

OBITUARIES

The Reverend Helen Jane Prior (March 16, 1964 – May 8, 2024)

Helen was an Ordained Interim Minister in the United Church of Canada for more than 30 years and served four pastoral charges as a settled minister and completed seven intentional interim ministries, serving in both Saskatchewan and Ontario. She served since 2017 on IMN's teaching faculty and was an IMN member for nearly 20 years.

She is survived by her wife, Barb Adams, and parents Jean and Wyn Adams.

The Reverend Dr. Donald Jay (May 7, 1928 – April 30, 2024)

Don served in various churches in Alberta and Ontario, including in Uxbridge, Brampton, and Barrie. He was honored to be Minister Emeritus at both Central United Church and Collier St. United Church. We celebrate his 70 years of ministry with The United Church of Canada.

He is survived by his wife, Christina Jay (Murphy), children Donna, Dianne and Karen, and five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

The Reverend John Tudor Harries (January 29, 1940 – April 8, 2024)

John's career was seeded at Manor Road United Church and Regent Park United Church in Toronto, before serving in several communities near Kirkland Lake and North Bay. He also served at Timothy Eaton Memorial Church for several years. Following his retirement, John coordinated outreach initiatives to retired ministers in the former Living Waters Presbytery. He also served as a part-time minister in two congregations - Browns Corners and Lemonville United Churches. We celebrate his 56 years of ministry with The United Church of Canada.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara Ellen (Bowman), children Dylan and Kristina, and grandchild Blair.

The Reverend Karen Hilfman-Millson (February 28, 1956 – February 21, 2024)

We celebrate Karen's 36 years in ministry, including serving at St. Paul's United in Orillia for 17 years. Karen was a good friend and colleague as a member of the staff in both the former Toronto Conference and then in Shining Waters Regional Council. She was passionate about relationships and her life work of creating Beloved Community rooted in Circle Culture / Authentic Connection Culture which she had the opportunity to explore and develop as an ordained minister of The United Church of Canada. Karen was known as vibrant and dynamic with high energy to engage the people and world around her.

She is survived by her husband, Allan, children Sarah and Melissa, and four grandchildren Copper, Makenna, Lewis and Zachary.

The Reverend William Brumby "Bill" Thorneloe (August 13, 1924 – February 10, 2024)

We celebrate Bill's 75 years in ministry, including serving in the former Toronto Conference at Victoria Park United, Riverside-Emery United and Alderwood United before retiring in 1989. Bill was in his 100th year!

He is survived by his wife, Beth (Brown), and children David, Sheila, and predeceased by Edward and John, and predeceased by granddaughter Emma, and survived by 7 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

The Reverend David Bruce Black (November 13, 1942 – January 2, 2024)

David was retired but during his 45 years in ministry he served the following congregations: Streetsville, Lynedoch, Annan and Woodford, Westway, Newtonville, Kendal and Shiloh, Harriston, Calgary, Corunna, and Ebenezer United Churches. He was most recently a voluntary associate minister with Grace United Church in Barrie.

He is survived by his wife, Lorraine, and children Alexandra and Gordon, stepchildren Jennifer and Kelly, and his five grandchildren.

The Reverend James Moulton (October 24, 1930 – December 5, 2023)

We celebrate Jim's 65 years in ministry, where he served many communities of faith in the former Toronto Conference before he retired in 1996. He remained active for many years as a retired minister in the Peterborough area.

He is predeceased by his wife, Myrna Mable (Taylor), and children Heather, Brooks and Paul, and four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

The Reverend Zenovia Skibinski (January 2, 1942 – November 23, 2024)

We celebrate Zen's 43 years in ministry, including serving at Parkdale United and St. Paul's United, Scarborough before retiring in 1993.

She is pre-deceased by her husband, Rev. Michael Skibinski.

The Reverend Murray Binstead (November 9, 1932 – October 12, 2023)

Murray's pastoral career with The United Church of Canada spanned more than 35 years.

He is survived by his wife, Marion (Black), his children Karen, Kevin, Heather and David, and his 6 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

The Reverend Beverley Ann Marie Irwin (March 21, 1941 – October 8, 2023)

After a long career in the United Church, Bev retired in early 2019. Her last charge was at St. Paul's United Church in Midland.

Bev was predeceased by her spouse, Heather Graham, who passed in September 2023.

The Reverend Heather Graham (February 27, 1949 – September 16, 2023)

Heather will be remembered as minister for Midhurst United Church, and Wyevale Waverley Pastoral Charge and had broad communities of faith across both Saskatchewan and Ontario.

At the time of her death, she was survived by her spouse, Bev Irwin, who later passed in October of 2023.

The Reverend George Albert Moore (April 12, 1949 – June 25, 2023)

George attended Emanuel College of Victoria University in the University of Toronto, where he received a Bachelor of Divinity degree. He was ordained as a minister in the United Church of Canada, serving congregations in Scarborough Ontario, Kelleher Saskatchewan, Rockwood and Port Dover Ontario. He spent many years at Dalston-Crown Hill UC.

He was survived by his wife, Alice and his children Mary and Kent, and his three grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren and his one great-great-grandchild.

The Reverend Donald Matheson (November 11, 1942 - August 21, 2023)

Don enjoyed a long and varied career in pastoral ministry, chaplaincy, education and administrative positions with The United Church of Canada. He enjoyed retired pulpit supply in his retirement.

He is survived by his wife, Blondina, and several nieces and nephews.

