

**XI. MEMOIRS**

*THE MEMORIAL ROLL*

In memory of those persons related to the Virginia Conference who have died in the last year.

With Memoir

**Name of Deceased Clergy, (Date of Birth), & Conference Status** **Date of Death**

**Retired Clergy:**

Leighton E. Harrell, Jr. (2/5/23)RE*	6/14/11
Augustus Benjamin Chidester, Jr. (9/19/24)RA	7/21/11
John W. Inge, Jr. (8/28/17)RE	9/1/11
Donald H. Traylor (4/16/35)RE	9/2/11
Jesus G. Long, Jr. (7/1/20)RE	9/5/11
William H. Acosta (6/11/29)RE †	9/13/11
Rendell Ray Rozier (5/11/50)RE	10/9/11
William R. Livermon, Jr. (5/7/38)RE	10/15/11
Barbara B. Barrow (1/21/40)RE	12/5/11
William Price Combs (9/3/23)RE	12/20/11
Eugene Spencer Condrey (1/3/26)RE	1/4/12
James A. McClung (3/23/43)RE	1/7/12
Louis A. Timmons (9/28/40)RE	2/10/12
Loyde M. Middleton (11/11/25)RE	4/3/12
Rudolph H. Kidd (12/27/27)RE †	4/7/12
Thomas W. Oder (09/28/18)RA †	5/24/12
Wayne H. Wiley (11/30/38)RE †	5/31/12

\*Reported after 2011 A. C.

**Key to Conference Status Abbreviations:**

RM - Retired Full Member	RA - Retired Associate Member
RL - Retired Local Pastor	RB - Retired Bishop
PE - Probationary Elder	PL - Part-time Local Pastor
FL - Full-time Local Pastor	RDM - Retired Diaconal Minister

† *Memoir not available at press time.*

*A brief obituary notice reprinted from the conference's official monthly newsmagazine, the Virginia United Methodist Advocate, has been included.*

**Retired Diaconal:**

Kitty C. Cox (4/30/19)RDM	2/23/12
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**Without Memoir**

**Name of Deceased Spouse and (Related Clergy's Name)** **Date of Death**

**Spouses of Clergy:**

Jeffrey Leonard Morris Hendrix (Rev. Mochel Morris)	6/28/11
Helen G. King (Rev. George E. King)	8/10/11
Rhea Kidd (Rev. Rudolph D. Kidd)	1/27/12
Margaret C. Sisson (Rev. Richard Sisson)	2/19/12

**Spouses of Deceased Clergy:**

Carolyn Watkins (Rev. William P. Watkins)	7/12/11
Leo Wise Atkeison (Rev. Gordon R. Atkeison)	8/1/11
Maxine Blake (Rev. Frank W. Blake)	10/8/11
Peggy Q. Spivey (Rev. Charles B. Spivey)	11/8/11
La Vearn C. Everett (Rev. Caleb Roy Everett, Jr.)	11/12/11
Gwyndolyn F. Taylor (Rev. Jack B. Taylor)	11/27/11
Emma L. Parker (Rev. Herbert T. Parker)	12/1/11
Thelma W. Livermon (Rev. William R. Livermon, Sr.)	12/2/11
Helen M. Simmons (Rev. Eugene Sowder)	1/7/12
Gaynelle W. Lovern (Rev. Thomas Y. Lovern)	1/20/12
Margaret A. Anderson (Rev. Marshall W. Anderson)	2/13/12
Lucille A. Roughton (Rev. A. Ernest Roughton)	3/9/12
Dorothy G. Crowe (Rev. Karl L. Crowe)	3/10/12
Helen H. Petre (Rev. William R. Petre)	3/16/12
Lois C. Gravitt (Rev. George Gravitt)	3/28/12
Sandy H. Tilley (Rev. Charles Tilley)	3/28/12
Tennie M. Brandon (Rev. John Brandon)	4/3/12
Shirley F. Amidon (Rev. Henry Amidon)	4/30/12
Charlotte S. Myers (Rev. John Myers)	5/1/12

**Lay Members**

*of the 2011-2012 Annual Conference  
who have died in the last year*

<b>Name, (Date of Death)</b>	<b>Church, District</b>
Cecil Corry (7/20/11) .....	Clarendon UMC Arlington District member AC 2011
Randolph Cooper Kendall, Jr. (10/24/11) .....	Wesley Memorial UMC Richmond District
Thomas MacLeod (11/19/11) .....	Bethany UMC, Hampton York River District member at-large AC 2012
Sidney Midgett (1/6/12) .....	McKendree UMC Elizabeth River District member AC 2011
Margaret Sisson (2/19/12) .....	Clarksbury UMC Rappahannock District member at-large AC 2011
Ray Mengerink (2/22/12) .....	Cave Spring UMC Roanoke District member AC 2012
Ennis Parrish (3/2/12) .....	Peace UMC Fredericksburg District alternate member AC 2012
Everett George Hopson (4/18/12).....	St. George's UMC Alexandria District member at-large AC 2011

**MEMOIRS****WILLIAM HENRY ACOSTA  
1929 - 2011**

The Rev. William Henry Acosta, 82, of Richmond, passed away peacefully on Sept. 13, 2011. He was born June 11, 1929, in Louisville, Ky., to Baldemero Merito Acosta and Nancy Lee Acosta. Bill grew up in Louisville.

