

**XI. MEMOIRS***THE MEMORIAL ROLL*

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

With Memoir

<i>Name (birth date) Status</i>	<i>Date of Death</i>
<b>Retired Clergy:</b>	
James A. Edmonds (12/11/36)RE.....	June 19, 2012
James W. Meredith (03/05/38)RA .....	June 29, 2012
William T. Kessler (11/09/28)RE.....	July 21, 2012
Arthur L. Holmes (11/04/25)RE.....	August 3, 2012
Ira L. Andrews III (01/13/38)RE .....	August 16, 2012
James B. Grimmer (8/25/37)RE.....	August 30, 2012
George G. Henley (09/08/24)RE .....	September 25, 2012
Robert C. Painter (08/05/18)RE .....	November 5, 2012
Oliver M. Unruh (08/03/28)RE.....	November 27, 2012
Paul P. Campbell (04/16/24)RE .....	December 21, 2012
Ronald R. Jones (12/04/40)RE.....	January 22, 2013
Donald N. Fridinger (01/06/28)RE.....	February 4, 2013
William C. Taylor Jr. (01/08/27)RE.....	February 14, 2013
Harry L. Kidd Jr. (10/08/25)RE .....	February 19, 2013
Earl D. Martin (09/21/26)RE .....	February 22, 2013
Herbert E. Baker (03/21/33)RE .....	February 23, 2013
Terry J. Burley (12/05/15)RE .....	February 26, 2013
Carl E. Manear (05/17/19)RE .....	March 21, 2013
Edgar U. Hoover (08/23/15)RE .....	March 28, 2013
Robert C. Vangilder (08/27/30)RL.....	March 29, 2013
Glenn G. Williams (10/01/25) RE.....	March 30, 2013
Wrightson S. Tongue (07/24/16)RE.....	May 2, 2013
Edward C. Johnson (05/31/39)RA .....	May 3, 2013

**Key to Conference Status Abbreviations:**

RE - Retired Elder	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

**Retired Bishop:**

Bishop Leontine T. Kelly..... June 28, 2012

**Active Clergy:**

James A. Pace (07/07/62)PD .....

July 1, 2012

Michael J. Putnam (07/07/40)PL.....

July 7, 2012

Anthony Busic (02/03/63)FE .....

July 23, 2012

Albert C. Lynch (06/02/47)FE .....

December 8, 2012

Lesley Trail (12/07/54)FE .....

February 28, 2013

**Without Memoir**

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

**Spouses of Clergy:**

Margaret E. Anderson (Rev. Joseph Anderson) .....

July 20, 2012

George A. Madison (Rev. Doris B. Madison) .....

August 17, 2012

Walter B. Minter (Rev. Barbara Minter).....

April 17, 2013

Elsie Couchman (Rev. James Couchman).....

April 26, 2013

Mary Ann Minnick (Bishop C. P. Minnick) .....

May 7, 2013

**Spouses of Deceased Clergy:**

Alice B. Nelson (Rev. Gordon Nelson)* .....	February 19, 2012
Mildred Carter (Rev. Joseph Carter).....	July 11, 2012
Billie Jo Sanders (Bishop Carl Sanders).....	August 23, 2012
Sarah L. Middleton (Rev. Loyde M. Middleton) .....	September 5, 2012
Joyce Luck (Rev. James W. Luck).....	September 25, 2012
Frances Callis Nave (Rev. Lester D. Nave) .....	October 26, 2012
Miriam R. Blevins (Rev. Reuben W. Blevins Jr.).....	November 12, 2012
Juanita E. Basham (Rev. Earle E. Henley) .....	December 3, 2012
Emma G. Mead (Rev. Forest H. Mead) .....	January 9, 2013
Merle B. Yow (Rev. Carl J. Yow).....	January 26, 2013
Verda P. Shumate (Rev. Lawrence E. Pritchett) .....	March 10, 2013
Emma L. Laine (Rev. Amos L. Laine).....	April 17, 2013
Hazel G. White (Rev. Hubert A. White).....	April 30, 2013

\*Not Reported at 2012 A. C.

Updated 06/05/2013

**Lay Members**

*of the 2012-2013 Annual Conference who died in the last year*

Eloise Williams (7/20/11)..... Fairview UMC, Lynchburg District

**MEMOIRS**

**IRA LEE ANDREWS III**

**1938 - 2012**

Ira Lee Andrews, III, a native of Petersburg, died on Aug. 16, 2012.

Ira earned Phi Beta Kappa academic and Omicron Delta Kappa leadership honors as a Randolph-Macon College student and graduated from the College in 1959. He earned a Master of Divinity Degree at Emory University's Candler School of Theology. He served Centenary United Methodist Church in Jarratt, before returning to Randolph-Macon College in 1963 as Professor of Religious Studies and added duties of Dean of Students in 1973.

He retired from Randolph-Macon College in 2006, and was awarded an honorary Doctorate in Humanities in 2010. In 2011, the college dedicated a new residence hall for freshmen in his honor.

As an ordained United Methodist minister, he served on numerous conference boards and committees throughout the years. Ira loved music all his life and sang in the choir at Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church, where he also was a Disciple Bible Study and Sunday school teacher.

**HERBERT EUGENE BAKER**

**1933 - 2013**

The Rev. H. Eugene Baker, retired pastor of the Virginia Conference, passed into eternity on Feb. 23, 2013, at the Winchester Memorial Hospital. Rev. Baker was born March 21, 1933, in Needmore, W.Va., a son of the late Nelson H. and Sylvia E. Bott Baker. Eugene graduated from James Wood High School in 1953, and from James Madison University in 1957. He went on to graduate in 1961 from the United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio, where he served as a part-time chaplain to the Miami Valley Hospital during his four years as a student.

Rev. Baker married Sandra Jean Whittaker on June 10, 1956, at the First Evangelical United Brethren Church on Braddock Street. He is survived by his wife of more than 56 years; two daughters, Kendra Jean Sours of Winchester and Andrea Jean Clark of Fairfax Station; two sons-in-law, Dicky Sours and Steven Clark; one granddaughter, Chastity Dawn Sours; a great-grandchild, Sean Christopher; and three step-children, Brenda Clark, Anna Clark and Justin Clark.

He was an ordained elder of the Evangelical United Brethren denomination that joined the Methodist denomination in 1968 to become known as The United Methodist denomination. He served pastorates of the Churchville Charge (EUB) on the Staunton District; Manassas (EUB) on the Alexandria District; Reliance and Ridings Chapel (EUB) on the Winchester District; Lacey Springs (UMC) on the Harrisonburg District; associate pastor of Reveille (UMC) in Richmond; Luray (UMC) on the Harrisonburg District; and March Memorial (UMC) and Moneta's Bethlehem (UMC), both on the Lynchburg District. His last pastorate was the Market Street UMC on the Winchester District, serving eight years prior to his June 1997 retirement after having served nearly 42 years in the ministry.

Rev. Baker served as chair of the Winchester District Committee of the Ordained Ministry; he served on the Virginia Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, and he mentored several men and women who became clergy.

The family gathered Feb. 26 from 5-8 p.m. to receive friends at the Omps Funeral Home. The organist, Voyne Omps, also played the organ at Rev. and Mrs. Baker's wedding. A private graveside service for his immediate family was conducted by the Winchester District superintendent, Dr. Larry Thompson, on February 27. A memorial service was held on March 1 at the Braddock Street UMC in Winchester led by Winchester District superintendent, Dr. Larry Thompson, and the Rev. Steve Melester, whom Rev. Baker mentored. Rev. Baker requested that both clergy and their spouses sit together as a "body of servant partners" as he truly believed he and Sandra were partners together in the ministry. He kept his Charge Conference credentials at the First United Methodist Church, where he attended

as a child, received the calling for ministry and married. Memorials may be sent to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) of the denomination at Virginia Annual Conference, P.O. Box 5606, Glen Allen, VA 23058.

**TERRY JEFFERSON BURLEY**  
**1915 - 2013**

My father was a very proud man. He had a right to be. He achieved many things during his 97 years of life. He was born in Weimar, TX and moved to Houston, TX, because he wanted to further his education. At the time, he could only have completed up to 10<sup>th</sup> grade in Weimar. His father and grandfather were both educators. With that same zest and thirst for knowledge and betterment of his life, my father furthered his education. He attended Samuel Huston College, Austin, TX, and received his BA in 1937. Called to the ministry, he achieved a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1940 from Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta, GA. Furthering his calling to ministry, he headed North where more opportunities for education existed. He attended Boston University where he received his Master of Sacred Theology in 1950.

He was raised Baptist. He started with the United Church of Christ while attending Boston University, but when the opportunity to join The United Methodist Church arose, he joined post graduate. He was in the North Carolina-Virginia Conference, The Washington Conference, the Virginia Methodist Conference and the Virginia United Methodist Conference. He pastored the following churches: Friendship, Mt. Airy and Poolesville all of Maryland. With the Virginia UMC Conference, he ministered these churches: Jackson Street, St. James, Galloway, Galilee, Wesley Memorial and Haden's Chapel. He was also a Chaplain at Kecoughtan VA Hospital. He was known for inventive church fundraisers such as: "The States Rally" and "Evening in Paris." "I Found The Man" was a favored sermon.

Fishing, grilling, gardening, checkers, driving, and travelling were all favored pastimes. He is lovingly and fondly remembered by his wife, Lawrine, his daughter, Erika, and his grandson, Ellis, whom he was overjoyed to have so late in life.

*-Dr. Erika Burley-Wilson*

**ANTHONY CHRISTOPHER BUSIC**  
**1963 - 2012**

The Rev. Anthony Christopher Busic, 49, of Salem, passed from this world and into eternal life on Monday, July 23, 2012, and is now resting peacefully in the arms of Jesus.

The Rev. Busic was born in Mathews County, son of the late V. Raymond and Loraine Smith Busic. He graduated from Mathews County High School and Virginia Wesleyan College, where he earned his Bachelor's degree in history. He later attended and graduated from Duke University with a Master's of Divinity.

His first appointment was the Orange Charge in Orange County, where he served from June 1988 through June 1992. He was then appointed to Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church in Roanoke County, where he served until 1999. From 1999 to 2001, the Rev. Busic served the Bethel/Emmanuel Charge in Lancaster County. In 2001, he was appointed to Central United Methodist Church in Salem, where he served until 2005, when he was appointed to Chestnut Hill United Methodist Church in Lynchburg. He served there until health complications forced him to discontinue active service in 2009. Rev. Busic was also a graduate of the Reynolds Institute of Leadership and Development.

He is survived by his loving wife, Vickie Tetreault Busic; by two daughters, Jacqueline Busic (fiance Ryan Clifton) and Lisa Duca; by his son, Kenneth Busic; by his brother, Raymond "Howdy" Busic (wife Helen); his sister, Rebecca Busic, and his two nephews, Scotty Busic and Jeffery Busic.

The family received friends from 2 to 4 and from 6 to 8 p.m. on July 27, 2012, at John M. Oakey & Son Funeral Home in Salem. Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 28, 2012, at the Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church, with the Rev. Wayne Moore officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Pseudomyxoma Peritonei (PMP) Research Foundation ([www.pmpcure.org/donate](http://www.pmpcure.org/donate)).

**PAUL PEYTON CAMPBELL**  
**1924 - 2012**

Paul P. Campbell was born and raised in Raleigh, N.C., and attended Edenton Street Methodist Church. He served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. After the war, he got a degree in business at St. Vincent's College in Latrobe, PA. He then moved to Portsmouth, where he taught a Sunday school class at Craddock Methodist church. A member of that class introduced him to a lovely Christian teacher named Ellen Vaughan. They were married in August 1952. Five years and two children later, he had a good job at the Bank of Virginia and had bought a nice house in which to raise a family; but Paul knew that there was something else God wanted him to do. He answered God's call into the ministry. A neighbor joked that, "with a wife and two talkative children at home, Sunday mornings might be your only chance of getting a word in." He accepted his first appointment in 1959 and attended Duke University during the summers. There were lean times ahead, but Paul and Ellen knew that God would be "faithful to supply all [their] needs, according to His riches in glory."

Perhaps you remember Paul Campbell because you learned about God from him during Sunday worship services or a confirmation class. Perhaps you were a teenager who played Twister in his living room or badminton in his back yard during UMYF gatherings or lay witness missions. Maybe he counseled and joined you and your mate in marriage, or visited you in the hospital, or sat with you beside a dying loved one. Despite the church meetings and frequent hospital or home visitations (something ministers did much more of in the past), he was very good at balancing the responsibilities of a pastor and a father. He taught his children how to play tennis, swim, and bowl. He and Ellen modeled teamwork. You see, although Paul was the one in the pulpit, Ellen was truly a partner in ministry. Paul often said that every church he served got "two for the price of one." Those churches included:

<i>Tappahannock Memorial</i>	<i>1959-1963</i>
<i>Fairmount (Richmond)</i>	<i>1963-1966</i>
<i>Good Shepherd (Henrico)</i>	<i>1966-1969 (Paul started this one)</i>
<i>Hillcrest (Fredericksburg)</i>	<i>1969-1973</i>

<i>Trinity (Disputanta)</i>	1973-1979
<i>Kenwood (Petersburg)</i>	1979-1984
<i>Christ Church (Covington)</i>	1984-1988

Retirement brought him back to the home in West End Manor which he had purchased when starting Good Shepherd church. His children (Mike and Beth) had settled nearby. He thoroughly enjoyed his grandchildren, taking them bowling, to the Childrens' Museum or Maymont, attending their games, plays, and other activities. He and Ellen joined Westhampton UMC where they taught Sunday School and led a Prayer & Bible Study Group.

In 1998, they moved to Lakewood Manor Retirement Community where he sang in the "Manor Choir," led Health Care Center vespers services, and continued his practice of visitation and prayer for those in need. Paul lovingly and completely dedicated himself to caring for Ellen when Muscular Dystrophy disabled her body and robbed her of her ability to speak. Ellen died in 2007. When Paul's health declined, he was placed on hospice care. Several of his caregivers shared that they received comfort from him; even in his last months he was sensitive to the needs around him and would pray for his nurses and sitters.

In the early morning hours of Dec. 21, with his family at his bedside singing "Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling...ye who are weary, come home..." Paul answered his Lord's final call and went home.

If you have fond memories of Paul, please share them with his family. If you gained anything from knowing him, please pass it along. If he taught you, befriended you, prayed for you, inspired you, or drew you closer to God ... honor him by doing the same for someone else. If you knew him in these or other ways, if you were one of the many people who enriched his life, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

-submitted by Beth Campbell Bagley

### **JAMES A. EDMONDS** 1936 - 2012

Rev. James A. Edmonds, 75, of Palm Coast, Fla., and Blackstone, went home to be with the Lord on June 19, 2012. He is survived by two daughters, Tammy Tiltman (Mark) and Rev. Michelle Lindsey (Maurice); and two grandsons, Alex and Erik Tiltman.

James received his call to ministry and was appointed as a Liscensed Local Pastor in 1968, was ordained as Deacon in 1972 and Elder in 1979. After 31 years in full-time ministry, having served eight appointments and 12 individual congregations, he retired and moved to Florida. Churches served include Rehoboth, Canaan, Kingswood, and Sardis in Mecklenburg; Fort Grove and Sharon in Stony Creek; Trinity in Chesterfield; Market Street in Onancock; Melrose in Lottsburg; Laurel Hill in Richmond (Varina); and Prospect in Ebony.

James loved serving the church as pastor and even in retirement maintained contact with many friends in the Virginia Conference. His ministry and life still speak to those who journeyed with him in this life and continue to be celebrated and remembered by many.

### **DONALD N. FRIDINGER** 1928 - 2013

Donald Nelson Fridinger was born Jan. 6, 1928, in Martinsburg, WV., to the late Herman Granville and Myrtle Agnes Fridinger. He committed his life to Christ at the age of 8 years at the Martinsburg First Evangelical United Brethren Church, where he held his membership until his entry into the ministry.

Don graduated from Martinsburg High School and attended Shenandoah College. He received his B.A. from Lebanon Valley College and his Masters in Divinity from United Theological Seminary (formerly known as Bonebrake Theological Seminary) in Dayton, Ohio.

It was in Dayton where he met and married Norma Jean Nuscher when he was a student pastor at Norma's church.

Upon graduation from seminary, Don was assigned to the Franklin, WV., charge of the Evangelical United Brethren Church. Upon leaving Franklin, he moved to Elkton, to serve at St. Paul E.U.B. During his years at St. Paul's he was significantly involved in the founding and building of Camp Overlook. It was near the end of Don's tenure at St. Paul's when the Evangelical United Brethren and the Methodist Churches merged to form The United Methodist Church, a transition in which he played an active role. Don went on to serve at Great Bridge UMC in Chesapeake, Memorial UMC in Emporia, Wesley UMC in Martinsville and St. John's UMC in Staunton. He and Norma retired to the beautiful Shenandoah Valley in 1989 where Don served as Visiting Pastor at Otterbein UMC in Harrisonburg for several years before his full retirement.

