



## George Ihrig Baker

July 12, 1933 - August 23, 2016

George Ihrig Baker was born on July 12, 1933 and went home to the arms of Jesus on August 23, 2016 at the age of 83. He was born in Billings, Montana to Orla and Lillian Baker. He died at home in Bolivar, Missouri from complications of progressive supranuclear palsy.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother-in-law and two sisters-in-law.

He is survived by his wife, Susan (John) Baker, his daughter and son-in-law, David and Beth (Baker) Dixon; two sisters and their husbands, Robert and Ruth (Baker) Meyer of Ozark, MO; David and Clara (Baker) Stovall of Abilene, TX; brother and sister-in-law Justin and Dorothy John and his extended family; granddaughter and her husband, Ryan and Laura (Dixon) Bly; grandson Jacob Dixon and grandson Ethan and his wife, Lacey (Ruble) Dixon. He is also survived by four great-grandchildren, Phillip, Anna, Lillian, and Noah Bly; three nieces and five nephews and their families.

Visitation will be at First Baptist Church, Bolivar on Friday, August 26 from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. The funeral service will also be at FBC on Saturday, August 27 at 10:30 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be given to the Baker/Keathley Church

Music scholarship (c/o SBU, Bolivar) or to CMH Hospice. Cards for the family may be sent to P.O. Box 940, Bolivar, MO 65613.

George was raised on a dairy farm near Hannibal, MO, graduating from Hannibal High School in 1951. George was awarded a track scholarship from Mizzou his freshman year, but after he changed his major from agriculture to music, he resigned from the track team. George was saved at the age of 9 and was called into full-time ministry as a college student. He married his college sweetheart, Sue John on December 19, 1953 and graduated with a Bachelor of Music in 1955. After graduation from MU, George and his new bride went to New Orleans Baptist Seminary and they both graduated with Masters degrees: George in Church Music, and Sue in Organ Performance. Sue was always at George's side, his partner, advisor, encourager, best friend and superb accompanist on organ and piano throughout their 62+ years of music ministry and worship leadership in several churches. George and Susan served at Memorial Baptist Church in Columbia, MO; Kenner Baptist Church near New Orleans, LA; West End Baptist Church in Atlanta, GA (where their daughter Beth was born); First Baptist Church in El Dorado, Arkansas; Tallowood Baptist Church in Houston, TX; First Baptist Church of Bolivar, MO; Glenstone Baptist Church in Springfield, MO; and Brighton Baptist Church in Brighton, MO. George was passionate in his love for the Lord and in using his God-given gifts and talents to lead others in worship. He was asked to assist in developing a Church Music degree program at Southwest Baptist (College) University in 1974, and taught in the music department there for eight years, and during his tenure there he and Sue established an annual Church Music Workshop for full and part-time ministers of music to be equipped and encouraged in their work. He was a humble servant-hearted minister, a beloved choir director and teacher/mentor to many students and church members throughout his entire lifetime of service to the Lord.

Services are under the care and direction of Butler Funeral Home, Bolivar, Missouri.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **26**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church  
316 N. Main  
Bolivar, MO 65613

## Funeral Service

AUG **27**. 10:30 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church  
316 N. Main  
Bolivar, MO 65613

# Tribute Wall



“ *George Ihrig Baker*

October 05, 2023 at 05:18 AM



“ *George Ihrig Baker*

January 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ *Susan, I am so very sorry for your loss. George was a fantastic music minister and such a caring individual. When you were around him, you couldn't help but feel the excitement and love he had for church music and for ministry. Heaven gained a great new minister when George went home. My prayers are for comfort for you and for hope in the knowledge that you will be reunited with him on the other side.*

*Mike and Sandy Mayfield*

Mike Mayfield - August 29, 2016 at 10:18 AM



“ *I shall always remember George's big smile, boundless energy and servant's heart. What a blessing he was to me and my family!*

Greg Parker - August 29, 2016 at 08:33 AM



“ *A very kind, gentle, and inspiring man. It was my privilege to have been one of his many students at Southwest Baptist University. It was a privilege to have known George Baker.*

Rick McDowell - August 28, 2016 at 05:28 PM

JJ

“ *Respect and admiration are just a couple of the feelings I have for this wonderful friend. He was a giant among us.*

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**John Jackson** - August 28, 2016 at 01:57 PM

AK

“ *Sorry to hear of George passing away. I will be praying for your family.*

*Love,  
Anna Harbin Kidd*

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**Anna Harbin Kidd** - August 28, 2016 at 01:39 PM

MD

“ *My life and ministry and consequently those of my wife and children are still on a trajectory that was set in motion by the call if God and flamed into knowledge, skill and passion but the faithful mentorship of George and Susan. Much love to you Susan!! Morgan & Elizabeth Day*

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**Morgan Day** - August 28, 2016 at 01:10 PM

JW

“ *The youth choir at First Baptist church in El Dorado, Ar. was a challenge and so much fun!! Sue, you and George were our inspiration. The best years of my church life were spent under your tutiledge. Surely hope George is happily directing the youth choir in heaven. Jan Johnston White*

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**jan johnston white** - August 28, 2016 at 12:37 AM



“ Susan, the deepest condolences from Kevin & Anita Kinsey at this time of loss. Notice I say loss, and I'm sure there are feelings of sadness, grief and/or mourning. But I must say that the smile I remember on George's face almost continuously was indicative of the trust he placed in Christ Jesus, and I have every reason to expect that he is not grieving or sad, and that by the grace of Christ I will one day get to see George tossing a crown (or several crowns) at the feet of our dear Lord Jesus.

To me, George embodied just about everything that was good about church music in the 20th century. And I have some sadness that many of us don't know about that greatness now that we are in the 21st century. We were blessed to sit under his baton at times, and greatly blessed by the fact that he let his equally professional and talented wife teach us at Southwest Baptist.

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**Kevin Kinsey** - August 27, 2016 at 10:58 PM

HW

“ George was a man after God's own heart and a great mentor to me. He had a tremendous tenor voice that he used wisely. I will always remember him singing "I Never Shall Forget the Day" and teaching it to me. A great man and friend. He will be missed.

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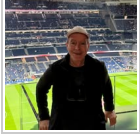
**Heath Watson** - August 27, 2016 at 08:39 PM

DL

“ George was the first person I met when I came for my interview at Tallowood. His smile and friendliness is what I will always remember. My love and deepest sympathy to you Susan and Beth.  
Darolyn (Souther) Langhorne

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**Darolyn Langhorne** - August 27, 2016 at 07:05 PM



“ *Many good times with George and Susan! I remember their first summer youth trip that ended with Anthony and me sleeping in their hotel bedroom, due to some misunderstanding of intent. Thankfully, we were able to get past that.*

*So glad George is singing, if not directing, in the presence of the Lord!*

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**Kirk Wakefield** - August 27, 2016 at 02:39 PM

JE

“ *I always enjoyed Sue and George's music at our family gatherings! Love them both so much! Sending our love to Sue and Beth and all the family. Will continue to keep you in my prayers. Jane (Moore) Elledge*

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**Jane (Moore) Elledge** - August 27, 2016 at 08:05 AM

RR

“ *Most of us, the only real mark we'll leave on this earth, is the children we raise, and the grandchildren we enjoy. Your seed is indeed mighty upon this earth George Baker, well done indeed sir. I know you'd give the glory to God, deservedly so, but you were a dedicated servant to your lord and he blessed you with the finest of families.*

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**Randy Reynolds** - August 26, 2016 at 09:08 PM

DL

“ Susan and Beth,  
Did we know how golden were our days of music making at Talliwood? Remembering George for his welcome of me into your musical circle. So grateful for our Tallowood reunions over the years. Love to you both. A part of me is gone, too.  
Don Looser

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**Don Looser** - August 26, 2016 at 08:10 PM

JM

“ Jerry And Sandy Miller sent a virtual gift in memory of George Ihrig Baker



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**Jerry and Sandy Miller** - August 26, 2016 at 06:50 PM



“ We joined First Baptist Bolivar a family member told me they knew my family the Herifords. He was a very touching person fell in love with the Baker's they lead music for my grandfather Rev Billy Heriford at one event my uncle is saddened by the loss. Our love and prayers go out the the family.

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**Trina Jeffery** - August 26, 2016 at 01:08 PM

TG

“ I was saddened to hear of Mr. Baker's death. I recall with delight his passion for youth music at FBC-Bolivar. He helped cultivate my love for church music as a member of the youth choir and sunshine company. He was a tremendous person and I feel very blessed to have benefited from his ministry.

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**Tyler Garrison** - August 25, 2016 at 11:44 AM

CV

“ *Susan, I am sorry for your loss. I always liked you and George and appreciate your support for me at Butterfield.* ”

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**Curtis Voris** - August 25, 2016 at 07:12 AM