

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:

Darrel R. Shoop (05/02/25) RE.....May 28, 2015*
 Dana Wellman (9/9/29) RE June 9, 2015*
 Prince E. Thornton Jr (12/16/31) REJune 14, 2015*
 Gene C. Gee (07/17/34) RE July 21, 2015
 James D. White (09/30/30) RE.....August 8, 2015
 Carl H. Douglass Jr. (03/14/29) RE.....August 22, 2015
 Whitney W. Parrish (10/18/28) RENovember 10, 2015
 James G. Holloman (11/04/29) RENovember 17, 2015
 Charles R. Scott (11/10/30) RE.....November 22, 2015
 James N. Ritter (03/30/36) RENovember 28, 2015
 Roy Hedrick (10/21/17) RE.....November 29, 2015
 William J. Fink (11/08/29) REDecember 28, 2015
 Jerome F. Weigel (04/13/44) RL.....December 29, 2015
 Albert M. Davis Jr. (01/21/47) RL.....January 16, 2016
 Louis W. Hodges (01/24/33) RE..... February 8, 2016
 William R. Withers (06/01/30) RE..... February 20, 2016
 Kathryn L. Pigg (05/24/39) RE..... February 25, 2016
 Walter R. Earl (06/21/32) REMarch 12, 2016
 James A. Messner (08/22/43) RA.....March 14, 2016
 William S. Ferguson (04/28/27) RE.....March 19, 2016
 James Paul Rowe (12/21/33) RE April 09, 2016
 John V. Sweeney (01/30/46) RL April 26, 2016
 Eugene R. Woolridge Jr. (07/25/29) REMay 1, 2016

Active Clergy:

John A. Miller (07/06/51) FL..... August 12, 2015
 Norma Townsley Poole (07/16/47) FL.....November 09,2015
 John B. Covington (11/20/48) PL.....February 19, 2016

Retired Diaconal:

Norman K. Allen (08/31/26) RDM.....November 18, 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:

Lester E. Hall (Rev. Gay Hall)	August 10, 2015
Virginia C. Jones (Rev. C. Bailey Jones)	September 2, 2015
Ruby G. Simon (Rev. Patrick Simon)	September 15, 2015
Barbara Amon (Rev. William Amon)	October 29, 2015
Robert Staul (Rev. Rita Staul)	November 21, 2015
Richard C. Benninghove (Rev. Loretta Benninghove)	November 22, 2015
Mildred M. Taylor (Rev. Edward J. Taylor)	March 8, 2016

Spouses of Deceased Clergy:

Mary A. Pannill (Rev. H. Burnell Pannill)	April 18, 2015*
Marian L. Redd (Rev. Henry Redd)	June 22, 2015*
Frances P. Haddock (Rev. William Haddock)	September 5, 2015
Anne H. Snead (Rev. Andrew Snead)	October 15, 2015
Pauline H. Brown (Rev. Lee Roy Brown)	November 6, 2015
Ruth N. Basom (Rev. William Basom)	November 30, 2015
Melvena D. Wright (Rev. Eugene B. Wright)	December 8, 2015
Joanne Dehaven (Rev. Meredith Dehaven)	March 18, 2016
Lillian Wilson (Rev. Howard Wilson)	March 23, 2016
Rebekah Weir (Rev. Thomas Weir)	March 28, 2016
Phyllis Holdredge (Rev. Gene Holdredge)	April 3, 2016
Magdalene Wooten (Rev. Moody Wooten)	April 12, 2016
Sandra Newcomb (Rev. Robert Newcomb)	April 13, 2016
<i>*Not Reported at 2015 A. C.</i>	<i>Updated 04/29/2016</i>

Lay Members

of the 2015-2016 Annual Conference who have died in the last year

Richard Carl Benninghove (11/22/15)	Keyville UMC, Farmville District
Charles M. Pearre III (11/23/15)	Old Bridge UMC, Alexandria District
Thomas Franklin Thompson (4/22/16)	Sundley UMC, Alexandria District

MEMOIRS**NORMAN K. ALLEN****1926 - 2015**

Norman K. Allen was born in Des Moines, Iowa, on August 31, 1926, the son of Ardrey and Margaret Allen. He was predeceased by his beloved wife of 64 years, Florence Bennett Allen. Norman is survived by his two daughters, Wendy Devening and Hal, and Andrea Allen and her husband, Alois Wollersberger; four grandchildren, Dulany Devening, Andrea Devening and her husband, Curt Sydnor, and Eric and Nina Wollersberger; and his sister, Doris Ewan.

Norman served in the Navy from 1943-1945 at the end of WWII. He was a graduate of Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey, and served as a Minister of Music in Roanoke, Virginia for eight years before coming to Charlottesville, where he served in this capacity for thirty-two years. Norman continued to work part-time as a church organist after retiring. He was the founding Dean of the Charlottesville-Albemarle AGO Chapter (1976-1977) and served on the Board of Directors of the Westminster Presbyterian Church Organ Concert Series.

Norman was a talented musician and a longtime member of the Charlottesville Albemarle Oratorio Society. He directed many sacred works including Handel's Messiah and Requiems by Brahms and Faure. He loved opera and musical theater. Norman was loved by many and will be greatly missed for his kindness and service to others.

JOHN B. COVINGTON**1948 - 2016**

John Blanton Covington, better known as Johnny, passed away suddenly Friday, February 19, 2016 at the age of 67 years old. Johnny always said that he loved God, his country, and his family. During his lifetime, Johnny was a loyal husband, a loving father, a dedicated soldier, a skilled mechanic, and a caring pastor.

