

Celebrating the Life of



Valerie N. Phillips

March 7, 1955—December 18, 2011

January 21, 2012

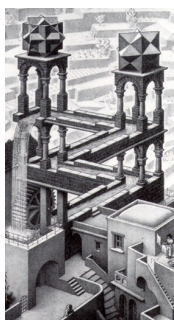
5 p.m.

Pioneer Memorial Church

Bill Knott and Dwight K. Nelson, Officiating

Donations may be made to the Valerie Phillips Scholarship Fund at Andrews University.
Online donations may be made at www.andrews.edu/services/development/.

Life Sketch of Valerie N. Phillips



Waterfall (M.C. Escher)

It hardly seems possible to sketch the life of someone as unique and gifted as Valerie Phillips, a life brimming with almost boundless, child-like joy. But if it were, the whimsical pen of artist M.C. Escher might suffice. Valerie loved art, including the optical illusions of Escher. His prints hung on her office wall. Escher's playfulness with perspective illustrates the secret behind Valerie's laughter and a lesson which she often shared with others: there's always more than one way to look at things, and the joy in life comes from tilting your head just right.

Each year, Valerie participated in a Lamson Hall tradition of sharing life stories. In 2005 she wrote, "I find that each year's telling has a slightly different slant. Your life's events are truth, but how you interpret those events changes with time and circumstance. Someday, the things that make you cringe now will be told without fear, and the small things you hardly notice today will bring back a glow of joy." And it was the joy on any given day with Valerie that came bursting forth.

Valerie was born on March 7, 1955, in Stoneham, Massachusetts, to her parents Mervin and Elizabeth Phillips. The family soon moved to Queens, New York, where she began her schooling in Jackson Heights and a singing career that spanned her daily walk to the subway station.

While living in a large apartment complex in Queens, Valerie was introduced to the cultural richness she would later cherish at Andrews. Behind every apartment door was someone of another racial or ethnic group. As she later recalled, "We learned that our neighbors were all different and all worth knowing. In this community of struggling people, we helped each other."

The family later moved to a house in Rochester, New York, where Valerie attended Culver School through the tenth grade. That summer, she headed off to sell religious books door-to-door. "For the first time I was in my element," she recalled. "I did terribly at sales, but I enjoyed record numbers of prayers, had great stories to recount and wrote—I am told—fascinating weekly sales reports." She continued her high schooling at Union Springs Academy, where she landed her first position as a resident assistant and graduated in 1972.



To My Dear Friends

All too seldom do we stop to see afresh
to notice the gifts and beauty
with which our lives are blessed
And chiefest among these unseen blessings,
our friends

Those with whom we work or live or share
each day or year
but without whom our lives would be
in some way diminished
The windows to our own souls less clear.

Some of my dearest friends
I mostly "see" by phone or mail,
or even at committees,
or hurried shopping trips
But each has made windows in my life
that enable me to be and to see.

You are such a friend
Your laughter lifts me,
Your insight instructs me
Your compassion compels me,
Your devotion re-dedicates me.

Thank you for being my friend.

—by Valerie Phillips



Valerie—The Dean and Minister

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| Tribute | Carol Burtack Former Lamson Hall Student Staff |
| Tribute | Donald Murray Former Andrews Dean of Men |
| Musical Selection | Vivian Rivera Cook Former Andrews Residence Hall Dean Lisa Hamblin Jardine Former Lamson Hall Student Staff Wanda Vaz Swope Former Andrews Residence Hall Dean “Press On” |
| Prayer of Gratitude and Dedication | Susan Zork Professor, Former Residence Hall Dean and Classmate |
| Musical Refrain..... | Former and Current Lamson Staff “Sister Let Me Be Your Servant” |
| Musical Selection..... | University Singers “We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace” |
| Homily | Dwight K. Nelson Senior Pastor, Pioneer Memorial Church and Friend |
| Hymn | Stephen Zork “For All the Saints” st. 1-3, 5 of #421 |
| Closing Prayer..... | Timothy Nixon Chaplain, Andrews University |
| Postlude | Kenneth Logan |



After taking a year off to earn tuition, Valerie studied behavioral science, religion and English at Atlantic Union College. She was one of those students who did it all, including two summer stints in a traveling singing group. She also volunteered as an aide at Worcester Memorial Hospital. In 1978, one day after obtaining her Bachelor of Arts, she was hired as a hospital chaplain at Battle Creek Sanitarium Hospital.

