

FRASER, Rev. James A.

The family of the Rev. James A. Fraser, age 90, of Dartmouth, is saddened to announce his passing on February 4, 2018, in the Dartmouth General Hospital. He was the elder son of the late Rev. Archibald and Jessie (Urquhart) Fraser, and grew up in North River Bridge, Victoria Co. He graduated from Dartmouth High School in 1945 and received his Bachelor of Science (1950) and Bachelor of Arts (1954) degrees from Mount Allison University. In 1957, he received the Bachelor of Divinity degree from Pine Hill Divinity Hall and was ordained into the ministry of The United Church of Canada. In 1971, he earned the degree of Master of Sacred Theology in Psychology and Pastoral Counselling from Andover-Newton Theological School in Newton, Mass. During summer breaks from university studies, Jim worked for the Nova Scotia Department of Highways in road construction surveying on the Cabot Trail. From 1951 to 1954, he was employed in the Engineering Department of Dominion Iron & Steel in Sydney, when he went on to study for the Ministry. Jim and his brother Lloyd were always mechanically minded, and they shared a passion for automobiles and for repairing them. Jim was equally adept at carpentry and fine woodworking, having built various clocks, including two full-size Grandfather clocks. Jim served pastorates in Bideford, P.E.I.; Onslow, Glace Bay, Tatamagouche, North Andover, Mass. Saint John, N.B.; Vernon Bridge, P.E.I.; and Trinity-St. Stephen's United Church in Amherst, from where he retired in 1993. In retirement, he served one year as supply minister at Woodlawn United Church in Dartmouth, and shorter terms in LaHave. Serving the wider church, Jim was Chair of Saint John Presbytery, Secretary of PEI Presbytery, Secretary of Conference Staff Committee, and Chair of Conference Mission Support Committee. As well, he was a member of the PEI Community Care Facilities Board, and President of the Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia Bible Societies. Jim and Shirley were avid members of the Stardusters and Coordinators Square Dancers, and members of the Woodlawn United Church Choir. They particularly loved their cottage time during summers at Lorneville, Cumberland Co., and the fellowship of the Lorneville United Church, of singing in its choir, and of the local community. Surviving are Jim's wife, Shirley (Atkinson, Wilson); sons, David (Brenda), Dartmouth; and Ian (Mary Jane), Halifax; daughter, Shirley (Robert), Toronto, Ont.; step-daughter, Janice (Michael Hambley), Dartmouth; grandchildren, Adam, Devin, Lukas, Julia, Shawn (Julie), Jack, Chris, and Will. Also surviving are sister-in-law, Irene, of Montague, P.E.I.; and nieces Faye, Dawn, and Marlene. Jim was predeceased by his parents, the Rev. A. C. and Jessie Fraser; his first wife, Mildred (MacDonald) and his brother, Lloyd. The family would like to thank the staff of 4 East in Dartmouth General Hospital for the compassionate care they showed Jim and his family during the last few months. Visitation will be in Atlantic Funeral Home on February 7th, from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Funeral service will be in Woodlawn United Church on February 8th at 2 p.m., with interment in Woodlawn Cemetery. Reception following. Memorial donations may be made to Woodlawn United Church Accessibility Fund, the Mission & Service Fund, or Alzheimer Society of Nova Scotia. Family flowers only, please. Online condolences may be made by visiting the Dartmouth Chapel at: www.atlanticfuneralhomes.com