



## Dr. R. Wharton Gaul

November 29, 2013

R. Wharton Gaul, 1927-2013

Rufus Wharton Gaul, M.D., beloved father, husband and friend, died November 29th , 2013, after a brief illness.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 56 years, Ruth Whalen Gaul. Wharton was born in Charlotte, NC, August 21, 1927, to John Stuart Gaul, M.D. and Catherine Small Gaul.

He attended Charlotte's Central High School and graduated from the Virginia Episcopal School in 1945, after which he joined the U.S. Navy as a medical corpsman. In 1946, he entered the pre-med program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and took his medical degree at the University of Pennsylvania, specializing, like his father and brother, in orthopedic surgery.

He married Ruth in 1952 and they lived in Chapel Hill and Gastonia, NC during his internship and residence. They moved to Charlotte in 1957, where he joined his father and brother, Dr. John Stuart Gaul, Jr. to form a practice that grew to become the Gaul Orthopedic Group. Wharton and his brother helped staff a Lenoir, NC clinic for children with orthopedic problems, founded by their father, Dr. J. S. Gaul, Sr. All children were treated regardless of ability to pay.

Wharton was active at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, where he served on the vestry and taught Sunday School. He was also actively involved in St. Christopher's Episcopal Church.

Wharton and Ruth retired to Murrells Inlet in 1986 where they became active in the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, and where Wharton was an ardent advocate of help for troubled children, through his support of Help 4 Kids, and as Chairman of the Board of the Waccamaw Youth Center for three years, and through individual mentoring.

He is survived by his children, Ruth Gaul Schliessmann and Larry Schliessmann, Rufus Wharton Gaul, Jr. and Lisa Bowers Gaul; his grandchildren, Jessamine Belle Gaul, Samuel Wharton Gaul, and Matthew Grey Gaul; and his step-grandchildren, Clarissa Schliessmann and Aseia Schliessmann.

Services will be held at the Church of the Resurrection, 8901 Hwy 17 Bypass South, Surfside Beach, SC 29575, at 11 AM on Thursday, December 5, 2013.

Memorials may be made to The Church of the Resurrection; Help 4 Kids ([help4kidssc.org](http://help4kidssc.org)); or the Waccamaw Youth Center (PO Box 329, Conway, SC 29528).

Sign an on line guestbook at [www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com/obituaries](http://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com/obituaries)

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

# Tribute Wall

PH

“ I did not know of Dr. Gaul's passing until today. I served on the Board of Waccamaw Youth Center with him many years ago.....we and many others worked closely to make the dream of "a place to call home" a reality here in Horry County. It was through Dr. Gaul's commitment that it truly did happen. He was such a gentleman, and such a kind compassionate person! For many years he sent me a birthday card...usually a funny card. I always looked forward to his cards! I was also honored to have met Mrs. Gaul on some occasions and I remember that she collected post cards and Dr. Gaul collected pictures of funny signs. I sent him one once. I am truly saddened to hear of his passing. He was truly a wonderful person who made the world a better place! God bless you all.

Patty Hendrick - December 17, 2013 at 08:41 PM

GF

Thank you so much for your kind words and memories of our father/grandfather! We were truly blessed to have him and Ruth as our family. Again, thank you, your comments have brightened our day.

Gaul Family - January 01, 2014 at 08:56 AM

LP

“ We just recently heard of your loss. We were so saddened to hear about Wharton's passing. You will be in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. May God give you His peace and strength when you need it most. We thought so much of both Wharton and Ruth and have many fond memories of both.

Lisa and Charlie Parrish

Lisa Parrish - December 12, 2013 at 11:29 PM

GF

*We do appreciate your prayers and sympathy! It has been a hard Christmas season to get through. We have been so deeply blessed to have such wonderful parents/grandparents. Thank you again, as your words have been a comfort.*

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**Gaul Family** - January 01, 2014 at 08:58 AM

AB

“*I'm so sorry for your loss. Please accept my deepest sympathy. May you find comfort from your memories, as well as God's word the bible. Why do people we love die? Romans 5:12 says: "That is why, just as through one man (Adam) sin entered into the world and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men because they had all sinned." How loving of God to promise what is found at Revelation 21:4 which says, "And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away."*

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**A. Bell** - December 12, 2013 at 02:57 PM

MA

“*Ruth, Larry and family,  
Dr. Gaul had such a wonderful smile and always a little joke when he stopped by the post office. Enjoyed seeing him everyday. He will be missed by many!!  
I am so sorry for your loss!*

*Martha Culler*

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**Martha** - December 07, 2013 at 09:24 AM

LG

*Thanks so much for your kind words. The post office visit was definitely an important part of his day. The Gaul and Schliessmanns*

