

A Service of REMEMBRANCE



242nd Session

Virginia Annual Conference
The United Methodist Church

June 21, 2024
Hampton, Virginia

A Service of REMEMBRANCE



Friday, June 21, 2024

Virginia Annual Conference
of The United Methodist Church
242nd Session



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A Service of
REMEMBRANCE



Friday, June 21, 2024

GATHERING

“Be Still My Soul” & “Still”

Gathering Prayer

William T. Greer III, Cave Spring UMC

O Master, Lord and Savior,
God of ends and beginnings. God of comfort and of hope.
As we worship today, we give you thanks for the faithfulness of those
 who committed their lives to you and to your service,
who through lives of prayer, worship, and service shared your word
 of love,
who have completed their journeys of faith and now rest from
 their labor.
We praise you for your never-failing care, which leads us through
 the storms of our lives,
And will bring us at last with them to the peace of your presence
Through the power of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Lesson Psalm 130 and “If Death My Friend and Me Divide”

Gospel Lesson Mark 4:35-41 *Amy Song, Red Valley UMC*

Sermon “Over to the Other Side” *Rev. Kyungsuk Cho*

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Anthem “The Storm is Passing Over”

Prayer for the Honored Dead *Rev. Clarence Brown &
Rev. Beth Downs
Rev. Jenny Day and Rev. Keith Vernon, acolytes*

(As the names of beloved saints of the church are read, you are invited to stand to honor the memory of those individuals whose ministry touched your life.)

Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer

SENDING

Hymn “Stand By Me”

Benediction *Rev. Kyungsuk Cho*



WORSHIP LEADERS

Presiding Bishop

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson

Worship Planning Team

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson

Rev. Gennie Bowles

Rev. Kyungsuk Cho

Rev. Jessie Colwell

Rev. Jay Cottman

Rev. Josette Franklin

Rev. Kathleen Haynes

Rev. Dan Kim

Rev. Dr. Charles Ledlum-Bates

Rev. Lauren Lobenhofer

Rev. Bayo Ogungbade

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Page

Rev. Drew Willson, Worship Team chair

Madeline White

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

Bishops:

Thomas B. Stockton(7/26/30).....	October 13, 2023
Timothy Wayne Whitaker (10/05/42)	March 28, 2024
Carlton P. Minnick, Jr. (9/08/27).....	May 4, 2024

Retired Clergy:

Clarence E. Acklin (12/04/42) RE	May 3, 2023
James A. Edwards (10/13/48) RL	May 18, 2023
Jeanetta B. Benedict (02/21/37) RD	June 07, 2023
William H. Nuckols Jr. (10/05/35) RE.....	June 22, 2023
Isaac W. Bare (01/28/45) RE	July 02, 2023
Connie Ray Lee (10/14/33) RL.....	July 06, 2023
Eugene F. Thomas (05/19/45) RE.....	August 14, 2023
Hugh E. Nichols (09/08/29) RE.....	August 18, 2023
Bruce C. Pfeiffer (06/05/32) RE	August 20, 2023
William T. Greer Jr. (07/28/42) RE.....	August 30, 2023
Albert L. Crockett (08/08/32) RA.....	September 20, 2023
James W. Martin (10/14/38) RL.....	September 28, 2023
Pamela L. Clark-Egan (12/31/53) RE.....	October 02, 2023
James W. Thornton Sr. (01/07/45) RE	October 02, 2023
Vinson H. Sutlive (10/29/32) RE	October 04, 2023
Hugh T. Harris (03/20/37) RE.....	November 11, 2023
Robert J. Donnelly (09/26/34) RE	November 16, 2023
Barbara Minter (08/27/35) RE	November 20, 2023

Edward P. Gant (07/23/30) RE.....	November 29, 2023
Isaac E. Harper (08/13/51) RL.....	December 15, 2023
Robert H. Woodfin (09/23/42) RE	December 19, 2023
Howard F. Holley (04/26/56) RE	February 14, 2024
James H. Blankenship (01/27/30) RA.....	March 03, 2024
Laughton L. Corr (10/25/32) RE	March 04, 2024
Murray L. Sallinger (09/07/37) RL.....	March 29, 2024
Manning B. Harrell (07/24/30) RE	April 24, 2024

