



## Rev. William K. Adams

December 31, 1938 - November 16, 2013

The Rev. William K. (Bill) Adams, 74 of Salisbury died November 16, 2013.

Rev. Adams was born on December 31, 1938 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was the son of the late Richard Stuart Adams and Ethel Kelsey Adams. He was a graduate of Upper Darby High School, Upper Darby, PA. He received a B.S. Degree from Cairn University (Philadelphia College of Bible) in 1960 and a ThM from Dallas Theological Seminary (Dallas, Texas) in 1964.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Paul George Adams of Elysburg, PA. He is survived by a brother, Richard S. Adams, Jr. and his wife, Barbara in Hendersonville, NC.

Rev. Adams was an ordained Presbyterian minister. He began his career as assistant minister at Covenant-First Presbyterian Church, Cincinnati, Ohio. He was pastor of the First United Presbyterian Church, Brilliant, Ohio and the Wilson United Presbyterian Church, Clairton, PA before moving to Salisbury in 1974 to become pastor of the North Hills Presbyterian Church. Rev. Adams served at North Hills until his retirement in 1998.

Rev. Adams was an active member of the Civitan Club of Salisbury since 1975, he served as club president and more recently as club secretary. He was also District Secretary. Rev. Adams holds an Honor Key from the

Salisbury Club as well as NC District West. Rev. Adams served as a volunteer chaplain at Rowan Memorial Hospital and was a member of the volunteer chaplain committee. He is a former member of the board of directors at the Elizabeth H. Dole chapter of the American Red Cross and served as board chairman. At the time of his death, Rev. Adams was on the board of directors of North Hills Christian School.

Rev. Adams is survived by his wife of more than 51 years, Caroline H. Fertig Adams whom he married on September 8, 1962. He is also survived by daughter, Deborah Lynn Adams Thompson (and husband Mark) of Salisbury, son, William K. Adams, Jr. (and wife, Joy) of Brandenburg, Kentucky; and son, David S. Adams (and wife, Connie) of Kernersville. Mr. Adams has seven grandchildren, William Andrew Thompson (Salt Lake City, Utah), Katie Thompson Clemmer (husband Joe) of Lexington, NC, Lindsay Michelle Thompson, Buies Creek, NC, Carrie Nicole Thompson, Chicago, Illinois, Kelsey Ann Adams, Wilmore, Kentucky, Cassidy Joy Adams, Brandenburg, Kentucky, and Holly Danielle Adams of Kernersville, NC.

A visitation will be Friday (Nov 22) from 6-8 and a service of celebration will be held Saturday at 11:00 am at Summersett Memorial Chapel on 1315 West Innes Street, Salisbury, NC 28144. Assisting in the service will be Rev. Malcolm Bullock and William K. Adams, Jr. Burial will follow at Memorial Park Cemetery.

In lieu of flower memorials may be sent to North Hills Christian School scholarship fund, 2970 W. Innes Street, Salisbury, NC 28144

Summersett Funeral Home is serving the Adams family. Online condolences may be made at [www.summersettfuneralhome.com](http://www.summersettfuneralhome.com).

# Cemetery Details

## City Memorial Park

1316 West Innes St  
Salisbury, NC 28144

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **22**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Summersett Funeral Home  
1315 W. Innes St.  
Salisbury, NC 28144  
(704) 633-2111  
<https://www.summersettfuneralhome.com>

## Service

NOV **23**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Summersett Memorial Chapel  
1315 W. Innes St.  
Salisbury, NC 28144

# Tribute Wall

CA

“ I have a Bible with David Adams written on it. If he lost one, please respond on this page.

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**Caleb** - September 04, 2025 at 01:01 PM

PD

“ I was blessed by the joy that Pastor Adams had in using his gifts as a preacher and the blessing it is to have fellowship with the brethren. May eternal peace and joy be his in Christ. May the God of all comfort give comfort to his family in their loss.

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**Pastor John Dawson** - November 23, 2013 at 06:54 AM

JR

“ Dear Caroline, Billy, David, and Debbie,

*We grieve with you during this time of loss knowing that our Lord will be your comfort now as well as in the future. In recent years, Bill and I attended presbytery meetings of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church; the last one was in Statesville, and we had a great conversation about our families and ministry. Bill was always so helpful; he invited me to do a required pastoral internship during the summer before my last year at Dallas Theological Seminary. He baptized both of our daughters, Emily and Lauren. He also helped our family after the home going of both of my parents, Ed and Helen, officiating at North Hills Presbyterian Church in November, 2001 and at First Baptist Church in November, 2006. Both of our fathers served on the session as elders with him for many years. Bill was gifted in interpreting the Scriptures, and it was obvious that he loved to preach and teach. I remember how well he led meetings, being very organized and taking care of all the details in a timely and efficient manner. He also had a great memory; I recall one time he actually named everyone in attendance, first and last name, and the sanctuary was full! Bill will be missed by so many and will continue to be an encouragement for us to study the Scriptures, walk with Christ, and share our faith as he did so willingly.*

