



Reverend Barry Whenal

January 23, 1947 - May 29, 2019

The Reverend Barry Whenal, age 72, died Wednesday, May 29, 2019 at Novant Health Rowan Medical Center. He was born January 23, 1947 in Exeter, New Hampshire to John William and Hazel Lovett Whenal. He married Barbara E. Groth on August 8, 1987.

He is survived by his wife Barbara, step-son Jason Groth, sister-in-law Annette (Mike) Joneson, brothers-in-law Charles (Laura) Groth and Richard Groth, nieces Kathleen, Cheryl, Susan, Jennifer, Kimberly, Laurin and nephews Eric and Michael and cousins Lisa and Amy along with many friends.

Barry was raised in North Hampton, NH and attended primary and secondary schools there. He graduated in 1969 from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree, and earned a Masters of Divinity degree from Episcopal Theological School (now Episcopal Divinity School), Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1972. He was ordained to the Deaconate by the Right Reverend Charles Francis Hall, Bishop of the Diocese of New Hampshire on June 9, 1972 and to the Priesthood on December 9, 1972 by the Right Reverend Francis W. Lickfield, Bishop of the Diocese of Quincy. He served as priest to parishes in Rock Island, Illinois & Tomah, Mauston, Minocqua, Hartland, Stevens Point, Amherst in Wisconsin and the Adirondack Missions in Upstate New York. He retired from active ministry in January 2004 but

continued to minister to parishes as needed until his time of death. He served as Associate Priest at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Salisbury. He served as the first chaplain to two Hospice Chapters, one in Minocqua, WI and the other in Oconomowoc, WI. He was installed as an honorary canon of the Diocese of Fond du Lac by the Right Reverend Russell Jacobus on September 16, 2008. Bishop Jacobus stated, "This honor is given to you in recognition of the excellence of your priestly ministry and of your long and faithful service as priest of the Church in the Diocese of Fond du Lac. Loyalty, perseverance, sacrificial service and charity have been the marks of your ministry. You have honored your priestly vows and remained constant in your spiritual discipline and the love given to those who have been in your pastoral care."

Barry had a lifelong passion for learning. After his retirement he embarked on a journey to learn foreign languages. He'd been studying Spanish, Romanian, Greek and French. He was instrumental in starting both Spanish and French chat groups on the campus of Trinity Oaks Retirement Community in Salisbury where he and his wife Barb live. He volunteered as a tutor at the Rowan County Literacy Council where the coordinator Laurel Harvey shared these thoughts, "Everyone here at the Literacy Council thought the world of Barry and he exemplified everything we could ever dream of in a tutor: skill, compassion, humor, creativity, and dedication. We will miss him deeply and so will his students."

Memorials to celebrate and honor Barry's life has been established to support the English Language Learner's Program and checks may be made payable to Rowan County Literacy Council, PO Box 95, Salisbury, NC 28145

A Burial Eucharist and Committal will be held on Thursday, June 6 at 10:00am at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 131 W. Council Street, Salisbury. A reception will follow at Trinity Oaks.

Summersett Funeral Home is serving the Whenal family. Online condolences may be made at www.summersettfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Service

JUN 6. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
131 West Council Street
Salisbury, NC 28144

Tribute Wall

MB

“ *Dearest Barb and Jason,
As you know, Barry was a treasure. I adored his grace-filled heart,
sense of humor, and intelligence. He made St. Anskar's in Hartland,
WI a welcoming and kind community. I will not forget Bishop White
(I guess the politically correct name Bishop Caucasian) and our
group singing a parody of La Bamba to him. "He's a sweet man
named Barry, and he is not scary, but he's a hairy friend of mine.
Ba, ba, Barry. Ba, ba, Barry. Ba, ba, Barry...Whena!" When I think
back to that highly successful era, I can only smile. May Jesus give
you the peace that only He can. If you're ever in Hartland, we have
a guest room.*

You're God's,

*Mark E Bronner
Bow-legged math dept chair, ULS
Fan of Barry's*

Mark Bronner - June 24, 2019 at 12:37 PM

SB

“ *Barry Whenal married my husband John and I on August 2nd, 1986 at St. Matthias Episcopal Church in Minocqua, WI. He has been a good friend over the years and was a favorite supply priest at St. Matthias after he retired and moved to Lake Tomahawk. We always loved his sermons as he'd engage parishioners by standing in the center isle of the church. He was very active with a Spanish language group in the area. We will miss him terribly.*

May the Peace of the Lord comfort Barb now.

