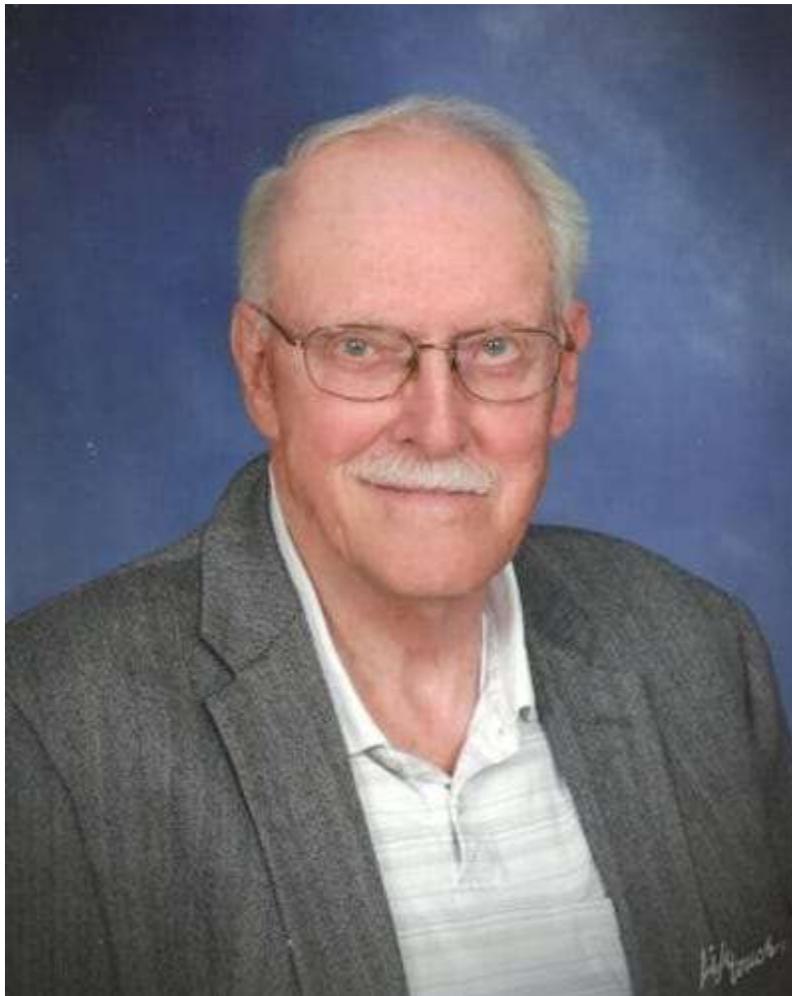




Celebration of Life  
Paul E. McClure  
January 15, 1924 – July 12, 2021



Saturday, July 24, 2021 – 1:00 pm

ORGAN PRELUDE

*My Faith Looks Up to Thee* (452)  
*Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine* (369)  
*O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go* (480)  
*Jesus, Joy of Our Desiring* (644)  
*Because He Lives* (364)  
*God So Loved the World* (John 3:16)  
Chimes: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (384)  
Chimes: *Sing with All the Saints in Glory* (702)

Lowell Mason, arr. Thompson  
Phoebe Knapp, arr. Thompson  
Albert Peace, arr. Thompson  
Johann Schop, arr. J. S. Bach  
William J. Gaither  
Sir John Stainer  
John Zundel  
L. van Beethoven

PRESENTATION OF HONOR GUARD AND TAPS

GREETING

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The eternal God is your refuge,  
and underneath us are the everlasting arms.

**People: We will trust in God's faithfulness  
and rejoice in God's never ending grace.**

\*OPENING HYMN #145

*Morning Has Broken*

***Morning has broken like the first morning; blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them, springing fresh from  
the Word!***

***Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven, like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where his feet  
pass.***

***Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise every morning, God's recreation of the new day!***

OPENING PRAYER

Diane Gattone

**Eternal God,  
we praise you for the great company of all those  
who have finished their course in faith  
and now rest from their labor.  
We praise you for those dear to us  
whom we name in our hearts before you.  
Especially we praise you for Paul,  
whom you have graciously received into your presence.  
To all of these, grant your peace.  
Let perpetual light shine upon them;  
and help us to believe where we have not seen,  
that your presence may lead us through our years,  
and bring us at last with them  
into the joy of your home  
not made with hands but eternal in the heavens;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



Paul E. McClure of Franklin, IN passed away in the arms of his family at age 97 on July 12, 2021. A longtime resident of Indianapolis and Franklin, he was born on Jan 15, 1924 in Ghent, KY to the late M.B. and Lucia McClure.

At age 19, Paul volunteered for duty in the US Army. During World War II, Sgt Paul McClure served as his platoon's communications chief in combat in Europe, 1944/45, where he earned the Combat Infantry Badge and was decorated for valor with a Bronze Star. On April 4, 1945, he participated in the first Allied liberation of a concentration camp at Ohrdruf, Germany. A month later, he concluded his combat service in Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, where American forces met their Russian counterparts, signaling the war's end. After the war, he returned to Evansville College, eventually transferring to Purdue University where he graduated with a Mechanical Engineering BS in 1950 and a MS in Education in 1955. In 1959, Paul moved to Indianapolis, where he first served as the Director of Education at North United Methodist Church. In 1966 he became a Program Associate at the Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis, and in 1973, he became the Executive Director of the Church Federation, where he served until he retired in 1987.

As a natural "bridge builder" for the Church Federation, Paul enthusiastically pursued leadership positions around the city. He chaired the Police/Community Relations Committee; was Vice-President of Crossroads of America Council of the Boy Scouts; was the Chairman of the Fairbanks Hospital Board (Community Fairbanks Recovery Center); was Chairman of the Buchanan Counseling Service at Methodist Hospital; and served on the Board of Directors of the Indiana Council of Churches. He also developed a city-wide suicide prevention service and was instrumental in developing Christian programming for local television.

Following his retirement, he and his wife Patricia traveled across the country in their trailer, spending many happy years wintering in McAllen, TX before eventually settling in Franklin, IN in 2001. Six years after Pat's passing in 2010, Paul married Dotti Gerner, a lifelong friend and colleague. Paul was a proud Purdue University alumnus, a tireless champion of education, and a Boy Scouts of America Silver Beaver recipient; but most importantly, he was a wise, loving, and compassionate inspiration for his entire family.

Paul was preceded in death by his wife of 66 years, Patricia, his daughter Pamela Wichmann, and his brothers Bruce, Karl and Alden. He is survived by his wife Dotti, his children Peggy (Joe) Kelley, Paul Alan (Theresa) McClure and Bernie Wichmann; his four grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild; and his brother Edwin (Ann) McClure.