

Building a Legacy The Reverend Canon Gordon Yeaton Jr.



Reverend Gordon Yeaton Jr. was a teacher, mentor, activist, volunteer, artist, priest and friend. Committed to improving life for all people, Gordon believed we are all reflections of God's perfect love. His life reflected that belief.

Known for his sense of humor, as well as his dedication to God, Gordon Yeaton fearlessly practiced what he preached. When he spoke, you knew it was from his heart. Deeply loved and infinitely admired, Gordon spent his life working for a better world.

Rev. Yeaton was ordained minister with the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles in 1990. His last assignment was with St. Paul's Parish Church in Tustin. He connected with young people in a special way and loved guiding students to new artistic expressions. He served as Chair of the diocesan program group on youth ministry. He was also on faculty with Irvine School District, teaching ceramics and facilitating Irvine High's gay/straight liaison.

Gordon and his wife, Adelle, fed the homeless and housed refugee families. Their home was a safe place for troubled young people. Family vacations were frequently spent joining farmers' rights marches, running a summer camp for disadvantaged youth or building homes on Indian reservations.

Rev. Yeaton joined the Board of Directors of Habitat for Humanity of Orange County (HfHOC) in January, 2003. Never being one to sit still for long, Gordon launched into his new role with passion and energy. He established an "All-Faiths Coalition" bringing together Christian, Jewish, Sikh and Muslim clergy in support of the Habitat mission. He led a campaign to sponsor the construction of a home for a Habitat family by the Episcopal Church. He represented the Church at Habitat events and made every family feel welcome to their new homes.

We lost Gordon in 2007. It was obvious to all who knew Gordon, that Habitat for Humanity of Orange County was one of his true passions. Building a home in Gordon's honor will carry on his legacy. It will stand as an inspiration to others around the world to keep on building simple, decent homes for families in need.

