



Reverend Robert Mahlon Wert

December 14, 1935 - February 12, 2023

Robert M. Wert, 87, of Lubbock, Texas, passed away February 12, 2023, with his loving daughters, Kim and Pam, by his side. Bob was born December 14, 1935, to Robert and Mildred Kimbrough Wert in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. He graduated from E.C. Glass High School, Lynchburg, Virginia, in 1956 and received his Bachelor of Music from Westminster Choir College, Princeton, New Jersey, in 1960. He met the love of his life, Julie Coleman Dunning, at Westminster, and together they toured the United States with the choir and performed with the New York Philharmonic under Bruno Walter and Leonard Bernstein, as well as the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Chicago Symphony. Bob and Julie married after graduation, and he described their wedding as "the best event of my life." They shared a happy marriage until her death on June 27, 2017.

Bob's life was molded by and around family, God, the church, and music, which became his passion and life-long ministry. He grew up in Dog Branch, TN, then moved to the Washington, D.C., area where he remembered how everything changed overnight after Pearl Harbor. He grew up Presbyterian, and his parents always had ministers for Sunday dinner, including Norman Vincent Peale. The family settled in Lynchburg, Virginia, where he learned the value of hard work and long study. Bob took up the trumpet when his grandmother paid him to practice, and he started singing as a junior in high school when Mrs. Owen, the choir director at Rivermont Presbyterian Church,

discovered his beautiful, operatic bass voice with a remarkable range. Bob always said singing was easier than playing trumpet, although he did play his trumpet in the East Room of the White House.

He started his music ministry in New Jersey while he was at Westminster. After graduation, he served at First United Methodist Church in Clarksburg, West Virginia. After a year, he and Julie moved west (she was from Oklahoma), and there began his 45 years of ministry as a choir director in the Northwest Conference of the United Methodist Church in Texas. He served churches in Lubbock, Hereford, and Amarillo. Bob found a mentor and good friend in Rev. Clifford Trotter at First UMC in Hereford, and said he taught him how to be a "total churchman" by being involved in all areas of church ministry.

In 1978, the Wert family moved back to Lubbock where he served the rest of his career as the Director of Music Ministries at St. Luke's UMC. In 1997, when the UMC began ordaining diaconal ministers, he was one of the first and was ordained by Bishop Alfred Norris. He served with several pastors and built one of the largest church music programs in Lubbock with over 300 weekly participants at its peak. It takes a very special person, a Bob Wert, to be able to personally direct all the choirs: preschool, elementary, youth, adults, as well as orchestra and bells. A special favorite of his was the annual summer musical, open to elementary age children throughout the city, which he saw as outreach to the community. He retired from St. Luke's on July 1, 2006.

Bob was a renaissance man with a life-long thirst for knowledge and the master of many talents. He had many hobbies, including painting, photography, doing radio and television "voice-overs" (after all, he had the deep "God" voice), and "Jeeping" in Colorado every summer with his family. Though you never saw him not wearing a suit and tie or church robe, he wore jeans in his beloved Jeep. As a photographer, Bob had several award-winning

photographs to his credit and has sold over 200 framed photographs over the years, mostly in the Dallas area. He always emphasized the word "hobby" with his photography, though he was truly a professional.

Loved ones include his devoted daughters, Julie Kimbrough "Kim" Wert and Pamela Dunning Wert, and sister and brother-in-law, Sandra Wert Tate and Lyndon Tate, and the thousands he touched through his music ministry.

A celebration of his life will be held at 3:30 p.m., Monday, February 20, 2023, at St. John's UMC, 1501 University Avenue in Lubbock. The service will be streamed live at <https://youtube.com/live/lxNOV-ExKP0?feature=share>.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB **20**. 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM (CT)

Saint John's United Methodist Church
1501 University Avenue
Lubbock, TX 79401

Tribute Wall

PC

“ Bob was a favorite teacher and mentor in Hereford Texas. He and Julie transformed our church with music, choirs, love and creativity. The experience of performing in his choirs as a child, teenager, and in handbell choirs as an adult were always amazing. His memory will be treasured. Condolences to Kim and Pam and family.

Pam Carrothers

Pam Carrothers - March 05, 2023 at 06:10 AM

PW

*Pam! I remember you ❤️
Thank you for your kind words. That was an incredible childhood in Hereford! ❤️❤️❤️*

Pam Wert - March 16, 2023 at 02:47 PM

KW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Kim Wert - February 20, 2023 at 02:14 PM

KW

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Kim Wert - February 20, 2023 at 01:35 PM

KW

"Colorado Bob"

Kim Wert - February 20, 2023 at 02:08 PM

KW

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Kim Wert - February 20, 2023 at 01:26 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Reverend Robert Mahlon Wert.



February 19, 2023 at 06:20 PM

PW

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Pam Wert - February 18, 2023 at 02:09 PM

PW

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Pam Wert - February 18, 2023 at 10:56 AM

PW

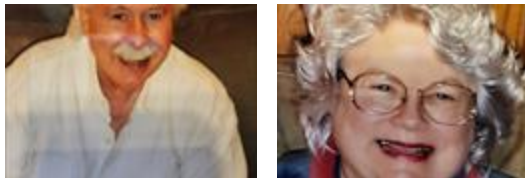
“ Great times in Colorado!



Pam Wert - February 18, 2023 at 10:53 AM

PW

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Pam Wert - February 18, 2023 at 10:50 AM

CW

“ My children loved singing in Bob's children and youth choirs at St. Luke's. He knew how to get the best out of his choir participants. The choir trips and summer musicals were always a hit. We appreciate how Bob helped develop a love of music in young people.

Carol Wiginton - February 15, 2023 at 09:02 PM

RD

“ *Bob was one of the great ones in music! I enjoyed being staff with him at St. Luke's UMC in Lubbock from June, 1984 through December, 1986. Bob will be missed. Thank you, Bob, from some good and funny memories!*
Rusty Dickerson

Rusty Dickerson - February 15, 2023 at 07:42 PM