NECROLOGY REPORT – 2016

Whenever we gather as the church militant we do so under the larger panoply of the church triumphant.

Listed below are the names of clergy and specific lay leaders from our congregations who died in this past year. We remember with gratitude their witness and their service in the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ. Those listed, along with their countless unnamed colleagues, our brothers and sisters in Christ, are remembered in special prayers at our Annual Meeting. We commend them to your memory and offer our prayer:

Oh God, our strength and our redeemer, giver of life and conqueror of death, we approach you in this moment with humbled hearts. With faith in your perfect mercy and wisdom, we commit your servants to your keeping. We praise you for your loving kindness to them throughout the days of their earthly life and for all they were, by nature and grace, to those who loved them and to the Church of Jesus Christ. We thank you that for them all sickness and sorrow are ended and death itself is past, and they have entered into the rest that remains for your people. Keep us in fellowship with your church triumphant, that we may rejoice together in your presence both now and ever more.
Amen.

Departed Lay Leaders

Josephine Anthony Becker, member of Emmanuel, Hanover, passed away April 14, 2016 at 100 years of age! At Emmanuel, she was active in the church choirs, Sunday school - beginning teaching at age 14; church circles and bazaars and suppers. “When the church bell rang, she went.” In the community she was an original member of the Hanover YWCA Wives’ club, Homewood fiduciary, and was an original non-paid crossing guard.

Sarah V. Burkey, age 81, passed away Nov. 10; she was the sister of Rev. Raymond Brown; a life-long UCC member – at her time of death, a member of St. Paul’s Urban (Herndon)

Beverly S. Marchio passed away Jan 24, 2016 at age 75. At Emmanuel, Hanover, she was active in the chancel choir, constistory, Compassionate Crafters, and helped with numerous spaghetti suppers and church bazaars. In Hanover, she was active in the York Art Association, taught classes in ceramics, and coordinated Emmanuel volunteers for the PAL Lunch Ministry of the Hanover Area Council of Churches.

Edward J. O’Donnell III, at age 76 passed away on Dec. 89, 2015. Edward was a deacon, constistory member and philanthropist at Emmanuel, Hanover. He had served in the US Navy, was a member of the Arcadian Club of Hanover, Hanover Elks Lodge BPOE #763, Hanover Country Club, Conewago Creek Conservationists, Board of the Visiting Nurse Assoc. of Hanover and Spring Grove; and board of directors of First Federal Bank and Farmers Bank.
Betty Ann Ogle, Died July 9, 2015 at age 85. Betty was a dedicated and faithful member of Trinity UCC, Waynesboro, for over 60 years. She taught Sunday school for 55 years and served on many church councils, serving as consistory president and secretary of the consistory for many years. In her service to the community, she was a Cub Scout den mother, an officer in the Summitview Elementary and East Jr. High School PTO’s. Betty served on the medical advisory Board of the Thompson Institute in Chambersburg. She was a member of the Waynesboro Hospital Auxiliary and volunteered in the Hospital’s gift shop.

Dean Franklin Rabert, member of New Covenant UCC, Williamsport, passed away Dec. 18, 2015 at age 66. In addition to Dean’s service on committees and as church parliamentarian, he served terms on church council and as council president. Dean helped to lead the sanctuary building project; he coached the church league basketball team. He helped start the community party. Dean was head “Roastmaster” of ceremonies and a dedicated supporter of our Journey House Ministry. In recent years he served as our head sound room tech for worship, musicals and special events.