Johnny was born November 20, 1948. Growing up, he attended Pamplin United Methodist Church. He was a 1967 graduate of Appomattox High School. After high school he graduated from Nashville Auto Diesel College and in 1968 he joined the National Guard. During his time in the guard, he became the Brigade Command Sergeant Major of the 29th division of Virginia and Maryland National Guards. After 25 years of service, Johnny retired from the National Guard.

Johnny married Sallye Smith in 1972 and they had two children. Throughout his life Johnny worked hard to support his family, never leaving a job without having another one first. People often spoke of his kind heart, his funny sense of humor and his unflinching love of God. Johnny touched many lives, but especially those of his family.

God called Johnny to serve in the ministry, but he didn't answer right away. He taught Sunday school and then later became a lay speaker. He finally answered God's call in 1996 and became a local pastor. For the last 20 years of his life, Johnny served as the pastor of both Bethel United Methodist Church and St. John's United Methodist Church. He and Sallye travelled 43 miles each way every Sunday for services at each church. As he got older, he often spoke of retiring, but he just couldn't leave his church family at Bethel and St. John's.

Johnny is survived by his wife of 44 years, Sallye Smith Covington; his son, John Blanton Covington II (Becky) of Pamplin, his daughter, Emily Covington Coro (Keith) of Farmville; four grandchildren, John Douglas Hallik, Virginia Grace Covington, Alan Coro, and Rachel Coro; his sister, Goldie Wilkerson (Johnny) of Prospect and a special first cousin, Wanda Vandegrift (Carroll) of Pamplin.

ALBERT M. DAVIS JR.**1947 - 2016**

Al grew up in a small farming community called Abilene, located on the edge of Prince Edward County. He attended Beulah United Methodist Church on the Prince Edward Charge. He felt the call to go into ministry at a young age but didn't answer the phone, as he used to put it, until 1996 when he was 49 years old. Al was appointed to Meherrin UMC where he served as a part time pastor while holding down a full time job as a police officer at Hampden-Sydney College. He started full time ministry in 2000 when he was appointed to the Cumberland Charge, serving Payne Memorial, Hobson's Chapel, Centenary, and Antioch. As one parishioner said, he went from making collars to wearing collars. He often told stories of his riding calls on the Prince Edward Rescue Squad and his experiences as a police officer.

Al was a wonderful husband to Marsha, a terrific father to Chelsea and Nathaniel, a good friend to many people and loved serving the Lord by helping others.

CARL H. DOUGLASS, JR.**1929 - 2015**

The Rev. Dr. Carl H. Douglass Jr., 86, of Smith Mountain Lake, died Saturday, August 22, 2015. He was the loving husband of Brenda Mosier Douglass. A United Methodist minister for sixty years, Dr. Douglass served 16 congregations in the Virginia Conference. After earning his divinity degree from Boston University School of Theology, Dr. Douglass began his ministry in 1953. He was

an early advocate for civil rights and for racial inclusiveness in the church. He preached and lived tolerance, compassion and forgiveness. His broad view of theology held that “knowledge and faith are both larger than any of our religious systems.” Dr. Douglass was a popular preacher, his sermons a skillful fusion of self-deprecating humor and poignant stories. He found simple, direct ways to express profound concepts. “Preaching,” Dr. Douglass wrote, “is an attempt to link the everyday with the everlasting.” For twenty years, Dr. Douglass was a Sunday morning fixture on NBC television in Richmond, teaching “Lessons for Living,” a biblical studies program sponsored by the Virginia Council of Churches. Dr. Douglass was beloved in communities across Virginia as a pastor and counselor. He lived, as he died, surrounded by the love and admiration of his church members and his family. Born in Harrisonburg, Virginia, on March 14, 1929, he was the son of Carl Henry Douglass, Sr. and Ivory Meals Douglass. While he thought being called “Dr.” was putting on airs, he delighted in the title of “Daddy,” and ten children from three families are proud to call him that, Brent Douglass and Carter of Staunton, Va., John G. Douglass and Cindy of Richmond, Va., Carol D. Jacoby and Jamie of Richmond, Va., Steven G. Douglass and Tammy of Leesburg, Va., David Stafford and Sharon of Raleigh, N.C., Andrew Stafford and Nicki of Raleigh, N.C., Michael L. Atkinson and Jacque of Florence, S.C., Cynthia A. Hales of Timmonsville, S.C., Sonya A. Secor and Dean of Mt. Pleasant, S.C., and Lynn A. Semones and Steve of Christiansburg, Va. He had 23 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. His circle of loved ones encompasses a huge extended family and countless friends. A celebration of Carl’s life was held at Main Street United Methodist Church in Bedford, Virginia with the Rev. Dr. Riley R. Smith, Jr., the Rev. Larry E. Davies, and the Rev. Richard H. Ecklund officiating, and with a musical tribute by organist Johnson Scott.

WILLIAM S. FERGUSON

1927 - 2016

The Rev. William Snider Ferguson, age 88, of Henrico, VA, passed away on Saturday, March 19, 2016. He was the loving husband of 64 years to Doris Dowdle Ferguson. He was preceded in death by his parents, Jacob and Arline Ferguson, his two brothers Warner and Franklin and sister, Bette Bishop; a son, Paul Frederick Ferguson and grandson, Justin Kyle Ferguson. He is survived by his wife Doris, his sons David William Ferguson (Deborah) and Joseph Keith Ferguson (Jan), daughter Ellen Ferguson Thurston (Mike) and his grandchildren, Scott Thurston, Graham Ferguson, Amy Thurston, Ryan Ferguson and six nephews.

