



Rev. Robert Andrew Wiltshire

July 26, 1947 - April 25, 2016

Rev. Robert Andrew Wiltshire, 68, of Asheville passed away on April 25, 2016. Born July 26, 1947, in Richmond, VA, to the late Ashley Turman and Sarah Proctor Wiltshire.

He is survived by his loving wife Debbie of Asheville, son Jake Wiltshire of Durham, NC, son-in-law and daughter Ben and Virginia Taft, of Charleston, SC, and stepsons Stephen and Matthew Rogers, and their wives Jess and Kaylan of Morganton, NC. He was a loving grandfather to Ryder Jacob and Winslow Grace Taft, as well as Dalton, Alyssa, Lyliah and Malachi Rogers, who fondly called him "Big Daddy." He is also survived by his sister-in-law and brother Susan and Ashley Wiltshire, Jr., of Nashville, TN, and sister Carolyn Wiltshire of Weaverville, NC. He was a proud uncle to Matthew Wiltshire and Carrie McCutcheon of Nashville, TN, Jacob Grigsby of Santa Cruz, CA, Andrew Grigsby of Richmond, VA, and Sachi Godwin of Weaverville, NC.

Robert graduated in 1965 from Hermitage High School in Richmond, VA, and attended Princeton University for two years before finishing his Bachelor of Arts in American Studies, graduating with Honors, at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1969. He received his Masters of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary in 1973, and was later ordained in the American Baptist Church.

Robert's faith was a vital part of his life, going back to his early years at Lakeside Baptist Church in Richmond, VA, where his parents were founding members. His professional work reflected his desire to put his faith into action serving others. This included his early work in Asheville, where he served as Executive Director of ABCCM and as the Development Director of the YMI Cultural Center. Following that work, he transitioned into professional fundraising work, building on his seminary thesis topic of economic responsibility and Christian stewardship. The majority of his fundraising work was done through his consulting firm Wiltshire & Company, where he helped churches and non-profits raise money to better fulfill their missions and serve their community.

Robert first moved to Asheville in 1973 and quickly fell in love with the natural beauty of Western North Carolina. One of his favorite activities was sitting on his porch with a beverage and a loved one to talk about life, love, faith, and family while enjoying the beauty of God's creation. He was a devoted fan of the Carolina Tar Heels and enjoyed watching games with his family and friends. He loved working in the yard, woods, and garden on his property. He was an athlete throughout high school and college, playing multiple sports in high school and football at both Princeton and Carolina. His love of physical activity carried through the rest of his life as he ran multiple marathons and was the first President of the Asheville Track Club.

A memorial will be held at Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 30, 2016, with Reverend J. Curtis Goforth and Reverend Gary Greene officiating. The family will receive friends from 6 – 8 p.m. on Friday, April 29, 2016, at Morris Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, please make gifts in Robert's honor to the Capital Campaign of Asbury Memorial UMC, 171 Beaverdam Road, Asheville, NC 28804, or the charity of your choice.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **29**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Morris Funeral & Cremation Care
304 Merrimon Ave.
Asheville, NC 28801
(828) 252-1821
info@morrisfamilycare.com
<http://www.morrisfamilycare.com>

Memorial Service

APR **30**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church
171 Beaverdam Road
Asheville, NC 28804
<http://www.asburymemorialumc.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert and I grew up together, went to church together and graduated from high school together. He was the epitome of a fine young man. He was the president of our senior class and was first team all state in football.*

Royce Woolfolk Jr - January 20, 2025 at 11:08 PM



“ *Rev. Robert Andrew Wiltshire*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM

RS

“ I just found out about Robert Wiltshire's passing this morning. We first met the summer of 1968 at Masonboro Baptist Church, Masonboro Loop Road, Wilmington, NC when Robert then a university student was serving as a youth minister with the Reverend Milton and Allene Boone. I was with a State Baptist College/University "Apostoloi" team of four students who had come to that congregation for a week to do the plays, "The World of Carl Sandburg" and the documentary on civil rights, "In White America." I contacted Robert about the time of my serving as a state senator (Morganton) regarding his work with the Crisis Control Ministry and connected him with Rev. Ronald Rice, who with others, formed the Crisis Control Ministry of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County. I believe the last time I got to visit Robert in Asheville about 1992 was before I went off to Union Seminary in NYC, where he had attended. I have a picture of us at that visit. Walking this past Sunday by the building housing the Asheville/Buncombe County Historical Preservation Society at Grove Park, Charlotte Street, I was reminded that Robert stayed there or in a house close to it, in his transition to Asheville.

As with his family and friends, I too will grieve his passing and selfishly regret the missing out on the joy of our reunion that we might compare notes of our journeys as pilgrims. Robert was such a kind and good spirit and held my utmost respect. Even at the grave, we make our song, Alleluia!

