



## Carolyn Yvonne Dutton

October 14, 2025

Carolyn Yvonne Dutton (Vonnie) went to be with her Lord on Tuesday October 14, 2025. Vonnie was the daughter of the late Rev. and Mrs. Dale and Helen Dutton (Adelberger) and sister of Carol Adele Engelman and aunt to Kimberly A. Amylon. Vonnie was born in Akron, OH on June 6, 1933.

Vonnie was an avid reader and a woman of peace. She attended Oak Grove, a Quaker boarding school in Maine, and she maintained that Quaker spirit throughout her life.

She loved to kayak, ride her bicycle, and go on long walks, enjoying the peace and happiness of the great outdoors.

Vonnie lived a life marked by unwavering faith and resilience, surviving a brain tumor at 20 years of age, skiing accidents, compound fractures, and cancer. Through these trials she held tight, never complained, and maintained a passionate embrace for the simple joys in life.

A woman grounded in her Christian faith and community, Vonnie was an active member of her church wherever she lived. She was a Commissioned Minister in the United Church of Christ, a gifted Sunday School teacher, administrator, and an accomplished pianist and organist. Vonnie was the organist for numerous churches, the last being Greenville Baptist and the North Scituate Baptist Churches.

Those who knew Vonnie will remember her kind heart, steady presence, and deep appreciation for the beauty in life's journey. Her legacy lives on in the values she instilled, the stories she shared, and the love, music, and time she

gave so freely. When Vonnie was your friend, you were blessed with a friend closer than a sister.

Vonnie's great niece Meagan K. Amylon and her great nephew Matthew R. Amylon, whom she practically raised, were the joy of her life, and she brought joy and love into their lives as well. They were the greatest gifts her sister could have given her, and the extent of her family.

Ms. Dutton is survived by Meagan and Matthew, by Matthew's spouse Sam Bessey, and by her goddaughter Melanie Chongolola Nestor and husband, David.

A celebration of Vonnie' Dutton's life will be held at the Greenville Baptist Church in Greenville, Rhode Island on November 1, 2025 at 11:30 AM. Burial will be private.

Vonnie will be deeply missed and fondly remembered.

"Well done, good and faithful servant." – Matthew 25:23

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

NOV 1. 11:30 AM (ET)

Greenville Baptist Church  
582 Putnam Pike  
Greenville, RI 02828

# Tribute Wall

“ Part 2 of my post about Dear Vonnie, our Sunday School teacher and Youth Group Leader!

*As we got older and our group got bigger she engaged us in new ways. One Fall she organized a round-the-world spiritual adventure for our weekly meetings. She invited our new minister Edward Dodge and leaders from other religions to inform us about their beliefs. Each week a different religion was represented. I remember thinking how brave, open and inclusive this was - she was not trying to pound the UCC set of beliefs into our heads and hearts, she wanted to show us that God is present in many ways around the world and that many of His teachings are universal...just packaged differently.*

*I remember very clearly one night she invited a turbaned gentleman from the Sikh religion. HE WAS SO INTERESTING! I had never spoken to someone who wore a turban, thinking them a bit aloof and if I am being honest, odd. He was so nice and down to earth. He explained the reason for the turban and how it centers and amplifies their energy and connection to their God/Guru.*

*From that point forward, rather than seeing a turban as a questionable fashion choice, I saw it as a dedicated and meaningful expression of their spirituality. To demonstrate how important channeling our personal energy was, the Sikh asked our minister to stand and hold a cigarette with his arm pointing out and then try to resist him as he pressed down on the minister's arm. The minister had no strength against the Sikh's pressure and his arm went immediately down. Then he did the same exercise with our minister holding a carrot, and suddenly our minister was strong enough to resist the pressure and could keep his arm up very well. This demonstration fascinated me and helped trigger my current interest in being a patient of healers who practice natural healing and kinesiology.*

*Eventually I graduated from college and moved to Seattle, and*

*Vonnie moved to the East Coast to help care for the niece and nephew she loved so dearly. Vonnie and I kept in touch intermittently. I joined a Seattle Congregational community that I liked but the minister I really enjoyed resigned under scandal. The committee then chose a gay couple as co-ministers of the church which I thought was super cool (especially for the 1990s!) but that choice made some of the congregation members angry and leave and the church was never the same. I was disillusioned that members of the church community could be so rigid and unkind. I never found another church that felt like home, although I tried! When I married and had my first baby she visited Seattle during a grand Greyhound bus road trip across the country. We reunited as if we were never apart. I was so honored she would come to see us.*

*Fast forward 20 years later -- my 22yo son Reed died in a car accident. She was there, sending love, knitted gifts, letters of love and support. I will always be humbled and grateful for the pure love she sent our way.*

*So that is the end of my long-winded tribute to Vonnie, but not the end of the love story she wrote on my heart. She was a bright light and served the Lord and so many so beautifully. Thank you Vonnie for being wonderful, amazing, selfless you!*

*Love you forever,*

*Connie Waite Baldwin*

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**Connie Baldwin** - December 27, 2025 at 02:58 PM

CB

“*Vonnie was my Sunday school teacher at First Congregational Church in Tucson, AZ and then our Youth Group Leader. My first memory of her is watching a bible lesson on one of those manual filmstrip projectors. I think there was a record that narrated and "beeped" when it was time to move to the next slide; high tech for the 1970s!*

*She organized a squirrely group of 9-10 year old kids into a cohesive unit that had so much fun together. Her light-filled energy, beautiful smile and penchant for fun had us all following her like the Pied Piper. One year she had this grand idea to take us all to Disneyland. For months we held bake sales, washed cars, and even put on a paid-ticket dinner theater where we performed comedy acts...if only we had a video of those performances!*

*I don't know how she did it (probably with the help of a magic donor), we earned enough for ~5 of us to head to Anaheim on a Greyhound bus. We spent the night in sleeping bags at a local church and had the most wonderful time!*

*As we grew out of Sunday School, she took on the FCC Youth Group that encompassed a wider age range. We met weekly and rarely missed a session. Some of my fondest memories were of our Youth Retreats to Madeira Canyon. We slept in a church-owned home held moments of worship outdoors led by our minister Kendall Baker, explored the area, did some crafts, and ate communal meals she organized and cooked. One year she multiplied the recipe for orange tapioca incorrectly and we had GALLONS of it; it became an inside joke for months to come. Whenever we were hungry we asked if there was any orange tapioca left.*

*At one retreat, there were ~15 (maybe more?) of us all tucked away in our sleeping bags on the floor. One of my favorite memories is being cozy in my sleeping bag one cold morning and vaguely hearing grown-ups rustling in the kitchen area; none of us teens wanted to wake up yet. Rather than clap hands or talk to get us all*

*going, she or Kendall put the Beatles' "Here Comes the Sun" on the record player. It is such a gentle, heart-filling song. If there is a better way to wake up in the morning I DO NOT KNOW IT and I am now 63 years old. When I think about it I get emotional. Everyone should have a chance to wake up like that at least once in their life.*

*I want to write more, but this website is limiting the number of words. I will try to write more in another post.*

*Vonnie, you were such a gift to us - we didn't know how lucky we were. I know your beautiful and loving light is now with the Lord you served so well. Thank you for serving and loving us so well! <3*

*Connie Waite Baldwin*

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**Connie Baldwin** - December 27, 2025 at 02:35 PM