

# The Yellow Jacket

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## Special Edition

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Dr. Lawrence Stratton reflects on the life of Chancellor Thyreen, his friend and mentor  
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**CHAPEL**

The significance and history of Robert's chapel, according to people close to its construction  
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**HISTORY**

Revisit the Yellow Jacket's coverage of Thyreen's 23 year presidency  
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## "Restoring the Mission:" A life of service



Standing left to right in front of Eberly Library: Dr. Carolyn Eberly Blaney, President Timothy Thyreen and Dr. Robert Eberly, during the dedication ceremony in 1995  
*Image courtesy of the President's office*

## Waynesburg University honors Timothy R. Thyreen

MICAH LEITH  
Executive Editor

Faithful to the end. That's how Dr. Carolyn Thyreen described the life of her husband, Timothy R. Thyreen, who served as president of Waynesburg University for 23 years and chancellor for nine.

Chancellor Thyreen passed away at his home on May 16. He was 78 years old.

During his tenure as president, Waynesburg constructed 12 new buildings and transitioned from college status to University status.

For people that were close to him, however, the biggest accomplishment of his presidency was not a physical one; it was a philosophical one, a spiritual one.

"He was challenging the students to make a significant difference with their

lives through their education. And that meant serving God and serving people and that is the restoration, the bringing back of the Christian mission was what he was certainly the most pleased with," Dr. Thyreen said.

**--THE MISSION--**

According to Waynesburg University's website, the three focuses of the University's mission statement are "Faith, Learning, and Service," and Dr. Thyreen identified returning Waynesburg to that mission as the biggest accomplishment of Chancellor Thyreen's work at Waynesburg.

Waynesburg University's current president, Douglas G. Lee, agreed. To him, returning an institution to its original mission was a rare accomplishment.

"He took us back to the mission of 1849, the mission that was established in those early days by people of strong faith that trusted in God to bring us a better world through servant leadership," he said. "And taking us back to that point is really, really uncommon for an institution to go back to its founding mission."

According to Dr. Thyreen, the chapel is the physical representation of Waynesburg's return to the mission of faith and was the capstone for the Chancellor's legacy at Waynesburg University.

"When we came to the university or to the college in 1983, the name of Christ really was not spoken except in slurs. And so we knew our work was cut out for us and we never thought we believed we would reach that day that, that, that the name of Christ

would be lifted up," she said. "The building of that chapel was a wonderful affirmation of where we were as a university. And that was a great pleasure for me and for him as well, that forever that cross will be at the top of the highest point of the campus as a symbol and as a draw for students and the community to us to understand the message."

According to Dr. Thyreen, the university's educational standards also significantly increased during Chancellor Thyreen's tenure as President, and she believes that the university's emphasis on returning to the university's original mission is a primary cause for that.

"The students we would see and get to know each year that we could see that we were drawing more students who were serious about their

education, who were serious about their faith, and faculty that came," she said. "It was the faculty today that would say that they wouldn't be here if it wasn't a Christian

institution. So it was always a path that was constantly moving towards the direction of providing the kind of education for the students that it is today,"

THYREEN<<A2



Photo courtesy President's office

Painting of Thyreens by Everett Raymond Kinstler

## Memorial to be held in Roberts Chapel

KAELYN ELIEN  
For the Yellow Jacket

Eleven years ago, a yellow rose high on the Waynesburg campus. A beacon of hope and renewal, for not only the University, but the community as well.

The resurrection and celebration of life for Chancellor Thyreen will be held in Roberts Chapel; a capstone of his presidency, a vision that began 39 years ago when he stepped foot on Waynesburg's campus.

"I think the purpose of the chapel is really twofold," wife of Chancellor Thyreen, Dr.

Carolyn Thyreen, said. "One is to give honor to his life, and those who were apart of this, who prayed years before we came here that there would be a chapel on the campus, because it was not done alone."

Dr. Thyreen recalled the day the steeple went high into the open blue sky. Hundreds of people called, taking in the sights from all different points of views throughout the community. The dedication for Roberts Chapel would have been September 24th of 2011, lining up closely with the date of the memorial, September 25th.

"As a Christian, you see God's hands in everything," Dr. Thyreen said.

Roberts Chapel sits as the highest point of campus - 120 ft tall to the top of the cross, Dr. Thyreen said. Relentless faith and grit runs through the foundation of Roberts Chapel.

The service is to be a true medley of Chancellor Thyreen's family and the campus community. Scripture readings will be given by the Chancellors' grandchildren, including Luke Diel, an alum of Waynesburg University (2019). Worship will be led by

a close friend of the Thyreen Family, Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Bromberg. Bromberg was a part of the Chancellor's life since he arrived at Waynesburg.

Robin King will be a soloist performer. Like many of the other guest speakers, King has had a significant impact on the Waynesburg community and family of Chancellor Thyreen. King started in admissions at Waynesburg 29 years ago, and gradually moved up the ladder becoming Senior Vice president of Enrollment and University Relations, then departing

SERVICE<<A2

Waynesburg University requests the honor of your presence at

A Service of Witness to the Resurrection and Celebration of the Life of

### Timothy R. Thyreen

A formal worship service to honor the impactful life of our Chancellor and to celebrate the ways he faithfully served the Lord through this University.

September 25, 2022  
2 p.m.  
in Roberts Chapel

The service will be live streamed on the University website.  
[www.waynesburg.edu/live](http://www.waynesburg.edu/live)

Brief reception to follow in Marsh Center.

Image of memorial announcement sent to students via email