

**Report of the Committee on Memorials
To the One Hundred Forty Third Council
Of the Diocese of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic
Of the Reformed Episcopal Church**

October 6, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

The Committee on Memorials serves the Council and the Diocese by collecting memorials of notable saints departed since the last meeting of the Council. The memorials listed below have been submitted this year.

Beverly Jean Reese (nee Leibrand), formerly of Philadelphia, PA went home to be with her Lord and Savior on February 5, 2023. Beverly, born February 26, 1952, was the beloved wife of Ronald for 51 years having married in September 1970 and together they raised four children. Beverly was loving mother of Kimberly, her late husband Scott Gallen; John, his wife Colleen; Karen, her husband David Arber, Jr. and the late Jeremy Michael. She was the daughter of Henry and Jean Leibrand and sister of Barbara Leibrand. She will also be sadly missed by her many grandchildren, nieces, nephews, other relatives and dear friends.

Beverly grew up in Philadelphia, PA and attended Frankford High School where she met her husband. Beverly was a retired nurse, she graduated from Temple University with a BSN and worked as a Registered Nurse at Jeanes and Torresdale Hospitals for many years.

She attended Trinity REC in Kensington until 1965 when her family relocated and transferred to St. Luke's REC. She was an active member of St. Luke's Bishop Hoffman Reformed Episcopal Church serving in almost every facet of the life of the church. She was treasurer of the Sunday School, worked in DVBS, was active in Women's Ministry for over 50 years, she sang in the church choir and with the community choir the Hallelujah Singers. She represented the church and the congregation at both Diocesan and General Councils and served as a Diocesan Trustee for the NEMA Diocese.

She loved to travel, and visit lighthouses, she also enjoyed photography and hanging out with "the girls". Her favorite lighthouse to visit was Cape Hatteras and had visited almost every lighthouse on the East Coast. She enjoyed many family trips going up the mountains to Promised Land State Park and down the shore to Cape May, NJ. Most of all she enjoyed spending time with her family.

After a protracted illness, Beverly passed away quietly on the evening of February 5, 2023 surrounded by the members of her family.

Fern A Wilson Nov. 19, 1928 - Apr. 3, 2023, passed away peacefully in her home in Glen Mills, PA on April 3rd, 2023. She was surrounded by three of her daughters.

Fern was the 14th and last living child of 17 children born to Peter and Emma Rickert on a farm in Hilltown, PA. She is survived by her five children, 8 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

Fern was a graduate of Philadelphia College of the Bible and Columbia Bible College. She and her husband felt called to serve as Christian Missionaries. They joined the North Africa Mission in 1950 and worked for them for 35 years first in Morocco and then in France. Fern learned to read and write French and Classical Arabic. While raising her three eldest children in Morocco, Fern taught sewing classes, reading classes, and was an intake clerk at the hospital where her husband worked as the Director. While raising her two youngest children in Marseilles, France she worked at the Radio School of the Bible in the correspondence department using her knowledge of French and Arabic. She was the hospitality host who helped with the logistics of getting new families situated in a foreign country.

Fern and Tom retired to the Bradenton Missionary Village in Bradenton, FL in 1987. Fern pursued her desire to help others by volunteering to care for patients on Hospice and by serving as an aid in an elementary school in an impoverished neighborhood. She won an award for her service to the Community. Wherever she was she was active in her church. To her family's surprise she was a writer. She self-published her memoirs as a volunteer for Hospice and the account of her adult life in "As I Remember".

Steven Keith Hoopes of Christiana, PA departed this life on Monday, April 10, 2023 at Kindred Hospital in Havertown, PA. Steve was born in Coatesville on December 30, 1970, and was the son of the late Arthur J. Hoopes, Jr. and Janice Townsend Hoopes.

Steve was a lifelong resident of Christiana, PA and a 1989 graduate of Octorara High School. He continued his education, graduating from Cairn University with a Bachelor's Degree in Biblical Studies and Elementary Education, and then completed his Master's Degree in Educational Leadership and Administration. He was most recently employed by Bethany Christian School of Oxford, PA, as a schoolteacher. He was formerly Principal of Christ Academy in Collingdale, PA. He also was employed by Grace Reformed Episcopal Church in Collingdale under Father Michael Fitzpatrick where he served as a Youth Director.

