



Dr. Malone Dodson

July 15, 1937 - August 7, 2022

Elroyce Malone Dodson, died Sunday, August 7, 2022, at the age of 85. He was born July 15, 1937, at Crawford Long Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia, the oldest son of Bernice and Roy Dodson. Malone was a mischievous and loyal child whose relentless attention to the least of these guided his journey, and legacy, as a prophetic and effective pastor, a loving father and husband and doting “Papa”.

Malone grew up in a household where an empty Mayo jar labeled “for others” sat on the dining room table to collect coins and extra bills to share with neighbors and those in need, an expectation that set him on a path to ministry.

Malone attended LaGrange College, supported by a tither’s scholarship pooled together by the members of his home church in Cedar Grove, Georgia. While there, he met Charlotte Raum, the love of his life. After graduating in 1959, they married in June that same year. Malone served on the college’s Board of Trustees for twenty-two years and as Chairman for seven. Later, in 1986, Malone was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity from LaGrange and, in 2006, the Fuller E. Callaway Jr. Award for Lifetime service to LaGrange College.

After he graduated from LaGrange, he went on to earn a Master of Divinity from Candler School of Theology, leading five churches in the North Georgia

Conference of the United Methodist Church before assuming the pulpit at Roswell United Methodist Church, where he would stay and lead for nearly three decades.

Dr. Malone Dodson believed that practicing excellence in ministry meant making God's love accessible to all people. Under his leadership, Roswell United Methodist became one of the fastest growing churches in the entire denomination—in large part because of the intentional, new ministries he founded to meet the needs of the expanding community. His community-oriented ministry was ahead of its time; he saw the need for a strong ministry among single and divorced adults in the early 1980s; he created a Sunday School class for children and adults with developmental disabilities; he founded an onsite Counseling Center providing mental health support for church members and non-church members alike.

Whether it was attending a city council meeting, helping a parishioner transition into death, attending a Sunday school class event, or a high school football game, Malone's ministry was very proactive, touching innumerable persons, one at a time.

Beyond the church door, Malone was a fixture in the Roswell community serving in leadership at North Fulton Community Charities, Roswell's Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics, and the Rotary Club of Roswell to name a few. In 2019, he was presented the Pioneer Award, the highest award given by the Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce, for his commitment to his community.

His long list of accolades and appointments fail to present a complete picture of Malone—a man known and remembered by his big hugs, his undeniable love for God and for people, and, most importantly, his hilarious jokes only made funnier by his booming and joyous laughter. Malone was a friend to all,

and a good one, at every stage of his life.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held on Friday, August 12 at 11:00 am for family and friends at Roswell United Methodist Church (814 Mimosa Blvd, Roswell, GA 30075). The service will be live-streamed via <http://rumc.com/live>
In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the RUMC Foundation (www.rumcf.org) or to Lunches for Learning Inc.

Malone is survived by his wife, Charlotte Dodson; three children and their spouses, Steve and Susan Dodson, Phil and Tracy Dodson, and Melanie and Joe Brasher; six grandchildren, Elizabeth (and Travis Fiegle), Megan, Meredith, Amelia, Sam, and Jimmy; two great-grandchildren, Karson and Walker; his sisters, Theresa Major and Myra Ray; and cousins, nieces, nephews and many, many friends.

Cemetery Details

Cremation - Northside Chapel Crematory

12050 Crabapple Road
Roswell, GA

Previous Events

Celebration Of Life

AUG 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

Roswell United Methodist Church
814 Mimosa Blvd
Roswell, GA

Tribute Wall

LD

“ I just found out about the great loss of Rev. Dodson. He was so sweet and precious. He was the first minister I remember. RUMC was a special place thanks to him. He gave me my first Bible. I went to Kindergarten there too.

My family moved up north when I was in 6th grade. Years later after my father had passed in 1997 my mother and I came back to visit RUMC and were thrilled he still remembered us. When we moved back to Atlanta in 2014 we knew that we had to come back to RUMC. He was still there! What a great man he was and what sweet memories we have with him.



Lara Todd Deaton - March 20, 2023 at 02:28 PM

 Victor
Hoye

“ I just learned of Malone's passing and am so sorry I did not know earlier. I have never known a person who meant more to more people than Malone. He was about as close to all goodness and all "Godness" wrapped in a man's body that could ever be.

My wife and I moved to Roswell in 1984 and found a church home at RUMC and both of us learned to love Malone and Charlotte right away. The congregation they had built was full of active and loving people, many of whom became close friends. A few years later we welcomed our only child and shortly thereafter found that my dear wife had breast cancer. Malone and all of our new church friends supported us beyond what anyone could hope for and helped us fight for her life for 3.5 years. We lost her in December 1990 but no stone had been unturned in our (as in many people) attempt to beat the cancer. I will never forget how much Malone meant to us during that period. His love and help was a Godsend to us. And what made Malone so uniquely special was that he was this way to all in need.

I will always miss you Malone. I tried to see you just before the pandemic but that didn't work out. It was a shame because I just wanted to tell you face to face how much I admired you, appreciated your leadership at the church and in the community and how much Julia and I loved you.

I am sure you are making heaven a more fun and better place to be because that is just what you do best!

Victor Hoye

Victor Hoye - February 19, 2023 at 02:54 PM

LA

3/21/23

Linda Allen, Bonita Springs, Florida. Just learned of Malone's passing. He was larger than life. I loved him from the moment we met. He made a gigantic influence on my life. He will never be forgotten.

Linda Allen - March 21, 2023 at 08:16 PM

GL

“ I just can't express my sorry not only of Malone's passing but not knowing until now. I love Malone, and his family, so much. Having lived next door to him for 10 yrs I have so many wonderful memories. I don't know any finer man.

Ginny Lucas - December 07, 2022 at 07:35 PM



“ Dr. Malone Dodson

October 08, 2022 at 11:37 AM

KM

“ Malone Dodson was a extraordinary man and one of the finest men I have ever known! He was our Minister for 18 years while we lived in Roswell! He was my daughter Ashley's mentor and he opened many doors for her! She and her husband James are both Methodist pastors now! Also, Charlotte was a very good friend to me during those years! We are sending our sympathy and love to Charlotte and the family! Malone Dodson will be so missed! Love to all! Kathy and Tom McCoy!

Kathy and Tom McCoy - August 23, 2022 at 04:46 PM

AG

“ We loved Malone. When we moved to Roswell in 1992, we heard there was this Bible believing, faithful minister of the Gospel at RUMC, and that is why we ended up there. The first Sunday we attended, we bumped into Malone in the Narthex and got a big welcoming hug. Our children spend the first half of of their childhood at RUMC and both of them became Eagle Scouts at Troop 431 at RUMC. Malone set the tone for the church. He was faithful. He was a believer and he walked the walk. I can say that he had an amazing impact on me and my family and it made all the difference. Thank you Lord for Malone, his love for this community, his impact, his obvious love for Jesus and his faithfulness in an unfaithful world.
Alan and Kitty Greensmith

Alan Greensmith - August 14, 2022 at 10:05 AM

CK

“ The O'Kelley Family followed Malone from Haygood to RUMC. I marveled as he learned the first names of his congregation. Malone shared our celebrations and supported us through the hard times, too. To a loving Charlotte and all the growing family, my sympathy.

Carma Kummins - August 13, 2022 at 11:58 AM

TK

“ Malone was a friend and colleague when I was pastor at Crabapple. We shared leadership at the Olympic Billy Graham Crusade. He was the best and well respected and admired by all. God bless his dear family in your loss and you have our prayers.
Tom and Betty Kinman

Thomas R. Kinman - August 12, 2022 at 02:08 PM

LH

“ I was just seventeen years old when I first met Malone at Tuckston Methodist Church in Athens, GA. Malone and Charlotte arrived at our church and immediately charmed everyone because they were young and had an adorable little family. All my friends wanted to be like Charlotte and the boys worshiped Malone. They were the “ rock stars” of our day.

My Mother adored Malone and thought he delivered the best sermons she had ever heard. I did as well. When my husband Jeff and I decided to marry we only wanted Malone to conduct the service. Jeff and Malone immediately hit it off when we went in for pre-marital counseling and they remained friends for the next fifty years. Many years later we called on Malone to speak at Mother’s funeral and , he traveled back to Athens to help us in our time of need. Mother would have been so proud. Again and again we called on Malone to participate in our family milestones and he married both of our daughters. Malone made every wedding happier and every funeral less sad. His hugs, his warmth, his leadership were amazing, but to us he was simply “Malone” our dear friend and yes, my teenage first impression was correct because he always was “God’s Rock Star”! Malone, “Go Dawgs” ! We know you are hugging everyone in heaven and making them laugh as well. We love you, Malone.