William Ferguson, known by most as Bill, served as a full time minister in the VA United Methodist Conference for 49 years and as a visitation minister for 17 years after his retirement. He was born in Hampton, VA where he lived until his college days. He first attended Shenandoah College and Conservatory in Dayton, VA and then earned his BS in History from Randolph Macon College in Ashland, VA and his Master of Divinity at Emory University in Atlanta, GA, where he met Doris. Bill spread his love and pastoral leadership at many churches and communities throughout Virginia during his ministerial career, which included:

- Bedford – six-church charge
- Boykins – four-church charge
- Emporia – Monumental
- Hampton – Bethany
- Rocky Mount
- Culpeper
- Richmond – Westhampton
- Richmond – Lakeside
- Richmond – Westover Hills
- Richmond – Westhampton (visitation minister)
- Richmond – Centenary (visitation minister)

During his ministerial career, Bill performed thousands of weddings, baptisms and funerals and treated each event as the most important moment of his life, becoming a lifetime extension of many of those families. He thoroughly enjoyed being a special part of these families’ lives and liked to see the families of those he married grow into adults and many times marry them too.

Bill Ferguson was loved by all who knew him and was known for his keen sense of humor and abiding love for his Lord, family, friends, fellow ministers and parishioners. He was also known for his fantastic memory, immediately able to call new parishioners by name and always preaching his sermons without notes.

Bill lived a long and happy life. He is with his Lord and all his family members who preceded him ... smiling down on all of us and making us smile with his wonderful memories. A memorial service and celebration of life was held at Discovery United Methodist in Henrico, VA on March 25, 2016.

WILLIAM “JERYL” FINK

1929 - 2015

William Jeryl Fink was the son of a United Methodist Minister and the brother of two United Methodist Ministers.

He was born in Cumberland, Maryland, on November 8, 1929, and he died in Richmond, Virginia on December 28, 2015.

He graduated from Randolph Macon College in 1951, and received an Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from Randolph Macon College in 1983. He graduated from Candler School of Theology, Emory University, in 1953.

His first appointment in the Virginia Conference was as an Associate Minister at Fairlington United Methodist Church in Fairfax County, Virginia. Two years later he started St. Luke’s United Methodist Church in Falls Church

Virginia, where he served for six years. He then went to Wesley United Methodist Church in Vienna, Virginia for seven years.

In 1968 he was sent to Centenary United Methodist Church in Lynchburg, Virginia. Two years later he went to Richmond, Virginia, where he served Reveille United Methodist Church for eight years. In 1978 he became District Superintendent of the Petersburg District for two years, then Superintendent of the Roanoke District for four years. In 1984 he moved back to Richmond, Virginia and became President of Virginia United Methodist Homes until he retired in 2006.

Jeryl loved working with people in general, and especially those in the churches and retirement communities he served. He was thankful to God for calling him to His Ministry.

GENE CARY GEE 1934 - 2015

Gene went to be at peace with the God he loved on July 21, 2015 after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease. He is survived by his wife Mary Helen Gee, son Bryan (Maureen) Gee, daughters Amy (Charles) Tillapaugh, and Molly Gee as well as 8 grandchildren.

Gene went to seminary late at 40 after serving in the Navy and working with his father in the family business, Cary Gee Music in Richmond. He served Essex/King & Queen Charge on the Rappahannock District, Cherryvale in Staunton, and Grace/Calvary on the Eastern Shore. He then served in the United Methodist Building as the as the Director of Leadership development for the Virginia Conference. His final two appointments were Oaklette in Chesapeake and Trinity in Newport News.

Gene was born in Baltimore and grew up mostly in Richmond with frequent trips to Baltimore to be with his grandmother. He developed a love for tennis early in life. He went to Young Harris College in Georgia for two years before transferring to Presbyterian College, where he played on the tennis team. After college, he married Mary Helen and joined the U.S. Navy. He entered flight school at Pensacola, but did not remain in the service after its completion. He attended Virginia Tech for a short time and then returned to Richmond to work with his father. At 40, he was called to the ministry and attended Union Theological Seminary in Richmond.

Throughout his ministry, he was interested in pastoral care and counseling. He was very proud to be among the first to bring Stephen Ministry to Virginia. He was also proud of the work he did during his short term on the Virginia Conference staff.

Gene also loved sailing. He had been a sailor before entering the ministry and always seemed to find a sail boat when he was appointed close to the water. The boat he had while serving on the Eastern Shore is now in service at Camp Occohannock.

Upon retirement, Gene & Mary Helen moved to Lake Caroline in Caroline County. He loved the view of the lake from his backyard and would frequently be found sitting on the dock, just enjoying the water.

Gene was a kind man who never knew a stranger. Between his tennis playing and his ministry, he usually knew someone anywhere he went in Virginia. He loved his family deeply and was very proud of his children and grandchildren. He was generous to a fault. When questioned once about giving assistance to someone, he responded, "I'd rather be taken a million times than turn down someone who is really in need just once."

ROY HEDRICK 1917 - 2015

The Rev. Roy Hedrick was born October 21, 1917, in Mackville, W.Va. to Solomon Baxter and Artie Miller Hedrick. He graduated from Circleville High School and Davis and Elkins College – both in W. Va. – and United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Oh. His education was interrupted by World War II. Roy served 44 months in the U.S. Army in Company A of 93rd Signal Battalion of the 3rd American Army in the European Theater, and he was awarded the Bronze Star for activity in Luxembourg during the Bulge Attack.