*Susan and John Brant
Minocqua, WI*

Susan L. Brant - June 12, 2019 at 07:54 AM

JM

“ *Barb, Jan and I send our love, thoughts and sympathy to you with this message. We still talk about the time the four of us enjoyed a couple of festivals back in the last century. We will put you and Barry in our prayers.*

Jim and Jan Miller

Jim and Jan Miller - June 09, 2019 at 09:23 PM

DM

“ *Barb: Mis más sinceras condolencias*

Mi querido amigo Barry. Fue una maravillosa experiencia haber disfrutado de tu invaluable amistad. Aquellas charlas que solíamos tener de diversos temas las extrañaré demasiado y aquellas risas espontaneas que nos llenaban de alegría jamás las olvidaré.

Maru, Neri, Dylan y tu amigo Domingo te recordaremos y te extrañaremos como un gran ser humano que fuiste, alegre, inteligente, perseverante, creativo, altruista...

Varios planes se quedaron en el tintero, Adiós mi querido amigo Barry.

Dios te tenga en su gloria

Domingo Márquez - June 09, 2019 at 03:36 PM

 Gayle Hocking

“ *I was sorry to hear of Father Whenal's passing. He was a wonderfully kind and genuine human being. My mom and dad and our family were all very fond of him.*

*With heartfelt sympathy,
The family Dr. Arthur & Phyllis Jacobsen*

Gayle Hocking - June 07, 2019 at 09:50 PM

EA

“ *Barb,
Our thoughts and prayers are with you now and in the days ahead.
Eric & Wendy Arneson*

Eric Arneson - June 06, 2019 at 09:57 PM

PB

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Pere Ballve - June 05, 2019 at 02:36 PM

HL

“ *Barb: My thoughts and prayers are with you. I check the Lakeland Times paper and saw Barry passed. So blessed to have met you and Barry and Hazel years ago. Will continue to keep you in my prayers*

Hope Lotzer - June 04, 2019 at 09:24 PM

SH

“ A good and caring man has left us all too soon!

Barry had so many qualities to admire - intelligence, logic, thoughtfulness, and was a true teacher and mentor.

His spirit was always filled with laughter, joy, and down to earth 'fun'. He made friendships easily and was the type of person you thought you had known forever.

Above all these wonderful qualities was the true care and love for others exemplified by his shepherding in the many churches he served.

His love was not limited to only one area, however, as he continued to use his time and talent helping others with language skills and taking any and every opportunity to help another in need.

There are countless stories - from countless people - all whose lives were touched by this man and we are all a bit better and a bit wiser because of knowing him.

Goodbye - good and faithful friend - until we meet once again!

And to Barb and Jason - dear hearts - an outpouring of love to you both! May you know and feel the countless prayers being offered upholding you each day and may our God of grace and mercy bless you and hold you close in His embrace.

Sarah Hintz - June 04, 2019 at 07:54 PM

MD

“ We were fortunate to enjoy Father Whenal's sermons & friendship while he served St Olaf's Church in Amherst, WI. He always had the most interesting sermons that he made relatable to everyday life, and after church we always enjoyed our little chats. It is hard to believe that we will not see his wonderful smile again here on earth. What is heavens gain is surely our loss. Our deepest & heartfelt sympathies to Barb and families. Hugs from Melodi & Jim Duwell, Hilton Head Island, SC.

