



Rev. John "Jack" William Pilger

August 8, 1935 - October 29, 2016

Rev. John (Jack) William Pilger Sr. (81) peacefully went to be with his Heavenly Father on October 29, 2016. Jack was born in Chicago, Illinois on August 8, 1935 to Clarence and Rose Pilger. He grew up in the Chicago suburbs until he moved to Hialeah, Florida in 1950 attending Miami Jackson High School. Jack served in the Coast Guard from 1952 until 1960. He received his undergraduate degree from Valdosta State College in 1972 and received his Master of Divinity Degree from Emory University in 1975.

Jack married Joan Thayer on December 16, 1955 and they had five children. Jack had a construction business in the Miami area until in September of 1967, Jack and Joan and their five children moved to Manor, Georgia where Jack received a Methodist minister assignment for a circuit of four churches. After serving in the South Georgia Conference, Jack moved to Vinings, Georgia where he served at Vinings United Methodist Church from 1972 until 1983. In 1983, he and Joan moved to Woodstock, Georgia where he served at Ebenezer United Methodist Church until retiring in 2008. After serving as a United Methodist minister for forty-one years, Jack and Joan retired in their Woodstock home enjoying their eight grandchildren, traveling and being active members of their church and community.

Jack will be remembered as a loving husband, wonderful father, cherished Grandpa and caring pastor. Jack is survived by his loving wife of 61 years,

Joan Pilger of Woodstock, Georgia; five children, Susan Dunphy (Kevin) of Roswell, Georgia, Diane Hollander (Scott) of Woodstock, Georgia, John Pilger (Holly) of Marietta, Georgia, Judy Williams (Greg) of Woodstock, Georgia, and Jim Pilger (Wendy) of Woodstock, Georgia; his eight grandchildren, Kelly, Rachel and Austin Pilger, Joshua, Matthew and Phillip Williams, Caitlin and Christina Hollander and one Great Grandson, Alexander Lee; his brother and sister-in-law Bill & Leticia Pilger of Naples, Florida and several loving nieces and nephews.

The Funeral Service will be held on Thursday, November 3, 2016 noon at Ebenezer United Methodist Church 12900 North Arnold Mill, Roswell, Georgia 30075 with Rev. Glenn Hannigan officiating. The graveside service will follow the funeral service at the Ebenezer United Methodist Cemetery. Visitation will be Wednesday November 2 at Northside Chapel located at 12050 Crabapple Road, Roswell, GA 30075 from 6pm until 8pm and Thursday November 2, 11:00AM until noon at Ebenezer UMC.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Jack's name to the Ebenezer United Methodist Church – Sanctuary Endowment Fund. Ebenezer UMC

Cemetery Details

Ebenezer Cemetery

Hwy. 140/Arnold Mill Road
Alpharetta, GA

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 2. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Northside Chapel Funeral Directors and Crematory
12050 Crabapple Road
Roswell, GA 30075
(770) 645-1414
info@northsidechapel.com

Lie In-State

NOV 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

Ebenezer United Methodist Church
12900 Arnold Mill Rd.
Roswell, GA

Service

NOV 3. 12:00 PM (ET)

Ebenezer United Methodist Church
12900 Arnold Mill Rd.
Roswell, GA

Tribute Wall



“ *Rev. John "Jack" William Pilger*

October 08, 2022 at 11:37 AM



“ *I remember Jack and Joan when I was a teenager in Hialeah. They were a committed Christian couple serving the church of Jesus Christ. Blessings and sympathy to all.*
Carole Ochandarena McQueen

Carole McQueen - November 07, 2016 at 12:48 PM



“ *Brother Pilger came to Canton First United Methodist church in the mid 80's to heal the church after a former pastor left the church with several members. The church was in pain and needed guidance. Brother Pilger took our broken church family and helped it heal and become strong again. We were always thankful that the Lord brought us the perfect man to guide us and heal us.*

Stephen - November 03, 2016 at 01:10 PM



“ *Gene, Ginger, Michael Ewing purchased the Sapphire Skies Bouquet for the family of Rev. John "Jack" William Pilger.*



Gene, Ginger, Michael Ewing - November 01, 2016 at 08:01 PM

RR

“ *Ron and Judy Acks, Jeff, Holly and Emily Reader purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Rev. John "Jack" William Pilger.*



Ron and Judy Acks, Jeff, Holly and Emily Reader - November 01, 2016 at 07:44 PM

MJ

“ *Memories of Jack Pilger....So many to list...One in particular Jack's way of encouraging you to do your best! He encouraged me and Jerry many times. Thank you Jack for the memories. Love to all, Mimi Jones*

Mimi Jones - November 01, 2016 at 05:33 PM

PF

“ *Our family had the privilege of having Jack as our pastor in Vinings, Woodstock, and Crabapple. We followed him to whatever church he went to. He visited my Father almost daily while he was in the hospital for 3 months and did my Father's funeral. He also did my daughter's wedding. We thought he was the most wonderful person in the pulpit and outside the pulpit. always smiling and a great sense of humor. He will be missed but he lived to see Jesus and now he is there. Our sympathies and love to.the family. Margaret Patterson, Mary Austin, Tracy Crouch and April Hardin.*

Patterson family - November 01, 2016 at 02:08 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of Rev. John "Jack" William Pilger.



