

ROY & MARVEL WHEATON



Roy J. Wheaton was born July 23, 1910 in Grand Ledge, Michigan. Marvel M. Dean-Wheaton was born in Cooper Cliff, Ontario, Canada on May 1, 1906. Roy and Marvel met in Muskegon and married June 14, 1935 at Central United Methodist Church in Muskegon where they were members.

Roy was employed by Norge in Muskegon and Marvel was employed by Sealed Power in Muskegon. They had three children (Joyce, Verajean & Marvin) and then Marvel became a fulltime mom and housewife.

In January 1951 Roy and Marvel moved the family to Fruitport. After visiting many churches in the area, the family decided that Fruitport Congregational Church, located at the corner of Park & 6th, was their new church home. They became members on May 13, 1951.

The family was active in Sunday school, choir, and Roy served as custodian (with help from his wife & family). Roy also served as deacon and on the Official Board, sang in the men's quartet and was on the building committee for the new church.

Marvel was active in choir, Women's Fellowship and the WCTU of Muskegon County. Marvel was also a great cook and helped prepare many church suppers.

The children were active in Sunday school, choir, RSYF and Vacation Bible School.

Roy retired from custodial duties when the congregation moved to the new church. After working for Norge, Thompson Products in Fruitport and Star Machine in Spring Lake, Roy retired in 1980.

Roy & Marvel's retirement consisted of spending much time with their children Joyce Stapel (Leo & son Randy of Nunica); Verajeane Schaafsma (Kenneth & their children Jeannie & Kenneth of Grand Rapids) and Marvin Wheaton (Diane & their children Steven, Amy & Laura of Georgia). Marvin passed away on May 4, 2014.

In August of 1981, Marvel suffered a major stroke and Roy cared for her until his death on March 20, 1988. After Roy's death, Marvel lived with Verajeane & family in Grand Rapids until her death February 28, 1998.

Roy was known for helping out wherever he was needed. He helped Pastor Maynard Mills construct his home on Apple Drive in Fruitport. He also helped Cedric & Maudie Stressman build an addition on their home on Judson Road.