



Rev. C. Kenneth Sparks

January 19, 1922 - May 16, 2019

Rev. C. Kenneth Sparks, 97, of Anderson, passed away May 16, 2019 at the Primrose Memory Care. He was born on January 19, 1922 in Martha, Kentucky.

Ken graduated from Olivet Nazarene University and Nazarene Theological Seminary where he received his Bachelor of Divinity and Masters of Divinity. Of all the titles and degrees he earned, Pastor was his favorite.

He was ordained as a minister in 1948 serving full time ministry in churches in Illinois, Texas, Michigan and Indiana. His last calling was being the Staff and Congregational Care Minister at First Church of the Nazarene from 1989 - 2008. He served on all the churches advisory board and was on the Board of Trustees for Olivet Nazarene University for 18 years.

Ken is survived by his daughter, Rebecca (Mark) Gillengerten; grandchildren, Nicholas Sparks, Victoria Sparks, Charles Sparks, Peter Sparks, step-grandson, Aaron Pyle; 4 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles F. and Virgie T. Sparks; wife, Ruth Sparks, sons, Dennis Sparks and Stephen Sparks; siblings, Russell Sparks, Bert Sparks, Tressie Bailey, William Sparks, Lowell Sparks, Maxine

Bilby.

Visitation will be held on Monday, May 20, 2019, 4-8pm at Loose Funeral Homes & Crematory, 200 West 53rd Street, Anderson, IN 46013.

Services will be Tuesday, May 21, 2019, 9:30am at First Church of the Nazarene, 2300 Jackson Street, Anderson, IN 46016 with Pastor Gary Cable officiating.

Burial will take place in the Cedar Hill Cemetery, Corydon, IN.

Memorial contributions may be made to First Church of the Nazarene 2300 Jackson Street, Anderson, IN, 46016 .

www.loosecares.com.

Cemetery Details

Cedar Hill

Corydon, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **20**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Loose Funeral Homes & Crematory
200 W 53rd St
Anderson, IN 46013
(765) 649-5255
info@loosecares.com

Service

MAY **21**. 9:30 AM (ET)

First Church of the Nazarene
2300 Jackson Street
Anderson, IN 46016

Tribute Wall

RE

“Words are inadequate as I try to express how much Kathy and I loved Ken Sparks. He was our pastor at Orange Texas First Church of the Nazarene during the years 1961 to 1965. It was our pleasure to serve as his minister of music during that time. He dedicated our two daughters to the Lord. He and his beautiful wife, Ruth, became our dear friends.

It was my joy to sing with him in the Golden Triagle Quartet. He had a beautiful bass voice and we sang at several churches as well as the Houston District Assemblies.

Through the years, we have kept in touch. It was our privilege to connect with his daughter, Becky, several years ago. She facilitated our visit with Ken at the Primrose Assisted Living Facility. It was great to share a meal with him and reminisce of earlier days while his memory was still keen.

He was a kind and gentle pastor, with a winsome smile that endeared him to those he served so honorably. My mother often said "Ken Sparks was the most like Jesus I have ever known."

We plan to see him again in a better place where our visits will not be rushed.

Our prayers are with Becky and those who grieve his passing.

Ron "Buddy" and Kathy Emmert

Ron Emmert - May 18, 2019 at 01:19 PM

RG

Thank you Buddy and Kathy for your loving words at this time, but more importantly, THANK YOU for being my dear parent's Friends!! He often asked if I'd heard from you, and would reminisce at each mention of you with me. Love you too!

Rebecca Parks Gillengerten - May 18, 2019 at 02:47 PM

RM

I remember Rev. Sparks. How can you forget the man who conducted the ceremony in which you married the love of your life. It's been 55 years this year. Then I had the privilege of sharing mission deputation at his church in Buchanan, MI, in 1979. His footprints are still visible in the corridors of my heart. Thank you, Pastor, for being a God Servant.

Rev. Glenn Messer - May 18, 2019 at 03:51 PM

RG

Thank you Rev. Messer. God bless you for your loving and very kind shared memories of my dear Father.

Rebecca Gillengerten - May 18, 2019 at 07:51 PM



“Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Rev. C. Kenneth Sparks.



May 18, 2019 at 12:26 PM



“1 file added to the album Memories Album



Loose Funeral Home - May 17, 2019 at 02:02 PM

WB

Ken Sparks is one of the men I looked up to as a mentor. He married Marcia and I in June of 1968 and gave us support and advice that we have used through the years since then. I don't think anyone enjoyed being a pastor more than Rev. Sparks. He loved people and they loved him. His broad smile and tender heart made you want to be around him. He passed that kind spirit on to his daughter Beckie, who cared for him and represented him well for the past many years. Although Ken has passed on to his well deserved eternal reward, his legacy will live on. If we had a world filled with men of his character, this would be a far better place. Thank you, Pastor Ken, for being a bright light in a dark world.

Wes Bittenbender - May 18, 2019 at 08:27 AM

RG

Thank you, Wes! You and Marcia have been dear friends for years, and we enjoyed the times spent at Indian Lake visiting and sharing there. It was great being Neighbors there God bless you both and your family!!!

Rebecca Gillengerten - May 18, 2019 at 07:51 PM