

## Obituary for:

### The Rev. David L. Castor

Rev. David Castor was born on March 8, 1934 in Concord, NC. He graduated from Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory, NC in 1957 and the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC in 1960 with a Bachelors of Divinity and a Masters in Theology. He was ordained as a Lutheran minister in 1960 at Center Grove Lutheran Church in Concord. Rev. Castor served as pastor to four churches throughout North Carolina, St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Burlington; Philadelphia Lutheran Church in Granite Falls; Resurrection Lutheran Church in Kings Mtn.; and St. Stephens Lutheran Church in Hickory. In 1973, Pastor Castor and his family moved to Cary, NC when he was called as Executive Director of Lutheran Outdoors Ministries of the NC Lutheran Synod, a position he held until his retirement 24 years later.

Beginning as a member of the Camp Committee of the NC Lutheran Synod and during his tenure as Executive Director of Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, Rev. Castor participated in the purchase and oversaw the development of 624 acres along the Cape Fear River in Fuquay-Varina, NC that became Camp Agape, expanded the Lutheran Retreat Center in Kure Beach, NC, the only oceanfront retreat facilities in existence. These camps and retreats have become models for other Outdoor Ministries around the country, fulfilling David's vision of hearing the Word of God in beautiful, natural settings and learning of God's teachings in the environment of His creation. In addition to his duties as Executive Director, Rev. Castor also served as a Regional Facilitator for Lutheran Outdoor Ministries on the East Coast, to aid in the direction of other camping programs. Rev. Castor felt this ministerial outreach was especially vital to the youth of the church, teaching them God's Word in a relaxed and fun atmosphere, as well as reaching out to others wishing to experience this unique style of Spiritual renewal. Pastor Castor was also instrumental in the development of travel ministries. This innovative form of ministry met a unique need and brought a new population to the camping and retreating experience. Rev. Castor became well known throughout the country as an expert in the development of travel ministries and he led many seminars and workshops, teaching others how to establish these programs in Their ministry settings. David led many trips and adventures, from the Holy City of Jerusalem to Vatican City in Rome, witnessing the marvels of God's wonders throughout the world.

Upon David's retirement in 1997, and especially after his wife's retirement from Director of Nursing at Guardian Care in Zebulon, NC, in 2001, they continued to enjoy travelling but David's main source of joy was derived from the time he and Faye could spend at their mountain home in Boone, NC. He loved to work among the Christmas trees growing on the farm and the garden he and Faye lovingly attended. He most loved being surrounded by family and friends, amidst the beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountains. There are so many fond memories of hot dog roasts with the grandchildren and tractor rides and the tree house. His greatest gift and, perhaps his most enduring legacy, was the great love he had for his family and his happiness at each moment that was spent there, among the mountains he loved so much.

Left to cherish his memory is his loving wife of over 50 years, Faye C. Castor, son Christopher D. Castor, daughter Cynthia C. Crumpler and husband, Dr. Earl H. Crumpler, Jr., and son Mark G. Castor and wife, Victoria S. Castor, four grandsons, Brandon Castor, Cameron Castor, Weston Castor and Hampton

Crumpler and four granddaughters, Mallory Crumpler, Savannah Castor, Caroline Crumpler and Emery Castor. Pastor Castor is also survived by two brothers, Donald Castor and Philip Castor, and one sister, Martha Sigmon, as well as numerous in-laws, nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his parents, Ross A. and Helen S. Castor.

The family would like to express their deep gratitude to the doctors and nurses who cared for Pastor Castor, especially Dr. John Sinden, Dr. Kenneth Leatherman, and Dr. Jeffrey Crane. The family would also like to thank the Wake County Hospice for their support and understanding.

A Celebration of Life service was held on Tuesday May 6, at 7:00 pm at Christ the King Lutheran Church, Cary, NC, with Pastor Kenneth Ray officiating. Funeral services will be held at Grace Lutheran Church in Boone, NC at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday May 8, Pastor Tim Smith officiating. Internment will follow immediately after the service at the Mount Lawn Cemetery, Boone, NC. The family will receive visitors for one hour prior to the funeral service at Grace Lutheran Church.

Arrangements have been made through Barney Hampton Funeral Home, Boone , NC

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the ministry that David built and loved: Agape ☩ Kure Beach Ministries, 1369 Tyler Dewar Lane, Fuquay-Varina, NC, 27526.