On November 29, 1945, he married Dovie Ruth Mallow, who survives. Roy passed away at 11:29 a.m. on November 29, 2015, which was their 708th wedding anniversary. They have four children: Nancy, Wilma, Wanda and Paul. They also have 11 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Roy gave his life to Christ in 1935 at High Rock U.B. Church in W.Va. He was a faithful servant of God from that time on. He was ordained an elder in 1956 in the Evangelical United Brethren Church. He served the following pastorates in the EUB church: Manassas, Virginia; Berkeley Springs, W.Va.; and Mount Clinton, Va. After the merger, he served the following pastorates in The United Methodist Church: Mount Clinton, Epworth, Thaxton and Mt. Pisgah. After his retirement in 1983, her served two more pastorates: Cedar Grove and Fulks Run.

Roy always had deep love for children and youth, and as a minister, he did everything in his power to strengthen their faith. At that time, the Virginia EUB Conference did not own a summer camp so they had to rent from other denominations in order to provide a camping experience for their youths. Roy, along with others in the conference, had a dream about owning their own camp. While serving as the chairman of the conference board of Christian Education, Roy made a motion to purchase a camp, and the conference stepped out in faith and passed the motion. Roy was instrumental in the purchase and development of the present-day Camp Overlook. Dreams do not become a reality without a lot of hard work. Roy volunteered countless hours during the construction of the camp. He dug ditches by hand, strung electrical wiring, helped construct and paint buildings, collected rocks and helped build rock chimneys, put on roofs, planted trees by hand, mowed the grass, and did many other jobs. Roy was then asked to serve as the camp manager, which he did for the first seven years of its operation, while also serving a full-time pastorate.

Roy had many fine qualities, but two stand out: He had a true servant's heart. There was no job that he felt was beneath him or that he would not tackle. The best sermon he ever preached was the life of service that he lived. Secondly, he was an eternal optimist. He was

always filled with an abundance of joy and hope, because he truly believed that “with God all things are possible.” That is how he lived his life!

To God be the glory, honor and praise for a life well-lived!

Submitted by Wilma H. White

LOUIS W. HODGES
1933 - 2016

Louis W. Hodges died on February 8, 2016, survived by his wife, Helen, and two sons, John and George, and their families. He was born in Eupora, Ms. in 1933. He attended Milsaps College, graduating with a degree in history in 1954. During his college career he served as student minister at the Macon UMC.

After marrying Helen Davis, a classmate, one week after graduation, they moved to Durham, N.C. to begin Divinity School at Duke University. Helen was secretary to H. Shelton Smith in the Graduate Department of Religion, and Louis was the student minister at the Grace/Longhurst UMC charge. After receiving his divinity degree, he was accepted into the Graduate Department of Religion to pursue his Ph. D. He held the Gurney Harris Kearns Fellowship and served as assistant to James Cleland, dean of Duke Chapel. He listened to and graded students in Dr. Cleland's preaching classes. He majored in ethics with Waldo Beach. His Ph.D. dissertation was “A Christian Analysis of Selected Contemporary Theories of Racial Prejudice” (this has recently been published by his son, John.)

Louis became a member of the faculty at W/L in 1960. He was faculty advisor to the Student Christian Association in 1961, when its plan to invite Martin Luther King Jr. to campus was rejected by the Board of Trustees. He was assistant minister at Main Street UMC Waynesboro for two summers. In 1969 he published a book, “The Christian and His Decisions: An Introduction to Christian Ethics,” co-authored with Harmon L. Smith.

In 1975 he expanded his sphere of interest to found and direct the Society and the Professions Program, which allowed undergraduates in business, journalism, law and medicine to study applied ethics. As part of that program, he started two-day institutes that brought practitioners in those four areas to campus to work together with students on case studies. He established the Summer Institutes for Executives which related the humanities to contemporary business issues and their ethical implications.

In 1986 he won a fellowship in the teaching of journalism ethics from the Poynter Institute for Media Studies. In 1987 Louis became a Fletcher Otey Thomas Professor of Bible. He was a university fellow at the Univ. of Va. studying Asian religions and a fellow at the Hastings Center, which focuses on bioethics and the public interest. While holding a J. William Fulbright Lectureship at Osmania University in Hyderabad, India, he lectured on the ethics of journalism at 14 Indian universities.

Active in the community, Louis served in many ways. One major project was the low-income housing development while he was president of the Rockbridge Area Housing Corp. He also advised the founders of the Rockbridge Area Hospice and taught their first volunteers in a seminar on “Death and Dying.” He performed many weddings and funerals and served as guest pastor in churches throughout the area.

JAMES D. HOLLOWAN
1929 - 2015

Rev. James Holloman transferred his membership to the Church Eternal on November 17th 2015. A Faithful servant of Christ. He was born November 4th, 1929 in Stantonsburg, North Carolina. His father died when he was ten years old. He had a paper route and swept floors in the town store to help his family. When he was seventeen, he joined the Navy to be assured of a college education. He served his country for five years.

Jim attended Ferrum College. There he met the love of his life, Ann Silcox, and from that union they had four children. He was called by Dr. John Myers to come to Beth Horn Church at Natural Bridge so he could continue his education. He graduated from Lynchburg College. Willis Church in Richmond became his second appointment, and he attended Union Presbyterian Seminary.

Other churches he served were Memorial in Virginia Beach, Thrasher Memorial in Vinton, Fairfax UMC, and First Church in Salem. In addition, he served as District Superintendent for the Portsmouth District. His last appointment was District Superintendent on the Staunton District, where he loved his ministers and people, and the scenery of the spring and fall while riding over the mountains and byways. Jim excelled in pastoral care and preaching. He loved people and his family.

