

Reverend George Henderson MacLean
1925-2015

George MacLean, 89, passed away on 19 July 2015. Born on 22 November 1925, he was the son of James Duncan MacLean and Faith Dorothea (Henderson) of Saint John, New Brunswick. He grew up in Centenary-Queen Square United Church, and graduated from Saint John Vocational School, where his father taught. George earned degrees from Mount Allison University and Pine Hill Divinity Hall, both with Honours, and was ordained into The United Church of Canada in 1948. George met Helen Catherine Moase in the spring of 1957, when she returned to PEI from Naramata Centre where she was Dean of Women. Immediately prior to that, Helen had been in Japan as a J3 missionary at Shizuoka Eiwa. Lew and Jean Murray, dear friends, set George and Helen up at dinner and 100 days later, they married. George served the pastoral charges of Advocate, Trinity New Glasgow, Upper Londonderry, Hampton, Sussex, St. Andrew's Truro, and LaHave-New Dublin. A Supplementary Reserve Chaplain in the RCAF, he served Canadian Forces Bases in Nova Scotia, Quebec, and New Brunswick. He was Chairperson and Secretary of presbyteries, a Commissioner to General Council, and President of Maritime Conference 1991-1992. George retired in 1992. George sang for years in the Maritime Conference Quartet. He chaired the Archives Committee and the Interview Board. He was Pine Hill Alumnus of the Year in 1990 and Secretary of the Alumni Association for 17 years. Many would comment that his meeting minutes were more fun than the meetings themselves! George gave quiet affirmation to his colleagues in ministry, particularly young clergy. Often he would send a handwritten note of welcome, or support as someone was ministering in a difficult pastoral situation, or encouragement following a person's challenging presentation to Presbytery. George had a mind like a steel trap for names. He took the time to learn the history of each area he served, and remembered the details. Ships, Holsteins, lobster politics, trains, pianists, funeral directors, sign language, fire hall plans, church architecture, tide charts: he could bring them to mind in an instant. He had the intellect for excellent preaching and the patience for heart felt pastoral care. And he would roar with laughter. In their later years George and Helen enjoyed quiet retirement in their home on the South Shore, gardening, painting, making tea, collating history, and writing letters; they were robust supporters of the bookmobile. They moved to Drumlin Hills in Bridgewater, and he was seen daily around town out for errands, fresh fish and postage stamps. George died on July 19, and Helen on November 13, both at home and in the company of dear ones. Their greatest joy was their family, who miss them deeply: Catherine and Earl, Andrew and Hannah of Edmonton; David and Terri, Carsten and Myra of Bridgetown; John and Sherry, Josie and Duncan of Truro; George and Laura Lee, Hilary and Abigail of Fredericton; and Susan and Chris of Hamilton; Helen's brother Reverend Clifford Moase, Fredericton, and sister Evelyn Combs, Vancouver Island. Services in memory of George and Helen were held at West Side United Church, Pentz, Nova Scotia, where in 2013 a tower with the West Dublin United Church bell was raised in honour of their lifelong impact on people and places, and their faith in our loving God.

A celebration of life was held at West Side United Church, LaHave, Nova Scotia, 17 August 2015.