



## James Stade

February 12, 1949 - May 30, 2021

James Stade, age 72, of Blacksburg, Virginia died May 30, 2021. Jim was born in Chicago, IL on February 12, 1949 to the late John and June Stade. He was a carpenter, teacher, preacher, newspaper delivery man, and loved people with a whole heart. He was a son, brother, cousin, husband, father, uncle, and affectionately known as “Grumpy” to his grandchildren. He grew up in Fort Lauderdale, FL. He attended Concordia Teachers College in River Forest, IL, and Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, MS.

He worked long and hard. He learned carpentry from his father, and then became a minister in churches from Alabama to Ontario, Canada, and finally in Virginia and West Virginia. He delivered the Roanoke Times for more than 16 years, making friends with fellow delivery people and customers, all before his day jobs. He was an avid newspaper subscriber and reader. He also supported his family by working in construction and home renovation. He taught in several schools. He ministered in five churches beginning in 1988. He was humble, and preferred the underdog in every situation. He loved Jesus, and practiced an open, inclusive Christ-like faith. He was quick to recite John 3:16. He was known for simple acts of kindness and care, from mowing his neighbors’ lawns, to leaving surprise Carol Lee Donuts on many a front porch. He made his grandchildren laugh easily. He was sustained by friendships with the community members he encountered every day - from church, to the grocery store, to the county waste site. He loved animals, and welcomed dogs, cats, and other adopted creatures into his home over the

years, including Heidi the cat who curled up beside him until the end. Jim treasured his family through his entire life and despite distances. He carried them in his heart. He loved his remarkable wife of 43 years, Sue, the most. He is remembered for boisterous displays of affection for her such as shouting, "My Lover!" as she walked in the door from work. He liked to compare sunrises to sunsets with her every day. He could dabble beautifully on the piano and the harmonica. In the last few years, he sent quirky, daily text messages of "...love...!" to his family and friends on his flip phone. He doubtlessly looked forward to seeing his beloved parents again.

He is survived by his wife Sue Stade, of Blacksburg; brother JT and sister-in-law Marion Stade; son Trevor and daughter-in-law Jessica Stade; daughters Chrystie, Natalie, Laura, and sons-in-law Scott Greges and Kahlil Detrich; and grandchildren Isla and Avery Stade, Claire Greges, and Roan and Starlie Detrich.

A private ceremony with family will take place at home per Jim's wishes. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Rescue Mission of Roanoke.

He had a peaceful ending, surrounded by his family at home. His characteristic expressions of love will be missed, to say the least. In his final days when asked for life advice, Jim simply replied, "Keep going."

# Tribute Wall

LD

“ *To the Stade family:  
So sad to hear of Jim's Passing.He and his parent were Blessing to me at church  
Jim Always had a cheerfull attitude when I talk to him on the phone.  
Lanny Druker*

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**Lanny Druker** - July 14, 2021 at 04:56 PM

LH

“ *My fondest memory of Jim is the time he took me on his motorcycle to the airfield in Ft. Lauderdale and then proceeded to pilot, for an hour at least, that small plane with me in awe on the passenger's side. A beautiful view and sweet experience for this young gal!  
Thanks, Jim for the memory; you'll be missed.*

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**Lorinda Hill** - June 06, 2021 at 06:34 PM

DD

“ *We first met Jim and Sue when he was pastor of PleasantDale Church. There was never a finer man, funny man or more caring man. He left a most positive impression on us. His Bible verse and quoted often was John 3:16, and he was a firm believer- never wavering. So sorry to hear about his passing and send condolences to his family. ❤️*

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**Douglas and Nancy Duffy** - June 05, 2021 at 02:22 PM

CS

“ Sue and I went to college together. After graduation she came to teach as CSCS. She had the most welcoming apartment and love for Jesus. Jim and Sue met at a Bible study and I remember Jim so smitten with her. Who wouldn't be? Our families started together, and I will always remember Jim's big smile and always being the first to help anyone! I am sure he is still being the first to love and help! I can imagine his laughter and joy with my mom and dad and his parents. Until we all meet again!

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**Claudia Scharer** - June 05, 2021 at 06:33 AM

LB

*I will always remember Jim. He was such a comfort to my family during the sad days of my mother's illness. Sue, may you know God's peace.*

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**Louise Nelson Beverett** - June 06, 2021 at 01:55 PM

NB

“ I first met Sue at a women's Bible study. My husband Dennis was the 1st guy in the study, & Jim soon followed. He often sat on our couch, lovesick for Sue. The feelings weren't reciprocated - at 1st! And now, 43 years later...

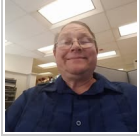
*We had so much fun & learned so much from Jim & Sue, 1st & foremost about loving God & loving people We had several dinners @ Jim's parents' house. June & John were SO sweet, & the apple didn't fall far from the tree.*

*Even though we haven't seen Jim or Sue in many years, they are forever friends.*

*Natalie Booth*

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**Natalie Booth** - June 04, 2021 at 07:43 PM



“ *Jim was a great guy and newspaper carrier. Prayers for Sue and family.*

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**Daryl Robinson** - June 04, 2021 at 07:39 AM



“ *I spent a lovely afternoon and evening with him on the occasion of Natalie's Quaker-style wedding. I had heard about him beforehand, and about his wife, the memorable Sue, and as someone who had been married twice, I was envious of them, the easy-to-see depth of affection between them. I laughed when I read mention of his calling out "My Lover" whenever he saw Sue. And I felt envious. I was also glad to know of his loyal cat, as I know how important cats are to Natalie. The photo posted here says so much. He is saying hello-- born in Illinois, it makes sense, at least to me, that it is a snow shot-- but he could also be bidding everyone adieu, a way of saying he will see you 'round the bend. The Stades have lost their patriarch, but they will carry on, propelled by his infectious spirit.*  
--Jonathan Coleman

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**jonathan coleman** - June 03, 2021 at 11:17 PM



“ *I had the pleasure of meeting Jim and Sue when I worked drive thru at the bank. I did some crafts for gifts for them as well. He was the most gentle, kind man I have ever met. May he rest in peace. My condolences to the family. God Bless, Pam Martin*

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**Pamela Jennelle Martin** - June 03, 2021 at 04:42 PM