*Jeff and Debbie Richards*

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**Jeff and Debbie Richards** - November 22, 2013 at 06:38 PM

PS

“ Dear Carolyn,

*My deepest wish for you is the peace and comfort for you and your family. Bill was a faithful friend and I will miss him but look forward to our reunion in the Presence of the Lord. May God bless you during these day.*

*Paul Snezek*

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**Paul Snezek** - November 22, 2013 at 06:32 PM

BW

“ *My deepest sympathy (and those of my family) to Caroline, Bill, Debbie & David, and to all of your extended families.*

*We came as a family to North Hills Presbyterian Church by way of the youth ministry of Dale Parker and the Christian Youth Ranch in the early to mid-70's.*

*Pastor Bill Adams had a profounding effect on all of us through his warm personality and in-depth Bible study. We all learned so much from him, and I appreciate him even to this day for the example and friendship that he gave to all of us.*

*My father especially enjoyed and learned from the morning Bible studies with Pastor Adams and the Session.*

*I trust that all of you, in your loss, will also be comforted by the Holy Spirit and in knowing that Bill is at home with our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ.*

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**Bob Wingate** - November 21, 2013 at 02:00 PM

DP

“ *Dear Caroline and Family,  
When I left North Hills in 1974 to attend Grace Seminary you and Bill faithfully encouraged Sharon and me with your prayers and support. I will never forget your kindness. God give you sustaining grace and deep comfort in Bill's homegoing. Our son, Evan, his family and Stephanie our daughter send their sincere prayers to each of you.*

*Dale and Sharon Parker  
Norfolk, Va*

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**Dale Parker** - November 21, 2013 at 11:17 AM

AH

“ *Angela H. purchased the A Full Life for the family of Rev. William K. Adams.*



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**Angela H.** - November 21, 2013 at 06:40 AM

GS

“ *Pastor Adams may your kind and generous soul enjoy the company and fellowship of the many friends who have gone before. You will be missed! Until we all meet again!*

*When we ALL get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be!  
When we ALL see Jesus..we'll sing & shout the victory! "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"*

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**G. Smith** - November 19, 2013 at 08:07 PM

BS

“ Enrolling at Dallas seminary was a very difficult transition for me. I knew no one there and was far away from family and home. On my first Sunday there, just after church, I happened into the school library and found a small circle of PCB buddies all checking out the newspapers for the latest on the Phillies and the Eagles. Bill Adams was one of the Philadelphia guys. Quickly, I was included into the gang, and ere long introduced to the best of Tex-Mex Sunday afternoon cuisine. The friendship begun that day with my dear buddy Bill Adams has lasted until now. We talked away many an hour, and regularly shared a room at Moody Bible Institute's Pastors' Conferences, and enjoyed Cubs' games, and ate many a prime rib together. We prayed many hours for each other's families and brides. Bill has been my dear dear lifelong brother and friend, and I miss his enthusiastic encouragement and squinty smile already! Only dear Carolyn and his wonderful family loved him more. Bill Schmidt DTS 1965

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**Bill Schmidt** - November 19, 2013 at 04:41 PM

PH

“ *David and Family*  
We extend our sincere condolences on the death of your father. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers.

*Marti and Pete Hoogendonk*  
*Florence, SC*

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**Pete Hoogendonk** - November 19, 2013 at 02:04 PM

DE

“ Dearest Carolyn and children...we are SOOOOO sorry to hear this sad news of Bill 's passing . Our prayers are with you all during this difficult time...He was such a wonderful inspiration to so many people and we thought soooo much of him....He will truly be missed by us all! .Dr. George and Shirley Everhart

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**Dr. George and Shirley Everhart** - November 19, 2013 at 06:51 AM

LL

“ Dear Caroline and Family,  
Bill was a dear friend and pastor. We treasure the years that we sat under his ministry and served on the session at North Hills. Kaye and I were blessed to spend some special moments with him and Debbie on our last visit to North Carolina. He will be missed but we know we will see him again.

Love,

Larry & Kaye Loman

San Antonio, Texas

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**Larry Loman** - November 18, 2013 at 02:52 PM

BB

“ Dear Friends,

*Our hearts are sad at the news of Pastor Adams' passing. We know that Heaven is surely rejoicing, yet we realize the difficulty of earthly parting. He, and all of you, have been very special to us, and we value his ministry so much in our early married life while we were at North Hills Church. We always appreciated his preaching, teaching, humility, and dedication to visitation. We will continue to pray for all of you and hope to see you soon.*

*In Christian Love,  
Bobby and Judy Briggs  
Lexington, NC*

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**Bobby & Judy Briggs** - November 18, 2013 at 09:42 AM