

XI. MEMOIRS

THE MEMORIAL ROLL

*In Memory of those persons related to the
Virginia Conference who died in the last year*

With Memoir

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

Retired Clergy:

Roger C. Balcom (07/19/36) RE May 28, 2014*
 Sandra Stamey (08/06/43) RE June 19, 2014*
 Joon Sup Han (12/30/26) RE June 22, 2014*
 Clyde D. Nuckols (09/10/31) RE June 23, 2014
 Holley M. Hensley (08/19/18) RA July 03, 2014
 Clifford L. East (02/03/23) RE July 09, 2014
 Robert F. Newcomb (04/11/38) RL July 17, 2014
 John S. Davenport (02/13/25) RP August 22, 2014
 Guy B. Hamilton (04/27/44) RL August 27, 2014
 Luther M. Marks (01/08/26) RE September 06, 2014
 Homer A. Hall (08/23/24) RE September 16, 2014
 Harold M. Fuss (04/17/25) RE September 17, 2014
 Floyd A. Murphy (01/04/26) RE October 11, 2014
 Ernest A. Babel (12/01/40) RE October 18, 2014
 Warren L. Reeves (11/09/14) RE November 10, 2014
 William G. Price (01/03/21) RE December 17, 2014
 James L. Duley (10/04/26) RE December 19, 2014
 William Mallard Jr. (05/28/27) RE December 23, 2014
 Matthew M. Nelson (09/18/38) RE January 3, 2015
 Melvin Ott Davis (01/03/36) RE January 28, 2015
 Gary J. Shelton (03/25/22) RE February 5, 2015
 Robert J. Day (11/22/27) RE February 10, 2015
 H. Warren Landis (01/23/24) RE February 18, 2015
 Robert L. Watts (02/07/36) RE February 23, 2015
 John N. Wimer (07/30/30) RE March 8, 2015
 John C. Barr (08/26/30) RE March 22, 2015
 Edwin G. Burch (06/13/38) RE April 1, 2015
 James W. Tinney (03/15/39) RE April 5, 2015
 William O. Webster (08/10/32) RE May 6, 2015
 William Walters (10/28/39) RE May 9, 2015

Active Clergy:

Sandra K. Hamilton (06/03/49) FE May 31, 2014*
 Richard H. Davis (11/17/59) FE January 5, 2015
 Frankie L. Perdue (08/11/53) FE January 19, 2015

Key to Conference Status Abbreviations:

RE - Retired Elder	RA - Retired Associate Member
RL - Retired Local Pastor	RB - Retired Bishop
PE - Provisional Elder	PL - Part-time Local Pastor
FL - Full-time Local Pastor	RDM - Retired Diaconal Minister
FE - Full Elder	RP - Retired Probationary/Provisional Member

Without Memoir

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

Spouses of Clergy:

David O. Stamey (Rev. Sandra Stamey)	September 18, 2013*
Eloise O. James (Rev. Kenneth James).....	July 06, 2014
Martha Franklin (Rev. Arthur Howell Franklin).....	July 17, 2014
Nancy W. Markham (Rev. Talmadge Markham).....	September 14, 2014
Mark H. Monge (Rev. Kathleen Monge).....	January 17, 2015
Oliver Nelan (Rev. Beverly J. Nelan)	January 29, 2015
Aileen Hogge (Rev. Ernest Hogge).....	February 1, 2015
Gunthilde Spilman (Rev. Martin Spilman)	February 2, 2015
Marsh Marshall (Rev. Betty Daniels-Marshall)	March 28, 2015
Lois Barnett (Rev. Clarence Barnett).....	March 31, 2015
Charlotte "Jerry" Long (Rev. Donald Long).....	April 28, 2015

Spouses of Deceased Clergy:

Joy Oder (Rev. Thomas W. Oder).....	June 01, 2014*
Anne T. Unruh (Rev. James Unruh).....	June 13, 2014*
Virginia P. Harris (Rev. Archie V. Harris).....	June 18, 2014*
Danna R. Cook (Rev. Marvin C. Cook).....	June 26, 2014
Nina M. Goodridge (Rev. Carroll Goodridge)	June 28, 2014
Evella D. Spencer (Rev. Hori Spencer)	July 07, 2014
Ruth F. Luther (Rev. Jay Luther)	September 6, 2014
Elizabeth Tongue (Rev. Wrightson Tongue)	October 1, 2014
Bonnie Bridgers (Rev. Robert Bridgers)	October 17, 2014
Binna E. Walters (Rev. Gordon Walters Sr.)	October 28, 2014
Olive Janss (Rev. Edmund Janss).....	November 02, 2014
Jean Mahon (Rev. William Mahon).....	December 30, 2014
Margaret Winfree (Rev. Charles Winfree)	January 14, 2015
Rosemarie Wooddell (Rev. James R. Wooddell)	February 1, 2015
Anne D. Williams (Rev. Joseph T. Williams)	February 5, 2015
Alice L. Peters (Rev. Howard Peters)	February 18, 2015
Mary Beth Conerly (Rev. Robert H. Conerly).....	February 16, 2015
Frances A. Crowder (Rev. Joseph S. Crowder Jr.)	March 1, 2015
Rachel K. Pollard (Rev. Eugene P. Pollard)	March 1, 2015
Pattie R. Curry (Rev. Joseph S. Curry)	March 17, 2015
Virginia Laine (Rev. A. W. Laine).....	March 19, 2015
Fern Thomas (Rev. Wilbur Thomas)	March 19, 2015
Marianne P. Rooks (Rev. Robert Rooks).....	March 31, 2015
Dorothy Wyand (Rev. Fred Wyand)	April 6, 2015
Betty Jo Rice (Rev. Albert Rice)	April 15, 2015
Dorothy L. Lock (Rev. Beveridge Lock).....	May 1, 2015
Mary L. Davis (Rev. Leroy W. Davis)	May 23, 2015

*Not Reported at 2014 A. C. Updated 05/6/2015

Lay Members

of the 2014-2015 Annual Conference who have died in the last year

Margaret (Peggy) Hopewell (6/21/14)..... Main St. UMC-Suffolk, James River
District, District Delegate
John Scott Atkinson Jr. (8/9/14)..... St. Paul UMC, Alexandria District

MEMOIRS

ERNEST R. BABEL

1941 – 2014

The Rev. Dr. Ernest Richard Babel, 73, passed away peacefully at his home in Ashland, Va., surrounded by his family, October 18, 2014. Ernie was born in Batavia, N.Y., and was preceded in death by his parents, Richard and Irma. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Roberta Ann; four children, Beth (James), Gregory, Philip, Sara (Dave); his grandchildren. He is also survived by his six younger siblings; his nieces and nephews. Ernie began his formal education at Elim Bible Institute. He then earned his undergraduate degree from Roberts Wesleyan College, his Master of Theology and Master of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary, and his Doctorate of Ministry from Emory University. Ernie began his ministry in 1969, first as the pastor of Allegany Free Methodist Church, followed by Gerry Free Methodist Church, in his home state of New York. Moving to Virginia in 1976, he served in the Virginia Conference for the next 38 years. His appointments included Enon United Methodist Church (Mechanicsville), Smith's Grove UMC (Petersburg), New Hope UMC (Fredericksburg) and St. Peter's UMC (Montpelier). In retirement, Ernie served for seven fulfilling years as Minister with Seniors and Homebound for Shady Grove UMC (Mechanicsville), where he continued to serve until his diagnosis of late-stage cancer. He was a highly respected man of many talents. He enjoyed woodworking, repairing farm machinery and automobiles, refinishing furniture and remodeling homes and churches. His work ethic was rooted in the farming community where he was raised. From baling hay to constructing concrete-stave silos, he learned to work hard, pay attention, and help others. In addition to these fine qualities, he was a caring and dedicated father, a true foundation for his family. A friend to all who knew him, Ernie will be greatly missed.

ROGER C. BALCOM

1936 – 2014

The Rev. Roger C. Balcom's plans to continue enjoying his retirement in Virginia Beach were unexpectedly altered when an aggressive form of leukemia was discovered in April 2014. He died on the morning of May 28, 2014. In keeping with his style, Roger slipped away quietly and without drama or fanfare with Carolyn, his wife of 56 years, at his side.