He earned his B.A. from Kentucky Wesleyan College and his Master of Divinity from Emory Theological Seminary.

Bill married his college sweetheart, Marilyn Fitzpatrick, and they settled in the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church serving churches in Tidewater, Northern Virginia, Southwestern Virginia and Richmond.

Bill is survived by his wife, Marilyn; two daughters, Nancy (Grady) and Elizabeth (Rob); one son, Robert (Andrea); 10 grandchildren; one brother, Edgar Acosta (Raquel); and two sisters, Grace Acosta and Margaret Ellen Goldsborough.

Known for his sense of humor and playful nature, Bill was a genuine, giving, gracious individual who loved the Lord, his family and people of all natures. He will be missed.

**BARBARA B. BARROW  
1940 - 2011**

Barbara was born in Waynesboro, on Jan. 21, 1940. She graduated from high school when she was 15 years old, and she graduated from college at the age of 18. She received a Business degree from Davis-Elkins, a Master of Divinity from Eastern Mennonite Seminary and a Master of Education from James Madison University.

Barbara was ordained as an Elder in 1978. She served as Director of the Wesley Foundation at JMU, pastor of churches in Edinburg and Lynchburg, Superintendent of the Harrisonburg District and Conference Director of Higher Education and Campus Ministry. In that position, she was awarded the Frances Asbury award in 2001.

Barbara and I were married on Aug. 8, 1988, (8888) became our lucky number. Barbara retired in 2001 and moved to “The Villages” in Florida. She was diagnosed with cancer (Multiple Myeloma) in 2004, and after five surgeries, she was in remission until May of 2011. Quietly and peacefully in my presence, she went to be with the Lord the morning of Dec. 5, 2011.

Barbara had a strong warm spirit and turned to the Lord in times of crisis or adversity. She was known as “the lady with a smile” in our church in Florida. She deeply cared about others and often gave her time and contributions to care for the less fortunate. One year she wanted us to celebrate our wedding anniversary by helping out at the Food Kitchen in Richmond. Whenever there was a difficult situation in the church, she would say “what is the pastoral thing to do?” She was not bitter about her disease. When others would question, she always said “why not me?” She never complained.

She loved her church and the people she worked with. Her faith never wavered.

There were few women ministers in the Conference when Barbara entered. Many times a young woman minister would come up to her and say, “Thank you for paving the way for us. You are a true pioneer.” That she was. Emerson said, “It is not length of life, but depth of life.” Barbara gave depth to life. She will be dearly missed.

- Rev. Vernie Barrow Jr.

**A. BENJAMIN CHIDESTER JR.  
1924 - 2011**

When I first met Ben Chidester, I couldn't even pronounce his name, much less spell it. I wanted to meet him so he could come and visit my first husband who was dying of leukemia. But with Ben's busy schedule as minister of the Boone's Mill United Methodist Church and always helping others, he never had the opportunity to visit him in our home in Boone's Mill. But he always greeted him with warmth and enthusiasm after church services each Sunday. Meanwhile, my husband passed away, and a year later, Ben's wife, Joan, passed away.

Ben and I shared our sorrows and hopes and dreams. We married on St. Patrick's Day in 2001 and began a life of fun and adventure. On our first trip we flew to Alaska where I had lived for almost 40 years. That was followed by four more years of adventure in our Roadtrek mobile home with our little Maltese, Frisky. For his 80th birthday, Ben celebrated by taking an exciting rubber raft trip down the frigid gray waters of the Nenana River in Alaska.

In between years of traveling to Alaska, we traveled to New England and Canada where he would show me all the churches where he had ministered and the beautiful places where he had been.

Wherever we traveled, Ben never met a stranger. He was always so warm and had so many friends everywhere.

I was always so proud to be his wife and support him in his entire ministry. He was not only a minister but also a friend to all.

- Mrs. Dorothy (Dot) S. Chidester

**WILLIAM PRICE COMBS  
1923 - 2011**

How do you measure the life of a human being? Jesus said simple acts of love were the most important ways in measuring a life: visiting a stranger who soon becomes a friend; taking the time to get to know someone during a meal; listening to the stories of a person who longs to share them; joining in with the amazing imaginations of a precocious child. For a pastor, leading the church into full participation in God's kingdom is a fascinating pursuit. In the midst of that pursuit, it is good to take the time “to just be with people.” Bill Combs had that kind of time.

Bill was born on Sept. 3, 1923, to Sarah Goff Rucker Combs and Rev. Gilbert Reynolds Combs in Lexington, Ky.. His father transferred from the Kentucky Conference in 1928, and began serving churches in the Western North Carolina Conference. Bill started school in Charlotte, N.C., graduated from the Darlington School in Rome, Ga., cum laude, in 1940, and received his undergraduate (1944) and Divinity School (1948) degrees from Duke University. As an Elder in the Western North Carolina Conference, Bill served churches in Oak Ridge, Kona, Randleman and Sparta, before transferring to the Virginia Conference in 1961.

Bill and his wife, Jeanette Hester Combs (a native of Greensboro, N.C.), were married for 57 years. They raised three children: Steve of Salisbury, N.C.; Marian of Forest, Va.; and Jon of Washington, D.C.

In the late 1950s and early 60s, pastoral counseling was a new field, prompting Bill to move his young family to Virginia in order to continue counseling studies in the Washington, D.C. area. Because of his special love for people and his gift of listening, Bill's main focus in ministry evolved into counseling. In 1964, he became a charter member of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors.

In Virginia, Bill served Fletcher's Chapel in Passapatanzy (King George County); Carmel in Hague (Westmoreland County); Raleigh Court in Roanoke; the Buchanan Circuit (Botetourt County); Highland Park in Roanoke; Monroe-Bethany in Monroe; Victoria Church in Victoria; and in retired status, the Montvale Circuit (Bedford County). His pastoral ministry spanned 44 years.

Bill and Jeanette retired in Roanoke, and during this time Bill continued his interest in learning American Sign Language. He was a member of the Virginia Conference Commission on Disabilities and the Star City Hearing Loss Association in Roanoke. Bill loved speaking and teaching sign language to anyone who was interested. He was also a serious student in the area of Palestinian and Israeli relations. He prayed daily for peace and for Palestinian statehood.

During Bill's Memorial Service on Dec. 23, 2011, a portion of a letter written by a former colleague was read: “There is a quality of companionship which I have found with you that I have found with few colleagues. Companion – cum panis – breaking bread with and seeing the One who shares our human darkness. If one of my children were to die, I would call you and tell you of that. Yours would be among the first four or five calls, simply because I know that you would understand and just be there with me. You would not try to make excuses for what God had done or failed to do.”

So to Bill – husband, father, pastor, colleague, and friend – thank you for all the years of companionship.

-Rev. Steve Combs

**EUGENE SPENCER CONDREY  
1926 - 2012**

We cherish the last seven words of Jesus spoken from the cross, the last being “It is finished.” Likewise, we are touched by the last words of the late Peter Marshall as the medics were taking him to the hospital and he looked up at his wife, Catherine, and said, “I'll see you in the morning.” Eugene Spencer Condrey prayed from his death bed, “Lord heal me or take me.” On Sunday he said to Evelyn Condrey, his wife, “I'm not going to be here come Tuesday.” She asked, “Where are you going?” He answered, “I'm going to heaven.” Early Wednesday morning a nurse entered his room, and the body was there, but the Spirit had gone to heaven as he predicted – God had both taken him and healed him. A funeral service was held at Whitten's Timberlake Chapel on Jan. 7, 2012.

Eugene Spencer Condrey was born in Richmond, the son of Richard and Hazel Condrey. After some years working in the business community, he heard the call of God to enter the Methodist ministry. He began his ministry in 1977, becoming an Ordained Elder in

1986. Being filled with the Holy Spirit, he served the following churches, all in the Lynchburg District: Emmaus-Diamond Hill, Gladys Charge and Concord. He retired in 1993. In retirement he served Forest, Peakview, Shiloh and Wesleybury.

Not only did Gene endear himself to his parishioners he also served them faithfully for 29 years, from 1977 to 2006, until his health began to fail. His greatest love was for Jesus Christ, and he preached stirring sermons inviting people to come to Christ and surrender their lives to him. He wanted people to love Christ as much as he loved Christ.

Each year during the 1980s, the Evangelism Committee of the Lynchburg District held a training session weekend for any lay person who was interested in learning how to win souls for Christ. Gene, having been so successful in bringing people to Christ, taught one of the classes. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Gene touched the lives of many people and inspired them to share the message of salvation with their home church. This was just one of the many ways Gene used to share Christ with others. No minister was ever more committed to his calling than Gene Condrey.

Yes, Gene was a minister of unusual talent and always brought joy, hope and gladness to all who knew him. Of course, there is emptiness in the hearts of his beloved wife and family, as well as the many that have been touched by this humble man of God. Yet his powerful influence and messages will live on in the hearts of those who remain.

*- Rev. C. Douglas Pillow, Retired, Lynchburg District*

### **KITTY CLINE COX**

**1919 - 2012**

Kitty Cline Cox, 92, of Richmond, entered into eternal rest on Feb. 23, 2012. She was preceded in death by her parents, Dr. John Cline and Kitty Plott Cline; her brother, Rev. John Maxwell Cline; and her husband of 50 years, John Finley Cox. She is survived by her two loving daughters, Pamela Cox Wilson (Robert) of Ormond Beach, Fla., and Kitty Cox Witthoefft (Gary) of Richmond. She was adored by her six grandchildren, Paige, Robbie and Matt Wilson, Erin Witthoefft Irwin (Bart), Lauren Witthoefft Baggett (Chip) and Adam Witthoefft; her four great-grandchildren, Campbell and Alexis Irwin, and Will and Nora Kate Baggett; her sister, Evelyn Cline Roach of Lexington, N.C.; and her sister-in-law, Alice Stewart Cline; four nieces and one nephew.

The oldest daughter of a Methodist minister, she was born in Webster, N.C., and raised in many different towns throughout North Carolina. She received her undergraduate degree from Greensboro College and did graduate work at Duke University and Northwestern University.

She began her long career in Christian Education at Trinity United Methodist Church in Durham, N.C., where she met and married her husband. Moving to Charleston, S.C., she worked at John Wesley United Methodist Church and later at Stratford Hills United Methodist Church in Richmond. The last church she served was Trinity United Methodist Church in Richmond, where she was a member. She was active in the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church and the Richmond District as Diaconal Minister in The Virginia Conference. In addition to her church work, she was devoted to her family and friends. In her later years, the residents and staff at The Hermitage at Cedarfield became her family as well.

### **LEIGHTON ERNEST HARRELL JR.**

**1923 - 2011**

Leighton Ernest Harrell Jr. was born on Feb. 5, 1923, in Richmond, to the late Rev. Leighton E. Harrell Sr. (Ret. Col., US Army) and Gertrude C. Harrell. The family moved several times during his childhood as his father served churches in the Virginia Methodist Conference and as Chaplain at the CCC camps in the Shenandoah Valley. Leighton Jr. graduated from Andrew Lewis High School in Salem. After high school, he started as a freshman at University of San Antonio, to be near his family at the base where his father was stationed as an Army Chaplain. Following his father's transfer to the Washington D.C. area, Leighton transferred to and earned his B.A. from the University of Maryland, College Park. He then earned a Master of Divinity from Duke University.

One of his first churches was in New Castle as a part of circuit appointment. During his time in southwest Virginia, he also worked with the Wesley Foundation at Virginia Tech. His last church in the Virginia Conference was in Herndon. From there, he joined the U.S. Army as a chaplain in 1950. He served in Korea during the conflict, describing his arrival in Korea on a blustery day in February as one of the coldest days of his life. He was then stationed in Germany for several years.

After leaving the Army in the late 1950s, he worked toward a Ph.D. in Marriage & Family Counseling from Michigan State University. During his time at MSU, he served as a supply minister for several churches in Michigan. He then taught psychology and counseling at Indiana University of Pennsylvania in Indiana, Penn. and Eastern Carolina University in Greenville, N.C. In the 1960s and early 1970s, he worked as a counselor for the Veterans Administration in Salisbury, N.C. and Perry Point, Md. While working for the Veterans Administration, he taught as an adjunct professor at Rowan-Cabarras Community College in N.C. and Harford Community College in Maryland.

In the late 1970s, he served at Gatch Memorial United Methodist Church in Baltimore, Md. as associate pastor, while running a private marriage and family counseling practice.

He was also very active in multiple Masonic organizations in Maryland, holding the position of National Chaplain for the Sojourners in the early 1980s. In the mid-1980s, he started a finance company, which he continued to operate until 2007. During this time, he occasionally served as visiting minister for churches whose ministers were on vacation or attending conference.

After moving back to Roanoke Valley in 2008, he began attending Grace United Methodist Church in Roanoke. It was here that he returned to preaching on a regular basis, as a Pastor Emeritus, assisting the Rev. Dick Jones. He was active in the Roanoke VFW chapter, acting as chaplain at various events.

