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Rev. Dr. Bob D. Shepherd

Nov. 24, 1929 - April 30, 2023

The Reverend Doctor Bob D. Shepherd of Morganton, NC, passed away at the age of 93 on Sunday, April 30, 2023, after a short illness. He was lovingly surrounded by his wife of 71 years, his 4 children and a son-in-law.

Bob felt called to church ministry in 1955 and lived each day serving God and spreading God's word. He loved serving at each of his pastorates which included Bullock Baptist Church in Granville County, NC, First Baptist Church in Mooresville, NC, First Baptist Church in Sanford, NC, and First Baptist Church in Morganton, NC. After his retirement in 1994, he served as Interim Pastor at 14 other churches. Also, during his work life, he served as Vice President for Advancement at Gardner Webb University.

His contributions to the communities in which he lived were numerous. He served 3 terms as Chairman of the General Board of the Baptist State Convention and also Chairman of the Executive Committee. He served 8 years as Trustee at

Wake Forest University, including special committees serving Wake Forest University Baptist Hospital, Wake Athletics and the formation of the Wake Forest School of Divinity. He also served 8 years as Trustee at Gardner Webb University. In 1994, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Gardner Webb University

and in 1998 the Bob D. Shepherd Chair of Biblical Studies was established in the GWU School of Divinity. Bob was also especially proud of being named a Paul Harris Fellow and of his 60-year Rotary Club membership.

Bob was preceded in death by his father and mother, Jesse Talmadge Shepherd and Mamie Tickle Shepherd and his five siblings.

He leaves behind his wife, Dolores Vinson Shepherd; daughter, Karen Johnson (Ray) of Morganton; son, B. Dale Shepherd, Jr (Gayemell) of Seven Lakes NC; daughter, Vicki Morgan (Michael) of Chapel Hill NC; son, Noel Shepherd of Winston Salem NC; 6 grandchildren; and 6 great grandchildren.

The family will receive friends from 12:30 to 2 p.m., Saturday, May 20, 2023 in the parlor of First Baptist Church. A celebration of life will follow at 2 p.m. in the church with Dr. Thomas A. Bland, Jr. officiating.

In lieu of flowers, you are invited to send memorial donations to First Baptist Church in Morganton or to Gardner Webb University School of Divinity for the Bob D. Shepherd Chair.

The family wishes to express appreciation to Dr. Martin Gessner, Dr. Walter Pearcy, and the wonderful staff at Amorem Hospice in Valdese, NC.

Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Tribute Wall

I will miss Uncle Bob, but I know heaven is an even better place because he now resides there. Uncle Bob always impressed me with his positive, cheerful personality. He always had a smile on his face and often could be heard singing as he interacted with family and friends. As a young person and later as a young pastor, Uncle Bob always made time to give wise counsel on subjects in which I was interested or needed additional information. I wanted to invite Uncle Bob to come to one of my churches and conduct a revival. I appreciated him so much for finding time in his busy schedule to come conduct those services for me and my church family. What a special week that was! I respected him as a Christian husband and father, and he became a role model for my life. Uncle Bob was faithful to God, and God blessed him with a long, fruit bearing life. I have so many fond memories of Bob, Dolores and their children. Like them, my heart feels sadness for his loss, but great joy for having known him and loved him.

–James (Jimmy) Logan



–Trennea Perry



I'm sorry to hear of Bob's passing. He was always a bright light wherever he went. Among other things Bob was minister at First Baptist Church in Maryville during the



minister at First Baptist Church in Mooresville during the time that I was a student at Davidson College. After college I attended a wedding of a classmate in Mooresville and there was cousin Bob was presiding over the ceremony.

–Wade Shepherd

He was the best!!!

–Kay Levan Ruff

Christ is risen! There are no words to express how much Pastor Shepherd meant to me and to my family. Overshadowing the sorrow over his passing is the joy of knowing that he was able to go home during the season of Easter, and that our risen Lord will one day bring us all together again. May his memory be eternal among the saints. Frank M. Dale, Jr.

