

## THE DASH

I read of a man who stood to speak  
at the funeral of a friend.  
He referred to the dates on his tombstone,  
from the beginning . . . to the end.

He noted that first came the date of his birth  
and spoke of the following date with tears,  
but he said what mattered most of all  
was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time  
that he spent alive on earth.  
And now only those who love him  
know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not, how much we own,  
the cars, the house, the cash.  
What matters is how we live and love  
and how we spend our dash.

So, think about this long and hard,  
are there things you'd like to change?  
For you never know how much time is left  
that can still be rearranged.

If we could just slow down enough  
to consider what's true and real  
and always try to understand  
the way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger  
and show appreciation more  
and love the people in our lives  
like we've never loved before.

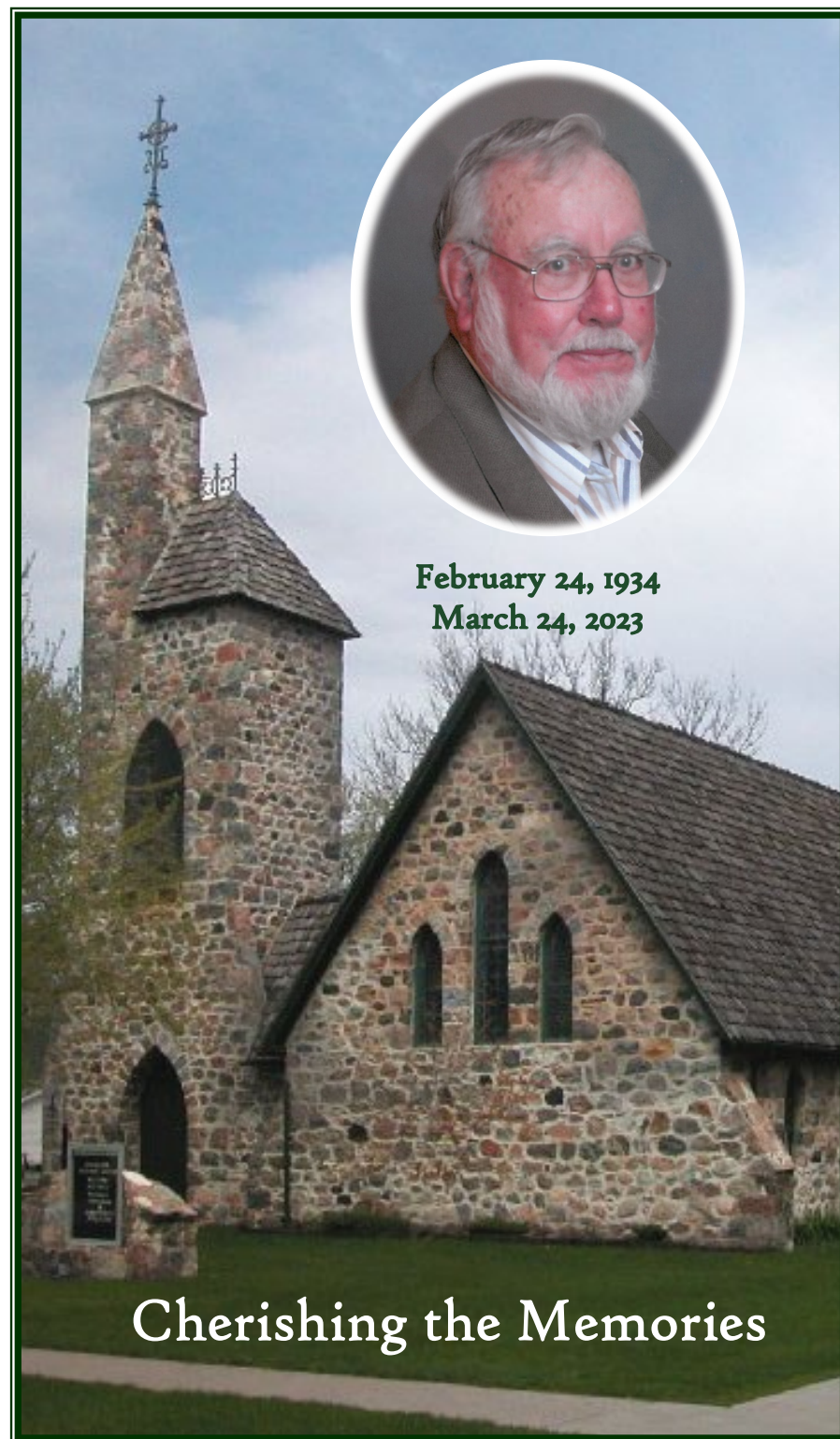
If we treat each other with respect  
and more often wear a smile,  
remembering that this special dash  
might only last a little while.