Born in Nebraska on July 19, 1936, his family moved to the Washington D.C. area in 1945. He majored in Psychology at the American University, graduating in 1958. In 1966 he received his Master of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary.

A lover of music and composer of several songs, Roger delighted in playing the piano, banjo, and guitar and, from 1968–1976, brought his musical skills to The Marginal Prophets, of which he was a founding member. Always a singer in church choirs, most recently at Francis Asbury UMC in Virginia Beach, he also sang in the choirs of the Northern Virginia United Methodist congregations he pastored: Silverbrook, Hillsboro, the Riverton/John Wesley charge, William Watters, Pleasant Valley and Galilee. After his last pastorate, Roger served an Appointment Beyond the Local Church as a Senior Social Worker for Loudoun County Social Services, helping to find resources for daily living for those in critical need. Along with Carolyn, he worshipped and sang at the Arcola United Methodist Church.

Having the gifts specific to an introvert, Roger excelled at pastoral care and preaching. His rich imagination and wonderfully quirky sense of humor, frequently brought mirth to others, often leavening life when it was at its lumpiest. Those qualities sometimes showed up in his sermons. One sermon, titled "Tug Boats," was based on the story of Ananias (Acts 9:10-19). He said that Ananias listened, cared, and loved (adjectives that Carolyn and others believe also fit Roger perfectly.) Ananias listened to the Lord in a dream, cared to be the Lord's instrument, and, with great courage, followed through with loving actions. Roger suggested that, just as Ananias, we never know when the daily lived-out expressions of our faith might, like tiny tug boats, welcome into safe harbor some unexpected and unlikely person through whom God has much work to accomplish.

De-emphasizing the statistics normally employed, Roger measured a congregation's vitality by the quality of its relationships: with one another, with those beyond its borders, and with God. Deeply rooted in an awareness of God's presence in all things and all people, he invited others into a similar awareness and commitment: to be inclusive in their listening, caring, and loving . . . over the backyard fence and in the voting booth as well.

Roger was deeply committed to his family and sought to practice at home what he advocated for beyond it. Along with Carolyn, he did this with (in his own words) "our three homegrown kids, and the two that were subcontracted (fostered)."

The concluding verse of his hymn called "Our Gifts," which he dedicated to William Watters United Methodist Church, expresses well both his life and ministry:

From the depths of your love, you give to us,
 A life so full and free.
 You gave your life that we might live, Oh Lord
 The wealth that we have, the songs that we sing
 Our hearts, our lives, our everything,
 We lift now, Oh Lord, to you.

Submitted by Carolyn Balcom and Roger's friend, Rev. Jim Truxell

JOHN C. BARR
1930 – 2015

The future is not ours to know, and it may never be; let us live and give our best, never anticipating or doubting the power of our Savior; asking nothing of tomorrow except “Thy Will Be Done”.

In the stillness of the afternoon on March 22, 2015, John Cleveland “JC” Barr departed this life to join his Heavenly Father and loved ones who had gone before him.

He was born in Williamsburg County, South Carolina, on August 26, 1930, the eldest son of Nancy and Rev. C.C. Barr.

An Army veteran, who served as chaplain in Norfolk, Virginia, Heilbronn, Germany, and Ft. Benning, Georgia, he retired with the rank of colonel.

He was united in holy matrimony to Nora Owens in August, 1955. To this union two children were born.

Rev. Barr received his BS degree from Claflin University and Master of Divinity from Drew Theological Seminary in Madison, New Jersey. He also received additional advanced studies in Science from Iowa State University, clinical training from Virginia Commonwealth/Medical College of Virginia, Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, and Lutheran Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina.

He was a chaplain at McGuire Medical Center in Richmond, VA, and later served as Chief of Chaplain Services. Upon retirement from the VA Hospital he served as pastor of Woodlawn United Methodist Church in Alexandria, VA, and several churches in Timmons-ville, Lynchburg and South Carolina.

Rev. Barr returned to his childhood home in June of 1997, so he could “farm.”

Cherishing fond and lasting memories today include his wife, Nora O. Barr; one son, Cleveland “Jerry” Barr; one daughter, Myrna Barr-Cook; three grandchildren, Aaron, Amaron, and Mya; one sister, Bertha (Fred) Session; five nieces, two nephews and a host of other relatives and friends, especially those who assisted in his care for the last five years at McNair Nursing Facility, Laurel Gardens, and Kingstree Nursing Facility.

EDWIN G. BURCH
1938 – 2015

Rev. Edwin G. Burch attended Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, and received his Master in Divinity in 1980. During his time in the Virginia Conference he served nine churches and worked for the Virginia United Methodist Homes. Reverend Burch began his career in southwest Virginia serving The Patrick Charge for one year. The Patrick Charge consisted of Nettle Ridge UMC, Concord UMC, New Hope UMC, and Creasey's Chapel UMC. From 1981 to 1984, Rev. Burch served as the Associate Pastor of Greene Memorial UMC before moving to Northview UMC where he served until 1987. In 1987, Rev. Burch became the Administrator of The Hermitage in Northern Virginia prior to opening Cedarfield in 1993. In 1996, Rev. Burch left Virginia United Methodist Homes and returned to the ministry. He served Tabernacle UMC from 1996-2000, followed by Central UMC for one year. In 2001, Rev. Burch retired; however, retirement only lasted four years as he returned to the ministry part-time to serve Chatham Heights UMC until 2010.

Ed Burch was preceded in death by his wife of 47 years. Surviving are his wife of four years, Barbara Simpson Huff Burch, and three daughters, Anne Burch Millehan, Katherine Fuller Burch, and Sallie Burch Johnakin-Putnam. He was also the proud grandfather of four grandchildren and four step-grandchildren.

Ed Burch came to the ministry later in life. A former engineer with a genius IQ, he was called by God at the age of 40. He was a natural storyteller and his sermons often evolved from a combination of Scripture and a story. Reading his sermons provides you with a glimpse of a genuine “what you see is what you get” man. Within his sermons he embedded spiritual lessons, politics, history, jokes, headlines, morality, and literature. Somehow, in one message, he was able to tie a story of the family cat getting caught in a tree to Matthew 3:1-12 and in another make the comparison between Robert L. Ripley of Ripley's Believe It Or Not to Doubting Thomas.

In one personal message, Rev. Burch wrote this about the calling to ministry:

There is one career choice that, for good or ill, has always placed a lot of emphasis on hearing an early and persistent calling.... the ministry. Some of us know at least one. They were the kids who conducted all the pet funerals, organized all of the fake weddings, and sometimes held rather spooky prayer vigils at odd times of the evening.

Then there are those people who receive a calling within their church. Those who experience a much more dramatic calling as a result of a transforming experience in their lives; maybe not a Damascus Road moment, but certainly a recognizable calling. These are men and women who have been well settled in perfectly normal lives.

God often calls us while we are running errands or doing the thankless chores of life. He calls us when we least expect it. His calling to me was like that. I was painting my daughter's bedroom. And He laid his hand on my shoulder, very gently, very softly.

And He said, "I need you to do something for me."

Rev. Burch believed we are all chosen for a purpose. Our purpose, as Christians, is to proclaim the Gospel until we meet our Maker. Ed Burch served that purpose as well.

-Sallie Johnakin-Putnam, Edwin Burch's daughter

JOHN S. DAVENPORT 1925 – 2014

The Rev. John Staperton Davenport Jr. was born February 13, 1925, to the late John S. Davenport Sr. and Annie J. Anderson Davenport in Fayette County, West Virginia. He graduated from Mount Hope High School and soon thereafter, graduated from Baylor University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. As a Baptist Minister for 33 years, Rev. Davenport began his career as an Associate Minister at Temple Baptist Church in Newport News, Virginia. Later, Rev. Davenport moved onto Ministries at Louisa Baptist Church in Louisa, Virginia; Stokesland Baptist Church in Danville, Virginia; Buchanan Baptist Church and Arcadia Mission in Buchanan, Virginia; Highland Baptist Church in Portsmouth, Virginia; and Trinity Baptist Church in Covington, Virginia. Following his tenure with the Baptist Ministry, Rev. Davenport began leading parishioners through the Methodist Ministry. In that role, Rev. Davenport continued to provide guidance, support, and comfort to others at Floyd Parish United Methodist Charge in Roanoke District; Kenbridge United Methodist Church in Kenbridge, Virginia; East Nottoway United Methodist Charge in Farmville District; Indiana United Methodist Church in Chesapeake, Virginia; and Community United Methodist Church in Portsmouth, Virginia.

