



# **Rev. Dr. Laird J. Stuart**

FEB 5, 1943 - DEC 19, 2018



Scan to Visit

# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Events</b> .....	Page 5
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 6



## **Rev. Dr. Laird J. Stuart**

FEB 5, 1943 - DEC 19, 2018

**T**he Revered Dr. Laird James Stuart passed away peacefully on December 19, 2018. He is lovingly survived by his wife of fifty years, Virginia Kirkland. Laird was predeceased by his parents, James Beecher and Virginia Nevius Stuart, and stepmother, Caroline Evans Stuart. He is survived by his brothers, Robert Beecher, and Bruce D.D. Stuart (Christine) and sister, Diane Gay Westman (Roger); daughters: Carrie Heishman (Tony), Brodie Owens (Marty) and Rachel Bain; grandchildren: Sean and Natalie Ismail, Ainsley and Lindsey Owens, and Xavier Bain; plus, beloved cousins, nephews and nieces.

Laird matriculated at Amherst College and earned his Master and Doctor of Divinity Degrees from Princeton Theological Seminary. He holds honorary degrees from Waynesburg and Westminster Colleges. Laird served the Presbyterian Church USA congregations in Milford, Connecticut; Bergenfield, New Jersey; Grand Haven, Michigan; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and San Francisco, California. Laird and Virginia served in the Tetons with A Christian Ministry in the National Parks and Laird continued as a long-term board member as well as on the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church USA. Laird chaired the boards of The Pittsburgh and San Francisco Theological Seminaries and most recently served on the Board of Princeton Theological Seminary. Following his retirement from Calvary Presbyterian Church in San Francisco, he served as interim President of San Francisco Theological Seminary for sixteen months. His life and calling to ministry were based on his deep commitment to grace, mercy and justice.

The family extends its gratitude to Dr. David Fermin, the staff of the Meijer Heart Center and Spectrum Health Home Hospice.

A memorial service will be held 11:00 AM Saturday, January 19, 2019 at First Presbyterian Church in Grand Haven, Michigan. Visitation will be 4-7 PM Friday, January 18, 2019 at The VanZantwick Chapel (620 Washington Ave, Grand Haven, MI 49417). There will also be a service 11:00 AM



## Obituary

**Rev. Dr. Laird J. Stuart**

FEB 5, 1943 - DEC 19, 2018

---

Saturday, February 9, 2019 at Calvary Presbyterian Church (2515 Fillmore Street, San Francisco) Interment will take place in Lake Forest Cemetery. Memorial contributions in memory of Laird may be given to: A Christian Ministry in the National Parks ([acmnp.com/donate](http://acmnp.com/donate)), or Princeton Theological Seminary. Please sign the family's online guestbook at [www.sytsemafh.com](http://www.sytsemafh.com).