Laura and Jeff Hamling

Laura Hamling - August 11, 2022 at 09:33 PM

JP

“ There are just not enough words to describe this man. Malone became our pastor when we moved to Atlanta in 1985 and found Roswell UMC. Once we attended church, without a doubt, there was no more looking for a new church in Alpharetta/Roswell. We attended for 15+ years until we moved to Buckhead. And even then we visited churches until we could find a Malone Dotson clone. This man/pastor was the most incredible person ever. He could accomplish anything. He grew the church and its ministry like no one else did. He loved all and hugged everyone. His sermons were marvelous. In 1994 he renewed our 25th wedding anniversary vows with all of our children and grands at the time present. Rest in peace Malone. “Well done, good and faithful servant” Joan G. Payne, Atlanta

Joan G. Payne - August 10, 2022 at 09:26 PM

CP

“ We will so miss our "loving comedian" here at North Farm! He had a positive word for every one in every situation! Know he is out of that chair and talking to and laughing with all of those who went before him! Blessings to all of you left behind and hugs to our beautiful Charlotte. I will be having a little procedure done in Friday morning and will be unable to attend his celebration but you will be in my prayers!
Lovingly,
Carole Pool

Carole Pool - August 10, 2022 at 10:26 AM

KC

“Malone was a wonderful Christian friend, pastor and minister. He help so many of us young unmarried or divorced people long before any other ministers in the area.

Later after I finally found the love of my life, he married us and was a great counselor. My husband Gary and I continued to come to RUMC even though we lived in Kennesaw.

Malone was one of the main ones who helped my brothers and I when we lost both our Mother and later our Father. My family, first me in 2007 and then my parents Mary and Lewis Mason and my brother Matt Mason and his wife Cindy in 2011, moved to Foley, Alabama. My Mother's family had been there since the '40's and we had always vacationed there and loved it, almost as much as Roswell. I became a member of the Foley United Methodist Church because of the important things Malone taught me about being a Methodist.

My prayers go up for all of Malone's family and for all of Roswell in the lost of one of the best men in our town.

Katie Mason Cargle

Katie Mason Cargle - August 10, 2022 at 12:11 AM

AM

“Malone confirmed, married, and sent me on my way to ordination. He was truly a man of God and the first pastor whose preaching engaged me. What a blessing he was in my family's life. Charlotte, Steve, Melanie, Phil, Susan, Elizabeth and all the family you are in our prayers. May God comfort you with love and Grace that was so beautiful lived out in your incredible husband, father, grandfather. Our family will never forget him. We talk about our RUMC days often. James and I use many of his tricks of the trade! Blessings and peace, Rev. Ashley McCoy-Bruce

Ashley McCoy-Bruce - August 09, 2022 at 10:06 PM

PM

“ So many memories.
Malone baptized two of my grandchildren , married my eldest son and daughter in law and officiated at the funerals of my husband. Larry and my mother, all with the greatest love,compassion and sensitivity and sometimes a laugh
.I remember when Kenny, from the class for developmentally delayed adults approached zMalone in the middle of a sermon put his arms around him and his head on his shoulder and said 'I love you Malone'.. We all did,and as I told Malone one day " No matter how difficult the circumstances, when you come in, I know it's going to be alright"
Love you. Malone.

Patricia Mashburn - August 09, 2022 at 08:56 PM

 Jena Vickery

“ Rev. Dodson officiated our wedding back in 2003. One of my favorite pre-wedding memories is the coffee meeting we had where we discussed our vows, he shared advice about marriage, and then talked golf with Brian for a long while. He's so special to both of our families and will be remembered so fondly by all of the many, many people whose lives he touched. --Jena and Brian Vickery

Jena Vickery - August 09, 2022 at 07:41 PM

NH

“ Dr Malone was our pastor at Haygood United Methodist in Atlanta. I remember his infectious smile and the congregation loved both him and charlotte. We will never forget him. The Russell family loved him dearly.
Nancy Russell hunter

nancy hunter - August 09, 2022 at 05:37 PM

JL

“Malone always brightened my day and gave great counsel. He was special and will be sorely missed.