Throughout the years, no matter where he lived, he was an avid sports fan and enjoyed playing golf. His favorite teams included the Duke Blue Devils, Maryland Terrapins, Baltimore Orioles, Baltimore Ravens and the former Baltimore Colts (before they left Baltimore). Upon moving to Roanoke, he enjoyed attending Salem Red Sox games. A lover of music as well, he attended the Baltimore Symphony frequently during his time in Maryland and the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra Pops series after moving to Roanoke. He was also a skilled bridge player, having been taught by a friend in the Army while stationed in Germany.

Leighton preached his last sermon on Easter Sunday in April 2011. He died on June 14, 2011, at Roanoke Memorial Hospital. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, William Guy Harrell. Survivors include his daughters, Leigh M. (Harrell) Williams and her husband, Rob, and Lindy E. Harrell; and brothers, Stanley G. Harrell and wife, Lucy, and Earl S. Harrell and wife, Kitty.

*- Leigh (Harrell) Williams*

### **JOHN WESLEY INGE JR.**

**1917 - 2011**

The Rev. Dr. John Wesley Inge Jr. was transferred to the Church Eternal on Sept. 1, 2011. He was born on Aug. 28, 1917, in Cifax, the youngest of five sons of John Wesley Inge II and Oneida Wingfield.

Dr. Inge received a Bachelor's Degree from Lynchburg College, a Master of Divinity degree from Duke Divinity School, a Master of Arts from Presbyterian School of Education, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond.

Dr. Inge was an elder in the Virginia Conference, serving churches in Huddleston, Annandale, Concord Circuit, Stanleytown and Mechanicsville.

He was Director of the Wesley Foundation at Old Dominion University from 1960 until 1966. He accepted an offer from Dr. C. Ralph Arthur, president of Ferrum College, to join the faculty in 1966. He taught courses in World Religions and Biblical Literature until 1982. The C.P. Minnick Award for Excellence in Religious Studies was established in his honor at Ferrum. An endowed scholarship was established by Mr. M.L. Griffiths in 1997. The Methodist Room in Stanley Library honors his parents, John Wesley Inge and Oneida Wingfield Inge.

Following his retirement from Ferrum College, he served as a supply pastor at Burnt Chimney, Pleasant Grove and St. James United Methodist churches.

For many years he taught short courses in the Virginia School of Christian Mission, He was a representative of the Redbird Mission in Kentucky. He was active in many areas of service in Franklin County. He was named a life member of the Franklin County Historical Society. He held several positions in the Carilion Franklin Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. During 40 years in the Lions Club, he received the Melvin Jones Fellow Award. His main hobby was attending gem and mineral shows in North Carolina and Virginia. He admitted that he was a "rock hound." Many citizens of Franklin County affirmed, "You could always depend on Wes."

He simply taught and followed the gospel.

*-excerpt from the obituary written by Rev. James S. Angle*

### **RUDOLPH DOYLE KIDD**

**1927 - 2012**

Rudolph Doyle Kidd, 84, of Williamsburg, passed away on April 7, 2012. He was preceded in death by his wife, Rhea Kidd, and his son, Steve Kidd.

Rudolph devoted his life to the service of God, serving as a United Methodist Church minister for 46 years, primarily pastoring churches in the Virginia Conference, including Chestnut Memorial United Methodist Church in Newport News.

The Rev. Kidd was a graduate of Emory University in Atlanta, Ga., earning a Master of Divinity. He also attended seminary in Richmond.

Throughout his years of ministry, Rudolph married many couples and baptized many children, taking great joy in baptizing his own children and grandchildren into the faith. Serving by his side was his loving wife and servant of God for 61 years, Rhea, whom he now joins for eternity. He was also a loving and devoted father to his two sons.

The Rev. Kidd was an avid vegetable gardener and in his younger years, an avid sportsman, including baseball, swimming and basketball. He is survived by his son, David Kidd, and David's wife, Judy; grandchildren, Jane and Mary; and his daughter-in-law, Eileen Kidd.

### **WILLIAM R. LIVERMON, JR.**

**1938 - 2011**

To the glory of God and in loving memory of "Bill Tom" Livermon, son of the late "Bill" Livermon, pastor, Virginia Conference, and of the late Thelma Livermon, cinematographer of "Justice and the Circuit Rider."

The first Call of God came to Bill Tom at age 17 when he was a senior at Martinsville High School. Changing his goals from architecture to ministry, he graduated from Randolph-Macon College and went on for a Master of Divinity degree from Duke Divinity School. Meanwhile, he had married Miriam Rothwell, started a family and served six happy years at three Danville District appointments.

The second Call came during those years as the couple agreed, "We'll go where You send us," expecting to go to the mission field.

The third Call became specific at Annual Conference after the Foreign Missions report one evening and the Military Chaplains' report the next morning. Bill Tom wrote to the Commission on Chaplains: "I feel very strongly that I have been called to volunteer for a

tour of active duty as a Chaplain in the Army.” He was one of five Methodists in the country to be accepted that year.