Don received his call to ministry as a youth when he witnessed God's faithful answer to his prayers, which profoundly and positively affected his family's life. His marriage to Norma resulted in a 58-year partnership in life and ministry. Don's quiet nature infused with a sense of humor resulted in a humble wisdom in guiding churches and parishioners through challenging times. In one church, he earned the nickname "Smokey" (as in Smokey the Bear) for his ability to "smell smoke" and address problems before they became "fires." From church building projects and stewardship campaigns to church and conference meetings, he never lost sight of his calling to minister from a place of the transformative power of Christ's love. He felt his call was toward deepening the spiritual growth of the individuals he pastored and, through his faithfulness to this call, he leaves a legacy of changed lives who continue to witness Christ's love to the world. Vacation Bible School, summer youth camps, Bible studies, revivals, Sunday school classes, baptisms, funerals, and Sunday services were special experiences because of the depth of spirit he brought to each, and he gave them his ALL.

The following is an excerpt from an article published early in Don's ministry in a 1955 edition of the *Daily News Record* entitled, "New Minister at Elkton EUB." This article gave a glimpse into the future of the varied talents he brought to bear to his churches and the love he would garner from those whose lives he touched.

*"He came to the Franklin Church in September 1952 and leaves an impressive record of accomplishments. Rev. Mr. Fridinger led the congregation in a financial campaign that amassed the \$42,000 needed for the new church. He not only helped with the church finances, but he designed the structure, a beautiful brick church with seven classrooms and a seating capacity of over 300. The new church was dedicated May 1, 1955.*

*He also assisted in the completion of the new parsonage, located near the church, and was instrumental in the division of the*

*Franklin Charge and the Pendle-Grant charge.**During the three years that Mr. Fridinger worked in Franklin he made many friends who regretted to see him leave."*

Don was an avid reader who also enjoyed camping, making furniture reproductions, handyman projects, art and music. He was a model in finding serenity in God's creation. He was a loving husband and faithful caregiver to his wife and a loving father to two daughters (Sandy and Kim), two grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

**JAMES B. GRIMMER****1937 - 2012**

Jim received his call to go into the ministry while attending a Youth Retreat at Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg in the mid 1950s. He credited his parents, and youth directors Ruth Powers, Marjorie and Dana Tyson with giving him the support and encouragement to answer the call. Members of the congregations of two Portsmouth churches—Asbury and Park View—provided much-needed financial assistance that enabled him to attend and graduate from Ferrum Jr. College, High Point College and Wesley Seminary.

He served in the Virginia Annual Conference for 38 years - serving Rappahannock Charge (Flint Hill, Washington, Sperryville and Willis Chapel), Bayley's Chapel, Portlock, St. Peter's (Montpelier), Boonsboro, Chesapeake Avenue, Chester, Trinity (Lexington), Foundry (Virginia Beach), Bellamy, Calvary (Stuart Drafts) and after retirement in 2000, he served as Interim Pastor at Oak Hill and Wayne Hills for three months.

During the last eight months of his life, family and friends were given the joy of being able to express love, re-tell stories, share laughter and have meaningful dialogue with Jim. Anne, his wife of 51 years, with family, friends, Home Health and Rockbridge Hospice "angels" were able to care for Jim in the home. Anne and Jim enjoyed talking about the "Saints" in the churches that he had served and re-living some of the special times that they had shared in each church.

The children, Susan, Shawn, and Brian, were each able to talk with Jim expressing their belief that, like Clarence B. Kelland wrote, "My father didn't tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it." Susan told Jim how his "Zip-a-Dee Do Dah" positive approach to life had helped throughout her life. She and her dog, Lucy Mae, were able to be at home much of the time during his last months. Shawn was able to be at home as much as possible, too, and he and Jim had many talks about the summer of 1988 when they went with the Boy Scout Maine High Adventure trip. It was a very physically demanding trip. Jim was honored that his son, Shawn, had wanted him to go with him as one of the adult leaders. Brian was able to be with his Dad every weekend from May until Jim's death because of having a contract job in the Washington, D.C., area. During that time Brian was able to let Jim know he saw him as the epitome of patience, kindness and living the joy that life brings each and every day.

Jim loved being in ministry and he touched many lives – family, friends, congregations, pilgrims in the Emmaus and Presbyterian Walks in which he participated, and strangers along his journey. Whenever Jim was asked how he was, he would say, "I am 100 percent," a phrase that he got from his friends Murry Unruh and Walter Whitehurst back in the 1970s when they would "sermonize" every week. Jim used that phrase to tell people that what he meant by that was that he HAD GOD'S GRACE and regardless of his diminishing health, he was 100 percent. He became known as "Mr. 100%." Jim died on Aug. 30, 2012 and the Service of Resurrection was Sept. 5, 2012.

*-Submitted by Susan, Shawn, and Brian Grimmer***GEORGE G. HENLEY****1924 - 2012**

The Rev. George G. Henley of Aylett, Va., departed this world to dwell in the house of the Lord on Sept. 25, 2012.

The second of five children, he was born on September 8, 1924, to the late Earle E. Henley Sr., and Elizabeth Haddon Henley. The son of a Methodist minister, George, too, served the Virginia United Methodist Church for 40 years before retiring in 1987.

George was a World War II veteran, graduated from Hampden-Sydney College, and went on to Duke University, where he completed Divinity School before going into the ministry. He married Eloise Hanes of Farmville, who lost her battle with cancer in 1985. They had one son, William Erwin Henley, who survives them. George was married again to Urcil S. Jacobs of Farmville, who also succumbed to cancer in 2008.

George's two brothers, Earle E. Henley Jr., and Robert O. Henley, who pre-deceased him, also responded to God's calling. They both served The United Methodist Church in Virginia for a number of years. Praise be to God for their service and dedication! George was also pre-deceased by a sister, Elizabeth Wright. In addition to his son, George is also survived by his sister, Lucy Drury, of Seattle, sisters-in-law Sandra Henley and Juanita Basham, and 11 nieces and nephews.

**ARTHUR LEON HOLMES****1925 - 2012**

Rev. Dr. Arthur Leon Holmes Sr., son of the late Beulah Mack Holmes and the late William Arthur Holmes, was born in Charleston County, S.C., Nov. 4, 1925. He transitioned to rest with the ancestors on Aug. 3, 2012. He was 86 years old.

Rev. Holmes was a loving son, brother, uncle, father, pastor, soldier, and servant of God. He served in both World War II and the Korean Conflict serving as a medic and a dental technician for the Navy and the Army. He is a recipient of the Purple Heart for bravery during time of combat. After returning home from war, he used his veteran benefits to obtain an undergraduate degree from Benedict College. Soon after graduation he pursued and received a PhD in Philosophy from Allen University in Columbia, S.C. He accepted the call to preach while in college and was ordained by the African Methodist Episcopal Church. He worked for the Internal Revenue Service for several years but retired early to become a full-time servant of God. During his more than 55 years of ministry Rev. Holmes led and ministered to congregations throughout Georgia, South Carolina, Pennsylvania and Virginia. Some of the churches where he served are St. Matthews in Trevoise, Pa; Mount Zion in Leesburg; and Mount Zion in Hamilton. He left a legacy and touched hearts at each church. His last assignment was within the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Family, friends and loyal church members across the United States will miss his smile, joyous laugh, sense of humor and undeniable wisdom.

**EDGAR U. HOOVER**  
**1915 - 2013**

The Rev. Edgar U. Hoover, of Roanoke, passed away on Thursday, March 28, 2013.

He was born in Varnville, S.C. He was preceded in death by his parents; three sisters; and his wife, Pauline Long Hoover.

Enlisting at age of 17, he served proudly in the United States Navy as a radio operator. He then worked for the FAA as an aircraft communicator for four years. He graduated from Wake Forest and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Rev. Hoover served churches in Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina and Virginia, including Greene Memorial United Methodist in Roanoke and Fairlington United Methodist in Alexandria.

He was a member of the Tin Can Sailors Association. He enjoyed operating his shortwave radio and his computer, traveling, reading and caring for his special beagle, Molly.

The Rev. Hoover is survived by his first wife, Louise Kenyon, of Fairfax; daughter, Dr. Elaine Hoover, of Roanoke; son, Wayne Hoover, of Thailand; stepdaughter, Sandra Long, of Maryland; and sister, Miriam Connelly, of South Carolina.

A service celebrating the Rev. Hoover's life was held at 3 p.m. on Monday, April 1, 2013, in the Abbey at Sherwood Memorial Park with the Rev. Gary Robbins of Greene Memorial United Methodist Church officiating. Friends visited with the family from 2 p.m. until service time.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in his name to Greene Memorial United Methodist Church or to the Roanoke Valley SPCA. Friends may send their condolences to the family by visiting [www.simpsonfuneral.com](http://www.simpsonfuneral.com).

**EDWARD COLEMAN JOHNSON**  
**1939 - 2013**

Rev. Edward Coleman Johnson, 73, was called home to our heavenly father on May 3, 2013. Born in Bramwell, W.Va., he was the son of the late Vester Coleman and Margaret Boothe Johnson and was predeceased by his beloved wife of 52 years, Anita Mae Poe "Nita" Johnson.

Rev. Johnson was a graduate of Emory and Henry College and ordained as a United Methodist minister in 1958. During his ministry, he served over 16 charges in Virginia and surrounding states and retired from Oxford UMC, Suffolk, in 2010. It was during his ministry at High Street UMC that he and his wife, Anita, decided to make their permanent home in Franklin.

Rev. Johnson served his local churches well. He was a servant to his people and was with them in both happy and sad times. He and Anita shared "life" with all their members. Rev. Johnson was active in many parts of district ministry. He served on the Superintendentcy Committee, Board of Ordained Ministry, Nominations and Trustees to name a few. Rev. Johnson also served on annual conference committees. The latest one was the conference Board of Ordained Ministry.

Ed and Anita were a team for 52 years. They moved from church to church, raised their family and touched the lives and hearts of those around them. When you got to know Ed and Anita, you became part of their family and they knew how to do family. Ed tried to talk to his five children every day and even if you weren't on the daily call list, you got Christmas cards, birthday cards and visits when he was close by.

Rev. Johnson had a wonderful and profound effect on all he ministered to. His love for members and their families was felt and experienced. He was a mentor to many new candidates for ministry, and he guided them in loving ways as they prepared to serve the One who called them. He enjoyed traveling to visit with his children and their families, NASCAR and fishing. He will be greatly missed by all his family – both biological and his brothers and sisters in Christ.

Rev. Johnson leaves behind two daughters – Rebecca and Karen; and three sons – Edward Jr., James, and Tim. He had 12 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Ed joined Anita on May 3, 2013, and now they are together forever.

**RONALD RALPH JONES**  
**1940 - 2013**

Ron was a man with many interests. From the time he was old enough to observe nature he was in the woods checking out the insects, birds, plants, and animals. He was always curious about the species' name and anything he could learn about them. He kept boxes of each group of insect specimens. I spent many days and nights sitting with him listening to bird calls. Because of this interest he studied biology at Fairmont State in West Virginia. He taught Biology and English for 12 years. English and word study was very important to him. "There are too many words that we never use much. "Let's learn some new words every day" he would say, and they would learn the meaning and use it in sentences. He taught our children to learn new words.

Ron loved people, he never met a stranger. He didn't like to shop, so he would go with me and sit in the mall and talk to people who sat around him often finding a common ground or interest with someone. They usually knew some people from W. VA. or from somewhere we served. The children used to say, "Their dad could get on an empty elevator, go up one floor and come off with a new friend."

It was always assumed that Ron would be a minister until he went off to college to study biology. At age of 13 he helped the ministers in his church by starting the service until the minister could make it from one of the five churches he served. He loved teaching and sharing his knowledge with others, but he burned out after teaching both winter and summer. While teaching he sold insurance to make ends meet with a growing family. He closed on 90 percent of all the calls he made because he could give a good sales pitch. It was while he was selling insurance he got the call to the ministry at the age of 30. He said he was no longer selling insurance to people, but selling assurance for God. We started in 1970 at Prices Fork and stayed there for three years before going off to Duke. He served Walnut Grove Charge and High Tower Charge while in North Carolina. He came back to Virginia and served Pleasant Grove, Round Hill (Loudon County), Fairfax, as assistant, Nokesville, Chesterbook, White Stone, Henderson, Andrew Chapel, and retired from Reedville for a total of 36 years of service.

He is survived by his wife, Lois, of 48 years and three children and their spouses: Nedra Michele Blick, Julia Dawn Lam, Ronald

Ralph II. He was very proud of his six grandchildren: Evan Courter, McKenzie Blick, Jordan and Josh Lam, Jessica and Amanda Jones. He is survived by one brother, Shelby D. Jones, and family of Tennessee.

### **LEONTINE RUTH TURPEAU CURRENT KELLY 1920 - 2012**

Leontine Ruth Turpeau, also known as "Teenie," was born March 5, 1920, in the parsonage of Mount Zion Methodist Episcopal Church, Washington, D.C. Her father, Rev. David DeWitt Turpeau Sr., was a prominent Methodist minister who pastored in Sing Sing, N.Y., Washington, Pittsburgh and Cincinnati. He also served four years in the Ohio House of Representatives, while serving simultaneously as pastor and District Superintendent. Leontine's mother, Ila Marshall Turpeau, was an outspoken advocate for women and blacks and a founder of the Urban League of Cincinnati.

Leontine attended West Virginia State College in Institute, W.Va., where she met and married Gloster B. Current. To that union three children were born: Angella P. Current-Felder, Gloster B. Current Jr., and John David Current. She later married Rev. James David Kelly, a United Methodist minister and following his death, adopted his great-granddaughter, Pamela Lynne Kelly. Leontine received a B.A. from Virginia Union University in 1960 and did graduate work in economics, history and humanities at North Texas State University, the University of Cincinnati and The College of William and Mary. She served as a public school teacher in Richmond and Northumberland County for eight years.

Encouraged by her husband, Leontine became a certified lay speaker in Virginia. Following his death she was appointed and served Galilee Church, Edwardsville, in the Virginia Conference (1969-75). During her tenure at Galilee, Leontine enrolled in the Course of Study, went to summer school at Wesley Theological Seminary (1970, 1971) and was ordained deacon by Bishop William R. Cannon in 1972. She received her M.Div. from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond in 1976, and Bishop W. Kenneth Goodson ordained her as elder in 1977. From 1975-1977, Leontine served on the Virginia Conference Council on Ministries staff, directing social ministries. She then served Asbury-Church Hill in Richmond seven years before becoming Assistant General Secretary for Evangelism of the General Board of Discipleship in Nashville in 1983. She also served on the Health and Welfare Ministries Division of the General Board of Global Ministries.

She was a popular preacher and trailblazer. Although a member of the Virginia Annual Conference, Leontine was elected to the episcopacy by the Western Jurisdictional Conference in 1984 and became the first African-American woman bishop to be elected in any mainline denomination. Leontine was assigned to the San Francisco Area. She served on the General Board of Church and Society, as President of the Western Jurisdictional College of Bishops and on the Executive Committee of the Council of Bishops.

Leontine held honorary doctorate degrees from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (1984), DePauw University (1989), Christian Theological Seminary (1989), Virginia Union University (1989), Nebraska Wesleyan University (1989), Bennett College (1991), Willamette University (1990) and Dillard University (1992). At the 1988 General Conference, Leontine presided during the plenary session in which the Africa University Initiative was approved. For her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, an endowed scholarship in her name was established at Africa University.

Leontine died June 28, 2012. The memorial service was held July 5, 2012, at Jones Memorial UMC in San Francisco. The officiants were Bishops Warner Brown, Minerva Carcano, Violet Fisher, Charlene Kammerer, Linda Lee, Marcus Matthews, Felton May (the eulogist) and Anne Brookshire Sherer; along with the Rev. Staci Current, pastor of Jones Memorial.

The Bishop is survived by her 100-year-old sister, Angella Turpeau Hayes; her children, Angella (Robert-deceased), Gloster Jr. (Yvonne), Rev. John David (Staci), Pamela; grandchildren, Angelyn Current, Tiffany Current (Jeremy Feig), Faith Current Anderson (Obediah), John David Current Jr., Leon Current; and great-grandson, David Williams.

### **WILLIAM TROY KESSLER 1928 - 2012**

For 39 years, William Troy Kessler served the Virginia Annual Conference as pastor with distinction and effectiveness. His ministry took place in Alabama while he was in seminary and then in the Virginia conference. He also served on the Board of Pensions and the Board of the Methodist Children's Home. He was involved in a preaching mission to Cuba in 1960 and the Volunteers in Mission to Puerto Rico.

Bill was born in Danville on Nov. 9, 1928, to William Thomas Kessler and Ethel May Cash Kessler. His paternal grandfather, Thomas Kessler, was born in Fromberg, Bavaria, Germany, migrating with his family to the U.S. in 1881. They settled in (old) Salem, N.C. He met his wife, Tennie Lawson, in Nashville, Tenn., before settling in Danville.

