

Rev. O. R. "Rick" Eckard

January 3, 1947 - November 11, 2013

Rev. O. R. "Rick" Eckard, Jr., 66, of Tallahassee, FL, joined the church triumphant on November 11th, 2013.

He is survived by his wife, Gretchen, of Tallahassee, and three children: Grant (Michelle), of Woodstock, GA, Alicia Cook (Jim), of Fort Mill, SC, and Lauren of Tallahassee, FL. He is also survived by his mother, Pinkie Eckard, of Conover, NC and proud Granddad to three, Oz and Chase Eckard, and Nora Cook. He is predeceased by his father, Osborne "Ozzie" R. Eckard, Sr.

Rick began Grace Lutheran Church, Tallahassee, FL in 1982 and served as pastor until this past February. He also served as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Melborne Beach, FL, as well as Grace Lutheran Church of Miami Springs, FL for his internship. He was born in Hickory, NC and grew up in Conover, NC where he attended Newton-Conover High School. He was the first Eagle Scout at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in Conover, NC. He graduated from Lenoir-Rhyne College in 1969 with a degree in sociology and then received his Master's of Divinity from Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio. Rick was also student assistant at Clinton Heights Lutheran Church, Columbus, Ohio, where he met his wife, Gretchen.

Rick loved many things including golf and FSU sports. However, his greatest joy remained the church and being an only child his church family became his

family. He was dedicated to family, friends, and community.

A service of remembrance will be held Sunday, November 17th, 1:30pm, preceded by a fellowship reception following the 10:30am Sunday worship service at Grace Lutheran Church in Tallahassee. He will be laid to rest at Roselawn Cemetery in Tallahassee. The family will receive friends from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM, Saturday, November 16th at Grace Lutheran Church in Tallahassee.

Gifts in memory of Rick can be made to Grace Lutheran Church, 2919 Miccosukee Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32308; or to Camp Lutherock, c/o Novus Way, 28 Spruce Dr, Arden, NC 28704.

BEVIS FUNERAL HOME of Tallahassee (850/385-2193 or www.bevisfh.com) is assisting the Eckard family with their arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Roselawn Cemetery

815 West Piedmont Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 16. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Grace Lutheran Church
2919 Miccosukee Rd.
Tallahassee, FL

Celebration of Life

NOV 17. 1:30 PM (ET)

Grace Lutheran Church
2919 Miccosukee Rd.
Tallahassee, FL

Tribute Wall

DB

“ It is hard to believe that Pastor Rick joined the Church Triumphant 10 years ago today. I still think of him and Gretchen often and truly miss them both. Laura and David Brown.

David Brown - November 12, 2023 at 11:48 AM

MM

“ I moved away from Tallahassee in February of 2000 and over the years lost contact with GLC. Today I happened upon the website and was shocked and saddened to learn of Pastor Rick's passing. I hate to say "death", because a Christian never truly dies. Rick, however, is special because he created GLC, and this church will serve as the mark he made on the human experience. What more could a person hope for?

Mark Menser

mark menser - April 06, 2015 at 12:18 PM

DL

“ I just learned of Rick's passing while reading this months issue of the Lutheran magazine. I was shocked and saddened seeing his name in the list of those recently departed. My family and I were charter members of Grace and I spent many hours with Rick in the early days. My greatest memories of him were his great sense of humor, his love of golf and sports, and his ability to inspire people by just being one of us.. Though he was by far the greatest reason Grace was born and thrived, he made all who knew him feel like they were important cogs in the church family. Leaving Tallahassee due to a business transfer remains one my greatest regrets. I loved helping to build that church and I loved Rick. Even though I only saw him once since we moved I always felt his friendship and thought about him often. To Gretchen and the children I offer my heartfelt sympathy and compassion. We are all better people for having known Rick.

David Larson - January 27, 2014 at 09:36 AM

TL

“ Gretchen, My heart goes out to your family. We all loved Rick. God Bless.

Tury Lewis - November 17, 2013 at 06:22 PM

TL

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Tury Lewis - November 17, 2013 at 06:19 PM


DN

“ To Gretchen and family, Sending our thoughts and prayers. We loved Pastor Rick's sense of humor. He will be greatly missed. Regret we cannot be there for the service as we are still in North Carolina. Hugs from Peggy and Don Nimey

Don Nimey - November 16, 2013 at 05:05 PM

SR

“ To all Pastor Rick's Family, We are grieving with you the loss of a wonderful pastor, teacher and friend. It was my privilege to serve with him on the church council just before he retired. I learned so much from him and I especially learned to trust in the Lord. He is not here any longer but we will see him again and in that day there will be much rejoicing! He is at home with the Lord! May God bless you at this difficult time.



Our love, Sallie, Erik and Kevin Robinson

Sallie Robinson - November 16, 2013 at 05:03 PM

LI

“ Gretchen and family, our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Pastor Rick, and his ministry at Grace, have meant the world to John and me and helped make our move to Tallahassee easier. Love and hugs, Linda and John McDonald

Linda - November 16, 2013 at 03:04 PM

JH

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



JH - November 16, 2013 at 10:25 AM

JH

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



JH - November 16, 2013 at 10:22 AM

HW

“ *Gretchen, Grant, Alicia, Lauren, and Pinkie,*

Mike and I had been aware of Rick's illness, and my dad called to let me know that he had passed away this week. Rick was such a blessing to my family when we moved to Tallahassee many years ago, as he was to yours and countless other families. My thoughts and prayers are with you all in your grief. I will always remember his kindness, compassion, and especially his joyful laughter.

*In Christ,
Hannah Fye Ward*

Hannah Ward - November 15, 2013 at 12:01 PM

VH

“ *Pastor Rick, your wisdom, courage and humor sustained and strengthened my family and me for a decade, and having you as a friend and mentor is a gift I will treasure all of my life. I bet heaven looks a lot like Hawaii :)*

Victoria Langley Heller - November 15, 2013 at 07:23 AM

CM

“ *Gretchen, Grant, Alicia, and Lauren,*

Almost 35 years ago, Judi and I had the wonderful experience of spending our "honeymoon" and being part of your family (minus Lauren) in Melbourne Beach as I helped Rick out as a summer intern/youth worker before my first Call. Great memories of Rick, especially his dedication to his family and Grace congregation. About 10 years ago he and I played a round of golf during one of his visits to Conover and enjoyed remembering times spent together, especially as our families were close together in younger years. In fact, I remember attending Rick's ordination at Mt. Zion. The Lord of life sustain and comfort you with His promises at Rick's celebration of life and in the days to come.

*David and Judith Moser
806 6th Ave. SW
Conover, NC 28613
cdavidmoser@gmail.com*

C. David Moser - November 14, 2013 at 04:56 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Rev. O. R. "Rick" Eckard.*



November 14, 2013 at 03:23 PM



“ *Gretchen and family,*

Rick and I have known each other since before we were a year old and I can honestly say that I have never known a man more dedicated to God and his family. Rick was truly the epitome of a good man and I'm sure he touched many lives over the years. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. God bless you and bring you peace.

*Brenda Roever Steed
Goldsboro, NC*

Brenda Roever Steed - November 14, 2013 at 02:06 PM