Earlier in June I downsized from my home on Capitol Hill and located to a seniors apartment in the old Battle Hotel. My hope is that any family member who wishes to call on me will do so. My new address:

*Roger Sharpe
1 Battle Square, Apt. 1208
Asheville, NC 28801*

704-402-2904

rogerdsharpe@mail.com

Roger Dean Sharpe - June 26, 2017 at 08:45 AM

LS

“ *Thinking of Debbie, Jake, Virginia today.*

It is difficult to believe it has been a year. I only knew Robert briefly, but he and his family have transformed, positively, the scape of my life. I will always be grateful to the Wiltshires for their kindness, elegance, and integrity, and I will never stop wishing that Robert was here to participate in the plans we made together. Robert is someone I could never forget. Extraordinary.

My deepest Sympathy on this difficult anniversary.

Lovingly,

Leah

Leah Sweeney Spurrier - April 25, 2017 at 03:59 PM

KA

“ *Hi my name is Kayla and I am a local bible teacher. I am so sorry for the loss of your loved one. There is a very comforting scripture at Isaiah 25:8. It says that soon Jehovah will swallow up death forever and that he will wipe away all of the tears. So we can all look forward to a time when death will be no more. I hope that this scripture can bring some true comfort during these difficult times.*

kayla - May 19, 2016 at 07:16 PM

CG

“ In 2010 First United Methodist Church in Brevard understood we needed to renovate our 52 year old facility. It was completely understood by leadership that our infrastructure was inadequate and needed replacement. In addition we needed to modernize and improve. But how could we convey those “hidden, behind the wall” needs to our congregation and encourage them to support it. In God’s providence He brought us together with Robert. Robert’s first statement to us was that the sticks and bricks are obvious to our committee but not the congregation. He encouraged us to pray and discern our spiritual need for the renovation. Once that was accomplished we had the real reason for our capital campaign. Two years later we had our consecration service. Our church has grown ever since and is well positioned for another 50 years in God’s service!

During the time of our capital campaign Robert became more than a consultant. He became our campaign’s spiritual leader and a good friend; a friendship that carried over to the current time. We will sorely miss his occasional contacts about our continued progress but we are sure his spirit will continue with us. Charles Gilmore

Charles Gilmore - April 29, 2016 at 09:19 PM

PJ

“ I first met and worked with Robert in 2010-11 as he led FUMC Brevard through a large capital campaign during a tough economic time. He was the perfect fit for us. Soft spoken; Christ centered; and such a pleasing personality. I felt like we were best of friends after only two or three meetings. Those of us who got to be around him on a regular basis are still in shock. He will be missed on this earth. But we will meet again in a far better place. Peter Johnson

Peter Johnson - April 29, 2016 at 03:34 PM

RG

“ DEAR FAMILY, WE WERE BLESSED TO HAVE REV. WILTSHIRE IN OUR LIVES. HE WAS TRULY A SERVANT AND A GREAT PERSON. MAY THE LORD BLESS AND KEEP YOU IS MY PRAYER.

REV. JAMES GRANT - April 29, 2016 at 10:04 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rev. Robert Andrew Wiltshire.



April 28, 2016 at 01:50 PM

BR

“ Debbie and Family,

You are in our thoughts and prayers...

Brenda Roach McFarland

Brenda - April 28, 2016 at 11:59 AM

AM

“ Debbie, I was shocked to hear the news and feel saddened for you and your family. I am praying for and thinking of you and your family.
Avis Morrow

Avis Morrow - April 28, 2016 at 07:47 AM

SG

“ Robert was a kind and generous man with many gifts and talents. He will be missed tremendously in our congregation at Asbury. May God's peace and love shine on his family and friends.

Scott Glenn - April 27, 2016 at 01:58 PM

RJ

Robert and I were close friends since first grade. We both attended Lakeside Baptist Church, were baptized the same summer, played football and ran track in high school. He was president of our senior class. A great athlete and true gentleman Christian !

Royce Woolfolk Jr - July 24, 2024 at 06:58 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Wiltshire Family



Morris Funeral Home - April 27, 2016 at 01:00 PM

RC

“ Debbie,
I hope that words can be of some comfort to you in your time of loss as my prayers and thoughts are with you and your family. -Ruth Colnot

Ruth Colnot - April 27, 2016 at 12:12 PM

TP

“ Dear Debbie,
I am so sorry to hear about your husband. Please know that you and your are in my thoughts and many prayers. Love, Tina Porter

Tina Porter - April 27, 2016 at 09:33 AM

LR

“ *Debbie and Pam,
I am so very sorry to hear of your loss. You and your family are in
my thoughts and prayers.*

Lynn Rowland - April 27, 2016 at 09:18 AM

CL

*Dear Debbie,
I am so very sorry to hear about your loss. You will be in my thoughts
and prayer.
Carol Lattimore*

Carol Lattimore - April 27, 2016 at 10:37 AM

TG

*You and your entire family are in my thoughts & prayers. Robert was
such a great man. I was so blessed to know him. He will be deeply
missed. Love, Tamara G.*

Tamara G. - April 27, 2016 at 11:22 AM

KA

*Debbie, please know I am thinking of you and your family. I wish you
the comfort that comes from memories and from knowing so many
people care deeply about you.*

Kathy Ackerman

Kathy Ackerman - April 27, 2016 at 01:31 PM