



## Rev. Lawrence Smith

John Lawrence Smith, 69, of Hurricane, a self-proclaimed "traveling United Methodist preacher, an observer of God's creation and a recorder of Mountain heritage," died Friday, Dec. 31, 2010, at Hubbard Hospice House in Charleston after a long illness. He was born Jan. 24, 1941, in Charleston to the late Stanley Lawrence and Margie Edwards Smith of Nitro. Smith is survived by his loving wife of 42 years, Nancy Hendricks Smith; children, Jay Lawrence Smith and Julianne (Danny) Smith Bowyer, both of Hurricane; grandchildren, Jasmine Bowyer and Danny Bowyer III; sisters Helen Harman of Luray, Va., Rebecca (Robert) Jordan, of Dallas, Texas; brother Richard (Robin) Stanley Smith, of St. Albans and many nieces, nephews and cousins. He is an alumnus of both Nitro High School ('58) and West Virginia University ('62). He received a Masters of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary in 1965. In 1966, Smith was ordained a pastor in the West Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church. His service to the Lord took him over most of the state starting in the Potomac Highlands of Pendleton, Hardy and Grant counties where he served eight churches, and concluding in 2001 with Montgomery and Boomer United Methodist churches in Fayette County. He was also the author of many books on the natural history of West Virginia including *The Potomac Naturalist*, *Blackwater Country*, *The High Allegheny* and *The Birds of Pendleton County*. He had many other articles on the state's history appear in *Wild, Wonderful West Virginia*. A memorial service for Smith is scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 8, at the Presbyterian Church of the

Covenant, 2438 U.S. Route 60, Hurricane. A reception to celebrate what would have been his 70th birthday will follow. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in Smith's name either to the Handlin Chapter of the Brooks Bird Club, 305 Mount View Dr., Charleston, WV 25314 or the Friends of Blackwater, 501 Elizabeth St., Charleston, W. Va., 25311.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Rev. Lawrence Smith*

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October 06, 2023 at 08:41 AM