



Rev. A.D. William Collins

December 22, 1935 - March 24, 2015

Rev. A.D. William Collins, aged 79 of Ludington, known as Rev. Bill by his friends, passed away to this life on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at his winter residence in Ocala, FL. He is survived by his wife of 59 years Donna Lee, children David (Debby) Collins, Karen (Paul) Bonnette, Richard (Karla) Collins, Anne (Greg) Winiarski, 13 grandchildren and two older brothers, Norman Collins of Warner-Robbins, GA, Gordon Collins of Oceanside, CA and brother-in-law Charles Kimberly of Howell, MI. His Parents, JW and Astrid Collins and sister Frieda (Collins) Turner preceded him in death.

Bill was born on December 22, 1935 in Windsor, Ontario, Canada and moved to Brighton, MI at the age of 10. He became a US citizen after serving in the US Army as a Mechanic. Bill was ordained as a minister after graduation from Garrett Theological Seminary and served as pastor at churches in Herbst, Peru, and Muncie, IN before moving to Ludington. In Ludington, Rev. Bill served as pastor of the Community Church from 1971 until his retirement in 1998. After his retirement from Community Church, Bill served as Chaplain of Epworth Heights until his passing.

In addition to serving as Pastor, Chaplain, Husband, father, grandfather and friend, Bill was active in the communities where he and Donna Lee resided. He was a member of the Optimist Club, West Michigan Antique Car Club, West Michigan Ministerial Association, and Midwest Club, served on the Salvation Army board, Ludington Library board and Presbytery of Lake Michigan, taught Bible class in Ocala, FL and still managed to walk four miles

every day.

Rev. Collins dedicated his life to his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, as a child and was blessed to be able to share Christ's message of Redemption and Love in his daily life through his thoughts, actions and words.

A Celebration of Christian life will take place at 11:00 am on Thursday, April 2, at the Community Church in Ludington. Friends may meet with his family for a time of visitation on Wednesday evening from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at the Stephens Funeral Home in Scottville, and on Thursday morning from 10:00 am until time of services at the church. Those who wish to make contributions in Rev. Bill's memory are asked to consider Community Church in Ludington.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 1. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wyman Funeral & Cremation Services - Stephens Funeral Home

305 E. State St.

Scottville, MI 49454

(231) 757-3333

wyman-stephens@sbcglobal.net

<https://www.wymanfuneralservice.com>

Celebration of Life Service

APR 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

Community Church

109 North Harrison Street

Ludington, MI 49431

Tribute Wall

TW

“ Terry Williams lit a candle in memory of Rev. A.D. William Collins




Terry Williams - August 07, 2018 at 02:30 PM

RF

“ Rob Campbell Family lit a candle in memory of Rev. A.D. William Collins



Rob Campbell Family - April 07, 2015 at 01:15 PM


Suzanne
Thompsor

“ Dear Collins family
Our deepest sympathies are with you! His dedication to the Ludington community will never be forgotten.
Collin & Suzanne Thompson

Suzanne Thompson - April 04, 2015 at 09:27 AM

JW

“ Dear Collins Family,

Our sympathies for your loss of your father, husband and friend. Bill was a special person, he passed on his strength, conviction and love of God to many. He had a tremendous impact on our Ludington Community. He will be missed but not forgotten! We're sorry we cannot be there for his service, I am sure it will be a celebration of a life well lived. He was a beautiful example for us all in how to live a purposeful life and walk with God. Thank you for sharing him with us! May God Bless you with his presence as you mourn your loss.

With Love,

John & Anita Wilson

John Wilson - April 02, 2015 at 11:35 AM



“ Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Rev. A.D. William Collins.



April 01, 2015 at 02:14 PM

BW

“ Dear Donna and Family: All of us remember Reverend Bill with such fondness. And though you are far away, we are all holding you near in our hearts and praying for God's comfort and peace which surpasses all understanding. The Potter's House, Ocala West United Methodist Church

Bettye Wilcox - April 01, 2015 at 08:34 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rev. A.D. William Collins.*



April 01, 2015 at 05:13 AM



“ *When we moved to Ludington in 1980, we visited churches and LOVED Reverend Collins' sermons. We could tell right away he was a genuine man. We were lucky to be members of Reverend Collins' Community Church. Reverend Collins touched our lives with his sermons and his friendship. I (Cindy) remember meeting Donna Lee when I taught my first year at Franklin School and she worked there. We just love both Pastor Bill and Donna Lee and admired how they raised their four wonderful children. Pastor Bill baptized all of our children and they grew up in the loving Community Church. We were blessed to know Pastor Bill and are deeply saddened by his sudden passing. He touched our lives and the lives of so many others. He certainly made a difference and served God in all that he did. What a wonderful role model for all of us. The Collins family is in our thoughts and prayers. Love, Mike, Cindy, Jordan, Casi and Cameron Hill*

Cindy Hill - March 31, 2015 at 06:46 PM



“ *Rev was a neighborhood icon! A friendly smile, an enthusiastic wave, a listening ear, and a word of advice were always available. His presence was always a source of strength and he lived his life as a testament to his faith. He will certainly be missed. Rest in peace my friend!*



The Terry Hankwitz Family - March 31, 2015 at 07:01 AM



“ *Ghirardelli Gift Basket was purchased for the family of Rev. A.D. William Collins.*



March 30, 2015 at 02:28 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the Collins family at this time. Rev Collins was a kind, gentle man and a wonderful husband and father. He will be missed!*

Doris Silver - March 30, 2015 at 11:12 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rev. A.D. William Collins.*



March 30, 2015 at 11:12 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Rev. A.D. William Collins.*



March 30, 2015 at 10:54 AM

DH

“ Rev has been such a blessing to our family. He has been involved in our lives since the dedication service for both our boys as infants to sharing with them as teenagers. Throughout the years he has given us much wisdom in marriage and parenting. As we returned to Michigan each summer Rev would be the first person we would see with a big smile on his face out for his daily walk. We will always cherish the time spent with him. God knew David needed a mentor like Bill. What a legacy he leaves behind. As we arrive home to Michigan each year our family will take a memorial walk in his honor.

David Hankwitz and Family

David Hankwitz - March 30, 2015 at 10:00 AM

TA

“ Todd Mall and Angela Adams purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Rev. A.D. William Collins.



Todd Mall and Angela Adams - March 30, 2015 at 09:52 AM

TM

“ Tom and Cathy Mall purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Rev. A.D. William Collins.



Tom and Cathy Mall - March 30, 2015 at 09:45 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Rev. A.D. William Collins.*



March 30, 2015 at 09:41 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rev. A.D. William Collins.*



March 30, 2015 at 08:16 AM



“ *The Mazur family - Dave and Peggy, Betsy, Jack, and Allie G. purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Rev. A.D. William Collins.*



The Mazur family - Dave and Peggy, Betsy, Jack, and Allie G.
- March 30, 2015 at 08:05 AM

SP

“ Dear Donna Lee and family,
We were saddened to hear of Bill's death. Please know our thoughts and prayers are with you all during this time of grief. We enjoyed our many visits and appreciate that we lived close enough to stay connected over the years. Unfortunately we won't be in Michigan to share in Bill's celebration of life but know the Lord will surround you with his love and care.
Love, Al and Sylvia Spalding Paquette, Bremerton WA

Sylvia Paquette - March 28, 2015 at 10:21 PM

EB

“ Dear Donna Lee and family.

*The Friendship Bible Class at Ocala West has lost a dear "family" member. We eagerly awaited each November for Bill and Donna Lee to return. He made the Bible come alive and he lived every day as a servant of the Lord. We will miss him, but he now walks with Jesus, and he will continue to watch over all of us until we meet again. Our love and prayers are with you Donna Lee and all your family. In His Name, Ed and Connie Brewer
Ocala, FL*

Ed and Connie Brewer - March 28, 2015 at 08:37 AM

DL

“ Dear Donna Lee & Dave and family,

It is hard to put into words how much my life was impacted by Pastor Collins. Much of what I believe today about who God is, His love for each individual and the world, was instilled in my life during his years as pastor at Community Church. His personal interest and counsel during key periods of my life , and his ongoing support of the ministry Dean and I have been involved in, meant so much.

I also remember and am inspired by his quiet courage, following his convictions even when it went against the flow...

Grace, peace, and comfort to all of your extended family. May you see God's faithfulness each and every day as you adjust to life without Bill.

*Love & prayers
Debbie Lundberg*

Debbie Lundberg - March 27, 2015 at 09:15 PM

KM

“ Dear Donna and family, we only knew Bill for such a short time but felt right away that he was an honorable man with great love for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, his family, friends and those he met along the way. Please know that we feel your loss and that you are in our thoughts and prayers. In Christian love, Don and Kathryn McCormick, Ocala, FL

Kathryn McCormick - March 27, 2015 at 05:12 PM

RC

“ Bill was a pillar in God's service, He taught the Bible with his heart. He will leave a wonderful legacy at Ocala West UMC and in our hearts.

Ron & Norma Cleveringa

Ron & Norma Cleveringa - March 27, 2015 at 04:46 PM

MK

“ What a wonderful steward for Christ's work. Bill Collins was so special to Ludington. Everyone that knew him, loved him. May God Bless him with the best homecoming ever as he enter's his eternal home. He lived his life well , and helped many others along the way. Thoughts and prayers for his family at this time. May God give them the courage to go on..... Well done,, my good and faithful servant. Fondly, MaryLou Klemm

mary lou klemm - March 27, 2015 at 10:22 AM

VB

“ Rev Collins was ONE of A KIND! We have very fond memories of him. Our Sympathy to your family. Heaven just recieved an Angel

Victoria Atwood, Blair,Ne - March 27, 2015 at 08:03 AM

LS

“ Deepest condolences to the entire family. One of my fondest memories was of our wedding, a Collins marrying a Collins. :-) Rev. Collins was a wonderful, gentle, kind person and he was definitely a role model for what pastors should be.

May God bless the family.

Loree (Collins) & Chris Schneider

Loree (Collins) Schneider - March 26, 2015 at 03:30 PM

DB

“Forever grateful for a man who was pastor, mentor, and friend. He was there along with our family to guide us through the tough times of illness, to inspire me into the ministry of global missions, conducted our wedding ceremony, promoted our spiritual growth, and encouragement. Most of all I will remember him as a friend, who would lend a listening ear and heartfelt prayer.

Lovingly remembered,

Daryl & Leshia Beltz

Daryl Beltz - March 26, 2015 at 03:25 PM

AL

“For me, Rev. Collins will forever be the poster child for what a Pastor should be! I will always cherish the sermons he gave and the message in each one. When he would sing you were proud to be there with him and want to sing louder. When he would hold up his arms at the closing of the service and walk to the back of the church I couldn't wait to shake his hand and start my week with a warm feeling of support! I was so blessed to be a member of the church I was raised in and will always remember him and be THANKFUL! RIP Rev. Collins and peace to you all in his absence.
Andrea (Schroeder) Lemieux

Andrea (Schroeder) LeMieux - March 26, 2015 at 01:28 PM



“ *The best boss I have ever had :) My years working with Pastor Bill at Community Church are treasured memories. Seeing him in the blue mechanic garb was fun, and knowing he had such a wide ranging knowledge (and curiosity) about things around him. Did Bill ever get around to writing that book (I don't remember what subject - but a Christian topic) that he was going to write after retirement?*

Lisa Dains - March 26, 2015 at 10:46 AM