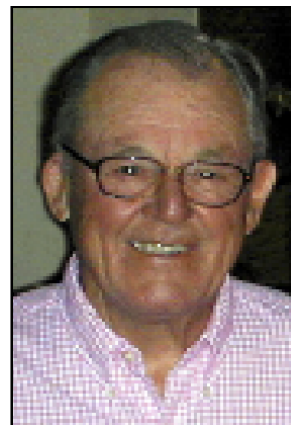


Willard “Bud” Watson, Jr.

May 28, 1928 - October 19, 2013

Written by Pat Fromberger from November 2013 LITS



Bud Watson was a wonderful ambassador for the Lord. Always smiling with a twinkle in his eyes, he warmly greeted parishioners and guests alike as they entered St. Luke's Church for Sunday morning worship—always impeccably dressed with suit jacket, tie and shinning shoes. Bud could also be relied on to greet and chat with customers at the annual Fall Tag Sale (something he loved doing.) He'd arrive early in his pick-up truck and help haul donations to and from the sale, then spend the entire day until mid-afternoon, truly in his element. Did you ever wonder how that 18-ft beautiful Christmas tree magically appeared each year on December 24th? Bud got his son, John, to help him find and cut down the perfect tree on his property in Perkinsville (it had to be tall!) then load it on his truck to deliver to the church.

Bud was born in Bridgeport, CT and grew up in the nearby town of Nichols. His family owned and ran a successful store, Watson's Dry Goods Store (originally started by his great-grandmother) in Bridgeport. His father later expanded it to include men's clothing. Bud went to school locally and later graduated from Kimball Union Academy in Meriden, NH. He attended the University of Bridgeport for 2 years before being called into the service. During one of his family's summer vacations at Lake Morey in Fairlee, VT, he met "a cute little blond waitress, Joanie," whom he later married and raised a family of four children. (They celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary on June 15, 2013.) At the end of his service in 1953, the couple returned to Connecticut and Bud went to work at his father's store, but most of his career was spent on the road selling men's clothing. His gifts were well suited for sales and he enjoyed a long career. In 1969 the Watsons moved to Springfield, VT. Bud retired in 1980 and became actively involved in many community service venues and also a member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Through a series of events, he later

transferred his membership to St. Luke's. Bud served on the Vestry as Junior Warden and was the capable Clerk of the Works for a major Willard Hall renovation in 1999, as well as continuing to serve as an usher and greeter on Sundays.

Declining health this past year kept Bud from attending church and he died peacefully on October 19 at the age of 85. At his Memorial Service at St. Luke's on October 25, the pews were filled to overflowing with family and friends. In the eulogy his son, Willard "Chip" Watson, III quoted his father as always saying, "I've never met a stranger." What a beautiful tribute to this servant of God who touched so many lives with his love and his joy of living. We will all miss Bud, but know that he is joyfully continuing on his journey right along side the Lord.

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