

MEMORIAL FOR THE REV. MARGARET "PEG" MILLER, HR

The Rev. Margaret "Peg" Miller, an Honorably Retired member of Albany Presbytery, had a peaceful, sudden, and unexpected passing on Friday, April 20, 2018, at the age of 76 in her home in Niskayuna.

She was born on November 20, 1941, in Teaneck, N.J., as the third child of Gordon Chute and Marion Beamon, who met as missionaries in India. Peg spent her childhood in Leonia, N.J., and Hillsdale, N.Y. After she graduated from Carleton College, she enrolled in Union Theological Seminary in New York City on a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship. During her preparation for ministry at Union, she worked in the East Harlem Protestant Parish which was an innovative interracial ministry.

At Union Seminary she met Robert E. Bunnell and married him in 1965. She brought two sons into the world during Bob's service as a pastor at Presbyterian churches in North Argyle and Charlton, N.Y. In 1976, Peg was one of the first women ordained by Albany Presbytery. She served as Associate Pastor at Union Presbyterian Church in Schenectady from 1974-1996. During those years a generation of young people and their families were profoundly impacted by her inspired youth group leadership.

She served the Albany Presbytery in many committee leadership roles including a brief pastorate at Malta Presbyterian Church from April 2000 to Easter 2001. Peg's love of the natural world found expression in the years she spent as a steward and owner of a family property adjacent to High Point State Park, N.J. She enjoyed this farmland with family and friends for many years, until its recent donation to The Land Conservancy.

After her separation in 1983, she purchased a home overlooking Ballston Lake. This property was a source of joy and independence, allowing her to garden and swim daily. Following her marriage to the Reverend James H. Miller in 1994 and her subsequent retirement, she continued to enjoy hiking, wildflower walks, canoeing, bird-watching, and extensive travel around the world. During her retirement Peg served for many years on the board of Schenectady Home Furnishings Program and played an instrumental role in maintaining it as a vital ministry to that community. Peg was an accomplished pianist and accompanist, frequently employing these talents in her youth ministry. She found many ways to express her artistic interests, especially painting, needlework and pysanky.

She is survived by husband Jim; sons, Stephen and John Bunnell; stepsons, Jeff and Blaine Miller; grandchildren, Jacob and Tyler Bunnell; her sister, Marion Malcom (Stefan Ostrach), and numerous nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her brother David.

Services were held on Thursday, April 26, in the First Reformed Church of Schenectady.