As part of his dedication to service and education, Rev. Davenport participated in special activities, which included travel with the Baptist World Alliance on a South America Tour in 1960. In 1965, Rev. Davenport traveled to the Holy Land and Europe, and once again, Rev. Davenport returned to the Holy Land in 1972, with the Missionary Journey of Paul and Holy Land Tour. For years to come, Rev. Davenport often spoke of these journeys with others, providing them with direction, insight, and enlightenment. In fact, following his regular service to the church, Rev. Davenport ministered as a guest speaker at many churches. At Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Rev. David Drinkard remembers Rev. Davenport's continued desire to share the word of the Bible, and minister to others. Rev. Davenport is remembered to having said to Rev. Drinkard, "God did not call me to retire. He called me to preach."

Rev. Davenport's service was not only limited to the church. In 1943, Rev. Davenport worked with the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company in Raleigh, West Virginia, and in Beckley, West Virginia, in 1947. During his absence from the railway, Rev. Davenport served our nation during World War II in Europe as a Staff Sergeant in the United States Army.

Throughout his lifetime, Rev. Davenport led with principle, faith and determination, and while remaining forever true to his faith, following a long-term illness, Rev. John S. Davenport, Jr. was called into eternity on August 22, 2014. He is survived by his wife, Martha Harrell Davenport of 54 years; a son, Dr. John David Davenport; a daughter, Miriam Davenport Fischer; and grandchildren Christopher Yost, Cameron Yost, Madison Davenport, and Tia Davenport. His funeral service was held at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Chesapeake, Virginia, on August 26, 2014.

Martha H. Davenport and Dr. Eric Fischer (Son-in-law)

MELVIN O. DAVIS 1936 – 2015

The Rev. Dr. M. Ott Davis of Chester, Virginia, died on January 28, 2015. Dr. Davis was the son of James McClellan Davis and Bettie Matthews Davis and was born in Brunswick County, Virginia, on January 3, 1936. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Betty Thomas Davis of Chester; his three children, Susan Davis Payne of Bon Air, Karren Davis Streagle and her husband, Tim, of McCammon, Idaho, and Richard J. Davis and his wife, Rebecca, of Spotsylvania; and seven grandchildren, Andrew Davis, Matthew Davis, Mattison Payne, Lauren Streagle, Jordan Sheldon, Melia Sheldon, and Jaden Sheldon. One of six children, Dr. Davis was predeceased by Richard Davis and Jane Paige. His surviving siblings include Ann Bowen, Emily Stead, and Howard Davis and his wife, Jeanne. As well, he is survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

Dr. Davis graduated from Alberta High School, Emory and Henry College, Duke Divinity School, and the Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. With over 42 years as a United Methodist pastor, Dr. Davis served both the Holston Conference in North Carolina and the Virginia United Methodist Conference.

RICHARD H. DAVIS 1959 – 2015

Rev. Richard "Rik" Hilton Davis of North Chesterfield, 55, died on Monday, January 5, 2015. He is survived by his loving, loyal and steadfast wife of 25 years, Ann Graham Davis, his beloved children, Graham, Conna and Amelia, brothers and sisters-in-law, Jim Davis and Barbara Ozlin of Chester and Tad and Debby Davis of Philadelphia, Ann's parents and sister, Dr. and Mrs. David H. Graham (Patricia) of Sun City, Arizona, and Kathryn Graham of Boston, his niece, nephews and other extended family. He was preceded in death by his parents, Rev. Beverly J. Davis Jr. and Conna Lawhead Davis.

As a teen, Rik developed interests in music, particularly the guitar, and in science fiction, especially Star Trek, passions that he never really lost. While a student at Virginia Tech, Rik discovered he had talent in television production. Following graduation he remained in Blacksburg for a time and worked in television production for the University. He moved on to similar work for the College of William and Mary before settling into a career in the U.S. Senate television studio in Washington, DC. While there he facilitated members of the electronic media covering news events on Capitol Hill, produced news features for distribution to Senators' home districts and produced

recordings of Presidential Inaugurations.

After a time Rik felt God's call to the ministry and resumed his studies at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. He entered full time ministry as an Associate Minister of Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Alexandria in 1998. He subsequently served as Pastor of Enon UMC in Mechanicsville and Forest Grove UMC in Ashland. He was serving Huguenot UMC in Richmond when the effects of a brain stem tumor finally forced him to take medical leave in 2012. Rik battled the cancer for almost 2 and half years.

Recognizing his bravery and endurance in persevering and surviving far beyond the initial prognosis, Rik's physician described him as a "real warrior". Ever the communicator, Rik created a blog to update concerned friends on his condition and, at one point during this period, created and led an on-line Bible study using social media tools. Rik wrote this in his blog on November 1, 2014:

"All Saints Day seems as appropriate a day as any to post to this blog once again. I sit still thankful for every day, but not sure how long I have. I could still have a few years ahead, or I could be looking at a few months if things turn on me quickly. On All Saints Day my mind turns to the multitude of saints who surround my life – not just the historical saints and heroes of our faith, but especially saints like you who have followed my progress over the last couple of years and have surrounded my family and me with your prayers and encouragement. I am grateful for your concern and wake each morning certain of the fact that I need not face this alone."

-by Jim Davis, Rik's brother

ROBERT J. DAY

1927 – 2015

Robert J. Day was not only a member of the Virginia Annual Conference, he was my dad. Dad grew up in West Virginia and became a coal miner at a very young age. While working several miles underneath the earth, God called this young man to become a minister. Without hesitation, he went back to school. His goal was to complete his education and spend the rest of his life in full-time ministry.

Dad was ordained a deacon and elder in the West Virginia Annual Conference. He served numerous churches while attending school. His first appointment consisted of six churches. He was so very proud that God had called him into the ministry. His salary was \$90 a month. He had a wife and two young boys at the time. Of the \$90 a month in salary, his monthly car payment was \$45.

Somehow we made it through these difficult days. Dad would preach four to five times each Sunday. Dad was always a real prayer warrior. Even with advanced dementia and Alzheimers, he would pray for those around him. Quite often he would bless his food with three or four different prayers.

Dad has now received the promise of resurrection. He was my mentor and friend. He had a brilliant mind. I was saddened when he no longer could preach or remember me. I was with him until the very end. I was singing to him that great hymn, *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*, when I looked at his face and saw tears running down his face. At that point, Dad just flew away.

From the mountains of West Virginia to the flat lands of Virginia, my dad was a servant of the Lord. He served a number of appointments in the Virginia Conference, including Shiloh, Patrick Springs, Forest, Mount Olivet (Danville), St. Mark's (Cloverdale), Grace (Danville), McGuire Park, Fairview (Roanoke), Rodes, Providence-Woodland, Tappahannock Memorial, Mathews Chapel. Dad retired in 1992 but served Bethany, Brodnax Providence, and Trinity in retirement.

Dad is now with our mother who was indeed a partner in ministry with him. Dad and mother created the kind of environment where I was also able to hear God's call on my own life. Thanks, Dad, for all you have done for me.

Your Son, Rev. Michael G. Day, Lakeland United Methodist Charge, Farmville District

JAMES L. DULEY

1926 – 2014

Jim transferred his membership to the Church Eternal on December 19, 2014.

After returning from World War II, Jim felt that ministry was his calling, perhaps from a sense of duty, and certainly with heart-felt gratitude for being one of the boys who made it home.

Jim began in 1948 while a student at American University, serving Sudley-Gainesville. While there for 10 years, he also graduated from Wesley Theological Seminary, 1953.

In 1955 Jim traveled to the Holy Land, writing articles to a local newspaper which he later made into pamphlet and delivered as a presentation to many area churches.

Other appointments included Roanoke DS; Messiah, Springfield; Epworth, Norfolk; First, Charlottesville. He really enjoyed a part-time appointment in retirement, Liberty (Bealton). Jim served on numerous conference boards and committees.

