



Dr. Edward H. Heck

July 24, 1954 - September 6, 2016

Edward "Ed" Heck, senior pastor of Kankakee, Illinois, First Church of the Nazarene and an adjunct professor at Olivet Nazarene University, passed away September 6, 2016 at West Chester Hospital in West Chester, Ohio, following a short illness. He was 62.

He was born July 24, 1954 in Rock Island.

Ed was raised by his grandfather, Fred Swanson. Following Fred's death, he was raised by foster parents, Burton & Irene Lang in Sylvis, Illinois.

He graduated from United Township High School in East Moline.

Ed married Kathleen Welton June 7, 1975 in Three Rivers, Michigan.

Heck, who began serving as senior pastor at Kankakee First Church in 2000, was an adjunct professor of leadership at his alma mater, Olivet Nazarene University. In 2014, Heck received a Ministerial "O" Award from the university. Begun in 1957, this is the highest honor that the University gives to its alumni.

Heck experienced great growth and spiritual vitality in each of his pastoral assignments. This included churches in Morenci, Michigan; Flint, Michigan; Vicksburg, Michigan, and Vandalia, Ohio.. He was the Chicago Central district secretary for 12 years. He served on the Future of the Church Commission, as well as other boards and committees for the global Church of the

Nazarene.

In addition to a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Literature from Olivet Nazarene University, he held a Master of Divinity from Nazarene Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry from Fuller Theological Seminary.

Surviving are his wife of forty-one years, Kathleen Heck of Bourbonnais; his daughter, Alea, who will be graduating from Olivet Nazarene University in December of 2016. He is also survived by one brother, David & Lea Lang of Louisburg, Kansas; two sisters, Sandra & Ambrose Canty of Davenport, Iowa and Virginia & Jerry Thomas of Colorado; one half brother, Doug Lawson ; sister-in-law and brothers-in-law, Jill & Mike Morgan of Flat Rock, Michigan and David Welton of Three Rivers, Michigan; his mother-in-law, Kathleen Welton Scutt of Bourbonnais; several nieces and nephews; and several great-nieces and great-nephews.

For fun, he loved riding his 2003 Harley Davidson Heritage Softail Classic motorcycle with his wife, Kathy. He loved his involvement with the Kankakee First Church softball team, which recently became the 2016 Nazarene National Softball Tournament Champions.

He is preceded in death by his grandfather, Fred Swanson; and his foster parents, Burton & Irene Lang.

"Let me declare it while I still have the ability to do so: I am right with God, I am right with things, and I've put things right with others," Heck wrote in a blog post September 5.

Visitation will be held 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Friday, September 16, 2016 at Kankakee 1st Church of the Nazarene.

A Celebration of Life will be held 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 17, 2016 at Kankakee 1st Church of the Nazarene. There will be no visitation held on Saturday.

As we celebrate the life of Dr. Heck, the family has requested that friends and family wear bright colored clothing.

Following the services, cremation rites will be accorded.

Memorials may be made to the Dr. Edward H. Heck Scholarship at Olivet Nazarene University.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **16.** 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

First Church of the Nazarene
1000 N. Entrance Ave.
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 933-1000
<http://www.k1naz.org>

Celebration of Life

SEP **17.** 11:00 AM (CT)

First Church of the Nazarene
1000 N. Entrance Ave.
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 933-1000
<http://www.k1naz.org>

Tribute Wall

PM

“ Ed had a love for all people. He was a dear colleague. I sought and appreciated his advice on occasions. He always had a joyful greeting and encouraging message to share. I did not have the privilege of working closely with Ed as many others did, but I appreciate having the opportunity to work with him in doing the Lord's work. I will miss him and his leadership in the church. There is a hole in the world today with your parting. Thank you Ed for all that you did for me.

John Mohler

Pastor John Mohler - September 16, 2016 at 01:39 PM

LO

“ My e-mail to Pastor when a family member passed away was received with a full page response even though I did not attend First Church. Pastor loved people and was willing as a servant of the Lord to minister when called. He took ministry serious at all times. My prayers to the family a Shepherd has been called home it's his time to receive Great honors for his servanthood on earth. It's time for us to continue the service of ministry to people in the name of the Lord as Pastor did.

God's Blessings

Leila Owen

Leila Owen - September 11, 2016 at 10:46 PM

Llora
Kranich

“ *Llora Kranich lit a candle in memory of Dr. Edward H. Heck*



Llora Kranich - September 09, 2016 at 07:38 PM

VM

“ *Ed and I attended ONU at the same time. I was working my way through college with a job at Tenney Sales. Late in my third shift, i was operating a fork lift and in an accident, broke my wrist. As I went into the emergency room at Riverside Hospital, i was greeted by Ed. As I recall, he was working as a uniformed security officer. What I remember very clearly is the compassion and concern extended to me by Ed. I have never forgotten his genuine kindness and love to me in the aftermath of my injury. Of course, later we attended seminary together and in fact, he followed me as senior pastor in Vandalia , Ohio. I last saw Ed at Kankakee First Church when I had the opportunity of officiating at my uncle John Jarnigan's funeral. As always, Ed was welcoming, caring and genuinely interested in what was happening in our lives. I pray that our Savior will be very near to Kathy and Alea. With love and friendship Virgil and Patty Mills*

virgil mills - September 09, 2016 at 07:34 PM

SG

“ *There is a sacredness in tears. They are not the mark of weakness, but of power. They speak more eloquently than ten thousand tongues. They are messengers of overwhelming grief...and unspeakable love. ~ Washington Irving*

Our heartfelt condolences for your loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Dr and Mrs Samuel Gowan

Samuel Gowan - September 09, 2016 at 11:06 AM

 Sharp
Whtiger

“ *I want to say, it was a pleaser meeting you and getting to know your church. I realize that everyone who crosses your path in life, you should get to know who they are and what life experience they can tell you or teach you.*

You shared some of that with my fiance and myself a few years ago when we came to your church to find a path to follow.

May God keep you by his side and help welcome others into his kingdom of heaven, may you rest in peace.

Prayers for your family.

BS & MP

Sharp Whtiger - September 09, 2016 at 07:55 AM