



The Reverend William Roy Ballance, Jr.

May 17, 1940 - June 20, 2025

The staff of Heishman Funeral Home/Valley Funeral Service sends condolences to the family of The Reverend William Roy Ballance, Jr.

The Reverend William Roy Ballance, Jr., 85, of Woodstock, passed away peacefully on June 20, 2025, at The Warren Assisted Living in Woodstock, VA.

A native of Norfolk, he was born May 17, 1940, the son of William Roy Ballance, Sr. and Audrey Virginia Mitchell Ballance Mathews.

He graduated from Maury High School, Norfolk in 1958, Emory and Henry College, Emory, VA in 1962, and Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, SC in 1969. He did graduate study at Garrett Theological Seminary, Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

For the first 25 years of his life, he was a baptized member of the United Methodist Church. He was taught the Gospel, formed in the faith, and nurtured in fellowship at Southern Seminary.

Pastor Ballance was ordained into the former Lutheran Church in America on June 8, 1969, at Christ Lutheran Church in Roanoke. He served as Assistant Pastor at Christ Church (1969-1970) and continued his ministry as the solo

Pastor of the following Lutheran churches: St. James, Fishersville (1971-1978), Mount Calvary, Mt. Jackson (1978-1987), St. James, Hudson Crossroads (1988-1996. He was a member of Patmos, Woodstock, where he also served as Stated Supply Pastor.

For 31 years he was also the Vice Pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church off Wolf Gap Road. His Christmas services at this isolated, historic church were the highlight of the Yule season for many. He continued serving there into his 80's.

During a chapter of part-time ministry, he worked as a waiter in local restaurants, including the former Hamilton, the Edinburg Mill, Sky Chalet, Lucio's Restaurante Italiano at Bryce Resort and the River'd Inn, Woodstock. His service as a waiter was legendary. For ten years he also worked as the Night Auditor at the former Ramada Inn, Woodstock.

Pastor Ballance was active in community affairs. As a rostered minister in the ELCA, he was active in various ministerial groups. He was an election official in the Mt. Jackson, Woodstock, and Absentee Ballot precincts. He was a trustee of the St. Thomas Trust, Middletown. He was a founding member of Aid for AIDS, Inc., which is now part of the Winchester AIDS Response.

He was a past president of the Shenandoah Unit of the American Cancer Society and the Shenandoah Valley Music Guild. In 2017 he received the George Fishburn Award from the Shenandoah Valley Music Festival.

He is survived by the local Lutheran pastors, dear friends, cousins, and many brothers and sisters in Christ.

The funeral service will be held on Wednesday evening, July 2, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Mt. Jackson, with Pastor Matthew Diehl and Pastor Katie Gosswein presiding. You may pay your respects prior

to the service and are invited to stay following the service for a time of mutual sharing and light refreshments.

Burial will be on Thursday afternoon, July 3, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at historic Blandford Cemetery in Petersburg, Virginia.

Memorial contributions for Pastor William Ballance may be made to Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, PO Box 484, 5983 Main St., Mt. Jackson, VA 22842.

Online condolences may be left at www.valleyfs.com

Arrangements by Heishman Funeral Home Inc., Valley Funeral Service Branch, Edinburg.

Cemetery Details

Blandford Cemetery

319 S. Crater Road
Petersburg, VA 23803

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JUL 2. 6:00 PM (ET)

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church
5983 Main Street
Mt. Jackson, VA 22842

Burial

JUL 3. 1:00 PM (ET)

Blandford Cemetery
319 S. Crater Road
Petersburg, VA 23803

Tribute Wall

SS

“ Rev Ballance was my cousin and I remember him being gregarious and engaging. My mother, his aunt Maxine, spoke of him fondly. RIP Billy.

Susan Simins - June 03 at 01:22 PM

JR

“ Sincere sympathy to friends and family of Pastor Ballance. He will be greatly be missed.

Janice & Kenneth Ryman - July 02, 2025 at 09:39 AM

KA

“ Sending thoughts and prayers to Joshua Doman

kate - June 29, 2025 at 10:36 PM

BM

“ The time I spent with Bill at Music Guild events convinced me of his fundamental goodness and humanity. He will be missed.

Bruce McClinton - June 28, 2025 at 02:51 PM

BN

“ Rest eternal grant him , O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon him

Bill was a friend and colleague. He was a blessing.

Bill Nabers - June 26, 2025 at 03:50 PM

RK

I served a Bill's former church St. JAMES Hudsons Cross Rosds and he suppied there when I had to be gone. BILL was a friend and colleague and was hard working person and loved his mother very much and lived and took care of her his adult life. Love you Bill now your mother will take care of you. Peace and love, Pastor Rick Krasneck

Richard R Krasneck - June 29, 2025 at 08:26 AM