



A SERVICE OF WORSHIP CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

- *George Gafford Blau, III* -

April 10, 1936 – June 28, 2023

PEACHTREE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, ATLANTA, GEORGIA
SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2023 | 2:00 PM
ANNIE LAURIE WARREN CHAPEL

A
Service
of
Worship
Celebrating
the Life of

George Gafford Blau, III

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2023 | 2:00 PM

SANCTUARY/ANNIE LAUREN WARREN CHAPEL

Prelude (one of the following)

Dr. Carol Williams, organist & artist in residence
“The Lark Ascending” by Ralph Vaughn Williams;
“A Mighty Fortress Is our God” by Martin Luther;
“Adagio for Strings” by Samuel Barber

Entrance of Family with Words of Scripture

Rev. TBD

Hymn of Praise and Thanksgiving

#564 “Amazing Grace”
New Britain

Invocation and Welcome

Rev. TBD

Words of Comfort from Scripture

Rev. TBD

Psalm 23, a unison reading

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Matthew 5:1-11

Revelation 21:1-4

George Gafford Blau, III

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2023 | 2:00 PM

SANCTUARY/ANNIE LAUREN WARREN CHAPEL

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer (unison)

Rev. TBD

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

Musical Interlude

Dr. Williams

Remembrances

Juliette Scales, presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court,
Fulton County

Joyce Wright, Judicial Assistant to Judge Blau, Fulton County Juvenile Court

Special Music

"Lord of the Dance"
Rev. Jim Bell, tenor

The Gospel Message

"A Life of Service"
Rev. Bell

The Hymn of Resurrection

#543 "Blessed Assurance"
Assurance

Benediction

Rev. Bell

Postlude

"Postlude into the Sunset"
from Radetzky March by Johann Strauss
Dr. Williams

*Gifts in memory of Judge Blau may be directed to:
The Heritage Fund of Peachtree Christian Church
1580 Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30309*

George Gafford Blau, III
1936-2023



George Gafford Blau, III

1936-2023

George Gafford Blau, III was born April 10, 1936 in Columbus, GA, and moved to Atlanta at 6 weeks of age. His father was George Gafford Blau, Jr., a graduate of Auburn University in Architecture. He married May Elese Cornett, daughter of Columbus' Chief of Police. He spent his childhood in Atlanta, settling at 306 Hascall Road NW.

George attended Garden Hills Elementary School and North Fulton High School in Buckhead. He wrote a regular music column for the school newspaper. His article on bluesman W. C. Handy won the award for Best Feature Article in the State by the Peabody School of Journalism at the University of Georgia. In May of his senior year the Brown vs. Board of Education was issued by the Supreme Court. Segregation was so prominent that he was shocked to learn it was by law, not choice. Civil Rights became such a primary focus that he wrote to Georgia's Secretary of State asking why. The Secretary of State wrote back saying, "he did not expect people with Communist views to understand."

When George attended the University of Georgia, he was made aware that supporters of segregation were to be in classrooms to report professors and students who spoke in favor of integration. For three years he was a pre ministerial student and participated in Peachtree Christian Church's Summer Training Program, known as the Rabbi program. George lived in the dorm his father designed for the Christian College of Georgia.

George attended Seminary at Vanderbilt Divinity School. In 1960, when the sit ins began, George was one of five white students who participated. That is when he met student John Lewis.

After graduation, George became the Minister of Education for Glenn Oak Christian Church in Peoria, Illinois. At a program planning for the evening youth group, someone suggested that they study segregation in the South. George vetoed that suggestion because the NAACP was demonstrating outside a business in Peoria. Black and white youth groups visited each other. It was learned that the City Manager and the Editor of the newspaper had never talked with the demonstrators. The closing session featured a round-table discussion between the City Manager, Editor of the newspaper, President of Peoria NAACP, Chairman of the Peoria Council of Churches. An overflow crowd came to support. As a result the Peoria Human Rights Commission was founded and progress was made solving the problems.

