



Dorothy Alford Jones  
1924 - 2003



# *Dorothy Alford Jones*

*Mar 28, 1924 - Oct 16, 2003*

*AAFA # 0286*

## DOROTHY J. ALFORD JONES

AAFA #0286

1924-2003

*RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH*  
Richmond, VA—Sunday, 19 October  
2003

Dorothy Alford Jones died Thursday, October 16, 2003. She was born March 28, 1924 in Osyka [Pike Co.], Miss. to Ethel McMillan Alford and Hollis Victor Alford.

Early in life she developed a love of music through the church choir and piano lessons. Later, as a resident of Colonial Heights, she studied and taught piano.

She is survived by her devoted husband of 60 years, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Leon C. Jones; three daughters, Jean Wilson [AAFA #291] and her husband, Charles of Durham, N.C., Judy Polifka and her husband, Donald of Beaverdam, Jan Jones of Colonial Heights; one son, Jeffery Jones [AAFA #391] and his wife, Kathy of Richmond; eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren....

A memorial service will be held Tuesday, October 21 at 4 p.m. at Colonial Heights

Presbyterian Church.

AAFA NOTES: SSDI records confirm the birth and death dates of Dorothy J. Jones (SS #428-30-0169 issued in MS).

Dorothy's daughter Jean Wilson was the host of AAFA's third annual meeting in Raleigh, NC, in 1990. She was a sister of H. Harold "Hal" Alford, AAFA #0226 who served as a short time as the 2<sup>nd</sup> president of AAFA.



Colonial Heights  
Presbyterian Church



Celebration of the Resurrection  
in Memory of  
Dorothy Alford Jones

October 21, 2003

*Celebration of the Resurrection  
in Memory of  
Dorothy Alford Jones*

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Colonial Heights Presbyterian Church*

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**Organ Prelude**

**Scripture Sentences**

**Call to Worship**

**Hymn** "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" 276

**Prayer of Illumination**

**Old Testament Readings**

Psalm 23

Psalm 91:1-2, 4, 9-16

**New Testament Readings**

Romans 8:14-23, 31-35, 37-39

John 14:1-6, 25-27

**Pie Jesu from *Requiem*** Gabriel Fauré  
Denise Lindekugel, mezzo-soprano  
Joyce Zedler Polifka, piano

*Merciful Lord Jesus, grant them eternal rest,  
rest everlasting*

**Homily**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Commendation**

**Hymn** "For all the Saints" 526

**Benediction**

*Organist*

*Professor Buckner Gamby*

*Ministers*

*The Reverends Don and Kay Steele  
Co-pastors, Colonial Heights Presbyterian Church  
The Reverend Robert Floyd  
Honorably Retired Minister, PC(USA)*

*A Reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall*

## Homily

Today we give thanks to God for the life of Dottie Jones. And what a rich and full life it was—filled with family, abiding faith, the love of music, dedication to life-long learning, and the enjoyment of the simple pleasures of life. And yes, there were the stresses of life too, but Dottie's faith strengthened her in those difficult times. O she would explore with you her troubles, but then in the next breath, she would speak hopefully and confidently of the future giving witness to God's loving, guiding presence.

Her son Jeff tells of a time in his life, during his college days when he was anxious about his life. Dottie said to Jeff, "it will all work out." Because of his mother's faith and her assurance that life—all of life—is in God's hands, Jeff said he felt an immediate calm. It was her quiet testimony of faith that had given him the strength he needed.

Married to a military man, Dottie found herself, like many military wives, following her husband from place to place and making each new place a home for her family. With each move, came the opportunity to put down roots, temporary though they may have been. There was home to settle into—new friends to meet—and the possibilities of learning about a new place—its history, its traditions. It was an opportunity to make new friends, become active in a new church and community. For Dottie, this was an adventure filled with exciting things to do. Having quality time with her children was important. With Jean, it was teaching her how to cook. Jean still has the cookbook her mother gave her that has at the top of each recipe Jean tried out a grade—an A or B+. What fun they had together!

And with Judy, it was sewing—a gift that has served her well throughout life.

And with Jeff and Jan, it was the enjoyment of nature. One thing they especially enjoyed while they lived in Hampton Roads was tying a chicken neck on a piece of string and enjoying a few hours of crabbing; and there were family vacations at the Outer Banks—family time was to be enjoyed—filled with laughter and learning.

Growing up on a farm in Mississippi was not an easy life so when Dottie first became interested in playing the piano, the family could not afford one. A nearby black family opened their home to her to practice her lessons. Later, when the family was finally able to buy their own second hand piano for \$25, her interest in music grew—motivated, at least in part, by her mother who would say: "Dottie, if you practice your piano, I'll do the dishes!" Wow, who wouldn't practice with that kind of incentive?