# Events

**Rev. Dr. Laird J. Stuart**

FEB 5, 1943 - DEC 19, 2018

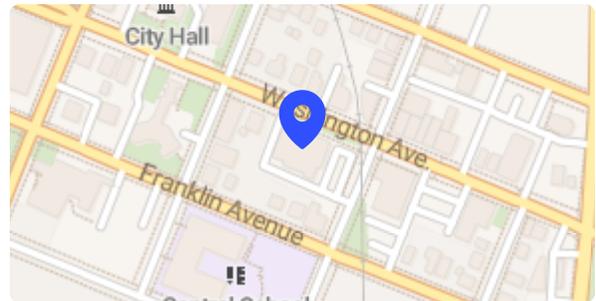
## Visitation

**Friday**, January 18, 2019

4:00 PM - 7:00 PM ET

**Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The VanZantwick Chapel**

620 Washington, Grand Haven MI 49417



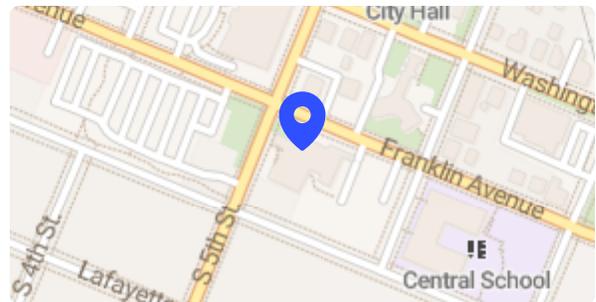
## Memorial Service

**Saturday**, January 19, 2019

11:00 AM ET

**First Presbyterian Church - Grand Haven, MI**

508 Franklin Ave., Grand Haven MI



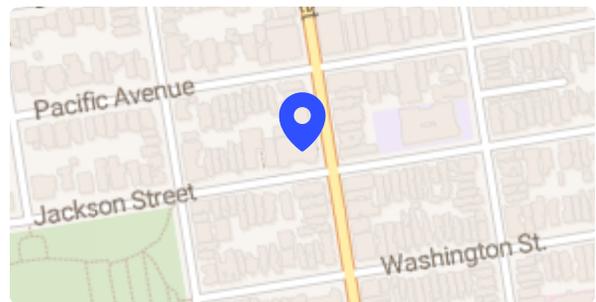
## Memorial Service

**Saturday**, February 9, 2019

11:00 AM PT

**Calvary Presbyterian Church**

2515 Fillmore Street, San Francisco CA 94115





## Tribute Wall

**Rev. Dr. Laird J. Stuart**

FEB 5, 1943 - DEC 19, 2018

DA

**David** posted:

Dr. Stuart counseled my family during difficult times, and his care touched our hearts deeply. (Westminster Presbyterian, Pittsburgh.) I remember those moments of care still to this day. Rest in peace, kind sir.

April 9 at 8:18 AM

WT

**Wesley Thomas** posted:

I was an Elder at the Milford, Ct Presbyterian Church and was on the committee that called Laird to the pulpit. He married me and my wife Angelika in 1970. He was a faithful servant of the Lord. Wesley C. Thomas

April 30 at 6:01 AM

JC

**Jeff And Lisa Carper** posted:

We only heard of Laird's passing now as we attended the Memorial Service for Bill Evans. Laird was very special to us. He baptized both our children, Anne and Daniel. His sermons, masterful yet so simple, spoke to us many many times. Anne is now a Music Director at a church and having seen so many ministers following her journey, we always came to reference Laird as the gold standard. We are so sorry for your loss. Laird was a giant among men. Thank you for sharing him with us. Jeff and Lisa Carper

January 27 at 4:23 PM

JK

**James Kay** posted:

Dear Ginny, Now in retirement, I too am among those who have only learned of Laird's passing. I give thanks to God for the gift of his life and for his gracious and thoughtful leadership. It was always a delight to be with him in Princeton at meetings of the Board of Trustees. The Seminary was fortunate to have his wise counsel on those occasions. May the God of All Comfort sustain you and yours in the days ahead. Most sincerely, Jim Kay

May 29 at 11:28 AM

AW

**Art Webster** posted:

I just now learned of Laird's death. Words fail me. I am so sorry. Art Webster

May 5 at 1:07 PM



# Tribute Wall

**Rev. Dr. Laird J. Stuart**

FEB 5, 1943 - DEC 19, 2018



**Philip W Butin** posted:

Dear Ginny and family, I only heard of Laird's passing this weekend from Bruce Reyes Chow here in Arkansas. I want to express to you my profound gratitude for Laird and the wise counsel, encouraging support, and kind friendship he showed me as Chair of the Board of Trustees, and later as my successor as interim President at San Francisco Theological Seminary. As you well know, Laird was a consistently kind, gracious, supportive presence; a wise counselor; an empathetic listener, and one of those rare leaders who is committed and able to draw people from divergent perspectives together around common priorities and a shared vision. He was always a personal strength and counselor for me during our shared leadership of the seminary in very precarious times, often shining a fresh light on a difficult situation, but never imposing his own perspective in a way that might minimize my role or responsibility. I don't know the circumstances of his passing, but I do know that our God of grace has received him into the arms of the divine mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. Thank you for so generously sharing him and yourselves with my wife Jan and me during our time together serving God and the Presbyterian Church in San Francisco.

March 2 at 3:18 PM



**Jim Greber** posted:

My family moved to Millburn from St. Louis in February of my junior year in HS. Laird was one of the first to welcome me and get me acquainted around the school ! My prayers and condolences to his family ! Jim Greber

January 22 at 5:42 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Sweet Tenderness to the Stuart family.



January 17 at 10:30 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Stuart family.



January 11 at 3:51 PM



## Tribute Wall

**Rev. Dr. Laird J. Stuart**

FEB 5, 1943 - DEC 19, 2018

GD

**Graham Duryee** posted:

We just learned of Laird's death and want to express our deepest sympathy to Ginny and family as you grieve and celebrate his life. So glad we were able to get to know him and always enjoyed our conversations, sharing the Jimmy Carter book and the sermons he preached at First Congregational Church Saugatuck. Blessings, Graham and Sylvia

January 2 at 5:40 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Bountiful Rose Basket to the Stuart family.



