



John F. Steinbruck

OCT 5, 1930 - MAR 1, 2015



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John Frederick Steinbruck Pastor, Community Organizer, Seeker of Justice 1930-2015

John F. Steinbruck, age 84 of Lewes, Delaware died on March 1, 2015 at Cadbury at Lewes.

Mr. Steinbruck was born on October 5, 1930 to John and Martha (Schock) Steinbruck, in Philadelphia, Pa.

He attended Philadelphia schools, earning a Bachelor's and Master's degree from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. After an unfulfilling sojourn in industry, he entered The Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. Upon graduation, in 1959, Pastor Steinbruck briefly served as assistant pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church Nazareth, Pa. In the early 60's he was called to Zion Lutheran Church in Easton, Pa., subsequently merging this congregation with St. John's Lutheran Church, Easton, just three blocks away; thus bringing together a group of strong minds and gentle spirits to carry on a faithful presence in downtown Easton. Joining with other congregations, Protestant, Jewish, and Catholics, a community outreach program, ProJeCt, was formed to address pressing social issues in the area.

In 1970, Pastor Steinbruck was called to Luther Place Memorial Church at Thomas Circle in Washington, D.C. At that time, the area around Thomas Circle was a gathering place for many homeless and hopeless and also a haven for prostitution. The mission was clear for the brave folks at Luther Place, open the doors. Using his strong community organizing skills and seeing a need for broad participation, thus began an interfaith ministry with numerous congregations in the DC Metropolitan area that would culminate in the N Street Village, a continuum of services for homeless women. During these years, Steinbruck wrote his doctoral dissertation "The Church as Refuge," which became a biblical-theological response and study addressing the painful problems faced by today's disenfranchised.



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With the tireless help and dedication of his parishioners and the Interfaith Community, he always stood ready to support those facing injustice, be it migrant workers, Salvadoran refugees or Soviet Jews seeking liberation from abuse and oppression. This creative social justice environment also gave birth to new expressions of ministry such as the Lutheran Volunteer Corps, Bread for the City, the D.C. Hotline and the Thomas Circle Singers. For this work over the 40 years of his ministry Steinbruck was honored with numerous honorary doctorates and awards. He retired from Luther Place Church in 1997 to take up residence in Lewes, Delaware.

Pastor Steinbruck served in the United States Naval Reserve, for twenty-two years, both enlisted and commissioned, retiring in 1987 as a Captain, U.S.N.R. Chaplain Corps.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Erna Guenther Steinbruck and four much loved children, John Andrew Steinbruck (Julie); Elisabeth Ann Steinbruck; Michael Paul Steinbruck (Kimberlee); Katy Steinbruck, a son Mark John Steinbruck passed away in 1990; and his beloved grandchildren: Claire, Alex, Erika, and Lane Christian, children of John and Julie Steinbruck and Hope and Erin, children of Michael and Kimberlee Murray-Steinbruck.

A Homegoing Service will be held on Friday March 6, 2015 at 11:00 AM at The Cadbury Retirement Community, in the Auditorium, 17028 Cadbury Circle, Lewes, De.

A Memorial Service will also be held at Luther Place Memorial Church, 1226 Vermont Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. on Monday, March 9, 2015 at 11 AM.

In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to: N Street Village, A Continuum of Services for Homeless Women 1333 N Street N.W., Washington, DC 20005

"and what does the Lord require of you but to love mercy, do justice and walk humbly with your God" Micah 6:8

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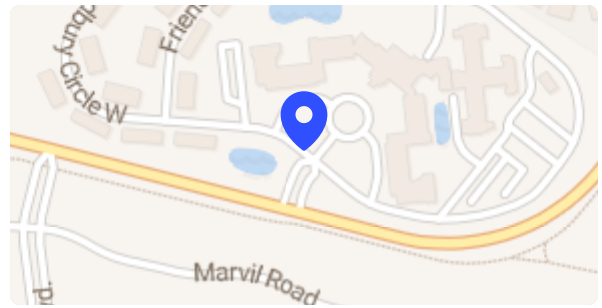
Events

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Services

-  **Friday**, March 6, 2015
-  11:00 AM ET
-  **Cadbury At Lewes Auditorium**
17024 Cadbury Circle, Lewes DE





Tribute Wall

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HE

Herb & Lois Emsweller posted:

Pastor Steinbruck touched our lives when he was assistant Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church before he was called as Pastor at St Johns Lutheran Church in Easton Pa. He was one of a kind in his work for the disadvantaged.

