



Rev. Dr. Wesley E. Vanderhoof

February 23, 2025

Rev. Dr. Wesley E. Vanderhoof was born at home in Dover, New Jersey, on December 16, 1940, and was embraced peacefully into the arms of his Savior on February 23, 2025, at Strong Memorial Hospital. In his 84 years of life, he became known for showing both his serious exterior and his joyful soul.

He met his future wife Nancy at Roberts Wesleyan College (now University) while pursuing a Bachelor's in English. They married in August of 1962 after she graduated. Following his graduation in 1963, he earned a Master's from the University of Iowa, a Master's of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky, and a PhD from the University of Buffalo.

Wes dedicated his life to the pursuit of knowledge, teaching others, and following the Lord. He pastored two congregations in the Catskills before returning to Roberts in 1968. During his 35-year tenure at his alma mater, he taught Old and New Testament Classes before becoming Registrar. After his retirement in 2003, he spent his days doing what he loved most: playing Solitaire, completing crossword puzzles in pen, eating ice cream, and spending time with family.

He is predeceased by his parents Edward and Jeannette (Swingle) Vanderhoof. He is survived and deeply missed by his wife to whom he was faithfully devoted for 62 years, Nancy (Shaffer); his children Marna (Robert)

Distaffen, and Kara (Richard) Burke; and his seven grandchildren: Kaleigh, Hannah, and Rebekah Distaffen, and Wesley, Emma, Cameron, and Andrew Burke.

He is also survived by his brother, Donald (Roe) Vanderhoof, and sister, Madelyn (Robert) Andrews, as well as many beloved nieces and nephews.

Boppa, as he was known by his grandchildren, has left a lasting memory on everyone who knew and loved him. His legacy will live on through his children, grandchildren, students, and dear friends, and he will always be remembered for his quick wit and gentle nature. He was a great man—a mountain of a man in a tiny body—and he will be missed fiercely.

Extended friends and family are invited to attend a celebration of life and time of remembrance on Saturday, April 12, 2025, at Pearce Memorial Church. Visitation will be at 10am, followed by a service at 11am.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his memory to the Edward Vanderhoof Memorial Scholarship at Roberts Wesleyan University.

Roberts Wesleyan University
Office of Advancement
2301 Westside Dr
Rochester, NY 14624

Tribute Wall

EL

“ I remember those days back at Roberts. We worked hard but still had a lot of fun. Even the years since than bring a lot of memories. Reunions are getting smaller and smaller. My son-in-law tells me Wes was is favorite prof. Sorry Art and I couldn't make the services yesterday. Love and God bless and keep you in the days to come.

Ellen and Art Long - April 13, 2025 at 04:06 PM

DB

“ I met Wes as a student 24 years ago when I was hired as a student worker 2 weeks into my freshman year at Roberts in the Registrar's Office. I remember his gentleness and felt privileged to learn from him! Even if I was initially terrified - I have only good memories. It was such a pleasure to know him. Praying for the family.

Day Butcher - February 28, 2025 at 08:18 PM

SM

“ I am so sorry to hear of Wes passing to his Heavenly reward. My thoughts and prayers are for Nancy, Marna, and Kara and the entire family. Wes and Nancy were the best sister-in-law and brother-in-law to my sister and friends to everyone that knows them. Sally Mayes

Sally Mayes - February 27, 2025 at 12:07 PM

EL

Nancy, I use to see Wes at Wegmans once in awhile. I know it is going to be hard. Wanted to get there this morning but couldn't make it sorry.

Ellen and Art Long - April 12, 2025 at 10:35 AM

DS

“ Wes was always one of my favorite people during the years we ministered at Pearce Church (1992-2000). Such a gentle, encouraging, inspiring, and amazing spirit. He is missed but not forgotten. So grateful our life-paths crossed and shared the same space for those eight years. —Daryl L. Smith

Daryl Smith - February 25, 2025 at 08:46 PM

BB

“ It was my pleasure to serve under and then alongside Wes for several years while he was Registrar at RWC (now RWU). His memory of and investment in the lives of students was real and genuine. He taught Old Testament, at my invitation, for the Sound of the Genuine Institute at Elim Christian Fellowship, Buffalo, NY for several years following his retirement. His sense of humor and humble spirit will be missed. Rev. Dr. Brain D Babcock

Brian D. Babcock - February 25, 2025 at 05:29 PM