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**Lisa and Rusty Gaul** - December 07, 2013 at 05:48 PM



“ I was so very lucky to have been a part of Wharton's family. The Gaul's are such loving and kind hearted people. It truly is a privelege. Wharton will always be in my heart and memories and i am grateful that i was able to share part of my life with him and his family. Rest in peace, Wharton you will always be loved and never forgotten.  
Love, Aseia

Aseia Schliessman - December 06, 2013 at 07:06 PM



Thank you Aseia. We all have so many important memories. We are sending love your way! Take Care. The Gauls and your folks

Lisa and Rusty Gaul - December 07, 2013 at 05:49 PM



“ Dear Ruth/Mom,  
  
I'm so sorry for the loss of your father. Wharton was such a great person with a very kind heart. I miss him dearly and will never forget out holiday and wed night dinners. I love him very much, what an amazing step grandpa. My thoughts are with you and your family. Love you all very much.

Clarissa.

Clarissa Schliessman - December 05, 2013 at 07:23 PM



Thanks Clarissa. We all have so many memories that we will cherish. We are sending love your way! All the Gauls and your folks.

Lisa and Rusty Gaul - December 07, 2013 at 05:50 PM

DR

“ When remembering the days of St Christopher's Church, the picture is not complete without Wharton and Ruth Gaul. Whenever I think of Wharton, my first thought is of his kindness and my second is his love of books.

*Just feel blessed to have known the them,  
Diane (Huddleston) Rich*

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**diane rich** - December 05, 2013 at 04:33 PM

LG

*We too feel so blessed! Thank you for sharing your kind words. Ruth and Wharton were always so involved in the church. They were also definitely in to the books. There has to be books in heaven, for sure! God bless, and thanks again. The Gauls and Schliessmann Family.*

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**Lisa and Rusty Gaul** - December 07, 2013 at 05:52 PM

BW

“ Wharton is remembered with loving respect by many Gaul Group employees who were fortunate to have worked with him in Charlotte before he retired and moved with Ruth to his beloved Murrell's Inlet . They both will be missed. Barbara Watson

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**Barbara Watson** - December 04, 2013 at 09:38 PM

LG

*Thanks so much Ms. Watson. He always took anything he did with the upmost care. We appreciate your memories and thank you for sharing with us. We miss them both, so much!  
The Gaul and Schliessmann Family.*

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**Lisa and Rusty Gaul** - December 07, 2013 at 05:53 PM

GJ

“ *My son and I were blessed to be part of a Bible Study with Doc. However so short, I looked forward to being in his presence each Thursday. I was sorry to hear of his passing but I know that he is at peace. My family and I send out our Best wishes and prayers to your family.*  
*God Bless,*  
*George Warriner Jr. and III'rd*

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**George Warriner Jr.** - December 04, 2013 at 09:00 PM

LG

*The Thursday Bible study was an important part of Wharton/Dad's life. He was touched by many there, and we know he touched many other's lives. We take comfort in the peace we know he now has. Thank you so much for your kind words. The Gaul and Schliessmann Family.*

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**Lisa and Rusty Gaul** - December 07, 2013 at 05:55 PM

TC

“ *Hello Rusty,*

*Your Dad is now tearing down a beach in the old Toyota somewhere in Paradise chasing after a school of Blues or a Channel Bass. You and he introduced (infected?) me with a life time of flyfishing and a great appreciation of the outdoors. Stopped me cold when I got the news yesterday. Sorry to see him go.*

*Tripp Collins*

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**Tripp Collins** - December 04, 2013 at 05:29 PM

LG

*Tripp, Thanks so much for your kind words. Dad talked about you often, and I hope that you and I can get together soon, and most definitely stay in touch. Rusty and Lisa (gaul.rw@gmail.com) Send me your email man!*

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**Lisa and Rusty Gaul** - December 07, 2013 at 05:47 PM

RR

“ I remember Dr. Gaul when I was working for Help4Kids in getting Christmas gifts for needy children. Dr. Gaul asked me how many children could he sponsor? That was the kind of person he was, generous with whatever he had, especially for Help4Kids.

