

Lazenby

A memorial service for Rev. Hervey Lewis Lazenby Jr., 90, was conducted on Saturday, August 18, 2007 by good friend and minister, Rev. Gail Snodgrass at 11:00 a.m. at Geneva Presbyterian Church in Austin.

He was born in Shawnee, Oklahoma on February 14, 1917, the son of Hervey Lewis Lazenby and Bonnie Bishop Lazenby.

He graduated from Shawnee High School in 1935, Austin College in Sherman in 1939 and Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in 1942. While at Seminary, Rev. Lazenby met and courted Mattie Downman Smyth. He proposed to her under the moonlight tower in Hyde Park. They were married July 21, 1942 in Austin. They had one son, Kerry Lewis Lazenby.

In 1972 he returned from preaching in neighboring states to ministry in Austin. He was actively involved in Hyde Park Presbyterian Church, and most recently, Genesis Presbyterian Church. Rev. Lazenby was Parish Associate until his death. September 24, 2006 marked the 64th anniversary of his ordination.

After retirement from the ministry, Rev. Lazenby worked at UT's Gregory Gym Store and Jester Dormitory from 1972 until 1988.

Volunteering and local theater were two of Rev. Lazenby's loves. He spent years working at Austin History Center in the biographical files department, eventually totaling over 7,000 hours. Rev. Lazenby was recognized as outstanding volunteer several times in his 14 years at the Austin History Center. Mayor Will Wynn proclaimed November 9, 2006 as "Hervey Lewis Lazenby Jr. Day."

During the 1980's, Rev. Lazenby volunteered with the Hyde Park Homes Tour on Father's Day weekend. He enjoyed dressing up and telling stories of yesteryear as visitors, rode the trolley from home to home.

Clown ministries, local theater, and hand bell choir took his time in the 1980's and 1990's. He enjoyed visiting children in costume and making them laugh. He is remembered for playing the judge in "To Kill A Mockingbird" at Mary Moody Northern Theater at the Edward's University. At Capitol City Playhouse, Rev. Lazenby played the part of the aged grandfather in "Night of the Iguana". One of the funniest plays he was involved with was "Daddy's Dying. Who's Got The Will?", where he played Daddy. In the early 1990's, he enjoyed playing in the hand bell choir at Wilshire and Genesis Presbyterian Churches.

One of his greatest distinctions was being the oldest member of the University of Texas Alumni Band. He took great pride in being able to march with the band on Alumni Band Day at DKR Royal - Memorial Stadium. Rev. Lazenby continued playing his beloved clarinet and marching with the band until 83 years of age.

His longtime companion, Holly, an orange tabby, misses her owner. She turned up as a stray at the church 10 years ago on Christmas. Hence the name Holly.

Rev. Lazenby, a longtime resident of Hyde Park, passed away on August 6, 2007. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mattie Lazenby; and one son, Kerry Lazenby.

He is lovingly remembered by his daughter-in-law, Patricia Lazenby of Liberty; honorary daughter, Helen Bruner of Austin; brother, James Lazenby of Oklahoma; cousin, Virginia Lazenby of Georgetown; cousin, Mary Elizabeth Spaulding of Oklahoma; honorary