



## Patricia Haden Vassar

March 20, 1951 - August 10, 2025

Patricia Haden Vassar, 74, of Gladys, Virginia, passed away peacefully on August 10, 2025. She was born in Ringgold, Virginia, on March 20, 1951, to the late Norris Lillard Haden and Margaret Terry Haden.

Patricia lived a life rooted in faith, purpose, and service. For 42 years, she shared her musical gifts at Kedron Baptist Church in Gladys, playing both the organ and piano. She also devoted countless hours to planning and leading Vacation Bible Schools, organizing Christmas Angel Tree donations, and serving on children's and youth ministry committees.

Those who knew Patricia remember her favorite sayings: "Life is not a dress rehearsal," "Tell people how you feel about them while they're living," and "We only pass this way once." She lived by those words-making others feel valued, offering encouragement, and expressing gratitude for work well done.

Her heart for service extended throughout the greater Gladys community. In her years at the U.S. Postal Service, she greeted neighbors daily, listened to their joys and challenges, and quietly responded to needs she saw-collecting clothing, food, and other essentials for those facing hardship. Another of her oft-repeated beliefs was, "Time is the most valuable gift you can give somebody." When you spent time with Patricia, you knew she was fully present, genuinely interested, and deeply engaged.

Although dementia took her memories far too soon, it never diminished her generosity. Even in her final years, she offered to pay for others' meals, refused to eat unless her company joined her, and gladly gave away items to those in greater need. Dementia also could not take her music-Patricia played the piano until July 2025, with beloved hymns flowing from muscle memory.

Before joining the Postal Service, Patricia served as an extension agent at the Campbell County Office of Virginia Cooperative Extension and taught home economics at her alma mater, Dan River High School in Ringgold. She earned both undergraduate and graduate degrees from Radford College and was Valedictorian of the Dan River High School Class of 1969.

In addition to her parents, Patricia was preceded in death by her son, Ryan Haden Vassar.

She is survived by her husband, William Ted Vassar of Gladys; her children, Nathan (Jessica) Vassar of Austin, Texas, and Karen Vassar Brown (Robert) of Richmond, Virginia; and her adored grandchildren, Sarah, George, Evan, and Clara. She also leaves behind her siblings, Karen Belcher (Ronald) of Summerfield, North Carolina, and N. Karl Haden (Jeannie) of Atlanta, Georgia, whom she loved fiercely-and occasionally good-naturedly bossed around-as well as many treasured nieces, nephews, and extended family.

The family will receive friends from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. Friday, August 15, 2025, at Kedron Baptist Church's Fellowship Hall, 7862 Brookneal Highway, Gladys, Virginia.

A funeral service will be conducted at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, August 16, 2025, at Kedron Baptist Church with interment to follow in the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the "Angel Tree Fund" at Kedron Baptist Church, P.O. Box 38, Gladys, Virginia 24554.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **15**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Kedron Baptist Church  
7862 Brookneal HWY  
Gladys, VA 24554

## Funeral Service

AUG **16**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Kedron Baptist Church  
7862 Brookneal HWY  
Gladys, VA 24554

# Tribute Wall



“ *Finch & Finch, Inc. Funeral & Cremation Service created a Tribute Video in memory of Patricia Haden Vassar*



Finch & Finch, Inc. Funeral & Cremation Service - August 15, 2025 at 10:04 AM

MH

“ *A beautiful service for a beautiful soul! Truly, a life well lived. I will always treasure memories of our antics and other times together.*

Mildred Hopkins Hall - August 17, 2025 at 09:24 AM

TW

“ *Oh, where to begin. Having known Patricia my whole life was indeed a blessing for me. Her light and laughter never dimmed, even through her last several tough years. She was still laughing and singing. So many fun memories - from spending the night with Kay at their house, (I usually chose stocking days at the store. That was a chore she and Kay weren't too fond of, but it was fun to me. Of course I didn't have to do it all the time.), to family get-togethers, GAs, youth choir, youth camp, piano recitals, weddings, to visits in Gladys - which included watching her shoo away a frog with a hoe and then making us milkshakes. Patricia, I truly miss you, but rejoice in your home-going to reunite with your loved ones. I know Ryan was first in line with a smile and a hug. So long until we meet again my friend! Hugs and prayers for Kay and Karl and families.*

Terry Wright - August 16, 2025 at 02:44 AM

VB

“ My heart was saddened to hear of your loss. Tricia was a caring and sweet lady. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers.

