



Rev. Duff Webber

September 7, 2015

The Rev. Dr. Robert Duff Webber, 79, of Lancaster, died on Saturday morning, September 5, 2015 at Lakeside at Willow Valley after living for 14 years with ALS. Born in Oklahoma City, OK, he was the son of the late Lambert D. and Carro Lynn (Tad) Melrose Webber. He was the husband of Ann Atlee Webber. They celebrated 21 years of marriage on May 28th.

He graduated with a BA in 1958 from the University of Oklahoma; Perkins School of Theology with a Bachelor's of Divinity in 1961; Yale Divinity School, Masters of Sacred Theology in 1962; received his Ph.D at Yale University in 1970 and was ordained in the United Church of Christ.

Bob was Professor of New Testament at Lancaster Theological Seminary from 1973 to 1999 and taught religion at Bradley University from 1968 to 1973. He was a member of St. James Episcopal Church and Hamilton Park United Church of Christ in Lancaster.

An active volunteer within the Lancaster community, Bob was a former board member of The Parish Resource Center and a founding member of Lancaster Interchurch Peace Witness. He was a member of The Society of Biblical Literature, Biblical Theologians and the American Academy of Religion. He traveled extensively through the Middle East and South Africa as part of his life-long passion for peace and social justice.

Dr. Webber will be lovingly remembered by his wife Ann, his children; Suzanne Webber, wife of Al Miller of Montague, MA, Stephen Duff Webber of New York, NY, stepsons; John Pratt of Wilmington, DE and his partner Ray Perez, Benjamin Pratt, husband of Olga of Lancaster, and stepdaughter, Elizabeth Pratt Edgerton, wife of Robert of Shaker Heights, OH and his step grandchildren, Sarah, Allison and William Edgerton and Rebecca and EJ Pratt. He is also survived by his brother, Richard M. Webber and his wife, Jean of Oklahoma City, OK and nephews and nieces.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend a Memorial Service at St. James Episcopal Church, 119 N. Duke St., Lancaster, PA on Friday, September 11, 2015 at 11:00 AM. The family will receive friends at the church from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service. Interment will follow in St. James Church Memorial Garden. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent in his memory to Lancaster Theological Seminary, 555 W. James St., Lancaster, PA 17602, the Capital Campaign of the Bright Side Opportunities Center, 515 Hershey Ave., Lancaster, PA 17603, or to The ALS Association, 321 Norristown Rd., Lower Gwynedd, PA 19002.

Tribute Wall

LS

“Bob influenced my life profoundly when I was a student at Lancaster in the from 1985-89. After moving to pastor a church in Iowa 21 years ago, I was very fortunate to reconnect with Bob via emails during this past year. More than a mere "professor," Bob lived compassionately, joyfully, humbly, affirmatively, and I am comforted knowing that this spirit lives on among us all.

Linda Schmidt - September 11, 2015 at 11:27 AM

P1

“Even though I graduated from LTS in 1988, Dr. Webber's mentoring, encouragment, and passionate pursuit of faith and truth are with me in every sermon and Bible study since graduation. I was blessed to learn much through the content of the courses he taught. More importantly, I was blessed through the content of the faith and character of a humble, faithful, and brilliant servant, Bob Webber. I am most grateful for his life, his witness, his smile, his probing mind, his joy, and the many seeds of faith that he scattered along the way of following Jesus. My deepest sympathies to the family. Please know that you are all being upheld in our prayers. May God's healing hand continue to reach out to you all.

Paul Jones, LTS 1988 - September 10, 2015 at 08:51 PM

HM

“It is with sadness that I learn of my teacher’s passing, for his spiritual presence returned on each occasion of scriptural study. Dr. Webber was challenging when the occasion called for challenge, compassionate when the occasion called for understanding, and witty when he saw the occasion for humor. Dr. Webber kept the difficult balance of engaged Christian spirituality with the highest standards of intellectual pursuit. “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

Haydn McLean - September 10, 2015 at 05:24 AM

DG

“I had the pleasure to get to know Bob when we both served on the board of the Parish Resource Center. Over these years I realized that Bob was one of the finest men I have had the pleasure of working with. With my condolences, Dick Greiner

Dick Greiner - September 09, 2015 at 06:08 PM

LK

“23 years ago I had the great fortune to be one of twelve students in Bob's Corinthians class at LTS. The understanding and knowledge we gained with Dr. Webber's patient, loving and enthusiastic teaching was beyond expectation. However, what has never left me, is the compelling witness that Bob himself embodied as a teacher and pastor, which Paul wrote of: "For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance." With love and thanksgiving, Bob is remembered.

Larry Knutson - September 09, 2015 at 06:33 AM

RH

“ Dr. Webber was a true light at LTS and everywhere he lived. He was one of my favorite professors who always challenged us on the New Testament and on how we were to apply the scripture in our ministry. I have good memories of his classes. I will surely be praying for his family as they go through these difficult days. He was a true gentle spirit and a wonderful Christian man.

Rev. James C. House
Altoona PA.

Rev. James House - September 08, 2015 at 11:25 AM

LW

“ We're so sorry to hear this. We will remember Bob with a forever smile on his face. Our thoughts and prayers are with you Ann & your family. Rest in peace Bob..

Lisa & Randy Walker - September 08, 2015 at 10:08 AM

RM

“ Sad news, but a blessing for Bob.

I spent a wonderful night with Bob and Ann in their Lancaster home, in the early spring of 2005. It was a joyful reunion, but I sensed a cloud hanging over him: I only learned much later how far his disease had already progressed. Of course, he undoubtedly knew much more, but in typical Bob Webber style, he didn't want to burden me with his prognosis, since we only had a few hours together, after far too many years apart. I did talk with him later, but only briefly; but I never had another chance to be with him. Damn it !

Bob and I were classmates at Classen High School in Oklahoma City, OK, and I knew him very well. Bob was one of the smartest, happiest, kindest, and most humble people I've ever known. He was a great human being in every sense, but one who was always accommodating, generous, personal, and humble. He was a friend to all people, in the deepest sense of the word "Friend".

He was a Christian, of course, but he didn't have to say it: He lived it. He lived the universal love that Jesus lived and taught.

I sure do miss him.

*-Bob Murray
Austin, TX*

Robert H (Bob) Murray - September 07, 2015 at 10:22 PM

KL

“ Bob was so well loved by his classmates at Classen High School in Oklahoma City. He was our student council president and was awarded the Anton Classen Award in 1954 as the most outstanding senior. He was humble, friendly, witty, talented, smart, and sincere. We last saw him in 1989 at a high school reunion. I know he is at peace now and having many reunions with 200 other classmates. My deepest sympathy to the family.

Kay Neuffer Lindsey - September 07, 2015 at 07:29 PM