

## Clergy Obituaries – 2011

### **PASTOR JOSEPH WILLIAM VanBUSKIRK**

Joseph William VanBuskirk was born March 20, 1944 in Liverpool, Nova Scotia, Canada. Mr. VanBuskirk was the son of the late G.W. Claude and Edith Hattie (Pevenil) VanBuskirk. He was an active member of First United Baptist Church, New Glasgow. Mr. VanBuskirk worked in the pulp and paper industry for over 30 years, retiring in 2004. He was an instrumental force in effecting positive environmental changes and awareness at Boat Harbour. Upon completion of Lay Pastor Training through the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches, he responded to God's calling to serve churches in Guysborough, Port Bickerton, Port Hilford, Sonora, and Port Hawkesbury. He was a member of Keith Lodge No. 23, A.F. & A.M., Stellarton and the Stellarton Male Chorus. Volunteer service was always a priority to Joe as a way of serving his Lord and community. This included various choirs, the Pictou County Helpline, Camp Pagweak, The Baptist Foundation, Crandall University (formerly ABU) and the Nova Scotia Clean Water Task Force.

Pastor Joseph William VanBuskirk, at the age of 66, slipped peacefully into the arms of his Lord, at home on Monday, February 21, 2011. Mr. VanBuskirk is survived by his loving wife of 44 years, Delta (Blackburn); children, Shireen (Tom) Simko, Brockville, Ont.; Trina (Paul) Warren, Stellarton; Brent (Jacquelyn) VanBuskirk, Waverley; grandchildren, Sarah Simko, Nick, Katie and Hannah Warren, Jacob and Benjamin VanBuskirk; sister, Leona (Owie) Methven, Bedford. "His walk of faith with Jesus leaves footprints for us to follow."

### **REV. EUGÈNE PAUL LANCTIN**

Rev. Eugène Paul Lanctin, Pastor of Église Baptiste Chaleur in Campbellton, NB, passed into His Lord's presence on Saturday May 28th, 2011 at age 75, following a tragic car accident.

Beloved and devoted husband for 47 years to Micheline N. Lanctin (nee Villain), and loved father of Jean-Daniel Lanctin (Gisèle), Corinne Lanctin-Iles (Barry), Samuel Lanctin (Janice) and Isabelle Crowe (Trevor). Lovingly remembered by his grandchildren Natasha (Tomy), Benjamin, Julie, Shayne, Jamie, Myriam, Allie, Nicolas, Samuel, Jeremy and Kylee. Predeceased by Louis-Jean, Maurice, Raymond (Marilyn), George (Madelene), Yvon (Jean) and Henri (Marcia). Faithful servant to his community.

### **REV. J. GORDON DELONG**

Rev. J. Gordon DeLong died peacefully on May 30, 2011 in Kentville, Nova Scotia, at the age of 96. He was born in Union Square, N.S. on July 14, 1914 and grew up in the Barss Corner area of Lunenburg County. In 1937 he went to Columbia Bible College in South Carolina to study for the Baptist ministry; he completed his theological studies at Acadia University in 1942. In the same year, he married Alma Blackadar and in 1945 left Canada for India as a Baptist missionary. He completed his B.A. from Acadia University in 1952 while on furlough. In India he worked in three different missionary fields and directed the re-building of the house and grounds of the mission house in Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh. After 24 years with the Canadian Baptist Overseas Mission Board, he returned to Canada in 1968, where he served as pastor to Baptist churches in McAdam, N. B., Paradise, N.S., and North and South Alton, N.S., before retiring to Port Williams in 1982. For many years he was active in the Port Williams community, especially

in the Port Williams United Baptist Church. He was an avid gardener, loved music, and was legendarily handy at fixing things. His dedication to his family, church, and community was remarkable, as was his kindly disposition; he will be missed by many.

He is survived by his three children, Kenneth, Linwood, and Elaine (Rev. Gordon) Murray; his brother, Herbert; his sister, Annetta Neaves and sister-in-law, Vera Jodrey; as well as his five grandchildren, Christina and Sharon Murray, James, William and Sarah DeLong.

#### **REV. PETER BUECKERT**

Peter Bueckert died peacefully at his home in Sackville, NB during the morning of September 5, 2011. He was 82 years old. Born in Mexico, January 15, 1929. Raised in Western Canada. Graduate of Baptist Leadership Training School, Calgary, 1955. Graduated MacMaster University B.A., B.D., 1962. Ordained to the Christian Ministry, Pointe St. Charles Baptist Church, Montreal, 1962.

Peter did a lot of different things during his life, but ultimately his call to ministry in the Canadian Baptist denomination was where he found his niche. He was a sincere and caring pastor, serving inner city, country and city congregations from Quebec to British Columbia. Peter served in pastorates in Montreal, QC; Swift Current/Shاونавон, SK; Kitimat, BC; Strathclair/Shoal Lake/Birtle, MB; Kamloops, BC; Souris, MB. Peter retired in 1991. He continued to be involved in church leadership as long as he was able during his retirement. He served an interim ministry in 1997 at Oxford Baptist and Little River Baptist Churches in the Convention Of Atlantic Baptist Churches.

He is survived by his wife Barbara, his daughter Dorothy (Dodie) Perkin and her husband John, his son Robert and his wife Donna, and the joys of his later life, his grandchildren Wray, Joanna, Owen and Logan. His brother Hank and his sisters Sue and Agnes, and numerous nieces and nephews also mourn his passing. He was preceded in death by his brothers Carl and Frank.

#### **REV. FRANCIS K. INNIS**

Rev. Francis K. Innis was born on September 17, 1915. Rev. Innis was the son of the late Stirling and Bessie [Pickle] Innis, of Bloomfield, New Brunswick. Rev. Innis enlisted in the militia in 1941, later transferring to the active Canadian army, serving in Canada, England, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany where he rose to the rank of captain. In May 1946, upon his return home, he served as a training officer in the 8th N.B. Hussars, a military tank regiment, for a period of seven years, where he rose to the rank of major. During this time, he became employed with the Veteran's Land Administration [VLA], Saint John, New Brunswick. Rev. Innis served as a lay pastor in the Erbs Cove Baptist Church and Kingston Baptist Church, New Brunswick. Rev. Innis resigned from Veterans Land Administration in September 1973 to attend Atlantic Baptist College. During this period he also served as pastor of the Stoney Creek Baptist Church in Stoney Creek, New Brunswick. Upon graduation he began a full time pastoral ministry in Millville – Hainesville, N.B. until October 1979. He was instrumental in planting churches in the area while serving there. He served his last pastorate in Plympton, Nova Scotia for twenty-seven years, resigning in September 2007. His last days were spent in the Veteran's Unit of the Soldier's Memorial Hospital, Middleton, N.S.

Rev. Francis K. Innis passed away suddenly in Veterans Unit of Soldiers Memorial on July 10, 2011. He is survived by two sons, Rodney [Shirley] Innis, of Hawthorne, N.J., Allison [Debbie] Innis, of Novi, MI, one daughter, Elsa [Jeffrey] Shaver of Syracuse, N.Y. and one step-daughter, Maxine [Ivan] Bain, of Barton, N.S.; two granddaughters, five grandsons, two step grand-daughters, four great-grandchildren and three step-great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews; one sister, Sophy [Hollis] Conley of Hampton, N.B. and one brother, William Innis of Bobcaygeon, ON. He is predeceased by two wives, Evelyn [Jones] and by Alice [Foster] [Andrews]; two sisters, Marion [William] MacLeod, Josephine [Harold] McCready and one brother, John [Sue] Innis.

#### **REV. MALCOLM LELAND STAIRS**

Rev. Malcolm Leland Stairs was born on August 31, 1921 in Temperance Vale, York County, New Brunswick. Rev. Stairs was the oldest son of the late Lee Nelson Stairs and Bessie Almon (Chapman) Stairs. Being called to Christian ministry, he attended Gordon College, Mass. USA, graduating with honours in 1952 and with high honours from Gordon Divinity School in 1955. He served many churches in NB and NS. As long as his health permitted he continued to do supply preaching in various churches.

Rev. Malcolm Stairs went to be with his Lord and Saviour on August 22, 2011. Rev. Stairs leaves behind his beloved wife of 51 years; two children and seven grandchildren; daughter Mary (Kenneth Graham) and grandchildren Nathan, Nicholas, Kennedy and John of Good Corner, N.B.; son David (Katrina Furge) and grandchildren Mark, Abigail and Emma of Caledonia, Ont. He is survived by brothers Karl Stairs (Madge) of Ottawa and Osborne Stairs (Arvilla) of Temperance Vale; several nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by son Mark (July 21, 1978) and brothers Waldo and Lawrence.

#### **REV. LAWSON AULENBACH**

Born in New Cornwall, Lunenburg County, Lawson was the son of the late Glen and Helen Aulenbach. Lawson graduated from the former United Baptist Bible Training School (now Crandall University), Moncton, N. B. and Acadia University, and later began his ministry and served in many churches throughout Nova Scotia.

Lawson went to be with his Lord and Saviour on September 18, 2011 and will be sadly missed by his wife of forty-four years, the former Cora Harlow; sons Philip (Michael Best); Stephen (Nicole); chosen daughter Darlene Kehoe (Shawn); and four special and loved grandchildren Renee and Morgan Aulenbach and Connor and Megan Kehoe. He also leaves to grieve his brother Cecil Eisner (Myrtle), New Cornwall; sisters Verna Grandy and Betty Kilfoy, Lunenburg, and Edith Nauss, New Cornwall; many nephews and nieces; other family members and a host of friends.

#### **REV. DONALD E. JACKSON**

Rev. Donald Jackson, born October 5, 1921, passed from this life quietly in his sleep on Saturday, October 19, 2011 at his residence in the Veterans Memorial Building, Halifax, Nova Scotia. He had been honored to serve in the Canadian Air Force during World War II and so spent his last years in the company of comrades.

Rev. Jackson attended Acadia University, Dalhousie University and was ordained in the late 1940's. Over a career spanning more than 50 years, his calling in the Baptist Church took the family to numerous rural and urban locations in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Québec. His final years of ministry were spent in Port Williams, Nova Scotia. All of his parishioners remember him fondly, not the least of which are those in Moncton, New Brunswick where he spent considerable time. With empathy and wisdom Rev. Donald Jackson ministered to all in his compassionate manner.

His beloved wife of over 60 years, Hetty Jackson, predeceased him in the fall of 2007 and soon after, his son Peter. His sons Christopher and Timothy, his six grandchildren, his sister Julia, brothers Leslie and James all grieve the loss of their family members.