



CANADIAN BAPTISTS
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Pastor Obituaries 2023

PASTOR HEATHER ELAINE GILLIS

Heather Elaine Gillis – 76, of South Farmington, passed away peacefully on February 24, 2023 in Valley Hospice, Kentville. Born in Kentville, she was a daughter of the late Elaine (Brewster) and Lorne Pearle. After some years of working in hospitals and schools, Heather focused on raising her family and doing many hobbies, like pottery, calligraphy, tole painting, and genealogy. Her love of family history went from a weekend hobby to a 45 year endeavour. She mapped out nearly 14,000 descendants. In later life, she became a Baptist pastor and touched many lives at Victoria Vale Baptist Church and Port Lorne Baptist Church. The family wishes to extend thanks to the Victorian Order of Nurses and the Valley Hospice. Surviving are her husband, Robert “Bob” Benjamin, South Farmington; sons, Darren, Vancouver; Craig, Eastern Passage; Evan (Terri) Gillis, Rockland, ON; grandchildren, Nathan and Payton; step children Helen (Steven) Ribble, Puslinch; John (Kim) Benjamin, Nictaux; brothers, James (Sandy Henry) Pearle, Meadowvale; Keith (Bonnie) Pearle, Moshers Corner; Ross (Ellen) Pearle, Mount Uniacke. Predeceased by her first husband Erle Gillis; brother Lorne “Ivan” and Adelbert “Del”.

Cremation has already taken place. Burial will be in the Torbrook Mines United Cemetery at a later date. The family invites you to attend a drop in Celebration of Life and reception at any time between 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm on Tuesday, February 28th in the Victoria Vale Baptist Church Hall. There will be no formal service. Let’s all share memories and stories of Heather’s life. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a charity of your choice. Arrangements have been entrusted to Middleton Funeral Home, 398 Main Street, 1-855-825-3448. Online guestbook may be signed by visiting:

www.middletonfuneralhome.com

<https://www.middletonfuneralhome.com/obituary/heather-gillis>

REV. ERNEST HENRY NICKERSON

ERNEST HENRY NICKERSON – 94 — “. . . absent from the body and present with the Lord” (2 Corinthians 5:8).

On March 21, 2023, at age 94, Ernest passed away at Bay Side Nursing Home, Barrington, NS. Born on February 9, 1929, in Clam Point, Cape Sable Island, NS, he was the son of the late Thomas and Almeda (Brown) Nickerson.

While teaching school at 18 years of age in West Head, NS, God opened his understanding to see his sinfulness and consequent separation from God; as well as his need to ask the Lord Jesus to save him from his sins and make him a child of God. This was an event that shaped the course of the rest of his life.



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Throughout his life, he worked as a schoolteacher, principal, deputy clerk, accountant, and pastor of churches in Wickham, NB and Pleasantville, NS. During these years, he graduated from Atlantic Baptist College and became an ordained Baptist minister.

At his home church, Stoney Island Baptist, he taught Sunday School, played the organ, and served as a church treasurer and honorary deacon. Over the years, he taught Bible studies in homes, as well as at summer family camps, and faithfully mentored other pastors. He edited "The Path of Life", a Christian bimonthly paper, which began in 1948 and continued for the next 50 years. Under this same name, he also had a radio broadcast and a phone dial-a-message ministry. In all of his teaching, he took a strong stand on the authority of the Bible.

He was dearly loved and will be missed by many, especially his daughter, Susan (Gary) Barnes, Hampton, NB; sister-in-law Mary Ann Nickerson, Barrington, NS; five grandchildren, Adrian (Lisa), Shane (Heather), Joel, Jeremy (Ashley) Barnes, and Britany (Bryan) Nickerson; eleven great-grandchildren, Seth, Kate, Laura, Tessa, Natalie, Bryce, James, Freya, Dean, Aurora, and Liam; as well as many nephews and nieces.

He was predeceased by his wife, Ellen (Smith); son, Douglas; sisters, Julia (Rogers), Genevieve, Norma (Brown); Sarah (Roache); brothers, James, Alden, Claude, Elliott, Havelock, Edsel and Layton.

