

## Necrology Report 2017

### Rev. Frank Brown (December 8, 1931 – August 5, 2017)

Frank was born the son of a Presbyterian minister on Dec. 8, 1931, in Bland, Va. He received his B.A. degree from King College, M. Div., from Columbia Theological Seminary, and S.T.M. and D. Min. degrees from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. He was ordained to the Presbyterian Ministry in 1957. Following pastorates in Pensacola, Fla., Charlotte, N.C., and Newport News, Va., Frank entered Clinical Pastoral Education under the supervision of Pat Prest and Roy Woodruff at the Medical College of Virginia, 1970-1972. He was certified a member of the A.P.C. (College of Chaplains) 1972, the A.A.P.C. in 1973 and the A.C.P.E. in 1974. Frank was A.C.P.E. Supervisor for the Presbyterian Hospital Ministry at Mayo Clinic complex in Rochester, 1972-1980, and at Research Medical Center in Kansas City, Mo., from 1980 until his retirement in 1996. His emphasis in supervision was on teaching his students the value of expressing feelings in communication and thus to facilitate the expression of feelings on the part of patients and their family members. Frank was married to Louise Landrum, the daughter of a Presbyterian minister, upon their graduation from King College in 1954. They adopted Ginger in 1960 and Mark in 1963. It was in 1963 that Louise was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. She was confined to a wheelchair in 1969 and Frank cared for her until she entered a nursing home in 1976. In 1982, Frank married Dee Aho. She had four daughters who became part of his extended family. Having been a caretaker in the home and having experienced the influence of a chronic illness in the family provided Frank a unique emphasis for his Clinical Supervision. Frank presented a workshop on "Chronic Illness in the Family" at the College of Chaplains (A.P.C.) about 1974, published an article in "The Tie" on Spirituality about 1985 and a book entitled, "Sermons for All Seasons" in 2002. In retirement he was involved in organizing and in teaching at the Institute for the Development of Lay Ministers in the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys.

### Amboy

**Nyleen Olson** (March 5, 1927 – June 5, 2017). Nyleen was born to Earl and Mildred Walker. She lived on a farm east of Mapleton, with her grandmother, Martha. In 1945, Nyleen attended Mankato Commercial College and, upon completion, worked at Mid-West Service. Nyleen was united in marriage to Don Olson on November 19th, 1949 at Medo Baptist church. To this union were born Jerri Kay and Gregg. Nyleen and Don partnered for over 50 years farming in Sterling Township. She was very involved in area community activities and her church. Nyleen was ordained on December 12, 1982 and served for three years on the session. In addition to serving on the session of the church, Nyleen was a long-time Sunday School teacher. Many of our "young marrieds" can remember her as their pre-school Kindergarden teacher. Nyleen was very active in the Amboy PW organization. She enjoyed projects of the church, the local community, and also in mission projects in Texas, where she and her husband Don spent the winter months. Her door was always open to friends and relatives.

Ashby - no elder deaths in 2017

Beaver Creek - no elder deaths in 2017

Blue Earth - no elder deaths in 2017

## Brainerd

**Bud McCulloch** (March 10, 1931 - September 10, 2017) Bud was born March 10, 1931, in Brainerd, MN, to Edward Wallace and Mamie Sophie McCulloch. A blizzard had blocked the streets, so they walked home from the hospital, pulling him on a sled. He graduated from Brainerd High School in 1949. He was active in Boy Scouts and was an Eagle Scout. He served in Korea and remained very concerned about Korea's future until the end of his life. Upon returning home he enrolled at the University of North Dakota and graduated with a degree in Civil Engineering. He worked for the Department of Transportation in Brainerd until his retirement in 1990. He was a lifelong member of First Presbyterian Church, and served as an elder from 1988-1990. Bud loved building highways, streets, and intersections, but mostly he wanted to be free to do mission volunteer work. He and his wife, Shirley sold their home and most of their possessions at Upper South Long Lake. They bought a used travel trailer and truck and set out for what they thought would be two years of volunteering. The two years turned into twenty. He supervised the building of many houses in Tucson, Arizona for Habitat for Humanity. He built two houses in Mexico. They spent five winters on the Tohono O'Odham Nation with the Papago United Presbyterian Church. He always preferred to be outdoors, building, hunting, fishing, and camping, a passion he passed on to his children. His lasting legacy to the family will likely be respect for hard, honest work and an even deeper respect for the providence of the Lord.

## Brewster

**Sharon Johnson** (September 3, 1951 - January 28, 2017) She was born in Los Angeles County in the California to Nick and Helen Schuld. Sharon graduated from Edgerton Public High School. In 1985, Sharon married John Lee Johnson who later passed away in 1995 in a tragic farm accident. During their time together they enjoyed camping, fishing, attending county and state fairs, old time farm shows, and many other sightseeing adventures. The couple lived in Worthington, MN, along with Sharon's son Robert (Bobby to many) until they decided they wanted to live life out in the country and moved to a new home outside of Brewster, MN. Sharon served as an elder at the First Presbyterian Church of Brewster. She worked at the Campbell Soup Company poultry processing plant for over 20 years until it closed in 1997. During the last years of her life she worked at Recycled Treasures and lived at Sunshine Apartments, both in Worthington. She spent much of her time socializing with neighbors and family.

Browns Valley - no elder deaths in 2017

## Cambria

**Gladys Roberts** (May 5, 1920 - August 31, 2017) Gladys Roberts was born in Logan County, Colorado, to Joseph and Rose Hornicek. She was raised in Nebraska, where she graduated from Sunol High School in 1938. She was united in marriage to Wayne Roberts on October 13, 1946

in Sidney, Nebraska. After marriage they farmed in Cambria Township. Gladys was ordained as an elder on January 29, 1989 and she served as elder, deacon and clerk of session for many years. God bless her time with the Lord – she served him very well and was an inspiration to her family and church family during her time on this earth.

