



## William Joseph "Will" Carl Jr.

June 2, 1923 - January 31, 2018

William Joseph "Will" Carl Jr., 94, died on January 31, 2018, at home in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. He is survived by his loving wife of 70 years, Charlotte Correy Carl; four children: William J. Carl III, Evelyn Thompson, Stephen Carl, and Debra Freeman, their families, his niece, Cathey Milburn and her family, ten grandchildren and five great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Evelyn Carl and his sister Margaret Lindsay. Dr. Carl was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma on June 2, 1923. He was a World War II veteran, serving in Europe in the Battle of the Bulge for the United States Army. He graduated from Central High School in Tulsa, earned a Bachelor's degree, a Master's degree and a Doctor of Education degree from the University of Tulsa, a Master of Divinity from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago and a Doctor of Divinity from the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville, Arkansas. Dr. Carl served churches in Broken Arrow, Hominy, Bartlesville and Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was the founding pastor of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) in Bartlesville, serving there from 1955 until his retirement in 1990. Subsequently, he taught on the Faculty of Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa and served as interim and stated supply pastor for both John Calvin and Westminster Presbyterian churches in Tulsa. He preached his last sermon of active ministry in October 2012 at the age of 89 when he finally retired completely! In his spare time Dr. Carl enjoyed spending time with his family, playing various instruments including the piano, guitar, violin and ukulele, and especially reading and studying since he was a

lifelong learner. He also loved to write and is the author of *Graying Gracefully: Preaching to Older Adults* (Westminster John Knox Press, 1997). He was a devoted man of God with a special relationship with Jesus Christ. He was a loving husband, father, uncle, grandfather, great grandfather, mentor to many pastors (including his own children) who began their ministry under his wise tutelage, and a friend who will be greatly missed by many around the country. A service in celebration of Dr. Carl's life will be held at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at the Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church in Bartlesville. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Dr. Carl's memory may be made to Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church, 801 SE Washington Blvd, Bartlesville, OK 74006. Friends who wish may sign the online guest book and leave condolences at [www.Stumpff.org](http://www.Stumpff.org)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 3. 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory  
1600 SE Washington Blvd.  
Bartlesville, OK 74006  
(918) 333-4300  
info@stumpff.org  
<https://www.stumpff.org>

## Visitation

FEB 4. 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory  
1600 SE Washington Blvd.  
Bartlesville, OK 74006  
(918) 333-4300  
info@stumpff.org  
<https://www.stumpff.org>

## Visitation

FEB 5. 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory  
1600 SE Washington Blvd.  
Bartlesville, OK 74006  
(918) 333-4300  
info@stumpff.org  
<https://www.stumpff.org>

## Celebration of Life

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FEB 6. 1:30 PM (CT)

Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church  
801 S.E. Washington Blvd.  
Bartlesville, OK 74006  
(918) 333-1708  
<http://www.gspcok.org>

# Tribute Wall



“ William Joseph "Will" Carl Jr.

October 23, 2023 at 04:40 AM



“ William Joseph "Will" Carl Jr.

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ Dr. Carl truly “walked the walk.” he preached about.  
I saw him as a great man, father, husband, pastor, devout follower  
of Jesus, comforter, counselor, friend, and patient.  
I held and hold all of his wonderful family in the highest regards.  
My prayers and thoughts remember him, Charlotte, and his  
wonderful family at this time of celebration of a life well lived.

*William P. Smith, Jr., D.D.S.*

*Sedona, Arizona*

*Author of: GROWING A HEALTHY CHILD, SECRETS FROM A  
WISE OLD DOC*

*PS*

*Thank you Bill, Evelyn, Stephen, and Debbie for inspiration as  
patients for the book. I always looked forward to your visits.*

William P. Smith, Jr., D.D.S. - February 21, 2018 at 12:05 AM

SR

“ Jim and I were Good Shepherd members during the 1960's, and I filled in for Dr. Carl's secretary for a few months and got to know what an amazing pastor he really was. I joined the choir and loved his messages and services which were warm and compassionate. When Jim's Dad passed in Vinita, he was at our home that evening to pray with us over our loss. We will never forget Dr. Carl and Good Shepherd Presbyterian. Our condolences to the family for the loss of a truly wonderful man.

Warmest regards

Jim and Sue Ratcliff

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**Sue Ratcliff** - February 11, 2018 at 01:49 PM

CM

“ Oh just heard this. Gene and I are touched by the beautiful write up about Dr. Carl. He was Good Shepard to us. Love to all of the family,,,

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**Candy Miller** - February 07, 2018 at 08:17 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Flowers



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**Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory** - February 05, 2018 at 04:05 PM



“ *My sincere condolences to his family, and a grateful expression of thankfulness from one of many of the lives he has touched through the years with his wisdom, compassion, leadership, and friendship. Dan Rabovsky, former Associate.Pastor at First Bartlesville, and former Pastor, St Andrews Tulsa, now retired*

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**Dan Rabovsky** - February 04, 2018 at 05:27 PM



“ I am a writer by trade, but I find that my writing skills are woefully inadequate for this task. My family has known Dr. Carl's family for over 60 years. Both family's children were close in age and grew up together. Both families have children who grew up to be very fine Presbyterian pastors, due to the tutelage of Dr. Carl. Much of Dr. Carl's success was due to the patience and support of Charlotte Carl, who spent many hours juggling responsibilities of being a housewife and mother of 4 with responsibilities of being a pastor's wife.

*From my own perspective, I remember growing up in a church where the pastor took a very personal interest in the Christian development of the youth of the church. We had youth sponsors and Sunday School teachers, but it was very common for Dr. Carl to poke his head in for a smile or a warm hug or two, or to come in and sit down and participate in the discussions. My mother spent several weeks recovering from cancer surgery when I was in high school. My grandmother was living with us at the time. I was quite scared that my mother would die. Several times a week, I would get off the school bus and come in the house to find Dr. Carl or Rev. Shaw (sometimes both) sitting in the living room with my grandmother and I was always asked how things were going. It didn't occur to me until years later that my brother and I were the primary reason for these visits. They knew how scared we were but that neither one of us would openly admit it, certainly not to my dad, who had enough on his mind and his heart. On days when Dr. Carl was not there in the afternoon, he usually stopped by for a few minutes after Dad got home from work and he and Dad would go somewhere to talk and pray. I don't think I ever thanked him for the care he (and Charlotte) showed my family during such a difficult time. So many times since then I have included them in prayer and thanked God for putting such wonderful, loving people in our lives.*

*So I'll take this opportunity to say thank you to Charlotte, and to Bill, Evelyn, Stephen and Debbie for understanding when the rest of us needed to borrow your husband and father. His is a life we will truly*

*celebrate on Tuesday. There will be many tears, but also many smiles and I'm sure some laughter. After all, when most of us remember Dr. Carl, it is his loving smile we remember most. We love you all!*

*Nancy (Harp) Smith*

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**Nancy Smith** - February 04, 2018 at 08:38 AM

PP

*I was blessed to be one of the countless GS Church children who received guidance, inspiration & love from Dr. Carl. My deepest condolences to all his family.*

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**Paul Parsons** - February 04, 2018 at 05:07 PM