



Rev. Charlotte Frances Truitt

February 28, 1922 - January 6, 2018

Rev. Charlotte Frances (Fran) Truitt, 95, passed away peacefully at Sunrise of Dublin on January 6, 2018. Fran was born February 8, 1922 in Newark, Ohio. She is survived by her children; Mary Elizabeth O'Brien (Carter), Robert Truitt Carter (Dee), son-in-law; Richard P. O'Brien, grandchildren; Mary Margaret O'Brien, Joseph Corey O'Brien, brother; J.T. Truitt (Phyllis), sister-in-law; Kay Truitt and much-loved nieces and nephews. Fran is preceded in death by her husband, Rev. Dr. Robert H. Bonthius; parents, Frank W. Truitt Sr. and Charlotte Hook Truitt; sister, Mary Evelyn Truitt Dawson; brother, Frank W. Truitt Jr. She attended Worthington High School (class of 1940), Ohio State University and Methodist Theological Seminary in Delaware, Ohio with a MA in Christian Education and a Master of Divinity. She was ordained by the United Church of Christ in 1979. She is a former Youth Director of Columbus YWCA, President of Columbus Family Life and Sex Education Council, Minister of Education at First Community Church and Broad Street United Methodist Church, a founding member and Past President of the National Board of Witness for Peace, Washington, D.C., recipient of the Maine Martin Luther King Award for Community Service 1989, recipient of Partners for the Future Award from Southern Poverty Law Center 2007, Who's Who of American Women 1997-1998 and Who' Who in Religion 2000. A private memorial service will be held at her former home in Maine. Condolences can be made to the family at www.rutherfordfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Rev. Charlotte Frances Truitt*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM

“FRAN TRUITT: A MENTOR FOR LIFE

Beth Britt Marlor

Monday, January 15, 2018

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

I first met Fran when I was in my late teens, about 1963. She had become the YWCA advisor for the OSU Campus YM/YWCA, and I was one of the students who revolved around this wonderful organization. The Y had a rich tradition at OSU, welcoming new students, conducting social functions, organizing discussion groups on current issues ("Sex and Selfhood"!) and exploring the many social upheavals of the day. We were closely aligned with other student religious organizations, such as the Wesley Foundation and our offices were next door to the International Students association. Frank Johnson, our YMCA advisor, and Fran both encouraged and empowered us, as Y leaders, to do what we could to change the world. They respected us as young people, and seemed to see more in us than we may have seen in ourselves.

From my very sheltered eighteen-year-old perspective, Fran was a whole different kind of woman. She had grown up in my town, Worthington, a generation before me. She had a husband and kids, just like my mother and all our family friends and relatives. But Fran was a revelation to me in that she also had a career, and, even more astoundingly, she was on fire for the cause of justice. Through Fran, and Frank Johnson, I came to realize the magnitude of the suppression of rights and the violence against black people in my country, and to begin to accept that I, personally, could contribute in some way to ending injustice and violence.

What a gift for my life it was to become friends with Fran again in the 1980s, during her tenure as a Youth Minister at First Community Church, where I was an active member. By that time, she had become a community organizer for many local and national issues. And I had been growing in my awareness and advocacy for what women called "consciousness raising". During this more adult-to-

adult renewal period of our friendship, Fran became an important support for me through a tough time in my personal life. She unfailingly encouraged me to seek what was true for me, and to believe that my truth was just as important as someone else's.

Sometime later, Fran and Bob moved to Maine, though we continued to stay in touch. During the summer of 1988, I needed to have a place of respite and searching. Fran and Bob opened their home and their lovely little guest cottage to me for a week. They fed my body and soul through their food, shelter, love, acceptance and empathy, giving me the space to gain clarity and strength.

My story of Fran's gifts in my life does not end there. A few years ago I was thrilled to learn that Fran and Bob would be moving to my very home, Westminster Thurber Retirement Community here in Columbus! Here, Fran and I had many wonderful conversations together in their apartment on the eighth floor, as we discussed what life was like now for each of us, and reminisced about old times and dear old friends. After Fran moved to Worthington with Mary Beth and Rick, I continued to go and visit her, listening to her recount the wonderful life she had lived.

Fran Truitt was one of those rare human beings who can help us feel that the life we are living can be quite important. Through our years of friendship, I never came away from a conversation with Fran without feeling enriched by her wisdom and her unspoken challenge to me to be a better person. She empowered me to live a life of service to children and to find my own way to speak truth to power. Her encouragement and friendship has been a vital part of the web of my life. I will be forever grateful.

Beth Britt Marlor - January 17, 2018 at 03:34 PM

SW

“ Most people know her as Fran, but to me she will always be Mrs. Carter. She was the convener, from 1961-63, of my small group in the Methodist Youth Fellowship at Worthington Methodist Church. She challenged us to strengthen our faith and live a life of service. She pushed us to really get to know and care for each member of the group. She challenged us to accept others who were not as privileged as we were.

I also was blessed to have her as an adult leader in the OSU Campus YMCA. She encouraged us to be involved in social issues that we were passionate about. Some of those were controversial in the mid 60s, but she always was supportive of what we thought was important.

Mrs. Carter was a huge influence on my life, and I am a much better person because I spent so much time with her when I was young.

Steve Walker

Steve Walker - January 16, 2018 at 10:40 AM