

A SERVICE OF WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION  
AND CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF

**John Daniel Stahl**

July 3, 1952 - July 15, 2010

3:00 o'clock

July 19, 2010

PRELUDES

*Adagio* (from Sonata in F Minor)

*Piece pour piano*

*Sarabande*

*Adagio, K. 540*

Jim Bryant, piano

BEETHOVEN

DEBUSSY

MOZART

GREETING

Catherine Taylor, pastor

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

To everything there is a season

**and a time for every matter under heaven:**

A time to be born, and a time to die;

**a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;**

A time to weep, and a time to laugh;

**A time to mourn, and a time to dance.**

\*PRAYER

Charles Taylor, parish associate

\*HYMN #555

*Now Thank We All Our God* NUN DANKET GOTT

READINGS

"So Live," Teachings of Tecumseh  
Tecumseh

"On Death," *The Prophet*  
Kahlil Gibran

Joni Pienkowski

MUSIC

*Für Elise*

L. VON BEETHOVEN

POETRY

"Ein Gleiches" (Sameness)  
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

"Wünschelrute" (Wishing-Wand)

Joseph von Eichendorff

"The Peace of Wild Things"

Wendell Berry

\*HYMN #473

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

DIX

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Psalm 139

David Kraybill

GREEK SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 3:16-19

Hans Stahl

SERMON

"Rooted and Grounded In Love"

Catherine Taylor

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. For in all things we are more than conquerors through Christ who loved us. For we are convinced that neither life, nor death, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

\*RESPONSE

RESIGNATION

**When I walk through the shades of death your presence is my stay;  
One word of your supporting breath drives all my fears away.  
Your hand in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread;  
My cup with blessings overflows, your oil anoints my head.**

WORDS OF CELEBRATION

The Reverend Jeltje deJong  
Nancy Metz  
A letter from Ron Kraybill

\*RESPONSE

RESIGNATION

**The sure provision of my God attend me all my days;  
O may your house be my abode, and all my work be praise.  
There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come;  
No more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN (See Insert)

*Hymn of Promise*

PROMISE

\*BENEDICTION

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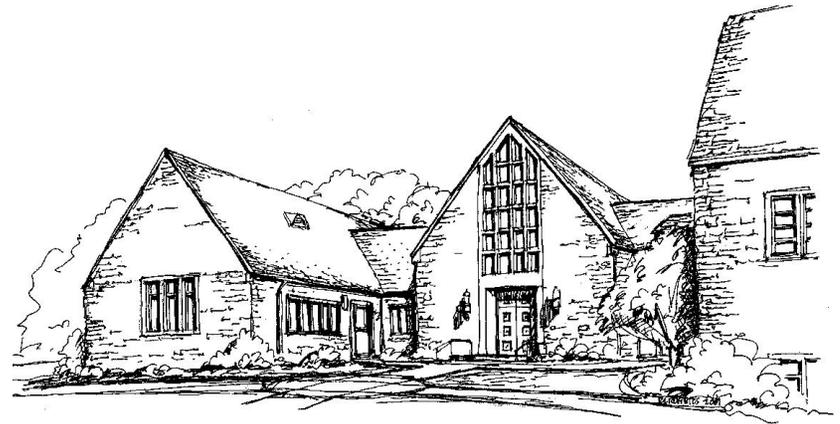
\*Those who are able, please stand

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*The congregation is invited to a reception in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service (turn to the left as you leave the sanctuary). During the reception, some time will be set aside to share stories and memories of J.D. Please keep your comments brief so as many people as possible can share.*

*Those wishing to give a gift in honor of J.D. may give to the Daniel and Hans Stahl Education Fund, Blacksburg Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 114, Blacksburg, VA, 24063-0144, or to the Department of English, Goshen College, 1700 South Main Street, Goshen, Indiana 46526*

P.O. Box 144  
Blacksburg, VA 24063-0144  
Phone: 540-552-2504 Fax: 540-961-5691  
Email: [bpc@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:bpc@blacksburgpres.org)



## ***Blacksburg Presbyterian Church***

“I pray that, according to the riches of God’s glory, God may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through God’s Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.

