



## Stanley Marc Sherrod

September 8, 2009

Sherrod, Rev. S. Marc, ThD, died peacefully at home surrounded by his family on September 8, 2009, after an extended illness. He was a beloved husband, father, son, brother, coach, friend, and minister of the Word and Sacrament. A son of the manse, he was born to the Reverend Burton and Betty Sherrod on April 5, 1958 in Lexington, Kentucky. Marc grew up with his five siblings in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. In 1982, Marc married his soul mate Melanie Buchanan on August 28, 1982, and together they cherished their four children—Caleb, Hannah, Jordan, and Eden. He graduated magna cum laude from Hampton-Sydney in Virginia, receiving the Phi Beta Kappa and Omicron Delta Kappa recognitions, among other honors. After working as a VISTA volunteer in Kansas City, he received an MDiv degree from Columbia Theological Seminary, and was ordained into the ministry of the Presbyterian Church USA in the spring of 1984. He later earned a Master's degree in Appalachian Studies from Appalachian State University, and a Doctorate of Theology from Harvard University. He served Presbyterian congregations in North Carolina, Virginia, Massachusetts, and Tennessee. Marc and his family moved to Kingston in 2001 to serve the loving community of Bethel Presbyterian Church; he was also an adjunct professor of religion at Maryville College in 2005-2006. His family, friends, and parishioners will remember Marc for his generous heart, scholarly mind, enlightening sermons, faithful witness, untiring patience, love, and gentleness, receptive thoughtfulness, humor and laughter, and passion for justice and peace. Marc was an

insatiable reader, avid coin collector, carpenter, and coach of the Roane County High School girl's tennis team. He is survived by his parents Betty and Burton of Sanford NC, wife Melanie, children Caleb, Hannah, Jordan, and Eden, siblings and their spouses Marty and Becky Sherrod, Anne and David Beal, David and Alice Sherrod, Nancy and Harold James, and Jonathan and Camille Sherrod. Melanie's parents Bucky and Patsy Buchanan, his sister-in-law Beth Buchanan, and her husband Bob Heath also survive him, along with eleven nieces and nephews. Marc's family greatly appreciates those who supported him throughout his journey, especially the Reverends Pat Harvey and Bill Shenk along with the generous congregation of Bethel Presbyterian Church and the Presbytery of East Tennessee for tirelessly caring for their pastor. Congregants from Kingston United Methodist Church and the Kingston Church of Christ also provided loving care and support, and Marc was grateful for the outstanding care of Dr. Michael Thompson and the many medical professionals who guided him during his illness. The family will greet friends in the gathering space of Bethel Presbyterian Church in Kingston, TN from 6 pm-8 pm Thursday September 10. A Service of Witness to the Resurrection will be Friday, September 11, at 10 am at Bethel Presbyterian Church with Reverends Pat Harvey and Anne McKee presiding. Marc's ashes will be returned to the earth Friday September 11 at 5 pm at Green Spring Presbyterian Church in Abingdon, Virginia. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that any memorial gifts be made to Bethel Presbyterian Church and be designated to either the Bethel Building Fund or Grace School in Kenya. Kyker Funeral Home in Kingston in charge of arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

LS

“ Dearly to the Sherrod Family, I cannot express my deepest sympathies to you all. I had the privilege of working for Marc Sherrod at the Newton Presbyterian Church in Newton MA in the late 1990's. I highly respected and admired him as the interim pastor of the church. He was very well liked and he was one of the nicest people I ever had the privilege and honor of working for. I am deeply saddened and shocked knowing he has passed and know he loved his family and congregation infinitely. He was a true inspiration wherever he went and I will always remember him with his warm smile and deep love for his family, church and congregation. I will pray for you all and keep you in my heart. Marc, you will never be forgotten and I am thankful I had the opportunity to work for such an honorable and respectful person.  
Lin Sibulkin, Mansfield MA

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**Lin Sibulkin** - November 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Marc demonstrated inspiration, humor, intellect, and love. His willingness to engage devotion, spirit, community, and justice were ever-present. Our hearts are with his family.  
Todd, Bryan and Emma Jones, Mary Helen  
Buena Vista, Virginia

