



## Rev. J. Heber Miller

January 24, 1916 - March 21, 2014

Jacob Heber Miller, the son of William Jacob Miller and Alta Mae (Baker) Miller, was born on January 24th, 1916 in rural Beaver County, Oklahoma and departed this life on Friday, March 21st, 2014 at the Ruthven Community Care Center at the age of 98 years.

He grew up in the Panhandle of Oklahoma with five brothers and three sisters: Alfred, Ted, Bob, George, Norman, Betty, Eva and Mary Ellen. He lived with Ezra (Pop) and Eva (Mom) Evans during his high school years as he continued his education.

While in college at Southwestern in Winfield, Kansas he met Virginia Ruth Phillips. It was in the college president's home that they were married on December 10th, 1939.

After college Heber attended Garret Biblical Institute where he received his Bachelor of Divinity degree. While in seminary he served a student appointment in McHenry, Illinois. Upon graduation and ordination he was appointed to Graettinger, Iowa. Heber later served throughout Iowa under appointment in Belmond, Manchester, Sheldon, Rock Rapids, Creston, Rockwell City, and even after retirement served in Arnold's Park, Excelsior and Spirit Lake.

Heber and Virginia had two daughters, Judy Kitterman Miller of Sioux City, Iowa and Linda Miller Wittstruck, married to Thorne Wittstruck of Spencer, Iowa. In 1961 Atsuko Kitigawa of Japan joined the family for a year through AFS and became a true daughter. Heber and Virginia had six grandchildren, Cindy Kumsher and husband Paul of Britt, Iowa; Libby Myer and husband Cory of Buffalo Center, Iowa; Sarah Stevens and husband Dean of Sioux City, Iowa; Chris Wittstruck of Spencer, Iowa; Heather Wittstruck Egtvedt and husband Paul of Edina, Minnesota; Naomi Sea Young Wittstruck of Des Moines, Iowa. In addition they shared seven great grandchildren, Ana, Rachel, Max, Zach, Naddie, Alayna and Bjorn.

Heber and Virginia were partners in marriage and life for sixty eight years and shared their love joyfully with their family and all they met.

Heber's ministry left an indelible mark wherever he went. In particular he had a passion for children and youth, known for his junior sermons and spent many summers working and directing at the United Methodist Camps in Clear Lake and Okoboji, Iowa.

Besides ministry, Heber had many hobbies, many which reflected his true love of nature. He enjoyed rock hunting; feeding, housing, identifying birds, even carving their likenesses; vegetable and flower gardening; fishing throughout the seasons; wood working; traveling; helping with Virginia's quilt making and drawing.

Heber taught us all to love, to see beauty, to value truth and to serve others here and around the world. He modeled a truly gracious way of living, sharing his simple gratitude, even in times of pain or distress. He died peacefully, surrounded by loved ones, song and prayer.

Heber was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Alfred, Ted, Bob, and

Norman Miller and Atsuko Kitigawa, his Japanese daughter.

A funeral service will be held at 11:00A.M. Tuesday, March 25, 2014, at the United Methodist Church in Spirit Lake. Visitation will be held Monday, from 6:00P.M. until 8:00P.M. at the Schuchert Funeral Home. Burial will be at Lakeview Gardens Cemetery.

# Tribute Wall

MJ

“ Dear Linda and Judy... Uncle Heber and Aunt Virginia married Marian and I in Wichita in 1958, just one of 300 or so unions they performed. Will always remember their visits each fall as they spent winters in Harlingen, TX. Two long lives so well spent... we all miss both of them....  
Much Love Uncle Marvin and Nancy of Missouri

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**Marvin and Nancy Jones** - May 22, 2014 at 02:55 PM

KW

“ Dear Linda and family; I wish to extend my sincere sympathy to all of you on the passing of your father. What a blessing to have had him these many years. Cherish the memories!

