



## Flavil Yeakley Jr

January 23, 1934 - August 12, 2019

Dr. Flavil Ray Yeakley, Jr., 85, died August 12, 2019, at Unity Health White County Medical Center in Searcy, Arkansas.

He was born January 23, 1934, in Wheeler, Texas, the son of Flavil Yeakley, Sr., and Mary Klingman Yeakley. As the son of a preacher, his family moved often, usually managing to stay in Texas, and he graduated from high school in the Dallas area. In 1953, he met Maydell Jeffries at her choir practice in Memphis, Texas. They married on June 1, 1954.

He began his preaching career at the age of 16 and continued to preach for the next 25 years while he completed degrees in psychology and communication from the University of Houston, and a Ph.D. in Speech Communication from the University of Illinois. From 1974 to 1984, he chaired the speech department at the University of Tulsa, and from 1984 to 1990 he directed the Church Growth Institute at Abilene Christian University.

In 1990, he moved to Searcy, Arkansas, becoming a professor in the College of Bible and Religion at Harding University and Director of the Harding Center for Church Growth Studies. He also directed the Office of Outcomes Assessment until 2004. He retired from Harding University in 2011, but continued his lifelong career of teaching, consulting for churches across the United States, writing and research.

Dr. Yeakley's work as a church consultant took him to hundreds of churches across the United States and abroad. His research on church growth is widely considered the standard on the topic. He was an internationally recognized expert in the Myers Briggs Type Indicator, serving as the president of the Association for Psychological Type. He won numerous awards for his research, as well as many other awards and honors, including Distinguished Christian Service Awards from Harding University and Oklahoma Christian University. He served on numerous boards and held offices for various community service groups. He is the author of five books and hundreds of articles and booklets.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Maydell; three children: Mark and his wife Kimberlee of Wichita, Kansas, Steven and his wife Shelley of Searcy, and Rebecca Vinzant and husband Gene of Prairie Village, Arkansas; eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Ben Allen Yeakley, and his sister, Mary Alice Jordan.

A memorial service will be held at 1pm, Thursday, August 15, at College Church of Christ. Visitation will be from 5-7pm, Wednesday, August 14, also at College Church of Christ.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to The Flavil and Maydell Yeakley Endowed Scholarship Fund at Harding University, Box 12238, Searcy, AR 72149.

Dr. Yeakley will lie in state Wednesday, August 14, 2019 from 8-5 at Powell Funeral Home Searcy, AR.

Arrangements are entrusted to Powell Funeral Home Searcy  
[www.powellfuneralhome.net](http://www.powellfuneralhome.net)



# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **14**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

College Church Of Christ  
712 E Race Ave  
Searcy, AR 72143-4421  
(501) 268-7156

## Memorial Service

AUG **15**. 1:00 PM (CT)

College Church Of Christ  
712 E Race Ave  
Searcy, AR 72143-4421  
(501) 268-7156

# Tribute Wall

AM

“ Although it has been almost two years since Flavil passed, I just learned of this and wanted to add my thoughts to the tribute page. I went to high school with Flavil at Hillcrest High School in Dallas, TX. We graduated in 1952. He was uniquely himself. At a time of life when most teenagers (myself most certainly) were trying to be like everyone else, Flavil was distinct, himself, self-assured and knew where he was going. Already a preacher, he still had time for school and serving in the school band (drum major, I believe). We were not close friends, and not of the same faith, nor was he part of my social scene. He was much too busy with school, band and his preaching responsibilities. Most of us were bemused; we didn't know what to do or make of a teenage preacher. But I must say, I did hold him in awe, and I did remember him; it's been almost 70 years and I still see his smiling and ebullient presence. Sorry to be so late in sending this, but I hope it is brought to your attention and you who knew and loved him should know what a positive, lasting impression he made, even as a teenager.

*Arnold Margolin, Class of '52, now living in New York City.*

---

**Arnold Margolin** - April 12, 2021 at 04:25 PM



“ I knew Mr. Yeakley when my husband Tim was a student in the degree program. I also knew Mr. Yeakley when I was the office manager in HSBS. He was so kind to me, and to everyone. What a valuable legacy he has left us. He is already missed.

---

**Betty Miller Albright** - August 14, 2019 at 07:30 PM

CR

“ His Sunday School lessons on the book of Revelation was the best I had ever heard.  
I could always depend on him to give accurate Biblical answers to all our questions.  
He will be sorely missed. ❤️

Cheryl Qualls Riggs - August 14, 2019 at 10:10 AM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Flavil Yeakley Jr.



August 14, 2019 at 01:05 AM

MY

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Mark Yeakley - August 13, 2019 at 12:34 PM

RW

Truly good men are rare. Even more rare are the good men who, if we knew the whole story, were better than we realized. Such was Flavil Yeakley. I will never take one breath that is not in some way touched with gratitude for Dr. Yeakley. Thank you for the blessing you gave me. I will live so as not to waste any of it ... while we all miss you!  
Randy Willingham

Randy Willingham - August 13, 2019 at 05:54 PM

MY

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



---

**Mark Yeakley** - August 13, 2019 at 12:33 PM

MY

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



---

**Mark Yeakley** - August 13, 2019 at 12:31 PM