



## Paul Houghton Harbach Jr.

July 16, 1941 - January 22, 2024

Reverend Paul Houghton Harbach, Jr. went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Monday, January 22nd, 2024. He was born on July 16, 1941, in Germantown, PA to Paul and Jean Kalinowski Harbach. He finished high school at Delaware County Christian School, Newton Square, PA. He met Barbara Ferguson, his wife of over 58 years, and they were married in Bryn Mawr, PA on November 25th, 1965.

Paul heard the calling from his Lord and Savior to serve Him and was ordained as a pastor in the American Baptist denomination in January 1969 at the 1st Baptist Church in Magnolia, NJ. He graduated from Theological Seminary of the Reformed Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, PA (Master of Divinity), Sterling College in Kansas (Bachelor of Arts), and Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, PA (Master of Divinity).

Paul served as the senior pastor at American Baptist churches in Magnolia, NJ (1966-73), Ellwood City, PA (1973-83), Cincinnati, OH (1983-89), and Somerville, NJ (1989-2003). He led youth group backcountry canoe trips and traveled on mission trips to Central America, Haiti, and Russia. Above all else, Paul's passion was helping and counseling people wherever he was, even the weeks preceding his death.

Paul retired in 2003 and moved to Oley, PA. In 2013, they moved to Myrtle

Beach, SC. Paul enjoyed the outdoors, fishing, stained glass, golfing, shooting billiards, and cultivating orchids. He was president of the Myrtle Beach Orchid Society for 5 years.

Paul is survived by his wife, Barbara; son, Drew Harbach (Sharon); daughter, Jennifer Harbach; and four grandchildren (Evan, Emily, Heather, and A.J. Harbach); and his sisters and brother: Carol Harbach, Lil (Richard) Nelson, and David Harbach.

Visitation with a Celebration of Life service will be held at 2pm Monday January 29th at 1st Presbyterian Church, 3810 Robert Grissom Parkway in Myrtle Beach, SC. Private grave site service for the family is planned for Hillcrest Cemetery, Conway, SC.

Memorials given in lieu of flowers:

Haiti Missions

Eglise Baptist de Terrier Rouge

c/o Rev Apollon Noel

Unit 1054 HHH

3170 Airmans Dr

Ft Pierce, FL 34946

Russia Missions

171 Second Street Pike

Churchville, PA 18966

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Hillcrest Cemetery

1000 Hwy 544  
Conway, SC 29526  
(843) 347-4909  
<https://www.hillcrestcemetery.com/>

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JAN **29**. 2:00 PM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church of Myrtle Beach  
3810 Robert M Grissom Pkwy  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577-6422  
(843) 448-4496

# Tribute Wall

DB

“ Why? Did you ever wonder why, Everyone must die?; Why tragedy must strike, Like a thief in the night; Why it must rob us of our Precious life?, No matter if it's a child, a husband or wife; Death has no hour, so they say, It comes night or day; Why can't death be beautiful?, Why does it have to be so awful?; Why can't death be planned?, Why does it jump up and grab our hand?; Why can't it give us a warning?, To prepare those who will be mourning; Why does it leave such an impression on our mind?, Why can't it be something we can put behind?; Death is something I know nothing of, I guess it's a calling from Above; Maybe someday, I'll know the answer Why, Just like all the others, when it's my turn to die! Written by: Cousin Dotsy Pirrone Spinosi Bailey

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**Dorothy Bailey** - February 09, 2024 at 09:46 AM

DB

“ A Letter To The Lord, Dear Lord, Could You please, help me to see, That what You did was best for my Daddy; You took him from a world of pain and misery, And Finally set him free; It was hard to sit idly by, And watch him slowly die; But there wasn't anything I could do, But place my trust in You; I loved him more than words could say, I loved him in a special way; I miss seeing him in his favorite chair, I miss the way we used to share; You see, he meant everything to me, Now that he's gone, I feel so empty; Oh please, help me carry my cross, It's gotten so heavy since his loss; I know death is something we all must face, But it's hard to accept with dignity and grace; I guess the only thing left to do is pray, That we'll be reunited again someday; So dear Lord. please help me to see, That what You did, was best for my Daddy! Written by: Cousin Dotsy Pirrone Spinosi Bailey

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**Dorothy Bailey** - February 09, 2024 at 09:24 AM

