

## BIOGRAPHIES

### ORDINAND

#### SARAH GILES



Sarah Giles, a fourth generation United Church of Canada member on both sides of her family, lives in Langenburg, Saskatchewan with her spouse Jason, and their three children, Ava Grace, Quinton 'Quinn', and Piper. Sarah initially felt the call to ministry when she was 18 years old, but as teenagers are apt to do, she wasn't excited by a vocation that would occupy her weekends. After increasingly overwhelming feelings of call, Sarah entered into student ministry at the Four Town Pastoral Charge as their 16<sup>th</sup> student minister while she concurrently attended the Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax, NS in the Summer Distance, Masters of Divinity Program. Sarah credits her charge's devotion to supporting her development as a minister along with the always steady, witty and wise mentorship of The Very Reverend Dr. Walter Farquharson with allowing her to find her footing as a congregational minister and success as a student. Sarah enjoys reading, camping, learning, her two Labrador Retrievers and terrible puns.

#### MINHYUK HWANG



Minhyuk Hwang is a passionate and dedicated disciple of God. He was born and raised in a small city in South Korea and grew up attending the local Methodist Church with his family. After graduating from high school, Minhyuk attended the Methodist Theological University in Korea where he majored in theology. During his time in university, he gained a deeper understanding of the Christian Gospel.

After university, Minhyuk worked for Green Korea United as a professional environmental activist for three years. However, he realized that spirituality and compassion for others and creatures were even more crucial in today's world. As a result, he enrolled in a Master of Theology program at the Methodist Theological University.

After completing his degree, Minhyuk started to serve as an assistant minister for the Methodist Agricultural Missionary Training Center, a church organization that supports rural ministries. However, he hesitated to become a minister in the Korean Methodist Church because he was not sure if it was the right path for him. At that moment, he learned about The United Church of Canada by chance. After studying its history and theology, he decided to move to Canada.

In September 2018, Minhyuk came to Canada to start his Master of Divinity program at St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon, SK. As soon as he arrived in Saskatoon, he joined Grosvenor Park United Church and was confirmed as a member of the congregation on October 13, 2019. He also started his Candidacy Pathway for ordination with the approval of the Prairie Candidacy Board on June 8, 2020.

In December 2021, Minhyuk was called to serve as the student minister at First United Church in Wawa, Ontario. He has had valuable experiences and learned a lot in the community of faith. In May 2023, he graduated from St. Andrew's College M.Div. program.

Minhyuk has a strong sense of calling to share the gospel with those who need God's love and peace today. As a minister, he hopes to serve as a bridge between the people of the ancient biblical era and contemporary people, the church and society, the young and the old, human beings and creatures, and people of various cultures.

## RETIREES' BIOGRAPHIES

### ALLAN GAIRNS



I was born January 2, 1956, after suffering a long labour with my mother Winifred Pearl Kellar, at the general hospital in Ottawa. (I was supposed to be a New Year's baby.) Very shortly afterward we stopped at St. Thomas Anglican Church in Bellville for my baptism and then proceeded west to Vancouver BC. A year and a bit later my brother Arthur was born and so I became the middle brother of three—Gordon, Allan, and Arthur—the Three Musketeers, mom would say.

I grew up mostly in Richmond and North Delta, because after mom separated from her husband Bud, our family was on the move, again. We lived in 9 houses by the time I graduated from North Delta Senior Secondary. I met Teresa, my wife (as she prefers to be called), at my brother Gordon's wedding in 1972, then three years later at a country dance and we have been dancing through life since.

While Teresa was a Meteorologist with Environment Canada, I was moving from one job to another: car salesman, delivery driver, HD truck & trailer parts, lighting / electrical, hydraulics, gas station attendant, and graduate jeweller. I played a lot of sports and coached a lot of soccer. After, I joined the church my life began to change. I wanted my occupation to have more meaning than it did at the time. More and more I volunteered in the church until I started to feel a pull toward ministry in the UCC.

It was Mary Robertson and Su Lavery that got me thinking about Diaconal Ministry. I served as a Tent-Maker the summer of 1989 at Naramata Centre. We had a chat in late August and they recommended I look into a new ministry program—The Western Field Based Diaconal Ministry Program. Betty Marlin contacted me but she said the program is full. She said I will keep your name on my list; and in 1991 I was entered into the second intake.

That is how it has unfolded for me over the years to this point, living, learning and teaching in community. I have served communities of Robson Valley Shared Ministry (BC), Hanna United Church (AB), Manning-Deadwood Shared Ministry (AB), Deloraine-Melita-Tilston Pastoral Charge (MB), Prairie Points Pastoral Charge (Fillmore/Creelman), and now Rosetown Pastoral Charge (SK). I have been to a few General Councils as Lay and Clergy Commissioners. And all the way I have been supported by my partner of 44 years Teresa (who is a huge part of the technical side of things for live streaming).

I will miss all the folks at Rosetown, but I look forward to our retirement home in Waldheim, SK. There Teresa and I are building our home and life together which includes a short walk or cart drive to a golf course, some pottery work for me, cross stitching and reading for Teresa, and possible bowling for both of us.

See you out there folks.

### **MICHELE ROWE**



Tanishii kiyawow! Michele Rowe dishinikashoon. I am a Métis woman and tattooed Pastrix living in Maple Creek and retiring to Lafleche. Before Jesus ruined my life in the best possible way, I worked in community development and post-secondary education. I have continued to further my education and training in the areas of trauma-informed care, and counselling and plan to do some of that work in the future.

Retirement offers the promise of rest, reading books on a screened-in porch, and walks and camping with my beloved, Dale, and fur babies. Ministry has been a joy and an honour and I am so grateful to have answered the call. Maarsii for being with me on the journey!

**IN MEMORIAM**

**SHIRLEY STRACHAN**

**1935 - 2022**



It is with sadness that the family wishes to announce the passing of Shirley Katherine Strachan on June 6, 2022 at the age of 86 years with her family by her side.

Left to cherish her memory are her children and their families: Lynette (Brian) Callfas, their children Kyle Callfas; Diana Callfas (David Bibeau), Anna and Emma; Brennan Callfas; Michael (Rheanelle) Callfas, Roland and Simon. Patsy (Ron) Kelly and their families: Janine (Les) Fehr and their children Zoe and Zak; Danielle (Mark) Maystrowich and their children Kaitlyn, Samantha and Drew; Kimberley (Aaron) Werk and their children Emmerson, Maddox and Elijah. Eldon (Lillian) Strachan and their families: Matthew (Alyssa) Strachan and their son Izaak; Nolan Strachan. Brent (Gwenda)

Strachan, and their son Brandon (Jessica) Strachan; brother Eric Mortimer of Regina; sister-in-law Doreen Mortimer of Cochrane, Alberta and sister-in-law Dorothy Schmuland of Surrey, BC.

Mom was born in Glenavon on July 12, 1935. She married Charles Olver Strachan on June 28, 1955. They moved to the Strachan family farm southeast of Glenavon where she lived most of her life. Mom was a very kind, caring, patient and compassionate lady who never had a bad word to say about anyone. She always met everyone with a big smile. She enjoyed music, singing in various choirs, crocheting, and fashion and clothing. She was often the best dressed lady in the room. She loved coffee and visiting with friends and she loved her family. Mom will be missed.

Shirley was a long-time lay representative to Twin Valleys Presbytery, and delegate to Saskatchewan Conference.

Arrangements were in care of Tubman Funeral Home / Valley Crematorium.

**DON CAMPBELL**

**1925 - 2022**



Donald Campbell passed away peacefully on Friday, June 10, 2022 at the age of 96 years at Lumsden, Saskatchewan.

Don was predeceased by his wife Kay; his sisters Gwen (Lionel) Brierly and Betty Olynik; and his brothers John (Pearl) Campbell and Ken Campbell. He is survived by his daughter Sandy (Mike) Roberts and sons Don (Lorraine), Bruce and Alan Campbell; grandchildren Crystal (Drew), Traci (Brent), Trevor (Stacey), Kyle (Ashlee), Christopher and Alannah (Travis); great-grandchildren Marcus, Isla, Jorja, Owen and Lucas; sister-in-law Grace Campbell and brother-in-law David (Jill) Donaldson.

Don was born in Bethune, Saskatchewan in 1925. After completing his grade twelve in 1944, he joined the Canadian army and went through training in Kingston, Ontario.

Don attended Teachers College in Moose Jaw, and then Saskatoon's St. Andrew's College, University of Saskatchewan, where he graduated with a degree in Theology. He was ordained to ministry in The United Church of Canada and served in churches in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and Alberta.

Don was an avid reader and had a keen interest in cars..... owning Many over the years!

We acknowledge the loss of an Indigenous member/leader from our Region who died within the past year. Out of respect for Indigenous protocols, we will not name or share photos of this person until a year has passed since their death. We will celebrate them in the memorial service at our next Gathering.

### **LEONA MARTIN**

**1947 – 2022**



It is with sadness that we announce Leona's passing on Friday, October 21, 2022 at the age of 75 years. Leona is lovingly remembered by her son Chris; grandchildren Damien, Rowan and Amelia; sister Barb; nieces Jinelle and Twyla; as well as many special friends. She leaves us to join the one she loved the most - her husband Douglas, who passed away in 2009; parents Warren and Rita; and other extended family.

Arrangements were entrusted to [paragonfuneralservices.com](http://paragonfuneralservices.com)

### **BEVERLY (BEV) SMITH**

**1940 - 2022**



It is with deep sadness that we announce the sudden passing of our loving mother, and grandmother, Beverly Anne Smith. Bev passed away on Saturday, October 22, 2022, at her home in Melville, just a week after celebrating her 82nd birthday.

Bev was predeceased by her best friend and husband, William (Bill); parents Irving and Maggie Belle Robson (nee Killoh); brother Robert (Bob) Robson; sister-in-law Joyce Robson (nee Olson); nephew Donald Craig Robson; parents-in-law John and Emily Schmidt; and Smith family members: Wilson Schmidt, George Smith, John and Ruth Smith, Larry and Jean Schmidt, Florence and Adam Gottfried, Ernie Smith, Josephine Zimmerman, John Sali and Robin Smith.

Bev will be greatly missed and lovingly remembered by her children: Michelle and daughter Ashley Laycock; Michael (Colleen) and daughters Julianne and Chanelle Smith; and Raelynn Smith (Tim Langford) and sons Ethan and Parker Langford; brothers Don (Verley) Robson, Keith (Marcie) Robson; sister-in-law Marilyn Robson and their families; and Smith family members: Isabel Sali, Lloyd Zimmerman, Bernice Smith (Michael Glovasky), Margaret (Pat) Meehan, Ralph (Sandy) Smith, Dan (Carol) Smith, sisters-in-law Henrietta Smith and Lynnda Smith, as well as many nieces, nephews and extended family members.

Bev was born October 15, 1940, in Moose Jaw, SK. Her family moved to Saskatoon then Prince Albert where she graduated high school. She always referred to P.A. and northern Saskatchewan as God's country and reminisced fondly on her time growing up there. As a child, Bev was involved in figure skating, highland dancing and music.

Following high school, Bev went to Teachers College where she met Bill Smith of Dysart, SK. They married on July 4, 1964, at Knox Metropolitan Church in Regina. She taught briefly in Regina while Bill finished his education prior to them moving to Melville in 1967 for teaching positions. Shortly after, they welcomed their three children, Michelle, Michael and Raelynn. During the 1970s and 1980s, Bev was very involved in her children's activities which included figure skating, music, church groups, speed swimming and other community activities. Over the years, Bev taught in Regina, Melville, Duff, Fenwood and Grayson. She taught part time as she was deeply committed to her family, their activities, and in later years, caring for Bill through his illness.

Bev was deeply involved in the Melville community. She was devoted to her faith and church community at First United Church. She was an active member of the UCW, served on church council, attended Presbytery and Conference, and directed and sang in the choir for many years. Bev was also integral to the Melville Figure Skating Club for many years, and her impact on the sport extended far beyond the community level. She developed Grassroots seminars, judged at regional competitions and test days, and presented workshops at the provincial and national levels. Bev was proud to receive the Volunteer Recognition Award from Sask Sport. She was also recognized at both the Section and National levels with the Skate Canada Volunteer Award of Excellence for her contributions.

Bev will be remembered for her big smile, infectious laugh, positive outlook, and larger-than-life personality. As a dedicated community member, Bev was very active with her church, figure skating community, choir, retired teachers' group and local coffee groups. She enthusiastically kept up with her grandchildren's sports and other activities and was supportive of all her family's pursuits. She loved music, planning events, travelling, reading, connecting with family and friends, and enjoying the little things in life. She will be deeply missed.

Arrangements were entrusted to Matthews Funeral Home, Melville.  
<https://matthewsfuneralhome.ca/>.



**WILLIAM I. THOMSON****1937 - 2022**

William (Bill) Inkerman Thomson was born in Owen Sound, Ontario on October 8th, 1937 and passed away peacefully at home in Moose Jaw, SK on Wednesday, November 2nd, 2022. Bill was the beloved husband of Kathleen (née: Weare) for 21 years and favored best friend to his baby sister Sue Thrush (Ken) of Acton, ON. He was predeceased by his sister, Sandra (Gary Mercer); twin sister, Margo Durkson (Doug); and brother, Tom (Rose). Bill will always be remembered by his 3 children and 4 grandchildren, as well as by Kathleen's 3 children, 2 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren.

Bill had many careers in his life and always attacked them with great enthusiasm, as he exercised his great humor - the family hardware store established in 1888 gave him great pride, a salesman for Modern Housewares travelling in Northern Ontario, Radio and Talk Show host for 10 years, scrap metal expert during his year and a half in England, selling insurance, as well as chairing the Owen Sound Jaycees and serving on the Owen Sound Council.

At age 50, God called him into the ministry and he truly enjoyed his charges in Shallow Lake, ON and then in Saskatchewan at Rocanville, Esterhazy, and Moose Jaw at Trinity United Church. He retired in 2013 due to his declining eyesight.

In 2010 Bill and Kathleen started their own Tour Company, Let's Go Tours. They travelled many, many miles in Canada and the United States.

Arrangements were entrusted to Moose Jaw Funeral Home [www.moosejawfuneralhome.com](http://www.moosejawfuneralhome.com)

**BARBARA GILBERT****1945 - 2022**

Barbara Burdette Gilbert (nee Allen) lost her battle with cancer on Friday, November 11, 2022. She was one month shy of her 77th birthday.

Barbara was predeceased by her parents, Richard (Dick) and Kathleen (Kay) Allen, her sister Gail Edwards, and brother-in-law Barry Townson.

Beloved Wife of Neil, her husband of 56 years, proud Mom to Keith (Debbie), Laurie (Terrence) and Erin (Andrew), devoted Nana to Katie, Christopher, Jordan and Emily-Anne and Bonus Nana to Benny and James. Barbara will also be missed by her sister Joanne Townson and family, her sister Pat and Gary Edmonds and family, her brother Richard (Rick) and Diane Allen and family, her sister Heather and Frank Morrison and family, her brother-in-law Dennis Edwards and family, Neil's sister Margot and Ken Kaminski and family, and by Katie's mother, Rhonda.

Barbara grew up in North Bay, moving to Wawa to teach after graduating from North Bay Teachers' College. It's there that she met Neil, and it was love at first sight. The pair married in April 1966 and returned to the North Bay area to start their family. Over the years, Barbara worked at Lee

Jeans, A&P grocery, and the Bank of Nova Scotia, and was a member of Omond Memorial United Church in North Bay.

After moving to Saskatchewan in 2001, first to Climax then to Assiniboia, Barbara became more involved locally in the community and the United Church of Canada. She was a member and treasurer of Climax United Church Women, a member of the Southline Quilters and a member of Climax Housing. In Assiniboia she was a member and treasurer of St. Paul's United Church Women and member of the Assiniboia Arts Council. She was a member of Chinook Presbytery and was a delegate to many annual meetings of the Saskatchewan Conference. Barbara also loved being a part of church communities in Abbey, Lancer, Gravelbourg, Shamrock, Lafleche and Limerick.

Barbara was passionate about sewing and could make almost anything with a swatch of fabric, a needle and thread. She was also an avid knitter. She took up quilting after moving to Saskatchewan, and it was yet another craft at which she excelled, especially since it combined her love of sewing with her love for precision. Barbara also had an aptitude for both words and numbers and could often be seen working on a crossword or a Sudoku.

Arrangements were entrusted to Piché-Hawkins-Grondin Funeral Chapels in Assiniboia.

## **EDWARD STENNET**

**1925 - 2022**



Edward Thomas Stennett was the first born to Lavina and Thomas Stennett on April 27, 1925 on the farm in the Acton School District near the town of Whitkow, SK. His sister, Iva, and brother, Ray, followed soon after. At the ripe old age of 12, Ed became the man of the house when his father left the family to go north, gold mining, and never returned. Ed did odd jobs for farmers over the years and tried to keep the farm running. Eventually, they had to give up the farm and move to the Meeting Lake area. Ed and a neighbour cut cordwood and fence posts. They also cut ice in the lake, brought it to Rabbit Lake and sold it there. He estimated they cut over 80 tons and hauled it 8 miles to town to store in ice houses. It was hard work but they made enough money to live. Ed got a job in a garage in Rabbit Lake. While he was there, he met Jenny Jones, whom he later married in 1951. They started their life together in Loon Lake where their 3 children, Rob, Len, and June, were

born. Ed owned and operated Ed's Corner Service from 1958 – 1985. He also had his little fix-it shop in his garage at home – fixing lawn mowers and small engines. Ed and Jenny lived happily content in their little log house until Jenny passed in 2009, after 58 years of marriage. He continued to live in his house until the summer of 2021. He then moved into the Loon Lake Special Care home until his passing.

After Ed retired from the garage, he became a lay preacher for 20 years before completely retiring. However, Ed had been involved with the Calvary United Church in Loon Lake for many years. He began to attend Presbytery meetings in 1968 and was on various committees and held the chair position on some of those committees during his thirty plus years of being an active Presbytery member. Besides Presbytery, Ed was very active on all levels of local church governance, chairing many of the Boards. He became a Licensed Lay Worship Leader in 1992 and led worship in all 3 points of the Northern Lakes Pastoral Charge. He also led many of the funeral services in all 3



communities through the years. Ed was a great keeper of the history of the churches. Calvary United would not have near the detailed history of their church if it wasn't for Ed's excellent record keeping and fabulous memory! He also took good care of the church building. To quote Ed, "...if our church building is allowed to run down and become an eyesore, is it not a reflection of our regard of God? When I became a member of the board in 1958, I pledged to myself that as long as I was connected to this church, the building was as important as our own home and I would strive to see it was kept up in a similar fashion."

Ed was predeceased by: his wife, Jenny (2009), his son, Robert (2019), his parents and his sister and brother. He is survived by his daughter-in-law, Louise Stennett (Rob) and her family, his son, Leonard (Sandy) and his family, and his daughter, June (Wayne) Lorenz and her family.

## MARTHA PANKRATZ

1924 - 2023



Martha passed away peacefully on January 11<sup>th</sup> at the age of 98. Martha grew up on the family farm south of Langham with five elder sisters and three younger brothers.

After completing business college, Martha was hired by St. Andrew's College. As secretary, bookkeeper and administrator, Martha served St. Andrew's from 1945 until her retirement in 1988, earning her the longest service of any staff or faculty member in the College's history. For this and her many contributions to the community, she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the College in 2012.

She continued her service after retirement as an active member of the St. Andrew's Guild. Martha earned her armature radio ticket (VE5YY) in 1963. She was awarded the Art Driver Trophy for exceptional service to the Amateur Net System in 1968. Martha also helped write *From Sparks to Space* on the history of Amateur Radio in Saskatchewan.

Martha taught ballroom dancing in Saskatoon and surrounding communities. She was a founding member of Grosvenor Park United Church, volunteered with the Saskatoon Symphony Book and Music Sale and the Saskatoon Music Festival and delivered newspapers to patients at the Royal University Hospital. She was an avid photographer, seamstress, painter, crafter, and world traveller.

Arrangements were in care of Saskatoon Funeral Home [www.saskatoonfuneralhome.com](http://www.saskatoonfuneralhome.com).

## MARGARET CRAWFORD

1938 - 2023



The family of Rev. A. Margaret Crawford announce her passing on Thursday January 12, 2023. Born in Maple Creek, Saskatchewan July 1, 1938, Margaret was gifted to us for 84 ½ years.

Celebrating Margaret's life are her husband of 59½ years, Rev. John L. Crawford, daughter, Joy Crawford, son, Michael Crawford, son-in-law, Ted Ristau, and granddaughters, Nadia Ristau and Tasha Ristau.

Margaret will be remembered with laughter and stories by her sister, Elinor LaBrash and brother, Murray Covlin and sisters-in-law, Mary Lloyd and Carol Blair, brother-in-law, John Hanlin. She has a close family of nieces and nephews plus special friend and cousin Mary Hudson, who all meant the world to her.

Margaret was predeceased by her parents, Michael and Anne Covlin, sister Alice Hanlin, sister-in-law, Sally Woodcock and brothers-in-law, Walter LaBrash and Peter Woodcock.

A social activist and lover of progressive politics, Margaret Crawford entered this world into a loving and hard-working family. Early years were spent on the homestead at Merryflat, and at Consul, Flowing Well, Winnipeg and Crichton, following her Mom's career as teacher and her Dad's work as a mover of buildings.

Following in her mother's footsteps, Margaret taught in Leechville, Orkney, Kamsack, Lintlaw and Delisle. She was a lover of words games, puns, crossword puzzles and the English language in general. A gifted Scrabble player, she was always up for a game.

Margaret met John at the end of his first summer as a student minister in Cadillac in 1960. It was the following summer, when John returned to Cadillac for a second summer that the sparks flew. By Christmas 1961, Margaret and John were engaged. A prairie summer wedding followed on July 5, 1963. Early marriage years were spent in John's home province of Ontario in Cape Croker (now Neyaashiinigmiing), John's first pastoral charge. Both Joy and Michael were born in these early years. In 1968, the call of the west was strong and the family moved to Pense, Saskatchewan. This was followed by years in Kelvington, Delisle, Eston, Evansburg, AB, and one year in Lubbock, Texas.

Summer school, night classes, and community college combined to her convocating with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Saskatchewan. In 1989, Margaret entered St. Andrews' College in Saskatoon. These were defining years as she explored feminist theology and challenged traditional religious paradigms. Her Masters of Divinity degree was received in 1994 and she accepted the call from the Alberta Conference of The United Church of Canada that spring.

She served several congregations as an ordained minister and as lay supply, including Mayerthorpe-Sangudo, Neville-Vanguard, Eatonia-Mantario, Grace Westminster, Asquith-Perdue and Bethel pastoral charges. One of her specialized areas of expertise was assisting congregations in transition through interim ministry. In this capacity she served on the International Committee for Interim Ministry. She also served on the Board of Regents for St. Andrews' College and the Board of Directors for Oliver Lodge.

The family has been blessed these past 20 odd years since she retired in 2002, to have Mom and Grandma involved in our lives and the lives of her granddaughters, Nadia and Tasha. An adventurer in the kitchen, souffle, peanut butter soup, fondue, curries, rosettes and many more mostly successful recipes graced our family table.

Arrangements were in care of Saskatoon Funeral Home [www.saskatoonfuneralhome.com](http://www.saskatoonfuneralhome.com).

## **DAVE PETRIE**

**1935 - 2023**



On Saturday, February 18, 2023, David Frank Petrie passed away in Regina at the age of 87 years.

Dave was born on August 5, 1935 in Saskatoon to parents Frank and Hilda Petrie. He and his parents homesteaded on the northeast prairies of Saskatchewan and later resided in Carrot River. Dave went to school in Carrot River and then moved to Saskatoon to undertake studies in Theology at St. Andrew's College.

While in college, Dave met Marilyn Adamson and they were married soon after they both graduated. Randall, the oldest son, was born in Saskatoon. Dave then took a position as the United Church Minister in Naicam where daughter Stephanie and son, Geoff were born.

As a proponent of higher education, Dave packed up the family moved to Madison, New Jersey for a year so he could further his education in Theology at Drew University. Upon returning to Saskatchewan, Dave took the position of minister in the North Portal Pastoral Charge, and the youngest daughter Myrna joined the family. After a three year stint in North Portal, the family once again packed up and moved to Wolseley where Dave took on another ministerial role.

Looking for a change of pace Dave decided to join the staff of the United Church Conference Office and the family made its final move to Regina. After several years at the conference office, Dave returned to ministry at Broadway United Church in Regina until his retirement. Despite his retirement Dave continued to be active in the church, filling in as visiting minister, and taking part in the St. James United Church annual dinner theater (which he thoroughly enjoyed).

During Dave's ministry, he had many accomplishments including the honor of receiving the title of Respected Elder for his work with First Nation congregations. He was a caring and kind person who never hesitated to help people in need and contributed to numerous charities and causes over his lifetime.

As a man of passion, Dave hitchhiked from Saskatoon to Farlight, (500K) with a suitcase and a ring to propose to Marilyn. He further exhibited his passion for woodworking, including building a cottage and numerous pieces of furniture. Dave loved golf, the Riders and Blue Jays.

Dave was predeceased by his parents Frank and Hilda and will be sadly missed by his beloved wife of 64 years, Marilyn; son Randall (Jeannette) and two grandchildren Steven and Sarah; daughter Stephanie and two grandchildren, Dexter and Cody; son Geoff (Allyson); and daughter Myrna (Ken).

Funeral Arrangements were in care of [www.speersfuneralchapel.com](http://www.speersfuneralchapel.com)

## **MAC HOUSTON**

**1929 - 2023**



With heavy hearts, we say goodbye and celebrate the wonderful life of our husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and uncle who died at home in Kisbey, SK on March 2, 2023, at the age of 93.

William "Mac" Houston was predeceased by his first wife and life partner, Edyth Houston (nee McMurtry), and is survived by his current wife and companion, Gerry Watkins. He leaves his children, Linda Houston-Salberg (Jeff), Sandra Houston, Bill Houston (Shannon); his grandchildren, Alexa Dowden (Matthew), Regan Schwan (Brendan), Liam Houston, Emily Houston; great-granddaughter, Ella Dowden, as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Mac was predeceased by his parents, Sam and Eliza; siblings, David (Evelyn) and Agnes

Hall (Bruce); and McMurtry in-laws, Doug (Gwen, Grace), John (Joyce), Cliff (Betty), Ross (Frances, Wilma), and Marion Auburn (Bob).

Mac was raised in Percy Valley on the family farm where he lived for 80 years. Here he developed his love for his community, growing crops and raising cattle. 4H was an important way to promote this lifestyle and develop numerous friendships. He was very proud to receive the Century Family Farm Award in 2005. His love of community extended to Kisbey United Church and his long-term roles as treasurer and choir member. He was also a very active member of Souris Valley and then Twin Valleys Presbyteries.

Mac loved sports. As a youth, he participated in baseball, track-and-field, and curling. He golfed and curled into his 90s. He was an avid armchair sports fan, sharing the chair with his trusty canine companion, Ginger.

Mac loved to travel. It all began in Uncle Stewart's "fancy car" on the way to Toronto and continued with trips across Canada and the United States, Europe, and a couple of trips to Ireland to tour the lands of his ancestors.

What a glorious world it would be if all of us could have lived a life as Mac did –with simplicity, integrity, connection, and love! He will be missed.

Hall Funeral Services in Estevan cared for Mac's family.

## DAVID MAXWELL

1953 - 2023



David James Maxwell passed into the arms of his Lord on April 29, 2023, just 5 days after 70th birthday, at Canora Gateway Lodge.

David was born on April 24, 1953, to Kathleen Mary Maxwell (nee Hyndman) and Rev. James Maxwell in Hamiota, MB. When David was five weeks old, he was found to have a pyloric stenosis, for which he had surgery at Winnipeg Children's Hospital. He and his mother moved into Winnipeg and stayed with his great-grandparents while he received treatment. Shortly after, his mother was diagnosed with polio, and David was cared for by an aunt and his grandmother. His mother recovered but suffered with a limp for the rest of her life.

David's father was the minister at the United Church in McConnell, MB before moving to Glenboro, where David's younger brother, Ian, was born in 1956. They adopted a little girl, Shelagh, in 1959. The young family also lived in Boissevain, Birtle, Watrous, and Eston.

By the time David was in high school, they were living in St. Charles, just outside Winnipeg. Both David and Ian took music lessons, David in voice and Ian in piano. David was chosen to tour Europe with a Peace Garden Choir when in high school, one of the few Canadians in the combined choir and orchestra. Having a classically trained voice, David later sang with Winnipeg Opera Chorus as an adult.

David graduated from high school in 1972 and worked for several years before delving into more education. Over the years, David completed: a Diploma of Bible Studies from the Swift Current Bible Institute, a Bachelor of Divinity at the Canadian Mennonite College, and a Bachelor of Arts with a major in history and minor in literature at The University of Manitoba.

After working various jobs, including many years as a professional tarot reader, he completed a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education at University of Manitoba, and a Master of Divinity at St. Andrew's College, University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon.

He was ordained in June 2001 and went on to serve in several pastoral charges including the Alameda-Frobisher Pastoral Charge, the Roblin Knox United Church in Roblin, MB and the Grenfell United Church in SK until he retired in 2018. He also served as chaplain for the Royal Canadian Legion branches in Roblin, Grenfell, and Canora.

David met Debra Pinkerton in 2007, and they married July 9, 2011, at Calling Lake Centre in Fort Qu'Appelle. They spent the first six months of married life apart, while Debra lived in Canora and David in Roblin, before he first moved to Canora then accepted the church in Grenfell. After his retirement, they returned to Canora, where they spent several lovely years before David suffered his first stroke in December 2021. A second stroke in June 2022 forced him to move first to the Kamsack Nursing Home and then Gateway Lodge in January 2023.

David was predeceased by his parents, Jim and Kaye; and his sister, Shelagh Caulder. He is survived by his wife, Debra Pinkerton of Canora, SK; and his brother, Ian (Margaret) of Norway House, M.B.; as well as several nieces, nephews, extended family and his many friends.

Services were entrusted to Leson's Funeral Home.



**LAURA BALAS**

**1936 - 2023**



It is with great sadness that the family of Laura Pearl Balas (nee Anderson) of Aneroid, SK, announces her passing on May 3, 2023.

Laura is survived by her son, Don Christopher (Jennifer Oleson), son-in-law Brian Sayers, grandchildren Brad (Crystal) Sayers, Amy (Richard) McDowell, Elliot and Finley Balas, great-grandchildren Kyler, Carter, and Ava Sayers and River, Sequoia, and Rowan McDowell, great-great-grandchild, Sadie Sayers; sisters Ellen Shapley and Joan (Kerm) Sharpe, brother-in-law Wilfred Burns, sister-in-law Mary Anderson, partner Ken Pigott and his family, and numerous nieces, nephews, extended family, and dear friends.

Laura was predeceased by her husband Don Balas, her daughter Donwyn Sayers, parents Oscar and Florence Anderson, sister Patsy Burns, brother George Anderson, and brother-in-law Don Shapley.

Laura Balas grew up in a close-knit family near Hazenmore and Aneroid, SK. She married Don Balas of Wallard, SK, in 1954. Together they farmed south of Aneroid and raised their two beloved children, Donwyn, born in 1955, and Don Christopher, born in 1981. Laura was heavily involved in her community. She worked on the farm, taught sewing classes, led 4-H, was an active member of the Stitch and Chatter Club, and worked in various capacities for The United Church of Canada for 40 years, including serving as the Principal of St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon. Laura took great pride in her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchild. She enjoyed baking, quilting, and sewing and loved to spend time with family. Laura enjoyed the last nine years of her life with partner, Ken Pigott, visiting with their neighbours and friends at the 50 Plus, playing cribbage, and travelling together.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to Piche-Hawkins-Grondin Funeral Chapels.

**Congregations/Pastoral Charges that have ceased worshipping**

Bethune United Church of the Long Lake Pastoral Charge

Shamrock United Church of the Gravelbourg Pastoral Charge