November 01, 2016 at 02:08 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Rev. John "Jack" William Pilger.



November 01, 2016 at 09:07 AM

PA

“ I will never forget the first Sunday in Feb 2002 that I met Jack Pilger. I was out of work but one Sunday morning I awoke and decided I needed to be in that “little white church” I passed on 140 every day on my way home from work. As I approached the steps to the entry, this man with the most beautiful smile in the world, dressed in khakis, white shirt and tie bounded down the steps and introduced himself to me simply as Jack Pilger and said, we’re glad to have you – come in! He made me feel welcome and at home, and as I entered the sanctuary, I immediately forgot all about my troubles. Jack’s sermons were always straight from the heart; a very down to earth person who was so quick with that big smile and infectious laugh that he won the heart of all who knew him. I have been told that Ms. Joan had a lot to do with Jack’s becoming a Christian and a pastor, so we must thank her for nudging him in that direction. Joan, being a practical woman, knew she would need a Godly man to help with their future 5 fun-filled pranksters. Jack and Joan and their 5 children were the perfect family unit and always genuinely interested in the church, its members and visitors that many times our little sanctuary was packed. At Jack’s retirement service, as everyone expected, the sanctuary was packed – standing room only was a great testament to what a wonderful pastor and friend he was to all. The love and fellowship he shared with all who entered the doors to that “little white church”, aka, Ebenezer United Methodist Church, where the presence of God and Jack can always be felt – they’ve been very close for a long time! All of our love, Phyllis Allison & Bobby Cox

Phyllis Allison - November 01, 2016 at 08:33 AM

RA

“ The first time I met Jack was when we buried the mayor of Vinings, Pepper Joe , a scarred face dog who roamed the neighborhood like he owned it. It was an extremely hot day and we were sweating profusely. I was very impressed by the cheerful manner of this volunteer as he helped bury Bunny's dog! Jack would become extremely important to me and my whole family. He married Judy and me, my step-son Jeff and Holly, and baptized our granddaughter Emily. Jack was instrumental in getting us involved with Ebenezer UMC. That was an enjoyable experience that Judy and I miss to this day. Rest in peace old friend!

Ron Acks - November 01, 2016 at 07:21 AM

RI

“ Jack was a dear friend and mentor in the ministry to me. I loved serving with him in a ministerial group in the Woodstock area as I served at Woodstock Community church. His laughter and kindness were an inspiration. I look forward to being with Jack for all of eternity some day. To Joan and the kids my prayers are with you. Pastor Rob Irvine Cumberland Community Church Smyrna Ga.

Rob Irvine - October 31, 2016 at 07:59 PM

DG

“ Great memories of working with Jack at Vinings UMC- I was the youth and choir director for a time, Loved working with Jack, his family, and friends at Vinings Church! Love ya Jack!

David Griffith - October 31, 2016 at 10:37 AM

SM

“ *The Pilger Family has been a family to all of us that attended Vinings United Methodist Church. Wonderful memories that included great food and fellowship. Jack was one of a kind! He was so compassionate and caring to everyone he knew. He will always hold a special place in my heart. As he spoke on Paul's journey in Christianity I am reminded of a favorite passage of his.*

2 Timothy 4:7

I HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT, I HAVE FINISHED THE RACE, I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH. Indeed you have Jack!

Sandra Maurer - October 31, 2016 at 09:13 AM

PZ

You can't think of Jack without wearing a smile - his loving nature touched so many people! It was his love and Vinings United Methodist Church family that led me to Christ. My prayers are with all his loving family and dear friends. Patty (Fraley) Zuniga

Patty Zuniga - November 01, 2016 at 09:16 AM

PM

Jack brought the best out of me. He saw qualities in me that I didn't even know I had and encouraged me to use them to God's glory. I still do to this day. He was like a brother to me. A part of me has died with him. I am a better person because of him. Sleep sweetly, good friend. I look forward to seeing you again some day.

Love, Pam (Harvey, Wilkins) McDonald

Pam McDonald - November 01, 2016 at 01:19 PM

TS

My deepest sympathy to the Pilger Family. I have such fond memories of each one of you, dating back more than 40 years now. Jack was a wonderful man of God who lived his religion through his daily walk and actions. I am not sure that I have ever known a kinder person than Jack. May God surround you at this time of loss with the Peace that only He can provide. You are in my prayers. Tony Smith

Tony Smith - November 01, 2016 at 09:29 PM

DO

What a wonderful God loving man. Jack and family were very dedicated to Ebenezer and all the church families. Rev. Jack and Joan drove to Greensboro, N.C. when my father passed. Away I will never forget that wonderful man, he was always there when you needed that extra prayer. He is up there with the Lord now singing those wonderful old hymns he loved so much. His family will always carry on his great love and spirit. Dora Wright Ebenezer United Church

dora - November 01, 2016 at 10:10 PM