

I am standing upon the seashore. A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength. I stand and watch her until at length she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other. Then someone at my side says:

"There, she is gone!"

"Gone where?"

Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side and she is just as able to bear the load of living freight to her destined port.

Her diminished size is in me, not in her. And just at the moment when someone at my side says:

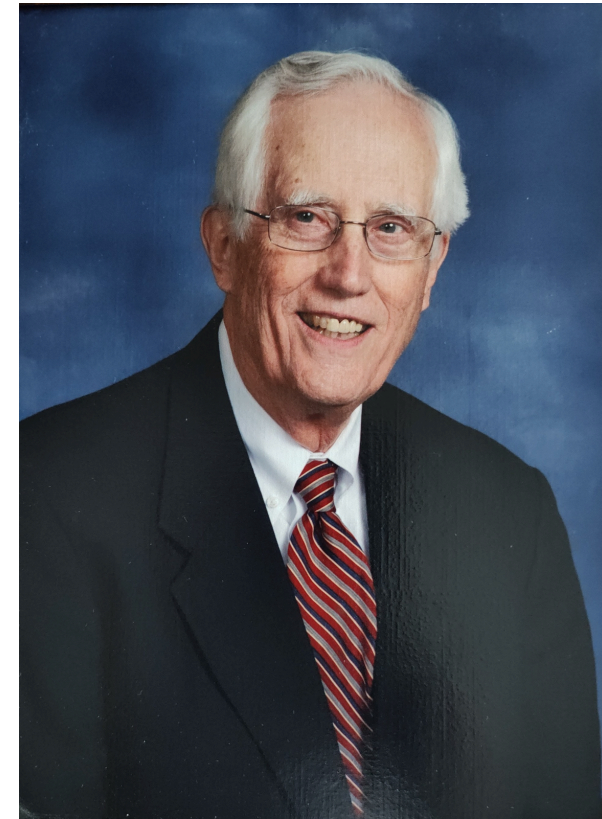
"There, she is gone!" There are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices ready to take up the glad shout: "Here she comes!" And that is dying...

– A 19th Century Funeral Sermon –

A WORSHIP SERVICE CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

John Allen Edgerton

November 17, 1935 – June 25, 2025



Sunday, June 29, 2025

3:00 p.m.

First Baptist Sanctuary

First Baptist Church of Burlington, North Carolina

John Allen Edgerton

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3:00 p.m.
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Order of Service

Prelude	Dr. Katherine Thomas
Processional	<i>Because He Lives</i> , ##407
Welcome	Rev. Chase Robinson
Scripture Reading & Prayer	Rev. Chase Robinson
Special Music	<i>I Then Shall Live</i> , by the Gaithers
Poem Reading	Bob Finley
Anthem	<i>The Love of God</i> , arr. Camp Kirkland
Tributes from Friends & Family	Dean Bumgardner & Glenn Kirby
Special Music	<i>God on the Mountain</i> Dr. Katherine Thomas
Message of Hope	Rev. Chase Robinson
Benediction	Rev. Chase Robinson
Recessional	<i>Great Is Thy Faithfulness</i> , #54 Jonathon Kirby, piano

John Allen Edgerton was born on a Wayne County, NC farm, where loving parents introduced him to God, love for family, and hard work. They encouraged his pursuit of a career in Radio/TV broadcasting, starting with a Degree from UNC-Chapel Hill. He worked at WSJS (now WXII) in Winston-Salem before beginning a 32-year career at WBT-WBTV, Charlotte.

John was among the pioneers of local news broadcasting in the early years of TV. He saw his leadership role in designing the Carolinas’ first hour-long local newscast as the most satisfying success of his career. He later served as Program Director and as Managing Director of WBTV and also as Vice President of the North Carolina Association of Broadcasters. He became an active volunteer with the American Cancer Society and Chaired Kindermourn, an agency supporting bereaved parents.

John’s personal life during over five decades of living in Charlotte, Mint Hill, Tega Cay, SC and Gastonia were all about family. He had married his high school sweetheart, Ernestine Parrish, while still at UNC. They raised a large family, worshipped and volunteered in a church in each community where they lived, and enjoyed family camping and lakeside living for leisure time. After leaving broadcasting, John worked in human resources consulting roles for several years.

Then he found a special career change combining his experience in community service and his business experience. As the first full-time Executive Director of the Community Foundation of Gaston County, John spent a dozen years coordinating the growth of that organization into the leading philanthropic organization in the county. He also found his most joyous volunteer role as a music volunteer with students in a public school for special needs children. He spent his final working years in a funds development role for Presbyterian Hospital Foundation in Charlotte.

John’s great sadness came with the death of his beloved Ernestine just a day before their 55th anniversary -- after her valiant 18-year battle with breast cancer.

In 2011, John married Eloise Parrish Grantham. The couple chose to make a new home geographically between their offspring and have lived for 14 years at The Village At Brookwood in Burlington. They became active at First Baptist Church and as volunteers in their retirement community.

In addition to Ernestine and much-beloved granddaughter Jessica Hamilton, John was pre-deceased by his parents, Anderson and Crethie Allen Edgerton, brothers Rudolph and Douglas. He also is predeceased by Jacob and Mary Jordan Parrish, parents of his two wives whom he considered his own second pair of parents and felt deeply the loss of their children Clark Parrish and Marilyn Parrish Burnette.

John is survived by his loving wife, Eloise, and many other loved ones. Survivors include daughters Belinda Kirby (Robert), Karen Hamilton (Steve), sons Greg Edgerton (Andrea)) and Brent Edgerton (Mary Jo Ann), grandchildren Glenn Kirby (Kristen), Jonathon Kirby (Lindsay), Andrea Van Tromp (James) , Jacob Hamilton (Kelsey), Jordan Edgerton, Logan Edgerton, Kailey Edgerton, Mary-Parrish Edgerton, Seth Edgerton, Anna Cress Grisham, Anna Mitchell, Olivia Mitchell, wonderful great-grandchildren, Beckham and Selwyn Kirby, Laney and Drew Bernard, Peyton and Micah Hamilton, Azalea Von Tromp, Lilian and John Kirby. Additional survivors are Eloise’s children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and nieces and nephews. John’s special sister, Lois Sasser and her husband Wayne, and their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers please feel free to donate to the American Cancer Society.