I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

*Ephesians 3:16-19*

*Ministers - All Members  
Pastor- Catherine Taylor  
Associate Pastor - Susan Verbrugge  
Parish Associate - Charles Taylor  
Director of Music, Organist, Bell Choir Director - James Bryant*



**John Daniel (J.D.) Stahl**, 58, of Blacksburg, Va., passed away July 15, 2010. He is preceded in death by his father, Omar B. Stahl and mother, Lois Kraybill Stahl, and by his sister-in-law Susan Windes Tendian.

Survivors include his wife, Sarah J. Windes; sons, Daniel and Hans; sister, Rachel Kraybill Stahl and Dale Walton, of Lancaster, Pa.; step-parents Martha and Clayton Nissley of Lititz, Pa.; nieces, Emily Windes, Amanda Windes, of Kingsport, Tenn. and Clare Tendian, of Chicago, Ill; nephews, Peter Windes and Andrew Windes, Kingsport,

Tenn., Eric Tendian, of Chicago, Ill.; sister-in-law Nancy Windes, married to Sam Swanson, of Cincinnati, Oh.; brothers-in-law Larry Windes, married to Lois Windes, of Kingsport, Tenn. and Sonny Tendian, of Chicago, Ill.

JD spent most of his growing-up years in Luxembourg and Germany, the child of Mennonite missionary parents. This childhood identity gave him a perspective which bridged both European and American culture. At age 15, he came to the States and lived with the family of Simon and Mary Jean Kraybill who became, and remain, a second family to him.

For the past 10 years, JD lived with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia, weathering many difficulties with grace, courage, resilience, and a sense of the preciousness of each moment. A Rachel Carson quote he used as his e-mail signature for years reads, “Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature—the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter.”

JD had a large family of relatives and friends, to whom he was uncommonly loyal. He loved books, film, and keeping multi-cultural connections. He enjoyed singing in his deep bass voice, listening to music, and being deeply involved with the lives of his two sons.

JD graduated from Goshen College with a BA in German/English in 1973. He earned a Master’s degree from the University of Pittsburgh (1976), and a PhD from the University of Connecticut (1982), and studied for a year at the Universities of Marburg and Munich in Germany.

His calling and passion was teaching and literature. In 1982, JD came to Virginia Tech as a Professor of English. Since its founding in 1992, he also served as Visiting Professor in the Hollins University summer Children’s Literature MA Program. He won numerous teaching awards, including the

2008 Virginia Tech William E. Wine Award for excellence in teaching. He co-edited “Crosscurrents of Children’s Literature: Texts and Criticism” (2006), and “Mark Twain, Culture and Gender: Envisioning America through Europe” (1994). He served as President of the Children’s Literature Association from 1999 to 2000, founded the active children’s literature faculty study group at Virginia Tech in the early 1980s, and served as Director of Undergraduate Studies in the VT Department of English for 2 years.

He was an active member of Blacksburg Presbyterian Church and a Friend at Blacksburg Quaker Meeting, serving as its Clerk for several years.

At JD’s request, his remains have been donated to science for research.

Our family wishes to express profound gratefulness, on JD’s behalf, to Dr. Harry McCoy, whose medical expertise and deep compassion helped JD through many years of “health,” despite his illness. A huge thank you also to the nurses at Blue Ridge Cancer Care who served JD with kindness and unpretentious skill, to the understanding and responsive nurses at Montgomery Regional Hospital, to his invaluable counselor, and to the members of Blacksburg Presbyterian Church and the VT English Department for their untiring and unfailing support.

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When despair grows in me  
and I wake in the middle of the night at the lest sound  
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.

I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with the forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting for their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free. --Wendell Berry