



Rev. C. Edward Claus

September 9, 1938 - December 23, 2021

York Beach, ME – The Rev. C. Edward Claus, 83, of York Beach and longtime Methodist clergyman, died Thursday, December 23, 2021 at York Hospital after a period of failing health with his loving family by his side. He was born in Lawrence, MA September 9, 1938 the son of the late Carl E. and Gertrude M. (Leiper) Claus.

He was a graduate of Tenney High School, Methuen, MA valedictorian of the class of 1956 and with high honors from Tufts University in 1960 and Boston University School of Theology in 1964. He was ordained a deacon in the NH Conference of the Methodist Church in 1961 and ordained an elder in 1964.

His ministry included the following New Hampshire churches, starting at the East Kingston Community Church from 1961-1963, Milford United Methodist Church from 1963-1967, was the founding pastor of St. James United Methodist Church in Merrimack serving from 1967-1974, Grace United Methodist Church in Keene along with the Marlow United Methodist Church from 1974-1981, St. Paul's United Methodist Church and the Grasmere United Methodist Church in Manchester from 1981-1985 and the Hampton United Methodist Church from 1985-1995. He retired in 2001 after serving the Southern New Hampshire United Methodist Church District as superintendent for 6 years.

He shared 59 years of marriage with his wife, Carol Ann (Lafreniere) Claus.

In addition to his wife, family members include three sons, Dale E. Claus of York, Joel E. Claus and his wife Gina Cotton and stepson Xander of Durango, CO, Tracy A. Claus and his wife Seng Khanthamath of Merrimack, NH and daughter in law Amy Claus.

In addition to his parents he was predeceased by his infant daughter Robin Lynn.

A Celebration of Life is scheduled for 2 P.M. Friday, June 17, 2022 at the United Methodist Church, 525 Lafayette Road, Hampton, NH.. In lieu of traditional remembrances donations may be made to Emma's Angels – Rescue, 30 Meeting House, North Berwick, ME 03906

(Pet Shelter).

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN 17. 2:00 PM (ET)

Hampton United Methodist Church
525 Lafayette Road
Hampton, NH

Tribute Wall

GF

“ *From St James in Merrimack to Wanakee. Rev. Ed and his family have been apart of my circle for about 52 years. He was the leader of senior high for years. A man with a true calling and always an ear to listen. Sending Light and Lots of Love to the Claus Family.*



Gracie Giddings (Fairbairn) - June 17 at 08:56 AM

RN

“ *Ed,
Thank you for being one of the kindest, friendliest, and caring people I have ever met. The summers I spent on staff at Wanakee were always more inspirational and magical because of you leadership, sharing, and example. I will hold memories of conversation, laughter, and insight inspired by you for all the days of my life.
Rest in Peace, Rev. Ed.
Ruthie Nelson*

Ruthie Nelson - June 15 at 02:54 PM

DH

“ *Ed was my DS very early in my ministry. He was caring and supportive, and we had a wonderful connection. His sense of humor, commitment to social justice, and his insights were so helpful to me. He was a pastor as well as supervisor, and he made a difference in many lives. I'm very grateful for having known him and worked with him.*

Deb Hanson - June 14 at 11:30 AM

FM

“ *Ed was a very gentle and sweet man! Ed was such a great neighbor and friend to my parents and family in York! Along of course with Carol who still is the sweetest woman. All of us kids have wonderful memories when we were at mom and dads. You were always in our life. Love to you both!
Felicia*

felicia motherway - January 28 at 09:07 AM

“ I’ve known Ed for nearly 60 years. I can say without qualification that, except for my parents, he was the most influential person in my life through both his inspiration and example.

When I first met Ed, he seemed to be the most unconventional clergyman I had ever known. He loved Mad magazine! One of the favorite retorts of the early Sixties, other than “You bet your sweet bippy” from Rowan and Martin’s Laugh In, was “Tough darts Agnes” from Mad. So of course when Carol and Ed got two new dogs, they named the male Toughy and the female Agnes. Ed loved offbeat movies! Two that I saw with him over the years were Tom Jones and Monty Python’s Life of Brian which we analyzed and discussed so much that Joel and I finally gave him a Life of Brian coloring book. Some people considered it unusual that Ed visited the town jail to talk to prisoners. Our youth group accepted that as something expected of our minister but teased him anyway by naming his car the “Clergy Cruiser”. I think that in many ways, these and many more examples illustrate Ed’s playful sense of humor which came through in everything that he did, no matter how serious the task.