Visitation hours are Sunday, March 26 from 6-8 pm at H. M. Huskilson's Funeral Home, Barrington, NS. The funeral will be held Monday, March 27 at 2 pm in the Stoney Island Baptist Church, Stoney Island, NS, with Pastor Wayne Crowell officiating. Burial to follow in Atlantic Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations may be made to the Stoney Island Baptist Church, Share Word Global Canada (Gideons), or the charity of your choice. Online condolences may be sent to: huskilson@ns.aliantzinc.ca or you may sign the guest book at: www.huskilson.net

<https://www.huskilson.net/obituary/pastor-ernest-nickerson>

REV. DR. HUGH MCNALLY

On Wednesday, May 17, 2023, Hugh Alexander McNally died peacefully and went home to be with Jesus, his Lord and Saviour. He is survived by his beloved wife, Shirley; his children Heather McNally (Trevor), Wanda Campbell (Ian), and John McNally (Catherine); grandchildren: Piper (Christian), Tilly, Esme, Rachel, Nathan (Grace), and Samuel; and great grandchildren, Finn, Joanna, and baby McNally soon to arrive. He is also survived by his brothers: Hazen, John (Judy), and Brian (Hannah), and nieces and nephews. He was pre-deceased by his parents, Wallace and Mabel McNally, and his sister Louise.



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Hugh was born in Lower Queensbury, NB on March 26, 1935. He grew up on the family farm in Prince William, NB, attending a one-room schoolhouse. He received a Bachelor of Arts in History from Gordon College in Massachusetts in 1956. The following year, he studied Canadian History at the University of Toronto where he met Shirley Frid. They were married in 1958.

Convinced of a call to ordained Christian ministry, he returned to Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary where he graduated in 1960 with a Master of Divinity. That same year he was ordained by his home church, and, together with Shirley, they were commissioned to serve as missionaries in India with the Canadian Baptist Overseas Mission Board. For the next 14 years, he served there in a teaching and leadership role with churches and pastors. Although a young man himself, he became a mentor to other young leaders, a role that continued throughout his life.

In 1966 and 1967, he completed an additional year of course work with the Hartford Seminary Foundation towards a Master of Arts in the History of Religions. On his return to India, he taught at the Baptist Theological Seminary in Kakinada. He displayed a deep commitment to excellence in theological education and equipping lay persons for ministry regardless of the cultural context. Since returning to Canada in 1974, he participated in a number of leadership events in India.

From 1974 to 2000, Hugh faithfully served as the Senior Pastor of three Atlantic Baptist Churches: Riverview, NB, Grace Memorial in Fredericton, NB, and Bridgewater, Nova Scotia. In July 2000, he “retired” after 40 years of missionary and pastoral ministry.

Hugh contributed to the broader life of the Baptist Convention through his gifts of organizational leadership. He led in the re-design of the manual for the Year of Internship for Ordination Candidates. He helped develop a new Lay Pastor’s Training Program and was one of its first instructors. He acted as Consultant to the Convention Council on the development and implementation of a new governance model. He became a special research assistant to the Executive Minister of the Convention from 2005 to 2007. Hugh advised the Convention during the lengthy incorporation process, capping that historic decision in 2010.

With a keen interest in history, Hugh was a highly valued member and chair for several years of the Baptist Historical Committee and the Acadia University Senate Archives Committee. He co-taught courses on Baptist History and Polity with Acadia Divinity College.

In 2009, Hugh became the founding chair of the Board of Directors for the Atlantic Society for Biblical Equality (ASBE). ASBE promotes the biblical message of full equality between women and men to advance the kingdom of God in Atlantic Canada.

Hugh’s ministry continued in his retirement as he was regularly asked to be a ministry supervisor and mentor. The hospitality of his and Shirley’s home has been a source of



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encouragement for many. In 2011, Hugh was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Divinity from Acadia.

The family extends their heartfelt thanks to everyone who compassionately journeyed with Hugh as he faced the challenges of Alzheimer's. The RN's, LPN's, CCA's, custodians, administrators, and the whole Windsor Elms team genuinely cared and modeled the Eden Alternative. Hugh was blessed to have his family physician, Dr. Crystal Todd, and his attending physician at Windsor Elms, Dr. Amy MacDonald. The staff from VON and Senior Home Care by Angels, especially Charlie, helped Hugh stay at home as long as possible.

