



Patricia Hardy

August 1, 1951 - May 14, 2020

The Rev. Patricia J. (Joyce) Hardy, who taught junior high school 10 years in Pryor, OK, and found her calling as a Deacon in the Episcopal Church in Arkansas, has died. Rev. Hardy was born and raised in Pryor, graduated from Pryor High School and received degrees from the University of Arkansas and Northeastern State College. She taught in Pryor Junior High and later at Holland Hall Preparatory School, Tulsa, OK. Before going to Holland Hall, she was ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church.

Joyce was the daughter of Dale and Reba Hardy, Pryor. She was born in Pryor on Aug. 1, 1951. She graduated from Pryor High School in 1969. She attended the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville and graduated with a BS degree in English and Social Studies in 1973. She came to Pryor Junior High as social studies teacher in 1975, and later taught English. In 1985 she became Middle School chaplain and began a four-year stint of teaching English at Holland Hall Preparatory School in Tulsa. Her ordination as a Deacon was at St. Martin of Tours Church in Pryor in August of that same year. Her Master of Education degree was conferred at Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, OK in 1989.

Joyce was eulogized by the Rev. Larry Benfield, Episcopal Bishop of Arkansas.

“Joyce found her calling as a deacon, and I will miss continuing to be inspired by her exemplary life of service,” he said. “What I will remember most about Joyce is that she was the best advocate for the poor of almost anyone I have met. The very people whom society often tends to hide or forget about—well, they were the people who were first and foremost in Joyce’s life. Few people have lived more fully the sort of life that Jesus held up, when he said, “. . . I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me’ “

During her time at Holland Hall, Joyce was described as a “political activist of the highest order”.

She was predeceased by her parents and a sister, Barbara Gayle Hardy.

Joyce began her service as Deacon as an assistant at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church,

Grove, OK. After her service at Holland Hall, she was assistant at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Sand Springs, OK, and at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Fayetteville, AR.

She became Deacon in 1992 at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, Little Rock, and served four years at Celebration Ministries and St. Frances House, Little Rock, two social outreach programs. While serving as Deacon at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Little Rock, she was elevated to the post of Archdeacon of the Diocese of Arkansas in 2001, a post she held for seven years.

In 2006, she was appointed Province VII Clergy Representative to the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church USA, New York, NY, and also was part of the Arkansas Death Penalty Moratorium Campaign in Little Rock. From 2005 until her death, she was Deacon at Christ Episcopal Church, Little Rock.

Her other involvements included Board of Episcopal Peace Fellowship, Association for Episcopal Deacons, Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation, Episcopal Church Women, and Episcopal Diocese of Arkansas Executive Council.

She will be remembered with an inscription on the memorial wall at Christ Church. Celebrations of her life will be held in Little Rock and Pryor at later dates. Memorials in her honor may be sent to Green Groceries Program in care of Christ Episcopal Church, 509 Scott Street, Little Rock, AR 72201. Joyce supported the program passionately. It partners with Arkansas Local Food Network to hand out fresh local foods to households in need and supports local farmers, too.

Her funeral service will be live streamed from Christ Episcopal Church on Saturday, May 30 at 1:00 p.m. Visit www.christchurchlr.org to connect by the church Facebook page or YouTube channel.

Arrangements by Little Rock Funeral Home, (501)224-2200.

Comments



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Linda Nair - May 30 at 04:53 PM



“ I was a sorority sister of Joyce's; in fact, I was her "big sister." She displayed a calm and thoughtful demeanor, with a refreshing streak of humor. Even in her 20's she showed a passion for others, a character trait that served her well in her professional life with the Episcopal Church. I enjoyed infrequent visits with her in Little Rock and always enjoyed our "catch ups." Heaven has gained a loyal follower of Christ and one who shared her faith on a daily basis. RIP, Joyce. I, and countless others, have loved you since the day we first met in the Theta house at the University of Arkansas.
- Brenda Scisson, Little Rock, Arkansas

Brenda Scisson - May 29 at 12:10 PM



“ I was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville with Joyce. Joyce was a year older than I . Joyce was a lovely lady. I remember when she was discerning a vocation as an Episcopal priest. Joyce will be missed!

Linda Kay White - May 22 at 01:41 AM



“ I am so very thankful & honored to be a Kappa Alpha Theta sister of Joyce Hardy at the University of Arkansas. Her legacy of compassion and service will last for generations. Rest In Peace my friend. I will never forget you.
Loyally,
Jeannette Berlau Falkner

Jeannette Falkner - May 21 at 08:01 PM



“ Prayers for Joyce’s family - I was blessed to have worked with her at the dept of human services and we became fast friends - she was a calm, caring person in what was frequently a fast paced and stressful environment. She was an incredible advocate for people in need and there was no limit to her compassion. I will miss her

Tammy Coney - May 20 at 11:32 PM



“ Only a few educators really stand out for me, and Ms. Hardy is one of them. She was my 8th Grade English teacher at Pryor Junior High and taught us the importance of literacy and books. She also gave us all the freedom and true expression to represent ourselves as individuals. She will always have a place in my heart along with my favorite things during that time in my life. My thoughts are with her entire family right now.

T Neftzger

Todd Neftzger - May 19 at 06:45 PM



“ Joyce was a respected colleague at Pryor Junior High. She had a playful personality that drew in students and faculty alike. She could be thought-provoking one minute and pure fun the next. Students know when the teacher is faking it. Joyce never did. Her knowledge was fact, her concern real. For years after she left I could still hear her in the classroom next door. And I am certain she echoes in the lives of most of us who knew her.

Jana Elliott - May 19 at 09:57 PM