



Lawrence Odell Carpenter

FEB 6, 1933 - JAN 19, 2020



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Bixby-South
Tulsa Funeral Service
& Crematory

Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 5
Media	Page 7



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L awrence Carpenter Obituary

Services to honor and remember the life of Odell are Friday January 24th, 2020, at 11 AM at South Tulsa Baptist Church. Family will receive friends Thursday, January 23rd from 4-6:00 PM at Bixby Funeral Service.

Lawrence Odell Carpenter (Odell), aged 86, of Tulsa Oklahoma, passed away on January 19, 2020. Odell was born on February 6, 1933, in his parents' farmhouse in Mulhall Oklahoma. The family moved to Centralia, OK when Odell was 7 years old, and he helped with the family farm during his youth. While at Centralia, Odell played on the high school basketball team and graduated Salutatorian. He also wooed a classmate, Roena Louise Falling, and they married on December 29, 1951. Odell knew his life's calling early on, and surrendered to preach while in high school. He wasted no time and delivered sermons in churches around Centralia before he even started college. Odell continued to preach while he attended college and seminary, but was also married and starting a family. The churches couldn't afford to pay much, so Odell took odd jobs (working in a restaurant washing dishes in exchange for meals, working for a furniture company and driving a bread route) to make ends meet.

Odell attended Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant (B.A. 1957), and Fort Worth Baptist Theological Seminary (B.D. 1960). He also earned a Doctor of Ministries from Luther Rice Seminary in 1980. Odell served as pastor at churches throughout Oklahoma during his long life and ministry, including First Baptist Church in Centralia, Boudinot Baptist Church in Tahlequah, First Baptist Church in Centrahoma, First Baptist Church in Wardville, First Baptist Church in Stringtown, First Baptist Church Hartshorne, Trinity Baptist Church in Bartlesville, First Baptist Church and Haikey Park Baptist Church in Bixby, First Baptist Church in Idabel, Midway Baptist Church in Claremore, and Skelly Drive Baptist Church in Tulsa. Odell's longest ministry was in Bixby, OK, where he served at First Baptist in Bixby from 1974 through 1986, and then again from 1990 through 1998 when he started a new church, Haikey Park Baptist Church. Despite "retiring" a number of times, Odell was not happy when idle. He served most recently at Skelly Drive Baptist Church in Tulsa for four years



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before retiring (for the fourth and final time) in 2018. Even after retirement, Odell continued his many-year ministry conducting weekly services at Sand Plum Assisted Living in Bixby almost until the end of his life.

Roena was Odell's partner in his ministry, and they shared over 60 years together until Roena was taken by cancer in 2012. Odell is also preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Ethel Carpenter, a brother Leslie Carpenter, a brother Merle Carpenter, a brother Hugh Carpenter, and a sister Annabelle Isaacs. He is survived by a brother, Vern Carpenter of Marshall, MO; children Leslie Carpenter of Keller TX, Diana Tancer of Manhasset, NY, and Starla Carpenter of Champaign, IL; and grandsons Matt Carpenter of Narrowsburg, NY and Kenneth Carpenter of Keller, TX.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donation be made to the Ministry Center at South Tulsa Baptist Church <http://ministry-center.org/>.

To send flowers
to the family or plant a tree
in memory of Lawrence Odell Carpenter, please visit our floral store.

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Tribute Wall

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Bixby Funeral Service shared a **Video**.



April 22 at 7:44 AM



Tracie Garbacz posted:

There are not words to summarize all the memories and gratitude for Odell's presence in my life. From childhood as neighbors in Bartlesville, to Tulsa playing dominoes with my parents and one of the rare times my parents went to church with me in Bixby-only because Odell was the minister. Our family funerals he gave eulogy for and the forever grateful eulogy he covered me for during my mother's funeral when all my memory was lost due to stress. The trip he and Roena made to Pearland to officiate my eldest son's wedding in April 2011 & the sombreros adorned to celebrate her April 14th birthday with the biggest smiles was an absolute treasure. That trip was when I knew Roena really cared, they both did. They weren't just my parent's friends, they were truly mine too. My whole life I never realized what a gift their friendship was to my parents & my family's life until I was grown. 2012 & 2013 I had a few very honest -candid phone conversations with Odell & his faithfulness to the Lord and His word worked through his friendship to me. I will be forever grateful to the genuine heart filled friendship they gifted me with & showing my children that there are those that do have your best interest at heart & there is good in the world. Deepest sympathy to Starla (my playmate), Leslie & Diana (the siblings Starla had at her fingertips, played with her & built snowmen with- I smile when I say," As a pre-schooler, I was so jealous she had you both.") God bless you, give you peace & comfort knowing His love and the love of your parents surround you. How glorious it will be to see them again in God's Kingdom. Much love.

June 16 at 1:03 PM



Charlotte Hildebrant posted:

I served as Odell's music Minister for 15 years at the Bixby First Baptist Church. It was my great honor to be a part of his ministry. Many Sunday evenings after church we would go to his home and have a leftover roast sandwich and play dominoes. Many special memories during our time together. I loved to hear him play his guitar and sing. Great smile!

January 22 at 6:29 PM



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Susan Connor posted:

I met Odell in 2013 at a Grief Share group at SouthTulsa Baptist. He had lost his wife shortly before in 2013, and I'd lost my husband. I was the youngest one in the group and he always made me feel important and asked how my kids and I were doing. He was a special caring man. I know he's happy with his wife in Heaven now.

January 22 at 5:36 PM

BG

Bob Green posted:

Odell was a wonderful colleague in the ministry. I truly enjoyed his friendship through the years here in the Tulsa area. His smile, friendliness, and obedience unto the Lord was certainly a great testimony. I regret that I have a funeral to conduct the same time as his, or I would be there. May God bless and comfort the family during this days.

January 22 at 4:19 AM

LS

Linda Bernard Smith posted:

This is a very special family an Odell was a very special man. Only pastor who took me serious when as a young adult I told him I had never been saved. He lead me to the Lord.

January 20 at 2:00 PM



Media

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Bixby Funeral Service shared a **Video**.

April 22 at 7:44 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Lawrence by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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