He grew up in a happy family where Christian convictions were practiced. While attending a summer youth meeting at Randolph-Macon Woman's College, he felt the call of God to become a Methodist minister. In the spring of 1950, he was recommended by the Grace Quarterly Conference and offered himself to the District Conference. In May of 1950, he was granted a Local Preacher's license. While attending seminary, he was ordained a deacon at Reveille Methodist Church in Richmond in 1958. He was ordained an elder and received into full connection in 1962 at Norfolk. He attended Danville Public Schools and Ferrum College. He received his BA in Religion from Lynchburg College and his Master of Divinity degree from Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta. While in seminary, he served as Youth Director at First United Methodist Church in Opelika, Ala.

It was at Ferrum College in 1950 that he met his devoted wife, Marian E. Saunders, who proved to be his greatest joy, blessing and helper throughout his life and ministry. They had two children: Kerrie Kessler Hillman and husband, David; Paul William Kessler and wife, Jennifer. They each have two children, Isabel and Isaac Hillman of Marion, North Carolina, and Gabriel and Jack Kessler of Potsdam, New York.

The following charges were faithfully served: West Buckingham (Farmville District); Agricola/Mount Tabor (Charlottesville District); and West Mecklenburg (Farmville District). He served the following church congregations: Bethlehem UMC (Charlottesville District); Whaleyville/Somerton (Portsmouth District); Hickory (Norfolk District); Centenary Chase City (Farmville District); Tabernacle at Poquoson (Peninsula District); Morrison at Newport-News (Peninsula District); Wesley at Alexandria (Alexandria District); and Chesapeake Avenue (Norfolk District).

Upon retiring in 1993, he and his wife, Marian, moved to Williamsburg. During those years Bill worked as a visiting minister at Tabernacle in Poquoson, participated in the volunteer chaplain program at Riverside Hospital and volunteered at the local TV station. In 2002, they moved to Raleigh, N.C., to be closer to family. There he enjoyed Edenton Street UMC, especially the Francis Asbury Sunday School. They moved to Marion, N.C., in 2009 and continued their church relationship at First UMC of Marion.

He enjoyed being a pastor and was effective in that role. His greatest joy was his family and all of the many friends from his life and years as a United Methodist minister.

Preceding him in death are three sisters, Louise, Avis and Hilda, along with one brother, Hadley. Along with his wife, Marian, and children and grandchildren, he is survived by his brother, Stanford, of Danville and numerous nieces and nephews.

*-Respectfully submitted, Kerrie Hillman*

### HARRY LONG KIDD JR.

1925 - 2013

Harry L. Kidd Jr. was born in Vienna to Harry L. Kidd Sr. and Maude Alford Kidd (Fairfax County), the youngest of seven children. Harry was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving during World War II. During his time in the military, Harry received his calling into ministry when he experienced God's protection while being deployed. Upon returning from the Army, he enrolled at Asbury University, Wilmore, Ky., graduating in 1951 with a BA in History. He married Christine Hahn, a classmate at Asbury, on May 27, 1951.

The couple relocated to Fairfax, and Harry found a job working in the government while pastoring the Burke-Syndenstricker-Vale Charge, in Purcellville. When the charge agreed to raise his salary by \$5.00 a week, he left his job with the government. While serving Round Hill-Bluemont UMC, he enrolled at Westminster Seminary, later renamed Wesley Seminary, graduating on May 22, 1956. Harry was appointed to engage in church planting when he was appointed to St. Matthew's UMC in Annandale. The small congregation began meeting in a local school and later broke ground for a new church structure. He was then appointed to serve Andrew Chapel UMC in Vienna. Several years later he was appointed to Moseley Memorial UMC in Danville. While driving to an appointment, he pulled over to offer a ride to one of his parishioners carrying a bag of groceries when his car was struck in the rear by a pickup truck. The accident resulted in a medical leave of absence. As his health improved he was selected to become the founding director to begin a Goodwill Store in Danville. Harry enjoyed the work with the employees and shoppers at Goodwill, but his calling to parish ministry was strong and he accepted an appointment to Providence-Whites Charge in Rustburg. He was then appointed to Louisa UMC, where he arranged to have a Lay Witness Mission. This event had a significant impact upon the congregation. When he was appointed to Marquis Memorial UMC in Staunton, he arranged for another Lay Witness Mission there as well.

He was then appointed to Courtland UMC, Courtland, and then to Cottage Place UMC in Portsmouth, where he remained for five years. His final appointments included Crenshaw UMC, Blackstone, Lower Church UMC, Heartfield and Franconia UMC, Alexandria.

Harry served the Virginia Conference for a total of 39 years. Though he was "officially" retired, he never stopped working for the Lord. He offered to assist in visiting shut-ins and to visit members in the hospital. Harry never stopped working for the Lord. He stayed the course. He finished the race, and he finished well.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Christine H. Kidd; five children, Lawrence P. Kidd (Pinar), Lois K. Barrett (Dr. Mark), Dr. Timothy W. Kidd (Sandra), Stephen B. Kidd (Jeanna), Esther K. Washing (Steven); 15 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He was very grateful and very proud of the family God gave to him – a family that made great sacrifices, a family equipped to go forward with great grace, forgiveness, and love. Harry leaves behind a spiritual legacy that will go forward through each and every one who has been touched by his life. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

### ALBERT CLAYTON LYNCH

1947 - 2012

Albert Clayton Lynch was born on June 2, 1947, in Durham, N.C., the son of Rev. Dr. William Larkin Lynch and Nona Fay Lynch, and died on Dec. 8, 2012. He received the Master of Divinity and Doctorate of Ministry from Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, and a Juris Doctorate, J.D., from T. C. Williams School of Law of the University of Richmond. Al joined the Virginia Conference in 1971 and took Honorable Location in 1980 and was received back into active status in 1998. He was serving as pastor of St. Andrew's UMC in Richmond at the time of his death. Al is survived by his wife, the Rev. Susan Thomas Lynch, and children, Milicent, Megan and Matthew.

When Tim Whittaker called me some 15 years ago and asked me to be a mentor to Al Lynch as he sought to return to itinerant ministry, I did not realize that he was opening the door to one of the most meaningful relationships of my life. I had known Al in the early days of his ministry and found him to be an attractive young man, but it was in this latter relationship that I learned who he really was. To say that he was my friend is to understate the case. He became like a son to me and often referred to me as his "father in the Lord."

Each one of us has our special memories of Al. He had an amazing capacity for friendship. He had the unusual ability to get into the lives of his friends and make them feel that they were special. I think this is the reason so many of his friends ignored the family's request that he not be visited in those critical days following his stroke when it was so important for him to have rest and quiet. They felt, "I am special and this request does not apply to me."

Al was a people person. He had the heart of a pastor. As an active member of Alcoholics Anonymous and Chaplain for the Henrico County Police Department and the Henrico County Sheriff's Department he became the unofficial pastor to so many. Al performed their weddings and buried their dead. They sought his help because they knew he cared.

He was no less a pastor to his own congregation. Al would drive any distance to extend the ministry of the church to a member in need. He spent his day and night to fulfill this ministry, often to the detriment of his own health.

Al was above all a family man. His love for Susan and his pride in her accomplishments was obvious to all who knew them. He was extremely proud of Milicent's accomplishments and no less proud of Susan's children which he claimed as his own. Al was pleased with Megan's decision to attend law school and her admission to William and Mary Law School in August 2011 and Matthew's decision to enter the United States Marine Corps upon his high school graduation in June 2013. In preparing his obituary with Susan he insisted Megan and Matthew be named as his children and not as stepchildren.

The quality I admired most of Al in the years I worked with him was his utter honesty about himself. On our first visit when he



came to talk with me about my being his mentor as he sought reinstatement I posed some searching questions. Knowing the lean times through which he had been passing, I asked this question, "Al do you really feel called of God to come back to this ministry or are you hungry?" Instead of being angry at the question he laughed and said, "Bishop Pennel asked me that question in a more diplomatic way, but it is a fair question." He went on to say that he had tried to evade the call but could no longer do so. He said further in the course of that conversation that he had no one to blame for his problems but himself.

There is so much more that could be said about Al, but I think the focus of his life and ministry can be summed in his request for his memorial service. Al knew that his death was imminent and he was at peace with that fact, so much so that he and Susan talked at length about what he wanted in this service. He said that he did not want the focus of the service to be on him but on our Resurrection Faith which he had eloquently proclaimed. Indeed it was this faith that had sustained him and enabled him to face the end with calm fortitude.