Bill Tom served God and country for over 20 years, being the recipient of many miracles of provision, protection and guidance. He ministered in communities and on Army installations worldwide – in Vietnam, the United States, Germany and Panama. Some of his assignments were to the 41st Signal Battalion, the 39th Signal Battalion, post chapels, the 6th Armored Cavalry Division and the 101st Airborne Division. Among his awards and achievements were Army Commendation Medal with two oak-leaf clusters, Meritorious Service Medal with one oak-leaf cluster, Bronze Star and the earned privilege of training for and wearing the highly-prestigious Air Assault Badge. Throughout, Bill Tom matured in the Lord, was liberated in the spirit, and grounded in the Father.

Forced into early retirement by his health, Bill Tom experienced many more miracles of provision, direction and survival. His warm love for people and his strong character, as well as his gift of wisdom, blessed all who crossed his path. Sent home to die, he was to have another 25 years of service for the Kingdom as chairman of the board for Teamwork Ministries, chaplain for Maritime Ministries, and sought out by many for guidance and counseling.

Bill Tom enjoyed music – playing the piano and his Irish folk harp; travel – learning French and traveling in France and Israel. He really liked cars and enjoyed everything about the water – the beach, swimming and especially sailing. His favorite Bible verse was “Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” (Isaiah 40-31.)

### **JENUS GREENE LONG JR. 1920 - 2011**

Jenus Greene Long Jr., was born near Seaboard, N.C., on July 1, 1920, the first of four children of Jenus Greene Long and Annie Laura Gay Long. He grew up on his father’s farm. His family attended Concord Methodist Church.

J.G. attended N.C. State in 1937 for a year and later Chowan College. He graduated from High Point College in 1944. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Westminster Theological Seminary in 1946.

His seminary shared a campus with Western Maryland College, where he met Vernelle Cullen Ports, daughter of Rev. George W. Ports. He married her on Sept. 27, 1946. They had a son, Paul Victor, in 1948, and a daughter, Patricia Vernelle, in 1951.

In nearly 39 years of ministry in the Virginia Methodist Conference, J.G. served pastorates in Monterey, Cape Charles, Thaxton, Pleasant Valley, Forestville, Onancock, Virginia Beach, Petersburg, Culpeper, Staunton, Arlington and Stuart. He also served on the Conference Program Council, the Regional Board of the Virginia Methodist Homes, and the Christian Social Concerns Commission.

J.G.’s hobbies were deer hunting, vegetable gardening, travel and the stock market. He took his family on camping trips to more than 30 states, including trips to Florida, Nova Scotia and the 1962 Seattle World’s Fair.

In retirement J.G. took care of his mother in Roanoke Rapids during the last years of her life. She left him her house, where he lived for more than 20 years before moving to Elmcroft, a Raleigh assisted living and memory care facility, four years ago.

J.G. died at the age of 91 on Sept. 5, 2011, at the Hospice of Wake County inpatient facility in Raleigh, N.C., where he received wonderful care. His funeral was held in Concord United Methodist Church, where he grew up. His ashes were buried in Seaboard, near his parents’ graves, as he wished.

### **JAMES ANDREW MCCLUNG 1943 - 2012**

The Rev. James Andrew McClung was led home by the angels on Jan. 7, 2012. He became an instant member of the celestial choir. He was born March 23, 1943, in Norfolk to Blair and Lillian McClung. He received his diploma from Granby High School, Norfolk, in 1961. He went to Ferrum College where he completed an A.A. in 1963. He would later graduate from Emory and Henry College with a B.A. in 1968. He received his M. Div. from Duke Divinity School in 1972. He acquired an Accredited Clinical Pastoral Education (A.C.P.E.) Certificate from the UVA Hospital in 1973 and received a Master of Special Education from VCU in 1983.

Jimmy became a member of the Virginia Conference in 1969 when he became a probationer and deacon in the church. He served the Stem-Bullocks Charge on the Durham District while a student at Duke Divinity School. During this time, Jim served as a student chaplain at both Duke Medical Center and Murdoch School and Hospital for Mentally Handicapped Persons. He did his internship as a chaplain at the UVA Hospital from 1972-1973. He was the pastor at Rustburg UMC from 1973-1979. He then served as the director for the Virginia United Methodist Agency for the Retarded (VUMAR) from 1979-1993. In 1985, he started Camp Rainbow Connection for mentally handicapped youth and adults which still continues today. He returned to the parish ministry serving Ramsey Memorial UMC from 1993-1996, Laurel Hill UMC from 1996-2003 and Miles Memorial UMC from 2003-2005. Once again he was called to a conference level position as the director of Church and Community Relations for the Virginia United Methodist Homes Inc. and served there for five years.

