

Dear Faithful Friends,

Our beloved mother, Margaret Patty, went to Heaven on Wednesday, September 18. As you know, she lived a beautiful life. We miss her, and we feel certain she will be missed by you as well.

It was in late August that we learned she had a large tumor on her kidney. She had some aches and pains through the summer, but that is normal for being 96, right? She drove herself to the store the first week of September and got on an airplane with our cousin Carol to visit Steve in Oregon that weekend. Then Tuesday September 10, the urologist confirmed that the tumor was stage four cancer that had metastasized. Because of her increased symptoms, she was admitted to St. Joseph hospital that afternoon. It was one of the many blessings from God and medical professionals because the following day she needed procedures to stabilize her condition.

Those interventions gave us a few days where she had a little energy, her pain was managed, and she could talk to us a bit. My three brothers all made it to Denver by Saturday, Dave and Josh from overseas and Steve from Oregon. We collaborated on decisions and had sweet times individually and together with our mom. As she declined, the pace was fast, but it was also measured in a way that we could acclimate before the next level of loss.

In the evening of Sunday, September 15, she was transferred to Denver Hospice at Lowry. From then on, one or two of us had the privilege of being in her room, noticing if she seemed in pain, and treasuring our mother's presence, even though she could no longer see or speak to us. We sang hymns around her bed (you know she had us singing in harmony from the time we were young). We learned from nurses and hospice personnel that several gathered outside her room to listen in. Every single person who cared for her on this journey was competent and kind.

Shortly after noon on Wednesday, some of us were in the room and some close outside when she took her final breath of earth air. Her relocation to heaven was peaceful and she was comfortable. We cried for a while, then sang some more songs of faith (some of the harmonies cutting out as the tears continued). Mom courageously persevered through



this suffering in the same way she had in life—trusting God, loving people, taking the next faithful step, then the next.

Thank you for being a dear friend and faithful ministry partner to our parents for many years. What rejoicing there is, and will be, in heaven when we all get to see the beautiful ways God used your partnership to express His love to many precious people. I think also you know how much Margaret (and Dick) loved and appreciated you.

For the livestream of Mom's memorial service on October 5, go to either facebook.com/bethanyevangelicalfreechurch or bethanyefree.org and click "Watch the Livestream." Note that you do not need to create a Facebook account to watch this service. A recording of the service will be housed at Cadence.org/MargaretPattyMemorial.

May God comfort you and may our mom's life continue to bless you as you serve God and love people from wherever He has placed you.

With deep gratitude,

Joyce Schroeder

along with my brothers Dave, Steve, and Josh