



Rev. John William Wilder

January 10, 1924 - October 15, 2011

The Rev. John W. Wilder was married to Eloise Ashley Wilder of the home, who survives. He is also survived by their children, Susan Wilder Walters and husband Robert W. Walters of Greensboro, N.C., Michael W. Wilder of Burlington, N.C., and Brent W. Wilder of Westerville, Ohio, and granddaughter Shannon N. Walters of Greensboro, N.C. Rev. Wilder is also survived by his sister, Ruth Wilder Albright of Phenix City, Ala., and other relatives including several nieces and nephews.

Rev. Wilder was preceded in death by his parents, Robert L. Wilder Sr.

and Myrtie Parrish Wilder, his sister Gladys Wilder Bassett and brothers Edgar Wilder and Robert Wilder Jr.

Rev. Wilder began his 48 years of ministry as a lay speaker in the United Church of Christ in 1958. After serving a small congregation in Roanoke, Ala. for about three years on a part-time basis, he felt led to enter the ministry full time.

At that time, he accepted a full-time position in a Tallassee, Ala.

church and enrolled in Huntingdon College in Montgomery, Ala., where he earned his bachelor of art's degree. Following the completion of his bachelor's degree, he accepted a call to Mt. Zion Christian Church in Mebane, N.C. in 1965. At the same time, he enrolled in Duke Divinity School, where he received a master of divinity degree in 1969.

>From then until his retirement on Oct. 29, 2006, Rev. Wilder served:

Shallow Well Christian Church in Sanford, N.C., Bethlehem Christian Church in Suffolk, Va., Bethlehem Christian Church in Altamahaw, N.C., Lebanon Christian Church in Semora, N.C., Liberty United Church of Christ in Nathalie, Va. and Center United Church of Christ in South Boston, Va.

After his retirement, Rev. Wilder joined First Presbyterian Church of South Boston. The church, minister and members of the congregation proved a great blessing as he had the opportunity to serve as a layperson and not have a leadership role.

Following retirement, Rev. Wilder continued to serve as an active volunteer at Halifax Regional Hospital as an associate chaplain, as well as continuing regular visits to the area's nursing homes. He continued to volunteer until

2009, when health issues prevented him from continuing.

In addition to Mr. Wilder's love for his family and ministry, he has also been active as a Master Gardener and greatly enjoyed growing and sharing plants with his many friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests consideration of donations to Halifax Regional Hospice, 2204 Wilborn Ave., South Boston, Va. 24592, or any charity of personal choice.

The family will receive friends at Powell Funeral Home, 1603 Wilborn Ave., South Boston on Monday, Oct. 17 from 6:30-8:30 p.m., and at other times at their home at 1027 Evergreen Trail, Halifax, Va. 24558.

The funeral service will be held at First Presbyterian Church, 800 N.

Main St., South Boston on Tuesday, Oct. 18 at 11 a.m., with Dr.

Russell Lee officiating. Interment will follow at Halifax Memorial Gardens.

PDF Printable Version

Tribute Wall

MJ

“ He ministered our church Bethlehem Christian in Suffolk when I was 18. He gave us business size cards that said "put GOD 1ST OTHER MAN 2ND YOURSELF 3RD. I still struggle to understand my newness in CHRIST by living by the fruits of the Spirit & not the flesh. I considered you to be kind people. Sorry for your loss & love, he's @ home. MIKE JOHNSON

Mike Johnson - May 26, 2024 at 10:06 PM

SA

“ I am so sorry about John's death. He was a wonderful friend to my parents. Take comfort in knowing he is in God's hands forever!

Susan Seymour Amos - October 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ A sympathy card has been sent to the family of Rev. John William Wilder.

October 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ I am so sorry to hear of your loss in John's passing. He meant so much to Dad and Mom (Collie and Christine Seymour). Prayers and sympathy are with you. Janet Seymour Cooke

Jan Cooke - October 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PH

“ You are in my thought and Prayers

Penny Baylous Hudson - October 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TW

“ Susan and family,

I'm sorry to hear of your Dad's passing. I remember the good times we had at your home, and the conversations we had with your Dad and Mom. They both treated me like one of their own kids.

I pray that you will find comfort in the days ahead.

Terry Whitesell

Terry Whitesell - October 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LL

“ *I always looked for Pastor Wilder when visiting the Hospital. He was a gentle and kind person you enjoyed talking too. My prayers go out to Mrs. Wilder and the family. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. LCL*

Lynwood Ladd - October 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *Rev. Wilder will be greatly missed. He served the Lord with gladness in everything he did. He was so faithful visiting my Dad after my Mom passed. Love and prayers to the family.*

Jay & LeAnn Creasy - October 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

EP

“ *Eloise and Family,*

Special Thoughts and Prayers are with you in the loss of your husband, father, grandfather, brother, nieces and nephews. We enjoyed the friendship at Center Church of Christ and Berry Hill Nursing Home. May God's nearness bring comfort at this time of grief.

Friends,

Earl and Shirley

Earl and Shirley Powell - October 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ *you were a wonderful friend to my dad and mom i can just see you all up ther haveing a grand time rejoicing and praiseing God*

GEORGE BILLIE JEAN BAYLOUS - October 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ *Mrs. Wilder, so sorry to hear of Rev. Wilder's passing. I have fond memories of the time he and your family served at Shallow Well. My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Carolyn Todd Williamson, the daughter of Henry and Lucille Todd.

Carolyn Todd Williamson - October 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PR

“ *Mr Wilder will be greatly missed by all that knew him. He joined Riley and I when we got married in 1981, renewed our vows in 2001 and Mr Wilder was the preacher then as well. Riley passed in 2002, I ask Mr Wilder to officiate his funeral. He was a great friend to have.
R.I.P. Rev Wilder*

PAM RATLIFF - October 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM