

Donald W. Robinson

*January 9, 1939 – August 7, 2015.*

*Written by Pat Fromberger in the October 2015 LITS*



Don Robinson died suddenly during his routine exercise program at the Edgar May Health & Rec Center in Springfield. A native Vermonter, Don was born in Springfield and attended the Cavendish Elementary School, Chester High School, Keane State College (for his BA ) and Bowdoin College in Brunswick, ME for his MA. Don worked as a District Boy Scouts Executive for a time, but with his natural talent for teaching he left to become a teacher at the Chester/Andover Elementary School. When another opportunity arose, he accepted a position as a teacher and soccer coach at Riverside & Springfield High School. In 1971 Don took a position at the newly-built Green Mountain Union High School in Chester, where he affectionately became known by his students as, “Mr. Rob.” He continued to teach math and coach soccer until his retirement in 1999. (Even in his retirement, Don continued to teach as a substitute.)

Don met his high school sweetheart, Dolores (“Dee”) Jennison, at Chester High School where they graduated together in 1957. They were married in 1960 and raised three children, David, Denise & Donna. The couple celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary in April of this year. Don and Dee had been members of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church since the early 1980’s, drawn here by a dynamic new rector at that time, The Rev. Andrew G. Osmun. The Robinsons left our faith community in 2013 and began worshipping at the First Baptist Church in Chester, where The Rev. Tom Charlton (one of Don’s former students) is the pastor.

During their 25 plus years at St. Luke’s, both Don and Dee were very active members. Don served a term as the assistant parish treasurer and co-chaired the Annual Fall Tag Sale for many, many years. He was always on hand to help erect the tents at the August Supper, participated in the Men’s Breakfast Prayer Group and offered his “handyman” talents

as needed. He created decorative birch log candle holders for the Christmas Tea and alongside Dee, oversaw “Grandma’s Attic” at that event. Outreach was a passion and Don served as the chairman of that committee for a time. He was gladly available to drive people to doctor’s appointments.

Don devoted his life to teaching young people and sharing his gifts with others. Over 250 people attended the Memorial Celebration of his life, held at the Baptist Church on August 15—a profound tribute to this man who touched so many lives. There is no doubt Don will be missed by many. Our hearts and prayers go out to the Robinson family.

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