

## X. 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:**

Forest L Dotson (11/18/33) RL*	February 01, 2020
Kathleen A. Work (08/25/47) RE*	April 27, 2022
Harold Hicks Sr. (09/07/34) RE*	April 30, 2022
J. David Pratt (10/12/41) RE*	May 20, 2022
Jeanetta Benedict (02/21/37) RD*	June 07, 2022
William E. Hogge (08/24/32) RE	June 27, 2022
George T. Insley (05/15/41) RE	June 27, 2022
David H. Smith (04/05/30) RE	June 27, 2022
Linwood E. Daniel (06/29/29) RE	August 08, 2022
Robert F. Justis (06/17/50) RE	August 11, 2022
Gregory Dean Pittman (11/04/48) RL	August 16, 2022
Elinor R. Dalton (08/26/37) RE	August 19, 2022
Harry B. Jones (07/12/31) RE	August 20, 2022
Hannah Glisson (03/17/44) RL	September 20, 2022
Jack D. Pruitt (05/31/31) RA	October 10, 2022
Herbert G. Hobbs (04/17/34) RE	October 28, 2022
Steven D. Parker (10/02/44) RA	November 11, 2022
Bonnie Reiss (04/01/31) RE	November 17, 2022
Patricia A. Murphy (03/12/44) RE	December 06, 2022
Janet Martin (09/17/41) RL	December 15, 2022
William F. Atwell Sr. (01/14/40) RE	December 16, 2022
Larry Adams (09/21/44) RE	December 21, 2022
David Ray Burrough (09/23/49) RE	January 26, 2023
William M. Clark Jr (07/10/31) RA	January 29, 2023
Lewis H. Morgan (09/30/29) RE	February 05, 2023
James L. Gravely (03/28/35) RE	February 09, 2023

Joseph H. Beasley (11/13/29) RE .....	February 11, 2023
Kenneth E. Whetzel (11/16/35) RE .....	February 14, 2023
William C. Logan (06/03/39) RE.....	February 15, 2023
David L. Wade (10/18/41) RE .....	February 28, 2023
Otis H. Worley (07/17/34) RA .....	April 03, 2023
Richard R. Burnette (01/07/28).....	April 18, 2023

**Active Clergy:**

Richard C. Franklin (11/24/50) PLP .....	June 15, 2022
Dale E. Gillis (03/03/59) FE .....	July 28, 2022

**Key to Conference Status Abbreviations:**

RE - Retired Elder	RA - Retired Associate Member
RD - Retired Deacon	FD - Deacon in Full Connection
RL - Retired Local Pastor	RB - Retired Bishop
PE - Provisional Elder	PL - Part-time Local Pastor
PD - Provisional Deacon	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:**

Peggy R. Carwile (Rev. Elwood E. Carwile)* .....	January 01, 2018
Wesley E. Dunkum (Rev. Jeane Dunkum)* .....	May 03, 2022
Judith R. Williams (Rev. Gene Williams) .....	June 13, 2022
Carla K. Russell (Rev. Robert Russell).....	October 01, 2022
Denver Martin (Rev. Janet Martin).....	October 15, 2022
Nancy Thornton (Rev. Harold Thornton).....	October 21, 2022
Elaine Layman (Rev. Anthony Layman) .....	November 23, 2022
Charles J. Piluso (Rev. Phyllis Piluso ).....	February 13, 2023
James Utz (Vivian Utz).....	April 18, 2023

**Spouses of Deceased Clergy:**

Delia Jennings (Rev. Thomas Jennings)* .....	December 02, 2021
Stella Couch (Rev. Robert E. Couch)* .....	May 10, 2022
Kate Angle (Rev. James Angle)* .....	May 13, 2022
Elizabeth J. Wright (Rev. William A. Wright)* .....	May 25, 2022
Stephen T. Claris (Rev. Karen Claris).....	June 11, 2022
Doris D. Ferguson (Rev. William S. Ferguson) .....	June 27, 2022
Patricia Huffman (Rev. Garland Huffman) .....	July 15, 2022
Katie Jester (Rev. William A. Jester) .....	July 22, 2022
W. Lieu Lewis (Rev. David Lewis).....	July 26, 2022
Virginia C. Shelton (Rev. Garry Shelton) .....	August 22, 2022
Katherine W. Webster (Rev. William O. Webster).....	September 20, 2022

