



## Kenneth Fansler

January 26, 2010

Rev. Kenneth Fansler, 83, of The Lakes at Litchfield, died at his home on January 26, 2010. Mr. Fansler was predeceased by his beloved wife of 64 years, Evelyn Alexander Fansler. Survivors include sons Robert Craig Fansler and his wife, Kathie, of Winston-Salem, NC; James Keith Fansler and his wife, Donna, of Marshall Virginia, and daughter Susan Carol Russell and her husband, Russ also of Winston-Salem; also his brother, James Michael Fansler of Greensboro, NC, twelve grandchildren, and three step-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his sister Helen F. McCracken, and is survived by her husband George McCracken of Barhamsville, Virginia; also friend and colleague Mary Lu Norris of Murrells Inlet, SC. Mr. Fansler was born in Winston-Salem NC, on February 26, 1926. He graduated from Hanes High School in 1943; serving in the US Navy during World War II at Air Combat Intelligence in Jacksonville, FL. He was educated at Salem College, Winston-Salem, NC; Wesley Seminary, Washington DC; and Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC. He completed graduate study at Drew University, Madison, NJ; Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN; Crozier Seminary, Chester, PA; Princeton University, NJ; and Perkins School of Theology, Dallas, Texas. Ken was ordained in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church. He served Central Church in Concord, NC; Christ Church in Greensboro, NC; Covenant Church in Springfield, PA; First Church in Corning, NY; Aldersgate Church in Wilmington DE; Belle Meade Church in Nashville, TN; and Belin Church, Murrells Inlet SC. He held annual conference

committee membership in five of the six conferences to which he was appointed. His ministry began as a choir director in 1948. His love of music began when his father gave him a trumpet and six lessons so that he could play in the Moravian Band in Winston-Salem. Ken cherished the memories of playing in the early morning hours on Easter Sundays, finally joining others bands at "God's Acre" at Home Moravian Church in Old Salem. For ten years Ken enjoyed serving as Director of Youth Choirs at Lake Junaluska in North Carolina. As educator and clinician, he taught courses in the Western NC Training Schools from 1954-1964 and was known for his outstanding youth work in North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Delaware, specializing in camp retreats in Maryland and Delaware. He designed and taught curriculum for Christian Education, worship and music workshops in New Jersey, North Carolina and South Carolina, Alabama, Delaware, Tennessee, New York, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Georgia and Florida. Ken created and conducted hand bell choirs, and he directed graded choir programs at various churches he served. His choirs in Pennsylvania and Delaware produced three professional recordings under his leadership. Mr. Fansler served on the Board of Directors of the Christian Educators Fellowship, a national organization of The United Methodist Church. He attended national conferences from 1968-1994, serving on conference design teams in Boston and Savannah; also was a conference leader for six years at Jurisdictional Adult Conferences at Buck Hill Falls, PA. In Fort Worth, Texas he was on the management team for the 1990 Bishops Gathering. Ken was Music Director at the 1989 National Sunday School Conference in Houston, Texas. With his wife Evelyn, Ken led many tours groups traveling to Hawaii, Spain, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, The Holy Land, England, Scotland, Bermuda, Austria and Lichtenstein. They led chartered tours to Savannah, GA, and three trips to New Orleans, LA. Mr. Fansler taught Elderhostels from 1989-2009 at sites in Nashville, TN and St. Simons Island, Georgia. Courses he designed were "Horns and Halos in Humor", "Sources of Influence" and "Hymns for All Seasons". Since 1996 he and colleague Mary Lu Norris led

various courses of study in sacred and secular music; also workshops "Liturgy in Worship: and "Creative Worship". Together, they taught at Chautauqua at Lakeside, Ohio and at Epworth By The Sea at St. Simons Island. A noted author, Fansler published three books: "The Orange Surprise: in 1976. "Rainbows and Angels" in 1982, and "Angels For All Seasons" in 1993 and 1996. His articles on Christian education, music and worship have been published in many periodicals; among them "The Church School", "Alive Now", "The Christian Home", "Music Ministry", and "Lutheran Music". Locally Mr. Fansler served as Associate Conductor of The Coastal Chorale and Encore Coastal Chorale. As an ordained United Methodist minister, Fansler served The United Methodist Church at the national, jurisdictional, conference, district and local levels. A memorial service will be held at 2:30 PM Sunday, February 7, at St. Pauls Waccamaw United Methodist Church, Pawleys Island. The Celebration of Life for Rev. Fansler will begin with the playing of Moravian Chorales by a Moravian Band in St. Pauls Church garden, followed by selected music by The Coastal Chorale. Inurnment will be in Forsyth Memorial Park Cemetery, Winston-Salem. Memorials may be made to The Coastal Chorale, c/o Ron Hileman, 9562 Indigo Creek Boulevard, Murrells Inlet, SC 29576. Sign an online guestbook at [www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com](http://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com). Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Memory of church in coming ny and daughter carol*