Susan Rodgers, of Abington, PA, a member of St. Mark's R.E. Church, went to be with the Lord on May 19 at the age of 66. courageous wife of Fred Rodgers, she was the

beloved daughter of the late Eleanor and William Flynn. She is the loving mother of Justin (Brittany), the devoted Ashley, and Stephen. Dear sister of Diane Flynn (Tammy), James Flynn (Christina) and the late Robert Flynn. Devoted grandmother of Kenzie and Rylan. Susan grew up in Northeast Philadelphia and attended St. Bernard's elementary School and Abraham Lincoln High School. She earned her RN from the University of Penn Presbyterian School of Nursing and graduated from LaSalle University with a B.S.N. Susan was an outstanding nurse, having worked at Presbyterian, Abington and Einstein Hospitals. Her eagerness to learn advanced her career by returning to LaSalle to obtain a MSN and was a member of The Wound Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society. Her family, her patients and her dogs were her life. Known for love of nursing and her professionalism, she positively affected many people's lives during her life and career.

When Sue wasn't supporting her family on the side of an athletic field or ice rink, she could be found volunteering her time at free clinics and health fairs in under served neighborhoods. She held a strong desire to share her skills and joined a missionary team that served a village in Nicaragua.

She will be forever missed. She was an active communicant of St. Marks Reformed Episcopal Church.

Diana Johnstone Lopez, of Greenville, Delaware passed away peacefully at her home on May 22, 2023, at the age of 71 surrounded by her loving family and pets.

Diana was born in Wilmington, Delaware in July of 1951 to Virginia and Paul Johnstone. She attended Tatnell School and graduated from Oldfields School. While home on break from the University of Colorado, she met and fell in love with another native Wilmingtonian, John Lopez, a covert operative with the CIA. John proposed to Diana on their third date, and four months later they wed. Diana joined John in traveling the world, living in Brazil, Peru, and England. A polylinguist, Diana spoke Italian and French and learned Portuguese and Spanish so that she could develop connections with people in their native tongue, wherever she lived.

Diana was a devoted mother to John Paul ("JP"), who was born in Brazil, and Katharine, born in Wilmington in between Brazil and Peru tours. The family returned to Delaware when the children were in high school. Throughout her life, wherever she lived, one of Diana's hallmarks was love and she often expressed that love through cooking. She was a consummate host and could always be relied upon to have a jar full of homemade chocolate chip cookies if you stopped by to say hello. After her children had graduated from college, Diana and John fell in love with Durango, Colorado and built a home there, where they made many dear friends, and Diana embraced her inner cowgirl, volunteering with Bear Smart and hiking regularly.

In addition to filling her home with love, Diana was a perpetual student and that love of learning took her through several careers. Initially she got her BA in business administration and later joined John at the CIA working overtly in Financial Services.

Throughout the years she got her real estate license, had her own Unishippers franchise run out of the home and was a convention planner for 20,000 person conventions for a large trade association. She was always successful at what she tried, but she was probably happiest in her last role working with philanthropist Foster Friess to communicate on his behalf.

Diana was an ardent Christian. A member of the Reformed Episcopal Church, she organized a congregation in Durango, Colorado. Diana attended the Blue Bell Seminary and earned a degree in Diaconal Studies. She was a longtime devoted member of the Bible Study Fellowship. She was a member of the Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross and on the Board of the Reformed Episcopal Seminary. She also leveraged her experience in large scale event planning to coordinate the Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON) in Jerusalem. During the Pandemic she led morning prayer for the Stonegates community, and volunteered with the Stonegates annual gift fund. She was a founding member and devoted congregant at St Peter's Anglican Church in Elkton, Maryland.

Diana was a lifelong member of the Wilmington Country Club. While her knees allowed, she was a passionate tennis player. She supported the Bluebird Committee that her brother Leigh had launched, maintaining forty bluebird houses and five purple martin houses. She would often tend the bird houses while on early morning walks with Molly, her beloved Bernese Mountain Dog. She trained Molly to be a service dog and volunteered with PAWS taking him to the public library and the public schools. The local autism support classroom especially treasured her visits.

Diana was a cherished wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and sister-in-law. She was predeceased by her parents, her brother Leigh, her nephew Colt, and her niece, Robin. She is survived by her husband John, her sister Caroline, her sister-in-law Linda, her brother-in-law Tom (Margaret), her children JP (Mary) and Kate (Tim), four grandchildren Jack, Margo, Louisa and Oliver and nieces and nephews Lairsey, Ginny, Lainie, Kim, Jenny, Annie, David and Bruce.

Rodney Alan Whitacre, 73, of Sewickley, Pennsylvania, went to be with the Lord on May 22, 2023. He passed peacefully in his home from lymphoma, with his loving family by his side.

Rod was born on December 28, 1949, to Charles and Leah (Keller) Whitacre in Des Moines, Iowa. He grew up in Richland, Washington, on the banks of the Columbia River in southeastern Washington State. When a child, Rod was baptized in the Methodist Church and fell in love with the Bible. By the time he was in junior high school he was active in a small inter-denominational mission and headed towards full-time ministry in the future.

After graduating from Richland High School, Washington, in 1968, Rod went on to earn a Bachelor's degree in Biblical and Theological Studies from Gordon College in Wenham, Massachusetts (1972), a Master of Theological Studies from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Hamilton, Massachusetts (1976), and a Ph.D. in New

Testament from Cambridge University, England (1980). He was later awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Cranmer Theological House, Dallas, Texas.

Rod was Director of the New Testament Greek program at Gordon-Conwell Seminary in Hamilton, MA, from 1981 to 1983 before moving to Pennsylvania to become New Testament professor at Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge. He authored a commentary on the Gospel of John along with several Greek text books, and was a well-loved teacher, counselor, and mentor from 1983 until his retirement in 2015. After retirement Rod continued to teach, sharing with students his love for the Word of God. Rod was an ordained priest in the Reformed Episcopal Church. For many years he served as part-time assisting priest at Grace Anglican Church, Edgeworth, where he also led a monthly acoustic music Roots Jam.

Rod is survived by Margaret, his wife of 50 years; son, Seth; son and daughter-in-law, Chad and Jessica; four grandchildren, Leah, Miriam, Samuel, and Ruth, all of Sewickley. He is also survived by two brothers, Timothy Whitacre and Thomas Whitacre, of Potlatch, Idaho.

Rod's hobbies included playing ukulele, guitar, and chess.

William "Bill" Samuel McQuade Sr., of Brigantine, NJ, passed away on Saturday, May 27, at the age of 64. Bill was the loving husband of Michele, devoted father to Renee Kazarnowicz (Kevin), William Jr. (Jenna), and Michael. Grandfather to Meghan, Amelia "Millie", William III, and expected Remi. Son of the late Samuel and Mildred McQuade. Brother to Robert (Cheryl), and Gary (Nancy). Uncle to many nieces and nephews.

William F. Kozma, born in Ridley Park, PA on February 6, 1953 was welcomed into the church triumphant on Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 5:20 am at Christiana Hospital in Wilmington, DE.

Bill graduated from Interboro High School class of '71, University of Scranton class of '75, and Reformed Episcopal Seminary class of '78, often using his seminary education in service of the kingdom.

After seminary Bill taught at a Christian school in the Great Lakes region before returning to Pennsylvania where he worked for PNC Bank and BNY Mellon as an IT professional. Bill was also a longtime member of Grace Reformed Episcopal Church in Collingdale, PA and faithfully served in the church and as a trustee of the diocese.

It was not unusual to see Bill at the church early in the morning and late at night. He was a 'first one in, last one out' kind of servant. He was church member, brother, godfather, and friend to many. Church members and colleagues have described him as a kindhearted, gentle soul with a generous heart. Bill will be deeply missed. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother, and sister-in-law.

Daniel Olsen, 95, of Minneola, FL and formerly of Linwood, NJ, went home to be with his Lord on September 14, 2023.

Daniel's early years were spent in the Atlantic City, NJ, area with his parents, Daniel Olsen Jr. and Kathryn Abrams Olsen, and his sisters, Frances, Kathryn and Marion. Following his graduation from Atlantic City High School, he spent two years in the United States Navy, a year at University of Pennsylvania and three years at Bible Institute of Pennsylvania - now Cairn University.

Daniel married Jean Molyneaux in 1951. Together, they served in Sudan, Zaire and Kenya with Africa Inland Mission International, 1953-1985. After overseas service, the Olsens settled in the Atlantic City area of New Jersey, where Dan served as an accountant and pastor. The Olsens moved to the AIM Retirement Center in Minneola, FL in 2005, where he enjoyed a discipling ministry.

Daniel is survived by his wife of 72 years, Jean, and their precious daughters, their spouses and children: Karen and Wayne Brubaker: Daniel and Alaina Brubaker (Norah and Graham) Brianne and Michael Hornbaker (Aleah, Abram, Mae, Elsie, Elias and Simeon) Rachel Brubaker (Blake and Alexa Cirino) Erika and Mark Melhorn (Emma and Kathryn). Daniel is also survived by the children of his sisters, Frances Stepp and Kathryn Poloway.

A memorial will be held at 3 p.m. Friday, November 10 at [Scott Manor](#), 1000 Media Road in Minneola, FL.

We thank God for these His children who have been a blessing to His Church for so many years.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. David A. France, Chairman