



Pastor A Richard Smith

June 10, 1928 - August 25, 2020

Albert Richard Smith passed this life peacefully on Tuesday, August 25, 2020. A. Richard was born on Sunday, June 10, 1928 and spent his 92 years making a difference in the lives of everyone who knew him and many more who did not. While he made each person feel they were most special to him, there was a small group he upheld as the most important people in his life - his family. His faith gave him assurance that his parents Ollie, Sr. and Pauline, his beloved brother (and golfing partner), Ollie, Jr., and his treasured grandson, William "Shane" Carnahan, were waiting for him at a heavenly reunion. The surviving family members, grateful for the wonderful example he set as husband, father, grandfather, and friend, are his gracious and much loved wife of 69 years, Olga Finney Smith, with whom he raised three incredible children, Paula (Clint) Carnahan of York, SC, Eric of Winchester, TN, and Terese (Bill) Burns of Conifer, CO, along with 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

A Tennessean from birth until death, Richard graduated from high school (also the place he met Olga) in 1946, graduated college in 1949, and began mission work in Tullahoma in 1950 while he was in seminary. Newcomers to the area were looking for a Lutheran church in their town, and he was glad to help get something started and then move to the next project after a couple of years. Trinity Lutheran Church became an established church with its first 50 members and its first minister, who remained for 42 years.

Baptisms, weddings, and funerals were expected at any church, but Pastor

Smith brought the community to the congregation and the congregation to the community. A friend shared, "He turned Trinity Lutheran Church into much more than just a Sunday morning congregation, hosting the Tullahoma Day Care Center until it built its own building on part of the property, the Mother's Day Out program, Farmer's Market, AA programs, and was available for pastoral counseling at any time of the day or night." When he wasn't preaching, counseling, or taking care of his family, he could be found at the University of the South in Sewanee, where he taught Greek. What a treasure he has been to so many students of life!

He was known by many names: Richard, Rich, Daddy, Dad, Papa, Pastor Smith, and A. Richard. For those who knew him as a minister, his name was changed a bit by one group of youth in the 1970's who decided to call him "The Richard Smith" because he was more than one of many, he was The Richard Smith. For those who knew him as their pastor, he was the example of what a minister should be.

As people have discovered of Pastor Smith's passing, they have been anxious to share how special he was in their lives. If you've never known this gentle man, you might enjoy learning of him through their words:

- Thank goodness to have known so fine a person, who was made all the better for the support and love of a woman like Olga, and children like Paula, Eric, and Terese, who shared him with all of us.
- There are "Christians" and there are true Christians, who truly practice the love they preach. The world is a lesser place today because the truest Christian I've ever known has left us.
- He was a tremendous influence on me in my life. He was there for my family & me in all the good times & bad for almost all my life. He was the best example of a man living his life as a Christian that I have ever known or hope to know. While I know heaven rejoices at his arrival, I feel his loss most acutely tonight.
- So many memories of the wonderful man that he was and the numerous times that he helped all of the folks in this area.

- Such a very special man that was such a huge part of so many lives. There are no memories of my growing up years where Pastor and family and Trinity Lutheran are not included.
- What an icon. Loved him & his sense of humor.
- Truly a father to all of us who had the great gift of growing up at Trinity under his loving care.
- He was a great influence in my life. I loved Trinity Lutheran and so admired him!
- Pastor Smith was patient, caring, a great teacher, loving, forgiving of my many mistakes, and most of all a great friend.

Pastor Smith was not one to want to be in the limelight, and happily shared the stage with others. "He could draw people out and have them talking about themselves, their work, their family," one friend shared. While he did like to preach a sermon each Sunday, it seems he would wait until Sunday morning to let the Associate Pastor know which service he would be preaching, leaving the other service for them.

We have covered a lot of the life of A. Richard Smith, and there was more you might not have seen very often - his silly side. He would join in the fun at church camp and youth group, even coming up with his own song to sing: "When you're up, you're up, when you're down, you're down. Sometimes when you're up you may be upside-down. But whether down or up, upside-down or down, keep a smile on your face and never a frown." (Actions were definitely included)

And then there is the most important side of A. Richard Smith. He loved his family, taking a day off on Friday or Saturday to just hang out with his children, and giving Olga a chance to do something else. He enjoyed getting away from the ministry he loved to spend time with the family he loved, traveling away from home to be able to be just Daddy or Dad and later Papa, with no phone to answer.

So many people will miss this remarkable human, perhaps none more than

Olga, Doodle-Bug, Cap, and Pee-Wee and their children. He will be missed by so many more who might not have seen him in years but who have valued his presence, his lessons, his patience, and his humor.

