



## Rev. Dr. Douglas Earle Wingeier

August 17, 1930 - December 19, 2022

Rev. Dr. Douglas E. Wingeier, of Asheville, NC, died on Monday, Dec. 19, 2022, at age 92. He was born in Lowell, MI, in August 1930, the son of Dan A. and Ellace Earlene Wingeier. Dr. Wingeier is survived by daughters Ruth (John King) of Long Prairie, MN, and Martha Emily of Boulder, CO, sons Stephen (Dawn Aura) of Atlanta, GA, and Philip (Diana Rayo) of Silver Spring, MD, nine grandchildren, and one great-grandson. He was preceded in death by his wife Carol, his parents, his sister Joan Dannette (Wingeier) Smith of Lyons, CO, and two infant granddaughters. He was a retired clergy member of the Michigan Annual Conference, United Methodist Church.

Dr. Wingeier attended the Lowell (MI) Public Schools, graduating as valedictorian. He was a graduate of Taylor University (BA) and Boston University (MDiv, Ph.D., Distinguished Alumnus), and did post-doctoral study at Chicago Theological Seminary. During his ministerial career, he served churches in Natick, Westford, and Needham, MA, Tulsa, OK, and Burlington, WI. Doug and Carol served eight years as Methodist missionaries in Singapore, where he taught at Trinity Theological College. Later they served for shorter periods in Samoa, Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia, Central America, Haiti, Palestine, Hong Kong, and the Philippines, during which Doug did volunteer teaching and research. He also served with Christian Peacemaker Teams in Palestine, Mexico, and Colombia.

During his 27 years on the faculty of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL, Dr. Wingeier taught Christian Education and Practical Theology, and, as Associate Dean, directed the Doctor of Ministry, Continuing Education, Field Education, and Summer School programs. After retirement, he taught Missions for ten summers in the Course of Study School at Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington DC. He authored numerous articles in journals and magazines, and ten books, including *Working Out Your Own Beliefs*; *Keeping Holy Time*; and *Marks of Mission*.

The Wingeiers retired to North Carolina in 1997, living first at Lake Junaluska and then at Brooks-Howell Home in Asheville. In his retirement years, Doug was active in several churches, most recently Asheville's Central United Methodist Church, and in peace, justice, and environmental groups such as the Haywood Peace Fellowship, Just Peace for Israel and Palestine, the Creation Care Alliance, Christians for a United Community, and the United Nations Association. He also engaged in frequent protest and solidarity actions at the School of the Americas at Fort Benning GA, the Y-12 nuclear weapons plant in Oak Ridge TN, the militarized Arizona-Mexico border, the Pentagon, and the World Trade Organization in Washington DC.

During his long life, Doug Wingeier gave courageous witness to the plight of the poor and the victims of war. He was unstintingly compassionate and open to listening and learning from all he encountered. His commitment to peacemaking, justice-seeking and environmental healing spoke quietly but clearly of deep faith in the Creator and the human family. He left an inspiring legacy and will be widely missed by family, friends and colleagues around the world.

True to form, Dr. Wingeier chose not to be embalmed or immediately cremated, but to donate his body to Wake-Forest Medical School for education and research, continuing his life of service beyond death. His

cremated remains were returned to his family in March and will be interred beside his beloved wife of 67 years, Carol, at the Curtis Family Cemetery in Calhoun, Georgia, on Saturday, July 15, at 2:00 pm. For more information, contact Ruth Wingeier at [wingking55@gmail.com](mailto:wingking55@gmail.com).

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be sent to the Doug and Carol Wingeier Field Education Fund at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, 2121 Sheridan Rd., Evanston, IL 60201 (<https://www.garrett.edu/alums-and-donors/give/>); Pisgah Legal Services, 62 Charlotte St., Asheville, NC 28801 ([www.pisgahlegal.org](http://www.pisgahlegal.org)); the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR, [umcmission.org/give-to-umcor/](http://umcmission.org/give-to-umcor/)), 458 Ponce de Leon Ave. NE, Atlanta, GA 30308; the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance, P.O. Box 5743, Oak Ridge, TN 37831 ([www.orepa.org](http://www.orepa.org)); or the Alliance for Global Justice, 225 E. 26th St. Ste. 1, Tucson, AZ 85713-2925 (earmarked for the Nicaragua Solidarity Committee and/or School of the Americas Watch, [afgj.org/donateafgj](http://afgj.org/donateafgj)).