Two years later, Arlene Friestad, then dean of women at Lamson Hall, invited Valerie to speak at the first annual Womanhood Week at Andrews University. Dean Friestad was so impressed by Valerie that she invited her to join the residence hall staff. In 1980 Valerie became assistant dean of women and later associate dean in 1986. In August of 2011, Valerie joined a newly formed team at University Towers as assistant to the dean. In total, Dean Phillips dedicated 31 years of her professional career to Andrews University. She was known for her warm and compassionate spirit, her quick wit and exceptional wisdom, and her deep love for students.

Valerie not only ministered to the students in her care at Andrews, she shared reflections and insights gained from her experiences as a regular columnist for the *Adventist Review*.

Reflecting on her journey, Valerie once said, “You can’t often control the circumstances of life, but you can choose how to react to them. You need to choose joy. And I feel today that I’ve experienced more joy—by choice, always by choice—than pain. I hope I’ve made a difference in a few lives and will continue to do so as long as God gives me breath.”

Valerie passed away in her home on December 18, 2011. She was 56-years-old. She was preceded in death by her parents, Mervin and Elizabeth Phillips. Left to mourn her sudden passing are two sisters, Kathleen Phillips and Karen and Michael Carey; her brother, Kevin and Maria Phillips; three nephews, Michael, Kyle and Joseph; her aunt, Georgia Pfister; and a host of other family and friends.

Today we can say, along with thousands of young residents over the years, that Valerie’s desire to make a difference was, indeed, realized. She not only chose joy but shared that generously with others. As the apostle Paul says, “Now we see through a glass, darkly, but *then* face to face” (1 Cor. 13:12). One day soon, Valerie will see clearly what an impact her life has made for eternity. And then face to face, with joy, we can thank her once again.

**Celebrating the Life
of
Valerie N. Phillips**

Prelude..... Kenneth Logan
Professor of Music

Opening Hymn Stephen Zork
Associate Professor of Music and Classmate
“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”
#334

Opening Prayer Jack Mentges
Former Andrews Residence Hall Dean

The Occasion..... Niels-Erik Andreasen
President, Andrews University

Acknowledgments Frances Faehner
Vice President for Student Life, Andrews University
Jennifer Burrill, Spencer Carter and David Iwasa
Residence Hall Directors, Andrews University

Life Sketch Gwendolyn Bourne
Classmate and Friend

Valerie—The Arts and Literature She Loved and Created

Scripture Sue Schwab
Andrews Staff and Friend
*“The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you;
He will never leave you nor forsake you.
Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”
Deuteronomy 31:8, NIV*

Musical Selection..... University Singers
Music by George Frideric Handel
“Surely He Hath Borne Our Grievs”

Poetry Reading Solomon McCullum
Former Andrews Residence Hall Dean
“The Grandeur of God”
by Gerard Hopkins

Reading Brady Knott
Student Employee and Friend
“Dust Dancing”
by Valerie Phillips

Poetry Reading Ashleigh Walton
Student
“It Was Worth the Wait”
by Valerie Phillips

Musical Selection University Singers
Stephen Zork, Director
Music by Dan Forrest
“A Prayer Before Singing”
*“...where with Thy choir of saints forevermore,
I shall be made Thy music.”
Lyrics by John Donne*

Poetry Reading Andrea Luxton
Provost, Andrews University
“Death, be not proud”
by John Donne

Homily Bill Knott
Editor, *Adventist Review*
and Friend

Valerie—The Friend and Sister

Tribute Rhonda Peak
Friend
Read by Sheryl Calhoun

Tribute Family

Musical Selection Jim Beck
Friend
Music by Alma Bazel Androzzo
“If I Can Help Somebody”

Valerie—The Laughter

Remember When José Bourget
Chaplain, Andrews University