



Philip Stanton Hall

January 30, 1934 - January 22, 2024

Philip Stanton Hall of Florence, MA passed away peacefully on January 22, 2024, surrounded by his loving family. He was 89.

Philip was born January 30, 1934 in Bennington, VT to the late Richard H. and Diantha (Lyman) Hall. He was a proud graduate of Bennington High School (1951), Carleton College, in Northfield, MN (1955), and Andover Newton Theological School in Newton, MA (M.Div., D.Min.). In 1959 Philip fell in love with and married Jane Parrish, and the two began a ministry together, serving in United Church of Christ parishes in E. Barre, VT (1959-1964), Randolph, VT (1964-1971), and Amherst, MA (1971-1995). Following his retirement in 1995, Phil and Jane relocated to Florence, MA, and Phil went on to serve as an interim minister at the Haydenville Congregational Church in Haydenville, MA which became his church family in his later years. Phil and Jane moved to Linda Manor Assisted Living and Extended Care in Leeds, MA in 2019, and felt blessed to be part of the caring, compassionate community there.

Phil had a still, loving presence, and was deeply moved to connect with each person he met, whether through fellowship, friendship, prayer, poetry, contemplation, painting, or woodworking, all with his engaging sense of humor and bright laugh. Together with Jane, they strove to serve those in need, working to make everyone feel welcomed, accepted and heard. They were dedicated to sharing their time and resources to better their community, with the intent to strengthen relationships and create possibilities for others. Phil was passionate about his service on the Sojourner

Truth Memorial Committee in Florence, MA, and was proud of the committee's work to erect the memorial statue in her honor in 2002.

Phil had a profound appreciation of nature, and wherever he lived he remained deeply connected to his family and roots in Vermont. Throughout their life together, Phil and Jane adored summering at Jane's family cabin on Queen Lake in Phillipston, MA, where he loved to go for long walks through the woods, read or paint at his easel on the porch, marvel at the sunsets from the dock, and do crafts, fish, swim, and converse with each of his six grandkids, who were his pride and joy.

Philip is survived by his daughters Susan and her husband Jim McGerigle of Bradford, MA, Rebekah and her partner James Sanchez of West Springfield, MA, and Martha and her husband Brennan Prevatt of Los Angeles, CA; his grandchildren: Erin, Lindsey, Ian and Corbin Blight, and Simon and Isaac Prevatt; his siblings: Joseph and Mary Hall of Bennington, VT, John and Donna Hall of E. Montpelier, VT, and Harriet Beattie and Fletcher Manley of Lancaster, NH; along with many cherished nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his wife Jane, the love of his life and partner of 62 years.

A Memorial Service to celebrate his life is planned for the spring. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made in Philip's memory to the Sojourner Truth Memorial Committee (Box 60405, Florence, MA 01062; <https://sojournertruthmemorial.org>) which awards high school scholarships and develops programs to promote racial and social equality. DROZDAL FUNERAL HOME of Northampton has been entrusted with his care. To leave the family a personal condolence, please visit www.DrozdalFuneralHome.com

Tribute Wall

CM

“ I grew up on Orchard Road in Bennington, Vermont across the road from the Hall family. They were the best of neighbors and made the best of friends for me and my siblings. Catharine Dickie McHugh

catharine McHugh - February 02, 2024 at 06:18 AM

BD

“ Rev Hall was and is a great Christian. I remember being in a healing service which he led in early 1974. I was not yet a believer and was attending at my mother’s invitation. There was a deep gentle moving of Holy Spirit during that meeting healing wounded hearts. A year later he counseled me with great skill. Although I moved away and was unable to maintain a relationship with Phil, my sister Helen benefited greatly for many years as a member of his congregation. We are deeply thankful for God’s gifts to us and others through Phil. Sincerely Barton Drake

Barton Drake - January 31, 2024 at 10:03 PM

AA

“ Anne and grown-up children, Yusef and Asha, have good memories of Phil Hall's leadership at North Church. Anne is working with his nephew, Phil Hall, on a pollinators garden at the Wallingford, Vt elementary school.

Anne Awad - January 29, 2024 at 07:36 PM

WB

“ I loved Phil. He and I were roommates at Carleton College—1954-55. After that we’d meet occasionally for lunch at Denny’s in Fitchburg. Phil was a gem of a man, and in this noisy world, a beacon of gentleness and calm.

William Buffett - January 29, 2024 at 05:56 PM

ER

“ *Phil ministered to my sister Genny for many years. She loved him dearly. And, I loved his caring and compassion. He was a stellar human being. Wishing his near and extended family well.*



Elaine Reall - January 29, 2024 at 11:49 AM

JP

“ *I am thankful that Philip touched my life with friendship and wisdom. His faith was deep, and his friendship was sincere. I miss him and Jane. My heartfelt condolences to the family they loved. Jim Palermo*

Jim Palermo - January 29, 2024 at 11:40 AM

CR

“ *Remembering Phil and Jane with deep gratitude. He was a pastor and soul friend to me. Even as his memory began to exasperate him, his wisdom, love and guidance were priceless gifts as a fellow member of Haydenville Congregational Church. I remember the tenderness with which a few years earlier he wrapped the Sojourner Truth statue maquette for me to take over to the Lilly Library collection where she still stands. Many thanks to your family for designating the Sojourner Truth Memorial Committee for memorial gifts so that we can provide an additional social justice award to a graduating high school senior. I believe that would so please both Phil and Jane.*

Carol Rinehart - January 29, 2024 at 11:09 AM

KS

“ I was a member of the youth group at North Church in Amherst, MA from 1975-79, and Phil baptized me at that same church in 1980 when I was 19. I attribute the beginning of my Faith journey to him. Singing and praying praises and thanksgivings for his life today. Peace.

*Kathy Shelby-Martin
Edmonds, WA*

Kathy Shelby-Martin - January 28, 2024 at 12:23 PM

JA

Phil was a most wonderful minister. I remember his kind, wise manner, and appreciated his and Jane's many years of dedication to North Church. My sincere sympathies to his family.

Janna (Sevoian) Aldrich

Janna (Sevoian) Aldrich - January 29, 2024 at 11:12 AM

JG

I was stunned at North Church when Phil remembered me from Andover Newton Theological School many many years before, where I grew up as a teenager. He was a warm kind and loving man. I was greatly impressed.

janet gezork - January 31, 2024 at 09:33 AM

VB

Phil Hall was a good man and great minister. As a choir member and attendee at North Church in the 80s and early 90s, I saw Phil as that rare religious leader who spoke meaningfully in his sermons. Kind and understanding, I am grateful to have benefitted from his counsel and friendship and the whole role that North Church played in in my life at that time. I am sure that Phil now continues his calling on the other side, plying his new-found knowledge and wisdom where it is needed most.

One small anecdote: I had my parents come up to hear the choir sing one Christmas Eve. As my mother, a Catholic, spoke to Phil, she kept addressing him as Father. I tried to correct her, but Phil just smiled, put his arm around her and said, "She can call me anything she wants." I'm glad they were so comfortable with each other. My mother was favorably impressed and wished she had someone like Phil in her own religious upbringing. I also got the feeling that Phil rather enjoyed the title for recognizing his role as the good shepherd who protects and guides the flock.

*Vince Bonfitto
San Francisco, CA*

Vincent F. Bonfitto - February 07, 2024 at 02:49 AM