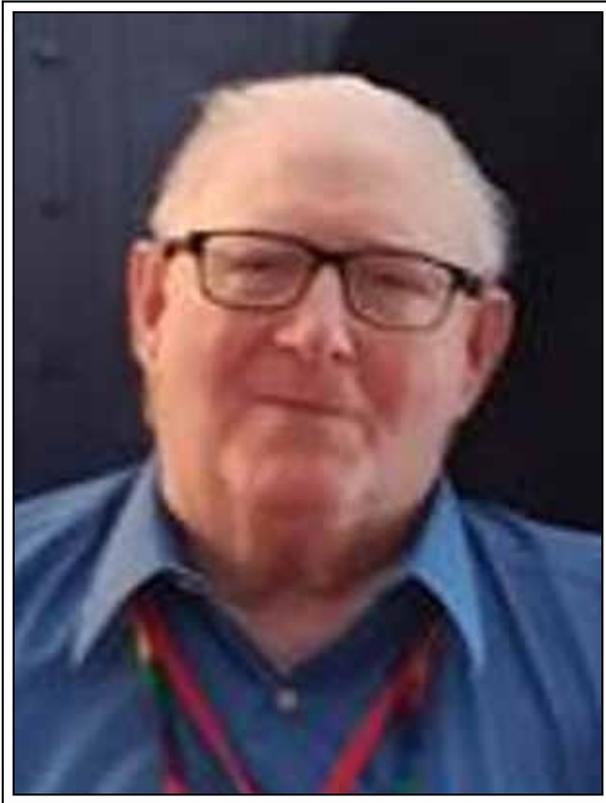


IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF  
NEAL MARTIN NIELSEN  
JUNE 15, 1945 – MAY 19, 2022



MEMORIAL SERVICE  
MAY 28, 2022  
11:00 AM  
SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
680 CALDER  
BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77701

## Organ Prelude

**Solo**

“The Servant Song”  
Tim Foster, Soloist

Richard Gillard

**Welcome Guests**

Janeal Marie Nielsen White, daughter

**Opening Hymn 179** (sts. 1,4, 5)

“Welcome Happy Morning”

*Fortunatus*

## Solemn Anthems

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord.  
Whoever has faith in me shall have life,  
even though he die.  
And everyone who has life,  
and has committed himself to me in faith,  
shall not die for ever.

As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives  
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth.  
After my awaking, he will raise me up;  
and in my body I shall see God.  
I myself shall see, and my eyes behold him  
who is my friend and not a stranger.

For none of us has life in himself,  
and none becomes his own master when he dies.  
For if we have life, we are alive in the Lord,  
and if we die, we die in the Lord.  
So, then, whether we live or die,  
we are the Lord's possession.

Happy from now on  
are those who die in the Lord!  
So it is, says the Spirit,  
for they rest from their labors.

*The Celebrant says the following Collect, first saying*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our brother Neal. We thank you for giving him to us, his family and friends, to know and to love as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life, so that in quiet confidence we may continue our course on earth, until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding, deal graciously with those who love Neal in their grief. Surround them with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*The people may be seated.*

**A Reading from the Book of Lamentations (3:22-26)**

Beki Burton

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ‘The LORD is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘therefore I will hope in him.’ The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. For the Lord will not reject forever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 121** (*read responsively by half verse*)

Beki Burton

I lift up my eyes to the hills;  
from where is my help to come?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
the maker of heaven and earth.  
He will not let your foot be moved  
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.  
Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel  
shall neither slumber nor sleep;  
The Lord himself watches over you,  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,  
So that the sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.  
The Lord shall preserve you from all evil;  
it is he who shall keep you safe.  
The Lord shall watch over your going out  
and your coming in,  
from this time forth for evermore.

**A Reading from the Book of Revelation (21:2-7)**

Bruce Smith

I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

**Hymn 335** (sts. 1, 4, 5) “I am the bread of life” *I am the Bread of Life*

**The Gospel** (*Remain standing.*)

*A Deacon or Priest says*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to John  
*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

“Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”  
*John 11:21-27*

The Word of the Lord.  
*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**The Homily**

The Rev. Dr. James M. Pevehouse

**The Apostles’ Creed** (*please stand*)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**The Prayers** *(please kneel or sit)*

For our brother Neal, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, “I am Resurrection and I am Life.”

Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Neal, and dry the tears of those who weep.

*Hear us, Lord.*

You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.

*Hear us, Lord.*

You raised the dead to life; give to our brother eternal life.

*Hear us, Lord.*

You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our brother to the joys of heaven.

*Hear us, Lord.*

Our brother was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give him fellowship with all your saints.

*Hear us, Lord.*

He was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant him a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

*Hear us, Lord.*

Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of our brother; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

*The Celebrant concludes with a collect.*

*Celebrant*      The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*         *And also with you.*

**Offertory**

## The Great Thanksgiving

*The people stand. The Celebrant faces them and says*

                                  The Lord be with you.  
*People*                      *And also with you.*  
*Celebrant*              Lift up your hearts.  
*People*                      *We lift them to the Lord.*  
*Celebrant*              Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People*                      *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

*The Eucharistic Prayer may be found in the Book of Common Prayer on page 361.*

*At the place appointed Celebrant and People say together*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
    Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
    Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
    Hosanna in the highest.

