

Claudia Arlene Mitchell

Claudia Arlene Mitchell lived a remarkable life of faith, service, curiosity, and compassion. Born February 2, 1934, in Los Angeles, California, to Claude and Arlene Garrett, Claudia spent her 92 years caring deeply for people, continually learning, and finding ways to serve wherever God placed her.

Claudia grew up in Dallas, Texas, where she met and married Robert “Bob” Mitchell on May 22, 1954. Their marriage also marked the beginning of a lifelong partnership in ministry. Together, Bob and Claudia devoted more than 40 years to the mission of Young Life, a ministry that profoundly shaped their lives and remained close to Claudia’s heart throughout her life. She was a friend, encourager, prayer partner, and steady presence in the lives of countless people. In recent years she remained especially devoted to praying for and supporting Young Life’s ministry in Ukraine.

Claudia was endlessly curious. She loved to learn, loved to ask questions, and genuinely wanted to know about people and the world around her. She loved being surrounded by people and was always ready for a conversation. That curiosity also led Claudia to continue learning throughout her own life. As an adult, she returned to school to pursue nursing and worked for several years as an orthopedic surgical assistant. She later returned to college again, earning a BA in Organizational Communication from the University of Colorado, in Colorado Springs. Her willingness to keep growing, learning, and taking on new challenges was characteristic of the way she lived. She even began learning French in her late 80’s!

At the center of Claudia’s life was a deep and enduring Christian faith. She and Bob were longtime members of First Presbyterian Church of Colorado Springs, where they were active participants in the Pathfinders Sunday school class. Claudia treasured the relationships formed through the church and remained deeply engaged in the life of the congregation. Claudia was also a woman of prayer - one of the most natural ways she cared for people. When someone shared a concern, a struggle, or a need, Claudia wanted them to know that she would be praying for them—and she did.

Her faith also expressed itself in a deep compassion for others. Claudia had a particular heart for refugees, the poor, and people who found themselves on the margins. She was involved in the early beginnings of Refugees International, an organization that to this day, advocates for and cares about people displaced from their homes and communities.

Her concern for the world was not simply theoretical. Bob and Claudia sponsored several people from Viet Nam in the 70’s and travelled internationally looking for opportunities to serve. During an extended stay in India, she spent two weeks in Calcutta serving among the poor with Mother Teresa. Claudia was drawn toward those who needed friendship, encouragement, and hope.

Claudia also had a deep appreciation for beauty. She loved flowers, plants, and antiques and delighted in being surrounded by beautiful things. She noticed beauty in the world around her and found joy in creating and enjoying it.

Those who knew Claudia will remember a woman of remarkable strength and determination whose life was profoundly shaped by her love for Jesus Christ. Her family is deeply grateful for the many friendships that enriched Claudia's life and for the countless people whose lives became part of hers. Her legacy lives not only in the organizations and ministries she supported, but in the people she loved, encouraged, challenged, mentored, prayed for—and took the time to know—throughout her long life.

Claudia was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Bob, and son, Tucker Mitchell. She is survived by her children, Tamara Mitchell and Tim Mitchell and his wife Camilla; her grandchildren, Rebecca Mitchell and her husband, Mark; Walt Mitchell and his wife, Liz; Megan Anderson and her husband, Jay; Brooks Mitchell and her husband Dylan, and three great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister Ann Reeverts; her brother Johnny Garrett and his wife, Posey; her sister Gail Tsagaris; and many extended family members and dear friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be contributed to:

First Presbyterian Church of Colorado Springs

Young Life Ukraine

or the mission/church of one's choice.