January 2 at 7:49 AM

KL

**Kent Lorentzen** posted:

On behalf of the Trustees of The Bay Head Chapel I would like to convey our sincerest sympathies to the Stuart family. Laird's service to The Chapel over the past 20 years was more than appreciated as Laird was a wonderful, wonderful Christian man and a gifted Minister. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and we take great comfort in knowing that Laird is with The Lord. God bless you, Kent Lorentzen

December 31 at 7:09 AM

DF

**David C Frame** posted:

The Frames send our condolences to Ginny and all the Stuarts. Laird's eloquence and character meant so much to me personally. I especially remember his visitations and personal concern regarding my wife Mary's passing. She and I really appreciated Laird's support in her last days. Thank the Lord for his gifts and presence in our lives. Dave Frame

December 31 at 4:50 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Rev. Dr. Laird J. Stuart**

FEB 5, 1943 - DEC 19, 2018



**The Rev. John B Hills** posted:

Laird struck me as "a bonnie lad", as a rare man! Franklin Avenue separated our parish properties (Presbyterian, Episcopal), and to an understandable extent our congregations, but the respective clergy understood, appreciated, and enjoyed each other. In that spirit, I lent Laird a copy of the Episcopal Church's new Book of Common Prayer (1979). For me, it was a vast improvement on the previous edition (1928), so when Laird returned the book, his comment confounded me: "That really is very conservative liturgy". It has taken me a long time to come to agree with him! Laird will be in people's character and memory for a long time...just as he is in God's character and memory!

December 23 at 10:59 AM



**Marty Worth** posted:

So many memories of Pittsburgh and Westminster Church. Gerry and I send our love and prayers to you. Marty Worth

December 23 at 2:07 AM



**Jane Macartney** lit a candle in honor of Laird.

Rev. Stuart was instrumental in my faith and will always have a place in my heart. My prayers to the family at this difficult time. Jane MacArtney Westminster Presbyterian



December 22 at 9:49 AM



**Sally Witmer Ehlert** posted:

Dear Ginny and family: My heart goes out to you at this difficult time, and my prayers are with you all. I have such fond memories of childhood at Clear Lake, when the Stuart family came from Webster Groves to join in on the summer vacation fun along South Shore.....and later when our girls all got to know each other as they played together and carried on traditions. If there were words that could ease your sorrow, I would surely write them. I've learned from my own loss that God never leaves us alone in these things. May your own faith, family, and friends bring you strength and comfort. Sally Witmer Ehlert West Des Moines, Iowa

December 22 at 6:14 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Rev. Dr. Laird J. Stuart**

FEB 5, 1943 - DEC 19, 2018

TH

**Thomas Hayes** posted:

Debby and I have very fond memories of Laird, Gini and their family at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Upper St. Clair, PA. Debby was on staff as Director of Children's Ministries under Laird and always valued that time as he was a tremendous Head of Staff. I fondly remember Laird's love of baseball and had many enjoyable conversations with him and remember a particular sermon where he talked about going to Fenway Park and it's religious experience. We will pray for his family and fully understand that he is at peace with the Lord in heaven. Debby and Tom Hayes Pittsburgh, PA

December 22 at 5:55 AM

AS

**Al Schaffer** posted:

My very sincere condolences to Ginny and the Stuart family. All of the Schaffer's loved Laird. His homily given at Kirk and Mary Jo's wedding and his eulogy given at Lillian's service were beautifully delivered and greatly appreciated. Attending his church in San Francisco were highlights of our trips to visit Kirk's family in the Bay Area. He will be forever in our hearts and his words will guide and encourage us forever. May this wonderful man of God Rest In Paradise. The Al Schaffer family.

December 21 at 8:17 PM

LM

**Linda McGeorge** posted:

Many, many great memories of Laird and Ginny. A good man who will be missed by many. Linda McGeorge

December 21 at 5:59 PM

CN

**Charlotte Van Neck** December 28 at 2:26 PM

I will miss you as my immediate neighbor here at Clearbrook condo's. I was so impressed by your sermons at Community Church in Douglas and your summer services at The Little Chapel in Douglas but most of all just being you, the quiet, inspirational thoughts you shared and your love of the birds. It was uncanny that you & Gary had the same disease and Dr. I will miss you but am so grateful to have Gini here to share memories of you. Forever in my heart Charlotte

SW

**Stephen Waterbury** December 27 at 11:22 AM

Ginny, Pat and I send you our love and condolences at this sad time. Last year both of our f"falls" in Florida prevented us from returning to Bay Head when you both were there. We were looking forward to a reunion this year. Pat and I felt that we and the Barclay's had a closer relationship with both of them than we had with the other Ministers. We were the "God Squad". We will miss both of you. Pat and Steve



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Laird by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit