



Bill Mason

March 23, 1930 – April 28, 2021

***Memorial Service
in Celebration of the Life of
William H. Mason
Friday, May 14, 2021; 10:00 a.m.
Hesston Mennonite Church***

Gathering music: selections recorded by Mahalia Jackson

Words of greeting *Rev Kay Schroeder*

Hymn *Abide with Me (VT #502)*

Remembrances *Children*

Reflection *Grandchildren*

Hymn *What a Friend We Have in Jesus (VT #628)*

Meditation *Parable of the Talents* *Rev Kevin Wilder*

Special music *Hesston College Bel Canto Singers*

Closing prayer *Dallas Stutzman*

Benediction song *Going Home*

Postlude

*Family receiving friends in the Community Center following
the service.*

Bel Canto Director: Russell Adrian

Organist and pianist: Ken Rodgers

Audio and Video: Phil Hoffman and Mitch Stutzman

Life Story

William Henry Mason, 91, passed away on April 28, 2021 at Schowalter Villa in Hesston, Kansas. Bill was born on March 23, 1930 in Three Rivers, Michigan. He was the oldest son of John and Areta (Stark) Mason.

Bill graduated from Tremont (Ill.) High School in 1949. On August 12, 1950, he married Ruth Nafziger at the Hopedale (Ill.) Mennonite Church, and they shared nearly 71 years together. Ruth survives him and lives in the Lake Vista community in Hesston.

Bill's early professional life in central Illinois included marketing for a farm equipment company and a position with an advertising agency. In 1970, he said yes to an invitation from then-Hesston College President Laban Peachey to head west to Kansas to join the staff of the College as Director of Student Life. This life-changing move to working for the Mennonite Church and becoming a teacher/mentor to hundreds of young people reshaped the rest of his life, bringing him great pleasure and fulfillment. In late 2011, Bill retired from teaching at Hesston College (HC). During the 40 years prior to that, he had served 28 of them at HC in staff/faculty roles including public relations, student services, admissions, and as a business instructor. In 2010, the endowed Bill Mason Business Scholarship was established by one of his former students.

Bill loved his work and didn't really engage in hobbies, though he enjoyed reading the newspaper cover-to-cover every day. He never passed a blooming rose or mum or lilac without stopping to smell it and comment on its beauty. He was a cat-lover all his life. And he never forgot the Northern Michigan lake country of his childhood. Starting in 1956—and until summer, 2019--Bill and Ruth would annually take (and later join) their children for swimming, fishing, and outdoor relaxation at Little Eden Camp near Onekama, Michigan.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children Stephanie Mason (Md.), Bill (Lorna) Mason, Jr. (Mich.), Jim (Becky) Mason (Kan.), and Phil (Cindy) Mason (Ind.), and niece Joy (Avin Carter) Bailey (Tex.); six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and one brother Jerry Mason (Idaho). His parents and brother John Mason, Jr. preceded him in death.

~ Memorials ~

Hesston College

Mennonite Central Committee

Mennonite Economic Development Association

c/o Miller-Ott Funeral Home

P.O. Box 32

Hesston, KS 67062

~ Burial ~

Private family inurnment

will be at Eastlawn Cemetery