



LIFE TRIBUTE: ALFREDA GABRIEL CAMPBELL 1919-2018

Alfreda Gabriel Campbell, 98, a resident of Henderson Apartments, Wooster, Ohio passed away peacefully in her daughter's home in Salt Lake City on January 29, 2018 surrounded by family.

Alfreda, known as Alfie, the daughter of Fredrick Gabriel and Alma Russell Gabriel, was born on April 13, 1919 and grew up in Marysville Ohio, where she graduated as Valedictorian of her class. She attended the College of Wooster and graduated in 1941 with majors in sociology and physical education. She was active in student government and debating teams and became one of the first woman cheerleaders. In recent years the College honored her as a "Distinguished Alumna" and she helped to lead the parade for the 150th celebration of the college in 2017, where an interview by a student journalist can be found on their website.

While serving as a high school teacher in Marysville, Alfie married fellow College of Wooster graduate, Ernest (Ernie) Young Campbell (Class of '40) who was a seminarian at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. This launched her on an international adventure of loving and devoted mission service in India and other countries of Asia with the Presbyterian Church (USA) until Ernie and Alfie retired to Wooster, Ohio in 1986.

Alfie was an avid reader, a progressive thinker, and doer who defied boundaries. She had an amazing ability to communicate with everyone, kept herself up to date on news, sports and cultural events and the lives of everyone she met and was open to learning throughout her life. As a teacher, talented musician, mission worker and a generous homemaker who welcomed everyone to her home, Alfie was a loving mother and honorary aunt and grandmother to many.

As a mission worker, Alfie mostly served in India since 1946 while initially based in the Punjab city of Jalandhar (Jullundur) not far from where Ernie grew up the son of Presbyterian missionaries James Garfield Campbell and Mabel Young Campbell. Alfie worked with women's groups, played the pump organ in the church, sang in the choir, organized events and hosted endless streams of visitors. Summers were spent in the cool Himalaya near Woodstock School, attended by her husband, her children, and her granddaughter.

Alfie and Ernie moved to New Delhi in 1965 to take on new responsibilities with the international community leading the inter-denominational Union Church and serving the wider United Church of North India, of which the Presbyterians were active members. Alfie taught part time at the American International School, served on the school board, helped with youth groups, and a church camp in Kashmir, participated actively in the YWCA and the American Women's club and

other church groups, supported a leprosy village and their handicrafts, visited those in jail and hosted thousands of people of all nationalities, faiths, and ages. International travellers knew that if they were in trouble they could go to the Campbell's house and be looked after.

For all these extraordinary acts, and for her boundless love to all who needed help, the United States Ambassador to India and American School awarded her a distinguished service award.

She and Ernie also served in Vietnam, where Ernie was the Director of the inter-denominational Vietnam Christian Service and Alfie ran the guesthouse for its several hundred employees when they came to Saigon. Evacuated in the last days, they then served the International Church in Bangkok, where Alfie taught English at the prestigious Wattana Wittaya Academy.

Their last years of service were back in New Delhi, India and following retirement to Wooster, with the Presbyterian Church in Lahore, Pakistan – a return to Ernie's roots and only 70 miles as the crow flies from their home in the Indian Punjab.

During her over three decades in Wooster, where her brother and his wife Lawrence and Alice Gabriel had devoted their lives, Alfie was a very active member of the First Presbyterian church, the AAUW, the Kenjockey Club, Friends of the Library, Election Board, book clubs and Wooster Alumni activities. She continued to host family, friends, and College of Wooster students from around the world while nurturing her many close friendships in Wooster, including fellow retired missionaries.

Alfreda was preceded in death by her husband the Rev. Ernest Young Campbell (1995) and their daughter, Judith Kay Campbell (1958 at age nine). She leaves behind a large number of family and friends who are still transformed by her love. Family members include: sons James Gabriel Campbell (& Lynn Bennett), Jeffrey Young Campbell (& Christina Campbell), and daughter Virginia Campbell Wilson (& Malcolm Wilson); grandchildren Jan Christian Campbell Florijn (& Pippa and great-granddaughter Lily), Melanie Marla Campbell (& Pierre Padro), Cameron Martin Campbell (& Leona Rodrigues), Natalie Young Campbell (& Arturo Bolondi), Ashton MacKenzie Wilson (& Alaina), Ariel Campbell Wilson, and Gwendolyn Gabriel Wilson; sister-in-law Courtney Campbell; first nephews and nieces Samuel, Joe, Katherine, Mary, and Bill Kipp; Russell and Rick Gabriel (& Darcy Horvat); Carol Bauer, Andrew, Hester, Sarah, Brian, Duncan, and Matt Campbell; James, Will, and Bruce Browne, and Martha Browne Sill; Lora Weinstein and Thomas McMeekin — and all of their dearly loved spouses, children, and grandchildren. Also unnamed, but no less dear to Alfie, are all her honorary family members – especially those who called her “Auntie Alfie” their whole lives or who considered her their sister or honorary grandmother – including many students at the College of Wooster that she invited to treat her

home as their own; and of course her dear friends at the First Presbyterian Church and the wider Wooster community.

A Memorial Service for Alfreda is planned for Saturday, July 28 at 1:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Wooster Ohio, followed by a Reception and Celebration of her life in the adjoining Bruch Hall at 2:30. All are invited.

In lieu of flowers, Alfie requested that donations could be given to support scholarships for needy Christian children at St. Thomas School, Jagadhri, Haryana, India through the Presbyterian Foundation earmarked for the Ernest Y. Campbell Memorial Scholarship Fund. 200 E. Twelfth Street Jeffersonville, IN 47130. <https://www.presbyterianfoundation.org>.