*Robbie Renken  
Church of the Resurrection  
Ingathering chairperson*

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**Robbie Renken** - December 04, 2013 at 02:47 PM

LG

*Thank you so much for sharing with us! Wharton/Dad/Granddaddy had a special passion for helping others, as you know, and especially kids. Thank you for sharing with us at this time of our great loss. God bless. The Gaul and Schliessmann Family.*

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**Lisa and Rusty Gaul** - December 07, 2013 at 05:57 PM

CA

“ Dr. Gaul

*Thank you for being my friend and Godfather and Mrs. Gaul for being my Godmother. I will always love you and miss you and never forget how special you were to me. May you Rest In Paradise.*

*With all my love forever,*

*Cayleen Allen*

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**Cayleen** - December 03, 2013 at 09:34 PM

LG

*Thank you Cayleen. That is beautiful.*

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**Lisa and Rusty Gaul** - December 04, 2013 at 07:41 AM

VM

“ I met Dr. Gaul and had the pleasure of serving with him on the Board of Directors for the Waccamaw Youth Center. I am so glad that I was able to have lunch with him when we brought our new Director, Chris Williams, on board a couple of years ago. Dr. Gaul was an inspiration to me and I felt that it was important for Chris to meet the person who was primarily responsible for bringing the idea of the home to fruition. Dr. Gaul, you will be missed.

V. Lee Moore  
Board Member  
Waccamaw Youth Center, Inc.

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**V. Lee Moore** - December 03, 2013 at 09:49 AM

LG

Thank you Mr. Moore.

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**Lisa and Rusty Gaul** - December 04, 2013 at 07:42 AM

MK

“ It was my pleasure to visit Wharton not too long ago. He shared stories of his VES days and delighted in hearing about the school today. He was a proud VES son and we will miss him.

Heartfelt condolences,  
Meade King  
Assistant Headmaster  
Virginia Episcopal School

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**Meade King** - December 03, 2013 at 09:20 AM

LG

Thank you! Your kind words mean a lot.

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**Lisa and Rusty Gaul** - December 04, 2013 at 07:42 AM

VH

“ Dear Ruth and Rusty,

*Both your parents were surrogates to me, welcoming and compassionate. I am a better person for the experiences I shared with your family. Please know that I truly mourn the passing of Wharton. Take comfort in that his was a life well lived, always mindful of others.*

*You are in my thoughts and prayers, with my sincere and deep condolences.*

*Victoria Hollowell*

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**Victoria Hollowell** - December 03, 2013 at 09:02 AM

LG

*Thank you Ms. Hollowell. They were so open and loving to others. Your kind words mean a lot to the whole Gaul and Schliessmann family.*

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**Lisa and Rusty Gaul** - December 04, 2013 at 07:44 AM

MG

“ *I recently read about the death of your dear loved one. Although we are not acquainted please accept our condolences. 2 Corinthians 1:3 says: "Praised be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of tender mercies and the God of all comfort." That bible verse indicates that God can help his faithful servants to endure any problem or challenge that they may face. One way God does this is providing comfort through others such as family, friends and in this case even ones we may not be acquainted with personally.*

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**Mrs. Gant** - December 03, 2013 at 06:45 AM

FG

“ Wharton was a very special man who was married to a very special lady. We were fortunate to enjoy their friendship for many years. Through a mutual affection, Wharton and Ruth quickly became the surrogate grandparents to our son Frank. That special relationship lasted for over 20 wonderful years. Wharton and Ruth were also the Godparents to our first grandchild, Cayleen. These wonderful people were dear friends and they will be dearly missed by our family. We love you Wharton; rest in peace. God bless.

*Frank (Skip) & Jackie Grimmer*

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**Frank (Skip) Grimmer** - December 02, 2013 at 07:27 PM

LG

*Thank you from the Gauls and Schliessmanns. You know how much we all love your family! And we know you grieve with us.*

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**Lisa and Rusty Gaul** - December 04, 2013 at 07:45 AM

MG

“ Wharton and Ruth were two very special people who blessed others in various ways. The Waccama Youth Center is a wonderful example of their legacy, so well deserved. Nadine and I are privileged to have enjoyed their friendship. May God keep you in His tender loving hand and give you inner peace.  
- Mitch & Nadine Godwin

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**Mitch & Nadine Godwin** - December 02, 2013 at 08:58 AM

LG

*Your kind words are encouraging to us. Thank you so much from the Gaul and Schliessmanns. God bless.*

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**Lisa and Rusty Gaul** - December 04, 2013 at 07:46 AM

CS

“ Dear Ruth,

*I am sorry to hear of the loss of your Father. I am glad I had the opportunity to meet him. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. God bless Cheryl*

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**Cheryl Schliessman** - December 02, 2013 at 08:56 AM

LG

*Thank you Cheryl, from all of us! We are sending you love.*

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**Lisa and Rusty Gaul** - December 04, 2013 at 07:46 AM

WU

“ RIP Sailor !!!

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**Wayne Williams - USMC** - December 02, 2013 at 07:35 AM

LG

*Thank you so much! He leaves quite a legacy, and we are so proud of him. The Gaul and Schliessmann family.*

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**Lisa and Rusty Gaul** - December 04, 2013 at 07:47 AM