



## Chester Vernon Earls

September 16, 1925 - December 17, 2018

Chester Vernon Earls (Chet) crossed over peacefully in his home on December 17, 2018 at the age of 93. He was born in Spokane, WA on Sept. 16, 1925. He began his life in a peaceful Christian home with parents Gordon and Gail (Powers) Earls, 4-year-old sister Letha and 2-year-old brother Leland. His parents sent him to Northwest College in Eugene, where he received a Bachelor of Theology degree in June 1947. While working at a bank in Wenatchee, WA, he met and married Estella Josephine Simon. His employer moved them to Vancouver, WA, where Chet became the organist and very successful young adult leader. The Community Congregational Church of Calispell Valley called Chet to be their pastor beginning 1953.

During their four years there, Chet and Estella adopted son, Matthew, and daughter, Deborah, while Chet completed extra course work to earn a bachelor's degree in Christian Education. A move to pastor in Genesee, ID allowed him to complete a master's degree in music in 1960. His education was promptly put to excellent use at the Corvallis First Methodist Church, where he led 6 choirs and two Sunday School classes weekly. The family relocated to Portland in 1965, where Chet especially enjoyed writing music for the youth. Family events encouraged a change to pastor the Japanese Epworth Methodist Church until retirement in 1990. Upon rejoining his First Methodist Church community in Corvallis in 1996, he blessed many lives with choir participation and shut-in visitation.

Chet is survived by his son, Matthew, of Portland and his daughter, Debs, in North Carolina, niece Lynetta Ruth Deiter in La Paloma, CA, nephew Leonard Wilcox (Carol) in New Zealand, and niece Laura Rung, in Corvallis, as well as his faithful caregiver, Arch Drinnen.

McHenry Funeral Home was selected for the arrangements. A Celebration of Life service will be held at 2 pm on Sunday, January 20th at the Corvallis First United Methodist Church, 1165 NW Monroe Ave.

# Events

---

**JAN**   **Celebration of Life**   02:00PM  
**20**

---

First United Methodist Church  
1165 NW Monroe Ave, Corvallis, OR, US

# Comments

---



“ I remember singing songs that he had wrote, years--decades!--ago in youth group. He touched so many lives. May he and Kitty RIP until our Lord returns!

**Celeste Song** - January 07, 2019 at 01:58 AM

---



“ I remember Chet as a kind and gentle man who loved music, from First Church in Portland. My deepest sympathies to his family and those who loved him.

**Deb Seger** - January 06, 2019 at 06:18 PM

---



“ Chet always made himself available whenever I had things that troubled me both in Corvallis and in Portland in my younger years. I think I became a better man because of his caring and wise counsel. He was such a constant positive influence. Thank you Chet.

Nicholas Jones

**Nicholas Jones** - January 02, 2019 at 02:48 PM

---



“ Many fond memories of my teenage years in Corvallis when Chet was youth minister and choir director.

**Cheryl (Frad) Longshore** - December 31, 2018 at 07:45 PM

---



“ I knew Chet at 1st UMC in PDX. He was always nice and I enjoyed the time I spent with him.

**Dan Alger Sr** - December 30, 2018 at 10:00 PM

---



“ Chet was a gifted musician who blessed us all with his composing, and he was a valued colleague in ministry. I appreciated his faithfulness to Corvallis FUMC when I was pastor there.



**Bert Scott** - December 29, 2018 at 04:54 PM