



Rita Yvonne Twining

January 12, 2021

On Tuesday, January 12, 2021, Rita Yvonne Twining, loving wife, mother, grandmother and sister, passed away at the age of 84.

Rita was born on January 30, 1936 in Sagamore, PA to Edward and Margaret Howells. She received her degree in Religious Education from Eastern Pilgrim College in Allentown, PA. On February 1, 1958, she was married to Lorin Emerson Twining. Subsequently, she was a pastor's wife, home-maker, and substitute teacher for 36 years in Hallsport, NY, Lyndonville, NY, Nunda, NY, and Exmore, VA. Together they raised one son, Jonathan E. Twining. They retired in 2002 to live with their son and his family in Smithfield, RI and subsequently attended Valley Chapel Church of the Nazarene.

Rita loved working with children in Sunday school, children's church, and summer vacation Bible schools. She put her creativity to work by making her own puppets and using them to teach children Bible stories. She also created or directed skits, plays, and musicals. Rita loved to have special events for the women of the churches, and also led women's Bible studies. Perhaps she was best known for her cookies and Christmas parties which she held every year. She was known for having a kind, compassionate, and loving spirit.

Rita was preceded in death by her husband Emerson, her father Edward, and her mother Margaret. She is survived by her son Jonathan E. Twining and his

wife Julia, her grandson Jonathan J. Twining, and her sisters Marlene Allen and Myrna Howells DeAustria.

There will be a memorial service to honor Rita at a future date.

Tribute Wall

DK

“ It was such a blessing to know Rita at Valley Chapel. I appreciated her warm smile and encouraging words each Sunday. Even though she had some physical challenges, she was still willing to serve with generosity and humility. Her love for Jesus shined through to all. I really enjoyed her oatmeal cookies and she was kind enough to share her recipe with me. I have used it many times. Rita will be missed very much!

Deb Koopman - January 19, 2021 at 02:11 PM



Romaine Sands

“ We loved Rita. She was always cheerful, even when times were difficult. She had a heartwarming smile to match her sweet heart. Oh yes, and those wonderful cookies she baked and shared! She will always be in our hearts. Much love, Romaine, Luke and Phil Sands

Romaine Sands - January 15, 2021 at 08:42 PM

CM

“ It was a blessing to know Rita and her contagious smile which sprung from her love of Jesus! I'm so glad Ryan and I had the opportunity to be in a Sunday School class alongside Rita. She was secure in her faith and her joy was evident to all. I'm sorry to her family as you endure the loss of her presence and grateful to know she is in the best possible place right now.

Christine McCabe - January 15, 2021 at 05:09 PM

RD

“ Yes, you are right about her cookies. I even told her once how impressed I was that each one was perfectly sized and shaped. She was a joy in my Sisters In Christ bible study group, where we met. We had many years together and she and Emerson are missed. I loved them both. Her constant smile and his eagerness to meet every single person who entered the church. We will meet again, my brother and sister. Much love from me and Dave.
Roberta and Dave O'Connell

Roberta & Dave - January 14, 2021 at 09:59 PM

TM

Rita was a very pleasant woman that had a lot of love in her heart for all those around her that loved each other and the Lord, Which is why we got along. She accepted me from the beginning of my being part of Valley Chapel, greeting me with the loving smile she was known for and becoming a friend that cared. I will miss her and I look forward to seeing her again along with many of our other friends when we get to Heaven.
Blessings,
Trina Mendes

Trina Mendes - January 15, 2021 at 05:44 AM

DB

“ I really enjoyed getting to know Rita throughout her years at Valley Chapel. She was a faithful servant of the Lord. She loved her Church Family. Of course, I will remember her delicious cookies. Rita was so thoughtful that whenever she baked for a function at church she would make sure she had a couple extra oatmeal raisin that she graciously shared with me. I will miss Rita's earthly presence but thankful for the hope we have through Jesus of an eternal life together.
Debbie Bedard

Debbie Bedard - January 14, 2021 at 03:05 PM

TP

“ We will miss our visits with her. I know she looked forward to us coming, telling us all about her earlier years with her husband in ministry. I'm blessed to have been able to hear some of those stories. She will certainly be missed at Valley Chapel. So sorry for your loss Jonathan.

Teena Porter - January 14, 2021 at 01:51 PM

LR

“ How we will miss Rita's contagious smile and her heart to serve. Despite needing a walker, she loved to greet people at the church doors on Sunday mornings. And who can ever forget her mouth-watering cookies! What a treat when a plate of them would arrive at Christmas time or for a staff meeting. Now she is face-to-face with her Savior and reunited with her beloved Emerson.

Lynne Randolph - January 14, 2021 at 01:21 PM

PH

“ Rita and Emerson Twining were a blessing to our church family here at Valley Chapel. Rita always exemplified a caring heart for her church family. For years she supplied me with cough drops so my voice would be clearer when I preached. Many people remember her delicious cookies. Several have asked for her famous cookie recipes. Perhaps Jonathan would be so to publish these for us. -
Pastor Bob Howard

Pastor Bob Howard - January 14, 2021 at 01:18 PM

SH

“ We will so miss Rita and her love for us all. Her joy and smile radiated the love she had for the Lord. She had the gift of hospitality and used that gift so many times as she labored over the oven making her delicious cookies and sharing them with so many friends. We were blessed to have the Lord bring her to New England so that our paths could cross. She's now resting in the arms of her Savior and we know we will see her again in heaven.

Sharon Howard - January 14, 2021 at 11:06 AM

JH

“ Best Christmas parties ever...such a great cook! She was also an awesome pastor's wife and friend. I can still hear her wonderful laugh, she loved life and her Lord! <3

Jan Heideman - January 13, 2021 at 09:13 PM

HS

“ Rita always had a beautiful smile on her face and the Joy of the Lord in her heart. Even in the past few years when she had to use a walker, she would be bouncing all over the church lobby greeting everyone with hugs and joy. It was our favorite when she would wheel her famous cookies around to share!! We will see her again soon in eternity!!

Heather Simpson - January 13, 2021 at 02:29 PM