A funeral service, followed by a reception, will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, May 22, 2023, in Wolfville Baptist Church. Livestream available. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Acadia Divinity College for a memorial scholarship to be set up to support women studying for pastoral ministry or global mission. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the White Family Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Kentville.

www.whitefamilyfuneralhome.com

<https://www.whitefamilyfuneralhome.com/obituaries/170379>

REV. MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER CANNELL

Rev. Michael Christopher Cannell—75—Hopewell, formerly of Yarmouth and Moncton, passed away peacefully at home, Tuesday, July 11, 2023.

Born in Moncton, he was a son of the late John Thomas George and Beatrice Alice (Truss) Cannell. For the first 25 years, Michael was an automotive equipment sales and service technician. In 2002 Michael felt "the call" to ministry and enrolled at Acadia Divinity College, from where he graduated in October 2004 with a Bachelor of Theology. While attending college, he pastored the Seabright, Indian Harbour and West Dover Baptist Churches. In 2006 Mike became the pastor of Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, Yarmouth County where he served until May of 2017 where he made many friends. In 2021, Mike and his wife, Debbie, relocated to Hopewell, Pictou County where they thoroughly enjoyed retirement. He was a member of Bethel Baptist Church, Westville, where he served as a Deacon, and occasionally preached. Mike served as the Maritime Field Representative for The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, Canada from 2020 – 2022 Mike enjoyed fishing, doing woodwork, gardening, and reading. He cherished time spent with his family and was happiest when they were all together. Above all, he loved his Savior, and although saddened at his passing, his family are comforted to know that "absent from the body", Mike is present with his Lord.

Surviving are his wife of 54 years, Debbie (Eckert); daughter, Jennifer Cannell, Stanchel, P.E.I.; sons, Robert (Nicole) Cannell, Stanhope, P.E.I.; Stephen (Michelle) Cannell, Upper



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Lawrencetown; grandchildren, Marie and Anna Herman; Loman and Gabriella Cannell; Noah and Amelia Cannell; niece, Maggie; nephew, Peter.

Besides his parents, he was predeceased by brothers, Jack and John; several nieces and nephews.

Funeral service will be held 11 a.m. Friday, July 14, 2023, in Bethel Baptist Church, Westville with Rev. Robert Ryggs officiating.

<https://pkmacdonald.ca/tribute/details/3766/Michael-Cannell/obituary.html>

REV. JOHN SEYMOUR BEERS

Rev. John Seymour Beers—88—With sadness but a confidence he is with his Lord, the family of Rev John Seymour Beers announce his passing on July 30th, 2023 at the Hants Community Hospital. John was born to William and Violet Beers in the Wentworth Valley. In his early years he was heavily involved in the local Baptist Church, to which he'd go on to devote his life's calling.

After high school, John worked for a few years at a printing press before deciding to return to school to attend the United Baptist Bible Training School (now Crandall University) in Moncton, NB. He then headed to Acadia University, where he earned a Bachelors in Philosophy and Math, a Masters in Divinity and later a Masters of Theology. It was also at Acadia where John met the love of his life, Ethel Harlow, to whom he was married for 56 years.

John devoted his life to ministry with Ethel by his side. He served in Baptist churches across Nova Scotia including Caledonia, Lawrencetown, Dartmouth, Kingston, and Yarmouth, and finished his career as Area Minister for the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada. In retirement, he continued to minister as interim pastor at several churches.

In addition, John served the broader community, volunteering on boards and committees for such causes as libraries, food banks, crisis phone lines, prison ministries, and many others. He also volunteered as a camp director for many years and was passionate about camping for kids. He was well known throughout the region for his compassion and commitment to community work and was recognized with distinguished citizen awards from local and provincial governments.

John's last words to this world were "I love you." This is fitting because his sole intention in life was to be an instrument of unconditional love. Anyone who knew him, whether for a long time or even briefly, felt his kindness, compassion and understanding. He was a friend to all and mentored and helped many people along the way.