# Previous Events

## Interment

JUL 15. 2:00 PM.

Curtis Family Cemetery  
Calhoun, GA

*For more information, contact Ruth Wingeier at [wingking55@gmail.com](mailto:wingking55@gmail.com).*

# Tribute Wall



“ *Rev. Dr. Douglas Earle Wingeier*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *Sometimes you remember a person by a special trait they had, or something they said, or an action you observed. Doug's life is memorable to me because of the consistency of his presence - as a gentle, thoughtful, interested, compassionate person who lived his faith on a daily basis. May his memory be a blessing to all those who knew him and loved him.*

*Dorie Ellzey Blesoff*

Dorie Ellzey Blesoff - June 21, 2023 at 09:24 AM



“ *Rev Wingeier was kind and always interested in others, as was his family. I got back in touch with him by email several years ago and these qualities were still very present. What I value most is what a good friend and colleague he was to my father, Charles Ellzey. At Garrett they were professors together and when my father wanted to return to teaching, Rev Wingeier was very supportive and encouraging. This meant a lot to my father at an important juncture in his life. I appreciate what a good human being Rev Wingeier was and how much he contributed, living a meaningful life to be celebrated. My heart goes out to his family and many friends. I am sure you will miss him.*

Christi (Ellzey) lone - June 10, 2023 at 07:13 PM

JO

“ Doug Wingeier was my major professor at ETS in the early 70's. I belonged to a covenant group with him and a small group of others. Doug was a blessing to me as a student and later as a friend and confidant during significant life decisions and transitions. I simply am unable to convey the depth of gratitude I have felt for him. He has left an indelible impact on my life. He was instrumental in fostering my love of learning, the pursuit of further formal theological education and my doctorate in education. Very grateful that my wife Gwen and I were able to visit with him and Carol in Ashville and to be in touch over the years. My heart goes out to the Wingeier family and to all who have love with Doug and Carol. Sincerely, John Strassburger

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john - February 24, 2023 at 04:26 PM

RH

“ Doug and Carol were tireless in their commitment to creating a world of justice and peace. A few years ago Doug called me (I was coordinator of the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance) with a question: Can OREPA receive gifts of stock? Well, we couldn't then, but we can now, because Doug nudged us. Of course, we were always grateful for financial support, but the spiritual support we always received from Doug and Carol was even more significant. He was and will continue to be an inspiration as we carry on the work.

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Ralph Hutchison - January 27, 2023 at 02:49 PM

LW

“ *The thing about Doug is he just didn't stop. He kept going with whatever it was he had interest and passion about, which was A LOT of things. His zest for living life and pursuit of continuous learning, loving people and doing something about it is intensely inspiring. I am so deeply grateful that I got to call him my friend. I count myself among a countless number of people whose lives he touched in an impactful way.*

*I miss his presence with us in our church community very much.*

*Laurie Walter-Hadley*

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**Laurie Walter-Hadley** - January 27, 2023 at 09:31 AM

LF

*Doug is a wonderful man and I am positive that his soul is in heaven working as hard as he did on earth..It was such an honor I r to know him at Central church and work with him on several projects. His loss will create a huge void at Central and all blessed to have known and worshiped with him..*

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**Libby Flowers** - May 24, 2023 at 10:39 PM

CW

“ *Rev Wingeier visited our church often to share with us his life experiences!! The world has lost a Bright Light!! We will always hold him dear in our hearts. Carolyn Wallace.. Jones Temple A.M.E Zion Church Waynesville NC*

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**Carolyn Wallace** - January 27, 2023 at 07:51 AM

TI

“ Living next door to Ruth and John for many years often brought me in contact with Doug; from their wedding to the last time Doug visited. I think I'll always remember his smile and gentle humor. I miss both of my friends, Doug and Carol.