He always felt that God had blessed his ministry and provided many opportunities for spiritual growth in his own life. The greatest joy for him was to know that God used him and his God-given gifts wherever possible. His life was characterized as one of compassion for all people including those who some would deem unlovable. Jimmy loved his family, and it was said that Betty, his wife of 45 years, was the anchor for this larger than life ship of human compassion and infinite talent. Receiving God’s miracles several times in his life, he was quick to tell others never to give up. He never gave up while fighting his courageous battle against Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma. Throughout his journey he continued to touch others and spread God’s word.

Jimmy was definitely one of a kind, and when he was born, the mold was thrown away! He was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, uncle and friend. We will all treasure the legacy of life which he left for us. Above all, we will remember the

sparkle in his eyes, his boisterous laughter and all the love he spread through genuine hugs. We love you Jimmy and know we will see you again someday. We will carry you in our hearts forever! Love you more.

*-Betty McClung, Walt McClung, Tondra McClung Atkins*

### **LOYDE MIDDLETON 1925 - 2012**

The Rev. Loyde Middleton, 86, died in Laurinburg, N.C. after battling Alzheimer’s Disease for many years. He was born at home outside of Marked Tree, Ark. in 1925 to the late Alma and Grady Middleton. Initially, he received his education at Martin Junior College and Middle Tennessee State. He went on to get a BA at Tennessee Technical University and ultimately received a Master of Religious Education at Candler School of Theology at Emory University.

He was “called to preach and missionary service” as a junior in high school. After graduating from high school in 1943, he began serving as a student minister in the Tennessee Conference until 1947. He joined the Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church as a special term missionary to Bolivia (1947 to 1950). He was ordained during the Tennessee Annual Conference in 1951.

In March of 1951, while studying at Scarritt College in Nashville, Tenn., he met Sarah Louise Locke (a short-term missionary to Brazil) and married her in June of 1951. Together they returned to Bolivia where they served as commissioned missionaries until 1968. After their return to the United States, they continued to serve The United Methodist Church.

In June of 1968, he joined the Virginia Conference, where he served Ivey Memorial, Barton Heights, Crenshaw, Grace, Ferebee-Halsted and Ferebee-Halsted/St. Luke’s United Methodist churches. He was a member of the Board of Missions and District Secretary (1969-1972), Elected Member (1972-1976). He also served as Core Interpreter for the General Board of Global Ministries, consultant for Committee on Churches in Transition and Virginia Commission on United Methodist Information (1971-1976).

If I could use only a few words to describe my father, it would be courageous and faithful. Even when faced with the adversarial forces of the Bolivian military during a revolution in 1964, he stood his ground protecting the lives of the radio station staff, the broadcasting equipment, and even demanding the return of stolen property, which was taken during the coup. I remember his courage when, while serving in Blackstone, he and Mom were attacked and shot by a woman to whom they had offered transportation and support. He wore the scar on his face from the gun shot wound without boasting nor malice. After his retirement from the Virginia Conference, while living in Huntington, W.Va., his courage and his faith once again propelled him into danger when he tackled and fought off an assailant who was holding a knife to the church secretary’s throat. He never felt he was a hero, but only a servant of God.

If only we could all have the courage to live our faith every day, as he did, and face adversity with courage knowing that God stands with us.

*-Patty Middleton, daughter*

### **THOMAS W. ODER 1918-2012**

The Rev. Thomas W. Oder, 93, of Reedville, died on May 24, 2012. The Rev. Oder served in the United Methodist Virginia Conference from 1961 to 2007. During that time, he served as pastor at Mount Moriah United Methodist Church, White Hall; Bethany United Methodist Church, Reedville; Asbury United Methodist Church, Foxwells; and several others.

He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Joy McNeil Oder; sons, Kenneth W. Oder and his wife, Cindy, of California, Larry E. Oder and his wife, Debby, of Troy, Robert H. Oder, and his wife, Debbie, of Reedville; one brother, Harry A. Oder Jr. of North Carolina; sister-in-law, Tina McNeil of Rhode Island; eight grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

### **RENDELL RAY ROZIER 1950 - 2011**

Born May 11, 1950 in Cleveland, Ohio, Rendell Ray Rozier was the middle child and oldest son of John and Mildred Rozier.

In school Rendell was a straight-A student, a member of the Cleveland All-City Orchestra and earned a football scholarship to Ohio State University. But after one year he decided college was not for him, and he enlisted into the United States Navy.

Completing boot camp at Great Lakes Naval Recruit Center in 1969, Rendell embarked on a six-year journey aboard the aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy as an Electronic Technician. At the height of the Vietnam War, the Kennedy mostly operated in the Mediterranean. Rendell was thrilled by the chance to travel (on bicycle!), and he immersed himself in the European cultures.

