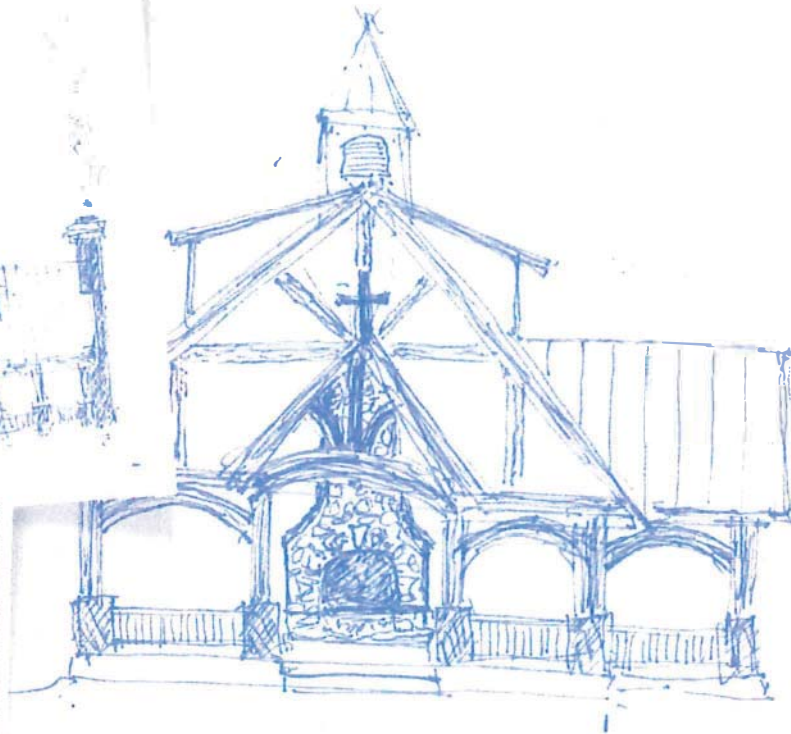
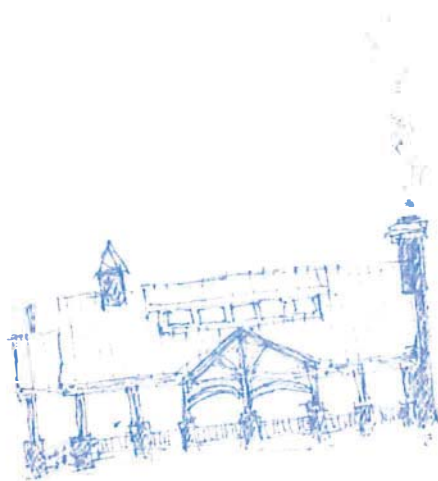


FAITH & FAMILY

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SKETCHES BY BART CAREY, SPECIAL TO THE NEWS SENTINEL

TOP LEFT and RIGHT: A sketch of the Ruthie Carey Memorial Pavilion that will be built on the campus of Westminster Presbyterian Church on Northshore Drive at Lyons Bend. It will adjoin the existing prayer labyrinth and prayer walk, and feature a fireplace, storage area and running water.

LEFT: The Carey family celebrated when mom Ruthie joined the 900-mile Club, having hiked all 900 miles of trails in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Pictured with her family, from left, are daughter Landis, son Nick, Ruthie, daughter Allie and husband Bart Carey.

A quiet legacy

DEBBIE PATRICK
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS SENTINEL

Congregants, friends and family are pulling together to make sure one West Knoxville church member will never be forgotten. Ruthie Carey died suddenly last July when a tree fell, killing her in her yard as severe weather blew through the Knoxville area.

But Carey will be remembered much more for how she lived her life than for the tragic way it ended. A member of and elder at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Northshore Drive, Carey avoided the spot-

light but pushed hard for her family, passions and goals. As an outdoor enthusiast, she hiked all 900 miles of trails in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

The Westminster campus already includes a formal prayer labyrinth and prayer walk in a quiet wooded area next to the parking lot, resources the church shares with the community at large. In the coming months, they will add the Ruthie Carey Memorial Pavilion. It will feature storage for tables, chairs and supplies, a fireplace and a water source, making it ideal for receptions, meetings and other community events.

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Church

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When Tim Ryan, a family friend and committee chair for the project, told Carey's husband, Bart, of the idea, he said Ruthie would have never approved it. She would have loved the idea because she loved the outdoors and loved the church. But she wouldn't have wanted a fuss made about herself.

The Careys were married just four weeks short of 36 years, and have three grown children, Landis, Nick and Allie, as well as a son-in-law, Steven.

"When Tim told me about the [pavilion], I just kind of lost it. I couldn't talk for a second. It's a very emotional thing for our family," said Carey, who is also now on the design team.

"Ruthie was very goal oriented," Carey continued. "But everything she did was under the radar; she didn't talk about her goals, she just quietly went after them. I can't think of anything more appropriate than this. It's very special."

In the year before she died, Carey was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. She attacked it head-on, as she did all the challenges in her life. She stepped up her workout routine, enrolled in a boxing class specifically for those dealing with Parkinson's and did everything she could to slow the progression of the disease, while living her life as normally as possible.

The fundraising portion of the pavilion project will be a soft campaign. No fancy dinners or special events, just those who loved and remember Carey coming together to show their gratitude for her life.

It will cost somewhere between \$100,000 and \$150,000, depending on the final details. "All of the money will come from designated giving," explained Ryan, who came up with the idea. "Ruthie was so quiet and unassuming, with a deep faith in God."

"It's a wonderful way to honor her gift of life," explained Betty Hanes, one of the committee members.

"Ruthie was the first one to step up and volunteer to help with Katrina relief," remembered her friend Renee Wiesehuegel. Carey made two trips to help victims of the devastating hurricane recover from their losses. She was also committed to supporting children in Kenya through Rachel's Lament, a Knoxville-based charity that helps orphans and other Kenyan children get an education. "She gave of her heart, pocketbook and time. And what a gift she had to make everyone feel like she's your best friend."

Donations should be designated for the Ruthie Carey Pavilion and may be made to Westminster Presbyterian Church, 6500 Northshore Drive, Knoxville TN 37919.