



UMC PASTOR MEMOIRS

These 677 memoirs are those found on the Virginia UMC Conference website in July 2014, beginning with those from 1987, supplemented by those provided at the 2015, 2016, and 2017 Annual Conference *Memorial Service Booklets*. A complete table of contents is provided at the end. Note that memoirs were published in Conference *Journals* primarily for those who were members of the Conference on the date of death. Note also that many of the pastors remembered by United Methodists were lay supply and not members of the Conference in full connection. In most conference years, memoirs were arranged (approximately) in order of date of death; occasionally (e.g., 1990) and more recently, memoirs are arranged (approximately) alphabetically. Photos from conference directories have been added.

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1987 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

L. Harold DeWolf, 1905-1986

L. Harold DeWolf was born in Columbus, Nebraska, January 31, 1905. The son of a Methodist minister, he lived in several cities as a boy, the last stop being York, Nebraska, where Harold attended York College (now united with Westmar College, Iowa) for two years, then transferred to and graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan College. From there he went to Boston University School of Theology for his S.T.B., and a few years later for his Ph.D.

Harold served various churches in Nebraska and Massachusetts as pastor for 14 years before becoming a lecturer, instructor and professor in Boston University. In 1965 he was named first dean of Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., a position held until his retirement in 1972. During

these seven years he helped establish Wesley as one of the top United Methodist seminaries in the United States.

In 1955, Harold traveled to Southern Rhodesia as a lecturer and consultant on theological education in Africa. His collaboration as representative of the Methodist "Conference" (American) with the Methodist "Synod" (British) resulted in Epworth Theological College, now a large ecumenical seminary in Harare, Zimbabwe. Later, he was sent by the Board of Higher Education in Southeast Asia to visit theological schools in Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Borneo, Thailand and India, again lecturing and holding seminars for their professors.

Evangelism, though a high priority, was to Harold only half of the Christian Gospel. He believed that "By their deeds ye shall know them" challenged every Christian to work to overcome the problems of the world-hunger, poverty, fear, crime, war, injustice- and he, himself, wrote, lectured, and traveled extensively in the field of crime and justice. He was president of the board of directors of "Offender Aid and Restoration in the United States of America." Each year at their annual banquet the L. Harold DeWolf Distinguished Service Award is presented to a worthy recipient. He worked in community groups to improve methods of justice, and frequently visited inmates in city and state prisons. He was instrumental in bringing about the release of at least two prisoners who had received unjustified sentences.

There are 15 published books by L. Harold DeWolf, covering all aspects of Bible, theology, ethics and criminal justice. Perhaps best known is "A Theology of the Living Church," for many years the textbook for systematic theology in seminaries of many denominations. His "Crime and Justice in America: A Paradox of Conscience" was acclaimed by many judges, criminologists and law professors as one of the best definitive books on that subject. His last book, "Eternal Life: Why We Believe," expressed his unswerving faith in immortality.

Harold DeWolf was a good man. The many tributes from former colleagues and students on his influence in their lives, his pride in his children, his never-failing kindness and compassion for disadvantaged and forgotten humanity, the high regard for his many contributions to the United Methodist Church, made him, to me, and many, one of God's chosen people, who will live on in his impact on countless lives. —Mrs. L. Harold DeWolf

Malcolm P. Maples, Sr., 1919-1986

More than one who just owns a vision about how life might be, Malcolm "Mac" P. Maples shared his with those he ministered. He lived his life understanding the unique economy of grace, the more one gives, the more one receives. In sharing this vision, he shared himself and witnessed to the grace God shared with us in Jesus Christ.



After a career serving his country in military service, Mac received the call to the ordained ministry. He served Schuyler from 1966 to 1972. While there he was ordained deacon in 1969 and was made an associate member in 1970. He later served at Rapidan and Mineral. He retired in 1981, but continued to pastor churches until his death in May 1986. As a pastor, Mac made Christ's love real for the congregations and communities he served. His ministry was a sharing of the vision of God's kingdom by simple acts of kindness and generosity and by the sharing of himself.

Besides his wife, Rose, he is survived by two sons, Malcolm P. Maples, Jr., of New York and Mallie E. Maples of Mineral, Virginia. Those who knew Mac as pastor, friend, husband, and father will not forget the vision he shared. Gratitude is the memory of the heart. We who knew him will not forget and will continue to be strengthened by the vision he shared. Both the church he loved and the people he knew have been strengthened by his ministry. We are grateful for having known him and will remember his life and ministry with us. Mac's life was his ministry and his ministry his life. —Timothy R. Gerde

Charles G. Hurlock, 1938-1986

The Rev. Charles Gallagher Hurlock, who last served in Pennhook, passed into eternal life May 24, 1986 and was buried from the Cokesbury United Methodist Church near Hurlock, Maryland, the same rural church in which he first received the call to ministry as a boy. Born June 21, 1938 to Charles M. and Ruth Hurlock, he spent his boyhood years working on the family farm on Maryland's Eastern Shore. As a young man, he served in the Army Intelligence Corps, and graduated from Western Maryland College and Crozier Theological Seminary. However, he never forgot the land and people among whom he grew up, and devoted his ministry to serving in the rural churches of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia.



He loved rural people, but had the personal experience not to romanticize the rural life. He knew its blessings, but also the hardships and disappointments and knew the bitterness and narrowness that could be engendered in its people. The gift of his heritage allowed him to recognize and confront perversity that an "outsider" might never see. His gifts as a carrier of the Good News lay in his person, which was testified to by the instinctive friendship he enjoyed with children, animals, and the pure in heart. He was not noted as a "pulpititeer," but many instructive lessons for individuals were begun by his asking a listener a slow, disarming Question, "Well, now tell me this..."

The tragedies of his own life deepened his presence but at times made him impatient with much of the institutional church life. He never spoke of his own illness and seldom of his losses, but having lost his own son to a heart defect in childhood, he had a special ministry to other parents who had lost children as a member of Compassionate Friends. A devoted family man, who often put family needs above the chance for "higher" appointment, Charles is especially missed by his wife and two daughters. His wife, the former Linda Insley, returned to her mother's home in Salisbury, Maryland, following her recovery from surgery, and the youngest daughter, Anne, is with her. Tamara B. Hurlock is attending Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg. —*Robert Gribbon*

Harry W. Craver, 1899-1986

Harry Wallace Craver was born October 20, 1899, in Baltimore, Maryland. When he graduated from Randolph-Macon College in 1926, his college yearbook, "The Yellow Jacket," expressed how he was perceived in this way: "Harry has chosen a noble vocation which should prove very successful in the years to come. He is a lad of ability with many natural gifts..." His abilities and gifts contributed to a meaningful ministry career which spans two conferences and more than 60 years of service to his Lord.



The beloved "Reverend Mr. Craver" began his ministerial career in 1928 as a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church's Baltimore conference. He and his wife Ruth, whom he affectionately called "Sweetheart," were blessed with two children: Harriet, and Wallace, Jr. In 1933 he went to serve the communities of Greenville and Mint Spring in the Shenandoah Valley. In the mid-1930s, he was transferred to Central Church in Arlington County, Virginia. When unification took place in 1939, he became a member of the Virginia Conference of the Methodist Church. He served Elm Avenue in Portsmouth, Cherrydale in Arlington, Ferebee-Halstead in Norfolk, Grace in Newport News and its successor, Noland Memorial, Park View in Portsmouth, and Elm Avenue a second time. He retired from the active ministry in 1969.

Following his retirement, Harry continued to serve his Lord by providing ministerial services to the West Norfolk Church (later renamed St. Mark's) and to Monumental Church in Portsmouth as the minister of visitation. Upon the occasion of his final retirement, Monumental named him "Minister Emeritus" as an expression of their love and respect for his unending ministry. Harry Craver was a special kind of person whom I was privileged to know as my pastor, friend and colleague in ministry. His understanding smile and wise counsel guided me when I made the decision to enter the ministry and

continued to be a source of inspiration to me and countless others whose lives were privileged to be touched by this gentleman of God. Often he would share Scriptures with me which were a source of inspiration to him through life's journey. Harry's earthly pilgrimage ended on July 9, 1986 and memorial services were conducted at Monumental Church, Portsmouth, July 11 by this writer. Carl Haley, Harry's long-time friend and colleague, expressed a sentiment shared by many: "He exemplified the love of our Lord and so unselfishly expended himself for others. He was indeed a kindly Christian gentleman who will always be remembered and loved." —*R. Franklin Gillis, Jr.*

Mary Louise Steele, 1902-1986

The Rev. Mary Louise Steele was born July 2, 1902 in Stephens City, Virginia. She was the great-great-great-great granddaughter of Peter Stephens who was the first settler and founder of Stephens City, Virginia in the Northern Shenandoah Valley, near the city of Winchester.



Mary Louise Steele was an honor graduate from Handley High School in Winchester and continued her education in three institutions of higher education: Madison College (presently James Madison University), Shenandoah College and Conservatory of Music, and the University of Virginia.

She was ordained a deacon in 1959, an elder in 1961, and was received on probation in 1963, and in full connection in 1965. During her lifetime she was an accountant, teacher, nurse and one of the first women to serve as a United Methodist minister.

She was licensed to preach in 1956 through Braddock Street United Methodist Church and starting in 1958 served 10 years in the Winchester District as a United Methodist minister. Her years of service included six districts and eight appointments. Her appointments were Francis Asbury, Relief, Riverton in the Winchester District, followed by Irvington in the Rappahannock District, Lakeland in the Danville District, Capeville in the Eastern Shore District, Jollivue-St. Stephens in the Staunton District, and Tyreanna-Mt. Olivet in the Lynchburg District.

Her ministry was recorded in the April issue of the Advocate in 1963 with the following quote: While the Advocate regularly carries much news of churches and ministers throughout the Virginia Conference, little is said about one small, but highly important clerical group -- the lady pastors in our conference. So far as the Advocate news is concerned, this particular group of ladies keeps so busy making history that they do not take time to record it and send it for publication.

The article which followed in the Advocate told of the ministry and life of Mary Louise Steele as one of the pioneers in ministry. Indeed she was one of the first to pave the way for those who have followed. In her call, she has opened the way for many who benefit today from her call and ministry.

She was a lifesaver in more ways than one. She was granted a Certificate of Merit by the American Red Cross which was signed by the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt for her action on October 14, 1942 when she administered first aid to a Mrs. Livewell who was badly cut by flying glass in an automobile accident north of Winchester. Mary Louise was very proud of the Certificate of Merit.

Mary Louise Steele in 1963 was one of seven women ministers in the Virginia Conference. At her death in 1986, there were more than 150. Thank God for her call and witness. —*Wm. Anthony Layman*

Gaither P. Warfield, 1896-1986

Gaither Postley Warfield was born February 13, 1896, Rockville, Maryland, youngest son of Robert C. and Margaret Webb Warfield. A deeply "churched" family, both parents were leaders in their church and community. An instinctive sense of commitment to church and duty was a parental legacy for Gaither.



Following high school graduation in 1913, aided by a partial scholarship, he followed an elder brother to Dickinson College where he was active in sports, debates, and the YMCA. The numerous speakers who visited the campus and spoke eloquently of the spiritual-material needs of the non-Christian world much impressed him and may have influenced his lifelong choice of a career in the mission field. At least the seed was planted.

His commitment to church and service was evident in his freshman summer when the pastor of Rockville Methodist Episcopal Church, South, the Rev. Frank M. Richardson, asked his help in a two-week evangelical service in the small rural town of Bethesda, Maryland. Gaither distributed handbills, conducted the singing, preached a sermon, "superintended" a Sunday school that started with six members. From these roots the present day Bethesda United Methodist Church sprang. By the time of graduation in 1917, war had broken out. He quickly took training with the YMCA College and became the "Y" secretary at Camp Hancock, Augusta, Georgia. Never a total pacifist, he soon resigned, enlisted in the U.S. School of Military Aeronautics, became a pursuit pilot, 2nd lieutenant, but never got overseas and resigned his commission in 1919.

He entered Drew Theological Seminary in 1920; the same year he received a local preacher's license. At Drew his commitment to a missionary career may have been firmed by his initiation, organization, and leadership of a fabulously successful North-Eastern U.S. Conference of the Student Volunteer Movement in his second year. The program, actively involving Town and Gown, and focused on the work of foreign mission fields, drew the attention of the National Headquarters of the SVM. On graduation he served those headquarters as a traveling secretary, visiting campuses and seminaries, organizing SVM support.

While at Drew, to help finance his studies, through the president of the seminary he became assistant pastor at St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church, New York City, a post he held for two years. During the year he traveled for the SVM he responded to a call from his former pastor, Frank Richardson, to be his substitute while Richardson recovered from a stroke. These two were the only individual church assignments Gaither served in the United States during more than 62 years as an ordained minister. His commitment to the mission field was not to be denied. His search for an overseas appointment finally succeeded when Bishop W. B. Beauchamp ordained him a deacon in the Western Virginia Conference in 1924 and he was appointed to Poland where he began his eventful, dramatic 18 years of service.

He was ordained an elder at Danzig in 1925, his major work centered on the establishment of a Bible Training School. His work brought him in contact with a prominent Polish Methodist leader who headed an education Gymnasium of Protestant commitment. Shortly afterwards, in 1928, he married the daughter, Hania Marya Dropiowska.

The trials, challenges and testing of Gaither, the Methodists, and the Poles under the German invasion and occupation are graphically told in *Call Us to Witness*, a book he and his wife published after repatriation of American nationals in 1942. First captured and briefly imprisoned by the Russians when that army invaded from the West, released on proof of his U.S. citizenship, his work and the lives of his fellow Methodists remained long at risk under the Germans. Immediately after Pearl Harbor, he was imprisoned by the Germans. His skills in husbanding the resources of his co-religionists and other Poles made him a leader and most often their spokesperson, whether at liberty and in constant danger, or with Russian or German prison authorities.

On returning to the States, he received a previously awarded Doctor of Divinity degree from Dickinson College, served the Board of Missions of the Methodist Church until 1946, when he became an assistant to bishop Herbert Welch, head of the Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief (MCOR). Six years later he became MCOR's general secretary, a post held until he retired in 1966. During this period he was also the Methodist representative at Church World Service and vice chairman active in

ecumenical relief planning and refugee assistance programs; and the American representative on Interchurch Aid, an organ of the World Council of Churches.

In 1946, he began a 40-year commitment to Save the Children Foundation, Norwalk, Connecticut, first as a director, and for 10 years prior to his death, as one of its vice presidents. A pragmatist, throughout his career he united strong religious convictions with programs that “worked.” He wanted recipients of relief to become self-supporting. In Salzburg, Austria, his work with refugees was recognized in a House for Refugees named in his honor. In Angola, he labored for programs that made destitute farmers self-sufficient. He was a leading force in the Heifer Project. He traveled the seven seas and most continents, received citations and awards from many governments, including West Germany, the Republic of Korea, and pre-Castro Cuba, but never forgot the common man. He was without “side,” and was utterly without racial, national or religious prejudice. He knew his true worth and that sufficed.

Noted for his vibrant optimism, his radiant joy of life, he enjoyed health until 1985 when ruptured blood vessels in both eyes left him completely blind. He lived in faith, and died of leukemia, still strong in faith, August 16, 1986. He is survived by his wife, Hania Warfield, of Rockville, Md., a daughter, Mrs. Monica Kulp, and two grandchildren. He died as “one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him and lies down to pleasant dreams,” and, with Tenneyson, serenely confident that though the floods of time and space might bear him far, he too would meet his Pilot face to face when he had crossed the bar. —*Kenneth E. Colton*

Homie R. Clark, 1908-1986

Miss Homie Romaine Clark came home to Virginia for her next to last appointment in 1964 to serve in Bath County near her birthplace. The daughter of Alfred and Sally Nicely, she was born in Lexington, Virginia, November 17, 1908. As a young woman she moved to Michigan where she attended a business school and worked as a secretary. She felt called to serve her church. Pursuant to that call, she attended the Cincinnati (Ohio) Missionary Training School and was commissioned deaconess in 1936 in the Methodist Episcopal Church. Later, while working, she received a Bachelor of Sacred Literature degree (1946) at Chicago.

She served the church for 44 years at various places. Upon her retirement she returned home to be near her family. She is survived by a sister, Mrs. Elzie Leffel and a brother, Curtis Clark of Collierstown, Virginia. In her retirement Miss Homie was called on to supply pulpits in local Methodist and Presbyterian churches and also to teach Weekday Religious Education in public schools. Her last few months were spent in the Roanoke United Methodist Home where she died suddenly October 4, 1986. She was buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery at Collierstown.

“Miss Homie” -- as she was lovingly called -- was loved and appreciated on the Bath Larger Parish where she served from 1964 to 1973. In her work in the parish she supplied pulpits, taught Bible classes, trained workers and helped the churches to meet a variety of social needs. In her youth work she became the inspiration for a successful appeal to the Virginia Conference for a collection of “Green Stamps” (in those days many stores gave “green stamps” as dividends on purchases). As a result, an enormous amount of “Green Stamps” were collected -- enough to buy a bus for Miss Homie -- “Homie’s Bus.” It was labeled and served the parish enabling the youth and older people alike to “go places” and “see things.” A wider world unfolded for them all.

When her eyesight was seriously affected and hampered her ministry in a rural area she found a different type of work available and the Deaconess Board transferred her to Cincinnati from which she retired in 1978. A serious heart attack caused her to cease housekeeping and, in August 1985, she moved to the Roanoke United Methodist Home where she died. Miss Homie rendered a dedicated, faithful ministry to her church and to our conference. —*Alpheus W. Potts*

Harvey Kennerly Swann, 1902-1986

My father was born in Caroline County, Virginia, one of eight children given to Fannie Kennerly and Willie Harvey Swann. His early participation in helping to support the family and lack of available high schools in rural Virginia prevented his completion of high school as a teenager.

However, his interest in an education and his desire to preach were never forgotten. In his early 20s, he borrowed \$10 from a friend and left his home (then Richmond) to ride the train to Ferrum College.

As did most young people attending Ferrum, he paid his way by working for the school. He completed high school and junior college by working at the dairy barn and teaching history to the high school classes during his senior year.

Ferrum meant a great deal to Daddy because it offered an opportunity to so many that had nowhere else to turn. He played baseball and never got tired of playing, coaching, or in later years watching the sport.

At Ferrum, he began a lifetime of taking a stand on issues that seemed worthwhile whether in the classroom, community, or conference floor. His last year at Ferrum he represented the school in the statewide debating contest and lost only in the finals to a University of Virginia senior.

At Ferrum, Daddy found the most important thing in his life, a pretty brunette from Chatham, Virginia. Martha Lois Harris won his heart and they were married May 27, 1928, after graduation, by the Rev. I. L. Llewellyn who was the school chaplain. The Llewellyns were close family friends until their death.

Harvey and Lois (who became Brownie to everyone) were blessed with three children: Harris in 1929, Lois Llewellyn in 1933, and William Cosby in 1937.

Daddy became pastor of Kenwood Church near Ashland in 1928 and attended Union Theological Seminary while working the night shift at the Liggett and Myers Tobacco Company. His desire and determination to further his education never ceased. For years he spent evenings studying in the office often to the wee hours of the morning. He took his vacations and attended theological schools until he earned his Doctorate of Theology.

He left Kenwood and served pastorates at Huddleston, Painter, Prince George, Fieldale, Marquis Memorial, Buena Vista, Belmont in Roanoke, Trinity in Peninsula, Ferebee-Halstead, and Park View in Lynchburg where he retired in 1967 because of poor health.

Daddy was first a preacher but loved the ministering almost as much as preaching. No one called for help and got turned aside and his summers were always busy because he was in demand to hold old-fashioned revivals for ministers throughout the conference. The shortage of teachers in World War II gave him an opportunity to participate in two areas he loved -- teaching and working with young people. He never tired of young people whether teaching, counseling or coaching the girls' softball team.

Daddy's last years were spent in ill health but still keen of mind. He passed away in his sleep October 7, 1986. He was laid to rest in the cemetery at Forest Grove Church in a service conducted by the Rev. Grant Bomberger and Daddy's district superintendent, Bernard Via. He is survived by his beloved Brownie, his three children, and seven grandchildren. —*Harris Kennerly Swann*

John Archibald McKenry, Jr., 1914-1986

It was in the fall (1948) when assigned to Farmville, that we first heard the name of John A. McKenry, Jr. Everyone was talking about that attractive young minister, full of life and vitality, who had brought new life to the Prince Edward Charge. He was an innovator, so fresh and clean with new ideas. People loved him and his young family.

The next we heard of this remarkable man was in the building of a new and larger Wesley Memorial Church on the edge of Richmond's Church Hill. It took a bit of "doing"



with so modest a congregation. There was the “mile of dollars” out on the Mechanicsville Pike that made the difference. Who, but John McKenry would ever think of such a thing! It made you want to meet the man, so many were the stories told of him and of his almost magical ways.

Then came the Winchester District. We were in the bishop’s Cabinet together, with adjoining districts, often in each other’s homes, dreaming and planning as we shared food. It was then that we saw him as an administrator. He cared for each of his ministers. We saw his concern for his churches and desire for Kingdom building. The men of the church always liked John. The lay folk at Ghent Church, Norfolk, got into their heads that no other minister would quite meet their needs. They must have John. Reluctantly he was removed from Winchester to fulfill the wants of Ghent Church.

At Clarendon Church, in the early ‘60s, John became my mother’s pastor. It had been my father’s last pastorate and Dad was now gone. John ministered to my dear mother in the closing years of her life, in a sad and debilitating illness. He was ever faithful at the nursing home. We saw his bedside manner and our mother’s love and trust in him. We saw the faithful pastor in this winsome, loving man. He held my mother’s funeral.

Fort Hill Church, Lynchburg; First Church, Newport News; and Washington Street, Alexandria, were the three great pastorates in the closing decades of his long and distinguished career. In each of these we preached for him in revivals, and we saw the warm heart of the flaming evangelist in action. John believed in reaching out to people. He made his churches grow through constant pastoral visitation and evangelistic outreach. He always said: “I must leave a church stronger than when I found it.”

In later years we came to minister to John in the days of his eye surgery at MCV in downtown Richmond. It was here that we saw his patience, his durability, his faith and his indomitable optimism. The greatness of his inner character was shown under the stress of those convalescent days. He never complained. There was never a negative note. He always sang praises to the glory of God. There was his characteristic laugh, his usual joke, and the twinkle in his eyes.

Retirement eventually came after 42 years of active ministry in June 1980. John always said: “The next best thing to being a college president is to own a college for yourself.” He and Natalie were good managers. They had previously bought the old Randolph-Macon College property at Boydton. They loved it. We would visit this loving couple in their Boydton home and see their happiness and John’s enthusiasm for “his” college.

On Saturday, August 31, 1985, John and Natalie returned to Fort Hill Church, Lynchburg to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary with a complete re-enactment of the original, full-scale traditional wedding. In the hushed reverence of that magnificent occasion, before their family of four children, six grandchildren and many friends, they renewed their vows taken 50 years before. This distinguished minister and his dear wife (the former Natalie Paris), both Lynchburg natives, have every reason to be proud of their family: the Rev. John A. McKenry III, an ordained minister serving at Idledale, Colorado, the father of three children; Mrs. Garnett J. Mayhew (Betty) of Lynchburg; Mrs. R. James Callis (Natalie Sue) of Johnsonburg, N.J.; and James Paris McKenry of Carson City, Nevada, father of two daughters.

On Friday morning, October 10, 1986, 7:30a.m., there was the passage of two “angels.” As the spirit of John Archibald McKenry, Jr. made its way to heaven, simultaneously there was the birth of little Benjamin Michael Gillespie, John McKenry’s first great-grandchild.

His stately funeral was held the following Tuesday, October 14, 1986 at 11:00 a.m. at Fort Hill Church with Bishop Robert M. Blackburn; William E. Knight, district superintendent; Robert Carter, associate pastor; and Walter S. Green, III, pastor, officiating. Also, the Rev. John A. McKenry, III and the writer participated.

The family and friends all remember with gratitude his tall frame, his happy, outgoing smile, his jovial spirit and his fun-loving manner. We remember how he loved people. He was to us a man “larger-

than-life” with a real measure of true greatness. He has touched our lives, and we are so much the better for having been with him. —*John Wynn Myers*

John Sterling Kellington, 1919-1986

John Sterling Kellington (January 12, 1919 -October 23, 1986) was born in Marneroneck, New York, to Alfred Frank and Mary Higham Kellington. It was Sunday morning and nearby church bells were ringing. John was a direct descendent of John Hancock. Also the direct descendent of John deKellington, his son Thomas, and grandson Alexander, who were the first three rectors of Kellington Church, Kellington, England, from 1185 through 1239.



John was raised in the Episcopal Church. John spent much of his childhood aboard ship and in England with his mother and grandmother. It was his grandmother who cultivated his love for books. John was an excellent poet.

The family moved to Deep Creek, Virginia, when John was 13. He loved the Dismal Swamp where he hunted, fished, and trapped daily. John was an excellent swimmer and a crack shot. He once shot an apple off his grandmother’s head with a 0.22 rifle. After meeting Elsie Lee Bland in 1936 while attending Deep Creek High School, they were married in 1940. While serving as a Sunday school teacher and working with their youth of Deep Creek Methodist Church, John decided to enter the ministry. He first completed an apprenticeship as a shipfitter.

John served his first church as a student pastor while attending William and Mary College. Morrison Methodist Church had a handful of members in an old wooden building. Three years later, John moved to Toano, having built a strong congregation and a beautiful brick church at Morrison. The Toano Charge, Mount Vernon and Tabernacle, were John’s favorite assignment. He also served the New Church Charge, Berea, Pittsville, Atlantic and Wattsville; the Pembroke Charge, Pembroke, and Hogges Chapel; Shady Grove at Ellison; Henderson on the Northern Neck; Cape Charles; the McDowell Charge, McDowell, Totten, Doe Hill and McKendree; Buckroe Beach; and Basic.

John was ordained deacon on October 17, 1951, and elder on June 15, 1955. Noted for his excellent speaking ability and his formal Episcopal-styled church services, he brought many people into church. His sermons were short but factual. His favorite hymn was “The Church is One Foundation,” his favorite speaker, Fulton J. Sheen, and he most admired Mother Teresa.

John was a wise counselor whose advice was sought after by members of many denominations in all walks of life. He loved to work with the down-trodden, slowly and patiently restoring them to a happy and purposeful life. He often quoted Jesus saying, “It is not the well, but the sick who need a physician.”

After retiring in 1973, John and Elsie continued their ministry through Christian Manor, a Christ-centered, health-care facility. After selling Christian Manor in 1982 due to health reasons, John continued to minister to the community of Waynesboro in the local coffee shop until his death on October 23, 1986.

On Sunday morning, December 21, 1986, from the pulpit of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, where Joseph and Cheryl Kellington are members, an announcement was read: “John Sterling Kellington, II was born today.”

Surviving in addition to his wife, Elsie, are two sons, John Wesley and Joseph Andrew; one daughter, Catherine Anna; two grandsons, John Wesley, Jr., and John Sterling, II; four granddaughters, Heather Lynne, Carrie Anne, Laurie Lee, and Mary Catherine; and seven step-grandchildren. —*John Wesley Kellington*

Floyd Jackson Wingfield, Sr., 1905-1986

Floyd Jackson Wingfield, Sr. was born in Goode, Virginia, July 28, 1905. He died November 22, 1986, and was buried at the Virginia Memorial Gardens, Forest, Virginia. The Rev. Emory N. Tarpley, pastor of Epworth United Methodist Church, Thaxton; the Rev. Willy N. Heggoy, retired; and the Rev. William E. Knight, superintendent of the Lynchburg District, officiated at his funeral. Mr. Wingfield is survived by Annie Lawrence Wingfield, his wife of 62 years; two daughters, five sons; 16 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.



Shortly after he joined the church in 1915, at the age of 10, Mr. Wingfield felt “a definite call to preach” but his plans were interrupted three years later when, following the death of his father, he was forced to drop out of school and go to work to help his mother support the family.

After marriage and seven children, he pursued his dream by joining the Billy Sunday Club and preached whenever he could. His pastor, the Rev. T. E. Johnson, Sr., and two former district superintendents of the Lynchburg District, Dr. C. Cooper Bell and Dr. Thomas F. Carroll, took a great interest in Mr. Wingfield and encouraged him to “get on” with his dream. Through a course of study at Duke and Candler School of Theology and his first appointment at Huddleston, his dream became a reality.

Mr. Wingfield took his first appointment at Huddleston in 1947, and served in active ministry 24 years. He also served Appomattox Circuit, South Amherst, Bayleys Chapel, Cashville, Burkeville, Asbury Memorial in Danville, and Bethlehem at Concord. During Mr. Wingfield’s 21 years as a retired minister he was called on to fill in at Trinity, two occasions at the Forest Road Church and two occasions at Shiloh Church in the Lynchburg District and the South Amherst Charge in the Charlottesville District. Nearly every Sunday he was invited to preach somewhere.

During all of this time as an active and retired minister his wife, Annie, was by his side, supporting him wholeheartedly in his ministry. At one time, all five of their sons were licensed preachers in the Methodist Church. Floyd, Jr. and Arthur are members of the Virginia Conference today. Wayne and Steve are ministers in the Wesleyan Church and Lawrence and the two daughters, Helen and Catherine, are active lay people in their respective churches.

Mr. Wingfield was a real soul winner and had a great way about him that reached the common people, leading many to Christ. He had a zest for evangelism until the time of his death. His favorite Scripture was 2 Timothy 4:7: “I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course. I have kept the faith.” All who had the privilege of knowing Floyd, when reflecting upon his life and ministry, will certainly recall the words of Jesus: “Well done, good and faithful servant.” —*Joseph T. Carson, Jr.*

Otis L. Jasper, 1900-1986

Otis L. Jasper was born to Daniel and Martha Jasper on July 16, 1900 at Woodlawn, Virginia. He was confirmed as a member of the Woodlawn Methodist Church at an early age and later served as Sunday school teacher, class leader, and trustee. While serving in these several capacities, he felt that God had called him to preach. That call was confirmed as he served as local pastor. In 1936, he served the Mt. Zion Methodist Church, Hamilton, Loudoun County, Virginia for six months, the very area in which he would later work tirelessly for 38 years. In 1942 he was appointed to the Lincoln Circuit, where he was serving since 1940. After four years of ministerial studies and theology at Morristown College, Tennessee, he was ordained an elder of the Washington Annual Conference of the then Methodist Episcopal Church in May 1944. Otis subsequently studied several semesters in church management at the American University, Washington, D.C.



He was married to Etta Holland who died at an early age. In September of 1950 he married Rachel Rector. Together they raised a daughter and 12 foster children.

His ministry was marked by personal sacrifices and many extra “miles.” There was a period when he pastored as many as six congregations. Under his leadership, a number of persons became lay speakers, three of whom are now ordained ministers. He truly loved the church and the Lord of the church. His great concern for each person and his willingness to help whenever and wherever possible, gained for him a place of love and honor in the lives of many.

One of these persons, Mrs. Mary Howard, spoke of him this way: “He was maturity clothed for our sake with a touch of childhood. He was an eagle willing to fly with us sparrows so we could fellowship with him. He was depth appearing to be shallow in order to lead us shallow ones to greater depth. He was both teacher and student, both leader and follower. He was everybody’s pastor.”

As a preacher, Otis was forthright, doing so with great conviction and compassion. He possessed an unflinching zeal for the work of the church and an indomitable spirit of generosity and good will. He worked hard in the construction of the Grace Annex Church building, thus moving the place of worship from Lincoln to Purcellville where most of the members were and are living. He mirrored the Gospel which he proclaimed. Even when he was physically broken and his memory almost gone, he never lost his charm and graciousness.

His funeral service on January 3, 1987, was indeed the celebration of a faithful and diligent ministry, and of the workings of the grace of God in his life. The words of the hymn do fit very well: “Servant of God, well done! Thy glorious warfare’s past; The battle’s fought, the race is won, And thou are crowned at last. And still to God salvation cry, Salvation to the Lamb.” —*Melbourne H. Bailey*

Arthur Linwood Stevenson, 1891-1987

Arthur Linwood Stevenson was born on September 25, 1891 at Cobb’s Station, Northampton County, Virginia, to Thomas Edward and Mary Brickhouse Stevenson. At his birth his mother prayed that he would feel the call to ministry. Attending Salem Church with his family, he early heard this call. His mother studied with him, encouraged and inspired him. Setting high goals, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Randolph-Macon College in 1912, Bachelor of Divinity from Vanderbilt in 1914, Master of Sociology at Duke in 1928, and did graduate work at the University of North Carolina. At Vanderbilt he met and married Mary B. Peebles, a student at the Missionary Training School. A woman of great faith, she inspired and strengthened his ministry. The children followed their footsteps, the daughters marrying ministers and the son becoming a minister.

Admitted to the Virginia Conference in 1914, A.L. Stevenson served his church with devotion and distinction. Charges included Wachapreague-Dorchester, Allen, Buckingham, Orange, Appomattox, Kenbridge, Crozet, Tappahannock, Montross, Scottsville. He was a man of liberal faith, deep convictions, superb self-discipline, dedicated to a broad spectrum of ministry -- the ministry of all of life. Arthur loved his family, considered life an adventure and problems a challenge, all people as important. He was characterized by rare ambition, remarkable vitality, and keen insights. He also exhibited rare business acumen.

From 1929-1935 he was financial secretary of the Children’s Home Society of Virginia. Challenged to help churches with building plans and financial goals, he was instrumental in building Tappahannock Memorial Church. From 1949-1958 he traveled the United States directing financial campaigns for the General Board of Church Extension. Believing that money has great power for good, he established the annual Stevenson Holy Land Travel/Study Award at Randolph-Macon College. He donated a foyer at Smith’s Grove Church, Dinwiddie County; a stained glass window at Washington Street Church, Petersburg; a historical highway marker for Salem Church; and aided family members.

After retirement, he reveled in family gatherings and avocations. An avid gardener, he had three gardens yearly -- two in Florida and one in North Carolina. He became a world traveler, mingling with the people, using local transportation rather than planned tours. He gave travel lectures to civic clubs and

published travelogues. An author, he wrote “The Story of Southern Hymnology,” “Native Methodist Preachers of Virginia” series, and “The Story of the Stevensons.”

A. L. Stevenson died on February 24, 1987, second in seniority among the ministers of the Virginia Conference. His funeral was conducted at Washington Street Church, Petersburg by the Rev. E. C. Priddy, the Rev. Floyd Carroll, and the Rev. Hudson T. Hornsby. Interment was in Southlawn Cemetery.

He is survived by Mrs. Claude Collins, Charleston, W. Va.; the Rev. Linwood Stevenson, Margate, Fla.; Mrs. J. W. Stonebraker, Riverdale, Ga.; 11 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Arthur Stevenson could have said with the Apostle Paul: “I have fought the good fight.... I have finished my course.... I have kept the faith.” —*Elizabeth Stevenson Collins*

Henry Smith Chenault, 1904-1987

Out of Caroline County and the Mount Vernon Church was called a young man who would make a very strong impact on the Kingdom of God and to all who knew him. Henry Smith Chenault felt that call at the age of 10 or 11. From that point on the course of his life was tremendously affected. Henry Chenault was one of 11 children, nine of whom grew to adulthood. He was of a modest farming couple and the only one to continue his education beyond the seventh grade because he knew he needed education to become a preacher. Because of difficult times, he had to stay out of school four years to work on his father’s farm, so he was 21 when he finished high school. At that, he was allowed to finish high school only because he drove a school bus which consisted of a team of horses and a wagon. Of course, he had to do his chores on the farm as well as taking care of the horses and driving the wagon.



Henry Chenault’s first pastorate was Kenwood Church in Hanover County from 11/27-1930. He went from there to two churches in South Sussex for three years and to Gretna Charge from 1933-1937. From there he went to King George Charge and then to West Chesterfield Charge. It was said that, “He spent his early days building congregations and finances in a series of very small, failing churches that didn’t have money during the depression.” He served Strasburg Church from 1941 to 1945 then he went to Wesley Church in Petersburg. From there he went to Fairview Heights in Lynchburg, and then in 1949 to McKendree Church, Norfolk. After that period of time Henry Chenault’s churches were Grace in Danville, and Chesterfield Heights and Christ Church both in Norfolk. Then he moved to Wesley Memorial Church in Martinsville. Crewe was his last pastorate where he retired in 1968. After that retirement he must have still had much to offer and perhaps a restlessness for the Kingdom for he served as visitation minister at Court Street, Lynchburg, supply work on the Amherst Circuit, and did various Bible studies while living in Richmond later on.

Henry Chenault finished his education at Randolph-Macon College and Emory University’s Candler School of Theology. His remains were laid to rest back home where the call had been first given in Mount Vernon Church, Caroline County. Surviving him are his wife, Frances Moore Chenault; a daughter, Mrs. Mary Frances Deaton of Garner, N.C.; and three sons, Henry S. Chenault, Jr. of Richmond, Charles Douglas Chenault of Petersburg, and Hartwell L. Chenault of Radford. Henry S. Chenault, Jr. —*John T. LeGault, Jr.*

Melvin Lee Steadman, Jr., 1932-1987

Melvin Lee Steadman, Jr., a 13th generation Virginian, was born on May 14, 1932 in Falls Church, the son of Ruth Hirst and Melvin Lee Steadman. From the age of 8 he knew he was destined for the ministry, and at age 17 became a student pastor with his uncle, Dr. George G. Oliver, at Dulin Church in Falls Church. He completed his higher education at Randolph-Macon College and Wesley Theological Seminary. He served with honor and integrity the following appointments: King William; Pender; Gainesville; Harmony, Hamilton; Dunn



Loring; Memorial, Virginia Beach; and St. James, Alexandria.

He was the first historian for the Virginia Conference and served for 25 years in that capacity. It was history and genealogy, indeed, that provided for Melvin a further opportunity to work in God's name. He was ever anxious to share the remarkable breadth and depth of his knowledge with others, that their lives might be enriched. His book, *Falls Church By Fence and Fireside*, is not only the most definitive history of that Virginia town, it had become a classic in his own lifetime - a tribute many authors never know.

But he was an activist, as well, in the best sense of the word. His research and documentation established the Old Stone Church in Leesburg, Virginia as the first site of the Methodist denomination in America. The site was subsequently made a Shrine, with Melvin serving as founder and director of the Old Stone Church Foundation. He suggested and assisted in founding the Methodist Historical Society of Northern Virginia, the first district society in Methodism and the prototype of all since. He was curator and editor of Volume III of *Methodism in Northern Virginia*; contributing editor to *The Virginia United Methodist Heritage* and the author of over 20 articles in the *Dictionary of World Methodism*. His one deep regret was that he was unable to accept the editorship of "The Upper Room" when it was offered to him.

He was a director of the Sully Foundation, the Fairfax Historical Society, and the Virginia History Federation. He was consultant in history to the counties of Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William and the city of Falls Church. He was a life member of the Virginia Historical Society, a member of the Southeastern Historical Society of the United Methodist Church, the National Genealogical Society and numerous other historical organizations. He served as chaplain of the Haymarket Fire Department, the Loudoun Memorial Hospital and the Fairfax Hospital.

In his truly dedicated interests and efforts, Melvin offered God's comfort and joy to all people. He shared with them his own vast storehouse of knowledge and, just as importantly, he listened with warm and undivided attention to what they in turn had to say, be it ever so trivial or redundant by comparison.

A friend and fellow historian tells of the sense of personal exhilaration he felt at Melvin's larger and enthusiastic questioning about his own project. Melvin made one feel good about oneself and one's worth. Bishop Kenneth Goodson described Melvin as "an Israelite without guile." In a memorial service held on February 7, 1987 at Culpeper, Virginia, a fellow minister ended his prayer this way: "And ultimately because of You, God, Melvin has written his name in kindness, mercy and love on the hearts of the thousands he met. He wasn't perfect. But he was a masterpiece."

He died on January 30, 1987 in Culpeper, Virginia, where he had retired on disability. He was buried in his beloved Falls Church and leaves to continue his ministry, his wife, Beverley Teeter Steadman; his mother, Ruth Hirst Steadman; two sisters, Mildred Pappas and Ruth Ellen Stortz; two children, John and Elizabeth; four stepchildren and five grandchildren. —*Thomas Jennings*

Charles Elliott Cheseldine, 1913-1987

He gave of his best in service to his Lord. He was Charles Elliott Cheseldine born in Washington, D.C., December 19, 1913. He was orphaned at the age of 6. He served his country in World War II as a Torpedoman Third Class, USN and was discharged June 1948. He was a graduate of Moorehead State College, Asbury College, Emory University and Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, Georgia.



Charles E. Cheseldine began his ministry in Kentucky in 1955 serving Middleburg, Willow Springs, Cynthenna, Elmarsh and Telton Circuit. He entered the Virginia Conference in 1958 and served the Richmond Circuit, West Mathews, Dillwyn, and Axton.

In June 1979 he retired to his home in Dillwyn, Virginia. During the years of retirement he supplied pulpits in the local churches. He was very active in many civic organizations including service on the

Dillwyn Rescue Squad and was a certified emergency medical technician there. Charles Cheseldine was a 32-degree Mason and served as worshipful master for two years in lodge No. 315. His hobbies included building furniture, painting wood crafts and marquetry. God called his servant home on April 15, 1987. Memorial services were held at the Bethlehem Baptist Church on the evening of April 17, 1987. He is survived by his wife, Mamie, and his daughter, Joyce Jent. —*Joyce C. Jent*

1988 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Mark Clelland Whipple, 1954-1988

Mark Whipple, a devoted husband and father whose life was committed to proclaiming the Good News, died February 28, 1988, at age 34. He was the husband of Chris Whipple and father of Kimberly, 9; Matthew, 3; and Jessica, 9 months; the son of Jack and Jane Whipple of Clinton, Iowa; and the brother of Lynne of Boston. He had held pastoral positions in these locations: 1980, associate pastor of Faith United Methodist Parish, Centerville, Iowa; 1982, McCanless Memorial, South Boston; 1983, Tyler, Hampton; 1985, Fellowship-Linville-Edom; 1986, Whaleyville-Somerton. He was a 1976 graduate of the University of Iowa and a 1979 graduate of Wesley Theological Seminary. He was ordained a deacon in the United Methodist Church in 1978 and an elder in 1981. His widow and children now make their home in Clinton, Iowa.



[Editor's Note: The following tribute to the Rev. Mark C. Whipple first appeared in the Sun, a community news section of The Virginian-Pilot and The Ledger Star. The author, John Pruitt, is editor of the Sun and is lay leader of Whaleyville United Methodist Church.]

It was one of those days that played across so many stages of life. The early part of Tuesday, March 1, was spent helping finalize a memorial service for a friend who died much too young. And that evening, our family heard students at Elephant's Fork Elementary School sing, with an exuberance reserved for children, of the promise of spring and the new life it brings. My friend, Mark C. Whipple, also was my pastor. Just as his life touched so many people, his death also has affected more lives than he possibly could have imagined. A modest person who was a far better listener than talker, I think he would have been surprised that his influence went beyond the sphere of his congregations, Somerton and Whaleyville United Methodist churches. That it did was so obvious at the memorial service and in the offerings of sympathy to his widow.

Such a tragedy—was 33 and the father of children 9 years old, 3 years old and 9 months old—brings more questions than can ever be answered. Why does such a young man die when many older, suffering people who would find sweet relief in death linger on? Why are these children deprived of a father, his widow robbed of a spouse? And why should his pastorates be so grieved? Mark's answers, of course, would be in his faith. Yet he undoubtedly would tell us that some questions simply do not have answers. In getting to know Mark, I got to know some of the triumphs and defeats of being a minister. Despite growing up in the church,

I never before had given much consideration to the special qualities demanded of the shepherd leading a flock of unique individuals. Imagine a job in which every single person you lead is, in effect, your boss. Imagine a job description that calls for you to be tender and compassionate with every member of your congregation, yet demands that you be thick-skinned enough to withstand any barb hurled your way. Imagine being expected to be a model family man, yet being expected also to spend full time visiting hospitalized members, shut-ins and anyone who might need the special support of a minister. Add to that the requirement that you always be inspiring in the pulpit, even when things that would bring most of us down have taken their toll. It's not that Mark complained about these things. He knew when he got into the ministry what the demands would be. And despite being sometimes

physically down because of heart problems, he kept right on going. In fact, he talked about that in his last sermon, proclaiming that it is far better to burn out than to rust out.

Mark would expect his family and friends to keep right on going now. We really don't have much choice, I think he would say. But beyond that, he also would say that for those of the Christian faith, life goes on. Including his. As we watched the elementary school children Tuesday night, I thought of Mark. I think he would have found it uplifting to know that on the same day his friends mourned him, there was a children's program titled, "Spring is Near." I think he would have proclaimed "Amen" when a children's chorus sang with enthusiasm, "Gonna rise up singing/It's a brand new day" —*John Pruitt*

Aaron Doyle Smith, 1921-1988

Aaron Doyle Smith, the son of the Rev. Ernest Cabell Smith and Florence Doyle Smith, was born November 10, 1921, at East Bank, West Virginia. He died April 2, 1988, at Riverside Hospital, Newport News, Virginia. Aaron graduated from Rocky Mount High School, Rocky Mount, Virginia, in 1938. He received the Bachelor of Arts degree from Lynchburg College in 1942, and the Bachelor of Divinity degree from Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Kentucky in 1945. On December 30, 1960, he married Carolyn Oleta Dorn, who survives him. To this marriage were born Claire Etta, Jonathan O'Dell and Miriam Oleta.



During his 43 ministerial years, Aaron served the following appointments: Matoaca in the Petersburg District; Mechanicsville in the Richmond District; Villa Heights in the Roanoke District; Appomattox Circuit in the Lynchburg District; Onley in the Eastern Shore District; Nelson in the Charlottesville District; Monroe in the Charlottesville District; First Church in the Norfolk District; Memorial Church, Virginia Beach, in the Norfolk District; Tabernacle, Poquoson in the Peninsula District.

Aaron received the call to preach very early in life and, even before he finished high school, he knew that he would enter the Christian ministry. He was greatly loved by all the congregations he served. He was an excellent student of the Bible and was always diligent in his sermon preparation. He made a total commitment to Christ and the church. He was a great preacher, a devoted pastor, and always supported every program of the church.

Aaron was my elder brother and meant much to my life. I received my call to the ministry under his ministry at Villa Heights Church in Roanoke, Virginia. His support and encouragement during the early years of my ministry sustained me in many difficult times. I am greatly indebted to him.

A funeral service was conducted at Tabernacle United Methodist Church, Poquoson, Virginia, April 5, 1988, by the Rev. R. Beverly Watkins, Dr. Rawle S. Porte, the Rev. Frank E. Washburn, and the writer. Interment was at Newport News, Virginia.

"On journeys high his spirit fares, Of realms of sunless light is free;
The triumph of the saints he shares, He stands beside the Crystal Sea." —*Howard Smith*

Ray Redford Jenkins, 1914-1987

"O For A Faith That Will Not Shrink" was not only the favorite hymn of Ray Redford Jenkins, it was also the theme of his life. He was born December 5, 1914, in Burkeville, Virginia, growing up there and graduating from high school in 1933. He then pursued a number of jobs in which he used his skill and love for machinery.



Ray married Arlene W. Osborne in May 1936, a love relation that would last over a span of 51 years. Born to this couple was a daughter, Ann Gordon, in 1944 and twin sons, Ray Redford, Jr. and Richard Henry, in 1951. He took pride also in his three grandchildren, Sarah and Hunter Guckert, and Rachel Jenkins.

Ray joined the church at the age of 12 and after marrying his beloved wife, became active in the Burkeville United Methodist Church. Later, while living in Manakin, Virginia, he was asked to teach the Men's Bible Class at the Baptist Church. Being an avid reader, he continued to read and found the study of the Bible and books of persons who had dedicated their lives to teaching and preaching inspirational. It was then that he felt his call to preach which led him to exploring numbers of ways that he could attend college and support the family; none of which were possible.

The opportunity did come, however, when the Rev. Frank Blake, knowing of Ray's interest in entering the ministry, recommended him to Dr. Starke Jett, Jr., then the district superintendent of the Farmville District. Ray was appointed to the Prince Edward Charge as an Approved Supply and while serving the three churches he attended Hampden-Sydney College, graduating cum laude in June 1953.

In-October of 1953 he received his second appointment -- the Amelia Charge. While serving it he was a student at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond. He received his Master of Divinity degree in 1957.

Other pastorates were Christ, Oakland, and St. Luke's churches in the Richmond District, Mechanicsville, West Hanover, and Mt. Herman churches in the Ashland District, the latter two in retirement.

Ray possessed a love for family, the people he served as pastor, and for all persons in general. His warm and friendly smile and concern easily won for him many friends. He possessed an unusual sensitivity for the needs of those with whom he came in contact. However, the greatest attribute of his life was the faith by which he lived. Whatever task, event, circumstance, or challenge -- he faced it with an undying faith and commitment to his Lord. Truly the hymn sung by his request at the funeral, "O For A Faith That Will Not Shrink," was the theme by which he lived and died. His last months of illness bore this as his testimony.

Funeral services were held May 25, 1987, at St. Luke's Church, Richmond, Virginia, conducted by the Rev. John B. Peters, the Rev. David A. Balcom, and the writer of this memoir. Burial was in Sunset Hills Cemetery, Burkeville, Virginia. —*Henry M. Matthews*

John Hiram Light, Jr., 1907-1987

John Hiram Light Jr. was born January 18, 1907, in Fredericksburg, Virginia, the son of John Hiram and Edith Neel Light. His father was a Methodist preacher, so they rode the circuit of pastoral appointments, moving from place to place as parsonage families have been accustomed to doing since the beginning of Methodism. As a young man, John was very active in the Epworth League, which enabled him to grow in faith and in his love of the church.



Following high school graduation in Romney, West Virginia in 1924, John entered Randolph-Macon College. It was in 1925, while a college student, that he felt a definite call to the ministry. He received his local license shortly thereafter. He served the West Chesterfield Charge from 1926 to 1928. After completing his A.B. degree, he went on to Union Theological Seminary in New York City where he studied from 1928 to 1929 and then again in 1956 to 1958.

John was ordained deacon in 1934 and elder in 1936 in Baltimore's Methodist Episcopal Church, South. From 1929 to 1930 he served an appointment in Colesville, Maryland in the Baltimore MECS.

He married Verna Ruth Clemons on August 21, 1929. Ruth was his lifelong companion in ministry. Two children were born to them: Jean Ruth Light Pruitt on January 17, 1931, and Elizabeth Ann Light Byrd on July 7, 1936.

John's years of ministry spanned nearly 60 years. Before the unification of the Methodist Church in 1939, he served Levelton in West Virginia and Monterey in Virginia. Following unification, he became a member of the Virginia Conference of the Methodist Church. During World War II, he served for two

years with the Coast Guard Auxiliary while he was pastor in Irvington, Virginia. After the war, he served Tazewell Avenue in Roanoke, Parksley-Hunting Creek, Prospect, Oak Hall, St. Mark's in Manassas, Arcola, and Harmony Church in Hamilton. He retired from active ministry in 1978.

The word "retirement," however, was not in John Light's vocabulary. It was his desire and privilege to continue to be of service to his Lord in the church whenever and wherever called upon. Therefore, upon his retirement he was appointed to serve the Mt. Airy Charge, consisting of four churches in the Lynchburg District. He completed this appointment after four years of dedicated service. He and Ruth moved to her family home in Stephens City in 1982. But they did not move there to begin their retirement year together. John was appointed to serve the Fort Valley Charge in the Harrisonburg District and they traveled 45 minutes each way every Sunday to serve those two churches. In 1985, John retired again due to declining health.

John Light was gifted by God for ministry. He loved working with people. His greatest gifts were not necessarily his wonderful skill as preacher and teacher and administrator, but as pastor and caring friend. He always had time for people! Many of us pastors would do well to follow his example. He was a "country preacher" who knew how to help people when they needed help. He would give widows a hand with their gardens. He would take family members to visit their relatives in the hospitals. John Light loved people and he was there when they needed him.

He was a first cousin to my grandmother. I was privileged to know him as family and as a fellow minister of the Gospel. My first appointment in the Virginia Conference was to the Arcola Church in 1977. John had served there previously for 12 years. When I shared with him that I was being assigned to Arcola, he called some of the folks and told them to be good to this new young pastor because he's family. And they were! John Light was much beloved by all who knew him. He not only preached the Gospel of our Lord Christ, he lived it. One of his former parishioners has said of him that next to her husband, John Light was the best man she ever knew.

John Light died May 25, 1987. He lived a life that for many people became the Gospel. His life was full of good works which he did to the glory of God. As Jesus our Lord said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."
—*Matthew W. Jones IV*

James Leonard Blankenship, Jr., 1905-1987

James Leonard Blankenship Jr. was born in Richmond, Va., May 15, 1905. He died July 24, 1987, after 73 years as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ, 54 of them in the ministry of Christ's church. Jimmie marked the beginning of his pilgrimage as Christian and minister by three early milestones. At the age of 7 in a meeting at the Full Gospel Mission in downtown Richmond he, in his own words, "felt a warm glow as if the arms of Christ were around my frail body." He dated his spiritual birth from this early experience which he never forgot. Two years later under the preaching of his uncle, the Rev. C.E. Blankenship, he confirmed the earlier experience in a public confession of faith. At about age 16, under the influence of Dr. W. Asbury Christian, then his pastor at Union Station Church, Richmond, he resolved to give his life to the ministry. This resolve, however, was not to be realized for several years during which he worked in a number of secular jobs. At the age of 21, again at the urging of his uncle, he entered what was then Ferrum Training School to continue his interrupted schooling and two years later received from Ferrum his high school diploma. His education continued at the University of Richmond, Randolph-Macon College and Union Theological Seminary.



In 1935 he received his local preacher's license and after serving six supply years became a member of the conference in 1941. He served 12 appointments in the Virginia Conference during 35 active years and retired in 1970, after which he served one additional year as a retired supply.

In 1933, while a student at the University of Richmond, he married Mary Emma Collins who, after 27 years of loving partnership, died in 1960. They had three children, Mary Eleanor, Jane Elizabeth and Warren Candler. In 1961 he married Virginia Page Bush who shared his life and ministry with love and devotion until his death.

Jimmie served his appointments with zeal and fidelity. His commitment to his Lord and the church was total. His sermons were always scriptural; his worship services dignified and liturgically sound. He was a loyal supporter of the program of the church and he took personal pride in seeing to it that his congregations were well informed in the history and mission of the (then) Methodist Church.

His retirement years were happily filled with his roses, his long-time hobby of model railroads and his continuing study. But the three great loves of his life were his Lord, his family and his church, and he gave his life fully to all three. Surely he was welcomed to heaven with the words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." —*William A. Wright, Jr.*

William E. Russell, Sr., 1915-1987

William E. Russell, Sr. was born to the late Sydney and Anna Russell, August 1, 1915 in Norfolk, Virginia. As a child he was confirmed early as knowing the Lord Jesus Christ, and he loved to do whatever he was able to do and would do these things well. The church was his heart and he committed himself to be actively involved.



Mr. Russell served in the United States Marines for four years of his young adult life. Upon his release from serving his country, he worked for the United States Post Office for more than 32 years before his retirement. After retiring from one vocation he entered another. Being led by the Holy Spirit, Mr. Russell entered the Christian ministry offered through the United Methodist Church.

Mr. Russell pastored for a few years at St. Paul and John Wesley United Methodist churches in Harrisonburg, Virginia. He loved the ministry and the people whom God had entrusted into his care.

While pastoring, he also served on various boards and agencies of the Virginia Annual Conference believing that this aspect of service was an extension of his ministry.

Brother Russell had strength from Almighty God to make a late life decision to enter the Christian ministry. However, for him to make it to that point he was supported by his wife, Alease, and his children, William, Anthony, Denise, Dineen, and his devoted sister, Nellie Saunders. The family relationship was a credit to the cementing power and ability of God's love to unite the family.

Mr. Russell was one who loved to sing, preach, pray and teach Sunday school. His greatest joy in life was to preach and tell others about the love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ.

Mr. Russell died July 31, 1987. Even though his lips are still and his voice cannot speak, and even though his body cannot move, we give God thanks for allowing the Rev. Russell to preach until heaven came down and earth rose up to meet each other in peace, love, joy and ecstasy.

Shalom, our friend, husband and pastor, the Rev. William E. Russell, Jr. —*Clyde Nelson*

Lloyd C. Halstrom, 1913-1987

Not often, if ever before, has the Virginia Annual Conference embraced in its clerical membership the son of a teamster from the iron mines of Minnesota. Of Swedish ancestry dating in America from the days of the Northwest Territory, Lloyd Halstrom possessed many of the fine qualities of the Swedish people, not the least of which were warmth, industry, the capacity for deep love and unshakable loyalty, and the saving grace of a delightful humor.



Born August 15, 1913 in Aurora, Minnesota, Lloyd was the only one of his parents' five babies who survived childbirth and must on occasion have felt, therefore, that God had some special use

to make of his life. Following graduation at the University of Minnesota he served for a time in welfare work and, as a gifted musician, served as organist for a local Lutheran Church.

With the advent of World War II, Lloyd enlisted in the Army and was sent to Officer's Candidate School. However, before beginning a 20-year tour of military duty which would include assignments in the South Pacific, Germany, Iran, and Fort Lee, Virginia, he returned as a Second Lieutenant to Minnesota and married his sweetheart, Carolyn Nyquist. Across 44 years they traveled in mutual devotion to each other. God blessed their marriage with one daughter and two sons.

While serving his country, Lloyd tried also to serve his God, participating as often as circumstances permitted in religious life in camp. At Fort Lee he was the superintendent of a 500-student Sunday school at Post Chapel. Having decided earlier that upon his retirement from Army service he would enter the Christian ministry, in 1962 he sought admission into the Virginia Conference and began training. He was assigned to the South Sussex Charge in the Petersburg District in September, 1962, and by 1966 had qualified for deacon's orders. In 1968 he became an elder and a year later was admitted into conference membership as an associate member. After six years at South Sussex, Lloyd was transferred to Ocran Church on the edge of Petersburg, where he served with effectiveness and won the love of both church members and community citizenry. While at Ocran, however, physical problems became increasingly apparent and in 1974 he had to seek disability leave. Still, not willing to give up to his infirmities, for several years he rendered, as a part-time associate, loving service to the members of Washington Street Church, Petersburg. In 1979 full retirement became regretfully necessary. Over the next eight years he suffered declining health with great and heroic patience until on August 5, 1987 Our Father called him home. His country paid him tribute with all the pomp and pageantry of a military funeral but his larger tribute has come from the hearts of the many people he served in ministry throughout his life. In their hearts he will be enshrined forever -- a true soldier of the Cross. —*Joseph S. Johnston*

Lawrence Brewer Hoover, 1918-1987

The Rev. Lawrence B. (Larry) Hoover, the eighth of nine children of Walter F. and Maggie Brown Hoover, was born July 14, 1918 at Singers Glen, Virginia. He had three years overseas duty in the Army in World War II, where he received the Euro-African Middle Eastern Theatre Ribbon. He was discharged from the Army in 1946 with the Good Conduct Medal. After the war, he began his lay career as a surveying engineer and salesman with Thorpe-Smith, Inc., in Northern Virginia. On June 2, 1952, he married Ruby Snyder of Grottoes, Virginia.



A former member of the Evangelical United Brethren Church, a lay witness mission coordinator, and always an active layman, Larry made his decision to enter the ministry in 1971 while he and Ruby were members of Christ United Methodist Church in Arlington. Although 53 years old at the time, Larry immediately enrolled in the prescribed ministerial course of study, attended Wesley Seminary, and at annual conference on June 14, 1977, was ordained a deacon by Bishop W. Kenneth Goodson.

During his 15 ministerial years, before retirement at annual conference in 1986, Larry served the following appointments: White Post in the Winchester District; Mountain View in the Roanoke District; Manassas in the Alexandria District; Axton in the Danville District; and Riverton in the Winchester District.

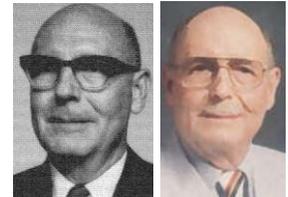
After an illness of 10 months, Larry died August 13, 1987. His funeral service was held at the Riverton Church, Sunday, August 16. Officiating at the service was Winchester District Superintendent H. Randolph Arrington, assisted by the Rev. Paul L. Phillips, the Rev. J. Courtney Sheffield, and the host pastor, the Rev. Gary E. Heaton. Interment was at Rest Haven Memorial Gardens in Harrisonburg. His beloved wife Ruby continues to reside at their retirement home near Rileyville.

Indicative of Larry's effective and highly appreciated ministry was a much enjoyed and extremely well attended retirement party held in his honor at the Riverton Church May 31, 1986.

Three words which serve to reflect the thrust of Larry's life and ministry are the words "dedication," "openness," and "love." He was truly dedicated to his Lord, his church and his ministry. He was open in the sense of being free from guile and prejudice, and open in the sense of his being always open-handed and open-hearted to others. He was a man of love, in that he found it easy to love others and made it easy for others to love him. —*J. Courtney Sheffield*

Harry Griffith Balthis, 1911-1987

Harry Griffith Balthis was born August 8, 1911 in Montgomery County, Maryland, a son of Joseph H. and Verda Griffith Balthis. His father and grandfather were ministers of the Baltimore conference. Harry spent his early life in Methodist parsonages in the communities where his father's duties took him. In 1930 he entered Randolph-Macon College and graduated four years later with Phi Beta Kappa honors and as a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, a national leadership fraternity. Harry continued his education at Yale Divinity School and received his Bachelor of Divinity degree from that institution. In 1958 he was honored by his alma mater, Randolph-Macon, with the honorary Doctor of Divinity degree.



Harry Balthis began his career in the Virginia Conference in 1939 when he was appointed as junior preacher to Braddock Street Church, Winchester, with the express duty of organizing a church that was to become Montague Avenue Church. He served Montague Avenue and reopened Greenwood Church. Other appointments served include Oakton, Arlington Forest, Central (Staunton), Walker Chapel, Main Street (Waynesboro), and Fairlington. From 1954 to 1962 he was the executive secretary of the Board of Education of the Virginia Conference.

The church recognized Harry Balthis' abilities and repeatedly called on him to serve on many conference boards and commissions. His interest and talents in the field of Christian education enabled him to make a large contribution to this field of endeavor.

Harry Balthis was never narrowly sectarian. He had a broad outlook and was interested in ecumenical affairs. In every community in which he lived he became involved in the cooperative endeavors of the various denominations. He served as president of the Arlington Council of Churches in the early 1950s. For a number of years he was chairman of the Division of Christian Education of the Virginia Council of Churches.

On September 18, 1937, Harry married Miss Evelyn Gay, a lady of culture and refinement, who loyally supported Harry in his ministry. To this happy union were born three children who, with his widow, survive him. The children are: Ms. Gay Brown of St. Louis, Missouri, H. Griffith Balthis of Elkton, Maryland, and Charles David Balthis of Fredericksburg, Virginia. He is also survived by two brothers: David L. Balthis of Ellicott City, Maryland, and Dr. Joseph H. Balthis of Hockessin, Delaware, and four grandchildren.

After Harry's retirement in 1976, he and Evelyn returned to Waynesboro to a lovely home they had purchased some time earlier. For several years he served as the retired associate minister of Main Street Church. In 1985, as a token of their love and esteem, the congregation of Main Street named him their minister emeritus.

Death came to Harry Balthis on August 16, 1987 at his home in Waynesboro. A memorial service was held at the church on August 20, attended by a large gathering of friends and fellow ministers. The service was conducted by the Rev. Paul Bailey and the Rev. Robinson H. McAden.

Harry Balthis was a man of great integrity, keen intellect, and administrative skill. He was always in the forefront of those who sought to lead the church into areas of larger service and social responsibility.

There was never anything reactionary about Harry Balthis. He was indeed a statesman of the church. And while he dealt effectively with great issues and large concerns, he was always ;) good pastor to the people committed to his charge. He was a faithful and effective shepherd. To his fellow ministers he was ;) discreet, confident, and wise counselor. We shall not soon see his like again. —*Robert Harris Kesler*

Richard Howard Shapland, 1902-1987

Richard Howard Shapland, the youngest of four children and an only son, was born to Walter H. and Ethel W. Shapland, May 5, 1902 in Amelia County, Virginia. At a young age Richard moved with his family to Richmond. He received his early education in the Richmond City public schools; however, he dropped out of high school and enlisted in the United States Army Cavalry. At the completion of his enlistment, he returned to Richmond and worked in a local bank.



During his bank employment he received his call to the ministry. Undoubtedly, he was influenced by the life of his grandfather, Richard Howard Shapland, who had served as minister of a sod church on the plains of Nebraska.

Undaunted by his lack of a high school diploma, Richard applied for admission to Randolph-Macon College and was accepted. The lack of finances forced him to drop out with only one semester remaining.

Richard married Annie L. Swann of Richmond on September 6, 1927. Together the newlyweds arrived at their first appointment in Franklin County amid rumors that the new parson was 19 and his bride only 14. Throughout the next 40 years they traveled the length and breadth of the Virginia Annual Conference.

Their first daughter, Frances, arrived with the help of a country doctor in the parsonage in rural Essex County in the early 1930s. The 1930s included tenures in Mathews County where they enjoyed fresh seafood from the scenic Chesapeake Bay, and historic Appomattox County. While in Bedford County in the early 1940s, Richard completed his degree requirements and graduated from Randolph-Macon College, June 9, 1941, the day before their second daughter, Iva, arrived on the scene. From Bedford, the Shapland family moved on to Pittsylvania County. While there, Richard was prevailed upon to accept a long-term substitute teaching position in mathematics in order to fill a void exacerbated by World War II.

A six-point circuit in Dinwiddie and Prince George counties was sandwiched between two appointments at opposite ends of Pittsylvania County. Ann, their third daughter, joined the family during their second term of service in Pittsylvania.

In 1948 the family took up residence in Southampton County, home of some of Virginia's best ham. They continued enjoying ham when they moved on to an Isle of Wight circuit with its parsonage in Smithfield. From Smithfield there was a return trip to Mathews County. They enjoyed the decade of the '60s among the stately James River plantations in Charles City County and in the hills of Covington and Roanoke.

In 1968 Richard officially retired; however, he was not quite ready to quit. He accepted a retired supply appointment at Oilville in Goochland County. The 43-year nomadic lifestyle ended in 1970 when Richard and Annie moved into their first home of their very own in Richmond. However, for the next 15 years, Richard remained very active by filling pulpits for vacationing or ill ministers.

It should be noted that for more than 50 years, Richard attended every annual conference. He was saddened to have to give up the pleasure of meeting with old friends and colleagues when the infirmities of advancing years began to take their toll.

Those who knew him well, both friend and even foe, will remember him for many qualities: his sense of humor, his integrity, his powerful pulpit delivery, his immense energy, his tenacity, his fierce sense of independence, and that which he personally classified as intestinal fortitude. —*Iva S. Brown*

Edward Leon Smith, 1907-1987

There is an old Sunday school hymn that most of us learned in our childhood. You remember it. These were the first words: “I think when I read those sweet stories of old, When Jesus was here among men, How he called little children like lambs to His fold. I would love to have been with Him then.” I never sing those words without thinking about Edward Leon “Pop” Smith. Surely he served his Lord by calling God’s children like lambs to “his” fold. “Pop” was with the Lord in serving His children.



Every annual conference has its history, its legends and its traditions. They are passed down to new generations as the personnel of the conference changes, but those legends and legendary characters belong forever to the history and traditions of the annual conference. Surely the Virginia Conference is no exception nor does it want to be. Its history and traditions are full of great names and scores of nostalgic memories.

That is the way it should be, and that is the way it is. Among those names and in those legends and history is the name and memory of Edward Leon Smith. Many people knew him by his formal name, but hundreds and hundreds of people -young and old -knew him as “Pop.” You see, he was superintendent of the Methodist Children’s Home for the conference, and in those two and a half decades he became the only real “Pop” that hundreds of children had. Let’s look at his life for a moment and remember him forever.

He was a native of Arlington, Virginia. He attended the Norfolk Division of The College of William and Mary and later Randolph- Macon College in Ashland, Virginia. This was followed by his theological training at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. Later he studied administrative social work at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

He began his local church ministry at the Lynnhaven Charge in the Norfolk District in 1942. Then came the Haygood-Lynnhaven Charge in 1945 until 1947. His next assignment was Bishop Memorial Church which he served until 1949. In that year he was named superintendent of the Virginia Methodist Children’s Home in Richmond. Therein began one of the really great chapters in the story of Virginia Methodism.

He married Mary Indiana Kelly in 1926. She shared almost a half century of his life and ministry. Surviving their father are two daughters, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Buzzy of Fairfax County and Mrs. Byrdie Lou McClannan of Norfolk; a son, George B. Smith, III, of Harper’s Ferry, West Virginia; three sisters, Mrs. Josephine Crowe of Seminole, Florida, Mrs. Katherine Massengill of Albemarle, North Carolina, and Mrs. Beverly Jordan of Siler City, North Carolina. In addition there are 10 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

“Pop” Smith was a real professional. He took every opportunity to participate in child care organizations as well as to improve his already excellent abilities in child care and home management. He attended conferences on children and youth all across America including the White House Conference on Children and Youth in 1960. He was twice elected president of the Virginia Association of Children’s Homes. He was a past president of the Southeastern Child Care Association. His list of affiliations is too numerous to mention, including the General Board of Health and Welfare Ministries of the Methodist Church.

He was a member of Babcock Lodge 322, A.F. & A.M., a 33rd Inspector General in the Richmond Scottish Rite Bodies. He served as chaplain for Acca Temple Shrine. He was one of those rare souls who was active in whatever group he joined.

On November 12, 1976, he married the lovely Evelyn Louise Vaughan in the Jamieson Memorial United Methodist Church in Clarksville, Virginia. I had the honor of performing their wedding. For the rest of his life she was constantly at his side as they continued his ministry and their pilgrimage together. He served for a while as interim pastor at Central Church in Richmond and as interim pastor for the Richmond Charge, Rappahannock District. At the time of his death he was the associate minister for our Asbury Church in South Richmond, from which place his funeral service was conducted by the pastor, the Rev. Randy Rilee.

So make room for him in the noble history of the Virginia Conference. You will remember him in many ways, but most of all, we will join the hundreds of little children and young folk scattered across this land, now grown to useful maturity, who will always remember and never forget “Pop” Smith. Hail and farewell. —*W. Kenneth Goodson*

Roland Parker Riddick, 1902-1987

Devotion, energy, decisiveness, perseverance, fearlessness—these words characterize the life and ministry of Roland P. Riddick.

- Devotion—to Christ and his church; to a well-rounded ministry, scanting no aspect or emphasis of the church; to the needs of those committed to his care.
- Energy—the 16-hour day; 1,000 to 3,000 pastoral calls a year; the constant pursuit of ways to serve, always testing new structures but never abandoning the best of proven ways.
- Decisiveness—accepting the responsibilities of leadership, realizing that not to decide is itself a decision; willing to risk criticism or failure rather than to abdicate responsibility.
- Perseverance—always determined to try again; to give others a chance to make a new start; never to give up on his churches or his colleagues.
- Fearlessness—intimidated neither by public clamor nor by official pronouncement; always determined to do the right as God gave him the power to discern the right.



Few people have had so great an impact on the life of the Virginia Conference. Three times a district superintendent (beginning at age 35), pastor of the largest churches, member of 10 General Conferences and the Uniting Conferences of 1939 and 1968, president or chairman of 14 conference agencies, first director of the Conference Council on Ministries, he left his stamp of his devotion and energy on every aspect of the church’s life in Virginia.

Roland Parker Riddick was born April 7, 1902 at Nimmo, in Princess Anne County (now Virginia Beach), Virginia, the son of the Rev. William Henry and Nannie Whitehurst Riddick. He died October 22, 1987 in Richmond. He was married to Catherine Haydon of Urbanna, who died in 1984. Their daughter and two sons survive them: Nancy Camden (Mrs. John T.) Witt, Roland P. Riddick, Jr., and Dr. David H. Riddick.

In 1922 Roland Riddick was graduated from Randolph-Macon College, which honored him with the degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1942. The next year he taught and coached football at Randolph-Macon Academy. He was admitted into the Virginia Conference in 1924. After receiving the degrees of Bachelor and Master of Theology from Princeton in 1927, he served eight pastorates and three districts before becoming Conference Program Director, 1967-1973.

He then served one year as executive director of the Association of Educational Institutions of the conference. In 1974 he had reached the age of mandatory retirement, but as active as ever, he embarked on another pastorate and the leadership of the campaign to renovate and expand the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center at Blackstone.

His pastorates were Urbanna, 1927-31; Franktown-Johnsons, 1931-35; South Hill, 1935-36; Fort Hill in Lynchburg, 1936-37; Memorial in Lynchburg, 1939-42; Barton Heights in Richmond, 1948-50; Park Place in Norfolk, 1950-56; Arlington in Arlington, 1962-67; and Brookland in Richmond, 1974-87.

He was presiding elder of the Eastern Shore District, 1937-39, and superintendent of the Roanoke District, 1942-48, and of the Alexandria District, 1956-62.

In the Virginia Conference at least seven monuments stand as witnesses to the unusual leadership and concern of this man. These are:

1. Ferrum College. Roland Riddick was for 16 years (1943-58) chairman of the board of trustees of Ferrum College, during which time the course of the college was completely reversed. He was instrumental in bringing C. Ralph Arthur as president to Ferrum. Under their joint leadership, enrollment, which had been decreasing, rose to more than 1,000. New buildings began to appear on campus, one of them named Riddick Hall, and Ferrum took its place as a leader in junior college education.

2. The Alexandria District. During Roland Riddick's six years as superintendent, church membership in this district grew by 43 percent, outdistancing the population growth in what was one of the fastest growing areas of the nation. Twelve new congregations were organized, and pastoral charges increased from 63 to 84, making it necessary to form two districts from what had become Methodism's largest district at the end of his term in 1962.

3. Blackstone. As chairman of the board of trustees of Blackstone College and then as director of the campaign to raise funds for the remodeling and expansion of the college property to serve as a new and improved Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center, he was instrumental in assuring the conference of a suitable facility for assemblies and conferences.

4. Council on Ministries. As the first director of the Conference Council on Ministries, he was, more than anyone else, responsible for its organization into an effective programming agency of the conference. He provided a strong staff and basis of operation that has made it possible for the council to grow and serve through the years.

5. Minimum Salaries. As chairman of the Town and Country Commission, he was the author of the first minimum salary plan of the Virginia Conference.

6. Pensions. During his eight years as chairman, the Board of Conference Claimants raised the pension rate of the conference by 131 percent, thus embarking on a course which was to lead the conference for the first time into a funded pension program.

7. People. Throughout his ministry people were Roland Riddick's first concern. During his 39 years as a pastor, he received 1,201 persons into the church on profession of faith and 2,828 by all means. He had a pastor's concern for the ministers who served in the districts where he was superintendent. As a result of his encouragement and counsel, 48 men from the Alexandria District were added to the ministry of the Virginia Conference during his six years as district superintendent there.

Roland Riddick gave his best to his Christ and his church, and expected all who were associated with him to do the same. He was never willing to settle for less. All of God's programs had first priority; all of God's children deserved the best. From Roland Riddick, they got it. —*Raymond Fitzhugh Wrenn*

Corbelle Katon Gray, 1909-1987

During the pleasant nights of the summer of 1928 a group of high school boys frequently gathered on the steps of Wright Memorial Church at the corner of Fourth and Randolph streets in the city of Portsmouth, Virginia. The magnet which drew us there was "Speck" Gray. Under the ministry of my father, Speck had accepted Jesus Christ as the "Master" of his life. It was now his purpose to share his new life by offering his friendship and guidance to us. It was under his urging that several of us accompanied him to the youth assembly in Blackstone and it was there, in 1933, that Speck answered God's call to the ministry.



In those days of the Great Depression it was not easy for one to give up a good paying job in the Norfolk Naval Shipyard and go off to college. That he did so was evidence of Speck's complete dedication to the service of Christ. He enrolled in Randolph-Macon College. Here he not only excelled in his studies but also found the time and energy to serve as supply pastor of the Bland-ford Methodist Church in Petersburg. However, after two and one-half years, his financial situation forced him to return to the shipyard where he worked in various supervisory positions until 1948. During this period he continued serving his Master. He started a new church in one of the developing areas of the city, served as supply pastor of Wesley Memorial, became a leader in Scouting and was active in civic affairs.

In 1940 Speck married Ruth Hart and their union was blessed with the birth of three sons, William, Robert, and James, all of whom graduated from Randolph-Macon College and now, along with their mother and their families, survive their father.

Speck was born in Portsmouth, Virginia February 18, 1909. He graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in 1928 and entered the Apprentice School of the Norfolk Naval Shipyard. He then worked at his trade in the shipyard until entering Randolph-Macon College.

In 1948 Speck took full-time appointment to the Fincastle Charge. While there he attended Roanoke College and in 1952, at the age of 44, graduated with honor. Subsequent appointments were: Elliston-Shawsville, Villa Heights, Park Avenue, Greenwood, LeKies, and Bellamy. In 1974 ill health forced his retirement. With his beloved wife and helpmate, Ruth, he resided in Gloucester, Virginia until his death November 4, 1987. Funeral services were conducted at Bethany United Methodist Church, Gloucester, by the pastor, the Rev. Eugene Setchel, who was assisted by the Rev. Alfred Eastman and the Rev. Ronald Davidson. Burial was in Evergreen Cemetery, Portsmouth, Virginia.

How inadequate is a list of names, dates and places! The value of a man, his convictions, the reality of a spirit aflame for Christ -these and other great qualities are so much more -and to know these is to know the man. Thus, it is not by the size of the churches he served, nor by letters after his name, that Speck Gray will be remembered. He will be remembered by the spirit which ruled his life. That spirit is best expressed by the words of Saint Paul. "For I am determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified" (I Corinthians 2:2). A life of deep consecration is always convincing and inspiring. To have known Speck Gray was to have seen the power of faith and to have felt the inspiring atmosphere of the love of Jesus Christ. —*Jacob W. Mast*

Roscoe Chesterman Johnson, 1903-1987

Roscoe Chesterman Johnson was born May 8, 1903 in Richmond, Virginia. He was the eldest of the four sons of Asa Johnson and Ethel Chesterman Johnson. This Christian family was active in Clay Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Roscoe was baptized in Clay Street Church as a child and later made his profession of faith there. This act of commitment was the beginning of a dynamic and effective Christian life.



When Clay Street Church was closed in 1919, Roscoe united with Centenary Church in Richmond. He immediately became involved in the activities of the young people. For the rest of his life Roscoe was greatly interested in work with young people. As a pastor he wanted them to find all of the good things offered in the church youth program.

Roscoe was always keenly aware of God's hand in his life. His mother once said that he wanted to be minister from the time he could talk. At the age of 18 he was finally able to begin his academic preparation for the task God had for him. He entered Randolph-Macon College in September of 1921 and graduated in June of 1925. The following September he was received on trial into the Virginia Conference and ordained a deacon. He was appointed to serve the Corinth-Maple Grove Charge in the

Richmond District. While there he attended Union Theological Seminary in Richmond. He came into full conference membership in 1927 and was ordained an elder in 1929.

In August, 1929, Roscoe married Lucille Fuller in Centenary Church in Richmond. She was also interested in work with younger persons and joined him in leading young people and young adults in programs of spiritual growth and programs of wholesome recreation. They had no children of their own but shared in a splendid way in the lives of children from so many Methodist families.

Roscoe was interested in the entire Christian education program of Methodism. He was president of the Virginia Conference Board of Education for several years. There were years of exciting growth in the Sunday schools and other activities in Christian education.

All of these things were important and meant a great deal to this good man, but they were not the most important or meaningful things in his life as a minister. Above all, he was a pastor of God's people and a preacher of God's Word. In his 46-year ministry he served these appointments: Corinth-Maple Grove, East Pittsylvania, Hyco, Ferrum, Scottsville, Cottage Place, Pace Memorial, South Roanoke, First in Lynchburg, Front Royal, Clifton Forge, Williamsburg, Washington Street in Petersburg, First in Salem, and Larchmont. He retired in 1971 and he and Lucille lived in Richmond.

Roscoe died in Richmond Memorial Hospital November 17, 1987. He is survived by Lucille, his wife of 56 years, and two brothers, Sherwin of Danville, California, and Frank of Richmond, Virginia. His brother Byron died in 1985.

His memorial service was conducted in Trinity United Methodist Church in Richmond November 20, 1987 by Bishop Robert M. Blackburn, the Rev. Bernard S. Via Jr., and Dr. F. Douglas Dillard. He was buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Richmond.

During the memorial service the congregation was reminded that nothing in life or death can separate us from God's great love in Christ Jesus. Roscoe Johnson knew and preached that all of his days in God's service. He now experiences that love in the very presence of God. —*Donald H. Traylor*

Robert P. Parker, 1917-1987

My friendship with Bob Parker extended over most of our lives, from my college years at the time he accepted his first appointment as a minister in the Virginia Conference of the Methodist Church, until his death following a second tenure as executive director of the Association of Educational Institutions of our conference. Like everyone who had the privilege of knowing this gifted minister and educator, I admired him and enjoyed his company.



Bob, who was born in Roanoke on June 13, 1917, was unusually well prepared for the ministry of our denomination. The son of William Carlton and Mabel Plewes, he had the advantage of a fine Christian home and a loving family, which included his sister, Mary, and brothers, Bill, Alton and John. His nurturing in Greene Memorial Church, with its outstanding music, was an inspiration in his early life and helped foster his love of good music. After graduating from the public schools of Roanoke, he was a leader in the classroom and on the campus of Randolph-Macon College where he graduated with Phi Beta Kappa honors. Following a year of teaching German at his alma mater, he excelled as a student at the Yale Divinity School and completed his Master of Divinity program magna cum laude. He later earned the Master of Education degree at the University of Virginia, and Randolph-Macon College conferred upon him the Doctor of Divinity degree. Throughout his lifetime, his love for learning and his extensive reading made him a lively member of any group. It was a pleasure to visit a bookstore with Bob, who would enthusiastically call attention to volumes which had sparked his interest. Recognized as one of the ablest preachers in the Virginia Conference, Bob's sermons, the messages of a studious theologian, were always thoughtful.

Another asset which served as a great support in all his work was the love and companionship of an intelligent and charming wife, Joye. Through 42 years of marriage, there was joy and harmony in their relationship. Bob gave their four sons, Brantley, Bobby, Dana and Christopher, one of the most priceless gifts a father can provide his children, the assurance that he deeply loved their mother. Throughout each appointment there was happiness and stability which undergirded the splendid work and achievement of the Parkers. Those appointments began with the six-point Middle Bedford Circuit in the Lynchburg District in 1942. There followed the assignment at Sledd Memorial in Danville and the appointment to Duncan Memorial in Ashland, which included the chaplaincy of Randolph-Macon College. Through his vital ministry there, he influenced many students.

Another fine opportunity came to the Parkers when, during the pastorate at Westover Hills Church in Richmond, a beautiful church was constructed. Then followed the executive directorship of the Association of Educational Institutions in 1959, a position of administrative leadership for a great Virginia Conference financial campaign which gave strength to Randolph-Macon Academy he was later to serve as president; to three colleges, Ferrum, Randolph-Macon and Randolph-Macon Woman's College; and birth to a fourth, Virginia Wesleyan College.

Upon his election to the presidency of Randolph-Macon Academy in 1965, Bob began his effective years in the educational ministry of the church. Few men have the opportunity, as Bob did, to serve the denomination as the chief executive officer of a secondary school, as well as a college. After four fruitful years in Front Royal, Bob was named president of Shenandoah College and Conservatory of Music, one year following the unification of the Methodist and the Evangelical United Brethren churches. He was the ideal person to direct the institution at that time in its history, and for 13 years gave excellent leadership to the college and conservatory.

When he retired from Shenandoah in 1982, Bob served once again as executive director of the Association of Educational Institutions, a position he held until 1987. A final exciting assignment was given Bob and Joye when he was appointed minister of the English-Speaking United Methodist Church in Vienna, Austria. Death came too soon to this remarkable minister/educator on November 29, 1987. An inspiring memorial service, conducted by the Rev. James H. Boice and the Rev. John B. Peters, was held December 2, 1987, appropriately in Westover Hills Church, filled with friends who came to pay their respect to this faithful and outstanding servant of the church. —Lambuth M. Clarke

Richard Evans Hamblin, 1910-1987

Richard Evans Hamblin was born October 7, 1910 to Harve and Mollie Hamblin in Giles County, Virginia. His first call to the ministry was when he was just a baby. A circuit-riding preacher told his parents that if they named the baby Evans after him, that he would become a preacher. Richard had other ideas, but the Lord had his mind set on Richard being a minister. It took 24 years of hard times, a wife and four children, and World War II in a foxhole in France to convince Richard to be a minister. There he promised the Lord that if He would get him out of that foxhole, he would become a minister.



He came back home and went back to high school at Eggleston where his children were going to school. He completed high school and took courses at Emory and Henry College in Tennessee and at Duke Divinity School in North Carolina.

His first charge was in the Holston conference in Grayson County, known as the Blue Ridge Charge. He had seven churches for five years and one year at Mont Vale which became a station church.

His second charge was at Rocky Gap where he had nine churches for four years. His third charge was at Staffordsville. He served five churches for seven years. His fourth charge was in the Virginia Conference on the South Franklin Charge where he served for seven years. His fifth charge was at

Patrick Springs. He had two churches for five years and one year at Salem United Methodist Church which became a station.

In 1976, he thought he was retiring to a life of gardening and leisure, but the Lord had more work for him. He became interim pastor at Piedmont Presbyterian Church in Callaway, Virginia. He was hospital chaplain at Franklin Memorial Hospital in Rocky Mount, Virginia. He was interim pastor at Doe Run Christian Church until a stroke slowed him down but didn't stop him.

Some of his other accomplishments were:

- He wrote a book titled Things That Work But Don't Try Them.
- He founded the Lord's Acre Movement in Galax, Bland County, Franklin County, and Patrick County and was instrumental in the formation of others in other places.
- He was the chaplain of the Bland Correctional Farm.
- He was selected Rural Minister of the Year three times: once in the Holston conference, one in the Virginia Conference, and once in the Southeastern Jurisdiction.
- He was a member of the American Legion, Rocky Mount Masonic Lodge, and the Oddfellows Camp 189 where he was Grand Chaplain of Virginia for 10 years.

Richard's life on earth ended December 4, 1987 from heart failure. He will be missed by everyone who knew him. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Ruth Parker Hamblin. Five children, eight grandchildren and one-great grandchild survive, also. —*John R. Hamblin*

Price Norman Moore, 1904-1988

Price N. Moore was born October I, 1904 in Marlinton, West Virginia, the son of the late William Nelson and Elsie Moore, his minister father a circuit rider from Oregon. Price Moore received his call to preach as a young man hoeing potatoes on a West Virginia mountainside.

Geraldine McLaughlin, whose mother had taught him in school, speaks of the long ago, when he was a boy. "I feel that he was a person God had His hand upon from the time he was a very young boy. As a student in high school, he would speak at church services and always he would help with young peoples' meetings. I shall always remember his love for children and the deep friendship that existed between our two families."

After his "call to preach," young Price Moore returned to work his way through Hillsboro High School, and then, upon the advice of his local pastor, worked his way for a year at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago.

He married Miss Elizabeth Simmons in Cattelsburg, Ky. on June 15, 1942. She writes, "God has given us 45 years of supreme happiness. Price has been such a thoughtful and loving husband."

To this union a son, Charles Norman Moore, was born, December 8, 1947 at Winona Lake, Indiana. Charles is now the pastor at Cedar Run United Methodist Church, Catlett, Virginia, with his wife Sandra Nicely and sons: Jeremy, 12; Jason, 9; Justin, 7; and Joshua, 5.

Charles writes of his father: "I am thankful for the spiritual witness, the testimony, love, friendship and fellowship of my father. Through him, God has revealed to me what a caring father and minister actually is. My Dad was a man who actually lived what he preached. With God helping me, I will continue in the path of Christian ministry set before me by my grandfather, William Nelson Moore, and my own dear Dad, Price Norman Moore."

Price Moore was licensed to preach in 1936 at Granbery Church, Covington. He became a full-time pastor soon after his marriage in 1942. After further schooling (1945-49), he was ordained a deacon in 1955 and elder in 1957. His Virginia Conference appointments were: Bath Charge, 1942; West Hanover, 1944; Highland Charge, 1949; Halifax with Union Church becoming a station, 1954; Colonial Beach,

1958; Rock Spring, 1959; Natural Bridge, 1963; Selma, 1964; and retirement in 1970 with one year interim service at Mt. Carmel, Covington.

Wallace Solomon at Halifax writes: “He came to us in June, 1954 and our four churches grew until two years later he helped develop Union Church as a station appointment. We remember him as a happy person, reflecting in his face the joy as his eyes would always sparkle. We remember him as a quiet person. There never was a misunderstanding or a disturbance of any kind throughout his entire ministry. We remember him as a busy person, a tireless man forever caring for the sick and needy and he was, for us, ‘Mr. Preacher -seven days of every week.’ We describe him as a grateful person, ever praising God with a song in his heart. We describe him best with the word sincerity.”

Jim Meredith, his former pastor, describes Price Moore as a “builder.” “As with Jesus, he was ever a carpenter, with his tools at hand to get the job done. There might not have been a Selma Church today, except for the careful and constructive work of this faithful ‘building’ pastor. In the construction of the new sanctuary, he helped me at every turn in the road.”

Robert Chapman, his pastor at the time of his death, has described Price Moore’s character and spirit as that of “evangelism.” “He believed God had called him to proclaim and carry the torch of salvation to people everywhere, more especially those without church affiliation. He was a talented clockmaker, and a careful gardener who could sow the seeds, construct the programs, and then gather the fruitful harvest for Jesus Christ.”

Dora McCaleb has said, “I remember Rev. Moore as a preacher whose consuming desire was to lead others to know Jesus as their personal Savior. He never gave up; he was never discouraged; he always presented Christ as the ultimate victory in all of life.

“As you know, Rev. Moore was a devoted family man. His love and respect for his beloved wife, Elizabeth, was quite evident to all, and it was an example for other husbands to emulate. His great love and pride for his son, Charles, was a joy to behold.”

This beloved servant of Christ was active in ministry to the very end of his 83 years. Following several weeks of infections, he suddenly fell and was gone, February 2, 1988. His funeral service was held at Epworth United Methodist Church, Selma, Virginia on Friday, February 5, 1988 at 2:00 p.m. with the Rev. William C. Logan, his district superintendent, and the Rev. Robert Chapman, his pastor, officiating. Interment was at Cedar Hill Cemetery, Covington, Virginia.

The words that best represent Price Norman Moore are: -He told me about Christ! -He brought Christ to me! -He led me to accept Christ! —*John Wynn Myers*

Harvey Wallace Ashby, 1914-1988

“Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. We have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways; we refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God’s word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing.”



“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.” 2 Corinthians 4:1-3, 7-12

Harvey Wallace Ashby was born in the family home at Bluemont, Virginia on April 4, 1914. Later the family moved to Rector- town, Virginia and Harvey was graduated from Marshall High School in Marshall, Virginia in 1932.

After high school Harvey, with his father, opened a small general store in Rectortown and enjoyed a prosperous business for two or three years.

In 1935, through the grace of God and a generous benefactor who had met Harvey at the Rectortown Methodist Church, he was given the chance to attend college. It was the desire of this gracious person that she would support Harvey's education if he would go into the ministry in the Methodist Church. Harvey had felt called to the ministry but now this was the verification, the door thrown open wide that helped confirm his call.

At Randolph-Macon his studies went well. He earned Phi Beta Kappa and ODK recognition while there. Then, in 1939, he went off to seminary at the Yale Divinity School, receiving his Master of Divinity in 1942. He received his first appointment at Montague Avenue Church in October of 1942. Harvey served his church for 42';' years, but it was the Lord he served his whole life, and continues to do so, now serving his finest appointment.

In the ministry Harvey enjoyed many colleagues and close friends who had a positive influence on his life. Two of them deserve special mention. Dr. E. L. Wolfe, with whom he served as a summer intern while in seminary, remained a lifelong friend and mentor. Also, Dr. Robert Parker, "Bob" as he was called around the house, was a loved and respected friend for nearly 50 years.

Harvey served 42~ years in the church and he enjoyed all his appointments. He was blessed by the love, support and challenges of all the people he served. He especially enjoyed his work on the conference Board of Evangelism, on the board of trustees of Randolph-Macon Academy, and his seven years as district superintendent of the Charlottesville District.

But of course his family was most precious to him. He married Edith Overstreet on September 5, 1942. They brought forth and raised together four sons. Their children remain forever indebted to the fine example of love and faith that Harvey and Edith were and continue to be.

I remember so well hearing Dad speak these words from the pulpit. I can hear him now....

For this perishable nature must put on the imperishable, and this mortal nature must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. —*Jay Ashby*

Benton Theophilus Leonard, 1900-1988

We first met B.T. Leonard when he returned regularly for the homecomings at Willis United Methodist Church. He had served the church as part of a five-point circuit many years before. B.T. came back because he loved the people and they loved him. B.T.'s daughter said of her father, "Daddy may not have been the best preacher in the world, but he helped a lot of people." This statement by one who knew him and loved him was borne out by others. Perhaps his own philosophy was stated best as he told a young minister, "If you preach the Word and love your people, you'll get along fine." A statement by his pastor at his funeral describes B.T.'s life and ministry well, "He was a wonderful caring and loving person that passionately preached the Word of God and wonderfully loved everyone." B.T. Leonard was born May 14, 1900 in Sussex County, Virginia. He was one of 13 children born to James Thomas and Maggie Johns Belsches Leonard. B.T. was forced to drop out of school to help on the farm. He felt the call to preach while still in his teens. He was encouraged by a Sunday school teacher in Salem Church in Prince George County, where he was a member. She was instrumental in getting him enrolled in Ferrum Training School where, as he often said, he lived out of the "Mission Barrel" for four years. He entered Randolph-Macon College in 1924. In 1926 he was appointed student pastor of the West Goochland Circuit. He graduated from Randolph-Macon in 1929. He was ordained deacon in 1928 and an elder in



1931. While a student at Ferrum, B.T. met Miss Georgie Kate Moore. They were married in 1927. They had four children. Mrs. Leonard was a loving wife and mother, who was also a great help to her husband in his work. B.T. served a number of churches in the conference during the 41 years he was an active minister. He touched many lives during his long ministry, but he mentioned especially the fact that a young man felt the call to the ministry while he was serving Ettrick Church. B.T. was forced to retire in 1967 because of failing eyesight. He lived in Jarrett until he moved to the Hermitage in Richmond. B.T.'s funeral was conducted March 2, 1988 by the Rev. Larry Davies and the Rev. Paul Best. He was buried in Southampton Memorial Park in Prince George County. It was most appropriate that B.T.'s grandson sang: "Servant of God well done! Thy glorious warfare's past; The battle's fought, the race is won, and thou art crowned at last. With saints enthroned on high, Thou dost thy Lord proclaim. And still to God salvation cry, Salvation to the Lamb!" We thank God for a good and faithful servant of Jesus Christ. —*Henry B. Sudduth*

Joseph Lee Marker, 1899-1988

Joseph Lee Marker, known as Lee to his colleagues, was born in 1899 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was one of three children. At the age of 11, his family moved to a small farm in the rural outskirts of Clayton, Delaware. Lee was a self-motivated boy with a strong desire to learn. His desires and dreams were far beyond that of the average boy in his community. He had a yearning to study the violin and would walk five miles every Saturday to take lessons -even in the most severe winter weather.

While planting tomatoes in a field one summer, he had a calling from God. God wanted him to come into the ministry. It was always very vivid in his mind.

Lee graduated from Western Maryland Seminary. His roommate was the beloved George Ports.

His first charge was in Queen Anne County, Maryland -a small rural church in Queenstown. He loved to tell the story of his trip on the steamer from Baltimore to Queenstown -the unpaved roads and his first Ford car with the high running boards. It was at this first charge that he met his beautiful wife Frances Dodd, with her long, flowing red hair. Little did he know that Frances was to be the "Rock" of his life, a truly dedicated minister's wife and mother, who never left his side.

In 1930 he moved to a rural area near Chestertown, Maryland, known as St. James. Lee and Frances lived there 10 years. It was at St. James that Lee became an avid tennis player. He would challenge the students at the Chestertown College and would usually win. He was extremely competitive.

In 1940, with the merger of the Virginia Conference, Lee was sent to Claremont, Virginia, a small town on the James River. He served three churches and stayed there two years.

The next four years were spent in Dinwiddie, in the Petersburg District. He served three churches, and taught Bible classes at the high school.

In 1946 Lee was sent to Accomac on the Eastern Shore. He served three churches for six years. He was always very proud of building a new church in Tasley, a town that had no church.

From Accomac, he moved to Belle Haven, Virginia, still on the Eastern Shore. Lee and Frances never quite got over their love for the Eastern Shore. After 11 years, it was an extremely difficult place to leave.

Lee and his family left the Eastern Shore and moved to Fishersville, Virginia, located in the beautiful Valley of Virginia. After three years in the Valley, he was sent to Hamilton, Virginia, a small town near Leesburg, Virginia.

In 1961 Lee retired from the ministry. He and Frances moved to a retirement home in Ashland, Virginia. It was a lovely small town close to Richmond.

After the death of his beloved wife, Frances, Lee lived at the Hermitage in Richmond. He could never adjust to her passing. It was there he died, February 29, 1988, at the age of 90.

He is survived by a son, a daughter, and three grandchildren.

Lee was famous for his philosophical advice. He used to say, “Never eat anything just to save it,” and “Some children learn better through one end than they do the other -it’s up to you to find out which end it is.” —*Frances Lee Marker Ames*

Charles Johnson Tilley, 1908-1988

Charles Johnson Tilley was born January 10, 1908, in Durham, N.C., the only child of Charles J. and Mala Wilkins Tilley. He died March 17, 1988. But the meaning of a life cannot be contained between two dates on a tombstone. This was especially true of Charles Tilley whose intellect as well as his faith ranged the eternities.



Charles grew up in a good Christian home where he was nurtured in strong Methodist beliefs. After graduating from Duke University he was drawn west through family ties and continued his education at the University of Southern California, earning a master’s degree. He taught history and political science for a while at Whitworth College in Spokane, Washington, and then entered Stanford University to pursue a doctorate in expectation of continuing his teaching career. While at Stanford, in Charles’ own words, “the Lord laid a mighty hand” on him with a call to full-time Christian service. In response to this call he left Stanford in 1941 and for one year served as a supply pastor in California.

Charles had a strong desire to go to India as a missionary, but at the urging of a cousin who was serving in the North Carolina conference, he came east instead, taking an appointment on Ocracoke Island, North Carolina. He served North Carolina appointments for nine years. In 1957 Bishop Garber, then presiding over both North Carolina and Virginia, asked him to transfer to Virginia. Charles answered that he had “promised to go wherever needed,” and moved to Virginia where he served faithfully until his retirement in 1974.

After moving to Virginia he married Miss Sandy Ann Hook who happily shared both his life and ministry and who now survives him. Charles was a kind, gentle man who loved his Lord and his church. He was a diligent and caring pastor and he loved to preach,

his sermons always bearing the mark of his biblical scholarship. In his later years a profound hearing loss forced curtailment of many of his activities, but his scholarly pursuits continued unabated. He was an active member of several learned societies in the field of biblical studies, attending meetings regularly throughout the years of his retirement and frequently presenting papers on his original research. His church and his ministry continued to be foremost in his thoughts until the end of his life. On the night before his death he said, “I hope I will be able to attend conference in June.” And he will! —*William A. Wright Jr.*

Charles Tillman Boyd, 1906-1988

Charles Tillman Boyd, son of William Franklin and Ida Sharp Boyd, was born in the hills of North Carolina, near Black Mountain, May 26, 1906. His father was a farmer, his grandfather a Freewill Baptist preacher and builder of Boyd Chapel, a small country church near Asheville, North Carolina. He was the ninth of 11 children and the youngest of five boys.



When Dad was seven, the family moved to the Danville area, which remained the center for the family for many years. While Dad was a member of Sledd Memorial Church in Danville, with Dr. John Rustin as pastor, he felt the call of the Lord to become a Methodist minister. It was also in Danville that Dad met my mother, Johnnie Frances Bond of Morrisville, Missouri. Both

were assistants at the Wesley House where my aunt, Mary Lou Bond, was working. On March 23, 1935, while Dad was a student at Emory University, Mother and Dad were married at Mount Vernon Methodist Church in Danville, with Dr. Benjamin Beckham, president of Ferrum College, presiding.

In preparation for his ministry, Dad graduated from Ferrum Training School, attended Roanoke College, and received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Randolph-Macon College in Ashland in 1934. He received his Bachelor of Divinity degree from Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, with graduate work also at Union Theological Seminary in New York. In 1966, Randolph-Macon awarded Dad the Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree in recognition of his outstanding work for the Virginia Conference of the Methodist Church. He was also presented with the Distinguished Alumnus Award for service to the church by Ferrum College in 1983, after his retirement.

Dad served as a student pastor in Franklin and King William counties. As pastor, he served churches in Fluvanna, North Mecklenburg, Parksley and Epworth on the Eastern Shore, Fieldale, where he built a beautiful new church, Front Royal, Westover Hills in Richmond, and in Fredericksburg, where he retired in 1972. He was an assistant secretary and then secretary of the Virginia Annual Conference of the Methodist Church for many years.

Dad's faith in God, his genuine interest in and love for his fellow man, his friendliness and good humor led him naturally into the service of God and his church. His love of poetry, music, and his God was always evident in his sermons, his singing with the choir and quartets, and in his own writings.

His finest contribution was his work as a pastor, always available to share sorrow or joy, bad times or good with the members of his flock. His study and his home were always open to those seeking his counsel, his encouragement, and his prayers.

An active man, Dad did not confine his interests to pulpit preaching. He was an avid sportsman. His interests ranged from wrestling at the YMCA in Danville, serving as Scoutmaster in Parksley, to fishing and hunting with his parishioners, while always finding time to play ball, go boating or water skiing, or hiking through the woods and fields with our own family. Mother and Dad had three children: Patrice L. Reed of Pitkin, Colorado; Charles T., Jr. of Montross, Virginia; and John W. of Richmond, Virginia. His tradition of sharing time with the family continued with the five grandchildren: Joseph and Gary, and the triplets, Elizabeth, Walker, and Will.

Dad was also a 50-year member of the Masons, belonging to the Fork Union Lodge #127 and serving as secretary of the Reedville, Va. Lodge #321.

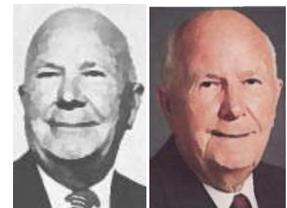
One of Dad's favorite poems, often used in the pulpit, was "High Flight," by John G. Magee, Jr., an aviator lost in battle during World War II. It symbolized Dad's love for his work and his faith in God. As in the final line of the poem, on April 2, 1988, Dad passed away from this life to be with his Lord, "and touched the Face of God."

Dad's Christian faith clearly shows in the final stanza of one of his own poems: "March on, ye valiant and faithful, Sing out your faith to the world; Set feet on His solid foundation, Your banner of triumph unfurl."

Funeral services for Dad were conducted by the Rev. Gaynor C. Shepherd, assisted by the Rev. William A. Wright, at Bethany United Methodist Church in Reedville, Virginia. Interment was in Roseland Cemetery, Reedville. —*Charles T. Boyd, Jr.*

Owen Thomas Kelly, 1903-1988

Owen Thomas Kelly was a person of faith, patience, love, endurance and especially laughter. He taught many of us, by word and deed, that Christians should be joyful people. He enjoyed meeting and helping people. Dr. Kelly would frequently go to a church to preach and begin by telling some outlandish tale about the pastor or a leading layperson. The response would be laughter by



that person and everyone else. Yet, with the laughter, there was always an overriding call to faith in Jesus Christ. That was his hope and witness for most of his 84 years.

It was a contagious witness. During his life, 43 persons entered the ordained ministry under his guidance, over 2,500 couples knew his love and concern as he counseled and married them, thousands of little children knew they were loved by God and him as he took the time to listen and “play” with them, and thousands more knew him as a compassionate pastor and friend in times of joy and sorrow.

Owen T. Kelly was born July 26, 1903, the youngest of five children, in Norfolk County, Virginia. He graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in Portsmouth, Virginia and worked for 10 years at Norfolk Naval Shipyard and Seaboard Railroad. During this time, he was youth director of the Epworth League in the Portsmouth district and vice president of the Virginia Conference Epworth League.

In 1929, after answering a call to the ministry, he entered Randolph-Macon College. He graduated in 1933 but not before marrying Mary Marguerite Brownley the year before. After college, he entered Union Theological Seminary in Richmond and served the Ashland Circuit. In 1935, he became pastor of St. Paul’s in Richmond.

The year 1939 saw he and Mary go to Trinity Church in Orange. It was a great time in his ministry. He loved that town and all its people. Indeed, at one time or another during those war years, he occupied the pulpit of most of the town’s churches. All the denominational churches in Orange jointly requested that the Methodist Church return him to their town. He was asked to serve on the Draft Board and make the difficult decisions about who would go off to war. Dr. Kelly told of going down to the railroad station with each young man and having prayer with him. When those young men returned, he would be waiting at the station with open arms.

His love for people, especially young people, did not end there. In 1944 he returned to Norfolk County to serve Cradock Church. It was late in the war years and Cradock was a community with hundreds moving in and hundreds moving out. Dr. Kelly became a part of the community serving as chaplain for the high school football, basketball, and baseball teams, chaplain for the fire department, and sponsor of the Hi- Y and Tri-Hi-Y. The Cradock High School Yearbook was dedicated to him in recognition of his love and service to the community and its young people.

It would be the same at First Methodist in Hopewell. He would always tell, with a twinkle in his eye, of the Hopewell High School football team under his chaplaincy and prayers winning three state championships in a row.

There would follow Memorial Church in Lynchburg and then the Charlottesville District superintendency. Those who knew him as their district superintendent can attest to the fact that he was more than an administrator. He was a pastor to the preachers and their families. In 1959 his alma mater, Randolph-Macon College, saw fit to award him the Doctor of Divinity degree.

In 1963, Dr. Kelly was appointed to Epworth Church in the Norfolk District. In speaking of his appointments, he would never leave Epworth off. He was proud to have been pastor to its people.

During his years of service in the church, Dr. Kelly served on numerous conference boards. He was a member of the Board of Evangelism, Board of Missions and the World Service Commission. He was elected four times as a delegate to General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference.

Retirement to the Great Bridge area of Chesapeake came in 1970. It was retirement in name only. Within the year he was back serving five months as district superintendent in Lynchburg. That was just the beginning. From 1971 to 1987 he served from two months to 10 months at Knotts Island, Hickory, First, Mt. Pleasant, and Foundry United Methodist churches. Then, there would be what he called his “missionary work.” He would frequently fill the pulpit of the local Baptist, Christian and Presbyterian churches. He served as interim pastor of Great Bridge Presbyterian, having the church garden dedicated in his honor by the Young Adult Sunday school class. When he wasn’t serving as an interim pastor, he

would be preaching somewhere, frequently on short notice. He rarely took more than four to six Sundays off a year. In recognition of his love and service to his adopted community, the citizens of Chesapeake named him "First Citizen" in 1984.

His wife, Mary, passed away in April of 1982. She had been a source of strength to him throughout their ministry. After a stroke confined her, he spent much time lovingly looking after her needs. He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Page K. Vaughan and two granddaughters, Patricia Vaughan Haymer and Susan Vaughtan Felton, and their husbands.

A Service of Death and Resurrection was held at Oak Grove United Methodist Church in Chesapeake, April 6, 1988. The service was conducted by Dr. Lee B. Sheaffer, Norfolk District superintendent, the Rev. W. S. Volskis, pastor of Oak Grove, and the Rev. Thomas L. Mercer Sr. Burial was in Chesapeake Memorial Gardens.

Many of us have lost a dear, trusted friend. He was like a grandfather to me. A month before his death he came to Lynchburg to baptize his third Mercer baby, Luke Owen. He spoke that morning a message he had proclaimed recently from many pulpits. He spoke of the caring, courage and commitment it takes to be a Christian. He spoke of the dangers and trials he saw in the days ahead for those who would follow the call of Christ. But then he spoke of the faith and hope that was available to all who hear the call and follow the Master. That was the witness of his life. —*Thomas L. Mercer, Sr.*

William Stewart Maxey, 1913-1988

William Stewart Maxey was born in Bramwell, West Virginia, July 1, 1913. He died May 9, 1988, and was buried at the White-stone United Methodist Church cemetery, Whitestone, Va. The Rev. Jarred Smith, pastor of Mathews Chapel United Methodist Church, and the Rev. Robert C. Painter, retired, officiated at the funeral. Stewart is survived by Frances Fletcher Maxey, his wife of 36 years; his daughter, Mrs. Linda M. Jones, and two granddaughters.



Stewart attended Bluefield College, Bluefield, W. Va., and the National University Law School, Washington, D.C. He was graduated from Wesley Theological Seminary and American University in Washington, and did graduate work at Perkins School of Theology, Dallas, Texas, and at Duke Divinity School, Durham, N.C.

Entering the ministry in 1958, Stewart served the following charges: Remington, Sterling, Mathews, Bowling Green, and White-stone. He retired in 1979, and then was supply pastor at the Gloucester-Mathews Charge for two years.

All who knew Stewart will remember him as a warmhearted, outgoing person to whom others were naturally drawn. Because of his friendliness he was well-liked in every parish he served. His ministry extended beyond the pastoral care of his own congregation to involvement in community service and leadership responsibility.

Stewart preached and lived a positive faith. He said upon his retirement that he wanted to continue to put into practice the positive thinking he had always preached. He then formed the Stewart Maxey Advertising Specialty Company which he operated from his home in Gwynn, Va. And he continued to be active in church life. He and Frances became a faithful part of the family of Mathews Chapel United Methodist Church, Cobbs Creek, Va. Both were valued assets to the choir. As a retired minister in the congregation, Stewart was always a trusted friend and staunch supporter of the pastor.

The call to preach remained strong in Stewart's heart. Whenever he was called upon to fill a pulpit, he went gladly. When this writer was pastor of Mathews Chapel, it was with confidence that Stewart would be asked to take charge of the pulpit when need arose. The congregation was always blessed by his gracious personality and his sincere pastoral preaching.

The following passage from the book of Hebrews was used at the funeral. “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...let us run with patience the race that is set before us.” Stewart ran his race with perseverance and finished it in faith and integrity. Now he is a part of that “great cloud of witnesses.” Stewart loved to sing, and now surely his voice is lifted in a song of praise to “Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.” —*Robert C. Painter*

Paul Raymond Best, 1904-1988

The son of Mr. and Mrs. James H. Best of Indiana County, Pennsylvania, Paul was born February 8, 1904, the oldest of five children. His father was a timberman, and the family moved to Goochland County, Virginia to clear an area of woodland. Paul graduated from Cardwell High School in Goochland, and from Randolph-Macon College, Ashland, Virginia in 1929. While a college student, he decided to enter the Christian ministry and became a student at Emory University in Atlanta where he received his Bachelor of Divinity degree.



He became a member of the Virginia Conference in 1931. The last Journal of the Virginia Annual Conference lists his pastorates as follows: Branch Memorial, Blanford, Franklin Circuit, York, Benns, Monroe Circuit, Mecklenburg, Hickory, Chesapeake Avenue, Chester, Marquis Memorial, Oaklette, and Crittenden: Ebenezer. He and his wife, Frances, became residents of the Hermitage Home in November of 1979.

He soon became well known in the Hermitage for his interests and kindly concern for the ways in which he could be of help to others. Living in a section of the home close at hand to the Via Health Care Center, he and his wife spent many hours together visiting there. It soon became necessary for him to give much concern to his wife's personal needs, and the way in which he lovingly cared for her soon became well known to all in the home. One of his major interests in the Hermitage was to care for the rose beds which continued to produce countless, beautiful blossoms for every occasion. He likewise liked to work with Amaryllis plants and was very successful in restoring beautiful plants which had blossomed previously.

Although Paul retired from the active pastorate in 1970, he continued to serve as a supply pastor at Kenwood Church, Ashland, for several years. Paul was also quite active in organizations within the Hermitage, serving as president of the Residents' Council and as member of the Men's Chorus, the Rhythmaires, and the Hermitage Brotherhood. He also enjoyed working in the Creative Workshop.

I became acquainted with Paul when I went on to the Norfolk District in the fall of 1953. The following spring, the ministers of the district were planning an overnight retreat at Natural Bridge, Virginia, and we were all assigned to the hotel there. He and I were assigned to a room together, but the regulation for that night was for a “Benedictine silence,” not too happy a situation by which strangers could become acquainted. But this was one way by which we could come to learn something about each other's nature. This was good for us as later we traveled together to the Passion Play at Oberammergau, West Germany, and the next year to Israel and Greece.

Paul's vital interest in the work of the church was very well known by those who were closely associated with him. Likewise his great love for his family, for his first wife, Frances, and for his second wife, Mattie Knibb Bugg Best who survives him. Other family members who survive him are a son, Dr. Paul Raymond Best Jr. of Carmel, Calif.; two daughters, Mrs. Frances Meadow of Albany, Ga., and Mrs. Sarah Goynes of Greensboro, N.C.; a stepson, Charles Bugg; two stepdaughters, Mrs. Elsie Lassiter and Mrs. Lucy Ellis; a brother, C. Leroy Best; three sisters, Mrs. Virginia Storey, Mrs. Clara Short, and Mrs. Helen Heinzen; five grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted at Lakeside United Methodist Church May 27, 1988 and he lies buried at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia. —*J. Elmore Brown*

F. Randolph Campbell, 1914-1987

The Rev. Randolph Campbell was born April 19, 1914, in Amherst County, a son of the late Linwood and Lucy Spencer Campbell. He was a former employee of the American Cyanamid Company and former district lay leader of the Charlottesville District. He accepted a call to ministry and was assigned to the South Amherst Charge, which included Poplar, Wesleyan, St. James and Beulah United Methodist churches. During his pastorate there he commuted weekly to Duke University and completed his educational requirements for the ministry.



In 1972 he was appointed associate pastor of Fort Hill United Methodist Church in Lynchburg and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1980. He continued to serve Fort Hill in a lay capacity following retirement, serving as pastor of evangelism and was a member of the A.G. Jefferson Memorial Bible Class.

The Rev. Campbell died November 10, 1987. He is survived by his wife, Mary Gillispie Campbell; one son, Frederick M. Campbell; one daughter, Vernelle Mercer; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. —Vernelle C. Mercer

1989 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

John Kit Harris, 1927-1988

The Rev. John Kit Harris preached to his church family at the Harmony United Methodist Church on Sunday, May 29, 1988. Following the service of worship a heart attack brought his earthly life to an end. All who had the privilege of knowing John, when reflecting upon his life and ministry, will certainly recall the words of Jesus: “Well done, good and faithful servant.” John was born in Axton, Virginia, on August 26, 1927, the son of Jasper and Betty Eggleston Harris. His childhood days were spent in southside Virginia where he attended public schools. He was a graduate of Bob Jones University and received his Bachelor of Divinity degree from Southern Seminary. He was ordained an elder in the United Methodist Church in 1967.

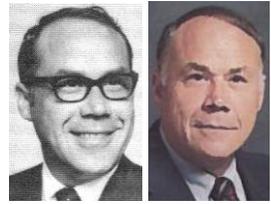


He served two charges for nine years (Urbanna and Brookville, Mt. Carmel) in the Baltimore conference. In 1974, he transferred to the Virginia Annual Conference where he served with distinction the following churches/charges: Marshall -Winchester District; Memorial -Richmond District; Shady Grove, Spotsylvania -Ashland District; Reliance-Ridings Chapel -Winchester District; and Harmony - Winchester District. He served in the Navy during World War II and later in the Air Force Reserve and Army Reserve. In 1980, he retired as an Army chaplain with the rank of lieutenant colonel. Among the survivors are his wife, Jessie Floyd Harris, whom he loved and adored; a stepdaughter, Anne M. Conger of Marshall; a stepson, Robert L. Goodrick of West Palm Beach, Florida; five step-grandchildren; seven step-great-grandchildren; six sisters and two brothers.

Final services were conducted at Harmony Church, Hamilton, Virginia on Wednesday, June 1, 1988, by Dr. H. Randolph Arrington, superintendent of the Winchester District, and the Rev. Harold L. Hicks, pastor of Pender United Methodist Church in Fairfax, Virginia. John was a diligent and faithful member of the conference, always a booster for growth and progress, and always keeping the Kingdom of God as his vision. His sincerity of dedication and purpose won his way into the hearts of his people and drew them closer to his Lord. By so doing, he made the church great, for he did “lift high the cross of Christ” and walked where “His feet have trod.” What more can any man do? —Harold L Hicks

Clarence William Gibson, Jr., 1930-1988

A native of Mineral, Virginia, C.W. “Bill” Gibson Jr. was a lover of God, his family, the fine arts and, especially, other people. He reached out beyond the necessary bounds of his profession to become a friend and counselor to many people -- from the young freshman student unsure about leaving home for the first time to the powerful, wealthy, and famous: lawmakers, writers, actors, and philanthropists. He dedicated his career to supporting young people in their quest for higher education.



Bill received a bachelor’s degree from Randolph-Macon College in 1952 and a master of divinity degree from Yale University Divinity School in 1956. He was privileged to serve both of these schools professionally -- as chaplain, director of college relations and assistant to the president for college relations at Randolph-Macon during a 23-year career and as associate development officer at Yale University, a position he accepted less than a year before his death of pneumonia May 30, 1988.

Born in 1930 to Clarence W. and Ruby McGehee Gibson, he married Eugenia Edmondson of Atlanta. The couple had two children, Candler McGehee and Miles Robert, both outstanding students and graduates of Yale University. With Eugenia, Bill was known for participation in community activities, gracious entertaining, and a love of meeting and getting to know people.

It was said of Bill that if the word “network” had not already been in our vocabulary, he would have invented it. In his early career, Bill served Centenary Methodist Church and Pace Memorial Methodist Church as minister. In 1964 he returned to Randolph-Macon College in Ashland to serve as chaplain, a position he held until 1979, when he was named director of college relations. In that capacity, he helped the college acquire an extensive art collection and oversaw the scheduling of cultural programs, convocations, and commencement. In addition, he identified, met with and cultivated hundreds of people who were interested in helping Randolph-Macon College financially.

Perhaps Bill’s most outstanding quality was his ability to say just the right thing, to be where someone was in need, or to push gently someone who was unsure. All of this he did with a quiet and gentle manner that focused attention away from himself and toward the other person. Bill was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Pi Gamma Mu, and Omicron Delta Kappa. In 1975 he was elected to the board of directors of the Abingdon Square Painters of New York City; in 1978 he became a trustee of Randolph-Macon Woman’s College, and in 1985 he was named to the board of the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. Memorial services were held at Yale’s Battell Chapel on June 1 and at Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church in Ashland on June 3. —*Linda N. Evans*

Forrest Sheldon Racey, 1902-1988

Dr. Forrest S. Racey was born June 9, 1902, in Purgitsville, West Virginia, to the Rev. and Mrs. Lee Allen Racey. His father was a minister in the Church of the United Brethren in Christ. Forrest received his education at Shenandoah Collegiate Institute (forerunner of Shenandoah College and Conservatory of Music), Bridgewater College, West Virginia University, and the University of Virginia. It was while he was employed in the extension department of West Virginia University that he began the prescribed reading program of the Virginia Conference that would lead to his ordination.



Before entering the United States Army as chaplain in 1942, he served the following charges in the Virginia Conference: Riverton, West Virginia (1930-1936); Pleasant Valley (1936-1940); and Augusta (1936-1942). After his service with the 841st combat engineers (1942-1946), he began his association with Shenandoah College and Conservatory of Music as an instructor in history. In 1956, his teaching responsibilities were extended to include economics and he began to take on administrative responsibilities: public relations, business manager and, in his own words, “Jobs that defied labels and

definition.” Simultaneously with the latter part of this period, he also served the Massanutten Charge (1952-1956).

Forrest became president of Shenandoah in 1956 and presided over the development of the new Winchester campus and the first nine years of Shenandoah’s life there. When Forrest retired in 1969, he took his appointment as president emeritus and his continued re-election to the college board of trustees seriously and never missed a meeting except for an extenuating circumstance. In addition, he involved himself in fund-raising activities for Shenandoah until shortly before his death. He accepted appointments from the district superintendent (most notably the Winchester Circuit, which he served from 1969-1979).

Alumni remember Forrest Racey as a sometimes unorthodox professor who knew his subject and loved teaching. Parishioners remember him as a caring, dedicated pastor who preached down-to-earth sermons and prayed exuberant prayers. Leaders of the Winchester area and the Virginia Conference remember him as a person who was never too busy to lend a helping hand and become wholeheartedly involved in community affairs. Many remember him for other reasons: his wealth of stories, his “healthy irreverence” in the presence of professional stuffiness, and his humility when others reached out to honor him.

In 1930, Forrest Racey married Leota Sullivan, who shared his interest in Shenandoah College and the parish ministry. She preceded him in death in 1981. In 1983, he married a second time. Hazel Gilmore, a native of Anderson, Indiana was, like her husband, an educator and devoted Christian. For five years, Forrest and Hazel charmed the Shenandoah campus and Winchester’s First United Methodist Church with their wit and goodwill. The Lord in his wisdom did not let one live long without the other. He called Forrest on June 8, 1988, and Hazel on June 16. At their request, nearly identical services were held for them at Shenandoah’s Goodson Chapel.

The bulk of the Racey estate has been left to Shenandoah College and Conservatory where basically through scholarship programs, the Raceys will be reaching out to help others far into the future. This was their final expression of the Lord’s will for their lives. —*Bruce C. Souder*

Paul Leroy Warner, 1897-1988

Paul Leroy Warner was born in Hamilton, Virginia, January 22, 1897, the son of Charles William and Medora Warner, grandson of George Washington and Virginia Warner. Paul anticipated the calling of the Gospel ministry, thus following his father, a Methodist evangelist, well-known in Northern Virginia and West Virginia. To that end, he enrolled at Asbury Academy in his 11th grade year and spent six happy years as a student at the academy and college. In 1920 he received his B.A. in liberal arts, together with his diplomas in theology and school of expression.

His pastorates in the old Baltimore conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, were in Round Hill, Virginia, Central Church in Ballston (now Arlington), Virginia, and Quantico, Virginia.

Because of continued deterioration in hearing and speech, resulting from having had scarlet fever as a child, he found pulpit and, especially pastoral work, to be increasingly difficult and frustrating. Faced with the need for alternative employment, he returned to his studies and graduated with his master of arts degree from the University of Virginia in 1927.

His career with the United States Department of Agriculture as an agricultural statistician began shortly thereafter and terminated in 1962 when he retired in Denver, Colorado with his wife, the former Lena Bray, whom he met while pastoring at the Ballston Charge. Following her death, he moved in 1976 to the United Methodist retirement community, The Hermitage, in Alexandria, Virginia where he was a resident until his death in June 1988.

Paul was ever a lover of the Gospel and in his declining years enjoyed sharing Scripture and prayer with some of the residents at The Hermitage. In his life and death he was a staunch supporter of his

beloved Asbury College which had served as his home for six vital years of his young manhood. He was a faithful Christian man with a keen sense of humor inherited from his father and with whom he shared a warm love for Christ and earnest expectation of his heavenly home and reunion with his mother, whose early death in Paul's childhood deprived him of a meaningful relationship he lamented through life.

Paul was buried in Columbia Gardens Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia, beside his wife, there awaiting the fullness of the great day of resurrection. —*Elmer M. Dortzbach and Clara Kuhlmann Dortzbach*

Virginia Barnes McClanan, 1923-1988

The Rev. Virginia Barnes McClanan was born in Princess Anne County, Virginia, December 25, 1923, to John Henry and Mary Elizabeth Henley Barnes. At 15 years of age, April 16, 1938, she married Ashville W. McClanan. Two children were born to this couple: Constance Patricia Johnson on July 31, 1943 and Wayne Anthony on May 7, 1951. Leaving school at an early age, it was not until 1956 that she earned her G.E.D. During the next 32 years, Virginia lived an exciting life as a servant for her Lord Jesus Christ. She loved and cared deeply for those around her; family, community, church and the world. In order to further her education, she attended the University of Richmond, Glenville College, Parkersburg Community College, and Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va. She completed her conference course of studies at Duke Divinity School. In 1972 she was ordained a deacon. She served a church in Reedy, West Virginia from 1972-1977. Many honors came her way as she was Outstanding Soil Conservation Minister of the Year in 1975 and Trader's Bank honored her for her work with the Roane County youth in 1974, 1975 and 1976. In 1981, Virginia entered the Virginia Conference where she served Knotts Island United Methodist Church in the Norfolk District from 1981 until she retired in 1988. In 1985, Virginia became an associate member of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church. Prior to her conversion and call to preach to the people of Back Bay, Pungo, and Knotts Island, she was known by many as a Red Cross aide, rural mail carrier for 16 years, news reporter for the Virginia Beach Sun and Norfolk Ledger Star, Courthouse Community League as director, and Princes Anne County Community Home Demonstration Club president. I met this wonderful servant of Christ in 1982 when we formed a caring community of ministers in the Pungo area of Virginia Beach. Virginia's heart and soul went out to all people, regardless of their need or station in life. Neither personal adversities nor physical pain kept Virginia from proclaiming that Jesus Lives and God is Love. Her death on July 21, 1988 saddened the people of Knotts Island and Back Bay. The indomitable will and courage of this woman will always be an inspiration to all who loved her. —*William F. Mahon*



John Lee Kibler, Jr., 1918-1988

On the 22nd day of September, 1918, John Lee Kibler Jr. was born to Myrtle and the Rev. John Lee Kibler Sr. Born to devout Christian parents and reared in a Methodist parsonage, John bore the marks of devotion to Methodism which he demonstrated all of his life. As a "preacher's kid" he was educated in various public schools of the Commonwealth. He graduated from Randolph-Macon College in 1939 and went on to do graduate work in Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. Early in his ministry he served Sandston United Methodist Church. While there, he married one of the young ladies of the church, Elizabeth Hopkins. Five children were born to this union: Betty Ann; John Lee III; William Carroll; Patricia Lynn; and David Barker. He served churches in Christiansburg, Sandston, Charles City, Fox Hill, Driver-Crittenden, Franktown-Johnsons, Bassett, Central in Richmond. His last appointment was Community in Virginia Beach, John left the pastoral ministry in 1967 and devoted the remainder of his career as a counselor for the Virginia Department of Vocational Rehabilitation. In 1973 he earned a master's degree in vocational rehabilitation counseling from Virginia Commonwealth University. He was held in high esteem by his co-workers. John's love and devotion to the United Methodist Church was visible during the years of his work as a rehabilitation counselor. During these

years he was active in Highland United Methodist Church in Colonial Heights. He served this local church in many capacities on boards, commissions, teaching in church school, filling in for the pastor when he was away. John was a willing worker! At the time of his death he was a trustee of the Petersburg District. He was a member of the Petersburg District Council on Ministries and served as its secretary. After his retirement as a rehabilitation counselor, he became the full-time “visiting minister” for Highland United Methodist Church. On the ninth day of August, 1988, John Lee Kibler Jr. laid aside these robes of flesh and slipped into the vestments of immortality. —*J. Floyd Carroll*

Floyd L. Fulk, 1911-1988

Born at Cootes Store in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, November 15, 1911, Floyd L. Fulk would become one of the most influential leaders of the former United Brethren in Christ Church, the Evangelical United Brethren Church, and the United Methodist Church. After receiving his early education in Broadway, Virginia, Floyd attended Shenandoah College and Conservatory, Madison College (now James Madison University), receiving his B.A. degree from Bridgewater College and his B.D. degree from Bonebrake Seminary (United Theological Seminary) in Dayton, Ohio. Later, he would receive a Doctorate of Divinity degree from Lebanon Valley College, Annville, Pennsylvania.



Ordained an elder in 1937, Floyd Fulk served pastorates in Dayton and Elkton, was elected to the office of superintendent in 1946 serving the Evangelical United Brethren Church in this capacity until 1970, and continuing under appointment as district superintendent in the United Methodist Church until 1973. Records indicate that his 27 years of service in the church as a district superintendent are the longest for any servant in the church. It was during these years as a district superintendent that he led the church through two mergers: the merger of the United Brethren in Christ and the Evangelical into the Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1948; followed by the merger of the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church into the United Methodist Church in 1968, although the final steps of this merger did not take place until 1969. The integrity and smoothness with which these mergers took place were in no small way due to the quality of Floyd’s leadership for the Virginia Conference. Records also indicate that during the 23 years of his leadership as district superintendent in the Evangelical United Brethren Church of the Virginia Conference, more growth in physical plants, parsonages, and membership occurred than any other period of history, while salaries for ministers serving with him reached new heights. It was during these years of Floyd’s leadership that Camp Overlook was developed and the move of Shenandoah College and Conservatory of Music from Dayton, Virginia to Winchester, Virginia was realized.

Recognized as a man of keen wit and deep intellect, Dr. Fulk was in demand as a guest speaker throughout the churches of the conference as well as many civic organizations. His energy and leadership quality were not only evident in the church he loved both in civic organizations where he served as a District Governor for the Lions International and as a member of the Elkton Masonic Lodge.

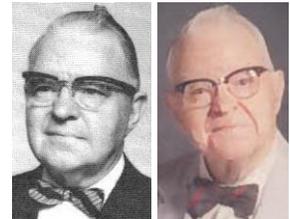
Memorial services for Dr. Floyd L. Fulk were conducted in the Sunset Drive United Methodist Church of Broadway, August 18, 1988. He is survived by his wife, Marie Olinger Fulk, whom he married May 14, 1938; two sons, George N. Fulk and Robert G. Fulk, a daughter, Joyce F. Bedell; and four grandchildren.

It would be impossible to fully determine the influence of this servant of God upon the church and countless numbers of lives scattered throughout the world. For, through his ministry in the churches of the conference, his membership on many of the major boards and agencies of the conference and denomination, Floyd’s contribution was a determining factor in the progress achieved. Those who knew him, clergy and laity alike, and had the privilege of serving with him, knew that there was a man who, from humble beginnings, became one of Christ’s most devoted servants.

Undoubtedly, this devotion came from places Floyd could look to the beauty and grandeur of the mountains that cast their shadows over the Valley of the Shenandoah where he could attune himself to the feelings of the Psalmist: “I will look unto the hills. From whence cometh my help? My help cometh from the Lord who made the heavens and the earth.” —*Thomas L Coffman*

James Elmore Brown, 1896-1988

“On the 31st of July, 1896, I made my appearance to change the world for my parents, Albert and Harriet Bliss Brown.” Thus begins the autobiography of James Elmore Brown who influenced and changed the world for many throughout his lifetime. He was born and raised in Lynn, Massachusetts, and attended public schools there until his college years. Influenced by Bishop Edwin Hughes, he enrolled at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio. After graduation in 1921, he entered the School of Theology at Boston University from where he received both his Bachelor and Master of Theology degrees. His Doctorate of Theology was awarded from the International Seminary in Orlando, Florida in 1981, and how he loved the title that degree gave him! He was ordained elder in 1922 and was a member of the New England conference until 1949 when he transferred to Virginia.



Besides his numerous charges in New England, he was president of the conference Board of Education and a member of the Massachusetts Council of Churches. From 1944 to 1948 he was the chaplain of the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Throughout the years he had opportunity to offer prayer also in the Massachusetts Senate, the Senate and House of Delegates of Virginia as well as the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States. He felt this might be a unique record.

The transfer to the Virginia Conference began a new chapter. His appointments included Chester, Chesterfield Heights in Norfolk, Laurel Street in Richmond, High Street in Petersburg, St. John’s in Staunton, and Oakland in Richmond. Although he officially re-tired in 1965, he continued influencing others by supplying pulpits, teaching, writing, and helping with the establishment of the Ashland District of the Virginia Conference. He became the co-founder and first president of the Historical Society of that district. His great interest in religious education led him to develop leadership training courses for church school workers which he taught throughout Virginia. His first book, *The Struggle for Trained Teachers*, written as his Master’s thesis, was published by the General Board of Education of the Methodist Church because of its value to Christian education.

While he was cataloging the papers of Bishop Paul Neff Garber who had been a longtime friend, it was suggested that, since he knew so much about Garber, he should write a book about him. The result was his second book, *Paul Neff Garber: A Bishop of Destiny*. In 1977, Elmore and his wife, Marion, entered The Hermitage in Richmond where they both were active and influential participants in the life there. Elmore was always the minister -conducting chapel services, communion services, providing weekly programs for those in the Via Health Care Center, serving on committees, as well as establishing programs and activities for the Home. He was co-founder of the Men’s Brotherhood, chaired the Residents’ Council and the Religious Activities Committee, sang in the men’s chorus and was drummer for the Rythmaires. After his wife of 58 years died, he wrote a third book, *Marion Reid Brown, Her Philosophy of Life*, as a tribute to her many creative writing and artistic talents.

Following the suggestion that he write of his own life, *One of the Brown Boys* came about as a review and an evaluation of more than nine decades of experiences as well as a record for the family. Elmore’s final project was the creation of an annual lecture to be held at The Hermitage for the promotion and enhancement of the spiritual, cultural, and social well-being of the residents. His

financial gift has helped to establish an endowment fund for the continuance of the lecture series. His last day matched his life -,- active and busy. He died August 17, 1988. A memorial service of celebration for Elmore's life and ministry was held at Ginter Park United Methodist Church, Richmond, August 21, 1988. Family members who survive him are Mrs. Joyce B. Soto of Chester, Virginia; Mrs. Diane B. Higgins of Richmond; five grand- daughters and four great-grandsons. —*Joyce Brown*

Francis Henry Strieby, 1903-1988

Francis Henry Strieby entered into eternal life October 15, 1988, and was buried in Levels, West Virginia near his Hampshire County birthplace. Born March 18, 1903, one of six children of a Christian farmer, builder, he was raised close to God and nature in apple orchard country. Following 8th grade graduation, he attended Shepherd State College and Normal School where he was befriended by the Rev. James H. Haley who encouraged his transfer to Randolph-Macon Academy following his call to the ministry. Before graduating in 1923, he waited tables and assisted on a nearby circuit. At Asbury College, Wilmore, Kentucky, he sold books and typewriters, managed tent crews for itinerant evangelists and worked on the reconstruction of a burned dormitory, applying carpentry skills learned from his father. On graduation day in 1927 he married his classmate, Jane Coffee, and both enrolled in Asbury Theological Seminary. Francis served a student appointment in Kentucky, having qualified as local preacher in the Morefield District in 1925. His appointment to Bellepoint-River View churches in Hinton, West Virginia brought him back to the Baltimore conference. He was ordained a deacon and received into full connection in 1930 and ordained an elder in 1933. The Strieby's daughter was born in Hinton and their son at their next charge in Mt. Crawford, Virginia. Francis then served Ridgeway, West Virginia charge. Unification of Methodist churches occurred during his appointment to Wood- stock, Virginia. His first assignment in the new Virginia Conference was Denny Street, Richmond, where they suffered the loss of their son. Subsequent appointments were McKendree, Norfolk; Del Ray, Alexandria; Ramsey Memorial, Richmond; Scott Memorial, Virginia Beach; Belmont, Roanoke; Highland, Colonial Heights; and Ferebee-Halstead, Norfolk. After 41 years of service, Francis and Jean retired to their home in Virginia Beach. In his "Sylvan Dell" (named for his one-room school in West Virginia), Francis raised award-winning camellias and his prized "Peace" roses. During retirement, he served many churches in Tidewater, including an associate position at Virginia Beach Church and a six-month interim at Foundry. Jane passed away in 1975. The following year, Francis married Mary, widow of the Rev. "Mike" Garrison, whom the Striebys met while serving in the Norfolk District in the 1940s. Enjoying the blessing of their new partnership, they served many nearby churches as preacher and organist. They shared a renewed life in travel, the arts, grand-parenting and their mutual dedication to the service of God. Mary remained his faithful companion throughout the years of declining health and ultimate dependency. Francis as a "good minister of Jesus Christ," served without stain of character, with deep conviction to the truths of the Gospel and total dedication to his congregations. An excellent preacher with well-prepared sermons, impeccable personal appearance, passion for the souls of all people, devotion to family, love of children, appreciation of fine music, sincere enjoyment of life, dedication to the stewardship of the earth and its creatures -- these were the marks of this man of God, Francis Strieby, whose life we honor in triumphant celebration. —*Carl W Haley and Jane S. Simmons*



William Leonard Scarce, 1908-1988

One was always glad to see Bill Scarce. His presence involved a sincere warmth, a big smile, and usually, a humorous story. His life was lived out for over 40 years as a faithful pastor in the Virginia Conference.

William Leonard Scarce was born March 20, 1908 in Danville, Virginia. His father, William L. Scarce Sr., died before his son's birth. Bill never used the junior in his name.



His high school education was completed at Ferrum where he was valedictorian of the Class of 1929. From there he went to William and Mary College, graduating in 1932. His theological degree was received from Duke Divinity School.

On April 28, 1933, the Rev. E. R. Collie performed the ceremony that united Alice York and William Scarce. Their union lasted 55 years. Their daughter, Emilie Sue, now lives in Richmond. During the last decade of his life, when he was the victim of Alzheimer's disease, Alice committed her life to his care in an act of devotion that was characteristic of their long life together.

His appointments were Denbigh-Morrison, which he served while a student at William and Mary; Richmond Circuit, Decatur Street in Richmond; Onancock, Marquis Memorial, Culpeper. Granbery Memorial. Main Street in South Boston, Broad Street in Portsmouth, Main Street in Danville, Berryman, Bon Air in Richmond, and Washington Street in Petersburg. Five of his 13 appointments had "Street" in their names. Like his entire ministry, his preaching was energetic, filled with a good spirit and reflective of the keen mind that he possessed. He had few hobbies, his ministry and family being quite enough to fill up his life. Bill did like ball games, crossword puzzles and poetry, which occasionally allowed him a diversion.

Funeral services were conducted at Berryman United Methodist Church November 3, 1988 by the Rev. Norman G. Preston Jr. and Dr. Earl W. Paylor Jr. Interment was in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Richmond.

Good friend goodbye
Your laughter remains in memory's long halls
That lead to vistas, now shadowed
Where once your coming Brought a welcomed light. —*Bernard S. Via, Jr.*

Robert Lee Nuckols, 1913-1988

R. Lee Nuckols was born June 30, 1913, near Stuarts Draft, Augusta County, Virginia, the son of the late Edward Franklin and Mary Taylor Nuckols. He was an early employee of the Staunton Furniture Company. After his marriage to Miss Marjorie Louise Hall of Staunton, he was engaged in his father's mercantile business. He served with the U.S. Navy in World War II. He later became an employee and salesman for the Staunton Steam Laundry. It was in these days of early adult life that he was closely associated with the Beverley Street Methodist Church (today, Christ United Methodist Church) and came under the influence of the Rev. Dewey N. Weiford, for many years his pastor. It was under Brother Weiford's ministry that Lee felt the "call to preach." With limited background and training, he was soon off to Emory University for four successive summers and then two additional summers at Duke, supplementing his training and greatly enriching his background. He first took work in 1948, assigned to the Blue Grass Charge in Highland County. Soon he was at Craigsville in Augusta and then back in Highland at McDowell for three years. His subsequent years in the Virginia Conference were at Huddleston (1954), Gretna (1956), Sherando-Lyndhurst (1959), Parish Court, Covington (1962), Lafayette (1967), Patrick Springs (1968), Mead Memorial (1970), Trinity, Lynchburg (1972), and Natural Bridge (1975). He retired in declining health in 1978, having given the conference 30 years of constant and faithful service.



In business he took his father-in-law's business and prospered. For many years he was in charge of tent evangelism for the conference, setting up tents, conducting revivals and leading in singing. In many of his churches, there was construction. The former Leftwich Church was replaced with the new Huddleston Church. Mt. Horeb was rebuilt. On the Gretna Circuit, Zion received a new edifice after a fire. Siloam was also rebuilt. Parish Court in Covington was perhaps his most significant achievement.

Leading a tiny congregation at Edgemont to build a new edifice in Parish Court (which became the foundation for the present strong church), was accomplished in his five-year pastorate.

Lee Nuckols was a “people’s person,” known for his human understanding, his ability to identify with people in their need. Many in Staunton yet speak of his profound influence in their early youth at Beverley Street. Others remember him as a great storyteller and how he charmed little children.

The country people loved him because he “spoke their language.” He “preached the Bible.” He counseled with every couple he ever married, and he knew the special secret of bringing comfort to the bereaved. In situations of human stress and turmoil, his presence was always one of calming, reassuring effect.

Here was a man who loved his work and was loved in turn by his people. He was also a faithful husband and family man. Robert Lee Nuckols died in his 76th year, Thursday, November 3, 1988, at Roanoke Memorial Hospital. His funeral was on the following Monday at Christ Church, Staunton, Virginia, led by the Rev. Roy O. Creech, pastor; and William C. Logan, district superintendent, with interment in the Thornrose Cemetery, Staunton.

He is survived by his wife, Marjorie Hall Nuckols; two sons, Ernest E. Nuckols of Staunton and W. Steve Nuckols of Roanoke; six grandchildren, two of whom are children of a deceased daughter, Norma Lee Rexrode.

Known and loved by so many far and wide, our brother, Robert Lee Nuckols, will ever remain in the hearts of our people as God’s special representative. —John Wynn Myers

Raymond E. Campbell, 1911-1988

The Rev. Raymond E. Campbell was born December 13, 1911, in Bath County, Virginia, to Walter Lee and Bessie (Paxton) Campbell. He married Edna Lavon Fulwider, who preceded him in death December 16, 1950. Seven children were born from this union: Mary Christine, Raymond Lee, Victor Elwood, Edna Lavon, Tyrone Stephen, Dorothy Louella and Rebecca Ann. On June 29, 1951, the Rev. Campbell married Bertha Inez Whitesell and together they served the Lord in many fields of service during their lives together. Of this union one daughter, Sandra Helen, was born; and one son, Jonathan Grey. The Rev. Campbell is survived by his nine children, 13 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.



The Rev. Campbell served his country in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Upon his return from his duty in the Navy, he was converted in a revival meeting at First Church of the Nazarene in Staunton, Virginia, in the summer of 1950 and the Lord called him into Christian service. He began working for God’s kingdom shortly thereafter.

He, along with his companion Bertha, served with their preaching and singing all over the state. Some of the areas they served were: Cumberland, Maryland EUB, Edinburg Charge, Churchville Charge, Pleasant Valley in Harrisonburg, Union Charge in Columbia Furnace, Bethlehem EUB in Swoope, Mt. Herman, Mt. Jackson and many more. He and Bertha were well known for their ministry of preaching and singing. After his retirement, the Rev. Campbell continued to be guest minister at various churches and performed weddings and funerals. They sang for many homecomings and revivals.

While at Pleasant Valley, the Rev. and Mrs. Campbell released an album of gospel songs, four of which were composed by the Rev. Campbell. During the years that followed, because of failing health, he and Bertha spent winters in St. Augustine, Florida, and later moved to Pomona Park, Florida, where he departed this life November 6, 1988. Funeral services were held at Henry Funeral Home in Staunton, Virginia, the Rev. Paul E. Bohi officiating. He was laid to rest in Thornrose Cemetery, Staunton, Virginia. —Christine C. Huff

Scott Lanier Reynolds, 1911-1988

Scott Lanier Reynolds was born August 12, 1911 at Paint Bank (Craig County), Virginia, the son of the late Oscar Washington and Annie Wright Reynolds. Upon graduation from high school he was employed at Steger Pharmacy, Covington, Virginia, for many of his youthful years. He married the former Miss Juanita Bryan of Paint Bank and they were the parents of one daughter. She preceded her husband in death in 1970. Mrs. Reynolds was the sister of the late Rev. Robert F. Bryan of the Virginia Conference. In January 1940, the Rev. Reynolds was a part of a great revival at Granbery Memorial Methodist Church in Covington, Virginia. This revival deepened his commitment to Christ and influenced his later life.



In 1948, he joined the Chrysler Corporation and for 10 years was sales manager in North Carolina. After retirement in 1958, he came to Roanoke with Fulton Motor Company. He was an active member of West End United Methodist Church and soon became closely associated with Goodwill Industries, Inc. and the Rev. Lewis Ovenshire, director.

His close association with Brother Ovenshire brought him into Christian work. He was called to serve our church where there was need for his recognized skills. In 1966, he was asked to serve Goodwin Memorial in Salem and also Halls Church. In 1969, he was “promoted” to a four-church charge at Catawba, which he served for seven years. During his tenure at Catawba he married his present wife, Eula A. Reynolds. A chaplaincy at Catawba Hospital for five years was also a part of his ministry on the Catawba Charge. At the Virginia Annual Conference in June 1972, Lanier Reynolds was ordained deacon. In 1975 he was asked to serve Mount Pleasant and Pierce Chapel churches west of Fincastle, where he continued as pastor for more than 13 years, until the time of his death.

Scott Lanier Reynolds was among the finest of our lay preachers, devoted to the cause of Christ throughout his entire life and serving our conference under appointment for more than 22 years. He always manifested, both in his face and in his manner of life, the character of Jesus whom he adored.

The folks at Goodwin Memorial remember, “He told us that he could preach better with a choir, so he immediately organized one. Some of the members are in our choir today.”

At the four Catawba churches they say of him, “He was noted for his congeniality and his personal concern for every member. Blessed with a quick wit, a good sense of humor, Lanier always maintained a bright outlook on life.”

Members of Mount Pleasant and Pierce Chapel look back upon his long and stable 13-year ministry with profound respect. “He loved music and singing; he shared our happiness and our tears; he taught us about God and our Savior; he loved both the young and the old; he was the most dedicated minister we have ever known, and in total disregard to his health, he kept on going.” Words such as courteous, agreeable, energetic, intelligent, lovable, devoted servant, and young of heart are used in describing him.

Scott Lanier Reynolds died Tuesday, December 6, 1988 at Lewis Gale Hospital in Roanoke, Virginia. His funeral was held at Oakey’s North Chapel with a very large attendance and conducted by the Rev. Ward L. Donat, district superintendent, and the Rev. Arthur E. Grant, with burial in the Bryan Cemetery at Paint Bank, Virginia.

He is survived by his wife, Eula Akers Reynolds; one daughter and son-in-law, Nancy R. and L. Barry Brown, two grandsons, and one granddaughter of Radford; also a stepson, Carlton Bowyer and wife, Tamara, of Virginia Beach; one step-grandson; and Mrs. Muriel McCaleb of Paint Bank, Virginia, his only sister.

In loving memory of a devoted friend and brother in Christ, we now give thanks to Almighty God. He will remain in our hearts. —*John Wynn Myers*

Jacob R. Miller, 1918-1989

The Rev. Jacob “Jake” Miller, a retired minister, died Jan. 10, 1989. The Rev. Miller went into the ministry in 1967. He served Bethel Church, Woodbridge; Register Chapel, Stafford; Eastland-Zion, Spotsylvania; and finally Grace Church, Hartwood. He retired while serving at Grace in 1987 with 20 faithful years of service. The Rev. Miller was 70 years old at his death. He was born in Lebanon, Pa., Dutch country. This warm heritage was seen in every aspect of his ministry. The Rev. Miller showed his love for the children by having a special time in each hour of worship to give them a simple but loving message from the word of God. He showed such love and enthusiasm in the stories he shared with them, making them feel a part of the worship service.



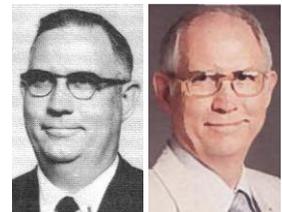
The Rev. Miller had a great love and knowledge of the word of God and gladly shared the Scripture whenever the opportunity came. Jake loved to sing and often shared his beautiful Dutch voice with the church choirs or sang solos. His favorite song was “How Great Thou Art.” This was not only his favorite song; he lived his life believing the words of this great song.

Jake may have retired, but he did not stop preaching or sharing the word of God. He was always in great demand to fill pulpits of other ministers. Jake touched the lives of so many for so long. When someone was down or had sorrows, he often stopped by with a smile, a prayer and a song. Jake is survived by his wife Hazel. They were always together and shared the love of God’s children. Hazel was always there with a kind word, a warm hug and a lovely smile of encouragement. Hazel is still carrying on Jake’s ministry in her community through the love that she shows others and the comfort she provides them, even during her time of sorrow.

The Rev. Jake Miller will truly be missed but not forgotten. —*Dr. R. L. Russell*

Archer Rudder Turner, 1920-1989

Archer Rudder Turner was born July 20, 1920 in Clarksville, Va., a son of the Rev. Virginius Rudder and Lelia Ligon Turner. He spent his childhood in Korea where his parents were Methodist missionaries. He received his B.A. degree from Lynchburg College in 1942 and his Master of Divinity degree from Duke University in 1945. He also earned a certificate in Far Eastern Studies from Yale University.



Archer began his ministry in the Virginia Conference in 1945 at Pamplin. In 1946 he married Ethel Lloyd Thomas of Gloucester, who as a bride went with Archer to Yale for training and both were commissioned as missionaries to Korea, where they served four years. Serving the rest of his ministry in the Virginia Conference, his appointments were: Gladys, Crittenden-Chuckatuck, Cape Charles, Sherbourne Avenue, Zion-Grace, Urbanna, Toano, associate at Trinity in Alexandria, Ettrick, and Lynnhaven. Archer took disability leave in 1976 and retired in 1986. It was in my first appointment in Lynchburg, Virginia that I got to know Archer. He was a high school student and president of the senior department of Court Street Church. Then in youth camps and summer assemblies I saw in Archer a young person who was capable, conscientious, and committed to the Christian way. Many years later I was fortunate to have him as my associate at Trinity, Alexandria, where he and his family meant much to me as well as the life and ministry of Trinity Church. He was a dedicated, capable, and effectual minister.

Throughout his ministry, Archer had a helpmate in Ethel. I always felt Ethel was a co-minister with her husband. She was supportive in all of the various aspects of the church’s ministry and worked creatively in the youth program. Those were the turbulent ‘60s and Archer and Ethel understood the concerns of the youth and were skilled in directing their activities so that these would be meaningful to the youth and acceptable to the adults. Rudd, their son of high school age, was an asset in the process. In

a remarkable way, the three Turners were a team in ministry through the church. Ethel says she is deeply grateful for the privilege of having participated with Archer in the church's ministry.

For 12 years Archer was not well, but he and Ethel were not defeated by it. It seemed their love and understanding deepened during those days. Service was a motivating power in Archer's life, and he wished to be of service after death which came February 22, 1989. At his request, his body was donated to the Medical College of Hampton Roads in Norfolk, for medical research and education.

A memorial service was held at Court Street Church, April 2, which proclaimed the character, quality and dedication of this life. George Wesley Jones, who was ordained with Archer in Court Street Church in 1944, gave the eulogy, and a grandson, David Bryant Turner, gave a Scripture reading. The bulletin carried a statement from the family concerning what Court Street Church meant to Archer:

"You gave him roots and wings. He found nurture and challenge in your stately beauty of worship, the study and outreach of your Christian education, and the personal inspiration of your fellowship.... It was in this sanctuary that Archer was ordained as a Methodist minister.... That ordination defined his life's meaning and purpose. We rejoice that we shared his love of family and in his life's journey of faith."

Archer is survived by his wife, Ethel Thomas Turner; one son, A. Rudder Turner Jr.; two grandsons, David Bryant Turner and Christopher Lloyd Turner; and three sisters and a brother.

Archer was a "natural" for the Christian ministry and through his life many lives were blessed. He is worthy of the scriptural commendation -"Well done, thou good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of thy Lord." —*Hampden H. Smith, Jr.*

Bledsoe Blain Kent, 1900-1989

Bledsoe Blain Kent, or BB as he was known, was born September 7, 1900, in Nelson County, Virginia. Mr. Kent, as the writer always addressed him, was a very active lay person in the United Methodist Church for more than 60 years before he was licensed as a local pastor. As a lay person, BB married Susie Kent and they raised five children -one son and four daughters. During Mr. Kent's service as a lay person, he was a church school teacher at Batesville, an associate lay leader for 10 years (1935-45) and district lay leader for 10 years (1955-65), in addition to being a lay speaker for many of those years in the Charlottesville District. As a matter of historical record, BB was one of five ministers to enter the Virginia Conference from the Batesville Church. He was the third to die.



Civil duty was important to Mr. Kent as he was a member of the Odd Fellows, Rebekah, Ruritan and a 32nd Degree Mason. After retiring from Blue Ridge Farm in Albemarle County near Greenwood, Mr. Kent was appointed to the North Madison Charge where he served until 1974. The nine years of licensed ministry exemplified his life of faithfulness to his Lord. He served with honor and distinction.

At his funeral on March 10, 1989 at Crozet, Virginia, there were present five ordained ministers: the Rev. Joseph T. Carson Jr.; the Rev. Gerald P. Coleman; the Rev. E. Thomas Murphy Jr., district superintendent; the Rev. Wm. Anthony Layman; and Dr. William N. Wade. As they came and shared, they expressed the depth of a man in whom God lived and through whom they were made richer for BB's faithfulness. Well done, thy good and faithful servant. —*Wm. Anthony Layman*

Lineous Preston Bland, Jr., 1900-1989

Unto Linius Payne Bland and Mary Ellen Padgett Bland, a son was born, September 29, 1900, while they were living at Cash, Virginia, Gloucester County, whom they named Lineous Preston Bland Jr. The father died seven months later, leaving the responsibility of three children to the faithful and God-loving mother. Mary Ellen Bland did not marry again, for she felt that her time and talents must be used in training her children in the basics of life, such as faith in God, faith in themselves, and faith in other

people. She also believed her children must find a profession or vocation whereby they would have a part in building a better life for all persons.

Lineous Preston Bland Jr. attended the public schools of Gloucester County until his junior year in high school. At this time he entered Ferrum Training School where he remained the entire school session, even though he lost much time from sickness caused by malaria in his system. During the first month of the second year, the local doctor recommended that Preston transfer to some school in central Virginia, due to the malaria condition. Burkeville, Virginia was selected, where he graduated from high school in June 1920. In the fall of 1920, he became a freshman at Randolph-Macon College. Preston returned to Randolph-Macon College for his second year. On September 29, 1921 (his birthday) he was taken ill and the college physician diagnosed his case as typhoid fever. He was told that he would have to spend a month or two in the infirmary or return home. Home was his choice. In the fall of 1922, Preston returned to Randolph-Macon and completed the sophomore year. After having taken the next year working to save money for the college fees, Preston enrolled in Roanoke College in September 1924. He graduated in June 1926 with a B.A. degree. His theological studies were through correspondence courses from Emory University. On June 8, 1926, Preston married Ethel Price Heckman, a public school teacher in the City of Roanoke, whose mother was the Rev. Roy Price's sister and whose father was a brother of the Rev. J. W. Heckman of the Virginia Annual Conference. To this union the following children were born: Lineous Preston Bland III, Portsmouth, Va.; Benjamin Price Bland, Plano Texas; Mrs. Nan Bland Seeley, Wakefield, Va.; and James Leftwich Bland, Richmond, Va. Lineous Preston Bland Jr. served the following appointments in the Virginia Annual Conference: South Albemarle, 1926-1929; Green, 1929-1933; Prince Edward, 1933-1936; Clarksville, 1936-1940; Grema, 1940-1947; Tappahannock, 1947-1952; Wakefield, 1952-1963; and Kenbridge, 1963-1967, from which he retired. After retirement he served Clarendon, 1970-1973. On June 6, 1976, the children of the Rev. and Mrs. Bland honored their parents on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary, at Rocky Hock United Methodist Church on the Wakefield Charge. Hundreds of friends from various churches where they had served were in attendance. —*The Bland Family*

James W. Rush Sr., 1923-1989

The Apostle Paul wrote profoundly when he addressed the Corinthian Church: “Therefore, by the mercy of God we do not lose heart. For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ our Lord, with ourselves as servants for Jesus’ sake. For it is the God who said, ‘let light shine out of darkness,’ who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us” (2 Corinthians 4:1, 5-7).



When I heard once again these magnificent and inspiring words of Scripture at the service of James Wallace Rush Sr., April 6, 1989, I could not help but feel the presence of “Jim” and picture in my mind’s eye his warm, broad smile. He was a servant of God who loved the Lord with all his being, and he was a man who loved people above self.

Jim was born the second of four sons to Dr. Charles C. Rush Sr., and Flossie Grant Rush, March 12, 1923 in Harrisonburg, Virginia. His boyhood and youth were tied closely to the McGaheysville community where he lived, attended primary and secondary school, and was a faithful member with his family in the McGaheysville Methodist Church. Following graduation from McGaheysville High School in 1941, he began his college studies as a pre-ministerial student. The Lord’s call was strong “Upon his heart.” However, World War II caused him to decide to serve his country and he joined the Air Force in the fall of 1942.

During that time God’s call to ministry was being experienced by Jim as he worked as a chaplain’s aide. Thus, his desire for ordained ministry was reinforced. After the war Jim enrolled in Randolph-

Macon College in Ashland, Virginia, graduating in 1950. It was while he was at Randolph-Macon that he first met his wife to be, Mabel Spence Watson. She had earlier graduated from Union Theological Seminary's School of Christian Education. During the summer of 1954, while a senior at the Duke Theological Seminary, Jim married Mabel who was to be his strong "help mate" in ministry for 35 years.

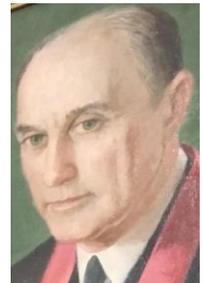
God blessed their family with a son, "Jim Jr.," born in 1957. This child brought an even deeper dimension of faith and love to the family. Out of those ties of love, Jim's ministry found special meaning as he served as vice president of the Virginia United Methodist Agency for the Retarded and executive committee member and secretary of the Mental Health and Retardation Board of Virginia Beach.

Jim Rush's pastoral ministry extended across the Virginia Conference from Southside Virginia to Tidewater, from Northern Virginia to Roanoke, and finally back to Tidewater where he concluded his assigned ministry at First United Methodist Church of Hampton in June of 1988. During these years, particularly from 1956 forward, Jim Rush was one of my special friends. He was minister to me and my future wife, Dreanna, while we were teenagers in the Methodist Youth Fellowship in Epworth Church, Norfolk from 1956 through 1960. As teenagers we held him in great respect and always appreciated his sensitivity, attitude of joy, and his infectious smile. There was something about that smile, that gentleness, that love for people that endeared this servant of the Lord to me and many, many others.

On April 3, God called Jim Rush to "that Kingdom not made with hands." Three days later a Service of Death and Resurrection was held at the McGaheysville United Methodist Church. The service was conducted by the Rev. Jon S. Stewart, church pastor; "Dr. Pat Simon of Lynchburg; and the Rev. L Carl Whitten, Harrisonburg District superintendent. Burial was in the Mt. Olivet cemetery. Jim is survived by his dear wife Mabel Watson Rush, his beloved son James Wallace Rush Jr., and his three brothers, Dr. Grant Rush, Charles C. Rush Jr., and Dr. Laird L Rush. We thank God for this Servant of the church through whom "God's Light and Love did Shine!" —*E. Thomas Murphy, Jr.*

James L. Robertson, 1910-1989

Early on Sunday, April 30, 1989 the first person to walk through the doors of Arlington Temple was a street person. Billy had no home, no money, no food and new clothes, and no sound theological doctrine. It is significant that he came on this day because the church and community were honoring the coronation of Jim Robertson, who died April 21. Billy and thousands like him are the very ones Dr. Robertson felt God's call to help. God had given this humble man a vision of putting a church, not where the "experts" said it should be, but in a place where bishop or bum, rich or pauper, influential or nameless, could come for worship and help.



Jim built such a church of the marketplace in the concrete jungle of Rosslyn, Virginia. His ministry of taking God's love to people where they hurt extended beyond Arlington Temple to the three retirement homes he built: The Hermitage in Northern Virginia, The Washington House, and The Virginian. James Louis Robertson was born in Craigsville, Virginia, the eighth child of John and Sarah.

At an early age, he heard the call of God to serve his fellow men and women as he trod the mountains behind their home. At 16 he preached in the Charlottesville area and entered Randolph-Macon College. As a senior, and student pastor at Kenwood Church, Elmont, Virginia, he met Eva Priddy, whom he later married. He entered Duke Divinity School and upon graduation served the Rockbridge Baths Charge (three churches). Following pastorates in Berkeley Springs, Romney, Piedmont, West Virginia, and Orange, Virginia, Jimmy, Eva and their young daughter, Sara, went to Highland Park Church in Richmond. In 1954 he moved to Northern Virginia, Clarendon Church, then on to The Hermitage, as its first administrator in 1961. In all his pastorates, 14 young people entered full-

time Christian service. While building The Hermitage, Jim conceived of and gained support for Arlington Temple, a place for worship, study, counsel, and gathering in the commercial areas of Rosslyn.

George McLeod writes: “I simply argue that the cross should be raised at the center of the marketplace as well as on the steeple of the church. I am recovering the claim that Jesus was not crucified in a cathedral between two candles, but on a cross between two thieves; on the town’s garbage heap; at a crossroad, so cosmopolitan they had to write his title in Hebrew and Latin and Greek...at the kind of place where cynics talk smut, and thieves curse, and soldiers gamble. Because that is where he died. And that is what he died for. And that is what he died about. That is where [the] church ought to be and what [the] church ought to be about.”

These things Jim did, but beyond it all, he was like the Apostle Paul. Jim Robertson, too, was a revered veteran missionary with an uncompromising character of wisdom, love, and dedication to the Kingdom. Dr. James L. Robertson, a Christian gentleman, fought the good fight, finished the race, kept the faith, and thus received his kingly award.

I, like Timothy, who sat at Paul’s feet, was deeply blessed to sit at Jim’s feet. —*Jack C. Sawyer*

Albert Edward Gingrich, 1901-1989

Albert Edward Gingrich, born in Nelson Township in Ontario, Canada, Nov. 9, 1901, and died April 29, 1989, in Hampton, Va. He held a Bachelor’s degree from Ohio Wesleyan University and a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Boston University’s School of Theology. He was the husband of Constance Lane Gingrich of Hampton; and the father of three daughters: Priscilla G. Tabor of Colloden, W.Va.; Carol G. Catron of Simpsonville, S.C.; and Rosemary G. Parks of Hampton, Va.; and had nine grandchildren. Upon the Gingriches’ 50th wedding anniversary in 1982, the Albert and Constance Gingrich Scholarship Fund was established at Ferrum College. The perpetual fund is used for Ferrum students.



Mr. Gingrich began his pastoral career in the Virginia Conference in 1950 serving the Culpeper Circuit. Other pastorates he served included: South Brunswick Charge in Brodnax; New Castle Charge, New Castle; East Franklin Charge, Pen hook; Franklin Charge, Burnt Chimney; Middlesex Charge, Saluda; Swain Memorial Church, Tangier; Prices Fork Charge, Blacksburg; Greenville Charge, Emporia; Greenbackville Charge, Greenbackville; and the Leemont Charge, Onancock. He retired to Bedford, Virginia in 1977 and his home church became Main Street Church but he also attended Court Street Church on occasion. From 1977-1979 he was the visiting pastor of Timberlake Church. He also served the Tyreeanna Charge in Lynchburg from 1979 to 1980.

I met Mr. Gingrich 25 years ago. The following are excerpts from a column I write for the Sun, a community news section of The Virginian-Pilot and The Ledger Star, which I dedicated to Mr. Gingrich.

“Have you ever known someone who seemed absolutely timeless? You know the type I’m talking about: The person who seems totally unchanged by the years of anything they might have brought; the person who, despite the realities of mortality, seems to be forever there, somehow having defied the clock.

“It’s the way I’d come to think of the Rev. Albert E. Gingrich. “He was the going-est man I ever met. He put 287,000 miles on the ugliest blue Volvo I ever saw, with jury-rigged everything: a tailpipe held in place with coat hanger wire, a carburetor aided by a clothes pin, string everywhere to do only the good Lord and the Rev. Gingrich knew what. Yet, he always got there. Not always on time, and most often with greasy hands to testify to a round with that old car. But he got there, smiling.

“The easy way and his love of tinkering are the two things that came immediately to mind last week when I heard that Mr. Gingrich had died at 88.

“That may seem old to some people, but I never even noticed a change in his gait from the time I first met him 25 years ago. “Three years ago, for instance, when the annual conference of the Virginia United Methodist Church was held in Virginia Beach, I was both amused and amazed when he and his wife Connie invited me to go to a late-night performance of a play after they had attended meetings that whole day. A lot of folks much younger than the Gingriches just couldn’t make it. After the play, they drove to Hampton to spend the night.

“Last year, when I visited them at their home in Bedford, Mr. Gingrich again demonstrated that his inventiveness thrived. When the bellows on a small organ wore out, he figured out a way to put the back end of a vacuum cleaner against the organ to fill the bellows. The combination didn’t make for the best sound, he allowed with a hearty laugh, but it worked.

“That was his way, to waste nothing. It was no surprise to me, then, to learn that his body would be cremated. I can just hear him explaining that a grave would just take up space on this good earth.

“And if ever there was somebody who truly believed that the Earth is the Lord’s, it was Mr. Gingrich. In services conducted in places as diverse as Burnt Chimney in the mountains, on Tangier Island in mid-Chesapeake Bay and in a black church on the Eastern Shore, he spread his message.

A conversation with him was a smorgasbord. One minute it was diets for healthy living, the next how troubled he was that some people would say, ‘It’s the Lord’s will’ when tragic things came into their lives. Then he might switch to his recollection of a visit backstage with John Denver, arranged by one of his three daughters as part of the Gingriches’ golden anniversary.

“Always, too, were the stories of ‘the romance of our ministry.’ Anyone privileged to have been part of one of those pastorates knows it was a good choice of words.

“In our last conversation, he quoted from Denver’s ‘I want to live.’ I want to live, I want to grow I want to see, I want to know I want to share what I can give I want to be, I want to live.

“I know no one who has done it better than Mr. Gingrich.”

At a memorial service at Wesley United Methodist Church, the Rev. Roy Miller’s topic was “On the Road Again,” a reference to Mr. Gingrich’s being constantly on the go, whether across town, to counsel alcoholics; or across the ocean, to visit a niece.

The choir of the Leemont Charge, on the Eastern Shore, which he served from 1975 to 1977, sang a song he loved to hear them sing: “It’s a Mighty Good Day,” At the end, the lyrics were changed to reflect a reaction he frequently had to the choir’s singing: “It’s been a mighty good LIFE.” —*John Pruitt*

Luther G. Bond, II, 1944-1989

Luther G. Bond, II, was born May 25, 1944 to Joy Mitchell and Luther Grant Bond Sr. He graduated from Baltimore City College, attended Morgan State College, graduated from Ferrum College in 1981, and attended Duke Divinity School for two years. Luther lived his life passionately and intensely; each day full of hope and determination. Luther was a private man, not given to grandiose displays of affection and emotion; but he was a deeply loving man. His heart was his family, his friends, his parishioners, and his dedication and devotion to the work of God. Luther brought the Word of God in such a way that all who heard could understand that, regardless of age, creed, color, background, and the intense issue of family and society, they were one under God.



Luther served two appointments. His first appointment was at Jackson Street United Methodist Church in Lynchburg where he served for a little over a year. He was then appointed to the Smith Mountain Charge which consisted of Halesford, Mt. Zion, and New Ridgeway United Methodist churches. New Ridgeway was aptly named for, under his leadership, a new structure was built.

During his ministry, his concern for the survival of the black church led him to attempt to establish a black church in the Danville District which was to be called Hosier United Methodist Church. Even though this church did not become a reality, he remained driven by his love and compassion for the black people as well as the church and the concept of the strength of the black church. Luther loved music and this love continued in his activities with the church choirs, free piano lessons, free guitar lessons, and inspirational broadcasts over local radio stations. He also published articles for the Franklin County New Post, published and printed a regular newsletter for each of his churches; he served as creative consultant to JLU-ROB Enterprises, an entertainment theater production company, as well as music composer for 1MB Communication.

Luther is survived by his father, Luther G. Bond Sr.; his loving and devoted wife, Mrs. Amelia Parker Bond; four daughters, Miss Yolana N. Bond, Mrs. Melanie B. Johnson, Miss Judith A. Bond, and Miss Allyson J. Bond; a granddaughter, Bernadette A. Johnson; a brother, Dr. Louis G. Bond; a sister, Miss Monica P. Bond; his mother-in-law, Mrs. Nellie D. Parker; a son-in-law, Jerry N. Johnson; a sister-in-law, Mrs. Frances P. Barksdale; and a brother-in-law, Benjamin Barksdale; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends. Luther Bond died May 9, 1989. He was eulogized at the New Ridgeway United Methodist Church May 12 by his friend and brother, the Rev. Carl B. Hutcherson Jr. He shall be missed. —*Carl B. Hutcherson Jr.*

1990 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Robert Edwin Abbott, 1906-1990

Robert Edwin Abbott, born April 25, 1906, in Baltimore County, Maryland, was the son of William C. and Virginia Myers Abbott. Robert graduated from Reisterstown High School, Reisterstown, Maryland in 1925. Following graduation, he took a position as clerk-bookkeeper in a grocery and general merchandise store in New Windsor, Maryland. Sometime later he accepted an office position with the Western Maryland Railroad in Baltimore, Maryland. Mr. Abbott remained with the railroad until, at a New Year's Eve Watch Night Service, he received and answered God's call to become a minister of the Gospel.

Following the Watch Night Service experience, he attended Bluefield College, Bluefield, West Virginia, from which he graduated in 1933. Seeking further education, Mr. Abbott was accepted at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, which offered a three-year course, where he studied for two years, 1934-1936.

About this time, Mr. Abbott was married to Miss Louise Tredway, of a family long associated with the Methodist Church, where a great-uncle was well-known as a past president of the Maryland Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church. At this time it seemed well to the young couple that Robert should complete his seminary training at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1937, with the degree of Th.G. (Graduate in Theology).

After due consideration and much prayer, Robert sought entrance into the Maryland Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church. He was duly accepted and appointed as a supply to the Amelia Circuit of three churches in June 1939. This was on the eve of the uniting conference, joining the three branches of Methodism -- M.E. North, M.E. South, and Methodist Protestant. At the first Virginia Annual Conference after union, Robert was received as a probationary member, and continued at the same appointment, now designated as the East Amelia Charge.

Robert was ordained a deacon in 1940, and ordained elder in 1942, and received into full membership of the Virginia Annual Conference. His appointments included East Amelia; Floyd Parrish; Cartersville; Moneta; Andrew Chapel-Dunn Loring; Rockbridge; Wayne Hills, Waynesboro; Grace, Danville; Bishop Memorial, Richmond; Zion, Norfolk; Zion-Grace, Norfolk; Wright Memorial,

Portsmouth; Ettrick; Benns; Newsoms; Loudoun Charge, from which he retired in 1971. At Wayne Hills in Waynesboro, Robert met the challenge of securing a building site and erecting the first all-purpose building of a planned complex. At Barnes Church on the Newsoms Charge, he gave leadership in securing a much needed educational building, which was fully paid for when completed.

Robert and Louise Abbott were blessed with three children -- Robert Nelson, Franklin Tredway, and Viola Ann Louise. The Abbotts retired to their home in Chesterfield County. Here Robert indulged in his love of gardening, growing his favorite roses, and raising vegetables. As time went on into the 1980s, his health began to present serious problems. When he could no longer walk, it became necessary to seek more care for him than Mrs. Abbott could give him alone at home. On February 28, 1986, he was admitted to the Hermitage of Richmond, the United Methodist retirement home. Mrs. Abbott became a resident of the Hermitage a few weeks later. Robert was placed in the intensive care section of Via Health Care Center, where he was cared for with love by the staff and Mrs. Abbott until his death January 4, 1990. —*Donald L. Truitt*

Robert Curtis Black, 1913-1989

Robert C. “Bob” Black was born in Decatur, Illinois, March 4, 1913. He grew up and was educated in the public schools of that city. Early in life a love and aptitude for music began to emerge together with a remarkable natural talent at the piano keyboard. Before his education was completed, music took over as the central interest in his life. By the time he was 18 he had a band of his own and was in demand for dances and other events in his home area. He was on his way to what promised to be a successful career in popular music when his keyboard magic caught the ear of one of the leading traveling evangelists of the time and Bob signed on as a pianist. He spent most of the 1930s traveling the South as musician for several popular tent evangelists. I have sat in his company by the hour fascinated by the tales he could tell about these years.



The outbreak of World War II found Bob, along with a lot of other people, drawn to the booming work opportunities in Portsmouth, Virginia, where he went to work for Seaboard Railroad, a job he continued in until he completed the transition into full-time ministry. When I was assigned in 1943 to West End Church, Portsmouth, then meeting in a community hall, I found Bob playing piano, directing the choir and teaching the adult Bible class. For three years I reveled in his music which ranged from Bach to rousing gospel songs and often included pieces of his own composition, and I marveled at the depth and scope of his largely self-taught biblical scholarship.

Bob’s theology, like his music, was not hampered by extensive formal training, but it was driven by a keen and perceptive natural intellect with a breadth of knowledge and depth of understanding that was remarkable. A conversation with Bob on almost any subject was assured of being intellectually provocative and spiritually stimulating.

I happily accompanied Bob through the early part of his course of study work leading to licensing and ordination. He then went on to effective pastorates in the Tidewater area and other parts of the conference, under appointment for just 30 years. He retired in 1978. Everywhere his ministry was enriched by his considerable talents as musician, preacher and Bible teacher and by the compassion and understanding of his pastoral care. He is remembered with love and respect by all who knew him. The Virginia Conference is richer for his ministry among us.

Bob married Nedra Norcum of Portsmouth in 1942. She was his loving and faithful companion until his death and survives him. The funeral was conducted from Snellings Funeral Home in Portsmouth on July 16, 1989, by his pastor, Malcolm Yapple, and his district superintendent, Paul Bailey. —*William A. Wright, Jr.*

W. Fred Bonney, 1897-1990

The Rev. W. Fred Bonney was born November 22, 1897, in Knotts Island, North Carolina; however, at the age of 6 months, he became a Virginian as his parents moved to Princess Anne County. Upon graduation from Creeds School, Fred began his successful career with various railroad companies. In his first job with Norfolk and Southern Railroad, he advanced from a file clerk to the head of their accounting department. He served as comptroller for the Atlantic and Danville Railroad and the Tennessee Central Railroad, and later became assistant to the president for Piedmont and Northern Railroad in Charlotte, North Carolina.



During these years of employment with the railroad companies, Fred was in his unofficial ministry. For instance, while “stationed” in Norfolk with the Atlantic and Danville Railroad, he directed choirs in Norfolk and Suffolk. For 25 years, he directed the Men’s Chorus of the Wesleymen of Epworth Church.

While at Epworth, Fred met and later married his beloved Mary. In 1954, they moved to Nashville, Tennessee, where Fred organized and directed a choir of more than 50 voices. In addition, he taught a Sunday school class of about 150 people at Blakemore Methodist Church.

In 1961, he retired from the railroad to study for the ministry. By December 1962, he had completed the course of study for ordination and began his ministerial duties at Hawthorn Lane Methodist Church in Charlotte. Later, he and Mary returned to the Virginia Conference where Fred served as minister at Knotts Island from 1967 until 1972. After a short retirement, he became associate at St. John’s in Norfolk in 1973, remaining in this capacity until January 8, 1981. From that date until his death, May 6, 1990, he was the pastor emeritus at St. John’s.

There was a greatness about the Rev. W. Fred Bonney. Perhaps it was his range of emotions. Though he could laugh at himself and life, he also could weep at life’s sorrow. One week prior to his death he spoke of his “beloved Mary” and wept. He hoped that he “would see her soon.” His emotions ran deep. Was that his greatness?

He had a spirit that drove his flesh. Just when you knew that, because of ill health, you would never see him at St. John’s again, he would show up, delighted that he had fooled us again. His flesh was wearing out, but he had a spirit that would not let his flesh rest. Already he had his speech prepared for St. John’s homecoming on June 3. He died with plans to live. Was that his greatness?

He was a source of inspiration during my doctoral studies. When I returned from Boston, having achieved my goal, he sent word for me to come to see him. He wanted to celebrate with me. How many people truly celebrate someone else’s accomplishment? Was that his greatness?

All of the above allude to greatness, but there is more. Recently I was told, “Fred was a minister long before he went into the ministry.” Wherever he was, he taught a Sunday school class or directed a choir. He was a servant within Christ’s church. Our Lord once said, “If anyone would be first, he must be...servant of all.” That was Fred’s greatest characteristic, servanthood.

His indomitable spirit and infectious grin will be forever etched in our memories. His life touched many. —*W. Emmett M. Diggs*

George Gerhard Brink, 1943-1989

George Gerhard Brink was born in the Netherlands, June 21, 1943. His family of six brothers and two sisters, mother, and father immigrated to Canada when George was 7 years old. George grew up in the Dutch Reform Church. His family had daily Bible reading and prayer at breakfast, lunch, and dinner. This left a great impact on George that influenced his entire life. George was a devoted worker in whatever task was put before him. For 10 years he worked at Defasco Steel Mill in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. It was during this time that George accepted Christ as his personal Savior and felt strongly and



clearly the call of God to the ministry. He left the security of his job and entered Mt. Vernon Bible College in 1973.

It was at Mt. Vernon where he met beautiful Cheryl Ann Pentecost. They fell in love and were married February 12, 1977. From 1977 to 1979, George and his lovely bride went to Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada, where George pastored a Foursquare Gospel Church. From there, he and Cheryl moved back to the states where they served Valley Central United Church of Christ in New Market, Virginia for five and one-half years.

In October 1984, after a period of soul searching and prayer, George felt strongly about entering the ministry of the United Methodist Church and was appointed to Stanley United Methodist Church where he served two and one-half years. During this period George earned his college degree from Eastern Mennonite in May 1987.

George was appointed to the Fulks Run Charge in the Harrisonburg District in June 1987. He served four churches extremely effectively while attending seminary. He earned his seminary degree in May 1989. During these college and seminary days, George was a devoted servant of the church and to his wife. George took his calling and his work so seriously that he never complained about the demands that were placed upon him. A strong pulpit preacher, George was deeply loved by his people who recognized here was truly a servant of God who lived out daily what he preached. George's final graduation came July 5, 1989, when he was called home to join the church triumphant.

As George's district superintendent, I have never met a pastor who was so profoundly committed to the church of Jesus Christ. He loved the Lord and considered it a great privilege to be a servant of the Lord. Everyone who came in touch with George and Cheryl were deeply moved by the love and devotion they expressed for each other. They served as a Christian role model for couples and especially for pastors. I miss George here in this district. I miss his sincere devotion, his great sense of humor, and his radiant joy and peace he had within. My life, as well as many others, has been richly blessed because George walked this way. What wonderful memories we hold until that day when God calls us home to be in His nearer presence. Our love and affection go out to Cheryl. May God's loving presence be very real to her, right now. —*L. Carl Whitten*

Raymond Odell Brown, 1909-1989

I have known Odell Brown for almost 50 years. When you sit down to write the memoirs of one of your peers who was close to you and who was one of your preachers before you retired from the episcopacy, it gets pretty close to you. Writing these memoirs for Odell Brown has been a sad task for me, but one that I did not want anyone else to have.



Odell Brown was born in Stokes County, North Carolina, on December 19, 1909. He was the son of the late William Vaden Brown and the late Cora Alice Salley Brown. He graduated from Trinity High School in Trinity, North Carolina. He had an undergraduate degree from High Point College and was a graduate of the Duke Divinity School. He received his Master's Degree from Emory University and completed all of his academic requirements for a Ph.D. at Columbia University. He joined the Western North Carolina conference in 1940. Later he moved to the Central Illinois conference, and then in 1954 he transferred to the Virginia Conference. That conference became his home until his death.

Odell served as conference evangelist from 1968 until 1970. While he was also serving the Christiansburg Circuit, his churches in Virginia involved Capitol Heights in Martinsville, Oakland in Danville, and Mt. Bethel in Henry County. He retired from the active itinerancy in 1978. Following retirement, he served for five years at the Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church. At the time of his death, he was attending Smith Memorial United Methodist Church in Collinsville. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Lee Sterling Brown, who died November 17, 1988. He is survived by one son,

Dr. George Stanley Brown of Annandale, and two brothers, Coy L. Brown of High Point, North Carolina, and Thurman E. Brown of Kernersville, North Carolina. His funeral was held at Smith Memorial Church by the Rev. John McCormick, the pastor, and the Rev. W. Ernest Hogge, the superintendent of the Danville District. His burial place is in Floral Garden Park Cemetery in High Point, North Carolina.

Odell Brown was raised a poor boy on a farm in the little community of Trinity, North Carolina. It was here that his real drive for education and a good personal library was born and cultivated. At his death, his library was given to Asbury School of Theology and the John Wesley College. Odell believed strongly in the call to preach. His call to ministry was the foundation upon which he built his life. He believed in the power of preaching. His one aim in preaching was to bring his hearers closer to Jesus Christ and to offer those who had not done so the opportunity to commit their lives to his Lord and Savior. He is the best-read preacher that I have ever known. I still chuckle as I remember the Minister's Convocations at Blackstone. I helped him load his car a time or two. It seemed as though he had gone in the bookstore and bought whatever they had left. He had read all the books that were crammed onto the shelves of his study.