No one experienced John's unconditional love more than his family. He was a devoted husband and a proud father who rejoiced in the individuality of his wife and each of his children. When the blessing of grandchildren came, he wanted to be known as Grampy.



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He had a special place in his heart for each of his grandchildren: Katelyn, Noah, Skye, Théo, Emmy, Jacob, Maggie and Toby. Grampy loved them as much as they loved him.

He is survived by his wife Ethel, sons Jonathan (Kimberly), Andrew (Michelle), Tim (Nadine d'Entremont) and daughter, Joanna (Novat) Quinn and their children. He is also survived by his sisters Jenn O'Connor and Lenora MacEachern, brothers-in-law Leslie and Stephen Harlow, and sisters-in-law Cora Aulenbach, Audrey Evans, Grace Harlow-Gilligan, as well as nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, William and Violet, and brothers Gerald, Allan, Delbert and Larry.

John's Celebration of Life service is on Friday, August 4th at 2pm at the New Minas Baptist Church, officiated by Rev Daniel Cormier. The service will be followed by a reception and visitation.

We are requesting family flowers only, but if you would like to honour John's memory, donations can be made to Acadia Divinity College or to the Send-a-Kid to Camp fund for Kingswood Camp through the New Minas Baptist Church.

<https://www.eastcoastmemorial.ca/obituary/RevJohn-Beers>

REV. LLOYD MACKAY STEWART

LLOYD MACKAY STEWART – 86 —With heavy hearts we announce the passing of Rev. Lloyd MacKay Stewart, age 86, of Windsor, formerly of Shag Harbour, on Thursday, August 10, 2023 in the Hants Community Hospital.

Born September 9, 1936 in Greenwood Nova Scotia, he was a son of the late David and Margaret (Ferguson) Stewart and was named for his cousin Lloyd Ferguson.

After 62 happy years together, he is survived by his loving wife Myrna Stewart (Greenwood); sons David (Brenda) and Wilbert (Reneé) Stewart; daughter Ruth (Jeff) Scothorn; grandchildren Rachel, Aidan (Yulie), Chelsea, Leah, Benjamin Lloyd and Rebecca; great granddaughter Amy; as well as several nieces and nephews.

Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his brothers Frank and Edmund Stewart.

He was a proud graduate of East Pictou Rural High and went on to obtain a Bachelor of Theology degree from the London Bible Institute and a Bachelor of Arts in History from Acadia University. He was delighted that some of his children and grandchildren also attended Acadia.

Lloyd was a Baptist Minister for 55 years. A proud Nova Scotian he spent his entire career ministering in the province, serving as pastor in United Baptist churches in Pubnico-Argyle, Cape Sable Island, Pugwash-Wallace River, North Brookfield, Bear River and Lockeport.



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He was an avid hockey fan (especially of the Detroit Red Wings and Gordie Howe) and later in life came to enjoy cheering with his wife for the Boston Red Sox. He was fascinated by politics and loved to engage in arguments and discussions. He also enjoyed playing games with friends and family, particularly if he was winning. The family would like to extend a special thank you to the doctors and nurses at the Hants Community Hospital for the kindness and compassion they provided during Lloyd's time there.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Lindsay Windsor Funeral Home, 194 King Street, Windsor, NS, B0N 2T0.

Visitation will be held on Monday, August 14th from 2-4 p.m. in the funeral home. The funeral service will be held on Tuesday, August 15th at 2 p.m. in the Shag Harbour United Baptist Church, Woods Harbour, NS B0W2E0. Reception to follow. Burial will take place in the Old Farm Cemetery, Shag Harbour.

Donations in memory of Lloyd may be made to the Shag Harbour United Baptist Church.

<https://www.arbormemorial.ca/preview/lindsay/rev-lloyd-stewart/107714>

REV. JIM DAVID HIRTLE

JAMES DAVID HIRTLE – 75 — James “Jim” David Hirtle passed away peacefully on Tuesday, August 29th, 2023 at the Fair Haven Nursing Home in Vancouver, BC. He was 75 years old.

Born on October 18th, 1947 in Sackville, NB, Jim was the son of the late Dr. Waldo and Frances Hirtle. From a young age, he took to playing the piano and later pipe organ; his love for music, especially hymns, stayed with him long after his memory faded.

A lifelong learner, Jim graduated with degrees from Mount Allison University (1969, 1972), Wheaton College (1975), Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary (1978), and Dalhousie University (1992). He also loved to teach, and began his career teaching chemistry and managing the library at Atlantic Baptist College in Moncton, NB. A few years later, he decided to enter the ministry as a pastor and soon met the love of his life, Janet Mitton. They got engaged on a trip to the Holy Land and married on November 3rd, 1979. For over 20 years, Jim served in communities across New Brunswick (Harvey, New Horton, Alma, Oak Bay, Centreville, Chipman) and Nova Scotia (Glance Bay, Tantallon). He never missed a chance to accompany Janet on the piano when she treated the congregation to a solo. Jim continued to nurture the lives of others as long as he was able, including speaking at chapel in nearby nursing homes and teaching English in South Korea.

Jim is survived by his loving wife Janet and two sons, Matthew (Cylena) Hirtle and David (Lacey) Hirtle of Vancouver, BC; two sisters Sharon (Paul) Britton of Halifax, NS, and



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Wanda (George) Evans of Cole Harbour, NS; one brother Bill (Jan) Hirtle of Sackville, NB; four grandchildren Zoe, Sienna, Anna, and Sam Hirtle.

His Memorial Service will be held on Friday, September 15th, 2023 at 2:00 pm at West Point Grey Baptist Church in Vancouver, BC.

<https://www.mbfuneralsbc.com/obituary/JamesJim-Hirtle#tributewall>

REV. WALLACE SMITH SR.

Rev. Wallace Smith Sr.— Age 82 of North Preston, passed away peacefully on October 3rd in the Dartmouth General Hospital surrounded by his loving family. Born July 29th 1941, in North Preston, he was the son of the Late Oscar and Rachel (Downey) Smith. Rev. Wallace accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior at the age of 14. His relationship with God and his relationship with music were intertwined throughout the duration of his life. From the early '60s until his retirement, music remained a defining part of Rev. Smith's life. In the mid-'70s, he was led by God to form The Gospel Heirs, who remained one of Nova Scotia and Canada's most beloved gospel groups until their retirement in 2003 after nearly 30 years. Following his departure from the Gospel Heirs, he became the lead singer of the Sanctified Brothers.

Rev. Smith had the privilege of sharing the stage with The Winans, Jesse Dixon, Cissy Houston, Shirley Caesar, Anne Murray, Bucky Adams, and The Williams Brothers to name a few. He has been a performer with Symphony Nova Scotia, and he was featured on a special recording of "Lord You Brought Me A Mighty Long Way" for the Black Cultural Society of Nova Scotia.

A treasure to the African Nova Scotian Music Community, He was known for his outstanding renditions of Jesus Loves Me, Your Grace and Mercy and I'm on a Mission for the King.

Rev. Wallace was the recipient of many accolades: A Rev. Dr. William P Oliver Wall of Honor Inductee, He was appointed a Chaplin for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. He was recognized for his musical abilities receiving the African Nova Scotian Music Association (ANSMA) Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2022, he was a recipient of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal, to name a few.

He was a trailblazer in introducing the full band ensemble, enhancing the music ministry within the church, which is still prevalent. He also volunteered his services as a guitar player for most groups that function under the church.

Rev. Smith was an entrepreneur. He started his own drywall taping company named Smith N Sons. Shortly thereafter, he accepted a position with the Department of National Defence as a mason/ plasterer.



Rev. Smith served as a Deacon at Saint Thomas Baptist Church for 11 years under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Donald D. Skier and later as a Licentiate for 5 years, assuming the role of Assistant Pastor to Rev. Calvin Symonds. At the age of 54, Rev. Smith decided to pursue his education. He studied at Acadia Divinity College for a year, and then at the Atlantic School of Theology for four years, where he graduated and received his Diploma in Biblical Studies in May of 1998. During this time, he accepted the call to Pastor at Zion United Baptist Church in Truro, Nova Scotia, where he served for 3 years.

One of his proudest accomplishments was becoming the first Ordained Pastor from his community with the opportunity to serve in his home church.

Under the umbrella of the African United Baptist Association, Rev. Smith held many titles. Most notably, he was the first individual from North Preston to serve as Moderator.

During his time at Saint Thomas, he was known as “The Peoples Pastor”. He loved his community and organized many church family and community events. Under his Pastorship the church grew spiritually, and physically. Many souls were won, and lives changed. Through his charismatic approach he was able to pull people from their comfort zones, compelling them to assume significant roles within the church. Rev. Smith retired as Sr. Pastor of Saint Thomas Baptist Church in August 2022, after 21+ years of service.

It was evident that the relationship between Wallace and his family was unmeasurable. He was a devoted and loving husband, you would never see him without his Best Friend Frances, whom he often referred to as his “Queen”. He adored his children and grandchildren and will be missed by them. We will miss the many family gatherings and dinners where he shared great memories, laughs and often looked forward to the noise from his grandchildren. He had a great sense of humour and was an avid sports fan. He also enjoyed fishing.

Rev. Smith is survived by his wife, First Lady Frances (Beals-Cain) Smith, the love of his life for 58 years. Sons: Dea. Wallace (Maureen) Smith Jr, North Preston; Anthony (Shauna) Smith, Oshawa, ONT; Daughters: Roxanne (Michael) Smith, North Preston; Kienya (O’Bryan) Booker, Dartmouth; Cyntisha (Alfonz) Simmonds, Milton, ONT; K’lienya Smith, North Preston; Kolieya Smith, North Preston; Charlene (Peter) Downey, Cherry Brook; Sisters: Caroline (Charlie) Crooks, Lawrencetown; Brothers: Victor (Sherry) Smith, Dart; Mandy Smith, Dart; Charlie Grouse, Halifax; Aunt Adeline Fraser, 22 Grandchildren, 21 Great Grandchildren, Godchildren: Dana Willis, Tomiko Smith, Gail Smith, Anne Provo, Horace Smith Jr., Barina (Love) Wright, Magael Buchan, Tony Smith. He was predeceased by his daughter, Cynthia Cain- Smith, his parents Oscar and Rachael Smith, sisters: Althea Willis, Madeline Smith, Molly-Ann Reddick, and Mary Rose Cain-Fraser; brothers, Joseph Smith and David Smith.



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Rev. Wallace Smith Sr. lived a life of service. He was an exceptional man, who lead with love. He was a humble servant with a strong desire to work and win souls for Christ. He lived by the motto, If I can help someone along the way than my living will not have been in vain.

“What a privilege it has been to share this journey of faith with you. In some small way I hope I have positively impacted your lives through my teaching, preaching, and music ministry.” -Rev. Wallace Smith Sr.

<https://www.arbormemorial.ca/atlantic-dartmouth/obituaries/rev-wallace-smith/110403>

REV. KENNETH LAYTON THOMPSON

Rev. Kenneth Layton Thompson, B.A. B.D. “The Preacher Man”

Ken passed away October 7th, 2023 in Kenneth E. Spencer Memorial Home, Moncton, N.B. Ken was born in Springhill, N.S. on May 1st, 1928. He was the only son of James Ronald Thompson and Lola Vernetta (Brown). Ken attended Springhill High School and after graduation, went on to work as a linesman for Maritime Tel and Tel. In 1947 God called Ken into full-time Christian Ministry and went on to attend Acadia University. During his time at Acadia he became President of the Student Christian Movement on the Acadia Campus and was chosen by his classmates to be the “Cap and Gown” speaker for the class of ’51. He was also honored to be one of nine students who had contributed most to “For The Glory of Her Name”. Receiving a Literary Gold “A”. During his days at Acadia; he also acted in the play Hamlet and was a member of the Acadia Divinity College Quartet traveling throughout the Maritime provinces promoting the school. In 1951 Ken graduated with his BA and the following year he married Mary Alexandra (Sandra) MacLeod, class of 1952. Sandra was the daughter of Reverend Archibald and Grace MacLeod. In 1953 Ken received his Bachelor of Divinity degree and during this time he was assistant to Dr. Freeman Fenerty, pastor of the Kentville Baptist Church. During Ken’s 61 years in the ordained ministry he has served in a number of our Maritime churches; Tufts Cove, Mahone Bay, Paradise-Clarence, Middleton, Victoria Street, Saint John, Grace Memorial, Fredericton, Birch Cove Baptist Halifax, First Baptist Charlottetown, West Lane Moncton, as well as First Baptist Church Kingsville, Ontario. In early 1989 everything changed in Ken’s life when his wife Sandra fell ill with Parkinson’s Plus. At this time, he retired from full-time ministry giving full attention to Sandra’s care. He did continue to serve in numerous interim ministries which included New Glasgow, Campbellton and more recently churches in Cumberland County. Following Sandra’s passing in 1999, Ken returned to his home town of Springhill. In 2002 he married Gloria Holloway R.N. Gloria currently resides in the Kenneth E. Spencer Memorial Home, Moncton, N.B.