Canby - no elder deaths in 2017

Crosslake - no elder deaths in 2017

## Dawson

**Vernon Robert Klaassen** (June 24, 1925 – May 29, 2017) Vernon Robert Klaassen was born near George, Iowa to Klaas H. and Amelia Klaassen. He was baptized and confirmed in the Presbyterian faith. Vernon attended country school in Iowa through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. He then moved with his family to a farm near Taunton, Minnesota. Vernon was drafted into the US Army and served in Germany during WWII. He was honorably discharged in 1946. Following his service, Vernon returned to Taunton and earned his pilot's license while continuing to work on the family farm. During the Korean War, he worked winters in Los Angeles on airplane electronics systems at defense plants. On November 21, 1959, he married Gail Ankrum at the Presbyterian Church in Tracy. They made their home on Vernon's farm, rural Dawson. Three children – Phyllis, Loretta, and Deanna – were born to this union. While continuing to farm, Vernon attended night school earning his GED and later earned his class B electrician's license. In the fall of 2003, Vernon and Gail moved to Tracy and continued farming until the age of 89. He was a member of the Dawson Legion and VFW, Dawson Presbyterian Church (served on the session from 1979 – 1981, and was on the support committee), and Jolly Mixers Square Dance club. Vernon enjoyed farming, tractor pulls, square dancing, traveling, and playing cards.

## Doran

## Edgerton

## Ellsworth

**Clifford Orville Gilbertson** (December 3, 1925 – October 21, 2017) Cliff was born in Ruthton, MN to Orlo and Hazel Gilbertson. After Cliff finished the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, his father left home to work on the Alcan Highway in Alaska. Cliff left school to tend to his family's farm. In April of 1945 he enlisted in the US Army. After training in Fort Snelling, MN he was deployed to the Asiatic Pacific Theater in Japan, arriving shortly after WWII ended. He served in the 3819<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Gas Supply driving heavy duty trucks hauling gasoline and oil. He received an Honorable Discharge in October of 1946. On August 14<sup>th</sup>, 1954 he married Esther Berdine Bierma. Cliff and Esther were blessed with two children, LaVon and DeAnn. In January of 1965 Cliff completed the GTA Elevator Managers Training in St. Paul, MN. Raising their new family, they lived in Ruthton until 1968 when they moved to Ellsworth. Clifford Gilbertson was ordained a ruling elder on Feb. 7, 1982. He served 1982-1984 and then again 1987-1989. He worked at the Ellsworth Farmers Elevator for 20 years retiring in 1987. After retirement, Cliff and Esther

wintered in Arizona for 16 years and very much enjoyed missing the Minnesota cold, but were always anxious to come back in the spring. In April of 2011 Cliff was given the opportunity to participate in the Honor Flight program for World War II veterans. The trip to Washington, D.C. was the experience of a lifetime! Cliff moved into the Minnesota Veterans Home in September of 2011, quickly becoming a beloved resident. He greatly enjoyed spending time with other residents and staff and taking part in all the activities, making many new friends along the way.

**Royce Eugene Becker** (May 18, 1935 – October 26, 2017) Royce was born in Wilmot, SD, to Fred and Jennie Becker. Royce attended country school before graduating from Ellsworth High School in 1953, where he played football and basketball. He also belonged to the Kanaranzi Livewire 4-H, showing pigs at the State Fair. Royce began working for Adrian Concrete in 1953. He served in the Minnesota National Guard from 1957 to 1964. Royce married his high school sweetheart Marlene Ann Meester on July 23, 1957. The couple moved to Ellsworth in 1961. In 1964, Royce returned to Adrian Concrete. Royce partnered with Jim Honnerman and bought Adrian Concrete which later became Adrian Tile Company in November of 1976. In July of 1997, Royce began helping out at Dan's Service Station in Ellsworth. He was a member of Zion Presbyterian Church in Ellsworth, where he had served as Trustee, Deacon and an Elder, Royce Becker was ordained on Feb. 4, 1979 and served 1979-1981 and 1993-1995. Royce had served as a Councilman & Mayor of Ellsworth, the Ellsworth Volunteer Fire Department, and was a charter member of the Ellsworth Community Club. He enjoyed polka music, bowling, stock car racing at the local tracks, wintering in Texas for over eleven years, traveling to the casino, and baseball.

## Fergus Falls Federated

**Roger Allen Kube** (August 29, 1932 – April 6, 2017) He was born in Lawrence Township to James and Ella Kube. He graduated from West Central School of Agriculture in Morris and later attended the University of Minnesota. On April 11, 1981, he married Jeanne Carlson. Roger farmed in Lawrence Township in Grant County, worked as a stock broker, real estate broker and as a painter in St. Paul and Wendell. He was active in the Republican party and served on the Elbow Lake/Wendell School Board from 1960 to 1967. In 1967 he received the Outstanding Young Farmer Award. He belonged to the Elks, Lions, the Wendell Co-op Grain Elevator and was on its first board of directors. He was a charter member and president of the ACT's (Answering the Call Together) and also served six years as the board president of the Pebble Lake Golf Course. Over the years, he was a member of the Lawrence Presbyterian Church, where he served as an Elder, Federated Church of Fergus Falls, the Randolph Heights Presbyterian Church of St. Paul, where he also served as an Elder. In his spare time, he enjoyed being a 4-H club leader, and spent 8 to 10 years volunteering in Mississippi, Missouri, Louisiana, and Texas after hurricanes Katrina and Ike. He also enjoyed golfing, mowing lawns, and woodworking. Roger was known for making delicious "Sputniks" and his quick-witted humor.

**James L. Knapp** (February 6, 1938 – July 18, 2017) James was born in Fergus Falls to James & Marjorie Knapp. Jim enjoyed living in the Fergus Falls community for the majority of his life. In his younger years, Jim was active in helping his parents raise quarter horses, along with driving cab for the family taxi service. Shortly after graduating from high school in 1956, Jim began his career with Ottetail Power Company, where he retired as Chief Dispatcher/System Operations in 1998.