Jim Lappe

Jim Lappe - August 09, 2022 at 05:05 PM

BG

“When I met Malone I saw such a sweet , caring person that would light up a room when he walked in. His smile was amazing . He blessed so many people with his sermons. God will open the gates wide open for this wonderful man. B

Barbara Glore - August 09, 2022 at 04:49 PM

JB

“Malone and I told stories about each other that we made up as we lived together. Some of them were true and some were false, made up by design. We played golf together in several tournaments along with Dr. Joe Bowen. We never won, but we always had fun and most of the fun was being with Malone. We both shared back problems, at the same time, which made us bond together. He told me that no one liked me except him, and he was not sure if he did either. We had grandsons playing baseball at the same time, for the same school. Both boys won college baseball scholarships. We love watching them play their game. I think Malone was one the finest men I have ever known and I will miss him. But, I take comfort in knowing what he is doing in our Lord's house. Malone is telling jokes and hugging the ladies. My heart goes out to the family. Jim Boswell

Jim Boswell - August 09, 2022 at 04:24 PM

KC

“ I was a brand new member of RUMC and met a man in the hall.....WITH A COWBOY HAT.....GOING TO WED. NIGHT SUPPER.
THEN REALIZED HE WAS MALONE DODSON....
"HOW ARE YOU....???"....SUCH a welcoming !!! To this day, not sure why he was wearing the cowboy hat but one thing I was certain about.....I was in the right church.....a plus I have thoroughbreds....retired race horses....
Malone was our friend....My Bob passed away June 14: he will now see his minister again....
GOD BLESS CHARLOTTE AND FAMILY.
KATHY CARPENTER

Katherine H CARPENTER - August 09, 2022 at 10:50 AM

AE

“ My wife is malone's first cousin.He was raised up going to completing at union campground in the Jake community.He always asked how it was going.He loved hot peppers.I would bring him some every year at family reunions.once he said that ones that I brought him last year were biblical.I asked why.He said they burnt the h out of me.thanks for the memories.a life well lived.rip.the Allen &Brenda Eidson family.

Allen Eidson - August 09, 2022 at 09:03 AM

SM

“ For when the one Great scorer comes to write against your name He marks not that you won or lost but how you played the game-Grantland Rice. Everyone who knew Malone would agree that he was scored well by the Great scorer. We will miss you Malone. Sid Major and family

Sid Major - August 09, 2022 at 07:55 AM

JT

“ My Mom & Dad & 2 of my brothers loved Malone. Bill & Janine Powers. Deepest of sympathies to the entire family and prayers to each of you as well. As I messaged Phil, Malone did both Celebrations of Life for my parents (2001 & 2009) here in Greensboro and people still to this day tell me how much they enjoyed each service. They will say "that preacher did a fantastic & touching tribute to both your Mom & your Dad" and how they wished their parents could have had that. Malone was THAT special! Thank you for sharing him with us.

Jan Thurmond - August 08, 2022 at 09:14 PM

JG

“ When I joined rumc it was a few months before Malone. He made a point of telling me my previous pastor in nj had contacted him with a reference. I had been an usher there and a member of the trustees at 25. He told me he had high expectations of how I could help rumc and encouraged me to usher and join the board of stewards. He was always supportive, participated in my son's eagle ceremony and my daughters wedding. He truly was one of the most remarkable men I have ever known and was an unforgettable, loving pastor. He has changed more lives than anyone I've had the privilege to know and admire. His life was an outstanding inspiration for all of us and he will be sorely missed. When my time comes I look forward to another of his loving hugs. Thank you Malone for all you have meant to us! Jim and Bev Gebhardt

James Gebhardt - August 08, 2022 at 08:09 PM

CR

Malone was a nice and caring man. Love to see him in the halls every day when I worked for Roswell United Methodist Church .He never forgot you even when he left the church.Always gave you a big strong hugs. Rest in Peace ,Malone

Carole Ray - August 09, 2022 at 08:54 AM

LB

Malone had just the most wonderful way of making me feel welcome and at home at RUMC and the CUC classes. A hug and a smile would make my day. Fond memories, also to you dear Charlotte! He will be sadly missed by us all. Love Louise Booyesen

Louise Booyesen - August 09, 2022 at 10:07 PM

BH

How our hearts and lives have been so blessed by Malone and Charlotte! Always willing to love and share; weddings, baptisms and all ups and downs in our lives. Blessed sharing with laughter, inspiration and fun, and loving guidance during the rough roads. How you have both blessed us! Thanks you so much and much Love, Beth, Bob, Amy, Anne and Meg Hamilton

Beth Hamilton - August 10, 2022 at 06:41 PM

MJ

Malone, Charlotte and especially their Melanie, how we love your family! My daughter, Gayla and Melanie became LaGrange College roommates and have remained very close friends ever since. How we loved Malone's wonderful hugs and how he and Charlotte loved each of us. They helped us through the unexpected death of our dear Larry Green and they've been with us ever since. We will miss his great humor and loving compassion for the United Methodist Church and for everyone he met. Our love - ALWAYS - to each of you, Melanie (Green) and Bobby Jones

Melanie Green Jones - August 12, 2022 at 11:00 AM