Many people have used a single word to sum up his career and character: "energy." His humor was contagious as well.

Family was always a priority. His loving wife, Barbara, enjoyed 64 years of marriage and supported him faithfully. Together they raised five children. When colleagues asked him if he played golf, he'd quip: "No, I have children."

His highlight was helping to build Aldersgate (Alexandria) where over 16 years nearly 4,000 people joined under his leadership.

When asked what was the best part of ministry, he responded "The people - working with people." His family remembers him with love, and we close with one of his favorite Bible verses:

Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father (John 14:12.)

CLIFFORD L. EAST JR.**1923 – 2014**

The Rev. Clifford Lyle East Jr., 91, of Harrisonburg, passed away Wednesday, July 9, 2014, at Harrisonburg Health and Rehabilitation Center. A son of the late Clifford and Bessie Dent East, he was born February 3, 1923, in Richmond.

The Rev. East was a WWII Army veteran and graduated from Randolph-Macon College and The Divinity School at Duke University. He started his ministries with the Methodist Church in the East Nottoway Charge of the Farmville District. He later served at Wesley in Alexandria, Cave Spring in Roanoke, Moseley Memorial in Danville, Lane Memorial in Altavista, Leesburg UMC, Tabernacle UMC in Poquoson, Ramsey Memorial in Richmond, Great Falls UMC and Charles Wesley UMC in McLean where he retired in 1988. Cliff was influential in the Chrismon introduction in the Methodist Church; he was also artistic in creating ceramics, porcelain and figurines.

On July 6, 1957, he married the former Nancy Laughlin of Parkersburg, WV, who survives. Also surviving are three sons, Clifford Lyle East III of Ocoee, FL, Gilford Kyle East of Mineral, VA, and Dale Laughlin East and partner, John Barry, of Hollywood, CA; one grandson, Dustin East; one sister, Erma East of Richmond; and two nieces, Dianne Mellick and husband, Gary, and Cheryl Cox and husband, Ross.

HAROLD M. FUSS**1925 – 2014**

A faithful, committed servant of Christ who, as a child of the living God, was brave in his service to God's kingdom and a true ambassador of Christ to all people. Harold Martin Fuss marched into the glory of God's kingdom on September 17, 2014. He was brave in his ministry of the Word and loving in his service.

From a very early age – three or four years old – he felt called to be a preacher. At 18 he was appointed to three small churches as a student preacher while attending college and seminary. In the fall of 1946, Harold moved from the Baltimore Conference to the Virginia Conference and was appointed to eight small churches in the north end of the valley with a parsonage that had no indoor plumbing.

Harold and Jackie were united in marriage February 8, 1947, in Washington, D.C. That union brought a gift of love and joy in their three children, Gerald F. Fuss Sr., Christopher S. Fuss (member of the Virginia Conference), and Deborah Ann Fuss Wagner.

He was attending seminary in Richmond and serving the churches on weekends. Harold was a stalwart minister of the Gospel for 44 years. He was active in all parts of church ministry and helped with church mergers, relocations and building projects. In Eagle Rock, VA, both the church, the parsonage and three other homes burned down, and the family faced some hard time before another parsonage was obtained. At that time he was completing his seminary requirements, and all of his academic work was lost in the fire.

Harold was always greatly involved with youths, both in the church and in the community. He served for many years as a volunteer chaplain with the training and then guidance of The Institute of Industrial and Commercial Ministries, Inc. He was proud to be a Methodist minister.

He retired after 44 years of active ministry and moved on a small farm where he continued his intensive work gardening, woodworking and growing Christmas trees. He self-published a book about his life and Christian ministry.

Harold was born into a very poor home in Gerrardstown, WV, but he was rich in his Christian faith and blessed thousands with the fire of his convictions.

He is survived by his wife, Jackie, of 67 years.

Composed by the Rev. James John at Jackie's request.

HOMER A. HALL**1924 – 2014**

On Sept 16, 2014, Dr. Homer Alexander Hall (retired) passed away quietly at home at the age of 90. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Ethel Hall, his children and their spouses, Stephen and Brenda Hall, Janice and Stephen Nuckolls, and his grandchildren Matthew Hall (wife Jackie) and Sara Hall, and his great-grandson Nolan Shomo.

Homer was born in Washington, DC on August 23rd 1924, and was raised in Washington, DC and the Northern Virginia Area. When he felt called to the ministry, he completed his educational requirements while faithfully serving his appointments. One was a three point charge and the next a two point charge. What a challenging endeavor.

Homer graduated May 16, 1976 from The American University, with a Degree of Science of General Studies in Social Science. When his seminary studies from Duke University were completed on June 13, 1978 he was ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church. After taking a one-year Sabbatical he received a Doctor of Ministry from Drew University on October 26, 1984.

Homer served churches in Loudoun County from 1968 to 1982. The first appointment was the Round Hill, Bluemont, and Roszell Chapel Charge from 1968 to 1972. Then Dr. Hall served Galilee UMC and Ryan UMC for a few years as a two point charge and then only Galilee UMC. He was there from 1972 until 1982. After his one year Sabbatical he served Smith's Chapel from 1983 to 1984.

He was the Assistant Chaplain at Fairfax Hospital and counselor at Pastoral Counseling Service of Northern Virginia from 1985 until 1989 when he retired.

While Homer had many gifts for the ministry, it was in counseling to those who were hurting that was this strength. He was still counseling those in need right up until his death.

GUY B. HAMILTON SR.**1944 – 2014**

Guy Benson Hamilton Sr. was born and raised in NJ. After high school he attended Tennessee Wesleyan College in Athens, TN, set on becoming a Methodist minister. After a couple of years he decided college was not for him and joined the U.S. Marine Corps. He served in the Presidential Honor Guard in Washington, D.C. and then had a tour of duty in Viet Nam where he was injured and received a Purple Heart. Prior to his ministry he was a radio announcer and held marketing positions. Before coming to Asbury he and his wife, Cheryl, were active members of Pender United Methodist Church in Fairfax, VA.

He met Cheryl in Hagerstown, MD, where she was attending college and where his platoon was at Camp David on TDY. They met on a blind date. They were married two years later. During their life together of 46 years, they lived in Alexandria, Herndon, Chantilly and Nokesville; until their retirement in 2007 when they settled in Fairfield Glade, TN. Two sons were born – Guy Jr. in 1973 and Mark in 1982. Guy was so proud of them and loved them immensely. They enjoyed sports together and most particularly NASCAR. He was delighted to have two daughters-in-law and was very proud of his grandchildren: Cameron & Cassidy, Elizabeth & Benson.

Guy was his happiest while serving Asbury UMC as its pastor for 15 years. He had a big heart for missions and headed up several mission trips to Haiti and WV. He was kind, considerate, and compassionate; never held a grudge and was always forgiving. He had a quick and funny sense of humor that made everyone around him laugh or smile. He leaves an empty space in our family.

At the time of his retirement in 2007 the following was written about him by one of Asbury's members: "Guy Hamilton, Sr., a part-time pastor in name only, has served Asbury United Methodist Church in Nokesville, Virginia for 15 years with a full-time work ethic and an over-time heart. Salvation has been his watchword, and service to God his touchstone. His goal every Sunday? That his congregation would leave church feeling either, "glad, sad, or mad". He often accomplished all three. Virtually every member of Asbury will tell you that they have a "special" relationship with Pastor Guy...and they do. His tireless, unwavering devotion to God and country have been a model and a blessing for all who know him. Guy Hamilton, Sr., not just a man of God, but a Marine of God. What a friend we've had in Jesus, with Pastor Guy. God bless you, sir. With love, Your Sheep"

Praise God for Guy's life and Praise you Jesus for we know he now resides with you in Heaven. To God be the Glory!

SANDRA K. HAMILTON**1949 – 2014**

The Rev. Dr. Sandra Kruschwitz Hamilton, 64, of Glen Allen, went home on Saturday, May 31, 2014, following long illnesses. An Elder in Full connection of the United Methodist Church, Virginia Conference, Sandy served as a pastoral counselor and faculty member at the Virginia Institute of Pastoral Care (VICare). Partnering with VICare staff and her student, Dr. Jean-Emile Ngue' of Yaounde, Cameroon, she help found The African Counseling Center, patterned after VICare. Sandy traveled to Yaounde in 2002 to teach pastoral care and counseling.