As our friend Dabney Walters wrote to be read at his funeral: “When the sun goes beyond the horizon it is not set. The heavens glow for a full hour after its departure. So with a good man. The sky is luminous long after he is out of sight. He leaves behind so much of himself. All that was beautiful in his life will live on in the lives of those who knew him best and will live on in that house not made of hands.”

The Holloman Family

JAMES A. MESSNER
1943 - 2016

James A. Messner, of Garden Spot Village in New Holland, passed away early Monday morning on March 14, 2016. The son of the late Roy and Llyrya Messner, he graduated from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute in 1961 and attended the West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon, WV. In 1983, he graduated Summa Cum Laude from Shenandoah University in Winchester, VA.

After entering the ministry, Jim pastored a number of congregations in the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Jim is survived by: his wife Linda; three sons, Matthew (Wenona), David (Tina), and Philip (Michele); three granddaughters, Marissa, Lara, and Skyler.

JOHN MILLER
1951 - 2015

The Rev. John Avery Miller, 64, of Mechanicsville, departed this life Wednesday, August 12, 2015. He was preceded in death by his wife, Eileen Miller; son, Sarif Stewart Sr.; and father, John A. Miller. He leaves to cherish his loving memory mother, Beatrice Miller; two devoted daughters, Jonilla Moore (Shadrick) and Tia Stewart; two sons, Jamar Stewart (Deborah) and John Dickerson; seven grandchildren, Malik, Anya, Sarif Jr., Cheyenne, Ja'Marquise, Quory and Drue; sister, Odessa Downing (Larry); two brothers, the Rev. Gary Miller (Tampa) and Connell Lankford (Renee); daughter-in-law, Chasity Stewart; he also leaves an abundance of nieces; nephews; cousins; other relatives; in-laws; and a multitude of friends.

WHITNEY PARRISH
1928 - 2015

CHC, USN, RET. Chaplain Whitney W. Parrish, husband of Dixie Lee (Marcum) Parrish, was born October 18, 1928, in Brunswick County, VA, the son of the late Samuel E. and Rebecca L. Parrish. In addition to his parents, Chaplain Parrish was preceded in death by his first wife, Mary Hutchinson Parrish, and his nine siblings.

In addition to his wife Dixie, Rev. Parrish is survived by a son, Terry (Elizabeth); two daughters, Nita Randall (Newell) and Elizabeth Parrish; a stepson, Todd Lines; a stepdaughter, Cathy Oliveros (Alex); grandchildren, Ryan Parrish, Karen Wilck (Joe), Jennifer Marshall (Gardner), and Brittany Parrish; three stepgrandchildren, Charlie Lines, Kaelin Cali, and Mykaela Cali; and great-granddaughters, Abigail and Hannah Wilck, and Mia Sanford.

Prior to entering the ministry, Whitney served ten years in the Marine Corps, a year as Company Commander in Korea. After resigning from the Marines, he went to theological school, and returned to the military as a Navy Chaplain, where he served for 25 years, giving him a total of 35 years in the military. After retirement and moving to the Staunton area, Rev. Parrish served as interim pastor at St. John's Reformed United Church of Christ, Staunton, at Newport UCC, Newport, and at Shenandoah UCC, Shenandoah. His last pastorate was the Rockbridge United Methodist Charge, Buena Vista and Lexington areas.

KATHRYN L. PIGG
1939 - 2016

The Rev. Kathryn Pigg was a teacher, preacher, poet, potter and painter; a kind and caring person whose life reflected a deep faith in God, a strong interest in social justice and an unwavering commitment to creating art that inspired people to think as it uplifted their spirits. The daughter of James and Josephine Brown, Kathy was born in Des Moines, Iowa and earned her undergraduate degree from North Texas State University. She also studied at Brite Divinity School and Perkins School of Theology.

An ordained elder in the United Methodist Church, Rev. Pigg served her first appointment in the Northwest Texas Conference at Hedley UMC in 1972 and served a number of churches and the Wesley Foundation at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas before moving to the Virginia Conference where she served as Director of the Campus Christian Community at Mary Washington College, and churches in Portsmouth, Chuckatuck and Matthews before retiring in Bridgewater, Virginia in 2004.

From 2006 until her death, she was Artist-In-Residence at Asbury UMC, Harrisonburg where she nurtured and encouraged artists of all ages and stages while enriching worship through the visual arts. Kathy's art was displayed at Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC as well as galleries in Virginia and North Carolina under her artist name, Kathryn Cramer Brown. In addition to her church, she was an active member of Oasis Gallery, Pen Women, and Christians in the Visual Arts.

She is survived by a son, Martin Pigg of Bridgewater, a sister, Carolyn of Laurens, SC and several nieces and nephews.

**NORMA JEAN TOWNSLEY POOLE
1947 - 2015**

The Reverend Norma Jean (Pegram) Townsley Poole was born in Dothan, WV on July 16, 1947, to the late Clarence and Helen Pegram. A servant of God, Norma was an ordained minister and served the congregations of Fort Grove and Sharon United Methodist Churches in Sussex County, VA, until her health declined.

She is survived by her beloved husband, David Poole; her children, Nathan and Jyoti Townsley; her step-children, Steve Poole, Cheryl (Poole) Umbach and husband, Rev. Art Umbach; her sister, Linda Pegram; step-mother, Helen Carmody, four step-brothers and other relatives.

**JAMES NELSON RITTER
1936 - 2015**

Rev. James Nelson Ritter, 79, of Winchester, Virginia, died Saturday, November 28, 2015 at his home at Orchard Ridge Retirement Community. Rev. Ritter was born March 30, 1936 in Berryville, Virginia, son of the late Lynwood Nelson Ritter and Edith Marie Russell Ritter Strode.