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**Kathy Boender Wieringa** - March 25, 2014 at 07:01 PM

PB

“ Rev. Miller did the impossible in our family--he baptized my late father, Lee Robinson. Although, I came along shortly after this, I can't say that I remember Rev. Miller as a young minister in Graettinger, Iowa; but, I can say I know his ministry to our family has lasted to this day. One of the stories Dad told was that a red-haired little girl of Rev. Miller would get up before dawn and bundle up to come up to our acreage on the hill in Graettinger. There she wanted to watch my Dad, Lee, milk his Guernsey dairy cows. I wonder exactly who this girl was but I suspect I followed suit later on. It wasn't the cows that I was interested in but the way Dad would squirt milk into a pan for the many cats and kittens who lived in the barn. Anyway, may the family add this to the many good and blessed memories of the Methodist Preacher, who left his mark on a little Northwest Iowa town that is felt to this day. God Bless the family of Rev. Miller. Pamela Robinson, Ron Robinson--offspring of Lee and Irma Robinson

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**Pamela Robinson Berry** - March 25, 2014 at 03:07 PM

BC

“ Such a loving, caring and inspiring man. Our lives were enriched by knowing Heber and Virginia and their family. He pastored us, baptized both our children and inspired us with his gentle, caring ways. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his family.

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**Bill & Jackie Carpenter** - March 24, 2014 at 03:20 PM

FM

“ Rev Miller was a wonderful man, a great leader for young people, a treasured friend for decades to my family, the officiating pastor for my brother's wedding, my wedding, my younger brother's funeral, our pastor during high school and college years. He had a gentle soul...our deepest sympathy to the family.

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**Fred and Nancy Miller** - March 23, 2014 at 09:01 PM

CS

“ *Rev. J. Heber Miller*

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**Chad Schuchert** - March 23, 2014 at 08:36 PM

AR

“ *I knew Heber for a short few days before God took him into his Kingdom to reign with him forever. I had the privilege of experiencing his peace and love; it was written in his eyes and flowing from his heart. Thank you all for the opportunity of getting to know your dad.*

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**Amanda Richard** - March 23, 2014 at 07:19 PM

RR

“ *Reverend Miller and his family are memories of my childhood at Manchester Methodist Church. I do remember Judy, and Linda not so well. Thank you Miller family for the guidance and Christian love of your whole family to our church, and to my mother Leona and father Ralph. Bless you.*

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**Roger Rulifson** - March 23, 2014 at 06:10 PM

JR

“ *Sending sympathy from Jefferson, Iowa. As a high school friend of Linda I was surprised to meet her sister in Jefferson. May your memories of your father help ease the sadness you feel today.*

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**Jane (Pierce) Rowland** - March 23, 2014 at 05:03 PM

DF

“ Rev. Miller married us in 1981 at Calvary. He was such a kind man. We have a picture of the three of us together that we will always cherish. Heber and Virginia were an inspiration to us. Deepest sympathy to his family. He will be missed.

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**Dennis and Diane Fisher** - March 23, 2014 at 04:48 PM

PG

“ Rev. Miller married Jim and me on June 19, 1960. He was a wonderful man as was his family...He will be missed. Sympathy to the girls.

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**Pat Graybill** - March 23, 2014 at 12:03 PM

SL

“ This dear man married us in 1967 and we have loved him and his family ever since. May God bless his soul.

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**sue & lee** - March 23, 2014 at 08:41 AM

DM

“ Rev. Miller was a great teacher and friend of us all in the Manchester Methodist Church in the 50s-60s, and especially of us friends and contemporaries of Judy and Linda - man, along with his family, who we could always depend on for whatever guidance and advice we sought or needed. His spirit will live on thru his family and all of us who were fortunate to know him.

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**Dick Mundy** - March 22, 2014 at 11:52 PM

BH

“ So sorry to hear of Hebers passing. He was a wonderful man with a wonderful family. You are in my thoughts and prayers

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**Brittney Hanson** - March 22, 2014 at 03:03 PM