond with Larry and loved the many wonderful stories of faith and conversion among military men and women which he often infused into his sermons.

When God led a large group from the Village Chapel to establish Trinity Christian Fellowship, Larry graciously agreed to serve as a co-pastor, even though he was initially reluctant to do so. As always, Larry's heart and actions were guided by the Holy Spirit, and he felt called to participate in the building of this new church. Once again, Debbie worked closely with Larry as Director of Ministries. Without Larry's faithful leadership, and spirit-filled love for his congregants, there is little doubt that Trinity would never have become such a vibrant fellowship.

Larry was immensely humble, incredibly articulate, and always approachable. No one who witnessed Larry preach a sermon and literally weep as he spoke the Word of God could possibly doubt that this was a man chosen to bring Light to the world.

We will miss Larry forever, and we will pray that the Grace of God will come upon Jan and the rest of the family at this difficult time, even as they rejoice in Larry's return home.

May God always bless Larry and Jan.

Bob and Debbie Brown
Pinehurst, NC

Bob Brown - October 12, 2019 at 08:49 AM



“ I will forever remember Dr. Larry Ellis as the most Godly man I have known. He deeply loved his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Larry Ellis was an inspiration to all of us who served with him in the churches he pastored. We are better persons for having known him and having sat under his preaching and teaching from God's Word. He loved us, and we loved him. Larry lived a life "well lived."

We are deeply saddened by his passing. However, knowing that we will see him again in our resurrection bodies in Paradise with Jesus, causes us to lift our praises to God. Larry would want us to do so.

Our deepest felt condolences are extended to Jan and his whole family. May God grant each of you His peace and may God bless you all.

Joseph & Judy Lenard
Southern Pines, NC

Joseph Lenard - October 12, 2019 at 12:43 PM



“ It has been both a blessing and an honor to have known Pastor

Larry Ellis.

He truly "walked the talk" by the way he lived his life. A true

Christian.

We are deeply grieved by his passing but look forward to seeing

him again in eternity. What a glorious reunion!

Our deepest sympathy to Jan and family.

May God Bless you and guide you in all the days to come.

With Sympathy and Love,

John. & Elaine Corio

Elaine Corio - October 18, 2019 at 07:48 PM



“ I was deeply saddened to hear of Pastor Larry's passing. I was honored to know him, hear him preach as well as attend his wonderful Bible studies. I could always feel God's presence when I was near Pastor Larry.

I offer my sincere condolences to the family and may God give Jan the strength and peace she needs during this trying time.

I will miss you Larry but I know you are walking and talking in the garden with God.

Sue king - October 18 at 8:30PM

sue king - October 18, 2019 at 08:23 PM



“ Bob and I were so blessed to have Larry and Jan in our lives here in Pinehurst, at both of the churches he served. He was truly a blessing in our lives and we learned so much from his sermons and ministry. I agree with the others below, their comments are so eloquent. Our hearts and prayers are with Jan and the family at this time, Robert and Ellen Bailey

Ellen Weaver-Bailey - October 20, 2019 at 06:39 PM