



John N. Ashenfelder

April 14, 2012

Reverend John N. Ashenfelder, 92, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family on April 14, 2012.

He was born in Philadelphia, the son of the late Edna and Josiah Ashenfelder. Upon the death of his mother, he was reared by relatives, John and Ida Brewer, in Vineland, New Jersey, where he graduated from high school.

He graduated from the Bible Institute of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, where he was president of his class during his senior year. He received his B.A. degree from Wheaton College in Illinois. From Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, he received the Master of Divinity and Master of Theology degrees. He also did graduate work in theology at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia.

He was ordained by the Atlanta Presbytery in his first church, Ebenezer Presbyterian Church, in Hogansville, Georgia in 1945. John was pastor of Eastside Presbyterian Church in Gadsden, Alabama and served as president of the Ministerial Association in Gadsden. He was the assistant minister and Minister of Education of First Presbyterian Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

He gave daily radio devotionals in both Gadsden and Baton Rouge. He spent time visiting with the lepers at the National Leprosarium in Carrville, Louisiana.

John was pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Ware Shoals, South Carolina, and helped organize the Community Services Board and the Ministerial Association there, serving as the first president of each organization. He was on the Mental Health Board and the Carolinas United Board, as well as the Board of Brewer Hospital in Greenwood, South Carolina. He came to Portsmouth, Virginia and served as pastor of Prentis Park Presbyterian Church, then associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church, and finally pastor of Cradock Presbyterian Church before retiring. He spent a year raising money for the endowment fund for Davis and Elkins College.

He also supplied at Northampton Presbyterian Church in Hampton and Glenwood Park Presbyterian Church in Norfolk for a few years.

John was always willing to help his fellow ministers—preaching, making hospital or home calls, conducting meetings, training officers, and officiating at weddings and funerals. During his 67 years of ministry he preached in 48 of the churches of the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia.

John enjoyed sharing his wisdom through teaching as well. He taught a class at Louisiana State University and was professor of religion and philosophy at Lander College in Greenwood, South Carolina. He also taught at Frederick College in Portsmouth and Old Dominion University, as well as classes at Langley Air Force Base and Fort Eustis.

John was a volunteer chaplain at Portsmouth General Hospital and in the Sentara hospice program in Norfolk. At Maryview Medical Center in Portsmouth he was a volunteer chaplain as well as coordinator of the chaplains and served in the rehabilitation center. He was a member of the Board of the Seaman's Friends' House in Newport News and the Board of Mental Health in Norfolk.

As a hobby, John enjoyed building and repairing bicycles for the neighborhood children. He also liked to fish when he had the time but usually came back

with a sermon instead of a fish.

John is survived by his wife of 67 years, Martha; daughter, Ann English, and her husband, John, of Suffolk; daughter, Jane Ashenfelder, of Suffolk; daughter, Joy Dean, and her husband, Fred, of Portsmouth; brother, Joe Ashenfelder, and his wife, Virginia, of Lancaster, PA; niece, Susan Lambert, of Ephrata, PA; nephew, Howard Withington, and his wife, Alice, of Philadelphia, PA; nephew, David Ashenfelder, and his wife, Keri, and their children, of Mount Joy, PA. He was predeceased by his granddaughter, Jill Watson, and his sister, Myrle Withington.

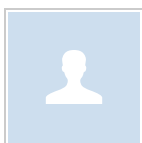
A funeral service will be held on Thursday at 2 p.m. in Loving Funeral Home, 3225 Academy Avenue, Portsmouth, VA, with Dr. James Young officiating. The family will receive friends following the service. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association for Research, 6350 Center Drive, Suite 102, Norfolk, VA 23502 or online at www.alz.org/join_the_cause_donate.asp.

Tribute Wall



“ Our deepest condolences are with all the family. May God comfort you and give you peace in knowing that your Husband and Father is in his eternal home in Heaven with his precious "Pooh" and other loved ones. He is with God and has a new body with no more suffering or pain. We will always remember Rev. Ashenfelder as a man of God, with a kind, gentle spirit, and great love for God and his family. We are truly blessed to have known and been neighbors during Rev. Ashenfelder's ministry in Ware Shoals. We love you, and you are in our thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Mike and Gloria Caughman##imported-end##

May 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Beth,I am thinking of you in this time of sorrow and my prayers are for you and your family. Dale##imported-begin##Dale Dickerson##imported-end##

April 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Bob and I want to send our sincere condolences in the loss of your Father and Husband. I feel we knew him through Beth and wish we could have in person.Take comfort knowing he is with our Lord now. love Pat and Bob##imported-begin##Pat and Bob Coles##imported-end##

April 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ John Ashenfelder was a good man who served his church, his community and his fellow man, lived a long and productive life.

My condolences to his family and many friends. May he rest in peace.##imported-begin##Bernie Kirsch##imported-end##

April 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Rev Ashenfelder christened me as a baby at Prentiss Park Presbyterian. When they closed, we followed him to First Church downtown Portsmouth and then to Cradock Presbyterian. I have many fond memories of him and his family. He was a tremendous source of comfort to our family when we had an illness and deaths. I learned many things from his teachings and will miss him very much. God bless.##imported-begin##Wyndee Whitaker##imported-end##

April 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ There was no finer man than Rev. Ashenfelder. I had the good fortune to be raised in his church and blessed through his ministry in Portsmouth, VA. He played a huge role in my life in countless ways in my younger years, and I learned so much from him. He gave me the best advice I ever got: "Learn to forgive yourself first, then pass that on to others". A true man of faith who lived his life as an example to so many others. I have thought of him and his family often in later years, and send my sincerest condolences to them all. John is now where his face can shine down on others. The joy and love of his faith that he shared with us will never be forgotten.##imported-begin##Linda Molloy##imported-end##

April 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *I'm sending love and prayers to Beth and John and the whole family.##imported-begin##Laura Kallam##imported-end##*

April 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM