



Dr. Robert R. Smith

February 5, 1938 - January 24, 2021

Dr. Robert R. Smith, age 82, of Maryville, Illinois, formerly of Edwardsville, passed away on Sunday, January 24, 2021, at Anderson Hospital in Maryville. He was born February 5, 1938, in West Frankfort, Illinois, the son of the late Roy E. & Allegra V. (Melvin) Smith. Robert was a retired United Methodist Minister who had served Southern Illinois for over 50 years. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Elaine (Elliott) Smith, whom he married on July 14, 1958. Robert is also survived by two sons, Gary Smith of Evendale, Ohio, Larry Smith & wife Carol of St. Charles, Missouri; daughter, Elise Rebmann & husband Patrick of Columbia, Missouri; four grandchildren; one great grandchild; and a brother, Monty Smith of Carterville, Illinois. Robert was a member of St. John's United Methodist Church in Edwardsville.

Robert earned a Bachelor's degree from McKendree College, in Lebanon, Illinois; Masters Degree from Drew University in New Jersey; and his Doctorate from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.

He will be cremated according to his wishes. Due to Covid 19 there will not be any visitation or services at this time, but a celebration of life will be held at a later date. The family requests memorials to Twigs for Kids or St. Louis Symphony Orchestra in care of Weber & Rodney Funeral Home in Edwardsville.

Comments



“ Elaine,

I'd like you to know that you have my sympathy at this time. Robert was always an inspiration to me.

Best wishes to you always.

Mary Ann Goldsmith

Mary Ann Goldsmith - February 10 at 09:30 PM



“ So many great memories of your time in Fairview Heights. Robert meant much to me as a pastor and an example in my own decision to become a pastor. Plus I met Barbara because he invited her to work with the youth when I was in college and living at home. So I have my ministry and my marriage to thank him for. My prayers are with you and your family Elaine. I wrote a tribute to him in my blog if you care to read it at danpowersblog.wordpress.com . I titled it "A Pastor's Pastor" which I am proud to call him.

Dan Powers

Daniel Powers - February 06 at 08:30 PM



“ Did not know Pastor Robert that long;however, he impressed me as a gracious and caring Pastor. He was one of the first individuals to accept me as a member of St John's United Methodist Church. Always had a smile and warm greeting. May God give Pastor Elaine and his family comfort. A link from the chain has been removed from the families of Robert and St John's. The chain will be reunited as God calls our name

Richard Diestelhorst

Richard Diestelhorst - February 03 at 11:31 AM



“ Elaine and family,
Bob was a unique and genuine man who was always warm, engaging and honest about how he saw life. His dedication to living life well was evident every time I saw him. We will all miss the vitality he brought to everyone. Thanks for sharing the gift of him to an all consuming life of ministry. He was rare. As his family, all of you will be in my prayers for an easy grief.
Warmly,
Rev. Linda Horrell

Linda Horrell - February 03 at 12:40 AM



“ I met Bob while I was at Mckendree and he was in leadership at a summer church camp meeting at McKendree. We later became close friends when we realized our spouses were friends growing up in Marion, IL. I had no better buddy serving together in ministry.
Dave Nottrott.

David Nottrott - February 02 at 09:06 PM



“ Bob was a gracious pastor....My first memory was at church camp and then over the years our paths crossed frequently. He was always positive and encouraging in my ministry, and when I followed him in Belleville, he did a great job of preparing me and the congregation for the transition. He will be missed greatly!
Edward R. Weston

Edward R. Weston - February 02 at 05:00 PM



“ My deepest condolences to Elaine and the whole Smith family. Robert R. was a colleague, a leader, and a teacher by example. I hold fond memories of him, and always will.

Mary Anna (Vidakovich) deForrest-Pearce - February 01 at 12:05 AM



“ Elaine and family,

Bob was a wonderful friend and mentor to us and so many at St. John's. Kind and soft spoken, he was the epitome of a minister. In fact, he gave me his set of Barclay commentaries that I use frequently, and he stood up with me, as did Sheryl Palmer, at my ordination. He touched countless and passed the mantle along to so many. May God bring comfort to you all at this difficult time.

Yours in Christ,
Rick & Cindy Pierce

Rev. Rick Pierce - January 31 at 06:40 AM



“ 3 files added to the album LifeTributes



Weber & Rodney Funeral Homes - January 29 at 12:59 PM



“ So very sorry, Larry. Prayers.

Valerie Battle Kienzle - February 02 at 08:45 PM



“ 49 files added to the album LifeTributes



Weber & Rodney Funeral Homes - January 29 at 10:44 AM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. I was a member of Christ Methodist when you served there. Charles and Mae Baugh were my parents. We have fond memories of your time in Fairview Heights.

Sheila Smith - January 29 at 01:45 PM



“ Bob & Elaine were very helpful to us when we moved to Glen Carbon. The times we shared, at meals, trips & fellowship will always be remembered. I always felt Bobs authentic faith & honesty in all he did! Our prayers are with you Elaine & Family.
Louis & Shirley Frick

Louis Frick - January 28 at 07:49 PM



“ Robert has been a colleague and good friend for many years. I have so many warm memories of golf trips, gatherings, church events, and many great times shared. Bob is remembered for his caring and his playful, sometimes edgy sense of humor. One of a kind. We shared SLSO memories with Bob and Elaine, having similar season tickets in the same section. We are sending a memorial in honor of our friendship. Well done good and faithful servant!! Lovingly, Jim and Bonnie Rhea



Rev. Dr. James Rhea - January 28 at 01:50 PM



“ My sincere sympathy at your loss. I am a member of Union UMC and worked as Rev. Smith's secretary for a short time. He was always kind and considerate. A true gentleman that lived out the word of the Lord. God bless you all during this difficult time.

Sheri Hill - January 28 at 11:25 AM



“ Deepest sympathy and prayers for Elaine and his wonderful family. He was a kind, generous guy, and will be greatly missed. Rest in peace and rise in glory. Grand reunion ahead for those in Christ.



Tom Finley - January 28 at 09:48 AM



“ Robert always had a smile on his face and was warmly accepting of anyone who came into his life. He was a true pastor to all. God has blessed all who knew Robert Smith and all can thank God for him.

Dr. Daniel C. Henderson - January 27 at 07:29 PM



“ I don't know where to begin with memories about Robert. He was the first person in Southern Illinois to welcome me and support and love me through ministry. I was his associate for a couple of years before I left to go to McKendree and he went to Pickneyville. So much so - he was one of the two clergy to stand with me at my Elder's ordination.

When he retired, I had the privilege of having him as a retired member at St. John's where he again supported me and loved me through one of the most difficult experiences of ministry. And I could go on and on. My heart is breaking and my love goes out to Elaine, their three children and grandchildren. We have lost a great many, a wonderful pastor and an even better friend!!

Sheryl Palmer

Sheryl Palmer - January 27 at 05:24 PM



“ Elaine, my heart goes out to you. I am thankful for God allowing me to know you and Robert a little bit over the years. I pray that God will somehow meet all your needs through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Shane Smith - January 28 at 10:26 AM



“ I am grateful for Bob’s ministry, his faith, and humanity. His preaching at Little Grassy was a inspiration to me and many others. His support of me and our American Indian community increased our dedication. He will be missed. Rev. Ken And Evelyn Hayden

Ken Hayden - January 27 at 05:12 PM



“ Elaine, I am sorry to hear of Bob's passing. He was such a wonderful, warm, caring man! I hold good memories of him on the trip to Costa Rica and at meetings in Southern Illinois. This is such a hard time to lose someone you love! I pray that you will feel God's comfort!

Shelly Forrest

Shelly Forrest - January 27 at 04:37 PM



“ I met Rev. Smith as he helped provided pastoral support for my congregation in Marissa, IL while I was on maternity leave. He had a ready smile and kind and gentle spirit. I was so glad to have met him and shared in ministry with him, even if only for a short time. I pray for peace and comfort for his family. -- Becky Williams

Becky Williams - January 27 at 04:23 PM



“ Out deepest condolences to you and your family at this difficult time. Your father had one of the most kind and gentle souls. He will be greatly missed.

Tim & Melissa Vetter family

Melissa Vetter - January 27 at 12:30 PM



“ In this time of grief, may you all experience the grace and comfort of God and be encouraged in the Good news of eternal life through Jesus. Also may the memories of your father flood your hearts, reminding you of the love you still share.

Sincerely,

Dan Klug

Dan Klug - January 27 at 11:33 AM