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Ken has also served the wider Baptist constituency as a Council member of the Baptist Federation of Canada, Reserve Chaplain in the RCAF, President of the Atlantic Baptist Convention and more recently Pastor-Emeritus in his home church Springhill Baptist.

Ken was predeceased in 2018 by his daughter Paula Holden (Rev. Blair), Riverview. Survived by his wife, Gloria (Holloway); sons, Rev. Paul (Dianne) Thompson, Fredericton; Mark (Valerie) Thompson, Halifax; Andrew (Elaine) Thompson, Charlottetown; daughter, Elizabeth Thompson (Timothy Mackinnon), Montreal. He is also survived by fifteen grandchildren and twenty-two great-grandchildren.

He is survived by two stepdaughters; Dawn (Brian) Keizer, Lunenburg; Jan (Gary) Porter, Amherst Shore; six step grandchildren and three step great grandchildren.

<https://www.mmcfunerals.com/obituary/ken-thompson>

REV. JACK W. PALMER

Rev. Jack W. Palmer – Age 95, of Amherst, went to be with his Lord on Thursday, October 26, 2023 at the Cumberland Regional Health Care Centre, Amherst. Born in Hamilton, Ont., he was the son of the late Arthur ‘Jack’ and Rose (Bailey) Palmer. He was predeceased by his loving wife of 68 years, Una A. (McWhirter) Palmer in 2018; his sister, Joyce Green and brother-in-law, Chesley Green. He is survived by his daughters, Sandra Irving (Gordon), Halifax; Karen Downie (Bill), Quispamsis, N.B.; his grandchildren, Jason Downie, Julianna Melanson (Jeff); Jacalyn MacLean (Dave), Jeffrey Irving; his much loved great-granddaughter, Ciara MacLean; sister-in-law, Stella Watson; nephew, Gregory Green (Maydon); niece, Sharon Fast (Doug); three great-nephews, Greg Fast (Sean), Chris Fast, Drew Green (Catherine Chapman); three great-nieces, Lindsey Narciso (Nathan and baby Nicolai), Renata Fast (Paul Geiger) and Sarah McIntyre (David); Jack’s cousin in England, Jean Snell. Jack was close to Una’s five nieces and a nephew from the USA and had a very special relationship with Una’s niece, Joyce Jeffrey; great niece, Lori Carr (Wayne); great-great nieces, Bailey Carr and Ashley Carr; as well, a great nephew, Chris Jeffrey (Christina).

Jack served with the Royal Canadian Navy for 12 years prior to entering the ministry. Jack was a retired Baptist minister having served at Parrsboro, Hammonds Plains, Lower Sackville, Brookfield/Stewiacke (all in Nova Scotia), and Tryon, Prince Edward Island. Jack and Una retired in 1993 to Apple River and later moved to Amherst in 2010.

Visitation and reception will be held 11am-1pm on Thursday, November 2, 2023 at the First Baptist Church, Amherst, where funeral service will follow at 1pm, Rev. Jeff White officiating. Burial in the Advocate Cemetery. Memorial donations to First Baptist Church, Amherst.

<https://smithsfuneralhome.com/23070.htm>