He was a life member of American Power Dispatchers Association, where he served as National Secretary and a National Outstanding Service Award. Jim was an avid outdoorsman, enjoying a lifelong passion for hunting, fishing, and sporting clays. One of his greatest enjoyments was duck hunting with his son, Jeff. An important part of his life was spent at deer hunting camp near Blackduck, MN. Jim and Janet purchased their cabin at Fish Lake in 1980 and enjoyed their summers there. While Jim enjoyed escorting his wife, Janet, on their many quilting safaris, he traveled with Janet & their children - from backpacking on Ram Lake, to portaging through the Boundary Waters, and (as a couple) traversing throughout the US, Europe, the Caribbean, and Mexico. Their favorite trip was in 1979, when they drove throughout Alaska. He was involved in Boy Scouts and Fergus Falls Saddle Club, the Elks, Eagles, NRA, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Amateur Trapshooting Association, Lakes Curling, Fergus Falls Hockey Association, and served as a director and officer for Fergus Falls Fish & Game, Fergus Falls Fish & Game Club Foundation and Lakes Area Shooting. Jim was a member of Federated Church in Fergus Falls since 1947. He served on the Board of Managers and was ordained as an Elder in 2013. You could find him serving everything from coffee to communion, and from washing dishes to sweeping floors. He thoroughly enjoyed supporting Janet's love for organizing the annual spring salad luncheons for nearly a decade. He was an easy conversationalist with warm welcoming hugs often enjoying his many breakfasts with friends at the Viking Cafe, shooting the breeze while playing snooker at The Corner, or just bumping into someone at Fleet Farm.

## Fergus Falls Western

### Foley

**Elizabeth “Betty” Nelson** (April 12, 1930 - November 18, 2017) Raising and showing quarter horses and palominos was Betty's lifelong passion. She loved to knit and was known for the beautiful sweaters, hats, and afghans she made for her family, friends and church. She was also famous for the unique frosted rosettes she made every Christmas and served at Coffee Hour. Betty was ordained as Elder in 2001 and served a 3-year term.

### Fulda

**Helen Widman** (January 3, 1923 - September 25, 2017) Helen was born at home in Sac County, IA to Edward and Ethel Groth. She attended the Sac County country school through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and 9<sup>th</sup> grade at Newel, IA High School. At 18 she moved to Des Moines, IA and worked in the Defense plant during WWII. After a year, she moved home and met the love of her life, Gail E Widman and they were married on August 29, 1944 at the Methodist Parsonage, Sac County Ia. They moved to Great Bend, KS for a year while Gail completed his military service, then farmed at Storm Lake IA, Reading MN, Balaton and Brewster before retiring in Fulda. She continued to live in her home in Fulda after Gail's death in 1991 until moving to the Mapleview Estates in 2014 then Maple Lawn Nursing Home in 2016. She was active in her church, serving as an Elder (ordained as an elder on January 8, 2006 and served one three-year term), the Quilt Club and United Presbyterian Women for many years. She also enjoyed being a Pink Lady volunteer for over 25 years at Maple Lawn Nursing Home. She loved music and keeping busy with sewing, quilting, crocheting, flower and vegetable gardens. She entered projects at the local county fairs for over 50

years and was named the Fulda Quilt Lady by the local paper. She will leave an eternal legacy with those she has left behind with her hard working determination and creative abilities.

**John Cuperus** (August 2, 1920 – October 18, 2017) John, the son of Gerrit and Evelyn Cuperus, was born on near Hogebietum, Friesland. He came to the United States on June 23, 1923 with his parents, and siblings, Annie, Burend and Gerben at 3 years of age on the Nieuwey Amsterdam ship. The family entered through Ellis Island and traveled by train to Ocheydan, IA, where they stayed until moving west of Lakefield, MN then Okabena. In 1931 the family rented a farm near Dundee where John lived and attended school. John was united in marriage to Loraine Van Dasselaar on February 15, 1946. After their marriage they lived on the family farm west of Fulda for 12 years, then purchased a farm southwest of Fulda where they lived until their retirement in 1984. They then moved to a home on the west side of Fulda. John remained at home after Lorraine's death on December 11, 2006. He moved to the Maple View Estates in December of 2011 and in May of 2014 he entered the Maple Lawn Nursing Home and passed away there on Wednesday, October 18, 2017 at the age of 97. He was a lifetime member of First Presbyterian Church in Fulda (ordained as an elder on July 21, 1991 and served one three-year term). He enjoyed fishing, playing cards, traveling and hunting.

## Holland

**Donald Ott Moffitt** (January 31, 1920 – January 7, 2017) Donald was born to Royal and Effie Moffitt on a farm in Rock Township, Pipestone County, Minnesota. He attended country school in District 9, near Holland MN through the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. He continued his education in Holland, MN which then met in an old hotel. When he reached 11<sup>th</sup> grade he went to Pipestone High School, graduating in 1938. In November 1941, he enlisted in the United States Army about one month prior to the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He served four years, landing on Omaha Beach twelve days after D Day. His five battle stars represented his service as radio operator with the Third Armored Spearhead Division, experiencing action in Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe. He served in the Battle of the Bulge and was the recipient of the Purple Heart. Upon honorable discharge in 1945, he returned to the Holland area. On October 5, 1946 he was united in marriage to Betty Simpson at the First Presbyterian Church parsonage in Holland, MN and the two lived at their home in Holland for the next 64 years. Don and Betty raised three sons. Don worked for Standard Oil Company until 1958 when he became the Postmaster of Holland, retiring in 1984. Don was a lifelong member of the First Presbyterian Church in Holland, MN. Don served as a Trustee 1947-1950 and 1955-1956. Don was ordained as an Elder on January 19, 1964 and served as an elder 1964-1967, 1970-1973 and 1986-1989. Don sang bass in the church choir and was in a barbershop quartet that often sang in church, at funerals and other local events. Don also served as a volunteer fireman, was once the Mayor of Holland and was an active member of the Earl Gruis American Legion Post #534 in Holland, serving as commander for several years. Don will be remembered as a loving family man and for his faithful service to his church and community.

Iona - no elder deaths in 2017

## Jackson

**Donald Hesper** (1924 - January 8, 2017) Donald Hesper, 94, passed away peacefully at his residence in Kasson, Minnesota. He was born and raised in Wolf Point, Montana. He married and lived in Oostburg, Wisconsin for a brief period before moving to Jackson, Minnesota. Donald worked first in the well drilling business and later as a refrigeration and appliance repairman until retirement in 1997. He was a longtime member of the First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, Minnesota, and was ordained an elder on February 4, 1998.

