

REMEMBERING

Charles Astbury passed away peacefully surrounded by family September 7th in Woodstock, Vermont.

Born March 1937, to Blanche Westcott and Charles Astbury at their farmhouse on the North Bridgewater Road where he resided for over 84 years, Charles was the oldest of six siblings. He attended Woodstock High School, where he was captain of the football team in 1954.

Upon graduation he volunteered for military duty attending the Airborne school becoming a member of the 11th Airborne Division (Angles) in Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He was soon deployed as a paratrooper to North Germany where he served two years. At that time Germany was still trying to recover from the Second World War.

Returning to his family home he soon met and wed his bride, Hilda Harriman. They recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. Charles worked a variety of jobs in his lifetime; he was a farmer, butcher, managed building and grounds, co-owned a grocery store and served his community volunteering for various organizations. Charles enjoyed spending time with family, was an avid gardener, hunter, enjoyed reading, loved Vermont/Bridgewater history & fellowship at the Congo Church in Woodstock.

He is survived by his loving wife Hilda, brothers Nic & Ted, daughter Karen Sanderson & her husband Ron of Reading VT, his son Stuart & his wife Sheri from Bridgewater VT, four grandchildren, Kristine, Michael, Stephen & Spencer, four great grandchildren, Kayla, Kolton, Dublin & Roman, two great-great grandchildren Beau & Evelyn, along with many nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his parents, brothers Bobby and Chris, and a sister Penelope.

“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might he increases strength.

³⁰Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;

³¹but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;

they shall run and not be weary;

they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:28-31

MEMORIAL SERVICE



CHARLES “CHARLIE” ASTBURY

March 5, 1937-September 7, 2023

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

5:00 PM

MEMORIAL SERVICE

“For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
—Romans 8:38-39

*This is a time for family and friends to gather together in celebration & remembrance.
We celebrate Charlie's life and legacy even as we mourn our loss in his passing.*

Welcome		Pastor Douglas Warren
Prelude		
Opening Prayer		Pastor Warren
Song #100	<i>Holy, Holy, Holy</i>	Congregation
Scripture Reading	<i>John 14:1-6</i>	Gil Emery
Prayer of Thanksgiving		Andy Cole
Homily	“No Contest” 1 Samuel 5:1-12	Pastor Warren
Song #629	<i>What a Friend We Have in Jesus</i>	Congregation
Prayer & Benediction		Pastor Warren

~~Organist: Jonathan Denham~~

*We would love to have you stay for a reception after the service.
Charlie's family sincerely thanks you for your support & encouragement.*

REFLECTIONS

Funerals are a time for each of us to consider our standing before the Holy God of all creation. He reveals Himself in the Scriptures as unapproachable by anything other than faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord. It is not through trying to be a good enough person, but through the unmerited favor God demonstrates on the cross of Jesus Christ. Please allow me to share with you three important words to better understand the faith that Charlie had in Jesus as his Savior and Lord. They are repent, believe, and identify.

Repent. This means first of all to stop and to turn from all the various ways we disobey God and to start obeying Him instead. God has made Himself evident to all people even though we suppress that knowledge, but if we want to know Him as He truly is, the Bible shows us how to live in obedience to His holy calling.

Believe. Jesus calls us to stop believing that we can save ourselves or that any other thing can save us. He tells us to trust that He is the only way to God the Father. To believe *in* Christ is more than just believing that He was born; it's trusting Him to the exclusion of all else. What this baby King was born to do was to live the perfect life of obedience we fail to live and then die as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. His death on the cross paid the penalty for our rebellion and His resurrection from the dead on Easter morning declared that His sacrifice was accepted by God the Father. To believe in Jesus is to trust His life, death, and resurrection to the exclusion of all else.

Identify. Jesus doesn't just save us as individuals; He saves us *into* His family. He adopts His followers as brothers and sisters. The practice of holy baptism is the historic way that the Bible requires to identify with this family of God. If you have never been baptized, then you should confirm your belief in Christ by being baptized into the membership of a Bible-believing church. If you have already been baptized, then you should profess your faith in Christ and be joined officially as a member.

If you would like to know more about his kind of personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ, please contact me, Doug Warren, and I would love to talk with you more. *You can reach me on my cell phone at (802) 299-1623.*