



## Clarence M. McConkey

July 17, 1925 - September 15, 2017

Death came gently to the Reverend Clarence McConkey on September 15, 2017 after prolonged kidney disease. It brought to a close a life of service as pastor in the United Methodist Church, author, poet, college professor and amateur archaeologist. His ministry in Nebraska and the Republic of Panama included working with archaeological projects in many areas of the world. His writing for the Christian Century, Grand Island Independent, and other publications gave voice to his convictions about racial justice, political chicanery, and positive ways for making human life more decent for all those who share this planet.

His life was filled with adventure, discovery, and creativity and was lived in the circle of his family. That family includes his daughters, Anne McConkey (David Biere), Amy McConkey Robbins (Clay), Celia McConkey, son Joel McConkey, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, two brothers and a sister. His wife, Joanne Myers McConkey, died in the Republic of Panama in 1973 and was the inspiration for his book on cancer. His extended family ranges from California to Connecticut. He was the son of Dr. Clarence and Ocie Thomas McConkey, A veteran of World War II, Clarence served in the 4th Division, United States Marine Corps, on Iwo Jima. His recollection about that month-long battle has been preserved in "Torch Talks," an American Red Cross archive. An admirer of symphonic and operatic music, he hand built an Italian harpsichord for his daughter, Amy. His love of poetry, both in reading and composing, enabled him to recite from memory over 200 poems. His convictions about life and

death were summed up in Psalm 84, "My heart has sung for joy in the Living God."

A private family memorial service was held. In lieu of flowers, the family requests any gifts be given to: American Red Cross - Armed Forces in Nebraska; Memo line: "McConkey Memorial"; 2912 S. 80th Ave. Omaha, NE 68124. Condolences may be directed to Solt-Wagner Funeral Home, 1507 17th St, Central City, NE 68826 or [www.soltwagnerfuneral.com](http://www.soltwagnerfuneral.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Celia, Amy, Anne & Families: Our deepest sympathy to all of you! We have been out of town and just heard the news of Clarence's passing. We have so many fond memories of your dad . . . from church memories to time spent with our family. He touched so many people with his kind heart and fabulous sermons! We know how much you will miss him. We are thinking of all of you at this sad time. Jeanne & Kent Grosshans*

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**Jeanne Grosshans** - October 03, 2017 at 03:19 PM



“ *Celia, My sympathy to your family. Remembering Clarence fondly from the time he served our Presbyterian church as an interim pastor. He was so interesting and gave such good sermons. We liked him a lot. He had a well lived life and touched many people. I know how much you will miss him but what good memories you will cherish forever. Love to you. Jackie Sampson*

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**Jackie Sampson** - September 21, 2017 at 08:03 PM