The Reverend Robert Shearer Ervin, M.Div., D.Min., came to College from the J.E.B. Stuart high School in Falls Church, Virginia, majored in English, a member of Foley House and Delta Upsilon, active with WDCR/WFRD and outing club, earned M.Div. from Harvard University in 1970, and later D.Min. from Bangor Theological Seminary in 1994. His first call was as the curate at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Natick, Massachusetts. Later he served as Assistant Rector at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Arlington, Virginia. Bob came to Dover in 1977 to serve as Rector of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church. There he led a spiritual community and was himself nurtured and enriched by the people of the parish until his retirement in 2007. After his retirement from parish ministry, he continued to serve as chaplain at both the Strafford County Correctional Facility and at Wentworth-Douglass Hospital. Bob encouraged community collaboration and development as a member of Dover Area Religious Leaders Association. He served on multiple boards, including the Ethics Board at Wentworth-Douglass Hospital, the Spiritual Care Advisory Board at the Strafford County Department of Corrections, the Board of Seacoast Hospice, the Board of Strafford Guidance Mental Health Center and as Vice President of the Board for Tri-City Co-op. Robert was instrumental in creating the My Friend's Place shelter, and in developing the annual Martin Luther King celebration for the city. Bob lived a rich, full life. He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. Robert was an avid reader and shared his passion for language, literature, writing and poetry with his family and close friends. Those who knew him will remember lively discussions of politics, history and ideas in juxtaposition to his reflective, contemplative side. His extensive collection of books was a reflection of his wide interests, from polar exploration to the Civil War, from science to theology. Other interests included playing tennis, spending time in the wilderness, riding his motorcycle and traveling with his wife and daughters. Bob died of pancreatic cancer at home on March 10, 2010. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Susan (Taff) Ervin; his daughters, Anne Murdoch and her husband, Andrew, of Cumberland, Maine; Caitlin Ervin of Brooklyn, N.Y.; Maggie Ervin of San Francisco, Calif.; and Tory Ervin of Cambridge, Mass. He was the grandfather of Ramona Ervin and Isla Murdoch and a brother to Keith Bruce Ervin of Seattle, Washington.

Reference: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/fosters/obituary-preview.aspx?n=robert-ervin&pid=140603506&referrer=2241>