



Peter Douglas Sherry

October 26, 1975 - January 31, 2022

Peter Sherry, 46, of Forest Lake, quietly entered into glory on January 31, 2022, of complications from colon cancer. Peter was born October 26, 1975, in Urbana, Illinois, to Richard and Candy Sherry. He grew up in the small town of Wilmore, Kentucky, where his father and later his mother taught at Asbury College. In 1978, his sister Emily was born, who became his lifelong friend and participant in childhood shenanigans.

From his earliest years he professed a faith in Christ as his Savior, and sought throughout his life to live as a faithful follower of Jesus. He graduated from Jessamine County High School, and after three years at Asbury College, joined his family in Minnesota. He completed his undergraduate degree at Bethel College (now Bethel University), and later earned graduate degrees at Bethel Seminary, including a Master of Arts in Theological Studies (2003) and a Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy (2011), with additional work toward a Master of Divinity degree at Luther Seminary. In the course of his preparation, he served either as an intern or on staff at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fridley, MN, and Roseville Lutheran Church.

In 2001, he and Nicole Szurek married, and became the parents of Eliot Coltrane (2004) and Taylor Davis Sherry (2006). His deep love and care for his sons has been a dominant part of his life, and he and Nicole co-parented the boys after they divorced. He celebrated the time spent with them, and in his last post to friends he wrote:

"I'm grateful for my children, Eliot and Taylor, and the many ways that they will

carry on what it means for me to have been their dad. I learned a lot about little things in life, but even more about big things. I learned how to be less selfish, more giving, that time spent together is worth more than all the money in the world, how to make better choices, and how to be loved by people who were always going to be inherently different from me."

In the last decade he focused on higher education, assisting students in finding the right programs in counseling at Capella University and later as a staff member for Learning House, assisting students to enroll at Concordia University St. Paul. An accomplished musician, he played in several local bands and assisted worship in his local church, and in 2019 began a small business, Bull Moose Guitars, building guitars at home. Disappointment and stress led him to struggle with alcoholism in mid-life, and he joined Alcoholics Anonymous, finding support and encouragement. He would have celebrated five years of recovery in April 2022.

In the summer of 2019, he renewed a friendship of many years with Jennifer Hanzal; they married in December 2020, after Peter had been diagnosed with cancer. Eliot and Taylor welcomed her into the family, standing as "best men" with their father. Together, Pete and Jenn battled the disease, and Jenn has been his unfailing support as he moved forward. She has been heroic and courageous in these last months, and her courage and practical acts of love enabled him to continue. They found in each other the partner each had been looking for their whole lives.

Peter accumulated friends across the country, from college, seminary, churches, his counselling work, and AA, demonstrating compassion and thoughtfulness, and having a remarkable influence on the lives he touched. Hundreds of friends have been praying for him during this last illness. During his life, he lost his grandparents, Charles and Margery Sherry and Leroy and Eunice Shearer, and his mother, Candice. He is survived by his wife, Jennifer Hanzal, and two sons, Eliot and Taylor Sherry; his beloved sister, Emily Panzica (John) and her children, Micah, Caleb, and Brie, for whom he was always "the fun uncle"; and his father, Richard (Marjorie Mathison Hance).

Visitation 2:00-5:00PM Sunday, Feb. 6 with a Memorial Prayer and memories beginning at 4:30PM at HOLCOMB-HENRY-BOOM-PURCELL, 515 Hwy 96 W., Shoreview. Funeral service 10AM Monday Feb. 7 at HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH, 956 Forest St. N., St Paul. Limited seating at church. Masks are required. Private interment.

Tribute Wall

BA

“Pete and I met in a fellowship. What a great guy. I follow his wife on Facebook and her love and struggles are heart felt. He had some great stories about being a pastor and his alcoholism. He could always come to me for advice and suggestions on how to handle situations. Not sure I always had the answer but I listened. I had to stop seeing Pete because of covid and I missed seeing and having conversations. Rest in peace my friend. I don't really know Jennifer but if she needed someone to talk to I'd be there for her

Brian Abrahamson - February 22, 2024 at 11:12 AM

TM

“We were classmates with Pete at Luther Seminary. Pete and I were in Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) together where we served as chaplain students at a nursing home (Pete) and a local hospital (me) and spent a lot of time in group work. Pete became a friend and we shared an interest in food and fun. I remember going to one of his derby parties and was introduced to the hot brown and mint juleps and I made sure to message him when I visited Churchill Downs for a mission trip. Pete was a wonderful friend and I always admired his vulnerability and honesty, especially in his journey with addiction and recovery. Pete was a great preacher - we heard his sermon on Shamgar at his internship site which I still remember to this day (he lost the last page of his manuscript and finished his sermon like a champ). We wish we could have attended the service and our prayers go with you all!



