



Rev. Dr. Robert William Smith

December 13, 1942 - August 30, 2018

The Rev. Dr. Robert William Smith, 75, of Bourbonnais, went to be with his Heavenly Father on Thursday, August 30, 2018. Visitation will be from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sunday, September 2nd at Schreffler Funeral Home in Kankakee and 9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. Monday, September 3rd at Asbury United Methodist Church. Funeral services will be at Asbury United Methodist Church on Monday, September 3rd at 10:30 a.m.

Robert W. Smith was born December 13th, 1942 in East St, Louis, IL. He was the son of Robert Frederick Smith and Eva Mae (Stimmel) Smith. Robert (Bob) attended Belleville Township High School, where he graduated in 1961. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, Chemistry and Math from Southern Illinois University in 1970. Bob worked for Monsanto Chemical Company as a Chemical Engineer before he got called into the ministry. At that time, Bob moved his family to Atlanta, Georgia where he attended the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. He graduated with a Master of Divinity degree in 1973. Later in life, Bob furthered his education by receiving a Doctorate in Theology at the Nazarene Theology School at the University of Missouri in 1999. He was a student pastor both in Georgia and in Illinois before he was an ordained minister. As an ordained pastor, Bob ministered at six United Methodist churches throughout central and southern Illinois. He retired on July 1, 2008 with 39 years in the ministry. Bob was a man of prayer and study. He knew his Bible inside and out. After retirement, Bob became very active in the Independent Order of Odd

Fellows. Bob was elected to serve as Grand Chaplain for the state of Illinois and Grand Master of Illinois. In 2013 he was elected as the world- wide Sovereign Grand Master. He traveled Europe and Canada as the representative for the IIOF.

Bob married his high school sweetheart, Rita Ann Gardner on April 13, 1963. To this marriage was born two daughters; Renee (Smith) Edmondson and Michelle (Smith) Gelso.

Bob's beloved wife of 49 years, Rita, passed away on December 16, 2011. A year later, Bob asked a lady in his church out for dinner. Janet (Thacker) Reynolds could not resist his charm, and they married in April of 2013.

Preceding Bob in death were his parents Robert F and Eva Mae (Stimmel) Smith and wife of 49 years, Rita (Gardner) Smith.

Surviving are his wife of 5 years, Janet (Thacker) Reynolds Smith, daughters, Renee Edmondson (husband Randy) of Des Plaines, IL and Michelle Gelso of Metropolis, IL. Grandchildren: Megan Edmondson Pullman (husband Ryan) of Bremerton, Washington, Elizabeth (Libby) Edmondson at SIU of Carbondale, IL and Matthew Edmondson of DesPlaines, IL, Katie Gelso of Metropolis, IL and Paige Gelso of Murphysboro, IL. Also surviving are his sister, Marjorie Cox of Ohio and brother, Ken Smith of California. Memorials can be made to Asbury United Methodist Church.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 2. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Schreffler Funeral Home - Kankakee Chapel
1900 W. Court St.
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-2421
<https://www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com/>

Visitation

SEP 3. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Asbury United Methodist Church
196 S. Harrison
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 933-4408

Funeral Service

SEP 3. 10:30 AM (CT)

Asbury United Methodist Church
196 S. Harrison
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 933-4408

Tribute Wall



“ *Rev. Dr. Robert William Smith*

February 03, 2023 at 04:30 AM



“ *Rev. Smith's guidance was a key reason I became a member of the Methodist Church. I was blessed by knowing him.*
Mike Moorman

Mike Moorman - September 27, 2018 at 06:05 PM



“ *Dear Renee and Michelle*
I just learned of your dad's passing and had lost track of all of you. I didn't know your mom had died either. We have great memories of both of them. I'm so sorry
Nancy and Dennis Allen

nancy Allen - September 10, 2018 at 09:05 PM

JC

“ To Renee and Michelle and families. We just heard today of your dad's passing. Our hearts are heavy. You know how much your mom and dad meant to us. We had so much fun with them. We remember how devastated we were when they told us they were leaving St. Francisville. Our kids loved your folks and the two of you so much. Remember the tether pole injury to Nathan's leg? Remember, Renee, how anxious you were on New Years Eve, 1976, when you thought Jeremy was going to be born in the living room of the parsonage? We have many fond memories, including when your dad came back and officiated at Amy's wedding. You are all in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time! We love you all! ❤️ John, Virginia, and kids. ❤️

John & Virginia Clark - September 09, 2018 at 01:25 PM

SG

“ Renee and Michelle, I am so sorry to hear of your dad's passing. He was an amazing man and I truly enjoyed my time in the youth group at the Methodist church in Newton because of Bob as well as your mother Rita. My thoughts and prayers are with you in this most difficult time.



Stacy Ghast
Newton, Illinois

stacy ghast - September 05, 2018 at 09:50 PM



“ So sorry for you loss he was a great man. Cassie (Kerner) Campton

Cassie Campton - September 05, 2018 at 12:14 PM

JD

“ So sorry to hear about Bob's passing. I just found out the news. I always thought so much of him. He helped me get started in ministry. I asked him to be my presiding Elder when I was ordained. I will truly miss him. Praying for the entire family. Joey Dunning

Joey Dunning - September 04, 2018 at 07:55 AM

AM

“ Renee and Michelle,
Your parents had such a tremendous impact on the lives of so many during their early years of ministry at St. Matthew UMC in Belleville. I remember all of you with love and much fondness. Hoping the many sentiments shared here by so many serve as a source of comfort, strength, peace and perseverance for you and yours in the coming days. “It only takes a spark.....”

Angie Snyder Mitchell Nashville, TN

Angie Snyder Mitchell - September 03, 2018 at 05:40 PM

RG

“ Renee and family: Thinking about you today in your time of loss and grief. Rick Van Giesen, Springfield.

Rick Van Giesen - September 03, 2018 at 10:27 AM

TD

“ Our condolences to the family of Pastor Bob. We have many fond memories of our time with Bob & Rita in Havana. He was a great pastor and friend and we're sure his talents were put to good use wherever lived after leaving Havana.

*Love,
Gary, Terri, Tyler, Jordan and Kyle DePatis*

Terri DePatis - September 02, 2018 at 07:48 PM

DG

“ Sorry for your loss Bob has a special place in my heart he help me to get started in ministry . You all are in our PRAYERS. Pastor Donnie and VALERIE Green Havana Ill.



Donnie Green - September 02, 2018 at 03:29 PM

CW

“ Janet, I am so sorry to hear of Bob's passing. May God bless you and give you His peace during this time. You are in my prayers, my friend. Love, Carol Ruch Wylie

Carol Wylie - September 02, 2018 at 12:01 AM

JP

“ Our deepest sympathy. Fond remembrance of Bob, his love and ministry for Jesus, and countless youth group events. He holds a special spot in our hearts and impacted our children and their Christian Walk. Love and hugs to all from Daniel and Julia Pryor and family, Havana, IL

Julia Pryor - September 01, 2018 at 10:33 AM

AW

“ Alice West lit a candle in memory of Rev. Dr. Robert William Smith



alice west - September 01, 2018 at 10:26 AM

SW

“ Steve Alice And Noah West lit a candle in memory of Rev. Dr. Robert William Smith



steve alice and noah west - September 01, 2018 at 10:25 AM

LO

“ Bob was the first minister who spoke to my heart in a way that made me feel he understood what my relationship with my Lord and Savior meant to me. First Methodist of Havana, Illinois was the first Methodist church I ever attended and have been looking for it's replacement ever since! Rest In Peace in God's arms, Bob. May your family have only wonderful memories of you and find comfort in them. You are loved and missed, but never forgotten. Lyn Owen

Lyn Owen - September 01, 2018 at 07:30 AM

 Lisa Jill Ulrich Thompsor

“ Our sincere condolences. Roger & Lisa Thompson



Lisa Jill Ulrich Thompsor - September 01, 2018 at 02:58 AM

Jennifer
Markley
Brooks

“ *Such an amazing man!! I have very fond memories of he and Rita as he ministered at the First United Methodist Church in Havana, IL! They each left a wonderful impression on my life and a permanent imprint on my heart, for which I am eternally grateful! The Lord has gained an amazing man! Fly high with the angel's, my friend! God Bless!!*



Jennifer Markley Brooks - August 31, 2018 at 08:02 PM

SC

“ *Our sincere sympathy to the entire Smith family. Bob was a good friend and a good Odd Fellow. He will be missed by many. In FLT, Sharon and Loren Cunningham, Past Grand Masters of Wisconsin*

Sharon Cunningham - August 31, 2018 at 05:59 PM

DV

“ *I was so sorry to hear of Bob's passing. You have my deepest sympathy. He was a great man and will certainly be missed by all who knew and loved. The Odd Fellows have lost a great member and his expertise will be missed at the IOOF Home. But we have the reassurance that He is now with the Lord and someday soon, we will be reunited with him again. GOD BLESS YOU ALL AND GIVE YOU COMFORT.*

Donna Grable, VPRA - August 31, 2018 at 03:56 PM

BP

“ *All the wonderful times we shared eating out and playing cards. Our trips to Florida with the youth groups. Bob and Rita our best friends. Bill and Jeannie Powers Newton, IL*

Bill Powers - August 31, 2018 at 03:03 PM



“ 41 files added to the album LifeTributes



Schreffler Funeral Home - August 31, 2018 at 02:01 PM