

THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
of the
One Hundred Fifty-Seventh Annual Session

June 8 - 11, 1996

Northern Illinois University

DeKalb, Illinois

Bishop R. Sheldon Duecker, Presiding

Daniel L. Swinson, Secretary

Rebecca Leone Schreiner (Robles) now of Kansas City, Kansas and Kansas City, Missouri. There are six grandchildren.

A diagnosis of metastatic pancreatic cancer was received on March 14 at Christ Hospital in Oak Lawn, and he passed quietly in the night of March 23-24, at home in Evergreen Park. Cremains were buried in Evergreen Park Cemetery and a memorial service was held at First United Methodist Church of Evergreen Park on Saturday, April 13, 1996 at 2 p.m. Officiating clergy were: the Rev. James T. Galbreath, pastor of FUMC, Evergreen Park; the Rev. Phillip M. Dripps of Baker Memorial Methodist Church, St. Charles; and the Rev. Kay Dillard, District Superintendent of the Chicago Southern District.

HAROLD E. SCHROEDER

Harold E. Schroeder was born in Chicago, Illinois on May 10, 1916. He attended Lane Tech High School, North Park College, and received a Business Degree from Northwestern University. He married Marian Brockmeier on Oct. 25, 1941. They have two children, Donald and Peggy Schroeder Wing.

He worked for Ginn/Xerox Corp. for 27 years, during which time he was an active layman in the United Methodist Church. In 1976 he began studies at Garrett Theological Seminary, leading to his appointment as a United Methodist Deacon. He served churches in Millington, Palatine, and Homewood, Illinois. Upon his retirement he became an active member of the Park Forest Clergy Association and continued serving churches as needed, doing preaching and pastoral calling.

In June of 1995 he suffered a stroke and died September 3. A memorial service was held September 16 at Grace United Protestant Church in Park Forest with the Rev. G. Ken Tuoloch officiating.

WILLIAM MACKENZIE SHEPARD

Parents: Louis Shepard and Mary Mackenzie Shepard
 Wife: Natalie Ann Adamovich. Married August 1, 1942 in Chicago, IL at Arnold Memorial Church.
 Children: Douglas William Shepard, Santa Barbara, CA, Tamara Nan Shepard, Phoenix, AZ, David Shepard, Riverdale, IL
 Education: High School, Wheaton High School, graduated 1925. Glee Club, Dramatic Club, Debating club, graduated with honors, went to school with Red Grange (1922)
 College: DePauw University - 1928-1932. Member of American Association of Commons Clubs - 1931, Yale Divinity School, graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1936
 Ecclesiastical Data - received on Probation in 1936. Received in full in 1938. Pastored at: 1936 - Chicago, Arnold Memorial, 1940, Chicago, Fowler-Clifton, 1946, Joliet and Fairmont, Park Avenue, 1951, Fairmont-Lockport, 1954, Chicago, Whitfield, 1955, Chicago, Woodlawn, 1960 Rockford, Centennial, 1966, Riverdale, Ivanhoe, 1978, retired, 1979, Lansing, (assistant), 1982-1996, Harvey, Academy (Sunday School)

My father died on March 28, 1996 at 9:51 am at St. Francis Hospital in Blue Island. He had been suffering chronic angina for the past several years and was taking medication for it. All had been fine up until early March when he began experiencing acute chest pains during his daily walks. I took him to St. Francis Hospital on March 24, 1996 where his condition slowly worsened until he suffered a heart attack on the 28th. During the course of an angiogram procedure, he experienced a cardiac arrest and passed on, requesting no life support.

My father was an unwavering follower of Jesus Christ and the United Methodist Church. His accomplishments and attributes were many.

He was one of the first pastors to have an integrated church when he served at 63rd and Woodlawn from 1955-1960. During his ministry he consistently spoke out against racial injustice and civil rights violators, at a time when it was quite unpopular. Letters from irate parishoners who sided with the status quo were not uncommon.

During World War II, he refused to accept a higher paying position with more status at a renown church; instead taking on a two point charge in Joliet. At Joliet, he became aware of the importance of the meditational aspect of the Christian life and began practicing disciplined devotions daily. This inner spiritual quest continued on religiously every morning until his death in March of 1996.

During the course of my father's career he was consistently plagued with illness. At Yale he was stricken with Tuberculosis, later at Woodlawn he was diagnosed with colon cancer, in the late seventies he was found to have heart disease. Finally, in 1984 after several years of angina he had a successful double bypass operation. In 1993, during my mother's illness, he suffered another heart attack. Sickness did not

stop him. He pre-
 confident God wo

In later years he had
 Bob Schuller and
 Power" with posit
 involving ecology
 Deepak Chopra in
 classmates from Y
 given to him by Y
 Church in Harvey
 class.

My father picked
 was totally commi
 insistence on prop
 in his health and c
 he would not have
 laughter. The Ada
 was ironic that she

In 1970, my father
 devotional life. It
 My father was a sp
 very fortunate to h
 that I can maintain
 Tammy and myself
 Christ.

Rev. Bob Mulligan
 funeral on April 3,
 Centennial Method
 relative of the fami
 assisted in the servi

Ralph J. Smith was
 Kansas.

His father was a M
 Evanston, IL. Ralph

He attended about
 The next move was
 was probably one o
 was too, although h

Two or three weeks
 Freeman asked Ralph
 was not yet 18, but
 confidence of a bish
 responsibility meant
 the district superint
 the first year out of
 college, he attended

Ralph graduated fro
 On August 1, 1943,

In the summer of 19
 the end of the summ
 program in psychol
 which he received in

stop him. He pressed forward with a positive attitude and faith despite naysayers. He was always confident God would provide a way and he would get back on his feet. He was right.

In later years he became involved with Respond Now, an organization which assists the less fortunate. Bob Schuller and Lloyd Olgilvie were a few of his favorite Christian speakers. Schuller's "Hour of Power" with positive thinking was a ritual Sunday evening "repast". He continued to grow in interests involving ecology and biology. He was especially impressed with ideas based on inner healing proposed by Deepak Chopra in his book called "Quantum Healing". He kept in touch with a number of his old classmates from Yale including Howard Conn. He was also eternally grateful for the financial assistance given to him by Yale Divinity School when he became ill. His Sunday school class at Academy Methodist Church in Harvey was always an inspiration for him. He loved the people there and they enjoyed his class.

My father picked a wonderful wife in Natalie who stood by him through good times and bad. My mother was totally committed to her husband and children. If anything, she loved us and him too much. Her insistence on proper rest, health foods, and Christian compassion enabled my father to overcome obstacles in his health and church life. Without Natalie, his ministry would not have been complete and certainly he would not have lived as long as he did. It was her side of the family, also, that gave my father life and laughter. The Adamovich's were my father's second family of which he had many joyous memories. It was ironic that she always kidded about having to outlive him.

In 1970, my father implemented the Ten Brave Christians at Ivanhoe which stressed a disciplined devotional life. It was this program that turned my life around as a Christian and set me on a new path. My father was a spiritual mentor for me and I am sure for my brother and sister. As children we were very fortunate to have been raised in such a Christian home with such wonderful parents. It is my hope that I can maintain the principles of the Christian life as exemplified by him and my mother. Doug, Tammy and myself miss them both, but I know they are enjoying eternal life together with the saints in Christ.

Rev. Bob Mulligan, a former district superintendent of the Northern Illinois Conference presided over the funeral on April 3, 1996. Rev. Mulligan was close to our family and helped my father get appointed to Centennial Methodist Church in Rockford. John Sevick, a priest at St. Walter's parish in Chicago and relative of the family, along with Herman Moore, a devoted member of Academy Methodist Church, assisted in the service.

RALPH JOSEPH SMITH

Ralph J. Smith was born to Mark Everett and Nila Mae Keys Smith on June 29, 1921, in Gypsum, Kansas.

His father was a Methodist minister, serving in La Crosse, IN while attending Garrett Biblical Institute in Evanston, IL. Ralph started school in LaCrosse.

He attended about his last four or five years of elementary school and started high school in Downs, KS. The next move was high school at Oberlin and WaKeeney. Ralph started debating and this experience was probably one of the catalysts for his going into the ministry. Undoubtedly growing up in a parsonage was too, although he always said that his parents never pressured him to go into the ministry.

Two or three weeks after graduating from high school (1939 in WaKeeney), District Superintendent Freeman asked Ralph to supply the small Methodist church in Grainfield, KS., west of WaKeeney. He was not yet 18, but he accepted the offer, commenting in his memoirs many years later, "I had all the confidence of a bishop and the skills of a kid fresh out of confirmation class." Accepting this responsibility meant that he would take the Conference Course of Study and be under the watchful eye of the district superintendent. In all, he served this charge 3 of his 4 years at Fort Hays Kansas State and the first year out of college. In addition, he served nearby Grinnell part of the time. In his junior year of college, he attended Asbury in Wilmore, Kentucky.

Ralph graduated from Fort Hays in May, 1943 and married his sweetheart of four years, Evelyn Daniels, On August 1, 1943, in the Grainfield Church with his father officiating.

In the summer of 1944 Ralph enrolled in seminary at Garrett Biblical Institute, completing his work at the end of the summer of 1946. He also cross-enrolled at Northwestern University in the Master's program in psychology, and by the end of August, 1946 had all but his thesis completed for that degree, which he received in 1950 (I think).

nsas City, Missouri. There are six

at Christ Hospital in Oak Lawn, n Park. Remains were buried in ted Methodist Church of Evergreen e Rev. James T. Gallbreath, pastor ial Methodist Church, St. go Southern District.

attended Lane Tech High western University. He married and Peggy Schroeder Wing.

s an active layman in the United inary, leading to his appointment re, and Homewood, Illinois. rgy Association and continued

service was held September 16 at oloch officiating.

t Arnold Memorial Church. hepard, Phoenix, AZ, David

ub, Dramatic Club, Debating

n of Commons Clubs - 1931,

8. Pastored at: 1936 - Chicago, nt, Park Avenue, 1951, 1960 Rockford, Centennial, 196, Harvey, Academy (Sunday

re Island. He had been on for it. All had been fine up daily walks. I took him to St. until he suffered a heart attack a cardiac arrest and passed

odist Church. His

at 63rd and Woodlawn from tice and civil rights violators, ided with the status quo were

re status at a renown church; f the importance of the tions daily. This inner h of 1996.

ss. At Yale he was stricken the late seventies he was had a successful double eart attack. Sickness did not