

Robert Barringer Greene

The Very Reverend Robert (Bob) Barringer Greene passed away peacefully on November 17, 2015 in Houston, Texas. He was born on November 7, 1925 in Morristown, New Jersey. He relocated to Texas and graduated from Corpus Christi High School where he was active in the church, participated in Boy Scouts and became an Eagle Scout in 1939, an organization with which he continued to be involved until his death. His family moved to Houston and joined Christ Church Cathedral where he became acquainted with two well-known and beloved Bishops, The Rt. Rev. Clinton Simon Quin and the Most Rev. John E. Hines. Bishop Quin nominated Bob to win the Rose Allen Scholarship from Camp Allen, enabling him to attend The University of the South at Sewanee, Tennessee, where he graduated in 1946 with a degree in Journalism. After graduation he returned to Houston and, unable to join the military, Bishop Quin recruited him to attend The Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia where he received his Master of Divinity degree in 1949.

Upon his return to Houston in 1949, Bishop Quinn assigned Bob to be the first Vicar of the Church of the Intercession in Liberty, Texas until 1951. He was ordained a Deacon by Bishop Clinton S. Quin on August 6, 1949 and ordained a Priest at the Church of the Intercession by Bishop John E. Hines on December 23, 1950. During his tenure in Liberty, The Church of the Intercession later became St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. First as Vicar and later as Rector of the parish of St. Stephen's, Bob additionally served as priest to Trinity Episcopal Church in Anahuac, Texas. After serving three years in Liberty, Bob left the Diocese of Texas to serve at Calvary Episcopal Church in Tarboro, North Carolina. His desire was then to serve the church in a non-white/Native American community, so he applied to the National Episcopal Church Executive Council of New York as a missionary priest and in 1955 was assigned to Alaska where he was the first Anglo clergy member to serve. For six years he served the village of Toke, Alaska south of Fairbanks. In his seventh year in Alaska he served as priest at St Matthews Episcopal Church in Fairbanks. In 1962 he relocated to the Ute Indian reservation in White Rocks, Utah where he served the Native American population there for three years. He then served the Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Native Americans on their reservation in South Dakota for three years where he worked with the Chief solving reservation disputes.

He then returned to Liberty, Texas to marry the love of his life Sybil Grogan Callaway. In 1973, he and Sybil moved to Arizona where he served as priest for several different churches in the Diocese of Arizona. He then returned to Texas to serve in the Diocese of West Texas at the Episcopal Church of the Annunciation in Luling. It was during this time that he worked tirelessly to bring the Magna Carta to the United States for its historical first U.S. tour and started a quarterly publication for small churches entitled "Grassroots" which was distributed nationwide.

Bob was preceded in death by his wife, Sybil Grogan Callaway Greene, of Liberty, Texas, his brother, Wesley Greene, of Honolulu, Hawaii and his parents, Elmer Anderson and Edythe Greene, of Kerrville, Texas. He leaves behind to cherish his memory, countless numbers of colleagues and friends, who were his “family”.

Throughout his life Bob Greene continually served and dedicated his life to the people of each and every community he lived in. Among his many community service accomplishments was the founding of the Texas Rural Leadership Program, a program designed to bring local leaders and potential leaders together to build vibrant communities through creative visioning and inclusive leadership.

A memorial service celebrating the life of the Reverend Robert B. Greene will be held at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, 2100 Trinity Liberty, Texas 77575 on Thursday, December 17th at 10:00 am with The Reverend Ted Smith of St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church Liberty and The Reverend Dr. Eric J. Liles of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church Ivy, Virginia officiating.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church Memorial Fund, P. O. Box 10357 Liberty Texas 77575 in memory of The Reverend Robert B. Greene, fulfilling his wishes in providing need-based college scholarships for deserving college-bound students.