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Tim - January 26, 2023 at 05:24 PM

SP

“ I lived at Brooks Howell 4 years ago. Doug befriended my roommates and me almost immediately. He invited to events and cared for us. I even drove him in his Prius from church to a baseball game back home. I was there when he moved from the outside apartments inside. I was there when Carol passed (she was one of my favorite residents. I was so sad to miss her service because I had to leave). Doug had been wanting to share a movie with us for months. Finally, a few weeks before we left, the YAVs all gathered in the basement media room with Doug to watch the Mr. Rogers' movie *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* We laughed and cried and enjoyed the movie. We even had a small discussion afterwards. For our going away party, residents stood up and were telling us how much they'll miss us. We had just dried our eyes, we're planning on being strong and dry, when Doug grabbed the mic and asked, "Won't you be my neighbor?" That had us sobbing all over. Tonight I will go home and watch that movie, thankful of the neighbor I had in Doug.



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Sarah Potter - January 25, 2023 at 04:45 PM

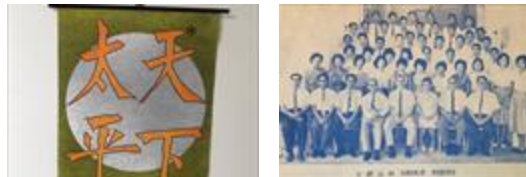
SW

“ Few people alive in America know that Doug Wingeier had a Chinese name (文道源, Wen Daoyuan) and fewer know that he used Mandarin when he taught at Trinity College, Singapore. He was familiar with the Chinese language and retained a fair amount of Chinese words and phrases in his golden years. On the door of his room at the retirement home was hung a banner with the Chinese words *tanxiataiping*, 天下太平, meaning peace on earth, which might summarize Doug’s life-long commitment to facilitating world peace and bridging cultural understanding.

*I first met Doug when he came to Singapore to teach at Trinity College in late 1962. He responded to my early Christmas greetings a week before he left this earth in 2022, a friendship that lasted 60 years. If I recall correctly, I was his Mandarin tutor in the first few months of his arrival in Singapore. His academic specialty then was Christian education. After I graduated from Trinity, I had an implicit assignment for developing the Christian education program of the Malaysia Chinese Annual Conference, and I enlisted Doug to run a workshop for youth leaders and Sunday school teachers of the Conference with the theme *Fellow Workmen for God*. That theme is another apt summary of Doug’s life.*

*Peacemaker and fellowman for God – thy name is Doug Wingeier!*

*Samuel Wong  
Springfield, Virginia*



Samuel Wong - January 24, 2023 at 02:11 PM

MC

“ Doug made one feel like he or she had known him for 92 years. He was a very different person in a wonderful way. More like Doug and Carol would set the path for how to be a Christian. They fit each other, and both had wonderful smiles. Doug never criticized my sometimes different way of thinking, but he would calmly give me the "on the other hand" better way. He was/is an extraordinary good human being. Marvin M. Cole

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**MARVIN M COLE** - January 22, 2023 at 03:27 PM



“ I was in the Garrett DMin program from 1992-1996. I remember Doug with great fondness as a Director who oversaw the program with grace and gentle insistence, with the strictest standards of scholarship. The academic community and world will be poorer with his absence. I hold the Wingeier family in prayer. Randy Hansen

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**Susan Hansen** - January 20, 2023 at 07:54 PM

DJ

I was in Doug and Carol's home many times while a student at ETS in Naperville, IL in the early 1970s...I was always made to feel welcome in their home and experienced them both as having a 'servant attitude' and never letting their egos interfere with their witness. Doug was not only a good mentor, he was also a good person and a good friend. DJ

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**Dennis Johnson** - January 25, 2023 at 02:26 PM

LB

“ I will always remember Doug and Carol as loving, caring individuals especially their welcoming nature to seminary couples at Garrett. My husband was a student there from 1974-78 and we were part of a couples group that Doug and Carol lead. I believe that Philip was sometimes at those meetings also. We were new parents so it was good to have their experiences as examples. We always enjoyed seeing Doug at annual conference for the then West Michigan Conference. He will be missed by all who knew him but was such a glowing example of how we as Christians should be leading our lives in love for one another. Linda Burton-Collier

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**Linda Burton-Collier** - January 20, 2023 at 10:20 AM

JS

“ Doug was very generous. He was always quick to help those in need. He had a kind hearted soul and I will miss him.