Active Clergy:

Douglas D. Gestwick (01/02/1958) FE.....	May 24, 2023
Donald W. Baldwin (06/30/1961) FL	July 26, 2023

Retired Diaconal Minister:

Viola G. Turner (10/07/1931) RDM	December 27, 2023
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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
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Spouses of Clergy:

Mary C. Oberdick (Rev. Jan G. Oberdick)	April 13, 2022
Rebecca W. Barclay (Rev. Richard Barclay)	October 24, 2023
Carol J. Stribula (Rev. Charles Stribula).....	November 16, 2023
Clydia D. Collins (Rev. Donald L. Collins).....	November 23, 2023
Anne D. Blankenship (Rev. James Blankenship)	February 14, 2024

Spouses of Deceased Clergy:

Nancy Smart (Rev. Morgan Smart).....	May 15, 2023
Anna L. Campbell (Rev. Deroyn Campbell)	May 16, 2023
Amelia Parker Bond (Rev Luther Grant).....	May 20, 2023
Peggy Wright (Rev. Edward Wright).....	May 24, 2023
Agnes F. Satterwhite (Rev. Edwin Satterwhite).....	June 03, 2023
Nyoka C. Worley (Rev. Otis Worley)	June 29, 2023
Norma T. Mitchell (Rev. Frank Mitchell)	July 07, 2023
Louise C. Randall (Rev. Harry B. Randall)	July 26, 2023
Blanche Scott (Rev. C. Richard Scott).....	August 13, 2023
Maxine E. Rollins (Rev. Milford C. Rollins).....	August 27, 2023
Sandra G. Parker (Rev. Steven Parker).....	November 13, 2023
Hilda S. Kyle (Rev. Edward H. Kyle).....	January 19, 2024
Helen K. McMullen (Rev. Conley McMullen).....	February 24, 2024
Ruby S. Hoover (Rev. Lawrence B. Hoover)	March 03, 2024
Edna K. Paylor (Rev. Earle W. Paylor).....	April 03, 2024
Marilyn C. Davis (Rev. Paul Benj Davis Jr).....	April 11, 2024

Lay Members

Name of Lay Member/District	Date of Death
Jason Wiles Tate, Sr. (Mountain View District).....	May 21, 2023
Rick Kottermann (Northern Virginia District).....	August 6, 2023
Bessie Lou Pollok (Mountain View District).....	October 16, 2023
David Wayne Bailey (Living Waters District)	December 19, 2023
Betty J. Walker (Three Notch'd District).....	January 3, 2024
JoAnn Sullivan Liskey (Shenandoah River District).....	February 4, 2024
Peggy Lee Norris (Mission Rivers District.....	February 28, 2024
Charner R. “Chuck” Lifsey, Jr. (Living Waters District).....	March 31, 2024

MEMOIRS

THE REV. PAMELA LYNNE CLARK-EGAN 1953 – 2023

Rev. Pamela Lynne Clark-Egan's wish to find true freedom in death in the name of Jesus Christ was granted unexpectedly October 2, 2023. She is survived by her husband of 40 years Timothy; her son Robert, wife Katie & granddaughter Delaney; her daughter Danielle Davis, husband Bill, son Reed, and daughters Amanda, Peyton & Ainsley; her daughter Katelyn Dunford, husband Brenden, daughter McKenna, & sons William & Jamie; her sister Betty-Anne Roberson, husband Ken, & daughters Christine, Kendi, her husband James, Molly, Megan, partner Shawn & their daughters, Amelia & Aria; her friend Pamela Appleton; and her sister Kathy Sue-Gainous, husband Marty & son Brett Jarnigin.

She was born December 31, 1953, in Tazewell (Virginia). She and her mother Phyllis Ranger lived with her Grandparents Robert & Florence Ranger in Falls Mills (Virginia) until she was nine; for a short time near Tampa (Florida), then in the DC area until she and Tim were married on July 23, 1983, where they raised their family in Alexandria (Virginia).