George and Mary Keen were married in 1960 at Peachtree Christian Church. After his daughter, Margaret Linn Blau, was born, George returned to Atlanta in 1965 where he started the Atlanta Lay School of Theology which gained support and sponsorship of the Christian Council of Metropolitan Atlanta. Classes were held at Peachtree Christian Church. From 1965-1972 George was an unofficial minister to the hippies. He became trusted and placed on the board of the hippie newspaper "The Great Speckled Bird." During the election period of 1968, The Great Speckled Bird nominated George to go to the Democratic Convention in Chicago. When the Rules Committee decided to seat both the Democratic delegates chosen by Governor Lester Maddox and the Challenge delegates led by Julian Bond, the Maddox delegation returned to Georgia, leaving only the Challenge delegation to vote. As one result of this event, the method of selecting delegates changed from being those who were appointed by the governor to an election of candidates.

George and Mary were divorced in 1972. George began looking for other ways to minister to youth. A position as Probation Officer was available to him and Judge Tom Dillon hired him. George was assigned to the Delinquency Investigation group and was in the courtroom every day. He eventually served as a caseworker and the supervisor of the Deprivation Unit. George attended night school at Woodrow Wilson College of Law and received his law degree in 1977. Judge Dillon promoted him to Intake Attorney hearing cases. When a judge had a heart attack, he was made Acting Associate Judge. When Judge Dillon retired, George was assigned to help new Judge Sammy Jones. Judge Glenda Hatchett appointed George as full-time Associate Judge. He remained a full-time Associate Judge until his retirement in 2019 because of medical issues. As is usual, some of his rulings were appealed to the Georgia Court of Appeals and Georgia Supreme Court.

George had several hobbies. His parents had a friend who was in the entertainment business in the 1920s. Art Gilliam was a songwriter, pianist, singer, recording artist for Columbia Records, a radio entertainer, and in vaudeville. George also collected items from George Gershwin and contributed to several books on Gershwin. George had a Steinway Grand piano which had a Duo Art reproducing mechanism to play piano rolls. He was a collector of autographs, including all presidents and early jazz and popular artists. Marc Chagall became a primary interest of his lithographs and books. From 1980 to 2019 George was a ballroom dancer, favoring Swing and Tango along with Foxtrot, Waltz, and Rhumba.

George's father was an architect. A prime example of his work is the Annie Laurie Warren Chapel. He designed or remodeled other Christian Churches in Georgia, the Christian College of Georgia, the First Methodist Church in Auburn, Alabama, The Methodist Student Center on the campus of Auburn. He designed many public house projects in Georgia, Alabama, and Florida. During World War II, he worked in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. He also designed single family homes, apartments, one being Colonial Homes in Atlanta. He died in November, 1963. His father was a supervisor at Golden's Foundry in Columbus. His great grandfather immigrated in 1850 from Frankenhansen, Prussia. He was a sign painter and piano-organ tuner and repairer. The family in Prussia were linen weavers and musicians. His brother-in-law was an organ builder.

George's mother was Elese Cornett. She was born in Columbus, GA. In high school she wrote articles for the Columbus Enquirer. She worked various jobs as the needs arose. Her primary job was in real estate. Her father was Chief of Police in Columbus. Her grandfather was also a policeman and managed the Columbus Stockade when the song was written, "Way down in Columbus, Georgia, I wanna go back to Tennessee...". She lived at Campbell Stone Sandy Springs and died in 1987.

George Gafford Blau, III

1936-2023

FAMILY

Margaret (Peggy) Linn Blau, daughter

Elizabeth (Betty) Lee Blau Caraker, sister and her husband, Bob

Kim Erin Caraker & Lori Ann Doty, nieces

Brian David Caraker, nephew

Burt Vardeman (deceased), Bob Vardeman (deceased), Billy Vardeman (deceased), Henry Duffer, cousins

Bonnie Sue Shore, significant other

Salee (Siamese cat, trained to use the toilet)

*Gifts in memory of Judge Blau may be directed to:
The Heritage Fund of Peachtree Christian Church
1580 Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30309*



PEACHTREE.ORG

1580 Peachtree St. NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30309
404.876.5535