## Kasota

### Lake Crystal

**Miriam Ellen Jones** (July 2, 1935 - May 4, 2017) Miriam was born to Evan and Mary Jane Wigley in Mankato. Miriam graduated from Mankato High School in 1953. She married Herbert Jones on November 11, 1955 and they were happily married for 62 years. They had two children, Bruce and Anne, and were blessed with five grandchildren, which have been the joy of Herb and Miriam's life. Miriam worked for Farm Bureau for five years, raised her children, and returned to work for 23 years at Production Credit Association/Farm Credit Services. She was very respected in her career along with helping on the farm, volunteering at church, and various community organizations and events. Miriam was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church where she served on many committees (Elder class of 1985) and also was also a member of the choir. After retiring, Miriam and Herb moved from the farm to a home they built on Crystal Lake. Miriam remained very active with her yard, flower gardening, attending her grandchildren's events, entertaining and serving others. She loved delivering meals to the homebound, visiting people in the nursing home, sharing her flowers, and helping others in any way she could. Miriam enjoyed meeting new people, connecting with old friends, and listening to their life stories as well as sharing stories of her family. Her passion was giving others joy.

**Harris J. Tinklenberg** (November 15, 1939 - June 12, 2017) Harris was born in Woodstock, MN to John and Hermina Tinklenberg. He graduated from high school in Edgerton, MN. Harris served in the United States Navy from November 1957 to July 1959. On October 8, 1960, Harris was united in marriage to Rose Zwart in Edgerton. Harris was a beekeeper for 34 years and owned and operated Harris Honey Company with Rose. He was a member of the South Central MN Bee Association and the MN State Beekeepers Association. He was also a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Lake Crystal (Elder class 1999 and 2008), the Lions Club, and the Trap Shooting Club in Lake Crystal, Nicollet, and St. James.

**Joyce Hughes** (September 28, 1921 - October 3, 2017) Joyce was born to Willard and Minnie Gilland in rural Morgan. She graduated from Morgan High School in 1939 and later Mankato Beauty School. She met Orville Hughes on a blind date and they were later married on December 28, 1942, at her family farm. Joyce was a homemaker for her family. She owned and operated A & A Western Store in Lake Crystal from 1976 until her retirement. Joyce was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Crystal where she was a past Deacon and Elder (class of 1974) and member of the Ladies aid. Joyce loved to knit, her dog, Pinky and spending time with family.

## Lismore

## Litchfield

**Lois Jean Beckstrand** (November 12, 1926 - February 26, 2017) Lois celebrated her 90th birthday with all of her family in November 2016. Lois was born in Buhl MN to H.R. and Lillian Garrett. She attended school in Duluth MN. She went on to pursue a Nursing career, enlisting in the United States Nursing Corps, attended and graduated in 1947 from Hamline-Asbury School of Nursing. She was baptized and confirmed Methodist but attended the Calvary Presbyterian Church prior to moving to Litchfield. Lois was employed in Hospital based nursing career for over 45 years. She had six children from her first marriage and in 1962 the family moved to Litchfield, MN, where we attended the First Presbyterian Church. She was Ordained for Leadership in the church in January 1976 and 1987. She served as both an Elder in 1976 and a Deacon in 1987. She married Wendell Beckstrand in 1968 and with this union there was an addition of five more children to the family. Lois and Wendell Beckstrand joined the Catholic church together in 1990 as a family. She was a member of Job's Daughters, Order of the Eastern Star, Girl Scouts, Minnesota Nurses Association, Choralaires musical group, the Board of Directors for the Meeker County Community Homes, Inc., the RSVP- Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Augustana Home Care, and the Senior Nutrition Program. In 1994 she was nominated by her peers to be inducted into the Central Minnesota Nursing Hall of Fame and received their Award for Excellence in her Nursing Career.

## Luverne

**Eugene Ray** - see Windom

**Verlyn L. Hoff** (July 24, 1955 - October 25, 2017) Verlyn was born to Cornelius and Reva Hoff in Luverne, Minnesota. He was raised on an acreage near Steen, Minnesota, and was baptized at Steen Reformed Church, where he also attended Sunday school and catechism. As a child, he didn't have far to walk to school, attending a country school across the road from his home until sixth grade, after which he continued his education in Luverne, graduating in 1973. Following graduation, Verlyn worked on the Orlin Kellenberger farm and Midwest Ambulances in Luverne. Mutual friends introduced Verlyn to Tamie Garrels, because of a shared love of Corvettes, and the couple's fondness for each other blossomed. A traditional wedding was planned for November 22, 1975. When a snowstorm threatened the nuptials, Rev. Lindsey was delivered from the First Presbyterian Church in Balaton, Minnesota, to Tamie's parents' home and the couple was married in the living room. Verlyn went to work at the Luverne Farm Store Gas Company for a time. When the company decided to divide into two separate businesses, Verlyn became the manager of the Ferrelgas Company. Living at their present acreage north of Luverne, Verlyn fulfilled his aspiration of farming full-time, working the fields and raising hogs, a passion that grew to a family affair. On Wednesday, October 25, 2017 Verlyn died unexpectedly during the harvesting ritual, while unloading corn into the dryer bin. Verlyn was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Luverne, where he was an Elder and served on the property and finance committees. He especially enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. Verlyn enjoyed a carefree and bountiful life, filled with countless treasures. He was an active shareholder and board member of the Take 16



Brewery in Luverne, and took great pride in its collaborative success. Whether motorcycling, snowmobiling, golfing, pontooning, or recharging at the lot on Lake Benton, Verlyn appreciated the beauty of the Minnesota seasons. He did fancy a break now and then from the winds of winter, towing the toy hauler to Apache Junction, Arizona, for some time on the Harley Davidson. In the summer, Verlyn and Tamie spent a lot of time on the motorcycle and cruising in the Corvette. He was a wonderful, hands-on grandpa, rarely able to tell his three grandson's "no", and always bringing joy and fun to their days. Verlyn will be remembered as a hard-working man, rooted in faith and family, who put others before himself and gave from his heart. His contagious smile, fun-loving character, and loving spirit will be missed by many.

## Madelia Maine

### Mankato

**Mary Thompson** (January 31, 1923 – January 13, 2017) Mrs. Thompson was born to Mattie and Leonard Groenewold, on a farm near George, Iowa. She attended Grant Township rural school, was confirmed at Lyon County Presbyterian Church, and graduated from George High School in 1940. She attended the University of Dubuque, Iowa, from 1940-42 and received a teaching degree. While at Dubuque, she sang in the a cappella choir. She also attended the University of Colorado at Boulder. She taught in elementary schools in Swea City, Garner, and Iowa City, Iowa. She returned to college at the University of Iowa and graduated in 1949 with a B.A. in speech pathology. She married Clem W. Thompson in Sibley, Iowa, on July 8, 1950. They lived in Fayetteville, Ark., and Needham, Mass. In 1959 they moved to Mankato. Mary Thompson was a longtime member of First Presbyterian Church, where she served as an elder (Elder Class of 1997) and deacon, a member of the sanctuary choir and bell choir, church school teacher, and Meals on Wheels volunteer. She also served in Presbyterian Women as a moderator and enabler in southern Minnesota. Her community activities in Mankato included Campfire Girls, Boy Scouts, Little League for her three sons, serving on the board of the American Field Service, and hosting student Helge Weichel from West Germany in 1982-83. She also was a volunteer in the surgery waiting room at Immanuel-St. Joseph Hospital, a board member for the international endowment at Mankato State University, a tutor for English as a Second Language students, and a member of the Mankato Area Retired Educators Association, the MSU Women's Choir, and the North American Welch Chorus. In 1993 she was honored for her volunteer service when she was named an attendant for Bend of the River Days. After retiring from District 77 in 1985, Mary and Clem traveled extensively and attended numerous Elderhostel programs in the U.S. and internationally. Mary's hobbies in retirement included walking, biking, traveling, reading, gardening (especially raspberries), bridge, and writing remembrances about her childhood on the farm and her family. She also volunteered for six years as a reader for Minnesota Talking Books on KMSU Radio.

**Bernard Cranston** (September 10, 1923 – September 2, 2017) Bernie was born to Avery and Kathryn Cranston in Grey Eagle, Minnesota. Bernie grew up on a farm near Grey Eagle, Minnesota. He attended the University of Minnesota, and Purdue and Columbia Universities as part of the naval officer's training program. He achieved the rank of lieutenant junior grade and

served in the 6th Fleet in the Pacific during WWII. After the war, he returned to school and graduated from the University of Minnesota with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics. Upon graduation, Bernie started a career teaching ag econ in Westbrook High School. This was where he met his wife of 66 years, Eunice Frederickson. They were married in Morgan, Minnesota in 1949. Bernie's second teaching job was in Stewart, Minnesota. In 1956 he moved to Mankato and began a successful insurance business which he continued until his retirement in 1985. In retirement Bernie sold real estate, conducted farm mediations, and remained active in community service and his church. Bernie's Navy experiences had a tremendous impact on his life and he often reminisced about his Navy days. Bernie was committed to community service and was active in March of Dimes, Habitat for Humanity, the Presbyterian church (Elder Class of 2002) and local Republican party politics at various times during his life. Spending time with his grandchildren always brought a smile to his face. Bernie enjoyed traveling, boating, fishing, gardening, playing cards and listening to the Twins games. In his last years, he was a beloved resident of Brookdale Lowry memory care center where he became affectionately known as "el Commandante."

## Marshall

**Helen Kathryn Stark Anderson** (November 9, 1915 – August 27, 2017) Helen was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to Frederick and Helen Stark. She was baptized at the First Baptist Church in Cedar Rapids and graduated from Washington Senior High School in 1934. Her intense love for babies and children led her to employment at the infant wear department of a “five-and-ten-cent” store. On December 18, 1936, she married Theodore Anderson at the First Baptist Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. To that union three children were born, one daughter dying in infancy. Helen was a member of the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and after moving with her family to the farm west of Marshall in 1952, she joined Christ United Presbyterian Church in Marshall. She was very active in the church, serving as president of PW, Sunday School teacher, Elder, and most recently as Deacon. Other activities during her life included Campfire Girls, King’s Daughters, Cub Scouts, PTA, Camden Vikings (camping) Club, 4-H, Sew & So Club, USTA Club, Doll Club, and Gideon’s Auxiliary. She was a good baker and cook, and was an expert seamstress. In the 1960s Helen returned to her favorite employment, that of selling children’s clothing, this time at Wee Moderns in Marshall. During this time, she also took a renewed interest in doll collecting, and after their move to town in 1984, she began to give presentations of her collection, which included many of her mother’s dolls. Although caring for family and spending time with her grandchildren were so very important to her, it was clear that following Jesus was her deepest desire. Helen always looked for the best in everyone she met, gave encouragement, smiled often, laughed freely, and prayed earnestly. She was always willing to give devotions and looked for people who needed a Gideon Bible or New Testament.

## Maynard

**Margaret Elizabeth (Nicolai) Larsen** (September 17, 1919 – August 22, 2017) Margaret was born to Emil and Emilee (Keller) Nicolai on the family farm near Maynard, MN. She was baptized and confirmed into the Methodist faith. Margaret graduated from Maynard High School in 1937. Margaret married Merlin Larsen at their home on November 10, 1944 and to this union two children were born. She became a member of the Maynard Presbyterian Church where she was a

very active member. Margaret was an elder from 1990-1995. She enjoyed teaching Sunday School, being on various committees, and volunteering her time and energy where it was needed. She was also an avid Twins fan. Margaret was happiest taking care of everyone else; usually with food - her fried chicken and homemade pies were family favorites. She was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, participated in card club, and in flower club. Margaret loved gardening, flowers, baking, cooking, entertaining, playing cards, and was very good at quilting and sewing. She loved her family and friends - always putting them first especially her two grandchildren.

**Odell Carlyle Schaller** (April 13, 1928 – November 10, 2017) Odell was born in Montevideo to Charles and Laura Schaller. He grew up on the family farm and attended school in Maynard, graduating from Maynard High School. Following high school, he volunteered for the draft and served in the United States Army. Upon discharge from the Army, Odell returned to the family farm. On March 9, 1973, Odell married Corinne Himle at Maynard Presbyterian Church. Odell was a lifelong member of Maynard Presbyterian Church, and served as an usher, cCommunion assistant, and on various boards in the church. Odell was ordained an elder in 1974 and served on the Buildings and Ground Committee and the Worship Committee. He was also a member of the American Legion and the Shriners Club. He served Chippewa County for many years as a County Commissioner. He enjoyed woodworking, stained glass art, gardening, cooking and traveling. Odell and Corinne traveled many places including Europe and Alaska. They had an RV and would camp around the United States with friends and family, and had wintered in Arizona for several years.

## Milroy

### Mountain Lake

**William 'Bill' Paul Lohrenz** (February 9, 1932 – December 4, 2017) Bill was born in Mountain Lake, MN to Peter and Anna Lohrenz. Bill graduated from Mountain Lake High School and then attended school in Jackson. He was united in marriage to Joyce Karschnik on July 22, 1953, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mountain Lake. Bill served with the U.S. Army from February 17, 1954 to February 17, 1956. Upon his Honorable Discharge, Bill started Lohrenz Excavating in 1956. He served on the Utilities Commission, the fire department for 20 years, as a church elder, and was a member of the Mountain Lake American Legion and the First Presbyterian Church of Mountain Lake. He loved working, traveling, and building model toys but especially loved playing with his grandkids.

## Osakis

**Janice (Jan) Larsen** (April 3, 1936 – June 21, 2017) Jan was born to Oscar and Mildred Lovgren on April 3, 1936 in Alexandria, MN. She grew up and attended Jefferson High School, graduating at the top of her class as valedictorian in 1953. Her first employment was working for a local bank. After her marriage to Don Larsen on June 12, 1954 at the family farm in Rose City, Janice and Don moved to Texas while Don served in the military. They returned and made their home in Osakis. Jan cared for their four children, was a farm wife, worked from home as a seamstress, sold Avon, and also worked as a jewelry rep. Jan later attended school to become a medical secretary,

working for Grant Hustad Implement and the Alexandria Clinic. She also worked for a time as the coordinator for the Osakis Senior Center. In recent years, Jan worked locally for Jacob's Lefse in Osakis which was a perfect fit for this full blooded Swede. She recently retired from serving as secretary at the First Presbyterian Church where she was a member. Generous with her time and talents, Jan was involved in many groups during her life. She was a 4 H leader for many years and also served on the Osakis School Board. She was also active at the Osakis Heritage Center and belonged to the Community Memorial Home Auxiliary and the Good Sam Club, with whom she went on dozens of camping adventures. Jan donated countless hours at her church, serving not only as Clerk of Session for 13 years, but also an Elder (ordained February 7, 1982 and served 1982-85; 1995-98; 2012-2014), Deacon, Church Youth Group leader and belonged to the Presbyterian Women's group. She also filled in as pianist when needed. Her efficiency and pleasant demeanor was a blessing to all the groups in which she was involved. Jan had many interests and hobbies. Among them was checking garage sales for treasures in which to stock their antique booth and also for collecting plates and teapots. Over the years she also enjoyed square dancing, rollerskating, candlemaking, camping, reading and playing cards. Jan loved to do handiwork and made beautiful sewing, quilting, needlework and embroidery projects. Many of these projects were shown at the county fair. Annual Minnesota State Fair trips were a tradition in the Larsen family. School events and activities for the kids and grandkids were always a priority. She also enjoyed music and attended many concerts. Jan was a very good cook and spent hours baking and canning. She will be especially remembered for her delicious Swedish tea rings, rhubarb pies, divinity and Scotcharoos. She loved and spoiled the many pets they had over the years. Remembered by many because of her smile, she will also be remembered for her concern for and willingness to help others. Jan will be greatly missed by all those whose lives she touched.

**Richard (Dick) Roberts** (December 4, 1926 - November 15, 2017) There's a trail to a remote lake near Nestor Falls, Ontario, and it's said you can hear long lost voices in the wind as you portage through the stillness. It's a path that was often trod by Richard Roberts on the way to his favorite fishing lake. Richard passed away in Osakis, Minnesota, at home and surrounded by his family. Richard was born in Judson, Minnesota, but the farm was not his destiny. After high school he served in the Army in WW2 and then went to college and law school. Settling in Elbow Lake and then Morris he practiced law, was appointed a judge, and then returned to the practice of law in Wheaton, Minnesota. In 1976 he married Janet Trisko of Osakis, Minnesota, and they had three children. He was ordained January 1, 2002, and served on session 2002-2004 and 2005-2007. Richard was an avid and lifelong reader, a Welshman in exile, a singer gifted with a beautiful and much-in-demand tenor voice, a storyteller with the skill to make even the second telling of a tale still worth the time, with a sense of humor and a quick wit. He was an advocate in the law for the little man who needed help. He had a generous heart content with doing good things in anonymity. Family and friends were blessed by Richard and Jan's hospitality as they made their cabin in Canada a home away from home, an endless story of beautiful moments shared on the shores of Big Pine Lake. While there will be one less traveler on the trail with his passing, his memory will join the long lost voices in the still Ontario forest

Pipestone - no elder deaths in 2017

## Randall

**Maxine Bjornoos** (February 19, 1927 – January 25, 2017) Maxine was born in Parker Township, MN to George and Tillie Oothoudt. Maxine graduated from Little Falls High School and moved to Minneapolis where she worked as an accountant at Sears. She married in 1947 and lived in Stillwater until 1959 when she and her husband moved to Randall to raise their family. Besides raising her family, she helped her husband Al with his bookwork. She was a member of Randall Presbyterian Church since 1959 and served two terms as Elder along with singing in the church choir, serving as Treasurer and secretary for the church. She was also President of the Randall VFW. Together Maxine and her husband served as campground hosts at different campgrounds for over 10 years. Maxine enjoyed making crafts, sewing, wood burning, painting, beading, and traveling, mostly in the western United States, as well as camping with the family.

## Redwood Falls

**Elizabeth “Bubs” Mae Stancer** (May 8, 1919 – November 30, 2017) Elizabeth Mae was born to Donald and Irma Smith in Redwood Falls, Minnesota. She was baptized and confirmed in the Christian faith and graduated from Redwood Falls High School. On June 14, 1937, Bubs was united in marriage to Lao Stancer in Brookings, South Dakota. They made their home in Redwood Falls until moving to the west coast in 1945 but returning again to Redwood Falls a year later. Bubs worked as a floral designer for the Redwood Falls Greenhouse and as a bookkeeper for the Redwood Falls Bank and High School. She was a lifelong member and oldest living member of the First Presbyterian Church in Redwood Falls. She was an elder of the church (ordained January 11, 1966 and served 1966 – 1968 and 1972 – 1974) and active with the ladies’ aid, quilters and funeral committee. Bubs enjoyed painting, riding on a motorcycle with Lao, traveling, quilting, gardening, canning, sewing, hiking thru Ramsey Park and spending time with friends and family. Elizabeth passed away at Seasons Hospice House in Redwood Falls, Minnesota at the age of 98.