Jacqueline Fuss (Rev. Harold Fuss) .....	October 5, 2022
Rebecca Perry (Rev. Charles Perry).....	October 13, 2022
Frances King (Rev. J. Skelton King) .....	October 16, 2022
Daphne Jackson (Rev. Thomas Jackson) .....	October 21, 2022
Lorraine Felder (Rev. D Deleon Felder) .....	November 1, 2022
Mary C. Ebert (Rev. Douglas Ebert).....	November 22, 2022
Evelyn Kirby (Rev. Harold Kirby).....	December 02, 2022
Jeanette Combs (Rev. William Combs) .....	December 19, 2022
Norma F. White (Rev. Troy White).....	December 21, 2022
Bonnie Fisher (Rev. Frederick Gardner).....	December 25, 2022
Marian Kessler (Rev. William Kessler) .....	January 10, 2023
Betty T. Davis (Rev. Melvin Ott Davis).....	January 24, 2023
Ethel L. Tangeman (Rev. Karl Tangeman).....	March 07, 2023
Nancy East (Rev. Clifford East).....	March 20, 2023
Betty Lou Loftis Sheffield Bailey .....	April 3, 2023

*\*Not Reported at 2022 A. C.*

*Updated 05/03/2023*

**Lay Members**

*of the 2022-2023 Annual Conference who have died in the last year*

Ron Pritchard .....	(February 16, 2022), Coastal Virginia District
Donald Glenn Layne .....	(August 12, 2022), Mountain View District
Linda Sue Scheimreif.....	(December 17, 2022), Shenandoah River District
Carl Moravitz .....	(December 22, 2022), Northern Virginia District
Preston Barbour .....	(January 25, 2023), Shenandoah River District
Douglas Godbey.....	(March 30, 2023), Coastal Virginia District

*Updated 05/03/2023*



**THE REV. LARRY ELLIOT ADAMS  
1944 - 2022**

Larry Elliott Adams was born in McComb, Mississippi on September 21, 1944. He was nurtured in the Christian faith through the witness of his parents, Peyton and Nita Ray Adams and the ministry and lessons of Summit United Methodist Church. He was called home to be with his Lord and Savior on December 21, 2022.

He valued education and learning throughout his life, consuming books (and eventually writing one, *Sounds of Summit*, a memoir of his years in Mississippi), magazines, papers and the wisdom of others daily. Larry graduated cum laude in 1966 from Millsaps College, a United Methodist liberal arts college in Jackson, Mississippi, majoring in Latin and Greek. For his theological studies he attended Duke University's Divinity School, where he again focused on biblical languages and New Testament studies, graduating in 1970 summa cum laude. All who knew him from that point forward knew his passion for Duke, whether it was the university where his youngest son later worked, the basketball team he loved or the hospital that later offered such good care to him. In 1993, Larry returned to school once more, completing his Doctor of Ministry degree at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington DC four years later.

As part of his preparation for pastoral ministry, Larry served as a mission intern with the Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church in Zimbabwe (then called Rhodesia) from 1968-1969, and after graduation from seminary at Duke served as the assistant minister of the Auld Kirk of Ayr, Scotland from 1970 to 1971. Ordained in Mississippi in 1967, Larry initially served 41 years as a pastor in the United Methodist Church prior to his retirement in 2008.

The early years of Larry's ministry were in the Mississippi Conference where he served as associate pastor of Broadmeadow Church in Jackson and as pastor of the Star-Monterey charge in Rankin County. The next 33 years of his ministry were spent in the Virginia Conference, where he served as the pastor of Cheriton and Oyster UMC on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, Oak Grove Church in the Great Bridge area of Chesapeake, the Bethel-Emmanuel Charge on the Northern Neck, Warwick Memorial in Newport News, and Aldersgate (later New Creation) again in Chesapeake.

In retirement, he continued to serve as a guest pastor when asked, and was blessed to officiate more weddings than he could count, including those of all of his children, in his time on this earth. Larry taught all who knew him that family wasn't just the group you were born into, but also the folks you embrace and choose to love along the way. Consistent with his message he loved mentoring pastors, and often proclaimed how lucky he was to serve with so many great colleagues and associates over the years- many of whom felt like family. He even was able to lend support to his granddaughter as she prepared for her first Easter sunrise sermon last year. He was called out of retirement and back into the ministry for a final year in 2021, when he had the opportunity to serve as an interim pastor at Warsaw United Methodist (near the Lancaster area he had retired to and loved so dearly). All of his churches brought him great joy and strength.

Larry was a world traveler, and shared his love of other cultures with his friends and congregations. He took many of them to Europe, Asia and the Holy Land later in his life, sharing his knowledge and exploring these beautiful places and communities with those he ministered to spiritually as well. He felt that to walk among others is to appreciate and know them. He also lived this creed when he walked across the entire state of Virginia in his FaithWalk prior to retirement.

Larry loved his family deeply, and was the best father, husband, brother, grandfather, and friend you could ever have been blessed to know. He leaves behind his loving wife Karen Adams; sons, Clark Adams (Miranda), Christian Adams (Heidi), Clay Adams (Nida); daughters Kasey Donahue (Derek), Karlie Philips (Bryan); Grandchildren, Delaney, Sydney, Josie, Avery, Makenna, Isabella and Nicholas Adams, Jarvis, Kolbey and Kelsey Donahue, Kylie and Kinzlie Philips. He is also survived by a brother Alvin Adams (Tammy), sisters Eugenia Felder and Carol Schwager (John) and many nieces and nephews that meant the world to him.