-Bishop R. Kern Eutsler

**CARL MANEAR  
1919 - 2012**

Carl Edward Manear, age 93, died March 21, 2013, at the Southern Virginia Medical Center in Emporia. Carl was born on May 17, 1919, in Thornton, W.Va. He graduated from Grafton High School in 1938, and then from Fairmont State University in 1948 with a Masters in Education. He proceeded on to Anderson Airplane School in Nashville, and worked for Glen L. Martin in Baltimore. He was drafted into the Army in 1944, where he served in the South Pacific during World War II. Carl was a sergeant in the Army, and his was the first unit to go into Tokyo, Japan, in 1945 where the Articles of Surrender were held. He was based in the Imperial Palace in Tokyo.

After his honorable discharge in 1946, he taught science at Grafton Junior High until he was called into the ministry, where he faithfully served for six years in the West Virginia Conference. Afterward, he was called to serve churches in Virginia, where he ministered to various congregations for 21 more years. He served Del Ray, Nokesville, Arlington, Sterling, Cooks Memorial and Main Street First UMC in Emporia, where he retired in 1984.

Carl leaves to cherish his memory, his wife of 71 years, Caroline; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and his faithful dog and companion, Pudgie.

Carl was preceded in death by his infant daughter, a daughter and a son.

He was a member of the American Legion, a 50-year member of the Masonic Lodge of Grafton, a member of the York Rite, Scottish Rite, and he was a 32-degree Shriner.

He was a member of the Senior Circle and and the Holiday Rambler Recreational club, where he also served as the Virginia State Chaplin.

-Submitted by Rev. Wade L. Sirk

**EARL DEVINE MARTIN  
1926 - 2013**

Earl went to the Cleveland Youth Conference in 1947 and came away having dedicated his life to God. He went home, quit his job, enrolled in Lynchburg College, and soon received a call from Dr. Thomas Carroll asking him to "go preaching." In October of 1948, he was appointed to the Boonsboro Charge (five churches) while carrying a full load at L.C. His mother and twin sister, Beryl, lived in the parsonage with him and were a great help.

Across the road lived the Adams family—Florence and her two daughters. The youngest daughter grew quite attached to the parsonage family – so attached that six years later, Margaret and Earl were married, and she joined him for his third year at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. Earl received the Bachelor of Divinity in 1955 and was appointed to the Whites-Providence Charge on the Lynchburg District. After two years, he returned to the Northwestern campus where he received an MA and did work toward his doctorate.

Their first child, Kathy, arrived while they were at White-Providence, so after studying for two years, they returned to the Lynchburg District to serve the West Campus charge from which Mt. Hermon became a station church. While at Mt. Hermon, the congregation agreed that he could teach for one year at Altavista High School. He loved the students and decided to continue a dual ministry of preaching and teaching. He subsequently went to Methodist University in Fayetteville, N.C., where he taught sociology for 12 years. He found this especially challenging when the servicemen from Pope Air Force Base and Fort Bragg came to take classes. While in Fayetteville, he also served Cotton UMC.

In 1980, he felt the call to return to full-time pastoral ministry, and he returned to Virginia to serve Bellamy UMC in Gloucester and Aldersgate in Chesapeake. In June of 1991, he and Margaret retired to their hometown of Lynchburg. He loved working with the Walk to Emmaus, and he helped found the Lynchburg/Central Virginia Walk. He also served as interim pastor at several churches during retirement. In 2004, he had his MA thesis published as a book: *Mary McLeod Bethune, Matriarch of Black America*. He often expressed dissatisfaction with the social climate of the times and was an avid supporter of equal rights for all.

His hobbies of gardening and maintaining a goldfish pond followed him throughout his ministry and into retirement. He loved both.

Earl was a devoted servant of the Lord in all that he did. He loved life and his family, but he was ready to enter the Life Triumphant when he died on Feb. 22, 2013. Praise God!

-Margaret Martin

**JAMES WILLIAM MEREDITH SR.  
1938 - 2012**

*"My father never talked to me about how to treat people. Every act of kindness, respect and compassion I have ever shown another person was because I was trying to imitate him" – Deborah*

Jim, as everyone knew him, was born in Cannelton, W.Va. After high school he began studies to become a pharmacist at Tennessee

Temple University. After attending a revival service he felt called to pastoral ministry and promptly changed his major to religion. (He was ordained in the Baptist Church in 1968 and served for 2 years.) In 1970 he was persuaded to join The United Methodist Church and began serving Powelton and Deepwater UMCs in West Virginia. While there he married Connie Womack in 1971 and began a life together that spanned 41 years, three children (James, David and Deborah) and many wonderful memories.

In 1973 he joined the Virginia Conference and began serving Epworth (Selma) and Mountain Valley UMCs as well as Rich Patch Union church. He then served St. Mark's (Waynesboro), Kenbridge, Round Hill and Bassett Memorial UMCs during his time in the Virginia Conference. Jim Retired in 2000 after 30 years of ministry.

Jim and Connie decided to make their home in Bassett. Jim had an adventurous spirit and he wanted to see as much of the world as possible. He planted that seed of adventure in his children. In his own way, he saw as much of the world as he could and prided himself in knowing just about every river, creek and waterway up and across Virginia. He enjoyed fishing – he never passed up a moment with his children to spend the evening out on the New River with his rod, a Coca-Cola and a pack of nabs. Jim loved being outdoors – he enjoyed working in the garden, taking an afternoon drive through the country or just relaxing in the swing with the dogs and watching the birds. He especially enjoyed his family – family get-togethers at home always meant the most and Jim always mandated grilling the hamburgers! As he aged to become an Elder in the community and his strength and ability gave way, his granddaughter Shannon provided him a second wind.

Jim always enjoyed the ministry of preaching, sharing God's word and working with those in his churches. He was an exceptional father in every aspect, a great teacher, a political analyst of deep understanding, and most of all, an inspiring, brave soul – the most generous man you could ever wish to meet. His life was guided by those characteristics. Several church members from Bassett Memorial remembered him as a friend and that he was always there when you needed him to be. Jim is missed by all who knew him.

### **JAMES A. PACE 1962 - 2012**

*“Bidden or not bidden, God is present.”*

God's presence was exemplified in the life of James A. Pace. God was present in his over 22 years of ministry. God was present in his love for his family and friends. God was present in his courage and strength in his year-long illness. But God's presence was most felt in his love for the church and his desire to share that love with everyone he knew.

James began his ministry as a youth minister in the late 1980s. He felt great joy in ministering to “his kids” and sharing his love for God and the church. He mentored and guided with laughter and kindness and left a legacy of faith that will endure for many years.

As James moved into Discipleship ministry, he spread his love to adults and children of all ages. A big kid in many ways, he loved planning and executing programs like Vacation Bible School and confirmation classes. His enthusiasm was evident as he led Bible studies and taught Sunday school classes. His laughter filled the hallways as he shared his joy of serving God and his passion for the church.

In his last seven years of ministry, James shared his love for the church in his position of Director of Discipleship Ministries at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Yorktown. James loved St. Luke's and was never happier than when he was in his place of ministry. During his long months of illness, he longed to be back in his place at the church and returned to work as quickly as possible after each hospitalization. Discipleship was not just his job. It was his passion.

James leaves behind not only his wife, Rachel, his daughter, Emily (the joy of his life), and many loving family and friends, but also hundreds of fellow Christians in churches from Louisiana to Texas to Virginia. His laughter and enthusiasm for life and his genuine love for others will be missed by all who knew him.

### **ROBERT C. PAINTER 1918 - 2013**

On Nov. 5, 2012, members of the Virginia Conference lost a dear friend and shepherd, the Rev. Robert Painter.

Born in Bramwell, W.Va., on Aug. 5, 1918, to Robert and Rosa Bell Painter, he was the second of four children.

His uncle gave him a guitar and he learned to play well enough to hitchhike to Bluefield, where he was invited to play. He later took violin lessons and shared his musical talents with his congregations for many decades.

Like many in his coal mining community, Rev. Painter quit school in eighth grade to help the family. In his late teens he heard of God's Bible School in Cincinnati. He was accepted and raised enough money at odd jobs for his train fare. He worked in the kitchen after school to pay for his tuition, room and board. While there he met his first wife, Georgia.

Rev. Painter's hopes of becoming a minister were put on hold when he was drafted at the start of World War II. Assigned to the 79<sup>th</sup> Infantry Medical Unit, he trained to be an ambulance driver. He served on the front lines in France, where no wounded soldier, Allied or Axis, was left behind.