He was a retired minister of the United Methodist Church. He grew up in Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church in Berryville. After graduating from Lynchburg College in 1961, he became a Deacon in 1965 and Elder in 1965. He received his Master of Arts degree with an emphasis in Evangelism in 1978. He especially enjoyed working with youth. He served 19 churches across Virginia.

Jim enjoyed volunteering his time with Habitat for Humanity, the Emmaus Community, the Clarke County Ruritan Club and the Kairos Prison Ministry. He was well known as Brunswick Stew Master. You knew he was nearby when you heard his laugh or someone saying "Great Time of Day!"

He married Alice Louise Witbeck Ritter on August 3, 1957 in Alexandria, Virginia. They met at Lynchburg College where she studied Religious Education. Mrs. Ritter died September 23, 2013 after working 25 years as an elementary school teacher. Their ministry together was a wonder to behold!

Surviving are a daughter, Katherine Louise Ritter Foster and her husband, Bobby, of Stephens City, VA; three sons, Mark Nelson Ritter of Winchester, VA, Revs. Paul James Ritter and his wife, Valerie, of Harrisonburg, VA, and Kenneth Lee Ritter of Strasburg, VA; sister, Vennie Lowery of Winchester, VA; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

**JAMES PAUL ROWE
1933 - 2016**

Rev. Dr. James Paul Rowe was born December 21, 1933 in Columbus, GA to the late Ellis Franklin Rowe and Lois Moncus Rowe Pearson. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Mary Ellen Ward.

Prior to his retirement, Paul faithfully served churches throughout the Virginia Annual Conference. He was Pastor Emeritus of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Staunton and Chaplain Emeritus of Augusta Health in Fishersville. In retirement, Paul attended Center United Methodist Church in Catawba. His favorite hobbies included photography, fishing, hiking and gardening.

Those left to cherish his memory are: His wife of 43 years, Kathy Moreno Rowe; his sons, Kevin Franklin Rowe and wife, Gina, of Abingdon, VA; Jim Rowe and wife, Dinah, of Franklin, GA; his daughters, Cammie Rowe Adams and husband, Scott, of Catawba; Cathy Hatley of Odenville, AL; Mary B. Eslick and husband, L.L., of Lacy's Spring, AL; and Nancy Marshall and husband, Don, of Tuscaloosa, AL; the mother of Jim, Cathy, Mary B., and Nancy: Sara Nell Hutchenson of Lacy's Spring, AL.

His surviving grandchildren are: Cameron Driver, Cadence Driver, Hailey Rowe, Grayson Rowe, Angie Mills, Josh Wyatt, Seth Wyatt, Jeremy Eslick, Matthew Eslick, Abbey Rowe Smith and Gracie Rowe.

**CHARLES R. SCOTT
1930 - 2015**

Charles Richard Scott, 85, was preceded in death by his father Gerald and mother Willie Scott, brother Earl Scott and his sister Betty S. Poole. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Blanche W Scott; his daughters Robin Scott (David F) Hensler and Barbara Kaye Scott; his brother Giles Scott; ; his grandchildren Lindsey R Hensler, Travis S. Hensler, and Heath R Hensler; eleven nieces and three nephews.

Charles served churches in the Virginia Annual Conference for over 57 years. He enjoyed Bluegrass music and quail hunting. He earned his Masters of Divinity degree at Duke Divinity School in 1958. He was a devoted Christian, wonderful loving and devoted father and grandfather. He will be truly missed.

DARRELD RUSSELL SHOOP
1925 - 2015

Rev Darreld Russell Shoop, 90 passed away on Thursday May 28, 2015 at Kings Daughters Nursing Home in Staunton, Va. Returning from WWII as a Gunners Mate, Darreld married Verna Evelyn Middleton and began their life together farming in upstate New York. After having 6 children Darreld felt the calling to the ministry and upon being ordained into the United Methodist Church he gave his farm to his brother-in-law and began his ministry in Camptown Pennsylvania. When asked why he gave instead of selling the farm he said he believed "the lord would provide his way". Rev. Shoop spent his last days sharing his room in the nursing home with the woman he met and married after returning from the War in 1946.

Rev. Shoop began his ministry in 1958 serving a circuit of 5 churches in Northern Pennsylvania. He moved back to New York and continued his ministry until 1965. He left the ministry and became involved in the Civil Rights movement of the 60's. One year later he felt the call again back into the ministry in the Virginia Conference and he move his family (8 children now) to the South Brunswick Charge in Gasburg Virginia. He continued serving churches in Prince George County, Trinity United Methodist Church in North Garden Virginia. Rev. Shoop was the first director of "Westview on the James" the Methodist Church Camp in Goochland, Va. and completed his ministry serving churches in Falmouth Virginia, King George Virginia, and Mechanicsville Virginia.

Rev. Shoop retired from the Virginia UMC Conference in 1990. During his 25 year retirement, he mentored several pastors. He was a member of Oakwood United Methodist Church at 1291 Columbia Rd., Columbia, Virginia. His remains are buried there.

He is survived by his wife Verna and their eight children, 35 grandchildren, 58 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great-grandchildren. His children include Cynthia Williams, Dorothy and her husband Wayne Hartwell, Darreld (Russ) Shoop II and his wife Sharon, David Shoop, Paul Shoop and his wife Vali, Philip Shoop and his wife Sandy, Valerie and her husband Larry Johnson, and the Rev. Joseph Shoop, Pastor of the Bethel United Methodist Church in Woodbridge VA and his wife Debra.

