



Kenneth F. Newkirk Jr.

November 5, 2015

Kenneth F. Newkirk, Jr., age 75, of Upper Pittsgrove, passed away at his home on Thursday, November 5, 2015. Born in Bridgeton to the late Kenneth F., Sr. and Helene (née Dare) Newkirk, Kenny was the owner of Newkirk Farms in Upper Pittsgrove. He grew up working alongside his father on the farm which was purchased in the 1930s by his grandfather, B. Hayes Newkirk. Kenny continued working the farm with his children and nephews, then later with his son, Barry, and Barry's family. Kenny was a member of the Upper Pittsgrove Board of Education for 27 years, serving as Chairman of Transportation and then President. Kenny was a very devoted and active founding member of Grace Bible Church, serving as Chairman of the Deacons from its inception until he could no longer serve due to his health.

Kenny is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Janice (née Beal) Newkirk; his children, Barry Newkirk (Cheryl) of Upper Pittsgrove, Doug Newkirk (Betty) of San Jose, CA, Michael Newkirk (Deanna) of Columbia, MD and Amy Fazio (Joey) of Mountain View, CA; his grandchildren, Brandon (Marti), Ashton, Kyle, Casie, Rebecca, Sarah, Rachel and Christian Newkirk and Téa Fazio; his great grandchild, Addison Newkirk and another one on the way; and his siblings, Janice Coles (Walter) of Chesapeake, VA, Alan Newkirk (Judy) of Monroeville and Pat Patterson (Garry) of Upper Pittsgrove. Along with his parents, he was predeceased by his grandson, Kristopher.

A special thanks from the family to those who helped care for Kenny during his illness.

Services will be held on Thursday, November 12, 2015 at Grace Bible Church, 153 Burlington Road, Elmer, NJ 08318 with a visitation from 10 am to 12 pm followed by the service at 12 pm. Interment will be at the Friendship Methodist Church Cemetery in Monroeville. In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that contributions be made in Kenny's memory to the Grace Bible Church Building Fund, 153 Burlington Road, Elmer, NJ 08318. www.adamsfuneralhome.org

Cemetery Details

Friendship UMC Cemetery

Monroeville, NJ 08343

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **12.** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Grace Bible Church
153 Burlington Road
Elmer, NJ 08318

Service

NOV **12.** 12:00 PM (ET)

Grace Bible Church
153 Burlington Road
Elmer, NJ 08318

Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Kenneth F. Newkirk Jr..*



November 10, 2015 at 05:07 PM



“ *My sympathy to Jeb and all the family. May you obtain comfort knowing how well you cared for him during his long and severe illness. Remember all the good times of his life. Our circle of 10 Newkirk grandchildren has been broken. He's the first to celebrate with his parents, grandparents, and all the aunts & uncles. Guess they will be eating Nana's favorite peach ice cream in heaven. Hope to see you when I'm in NJ soon.*
Love, Frances

Fran Pericone - November 09, 2015 at 03:06 PM

JF

“ I first met Dad in December 1997. Amy and I had been dating for about 5 months at this point. He already had some initial reconnaissance reports from Doug, Betty, Barry and Cheryl. Yeah- not good enough for him he had seen pictures of me. He was going to assess this situation himself. Amy and I were planning to go visit her friend Debbie in NYC for New Years, so I got the, “well, if you going to come this far you should come meet the parents”

So here's this kid from California flying the day after Christmas to “meet the parents”. A farmer's daughter. Youngest of 4. Bah- I'm tough I can do this. Until they open the door at the Route 40 house. First thing that is staring at me is what I think is a large moose with a red nose. YOU DON'T SEE THOSE WHERE I'M FROM! It was later confirmed that it's a deer. Great he shot Rudolph. Okay, so now I know he has a gun. And can use it.

A few hours go by (because it's normal to eat dinner at 9 PM!?!) and Dad walks in and hangs up his gear. But I don't see him for several minutes. I think he was nervous. I WAS NERVOUS! We sit down for dinner (meatloaf- another test) and I'm thinking I have to find some common ground. Do I compliment his wife's great cooking and daughter's pretty eyes? Nah we starting talking about his 57' Chevy. How many of you have heard this story about his car?

Okay- so I pass the test and he allows me provisional entrance into the family. I'm number 44. So now he's having fun with me. He LOVED to use the names, “Joseph” and “Mother-in-law” in the same sentence. All the time. Usually in the form of a question.

“Joseph do you think your mother-in-law will make us bacon, eggs and fried potatoes?”

“Joseph is this TV big enough for your mother-in-law?”

Oh yeah, make me the bad guy. Yeah, moose don't scare me anymore. I started getting him back. One year, I went Christmas

shopping for him MYSELF. To see him open a pair of what you might call Speedo's, show his wife and ask, "What do I do with these?" was priceless. I introduced him to gambling and slot machines - he yells to Janice "We're betting the farm!" Dude- we're at the quarter slots. This might take a while. Gotta start somewhere.

Fast forward several years. I remember distinctly one summer walking into the farm house waiting for him and he's laying flat out on his back, arms spread, work boots and grimacing. I'm looking at this guy thinking man he's solid, he's built for almost 70 years old. It's okay. It's just his back we can get through this. But when you replay it now and everything after it was the start of something bigger.

I didn't want to see this happen, again. Every visit or call I tried to keep his spirits up, or poke jokes. It's the only prescription that I think works. When he was in the hospital for heart surgery I kept the girls away for almost 2 days so I could work with him and make his stronger. They even listed me as his nurse on the board- that was sorta cool. It was guy time – I'd push him to walk a few more tiles in the rehab center or take more stair climb. I thought man it feels like we are the low point but he's got a good strong heart if we can push through this gear we can pick up speed in recovery.

This past July, we're at the point where I just wanted to get him out of the house. I got him outside to smell the charcoal in the BBQ and get some air. While others might call the fumes toxic, I remember that smell from my youth of happiness and family. I wanted that smell to help him feel better even just for an evening. The last thing I remember him saying to me in his polite way was, "I think I'm going to go inside now". Both flames eventually went out.

I hope your Chevy starts right up when you get in it. I have a few family and friends up there - some of them might remind you of me. They will ride with you for a while.

Joey Fazio

#44

Joey Fazio - November 09, 2015 at 01:18 PM

FL

“ *Fran & Steve Lunny purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Kenneth F. Newkirk Jr..*



Fran & Steve Lunny - November 09, 2015 at 01:01 PM

NK

“ *Nadi and Joe Klanjac purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Kenneth F. Newkirk Jr..*



Nadi and Joe Klanjac - November 08, 2015 at 09:32 PM