

The Passing of Saints

Dear Friends,

I have just received word that Laura Lynn Porter passed away late last night. Laura Lynn, who has always been a spark of joyful enthusiasm in the church, has been fighting a vicious recurrence of cancer that ultimately took hold of her body. I am grateful that when I visited with her on Sunday, she was conscious, her usual gracious self, and was at complete peace with dying. We were able to share some laughter, words of love and hope, and prayed together. Please hold her daughter, Ashley, in your prayers.

There is no word yet on if or when there will be a memorial service. Of course, Laura Lynn served as the kitchen host for countless memorial services at the church. When we spoke, I assured her that we would do our best to carry on this ministry of hospitality on her behalf (and take good care of the kitchen!).

As we shared in worship last month, we also lost Dee Steele to COVID in late January. Dee was another one of the "saints" of the church, always sharing her passion for education with young people and outreach to the community. Dee had been a cornerstone and a driving force behind our Loaves and Fishes

program, and so many other service projects for decades. Jerry has said that he would like to do an in-person memorial service for her when it is safe to do so.

We give thanks for the life, love, light and joy that these two saints brought to our lives and to the ministries of Riviera.

Absent from the body; and present with the Lord.

Grace and peace with you

Pastor Amy