

Remembering Our Bishop Nation

September, 2021



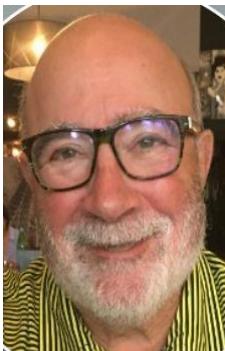
Barbara Johnson Dixon '72, age 72, died August 25, 2021, in Raleigh, North Carolina from complications associated with Parkinson's Disease and Lewy Body dementia. She attended James Madison College (1967-1968) and graduated from North Carolina Wesleyan College in 1972 with a degree in History. She began her professional career with Peoples Bank in Rocky Mount, followed by Nations Bank in Charlotte. In 1984, Barbara left the banking world to care full-time for her two children, a calling she considered her most important life's work. She is survived by one daughter, one son, one grandson, and four cousins and their families.



Matthew Thomas Clemons, age 19, passed away on Thursday, September 2, 2021. He was a member of the 2020 graduating class of West Brunswick High School where he was a member of the football team, and was a student athlete for USA South. He was awarded an academic scholarship to attend North Carolina Wesleyan College where he was currently a sophomore. He was on the Dean's List and was soon to be inducted into the Student Leadership Society. He was also a member of the NC Wesleyan football team. He is survived by his parents, one brother, three sisters, grandparents and his girlfriend.



Barbara Ann Sears '07, age 67, passed away on Friday, September 10, 2021. Throughout her life, Barbara lived in North Carolina and Virginia, where she encountered many wonderful people and experiences. She was a realtor in Hampton Roads and did tax preparation in Midlothian, VA. She enjoyed being a preschool teacher and working with children in various settings. She was an employee of North Carolina Wesleyan College from 2004 to 2010, working first as the physical plant secretary. After attaining her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration through the Adult & Professional Studies Program at NCWC in 2007, Barbara took on the role of budget officer at the College. She is survived by one daughter, one son, two grandsons, one sister and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.



Martin (Marty) August Sarra '68, age 75, passed away on September 21, 2021 in Kingston, Ontario, Canada following a courageous battle with cancer. He graduated from North Carolina Wesleyan College in 1968 with a degree in History. A short time with the US Army changed the course of his life, leading him to move to Canada in 1969, settling in Toronto and becoming a citizen in 1975. Martin was guided throughout his life by the principles of social justice, equality and acceptance. In the 1960's Martin became the first white teacher in an all-Black high school in North Carolina. He became a member activist and political leader within the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU). He went to work for OPSEU, eventually becoming a Field Staff Representative, continuing to protect the rights and improve the lives of working people until retiring in 2016. Marty was a man of many passions including travel, fine food, and golf - having played in all 10 Canadian provinces and 48 US states. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, three stepchildren, four grandchildren, two nephews, and a sister-in-law and their families.



Arnold Kent Adams '67, age 77 passed away on Wednesday, September 22, 2021. With an intense interest in music and band, he graduated from North Carolina Wesleyan College in 1967 with a Bachelor of Arts in Music. He then obtained his master's degree and went on to pursue his musical career. In 1967, Arnold took over the East Carteret Marching Mariners school's band program. During his 29-year career with the school, he built a band program and created a legacy. He also shared his talents with his church, St. Peters United Methodist, where he joyfully served as Choir Director and Bell Director. He is survived by his wife, daughter and son-in-law, brother and sister-in-law, and granddaughter.