Father Hall Remembered

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Erik Wander/KMXT

A long-time Kodiak Episcopal priest passed away last week, and will be remembered fondly for his kindness, his service to the community and his sense of humor by those who knew him best.

Father Hugh Hall died last Thursday evening at the long-term Care Center at Providence Kodiak Island Medical Center at the age of 92. He had been a resident there since February, 2006.

Hall was a priest at Saint James the Fisherman Episcopal Church from 1969 until 1981 when he retired.

Current Saint James priest Father Paul Smith said Hall continued to be active in the church after his retirement and was a mentor to him when he first arrived in Kodiak in 1993. Smith called Hall and his wife Margaret important members of the community.

-- (Hall 1 47 sec. "Father was, until he was sick ... even after they pass on.")

Smith said that he will treasure the many lunches he shared with Hall. The two would meet about twice a month, during which Smith said he learned a lot about what it was like to live in Alaska in the early days. He said he will miss Hall's gift for storytelling.

-- (Hall 2 39 sec. "Like at lunch for example ... those kind of stories.")

Smith said that in the latter years of his life, Hall had lost much of the physical

presence and gregarious nature he was known for, but that traces remained and would reveal themselves on occasion.

-- (Hall 3 25 sec. "Then over the last ... in the eye and said, ‘church.'")

Two long-time members of the Kodiak community who have known Hall for slightly longer than Smith are Al and Barb Burch. They first met Hall in Seward in 1955 through Barb's father and were married by him four years later.

-- (Hall 4 25 sec. "In '59, when I came back ... really ties a good knot.")

The Burches maintained a relationship with Hall over the ensuing years in Kodiak. Al said he will remember Hall most for the spiritual support he provided the couple when they lost their niece in 1983 and for his sense of humor. Barb said she will remember bringing him flowers.

-- (Hall 5 14 sec. "One time he was in the ... a good sense of humor.")

Al and Barb Burch agreed that the loss of Father Hall is a loss for the community as well as for the Episcopal Church, both of which Barb referred to as Hall's extended family. Smith performed a funeral service for Hall at St. James the Fisherman Tuesday.

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