

Paula Gallagher
Memorial
June 4, 1963 - December 21, 2017



Paula became a part of my life when I came to First Friends Meeting in Indianapolis. She was surrounded by friends. Everyone knew her in her apartment complex. Friends would come by to see her day or night, to talk or share stories. They would read the Bible together, and Paula knew the scriptures very well.

I wasn't her first or only pastor. She had known Stan Banker for years. She had visits at least once a month from Della Stanley Green. And she had me.

Quakers believe that every person has that of God in us, and many other persons ministered to Paula.

Jim and Carol Donahue, and Bill and Kathy Farris were four people who made sure that Paula had her medications, food, and a good visit each month.

Paula was surrounded by Friends.

I remember birthday parties, table conversations with Paula and Joyce Bowman sharing memories of Paula's mother. I remember how young and beautiful Paula looked one day when I came to pick her up at Methodist Hospital. I remember seeing others interact with Paula, and how her life changed theirs – and mine. I remember her never letting

me leave without an encouraging word about my ministry to others – not just to her. I felt her certainty about needing to live independently, regardless of the circumstances.

I remember my own need to care for her, and her refusal to allow me to do all that I wanted to do for her.

I remember some very difficult times in caring for her.

I finally found strength in Paula's choices, and freed her to be who she was.

For all that Paula had lost, for all that she had suffered,
for all those things that had changed her,
she remained God's child.
She was able to see others like her as good and valuable and lovely
when others might have turned away.
She knew God was her friend.
She knew she was a friend of God.
Paula was my friend.

Pastor Ruthie Tippin
March 14, 2018