



## Rev. Dr. Thomas "Tom" Burns

October 26, 1950 - October 31, 2022

Reverend Doctor Thomas Esse Burns of Greer went to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on October 31, 2022.

Born in Greenville on October 26, 1950, he was the son of James Edward and Doris Bridwell Burns.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Joyce Lee Burns; a daughter, Myra Burns Henderson; and son, Ryan Patrick Burns; and four beloved grandchildren, Rev. Brady Henderson (Hannah) of Gaston, Frances Henderson, Jackson and Parker Burns all of Greer. A surviving brother, Joseph Edward Burns (Judy); nephew, Tyler Burns; great-nephews, Cooper and Wells Burns; and a niece, Elizabeth Stevens (Stuart) all who reside in Rock Hill, South Carolina.

After completing his naval active duty, Dr. Burns graduated from the University of South Carolina in 1975, from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1978, and received his doctorate in Worship Studies in 2003.

He served in various churches in South Carolina, Texas, Georgia, and North Carolina in such capacities as Youth Pastor, Minister of Music, Minister to Senior Adults and retired as worship pastor and Administrator from Fairview Baptist Church in Greer in 2017 having served there for 28 years. He fulfilled a lifelong dream by being an adjunct professor at North Greenville University for some 12 years. His passion in life was leading, guiding, and teaching others how to worship and praise Jesus Christ.

After a private burial service, there will be a Service of Remembrance and

Celebration of his life at Fairview Baptist Church in Greer on Sunday, November 13, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.

All choir members that served under Tom's ministry are asked to be part of the Honorary Escort at the Celebration of Life Service at Fairview Baptist Church. The family will receive friends following the service at Fairview Baptist Church on Sunday, November 13, 2022.

The family is at the home, 8 Nigh Oak Trace, Greer.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Foundation for the Future, Fairview Baptist Church, 1300 Locust Hill Road, Greer, SC 29651.

Online condolences may be made at [www.thewoodmortuary.com](http://www.thewoodmortuary.com).

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

NOV 13. 4:00 PM (ET)

Fairview Baptist Church  
1300 Locust Hill Road  
Greer, SC 29651

# Tribute Wall



“ Dr. Tom led us in choir enthusiastically and continually stressed the importance of us being dedicated worship leaders. He also visited the Worship class at the Hispanic Bible Institute and encouraged the students to continually live lives of worship, be prepared to work with the pastor and coordinate the worship songs with his sermons, and teach true worship to all. So thankful for his example and love for praising Jesus! Praying for the family.

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**Rebecca Deal** - November 10, 2022 at 02:42 PM



“ Joyce, Myra, Ryan and family  
Jesus shined through Tom. His years of ministry touched many for Gods kingdom.  
I'm also so impressed with the teamwork of Tom and Joyce in raising such fine children.  
Love and prayers,  
Joel Head

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**joel head** - November 01, 2022 at 08:56 PM



“ Dear Alpha brother-rest in peace in the arms of the Lord! Amen...

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**william Eichorn** - November 01, 2022 at 04:29 PM

NO

“ I knew Tom through IWS. As fellow Alpha Class members, we ‘enjoyed’ both blessings and travails of being ‘guinea pigs’ in the program. Tom always had a smile, and was a true encourager. May his family be graced with the comfort of Jesus The Christ.



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**Norm** - November 01, 2022 at 02:11 PM

JH

“ Tom was a classmate of mine at the Institute for Worship Studies. He was a loyal friend and colleague in ministry with great impact on those who had the privilege of working with him. May he rest in the peace of Christ. Jim Hart, President of IWS.

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**Jim Hart** - November 01, 2022 at 01:48 PM

MW

“ I had the privilege to serve in the choir at Fairview under “Tom”. He gave his all to help us do our best. Prayers for His family during this difficult time. May knowing He is singing in Heaven at Jesus feet bring you much comfort❤️

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**Martha Whitlock** - November 01, 2022 at 12:20 PM