*The people kneel or sit. At the conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer, the Celebrant continues*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,  
    thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever  
    and ever. Amen.

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

*All baptized persons are welcome to receive the sacrament.*

## **Music During Communion**

Hymn 711 “Seek ye first”

*Seek ye first*

Hymn 488 “Be thou my vision”

*Slane*

## **Post Communion Hymn**

“They’ll know we are Christians by our love”

(Please join in singing the refrain.)

And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,

Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.

## **Postcommunion Prayer** (*Celebrant and people*)

Almighty God, we thank you that in your great love you have fed us with the spiritual food and drink of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, and have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. Grant that this Sacrament may be to us a comfort in affliction, and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all your saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

## **The Commendation** (*please stand*)

*Celebrant* Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,  
*People* where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing,  
but life everlasting.

*The celebrant continues*

You only are immortal, the creator and maker of mankind; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth shall we return. For so did you ordain when you created me, saying, “You are dust, and to dust you shall return.” All of us go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*Celebrant and people*

*Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.*

*Celebrant*

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Neal. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. *Amen.*

## **The Blessing**

## **The Dismissal**

*Celebrant* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People* Thanks be to God.

**Hymn 362** “Joyful, joyful, we adore thee”

*Hymn to Joy*

## **Postlude**

## **The Committal**

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our brother Neal, and we commit *his* body to it’s resting place; \*earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless *him* and keep *him*, the Lord make his face to shine upon *him* and be gracious to *him*, the Lord lift up his countenance upon *him* and give *him* peace. *Amen.*

*The Celebrant says*

The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Remember your servant, O Lord, according to the favor which You give unto your people; and grant that, increasing in knowledge and love of you, *he* may go from strength to strength in the life of perfect service in thy heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Almighty God, Father of mercies and giver of comfort: Deal graciously, we pray, with all who mourn; that, casting all their care on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Celebrant:* Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord:

*People:* May his soul, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. *Amen.*

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant: Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**Flag Presentation and Military Honors by the United States Navy  
and Southeast Texas Veterans Service Group**







Faithfulness, compassion, and authenticity were the hallmarks of the life of ***Neal Martin Nielsen***. Neal fought many health issues through the years and passed away at home surrounded by his adoring family on May 19, 2022. He briefly received care from Harbor Hospice.

Neal was born June 15, 1945 and graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School, Port Arthur in 1963. He enlisted in the United States Navy in 1966, served aboard the USS Constitution Aircraft Carrier

in Vietnam, was later stationed in Yokosuka, Japan, and received an Honorable Discharge in 1972. Neal proudly wore a cap emblazoned with Vietnam Veteran.

Neal married Jane Sharon Burns in 1971 at St. John the Divine Episcopal Church, Houston. The young couple moved to Port Arthur where they lived until their home was destroyed by Hurricane Harvey, after which they moved to Beaumont in 2018. Neal and Jane joyfully celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in 2021 by renewing their wedding vows.

Neal graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration in General Business from Lamar University in 1978 and worked at Nielsen's Office Supplies and Gifts in Downtown Port Arthur, Texas Employment Commission, Area Agency on Aging, Vocational Support Services, and Social Systems. He became a licensed social worker in 1994 and worked as an Investigator for Child Protective Services from which he retired in 2010. Neal believed that his work with child protection was his vocation and he prayed daily over the case files of his assigned children; he prayed for the children, their families, and all who would be part of their journeys. When Neal retired, he continued his work with foster children as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) appointed by the judge to be the children's voice in court.

Through the years he was dedicated to serving his community through the Port Arthur Kiwanis Club, Port Arthur Little Theater; Port Arthur Computer Club; and was one of the first male members of the Quota Club of Southeast Texas. Neal became an active member and supporter of Camp Fire, Inc. and, most notably, advocated and supported the formation of a church sponsored community club benefitting low-income families.

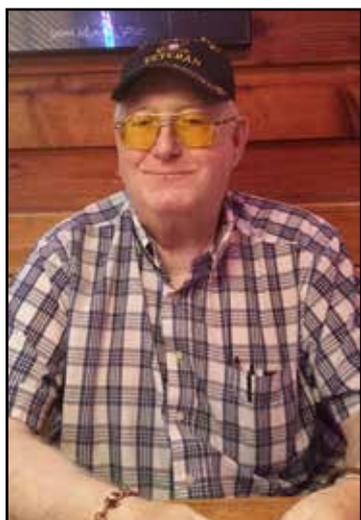
Neal was a devout Episcopalian and was a dedicated member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Beaumont, in his later years, and St. George's in Port Arthur in his earlier years. He was a Lay Eucharistic Visitor, cashier at St. Mark's Treasure House, and was a greeter for the church's Friday Morning Ministry to the homeless. Neal remained an active part of the Cursillo Ministry in the Diocese of Texas for almost four decades and he served on the Secretariat (the governing body) for several terms. Neal served on many Cursillo teams, both publicly and behind-the-scenes.

While his involvement in the community and church were substantial, nothing was more important to Neal than his family. Quietly supporting the endeavors of Jane, daughter Janeal, and grandson Cree always held priority for his time and attention. Even as his health declined, he continued to love his family's weekly movie nights and enjoyed learning how to play Dungeons and Dragons from his grandson during family game nights. He was immensely proud of his family especially his daughter, Janeal, who received her doctorate in social work the day after Neal passed away.

Neal was preceded in death by his parents, Prudence Allsbrook Nielsen and Elmer Westergaard Nielsen, his sister, Mary Aucoin, and his paternal aunt, Agnes Nielsen Daviss. He is survived by his wife, Jane; daughter, Janeal Marie White and husband, Brian; grandson, Cree Nielsen-Sewell; sister, Ann Hansen of Port Arthur; brothers, Westergaard Nielsen (Beata) of Virginia; John Nielsen (Sue) of Kingsland, Texas; brother-in-law, James Aucoin of Port Arthur; nieces, Susanne Pennington (Danny); Barbara Edington (Kelly); Christine Battaglia; Jamie Aucoin; Jennifer Aucoin; Kasia Nielsen; and Nina Nielsen; nephews, West Hansen (Lizet) and Christopher Aucoin; great-nieces, Danielle Slikker (Aart); Monica Pennington; Isabella Hansen; and Lauran Edington; great-nephew, Joey Battaglia; and great-great niece, Blakelyn Pennington.

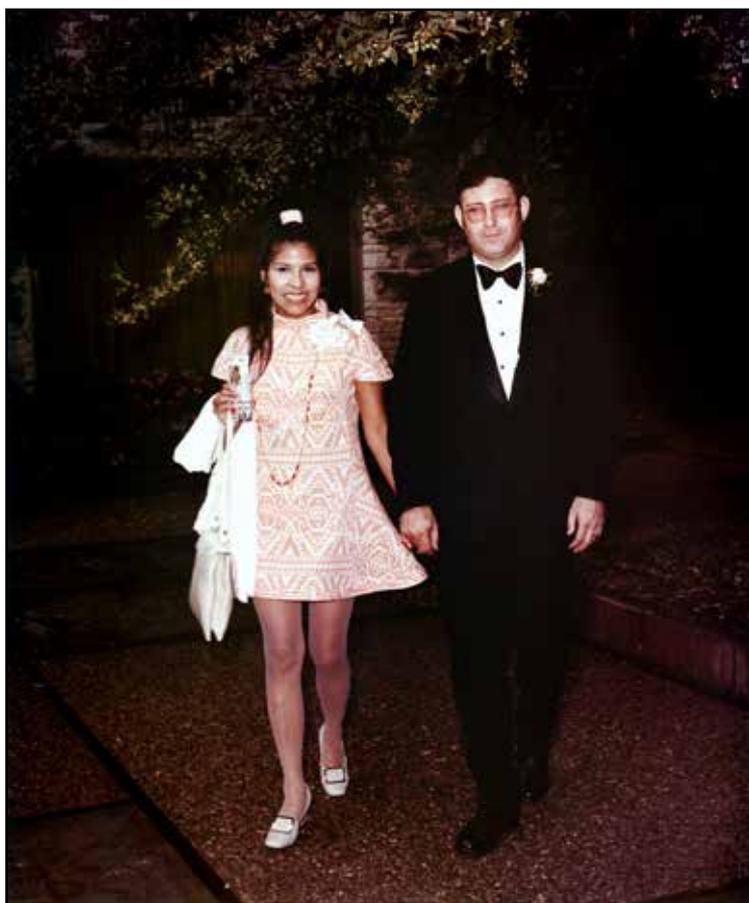
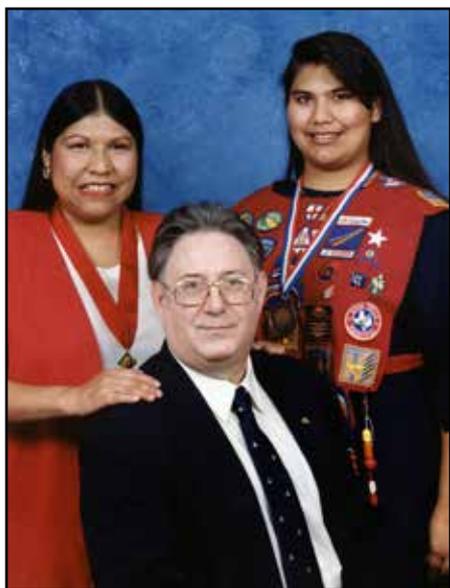














## **ENNICHEMENT**

St. Mark's Columbarium  
Beaumont, Texas

## **MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Friday Morning Ministry  
680 Calder Avenue  
Beaumont, Texas 77701

*Broussard's*  
Established 1889

Please sign Mr. Nielsen's guest book and share your memories at  
[broussards1889.com](http://broussards1889.com)