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**Mary Helen Brainard** - October 30, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ It was my blessing to have Marc in my high school choral class. Even then it was obvious that he possessed sterling character and had a keen and inquiring intellect. Marc added graciousness and kindness to our class endeavors. He was never too busy to help someone else, and he did so in a manner that caused the recipient of his aid to feel Marc was honored to do so. And, probably Marc did feel that way. He was that kind of person. Though his years were not long, he filled them with more achievement, generosity, love, and caring than most of us do in twice that amount of time. He always was a witness for His Lord whom he loved dearly. When we presented the Sound of Music, he was Georg Von Trapp. He will remain in my memory as the scion of that aristocratic Austrian family, a man who chose moral character, ethical principles, and honor over expediency. In Marc's case it was not just good casting, it was tailor-made for the upright and virtuous young man he was and the respected and admired man he became. My sympathy and love to all his family and friends.

Jo Ann C. Bowman  
1809 Lord Ashley Dr.  
Sanford, NC 27330

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**Jo Ann Bowman** - October 19, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Marc was truly an amazing person as he impacted all who knew him. We were deeply honored to work and get to know him during the renovation of Bethel Church. He was an inspiration to all who meant him.

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**Dick and Nancy Maynard** - September 13, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LP

“ Dear Sherrod Family,  
I was shocked and saddened whenever my mother called to tell me of Marc's untimely passing. I knew him from the 7th grade through high school. He will always have a special place in my heart. He was funny, thoughtful and intelligent. He obviously had a loving family and firm foundation while growing up, which enabled him to succeed in all of his many endeavors. I am sure that he passed this legacy on to his children. I wish you all peace and comfort which God will provide in the days ahead. You are in my prayers.

With Sincere Sympathy and Love,

Linda (Spivey) Phelps, Class of '76  
Asheville, NC

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**Linda Phelps** - September 11, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ Joe and I are sorry to hear for your loss. Please know we're keeping you all in our prayers and thoughts. I have so many fond childhood memories out at Patsy's and Buchy's, and I always seem to visualize Mark in those memories quietly reading a book and speaking with such kindness. He raised a beautiful family, and I know all of you have his gifts enstilled within you.

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**Kimberly Bundy** - September 10, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ We are so sorry to hear of Marc's passing. We will never forget all of the kindness he has shown us; especially, last year when Sabrina was in and out of the hospital having several operations. Bethel will not be the same, but we are both glad he was able to touch our lives.

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**Sabrina and Roy Montgomery** - September 10, 2009 at 12:00 AM

WM

“ *To the Sherrod Family,  
I am so sorry to hear about Marc--My prayers go out to all of his family and to everyone whose lives he touched. Obviously he has touched so many people throughout his career and life with his Spiritual guidance.*

*Though I had lost touch with Marc after graduation, thinking about him brings back so many great memories. He led by example, always studious and reading, but always available to lend a hand to help someone, be it a hand to move boxes, a few minutes to throw a frisbee at the Whitehouse Dorm, or to talk about issues that were troubling the students at that time. He was one of the "Good Ones" and I will always thank God that I had the privilege of knowing Marc (and his younger brother). May God's Love and comfort be with all of you.*

*William Miles, Hampden-Sydney, '80*

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**William Miles** - September 10, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AG

“ *Dear Sherrod Family,  
My condolences to you at this difficult time. In high school, Marc was very smart , kind and had a good sense of humor. He was liked by everyone. As another classmate remembering Marc said, "Marc was truly one of the good guys." What a wonderful and rich life he had. May the memories of this fine man comfort you and God's love keep you and guide you.*

*With Sympathy,  
April Gunter  
high school classmate-Sanford, North Carolina*

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**April Gunter** - September 09, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TW

“ *Dear Sherrod Family,*

*I am so sorry about Marc...He lived his life as a wonderful example for us all and will be missed by all that knew him... You all are in my thoughts and prayers and I know that God will bless you all with the strength you need to get thru this very difficult time and in the days ahead...*

*With Heartfelt Sympathy, Terri Wallace (hs classmate)*

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**Terri Wallace** - September 09, 2009 at 12:00 AM