

THE PRESBYTERY OF THE CASCADES
The Synod of the Pacific, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
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July 13, 2010

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ in the Presbytery of the Cascades,

We celebrate the life and ministry of Donald Ansel Schwab (HR) who died a few weeks short of 100 years of age on July 6, in Vancouver, Washington.

Don was born on the Navaho Indian Reservation in Tolchaco, Arizona, where his parents were missionaries, on July 31, 1910. He was raised on Indian reservations until attending high school in Pandora, Ohio, where he graduated in 1927. He received a Bachelor's Degree from Northwest Nazarene College in Nampa, Idaho in 1931, and sensing a call to ministry, enrolled in San Francisco Theological Seminary, graduating in 1934. He married Ruth N. Witt that same year and began his ministry serving the Shoshone and Paiute Indians on the Western Shoshone Reservation. He was ordained by the Presbytery of the Redwoods on October 30, 1934.

Don ministered to Native Americans in a number of settings during his long ministry, including, Owyhee, Nevada, Laguna Pueblo Indian Church in New Mexico, and Mono Indian Church, North Fork, California. He served as director of Rosamond B. Goddard Children's Home and later as Director of Haines House, Haines, Alaska. He was appointed Chaplain of the Princeton-Hall, a Presbyterian Mission boat serving the islands and peoples of Southeast Alaska. He was then called as pastor of the Wrangell Presbyterian Church for ten years. Following his years of ministry in Alaska, Don pastored the Culee City Presbyterian Church and Tieton Presbyterian Church in Washington State. He retired July 31, 1975.

During his years of ministry, Don held a number of positions in governing body leadership, including Moderator and then Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Rio Grande, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Central Washington, and Vice Moderator of the Synod of Alaska-Northwest.

In 1975, Don and Ruth moved to Calvin Court, a Presbyterian Retirement community, where Don was assistant manager for over ten years, and manager from 1986 until 1991. He frequently served local churches as a pulpit supply pastor, and preached monthly at the Welsh Church of Beavercreek, Oregon through 1991. When Ruth contracted cancer in 1995, they moved to the Vancouver Kamlu retirement home. Ruth died in 1998. He married Adaline Kerry in 2000. She died in 2005. Don continued to minister while living at Kamlu by teaching a Bible class there. He ministered to others until the day he died. He is survived by his daughter, R. Elaine Parker, and son, David Allan Schwab.

A service celebrating Don's long life and many ministries will be held at Columbia Presbyterian Church, 805 SE Columbia Ridge Dr., Vancouver, Washington, at 10:00 a.m. on July 31, 2010. This day would have been his 100th birthday.

Let us mourn with all who mourn Don's death and let us give thanks for his many ministries of love and care and faithful service to God in the name of Jesus, Our Christ.

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