



# Rev. Bill Cunningham

AUG 28, 1930 - JAN 17, 2008



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FUNERAL HOMES  
OF LONGVIEW AND HENDERSON

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## **Rev. Bill Cunningham**

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### **R**EVEREND BILL CUNNINGHAM

Committal services for Reverend Bill Cunningham, 77, of Longview will be 10:00 am Monday at the Rosewood Mausoleum Chapel. Burial, under the direction of Rader Funeral Home, will follow at Rosewood Park. Funeral services will be 11:00 am at the First United Methodist Church, 400 N. Fredonia St., with Dr. Connie Winborn, Dr. Pat Sparks, Reverend David Lindwall, and Dr. Asbury Lenox officiating. Reverend Cunningham died Thursday evening at a local medical center.

He was born August 28, 1930 at Cleveland, Texas to William R. and Jewel Coker Cunningham. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Sam Houston State University. On September 4, 1951 he married his devoted wife of 56 years, Jane Seitz. Bill became an ordained Methodist minister in 1954. He served churches in the Bedias Circuit, Lovelady, Magnolia, Willis, Alto, Brazoria, Marshall, and Lindale, Texas. In 1985 he came to the First United Methodist Church of Longview as Associate Minister of Pastoral Care where he served until his retirement in 1998. He continued serving on a part-time basis for several years.

He is survived by his wife, Jane of Longview; a son, David William Cunningham of Marshall; a son and daughter-in-law, Larry Wayne and Linda Cunningham of Longview; his grandchildren: Christy Cunningham Godwin, Matthew, Bethany, Robert, and Timothy Cunningham; two great grandchildren; and brother and sister-in-law, Robert and Gayle Cunningham of Kingwood, Texas.

Visitation will be at Rader Funeral Home, 1617 Judson Rd., Sunday afternoon 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Memorials may be made to the First United Methodist Church of Longview Memorial Fund at 400 N. Fredonia St. Longview, TX 75601 or to the Newnham Sunday School Class c/o the First United Methodist Church.



## Tribute Wall

**Rev. Bill Cunningham**

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**Anonymous** posted:

Dear Jane and family,I just learned of Brother Bill's passing this afternoon. My heart breaks for you, but rejoices so for him that he is now in Heaven watching over you from there. Brother Bill meant so much to my family, from the Hybargers through the Forsters. He brought so many words of comfort to us all throughout the years. May God wrap his loving arms around you and give you comfort and peace in the coming days.Love,Ann##imported-begin##Ann Forster Jennings##imported-end##

January 28 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Dear Miss Jane, I'm so sorry for your loss. Bro. Bill will always hold a special place in my heart and I will remember him fondly. You were both so wonderful to me and my entire family when you were in Lindale. I rejoice that we will all meet again in the heavenly realms. Love, Johanna Bailey Lara##imported-begin##Johanna Bailey Lara##imported-end##

January 24 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Will miss Rev.Bill Cunningham hewas such a blessing always to my family.He will always be Remembered.God Bless all his sweet family Fern Moore##imported-begin##Fern Moore##imported-end##

January 22 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

I am so sorry to hear of the loss of Bro. Bill. My grandmother, Gertrude Paul worked at the church for many years with Bro. Bill and he was allways very good to our family. I will allways remember what a kind man he was.##imported-begin##Chris Paul##imported-end##

January 21 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Jane, Merle asked me to sign the guestbook for her because she is not on the internet. We all wished we could have been there for you and the family.Sheila Pursley##imported-begin##Claude & Merle McClendon##imported-end##

January 21 at 7:00 PM



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**Anonymous** posted:

Jane, Sam and I will always remember Bro. Bill. He was one of the sweetest men we have ever known. He was also one of the best Christians I will ever meet. God will be very happy to have him up there with Him but we will surely miss him down here until our time comes. Give our condolences and love to David and Larry and all your family. Sam & Sheila Pursley##imported-begin##Sam & Sheila Pursley##imported-end##

January 21 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Jane and Family, we send our condolences to you for the loss of your loved one. Bill was a very good friend of ours and will certainly be missed. We talk about both often and how you were doing. Our prayers for you and everlasting love.##imported-begin##J.D. & Sue Reynolds##imported-end##

January 21 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Jane, David, Larry - I just learned about Bill's death. He was a blessing to me in my youth. I held him in high regard. I know you will miss him very much.##imported-begin##Lee Rickaway##imported-end##

January 21 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Dear Jane, Don and I were so saddened to hear of Bill's death. He was a kind and loving man who certainly "fought the good fight." He will be missed by many. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family and know that God will give you the strength you need at this time. Much love, Don and Kay Meador##imported-begin##Don and Kay Meador##imported-end##

January 20 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with you.##imported-begin##Brent and Pam Taylor##imported-end##

January 20 at 7:00 PM



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**Anonymous** posted:

Dear Jane, Larry and Family, We just heard about the death of your precious husband, Daddy and grandfather. We know that your hearts are saddened and that you will miss him greatly as we will. We often speak of him in our family, as he taught us what it is to truly give unto others and what a faithful life of serving God - loving God and loving others - looks like. Several years ago, when I Cathy was serving as youth minister at FUMC, Bill and I were at the church around 5:30 p.m. when a needy young lady came into the front door. She needed some money, so together we came up with \$50. When I asked Bill what I thought she would do with the money, he simply said, "Whatever she does with that money is between her and God. God asks us to give to those in need and that is all we can do. God asks us to be faithful." We have repeated those words to our children, as we continue to give and to be faithful unto God as the fine Christ-like example of Bill. He will always remain in our hearts, as you will. You continue to be in our prayers! We love you so much! The Brewton Family Michael, Cathy, Madison Lyn and Breck##imported-begin##Cathy and Michael Brewton##imported-end##

January 20 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Dear Jane: Like Angie, I thought of the jingling coins in Bro. Bill's pocket! Bob and I are sorry for you and all of us as we will miss Bro. Bill. But, happy for him as he is home with Jesus and is at peace. And, he has no need of coins to jingle!! Love, Bob and Judi Staton##imported-begin##Judi and Bob Staton##imported-end##

January 20 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Dear Jane, We remember Bro. Bill for the sweet, caring person who was there for us when we needed him. Our prayers are with you and your family.##imported-begin##Jerry & Alice Fennell##imported-end##

January 20 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Our family was blessed to know him as a friend and a man of great support in time of need. We will surely miss him.##imported-begin##Catherine Flewharty##imported-end##

January 19 at 7:00 PM



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**Anonymous** posted:

A true inspiration to have known him. He always had a joke or story to lighten the day.##imported-begin##Philip Flewharty##imported-end##

January 19 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Nobody could throw together an Elephant Stew quite like Uncle Bill.We're sorry that we're not able to get to the services, but please know that we've had you all in our thoughts and prayers, and will continue to do so.Love,Mark, Angela and Ryan##imported-begin##Mark, Angela and Ryan Seitz##imported-end##

January 19 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

As one of thousands of families which received Bill's comforting kindness in times of stress, we send our loving prayers to Jane and all of the family. May loving memories strengthen them during their sorrow.Frances & Lewis Etterand Flavious Tatum##imported-begin##Frances & Lewis Etter##imported-end##

January 19 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Brother Bill was such a genuinely sweet, loving, funny man whom my family adored, and I will forever be grateful that he officiated our wedding. It meant the world to me that he played such an important role on our most special day. Please know that you all are in our thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Matt, Cathy Craddock and Abby Tenner##imported-end##

January 19 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Jane and Family,Please know that you are all in our thoughts and prayers. Bill meant so much to so many people! What a blessing he was to all of us. Bill would always stop and visit whenever we would see him at the church or when he was making rounds at the hospital. That is the gift of someone who truly cares about others. We will all miss him.##imported-begin##Brenda and Michael Liverman##imported-end##

January 19 at 7:00 PM



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**Anonymous** posted:

Our prayers are with you and the family.God bless and comfort you.##imported-begin##Rev. Earl and Sue Cantrelle##imported-end##

January 19 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Dear Cunningham family - I was saddened to hear of Bill's passing.What a wonderful minister he was. I will always be grateful for the generous way he gave of his time in helping me weekly at the church.He always had some great jokes or stories to lift my spirit. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this sad time.love, Carol Willis##imported-begin##Carol Willis##imported-end##

January 19 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

We will always remember how Bill, and you Jane, served our church in Lindale with a loving and caring ministry.Our thoughts and prayers are with the Cunnigham family at this time.Jesse and Margaret McKay##imported-begin##Jesse & Margaret McKay##imported-end##

January 19 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Larry and family, Heaven is brighter with your Dad's presence. Your loss is heaven's gain. May God bless you and comfort you at this difficult time. Jeanne Thompson##imported-begin##Jeanne Thompson##imported-end##

January 19 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Jane and family ~Our love and prayers are with you as you grieve Brother Bill's passage from this world. You both were rocks of faith and friendship when my family needed your support. His example of love and compassion will sustain us all. I wonder if he will have coins to jingle in his pocket in heaven.We love you always.##imported-begin##Angela Bailey##imported-end##

January 19 at 7:00 PM



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**Anonymous** posted:

Dear Jane, Our prayers are with you and your family. Jennifer Williams formerly Jenni Bailey of Lindale, TX##imported-begin##Jennifer Bailey Williams##imported-end##

January 19 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Jane and family, We were saddened to hear of Bill's death and sorry that we will be unable to attend the services. We are visiting our son and his family in Baltimore for several weeks. Among Bill's many assets was his ability to comfort those with illness, etc. My mother, Vera Peacock, was a member of the Presbyterian church, but he faithfully visited her at the hospital and later for years at Colonial Village. We will be eternally grateful for his kindness. His eulogy will undoubtedly be a great tribute to his life with many interesting stories and maybe some of his jokes. The whole church will miss him.##imported-begin##Donald & Lucy Peacock##imported-end##

January 18 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

I FIRST MET bROTHER bILL WHEN BOTH OF US VISITD MR T G FIELD THEN WHEN I STARTED vOLUNTEERING AT gOODSHEPHERD I WAS PRIVILEGED TO SEE HIM OFTEN WHICH WAS ALWAYS A JOY! "BROTHER BILL" WAS AS SINCERE AS THE DAY IS LONG, THOUGHTS & PRAYERS ARE WITH HIS LOVELY WIFE & FAMILY. I WILL FOREVER CHERISH MEMORIES OF HIS DEAR MAN OF GOD AND BE GRATEFUL I WAS PRIVILEGED TO HAVE KNOWN HIM AND WITNESSED HIS MINISTERING TO EACH PERSON HE TOUCHED.##imported-begin##Millie Harper##imported-end##

January 18 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Rev. Cunningham was truly a compassionate and kind soul. He was never too busy to stop and ask how I was doing. He was loved and will truly be missed by scores of people. I was blessed to have had the opportunity to have known him. Amy Hill##imported-begin##Amy Hill##imported-end##

January 18 at 7:00 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

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



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