*Vivian Brooks*

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**Vivian Brooks** - August 15, 2025 at 07:26 PM

LO

“ Our heartfelt condolences to you and your family, Ted. If you need anything, let us know. Our prayers are with you. Psalm 116:15

*Sincerely,  
Henry and Lorrie Padgett*

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**Lorrie** - August 15, 2025 at 07:07 PM

AC

“ My deepest, sincere condolences to Tricia’s family. I grew up with Tricia, Karen and Karl attending Kentuck Baptist Church in Ringgold, Va. Our parents were the best of friends, too. I know the past several years have been tough for everyone. What a blessing Tricia was to all who knew her and interacted with her. Tricia built my confidence as a teenager when I was pianist for several years for the youth choir when she launched it at Kentuck. Her unwavering patience with my sometimes-missed timing, a few bad notes and general nervousness gave me the courage necessary to succeed at life’s challenges. Thank you, Tricia.

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**Alan Carter** - August 13, 2025 at 03:25 PM

TP

“ Ted and family you're all in our thoughts and prayers. Brian and Kim Palmer and family



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**Teresa Palmer** - August 13, 2025 at 10:02 AM

JB

“ Ted,  
I did not know your wife< but I want you to know Elaine will keep you and your family in prayer as you celebrate and grieve.  
JW Burton

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**John W Burton** - August 13, 2025 at 06:56 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Patricia Haden Vassar.



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August 12, 2025 at 02:55 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Patricia Haden Vassar.



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August 12, 2025 at 01:53 PM

BD

“ *Ted and family, I am very sorry to learn of your loss. May God give you and your family strength and comfort through this sad time. My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

**Billy Denton** - August 12, 2025 at 12:54 PM

RC

“ *Thoughts and prayers to the Vassar family. I worked with Patricia on several promotions at Leggett Dept store while she as employed as extension agent at Campbell County Extension office.*



**Richard Cox** - August 12, 2025 at 11:28 AM

CJ

“ *Cindy Johnson lit a candle in memory of Patricia Vassar*



**Cindy Johnson** - August 12, 2025 at 09:02 AM

JS

“ *Jessica StJohn lit a candle in memory of Patricia Haden Vassar*



**Jessica StJohn** - August 11, 2025 at 09:16 PM

JS

“ To the family of Tricia I will be keeping yall in my thoughts and prayers. I had the pleasure of working with her at the postal service she was a wealth of knowledge. Tricia was always willing to lend a hand or a word of wisdom. She was a wonderful friend. Tricia loved the Lord and her family fiercely. She would smile ear to ear speaking of her children and grandchildren. I can only imagine the smile on her face as she arrived in heaven and Ryan was there to welcome her. Tricia free from the dementia and Ryan fully able to see both fully healed in the presence of Jesus. Fly high my sweet friend you are gonna be missed.

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**Jessica StJohn** - August 11, 2025 at 09:14 PM

DL

“ The most beautiful and Christlike soul. If anyone I have ever known made the Father, Son and Holy Spirit happen, surely it was Aunt Trisha. Mama and I thought she was an angel. Today when praying for Uncle Ted and their beautiful daughter and son, I was "surprised by joy," as CS Lewis said, imagining Aunt Trisha's radiant, smiling face seeing her youngest and saying, "What are you doing here, Ryan?!" Maybe he said he wanted to be there to welcome her. She always made everyone feel the deep love of Jesus... And Karen and Nathan are just like her. Gabriel and I send our deepest sympathies.

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**Deana Vassar Lauro** - August 11, 2025 at 04:49 PM

DV

Oh, gracious--my typing--it was supposed to read that Aunt Trisha made the Father and Son and Holy Spirit happy. She brought joy to everyone. Praying fervently for Uncle Ted and cousins Karen and Nathan and their amazing, faithful families.

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**Deana Vassar** - August 14, 2025 at 11:25 AM

SB

“ *Love and prayers to the family. Patricia was a precious lady. Sue & Edwin*



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**Susan Blackstock** - August 11, 2025 at 01:59 PM

JB

“ *Ted and Family Sorry to about your loss of your loved one. You are in our prayers. May God give you peace in these troubling times.*

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**Jimmy Barrett** - August 11, 2025 at 11:35 AM

OO

*My prayers go out to your family during these difficult times you are like a brother to me love Oliver*

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**Oliver Owen** - August 11, 2025 at 02:10 PM