She is survived by her husband, Rev. Dr. John Hamilton; and son, Jim Hamilton, both of Richmond; mother, Marjorie C. Kruschwitz of Florence, KY; sisters, Elaine Littler of Florence, KY and Pamela J. Dunagan of San Antonio, TX.; cousins, nephews, and nieces.

HOLLEY M. HENSLEY**1918 – 2014**

It is hard to name everything good about him, because he had so many wonderful qualities. He was a great husband, a good father and grandfather, he worked hard and took care of everything he needed to.

H. WARREN LANDIS**1924 – 2015**

Chaplain (Ret.) H. Warren Landis at age 91, passed away on February 18, 2015, at the Chesapeake Retirement Community in Newport News, Virginia, where he had been a resident for 10 years.

He was predeceased by his parents, Elsie G. Landes and Henry D. Landes; two sisters, Goldie Landes and Marie Young; three brothers, Ray, Carl and Leslie Landes of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. He is survived by his wife, Wanda E. Landis, and daughters, Katherine Warden of Williamsburg, and Nancy Rubin (Jonathan) of Chesterfield, Virginia; two sisters-in-law, Janet and Darlene Landes, also from the Shenandoah Valley; four grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

As a Methodist minister, he served nine appointments in the Virginia Conference, including Phoebus United Methodist Church in Hampton for eight years. His final assignment was as a chaplain at the Hampton Veterans Administration Medical Center. He also served as an active duty and reserve Air Force chaplain.

He graduated from Shenandoah University, James Madison University, Emory University Chandler School of Theology and Boston University with a Doctorate of Ministry.

As a veteran of WWII, he participated in the Normandy invasion and the Battle of the Bulge where he was captured by the Germans on Christmas Day and imprisoned in two separate work camps. During that time, he was wounded twice, but was sent back to continue with his unit. He received various commendations for his service and was led during the war to study for the ministry upon returning home.

He served as chaplain of the local and state Ex-POW and Purple Heart organizations. After retirement, he served as a volunteer chaplain at the Hampton Veterans Administration Medical Center. He was a member of the Phoebus Lions Club as well as a volunteer with the Phoebus Fire Dept. and volunteer/instructor for the Phoebus Rescue Squad. Throughout his life and career, he led or assisted

with the local scout organizations.

The family visitation was held on Friday, February 27 at the R. Hayden Smith Funeral Home in Hampton, VA. Funeral service was held at Chestnut Memorial United Methodist Church in Newport News, VA. A full honors Internment Service took place at Arlington National Cemetery.

WILLIAM (BILL) MALLARD

1927 – 2014

William (Bill) Mallard, Professor emeritus, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, ended his journey here on December 23, 2014, with family and friends saying their good byes over months and with Atlanta Hospice enabling him to be at home. He was born to Carrilu and William Mallard on May 28, 1927, in New York City. Raised by his mother and grandmother after the divorce of his parents when he was six years old, he attended Columbia Grammar School through 8th grade. Following the death of his grandmother, Daisy Dean Born, when he was 14 years old, he and his mother moved to Richmond, VA, where he attended Thomas Jefferson High School. He became a member of Monument Methodist Church which became Reveille United Methodist Church. This church, seeing Bill's gifts and potential and knowing he had no money to attend college, included his tuition, room and board in their church budget for four years at Randolph Macon Men's College and three years at Duke Divinity School. He received grants and award to complete his PhD in Church History at Duke University. After receiving his PhD, he taught for two years at Sweet Briar College in Lynchburg, Va. Before leaving Virginia in 1957 to join the faculty at the Candler School of Theology, Emory University, he located his father and met his half brother, Cole, a relationship that became paramount in his life.

It was in Atlanta where he met and married Gatra Reid of Andalusia, AL, and where their three children, Reid, Winn and Rob, grew up. Being husband and father were a priority and a joy in his life. During the 43 years of teaching at Candler, he felt he was blessed with supportive and collaborative colleagues who helped shape his professional life. During these years, he taught various Sunday school classes, St. Mark UMC college class, Glenn Memorial UMC Senior High class where he and Gatra had become members in 1963 and for the last eight years, he taught the Live and Learn Class at Glenn. During the last 25 years of his career, he began teaching Bible Studies at various churches and seminars throughout the country. His love and his gift was for teaching. Even though he wrote numerous articles and published two books, he is remembered for his teaching and preaching and loved for his genuine response to and care for others. At Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church, he will long be remembered for leading singing on Christmas Eve and the AMEN chorus!!

Professor Mallard was recognized as one of the most popular and influential of Candler's teacher. He received numerous awards for his ability in the classroom including The Emory Williams Distinguished Teaching Award in 1981, given by Emory University. He is the only Candler faculty through 2014 to have taught 43 years at Candler and to have received the Thomas Jefferson Award for outstanding service to Emory University, 1989. He received an honorary doctorate from Randolph Macon College in 1980. In 2014 he received one of the 56 Centennial Medals awarded by Candler in celebration of its 100 years. He retired from his job at Emory in 2000 but not from his profession of preaching and teaching until the progressive disease in his left brain surfaced in January of 2014.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Gatra Reid, their children, Reid (Alison and grandsons, Charlie, Chapman and Bo), Gatra Winn, and Rob (Karen and grandchildren, Edison and Elena Gatra), his brother, Cole (Kathy), his brother-in-law, Bob Reid (and Joan), nieces and nephews and close extended family members.

Bill was a man of genuine humility, fine intellect, great laughter and deep commitment to his faith, his family and his teaching ministry. His voice, whether speaking, singing or responding, was a gift to all who knew him.

The video of his Memorial Service on January 3, 2015, can be found on the Candler School of Theology web site or the You Tube link: zN7MEC0XR10. If interested, it was his request that memorial gifts in his name to be given to the Candler School of Theology, the setting for his ministry for 43 years.

LUTHER M. MARKS

1926 – 2014

Never bargain with God. This is a solid principle to build your faith upon. Yet, in the duel typhoons of storm and war, that's exactly what Luther Milton Marks did that day on a ship in the Pacific Ocean that seemed doomed to sink beneath the thundering waves. Luther prayed "God, get me home and I will do anything you want me to do." The ship, an LCI, the smallest sea going vessel in the Navy, didn't sink and Luther got back home.

Back home again, Luther went to work in the coal mines as everybody did in Cranberry, West Virginia. He met Jean Crouch and asked her to marry him. Much to everyone's surprise and the dismay of Jean's family, she accepted. Luther was the jitterbug king of the town and none of the Marks boys had great reputations. Still, Luther was a good worker and his job in the coal mines seemed to promise a reasonably good life.

Then, once again, God's Spirit began to move in Luther's heart. He became a member of a small Bible study and prayer group held at the mines during lunch time. Wanting more time together, the group added night meetings. Soon there was a still, small voice calling out to Luther reminding him of the bargain he had made with God. One day the voice called clear and loud: "Luther, get out of this mine! From now on, you are all mine." Luther did exactly that. Luther and Jean sold their house and their furnishings. Luther loaded up his Jean, their infant son, and a few belongings and headed off to Lee Bible College in the tiny town of Cleveland, Tennessee. They traveled in a wreck of a car that Luther had fitted with chicken wire windows to keep out the rain. Three flat tires later they found their way to Cleveland and their tiny apartment. that didn't seem up to the challenge. Luther's father, Luther Lemuel, thought his son had lost his mind.

After that, Luther preached for a short time in a little community church. Before long, he met a Methodist District Superintendent who suggested that he should become an ordained Methodist preacher. Luther accepted the challenge. He went on to Concord College and from there, on to Duke Seminary. During his time at Duke, he took an appointment to a Methodist Charge. One Sunday Luther suggested to the folks there that black folks were equal to white folks. This simple message brought him and his family a few threats. Still, most folks respected him for standing on the principles and promises of God's Word. After that, he preached for a few years in the West Virginia Conference in the little towns of Montcalm, Boomer and Brushfork before coming to the Virginia Conference where he stayed the rest of his career. Luther preferred rural and small town appointments and asked not to be sent to churches located in the large metropolitan cities of Virginia.