Tasha Genck Morton and Adam Morton - February 08, 2022 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ Thank you so much for the time you always seemed to have to talk to anyone about anything. They patience and genuine joy you had everyday. Love you my friend and can't wait for a big hug when I come home !!

Gibboney Sean - February 07, 2022 at 12:00 AM

PW

“ I had the great fortune of crossing paths with Pete in the realms of social media. We shared a commonality in our stories: married/divorced, alcohol and recovery playing key roles in our lives, both sons to men named Richard, and both named Pete ourselves. Even though Pete and I never 'met' in real life, we spoke many times through DM. It was not entirely uncommon for Pete to surprise me with a message, out of the blue, just to check in on me. He watched my story unfold on social media and continued to support me even when his illness demanded his full attention. Pete was a good man and knowing him improved my life. I am forever grateful to have been a part of his. My hope is that Jennifer and his boys continue to feel Pete's legacy, through all of the people he touched. His reach was warm, welcoming and expansive. Much love and thanks to Pete's family for sharing him wish us. As a result, we are all better off.

Pete White - February 07, 2022 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ *May you dance your dance
to your favorite songs
In arms of loved ones,
No longer gone*

*And play your music
in joyous rapture
Loved ones, delighting
E'er hereafter*

Lori Francisco - February 05, 2022 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ *Sending our deepest sympathies.*



Bill Stookey & Joan Hance - February 03, 2022 at 12:00 AM

VD

“ *Emily,
So sorry for your loss. Your brother did so
much to grow personally and to also help
others. May God give you and your family
grace during this difficult time.*



Valerie Dunham - February 03, 2022 at 12:00 AM

MO

“ All my love to Petes family. He and I had been friends since elementary school. I'm going to see if I can find childhood pictures to send to you. He was a true kindred spirit. So thankful for these almost 5 years of sobriety where he experienced so much healing and reconciliation. Memory eternal



Monica - February 02, 2022 at 12:00 AM

MU

“ I suspect that I am like a lot of people who knew Pete in that he was more important in my life than I was in his. I don't mean that in a bad way. I just doubt that anyone who reads these words will even care too much because they won't remember me. This is because I never met his kids, or his wife, and didn't really know his sister or Dad well either. I just never shared myself with them. But Pete was different. He shared himself deeply with everyone. We will all remember Pete. He has been an inspiration in my life and in the lives of so many others. I pray for peace and comfort for all of Pete's family. May God be with you all.



Mark Underwood - February 02, 2022 at 12:00 AM

NM

“ Rest In Peace good friend

Nick M - February 02, 2022 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *May eternal light shine upon you. Prayers for Rich, and for your family.*



james hurd - February 02, 2022 at 12:00 AM

MT

“ *Rich and Family, we are praying for you all from Wilmore. Many in the Asbury Community have followed your journeys and pray that God gives you great strength in this next unwelcomed chapter.*

Mark Troyer - February 02, 2022 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ *RIP cousin*

Richard d Sherry - February 02, 2022 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *Let peace be with you. God Bless.*

Joel Christensen - February 02, 2022 at 12:00 AM

MV

“ *Rest in peace and power my dear brother and friend.*



Michael Vinson - February 01, 2022 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Thank you, Pete, for sharing your life so openly with all of us. Much love to your family.



Mark "Zakk" Salisbury - February 01, 2022 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Peter's life was a blessing to many and a testimony to Christ's redeeming love. His honesty in facing challenges, including his battle with cancer, was refreshing and inspiring. His love for his family and friends was exemplary. His departure from this life and transition to heaven leaves an ache in many hearts. He is deeply respected and deeply missed.

Jay Barnes - February 01, 2022 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family in this difficult time. I'm so sorry for your loss.



Denise Kelly - February 01, 2022 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ *Living one day at a time, Enjoying one moment at a time, Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace*

Taking, as You did, This sinful world as it is, Not as I would have it. Trusting that You will make all things right, If I surrender to Your will

So that I may be reasonably happy in this life, And supremely happy with You forever in the next.

Amen

Michael Stumbo - February 01, 2022 at 12:00 AM

BA

“ *He will be deeply missed but never forgotten. He's touched a lot of people's lives by his thoughtful words and actions. Our condolences to all who mourn his passing.*



Brian and Ann Abrahamson - February 01, 2022 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ *Dr. Sherry, I am so bereft of words while you and your family are bereft of your son. I can remember when he was a boy. After reading what you have written recently, including this obituary, Pete's trust in our risen Saviour is evident. "I am the resurrection and the life," Jesus said, "Those who believe in me, though they be dead, yet shall they live." Love and prayers for all of you.*



Darla Meeks - February 01, 2022 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ *I pray our Lord will grant grace and strength to each of you in these days of grief.* ”



Denyse Farrell - February 01, 2022 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ *Pete was a great friend in college, and I look forward to seeing him again in Heaven. I was blessed to call him a friend. You are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.* ”

Marshall Wise - February 01, 2022 at 12:00 AM