**THE REV. WILLIAM F. ATWELL SR.  
1940 - 2022**

Bill was born January 14, 1940, and grew up in the Arlington/Fairfax area of Virginia. He made his profession of faith and commitment to the Lord as a teenager under the ministry of Pastor Gruver. At age 17, in a school assembly, during the prayer, Bill said he heard clearly the call of God on his life to be a minister. Bill said he told the Lord, "I can't do that." So, for the next 17 years God prepared Bill through the difficulties and blessings of marriage and family, career changes in retail, and his National Guard experiences.

Bill and Suzanne had four children: Elizabeth, William, Jr., Stephanie, and David. He saw God's provision and protection through the years, though still trying to 'run' from his calling. Once, he prayed urgently and desperately as he wiped the soot from his youngest child's body, after David had accidentally fallen and rolled through a blazing bonfire. Bill said, miraculously, not even a first degree burn, nor hair singed.

Finally, at age 35, Bill walked through the open doors that God placed before him at Eastern Mennonite College and Seminary. Bill often remembered God's favor during this time of preparation for ministry. He was ordained as an Elder in 1982. Bill loved being a pastor, ministering to

the needs of people. He loved the church. He loved his children dearly.

**Elizabeth's memories:** Our father loved being a pastor. He especially loved 'visiting' parishioners and sharing communion with those who were homebound. He was kind and loving to the sick and isolated. When the world seemed harsh and inconsolable, we could turn to our father for a listening ear, love and caring. We miss him greatly. 1

**William, Jr.'s memories:** Billy has fond memories of daddy taking him hunting and fishing, and his love of animals. He recalls 'stopping to get junk food' with his dad. When Bill was in rehab, he said, smiling, "tell Billy there's a big welcome mat out."

**Stephanie's memories:** My fondest daddy memories—Sunday drives, stopping to harvest wild asparagus, getting ice cream, getting to tag along with him to different churches when he was in lay ministry. He passed on his love of gardening to me. When I was in grade school, my parents became reacquainted with Jesus and our life drastically changed as my father followed his calling to ministry. One night, when I couldn't sleep because I was scared, my daddy took time to talk to me, read the Bible, and pray with me. It gave me peace to sleep. I had the privilege of helping to care for my dad in my home those last 2-3 months. I was so excited to get home and hug him, just sit and reminisce with him. My life will never be the same. I still miss his earthly presence.

**David's memories:** He remembers "the ability of my dad to be so kind to people he did not even know, shut-ins and others." He also recalls his mother telling how Bill would 'sort of push' her into a room first for visitation. David says, "the change in daddy was so amazing after he completely obeyed God's calling to the ministry. There was no longer any hesitation for visitation. He loved visiting and pastoring."

Bill told me that the hardest thing he ever had to do was to call his superintendent, and tell him that he was disabled because of his heart condition after two heart attacks. Bill would tell about 'going to the other side' during his first heart attack, and experiencing the peace that passes all understanding, and no fear of death.

Bill and I met in 1999, fell in love, were married January 2000, and moved to a little beach town in Florida for his health. Bill never quit being a Pastor. Over the 22 years we were there, so many people were drawn to him as he listened, counseled, and pastored them on the beach. He always wanted to 'make people smile' by giving them a seashell or just smiling and speaking with them. He loved all of God's creation. He loved and fed the birds (healthy food) on the beach, and it gave him still another opportunity to meet people and just share God's love. His 'flock' also seemed to love him. Big Dottie would often stand on his head and beg for the peanuts in his hand. He said that it was so humbling to know and have the trust of these creatures.

Bill once told me that his life verse was from Deuteronomy chapter 30: AND DO IT. He said that he just had to do what God had called him to do. He told me that his favorite hymn was Trust and Obey because God had to bring him to a place of absolute trust so that he would obey Him and 'receive' the LIFE that his God and Savior had for him. Bill just loved Life. His 'Light'-filled brown eyes flowed like a river of love and warmth into your soul, and then his beautiful smile would just wrap around you in such a loving God-filled embrace. When I think of my Bill, I see God's love pouring through his eyes and his smile. I have never known anyone so at peace with Life and Loving Life, even in the midst of pain and suffering. Bill was a vessel of God's love to others. I am so grateful for his life, his ministry, his love. God is so Good! He shared this wonderful gift also with me for 23 years. The impact of the Life and Love that God's Bill continues to have on my life is beyond anything this world could ever imagine. I miss him so much but I know that my Bill and God's Bill is Home: LIVING and sharing the love of his Creator forever.

*— In loving memory of my Bill, Betty Atwell (Mrs. William F. Atwell, Sr.)*

## THE REV. WILLIAM M. CLARK JR. 1931 - 2023

William was born in Danville, Virginia to William and Annie Clark. His mother was most influential in helping to set the foundation for his faith journey. Every Sunday Annie would take him to the Episcopal Church adjacent to their home where he grew in his faith. She was a Godly woman who put into practice her belief in God.

In early adulthood, Dad married the love of his life, Connie Taylor, on April 21, 1957. Together they reared four boys.

While living in Danville, Va. William attended Wesley Chapel UMC, Ringgold, VA, where he taught Sunday School. It was during this period in his life he received his call into ministry.

While William worked as a dock supervisor for a trucking firm in Danville, Va., he served as a part time pastor at the Cascade Charge while attending Ferrum College.

After graduating from Ferrum College, William took his first full time appointment on the Axton Charge and for ten summers attended the Course of Study program at Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC.

Upon completion of the course of study, William was commissioned as an Associate Member of the Virginia Annual Conference. In the 70s, he was honored as Rural Pastor of the Year while serving the Axton Charge. William has served this conference for more than 35 years, sharing the Good News of Christ with the churches he has pastored. His faithful pastoral care in visiting the sick and homebound was impeccable. He will never be forgotten as his spiritual influence will continue to impact the lives of those he touched. *—Submitted by Terry Clark*

**THE REV. LINWOOD E. DANIEL  
1929 - 2022**

Reverend Linwood Daniel of Chesterfield passed away on August 8, 2022. He was born in Emporia, Va in 1929 and was preceded in death by his parents and grandson, Joshua Daniel.

Linwood and Barbara Kline were married in September 1960 and spent nearly 62 years together. He is survived by his wife, 3 sons, 3 grandchildren, and 4 great-granddaughters.

Linwood had a BA degree from Shepherd College and a Masters of Divinity Degree from Wesley Seminary. Linwood began his ministry in the Shenandoah Valley in the Winchester District, in the town of Boyce, as a student pastor serving 5 churches in the mid 50s. He went on to serve several more churches in the Winchester District before going to Chesapeake to start a new church, Aldersgate (now New Creation) on the Portsmouth District. He was so proud to be the founding pastor of this great church! Linwood continued his ministry over the state of Virginia until his retirement in 2000. After retirement, he served churches wherever he was needed. He finally retired for good in 2020, although he liked to keep in touch by phone with all of his friends.

He and Barbara served churches over the state and deeply enjoyed every single congregation. Linwood truly loved the people that he served and felt honored to be their pastor. He definitely had an undeniably special gift for pastoral care and said so many times “we have so many friends!” These friendships were one of his greatest happiness throughout his entire life.

When Linwood was welcomed into the Lord’s presence, I’m sure that he heard, “Well done, good & faithful servant.”

*–Written by Barbara Daniel (wife)*

**THE REV. RICHARD C. FRANKLIN JR.  
1950 - 2022**

I wanted to take this opportunity to share some of what I wrote for our Christmas newsletter about our former pastor at Monumental United Methodist in Emporia and my husband of 51 years, Rick Franklin. He went home to see Jesus face to face on June 15, 2022, just as the United Methodist Conference was getting ready to begin.

When Rick was asked if he wanted to be the pastor at Monumental, he felt like he had hit the lottery. There was nowhere he ever wanted to be pastor more than here.

In 2010 during Annual Conference, after decades of folks telling him he should be a minister, he answered the call he had heard for years and said ‘Yes’ to God. In 2015 he fulfilled the requirements to become a Local Licensed Pastor.

And no one was happier about this than Rick Franklin.

He was first appointed to Centenary UMC in Jarratt. He loved that little church and the people there. When he had his interview with then District Superintendent Sylvia Meadows, which actually took place at Monumental, she asked if he would consider being appointed to come to Monumental and again, he was happier than anyone ever.

Franklin joined our church family in 1972, and he was coming home! He knew he had physical limitations but prayed that God would help him, and he knew that God would be with him. The members at Monumental were always willing to make changes as needed to make it easier for him to get around. The willingness of members to accept phone calls instead of visits helped him tremendously.

Their kindness and understanding helped his ministry greatly.

He knew he was getting slower and slower and wrestled with the decision to accept the appointment for another year. He prayed about it constantly and knew that God would let him know when it was time for him to stop. Ultimately, God called him home just before he started his third year there.

He told me many times that if he was still active as Pastor to make sure I put this title on his grave. As you may or may not know, if you retire as a local licensed pastor then you no longer carry that title. I am grateful he was afforded this prayer request.

I draw strength, not only from my faith, but in the caring people of our church and community. The thoughts, prayers, cards, flowers, food, attendance during the funeral process, and everything since last summer is so very valuable to me.

We are grateful that after so many years as a Sunday School teacher and lay leader, and certified lay servant, Franklin had the United Methodist Church to focus his time and talents on in the latter portion of his life. He loved it like he loved the Lord. And we are all better for having been a part of his faith journey and ministry.

We miss him every day and always will.

*–Suzanne, Chrystie and Brad*

## THE REV. HERBERT G. HOBBS 1934 - 2022

In memory of Herbert G. Hobbs – born April 16, 1934, and passing to his eternal home October 28, 2022.

He was known by many names throughout his lifetime... While most people called him “Herb”, classmates and friends from his youth knew him as “Herbie”; his children loved him as “Dad”; the students and faculty at Ferrum College revered him as “Chaplain Hobbs”; his grandchildren and great-grandchildren honored him as “Papa”; one of his favorite names was “Rev” called out in greetings from the Virginia Tech Football players and coaches; and his dearest friend – Jim Wightman – treasured him as “Hobbs”.

Herb met his beloved wife Evelyn while at Hampton High School; they were married in 1957 and had two children.

Most of his life was spent serving God in ministry beginning with his first appointment in 1959—a two-point charge in White Stone, Virginia, with a church family that loved them well as they started out in ministry and family life.

With passion for social justice, he pastored the first integrated Methodist church in Virginia Beach from 1963 to 1968.

From there, he and his family moved to Ferrum College where he served as Chaplain from 1968 to 1986. During that time, he created a program called “The Insight Series” showcasing people from all walks of life, telling their stories to inspire those who attended. While at Ferrum he started the Black Student Union and the Student Christian Fellowship groups.

When his children were grown, he accepted an appointment to serve at Baylake UMC in Virginia Beach from 1986 to 1992. Herb’s final appointment was serving at Blacksburg UMC from 1992 to 2000.

One of the highlights of his life was serving as the Chaplain for the Virginia Tech football team. From locker room prayers and chapel breakfasts, to high fives on the sidelines of Lane Stadium and traveling with the team, being a part of the Hokie Football Program was an incredible blessing and always brought a smile to his face for the rest of his life!

One of his final acts of formal ministry service was working with the food pantry at Calvary UMC in Stuarts Draft, Virginia.

Another passion of Herb’s was music. From singing in the Glee Club at Hampton High School and Randolph Macon College, to church choirs, and Barbershop Quartets—he considered singing a great joy. He loved all types of music from Classical to Jazz, The Beatles to Beethoven, full orchestra to a cappella. Music was always playing in their home.

Herb was loved by those who had the privilege to know him and was considered a precious friend to people all over the world.

Herb has imprinted lasting memories and influence on all who interacted with him. A dear friend and colleague, Don MacNicoll, shared this advice given to him by Herb: “He told me over and over that no matter what I did or where I was, to keep Jesus at the center of my life.” May each of us keep Jesus at the center of our lives, anchoring our souls to the promises of God on which Herb stood until his final step of faith into the arms of Christ the Lord.

## THE REV. WILLIAM ERNEST HOGGE 1932 - 2022

God carefully watched my Dad, The Rev. Ernest Hogge, come into this world on August 24, 1932, and as I witnessed, God gently guided him out on June 24, 2022.

As the youngest of five children, he seemed to know his purpose at an early age. With a blind father at home, his oldest sister took him to church regularly, as well as modeled her faith by serving needy or sick neighbors with food baskets. She instilled in him the meaning of serving others.

My dad loved his school days in West Point, where he actively enjoyed sports and developed lifelong friendships. As a graduate of Pleasant Hill High School, he left home to pursue his dreams. He attended and graduated from Ferrum College and then attended Lynchburg College, where he received his B.A. in Psychology. There, he met and fell in love with my Mom, Aileen. My Dad continued his education at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University with a Master of Divinity. He even served one summer in Cuba on a work scholarship as a Methodist missionary.

Wedding plans were in place for my Mom and Dad on March 17, 1957 in Woodstock, Virginia. Deep green bridesmaids dresses were worn, as well as green on the groomsmen. As a team, they were both ready to serve, with my Dad’s first appointment on the Lancaster Charge, Rappahannock District. I arrived on January 23, 1958 and lived at my first parsonage in Lively.

Every four years we packed up our home and relocated to another church. My Dad was ready to continually serve new communities and families. In sequence, his appointments took us to Mount Olivet, Smith Memorial and Design Churches on the Danville District, Oakton UMC on the Arlington District, Welborne UMC on the Richmond District, Centenary UMC on the Portsmouth District, District Superintendent of the Danville District, Manassas St. Thomas UMC on the Alexandria District, Westhampton UMC on the Richmond District, Interim pastor at Kenwood UMC on the Ashland District, Part-time pastor at Laurel Park UMC on the Ashland District, and last but not least, 12 years serving as a minister of Congregation Care at Shady Grove UMC Short Pump in Richmond.

