



Rev. Beatrice Weaver McConnell

July 7, 2018

Rev. Beatrice Weaver McConnell died peacefully at age 94 at The Glen at Willow Valley on Saturday, July 7, 2018.

Beatrice grew up as one of three sisters on a Pennsylvania German farm in Bethlehem, PA. She was the daughter of the late Howard and Daisy Bloss Weaver and the beloved niece of Stewart Weaver. She aimed to become a doctor, graduating with honors from Ursinus College in 1944 in chemistry and biology. She worked briefly as a chemist in munitions, but after the war she turned to ministry. She graduated from the Lancaster Theological Seminary in 1948. That year she became the first woman to be ordained in the Evangelical and Reformed Church, now part of the United Church of Christ (UCC).

Beatrice had a lively and active intelligence. She was a strong presence and an engaging storyteller. Her sermons led people to spiritual growth through her homiletical skills and her pointed illustrations. Her adult Sunday school classes were dynamic and popular. Beatrice always showed the best of leadership in her churches. She made a point of speaking personally with each of her parishioners about their lives. When a family needed help, she paid attention to the details.

Beatrice began her ministry at St. Paul's Church in downtown Lancaster (now Church of the Apostles). After a year of graduate study at Union Seminary in

New York, she had her first solo job in 1955-58 at a four-church parish in Lemasters, PA. In later years she served at several churches, especially in Conestoga and Columbia, PA.

In 1958, Beatrice married Frank McConnell, the organist at St. James' Episcopal (across the street from St. Paul's) and music professor at Lancaster Seminary. They had one son, Mark.

In 1959 Beatrice served on the commission that wrote the UCC Statement of Faith. In 1975 she wrote and produced a historical drama about Lancaster Seminary for its 150th anniversary. In 1985 she received the UCC's Antoinette Brown Award for service as a woman in ministry. Lancaster Seminary has honored her with its Founder's Cross.

Beatrice is survived by Mark, his wife Connie, and grandchildren Kathy and Nicholas. She is survived by her sister, Mary Alice Butkofsky—a UCC minister active in peace and justice--as well as by nieces Karen and Martha and their families. Beatrice's older sister, Katharine, died in 2003.

Funeral services will be held at the Lancaster Theological Seminary, Santee Chapel, 555 West James Street, Lancaster, PA 17603 on Friday, July 13, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. with the Reverend Carol Lytch and Reverend Richard Fehnel officiating. A viewing will take place on Thursday, July 12, 2018 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Historic Fred F. Groff, Inc., 234 W. Orange Street, Lancaster, PA 17603 and on Friday at the Chapel from 9:30 a.m. until the time of service. Interment in Conestoga Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be sent to the Frank A. and Beatrice Weaver McConnell Endowment Fund at the Lancaster Theological Seminary.

Please visit Beatrice's Memorial Page at www.TheGroffs.com

Cemetery Details

Conestoga Memorial Park

95 2nd Lock Rd
Lancaster, PA 17603

Previous Events

Viewing

JUL 12. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Historic Fred F. Groff
234 West Orange Street
Lancaster, PA 17603
(717) 394-5300
<http://thegroffs.com/>

Viewing

JUL 13. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

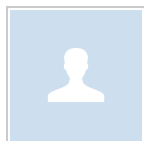
Lancaster Theological Seminary
555 W. James Street
Lancaster, PA 17603

Service

JUL 13. 10:30 AM (ET)

Lancaster Theological Seminary
555 W. James Street
Lancaster, PA 17603

Tribute Wall



“ *Rev. Beatrice Weaver McConnell*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *I was a resident of the village of Lemasters, in south-central Pennsylvania when Rev. Beatrice Weaver served the four-point charge of the E&R churches in the villages of Lemasters, Upton, Williamson and St. Thomas, Pa. Pastor Weaver was was an outstanding and dynamic pastor, who was loved by these congregations. The churches even purchased a new automobile for her. I send condolences to her son, Mark, and his family.*

Sincerely, James C. Failor, Hagerstown, MD

James Failor - July 14, 2018 at 11:23 AM



“ *Mary Alice Butkofsky (Sister), Martha, Andrew, David, Karen, and Elisabeth purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Rev. Beatrice Weaver McConnell.*



Mary Alice Butkofsky (Sister), Martha, Andrew, David, Karen, and Elisabeth - July 10, 2018 at 02:01 PM



“ *I knew Rev McConnell several years ago. Very sorry for your loss and will pray for your family. Alice Forrey Gibble*

Alice M Gibble - July 10, 2018 at 07:39 AM

SO

“ So sorry to learn of Rev. McConnell's passing
What a wonderful caring person she was. I was a 16 year old choir
members at St. James having a dark day. I went to our sanctuary
and sat alone praying and sobbing. Mr. McConnell found me there
and suggested he take me home to speak with his wife. I am so
glad I did. I will never forget her words and profound caring for me,
a total stranger to her! I never saw her again but have kept her
memory close all these 50 years!

Sharon Opstbaum - July 10, 2018 at 07:18 AM

MW

My sympathy to her family & friends!
I knew Rev. Beatrice McConnell as a young adult at St. Paul's
Reformed Church at Duke & Orange Streets and at Camp Andrews!
Also, a group of us from St. Paul's attended Frank & Beatrice's
wedding. I had a brief visit with her when she lived at Willow Valley.
Millie Musser Wimer. - 6:20 pm. 7/11/18

Mildred Musser Wimer - July 11, 2018 at 05:23 PM