Following the war he returned to his family and his job at Econ meat packing company in Cincinnati for a short time. Then taking advantage of the GI Bill, he returned to school at Bonebrake Theological Seminary in Dayton and served churches as a student local pastor in the West Ohio Conference while completing his education.

Rev. Painter began ordained ministry in 1952. In 1955 he moved to the Virginia Conference, serving in New Kent, Pungoteague, Norfolk Good Hope, Tabernacle, Chantilly-Pleasant Valley, Chase City-Centenary, Crittenden-Ebenezer and Mathews Chapel. While serving Pleasant Valley he became widowed. In 1978 he married Roberta, widow of Virginia United Methodist minister Roger Williams. After his retirement in 1987, the Painters remained in Cobbs Creek and he continued to serve as interim pastor in many area churches.

Rev. Painter's wise and concise sermons always included a joke, usually a bit corny. His gentle spirit touched not only our congregation but many in the community with his quiet loving care. His generosity extended to include the bounty of his garden.

Richard Kraus, L.P.T.A. at Riverside-Sanders Rehabilitation, said, “His mischievous spirit, like his gentle spirit, touched us in the Physical Therapy Department with equal impact. ‘Am I to be arrested?’ he once stated. All activity within the facility immediately stopped as two dozen eyes focused upon him. His eyes beamed as he held his head high in defiance. ‘But, Pastor Painter,’ I replied, ‘It's our rule that all people in the Physical Therapy Department wear a Gait Belt when they are being trained!’ My comment made no dif-

ference as he deftly snapped his hands behind his back awaiting the hand cuffs; his eyes twinkling with delight.”

As Pastor Emeritus at Mathews Chapel, his life was honored by this message on the church sign: “We will miss you, Pastor Painter... a loving father, granddad, shepherd and role model for us. Godspeed.”

He is survived by wife Roberta, daughter Malinda, son Tom, six step-children, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well as one great-great-grandchild. They would like to express appreciation and thanks to Pastor Harry Loyd for his loving presence and guidance during Rev. Painter’s illness and death.

*-Family and friends*

**MICHAEL JAMIESON PUTNAM  
1940 - 2012**

Michael Jamieson Putnam, 72, went home to be with the Lord on his birthday July 7, 2012. He was born in Portsmouth, to the late Frank and Katherine Putnam. Mike is survived by his wife, Anne; a daughter, Elizabeth (Derrick); a son, Nathan Dillon; a sister, Karen McElroy (Jim); and five grandchildren.

For most of his life, Mike served as a lay member of various churches. It was not until the early 1980s that he joined The United Methodist Church. I was serving as the pastor of Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Chesapeake when Mike and his wife, Anne, decided to ask that their membership be transferred. Mike made it very clear that he only wanted to attend worship and possibly Sunday school, but did not wish to get involved in any other way. In his words, “I do not want to be a chair or serve on any committees.” Mike wanted to sit back and let others do the work.

However, God had other plans for Mike. He finally agreed to serve on the Administrative Board, but was not happy doing so. As a retired banker, I convinced him that he would be a wonderful chair of the Finance Committee, where he served for three years.

Mike went on to serve on other committees and then one day he came into my office and said that he thought God wanted him to do something different. He wasn’t sure what it was God wanted him to do. We prayed for discernment. God was anxious for Mike to get to work because within a few days, he received a call from Tommy Herndon, the district superintendent, asking if he would consider being appointed as a local pastor to Community UMC in Portsmouth. He served that congregation for 11 years with love and grace. He attended Duke’s Local Pastor’s school and became a full-time local pastor.

Mike was a big man who could easily intimidate anyone who did not know him. But he had a heart that was even bigger. Mike had a heart of gold. He would do anything for anybody. One year at the Annual Conference in Roanoke, a special announcement was made that a lady from Chesapeake needed to catch a ride back home if anyone was leaving early. Her son was ill and had been taken to the hospital. Mike responded by calling his wife to meet him half way. After passing her off to his wife, he returned to Roanoke in the early morning hours and remained for the rest of the conference.

He loved the people of Community Church. He came into The United Methodist Church late in life, but in the 20 years of being in the church, he grew to love it and would defend it with all of his being. He would do anything for anybody without being concerned about what it might cost him. His last act in this earthly life was to give parts of his body so that others might receive a new lease on life. Mike Putnam was a wonderful servant of the Lord, both as a lay person and as a local pastor. He was a great friend. I am grateful that he answered God’s call upon his life and that God allowed me to walk with Mike for the short span of time that I knew him.

*-Rev. Robert F. Cofield, Jr., Retired, York River District*

**WILLIAM C. TAYLOR JR.  
1927 - 2013**

William Taylor was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, father-in-law, and nephew, yet he loved pulling pranks on all of us – something he learned from his mother. Growing up in Washington, D.C., he suffered with polio, yet he never ever complained about anything, and, in fact, was the most positive role model to all who were lucky enough to have known him.

Each church Rev. Taylor served could attest to the fact that at least once a year, he would ask everyone to change their respective seats and pews. Everyone would oblige, laughing the entire way. He performed glorious weddings; I was one of those lucky ones. More than serving The United Methodist Church for over 50 years, he loved history, especially Virginia history and was an expert on the Civil War. He loved hiking and flying kites, especially with the church children.

**SAMUEL WRIGHTSON TONGUE SR.  
1916 - 2013**

The Rev. Wrightson S. Tongue Sr., 96, died May 2, 2013. Born in Kingston, N.Y., he spent most of his formative years living in Philadelphia, where his father worked for the family firm. Following his father’s untimely death, he struggled in school and barely managed to graduate from Frankford High. His call to ministry came during those Great Depression years of working various jobs to support himself and his mother. Through the support of his older brother and the Methodist Church, he was eventually able to attend Allegheny College in Meadville, Pa., where he was graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a degree in Classical Studies.

While in Meadville, Wrightson met and married his wife of 73 years, Elizabeth “Betty” Modisher. After college the young couple moved in 1941 to Tom’s Brook, where he began his ministry in the Virginia Conference serving seven churches in the Shenandoah and Fort Valleys. At the same time he continued his pastoral studies at Westminster Seminary (Wesley) in Westminster, Md., and again was graduated with honors. He continued his ministry in the Virginia Conference for more than 40 years; serving pastorates at the Tom’s Brook Circuit, the New Market Circuit, Calvary – Stuarts Draft, West End – Portsmouth, First – Lynchburg, Central – Hampton, St. Paul’s – Woodbridge, and Wesley – Alexandria.

Wrightson was an energetic, imaginative, and innovative pastor and preacher, eager to offer Christ to others and to introduce them to the transforming work of the Holy Spirit. God wonderfully blessed his ministry, and Wrightson was ever grateful. His love for God was reflected in his devotion to Scripture and his discipline of prayer. He and Betty prayed daily for every church they had served and for the past and present pastors of those churches. One pastor commented that learning of their daily prayers for him transformed his ministry.

From an early age Wrightson yearned to travel. God fulfilled that dream as he led many church group excursions, which included trips to New York City, and numerous camping retreats. Later in his ministry he led groups on world-wide travels that included trips to the Bible Lands and visits to many church missions in far off countries. He was also an avid photographer. For many years he shared these travels with his congregations in popular Sunday evening services using his extensive slide collection. After retiring in 1982 to Lynchburg, he continued to preach until moving in 2000 to Colorado Springs. He is survived by his wife, Betty, and their four sons and their families: Rev. Wrightson S. Tongue Jr. of the Upper New York Conference, Rev. James M. Tongue of the Virginia Conference, William L. Tongue, Lt. Col. Ret. U.S. Air Force, living in Colorado, and Donald V. Tongue, computer scientist for Meditec in New Hampshire.

**OLIVER M. UNRUH**  
**1928 - 2012**

Oliver Murry Unruh was born into a preacher's family on Aug. 3, 1928, in Richmond. His father was the Rev. John Garland Unruh, and his mother was Elsie Murry Unruh. Murry had two older brothers, Garland and James (Jack), who would also become a minister.

The itinerancy – the way of life for Methodist clergy families – took the Unruhs to appointments across urban and small-town Virginia.

Murry graduated from Randolph-Macon College in Ashland. He chose Boston University School of Theology for his seminary training, seeking to broaden his views and experience beyond the area he already knew and loved. His summer vacations included work with the American Friends Service Committee in mental health and labor relations in Minnesota.