One of Kenwood’s members shared a memory about my Dad. “He would exit the front door with his arms of his robe blowing in the wind.” They nicknamed my Dad “Zorro”! He spent hours on the phone calling members or new visitors and he always enjoyed a good joke!

Not only did my parents help with the planning of my wedding, but after walking me down the aisle, my Dad presented my wedding vows to me and my husband of 41 years, Charlie Otstot.

Finding out that they were going to be grandparents, just thrilled my Mom and Dad! They both enjoyed the relationship that they had with my son Adam and my daughter Kate, and they looked forward to our visits.

My Dad was able to experience three very unique and special events in his life. He not only presented my wedding vows, but he also assisted in his grandson's wedding on June 25, 2011, and then he presented his granddaughter's wedding vows on August 27, 2016.

They were also thrilled to become great grandparents to Cassidy, Sawyer, Ellett, and Grayson. Sadly, my Dad had to perform the funeral for our little Ellett.

After my Mom's death, my Dad spent his final years at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury in Irvington, Virginia. He enjoyed making new friends and continued to pray, serve, and minister to them. He enjoyed playing the game of canasta, helping with the Sunday service, and even filling in with sermons here and there. He was a faithful servant to the end. He was loved by his family and friends and will be dearly missed.

*–Submitted by Sherry Otstot (daughter)*

## **THE REV. ROBERT FRANKLIN JUSTIS 1950 - 2022**

Robert "Bob" Franklin Justis was born June 17, 1950, in Richmond, VA, to Joseph Franklin Justis and Alma Ruth Justis. He graduated from Ferrum Junior College in 1970 and transferred to Virginia Wesleyan College. His education was interrupted by the Vietnam War draft in 1972. He went into the Army Reserves where he trained to be a medic. After his service, he became a manager of a Binswanger Glass Store. As a hobby, he built model tanks and dioramas. He received national awards for his work. The diorama that he built with a group in Richmond was placed at a museum at Quantico.

In 1977 he returned to Welborne UMC where he met his wife, Carol Ann Schacht, singing in the choir together. They were married in 1979. A month after they were married, Bob felt the call into ministry. He went back to Virginia Wesleyan College and completed his Bachelor of Arts degree in May of 1981. He received his Master of Divinity degree from Emory University in Atlanta, GA in 1984. He served Alcovy UMC in Covington, GA for 2 years while in seminary.

Bob and Carol returned to Virginia where together they served churches in Richmond—Good Shepherd and Trinity; St. James in Harrisonburg; and many churches on the Peninsula District—Mathews Chapel in Mathews, VA, Urbanna in Middlesex, VA; Tabernacle in Poquoson, VA; and Bel-lamy in Gloucester, VA. Bob had a short assignment at Christ UMC in Newport News. Unfortunately, health issues forced his retirement in 2005. He and Carol attended Bethany UMC at Gloucester Point before they moved to Mechanicsville. There Bob was an associate member of Mechanicsville UMC, which was a church his uncle, John Rock, had attended. Bob continued his ministry at his assisted living facility. He was a pastor to the residents and staff there. He led Bible Study and prayer on special occasions.

Bob was a people person. He never knew a stranger and genuinely loved everyone. He was a great storyteller and often embellished stories for his sermons. His compassion for his congregation and the relationships that he and Carol built while at each church allowed them to do great work. They both were blessed by the members of their congregations over the years. Bob also had a wonderful sense of humor. He was adventurous so he was willing to try most anything. He was passionately devoted to the church and to all things he did. He had gardens at most parsonages. He also loved to collect things- model cars and tanks, movies, DVDs, CDs, books, and tools. He liked camping and took camping trips with friends. He also loved history, especially military history. Bob passed on many of his passions to his children.

Bob claimed his place in glory on August 11, 2022. He is preceded in death by his parents and two brothers. Family was the most important thing to him aside from the church. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Carol; two children- Thomas of Hardyville, VA (Misty) and Rebekah who is a missionary for Youth with a Mission (YWAM) and has traveled the world; three grandchildren –Kimberly Price, Zach, and Elizabeth Justis; a sister, Jackie Bowen (Art) and several cousins, nieces, and nephews.

*–Submitted by Carol, Thomas, and Rebekah Justis*

## **THE REV. WILLIAM CURTIS LOGAN 1939 - 2023**

William Curtis Logan, Jr., 83, passed away in Roanoke, VA, on February 15, 2023. Born in Winston-Salem, NC, Bill was baptized in the Moravian Church and attended there until the family moved to Salem, VA.

Bill graduated from Andrew Lewis High School, Lynchburg College, and Wesley Theological Seminary. He received an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from Shenandoah University. He served as an ordained elder in the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church for more than 50 years.