So, when your eulogy is being read,  
with your life's actions to rehash. . .  
Would you be proud of the things they say  
about how you spent YOUR dash?

*By Linda Ellis*



February 24, 1934  
March 24, 2023



**Cherishing the Memories**

Order of Service for  
**CLAIR KINGSLEY**



**Arthur United Methodist Church  
Arthur, North Dakota**

**Wednesday, March 29, 2023 - 1:30 p.m.**

. . . .

**Prelude & Processional**

**Welcome & Prayer**

**Opening Hymn**

He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought #128

**Family Reflections**

Jim McConnell

**Scripture**

Luke 12:22-31

**Pastoral Reflection**

Pastor Veronica Fleming

**Special Music**

**Prayer of Blessing & Commendation**

**Recessional Hymn**

Blessed Quietness #2142

**Postlude**

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**Officiant**

Pastor Veronica Fleming

**Musicians**

Paula Hurth

Marilyn Hochstetler

Libby Miller

*Remembering the Life of....*

Clair Kingsley, the fifth child of Fred & Dorothy Kingsley was born February 24, 1934 at Wheatland, ND. He would often say, "I was born in the basement and never brought up."

Clair attended grade school at Ehrlicher District #62. He graduated from Lincoln High School in Casselton in 1951.

Clair was drafted in August 1956 and spent six months of his active duty in England and 13 months in Germany. He was released from active duty on July 24, 1958 and was a member of the Army Ready Reserve until he was honorably discharged on July 31, 1962.

Clair was baptized by E. G. Hochstetler on August 25, 1958 and became a member of the Red River Valley Mennonite Church. On August 29, 1958 Clair married Dorothy Erb. To this union three children were born: Amy, Scott, and Valerie.

Clair & Dorothy moved to a house on the May Campbell farm and farmed there until the land was sold. After that he worked for his neighbor Jerry Radcliffe until Jerry retired. In 1996, he started working for his nephew John McConnell. When he was no longer actively farming, he was kept busy mowing lawns.

Clair was a crafter. He enjoyed working with wood and made boxes of all sizes to give as gifts. His crafting wasn't limited to boxes. He made everything from small tables to china hutches. Clair wasn't just a crafter. After Dorothy passed away, he discovered he enjoyed cooking and baking. What he really enjoyed though was his garden. He planted much, not necessarily to eat but to share with family and friends. On hot summer days, he was up early to tend the garden. He planted lots of fruits and vegetables, but his main crop was gladiolus. When they were in bloom, he would take bouquets anywhere he could-the bank, church, even the gas station.

Clair is survived by his children Amy (Kevin) Waltner, Hurley, SD; Scott, Sebewaing, MI; son-in-law David Woods, Blaine, MN; grandchildren Brian, David (Ashely), Amanda Kingsley & Libby (Dalton) Miller; great-grandchildren Liam Kingsley & Valerie Waltner-Miller; brother Ronald (Faye) Kingsley, Wheatland; half sister Kathleen Dobias, LaGrange, IL; sisters-in-law Lucille Kingsley, Fargo; Sharlotte Kingsley, Casselton; Donna (Robert) McKelvey, St. Johns, MI; Ruby VanAmburg, Phoenix, AZ; Lola Rosenberger, Apopka, FL; Margaret (Mark) Wendorf, Portland, OR; Arlene Erb and Linda Erb, Amenia; brothers-in-law Bud Roney; Paul (Delores) Erb, Casselton; and numerous nieces & nephews.

Clair was preceded in death by his wife Dorothy; his daughter Valerie Woods; his parents; father & mother-in-law Omar & Mary Ann Erb; sisters Shirley (Stanley) Stokka; Yvonne (William) McConnell; Gloria Roney & Sharon Kingsley; brothers Don (Phyllis) Kingsley; Leroy & Robert Kingsley, brother-in-law Nick Pollock; nephews Gary Roney, Terry Pollock, Mark Holt & Roger Dean.

Memorials will be directed to the Casselton Heritage Center.

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