DB

“ Dear Family, Friends & Loved Ones, I know these last few months have been very trying, But that was God's way to prepare you for my dying; But please be happy for me, Because I'm in Heaven, with God you see; What happened was part of God's plan, And He reached down and grabbed my hand; I reached up and held Him tight, For my miraculous flight; So now in Heaven I will wait, Until you come through the Golden Gate; So please don't cry for me, Because this was the end of my journey; I'm no longer out there on the roam, I'm finally, Safely Home! Love, Paul Written by: Cousin Dotsy Pirrone Spinosi Bailey

Dorothy Bailey - February 09, 2024 at 09:08 AM

DB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Dorothy Bailey - February 09, 2024 at 08:51 AM

DB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Dorothy Bailey - February 09, 2024 at 08:48 AM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Dorothy Bailey - February 09, 2024 at 08:47 AM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Dorothy Bailey - February 08, 2024 at 12:16 PM

DB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Dorothy Bailey - February 08, 2024 at 12:13 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Dorothy Bailey** - February 08, 2024 at 12:12 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Dorothy Bailey** - February 08, 2024 at 12:09 PM

DB

“ *Rest in Peace, Reverend Paul Houghton Harbach, Jr., and may God give your friends & family, the strength they need, to go on living their lives without you, God Bless! Love, Cousin Dotsy Pirrone Spinosi Bailey*

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**Dorothy Bailey** - February 08, 2024 at 12:02 PM

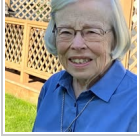
DB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Dorothy Bailey** - February 08, 2024 at 12:01 PM



“ We appreciate being able to attend the service virtually and being able to feel a part of the celebration of a life well lived. Thanks, Bill and Ruth Anne Offutt  
*PS I also value memories of Paul among the 12 members of the class of 1959 at DCCS..... rao*

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**Bill Offutt** - January 29, 2024 at 03:20 PM

BO

“ Paul was not just a wonderful pastor, but a dear friend and surprisingly good handyman. :) From replacing a faucet to patching drywall, he was happy to help and skilled. Always striving to make things better for his friends and congregation. He also shared the gift of hospitality with his wife Barb. They opened their home and family, especially at Easter and other holidays, to members of their congregation who were alone to make their holidays special and provide family time. While we are sad at our loss, we are blessed to have known him. We rejoice in the certainty that Paul is home and hearing "Well done good and faithful servant". Sending hugs and love, Bobbie Tracy

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**BobbieTracy** - January 28, 2024 at 07:09 PM



Thank you Bobbie for your “spot on words” of remembrance!

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**Drew Harbach** - January 28, 2024 at 11:56 PM

PB

“ Paul was the first person to sit down and talk to me when we arrived in Myrtle Beach. He really helped me to feel accepted by the community and helped me to settle. It had been difficult for me. What a caring and wonderful man. Sending best wishes and prayers for Barb and the rest of Paul's family.

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**Pippa Bellis** - January 28, 2024 at 09:30 AM

VS

“ Jack and I met Paul a few days after he and Barb moved in (eleven years ago?!). He came right up to the front porch and extended his hand. I thought to myself, that's the way to do it, that's the way to be a good neighbor! He led by example and I learned a lot from watching his actions through the years. A while ago, when he and Barb heard that I had fractured my arm, they appeared, unannounced, at our front door holding a lasagna, salad and bread. They didn't ask what they could do for us, they just acted on it. We will miss him greatly. (Especially in our spirited -- though sometimes just plain silly -- Water Aerobics classes.)

Valerie Simpkins & Jack Carroll

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Valerie Simpkins - January 26, 2024 at 04:18 PM

PT

“ Perla and Tito extend Our Condolences to Paul's demise. We met Paul at the North Jersey Orchid Society and formed a friendship based on our passion and love for raising and collecting orchids. Our's as a business/hobby and Paul as a hobby. Paul and Barbara were helpful when we were doing the Philadelphia Flower Show as a vendor. We had fun as we meet new and old customers and some interesting characters. Even though it was a flower show, we manage to sneak in some of the Russian matryoshka nesting dolls as part of Paul's fundraising effort to help the Russian mission. Sooner or later since we are not getting any younger, we will be meeting in the afterlife.

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Perla and Tito - January 26, 2024 at 11:17 AM

DD

“ Barb, I am so sorry for your loss. Paul was an amazing man. I met him here a Lakeside Crossing and I will always remember how much he cared about the people around him. He was here for me when my wife passed. He was always visiting the sick in their homes and the hospitals. I played billiards and golf with him. I enjoyed many spiritual conversations and he was always there to help me with the Veterans Ceremonies. I never met a man who showed more kindness and mercy to everyone he came in contact with. I will miss his friendship and fellowship, but I know he is with the lord. Rest in peace my friend and enjoy your eternal life. This world could use a million Paul Harbachs.

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**David A Duck** - January 25, 2024 at 10:39 PM

JD

“ Paul was our pastor when our family lived in Somerville , New Jersey. My oldest son, Carl, accepted Jesus as his Savior under Paul's teaching and preaching. We also played golf with him, went out eating with him and Barbara. Had them in our home for a meal. Love them both.

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**Joyce Densford** - January 25, 2024 at 05:37 PM

DD

“ I met Paul around 2014. We met playing pool as well as golfing once a week. Paul was always there with a smile on his face and he never seemed to get ruffled. May he rest in peace. God bless my friend!

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**Dan Dallaire** - January 25, 2024 at 05:22 PM

OK

“ *Our Love: Bob, Denise and Mike, Karen purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Paul Houghton Harbach Jr..*



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**Our Love: Bob, Denise and Mike, Karen** - January 25, 2024 at 04:43 PM

TL

“ *What a wonderful life experience to have a special person like Paul appear in our lives, affecting us in a positive, loving way. He had such a warm and caring heart which radiated a comforting feeling to those hurting and grieving. He appeared out of seemingly nowhere to come to the aid of a neighbor or a stranger, rendering whatever help was needed. He could be seen watching the birds frolicking among the pines and could name them as well. The care of plants, even those that appeared doomed, he strived to nurse them back to a healthy living plant. Even at the end of life, Paul tried to reach out his hand and express a smile for a precious moment to let us know he was on his way to be with his Lord and Savior. We'll miss Paul, we must grieve, keeping in mind what he meant to us and try to pass the kindness and love onto others. We'll see you again one day! Thomas & Diana Lorenz*

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**Thomas Lorenz** - January 25, 2024 at 11:54 AM

SB

“ *Barbara, Liz & I present our condolences. Big loss to all of us! What a great picture of Paul. That's how we all remember him and his heartfelft laugh. We also remember what a great friend he was. See you Monday.*

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**samih baalbaki** - January 24, 2024 at 02:12 PM

RC

*Rest in peace*

**R COGLIANO** - January 25, 2024 at 05:27 PM

RO

“*Paul lived with us (the Norm & Wynn Oakley family) while serving as our youth minister. He and I actually shared a bed together since I had a double bed in my room. We would pick Paul up at the Newark, NJ train station every week. I was very young then and admittedly gave him a hard time, but he handled everything easily. He was the greatest youth minister we ever had and I loved Paul as a brother. Since I know Paul is now with our Lord and Savior I know he is happy to be so close to Him. I, of course, feel for Barb, Drew and Jennifer, but they know where Paul is now and can rejoice in that knowledge. I’ve been praying for Barb and the kids as I know they miss his presence deeply. But again he is with his Lord and Savior and is now collecting his crowns for a life well lived. I look forward to seeing him again when I make that final trip to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Thank you Lord for letting me know and love Paul for the last 60 or so years.*



**Robert Oakley** - January 23, 2024 at 10:00 PM



“ I’m sentimentally remembering Paul and Barb coming to Rockford IL to visit Gary’s new church assignment after we left the east coast. Paul was so kind in that east coast community and sent Gary such a nice welcome letter! Fast forward, Amidst many things when they visited us in Rockford, We talked about the Russian doll ministry they were involved in and got to participate in a small way. Over the years I’ve treasured the annual update to see the travels you guys made etc. I love orchids like Paul and was happy to get to lunch with you guys years ago in Pennsylvania when we visited other friends there. . I will miss knowing you’re together Barb but Jesus is our husband now. I’m available to you when you are ready for a conversation in a few weeks or months. Gary and Paul are now together so between all family and friends they will also get meet again. I hope this gives you a bit of peace.  
With love, Carol

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**Carol Rothwell** - January 23, 2024 at 06:09 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Paul Houghton Harbach Jr..



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January 23, 2024 at 05:02 PM