

We celebrate these lives and remember their ministries:

MEMORIALS

Members of the Northern Spirit Regional Council who have passed away,
and whose names have been made known to the Regional Office
in the time since the last meeting of the Regional Council.

Mr. Basil (Butch) Henderson	April 9, 2019
Dr. Margaret-Ann Armour	May 25, 2019
Mr. David Loper	May 28, 2019
Mr. Bryan Eldon Davidson	October 15, 2019
The Rev. David (Terry) Forbes	November 15, 2019
The Rev. Glen Thomas Simmonds	March 16, 2020
The Rev. Dr. John (Jack) Reed Colclough	May 4, 2020
The Rev. Peter Seck Tiong Lim	September 10, 2020
The Rev. Alvin Stenson	September 17, 2020

IN MEMORIAM: LAY PERSON

Basil (Butch) Henderson

1929 - 2019

On April 9, 2019, Basil (Butch) Henderson of Edmonton passed away at the age of 90.

Basil was born on February 6, 1929, in Arrowwood, Alberta, and grew up in the Innisfail area. He met his wife, Margaret, at a dance at Edmonton's Rainbow Ballroom, and they were married on August 28, 1954. Together, they raised their four children in Edmonton.

Basil coached house league hockey for many years, attended recitals and concerts, and took the family camping in the first three weeks of every July, throughout western Canada and the USA. As the family grew up and became independent, he and Margaret began travelling the world. Adventures included the Panama Canal, driving to Alaska, enjoying the sun in Hawaii, and lengthy excursions to England and Europe. He enjoyed bowling, the outdoors, going to Edmonton Eskimos games, willingly trying new activities, family weekends camping at the lake, and even a trip to Disney World. Basil always made time to visit when a new grandchild arrived. In his later years, he enjoyed playing cards in a samba group and curling.

Basil worked as a social worker with the Government of Alberta for 33 years, in various roles. He was an active member of the United Church, as a choir and Board member, a Sunday School teacher, as a Presbytery member, plus as the zone organizer for the annual Tri-camps nut drive. He enjoyed hobby farming on family land for three decades, progressing from breaking the land (which included lots of manual root-picking alongside his wife and kids) to being fully independent from seeding to harvest.

He was pre-deceased by his parents, John and Lavinia; his two brothers, Frank and Harry; and his wife, Margaret. Basil leaves to cherish his memory his sons, Ronald (Karen) and children, Lindsay and Thomas, all of Edmonton; Douglas (Margaret) and children, Samantha of Medicine Hat, Marshall of Portland Oregon, and Grayson (Amanda Cordua-von Specht), stationed in Winnipeg; Gregory (Arleen) and children Caela and Alyssa, all of Ponoka County; and his daughter, Carla and children Leah, Holly and Matthew, all of Strathcona County. He will also be missed by extended family and friends.

A celebration of Basil's life was held on Saturday, April 20, 2019.

IN MEMORIAM: LAY PERSON

Dr. Margaret-Ann Armour

1939 - 2019

Dr. Margaret-Ann Armour died peacefully and gracefully at the Cross Cancer Institute at dawn May 25, 2019, surrounded by a few of the many friends who have become family to her. Tributes pouring in since testify to the legacy left by her inspirational mentorship and infectious passion for “doing science as if people matter.”

Margaret-Ann loved stories. Her own story began in Scotland on September 6, 1939, amid the outset of the Second World War. Born to Annie Dunlop and Robert Armour, she was raised by her mother, a teacher who fostered her curiosity about the science of everything, beginning with Scottish baking.

Holding a BSc and MSc from the University of Edinburgh, Margaret-Ann earned a PhD in organic chemistry from the University of Alberta and then did post-doctoral studies at both universities. Joining the U of A chemistry department in 1979, she persevered as a woman in a traditionally male field and became the University’s first-ever Associate Dean of Science for Diversity in 2005. Known worldwide for leading-edge research and teaching in hazardous chemical waste handling and disposal, she is equally revered for championing women in the sciences through initiatives such as WISEST and the WinSETT Centre. “Create an environment where women thrive, and everyone thrives,” she would say.

In addition to her induction as a Member of the Order of Canada, Dr. Armour’s many awards include the Governor General’s Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case, Canada 150 Ambassador and the prestigious 3M Teaching Fellowship. Her multiple honorary degrees include degrees from her Alberta and Edinburgh alma maters, as well as a degree from Concordia University of Edmonton presented just the day before her death.

Despite her passing, Dr. Armour’s story lives on in the many individuals, institutions and networks shaped by her kindness, integrity and commitment to equity and inclusiveness. Her dedication to wider community shone through in the leadership she nurtured within organizations ranging from Beta Sigma Phi, to the Edmonton Glenora Rotary Club, to St. Stephen’s College where she served with distinction as Board Chair. The students of Edmonton’s Dr. Margaret-Ann Armour School will be among the many who dearly miss her perceptive questions, playful scientific demonstrations and heartfelt hugs.

A Memorial Service in celebration of Dr. Armour’s life was held on Wednesday June 12, 2019.

IN MEMORIAM: ORDER OF MINISTRY

David "Terry" Forbes

1935 - 2019

The Rev. Terry Forbes passed away on November 15, 2019, in Vermilion, Alberta, at the age of 84 years.

He will be lovingly remembered by his wife, Doreen Forbes; his children, Molly (Ron) Schumacher, and Ian (Erin) Forbes; his grandchildren, Allan Schumacher (Nicole Campbell) and Walter; and his great-grandchild, Olivia.

Terry was pre-deceased by his mother Agnes Forbes; his brother Robert; and his infant daughter Moira Elizabeth.

A celebration of life was held at the Seniors' Centre in Vermilion.

IN MEMORIAM: ORDER OF MINISTRY

Glen Thomas Simmonds

1940 - 2020

The Rev. Glen Thomas Simmonds passed away on March 16, 2020. He was pre-deceased by his daughter, Gwen; his parents, Roy and Myrtle Simmonds; his brother, Ron Douglas; and his nephew Kenneth Simmonds.

Glen was born in Cadomin, Alberta, on August 12, 1940. He is survived by his wife, Georgina; his son Wade and Cheryl; his son Rob and Dyan; and his daughter Karen; eight grandchildren, Taylor, Nicole, Shelby, Zane, Alia, Maclean, Sarah and Thomas; his brother, Roy and Arleen; and two nephews and a niece.

He attended school in Cadomin and Edmonton, Alberta. After graduation, he received his electrical Inter-Provincial Ticket. In 1969, Glen and family went to Nepal with the church. Glen went as an electrician to work with Butwal Technical Institute. Karen was born in Katmandu while they were there. The family returned to Alberta in January 1971. In 1975, he was ordained as a United Church minister and, after serving 25 years, Glen retired in July 2000.

Some of the congregations which Glen had the opportunity to serve were Bethune, Saskatchewan; and Castor, Fairview, Clareview (Edmonton), Ogden (Calgary), and Rimbey, Alberta. He served on the Presbytery as well as for the Conference.

He coached boys' hockey, and helped to start up and coach the girls' ringette team in Castor. Glen played on the seniors' hockey team, which he claimed was some very rough hockey, rougher than regular hockey.

After his retirement in 2000, Glen and Georgina were able to build their dream house in Sylvan Lake, Alberta, with the help of family and friends. The big treat was the ability to finally travel. A couple of trips were made to Hawaii, but two very special trips stand out. One was to Florida with all the kids and grandkids, and the other to Hawaii to celebrate their 50th Anniversary, again, with all the kids and grandkids along for company. Several trips were made to the grandkids' many school and sporting events, at which the kids were always glad to see their grandparents.

Glen's family wish to thank everyone for their love and support through this difficult time.

IN MEMORIAM: ORDER OF MINISTRY

John (Jack) Reed Colclough

1924 - 2020

Jack went peacefully to be with the Lord while his wife, Sylvia, sat at his bedside.

Born in Vancouver, he was the youngest sibling with Hart, Fred, and Ruth, all predeceased. He graduated from the University of British Columbia with a Masters in Chemistry, before going on to Union College to obtain his Bachelor of Divinity Degree.

After his ordination in The United Church of Canada in 1950, he served 42 communities in the British Columbia interior, taking God's word to 13 preaching points. Then he served five years in the Aldergrove area. His next move was to Alberta for an eight-year ministry at St David's United Church in Calgary. While there, he saw the church grow from a small flock to one of the largest in the city. Other roles included the University of Calgary chaplaincy, Personnel Secretary for Alberta and Northwest Conference, pastoring at Knox Metropolitan and Castle Downs Churches in Edmonton, and President-of Alberta Conference from 1980 to 1981.

In 1985, Jack was granted an Honorary Doctor of Divinity for his many years of service to the church. All who knew him will remember his gentleness, humility, wit, humour and compassion. He showed his love for others in his pastoral care, community service, help for troubled youth, and wise council.

Jack was also an accomplished woodworker and leaves behind several grandfather clocks, desks, driftwood carvings and other hand-fashioned items to remember him by.

Jack was married on September 3, 1949 to Sylvia, his loving wife and soulmate for over 70 years. They were blessed with four children, Sheila (Don) Veldheon, Brenda (Mark) Antosz, Donna (Robert) Klay, and Arthur (Maureen) Colclough. Ten grandchildren; and eight great grandchildren, with one more on the way, complete the family.

His family, friends, and colleagues will all miss him dearly, but also rejoice in knowing that he is safe in the arms of his Saviour, Jesus Christ.

IN MEMORIAM: ORDER OF MINISTRY

Alvin G. Stenson

1935 - 2020

With deep sadness and heavy hearts, his family has announced the death of the Rev. Alvin Stenson, on September 17, 2020, at the age of 85 years.

Alvin is survived by his wife, Lucille; his sons, Richard and Kevin; his brother, Maynard (Lynn); and his sister, Pearl (Merland). Alvin and Lucille celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on August 23, 2020.

Alvin was ordained in 1962. He served the Cold Lake-Pierceland Pastoral Charge for five years before joining the Canadian Armed Forces as a Chaplain. Over 28 years, he was a Chaplain in all three branches of the military, in Halifax, Red Deer, Victoria and Wainwright, before his retirement. During those years, in his spare time, Alvin was a leader for Cadets. When he retired, he became Chaplain to Edmonton's Kingsway Legion, serving for 26 years.

Throughout his years of service in the military and civilian ministry, Alvin officiated at over 200 weddings, over 50 baptisms, and over 400 funerals. His care reached out to people from Halifax to Victoria. He received three degrees in Arts and Theology from 3 universities in Canada, as well as having earned his electrician's certification. He was awarded his pilot's license by two of Canada's grounding figures in aviation, Wop May and Max Ward.

A special event for Alvin was a very private audience with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican, during one of his several visits to Rome, Italy.

Throughout the years that Alvin was in Canadian Forces ministry, he always tried to keep tabs on local civilian ministry, and his United Church connections.

At his request, Alvin's ashes will be placed in his birth mother's grave in Forestburg, Alberta. A future celebration of his life will be considered.