–Frank Dale

–Jackie Kanipe



–Jan Shepherd



I have such fond memories of the entire Shepherd family from their days at First Baptist Church in Sanford during my and my siblings' youth group years. I will never forget nor be able to adequately express my appreciation to Rev. Shepherd for his dear words, thoughtfulness and kindnesses to myself and my family on the day that my

mother died almost 43 years ago and in the following months. He was an angel among us then and is an angel with our Lord now. Well done, good and faithful servant. Our love and prayers are with you all. Sincerely, Gaye Pickard Galyon, Greensboro, NC

—Gaye Pickard Galyon

Bob Shepherd put the twinkle in all the little stars when I taught at First Baptist Weekday Preschool. He greeted every teacher with a smile and a hug to pass along to our precious children. Bob loved our preschool, was a consummate encourager and always full of laughter that was contagious and so welcomed. He touched the lives and hearts of many and I loved him dearly. Rest in peace, my friend.

—Linda Rostan



Roger and Sharon Jackson have very fond memories of the “good shepherd.”. Our thoughts and prayers are with Delores and their family. Bob will be greatly missed by all his many friends.

—Roger and Sharon Jackson



—Bill brown

Dear Dolores & Family: So very sorry for the loss of Bob..... He was loved by so many and by us..... We so enjoyed Bob & Dolores' company. Bob was an inspiration to us and "made" us want to come to church as well as spend

personal time with him and his "Beautiful Dolores". We have lost our Pastor Emeritus as well as our wonderful, dear friend. We grieve with you, dear Bob's family, but know he is indeed with his and our Lord and at peace. Love always.

–Jim & Sandy Hawn



Delores, you and family are in my prayers! Bob was my favorite Minister! He certainly will be missed by many friends! He was aGodly man and a wonderful Minister ! May God comfort you and family with his peace and love. May God Bless you, Suzanne Markofski

–Suzanne Markofski

The Lord Blessed our community with the calling of Dr Bob Shepherd to minister here. A true Christian living the word and a mentor to all.

–Waits and Laura Gordon

One of the most loving and lovable people that I have ever been privileged to know.

–Tom Starnes



My deepest sympathies to each of you. Your dad has always had a special place in my heart. My love and prayers to all of you...

–Teresa D Moore

Mama D, my heart is with you and your wonderful family. Dr Bob was an amazing influence on so many people, and I am blessed to be on that list.

—Greg Rayburn



Rev Shepherd, Mrs. Shepherd and their family were an integral part of our church and extended family while at

First Baptist in Sanford. Rev Shepherd will certainly be missed but always remembered. Condolences to his family and all that knew him.

Mr Shepherd was a big part of my teenage years when he was at Sanford FBC. His smile would warm your heart. He was very gracious toward everyone and truly lived the life of a Christian man. I give thanksgiving for his short illness. My condolences to the family.

—Laura Thompson Pittman

We are so sorry that a part of your family has passed!!! May love and peace be wrapped around all of you through this hard time!!! Much love from the Dotson family.

—Christine Dotson



—Cindy Jacobs

Our community has lost a genuine icon in Dr Shepard. Although I'm not of Baptist faith I had a great relationship and well as true admiration for this true gentleman. We will meet again my friend! Steve Gregory

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Your dad meant the world to us ,Jerry Brantley,shelia Brantley, sue Brantley tex Brantley!!!!!

—Tex Kidd



I knew Dr. Shepherd when we were both at Gardner-Webb University. The world is a much better place because he has been here 93 years.

—DR ROBERT EARLE MORGAN

So sorry to hear about your family's loss.Will be praying for you and your family.

—Mitchell Strickland

Bob Shepherd was my next door neighbor for 4 plus years and one of my dearest friends for 55 plus years. He lived the life that he preached and was devoted to his family,his church families and his friends. God's earthly mission has lost one of its great leaders. May Bob rest in the knowledge that his mission was extremely well done.