JOHN V. SWEENEY
1946 - 2016

John V. Sweeney went to be with his Lord Tuesday, April 26, 2016.

John was born in Lowville, NY, the son of the late Vernon E. and Elsie Mekkelson Sweeney.

John served in the U.S. Navy for over 20 years, retiring in 1986. He then went on to serve as a Pastor in the United Methodist Church in VA and NY until 2014. He was a loving husband, dedicated father, grandfather, great-grandfather and dear friend to many.

Survivors include his beloved wife, Sandra Sweeney; children, Teresa Klotz (Chris), Sheri Smalley (Steve), Kelli Sweeney Mertz, John V. Sweeney, II (Kelli) and Robin Beatty (Bobby Long); eight grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; sister, Joan Ripp. He also leaves behind many loving nieces and nephews.

JEROME F. WEIGEL (JERRY)
1944 - 2015

Jerome F. Weigel (Jerry) was born on April 13, 1944 in Denver, Colorado to Katie and Ignatius Weigel. He was the oldest of four children. Jerry joined the US Navy at the age of 17 and served for 21 years. He was honorably discharged in June 1983 with the rank of Chief Warrant Officer, W-3.

Jerry completed the Five-Year Course of Study at Duke Divinity School in 2000. He served as a Local Pastor for 21 years in five Virginia churches: Grace UMC in Rollins Fork, Zion UMC in Spotsylvania, Greenwood UMC in Winchester, Wesley Chapel UMC in Cross Junction, and Pine Grove UMC in Winchester.

Jerry was known for his big heart, generosity, and sense of humor. His kindness in life is reflected in the lives of those he left behind.

Some of the comments from those he served include:

"Everyone in our congregation loved Jerry. He was not only our Pastor but was our friend. I feel his only thoughts were what was best for the church and his congregation. He continually encouraged us to let the light of Jesus shine through us in everything we did."

"Jerry was a very special person and made friends easily. He loved to joke with you. Jerry had a serious and a sensitive side as well. If anyone needed strength, prayer or help, Jerry was the first one there. He was Man of Faith and you could literally see Jesus in his eyes and heart. The compassion Jerry had for everyone was amazing. He loved his Heavenly Father, his wife Barbara, his children, grandchildren, and all of his congregation! He was an amazing person who filled many hearts with love, laughter, happiness, joy and peace. He is missed by many."

"Reverend Jerry was a very integral part of all ministry areas during his tenure at Greenwood United Methodist Church. He loved being a part of our Youth Ministry. Whenever the youth had an event Reverend Jerry was there not only to show his support, but to participate in many of the activities. His exuberant participation was extremely popular with the youth and inspired them to be more involved in not only fun activities but in their spiritual journey as well. Reverend Jerry was also an avid supporter of United Methodist Men's activities, whether he was attending a Spiritual Retreat, District UMM event or helping his UMM fellowship peel potatoes. Reverend Jerry was a hands-on pastor, he was a part of the lives of each and every member of his flock. He was not just a Pastor, he was a friend. Whether you

were young or old, male or female, white, red, black or yellow, you were a child of God and Reverend Jerry saw the best in every person. He would do anything for anyone. Reverend Jerry was one of God's angels on earth. His love, his passion, his devotion, his commitment and his faith were unmatched. He led by example and he was at the forefront of making disciples of Jesus Christ in our community."

Jerry passed away on December 29, 2015 at home in Andover, Massachusetts surrounded by family. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; three children, Lisa Barham, Gary Weigel, and Jeffrey Wade Weigel; his sister, Betty Ann Adamson; and brother, Robert Weigel; his stepchildren, Darlene Ohlenbush and Dan Foote; and his grandchildren, Tiffany Bock, T. Baxter Barham, Zane and Ayla Ohlenbusch. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his sister Sonja Mick of Denver, Colorado.

Death leaves a heartache no one can heal; Love leaves a memory no one can steal.

JAMES D. WHITE **1930 - 2015**

The Rev. James D. White was born in Chester, South Carolina, on September 30, 1930, a son of the late Bonner Dale and Janet Wallace Ballantyne White. His wife, the Rev. Virginia Mae Richards Condrey White, preceded him in death on March 23, 2014.

Surviving are three sons, the Rev. John D. White and wife Beverly of Richmond, Virginia, Mark D. White and wife Yolanda of Newburg, and the Rev. James H. Condrey and wife Cyndi of Belpre, OH; three daughters, Elizabeth Ann White Woodward of Swoope, Virginia, Brenda Condrey Shurm Pinti and husband Mario of Clarksburg, and Donna Condrey Shane Kraus of Delaware.

Also surviving are grandchildren, Jonathan David Woodard, David Dean Woodard, Joseph Daniel Dale Woodard, Daniel James Woodard, Janie Christine Elizabeth Woodard, Jacob Daniel White, Benjamin Dale White, Nicholas Philip White, Nathan Andrew White, Jessica White Lovejoy, Rebecca Jean Shrout, Camellia Lynn Richardson, Thomas James "TJ" Condrey, James Marshall Shurm IV, Shelly Lynn Pinti Wilfong, Stephanie Pinti Stuart, Jill Marie Pinti Sisk, Frederick Scott Shane, Shannon Leigh Kraus, Stacey Lynn Kraus, Lawrence "Larry" Ray Snow, Shelly Lynn Pinti Wilfong, Stephanie Dawn Pinti Stuart, Jill Marie Pinti Sisk; great-grandchildren, Naomi Abigail Woodard, Iyana Ariel Woodard, Isaac Emmaus Woodard, Jackie Marie Snow, Michael Ray Snow, Nicholas Shae Wilfong, Noah Brice Wilfong, Abigail Grace Wilfong, Mary Alice Stuart, Samuel Ethun Sisk, Dominic Mario Sisk, Emma Faye Sisk, Brian Lee Shane, Noah James White, Avah Cheyenne Shrout and Adelyn Grace Shrout.

