



Rev Willard Leslie Stevens

August 6, 1917 - May 31, 2014

SNOW HILL- Reverend Willard Leslie Stevens, 96, of Snow Hill, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Saturday, May 31, 2014 while living at Sarah, Margaret and Mollie's Assisted Living in Salisbury.

He was born August 6, 1917, in Greenbackville, Virginia, a son of the late Arthur Leslie Stevens and Helen Marsh Stevens. He was raised in Snow Hill and enjoyed his early days there with his late brothers, Herbert and Brantley Stevens.

He graduated from Snow Hill High School as the winner of the "Old Home Prize," today's equivalent to valedictorian. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Education from Salisbury

University. After graduation he took a job teaching at the Colora Friends School where he

stayed from 1938 to 1940. In 1940 he moved to Smith Island where he taught grades 1-8 in a

one-room schoolhouse. In 1941 he proudly served his country by enlisting in the Army and in

1943 entered the Army Air Corps. He attended Officers Training School in Miami, Fl. He

graduated and came out as 1st Lieutenant. While attending a church in Miami in 1944, he noticed a certain young woman with a beautiful voice that kept him coming back to church, week after week. He called it an “exciting, stupendous and beautiful event” after finally meeting her and courting Laura C. Alexander. On April 4, 1944, they married and enjoyed a remarkable 70 years of marriage. He was a true romantic; and throughout those 70 years, he remained smitten by her and continuously showed his love with cards, flowers and gifts. After his honorable discharge in 1945, the next chapter of his life led him to the Wesleyan Seminary in Westminster, Maryland. He became ordained as a United Methodist pastor in 1948 and ministered for 37 years in Maryland, Missouri and North Carolina. Even in his early days, he promoted equality of all people. A Biblical scholar, he loved to study the Bible and continued his quest to learn and understand the Bible as much as possible. He led an intriguing life and actually wrote a book titled “Walking Short,” which detailed the adventures and blessings of his life. He had a true love and appreciation for music, especially his wife’s singing. He was a lifelong patron of Dayton’s Restaurant in Salisbury, where he considered the folks there part of his own family. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Laura Alexander Stevens; 3 children, Deitra Kay Stevens of Frederick, Maryland and St. Thomas, VI, Richard Leslie Stevens of Frederick, Maryland and

Robin R. Brown, and her husband, Richard, of San Jose, California; 5 grandchildren, Justin, Stefanie, Jacob, Chelsea, and Jena; and 2 sisters-in-law, Grace Stevens and Almeda

Alexander. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, June 4, 2014, at 11:00 a.m. at Bates Memorial

United Methodist Church in Snow Hill. The Reverend Tina Whaley will officiate. Interment with

military honors will follow at Bates Memorial Cemetery.

Arrangements are in the care of Short Funeral Home in Delmar.

Memorial contributions may be made in his memory to Bates Memorial United Methodist

Church, c/o Debbie Hambrick, 402 S. Morris Street, Snow Hill, MD 21863.

Online condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.shortfh.com.

Cemetery Details

Bates Memorial Cemetery

Federal Street
Snow Hill, MD 21863

Previous Events

Service

JUN 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

Bates Memorial United Methodist Church
116 N. Washington Street
Snow Hill, MD

Tribute Wall



“ *Rev Willard Leslie Stevens*

January 29, 2023 at 01:28 PM



“ *Juanita And Jim Blakley lit a candle in memory of Rev Willard Leslie Stevens*



Juanita and Jim Blakley - June 05, 2014 at 08:35 AM



Rev Willard Stevens and Laura moved to the Advance area in June 1971 to become the Pastor of Elbaville United Methodist. They moved into the parsonage on Wednesday and he married us that week end. That was 43 years ago this month. We will never forget him nor Laura's voice in the choir. Thank you so much for putting the obituary in the Winston- Salem Journal. It truly was a tribute to such a kind and thoughtful man. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Jim and Juanita Blakley

Juanita and Jim Blakley - June 05, 2014 at 08:42 AM



This is his daughter, Robin. Thank you so much Jim and Juanita for your kind words about my Dad. It means so much to us that you remember him in such a beautiful way.

Robin Stevens Brown - June 08, 2014 at 12:54 AM

DL

“ Reverend Stevens was our minister at Memorial United Church of Christ at Hollyroad and Banner. Great guy. Richard and I went to high school together and Robin was a few years behind me. I have great memories of the whole family. 96 great years and 70 years of marriage says a lot about him and Laura. You are in our prayers.

Don Leonard

Don Leonard - June 04, 2014 at 06:13 PM



Don Leonard, thank you so much for writing such kind words about the memory of my Dad and of our family. Of course, I remember you! Please message me on Facebook so we can connect! I would love to know how your Mom and sister are doing. My married name is Robin Stevens Brown

Robin Brown - June 08, 2014 at 12:57 AM

RS

“ Rozanne Stark lit a candle in memory of Rev Willard Leslie Stevens



Rozanne Stark - June 04, 2014 at 02:25 PM

RS

My prayers are with you that you will be comforted. I love you. Rozanne

Rozanne Stark - June 04, 2014 at 02:26 PM



Thank you so much, Rozanne. I Love you too.

Robin Brown - June 08, 2014 at 01:07 AM



“ *Rev. Stevens served as pastor at a small reformed church in Winston-Salem NC in my neighborhood and his lovely daughter Robin became a great friend. He was loved by all who knew him and I remember him as a kind and humorous dad. Children were always welcomed in his home and his church. My prayers are with Robin' her mom and all her family.*

Tena Brass - June 04, 2014 at 11:46 AM



Tena, Thank you so much for leaving your memories of my Dad. Your description of him is what I remember the most about him. He was always so great with me, my friends and my children. I loved his sense of humor and his kindness. Thank you for your prayers.

Robin Brown - June 08, 2014 at 01:00 AM

AN

“ *Rev. Willard Stevens was our Pastor at East Bend United Methodist Church in NC in 1969-1970. My husband loved and admired him. They had very much in common, peace, love of learning and our church. They enjoyed going in to Winston-Salem to hear outstanding guest speakers at Wake Forest U. Ben passed away March 22, 2014 after a long struggle with alzheimer's He spoke of him often and had a slip of paper in his Bible with his name and date of service with us. Our son joined the church when he was here. He was fondly remembered always in our home. May they meet again and renew their love.*

Peace and love to the family. Ann Martin Neill.

Ann Martin Neill - June 04, 2014 at 07:39 AM



Ann Martin Neill, thank you for sharing your kind memories of my Dad and of your husband and son. I hope they can continue their intellectual discussions in heaven without the pain and sorrows of this world! Your words are very sweet and kind.

Robin Brown - June 08, 2014 at 01:03 AM



I echo my sister's sentiments and thank you for your gracious gift to Bates Church in honor of our father.

Deitra Stevens - June 11, 2014 at 04:37 PM