His 40 years of ministry included a strong emphasis on missions (serving as a District Missionary Secretary for over 20 years) and on identifying and cultivating gifts for service among his parishioners. All of his appointments were in the Virginia Conference, with the exception of two years as director of the Wesley Foundation at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

In 1991, Murry retired to Lynchburg, where he continued to assist in local churches as long as his health permitted. For the first time, he lived in a home of his own (without benefit of parsonage committee) until a move to a retirement community in 2011.

Murry Unruh died on Nov. 27, 2012. A memorial service was held at Chestnut Hill United Methodist Church, of which he was Pastor Emeritus, and his ashes will be interred at Yeocomico Episcopal Church in Westmoreland County.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, the former Frances Stafford; daughters, Murry Edwards and her husband, Jon, in Middletown, R.I., and Kathryn Verber and her husband, Steve, of Springfield; two grandchildren, Margaret Edwards of Marugame, Japan, and Jonathan Edwards of Washington, D.C.; and a brother, Rev. James W. Unruh of Blackstone.

*-Submitted by his family*

**ROBERT CHESLEY VANGILDER**  
**1930 - 2013**

Bob was blessed to be born into a family with a strong Christian faith in the small mountain community of Czar, W.Va. Son of Rev. Charles Hayes and Hazel (Smith) VanGilder, he was the third among his siblings of four brothers and two sisters. Growing up in the mountains, he learned to love the land. The family raised gardens, canned produce, tended farm animals, hunted forests, fished mountain streams, and picked berries. They worshiped Jesus just down the dirt road in the country church called Pine Grove. Bob had a close extended family of grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins nearby. While a schoolboy, one of his uncles, Richard was his teacher. He often told tales of mischievous “red-headed” acts that were always discovered by “Uncle Richard.” At Pickens High School, he enjoyed playing on the baseball and basketball teams. He graduated in 1948.

After high school, he moved to Elkins and worked as a clerk and meat-cutter at Kroger. Here he met Delores Irene Chenoweth. Bob enlisted in the Army in 1951 and served for two years. Part of this tour of duty was spent in Germany. Bob and Delores married in December of 1953. After the service, he enrolled in Fairmont State College under the GI Bill. He completed a Bachelor's Degree and began to teach Social Studies. During this time, Bob felt the call to ministry and began to pursue the training needed. He entered Shenandoah College Seminary near Harrisonburg. While in school, he served in small country churches. Four daughters joined the family, Debbie-1954, Rhonda-1956, Roberta-1959 and Karla-1964. The next few years were spent in Ohio. Bob earned a Masters Degree in counseling from the University of Cincinnati. He continued to pastor churches in Ohio while teaching and attending seminary part-time. In 1966, the family moved back to West Virginia. Bob worked for the Mineral County School System from 1970-1989 when he retired. Throughout his tenure with the school system, Bob pastored many United Methodist churches in the panhandle area of West Virginia and western Maryland.

He fulfilled a lifelong dream when he graduated from Eastern Mennonite Seminary in 1991 surrounded by his daughters, sons-in-law and 11 grandchildren cheering him on. In the Virginia Conference, Bob served churches in the Rockbridge Baths, Lynchburg and Staunton areas. In 1997, Bob married Eleanor Gilbert Sanger. Eleanor, a retired nurse, was active with the Volunteer in Mission program and shared that passion with Bob. They went on mission trips to Costa Rica and Nome, Alaska. Bob enjoyed camping, traveling and seeing new places. He had a special fondness for Alaska, where he had visited five times. On one of his adventures, Bob flew in a float plane, landed on a mountain lake, fished for red salmon with grizzly bears, caught an 80-pound halibut in the ocean and king salmon in the shadow of Denali. He always had a childlike curiosity about nature and loved to investigate wildlife. Bob was a fan of the Weather Channel and marveled at new discoveries like using GPS instead of maps.

Serving the Lord, pride in educational achievements and love for family were top priorities in Bob's life. Through the years, he attended every graduation possible for his daughters, and grandchildren. He cheered them on and supported their life decisions. He was present at plays, football games, marching band performances, concerts, recognition programs and birthday celebrations. Bob often visited the farm of his childhood and enjoyed tapping the trees to make maple syrup, hunting for ramps, and harvesting deer. He shared his love of tilling up the rich spring soil, gathering seeds from everything edible, preserving green beans and tomatoes, making elderberry jelly, watching the birds at his bird feeders, planting all sorts of fruit trees, cooking up a hearty country style breakfast, and singing hymns. We will see you again in heaven, Dad and Grandpa.

**GLENN GILBERT WILLIAMS**  
**1925 - 2012**

Glenn Glibert Williams was born Oct. 1, 1925, in Suffolk, to Charles Frederick and Otto Gilbert Williams. He graduated from Saluda High School in 1942. He served in the Navy during World War II in the Hospital Corps from 1943 to 1945. He attended Randolph-Macon College, graduating in 1949. He worked for the summer as a sports reporter for *The Hopewell News*. He then gave in to God's call to follow his previous three generations of Methodist ministers in Virginia and enrolled in the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta. There he met and married Jean Kirkpatrick, his companion and support until his death.

Glenn received his Masters in Divinity and returned to serve the Virginia Conference. In October, 1951, he and Jean were assigned to the Middlesex Charge, which consisted of Centenary, New Hope, Old Church and Forest Chapel, all in or near Saluda. There was a short article published in the newspaper stating that "Quite a number of the citizens of the town were in attendance upon the Methodist church services Sunday night to hear the Rev. Glenn Williams preach, who 10 years ago was just one of the boys around town, his father, Rev. Fred Williams, being the Superintendent for the Rappahannock District and residing in Urbanna. Glenn gave us a splendid sermon." Glenn's next assignment in June of 1956 was to serve the churches in Cheriton and Oyster on the Eastern Shore. In June of 1960, Glenn and Jean moved north to serve Bethany in Purcellville. They moved in November of 1963 to West Point. In June of 1967, they were assigned to Trinity in Smithfield. In June of 1971, Glenn and Jean travelled to Alexandria to serve at Washington Farm. Leaving Washington Farm in June of 1978, they were assigned to Aldersgate in Hampton. In June of 1988, they moved to Richmond to serve at Skipwith. In June of 1993, Glenn retired and he and Jean bought their first home in Ashland. He served the Caroline Charge of St. Paul's and Mount Vernon for the next five years.

Glenn participated in three United Methodist Volunteers in Mission trips. He travelled to Kenya in 1990 to work on the Nyambene Wesley Academy. His next trip was to Zimbabwe to help construct Africa University. His third trip was to St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1999 to help improve an orphanage for handicapped children.

Glenn was an avid reader and student all of his life, and a disciplined athlete. He enjoyed watching and participating in sports. His hobbies included running and stamp and coin collecting.

Glenn's great-grandfather was Thomas Lovett Williams who served in the Virginia Conference from 1853 to 1889 for 36 years. His grandfather was Charles Henley Williams who served from 1890 to 1936 for 45 years. Glenn's father, Charles Frederick Williams, served in the Virginia Conference from 1923 to 1970 for 47 years.

Glenn died in Ashland on March 30, 2013. He leaves behind his wife, Jean, two children – Frances Williams Ellis in Fairfax and George Gilbert Williams in Richmond, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

**LESLEY ELTON TRAIL**  
**1954 - 2013**

The Rev. Lesley Elton Trail, 58, of Roanoke, died February 28, 2013. He was born on Dec. 7, 1954, in Roanoke; he was a son of the late, Herman Arthur Trail Sr. and Peggy Williams Trail. Les was a graduate of Ferrum College and Asbury Theology Seminary.

Rev. Trail was a United Methodist minister in the Virginia Conference, having served the Blue Ridge Charge and the Mount Crawford/Sidney Charge in the Harrisonburg District, the Appomattox Circuit in the Lynchburg District, Lower United Methodist Church in the Rappahannock District, Southview United Methodist Church in the Roanoke District, and Main Street United Methodist Church, Bedford, in the Lynchburg District. His home church was Rockingham Court United Methodist Church in the Roanoke District.

Surviving are his wife, Karen Eppard Trail; two brothers, Herman Arthur Trail Jr. of Oklahoma City, Okla., and Kenneth Edward Trail and wife, Carolyn, of Salem; and several nieces and nephews, including Brian M. Trail, Kevin Trail, Kenneth E. Trail Jr., Kellie T. Wells, Caitlin Trail and Tyler Trail.

The funeral service was conducted from Rev. Trail's last appointment, Main Street United Methodist Church in Bedford, on March 4, 2013. Officiating was Pastor Bart Weakley, the Rev. Walter B. Failes, the Rev. David Drinkard, the Rev. Craig Newman and the Rev. Jeffrey Wilson.