

CABC Clergy Obituaries 2012

REV. JOHN ORR BUNTING

Rev. John Orr Bunting, 82 years, of Riverview passed away at the Moncton Hospital on Thursday January 12, 2012. Born in Belfast, Ireland he was the son of the late Thomas and Sarah (Orr) Bunting. John was a retired Baptist minister retiring from the New Horton, Harvey and Alma Baptist church with over 30 years in the ministry.

John will be sadly missed by his wife Elizabeth "Lily" (Waring) Bunting of Monarch Hall, Riverview; daughters Lynn (Pat) Ronan of Riverview, Jacqueline Bunting (Stephen McMillan) of Moncton, and Christina Bunting of Australia; two grandchildren Shawn and Aaron; several sisters, nieces and nephews. Besides his parents he was predeceased by his only brother Scott and four of his eleven sisters.

REV. LYNN D. STAIRS

The passing of Lynn Durward Stairs of Fredericton, NB, husband of Hannah Stairs, occurred on Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at the DVA Veteran's Health Unit. Born on December 9, 1925 in Cullerton, NB, he was the son of the late Seely and Faye (Dunlop) Stairs. He was a Veteran of WWII, serving in the Royal Canadian Air Force in England and Europe. Lynn was a missionary with the Canadian Baptist Ministries and a member of the Douglas Baptist Church. He enjoyed working in the woods, making maple syrup and gardening.

In addition to his wife, Lynn is survived by his daughter, Sharon Anderson (David) of Douglas, NB; son, Dean A. Stairs (Stephanie) of Newfoundland; grandchildren, Michael Anderson (Rachael), Michelle Hohl (George), Melody Renouf (Adam), Jasmine, Riley, Courtney, Victor, Bonnie, Elizabeth, Georgia, Charlotte and Samuel Stairs; great grandchild, Peyton Anderson; brothers, Lorne Stairs (Florence) and Terry Stairs both of Fredericton, NB; several nieces and nephews. Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his grandson, Gideon Stairs.

REV. LORNE D. STAIRS

The home-going of Lorne Darc Stairs of Fredericton, NB, husband of Florence Edith (Kelly) for more than 62 years, occurred on Saturday, January 28, 2012. He was born September 5, 1923 in Nackawic, NB, son of the late Seely and Faye (Dunlop) Stairs.

He was a Veteran of WWII, serving in the Royal Air Force as a 1st Flight Lieutenant on the British Isles and involved in the first radar unit. Lorne, with his family, was a missionary in Bolivia for over 25 years with the Canadian Baptist Ministries. He also was a pastor in several New Brunswick Baptist churches over the years before and after his time in Bolivia having a special heart for the Richibucto Baptist Church. He was a member of Brunswick Street Baptist Church. In his life Lorne lived to read, study and teach.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children, Gloria Tranquilla, Fredericton, NB; Gail Stairs, Moncton, NB; Sheila Chao (Joseph), Los Angeles, CA; Glenn Stairs (Sandra), Sussex, NB; Ann Wallin, Oakville, ON; Bryan Stairs, Oakville, ON and Owen Stairs, Moncton, NB; grandchildren, Jim (Laura), John, Giselle, Jocelyne and Joel (Meghan) Tranquilla; Andrew, Dion and Sabrina Chao; Sasha and Krista Stairs; and John and Kelly Wallin; great grandchildren, Elliot and Clara Tranquilla; one brother, Terry Stairs, Fredericton, NB; sister-in-law, Hannah Stairs, Douglas, NB; niece, Sharon Anderson (David), Douglas, NB and nephew, Dean Stairs (Stephanie), NL. He was recently predeceased by his brother, Lynn Stairs.

REV. BENNETT F. SAUNDERS

Rev Bennett Fowler Saunders of Embassy Hall, Quispamsis went to be with his Lord Jesus on Monday, February 6th, 2012. Born in Saint John, June 5th 1915, he was the son of the late Arthur and Edith (nee Fowler) Saunders. He was predeceased by his wife of 43 years Edna (nee McKay) Saunders and his second wife of 13 years Olive (Silliphant-McDuff) Saunders. Bennett will be sadly missed by his family. He is survived by his wife Margaret (nee Smith Beyea) Saunders; daughter Anne Graham (Gordon) of Saint John grandchildren Jonathan Hirtle (Heidi) of Quispamsis, Jillian Comeau (Brian) of Saint John, great grandchildren Mitchell, Faith, Bennett, Grace and Shanna; step families, nieces, nephews, and many friends. In addition to his parents, his first wife Edna and his second wife Olive; he was predeceased by sisters Grace Cosman, Marion Hamm and Frances Wheaton; brother George Saunders; son-in-law Ellis Hirtle and infant great-granddaughter Zuriel Comeau.

As a young man Bennett was employed by Emery Brothers Cabinetmaking in Saint John subsequently became a skilled cabinetmaker. During the war years he worked at Havilland Aircraft in Toronto, constructing Mosquito Aircrafts. After the war he taught his skills to returning soldiers in Saint John. For 31 years he was devoted to his profession of teaching young people at Saint John Vocational School. Taking an early retirement from teaching, he studied at Acadia Divinity College in Wolfville, NS. Bennett was ordained with the Baptist Convention and ministered for several years in Baptist churches in NB as well as serving others through hospital visitation in Saint John. He cared deeply for his family and his ministry.

REV. DR. DENNIS VEINOTTE

Rev. Dr. Dennis M. Veinotte, 74, of New Minas, NS, passed away on Thursday, March 15, 2012, at Valley Regional Hospital, Kentville, with his family by his side, following a lengthy illness which he bore with great perseverance. Born in Cross Roads, Country Harbour, he was the son of the late Maynard and Annie (Worth) Veinotte. Dennis is survived by his beloved family: his wife of 46 years, Constance "Connie", New Minas; daughter, Lori-ann (Michael) Esser, Halifax; son, Paul (Nicole) Port Williams; brother, Clarence (the late Shirley) Ottawa; sister, Sandra (Sean) Phillips, Halifax and mother-in-law, Laretta Barteaux, Wilmot; also, the pride of his life, his three grandchildren – Grace and Mason Veinotte and Luke Esser as well as a large

extended family of aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews. Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his father-in-law, Alton Barteaux.

From an early age, Dennis felt the call to serve God in Christian ministry. He earned BA and BD (M.Div.) degrees at Acadia University/Acadia Divinity College and served in a number of student pastorates before becoming ordained, in 1962, at the Gaspereau Baptist Church. He also ministered in Baptist churches in Kentville, Windsor, South-End Dartmouth, Lancaster, Saint John and most recently, Pereau. As well, in earlier years, he was active in committee work with the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches. While in Saint John, Dennis felt led to become Chaplain in the city's hospitals. He later became Protestant Chaplain with Correctional Services Canada serving at the Springhill Institution. Continuing his studies, he earned the degrees M.Th at Acadia Divinity College and D.Min at Andover Newton Theological School, Boston, as well as accreditation with the Canadian Association of Pastoral Care and Education, now known as Canadian Association for Spiritual Care. With the latter, he was a certified teaching supervisor both in Pastoral Education and Pastoral Counselling. Dennis was a member of the NS Association of Counselling Therapists and the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association. In 1984, Dennis became head of the Department of Clinical Pastoral Education at Acadia Divinity College, a position he held until retirement. He succeeded Dr. Charles Taylor, who, as his mentor, had a profound influence on his life. Dennis was instrumental in establishing the Valley Pastoral Counselling Centre and served as director and counsellor until ill health intervened. Dennis gave strong and effective leadership and was well respected in each area of ministry he served but he excelled as a counsellor. In this role he generously gave of his time to help many people from all walks of life. He will be greatly missed by all who knew his quiet unassuming nature, his wise counsel and his devotion to church and family. Dennis was a member of Port Williams United Baptist Church.

PASTOR LLEWELLYN (LEW) R. ANDERSON

Pastor Llewellyn (Lew) R. Anderson, 71, of Berry Mills, passed away peacefully at The Moncton Hospital on Friday April 13, 2012. Born in Listerville, Carleton Co., he was the son of the late Robert and Blanche (Lockhart) Anderson. Lew was a former employee at The Moncton Hospital (ten years) and was a retired carpentry instructor at The New Brunswick Community College, Moncton Campus, with 22 years service. He was a member of Berry Mills Baptist Church, an active church Deacon and served his church in various other capacities in past years. In his retirement, Lew was an avid carpenter, a Lay Preacher in the Moncton area, a member of The Gideons, enjoyed listening to fiddle music and socializing with his friends and spending time with his family. Lew was a graduate of one of CABC's first Lay Pastor Training Program.

Lew will be sadly missed by his devoted wife of 47 years, Wanda (Hamilton); children, Shelley Wishart (Elwood) of Chipman, Jason (Cynthia) of Dallas, Texas; precious grandchildren, Emily, Cooper and Rowan; sisters, Kathy Briggs (Malcolm),

Dawn Mullin (Dennis), Merrietta (Mert) Garland (Ron), Bonny Murphy (Laurie); brothers, John (Pat), Ronnie (Julie); several nieces and nephews.

REV. JOHN W. MACLEOD

Rev. John W. MacLeod, 87, of Manning Residence, Windsor, peacefully passed away on Thursday, May 3, 2012, surrounded by his loving wife and family. Born on April 28, 1925 he was a son of the late Angus and Catherine (Lamont) MacLeod. John will be forever in the heart of his life partner Evangeline and his blessed and grateful children and their families. As a pastor, gentle and caring, John directly touched and brightened the lives of many people that he taught and supported in their hour of need.

John is survived by his wife, the former J. Evangeline Rafuse; sons, David, Windsor; Mark (Gabrielle), Toronto, Ont.; Peter (Tatjana), Melbourne, Australia; grandchildren, Connor, Kieran and Jenna; sisters, Gladys Freeze, Penobsquis, N.B.; Mary (Douglas) Cameron, Woodstock, Ont.; brothers, Harold "Harry", Halifax; Kenneth (Elsie), Kinross, PEI; many nieces, nephews and cousins. John was predeceased by sisters, Isabel Furness and two sisters in infancy; brothers, Wesley, David and Ewen.

Educated at Prince of Wales College, Mount Allison University, and Gordon Divinity College, Boston, John served as a minister with the United Baptist Convention for 55 years, in communities across Nova Scotia (Granville Beach, Port Royal, Port Wade, Karsdale, Victoria Beach, Port Maitland, Sandford, Beaver River, Deep Brook, Clementsport, Barton, Inglewood, Wilmot, Rossway, Centreville, and New Harbour), New Brunswick (Grangeville, Canaan, Cornhill, and Hill Grove), and PEI (Summerside and Murray River). Captain John W. MacLeod also served as a Chaplain to cadets in the Canadian Armed Forces. As Prof. MacLeod at Atlantic Baptist College (now Crandall University), John guided many future ministers. John's family and friends knew him as a superb gardener, amateur musician and piano tuner, enthusiastic traveler, lifelong sports fan (C'mon The Leafs!), tabasco sprinkler, and especially as an avid tinkerer.

REV. MYRTLE MAY INGERSOLL

After a rewarding and dedicated life serving her Lord here on Earth, Rev. Myrtle Ingersoll of North Head, Grand Manan went to be with her Lord on July 16, 2012 after a short time in the Grand Manan Hospital. Born on May 13, 1921 on Grand Manan she was the daughter of the late Earl and Lucy (Dakin) Ingersoll. She is survived by her two sisters, Thelma Benson of Saint John and Marion Sellars of St. George, NB; her sister-in-law, Hilda Ingersoll of Grand Manan and 13 nieces and nephews; as well as many grandnieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her sisters, Seta Greenlaw, Frances Foster and brothers, Gilbert Ingersoll and Grimmer Ingersoll.

Myrtle attended Grand Harbour School with the last three years of her schooling being taught by a private teacher for her family while they resided on Machias Seal Island. Upon completion of basic education she attended Toronto Bible College for three years, graduating in 1949. After graduation she was employed for several years conducting Daily Vacation Bible School (DVBS) during the summers and working in home mission churches during the winter months. She was ordained under the Atlantic Baptist Convention and held pastorates in various locations in NB, NS, and PEI. She was also employed for a period of time with United Baptist Women's Missionary in NS and PEI. Prior to her retirement in 1986 she was employed for 13 years with the Spencer Memorial Home in Moncton serving as the Chaplain and Director of Environmental Services. Upon retirement Myrtle returned to Grand Manan where she was active in the Grand Harbour Baptist Church (now Community Life Church) serving as a Sunday school teacher, Supply Pastor, member of WMS, member of Deacons Board, and of the Seniors Club until such time as her health would not allow.

REV. LYNN ROBERT ERSKINE

31, Truro Heights, passed away suddenly on Sunday evening, September 2, 2012, at Colchester Regional Hospital, Truro. Born May 26, 1981, in Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania, USA, he was the loving husband of Natasha (Currie) Erskine and father of daughters, Roya Allison (4), Alea Joy (2).

Lynn graduated from Sussex Central High School, Delaware, and then went on to study at Kingswood University (Was Bethany Bible College) where he received his undergraduate degree and was Valedictorian. Following this, he studied at Asbury Seminary, Kentucky, and graduated from Acadia Divinity College in 2010, receiving his Masters Degree. Lynn served God and his church families at Central Wesleyan Church, Holland, Michigan, Kingswood University as admissions counselor and at Immanuel Baptist Church, Truro, since 2007, where at the time of his death, he was Pastor of Worship And Mission.

Lynn was a passionate and driven man who loved his wife and his family with all his heart. He always set an example to be proud of and that was evident when one of his daughters was overheard saying one of his favourite expressions, "Today is the best day of my life."

An accomplished and well known musician, Lynn was also the music leader at Immanuel Baptist Church, a member of Halifax Camarata Singers, Truro Cantabile Singers, privately taught piano and voice, accompanied many at annual music festivals and was accompanist for many choirs local and abroad. He and his wife, Natasha, were also known for their wonderful musical talents that they shared so abundantly. Lynn's most recent journeys included a trip to India with Canadian Baptist Ministries and also to Haiti with Canadian Foodgrains Bank. He was currently training and had a team, "Run From Hunger" entered into Nova Scotia Running Weekend. The overwhelming support of many has made this fundraising endeavor more than Lynn could have imagined.

Along with his wife and daughters, Lynn is survived by his parents, Mark (Shelly) Erskine, Delaware, USA, and Cynthia (Ron) Bennett, Maryland, USA; maternal grandparents, Robert and Joann Allison, Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania; paternal grandmother, Lucille Erskine, Pennsylvania; parents-in-law, Brian and Debbie Currie, Moncton; siblings, Ben (Lynnsay) Erskine, Kaia Erskine, Delaware; Allison Erskine, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania; Logan Hudson, Bailey Erskine, Delaware; nephew, Scott Erskine; a niece on the way; several aunts, uncles, cousins, a wide circle of friends and his extended Currie family. He was predeceased by his paternal grandfather, Merrill Erskine.

REV. DR. MILLARD R. CHERRY

The Reverend Doctor Millard Ross Cherry, affectionately known to all as “Cherry,” died on Friday, October 5th, 2012 in the Valley Regional Hospital, Kentville. Cherry was born in Franklin, Simpson County, Kentucky on December 2nd, 1921. He was baptized as a teenager and licensed to preach at 19. He served as pastor from the age of 20 in the state of Arkansas and later in Taylorsville, Kentucky. Cherry held a B.A. from Ouachita Baptist University (1944) and a B.D. (1948) and Doctor of Theology (1957) degrees from Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky. In 1957 Cherry made the significant decision to come to Canada, where he became Professor of Systematic Theology in the School of Theology at Acadia University. He deeply cherished his Canadian citizenship, which he was granted in 1970. Cherry’s contribution to Nova Scotia and beyond has been truly remarkable. At Acadia he served on numerous boards and committees over a twenty-five year period. Especially notable was his service as Dean of Theology (1963-71), the first Principal of Acadia Divinity College (1968-71) and Associate Dean of Acadia Divinity College (1971-80). In recognition of his outstanding contribution to Canadian Theological Education he received three honorary degrees from Pine Hill Divinity Hall (1970), McMaster Divinity College (1982) and Acadia University (1988).

Cherry made a vital contribution to denominational and ecumenical life, serving the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches on the Standards for Ordination and Candidates Committee, Credentials Committee, Ordination Council and the Recruiting Committee. In addition, he was a popular guest lecturer and preacher in seminaries and churches of several denominations across Canada. Following retirement from Acadia, Cherry was interim pastor at Wolfville Baptist Church and St. Andrews United Church, Wolfville (1988). He then pastored Pereaux Baptist Church (1988-94). Cherry was predeceased by his father Daniel Borthic Cherry, his mother Nema Brown Hatter Cherry, and his brother, Billy Jeff (Ruth) Cherry. He is survived by his nephew Daniel Potts (Danita) Cherry and their children Lauren, Jeffrey and Alexander, all of Kentucky. Though a bachelor, Cherry was a devoted and fatherly mentor to generations of students and their families. He eagerly and generously offered unconditional love in his role as counselor and friend and his ecumenical, inclusive spirit was particularly cherished by all who knew and loved him. To celebrate his 80th birthday in 2001, over 400 friends assembled at Atlantic Theatre Festival in Wolfville to honour Cherry for his contribution to the Acadia

University family, the people of the Annapolis Valley and far beyond. At this time Cherry was honoured with a life membership in the Wolfville Rotary Club and a Paul Harris Fellowship in tribute to “his special qualities as a person of unusual warmth, kindness, community spirit and service.” More recently Cherry was inducted into the Acadia Sports Hall of Fame in recognition of his many years as an ardent supporter and encourager of all Axe teams.

REV. CECIL A. MACARTHUR

MacARTHUR, REV. CECIL A. – Rev. Cecil A. MacArthur, 91, Dartmouth, passed away at the Dartmouth General Hospital on Thursday, December 20, 2012. Born in Grangeville, New Brunswick on April 1, 1921, he was the son of the late John William “Will” and Mary Jane (West) MacArthur.

He served in the Royal Canadian Air Force from 1941 to 1945, graduating as a navigator in 1944. Upon discharge he enrolled in the first class of the newly opened Maritime Forest Ranger School in Fredericton. Following graduation he was employed as an Assistant Forest Ranger in New Brunswick for several years before becoming a Park Warden at Fundy National Park. In 1964 he entered ministry within the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches and was ordained on October 14, 1968. His pastoral ministry in Nova Scotia included the Boylston, Guysborough, and Queensport United Baptist Churches; the River Hebert, Macaan, Westbrook and Southhampton United Baptist Churches; and the Billtown and Woodville United Baptist Churches. In New Brunswick he served the First North River United Baptist Pastorate. In retirement he served as an interim pastor and supply preacher and was presently Pastor Emeritus at Stevens Road Baptist Church, Dartmouth. He is survived by daughters, Donna Guinta (Rev. Dr. Frank Guinta Jr.), Dartmouth; Dianne LeBlanc, Sonora; son, Rev. Dr. Brian MacArthur (Rossanne), Moncton; nine grandchildren (his “J’s”) Jonathan Guinta, Julia Guinta, Jeffrey MacArthur (Amy), Jennifer Barry (Rob), Julianne Moore (Matt), Janet Smook (Mike), Jessica Ricker (Ben), Jocelyn Hoffman (Ben), Jiselle Mahar (Matt), thirteen great-grandchildren, sisters-in-law, Joyce MacArthur and Lois (MacArthur) Benner as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his first wife, Hazel (Hiscott) in 1978; second wife, Mildred (Konkin) in 2006; son-in-law Thomas LeBlanc (1994); and grandson Jason LeBlanc (1996). Cecil was the youngest of ten, and being the last surviving member of his immediate family, was predeceased by sisters, Maria Ward (Harold) and Alma; and by brothers, Stanley, Benjamin, Nelson, Thomas, Henry, Leonard, and Ernest.