

HELEN HUTCHINSON

A shining light has ascended from the highlands of East Tennessee, and in her sparkling trail Helen Hutchinson has left behind a legacy of warm hearts and enlightened minds to continue the spiritual ministry she began in her "neck of the woods."

Last September, Helen underwent emergency abdominal surgery and died a few weeks later. Until the onset of her illness last fall, Helen ceaselessly pursued the courageous expression of spiritual truths, philosophic concepts, and political views.

Born March 28, 1912 in Fairview, Tennessee, Helen grew up to become a grade school teacher after attending Wesleyan College in Athens, Tennessee. Mother of three daughters and two sons, Helen raised her children on her own while teaching school.

She was quite active in a local church and was well versed in Biblical scripture. Some fifteen years ago, fellow churchgoer Bruce McCoy introduced *The Urantia Book* to Helen. "At first Helen got worried," says McCoy. "She quickly saw that the central question had to do with the book's authenticity and, if it was authentic, it was going to mean a huge change. She immediately threw her all into deciding it. She later said she lost twenty pounds in the next three or four weeks as she studied the book and cross referenced it with her already considerable knowledge of the Bible and religion. She emerged having decided that the book was indeed what it said it was, and from that point she never wavered in her all-out enthusiasm for sharing the light of the new revelation with the rest of us."

Helen hosted the Knoxville study group for more than twelve years and was an enthusiastic participant in Tennessee conferences. Perhaps Helen is most renowned for her quarterly newsletter, the Fort Sanders Faith Sons, which she started publishing in 1985. The newsletter presented an array of her religious and political views.

Her standard response to those who implied that she was opinionated was, "If I didn't have strong opinions at my age, I'd be a real wimp!"

Helen encouraged differing views from truth seekers in her midst. "She loved to see people thinking for themselves," says long-time friend Helen Smith. "She was a natural, talented, and experienced teacher. She never felt that she had learned all she needed to know and remained enthusiastic about learning new things to the very end."

When it comes to saying goodbye to a dear friend and dedicated fellow of the fifth epochal revelation, the words of study group member Alvin Smith ring clearly, "I have never known a person as excited about getting started on her cosmic adventure. Adios, Helen!"

—Melissa Wells