

Bradley E. Rentzel



Reverend Bradley E. Rentzel, 66, passed away on Thursday morning, April 12, 2012, at York Hospital. He was the husband of Cathy (Buckwalter) Rentzel, whom he married 32 years ago on November 23, 1979. Bradley was born November 8, 1945, in York, and was the son of the late Guy and Irene (Bamberger) Rentzel.

He graduated from Northeastern High School in 1963, Lebanon Valley College in 1967, and Union Theological Seminary in New York City. Bradley pastored at Emmanuel United Church of Christ (U.C.C) in Hanover, Mt. Zion U.C.C. in York, Salem U.C.C of Dover, and Lischey's U.C.C. of Spring Grove. He was the Parish Pastor for 16 years at Trinity U.C.C. in Hanover. He also assisted his brother, Blaine, in the auction business.

He volunteered for VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) after graduation from college, recently became a member of the Susquehanna Lions Club in Mount Wolf. He was the Mount Wolf Historian for the town he loved so much. He wrote the History of Mount Wolf for the bicentennial and revised his previous addition in 2010 for the Mount Wolf Centennial. Sections of this history book can be view by visiting NeyChip.com/MtWolf.html. He loved farming and farm equipment.

In addition to his wife, Cathy, Bradley is survived by his two daughters, Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones and her husband, Donald of Manchester, and Rebecca Verdon and her husband, William of Hershey; three grandchildren; and his brother, Blaine Rentzel and his wife, Judy of Mount Wolf.



Bradley Rentzel, who wrote a comprehensive book about Mount Wolf area history, has died. I listed Brad's "A History of Mount Wolf" as one of 11 best bets for understanding York County in the 20th century. I wrote: "This booklet is perhaps the best of the many histories of local communities available. It follows the transition of Mount Wolf from a self-contained town with its own industries to that of a bedroom community, a course taken by many municipalities." And that 1977 history was updated for Mount Wolf's centennial anniversary in 2010. Brad had an encyclopedic mind about all things Mount Wolf. In comments on Brad's online obituary, Mount Wolf's Rob Horn stated: "A conversation between Mr. Rentzel and I usually lasted for hours. Even a chance encounter along Wago Road turned into an hour plus discussion on local history." That was my experience, too, in the half dozen times we met. I always learned something.

Jim McClure, YorkDailyRecord April 18, 2012