—Dr Frank Rayburn



To Delores and family, it has been some time since we gathered as the Shepherd Clan. I fondly remember Bob always being in charge of the prayer at our gatherings. And



he loved his Chess Pie. He will be greatly missed. But he is such great company. May your family find peace and solace during this time.

—Connie Shepherd

I am so sorry to hear this. He was such a wonderful person. I will keep you all in prayer.

—Juanita Doggett



So sorry for your loss, however Heaven gained a great man with that smile. Prayers for your family during this time.

—Pat and Millard Hollifield



Dear Delores and family. We can rejoice that Bob has passed to his Heavenly home, but feel the loss of his presence here on earth. Thinking of you and praying for you and your family as you go through these trying days. Love, Priscilla

—Priscilla Golas

Bob and I were close friends who worked on many projects together, starting with Sunday morning chapel services at Grace Hights, worked together with the then MAMA (Morganton Area Ministerial Association) and numerous other area religious ministries. He will be greatly missed! God bless the family!

—James Taber

Dear Dolores and family….So very sorry to hear of Bob's passing. His friendship, especially to John, will never be forgotten. So many wonderful memories to

cherish. We were truly blessed to travel this road called life with you both. All my love and prayers to comfort you. Ann Giles Falls

–Ann Giles Falls

The Rotary Club of Morganton would like to extend our most sincere condolences to Dolores and the entire Shepherd family. We were honored to have Bob as one of our most distinguished members and to have him serve as a Rotarian for over 60 years. A true example of our motto "Service Above Self". Bob was always ready to share an amusing story with us and raise our spirits. Thank you for sharing him with us over the years - he will be sorely missed.

–Rotary Club of Morganton



Bob was an extraordinary human being, always kind, always welcoming, always full of good cheer. We served together in the Morganton Rotary Club for many years as well as on several community organizations. I am grateful for every encounter I had with this good man. Maya Angelou once said that you may not remember the words a person says, but you'll always remember how he made you feel. Bob made everyone feel included and loved. Requiescat in pace; resurgemus in gloria!

–Eugene Willard

Pastor Shepherd was a wonderful minister and friend. Our sympathy to the family.

–Jewel Brown

To the Bob Sheppard family, we are deeply saddened by the loss of Daddy Bob. Mama D, know that he is alive with his father in heaven. He has just changed addresses. Keep the faith and promise in your heart that God will take care of

you until we all meet him in paradise some day. He was such a wonderful inspiration to so many people. I will always remember the time he planted a huge tomato on my upside down plant (it was so great). Just one example of how great he enjoyed life and valued friendship. Jackie and I Love you all with all our

hearts. May the Lord bless and keep you, and may you dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of your lives.

Delores, you and Bob have been such a blessing in my life throughout the years. Much love, prayers and condolences to you and your family. Kari Word

–Kari Word

Deloris and family, Dr Shepherd has been a wonderful blessing to so many throughout NC. He is loved by everyone who was blessed to have known him. First Baptist Church of Lincolnton was one of the churches in which he served as interim. His smiling picture hangs on the wall of our church. During some challenging times he brought a loving stability when it was needed. He and his wife exuded love for our people. They made a difference. We , at First Baptist Church of Lincolnton are grateful to God for their willingness to share their love and wisdom with us. Joseph Dixon Free Retired Pastor of FBC, Lincolnton

–Joseph Dixon Free

The Gardner-Webb campus is a little quieter today, having lost our dear friend and colleague. He was a shining example of all that we strive to be. We are blessed for having known him.

–Tami Ruckman

One of the finest men I've ever had the pleasure of knowing. I first met Bob in the midst of his Rotary career and worked with him on many other things. He'll be greatly missed by all. Rest in peace, my friend.

—Barry Stock