Renville - no elder deaths in 2017

## Round Lake

## Rushmore Emmanuel

**Frances Alberts** (June 30, 1919 – August 5, 2017) She was born in rural Nobles County, to Carl and Grace Reiter. Frances married Kelly G. Alberts on September 10, 1937, at the Emmanuel Presbyterian Parsonage south of Rushmore. The couple farmed in the Rushmore area before moving to Frances's family farm south of Rushmore in 1960. In 1998, they built a new house in Rushmore. She was a member of Emmanuel Presbyterian Church south of Rushmore where she served as the church's first female Elder in January 1989, also serving as clerk of session from 1989 - 1991. Frances also played organ and piano for many years, sang in the church choir and belonged to the Ladies Aid. She enjoyed music, reading, traveling, square dancing and chocolate.

**Burdell Bents** (December 29, 1953 – September 23, 2017) Burdell Francis Bents was born in Sibley, IA, the son of Herb and Frances Bents. He attended country school and later graduated from Ellsworth High School in 1972. After high school, Burdell worked alongside his parents on

the farm milking cows, raising livestock, and crop farming. On November 21, 1992, he married Tammy Hoefert in rural Rushmore. Burdell was a lifelong member of Emmanuel Presbyterian Church. He was ordained an elder in January 2015 and served until his death. In 2000, Burdell and Tammy moved to the family farm where they continued to raise livestock and crop farm. For the last 10 years, Burdell spent his days driving truck for his nephew at Steve Bents Trucking. His greatest joy was spending time with his family and attending their many activities including volleyball, basketball, and softball games. He also enjoyed spending time with his friends at the local sale barn whenever possible. Burdell passed away peacefully, after a courageous battle with cancer, surrounded by his family.

Rushmore First - no elder deaths in 2017

Russell

Saint Cloud - no elder deaths in 2017

Saint James - no elder deaths in 2017

Saint Peter

**Doctor Joseph Dobie** (November 22, 1925 - April 29, 2017) Joseph was born in Mankato, MN. After wartime service in the navy, he married Mary Justice in 1948 and became a dentist, serving the communities of Truman and St. Peter. He was ordained as an elder at Union Presbyterian on January 27, 1963, serving two consecutive terms on session. He was on session again from April 31, 2008, to December 31, 2009. Joe died April 29 in Rochester.

**Marvon C. Severson** (1920 - March 22, 2017) Marv was born in Sully County, SD. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in February 1941. After returning from the service, he married former Onida, SD, classmate BenniBee Nelson in 1946, and the two eventually purchased a Red Owl grocery store in Cleveland, MN, where they raised their children. Marv was ordained as an elder at Union Presbyterian on February 7, 1960, and served two consecutive terms. He served again from March 4, 1990, to December 31, 1992. Marv died on March 22, followed by BenniBee (a former deacon) on August 23, 2017.

Silver Lake - no elder deaths in 2017

Slayton - no elder deaths in 2017

Spicer Harrison

**Dorothy Borgrud** (March 10, 1935 - October 31, 2017) Dorothy was born to Vernon and Alpha Kragenbring. She was a proud Alumni, class of '53, of Atwater High School. While working for Hedlund Drug in Willmar, she met a handsome railroad man, Al Borgrud from Evansville, MN. They were married on September 26, 1959. Though they spent many weekends enjoying their small farm in Evansville, they raised three daughters, Mary, Jean and Gail and made their home in Atwater. A very giving person, Dorothy was nominated as Atwater's Good Neighbor. She was an active volunteer her entire life in numerous capacities within her community. Dorothy loved

gardening, her pets, her Swedish heritage and sports, whether it was teams representing MN or local teams she was an avid fan. She was on the Atwater Baseball Association board of Directors. As a lifetime member of Harrison Presbyterian Church, she was a former Bible School and Sunday School teacher; an officer in the women's organization and a trustee. She was ordained as an Elder on January 27, 1991, and served 1991 - 1994. Deeply involved and supportive of her grandchildren, she loved to spend time with them, to bake for them and to teach them to fish.

## Spicer Hope

**Pamela Ann Lindahl** (April 24, 1951 - August 26, 2017) Pam was born in Minneapolis. She attended Osseo High School graduating in 1969. Pam married the love of her life, Richard, on November 4, 1972 after a whirlwind five-month courtship. Pam ran a home daycare for 20 years and was well loved by those for whom she cared. After retiring from her daycare, she worked for Kandiyohi County Health & Human Services for almost 20 years. Pam was an active member of the Willmar Car Club along with her husband and they both enjoyed traveling. The Lindahl's house in Spicer was well known at Halloween time when they opened it up to the public as a haunted house. Pam was an active member of Hope Presbyterian Church of Spicer. She was ordained as a Deacon on February 10, 1980 serving from 1980-1983. Pam was installed as a Ruling Elder and served from 1994-1996 and again from 2005-2007. Pam also taught Sunday School and for many years created posters and banners for worship and special events.

Westbrook - no elder deaths in 2017

## Willmar

**Louis Thomas "Bud" Altman** (December 30, 1926 - November 8, 2017) was born in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. Bud served in the Merchant Marines during the end of WW II and then joined the U.S. Army and served in the Korean War. Following Bud's honorable discharge in 1948, he attended Eau Claire State College and then transferred to Michigan State University, where he earned a Bachelor degree in Zoology with emphasis with wildlife management. Following college, Bud worked for a while in Alaska for the Department of Fish and Game. He later moved to Willmar and in 1965, founded Custom Printing in Willmar. On December 14, 1968, Bud was united in marriage to Harriet M. Terhark at the Aldrich Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis and they made their home in Willmar. Bud was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church in Willmar, serving as an Elder several times-1987 to 1990; 1997 to 1999 and 2003 to 2005 and a term on the Deacon Board. He served for many years on the Habitat for Humanity board and the Salvation Army board. He also volunteered in many areas such as mission trips to Alaska at the Presbyterian College, as a bell ringer for the Salvation Army and as a KAT bus driver. Bud's hobbies included fishing, especially in Alaska, deer hunting and carpentry. He had a wonderful sense of humor and ability to tell stories.

