

Clergy Obituaries – 2009

REV. ELWOOD STERLING BANNISTER

Rev. Elwood Bannister was born in Elgin, New Brunswick. He was a Veteran of World War II serving with the Merchant Navy. Following his graduation from seminary, he served in several pastorates in New Brunswick and one in Prince Edward Island. He taught for eight years at the former U.B.B.T.S. and Atlantic Baptist College, where he was also Dean of Bible and Assistant Principal. He served on various boards of the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches throughout his ministry and for five years with Canadian Baptist Ministries, primarily in Kenya.

Rev. Bannister passed away on January 10, 2009 at the age of 85. He is survived by his wife, Myrtle; three sons, Paul, Timothy and Philip; two daughters, Marilyn and Peg; nine grandchildren and one brother, Delbert.

REV. JAMES MELVILLE “MEL” SCOTT

Rev. Melville Scott was born in Sydney Mines, Nova Scotia. He was a graduate of Acadia University (B.A. and M.Div.) and was ordained to the Baptist ministry in 1958. He served churches in Canning, Pereaux, Blomidon, Bridgewater and Sackville, Nova Scotia; Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Ottawa, Ontario. From 1959 to 1963, he was Field Representative of Acadia University and from 1979 to 1992 was Director of Pastoral Care at Northwood Incorporated, Halifax. He was noted for his musical talent and sang with numerous choirs and toured extensively during college days with the Acadia University Male Quartet.

Rev. Scott passed away on February 15, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Marion; one son, James; two daughters, Catherine and Lori and two granddaughters.

REV. GEORGE RICHARD BILLINGTON

Rev. George Billington was born in Lancashire, England. His Christian training began at Prairie Bible Institute, Calgary, AB. He then went to Bible Baptist Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas where he received the degree of Doctor of Bibliology and was ordained to the Christian Ministry. He served in ministry in New Brunswick under the United Baptist Convention for 32 years and served in Maine for 7 years. During his pastoral ministry he served as chaplain to the Justice Department for 14 years and was honored to be the Pastor Emeritus to the Millville and Second Kingsclear Baptist Churches.

Rev. Billington passed away on February 27, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; one son, Garry; one daughter, Susan; six grandchildren, two great granddaughters and several nieces and nephews.

REV. RONALD CHESLEY CUNNINGHAM

Rev. Ronald Cunningham was born in Saint John, New Brunswick. He was ordained to Christian ministry in 1962. Following graduation from Gordon, he was youth director at West End United Baptist Church in Halifax, Nova Scotia and Highfield Street United Baptist Church in Moncton, New Brunswick. This led to his doing a Masters program at Wheaton. He spent several years working for I.V.C.F. and was involved with starting the Pioneer Camp in Prince Edward Island. Mr. Cunningham served as interim pastor in New Brunswick churches affiliated with the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches at Andersonville United Baptist Church, Nerepis United Baptist Church and Lancaster United Baptist Church in Saint John. He retired in 1994 and spent five winters ministering at Nashwaak Baptist Church in New Brunswick.

Rev. Cunningham passed away on March 20, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Lois; step-son, Mark Harvey and his wife Bonny and their three sons, Chaz, Ji, and Tejas.

REV. ERNEST J. SPERRING

Rev. Ernest Sperring was born in Ontario, New York. He was a retired Baptist clergyman who dedicated his life to serving his Lord and Saviour. He graduated from Houghton College, Houghton, New York with a B.A. and entered Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Philadelphia from which he received both his M.Div. and Th.M. degrees. He served churches in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maine before he began his ministry at Highfield Baptist Church, Moncton, New Brunswick in 1971. In 1974 he became Pastor-at-Large for Area 3 of the Atlantic United Baptist Convention and served in that position until 1986. He then taught courses at Atlantic Baptist University for three years and served as interim pastor in several New Brunswick Churches until his retirement.

Rev. Sperring passed away on March 27, 2009 at the age of 87. He is survived by his wife, Maria; two sons, James and Edwin; five daughters, Enid, Audrey, Anna, Debbie and Wendy; eleven grandchildren; eleven great grandchildren; one sister, Audrey; one brother, Gilbert and several nieces and nephews.

REV. ROBERT "BOB" BYRON BILLINGS

Rev. Robert Billings was born in Fredericton, New Brunswick. After ordination in 1966, he served for many years as a Baptist Pastor in Massachusetts, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. In addition, Rev. Billings enjoyed a number of years as a broadcaster with Annapolis Valley Radio.

Rev. Billings passed away on October 23, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; one daughter, Kristen and two sisters.

REV. ARTHUR JAMES EDDY

Rev. Arthur Eddy was born in Middleton, NS, he was a son of the late Frank and Mary Eddy. He graduated from Acadia University in 1950 and in October of that same year was ordained in Chester Basin. Rev. Eddy also graduated from Gordon Divinity College in 1958. He was the Pastor of churches in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Massachusetts, Ohio, Indiana, and Maine. Rev. Eddy served on many boards throughout the years and also served a term as president of the Maine State Baptist Convention.

Rev. Eddy, 87, passed away peacefully on Saturday, October 31, 2009, in Hants Community Hospital, Windsor. He is survived by his loving wife, Dorothy (Countway); sons, David (Trish), Ohio; Dana, Florida; daughter, Dawna (Christopher) Havill, Port Williams; grandchildren, Anne (Kevin) Kincaid, Nathan, Aaron (Michelle), Austin, and Elizabeth. Also surviving are his sister, Connie Merrey, Florida and niece, Judy.

REV. EDWARD R. STACKHOUSE

Born in Saint John, he was the son of the late Roy and Florence (Arthurs) Stackhouse. Edward was a retired Baptist Minister who served at various Baptist Charges in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and was a member of Grangeville Baptist Church. He was a graduate of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Boston, served on various boards of the Maritime Baptist Convention. He enjoyed reading, watching sports and was an avid Toronto Maple Leafs and Toronto Blue Jay fan. Edward enjoyed socializing and spending precious time with his family and friends.

With his family at his side, Edward passed away peacefully at the Dr. Georges L. Dumont Hospital, Moncton, on Thursday December 17, 2009. He will be sadly missed by his wife of 45 years, Mary (Ward) Stackhouse; sons, Paul, Fort McMurray, AB; Joel, Moncton; several cousins in Saint John; several brothers and sisters in law.