

LILIAN ROBINSON “FLOWER” ROSS



Passed away peacefully in Asheville, NC on November 30, 2009. Though she suffered the last few years of her life with serious health problems, she remained positive and grateful for the life that she had lived. She was 80 when she died. She leaves behind her loving husband, the Rev. Charles L. Winters, one brother, Murray Robinson, Bloomington, Indiana, four children from a previous marriage; Dr. Rusty Ross, Mobile, Alabama, Susan Shodroski, Frederick, Maryland, and Murray Ross and Frances Ross Nolan, Birmingham, Alabama. She also leaves behind two step-children, Tony Winters, New York, NY and Karen Vaught, Atlanta, Georgia, as well as 9 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Flower lived a remarkable life, having been born in Atlanta, Georgia at the beginning of the Great Depression, the oldest of three children. Flower's given name was Lilian but she was nicknamed Flower, a reference to Lilly, her name. Her mother was Margaret Mitchell's typist when she wrote *Gone With The Wind*. Flower attended Mary Washington College and received her Masters degree from Loyola University in New Orleans. Flower worked for the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama while her children were young and later worked for the School of Theology, The University of the South, where she married Charles Winters in 1980. Along with Charlie, she helped create and champion *Education for Ministry*, an educational program for lay-people in ministry, still widely used throughout the Episcopal Church. Over the years Flower traveled extensively in Asia, Europe, Australia, and North America while serving as a trainer of mentors for EfM groups all over the world.

Flower and Charlie joined the faculty of Seabury-Western Seminary in Evanston, Illinois where they both taught until their retirement in 1994. They moved to Asheville, North Carolina to be close to friends and immediately joined All Soul's Cathedral. Flower remained active in lay ministry until her health prevented her from continuing. Flower and Charlie eventually moved to Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community where she lived at the time of her death. Flower was an excellent ballroom dancer, an avid reader, a cat-lover, a lover of good food, a generous person, a thoughtful friend, a grateful servant, and a devoted spouse. Her presence will be missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

A Celebration of her life and a memorial service will be held at All Soul's Cathedral, Asheville, North Carolina, at 2:00 PM on Saturday, December 12, 2009 with the service of Holy Communion, concluding with the Interment of Ashes in the church garden, followed by a reception in Zabriskie Hall at the Cathedral.