



Garland Bruce

February 13, 1930 - July 9, 2012

Bluefield, WV - Garland P. Bruce went to be with the Lord on July 9, 2012, surrounded by his family at his home in Bluefield, WV. He was 82. Musician, chef, and gracious host, Garland was a wry-witted, spontaneous entertainer whose antics, jokes and extroverted good humor brought joy to the world all his earthly life. Born on February 13, 1930 in Bluefield, WV, he was the son of the late John Lee and Belle Bruce of Bastian, VA. He was preceded in death by his brother John and sister Maxine Bruce Curry. He attended Bland County schools, and graduated from Bland County High School and from McLains Business College. He was employed for more than 30 years with Pocahontas Land Company, a division of Norfolk-Southern Railroad. Garland is best known as a dedicated, accomplished musician. In his youth, he played little church organs and pianos up and down Wolf Creek-and continued to be a guest organist at area churches and retirement homes all his life. Both choir director and organist, he was the Minister of Music at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Bluefield for over 30 years; joining the church in 1959. Along with Bud Gentry and Bob Brannon, Garland appeared on the March of Dimes Telethon on WHIS, now WVVA TV. The group played at venues throughout the area, and were always favorites on New Years Eve. Garland effortlessly played special requests without sheet music, played and acted in Summit Theater productions, and was the musical heart of countless special occasions. An avid fisherman, he pulled many a prize bass out of Bland County creeks. Garland gave up bachelorhood and married Mary Josephine

Preston Belcher, who survives him. They were happily married 45 years. Also surviving are four stepchildren: Jane Belcher Dobson and husband Gerald V. Dobson II of Munfordville, KY; Charlie Belcher and wife Jayne of Suwannee, GA; Jay Belcher and wife Sharon of Bluefield, WV; and Preston Belcher and wife Laura of Chesapeake, VA. Grandchildren include Garland and Jo's beloved grand-daughter they raised together, Katherine Belcher Tierney and husband Matthew Peyton Tierney of Lexington, KY; Paige M. Belcher of Bluefield, WV, Charles Edwin Belcher III, of Vienna, Maryland; Samuel Patrick Dobson of Munfordville, KY; Gerald V. Dobson III and wife Tabatha of Munfordville, KY; and Robert Preston Belcher of Chesapeake, VA. He is also survived by four great-grandsons: Charles Matthew Scott Tierney II, Jakob Alexander Maynard, Lucas Anthony Maynard, and Xander James Schaffer, and special caregivers and Hospice for their loving care. A memorial service to honor his life will be at Westminster Presbyterian Church at 11:00 AM, Thursday July 12, 2012 with Pastor Jonathan Rockness officiating. Although no one loved flowers and gardening more than Garland, the family requests that any memorial gifts go to the Union Mission or to Bible In The Schools. Those wishing to share memories or condolence messages with the family may do so by visiting www.MercerFuneralHome.com Mercer Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting the Bruce family.

Tribute Wall



“ *Garland Bruce*

October 05, 2023 at 06:08 PM



“ *I was sorry to hear of Garland's passing, but I know he is making beautiful music in heaven, just as he did here on earth. Garland came to Westminster the year I went off to college, but he was a friend of our family for many years. He and daddy were always kidding around, especially at coffee time on Sundays. Garland and I had much in common -- our love for music and our ability to play the piano and organ. He was always so friendly and witty, and he was a wonderful dad to the Belcher children. My condolences to you -- we all will miss him.*

Joan Anderson Murray - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM



“ *May you find comfort in the knowledge that your loved one has returned home to the Lord. With deepest sympathy and prayers, Mrs. Raines, Former Third Grade Teacher, Memorial Elementary School*

Judith Raines - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

CE

“ Jo - I was so sorry to hear of Garland's passing but I think there is much celebration in heaven with the playing of trumpets, the harp and lyre, the strings and flute, and the clash of cymbals. They needed Garland to accompany on the organ. He was such a blessing to countless people with not only his music but with his sweet personality. I think he truly had not only this gift he so selflessly shared but also the rare gift of hospitality. I was fortunate one evening to experience this in your home and can to this day recall the warmth I felt. May our God comfort your heart with the assurance that Garland's life was a life well lived.

Carol Bailey Eubank - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

JS

“ I am deeply sorry for your loss. Know that my prayers are with your family during this sad time.

Jeannie Soos - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

GL

“ dear jo my beautiful memories of garland include my moms face when she would wake up and find new plants in the yard---as if the garden fairy had appeared during the night and made a flower deposit. so truly garland so funny- so sweet- and so special - he always made me feel better, no matter what!!!he will be missed by so many that loved and admired him. i can see garland and mom now laughing and watching over us. love georgia

georgia barnett levis - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

VC

“ Dear Jo, Nancy and I were saddend to learn of Bruce's passing. We remember our time in Bluefield with love and our association with Bruce and Westminster Church. May you find peace in your wonderful memories with Garland.

Vernon and Nancy Cherrix - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

GS

“ Can't wait to sing alto in his choir when I get to heaven. Graydon will be in the congregation clapping his hands. He gave so much through his music and talents at Westminster and he blessed our lives.

Graydon and Judy Spivey - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

KM

“ Deepest sympathies for the family. I will have you all in my prayers. I remember even as a young child, when playing with my dear friend Katherine, realizing what a special, full of personality grand dad Katherine had. I know he will be deeply missed by his family and everyone in bluefield.
Kelly Rogers mann

Kelly Rogers Mann - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

SF

“ We want to express our deepest sympathy for Jo and Garland's family. Garland was a very special person, and will be sorely missed.....

Susan and Dean and family - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM