

We celebrate these lives and 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. Douglas Lee	June 15, 2020
Mrs. Copie MacMillan	December 17, 2020
Mrs. Heather Kariel	January 3, 2021
Mr. Kenneth Chan	February 14, 2021
Mrs. Joyce Kimmerly	February 14, 2021
The Rev. Edward (Ted) Blezard	March 8, 2021

IN MEMORIAM: LAY PERSON

Cora Pearl (Copie) MacMillan (nee Sannes)

1920 - 2020

A full century of a life well lived is a wonderful thing.

Cora Pearl (Copie) Macmillan (nee Sannes) was born in Minnesota, but grew up on her family's farm near Provost, Alberta. It was in Provost that she met her future husband, Jack MacMillan. She attended Normal School at the University of Alberta and taught school in Hughenden and Barrhead, while waiting for WWII to end and Jack to return from the Navy. They were married in Cadogan (near Provost) in July, 1946. Most of their married life was spent in Edmonton where they raised four children: Jack, Kim, Robert and Marion. She was a happy, stay-at-home mom while the kids were little, but later returned to teaching English at St. Albert High School. She loved teaching, and students she met later as adults attested that she was an inspiration to young people, and that they felt she genuinely respected and believed in them.

Copie's Christian faith was central to her life as she fulfilled many roles as a charter member of Kirk United Church, her spiritual home for most of seven decades. She may have been the most well-read lay person in the congregation as she devoured books of theology and cutting-edge Biblical studies. She was always open minded, and was more concerned that her church meet the needs of younger people than cater to her own needs or those of her generation.

Copie also served as a member of Edmonton Presbytery, and was active in the United Church Women, locally, and at the Presbyterial and Conference levels. Over the years, Copie and Jack provided accommodation, support and guidance for many student intern ministers who valued her friendship, quiet wisdom and gracious listening.

She died as she wished, at home and surrounded by people she loved. While her family will miss her sorely, it was a good end to a rich life. Her legacy lives on in the people she has loved so well.

IN MEMORIAM: LAY PERSON

Heather Ann Spring Kariel

1954 - 2021

It is with great sadness that the family of Heather Spring Kariel announced her sudden passing on January 3, 2021, at the age of 66, after a battle with cancer. Heather fought cancer courageously and with a positive and hopeful spirit that truly inspired all.

Heather was born in Weston, Ontario, and grew up in a military family, spending much of her childhood living at the Royal Canadian Air Force Station Cold Lake. She graduated from Portage Collegiate Institute in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, in 1971. In 1978, Heather received a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics, with a major in clothing and textiles, from the University of Alberta. After graduation she worked at various jobs, the most enjoyable being work as a shop-at-home drapery consultant. Heather met her husband, Doug, through square dancing in Calgary, Alberta, in 1982. They were married in 1983, and moved to Athabasca, Alberta in 1992.

Many people in the Athabasca region remember Heather for her creative ventures. In earlier years, she sewed children's clothing and crazy quilts. For the past ten years, her passion was paper crafting and card making as an independent demonstrator with Stampin' Up.

Heather spent many hours volunteering with community organizations over the years, including Athabasca United Church, Athabasca and District Chamber of Commerce, Athabasca Ukrainian Folk Dance Club, Athabasca Dance Society, Athabasca Fringe Festival Society, and the Athabasca and District Music Festival Society. She served as the elected Lay Representative from Athabasca United Church to the Northern Spirit Regional Council.

Heather is lovingly remembered by her husband Doug, her daughters Marilyn and Allison (married to Will) and her extended family. A memorial service was held on January 23, 2021.

IN MEMORIAM: LAY PERSON

Joyce Marlene Kimmerly (nee Nelson)

1950 - 2021

Joyce Kimmerly passed away on February 14, 2021, at the age of 70 years. She is survived by her husband, the Rev. Bob Kimmerly; her children Elizabeth (married to Gerard) and Alex (married to Caryl); her grandchildren, Howl, Alexis and Ciera; and the members of her extended family.

While Bob was the minister at Kirk United Church in Edmonton, Joyce was active in the congregation, in the United Church Women (Unit 1), the Video Club, and singing in the Senior Choir. Later Joyce and Bob became active in Winterburn United Church, Edmonton.

As a volunteer, Joyce was a delegate to Edmonton Presbytery from Kirk United Church, and represented the Presbytery on Joint Needs Assessment Committees for McDougall and Gilchrist United Churches. After retiring from her position with the Alberta Government, Joyce was employed as the Administrative Secretary for Edmonton Presbytery, from 2008 to 2016.

A private family service was held.

IN MEMORIAM: ORDER OF MINISTRY

Edward (Ted) R. C. Blezard

1939 - 2021

The Reverend Ted Blezard passed away on March 8, 2021, in Edmonton, Alberta, at the age of 81. He is survived by his daughter, Vicki; his son, Rob; his granddaughters Amanda and Kimberly; his ex-wife, Elaine; and members of his extended family.

Edward Retalic Cole Blezard was born on July 9, 1939 in Swan River, Manitoba. His father, Herb, was an ordained Minister in the United Church, and his mother, Muriel, was very active in the church (she became a lay minister later in life).

Ted trained at St. Andrew's College at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. After being ordained as a United Church Minister, he followed in his father's footsteps by serving small town Pastoral Charges across Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Ted retired when Rob graduated from high school in 1991. The family moved to Edmonton, but it was not long before Ted took on 6-month appointment in Mannville, Alberta. He stayed with the Mannville congregation for four years.

In 2010, Ted moved to central Edmonton to be close to his children, where he soon became a member of the Robertson-Wesley United Church. This new congregation became an important part of his life and Ted enjoyed singing with a choir again.

A memorial celebration will be held at Robertson-Wesley United Church later this year.