

Helen Cormack Dallison

2/2/1938 - 1/19/2024

2024, after a month of struggling with progressive heart failure, she passed away peacefully in her sleep, spending her last day with her family and friends.

Helen was a kind and gentle soul who was always thankful for anything anyone did for her. She loved her God, her family and her friends and leaves behind a legacy of love, caring and steadfast faith in her Lord Jesus.

Special thanks to her faithful friend Marilyn McCuaig and the nursing, personal care and recreation staff at the Village of Winston Park who's loving care meant so much to her in the final years of her life. Thank you all for caring for her like she was your own family – we know she cherished each one of you and loved you all.

In lieu of flowers, condolences for the family and donations to Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region may be arranged through the Erb & Good Family Funeral Home at www.erbgood.com



Helen and sister Mary during a bus tour of the Scottish coast and Highlands, 2017.

Helen was born in Aberdeen Scotland, to parents Andrew and Helen (nee Cormack). She was the middle child, with two older siblings, Mary and Andrew, and two younger brothers, Gordon and Ronald. From a young age she was active in the church, and she enjoyed learning, teaching, and spending time outdoors, traits which she carried through her whole life.

She did well in school and was the first in her family to attend University. She attended the University of Aberdeen and was the Secretary of Crombie Hall. Upon her graduation in 1964 with a B.Sc (honors) degree in Chemistry, she completed a one year teacher training course and then was selected to teach chemistry at Perth Academy, launching her long teaching career.

She had quite the impact on her younger brother Ronald, who followed in her footsteps, attending the same University, and graduating with the same degree in Chemistry! Ronald speaks of how from a young age he witnessed Helen's personal relationship with and faith in Jesus Christ, which "shone out from her." Helen's "transformational influence" set the course of Ronald's life and his ministry work.

Helen's niece Susan recalls that at age 6, her Auntie Helen took her on her first cinema trip to see Mary Poppins. "For Kevin, Richard and I, our Auntie Helen and devoted Godmother was our very own Mary Poppins. I remember my joy rides with her at the wheel of her MG Triumph sports car going on Flower girl dress fittings for her wedding. At age 10 I felt like a princess!" Family was very important to Helen.

As a young woman Helen led a group of hill walkers to the top of Cairngorm, a difficult mountain climb, by map and compass in

thick mist. She recalled at one point they could not even see their hands in front of them. She kept the group calm and insisted that they wait for it to clear – knowing that a wrong step could send them tumbling. She said about this experience: “I had my faith in God enriched – the map, His word; the compass, the guidance of the Holy Spirit – a combination that led to a meaningful and purposeful life, an achievement of a goal.”

For Helen, Cairngorm represented, in her words:

- “Challenge—to reach the summit and then, though tired, to make the descent again
- True Friends – who encourage you when times are hard, and rejoice with you when goals are met
- Learning New Skills – like skiing! A terrifying experience at first, feeling totally out of control but with perseverance leading to many, many happy hours of exhilarating friendship
- The Beauty and Wonder of God’s Natural World – the vast wilderness of mountains, viewed from above Loch Aan, speak to the Almighty power of a gracious God”

In her early 30’s, Helen met Rev. Tony Dallison and they were married on August 15,1970. The newly married couple moved to Livingston to start their own family. Ronald was born in 1972 followed by Andrew in 1975. In 1977, the family moved to King City, Ontario, Canada where Tony became pastor of St. Andrew’s Presbyterian church and Helen taught at Bayview Secondary school and became active in the church and community. Rhona was born shortly after the move, and the children grew up in that wonderful community.

In 1985, the family moved to Florida, where Tony became pastor of Westminster PCA and Helen took a position as a Science and Chemistry teacher at Episcopal High School. She is remembered fondly by her teacher friends as the “quintessential professional” for her dedication and hard work over her 17 years at Episcopal, and her

kind, thoughtful and effective leadership on many different committees. Former students testify she “brought chemistry to life” and she engendered a “curiosity and love of learning that defined her every action in and outside of the classroom.” Her teacher friends treasure the memories of having Scottish tea and a good chin wag with Helen’s famous Scottish scones and “real tea - in a real teapot with a tea cozy”.

In 2003 Helen moved back to Waterloo, Ontario to begin her retirement. She volunteered to help women in difficult family situations, assisted refugee women with learning English, and was active in Calvin Presbyterian Church. She cherished having her own impeccable, cozy home, where she entertained friends and hosted bible studies to share her faith with others. She loved “pottering about” maintaining her landscaping and patio garden. She made long lasting friendships with a group of women who dubbed themselves the “Home Repair Girls” after taking hands-on skills classes together; Helen could always be counted on to have a good set of tools available. Throughout her life she remained very close to her sister Mary and traveled with Mary to Portugal and other places. She enjoyed visiting and vacationing with family and returning to Florida to visit her friends.

In 2017 Helen made what turned out to be her last trip to Scotland with her immediate family, to visit her extended family. Shortly after that, she had a minor stroke and had to move out of her apartment and into assisted living. She remained cheerful, happy and grateful for her many blessings, especially for the people that took care of her.

In 2022, Helen moved into the new Long Term Care building that Winston Park had just constructed. She was given a room in the “Aberdeen” neighborhood and she felt like she was coming home. She loved the personal care workers, the nurses, and the recreation team who loved her like their own family. On January 19,