In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by his son, Thomas Scott Condrey, Jr.; daughter, Mazie Arnette Snow; brother, John Matthew White; and sisters, Dr. Margaret Ellen White and Janet Anne White.

Born to missionary parents, James attended Woodstock School in the Himalayan Mountains of North India, graduating in 1947. He received his A.B. Degree in History from Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1952 and completed his M. Div. from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, in 1958. The Rev. White pastored churches in Alabama and Virginia through June of 1972. He was a member of the Virginia Annual Conference, United Methodist Church. He engaged in interdenominational Christian Retreat Ministry from 1972 to 1977 in Europe, the Middle East and Southern Asia. He was a delegate to the Billy Graham Evangelism Congress International in Lausanne, Switzerland. James was appointed Chief of Chaplain Services to Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center in May of 1978, retiring in October of 1997. After 46 years in the ministry, the Rev. White retired from the United Methodist Church on June 17, 1998.

The Rev. White attended West Milford United Methodist Church and Bridgeport United Methodist Church. He was a member of the Lions Club in Clarksburg and West Milford since 1979. He also held memberships with the Barbershop Chorale, Harrison County Ministerial Association from 1978 to 1997 and Greater Clarksburg Evangelistic Association. He was Chairman of the Ralph Bell Evangelistic Crusade in 1991 and 1996 and was a driver for the American Cancer Association.

WILLIAM R. WITHERS **1930-2016**

Reverend William "Bill" Ray Withers was born in 1930 in Rock Cave, West Virginia, the son of the late H. Scott and Ersie J. Withers. He was a veteran who served in the National Guard. He received his Associates degree from Potomac State College, his Bachelor's degree from Shepherd College, his Masters in Divinity from Eastern Mennonite Seminary, and worked towards his Doctorate of Theology from Boston University.

He retired from fulltime ministry in June of 1996 and continued to serve churches until June of 2013. Bill ministered in both the West Virginia and Virginia United Methodist Conferences. He was active in various civic, historic and religious organizations. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and friend to many. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Bill will forever be remembered for his love of family and a lifetime of faithful service to our Lord.

Bill married Mary Marie Corathers on September 26, 1953 in Oakland, Maryland. In addition to his wife of sixty-two years, he is survived by his daughters, Susan Marie Fisher and her husband, Terry, of Jonestown, PA, Mary Elizabeth "Beth" Stone and her husband, Paul, of Stephens City, VA, and Patricia Scott Withers Shiflett of Winchester, VA; his son, William Ray "Bill" Withers, II of Gainesville, VA; grandchildren, Tara Fisher, Kaitlin Fisher, Michelle Adkins and her husband, Seth, BM2 Jacob Bashioum, AE3 Travis Bashioum, Brittany Stone, PFC Joshua Stone and his wife, Jordan, John Stone, Alexander Shiflett, Brandon Withers, Tyler Withers, and Connor Withers, one great grandchild, Rahab Rosanna Adkins.

**EUGENE RAY WOOLRIDGE JR.
1929 – 2016**

On Sunday, May 1, 2016, Eugene Ray Woolridge, Jr. went to be with the Lord he so lovingly served all of his life. Appropriately, the end of his earthly life came at 12:00 noon at the conclusion of a family worship service that included his favorite hymns and scriptures.

Gene was born in Roanoke, VA on July 25, 1929, the son of Eugene Ray Woolridge, Sr. and Wardie Lou White Woolridge. He was a member of South Roanoke Methodist Church. During his high school years he worked with his father at the family owned lumber business in downtown Roanoke. Having answered God's call upon his life to be a minister, he attended Ferrum College and graduated from Randolph-Macon College. He graduated from Candler School of Theology. Gene was also awarded an honorary Doctor of Ministry degree from Shenandoah University.

While attending Candler he and some friends made a "road trip" to Florida State University in 1954 where he met Jane Smith, who would become his wife and steady companion in ministry. God blessed Gene and Jane with 60+ years of marriage. They shared their lives with three children: Eugene Ray Woolridge, III and his wife Deborah, Laura Jane Wright and her husband Archer, and James Vernon Woolridge and his wife Carrie. They have 11 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild who have brought them much joy.

An ordained clergy in the Virginia Annual Conference for more than 44 years, Gene served the following appointments: Stratford Hills, Richmond; McKendree, Norfolk; Blacksburg; Virginia Beach; and Trinity, Richmond. He served as the first superintendent of the newly formed Harrisonburg District from 1972 until 1978.

Gene was a 4 time delegate to the General Conference of the United Methodist Church and a 6 time delegate to the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference. He served for 8 years on the General Board of Church & Society, was both a member and chair of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration and chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry.

Upon their retirement in 1997, Gene and Jane moved to Virginia Beach. Gene continued his ministry by teaching the Agape Sunday School at Virginia Beach United Methodist, stepping down from that role only a few months before his death.

Gene was a mentor to many who were preparing for ordained ministry. His knowledge of the United Methodist Church and his wisdom about the ordinary "workings" of the local church was invaluable. He unselfishly shared his gifts and graces to those he encountered. He will be greatly missed.

A memorial service celebrating Gene's life and ministry was conducted on May 12 at Virginia Beach United Methodist Church.

Submitted by Robert F. Cofield, Jr. (Retired)