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**Joseph Shebest** - January 19, 2023 at 08:11 AM

NM

“*Doug was an amazing, intelligent and kind man dedicated to creating a better more just world. He brought a group of 12 people to Nicaragua around 2011 (can't remember), including his daughter Emily, and that's when I really had a chance to get to know him and Carol and fall in love with them. He still has friends in Nicaragua who remember him fondly. Doug and Carol had been missionaries in Singapore (my husband and I are also Methodist missionaries), so we had that in common also. In 2012 in Orlando we both worked at the United Methodist General Conference to get the United Methodist Church to divest financially from three companies that do business in the Israel-occupied areas of Palestine (unsuccessfully). We had also seen them a number of times at Garrett Seminary in Chicago. We had been in touch a lot since 2018 as we were both involved in educational work about Nicaragua. We had a few email exchanges just days before he died, so I was really shocked and saddened to see his son's message on Facebook. I still feel so sad at his loss - a loss for so many who loved him and a loss for the world. His is an example I will continue to try to follow. He showed special solidarity with impoverished and oppressed people and peoples' struggles that have to do with racism, classism, imperialism and more. And no matter what - he was always kind to people and listened to them. Doug Wingeier: Presente! Presente! Presente!*”

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**Nan McCurdy** - January 18, 2023 at 12:25 PM

SP

“*I had the great pleasure of driving Doug around Evanston when he visited in summer of 2022. Sharing time with him was such a joy - I know you who've known him for so long will miss him dearly. Peace be with you as you celebrate and grieve - Sarah Pressly, Garrett-Evangelical*”

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**Sarah Pressly** - January 17, 2023 at 12:33 PM

RP

“ I was on the committee that interviewed and recommended that Evangelical Theological Seminary hire Doug to be a professor of Christian Education. What a wise decision. Doug and Carol were last here with us in Michigan in 2010 when they were participating in the World Social Forum. We had a delightful dinner on our deck. Doug continued his justice-seeking and peacemaking with occasional emails re: Michigan United Methodism and state politics. Always grateful for Doug's wisdom!  
Rev. Rich and Jan Peacock

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Rev. Rich Peacock - January 16, 2023 at 10:23 AM

JE

“ I was a student of Dr. Wingeier's at GETS in about 1982. I appreciated his presence and integrity/experiences he brought to "education". My condolences to the family. Rev. Janet Ellinger

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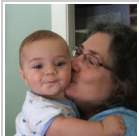
Janet Ellinger - January 16, 2023 at 10:08 AM

SU

“ I will always remember Doug fondly and his work for peace and human rights. He was on a zoom presentation just days before he passed, and I will always remember his work on behalf of Palestinian rights. He was a wonderful guy.

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Susan - January 13, 2023 at 04:52 PM



“ It was an honor to work with Doug on issues of peace and human rights. He had so much insight, experience, wisdom. Plus his wonderful sense of humor and the sparkle in his eyes! He also had a very calm presence that always impressed me. I'm grateful for his life and to have known him a bit. My deepest sympathy to his family.

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Anne Craig - January 12, 2023 at 08:21 AM

RB

“*Doug has been such a treasure to our community. I am glad he and Carol are back together, We look forward to joining both in the spirit world. He was truly a man of deep peace. Thank you, Doug.*

Rachael Bliss - January 11, 2023 at 10:53 PM

ST

“*Doug, you are still shining so brightly through all the love and peace-centered work you shared with our world. I miss our coffee dates. I miss your smile and wisdom. I miss your kindness. I'm so sad we aren't collaborating in life like we planned, but your inspiration lives on and directs my actions. And, I think of you daily. May you rest in eternal peace surrounded by love and light.*

Stacey - January 11, 2023 at 12:29 PM

ST

“*1 file added to the album Friends*



Stacey - January 11, 2023 at 12:25 PM

RS

*Lovely picture of the Wingeiers and many happy memories ! Very sad to hear the passing of my TTC Professor, personal longtime friend ( and also late Carol Wingeier) , my colleague in Christian Ministry and our special guests in our home in Centerville, Ohio. Our heartfelt condolences to the Wingeier family, With thoughts and prayers 🙏. I will miss my several chats with Doug and especially few days before his death 🕊️. He is now peacefully resting in the everlasting arms with Jesus and with his beloved wife Carol ❤️. Pastor Sivaji Subramaniam and Elvessa, , Ohio*

Rev .& Mrs . Sivaji Subramaniam - January 11, 2023 at 10:54 PM

CH

*Doug gave me invaluable advice when I was a student at Garrett in the '80s --and I still thank him for that.*

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**Claudette I Haney** - January 20, 2023 at 09:00 AM

CH

*I met Doug for the first time when I began as Dean of Students at Evangelical Theological Seminary (Naperville, Illinois) in 1972. He was a teacher beloved by students and one of the few who made the transition from a prescriptive syllabus style to a cooperative and collaborative model of teaching divinity students. As a beginning classroom seminary instructor, I learned a great deal from my associations with him. We shared an international interest; our conversations were about global issues and the challenges facing the church if it would be found on the right side of history. My occasional visits to his home were eye opening. He and Carol were such gentle and loving parents with an open attitude toward their children's development needs. Doug's dedication to matters of peace and justice were folkloric in scope, depth and diversity. His heart had much room in it for those living where there was no hope for freedom from fear, oppression, hunger and opportunity. Moreover, he acted on, not just talked about, ways of advocating among those he might influence, for example, in leading educational immersion experiences. My last conversation with him, several years ago, was about going to the conflict zone of Palestine to be a presence for peace. Some in retirement take up golf or woodworking; Doug put his life on line for peace. He was a great man in the most humble expressions of greatness. His death is the world's loss. Even though I am well aware of the loss his children now must endure and process, it remains that there few if any able to fill his shoes. Kempton Hewitt, Emeritus Professor, The Methodist Theological School in Ohio*

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**c.m. kempton hewitt** - January 25, 2023 at 09:52 PM

RC

*Heartfelt condolences to the Wingeier family for their loss. Dr. Douglas Wingeier was a beloved Professor of Christian Education at Singapore Trinity Theological College in the 60s where I first met him. He was man with great compassion and honor and one who would go out of his way to help "the little ones." He kept in touch with his former students from Singapore Trinity now living and serving in the US even after his official retirement! A very rare gesture of caring and compassion! He made a special effort to reconnect with us, his former students living in the North-East, during his regular trips to Boston over the years when he was able to travel. Sharing a fellowship meal and hearing his stories in Missions was a joy and educational experience! We will miss him and may he rest in Peace!*

*Sam and Loon Chong*

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**Rev. Samuel Chong** - January 26, 2023 at 09:28 AM

RW

*I live in Lowell, Michigan where Doug grew up, and I am a member of Lowell United Methodist Church where he received his first Christian education and perhaps his theological grounding and call to Christian ministry. Although I did not know him personally, I knew of his ministry and reputation. We were delighted to have him visit and share his message with us occasionally. Our church takes joy in knowing that one of our own has done so much to teach and demonstrate God's message, peace, and love in so many places in our world.*

*Ray Wolfe*

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**Ray Wolfe** - January 26, 2023 at 10:45 AM

BW

*From Detroit: I have such deep gratitude for Doug and Carol's life and ministry. What strikes me just now is their enthusiastic support for mine. And I recognize that as part and parcel of their own: to nourish the calling of students and friends to the work of gospel nonviolence and social justice. Thanks be for beloved community.*

*Bill Wylie-Kellermann*

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**Bill Wylie-Kellermann** - January 27, 2023 at 12:21 PM

DA

*My father in law was a true Christian, the real deal. .Plus intelligent, curious, always evolving his outlook on things.. His entire family accepted me with open arms as a family member when I met and married Steve, and were always supportive. I am privileged to have known him for thirty years. I will miss him and our conversations. Dawn Aura*

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**Dawn Aura** - January 27, 2023 at 05:07 PM