A book of memories is being put together, and your story would be a welcome addition. It will take the place of any eulogies, named, in fact 'Not a Eulogy' because he was so specific that there be no eulogy. Please send pictures and words to ARichardSmithMemories@gmail.com or mail to A. Richard Smith Memories Trinity Lutheran Church 705 Wilson Avenue Tullahoma, TN 37388. Because people mattered so much to Pastor Smith, the family has chosen to honor him now through this sharing of memories and at a later time in person with those who wish to celebrate - a time when hugs and tears might be shared more freely and safely.

Please visit our website at www.davesculbertsonfuneralhome.com to leave online condolences. Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Tribute Wall



“ *Pastor A Richard Smith*

January 25, 2023 at 12:28 AM



“ *Pastor Smith was such an influential part of not only my life as a youngster but my family's life as well. Our family attended Trinity Lutheran Church in Tullahoma and was so blessed by Paster Smith's leadership in following our faith. Thank you for everything and am so happy you are in the presence of our savior. Prayers for the family.*

Greg and Lisa Gibb - September 07, 2020 at 10:22 PM



“ *He made a major impact on my life since my family joined when I was 8 years old. I went through confirmation with him and he married me to my then-husband. I will never forget him. God bless him! I was so blessed that he baptized both of my sons. God now has an amazing angel in heaven.*

KATHERINE M MCMILLAN - September 04, 2020 at 08:38 PM

AB

“ There are not enough words or adjectives in the English language to adequately describe Pastor Smith. He was the kindest, smartest, most thoughtful, knowledgeable, selfless person I’ve ever known. He always managed to find some good in everyone he met and somehow knew exactly the right words to say in any situation. He could talk you into doing something that you thought you’d never do and be happy about it. He had an ability to find people’s “hidden” talents and would encourage them to use them. He has influenced countless people in a positive way and helped them change their lives. I never did know how he did it all; surely he never slept. He was the most perfect example of Jesus’ work that I have ever met and was a true Christian’s Christian. He was loved by everyone that knew him and he helped our whole community of folks that were not in the congregation. He found creative ways to help everyone in the congregation get to know each other and know about each other. During any sickness, surgery, or crisis he was the first person you would see. He always knew how to get things done and never turned anyone away. He started numerous services that would help everyone in the community. His sermons always spoke of God’s love and made you feel warm, wanted and loved. I am so fortunate that I and my family had the privilege of knowing him through baptisms, pastor classes, and confirmations. My deepest sympathy to all his family; we love you all. His singing voice will be perfect now as he sings with the heavenly choir. We will certainly miss him here on earth, but the heavens will be much brighter and the tremendous love and compassion he gave to all of us will stay in our hearts forever.

Ann Byrom

Ann Byrom - September 03, 2020 at 04:47 PM

PC

(Daddy could fall asleep at the drop of a hat!)

Paula Smith Carnahan - September 05, 2020 at 12:45 AM

BS

“ Trinity Lutheran Church was very much a part of my youthful years - church services, choir, Luther League, volunteer events. With Pastor Richard Smith at the helm you saw a leader, teacher, compassion, kindness, and patience.

As teacher of my confirmation class, I'm sure Pastor Smith's patience was tested at times. Before confirmation class got started, we would often run over to the Shell gas station across the street for cold drinks and snacks. Our plan to be quick and get back often failed. We'd spot Pastor Smith standing at the roadside edge of church property, waving his arms, motioning us to come on back. Once again, he was gathering up his flock.

I was truly blessed to have known Pastor Smith and the Christian values he taught. A great mentor to all. I am appreciative to be a part of celebrating his life and extend my deepest sympathy to his family.

Beverly Sanders - September 02, 2020 at 10:20 AM

IW

“ Pastor Smith was a lot of things to me: Pastor, Teacher, Counselor, Camp Director, Wedding Officiator, etc. His impact on me and the fellow youth at Trinity Lutheran Church continues through future generations and is perpetual. Pastor, as I always knew him, was a patient, gentle soul and a right honorable man. No doubt, as he approached Heaven's gate, he must have heard from glory on high, "Well done (!) my good and faithful servant." I can't wait to see him again one day.

Isaac Wantland - September 02, 2020 at 09:02 AM

CB

“ Richard was my Greek professor at Sewanee for two years. We were given Greek scriptural translation assignments, and he asked us to prepare our translations so that a 10-year-old would understand them. So, to grade each translation he asked our 10-year-old daughter, Kaki, to come to class that day. It was her reaction to each student's translation read out loud that Richard used for the grade. So, our translations became known as the Revised Kaki'ized Version. Our family loved him dearly. He will be missed, but his legacy of love, empathy, and compassion for his neighbor will live forever.

Chip Broadfoot - September 01, 2020 at 05:07 AM

PC

This sounds so much like Daddy! Thank you for sharing 💜

Paula Smith Carnahan - September 01, 2020 at 11:03 PM

TD

“ Richard was a wonderful colleague and friend. I am so blessed to have known him, and I know that he rests secure in the loving arms of his Savior. Lifting up his family and friends in prayer.

The Rev. Dr. William Danaher - August 31, 2020 at 04:24 PM

KC

“ Pastor Smith influenced my life in so many ways and many of his teachings still influence me today. He was an amazingly kind, compassionate and patient person. He was a beautiful soul



Kathryn Baer Charboneau - August 31, 2020 at 12:01 PM

KS

“ Pastor Smith was our Pastor until his retirement in 1993. I remember one time when we had a loss of our home he helped to comfort me. He said "sometimes you can feel Gods arm around you comforting you". I believe that he is now in the presence of God and his family is also being embraced by comforting hugs by God. He once told my son during confirmation class that when he died not to feel sad because he would be with God.

Kathy Saine - August 30, 2020 at 07:32 PM

RT

“ Deeply saddened to read of Pastor Smith's passing. I am thankful to have known him for the last 50 years since I was growing up. And more recently as the best neighbor a person could wish for. One of the best Christian role models there could be. My prayers are with Mrs. Smith, Paula (who was a class mate) and the rest of his family.

Randy and Nancy Tipps

Randy Tipps - August 30, 2020 at 04:02 PM

HT

“ Pastor Smith was a wonderful pastor for us for the many years we attended the Lutheran church in Tullahoma. He was really an example of what a good pastor should be by setting an excellent example as a church leader. His sermons were always positive and I remember him as a kind and helpful pastor. He also helped me when I was very young in counseling me to not get married to a very possessive young man I was engaged to at the time, lifting my burden and leaving the way free for me to meet and eventually marry a wonderful man with whom I have been for 57 years. I shall always remember Pastor Smith with great fondness.

Heidi Windmueller Tawfik.

Heidi Tawfik - August 30, 2020 at 12:30 PM

SG

“ My favorite Bible verse was included in every church service I can remember growing up when Pastor Smith delivered the sermon. To this day, I can't read it without hearing it in Pastor's voice. Several years ago, I made a wood burning of it and it has hung in my living room since. Heaven gained a beautiful soul and we rejoice. Godspeed, Pastor!



Sharon Nee Goodman - August 29, 2020 at 11:17 PM

LM

“ Pastor Smith was a wonderful man. I always loved attending his services. He never met a stranger and made everyone feel welcome and loved.

Lori Martin - August 29, 2020 at 01:13 PM

LM

“ Lori Martin lit a candle in memory of Pastor A Richard Smith



Lori Martin - August 29, 2020 at 01:05 PM

TB

“ I only knew Pastor Smith from his reputation. He was known ad a loving and kind minister. I know daughter Paula and saw that she was raised to be loving and kind too.

Teresa Moore Brown - August 29, 2020 at 08:49 AM

LC

“ *Pastor Smith an icon for Tullahoma!*

- Many childhood memories of Pastor Smith whose family home merely 2 houses away from ours here on Edgewood Drive. While "the gang" enjoying many playtime activities outside and seeing friendly wave from Pastor Smith.



*With warm and heartfelt sympathy
Lynn Crosby*

Lynn Crosby - August 28, 2020 at 10:03 PM

MS

“ *Oh, didn't he love to hold up loving mirrors before us? He helped us see our best selves and who God longed for us to be. You made me a better person and a humble pastor in Christ's church. Thank you for sharing the gift of who God made you to be, Pastor Smith.*

Rev. Miriam Seyler

Miriam Seyler - August 28, 2020 at 08:56 PM

BC

“ *God has a special place for Pastor Smith. He will be missed by many.*

Buddy Carr - August 28, 2020 at 06:50 PM

SM

“ I had the pleasure of knowing Pastor Smith while growing up in Tullahoma. I played on the same little league team as his son Eric. After our games were over, he made it a point to tell every player they played a good game win or lose. He was a fine man and an example of a Christian. He will be missed by Tullahoma & the world. My deepest sympathy to all the family.

