

## OBITUARY: THE REV. DAVID C. COOK



DAILY PRESS FILE PHOTO

The Rev. David C. Cook, executive director and chaplain of the Peninsula Crime Victims Council, is shown in March 2006 at his office of Christ United Methodist Church in Newport News. Cook, who died Thursday, started the organization to counsel victims of crime and the families of deceased crime victims.

# Hampton pastor was a giver

## Wife says 66-year-old felt 'we were all equal in God's eyes'

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NEWPORT NEWS — The Rev. David C. Cook spent most of life helping others — a trait that came naturally, his family and friends said Monday.

"He was the most godly person I've ever met," his wife, Barbra Cook, said. "He was amazing. He loved people just like Jesus loved people. He served people just like Jesus served people."

Cook, of Newport News, died Thursday after being ill for several months. He was 66.

Cook was the executive director and chaplain of the Peninsula Crime Victims Council. The council, which is no longer in operation, was a charitable non-profit organization. Cook started the organization in 2006 to counsel victims of crime and families of deceased crime victims.

"He felt there needed to be someone there to help them work through the struggle they were having and the healing process," his wife said.

Cook worked with children who had been molested, women in abusive relationships and family members of homicide victims, and he helped refugees acclimate. Aside from lending an ear, Cook often assisted his clients with paying rent and with home and car repairs. In a 2007 Daily Press article, Cook said he wouldn't consider taking a fee for those he helped.

"I have a woman whose fiancé was murdered, wants to come in and talk about it," Cook said. "I can't think about charging her — she's already hurting enough."

Barbra Cook said her husband treated everyone the same regardless of their status in society.

"We had a bishop in our home and some of the poor-

est people in our home," she said. "He felt that we were all equal in God's eyes — show them all that God loves them."

The couple, who met when they were 15, were married for 45 years. They have three children and five grandchildren.

Cook was pastor at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Hampton for 6½ years. He spent 25 years as an Army chaplain.

"In my opinion he exemplified the United Methodist Church's motto of open doors, open hearts and open minds," said Rick Jacobson, a church member. "He was open to all guests."

Jacobson said that Cook started English speaking courses and computer classes at the church. One of his hobbies was making computers, according to Jacobson, who said he would give them away to some of the people who completed his classes.

Robert and Deborah Boggs have lived next door to the Cooks since 1998. Deborah Boggs said they consider the Cooks family.

Through the years the couples spent time playing dominoes, hosting murder-mystery dinners and greeting trick-or-treaters together. They enjoyed laughing and pranking each other on birthdays and other occasions. The Boggses said they will miss the fun moments they shared.

"He really hated dandelions," Deborah Boggs said, chuckling. "We took him dandelions for his birthday and put a big poster on his garage door with all dandelions and gave him a recipe book about dandelions."

David Cook also was a good prankster, according to his neighbors.

He put 50 flamingos in the couple's yard when Robert Boggs turned 50.

"He was fun-loving," Deborah Boggs said.

A memorial service was held Sunday for Cook. A graveside service will be held for him in Alabama.

"Most of all, David was a servant of God," his wife said.

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