Finishing his contract with the Navy in 1975 and finally ready for college, Rendell matriculated through Randolph Macon College and then pursued a Master of Divinity from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Georgia. Here he also found an opportunity to pursue his lifelong passion for classical music as a member of Candler Choraliers and the Glenn Church choir. While in Georgia, he worked as a chaplain for the Egleston Children’s Hospital. He also met his future wife, fellow student Annette Braden, who coincidentally happened to be from Germany.

Following seminary and newly married, Rendell accepted an appointment as the pastor of Galloway United Methodist Church in Falls Church. After a successful pastorate of 2½ years he returned to his earlier love, the Navy. When asked why, he would say, “I miss the sailors.”

He rejoined the Navy, but this time in the position of an officer and a chaplain (and, yes, a gentleman too) – a position which allowed him the most contact and influence with the sailors. The Navy again sent him and his family traveling, to duty stations in San Diego, Okinawa (Japan), Groton and Great Lakes. A daughter, Julia, was born in 1986 and a son, Benjamin, was born in 1989. In 1994, the Navy selected

Rendell for one year of Ethics studies at the Interdenominational Seminary at Berkeley.

Rendell saw it all – the range of human suffering on ships and submarines, in hospital rooms, mental health wards, prisons and homes. He saw the victims of fires, ship wrecks, car crashes and murder. His military training served him well, or he might not have been able to handle the rigorous work schedules and physical demands of the job. He worked tirelessly to bring real help, love and hope to people. When challenged to justify how he could be part of a war machine as a Christian, he responded that he wasn't there to bless the military mission. He was there to represent God's unconditional love in an often harsh and unforgiving environment. Of course, he witnessed also the joys of new marriages, new babies, promotions, achievements and retirements. Rendell was a generous department officer and well loved by his office staff.

Rendell always resisted being defined by others. He believed that Christian love transcended all differences between people, and he defied anyone who would tell him that he should or should not do something because he was African American.

Toward the end of his career, Rendell could no longer ignore worsening health problems, which ultimately led to his retirement. Long hospital stays ensued but Rendell was determined to see his children commence their lives, and he even managed to travel across the county to see his oldest walk across the stage of Harvard College.

A chaplain to the end, Rendell worked to learn the names of the nursing staff that cared for him and apologized for being such an inconvenience. He is survived by his wife, daughter, son, parents, sister, brother, and many other family members.

Rendell touched the lives of many, was loved by us all and will be forever missed.

*-Annette Rozier*

### **LOUIS ALVIN TIMMONS**

**1940 - 2012**

Lou was born in Dagsboro, Del. on Sept. 28, 1940, and died Feb. 10, 2012. He was the son of the late Jack and Evelyn Timmons Simpson and his stepfather, Edward Simpson.

Lou had an interesting life and career. He was a student at Wesley College before leaving to join the Navy and being sent to the west coast. As a Vietnam veteran, he then returned to become a shop steward for the Teamsters Union, graduated from Virginia Wesleyan College, and went on to Wesley Seminary. He served Saint Mark Church in the Portsmouth District, White Post Charge in the Winchester District, Mount Vernon in the Peninsula Conference (Sharptown, Md.), and Cheswold Charge in Delaware. Back in Virginia, he served Mead Memorial in the Lynchburg District, Highland Park and Prices Fork in the Roanoke District, Atlantic UMC on the Eastern Shore, and he spent one year in Brunswick County at the Philadelphia Charge before he retired. He served the Melfa church in retirement, and his last preaching was at the Bloxom Community Nazarene Church.

He had a gift for preaching the Word, and he was dedicated to helping those who needed help along the way. He was blessed to be co-director at Casa Esperanza along with Carmen Colonna. He loved bringing people into the church from the streets. It frequently got him in trouble.

Lou never wanted to be president, but he always wanted to be dictator for a week. He was earthy, and there was still a lot of sailor and teamster in him. He owned two boats and a camper, and he was at home on the water except when the Coast Guard had to go out and find him on a couple of occasions. The boats and the camper were donated to Light House Ministries for the homeless when he could no longer go out to sea.

The Rev. Timmons is survived by his wife and best friend of 42 years, Sylvia Faye Morse Timmons; his sons, Eric J. Timmons of Winchester and Edward S. Timmons, his wife Terri and one grandson Jakob, all of Winchester; one brother, J. Robert Timmons of Brazil; five sisters-in-law, Sandi Morse and husband Brandon, Robin Shipp Morse, Tami Morse, Gloria Persinger and husband Melvin, and Rose Morse Lawson; brother-in law, Donald Ray Morse and wife, Sandra; and several nieces and nephews.

*-Sylvia Faye Morse Timmons*