



Rev. Charles E. Hilliard

March 4, 1934 - August 8, 2020

Charles Edwin Hilliard, the son of Rev. William Earl and Ruby Mae (Williams) Hilliard was born March 4th, 1934 in Danville, Iowa. He married Ruth Ann Brown on September 27th, 1953. To this union was born two sons and one daughter. Little did Ruth Ann know that she had married a wanna be cattleman. Charles and Ruth had Shorthorn cattle for many, many years so baling hay became a family event each summer. It wouldn't be a surprise for Charles to go out in his suit and tie on Easter Sunday morning to help one of his mamas deliver her calf.

Preceding him in death were his parents, two infant brothers, two nephews, Roger & Danny Jenkins; niece, Carol Ann Mayberry; great niece, Cindy Mayberry; three sisters and two brothers-in-law, Dorothy Pauline Hilliard, Wilma Marie and Gordon Jenkins and Mary Ellen and Earl Jones.

Surviving him are his loving wife, Ruth Ann; two sons, William Charles (Wendy) Hilliard and Tony Eugene (Beverly) Hilliard; one daughter, Judith Ann (Jesse) Foster;
7 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Charles was drafted by the Army when he was 18 years of age, but was very disappointed when he didn't qualify to serve due to arthritis and curvature of the spine.

He graduated from the National School of Meat Cutting in Toledo, Ohio and became a Journeyman Meatcutter at age 18.

Charles knew of his call to the ministry at the age of 15 at a summer church camp in Decatur, Illinois. He completed his study and received his Minister's License from the Illinois Churches of God Eldership. He and Ruth then moved to Iowa to pastor his first church at the Maple Grove Church of God in Sutherland, Iowa. While in Iowa, he attended additional courses to further his ministry career and also worked as a meat cutter. He was ordained at Maple Grove Church of God in August of 1962. In 1963, Charles & Ruth moved to Michigan to pastor the Eagle, Arthur Center and Colonville Churches of God for a total of 22 years.

Even after his ordination, Charles attended classes, some of them abroad, each year to further his knowledge of scripture and ministry. He also made several mission trips to Haiti and led two tour groups through the Holy Land. He served on the National Board of Missions through the Churches of God, which did much work with the Navajo Indians in Garameric, Mexico.

Charles served as a Trustee to Findlay College, President of the Michigan Conference of the Churches of God and the Dean of the Summer Family Church Camp for several years. Charles also served as Clare County's first Public Guardian and remained serving in this position for 25 years. He also served as a Public Guardian for Isabella, Wayne, Gladwin, Osceola and Genesee counties.

Charles and Ruth were co-owners of Care-More Living Centers, where he served as Director for 13 years. Upon retirement from Care-More, Charles & Ruth moved to Florida and became snowbirds, where Charles pastored a small retirement congregation until the Spring of 2019. During their time in

Florida, Charles served as the Chairman of the Transition Committee as well as the Chairman of the first Board of Directors of the West View Ridge retirement community.

Charles loved to travel and invest in people. Those that knew him will remember him as a guy to get things done the right way and as one who always pushed and encouraged people to stand up straight and fly right. Our loss is also a loss to anyone who never got to meet him.

Due to COVID-19, there will be a private, family only service. The family requests donations to St. Jude's Research Hospital in lieu of flowers.

Cemetery Details

Cherry Grove Cemetery

1000 Cedar St.
Clare, MI 48617

Tribute Wall

RB

“ *Rev. Hilliard included me in the youth activities even though I didn't attend his church, I have so many wonderful and precious memories and I thank him so much for them. There is so much more I could say but I will just say I thank the good lord that our paths have crossed and as an old sailor I will say fair winds and following seas my old friend, I will see you in paradise* ”



Robert Bergey - August 12, 2020 at 11:28 AM

MR

“ *Too many memories to recount; from playing together at the Colonville Parsonage to giving me my first professional job after college. His positive spirit & distinctive laugh have touched the lives of many. Thank you God for The gift of Charles Hilliard!! I can hear him joking & chatting with George Showers & Doc Shurlow now 😊* ”



Marsha Rockey - August 11, 2020 at 01:30 PM

TB

“ *We are so very sorry for your loss. May God comfort your family during this very sad time.* ”
Tula Brown, Daphne, Diana and Angela

Tula Brown - August 11, 2020 at 01:20 PM

SF

“ Scott & Sue Foster sent a virtual gift in memory of Rev. Charles E. Hilliard



Scott & Sue Foster - August 11, 2020 at 11:40 AM

NB

“ We loved Charlie t West View as he did so much for us. My husband and I bought our house in 2000 just as people were taking over the park and Charlie did so much during that time. Also enjoyed seeing you two at FPC and one time Charlie holding Carries baby. Many good memories and Heaven will be a great home for you.

Nancy Brownell - August 11, 2020 at 07:30 AM

PE

“ Charlie was such a special person. I miss Charlie's slow and thoughtful way of speaking. He was a man that thought about what he wanted to say before he spoke. He was truly a man that believed in God and his word. I miss both of you at WVR.

Patti Emmel - August 10, 2020 at 09:42 PM

MH

“ Our deepest sympathy! God be with you Ruth. RIP Charlie....

Murray n Diane Hislop - August 10, 2020 at 08:07 PM

JL

“ We loved Charlie & Ruth, he preached so that you were part of that service. We enjoyed our Sunday with them going out after to eat. We enjoyed the times we all got together to eat. We enjoyed the only cruise we have been on with him being in charge of getut all together. We will never forget you Charlie & so glad you baptized Jimmy & I. Ruth you will always be in our prayers & we know he has gone to make a place for you, he's singing with the Angels. We love you both.

Jim & Peggy Lewis - August 10, 2020 at 06:29 PM

HE

“ Absolutely adored Grandpa Charlie and looked forward to his and Grandma Ruth's visits to MI! Lots of good memories. Praying for everyone ❤️

heather - August 10, 2020 at 06:21 PM

RM

*Rob and Jody Miller
Haines, Alaska*

Charlie was one on late mom and Dad's best friends. He taught me how to cut meat at the parsonage. He was a baseball coach with my dad and a home plate umpire. I have known the family for over 50 years. Whether it was a softball game, baseball game, football game he was always there for the kids. Even though he could be tuff on Willy, Tony and I when bailing hay and us kids wanted to horse play. Charlie you are know with your beloved Lord as my folks are. RIP

Robert Miller - August 10, 2020 at 08:01 PM

DM

I remember him! I recall my dads relationship with Him and talked very highly of him! Charlie and Ruth were very special !!

Diana markins - August 10, 2020 at 09:11 PM

CG

So sorry for your loss. Cheryl Grigg

Cheryl Grigg - August 15, 2020 at 10:13 PM

DG

So sorry to hear of Charlie's passing. We have many fond memories of the years we worked for you folks at the Farewell Care More. Ruth, may God bless you and your family.

Dale Grigg - August 15, 2020 at 10:20 PM

SF

So very sorry for your loss, I will be praying for your family. Sandy McFarlane/Fair

Sandra Fair - August 18, 2020 at 03:41 PM