

Charles Irvin Presar was born January 25, 1932 in Gary, IN. After the death of his father in 1938, he moved to Wapakoneta, OH, with his mother, Alma Marie (Kellermeyer) Presar and his older sister, Marie Ann (Coil). His performing career began early as he was frequently asked to play piano and sing in Sunday school, church, and primary school. He continued his piano, organ, and voice studies throughout high school and college, graduating from Blume HS in Wapakoneta (1949) and Heidelberg College in Tiffin, OH (1952, BA). His teaching career began in Marion, OH, with certification in English, Speech, and Vocal Music. He served in the United States Army for two years and then continued his education by earning an MA in Speech and Theatre from Northwestern University, Evanston, IL (1958) including two seasons with Eagle's Mere Summer Stock Theatre. He then returned to teaching at Clay HS in Oregon, OH (1958-1963) where his duties included directing and producing two to three plays a year.

Chuck met and married Sandra in 1962. Together they participated in The Huron Playhouse Summer Stock Theatre. After she finished her masters at Bowling Green State University they moved to Long Island, NY, where they taught for just one semester. This teaching position was cut short for an opportunity in Flushing, NY to work together at the 1964 World's Fair where he managed the Hall of Free Enterprise for two years. Stephanie, their first child, was born in October 1964.

His high school teaching career resumed in Lorain, OH (1966-67) where Craig was born in June 1967. That fall the family moved to Buckhannon, WV where he began his college teaching career at West Virginia Wesleyan College with his appointment as Director of Theatre. Jennifer and Jeremy were both born in 1969 and were adopted that fall (Jenna) and in 1970 (Jere). At Wesleyan, Chuck taught all areas of stage production, acting, and directing, as well as Speech and Humanities. His collaborations with Larry Parsons and Larry Reed produced many memorable musicals and the yearly Children's Theatre spring tours were a favorite part of his job. During his tenure, he traveled to Japan with several colleagues to prepare for a new Humanities program, took sabbaticals in 1973-74 for post graduate work at the University of Denver, Boulder, CO, and in 1985-86 for post graduate work at the Herbert-Burgoff Studios in NYC, studying with Ufa Hagan. He was named Wesleyan's "Teacher of the Year" in 1990, acknowledging his true calling – teaching his students to be better human beings through theatre.

Chuck then retired from WVWC in 1990 to pursue professional acting and directing, working primarily in Pittsburgh, PA and Roanoke, VA. Until his health failed about 2005, he enjoyed performing, directing, and singing in several venues. He considered his roles in *The Prophets*, a series of monologues written and directed by Rev. Heather Murray Elkins, to be his most challenging. A few of his favorite roles were "Firs" in *The Cherry Orchard*, "Willie Loman" in *Death of a Salesman*, and "Tevya" in *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Cover art by Doris Bright

Commissioned by Sandra for Chuck's 70th birthday

honoring his love of all growing things: veggies, flowers, and people.



Celebrating the Life and Legacy of

Charles I. Presar

January 25, 1932 — April 15, 2012

June 9, 2012 • 6pm

Wesley Chapel • West Virginia Wesleyan College

Celebrating the Life and Legacy of
Charles I. Presar

Gathering Music
Greeting and Remembrance

Melody Meadows, organ
Rev. Jane Ellen Nickell,
WVWC '81

Reading from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
by William Shakespeare

Tommy Schoffler, '97

Chuck was working on this play when he and Sandra met, they worked together on a production at Wesleyan, and a production in Elkins was the last show they did together.

Charles Irvin Presar
1932 - 2012

Remembrance

Mike McNulty; Clay HS

Remembrance

Rev. Dennis ('69) and Juanita ('71) Hoffman

Musical Selection

Colorful Creator

Words by Ruth Duck

Prayer of Gratitude and Comfort
Larry Parsons, conductor

Music by Carlton Young
Rev. Bill Wilson, '72

This was his art:

He took the mute words of others,
gave them life,
and cast them in the arch of an imaginary world.

Remembrance

Rev. Heather Murray Elkins

Remembrance

Jeff Whitman, '78

Musical Selection

My Spirit Sang All Day

Words by Robert Bridges

Remembrance

David Tackett, '90

Musical Selection

Meg and Charlie Presar

Remembrance

Craig Presar, '89

Two Poems by Robert Frost

Betty Norvell

-Neal A. Coil (brother-in-law)

The Road Not Taken

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

Hymn No. 707

Hymn of Promise

by Natalie Sleeth

Blessing and Going Forth

Choir Members:

Soprano: Sarah Carr, Sarah Nale, Debra Dean Murphy, Jane Godwin
Alto: Jane Ellen Nickell, Libby Summers, Molly Summers
Tenor: Don Gardner, Jennifer Presar, Brett Miller
Bass: Joshua Stubbs, Craig Presar, David Tackett

*The Presar Family invites you to a reception in
Chambers Lounge immediately following the service.*