

Porter French

The Rev. Herbert Porter French, a retired Congregational minister and former prison chaplain who lived at the Mayflower, died of a heart attack Monday, April 22, while visiting Grinnell Regional Medical Center where he served as a volunteer chaplain. He was 85.

The body has been donated to medical science. Services will be conducted at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 4, at the United Church of Christ - Congregational, with the Rev. Robert Molsberry officiating. Burial will take place later at Westfield Cemetery.

He was the son of Herbert and Margaret McKean French and was born Sept. 8, 1910, in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada. He was a 1931 graduate of Maryville College in Tennessee and graduated from the Chicago Theological Seminary in 1937.

He was married to Rebecca Conard Feb. 16, 1935, in Chicago.

Mr. French served as a minister

in Washington State, Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland, Washington, D.C., Kentucky, Tennessee, Illinois, Colorado and Ohio, moving to Grinnell in 1974 after his retirement.

He had served as a tutor for students at Grinnell Middle School. Mr. French was a well known local bicyclist, having participated in several RAGBRAI events and toured cross-country. He was a member of the United Church of Christ - Congregational.

Surviving are his wife, Rebecca of Grinnell; two daughters, Laura Bickers of Decatur, Ill., and Elizabeth Haegg of Stenestad, Sweden; one son, Dr. Alfred French of Sacramento, Calif.; one sister, Fronie Schweinler of Knoxville, Tenn.; eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister.

Memorial contributions in his name may be made to the United Church of Christ - Congregational lighting fund.

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