Luther's message was simple. His delivery humble. "You and I and everyone in this old world, need Jesus. Won't you give your heart to Jesus today?" In and out of the pulpit his manner was the same. He was a coalminer's son from West Virginia called out of the mines to invite folks to new life in Christ. That was all. Nothing more. He kept the message simple. He loved his people. He went where he was sent. Many folks came to Christ under his ministry and a few saved souls entered ordained ministry.

Luther Milton Marks was loved and respected as a simple man who loved God and tried his best to do what God ask him to do. He bargained with God and kept his end of the bargain.

-Rev. Milton E. Marks, son

MATTHEW M. NELSON

1938 – 2015

Matthew Mark Nelson was born on September 18, 1938, in Rochester, NY, to Salvatore and Mary Cerniglia Monachino. He is survived by his beloved wife, Donna Elaine Nelson; daughters, Esther M. Cade (and husband, Benjamin), and Catherine D. Bickert (and husband, Tim), of Wilmore, KY; sister, Frances Vandenberg (and husband, Peter) of Vinton, VA; brother, Samuel Monachino (and wife, Maggie) of Wyoming, NY; grandchildren, John Mark, Rowan, Dillon, and Ethan Bickert, and Savannah and Austin Cade; and several nieces and nephews.

Matthew Nelson received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Southeastern Bible College. He continued his studies at Colgate Rochester Divinity School earning a Master of Arts. He also received a Master of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary and later completed his Doctor of Ministry from Trinity Theological Seminary. Matt's first appointment was Springwater-Canadice Charge in New York State. After that he served fourteen churches in nine pastorates across Virginia.

Matt was great at telling stories and loved using everyday items to illustrate God's love. He especially enjoyed doing children's time and loved re-telling Bible stories in a way that was fun and memorable for not just the kids, but the whole congregation. His sister and wife noted that he always carried a Bible with him, whether in his backpack in high school or in his pocket the rest of his life.

He was an educated man with a friendly, caring, and gentle demeanor. He was known for his devoted faith, sense of humor, and kindness. He was noted by a pastor and friend, Don Jamison, as "distinguished by his lack of self-importance." He loved music and could play the accordion, the auto harp, the organ and piano. He also loved to sing harmony along his wife Donna who often sang in the choir or played chimes and hand bells with him. He found great joy in sharing his talents with others. District Superintendent, Alex Joyner described Matt's later years, "as Matt's facility with words became more frustrating for him, he turned to pictures--collecting beautiful photos from magazines and old church art and creating journals that reveal how God's Spirit was still moving through him to wonder and praise."

Matt had many hobbies such as woodworking, music, setting stones and making jewelry, fixing lamps, and creating picture journals. He combined his interests with his desire to help others and will be remembered for his gifts of preaching, teaching, creativity, and encouragement. He made every effort to live as an example of Christ. He truly dedicated his heart, mind, and soul to the ministry of serving the Lord and it is by God's amazing grace that Matt is now abiding in the presence of the Lord for an eternity in full joy.

ROBERT F. NEWCOMB

1938 – 2014

Robert Frank Newcomb, age 76, passed away on Thursday, July 17, 2014, in Manassas, Virginia. He was born on April 11, 1938, in Hugo, Oklahoma, to the late Frank Landon and Gladys Boley Newcomb. Robert attended college at Ohio Wesleyan University. Upon graduating, he married his college sweetheart, Sandra Barbour, and began work as a pastor in a United Methodist Church in Ohio.

After a few years he left the ministry and started working for the Boy Scouts of America where he remained for over 30 years until retirement. He remained active in his local church as a layman and served in many roles, including Sunday School teacher, chairman of the local church board and as a substitute minister on Sundays when the local pastor was out of town. After retiring from the Boy Scouts of America, Robert returned to the United Methodist Church, where he worked as a local pastor. He served in the UMC Western Pennsylvania Conference from 1996 to 1999, then transferred to the UMC Virginia Conference serving the Mount Airy Charge from 1999 to 2007. Then Robert retired one last time to Manassas, Virginia, to be closer to his daughter and her family. Even then, he continued to teach a weekly bible study class and administer communion to the residents in his retirement community.

Robert was a devoted husband to his wife of 52 years, Sandra; loving father to his daughter Sandra Newcomb Weisman and husband Steven, and proud grandfather to his grandchildren: Alexander Lee and Elizabeth Rose Weisman.

Robert was well known for his sunny disposition, boisterous voice, sense of humor and infectious laugh. He was a great leader, public speaker and motivator. Robert knew how to tell a good joke, weave a great story and deliver a moving prayer. He truly believed the teachings of Jesus and applied them in his life, no matter where he went and who he met.

A Memorial Service was held on Sunday, July 20, 2014, at Pierce Funeral Home, Manassas, Virginia, with the Rev. Chris Riedel of Arcola United Methodist Church officiating. Condolences may be sent to Robert's daughter at snweisman@verizon.net or to 42085 Bear Tooth Drive, Stone Ridge, VA 20105.

CLYDE D. NUCKOLS

1931 – 2014

Rev. Clyde D. Nuckols Sr., of Louisa, passed Monday, June 23, 2014, at his residence. He was the son of the late Wesley and Frances Nuckols and was predeceased by his wife, Catherine. Clyde was a devoted family man, active in Civil Rights Movement, an avid outdoors man, touched the lives of hundreds, serving United Methodist Church for 44 years as pastor in Holly Spring, Ga., Baltimore, Md., Stoney Creek, Riverton, Richmond, Strasburg, Poquoson, McLean, Colonial Heights, Chesterfield, Suffolk, Charlottesville and Fluvanna, Va. He established a ministry for the deaf and was passionate about youth in the church. He is survived by son, Chuck Nuckols (Jaime); daughters, Susie Bickley (Cecil) of Louisa, Va., and Mary White (Rock) of Glen Allen, Va.; grandchildren, Jesse and Claire Bickley, Ted and Ashley White; and a beloved pet "Bob."

WILLIAM G. PRICE

1921 – 2014

Rev. William G. Price, 93, of Chesterfield, went home to be with his heavenly Father December 17, 2014, and joined his wife, Iris. He is survived by his children, Debbie Sweatt and William Price Jr.; grandchildren, Alex and Tabitha; sister, Elizabeth Clem of Williamsburg. He served in the U.S. Navy in WWII as a medic/ pharmacist mate at the invasion on D-Day. As a minister, he touched the lives of many while serving the Lord for over 60 years. He will be greatly missed by the congregations he witnessed to in the United Methodist churches throughout Virginia.

WARREN L. REEVES

1930 – 2014

Rev. Warren Lee Reeves, born in Bridgewater, Virginia, to Grace and Marvin Reeves, July 12, 1930, grew up in Staunton, Virginia, where he attended public school and was very active in the life and work of Marquis Memorial Church. Warren began his ministry as a full time local pastor at Fishersville, Virginia in October 1950. While serving as a local pastor, he earned his bachelor's degree at Bridgewater College and his theological degree from Wesley Theological Seminary. Warren was ordained elder in June of 1965. During 40 years of active ministry, as local pastor, deacon, and elder, he served numerous churches throughout Virginia.

His faith compelled him to lead by example. Throughout his life he freely gave his time and talents not only to the church, but also to the communities where he served. Whether, as a teen, visiting returning WW II wounded veterans, or later, as an avid gardener, feeding those in need, he was generous, patient, and kind to everyone he encountered. For years he was an active member of the Lions Club, and was also instrumental in local projects for the common good, including establishing a suicide hot line. During his lifetime he touched many through his unassuming acts of kindness, love, and acceptance.

As a church leader and pastoral care-giver, Warren was blessed with the ability to remain calm in any situation and to provide comfort to those facing difficult times. People trusted him. They sensed his genuine empathy, and in times of need looked to him for pastoral support and wise counsel.

