

In Memory of

David Bond Baxter

February 8, 1950 - October 22, 2015

Obituary

David Bond Baxter, age 65, of Highland Park, Texas passed from this life to the next on Thursday October 22, 2015 after surviving colon cancer for over six years. David was born at Baylor Hospital on February 8, 1950 to Turner Butler and Pauline Bond Baxter and grew up in University Park. He graduated from Highland Park High School in 1968, SMU in 1972 and SMU Law School in 1975.

David attended UP Elementary as a child, and became a boy scout in Troop 70. David made many friends through scouting and achieved his Eagle rank in 1965. He was an Assistant Scoutmaster in Troop 70, earning his wood badge and giving back more to scouting than it gave to him, according to the Eagle pledge. His two sons and his nephew became Eagles in the same troop. In his scouting career, he attended a number of jamborees, including the Idaho World Jamboree in 1967 and the Irish National Jamboree in 2008, which was a memorable washout.

He was an avid golfer, playing on the golf team of Highland Park High School and continuing to play at the Dallas Country Club until a few months before his death. He enjoyed golf tourism, playing at famous courses including Pebble Beach, Half Moon Bay, Torrey Pines, and St Andrews, and enjoyed playing in Nigeria and South Africa and other countries.

He was a lifelong member of Highland Park United Methodist Church, and in 1978-79 was President of the Becomers Sunday School Class, a large singles class that produced many of the church's current leaders and families. The class grew rapidly during his tenure. After his term, he ran the Monday night meetings called "Share Group," and one Monday, he met his future wife, Bobbie Stark, who had just moved to Dallas to train in internal medicine at Parkland Hospital. They married in Garden City, New York on July 4, 1981, a day that produced 5 inches of rain in both New York and Dallas. After they married, David and Bobbie helped

found the Celebrations Class, which flourished for several years until it merged into the growing Fellowship Class. In 1983, David helped Bobbie found the Agape Clinic of Grace United Methodist Church. Over 32 years, he continued to inspire, support and grow the mission to its present 6 day a week, 10,000 visits per year entity, serving as its Board President among other posts. His other passion was the Vision Africa mission. David impulsively jumped on a plane to Nigeria one week after he heard help was needed, to assist Bishop Sunday Onuoha with getting Vision Africa Radio off the ground, and continued to serve on the Radio Committee for many years, including serving as its chair. Vision Africa Radio brings community programming and Christian content to 20 million Nigerians and improves lives daily.

David worked as a title attorney in Preston Center and enjoyed sending a weekly email called "the Title Answer Man" and later "Monday Motivational Messages" and finally, "A Moment to Live For" for years. He delighted in helping parties come to consensus to close their real estate transactions and was absolutely unflappable in the face of intense emotions. In his professional work as in everything he did, David's integrity and humor attracted people to him and he made their days and lives better.

David is survived by his wife, Barbara Stark Baxter, MD, his mother Pauline Bond Baxter of Kaufman Texas, three children, Richard Turner Baxter, DMD and wife Tara Richardson Baxter, ACNP of Birmingham AL, Sarah Grace Baxter of Dallas TX, James Calvert Baxter and wife Samantha Cloud Baxter of Dallas TX, his nephew Christopher Ryan Pace and wife Amy Lynn Pace of Rockwall, TX and his niece Amy Taylor Pace of Brooklyn, NY. He also is survived by 3 grandchildren, Noelle Grace and Hannah Lynn Baxter of Birmingham AL, and Keith David Baxter of Dallas TX. He was predeceased by his father Turner Butler Baxter and his sister Paula Baxter Pace.

Visitation will be at Grace United Methodist Church (4105 Junius St., Dallas, TX) from 6-8 PM Thursday, October 29, 2015. A graveside service will be held at the Kaufman Cemetery at 11:30 A.M. on Friday October 30, 2015. The Celebration of Life Service will be at Highland Park United Methodist Church at 3 PM on October 30, 2015. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Vision Africa (VisionAfrica.org) or the Agape Clinic (TheAgapeClinic.org).