

MEMORIAL MINUTE IN CELEBRATION OF KRISTA BOLING  
October 13, 1956 - September 13, 1997

Krista Boling was born October 13, 1956, to Ron and Karin Hengst in Cornwall, New York. Russell, her only brother, was born four years later. All of them were members of Cornwall Monthly Meeting. Ron remembers Krista as "always bubbling and active and interested in things." Krista's lifelong love of books, the arts, and swimming hold many memories for Karin. Strength and fortitude come to mind when Russ thinks of Krista. She protected him as a child as well as caring for others, mainly children and animals.

Krista's German heritage was very important to her. Most summers of her childhood were spent in Germany visiting her grandparents. She spoke fluent German and would get annoyed with her mother when she sometimes wouldn't speak it with her.

The Hengst family moved to Newtown, Pennsylvania, when Krista entered high school and the family became active members of Newtown Monthly Meeting. A 1974 graduate of George School, Krista always treasured her memories of her time there, especially the art classes.

It was at Temple University that she met Ed Boling. If it wasn't love at first sight, it was close to it. Ed was simultaneously watching T.V. and perusing a quantum mechanics book in a lounge when Krista came in with a dog, who proceeded to chew Ed's book - a great conversation opener! Ed, who doesn't think of himself as a spontaneous person, then invited Krista to spend the next day at the beach with him.

Soon after receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree Krista was accepted into the Peace Corps and went to Africa. It turned out that Swaziland was too far from Philadelphia and, more specifically, from Ed. Her parents remember several homesick phone calls. Her voice was as close as it sounded in a subsequent call; she was in Philadelphia at Ed's house!

Ed and Krista married in 1979 and over the next dozen years had four children: Marie, Paul, Jean, and George. After living in Philadelphia and West Virginia they moved to Baltimore, Maryland, in 1981. In 1986 they moved to Newtown and settled into the same neighborhood where Krista had lived as a teenager. She loved living in Newtown: being a part of Newtown Meeting again; living near family and old friends; and even having the same family doctor as before. Her parents no longer lived in Newtown, but her beloved Great-aunt Rose did. Both Aunt Rose and Ed were always nearby and ready to help out at a minute's notice with the busy household. Krista had developed many vocations by this time: wife, parent, neighbor, friend, and Friend.

To Ed, one of Krista's greatest gifts was "being able to take almost any situation and making it into a wonderful experience." This was especially true a few years ago when Ed found himself having to take a job in California. For six months, Krista and the children stayed in Newtown trying to sell the house. It was an extremely difficult time for all of them. Krista decided that certain unknowns were better than the strain they were all feeling so she moved the family to California in very short order and started the process of building their new life. That she tackled it with her usual spirit and strength is clear from a letter she wrote to a friend a year

later: "I remember the first months of our move. For me they were exciting and challenging. I liked learning the lay of the new surroundings. I enjoyed noticing the differences. I liked setting up our new household. I have enjoyed meeting new people and making new friends."

She did not wait for her new neighborhood and Meeting to come to her. She became the class parent and a weekly classroom volunteer for George's kindergarten class. In addition to the usual responsibilities, she invited the other parents to morning coffees. At the Palo Alto Meeting she found there were few activities for the teenagers so she rejuvenated the Young Friends program with a variety of activities.

To Krista, the family and community <sup>were</sup> ~~are~~ all-important. Her fierce determination, often thought of as a stubborn streak to those close to her, was guided by her thinking of others and their needs and her duty to them. Her first duty was to be Ed's partner and then, together, to raise their children with love and guidance; laughter and good memories; music lessons and regular chores; trips (especially to the beach!) and home-baked goodies; faith and security; times with other kids and special, shared experiences with adults; a good academic education and a religious education that extended beyond the Meeting House walls and into actions.

After her family, Krista's duty was to her friends, neighbors, and Meeting. She had a way of appearing with a pot of soup or flowers from her garden when she would hear of someone's illness. In Newtown Meeting she served in many ways: on Overseers Committee, Quarterly Meeting Committee on Oversight of the Coordinator, Quarterly Meeting Weekend Planning Committee, Quarterly Camp Onas Committee, and as a guide for school tours of the Meetinghouse.

Krista did all of this through faith, love, action, strength, and fortitude. In her brother Russ's words, "She was a true Quaker. I don't think you can get any more Quaker than Krista."

Postscript: A friend received a Christmas card from Krista this year which had been written in parts; one, before the news of her illness and the other, after. She wrote, "Guess what? We made a visit to the east coast. Everything we did was so joyful. We took a trip to Baltimore to visit friends we had made when our children were born, visited Newtown and Camp Onas, saw the new building. We even took a side trip to Rockefeller Center and St. Patrick's Cathedral. Just Paul and George were with us then, and of course we spent wonderful days with family.....So many people have expressed their love for me. It is very heart warming. I really feel enveloped in love. But I have always felt cherished by my community. And at a loss as to what to do about it."

Anne Parker, for Newtown Monthly Meeting  
Committee on Worship and Ministry and others