Warren's last appointment was to Nimmo Church in Virginia Beach where he served until his retirement in 1991. His vision and pastoral leadership were the driving forces behind the upgrading and updating of Nimmo's facilities, which were crucial to the revival of its ministry in the 1990s and early 21st Century. Retiring in Virginia Beach, he continued to serve the church by supplying the pulpit, administering the sacraments, teaching Sunday school, or chairing a committee. In his final years Warren was an inspiration to both his former parishioners and his ministerial colleagues. The quiet patience with which he bore the pain and demands of his illnesses awed and inspired all who knew him. They always came away from their visits having been given much more than they gave.

He married his wife of 61 years, Lucille, on August 14, 1953. They had two daughters, Sylvia and Cheryl. He was a devoted, loving husband, father and grandfather. He will be thoughtfully and gratefully remembered as a quiet thoughtful man with a quick, and often self-deprecating wit. A man of deep and profound faith, he lived life fully until called home on November 10, 2014. The following tribute by his granddaughter Virginia Workman is an eloquent testimony to Warren's life:

"Yesterday the world lost the greatest man I have ever known. I know everyone says that about their family, but my grandfather was truly the most selfless, caring, giving, understanding, loving person I've ever met. I can't remember a time where I ever saw him angry or even raise his voice. I was really hoping for one more year of holidays with you, but I'm glad to know that you are no longer in pain and suffering. I love you and will never forget you Grampy."

"Blessed are the dead who die in the lord. Yes says the spirit, they will rest from their labors for their deeds follow them." Revelation 14:13

The Reeves Family

GARRY J. SHELTON

1922 – 2015

The Rev. Garry James Shelton, 92, of Roanoke, VA, died Thursday, February 5, 2015, at The Hermitage in Roanoke. He was the son of Chesley Wade Shelton and Annie Laura Parker Shelton. Garry graduated from Amherst High School, Lynchburg College, Duke University Divinity School, and he completed advanced studies in Education at Virginia State College. Garry was a veteran of the U. S.

Army, having served during World War II in the South Pacific. Ordained as an Elder in the Methodist Church by Bishop Paul Garber, Garry Shelton served 32 churches and organizations over his 53 year ministry. After he retired in 1987, he continued to serve churches throughout Central Virginia.

He is survived by his lovely wife of 70 years, Virginia Campbell Shelton; two children, Joan Shelton Dowdy and husband Dan, and G. Michael Shelton and wife Sandy. His children commemorate their love for their father through the words of his five grandchildren who called him "Papa"— Jason, Ben, Lauren, Kirk and Hannah.

First grandchild, Jason: "We loved a man we all called Papa. He helped form our lives and made us better people. He instilled in us what was most important to him - his love of God, his family, his congregations and the hundreds of people he helped over the years. He once said 'the best thing about being married, is our two children, Joan and Mike, and five grandchildren. My goal is to hang around long enough to enjoy at least one great-grandchild.' Papa has four great grandchildren and he loves them all. Papa touched so many of our lives in such a profound way. When I was born on March 23, 1976, he became Papa for the first time. On February 5, 2015, Papa left us to go to a better place. There is a place in our hearts that will always be reserved for Papa Shelton."

Second grandchild, Ben: "Papa affected the lives of many people through his kindness, generosity, dedication, hard work, compassion and love of God. He taught me those values, not by words alone, but by his actions. When I have a difficult decision to make or am faced with one of life's lesson-learning situations, I often ask myself 'what would Papa do.' He taught me the love for family and value of hard work. He, along with Nana, taught us that family is a blessing and one of God's greatest gifts to society; we need to love and support each other in kind and unselfish ways to be healthy individuals. I will always remember him smiling and laughing and freely giving the grandchildren 'cabbage leaves' (money) from time to time."

Third grandchild, Lauren: "Papa said, 'Music is the language of the soul.' He wrote hundreds of letters and notes over the years, and I have kept every one. These letters are full of wisdom, encouragement, and lessons about faith, love, and helping others. He and Nana invested in my piano lessons, along with the encouragement and lessons about faith, love and support that made me stick with my music when I wanted to give it up for athletics. Not long ago, I played some hymns at their apartment and Papa joyously sang. He would say 'sing once, pray twice' and that is what we did. He taught us all to love unconditionally, be patient, keep a positive outlook on life, remember to laugh, that family is extremely important, and most of all, thank God every day. He once said our best vocation is to love and serve God and enjoy him forever. Life is much richer in Him than going it alone. Papa truly had a rich life and taught by example."

Fourth grandchild, Kirk: "I became a member of the Shelton family by marriage rather than by birth. My parents divorced when I was too young to form memories of them together. In 1988, at the age of four, I became a full member of the Shelton family as a son and grandson. This all began with Papa and Nana. They welcomed my mother and me into the family and loved me as if I was their biological grandson. Papa always had a smile on his face and wanted to make everyone around him happy, regardless of the situation. Being with him on vacation trips to Lake Junaluska up to his last days in a hospital bed, I remember his jovial, genuine and patient approach. His ability to lighten the mood, his caring demeanor, and his ability to love others without judgment are testimonials to his life. He once told me to remember that my mother will always be my best friend and to honor and cherish that relationship. I will never forget that sage wisdom. My family will forever be my best friends and Papa is the example of that."

Fifth grandchild, Hannah: "Papa had a major influence on my approach to helping people and my ability to forgive. A grudge has never been something I have been known to hold; and, like Papa, I try to see the good in people. I know God is the one who can truly judge us. Papa introduced me at a young age to lend a helping hand to others and he taught me not to take life's little blessings for granted. I remember the unselfish and always caring impact he had on lives of thousands of individuals needing help. He improved the lives of so many, especially those who lost their homes and their country during and after the Vietnam War. He was a true Pastor in every sense of the word. Papa always encouraged us to work hard and persevere, telling me often as I played high school and college softball to 'Swing at it, even if you miss it.' I thank Papa for all he has done. He is part of me forever!"

Submitted by Joan Dowdy, Mike Shelton and Garry Shelton's five grandchildren

SANDRA H. STAMEY

1943 – 2014

Rev. Sandra Hill Stamey, 70, went home to be with her Savior on June 19, 2014, after a very brief and sudden illness.

She was born in Montgomery, Alabama, on August 6, 1943, to J. B. and Margueritte Hill. She grew up in Alabama and attended Mississippi State College for Women before marrying David O'del Stamey on September 3, 1963. In college she studied journalism and was a member of the Reveler Social Club and the honor society, Lantern. While supporting her husband in his career, Sandy stayed home and raised their three children. She was always available to drive to soccer practice, drama rehearsal, or Girl Scouts. She served as Girl Scout leader for over 15 years as both her daughters participated. When the children were older, Sandra went back to school and obtained a Bachelor of Science, Magna Cum Laude, in Early Childhood Education from Texas Woman's University in December 1984.

She was in her 50s when the Lord called her to be a pastor and she obeyed. She earned her Master of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington DC in May of 1997. She was ordained in the United Methodist Church, Virginia Annual Conference. She served as Associate Pastor at Herndon United Methodist Church and Senior Pastor at Crums United Methodist Church and Tabernacle United Methodist Church in Virginia before retiring with her husband to Richardson, Texas. In retirement she continued to serve as Associate Pastor at First United Methodist Church McKinney and later joined First United Methodist Church Richardson. Sandra loved her family and her work with the church.

She had a lifelong love of gardening, was devoted to her golden retrievers and was an avid reader and quilter. Sandra is predeceased by her husband of 50 years, David Stamey. She is survived by her daughters, Deanne McElroy with husband Dennis and Catherine Luck with husband Randall; her son, Kenneth Stamey; granddaughter, Stefanie Stewart; step-grandson Aubrey Luck, brother Jerry Hill and his

family; sister-in-law Frances Blake with husband Robert and their family.
She will be very missed until we join her in Heaven.

JAMES W. TINNEY

1939 – 2015

I came to Urbanna four years ago and found out there are two retired pastors attending our worship service, one is Baptist and one United Methodist and Jim Tinney was the Methodist. Of course I was little intimidated but when I met them both I quickly realized I was in the right place.

Jim welcomed me and always walked with me when we had meetings discussing church life and when I needed not only his gentle presence but also his practical advice at the meeting. He led our Evangelism Committee and I still remember two years ago one hot Saturday in May popping popcorn with Ann for our Family Day Event.

