



# Mark Edward Bradshaw

JUL 9, 1964 - NOV 23, 2022



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# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Events</b> .....	Page 5



# Mark Edward Bradshaw

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**M**ark Edward Bradshaw died November 23, 2022 of natural causes in his Memphis apartment. Mark's passing was unexpected to all who knew him. He

is survived by his parents, Don Bradshaw and Ann Morelock; his longtime companion, Helen DeLong, and his sister-in-law, Danielle Bradshaw. Mark was born on July 9, 1964 in Montgomery, AL and grew up in the Nashville area. He attended Dodson Elementary, DuPont Junior and DuPont Senior High School in Old Hickory and Hermitage, TN. Mark studied trumpet and piano and began composing music during these years. He attended the Sewanee Summer Music camp for 3 years, studying composition with Byron Adams. He went on to earn his Bachelor of Arts in Music Composition from Memphis State University, a Master's of Music from Rice University's Shepherd School of Music and a Doctorate in Music Composition from the University of Memphis, where he studied with Dr. John Baur. The University of Memphis Library lists 56 works written by Mark, 20 for which they have scores in their library. In 1993, while working as graduate assistant during his doctoral program, Mark met Helen DeLong, who had returned to finish her music degree after a 20-year absence. Mark and Helen enjoyed a committed and loving relationship for the next 30 years and referred to each other as "BFFs." Mark was born with a partial albinism that limited his vision. In addition, in his early 20s, he had his first episode of mania due to a schizo-affective disorder that haunted him throughout his adult life. Because of these handicaps, all roads were not open to him. However, the paths he was able to take, he pursued with a singular dedication. He didn't dabble in fads or trivial pursuits. He immersed himself in big ideas and mysticism, from complex serial methods of music composition to deep



## Obituary

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explorations of philosophy and religion. He drank black coffee and smoked far too many cigarettes. During his college years, he began the study and practice of karate, in which he eventually earned a third degree black belt.

Mark had a lifelong interest in Christianity as well as Zen Buddhism. He became an Associate Member (Brother) of the Order of the Holy Cross and completed a four year program of Education for Ministry organized (remotely) by the University of the South School of Theology. Brother Mark participated for many years in services and church activities at St John's Episcopal Church in Memphis, where he was named a "Street Missionary" for his outreach to the poor and homeless. When he retired from work in the street, Mark continued this ministry through letters, offering "succor" to those living through difficult times with the Pastoral Care Group at the parish of the Church of Holy Communion, also in Memphis.

He was smart, talented, with moments of zany brilliance and creativity; he was also self-denying and humble. In his journey through life, Mark dedicated himself to what he believed in—whether or not these ideas were shared by society at large. He was a good friend to many. He was a pursuer of truth, not afraid to take the road less followed. He was a rare isotope, a barefoot missionary, a bold voyager through dreams and reality.

A memorial for Mark will be held at 1pm on Thursday, January 12th at Church of the Holy Communion at 4645 Walnut Grove Rd, Memphis, TN 38117.




# Events


**Mark Edward Bradshaw**

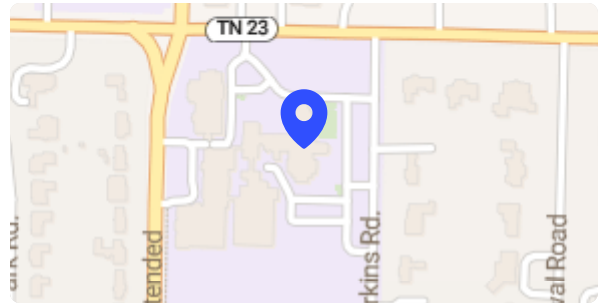
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## Memorial

 **Thursday**, January 12, 2023

 1:00 PM CT

 **Church of the Holy Communion**  
4645 Walnut Grove Rd., Memphis TN 38117





## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Mark by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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