



Dr. W. Edge Dixon

November 5, 1918 - November 5, 2015

William Edge Dixon, beloved husband of Margaret (Leonard) Dixon, died peacefully at home as the sun set on Nov. 5, which was his ninety-seventh birthday. Margaret and other family members added grace to his passing by singing hymns to him throughout the day.

Edge spent his life in service to others, first as a Navy officer and then a Methodist minister for 38 years, 21 of which were spent serving the Worthington United Methodist Church. He was a soft-spoken, humble man with an unshakable faith in God – and he was kind to everyone.

He loved his family, his friends and all dogs. Edge also loved sweets, especially chocolate, and lived the motto, “Life is short. Eat dessert first.”

He was born on a small farm near Cairo, GA, the son of William Lafayette Dixon and Francis (Edge) Dixon. He spent his summers picking cotton, corn and harvesting peanuts, always accompanied by his beloved Collie dog and then later, a loyal mixed breed named Max.

Edge graduated from Cairo High School at age 15 and then attended Georgia Southwest Junior College in 1934 at the depths of the Depression. It took him four years to graduate, working every other year to save enough to return to campus. After graduating, he worked another two years for the \$500 tuition

fee at the University of Georgia, where he enrolled in 1940 to study accounting. He graduated in 1942 with honors, earning a Bachelor of Business Administration.

During his senior year at Georgia, he was offered a commission to the U. S. Navy's Supply Corps School at Harvard University. Edge's first duty station was on Cockspur Island near Savannah, GA. He was selected for further Navy accounting training at Harvard Business School in Boston, where he met the first love of his life, Ruth Wohr.

They dated long-distance while he served almost two years in Key West and Miami, FL at the District Supply/Accounting Offices. During this time, he decided to enter the Methodist ministry upon his Naval discharge – and to marry Ruth.

They were married in Boston June 8, 1946 and then relocated to Evanston, IL where Edge earned a Master of Divinity from Garrett Theological Seminary while Ruth attended Northwestern University, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology.

They returned to Boston after Edge was accepted into Boston University to pursue a doctorate in social ethics. He earned his Ph.D. in 1955, along with classmate Martin Luther King, Jr. Edge and Ruth served three area churches during that time at Allston, Newton and Harvard-Epworth and celebrated the births of their three beloved children: Donald, Janet and Jean.

In 1958, Edge transferred to the Ohio Conference and became the Senior Minister at the Methodist Church in Bowling Green, Ohio. Seven years later, he accepted the final appointment of his ministry at Worthington United Methodist Church where he and Ruth spent the next 21 years, retiring in 1987.

During his retirement years, Edge enjoyed vegetable gardening, playing golf and vacationing with Ruth, with frequent visits to their children and grandchildren. Ruth was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in late 1991 and passed away in January 1995.

In 2000, Edge moved to Friendship Village of Columbus where he met the second love of his life, Margaret Leonard. They were married in the spring of 2001 and both refer to the last 14 years as some of the happiest of their lives. They enjoyed traveling, playing bridge and visiting family, all the while holding hands and laughing often. Margaret's six sons and their families welcomed Edge as one of their own and he delighted in their mutual affection.

Edge was preceded in death by his wife of 48 years, Ruth Wohr Dixon, and also by his longtime best friend, Carl C. Nourse of Worthington, who died on Sept. 5, 2015.

Surviving him is his wife, Margaret (Leonard) Dixon; his son, Dr. Don Dixon (Joanne) and daughters Janet Dixon-Metcalf (Bob) and Jean Dixon (Jeffrey Underwood). He has four grandchildren: Jeffrey, Patrick and Kate Dixon (Don's children) and Jessica Aikin (Jean's daughter). He was the proud great-grandfather of Patrick's son, William Lawrence ("Billy") who was named after Edge.

He is also survived by Margaret's sons: Jim (Melody), John (Leigh Ann), Donald (Jane), Rick (Ruth), Larry and Scott (Sangita) Leonard and by her 14 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren, all of whom called him Grandpa Edge.

A celebration of Edge's life will be held at the Worthington United Methodist

Church, 600 High Street in Worthington, OH at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 17. A visitation –and sweets – will follow the service in the church’s Dixon Lounge. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made locally to Community Meals at Worthington United Methodist or globally to United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

NOV 17. 6:30 PM (ET)

Worthington United Methodist Church
600 High Street
Worthington, OH 43085

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. W. Edge Dixon*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *My sister-in-law called this morning to tell me about Edge's death. Her daughter named their third child after Edge because he meant so much to them. Also, I came out of the Worthington UMC Church and went into ministry so we were also colleagues. In fact it was my joy to serve at the Bowling Green Church where Edge had also served. He was remembered with much love and appreciation by the members who were there when he was their pastor.*

I would have been at his celebration of life service if I would have know ahead of time.

Somehow I just received the email this morning. May the God he loved give each of his family members peace and comfort that Edge is now experiencing.

Sincerely,

Gary Boucher

Gary Boucher - November 21, 2015 at 02:22 PM

DM

“ So sorry that I will be out of town tomorrow. I have many fond memories of Edge when he was the pastor at Worthington UMC. He was my church bridge partner for a while before he moved and found Margaret. We also had a connection to Boston University School of Theology and to Harvard Epworth Methodist-Episcopal Church in Cambridge, MA (my father taught Sunday School there many years ago). My condolences to Margaret and his family.

Deborah Norris Matthews

Deborah Norris Matthews - November 16, 2015 at 01:28 PM



“ Memories to Treasure was purchased for the family of Dr. W. Edge Dixon.



November 15, 2015 at 09:48 PM

HU

“ Gog Bless/RIP, to ALL who served. Thank YOU for your service, Mr. Dixon And Senper Fi. SIR



Herb Sharfenaker USMCR - November 15, 2015 at 08:47 AM

CG

“ Thank you for letting Edge be a part of the Friendship Village family. He was such a gentleman . I will miss my hello sweetie and kiss that he shared with many here at the Village. He will be greatly missed. Thank you again. With sincere sympathy. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Carol Gilbert and the Staff of Ridgewood Assisted Living.

Carol Gilbert - November 13, 2015 at 12:36 PM

JC

“ Edge was such a warm and caring gentleman, and a man of God. Our family will miss him and will remember him as a gentle shepherd.

Janice Cook - November 10, 2015 at 10:15 PM

LB

“ We at Friendship Village are very sorry for your loss. Edge was a big part of our family here and is missed by many. I have a special memory of him, every time he saw me he would stop give me a hug and kiss and ask how are you doing "sweetie". He was a special man and made those of us around him feel special.

*Our prayers are with the family. God Bless,
Lisa Burkhart, Executive Director, FVC*

lisa burkhart - November 10, 2015 at 10:59 AM