Pamela graduated from the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in 1975 before becoming an officer with the Metropolitan Transit Police. After leaving that career to raise her family, she followed her call to ministry, graduating from George Mason University in 1999 and earning her Master of Divinity at Wesley Theological Seminary in 2000. Shortly thereafter she became an elder with the United Methodist Church (UMC).

She served Clarendon UMC as a seminary student before being assigned in 2002 as the pastor of Sleepy Hollow UMC (Falls Church) until 2019, and as a temporary pastor at the Trapper Creek (Lutheran) Fellowship in 2012 and 2022. She was privileged to participate in the ordination of a Presbyterian pastor and delivered sermons at Lutheran & several non-denominational churches, and the Pocahontas Baptist church. On a trip to Ephesus (Turkey) she served communion to her friends at an amphitheater

where Paul preached. Under her guidance many UMC mission teams worked in Pocahontas (Virginia) performing household repairs, assisting the Baptist Church with their Vacation Bible School, and purchasing Christmas gifts that were delivered by a Catholic charity.

Pamela & Tim developed a love for cruising late in life, accumulating almost two months onboard in the Mediterranean, the Baltic, a Transatlantic trip, and the Caribbean. She particularly liked the ship's itinerary listing a "sea day" because that meant she and her friend Bonita Mills could have a "spa day". Her favorite vacation was a week spent in a "cave house" carved into in caldera in Oia, Santorini (Greece). She & Tim visited 34 states, along with 26 countries. Her desire is for him to continue traveling and distributing her ashes wherever he goes.

Pamela was passionate about ministering to the police, establishing a "break room" at Sleepy Hollow UMC to provide a quiet and secure respite for the officers. When traveling she usually sought-out the country's officers for a "photo-op", some conversation, and a prayer for their safety.

THE REV. EDWARD P. GANT 1930-2023

Reverend Edward P. Gant, 93, passed into the arms of his Lord and Savior on November 29, 2023, in Lynchburg, Virginia. Ed was born on July 23, 1930, in Newell, West Virginia. He was the only child of Pearl Gant and Goldie Gant. He is survived by his devoted wife of 65 years, Louise Gant and their three children: Doug (Liz) Gant, Debbie (Barry) Schmitt, and Libby (Tim) Roberts. He is also survived by his 7 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild: Alexandra Schmitt (Ben) Norwood, Caitlin Roberts, Jonathan Schmitt, Christopher Schmitt, Anne Gant, Camden Roberts, Grayson Roberts, and Charlotte Norwood.

As a young man, Ed felt a strong call to Christian ministry and began pastoring a small Nazarene church in the mid-1950s. During this time, Ed attended a Church of the Nazarene delegate event in Huntington, West Virginia, where he met Louise Clark. They spoke briefly and saw each other one other time before he volunteered to serve in the United States Army - accepting what he believed was his responsibility. Ed served in the Army in Germany from 1955-1957. During this time, in addition to his duties, which

took him all over Europe, Ed had the privilege to serve as an assistant to the Chaplain where he was stationed. When he returned home in August of 1957 he reconnected with Louise again. They were soon married on January 4, 1958, in Moundsville, West Virginia.

Ed's seminary training began at Wesley Theological Seminary, and he was ordained a deacon in the West Virginia UMC Conference. In the early 1960s Ed and Louise made the decision to move to Virginia where he would continue his education and complete his seminary training at Duke. In 1964 he was ordained as an elder and soon became a full member of the Virginia UMC Conference.

Ed's call to ministry would lead them to spend their lives in service to the Lord, and to the communities in which they lived. First, serving small churches in West Virginia, and then serving many churches in the Virginia UMC Conference. In addition to pastoring churches, Ed was involved with Industrial Commercial Ministries (ICM) where he spent time in the field riding with officers of the Fairfax & Danville Police Departments. While serving in Franklin County in the early 70s Ed was involved in helping secure the lease of the property which was the early beginnings of the Henry Fork Service Center, which continues to serve and make God's love visible in Franklin County. During those years he taught religious education in two of the elementary schools. Ed also served for many years as a member and Chaplain of the Virginia Defense Force. When Ed retired in 1995, after 39 years of full-time ministry, he and Louise settled in Lynchburg, Virginia and became active members of Heritage United Methodist Church where they would continue to serve their church and support other local churches when needed. He also continued for a short time in a leadership role with ICM.

Over the years, Ed's engagement in the communities he served outside of the church, included being part of the local Masonic Lodge and membership in both the Scottish Rite and Shrine Club. His interests also included all things photography. Ed loved taking pictures and videos and as technology evolved, he was excited to embrace new ways to capture special moments, the images of the people he loved, and the places he visited.

Ed and Louise led an active life together loving their children, grandchildren, and their many church families. He was privileged to officiate many weddings and baptisms over the years, but it was his special joy to be able to officiate the weddings of his three children, baptize his seven grandchildren, and most recently officiate the wedding of his granddaughter,

Alexandra.

Ed had a true servant's heart and was devoted in his service to the Lord and to sharing the gospel. He genuinely loved those he ministered to, was willing to see the good in people, and was never hesitant to share his time or pray with them.

THE REV. DOUGLAS D. GESTWICK

1958 – 2023

Douglas D. Gestwick was born in Buffalo, NY. After graduating from SUNY, Geneseo in business and finance, he entered the world of computers working first with IBM, then Apple and finally in his own computer company before heading back to graduate school at Duke Divinity School to live into his calling from God which he first heard in college. While at Duke, Doug met and married Clara. They moved to Virginia in 1990 to begin serving God through the local church, first in separate churches but after four children were born, they took the plunge (with heavy marital counseling) and asked to be appointed to the same church. They served side-by-side until his medical leave in 2018.

While Doug loved serving in the local church, one of his passions was taking people on foreign mission trips and pilgrimages to Israel. He loved traveling and learning about other cultures. He participated in conference wide trips to Russia and later led a trip to Prague. He was a delegate to the World Methodist Council when it met in South Africa.

Closer to home, Doug enjoyed his work on CF&A and with Pensions. He was always a number person and not just with dollars. He counted every shape and pattern he could see. You were probably counted at Annual Conference if you came into his line of sight — which of course you did because he loved to walk the floor at Annual Conference.

Doug especially cherished his family and friends. He loved being a father to his four children — he was IMMENSELY proud of each of them. He was a doting husband to his wife of 34 years. His home became a bed and breakfast for the many people from all walks of life who came to visit. His backyard became the destination for the neighborhood with regular weekly gatherings for all. He loved to cook and continued to prepare feasts until his last few months.

In 2016, Doug was diagnosed with Mantle Cell Lymphoma and was told to get his affairs in order. But the doctor didn't know Doug well. He took on the challenge and lived seven more years. He was able to get the MCL under control. He ended up calling the MCL a blessing because during all the testing, the doctors discovered a small tumor in his lungs. It was the lung cancer that couldn't be eradicated. The seven cancer years were filled with many struggles but blessings and times of pure joy outweighed those struggles. He kept a journal of both the struggles and blessings on the CaringBridge website and then turned his cancer journey into a book titled **Do Whatever is Next: Sur-Thriving a Cancer Diagnosis**. He didn't "lose the battle" with cancer. Doug fought hard and with great courage — he died.

Doug Gestwick was BIG. A big man. A big voice. A big heart. He was both passionate and compassionate — always considering the impact of his own life on others. We will always remember him — STILL in one PEACE!

THE REV. WILLIAM THOMAS GREER JR.

1942 – 2023

William Thomas Greer, Jr. 81, died peacefully at his home in Asheville, NC, on August 30th, 2023.

