



## Walter "Walt" Benjamin Vendsel

April 16, 1949 - June 27, 2016

WALTER B. VENDSEL

1949 - 2016

Walter B. Vendsel of St. Helens died at home on June 27 after a long illness, surrounded by his wife, pastor and friends.

Walt was born April 16, 1949, in Portland, Oregon to Gerald Karl and Varian "Marie" (Hendryx) Vendsel. As a boy, he spent several years in Cannon Beach with his grandparents, a time and place he always fondly remembered.

Walt loved learning and never stopped. He received an AA degree from California's Bakersfield College in June 1969, and then a BA in history from Chico State University in 1971. He married Angela Bardes in 1971, and they later returned to Portland. Walt felt God calling him into ministry, and he earned his Master's in Divinity from Western Seminary in June 1976. The couple started a family in Portland, and Walt served as pastor of Glencoe Baptist Church in southeast Portland. Pastoring there and later, at First Conservative Baptist Church in Anchorage, Alaska, were some of his favorite years. Even when he was not in the pulpit, Walt remained a man with a pastor's heart. He was an outstanding Bible teacher, who memorized long passages from God's Word, and loved to open his home to study groups. He is remembered for that deep love for Jesus, his desire to research and dig into Scripture, and for his powerful prayers.

Walt grew up fishing and hunting, but a fishing pastime evolved into a passion during four years in Anchorage, Alaska. After a move to Texas in 1989, Walt worked at GTE in sales and customer service. However, he carved out two weeks each summer for an Alaskan fishing trip with his young son, funded by mowing lawns in their spare time. Fishing, baking apple pies, gardening, camping and thinking up entrepreneurial ideas were all part of Walt. He loved to design and build things, especially in wood. Some of his best fishing trips were enhanced by a tall Stanley thermos filled with hot coffee that was liberally sugared. Hot dogs on sticks over a campfire and telling fishing tales were his idea of a good time.

On November 19, 2003, Walt married a second time, to Pamela Bruner, of Bedford, Texas. She shared his love of fishing and camping, and within months, the couple settled in

Columbia County. For several years, they served as foster parents at their place on Scappoose Bay. Walt was a friend and mentor to other children, too. He took deep pride in his children's many accomplishments and was thrilled to become a grandfather. He had hoped to bring the little ones out to Oregon and teach them how to fish; most importantly, he wanted to teach them about Jesus.

Walt was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his wife, Pamela; son, Michael (Rachael) Vendsel of Dallas, Texas; daughters, Sarah (Radu) Dudas, of Loma Linda, California and Karen (Dave) Norvell of North Richland Hills, Texas; two stepdaughters, Courtney (Chris) Stevens of Dallas, Texas, and Sara Strickland of Carlsbad, New Mexico; sisters, Jini Johnson of Bakersfield, California, Carol (Duane) Anderson of Bakersfield, California; brothers, Jeff (Stephanie) Vendsel, of Castro Valley, California, and Earl (Monica) Vendsel of Bakersfield, California; and two grandsons and three granddaughters.

Funeral arrangements were handled by Columbia Funeral Home; interment was on July 1 in Columbia Memorial Gardens, Scappoose, Oregon.

# Cemetery

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# Events

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**Columbia Memorial Gardens** JUL

54490 Columbia River Hwy.

Scappoose, OR, 97056

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**Memorial Service**

01:00PM

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Warren Baptist Church

56799 Columbia River Hwy, Warren, OR, US, 97053

# Comments

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“ A tribute video has been added.



**Columbia Funeral Home** - July 05, 2016 at 05:35 PM



“ I knew Walt when he was the pastor at Glencoe Baptist in Church and lost track of him when he went to Alaska and then I think to Texas. I regret not responding to him when he moved back to the north west in scappoose and reached out to let me know he was back in the area. For some reason he has been on my mind lately and this evening I thought I would do a Google search for him to see if he was still in the area and was very sad to find out that he had passed away 4 years ago. We had spent many hours together in bible study, hunting when he was in seminary and as the pastor of the Glencoe Baptist Church.

**Ronald Thrasher** - October 08, 2020 at 10:40 PM



“ Interesting how this time of Covid 19 and the recently forest fires that swept Clackamas Co has put a number people from my past on my mind. I too searched for Walt and was saddened to find this post. I meet Walt at Glencoe Baptist Church and was my pastor for many years. I am forever grateful for his friendship, preaching and especially learning the doctrines of Grace and Reformed theology from him and Pastor Mike Gaydosh. He was a true pastor to his people. Thanks Walt.

**Bill Clark** - October 18, 2020 at 11:04 PM

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“ The recent Clackamas County fires and evacuations along with the Covid 19 crisis has given me extra time to wonder about people from my past. I recently looked up Walt and was surprised to find this. Thanks Walt for being a true pastor to me and my brothers and sisters at Glencoe Baptist Church. I especially thank you and Pastor Mike for teaching the doctrines of grace and the Reformed approach to the the Bible and the faith. Your preaching was faithful and true to the Scriptures. Those were happy days.

**Bill Clark** - October 23, 2020 at 07:23 PM

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“ Multicolor Bright Sympathy Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Walter "Walt" Benjamin Vendsel.



June 30, 2016 at 06:12 PM

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“ 47 files added to the album LifeTributes



Columbia Funeral Home - June 30, 2016 at 02:43 PM

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“ Anca, Joe and Stela purchased the White Sympathy Standing Spray for the family of Walter "Walt" Benjamin Vendsel.



Anca, Joe and Stela - June 30, 2016 at 02:36 AM