Jim came to the United Methodist Men's meeting with energy and prayers every month and was my great help when I took off or was attending other meetings. Jim was my co-worker, servicing our communities by singing of course, but also for funerals and leading our worship Service together.

But most of all, he was an encourager. Always positive about ministry together and with a broad smile on his face and he surely was a Key of C man. This is what I mean. Since we both could play, we would alternate with each other's bells, and I knew Jim's would happen to be either C or B area player, the most heavier and bigger ones, without him we could not build the right chord.

Yes, even though Jim was not an elaborated nimble bell player, nevertheless without Jim's bass C bell we could not build the right sound. Yes, he showed me who he was the day before he passed, as he thanked all of the family members and church members with no regrets but gave thanksgiving to the Lord who gives and shows grace and life. Jim said, "I wonder what kind of choir is in heaven so I can play!"

Jim loved Ann, and it was heartbreaking to watch and hear him saying the last words at the hospital that he fondly reminds Ann about the first dance they took long time ago and said, "I loved you from that first day."

It is our time to remember Jim. I asked Sandra Walton, our church music director to gather some thoughts from both choirs as Jim was a member of each choirs. The following will be our choir's tribute to Jim. Thank you Jim and we will miss you.

Urbanna United Methodist Church was truly blessed when Rev. Jim Tinney decided to retire and become a part of our church family. Immediately, he joined our chancel choir and contributed greatly to our bass section. He was a leader and perfectionist and wanted to "get it right". Others leaned on him to know when there was a troubled spot, for Jim read music and knew. He also provided solos during our summer worship services and blessed us all with his talents.

When our the Urbanna UMC Hand Bell Choir was revived, Rev. Jim Tinney jumped right in and did a beautiful playing our lowest bells. Again, he carried the bass section and used his musical skills to enhance our bell choir. He is very much missed.

We were truly blessed to have Jim and Ann Tinney retire in the town of Urbanna and become prominent members of Urbanna United Methodist Church. He worked with each minister that came to UUMC and always helped in any way he could. Praise God for you Rev. Jim Tinney and keep on singing.

-Hyung Moon, pastor, Urbanna UMC

WILLIAM L. WALTERS

1939 – 2015

The Rev. William L. Walters, 75, of Salem, passed from this life into the loving arms of Jesus Saturday, May 9, 2015, surrounded by his loving family. He was preceded in death by his father, Bernard G. Walters Sr.; brother, B.G. (Buzz) Jr.; mother, Betty Jean Northrup; and stepfather, Albert Northrup. Survivors include his wonderful and devoted wife of 56 years, A. K. (Suzie); son, Brian D. Walters and wife, Christine O'Connor, and Brian's three children, Molly, Matthew, and (J.P.) James Paul, of Hanson, Mass.; daughter, Sharon L. Board and husband, Howard C. Board Jr., and their two children, Chase and Mikala, of Roanoke; nephew, Jason Walters; and great-nieces, Kherrington and Madilynn, of Richmond. Bill will also be missed by his brother-in-law, Larry and wife, Joyce Weimer; sister-in-law Maria and husband, Gil Dudsic; and niece, Celine Walton; a very special friend since high school, Donna McLaughlin, of Roanoke; Pat and Gerry Hartman and all his wonderful neighbors of North Oaks subdivision in Salem.

He was born October 28, 1939, in Slickville, Pa., to the late Bernard G. and Betty Jean (Anderson) Walters Sr. He graduated Bell Avon High School in 1957, briefly attending Penn State University before working for the National Roll Division in Avonmore, Pa., while attending night school. In 1973 he received his metallurgical engineering bachelor of science degree from the University of Pittsburgh. He furthered his education receiving his master's of business administration degree from Lynchburg College in 1983 and a Master of Divinity from Duke University in 1987. While in seminary he served as an intern Chaplain at Duke Hospital. Upon graduation from Duke, he went on to serve as an associate pastor of Aldersgate UMC, Alexandria, Va., Pastor of Nolan UMC, Newport News, Va., and Wesley UMC, Hampton, Va. Bill was a huge Duke University basketball fan, avid reader, gardener, and enjoyed playing golf with friends and colleagues. One of his favorite hobbies when he moved to Roanoke was singing with the Cardinal Chorus and several quartets. He attended Cave Spring UMC, Roanoke, and First UMC of Salem. He will be fondly remembered for his love of Jesus, family, and his parishioners.

ROBERT L. WATTS
1936 – 2015

Robert Lewis Watts was born on February 7, 1936, at George Washington Hospital in Washington, D.C., to Reese Bowen and Gertrude Jennings Watts of Alexandria, Virginia. He graduated from George Washington High School in Alexandria, Virginia, in 1954. He continued his education at the University of Virginia and received a Bachelor of Science in Education in 1958. On June 9, 1959, he married Jean Parrish from Palmyra, Virginia. They met at the University of Virginia where she was attending nursing school and they were both active in the Wesley Foundation. He continued his education at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey, where he received a Bachelor of Divinity degree in June 1961.

He reached beyond the local church, serving as the organist for Annual Conference through the 1860s and 1970s and as the Virginia Annual Conference Secretary from 1989 until his retirement in 2001.

He died on February 23, 2015, after a 14-year struggle with Alzheimers. His ministry reached many people which was quite evident from the wonderful cards and letters his family received following his death.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Jean; a son, Benjamin Cabot and his wife, Deanne; and a granddaughter, Gabrielle, who always brought him joy.

WILLIAM O. WEBSTER
1932 – 2015

William Osborne Webster departed this life on May 6, 2015. He was preceded in death by two sons, Timothy Carl and Jerry Marvin. He is survived by his wife, Katherine, and two sons, William Allan and James David, and a granddaughter, Dakota Catherine. Bill or "W.O." was a retired United Methodist pastor. He was born in Sweetwater, Tennessee. A graduate of Emory and Henry College and Duke University, he began his ministry in the Holston Conference in southwest Virginia in 1953 and from there, served churches in Wytheville, Axton, Danville, Lynchburg, Richmond, Chester and Ashland. His last church before his retirement in 1995 was in Clifton Forge, Virginia. He and Katherine subsequently retired to the Richmond area where he briefly served as chaplain at Cedarfield, a retirement community. A memorial service in his honor was held at Christ United Methodist Church on May 9, 2015.

JOHN N. WIMER JR
1930 – 2015

"Do you take time to smell the flowers? Do you pause from your busy schedule now and then to smell the fresh air, to look at the lazy white clouds in the sky, or to listen to the drop of the rain on the roof? Do you pause to reflect on the many living things and those without life that are part of the wonder and beauty of the world God has given us?" Rev. John N. Wimer Jr.

The Rev. John Nevin Wimer, Jr. 84, passed away peacefully at his home on March 8, 2015, with his family by his side after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. John was born in Henrico County, VA, to the late John Nevin Wimer Sr. and Lula Rebecca Weeks Wimer.

He is survived by his wife, Ella Mae Kyle Wimer of Suffolk; his two children, William Nevin Wimer of Suffolk, Rebecca Mae Wimer Carlson (Cliff) of Chesapeake; and three grandchildren (Kyle, Makayla and Alex Carlson); his sister, Rebecca Ann Wimer Wall (Ed) of Chesapeake; his brothers, William Ray Wimer of Norfolk, and Edwin Lee Wimer (Sande) of Wrens, GA; and many other relatives who all share in the celebration and joy of John's life and legacy.

John was a graduate of Kempsville High School after which he studied Aircraft and Engine Mechanics at Wm. & Mary-VPI, Norfolk. He served in the U.S. Air Force earning the rank of Staff Sergeant at which time he received the call to the ministry. He then attended Wake Forest College and Drew University. He was fully ordained in the United Methodist Church in 1964 and served for 36 years at churches in New York and Virginia. While serving First United Methodist Church in Hampton he met his wife of 47 years who unfailingly travelled with John on their journey in finding faith in God and sharing God's Kingdom. The family finds strength in their faith knowing that John is free of his earthly bonds and limitations and that he resides in peace and comfort with Our Lord whom he served diligently.

A memorial service was held at Main Street United Methodist on March 15 with the Rev. Myrtle Frances Hatcher and the Rev Robert Parks officiating.

Matt. 25:23 "Well done good and faithful servant."

The Family