Born to parents William Thomas Greer and Winnie Agnes Duke Greer in Brunswick, GA, on July 28th, 1942, Billy Greer grew up in Tifton, GA, and graduated from Valdosta State University. Feeling called to the ministry, he studied at Emory University's Candler School of Theology and earned an M.Div. degree from Drew University. Seeking yet broader theological understanding, he was research assistant for a year for Professor William Barclay, the distinguished Scottish theologian at the University of Glasgow. He went on to earn a Doctor of Sacred Theology degree at Emory University and a PhD. in higher education administration at Georgia State University and continued his studies at the Harvard University Institute for Educational Management.

On returning from Scotland, he was ordained as elder in the South Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church. Over the next 12 years he served churches in Macon, Centerville, and St. Luke United Methodist Church in Columbus. In Cuthbert, Georgia, he was pastor of the church, and served Andrew College as chaplain, teaching Old and New Testament, and

serving on the Board of Trustees and its executive committee. Recognizing his leadership skills, which were enhanced by his pastoral spirit, Andrew College tapped him for the presidency in 1980. His dramatic success as Andrew's president led to him being called to Brevard College where he served as president for seven years (1985-1992). In 1992 he assumed the presidency of Virginia Wesleyan College, a small, young, liberal arts college in Norfolk/Virginia Beach. Under Greer's 23 years at the helm, Virginia Wesleyan notably increased its enrollment, athletics program (earning the coveted ODAC Commissioner's Cup in 2014-15), physical facilities, and endowment. One of his proudest achievements at Wesleyan was the establishment of the Center for the Study of Religious Freedom. He was often heard to say, "We must stop killing each other over religious beliefs." The Greer Environmental Sciences Center was given in honor of his retirement, fulfilling his dream and placing Wesleyan in a unique position among liberal arts colleges. Following his retirement from Virginia Wesleyan he served for 18 months as interim president of the Eastern Shore Community College, where he enjoyed the diversity of the students and the academic programs. His gifts as a dynamic leader were recognized by his peers, and they selected him as President of Leadership Georgia and for leadership positions in many educational associations, including The Virginia Foundation of Independent Colleges, the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association, and the National Association of Schools and Colleges of United Methodist Church. He was among a select group of college administrators invited to participate in a Fulbright Scholars Program in Germany and as a Visiting Scholar at Princeton Theological Seminary.

As a young man Billy Greer met and fell in love with Fann Dewar, the love of his life. Their 58-year marriage was a true partnership. He was a devoted husband and father to their three sons, William Thomas, III (Carrie Meade), Robert Dewar (Rachel Simmons), and David Benjamin (Amanda Womble). He was so proud of the men his sons became and of their families: grandchildren Meade Alison Greer, William Thomas Greer, IV and Martin Dewar Greer of Roanoke VA, and Polk Truan Greer and Watson Parker Greer of Chapel Hill, NC. In addition to his wife and children he is survived by his sister Linda Greer Burton (Joe) of Raleigh, NC, brother-in-law Robert Y. Dewar, Jr. (Sarah), their wonderful families and loving cousins. His family was his greatest joy.

Always a visionary, he believed in building community, often around breaking bread. He famously used the barbecue grill as a site for fund-raising as well as a place to nurture closer relationships with colleagues, students, and family. At the institutions he led, many students, faculty and staff members were touched by his personal interest and acts of kindness. A lifelong sports enthusiast, Billy Greer especially loved rooting for sports teams at both Brevard and Virginia Wesleyan, sometimes leading student cheers at basketball games. His love of sports grew from his own long athletic experience playing basketball, which continued into college. At the University of Glasgow, he was awarded Full Blue Colors, the highest athletic award given in British Universities.

As a man of high moral character, Greer faced decisions with a clear sense of right and wrong. Always environmentally conscious, he and Fann were awarded “Eastern Shore of Virginia, Environmentalists of the Year” and served on Virginia’s Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries. He loved relating to people regardless of their station in life and was on the front lines of pushing for racial equality from the student athletic church league in Brevard, NC, to the Old Dominion Athletic Conference and beyond. He was interested in and accepting of all people. Humble and gracious, he drew people to his side with his boundless energy, unpretentious ways, ability to empathize, love of a good story, and tremendous sense of humor—how Billy Greer enjoyed a good laugh!

