

Dr. William Charles REIMER 1944 – 2024

Bill Reimer died on July 15, 2024. Son of the late Peter and Lilian Reimer, brother to Robert and the late Peter, he was born and raised in Vancouver. A lifelong tinkerer, fixer, organizer (at least of his academic work), he had a curious mind and took a genuine interest in other people the world around. Bill completed his BA, MA, and PhD at UBC before accepting a teaching position in 1972 at Sir George Williams in Montreal (now Concordia University) in the Department of Sociology & Anthropology. He remained an active part of the department life until his retirement in 2012.

During his time at Concordia he became a central figure in rural research, dedicating his life to the study and improvement of rural communities. His research—which spanned decades—shed light on the socio-economic challenges faced by rural Canadians and provided insightful, practical solutions for sustainable development. His work was always grounded in a deep respect for the voices and experiences of rural residents as well as the many students he mentored.

He married Frances (Fran) Shaver in 1967. They settled in Vancouver, continued with their academic studies, and birthed a daughter (Daegan). In 1972 they left the comfort of family and friends for Montreal, where their son (JP) was born. Two years later they moved to Ile Bigras (a small suburb outside Montreal). Bigras was the hub of their family life for the next 46 years: a meeting place for friends (old & young), including Christmas caroling walkabouts, murder mystery progressive dinners (Bill wrote the scripts), and a home-made version of sugaring-off where we tapped our own maple trees. Family was important to Bill, so this period included frequent visits to the west coast where our children and grandchildren were prospering; one-on-one visits from grandchildren who flew to Montreal on their own; and two camping trips in our 1984 Westy with grandchildren: one from Victoria, BC to Montreal and another from Montreal to Saint Johns, NL.

Following his retirement in 2012, Bill remained engaged in his teaching and research activities. In 2020, he and Fran packed up, sold their home, and moved back to Vancouver to be closer to their children and seven grandchildren. Visits, picnics, and dinner parties were frequent, and camping trips in the Westy with the younger set of grandchildren continued. The move was timely and joyful in spite of the pain associated with leaving behind our dear friends and colleagues.

Celebrating Bill Reimer's Life September 21, 2024 West Point Grey United Church



Bill, a loving husband, father, grandfather, uncle, brother, friend, mentor, and colleague, will be missed.

September 21, 2024
West Point Grey United Church, Vancouver, BC
A Service to Celebrate the Life of
William Charles Reimer
1944 – 2024

Prelude:

Domenico Scarlatti (1685-1757). *Sonata*. F major—as in
Longo, Suite 1, Son. 5
Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924). *Pièces brèves*, op. 84, no. 1,
"Capriccio", and no. 3, "Fugue", A minor

Welcome

Opening Statement:

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. Therefore, we will not fear though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. God is with us now, and always. God is our refuge and strength.

Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the life; all who believe in me, though they die, yet shall they live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die."

Hymn: "We shall go out with hope" VU 586

Readings:

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 Samantha Jones (granddaughter)
Psalm 121 Daegan Reimer (daughter)
Is It Enough?
It Is Enough by Anne A. Bingham Frances Shaver (wife)

In Loving Remembrance:

JP Reimer (son)
Tara Lyons (former student)
Sean Markey (colleague)
Frances Shaver (wife)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn: "For all the saints" VU 705

Blessing

Postlude:

Gabriel Fauré, "In paradisum", from Requiem, op. 48.
1893. Arr. for organ, A. Brunet

Presiding Minister: Rev. Bob Burrows
Organist: William Bruneau

The Reimer-Shaver family thank you for sharing in this celebration of Bill's life and invite you to join them for refreshments, conversations, and stories in the Community Hall following the service. Those who wish to share their stories with us all are invited to come forward and use the microphone.

The *Celebrating Bill Reimer* book will be available in the Fellowship Room—adjacent to the hall—along with pens and paper. Please add your stories, memories, and anecdotes to the book. In the same room—jogging our memories—will be a continuously projected display of photos from Bill's life.