Bill's pastorates included Associate Pastor at Aldersgate UMC, Sydenstricker UMC, and Cranford Memorial UMC, all of the Alexandria District. From there he served Zion Grace UMC and Community UMC, both of the Norfolk Districts.

Bill was appointed as District Superintendent of the Staunton District; then to Cave Spring UMC and Trinity UMC, both of the Roanoke District. He served on several boards of the United Methodist Colleges, and Wesley Theological Seminary.

Bill dedicated his life to living beyond himself and for others. He was a positive force and living role model for the Christian faith he embraced. His ongoing joy was celebrating the many life events of his beloved family. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Sara S. Logan, daughter and son-in-law Anne Marie and Steve Kimmell; son and daughter-in-law William Craig and Tatyana Logan; grandchildren Logan, Carter and Ben Kimmell and Natalie Logan; and several nieces and nephews.

After his final retirement, Bill attended South Roanoke UMC, where upon passing, he was laid to rest in the Good Shepherd Garden of the Columbarium.

## THE REV. STEVEN D. PARKER SR. 1944 - 2022

Born October 2, 1944, in Evington, VA. Sunday mornings, as a small boy, he would help his daddy carry wood from their home to their church, Salem UMC. He would then help to build the fires in the two pot belly stoves to heat the church before services began. His mama and daddy showed him early on the importance of being a part of the church and would read the Bible to the entire family every night. His 4th grade teacher told him on several occasions about how well he knew the Bible. She would ask Bible questions, and Steve's hand always went up first.

Steve was an alumnus of New London Academy '63 and served in the US Army from 1965 to 1967, stationed at Ton Son Nhut Air Base, Saigon, Vietnam. He worked at Burlington in Altavista, VA, and as an auto and heavy machinery mechanic in Lynchburg, VA.

After many prayers by his mama and wife, Steve was saved on the last night of a revival at his home church, Salem UMC. He then began taking on more duties within the church including: church treasurer, teacher of Men's Bible class, and choir member. He just never felt like he was doing enough until he finally answered God's call to study and preach the Word.

Steve was called into the ministry in 1975, at the age of 32, bringing his wife, son (4 yrs) and daughter (newborn) along. His wife of 54 years, supported and served with him faithfully. Being a pastor's wife was something she is very proud of.

He went back to school and finished his Associate's degree at CVCC in 1979, then to Ferrum College where he graduated with his Bachelor's degree in 1982, and finally he finished at Duke University, School of Divinity in 1985.

Throughout the course of 45 years of service, he served the congregations at Langhorne Chapel UMC, Bethany, Indian Hill, and Early's Chapel United Methodist churches in Rustburg and Concord, VA (1977- 1982). Amissville UMC, in Amissville, VA (1982 – 1990), Jeffersonton UMC, in Jeffersonton, VA (1982-1984). Trinity and Tabernacle UMC, in Amelia, VA (1990-2002). Bethany and Oakland UMC, in Bedford County, VA (2002 – 2010).

Steve loved reading the Bible. He had a daily reading schedule and he read it all the way through every year and encouraged his church members to do the same. One year he managed to read it through 7 times. He would recognize and give certificates to anyone that read the Bible through in the year because he felt it was important to know and study the Word of God.

Rev. Parker believed that you can't get to know your congregation just on Sunday mornings, you had to meet them where they are. This meant going to their home, work, helping on the farm, watching youth ball games, sitting on the porch at the local general store, or just lending a helping hand when needed. He felt strongly that being a pastor was to be an active part of the community both inside and outside of the church. You could always catch him singing a song (not always the right words) while walking down the sidewalk, going into the post office, store or just spending time out in the community. A former member of Amissville UMC said, "I measured every other minister by Rev. Parker's 'gold standard', and to this day none have put me at ease or created the relationship that he did. But why? The answer was so clear. He was all of this and more to me because he wasn't just my pastor—he was also not afraid to be my FRIEND!". Rev. Parker was nominated by the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church for Rural Pastor of the Year in 1990.

He "retired" in 2010 yet continued to answer God's call to part-time ministry until March 2022. During those years he served five additional churches. A member from one of those congregations commented on how Rev. Parker helped her tremendously in her Christian walk.

Rev. Parker's favorite poem was "Sermons We See" by Edgar Guest.

*I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day.  
I'd rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way.  
The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear.  
Fine counsel is confusing but examples always clear.  
And the best of all the preachers are the men who live their creeds,  
For to see good put in action is what everybody needs.*

Rev. Steve Parker died November 11, 2022 in Lynchburg, VA, surrounded by his family. In his own words, "I have served Christ through His Church. As a Pastor, I have visited the sick, buried the dead, performed marriage celebrations, counseled those in need, and also performed Word, Order and Sacraments." A former member said, "God blessed us with Rev. Steve Parker as our minister and life-long friend. He lived what he preached, and we are forever grateful to have him."

Rev. Parker is survived by his wife of 54 years, Sandra Parker, his son S. Dwight Parker, Jr and wife Stacy, his daughter Suzanne F. Parker, three grandchildren, Alexandra "Allie" Parker, Christian Parker, Caleb Parker and one sister Sylvia Kidd. He was preceded in death by his parents, his grandson Noah Lee Parker, 2 sisters, and 3 brothers.

## THE REV. JACK D. PRUITT 1931 - 2022

A beacon of light and a tower of strength, Reverend Jack Davis Pruitt left an indelible mark on the lives of those he encountered. Born to the late Elisha T. Pruitt and Mary Parks Pruitt in Morley's Wharf, Virginia, he was a man of unwavering faith and profound humility. In his 91 years on this Earth, Jack touched countless hearts and enriched the lives of his family, friends, and parishioners. His tireless devotion to God and his fellow man made him a cherished figure in the Eastern Shore community and beyond. On October 10, 2022, Reverend Jack D. Pruitt, a guiding light to many, was called home to the Lord.

Jack's life was one of sacrifice and service. From his early days supporting his family after his father's heart attack, to his honorable service in the United States Coast Guard, to his lifelong commitment as a Baptist and Methodist minister, Jack's actions spoke volumes about the depth of his character. He was a selfless man who never hesitated to lend a hand or offer a listening ear to those in need.

Throughout his ministry, Jack faithfully served numerous churches across Virginia. He demonstrated unwavering dedication in his roles at Union Sign Post and Horntown within the Greenbackville charge, as well as at Matthews Chapel, Philadelphia, and Ebenezer in the Brunswick charge. Additionally, he shared the word of God to Whitmell and Anderson Chapel in the Danville charge, and to Cape Charles and Capeville within the Cape Charles charge. His service further extended to Drummondtown Baptist Church, Colonial Baptist Church, and Belle Haven Methodist Church. Even in retirement, Jack's passion for ministry persisted, as he continued to spread love and faith to congregants in multiple churches far and wide.

His marriage to Dora Pruitt was a testament to the power of love and the importance of partnership. Jack Pruitt is survived by five children, and was a proud PopPop of 13 grandchildren and 32 great-grandchildren. Jack's love for his family was boundless, and his legacy will continue to thrive in their hearts and memories.

As a minister, Jack demonstrated an unwavering commitment to his faith, answering God's call with courage and conviction. His miraculous escape from drowning – freed from the heavy crab pot pinning him down beneath the water – was a pivotal moment in his spiritual journey. This experience only deepened his relationship with God and fueled his passion for spreading His message.

Jack's warmth and kindness knew no bounds. He never met a stranger, and he always made time for others, treating them with the utmost respect and empathy. His presence was like a beacon of hope in the darkest of times, offering solace to the abandoned, the ill, and those facing seemingly insurmountable challenges. Jack lived his life by the teachings of Christ, loving others without judgment and offering them the gift of his time, compassion, and understanding.

His success was measured not in material possessions, accolades, or titles, but in the souls he saved, the friendships he forged, and the love he shared. Jack's faith and devotion to his family and friends were unwavering, and his love for them was unconditional. He cherished every moment spent with his loved ones and regretted only the time he couldn't share with them.

Jack Pruitt leaves behind a legacy of love, faith, and service that will continue to inspire and uplift those who were fortunate enough to have known him. His memory will live on in the hearts and minds of his family, friends, and congregants, as well as the countless lives he touched through his ministry.

We love you, Pop, and we will carry your light with us always.

Rest in peace, Reverend Jack Davis Pruitt. May you be welcomed with open arms into the loving embrace of our Lord and Savior.

## THE REV. OTIS HAYNESWORTH WORLEY 1934 - 2023

Rev. Otis H. Worley of Alpha, Virginia went to be with the Lord on April 3, 2023.

He was raised in the Godly home of his parents, James C. and Ida Hicks Worley. Otis graduated from Buckingham Central High School. During this time, he met and married the love of his life, Nyoka Connatser. While attending his home church, Rocky Mount United Methodist Church, he accepted the calling into the ministry. While pastoring three churches of the Farmville District, he attended Duke University. His dedication to God, through the United Methodist Church, continued until 1997, where after 26 years he retired. He and Nyoka moved back to their hometown of Buckingham County until his death.

Otis is survived by his wife of 58 years, Nyoka, and children; Valerie Royer (David), Jennifer Hellerstedt (Tim), and Jonathan Worley (Sara). His passions included his grandchildren, Hope Ferguson (Corbin), Ashley Hellerstedt, Noah Westbook, Drew Royer, Caleb Harris, great-grandson Theo, and his sweet dog Sassy.

A service was held on Saturday, April 8, 2023 at Rocky Mount United Methodist Church in Dillwyn, Virginia.