

stutterer, it was almost unimaginable. He went a step further and helped organize a Toastmaster group comprised entirely of members who stuttered. Many members of that group credit Russ with the success that they have dealing with the fear of public speaking and stuttering.

Russ retired from Texas Instruments in 1998 after thirty-five years of an outstanding and rewarding career, but retirement hardly slowed him down a bit. He dedicated his time to opening and maintaining various Toastmasters and National Stuttering Association chapters as well as attending every National Convention of the National Stuttering Association from 1986 to 2022. If a person who stuttered needed help at any time, they could always count on Russ to be there with an ear to listen, a word of encouragement, or a shoulder to cry on.

Russ and Stachia became members of First United Methodist Church in McKinney in 2013 and finally moved to McKinney in 2021 to live in Hidden Springs. Russ was an avid workout enthusiast who went to the gym and exercised with a personal trainer at least twice a week until early 2024 when he started to have more and more difficulty maintaining his balance and mobility.

He passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family after complications from a minor surgical procedure.

He is survived by his wife Stachia, his son's family John and Sammi, his daughter's family Catherine and Andy, and six amazing grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to First United Methodist Church of McKinney at www.SharingtheHeart.org.

A Celebration Honoring the Life of Russell D. Hicks

March 13, 1940 – July 31, 2024



CARE and SUPPORT MINISTRIES available at FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Stephen Ministry
www.sharingtheheart.org/stephen-ministry
Grief Support
www.sharingtheheart.org/grief-support



First United Methodist Church McKinney

315 N. Church St. | McKinney, TX 75069 | 972-562-8556
SharingTheHeart.org

Sharing the heart of Christ from the heart of McKinney

September 13, 2024 ~ 10:00 am

First United Methodist Church

315 N Church Street
McKinney, TX 75069

ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

PRELUDE

* SEATING OF THE FAMILY

*CALL TO WORSHIP

* HYMN No. 314

“In the Garden”

WITNESS OF SCRIPTURE

Psalm 23; John 14:1-6

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

WITNESS OF THE FAMILY

WITNESS TO THE GOSPEL

* HYMN No. 378, vv. 1,2,3,6

“Amazing Grace”

* BENEDICTION

**May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you.
May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.
Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Following the service, all are welcome to join the family for a reception in Dyer Hall.

LEADING IN THE SERVICE TODAY

Dr. Thomas O. Brumett, Senior Pastor

John Emory Bush organist

Waverly Hammond & Josh Brumett, audio/visual

OBITUARY

Russell Dee “Russ” Hicks was born in Muskegon, Michigan on March 13, 1940, to Russell and Mary Sue Hicks. After his father, a mechanical engineer, left Continental Motors for an executive position at Cummins Engines, the family moved to Columbus, Indiana where he spent his formative years. His family were loyal and faithful members of First United Methodist Church of Columbus, where he was confirmed in the Church. It was here that he first met Stachia Enochs, while attending confirmation class. He was a member of the class of 1958 at Columbus High School where he spent the majority of his time studying Science and Mathematics. The high point of his years at Columbus High was taking Stachia to the Senior Prom, beginning a relationship that would last sixty-six years.

He was accepted to Purdue University, class of 1962, where he majored in Electrical Engineering and pledged Triangle fraternity. His relationship with Stachia continued while she pursued a degree in Nursing at Indiana University, and they were married in the same church they were confirmed in on June 4, 1962. Russ earned a Masters of Business Administration from Indiana University as Stachia became certified as a Registered Nurse.

In 1963 Russ accepted a job in the burgeoning computer industry with Texas Instruments of Dallas, Texas. He was a new employee at the company when he and some of his coworkers went outside on Lemmon Avenue to watch President John F. Kennedy drive by in his motorcade only hours before his tragic assassination. The young couple bought a house on the outskirts of town surrounded by open prairie and farmland near what would become the intersection of Coit and Arapaho roads. While they lived there, they had two children: a son John (1969) and a daughter Catherine (1972). They moved to Lubbock in 1979. They moved back to the Dallas area in 1984, settling in Plano.

It was in this phase of life that Russ became involved in his two greatest personal passions: public speaking and the National Stuttering Association. As a lifelong stutterer, he provided mentorship and support to thousands of fellow stutterers who felt isolated and rejected by those around them. Having gone through many of these same experiences, Russ was able to help them (and himself) see that they were perfectly fine just the way God made them. Their mutual support and camaraderie enabled them to see the beauty all around them and helped to bring some of the most isolated out of their shells. At the same time, Russ pursued his interest in public speaking through Toastmasters, International, becoming a Distinguished Toastmaster and winning the 1995 National Award for Best Humorous Speech. This would have been a remarkable achievement for most people, but for a profound

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