THE REV. HUGH ELTON NICHOLS

1929 – 2023

The Rev. Hugh Nichols completed his earthly life on August 18, 2023, following a long illness. He grew up in Kentucky, graduating from Asbury College where he met his future wife, Dee Dawson. He earned his Master of Divinity from Candler School of Theology, Emory University, and then got married in 1952. After grad school, they moved to Eagle Rock, VA, where he had a four-point charge and Dee taught school.

When he was seven years old he attended a revival meeting and heard a message based on Revelation 3:20: “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.” That night he opened his life to the ever-growing

presence of Jesus. The joy of that experience, and that way of living, were his continuing call to ministry over the years.

Hugh's 40 years of ordained ministry were spent as follows: 1953-54: North Georgia Annual Conference; 1954-58: Eagle Rock Charge (Botetourt County); 1958-60: Tazewell Avenue (Roanoke); 1960-64: Melrose Avenue (Roanoke); 1964-67: Greenwood (Glen Allen), 1967-70: St. John's (Buena Vista); 1970-77: Central (Salem); 1977-78: Court Street (Lynchburg); 1978-82: Ferebee-Halstead (Virginia Beach); 1982-84: Lane Memorial (Alta Vista), 1984-88: Central (Clifton Forge), 1988-93: Providence (Richmond).

Hugh was a beloved minister who had special gifts for sharing the Gospel, administration, visitation, and especially for encouraging others. More than 50 years ago, while pastoring in the area, he helped pick out the land for the (then) Roanoke District's Camp Alta Mons. Over the years, his children, grandchildren, and even great-grandchildren have enjoyed attending the camp and learning about God's creation.

Among his hobbies were hunting, fishing, gardening, photography, and playing the violin. He also greatly enjoyed playing with his children, Sherrie, Perry and Terri. Hugh had a wonderful sense of humor and never took himself too seriously! He and Dee retired to Botetourt County, where they eventually moved to The Glebe retirement community. In addition to their children, they have seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

The Scripture Hugh wanted to be on his lips when he died is Luke 2: 29-32: "Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace, as you have promised. I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all people. He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory of your people Israel!"

DR. VINSON H. SUTLIVE, JR.

1932 – 2023

Vince was born in Thorsby, Alabama to Vinson and Ruth Sutlive on October 29, 1932. At seven, Vince, his sister Jane and parents moved to Birmingham. Vince graduated from West End High School. After high school, he attended Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky. Vince met Joanne in his sophomore year and after he graduated with a degree in Psychology, they were married June 17, 1953. They recently celebrated 70 years of marriage in 2023.

In the Fall of 1953, Vince and Joanne moved to Nashville where he attended seminary at the Vanderbilt University School of Religion. In 1957, Vince and Joanne and two children, Vins and Susan, sailed to Sarawak, then a British colony, now a state in Malaysia on the island of Borneo. Vince taught and served as principal at the Methodist Theological School in Sibuh. He and Joanne worked among the Iban, the largest indigenous group in the area. A second son, Thom, was born in 1962. Vince traveled extensively in Sarawak and was involved in church development. A desire to understand more about the culture of the Iban people led him to study anthropology at the University of Pittsburgh where he earned a Ph.D. He developed an interest in linguistics that would play a significant role in his work as missionary and later as anthropologist. He translated several books of the Old Testament into Iban.

In 1972, Vince and family returned to the U.S., settling in Williamsburg, VA. He taught in and later served as the Chairperson of the Department of Anthropology at the College of William & Mary. During that time, Vince continued to travel and do fieldwork in Sarawak. This included curating different aspects of Iban literature and culture. His time at William & Mary included several recognitions: The Phi Beta Kappa Award for Advancement of Scholarship, and the Thomas Jefferson Award. After Vince retired in 2002, a former student established the Vinson H. Sutlive Book Prize & Lecture, that is presented annually.