I’m not sure how long Ed continued his practice of preparing his sermons from draft to final copy in longhand, which was in his distinctive handwriting, but I hope that he never purchased a typewriter. I hope that all of those meticulously written sermons are in an impressive file somewhere. But as compellingly as Ed wrote and spoke formally, his actions and example spoke more impressively and meaningfully to all of those who knew him or were able to observe him in action. He was patient, understanding, giving, and loving to a degree that I’ve not seen in any other person that I’ve known. At the same time he had the force of personality, decisiveness and understanding of human nature to be an effective leader as illustrated by his many accomplishments leading many different congregations and summer youth camps.

Since I left Milford and the many weekly contacts that I had then with Ed, I’ve still been able to spend several Christmases and many vacations with Ed and Carol throughout my adult life. In many ways I consider myself to be a son in addition to being a close friend.

Rest in peace, Ed.

Dale Straw

DH

“ I have fond memories of Ed when we both had offices on the 5th floor of the conference's building in Lawrence. He never failed to stop by my desk for a cheerful chat whenever he was in. He was a gentle soul and I am grateful for the time we shared.

May your memories bring you and your family comfort.

Dot Hollenbeck

Dorothy Hollenbeck - January 21 at 04:48 PM

TG

“ Ed was my official mentor during my candidacy process, and an unofficial mentor for many years afterwards. Eventually, he also became my district superintendent during the early years of my time as pastor of Milford UMC. All the way along, he remained a constant source of encouragement, support, and love. He never got swallowed up in the institutional/bureaucratic aspects of the DS role. I have had my share of DS's, some great and some not so great, but Ed was the best of them all. Carol and family, you are in my prayers as you grieve the loss of this wonderful man.

Tom Getchell-Lacey - January 08 at 02:32 PM

PH

“ Ed started his ministry in East Kingston, NH where he was well loved by all, especially my parents who took Carol and Ed into their home and hearts. I so enjoyed time spent with Ed at District meetings and with both Carol and Ed at The Isles of Shoals retreat after my husband died. They were a wonderful couple full of love and care.

My love to you, Carol. Priscilla (Radcliff) Hull

priscilla Hull - January 06 at 02:06 PM

MR

“ So terribly sorry to hear of Ed's passing. We of the Seacoast Cluster in the 1990s loved Ed's participation with us, and his not leaving when he transferred from pastor of Hampton UMC to DS.

I always remember saying to the group -"if anyone told me 20 years ago some of my best friends were 6 middle age white men, I'd have said they were crazy."

But truly Ed and the others were that group of best friends.

Ed's passing is a loss for all.

Marilyn Robb - January 05 at 02:38 PM

DW

“ I will always remember Ed's warm personality, One time I had made a poor pastoral decision and the reactions were intending to pull me down. He came as Superintendent and guided the relationships to keep me from packing to another church. I am sure there many other occasions where he quieted the circumstances. I have high regard for Ed. We differed in beliefs, but we walked and worked together as brothers. God be with you Carol and your family.

Dan Weaver

Dan Weaver - January 04 at 12:36 PM



“ 7 files added to the album Mr. Ed



Barry Harrison - January 04 at 10:43 AM

AF

“ Prayers of comfort for the family as another one of God's servants Rest In Peace
Pastor Alecia Freeman & family @
Fisk UMC , Natick, MA



Alecia Freeman - January 03 at 02:43 PM

GP

“ Dear Carol,

It was a privilege and joy to serve on the cabinet with Ed. He brought thoughtful reflection to our deliberations. Ed's playful nature and his humor provided levity whenever we took ourselves too seriously. He cared deeply for the pastors and churches in his district. He loved his family. He worked efficiently and effectively. He did not over talk. He was humble and kind.

Sam and I are grateful that our lives intersected with his and yours even if for a brief season. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to you and your family in your time of grief and we share your gratitude for his life and gifts.

*Grace and peace be with you,,
Gwen and Sam Purushotham*

Gwen Purushotham - January 03 at 02:39 PM

RC

Carol, I too found it a privilege to serve with Ed on the Cabinet. I also enjoyed your visit to Aldersgate last year. The flock seems smaller and smaller, but God is good... and Ed was a manifestation of God's goodness. I have an understanding of your pain and loss. There is nothing like the loss of a spouse.

Rev. Linda Campbell-Marshall - January 03 at 03:52 PM

JK

“ *I remember the Senior High camps at Wanakee, the Six days of Creation Camps and the Environmental Exchange Camps we worked on together.- Jeff Kress*

Jeff Kress - January 03 at 11:37 AM

CN

“ *A kind, gentle, and faithful 'pastor's pastor', Ed's wise counsel and friendship has meant so much to me over the years. I will miss his calls and especially times he joined us at Camp Hedding. My thoughts and prayers are with you, Carol, and your family.*

Cindy Nickerson

Cynthia Nickerson - January 03 at 09:04 AM



“ *I am so happy, that you were a friend, of Bruce, and I had the “privilege”, to get to know you, the past three years. Bruce will certainly miss you...you inspired him. Rest In Peace*

Carole Estrella - January 02 at 01:45 PM

JD

“ We were so sorry to hear of Ed’s passing. He was such a kind and gentle man. Ed shared his experience and wisdom with us when we became District Superintendents. He helped us navigate those first disorientating months and was always available to us when we had questions.

We were blessed to know Ed. Our prayers are with all his loved ones in this tender time.

Jan and Mike Davis

Jan Davis - January 01 at 10:15 PM

BW

“ A wonderful, caring man of faith. It was a privilege to serve Christ with Ed in the NE Conference of the UMC! Praying for Carol, the family, and all that knew and loved him.

Brian Wood - December 31, 2021 at 05:27 PM

SH

“ Fond memories flood my heart. Love to all family and friends.
Rev. Susan B. Hoffman

Susan Hoffman - December 31, 2021 at 11:08 AM

JM

“ I am so sorry to hear of Ed’s passing. Ed was tremendously gifted as a pastor and throughout his leadership in the Conference(s). I appreciated his wise and sensitive counsel, his gracious manner, and his keen sense of justice in the Church. Blessings and prayers with Carol and the whole family. *Jim McPhee*

James McPhee - December 31, 2021 at 08:57 AM

CC

“ 19 files added to the album Mr. Ed



Carol Claus - December 30, 2021 at 11:18 AM

RG

Ed was part of so many programs and trainings with me, and he was always generous and positive, filled with joy and honesty. I especially remember a clergy gathering at his home in York, and the beauty and hospitality offered. He was an inspiration and support, and I am grateful that I knew him.

Rev. Linda Littlefield Grefnell - December 31, 2021 at 11:36 AM

AK

So sad to hear of the passing of Ed Claus. You were a friend and mentor when I worked for you as District Superintendent in NH. I appreciate all your wisdom. Love to the family
Ann Kippley

Ann L Kippley - January 03 at 02:50 PM



I remet Ed while serving in the dance ministry at St Mark's Kittery Maine. Your willingness to be part of the songs we danced and your appreciation and gratitude was appreciated.
Janet Warfield

Janet Warfield - January 03 at 03:31 PM

CM

Ed was a dear friend and gracious host with Carol for so many meetings in their home. We had many times of laughter and seriousness. He was a blessing to many.
Carroll Moore

Carroll Moore - January 05 at 12:05 PM

JG

I am so sorry to hear of Ed's passing. He was such a gentle soul. Our dog group had many enjoyable breakfasts and get togethers with Ed and you, Carol, over the years. He will be missed by all! If it's any comfort, I'm sure all his doggies and kitties, who went over the Rainbow Bridge, were there to greet him and welcomed him to his heavenly home. Carol and family.....you are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Jane Gagné

Jane Gagné - January 07 at 09:59 AM

AF

To say Ed was a wonderful man is an understatement. We were in the Tenney High School class of 1956. Ed never changed. H he was the same kind, understanding man in adulthood as he was a high school classmate. We will miss him. God Bless Ed, Carol and his family.

Angelo Fisichella - January 10 at 02:33 PM