Sincerely

Steve Marcrom

Steve Marcrom - August 28, 2020 at 03:12 PM

CD

“ Pastor Smith was not our preacher where I grew up but always felt that he knew us. When my mother was buried, the Presbyterian Church had a new minister that had never know my mother. Pastor Smith drove to Nashville , to preform this service. He spoke of my mother so kindly and I do believe they were good friends. His words were so calming to me. I loved him. Thank you for sharing your dad and husband. He helped make Tullahoma great. Such a selfless man and family. May God give you peace .

charlotte Lightner Duncan - August 28, 2020 at 01:52 PM



“ I found out late last night that the incredible man in this photo had passed away earlier in the day. This man, Pastor A. Richard Smith, has been a part of my life since the very beginning. He held me in his arms and baptized me as a baby. When I was older, it was he who taught my confirmation classes. When I was a teenager, I asked him if he would marry me when I grew up. He put his hand on my shoulder, smiled and said sweetly, “I would love to, but I’m already married.” We giggled and then he said, “Of course.” When I found the love of my life and he proposed, Pastor Smith did indeed agree to marry us. Even though he was retired, he honored the promise he’d made to me so long ago.



Pastor Smith was an incredible man of God. When he spoke of Christ’s love, the warmth was almost palpable. He had a soothing way of speaking that would just wrap around you like a favored worn blanket you used all the time for comfort. His eyes literally sparkled without fail. It was as if there was so much love and light in him through his eyes was but one way for it to escape. His only flaw, near as I could tell, was his terrible singing voice. But I could never in a million years hear him sing “This is My Father’s World” enough. Even horribly out of tune, all I could really hear was the sound of what surely had to be an angel on Earth.

I don’t know how he managed to pastor such a large congregation for so long. I don’t know when he rested. I don’t know how he managed life with an unflinching smile through everything. I don’t know how he managed to continuously serve as such an amazing example of serving as the feet and hands of Christ. I also don’t know why he ultimately had to suffer with Alzheimer’s. When I went to visit him on Christmas of last year, I knew he would not know who I was. The Alzheimer’s had cruelly robbed him of his memory. But there were several things Alzheimer’s couldn’t steal from him. In his eyes was that same sparkle; on his face that kind smile still rested; and his voice, while faltering, still retained that soft and kind

cadence I remember all the way through my childhood, adolescence, and into adulthood. Even Alzheimer's couldn't erase the core of who he was. Ever.

I can't imagine the unbelievable loss this must be to his bride, children, and extended family. I know they're loss is tempered by knowing he is whole again, but the void, I can't imagine. The memories and spirit will never leave us, but knowing that life here on this earth has been extinguished, makes the world seem a little darker to me. I'm just relieved to know the heavens are even brighter.

Stephanie Sexton - August 28, 2020 at 01:18 PM

CW

What a beautiful story!

Connie Deurmeyer Wilson - August 29, 2020 at 10:50 PM

PF

“ *Pastor Smith was a "giant" of the Christian Faith. His compassion, caring and concern were his "hallmarks". It would be impossible to count the lives he has touched directly or indirectly. Prayers for the family as they mourn and celebrate this life of a saint here on earth.*

Paul Frank - August 28, 2020 at 12:04 PM

CL

“ *Connie Lacey lit a candle in memory of Pastor A Richard Smith*



Connie Lacey - August 28, 2020 at 11:48 AM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home - August 28, 2020 at 10:11 AM

JP

Pastor Smith was so such a soft spoken, gentle and kind man that when he spoke I felt Jesus was speaking. I was not in his congregation, but I loved hearing him speak. He will be sadly missed.

Joyce Parsons - August 28, 2020 at 03:00 PM

CW

“ *Connie Deuermeyer Wilson lit a candle in memory of Pastor A Richard Smith*



Connie Deuermeyer Wilson - August 28, 2020 at 12:14 AM



Pastor Richard Smith starting coming to Crowell's Chapel Lutheran Church while he was in seminary and continued to attend on special occasions, celebrations, weddings, funerals, etc. throughout the years. We will miss you pastor Smith, but there should be no doubt that you are now In a more fitting place. A wonderful man in a place where you will with certainly find peace.

Julia Campbell - August 29, 2020 at 05:36 PM

CW

“ *What a lovely man! So full of heart and gold! Will be so sadly missed! God loved him so much! My heart goes out to the family, that loved him so! Prayers to you all!*

Connie Deuermeyer Wilson - August 28, 2020 at 12:13 AM

 Mary
Rogers

“ *I remember Pastor Smith leading a service at Jenkins Lutheran Chapel, a bright sunny day & we had the windows open. Pastor Smith lifted his arms up for a blessing and his robes looked like Angel wings. He was an Angel on earth for many of us and I know he has been blessed with well deserved true Angel Wings.*

Mary Rogers - August 26, 2020 at 03:01 PM

BS

“ *I am deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Pastor Smith. He and his wife were always so caring to my family. A caring and devoted man of God, he will greatly missed by me, my family and the entire community. --Bertha Reese Smith*

Bertha Smith - August 26, 2020 at 12:39 PM