Vince had a great love of music and was an excellent musician. He liked to say that he played two Instruments: the violin and fiddle. In high school, he was a member of the Alabama All-State Orchestra and a local “hillbilly” band. At Asbury College, he discovered an appreciation for singing. He sang in the men’s glee club and in a gospel quartet. When he moved to Virginia, Vince joined the choir at the Williamsburg UMC. He remained a faithful member for over 40 years.

Vince maintained his membership in the Virginia Annual Conference, serving on several conference-wide committees, often filling in for pastors who were on vacation. He participated in Kairos Prison ministry for more than 10 years. In 2017, he and Joanne moved to the Wesley Village Senior Retirement Center in Wilmore, Kentucky. On the morning of October 4th, Vinson H. Sutlive, Jr. passed away peacefully with Joanne, his life-long love, by his side.

JAMES WELFORD THORNTON, SR.

1945-2023

Jim claimed the promise of the Resurrection at his home in Louisa, Virginia, on the morning of October 2, 2023, after a long, hard-fought battle with cancer and kidney disease. The third child of Evelyn and Thomas Thornton (and much younger than his siblings!), Jim grew up in Highland Park in Richmond. He was baptized at Northside Baptist Church in 1954 and accepted Jesus as his savior in October 1983. He was a proud member of the Corps of Cadets at John Marshall High School, from which he graduated in 1963. Jim married his high school sweetheart, Carol Rogers, in 1966, and together they reared two children, Jay and Julie. Since Jim was Baptist and Carol was Episcopalian, they settled upon Methodism as a compromise! They were active members of Chester UMC for many years.

Jim attended Virginia Tech and earned a B.S. in Sociology and Social Welfare from Richmond Professional Institute in 1968. After graduation he worked as a parole officer at the Virginia State Penitentiary in Richmond and then as a probation and parole officer in Richmond and Petersburg until 1972, except for one year when he was employed by the Virginia State Police as a trooper. He was awarded a Master of Social Work degree from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1974 and became a United States Probation Officer in January 1977. Clearly the Lord had plans for this man who as a boy had been discouraged about his future academic prospects! Jim very much enjoyed his career in the state and federal criminal justice systems until 1991, when he responded to his call to ordained ministry. Jim's first appointment as a student-pastor was to a 3-point charge in Accomack County on Virginia's Eastern Shore, serving Saxis, Sanford, and Hallwood. He later served the Drummondtown Charge. Jim had experienced his Walk to Emmaus in 1989 as spiritually transformative, and during his years of ministry on the Eastern Shore, he made time to participate actively in the Eastern Shore Emmaus Community. His Master of Divinity from The Wesley Theological Seminary was conferred in 1995. After his ordination as an elder in 1997, Jim served Macedonia UMC in Louisa County and Byrd Chapel UMC in Fluvanna County, a 10-year appointment. He retired from Ivy Creek UMC in Albemarle County in 2016 after his health began to decline, having served that congregation for nine years. Jim's preferred "title" at his churches was "Pastor Jim," although at Ivy Creek sometimes

“P.J.” meant “Paper Jim,” due to his aversion to working digitally! (He did what was necessary, though.) Sadly, Carol passed away in 2011; Jim and Sandra Benson married in 2012, and a special joy was having a dear friend, the late Rev. Travis DeLoach, officiate the ceremony.

Jim leaves a great legacy of love, devotion, service, and sacrifice. He showed people God’s heart and helped them to experience God’s love for them in new ways. He had the heart of a pastor whether he was under appointment or not. Jim was a loving, devoted husband, and he dearly loved his children and his grandchildren, Sarah, Delaney, Rachel, Macauley, and Zach. He cared deeply for his parishioners and their spiritual growth, and often that care extended to parishioners’ extended families and friends. Jim will be remembered for his commitment to the gospel of his Lord, Jesus Christ; his humble strength; his calm but firm leadership; his wisdom and encouragement; and his compassionate, reassuring presence. His sense of humor and fun and love of fishing, beach-going, photography, movies, target practice, music, and singing with the men’s chorus will also be enduring memories!