March 16 at 8:00 PM

SR

Susan Ruggles posted:

From many people at St. John's Lutheran in Easton, our prayers to the Steinbruck family. Many remember his time in Easton with fondness and inspiration. I remember the class I took at LTSP that he taught and his well wishes when I was installed at St. John's! Your family continues in our prayers.

March 12 at 8:00 PM

DB

Dru And Henry Bowden posted:

Erna, What a team you two were! Your inspiration and loving execution of ideas and John's remarkable ability to convey and persuade. Henry and I were totally transformed by John's vision and only hope we can continue to follow his lead. May you be surrounded by all the love from the community you have loved so generously all these years. Henry and Dru

March 11 at 8:00 PM

SM

Sr. Judy Murray, Ocd posted:

John always held the virtues of justice and mercy close to his heart and for this we are grateful. He was an important supporter of the Zacchaeus Medical Clinic. May he rest in the embrace of Jesus.

March 7 at 8:00 PM

RW

Rev. John Wintermyer posted:

John, your life reflects the words of the song but with the difference that you surely tried to... " do it His way". Thank you for your loving commitment. eazkm

March 7 at 8:00 PM



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TW

The Rev. William W. Wightman posted:

Praise God for a life well lived. To Erna and your family go my sincerest condolences. I first met John when he was the Pastor of Zion, Easton, and I was a student at Muhlenberg College. Interaction with John helped me with my decision to become a pastor. Thank you for that, John.

March 4 at 8:00 PM

EK

Eve Kimball posted:

John was surrounded by such a diverse group of people who love him - from those rejected by society around Luther Place to leaders of our nation. His honesty and willingness to tell truth as he saw it were remarkable. As was the resilience of Erna and all of his family through many trials. The Family Kimball has been influenced by John, Erna, and their family. We love you all and will miss our "disturbing" pastor so much.

March 4 at 8:00 PM

MB

Merlin & Yvonne Beil posted:

Our prayers are with you and your family. God and John are now both looking over you all.

March 4 at 8:00 PM

KL

Ken And Betty Longfield posted:

John not only proclaimed the good news of Jesus Christ, he lived it and taught us to live it as well. We will miss him.

March 4 at 8:00 PM

MH

Mark And Melanie (Wirono) Heuer posted:

Thank you for being our great pastor at Luther Place, Pastor Steinbruck!!

March 3 at 8:00 PM



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WJ

Wally Jensen posted:

My most heartfelt condolences Erna. John was my friend, my colleague, my mentor. I give thanks for the privilege of having known him and pray that the great cloud of witnesses that surround you will sustain you in this time of such personal loss.

March 3 at 8:00 PM

CS

Carolyn P Serfass posted:

Sending big hugs to John's fam as they gather for his Homegoing. How blessed we are to have known him in this life.

March 3 at 8:00 PM

MM

Maureen Jais-Mick posted:

I remember one of John's declarations almost daily (no, it's not the one about the whore of Babylon!) - "Some things are too important to be left to the professionals." He and Erna always taught us that we all have a part to play in important issues that affect people's lives. I will miss you. Maureen

March 3 at 8:00 PM

DK

Dan Kimball posted:

"Well done good and faithful servant." I hope you find your motorcycle in heaven where you won't need a helmet. RIP.

March 3 at 8:00 PM

RH

Rev. Ed Heim posted:

We were all blessed to walk in the same time as this beloved Saint.

March 3 at 8:00 PM

CA

Cynthia Armour posted:

Your passing leaves a sad gap down here, but much rejoicing in Heaven. We'll miss you, John.

March 3 at 8:00 PM



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SR

Sallie Keenhold Robinson posted:

Please accept my deepest sympathy at the loss of Pastor Steinbruck. I was confirmed by him at St John's in Easton. I credit him with awakening my sense of social justice & responsibility. I fondly remember him defending the Head Start program in the church. I heard of his good work in DC & often thought about trying to contact him. Sadly, I never did. He was an inspiration to me & I wish I'd told him so. May he rest in peace. My sympathy to the entire family.

March 2 at 8:00 PM

BP

Bill Bowman & Pj Parker posted:

Our condolences to the Steinbruck family. You will be in our thoughts.

March 2 at 8:00 PM

CS

Christy Schwengel posted:

Erna, You and your family are close in our thoughts and prayers. With sincere sympathy, Christy Schwengel

March 2 at 8:00 PM

MD

Mike Dillon posted:

A wonderful man, a powerful servant of God, a good friend always.

March 2 at 8:00 PM

JR

John Redmond posted:

My deepest condolences to the Steinbruck family. During this most difficult time please may you find comfort in the inspired words at Revelation 21:4, where death is to be brought to nothing. What a wonderful time that will be.

March 1 at 8:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring John by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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