

Allen Stewart Keiper



Allen Stewart Keiper (Al) was born in Phila. PA. on April 10, 1930, the first son of Stewart and Alice Raws Keiper.

Al graduated from Northeast High School in Philadelphia and Philadelphia Bible Institute. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Houghton College in 1965 and his Master of Divinity degree from Colgate Rochester Divinity School in 1971.

His marriage to Nancy Jones of Philadelphia, whom he always referred to as his 'help-mate', was solemnized by her late brother, Rev. Robert H. Jones in 1957. Their life verse Psalm 48:14 ***"For this God is our God for ever and ever: He will be our guide even until death."*** provided assurance and strength throughout his life.

While serving in the USAF from 1950-1953 he experienced his Christian conversion. Shortly before his death he was thrilled to go with Honor Flight Rochester to Washington DC with 50+ other veterans of WWII and Korea.

Following his graduation from Bible School, Al accepted an invitation to come to the Western New York Conference. Bishop W. Ralph Ward ordained him a Deacon (1961), a Local Elder (1963) and in 1971 recognized him as a full traveling Elder.

Al served Locke, Angelica (Birdsall & West Almond), Warrens Corners, Attica (Darien) and Victor United Methodist Churches. Following retirement in 1997 he served for 14 years as chaplain at Wesley-on-East Nursing Home in Rochester completing 53 years of ministry.

He was a man of deep faith with a love for studying scripture and teaching Bible studies. One of his greatest joys was the opportunity to serve as a National New Life Missioner, leading missions in 13 churches around the eastern U.S. Al served on numerous Conference Committees i.e., Board of Ministry, Board of Evangelism, and the Superintendency Committee.

His love of sports and electric trains began when he was a child and lasted through a lifetime. Seeing some of his favorite baseball players *'up close and personal'* at spring training brought joy and smiles equal to that of a 12 year old boy. Anyone wearing a Phillies baseball cap soon became his friend. He eventually built his Railroad empire on the 3rd floor of the Victor parsonage and then in the basement of their retirement home in Penfield.

On October 12, 2016 Al was called home to be with his Lord. He is survived by Nancy, his wife of 59 years; two sons: Allen Jr. (Alethia) of Attica, N.Y. and James (Lora) of Attica, N.Y.; 5 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. His brother, Donald, preceded him in death.

A memorial service celebrating Al's life and ministry was held in Asbury First United Methodist Church in Rochester, N.Y. with the Rev. Dr. Stephen M. Cady officiating. Interment was in White Haven Memorial Park in Pittsford, N.Y.

Submitted by Nancy J. Keiper