Mary Margaret (McCaslin) Robinson, 99, passed peacefully on September 8, 2015 at Green Ridge Village, Newville. On June 18, 1941, Mary Marg married the Rev. Albert Robinson and moved to York. While there, she was a Sunday school teacher and held other leadership positions at Faith Evangelical and Reformed Church (now United Church of Christ). In 1955, the couple and their five sons moved to Shippensburg when Albert was called to be the pastor of Grace United Church of Christ. In 1959, Mary Marg took a job as Home and School Visitor for the Shippensburg Area School District, a job she enjoyed until her retirement in 1978. While so employed, Mary Marg was known to visit thrift shops to buy clothes for some of her needy students. After her retirement in 1978, Mary Marg and Albert moved to a log house they built on a mountain near Huntingdon. She spent many hours running a belt sander over the many boards that went into this house. Once it was done, she went on to other pursuits. In season she was kept busy filling the freezers with all the produce Albert grew in the garden. She also loved working in her flower gardens, particularly her rose garden. In the winter she found many things to occupy herself. She stripped and refinished many pieces of furniture including at least eighteen chairs, she made braided rugs, she took up quilting and finished a crazy quilt that won best in show at a local quilt show. She kept and updated a genealogic record of the Robinson and McCaslin families. She was the "queen of correspondence", documenting many family events for posterity in frequent letters. By this developed habit, she kept many friends and family in touch for years. Most of all, Mary Marg made friends. She had a keen sense of humor, a sharp wit, a ready smile and a frequent laugh which ingratiated her to all she met. She was always ready to help out with those in need and it is said she never met a stranger. In addition to all these activities, Mary Marg raised five rambunctious sons.

Carol Jean Singer, committed member of Immanuel / New Covenant UCC, Williamsport, died October 28, 2015 at age 77. Carol was a single mom who mothered her adopted son through his undergraduate, graduate and fatherhood years. She was devoted to her family of many cousins and church, her extended family. In service to others, Carol relentlessly helped with cleaning. Phone messaging – including prayer chains – and giving monetarily when she did not have the resources herself. She enjoyed meal socials and fellowships, small group discussions and church choir (she sang by ear). All her efforts were given despite significant health issues and house sharing with an aging brother and an out-of-state son and granddaughter. Her church, which became New Covenant 40 years ago, was the heart of her life and the center of her selfless giving.
Lillian E. Snyder, age 87, died August 1, 2015. For many years, Lillian was New Covenant’s (Williamsport), “Martha.” She comforted hundreds over the years, organizing, preparing and serving funeral dinners, ministering to loved ones during their time of need.

Rachel L. Snyder, passed away at age 35 on August 12, 2015. Rachel had been a beloved Sunday school teacher at St. Paul’s, Dallastown, and active member of their Christian Nurture Committee.

Doris M. Whisler passed away January 5, 2016 at age 88. Doris’s activities at Grace UCC, Hanover, included singing in the choir and teaching Sunday school for over 40 years. She was Sunday school Superintendent and attended many workshops to develop Sunday school programs. Doris was Grace church’s historian and wrote the congregation’s 100 year anniversary book. She was involved in visitation and organizing mission nights. She also sang with the Hanover Oratorio Society.

Deported Clergy

Rev. J. William Anderson, died Wednesday, March 30, 2016 at the Mennonite Home in Lancaster, PA. Bill was the husband of Leona McMinn Anderson who resides at the Mennonite Home.

Bill was a graduate of J.P. McCaskey High School, Franklin & Marshall College and Lancaster Theological Seminary. He began his ministry at Salem UCC in Columbia, PA, followed by Mt. Zion UCC in York, PA where he served for 20 years. His final ministry was administrator/chaplain at the Homewood Retirement Community in Hanover, PA.


Rev. Dorothy M. Book, 80, of Lancaster, PA died on Thursday, June 25, 2015 at Ephrata Manor after a brief illness.

Dottie graduated from Lebanon Valley College and Lancaster Theological Seminary earning a BS in Christian Education. She also served and worked for many churches including the United Church of Christ conference and was the Director of Christian Education at Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Toledo, Ohio. She was an active member of Grace United Church of Christ, Lancaster, serving as past president and committee chair of the Council, and Director of Christian Education. Dorothy was the administrative assistant with Penn Central Conference of the UCC in Harrisburg, PA, and Assistant to the President of UCC Lancaster’s Association.

Rev. Paul W. Cope, 81, of Winfield, entered into his heavenly home on Monday, Nov. 30, 2015, at the Geisinger Medical Center, Danville. He was the loving husband of Anna Lucille (Eddy) Cope with whom he shared 62 years of marriage. Paul was a 1951 graduate of Berwick Area High School, Berwick and began farming with his father and brother in Berwick. After serving as a lay minister in the Beach Haven United Methodist Church, Paul felt called to the ministry. He attended Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, D.C., graduating in 1967 and was subsequently ordained to his first post as pastor.

Rev. Cope pastored several congregations over the years including Hunlock Creek U.M.C., Hunlock Creek, Ulysses U.M.C., Ulysses, South Williamsport U.M.C., South Williamsport, Mausdale/Ridgeville
U.C.C., Danville, Paradise Holtschwamm U.C.C., York, First U.C.C., Nescopeck, Mount Zion U.C.C.,
Briggsville, and Ben Salem U.C.C., Lehighton from which he retired in 1995 and became their Pastor
Emeritus. Upon his retirement, Pastor Cope moved to Winfield and served St. Paul’s U.C.C., Selinsgrove
as their Pastor of Care and several other churches in the Central Association of the United Church of
Christ as their Interim Pastor. Rev. Cope was a Past Master of the Mason in Ulysses and belonged to the
Coudersport Consistory. He was a past member of the Lions Club, Danville, and the Rotary Club,
Selinsgrove. He served in the Chaplaincy Program at Geisinger Medical Center and participated in
numerous committees and boards in the Penn Northeast and Penn Central Conferences of the U.C.C. too
numerous to mention. One highlight of his ministry was being chosen to serve on a missionary board in
the Penn Northeast Conference that visited Honduras.

Rev. Charles E. Fogle (Standing in Penn NE Conf.), passed away February 3, 2016 at age 83. He was a
1955 graduate of Muhlenberg College, and in 1958 graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary,
ordained June 15, 1958. His pastoral service record was: 1964-96 Pastor, Church of the Good Shepherd,
Albertis, PNE; 1960-64 Co-Pastor, Maxdawny Charge, Topton; 1958-60 Pastor, Beam Charge, Somerset
County.

Rev. G. Wayne Glick died on October 27, 2015 at Homestead Village in Lancaster, PA, at the age of 94. He
had been suffering for several years from congestive heart failure. He graduated from Bridgewater College
and soon after married Barbara Roller Zigler who passed away in 2005. Their marriage lasted for 63 years, and
they had three children, Martha Sue, John Theodore, and Mary Margaret.

Glick pursued graduate studies at Bethany Theological Seminary and the University of Chicago Divinity
School. After receiving his doctorate at Chicago, he became a professor of religion and philosophy at Juniata
College and then at Franklin and Marshall College where in the early 1960s he became dean of faculty and
acting president. While in Lancaster, he was active in the Civil Rights Movement, participating in the Selma to
Montgomery march with the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. From 1966-1974, Glick was president of Keuka
College in western New York State, leaving there to become director of the Moton Center for Independent
Studies. In 1978, Glick became president of Bangor Theological Seminary in Maine.

Wayne Glick was the author of “The Reality of Christianity: A Study of Adolph Harnack as Historian and
wife.

Wayne and Barbara retired to Lancaster in 1986 where he was an active member of the Lancaster Church of
the Apostles and served on the Board of the Fund for Theological Education. In retirement, he took joy in
writing sonnets and haikus, growing roses, and spending time with his family. A Chicago Cubs fan since 1931,
he was proud of what they accomplished this year.

http://lancasteronline.com/obituaries/g-wayne-glick/article_962401e2-16aa-5e3c-a2b5-ac1f5e32cfba.html

Rev. William "Bill" Shambaugh, 86, passed away on Sunday, February 14, 2016, after a brief illness. He
was born in 1929 in Harrisburg. Bill is survived by his wife, Dolores, with whom he recently
celebrated their 61st anniversary; daughter, Sheryl; and son, Tom.

Bill graduated from William Penn High School in Harrisburg in 1947. He received a BA degree from
Findlay College in Ohio in 1957, and a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Lancaster Theological Seminary
in 1961. Bill served as a minister in Harrisburg and York for 40 years, first with the Church of God and
then with the United Church of Christ.
Bill loved watching and playing football. He played quarterback in high school as well as for the semi-pro
Harrisburg Buckskins. He was a Baltimore Colts fan and had season tickets for many years. Bill was a
lifelong member of the YMCA where he played basketball and worked out. In retirement, Bill took up
golf and enjoyed playing with his Tuesday foursome, as well as with his wife and son. Bill was an avid reader and it was unusual to find him without a book in his hand or his back pocket. In 1981, Doubleday of New York published Bill's first novel "Cameron." Since then, he self-published an additional 11 books, and was working on a 12th at the time of his death.

Rev. James (Jim) Smelley – Died 7/27/2015  (No Obituary available)  His record of service:
2008-10 Intentional Interim, St. Paul's UCC, Johnstown, PA
2006-08 Intentional Interim, Amity UCC, Meyersdale, PA
2006 Intentional Interim, New Hope UCC, Landisburg, PA
1998-05 Pastor, Berea UCC, Suffolk, VA
1993-98 Pastor, St. Matthew UCC, New Orleans, LA
1986-93 Senior Minister, Mt. Hope UCC, Greensboro, NC
1983-86 Co-pastor, St. James/Salem & St. John's UCC, Francesville & Medaryville, IN
1979-83 Pastor Augustana and St. Paul UCC, Holland, IN
1977-79 Supply Pastor, Salem UCC, New Middletown, IN
1972-77 Various volunteer ministries Washington, DC, Maryland, Knoxville, TN
1975 Supply for UCC, Sweetwater, TN
1970-72 Student Assistant, Highland Baptist Church, Louisville, KY

Rev. William A. Speers, 89, entered into God's eternal care Wednesday, November 25, 2015, at the Homewood at Plum Creek Nursing Center. He was the loving husband of Patricia A. (Jury) Speers, with whom he shared 62 years of marriage. William was a 1944 graduate of Halifax H.S., Halifax, and attended Temple University, Drew University, Morningside College, and Westminster Seminary, graduating in 1954. William proudly served his country proudly in the United States Navy, retiring in 1977 as a Commander from the Navy Reserves. Rev. Speers retired in 1988 as a pastor in the central Pennsylvania area for over 58 years, having served at Gatchelville/Crossroads United Methodist Church; Mt. Olivet, Mechanicsburg; Aldersgate UMC, York; St. John's UMC, Sunbury; Zion U.C.C., York; and he was an interim minister at St. John's Blymire Church, Dallastown. He was the first Chaplain at Homewood at Plum Creek Retirement Center. Rev. Speers was a Free and Accepted Mason and was member of the Red Lion Blue Lodge #649. He was honored by the Rotary of Sunbury, for his community service, supervised the building of lower income housing in Sunbury, established Chaplain's office at the Mechanicsburg Naval Depot, and was the Disaster Chairman for the Sunbury Red Cross during the floods of 1972-1973.  http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/eveningsun/obituary.aspx?n=william-speers&pid=176661326&fhid=9924#sthash.JblW5xhH.dpuf

Rev. M. David Walthour, 69, of Millersburg, passed away Dec. 14, 2015, at home after a short illness. David was a graduate of Catawba College and Lancaster Theological Seminary and was ordained to the ministry on June 6, 1971. He served churches throughout Pennsylvania as well as serving as chaplain at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital in Washington, D.C.

He was a member of Trinity UCC, Millersburg, the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art, Millersburg Ferryboat Assn., the Nerdy Book Club, a member of Susquehanna Lodge No. 364 F.&A.M., Millersburg, and the Harrisburg Consistory A.A.S.R. He was a former board member of the VNA of Pennsylvania, and a former member of the board at the Evelyn G. Frederick Health Center. He was also a former member of the American Motorcyclist Assn., and served as chaplain for the Millersburg Fire Company. David was an avid reader and conversationalist.

Rev. Dr. Robert Duff Webber, 79 of Lancaster, died September 5, 2015 at Lakeside at Willow Valley after living for 14 years with ALS. He was the husband of Ann Atlee Webber. They celebrated 21 years of marriage on May 28th.
He graduated with a BA in 1958 from the University of Oklahoma; Perkins School of Theology with a Bachelor’s of Divinity in 1961; Yale Divinity School, Masters of Sacred Theology in 1962; received his Ph.D. at Yale University in 1970 and was ordained in the United Church of Christ.

Bob was Professor of New Testament at Lancaster Theological Seminary from 1973 to 1999 and taught religion at Bradley University from 1968 to 1973. He was a member of St. James Episcopal Church and Hamilton Park United Church of Christ in Lancaster.

An active volunteer within the Lancaster community, Bob was a former board member of The Parish Resource Center and a founding member of Lancaster Interchurch Peace Witness. He was a member of The Society of Biblical Literature, Biblical Theologians and the American Academy of Religion. He traveled extensively through the Middle East and South Africa as part of his life-long passion for peace and social justice.