## Windom

**Terri Lynn Burns** (July 22, 1957 - November 6, 2017) Terri was born on in Grand Rapids, Michigan to Gerald and Jane Folkerts. She was baptized in 1957 in Grand Rapids, Michigan and

later confirmed in 1974 in Tacoma, Washington. Terri received her early education at Calvin Christian in Kalamazoo, Michigan and later graduated from Tacoma Baptist in Tacoma, Washington. She then attended Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan before transferring to SDSU in Brookings where she received her Bachelor's Degree. In January of 1977, Terri was united in marriage to Roger Elgersma in Tacoma, Washington. They were later divorced. On December 13, 1996, Terri was united in marriage to Craig Michael Burns at the Wesleyan Church in Brookings, South Dakota. In 1999, they moved to Windom and Terri worked for many years at First Floral Hallmark and for over the past 10 years, she was a personal care assistant at the Cottonwood County DAC. On Monday morning, November 6, 2017, Terri passed away at her home in Windom at the age of 60 years. She was a longtime member of the First Presbyterian Church in Windom where she served as a deacon, a member of the choir and an elder in the church. Terri had many enjoyments in life which included her flower garden, traveling, visiting with church friends, drinking tea and spending time with her grandchildren.

**Jerald Grant Jensen** (September 23, 1938 - January 3, 2017) Jerald, the son of Einer and Gladys Jensen, was born at his grandparent's home in Lakefield. In the early 1940s, he moved with his family to the farm south of Bingham in Lakeside Township. He attended Windom Schools, graduating in 1957 and later attended the School of Agriculture in St. Paul. On June 3, 1961 he was married to Carol Lantz at his family church, First Presbyterian Church in Windom, and they moved to their home on the farm one mile east from his childhood home and lived there for the next forty years. In 2000 they moved into Windom and their son Brian moved to the farm. In 2006, Jerald submitted to open heart surgery and later suffered a life changing stroke. After much rehabilitation, he was able to continue his love for farming on a limited basis. Through the years, Jerald was a member of the local National Guard Unit, served on the Lakeside Township Board for over thirty years, and was active in the Cottonwood County Farm Bureau (served as president for several years), was an active, lifetime member of the First Presbyterian Church, serving as usher, Elder, Deacon, and where needed. Most important in his life was Faith, Family and Farm. Enjoyments in life included camping, traveling to many areas of the United States, and Switzerland, and spending time with family and friends.

**Eugene Elwin Ray** (May 27, 1934 - September 14, 2017) Eugene was born to Clifford and Adeline (Wildfreur) Ray in Redwood Falls, Minnesota. He spent most of his life residing and working in Windom, Minnesota. Eugene served as elder at the First Presbyterian Church in Windom. On Thursday, September 14, 2017, Eugene died at the Sanford Luverne Medical Center in Luverne, Minnesota.

**Richard "Dick" Luverne Robinson** (August 27, 1921 - April 19, 2017) Dick was born to Ivar and Margaret Wallin. His mother passed away at an early age and left a family of eleven. As Ivar was unable to care for such a large family, the eleven brothers and sisters went their separate ways. A local dentist and his wife took Dick into their home and raised him to manhood. The name change from Wallin to Robinson occurred during his early age. Dick entered the Navy in January of 1942 and served in the Southwest Pacific for two years. He was attached to the US Marines during that time as a Navy Medic. He also served in the Korean War. Upon being discharged in December of 1945, Dick attended Mankato State University and Bemidji State University before



going into the restaurant business where he met his wife, LaDonna, who he married in October of 1947 at the Congregational Church in Comfrey. This marriage was blessed with three children, Sandy, Renee and Kirk. Dick went into the grain business for fifteen years. After that he was a sales rep for USS Agri-Chemicals where he worked for eighteen years. They gave him early retirement in 1981. He then went on to work for the US Postal Service for sixteen years as a substitute rural mail carrier and later as a regular carrier. He retired in 1997. Dick moved into the Good Samaritan Society of Windom in February of 2017. Dick was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Windom where he was a trustee, deacon and an elder. Dick was a member of the Windom School board for twelve years, the local Masonic Lodge, Zuhah Temple Shrine of Minneapolis, American Legion Post #206 and the Rural Letter Carriers. Dick loved playing cards, especially 500, gardening and reading. He enjoyed sports and traveling, spending time with their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Winnebago - no elder deaths in 2017

## Worthington

**Robert (Bob) Boots**, (September 20, 1934 - February 24, 2017) Bob was born on the family farm to Henry J. and Minnie Boots. He attended country school through the eighth grade. He enlisted in the United States Army in November 1954 and trained at Fort Campbell, Kentucky as a paratrooper in the 114th Airborne Division and was a sergeant stationed in Gablingen, Germany. Following his discharge from the Army in October 1957, he returned to Worthington and in March 1958 he began working for "Red" Heintz at Red's North Star Truck Stop. On April 1, 1964 Bob purchased the truck stop and the name was changed to Bob's Truck Stop. In 1983 Bob took over operation of The Windmill Cafe next door to the truck stop. He retired from the gas business in July 1997 but continued to operate The Windmill Cafe until March 1999, at which time Bob completely retired. Over the years the truck stop changed brands several times including North Star, Skelly, Getty, and Texaco. Some highlights of the businesses included visits by George Lindsey (Goober) to the truck stop and Governor Jesse Ventura eating breakfast at the cafe. Bob was involved in several businesses in Worthington including A & B Apco and The Pop Shoppe, Texaco Food Mart, and the Worthington Truck Plaza. On September 27, 1959, Bob married Verla Attig in Sibley, Iowa. Together they made their home in Worthington where they raised their three daughters and celebrated 49 years of marriage. Bob continued to live in Worthington until he entered Good Sam nursing home in April 2012. Bob was a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, where he served as an elder.