Melodi & Jim Duwell - June 04, 2019 at 01:17 PM

JC

“ Fr. Barry was one of the most gentle and caring priests I have ever met. I served for a short time as Senior Warden at St. Anskar's in Hartland, WI toward the end of his ministry with us. He was a hard act to follow! Barb, I occasionally still "hear" your beautiful voice harmonizing in some of the familiar hymns, and as I look out the south facing windows, I see the "Barb and Barry Pine Trees" planted as remembrance of both of you when you moved on to a new parish. Love and Peace to you and Jason,
Joanne Carpentier-Kasner

Joanne Carpentier-Kasner - June 04, 2019 at 11:10 AM

CP

“ Coia & Pere. purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Reverend Barry Whenal.



Coia & Pere. - June 04, 2019 at 11:10 AM

KB

“ I found Fr. Barry to be a excellent mentor and guide. In particular when I was Senior Warden during a major addition building project at St. Anskar's Episcopal Church, Hartland, WI. Barb please hang on to your wonderful sense of humor during these difficult days' Kay Boesen

Kay L Boesen - June 03, 2019 at 11:04 AM

RD

“ A wonderful priest and a loving, caring, and delightful friend. We are privileged to have known him. We hold Barbara in our hearts with great love and affection. Dick and Heather Brownell

Richard Brownell and Heather Duncan - June 01, 2019 at 12:55 PM

GJ

“ Barry was an impressive man and Priest. The Reverend George M. Jones, UEC [Ret]



George M Jones - June 01, 2019 at 12:03 PM

RJ

“ Coming to Trinity Oaks with Georgeann was a real blessing from Our Lord and getting to know Barry was a true plus. As a brother in service to the Lord, I remember the times we had together along with a long morning coffee with Barb and Barry when I was at a very low point in having to put Georgeann in Memory Care. What a support they were to me that morning and in many times together. I will miss him at Winks and his smile. May our Lord enwrap Barb in His loving arms as He has Barry now in His eternal presence. Norm Johnson

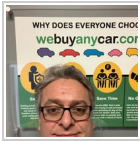
Rev. Dr. Norman L. Johnson - June 01, 2019 at 08:40 AM



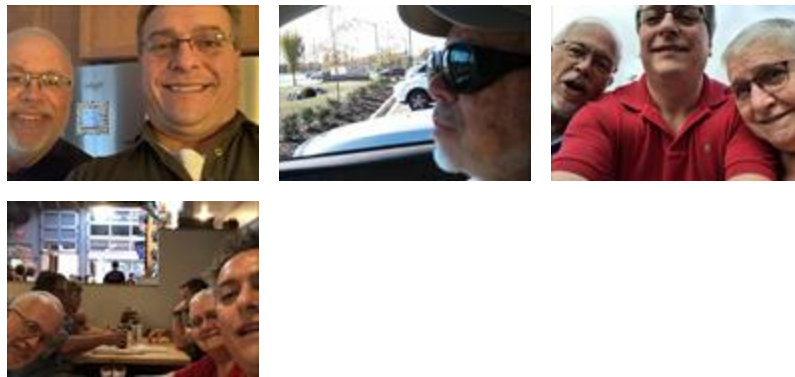
“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Reverend Barry Whenal.*



June 01, 2019 at 08:11 AM



“ *4 files added to the tribute wall*



Jason Groth - May 31, 2019 at 09:32 PM



“ *May he Rest In Peace and rise in glory.
Thankfully the joys, memories, and humor of
the good times shine in the darkness of our
grief. Barb God bless and support you now an
in the days ahead.
Our love and prayers . John & Marcia*



John & Marcia Biggs - May 31, 2019 at 05:42 PM

MW

“ I didn't know Barry well, having only recently moved to Trinity Oaks, but I was struck at our first meeting by his ambience— he literally seemed to radiate warmth and humility, and I recall thinking that he was a man truly at peace with himself and others. He helped make Trinity Oaks a very special place, and he will be sorely missed.

Mike Weeks - May 31, 2019 at 05:28 PM