

## List of Family Members

### Spouse

Betty Lou Buckwalter

### Children

Russ Buckwalter (and spouse Cheryl)

Bruce Buckwalter (and spouse Rose)

Joe Buckwalter (and spouse Sera)

Jesse Buckwalter (and spouse Jill)

### Grandchildren

Jessica Buckwalter

Katlyn Buckwalter

Levi Buckwalter

Christian Stoltzfus (and spouse Leigha)

Andrew (Stoltzfus) Evans (and spouse Laurel)

Daniel Stoltzfus

Jacob Stoltzfus

Noah Buckwalter

Luke Buckwalter

Malia Buckwalter

Adah Buckwalter

Miles Buckwalter

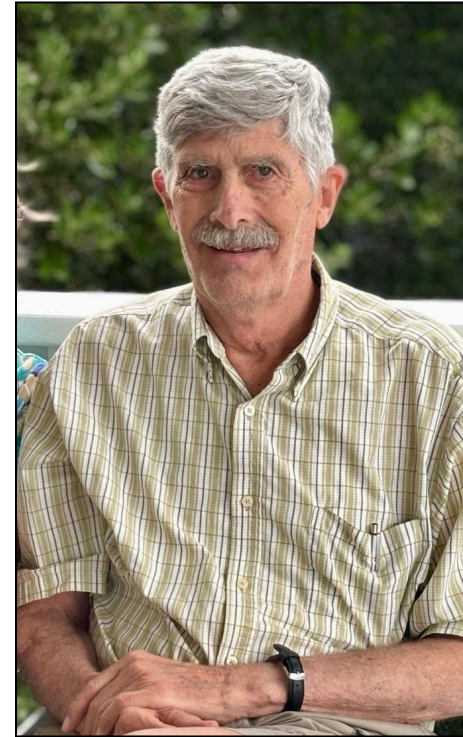
### Great grandchildren

Naomi Stoltzfus

Josiah Stoltzfus

# Celebrating

THE LIFE OF



## Robert Dale Buckwalter

November 18, 1944 - April 27, 2026

### Memorial Service

Zion Mennonite Church

3260 Zion Church Road

Broadway, VA 22815

Sunday, May 10, 2026, 3pm

# Order of Service

Preservice Slideshow  
Prelude  
*When Peace Like a River* (instrumental)  
Welcome & Gathering  
Prayer  
Congregational Song  
*Come Let Us All Unite to Sing*, VT 7  
Scripture Reading: Psalm 139:1-18  
Congregational Song  
*Wonderful Grace of Jesus*, VT 170  
Wit and Wisdom from Dad  
Special Music  
Ode to Bob  
Congregational Song  
*In Thee is Gladness*, VT 666  
Meditation  
Closing Comments, Benediction  
Congregational Song and Recessional  
*Lift Your Glad Voices*, VT 340

*The Buckwalter family warmly welcomes everyone to stay  
for a light meal in the fellowship hall.*

# Dear Dad,...

Dear Dad, well done. You gave us a great life and showed us boys how to love, learn, work, play, fix anything, live within our means, be content with what we have, appreciate nature and world cultures, wiggle our ears, and remember who and whose we are. Your last years, and especially the last 4 months were tough, but you never complained. I'm proud to be your son and will think of you every time I change the oil, walk in the woods, dig a hole, watch a bird, split firewood, stoke the fire, or eat ice cream.

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Worship Leader: Sarah Piper

Special Music: Joe, Luke, Malia, and Jesse Buckwalter

Scripture Reading: Jessica Buckwalter, Andrew Evans

Music Leader: Sara Halteman

Musicians: Adah Buckwalter, Jesse Buckwalter, Joe Buckwalter, Luke Buckwalter, Malia Buckwalter, Sara Halteman

Wit and Wisdom from Dad: Bruce Buckwalter, Russ Buckwalter

Ode to Bob: written by Clint and Mary Ann (Buckwalter) Good

Meditation: Steve Dintaman

Greeters: Jim Clymer and Zoe Myers

Guest book Attendant: Catherine Madhavaiya

Sound & Tech: Kevin Leaman

Ushers: Tony Brenneman, Justin King, Grant Stoltzfus,  
Elwood Yoder

Parking Attendants: Ben Risser and Neal Weaver

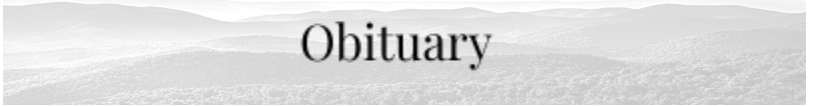


# Obituary

Robert Dale Buckwalter entered this world on November 18, 1944, a very special child being the first son of Robert and Faith Buckwalter and first grandson on both sides of the family. An older sister, Linda (Roy Breneman) preceded him, and ten siblings followed him: Judy, Joyce (Bob Samuels), John (Laurel Grasdorf), Leon (Susan Greene), Marian (deceased), Mary Ann (Clint Good), Leslie (deceased), Debra (Rory McCrea), Steve (Marian Becker), and Carole (Bill Schumacher). Four sons have been the highlight of our lives: Russell Dean (Cheryl Filewych), Bruce Owen (Rose Shenk), Joseph Daniel (Sera Whitmore), and Jesse David (Jill Maynard). Twelve grandchildren: Jessica, Katlyn, and Levi Buckwalter; Christian, Andrew, Daniel, and Jacob Stoltzfus; Noah, Luke, and Malia Buckwalter; Adah and Miles Buckwalter. Two great grandchildren: Naomi and Josiah Stoltzfus.

When Bob was eight years old, his parents heeded a mission call to move from their family clans in Lancaster County, PA to help with a church plant in Yorks Corners, NY. In addition, they purchased a farm to raise their family on. It was quite the adventure for the young lad as cattle, machinery and home furnishings all were moved to what felt like a faraway land. That was the start of what turned out to be an adventurous life.

Born into a home of faith in God where community was a key part of the Mennonite expression of faith, Bob returned to Lancaster County to attend Lancaster Mennonite High School where he lived with his Steffy grandparents for his last two years of high school. This was followed by four years at Eastern Mennonite College in Harrisonburg, VA. It was in college that he decided to do what he had wanted to do since he was fifteen years old—court the young lass who had caught his eye while attending a camp for teens. Eastern Mennonite College brought them together. Bob and Betty Lou Umble were married October 2, 1965, in an open-sided tabernacle at Black Rock Retreat in PA. The marriage was a most companionable sixty and a half years together.



# Obituary

Life together started in The Bronx, New York City, where Bob served two years of I-W alternative service for conscientious objectors. He majored in pre-med in college, then switched to International Agriculture and Development thanks to a favorite professor who encouraged his protege to enter fields of work helping to prevent disease. He acquired a masters degree in Agronomy at Cornell University.

Bob was now ready for an overseas assignment with Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions (EMBM). This took us to Tanzania, Somalia, and Ethiopia, after which Bob opted to give our sons some experience of life on a farm and purchased a maple tree farm in Andover, NY where the family made 400 gallons of maple syrup annually. Then back to Africa with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) to Zambia, and a final stint with EMBM in Kenya for a total of eleven years in Africa.

Alaska had been calling Bob for years, so we served under Mennonite Mission Network's Service Adventure program in Anchorage. He then got a job writing pesticide rules for Alaska.

We ended up owning a B&B in Tok, AK, before retiring in the mountains of VA next door to a previous home. The biologist in Bob loved flora and fauna of every kind; hiking the mountains was a key way to enjoy that.

Bob was more of a listener than talker, but when he had something to say, it was usually wise or witty. He was a voracious reader; he loved studying and learning; he had every kind of practical skill; he could do anything he set his curious mind on. He had a knack for teaching his sons how to be men of integrity, which they learned alongside the innumerable practical skills they absorbed just by being with him. He made learning something you want to do. "Work is something you get to do, rather than something you have to do."

Underneath it all, Bob was solid as a rock in his commitment to a benevolent, just, yet merciful God, the giver and provider of life now and for eternity.