

OBITUARY

Reverend Francis Benson, 84, of Hackettstown, NJ, passed away on Monday, January 4, 2016 in Hackettstown surrounded by his loving family. Born in Edinburgh, Scotland on March 5, 1931, Frank was the son of the late Frank & Elizabeth Ledbetter Benson. Frank was born into a working class family and left school at the age of 14, not uncommon at that time. After he recognized that he was called to the ministry, he finished school through correspondence courses.

Ordained in 1961, Frank was a graduate of the University of Edinburgh both as an undergraduate and seminary student and earned his Masters of Sacred Theology at Union Theological College in New York. After his ordination on December 6, 1961, Frank was called to serve the Mt. Olivet Community Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn, NY until 1968. At that time, Rev. Benson was called to The Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church in Washington DC until 1975. He and his family then moved to Kearny, NJ serving as pastor of Knox Presbyterian Church until his retirement in 1996. While in Kearny, Frank became the chaplain of the Kearny Police Department, a volunteer position that he retained until the present time. Rev. Benson and his wife, Paula Primamore Benson moved to Hackettstown and switched his membership from the Presbytery of Newark to the Newton Presbytery where he was a member of several committees, most notably the Committee on Ministry. Additionally, he was elected Moderator of the Presbytery for one year. As a retired minister, he substituted as a guest preacher, moderator of session, or moderator of congregational meetings. He was proud to be the officiant of both his children's weddings as well as his nieces, cousins, and friends.

In addition to his loving wife Paula, Frank is survived by his children Francis Roderick Benson and Nancy Elizabeth Hellriegel and their spouses, Beth Benson and John Hellriegel, as well as his grandchildren Margaret Benson, Francis Marshall Benson, Bruce Hellriegel, and Daniel Hellriegel.

A memorial service will be announced at a later date. Funeral arrangements are being handled by the Cochran Funeral Home, 905 High Street, Hackettstown, NJ, 07840. In Lieu of flowers, the family has asked that you please consider donating to your favorite charity or Frank's favorite Johnsonburg Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center at <http://www.campjburg.org> in Frank's memory. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.cochranfuneral.com.

Cochran Funeral Home, Hackettstown

NAME: Benson, Reverend Francis

DATE OF DEATH: January 4, 2016