tammy peck morse - August 31, 2020 at 10:18 PM



“ *Dear Craig, Keith and Carol: Every time I see the color orange I think of your Dad. It is imprinted on my memory and will forever be. Ken was largely responsible for the beginning of my music “career” and I’ll always remember the beautiful music we all made at Covenant United Methodist Church. His insatiable enthusiasm and attention to the words of the music made all of us in the choir sing with such joy. My parents, Noble and Mary Siegfried, were so fond of both Ken and Evelyn and I know they are all singing beautiful songs in heaven. God bless, Nancy Siegfried Hansen###imported-begin##Nancy Siegfried Hansen###imported-end##*

February 24, 2010 at 09:25 AM



“ *Ken, You will be missed. thank you for being supportive,my kids loved their grindaddy!###imported-begin##Julian M. Smentek###imported-end##*

February 15, 2010 at 11:50 AM



“ *Dear Fansler families, I just wanted to let you know what a profound influence Ken had on my life. He directed me in choir, handbells and in my life! What a JOY he was! "Oh Lord, I want to be in that number, when the Saints go marching in!" My sympathies are with you. But we can all look forward to seeing Ken again in Heaven! <3###imported-begin##Sam Cox###imported-end##*

February 10, 2010 at 04:35 PM



“ Dear Craig, Keith, and Carol One of my special memories was life at Covenant Church and a huge part of that was your dad and what he created in our youth choir. We may have been in different classes and activities at school but we were united by your dad through our singing at church. He was so funny and so sweet yet so demanding but he brought out the best in everyone and he obviously had a passion for what he did. My prayers are with you in your great loss. Karen Bachman Dyer###imported-begin###Karen Bachman Dyer###imported-end##

---

February 10, 2010 at 03:25 PM



“ The world will never be the same without Reverend Ken Fansler. He was funny, spiritual, musical and a wonderful husband, dad, granddad, brother, son and uncle. I will miss him deeply. My thoughts and love go to my cousins and their families. It has been a difficult year for them. Take faith, "Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands." Isaiah 49###imported-begin###Deborah & Jonathan Mills###imported-end##

---

February 07, 2010 at 07:51 PM



“ Dear Craig, Keith and Carol, Your Dad brought out the best in those around him with his great heart, talent and humor. What a gift he was to all of us. Thank you for sharing him. Love, Sue Conn###imported-begin###Susan Conn Chapman###imported-end##

---

February 07, 2010 at 11:17 AM



“ I imagine that Ken could die and meet his maker with conscience that is a good bit clearer and cleaner than mine. Good night, sweet prince.##imported-begin##Reverend Harold P. Lewis##imported-end##

---

February 07, 2010 at 07:11 AM



“ What wonderful memories for the Covenant Aldersgate Choir days-Ken Fansler was an amazing man! When I think back, just the idea that he could get 50 teenagers in the late-'60s to think church was a cool place to be is astounding. I remember Ken with fondness and respect and know he had an impact on my life.##imported-begin##JoAnne Starr##imported-end##

---

February 06, 2010 at 09:30 PM



“ May flights of angels sing you to your rest, Ken.##imported-begin##George McCracken##imported-end##

---

February 06, 2010 at 05:32 PM



“ Dearest Cousins, As I spoke to Keith I told him of a thought I had about his father. His human, physical heart was not strong; however, his heart for God, his family, friends, and parishoners was that of a lion. His dedication to others was genuine, as was his love of the commonality he held with my Mother, music. He was a sweet man. My deepest sympathanies to all of you for your loss. Love, Martha##imported-begin##Martha McCracken##imported-end##

---

February 06, 2010 at 02:02 PM



“ God Bless Bro Ken. My memories of Covenant Methodist Church in Springfield are framed around his grinning face. The retreats, the bell choir (his arrangement of Yesterday by the Beatles), the bus trips to North Carolina and rehearsals at church were filled with love. He touched many hearts. My condolences and love to Craig, Keith and Carol.##imported-begin##Penny Krape Balzereit##imported-end##

---

February 04, 2010 at 08:22 PM



“ Craig, Keith , and Carol, Deepest sympathy to all of you. Your dad was very special and helped make the high school years great. Singing in the Aldersgate Choir when he directed was always so much fun. Sincerely, Barbara Kenney##imported-begin##Barbara Kenney##imported-end##

---

February 04, 2010 at 10:29 AM



“ Craig,Keith,and Carol So sorry for your loss. It doesn't matter how old you are the loss leaves a whole bushel of memories and a big hole. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and your families and your Dad meant the world to me. We all share some wonderful memories. Love, Fran##imported-begin##Fran Duffy Ancone##imported-end##

---

February 02, 2010 at 07:23 PM



“ Ken was extraordinary man indeed!The exuberance that he exhibited about life, music and God rubbed off on many of us and helped define who we were and would become.As a choir director he chose music that was fresh and exciting and introducing new elements to compliment the choir like drums and guitars.Even choir practice was a ball with Ken.He and Evelyn will be greatly missed but always in our hearts.My thoughts and prayers go out to Keith,Craig and Carol.Your orange surprise will always shine a light on our lives Ken! Bob Lawley###imported-begin###bob lawley###imported-end###

---

February 02, 2010 at 05:27 PM



“ We have wonderful memories of Ken and Evelyn and their family as we served together in Springfield, PA at the Covenant United Methodist Church. As a young couple and new to the area, Ken gave us his friendship, support, encouragement, and many opportunities to work together. Ken was full of enthusiasm that surrounded him and everthing he did. He was a wonderful servant, a good friend, a great role model, and a creative pastor for us and many, many others. We thank God for him and all he did for the Kingdom.###imported-begin###Sherry and John Swanson###imported-end###

---

February 01, 2010 at 07:30 PM



“ You are in our thoughts and prayers- Craig, Keith and Carol. Whether it was “Gangbusters” or the anthem LORD, FOR THY TENDER MERCIES SAKE sung in some unique places, the last time in our back yard as the blessing before dinner at the 2003 Covenant Aldersgate reunion weekend here in Springfield with Ken & Evelyn present or his well known “bright orange” favorite color... Ken is a man that many of us will never, never forget. with our love, Don and Barb##imported-begin##Don & Barb Cadge##imported-end##

---

February 01, 2010 at 04:23 PM



“ Bro Ken touched my heart profoundly, and touched the hearts of my wife and children as deeply. His was an exceptional life, well-lived. I'm sure there will be MUCH singing as he arrives home.##imported-begin##Jim Roberts##imported-end##

---

February 01, 2010 at 12:05 PM



“ Ken was a big influence on my life when he was music director and youth director at Covenant Methodist Church in Springfield, Pa during the late '60s. He directed our youth choir (the Aldersgate Choir) which had about 50 members and sang at the early service each Sunday, he directed our touring hand bell choir and led the Methodist Youth Fellowship which was very active. In July of 2003 we had a reunion of the Aldersgate Choir with Ken at Covenant UMC and we sang at the Sunday service. It was a wonderful experience. Ken lived a very full life that touched and shaped many people. My thoughts and prayers are with Craig, Keith, Carol and their families.##imported-begin##Cheryl Myers Stevens##imported-end##

---

February 01, 2010 at 10:52 AM



“ *What wonderful memories I have of growing up at Aldersgate UMC with Ken as our youth pastor and choir director. As sad as we were to lose Ken and Evelyn from Aldersgate, it is wonderful to see all the many congregations and lives that he touched over the years. Thank you for sharing your father with me all those years ago. Thinking of him painting the heavens ORANGE.##imported-begin##Eileen McMahon Schultz##imported-end##*

---

February 01, 2010 at 07:22 AM



“ *It is with much sadness that I have learned of the passing of this accomplished, yet humble Christian man. It was a great honor to have been associated with him in Coastal Chorale for six years, and I will always treasure memories of him and performing with the Chorale. My condolences to all who loved him. May you draw comfort in knowing that he touched many hearts in a profound way. Carol W. Bair##imported-begin##Carol W. Bair##imported-end##*

---

January 30, 2010 at 04:41 PM



“ *What good memories I have of your Dad at Christ Church in Greensboro. It was also great to meet back up with him and your Mom here. He was truly a talented man and he will be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.##imported-begin##Lane Anderson Kalanick##imported-end##*

---

January 30, 2010 at 12:36 PM



“*Mary Lu and Fansler Family, The community has lost one of it's finest. Ken was loved and admired by all. His accomplishment in the musical field will long live on and we will all be blessed by them. May God hold you all in the palm of His hand and may you find peace and love through all of us who can say that Ken's life on earth made a difference in our own.##imported-begin##Diane DeVaughn Stokes##imported-end##*

---

January 30, 2010 at 09:23 AM



“*I'm grateful for all the ways Ken and Evelyn served the church, especially Belin Memorial UMC for a number of years. I got to know Ken better than Evelyn, and I deeply appreciated his kindness to me, his contagious smile, and his gentle heart. Sometimes a person comes along in life who makes a lasting impression. Ken was that kind of man. I'm confident he has found his eternal rest.##imported-begin##Mike Alexander##imported-end##*

---

January 29, 2010 at 09:51 AM