Her love for music grew and grew and finally at age 60, Dottie began her college career earning an Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts and then studying piano with Professor Gamby, our organist today, at Virginia State University. Along the way, she taught many young people their first piano lessons—maybe some of those students are here today. Though her college studies were interrupted by a heart attack, her love of music remained strong and she encouraged family members to discern and develop their own gifts of music.

When Don and I first met Dottie and Lee, they not only shared family faith stories, they also spoke excitedly about the courses they were taking at the Shepherd's Center at First Presbyterian Church in Richmond—short courses in religion, southern writers, music history and, perhaps the most exciting of all, a writing course that invited participants to write their autobiography. What fun she and Lee had remembering and putting to paper their memoirs! Their writing was truly an expression of thanksgiving for the lessons of life learned along life's journey. And, by the way, Dottie and Lee were instrumental in leading the way for a Shepherd's Center in Chester which now serves senior citizens of this area, offering many in our community adventures in learning.

Dottie was a devoted wife and mother. Her concern for Lee's health and welfare were often expressed. We visited her in the hospital a few weeks ago. She had had a sleepless night so the doctor had sedated her. Lee had tried to rouse her several times that morning to no avail. While nurses tended to her needs, we visited with Lee in a nearby waiting room and he told us he had an appointment later that day with the foot doctor. In a few minutes, the nurses invited us back into her room. And for a brief moment, she opened her eyes, looked at Lee and asked, "Have you been to the doctor yet? And turning to us, she inquired about church members who were ill." Duty done, it was back to a sound sleep. Her concern, as always, was for Lee and for others.

But Dottie was not the only caregiver, Lee has been a faithful and loving caregiver these last years. Though Dottie was the chief communicator in the family and still provided daily guidance for them all, Lee became the chief cook and bottle washer, faithfully tending to Dottie's needs under her careful and loving direction.

Dottie loved life and fought to keep it. After her heart surgery and the life threatening infection that followed, she fought back with every ounce of her energy and then she and Lee, together joined the Y and engaged in a regular routine. As one her daughters said the other day—she never would have imagined her

mom pumping iron, but she did! She knew it was good for her and for Lee, so she committed herself to frequent workouts as long as she was able.

When, in recent weeks, she knew life was slipping away from her, she said she was ready. She wanted to live, but she knew it was time to give up the fight. As a person of great faith, she was ready to accept death. She knew the promises of Scripture. Indeed nothing had or ever would separate her from God. She knew the promise of the resurrection for believers and she found comfort in that promise, not only for herself but also for her family.

Dottie's grandson, Deke, an accomplished pianist in his own right, selected the music you heard a moment ago. In Requiem, Gabriel Fauré conveyed his own thoughts and feelings about death. In 1902, he said: "That's how I see death: as a joyful deliverance, an aspiration towards a happiness beyond the grave, rather than as a painful experience." I believe Dottie shared that understanding. Her suffering has ended—there has been for her joyful deliverance, Though Lee, the children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and all of us are saddened by Dottie's death, today, we celebrate the promise of the resurrection. With Dottie, we trust that all believers will be united with Christ in a resurrection like his.

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die (John 11:25-26.)

Thanks be to God!



Subject:  
Fwd: Genealogy  
From:  
GAlford2@cs.com  
Date:  
Tue, 28 Oct 2003 18:20:08 EST  
To:  
mralford@swbell.net, ebalford@swbell.net, DorisVetri@cs.com,  
Pamrthompson@aol.com, Wickalford@aol.com

Hi,

This is Dorothy Alford Jones #0286, sister or our late president, Hal Alford.  
Aunt of Vic Alford.

Jean was our NC state rep the first time we met in Raleigh.

.. Gil

Subject:  
Re: Genealogy  
From:  
"Jean Wilson" <wilsons3@mindspring.com>  
Date:  
Tue, 28 Oct 2003 05:17:58 -0500  
To:  
<GAlford2@cs.com>  
CC:  
"Judy Polifka" <donp@westhanover.net>, "Jeff . Jones" <jeffjones@cavtel.net>,  
"Jan Jones" <swimr077@aol.com>

Dear Gil,

I'm sorry to tell you sad news about Mother. She died suddenly on Thursday, October 16 of congestive heart failure and kidney failure. We had been grieving for a long time, as her health had been declining and we knew that she would not be able to recover and have a good quality of life.

The memorial service was held Tuesday October 21 at Colonial Heights Presbyterian Church. It was a beautiful service attended by family and many friends.

I wish we had let you know sooner, but we were so busy with planning the memorial service and taking care of Dad and all the details that needed attention.

Hope all is well with you and your family. I do hope to get the genealogy done soon.

Love to all,  
Jean