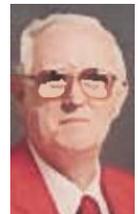
Odell was a friend of some of the country's leading ministers, and the hours he had spent with E. Stanley Jones were hours he cherished all his life. He was a good shepherd to his flock, and a loyal and faithful servant of Jesus Christ.

He had his favorite hymn, and I guess I will remember him every time this hymn is sung. When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun, We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.

I will miss him but I will never forget him. He was a good and devout man. —*W. Kenneth Goodson*

LeRoy William Davis, 1913-1990

LeRoy William Davis was a multi-talented person, full of good humor, and love for all. He was blessed with the ability to manifest the love that he felt for people. People knew that LeRoy really loved them. His talents were numerous. During the Depression he was a member of the CCCorps; he was an engineer with the National Park Service; a salesman of audiovisuals, life insurance, and real estate; a builder; designer; employed by the Virginia Department of Highways; and was active as a pulpit supply.



Then he finally answered the call that he had felt for a long time to give his life to the Lord in full-time service through the church. His appointments were Portlock, Kilmarnock, Park View and Providence in Newport News; Tabernacle, Francis Asbury and Good Hope in the Norfolk District; and Shackelfords in the Rappahannock District. He retired in 1979 having given of his many talents and all of his love to the church.

Someone has said that "You really get to know a person when you vacation together." Our families vacationed together at Sherwood Forest. We had such good times of fellowship and closeness. It was there in the early days of his ministry that my whole family was privileged to share this love that was always abounding in him. It was there that all in my family discovered the real LeRoy, a man who loved to laugh and most of all loved to make you laugh. When LeRoy retired, he and Mary Lee named their retirement home, "The House of Joy." How natural this must have been.

He reserved the greatest love for his wife, Mary Lee, and his son, Lee. He was married to Mary Lee for 50 years and three months. He was a devoted father, and was so proud of Lee, his son.

LeRoy had another talent which brought him great joy and which he was always so willing to share with others and that was his love of growing flowers. He was a humble man and he loved the simple things of life. Like his flowers, his greatest joy was to simply live on this earth enjoying the beauty around him to the fullest and thanking God that he could share it with others.

LeRoy preached his first sermon in Haygood United Methodist Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia, and it was from this same church that his memorial service was conducted by Dr. Edward Garrett, Dr. Lee Sheaffer, and Dr. Joseph Johnston, January 15, 1990. “Well done thou good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of the Lord” (Matthew 25:21). —*William Lyons Sturtevant, Sr.*

George Wyatt Fowler, 1900-1989

On August 3, 1989, the angel of mercy called from labor to reward the Rev. George Wyatt Fowler. He was the eighth of 14 children born in Campbell County, Virginia, July 28, 1900, to the late George Wyatt Fowler, Sr. and the late Hattie Smith Fowler. He was educated in Campbell Co. public schools and afterward, for many years, worked as a farmer. During his young years, George met Emma Jean Vaughan in Lawyers, Virginia. In the summer of 1921, the courtship culminated in marriage. To this union was born nine children, five boys and four girls.



George had professed a belief in Christ at an early age and, as a member of New London Methodist Church, was a faithful church worker. But God had a more divine purpose for his life. In 1948, he was called by God to carry His Word. During the course of his ministry, which spanned from 1949 to 1979, he pastored the following United Methodist churches: New Chapel, Sandy Level, Ridgeway, Jasper, Mt. Airy, Hale’s Ford, Mt. Zion and Bethany-Ebenezer. These included the Leesville-Pittsville Charge.

Wherever he served as pastor and leader, the congregation always enjoyed spiritual growth. He was affiliated with the Virginia Conference, and in 1973 at the age of 73, retired. However, still wanting to be of service to the church and his Master, he continued to preach when called upon. Even after his retirement, he was described by a colleague as “still going strong as a spiritual giant of these congregations.”

George loved God and dedicated his life and talents to His service. The church was his life. Even in the throes of a painful illness, his most fervent wish was to be with the Lord he so dearly loved.

At last, hearing his plea, God sent his angel to claim George as his own. On August 7, 1989, funeral services were conducted by longtime friend, the Rev. Godfrey Tate, with interment in the Fowler family cemetery.

“One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and inquire in his temple” (Psalm 27:4). —*Janet Lomax and Patricia Reed; Granddaughters Reed*

Bernard John Garrett, 1912-1989

The Rev. B. J. Garrett was born July 26, 1912, in South Zanesville, Ohio, to John Joseph and Edith (Jones) Garrett. He was the oldest of three sons and one daughter. He claimed to have been born “in a log house which I helped my father build.” He married Pauline Smith and had two children: Marjorie Ann and Daniel Lee. He was educated at Muskingum College, Otterbein College, and The American University. In 1941, he was ordained deacon and, in 1945, elder in the Free Methodist Church. He served five appointments in that denomination prior to transferring to the Virginia Conference of The Methodist Church in 1955. He served St. Mark’s (Manassas), Thalia, Trinity (Petersburg), Cameron, Del Ray, and West End (Roanoke) where he retired in 1981.



His wife, Pauline, died in February, 1979, after a long illness. He married Josephine Carter and lived in Roanoke until her death in July 1985. His remaining years were spent in Berryville with his son, Dan, and daughter-in-law, Susan, and their family, where he gladly and creatively carried the title “chief cook

and bottle washer.” He was an active participant in the Duncan Memorial congregation and the Berryville community. He was an avid gardener, and craftsman in wood and metal.

B.J. loved to preach, teach, and visit the sick. He had a ready wit and optimism that were apparent to all he met. An evangelical heart and catholic spirit characterized his life and ministry. He never lost the capacity to laugh, even in the face of the most sobering circumstances.

There is nothing funny about dying with cancer. But he had that rare capacity to live with illness and to maintain a saving sense of the absurdity of things that allows one family to laugh at it all. One day as I was leaving the house to play golf, he said, “You know, I have what every golfer aspires to -- I’m under par all the time!” On one of our weekly trips to the Cancer Center in Winchester, the nurses greeted him and asked how he was doing. “I’m fine,” he said, “Haven’t been probated yet!” He gave us all permission to laugh. He led the way and it eased our fears and burdens.

It’s a great gift -- this laughter. His was born of a faith that took God seriously enough that nothing else need claim ultimacy. He could sing with Martin Luther: “let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also.” One can afford to laugh, when the depths of God are seen as grace-filled and sufficient. One can only really laugh at oneself when the hurts and injustices that others face are taken with the utmost seriousness and urgency. He spent his life walking on the heavy side of the struggles and pains of parishioners in 11 different congregations, He walked as a man of hope: acquainted with the grief and sorrow, but with an irrepressible humor that lightened the load.

On October 9, 1989, Dr. Thomas L. Coffman and Chaplain Wilfred H. Berman led the congregation at Berryville in a service of death and resurrection. We joined in the hymns, readings, prayers and actions of the Eucharistic liturgy that he so loved. In thanksgiving to God for a faithful life, we commended him to God’s eternal care in the words of The Book of Common Prayer:

Depart, O Christian soul, out of this world:
In the name of God the Father Almighty who created you;
In the name of Jesus Christ who redeemed you;
In the name of the Holy Spirit who sanctifies you.
May your rest be this day in peace,
and your dwelling place in the Paradise of God. —Daniel L. Garrett

Joseph Samuel Gresham, 1887-1989

Joseph Samuel Gresham, at the time of his death the oldest member of the Virginia Conference and the oldest graduate of Randolph- Macon College, died October 25, 1989, at the Hermitage, Richmond. He was 102 years old. Joe was born April 17, 1887, in the living quarters over his father’s country store in Dinwiddie County. After graduation from Petersburg High School he engaged in office work, acquiring the secretarial and stenographic skills which, along with a student appointment in Chesterfield County, helped put him through Randolph-Macon College. He was licensed to preach in 1911, ordained and joined the conference in 1913 and completed his education with a B.A. degree in 1915.

Also in 1915, he married Mary Tatum Friend, the daughter of a Methodist minister and a talented teacher. Joe said of her that “she became at once a valuable member of the Gresham team.” The team was widely and affectionately known across the conference as “Brother Joe” and “Sister Mary.” Young people, of whom this writer was one, were especially drawn to the warmth and grace of their home.

Joe’s appointments included Matoaca, Powhatan, Blandford and City Point in the Petersburg District; West End, Lynchburg; Central and First Church, Hampton; West End, Roanoke; Front Royal; and Oxford, Suffolk from which he retired in 1953. He also served for two years as superintendent of the Eastern Shore District, but after two years was happy to return to his real love which was the pastorate. He records that he conducted 648 weddings “and probably as many funerals.” Staunchly moral, solidly

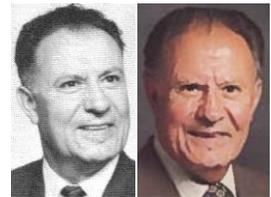
theological, careful and precise in administration, he was nevertheless at his best as a pastor where his gentleness, his compassion and his human sensitivity shone through.

In addition to his pastoral duties he was a conference statistician for over 30 years and for 15 years was a manuscript reader for the General Conference Book Editor. He records that he “vetoed one manuscript, suggested drastic changes in two and approved 40.” After his retirement he again picked up the secretarial skills of his youth and for 12 years was administrative assistant and secretary for the conference Board of Church Extension. His beloved partner, Mary, died in 1961, and a few years thereafter Joe retired a second time and became a resident of the Hermitage where he was active in the affairs of the home and a frequent visitor in the Health Care Center. He is survived by his two daughters, Martha Dandridge DuBose and Charlotte Friend Miller.

A memorial service was conducted at Woody Funeral Home, Richmond, October 28, 1989, by the Rev. William S. Ferguson whose grandfather had been brought to Christ through Brother Joe’s ministry. Ferguson said of him, “Wherever he served he was beloved and appreciated for his life and ministry. So caring and helpful, supportive and understanding, his gentle, compassionate way was a blessing to all.”
—William A. Wright

Esdras Stuart Gruver, 1912-1989

Esdras Stuart Gruver was born January 17, 1912, in Reliance, Warren County, Virginia, to Ira Kiefer and Elizabeth De Frees Gruver, the third of eight children. Esdras graduated from high school in Hyattsville (Maryland) with highest honors in June 1928. He entered the University of Maryland in 1929, graduating with honors with a Bachelor of Science degree in June 1933. While working as a food chemist, he acknowledged a call to the ministry, and was granted local preacher’s license by the Quarterly Conference of Hyattsville Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in September, 1934. Enrolling in the Duke University School of Religion, he earned his way by working on the Duke Endowment Foundation program and graduated June 1937.



Admitted on trial by the Baltimore conference, M.E. Church, South, October 11, 1937, he was appointed to the Chesterbrook- Langley Charge by Bishop Arthur J. Moore, and ordained deacon by Bishop William Walter Peele in October 1938. He was admitted into full connection in October 1939, at the time of unification of Methodism, and was ordained elder at the Virginia Conference of the Methodist Church in Roanoke, October 20, 1940.

Esdras received the following appointments: Chesterbrook-Langley and Andrew Chapel-Langley (10 years); Annandale (11 years); Trinity, Newport News (seven years); Springfield (five years); superintendent, Winchester District (six years); Central, Staunton (four years). Upon retirement in June 1980, he was called back into active duty as interim superintendent of the Danville District for 10 months, until June 1981. He received the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from Shenandoah College and Conservatory of Music in March 1976.

Esdras had a strong sense of vocation as a “called minister.” He was a faithful pastor to his people, a good administrator, building several church buildings and parsonages, an excellent preacher of the Word with well-prepared sermons and orders of worship. He had a seriousness of purpose that led to full application of his time and talents to the tasks of ministry.

Integrity was the mark of the man. He ever showed a deep love for his Lord and for people, while holding to the highest ideals of the Christian life.

Esdras was always good company, with an infectious laughter and good humor. He was a faithful husband and father to his wife, Dorothy, and their children. The same deep love and encouragement he gave to them he also shared with his parishioners. His great tolerance and patience with others in times of stress were born of the crucible of suffering he had experienced in his own life.

Esdras, a good man, lived a full life, vigorous and healthy unit the last few months when he laid aside his labors to enter his Heavenly Home August 3, 1989. Services of Worship and Resurrection were conducted at First United Methodist Church, Waynesville, N.C., on August 5, 1989 by the pastors, the Rev. George Thompson and the Rev. Charles Kyker, assisted by Dr. Beverly Felty of the Virginia Conference; and, at Reliance United Methodist Church, Reliance, Va., on August 6, 1989, conducted by Dr. Thomas L. Coffman, Dr. Lee B. Sheaffer, the Rev. John Conner, and Bishop R. Kern Eutsler. Interment was in the Gruver family plot in the Reliance Church cemetery.

Dr. Gruver is survived by his wife, Dorothy Dodge Gruver; a daughter, Susan Elizabeth Gruver of Lake Junaluska, N.C.; a son, William Kiefer Gruver of Herndon, Virginia; a grandson, William Scott Gruver; four sisters and two brothers.

A former parishioner said it appropriately: “Esdras was a blessing here and richly deserves to be with the saints.” —*Carl Wrenn Haley*

John Wesley Hobbs, Jr., 1912-1989

John Wesley Hobbs, Jr., was born in Hinton, Virginia, January 8, 1912, and died of a heart attack August 15, 1989, in Alton, Illinois. John spent 48 years in the ministry of Jesus Christ in both the active and retired relationship. Following graduation from Hiltons High School in 1932, John continued his education at The College of William and Mary graduating with a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Emory University in 1941. John and Sarah Alice Mench were married July 3, 1941, in the old Ocean View Methodist Church by the Rev. Henry A. Harrell. Their son, John Wesley Hobbs III, was born July 12, 1944, while they were living at the old parsonage at Hickory (near Chesapeake).



He was received as a deacon in the Virginia Conference in 1941 and appointed to the South Norfolk Circuit where he pastored eight years. He was ordained elder in 1943 and received into full connection. He served the following appointments: Hickory Circuit, 1949-1952; Norfolk Memorial, 1952-1956; Petersburg Trinity, 1956-1963; Manassas Grace, 1963-1971; sabbatical, 1971-1972. In 1972 he retired.

Moving to Illinois in the 1970s, John and Sarah Hobbs joined and participated in the congregational life of the Metropolitan United Methodist Church of Alton to be nearer their son, John, and his wife, Gail, who were married May 14, 1972. The Rev. Hobbs and his wife enjoyed many hours being with their only grandson, John Wesley Hobbs IV, born November 7, 1981.

A Service of Death and Resurrection was held at Metropolitan United Methodist Church, August 16, 1989, by Dr. John E. Sims. Burial services were conducted at Peninsula Memorial Cemetery, Newport News, Virginia, Friday, August 18, 1989. The service was led by the Rev. W. S. Volskis, pastor of First United Methodist Church, Newport News, Virginia.

He was an active Christian, always ready to witness about his faith, to preach for the pastor whenever asked, and to demonstrate Christ’s love to all who met him. His kind spirit and deep, personal faith helped and inspired this writer for over eight years. He epitomized to me the meaning of what a true southern gentleman is. He will not be forgotten. —*John E. Sims*

Theodore Edward Landis, 1909-1990

Upon hearing of the death of Theodore Edward Landis, I began again to think of this man who was born in Marlowe, West Virginia, November 29, 1909, the son of John D. and Eva Landis; who attended Western Maryland College and Westminster Seminary; who began his ministry in the Methodist Protestant Church; who married Aseneth, and the two welcomed being the parents of Louise, and Paul, and Ned, and grandparents of Stephen and Richard; who served First Church, Lynchburg, and First Church, Norfolk, as superintendent of the Charlottesville District, as



pastor of Washington Street Church, Alexandria, and Greene Memorial Church, Roanoke; who served Ginter Park Church, Richmond, and Mt. Vernon Church, Danville, and who was called by his bishop from retirement back into service.

Having been his associate from 1961 to 1964, I focus on three years out of his 80 years. During those three years I saw a pastor do the expected in an exceptional way: baptizing babies and adults, confirming teenagers, speaking the words before a man and woman, "I now pronounce you husband and wife." I watched him move easily in and out of hospital rooms and nursing homes, and stand before open graves saying with confidence, "I am the resurrection and the life." During those three years I saw a pastor do the unexpected. At the S. & W. Cafeteria, where a small group gathered for the Greene Memorial Prayer Breakfast, he could be found encouraging the troops, carrying his breakfast tray, carrying the breakfast tray of someone who walked haltingly with a cane, arranging the dishes on the table, praying for his brothers and sisters, and, not infrequently, clearing the table when the eating and the prayer were finished. I saw him as a pastor taking his turn at the Roanoke Gospel Mission, standing without vestments, without robe and stole, standing as one man calling to others about a God, who in Jesus Christ, is intent on transforming, rescuing life. I remember his placing the direction of his ministry on mission, on reaching out to the world God loves.

In a history of Washington Street Church, Alexandria, there are the following words: "Because of his (Dr. Landis') vision, he annually recommended budgetary goals which at first seemed insurmountable, but each year these goals were reached, which was a testimonial to Dr. Landis' faith in the loyalty and cooperation of the congregation" ["Washington Street UMC," edited by Kathryn P. Hedman, p. 76].

What a remarkable number of people -- ministers and lay people -- have called Dr. Landis their pastor, have been influenced by his faith in God and his faith in them, and have also known him as a friend.

Thanks be to God for Theodore Edward Landis. Thanks be to God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
—*F. Douglas Dillard, Jr.*

Benjamin Franklin Livingstone, Jr., 1904-1990

Benjamin Franklin Livingstone, Jr. was born in Montgomery County, Alabama, the son of Frances T. and Benjamin F. Livingstone, Sr. He attended a small Methodist Church in his youth. After graduating from high school in Montgomery he worked for the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad as a demurrage clerk, and later with the Alabama Inspection and Rating Bureau. When Ben felt God's call to the ministry he enrolled in Bob Jones College, and later at Appalachian State Teachers' College, from which he graduated. He then served with the American Sunday School Union as a home missionary in the Mid-West Prairie States, organizing Sunday schools and churches, often in isolated areas where there were no religious organizations of any kind. One-room schoolhouses were frequently used for Sunday school, Bible schools, revivals and Sunday worship. Mr. Livingstone became affiliated with the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church but eventually wanted to return to the Methodist Church where his roots were. He came to the Virginia Conference in 1963 and served in the Lynchburg, Danville and Charlottesville districts until his retirement.



It was my good fortune to become acquainted with Ben Livingstone and his wife, Joyce, when they came to the Danville District. I found him serious, conscientious and diligent -- and always working to fulfill his lifetime commitment to be a faithful witness of Jesus Christ. He was supported in his work by his wife, to whom I am indebted for important information concerning his early life.

After a long and debilitating illness this devoted servant of our Lord died January 3, 1990. He is survived by his wife, the former Joyce Hoffman; a daughter, Mrs. Rachel L. Sterrett, Lebanon, Va.; two sons, Benjamin, III, Elon, Va. and Samuel J., Nathalie, Va.; and four grandsons.

A Memorial Service was conducted in Lynchburg by the Rev. William A. Moon, Jr., and Mr. Livingstone's son-in-law, the Rev. John D. Sterrett, III, of Lebanon, Va. —*Harold H. Fink*

Mildred Victoria Long, 1914-1990

Mildred Victoria Long was born January 30, 1914, in Biscoe, North Carolina, where she graduated from high school at the age of 16. She was the eighth child of 12 children in the family of Mr. and Mrs. N. V. Long. She early became a member of The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in Biscoe, N.C., and was active in the Sunday school and church there until she moved to Virginia in 1935. She became a member of Schoolfield Methodist Church in Danville, Va., where she fully participated in the life of the local church. In August 1943, she received the Lord Jesus Christ in a new and living way and was called to Christian service.



Resigning from her position in personnel of Dan River Mills, she entered Columbia Bible College in South Carolina where, after two years, she became a member of the staff, serving as assistant to the director of Christian service for three years. During her years in Columbia, S.C. she attended the Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, teaching the Women's Bible Class. After graduation from college, she returned to Danville as assistant to the director of safety at Riverside for Dan River Mills. During 18 months in this position, she preached in revival services for various churches in the area and assisted the pastor of Piney Forest Methodist Church, Danville. She was called to this church as full-time pastor in 1950, under Dr. H. P. Clarke, was ordained deacon in 1952, elder in 1957, and full member in 1960. She graduated from Lynchburg College in 1953, took the conference course of study at Duke Divinity School and attended Wesley Seminary for one year, with a year at Mary Washington College in study of Greek.

Miss Long served Piney Forest, Danville; Bellevue Charge, Lynchburg; Hillcrest, Fredericksburg; Lynnhaven, Virginia Beach; and Kenwood, Petersburg, where she retired in 1979.

Following retirement, Miss Long served The Poole Christian Church for two years, and also served as a supply in the United Methodist Church, Petersburg District, for other pastors when called upon, until illness prevented her serving in this capacity in 1986. Mildred Long died April 23, 1990 in Petersburg. She is survived by three brothers, Auley C., Herbert N., and Raymond L. Long. —*Nancy Rowland*

Lee Holiday Richcreek, 1899-1989

Lee Richcreek was born in Staunton, Virginia, on September 8, 1899. Almost a century later, he died in Staunton on December 15, 1989. Central Church was his home church, from which he went on to serve as minister in three annual conferences. Lee was educated at Randolph-Macon College. He began in 1923 to serve in the Baltimore conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. He was elected to full connection in 1925 and was ordained in 1927. He served churches in Maryland and Pennsylvania as well as Tom's Brook and White Post charges in what now is the Virginia Annual Conference. While serving at Tom's Brook, Lee met, courted and married Sally Chiles of Strasburg, to whom he was a faithful and loving husband until her death. When northern and southern churches merged in 1939, Lee remained in the Baltimore conference, serving churches in Cumberland, Baltimore and the Eastern Shore of Maryland until 1948. In that year he transferred to the Virginia Annual Conference serving Sledd Memorial in Danville, Tazell Avenue (now Calvary, Salem) and Memorial Church in



Appomattox, Grace Church (then Warwick, now Newport News), Scott Memorial in Virginia Beach, and South Hill Church. He retired in 1967.

Lee Richcreek continued in retirement to serve the church doing pulpit supply as long as his health permitted. He lovingly and devotedly cared for the needs of his invalid wife as long as she lived. To his last days he enjoyed hearing the news of the annual conference. He was to the end a Methodist preacher.

I will remember Lee as one who was faithful to his spouse above and beyond the call of duty. He was faithful to his church and its mysteries to the end of his days. He was a Methodist preacher, proud of it, and grateful for the calling. —*James A. Hewitt*

Walter Delford Sheets, 1903-1990

In the lines of John Donne, “All mankind is of one author and is one volume; When one man dies, one chapter is not torn out of the book, but translated into a better language; and every chapter must be so translated.... God’s hand is in every translation.” For more than 42 years the Rev. Walter Delford Sheets wrote his chapter of ministry throughout the Virginia Annual Conference. His parents were Jacob Asbury Sheets and Jane Sutton Sheets. He was born January 21, 1903, at “Asbury’s Knob,” a farm near Green Bank, West Virginia. His family consisted of five brothers and one sister.



He was a graduate of Randolph-Macon College, Phi Beta Kappa, in 1927. His seminary courses were taken through Duke University. In 1928, Delford Sheets was ordained a deacon. He came into full connection in 1929 and was ordained an elder in 1931. On July 9, 1929, he married Martha Alice Reitz of Barbourville, Kentucky. They had one daughter, Mary Susannah Henderson, of Danville.

Among the appointments served by Delford were: Community Church, Central Church, Berkley Circuit, Mt. Crawford, White Post, Fincastle, Bedford Circuit, Brookneal, West Brunswick, Bowling Green, Monroe, Union, and Piney Forest.

Following retirement in 1969, Delford continued to serve actively in the Danville area. He was a supply pastor at Westover Hills, associate pastor at Trinity Church, and the pastor at South Halifax.

Throughout his long and faithful ministry, Delford Sheets was a dedicated and devoted preacher of the Gospel. He departed this life May 20, 1990. In the words of Joshua Liebman (*Our Memory Shall Be A Blessing*): “We can face death nobly when we resolve so to live and to work in the years allotted to us that no one shall cry in frustration or anger when we have gone, that no one shall silently curse the day of our birth but rather that they shall recall our day upon earth in the concert hall of memory and shall laugh, with the over-brimming joy that a dear one walked the earth bravely and lovingly once upon a time.... Then indeed our memory shall be a blessing.” —*W. Ernest Hogge*

Luther Grant Smith, 1917-1990

The Rev. Luther G. Smith entered the United Methodist ministry as a local pastor through the West Virginia Conference, Romney District, in June 1965. He was ordained deacon in 1967. He and his wife, Mildred, who preceded him in death November 15, 1988, began their ministry in service to the Baker, West Virginia Charge, which consisted of five congregations. In June, 1970, they moved to Kimball, West Virginia in the Bluefield District where they served a three-point charge for five years. They then returned to the Romney District where they served four churches on the Mathias Charge. They remained there until



1977 at which time they moved to Front Royal, Virginia. In the Winchester District from 1977-79, they served the Warren Charge in Front Royal. During 1980-81 they became semi-retired, but remained active doing supply work throughout the district. In 1982, they returned to full-time service on the Laurel Hill-Chestnut Grove Charge.

When they officially retired from the Virginia Conference, they moved to Ocala, Florida. In 1987 they returned to the area in which they spent their childhood and many of their young adult years, Allegany County, Maryland.

They are survived in death by a daughter, Donna Minnick, Front Royal, Virginia; a son, Luther, Jr., Columbus, Ohio; two granddaughters, and one great-granddaughter. Luther remarried following Mildred's death in 1988. He is therefore also survived by his wife, Marguerite J. Smith.

Luther, along with his wife, was committed to the work and service of his Lord with every fiber of his being. He was an outstanding role model for his children and everybody with whom he came in contact. The world is a better place as a result of the gift of his life. —*Luther G. Smith, Jr.*

Joseph Melvin Trower, 1901-1989

Dr. J. Melvin Trower entered the Virginia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in 1924. This young man was born in Norfolk, September 3, 1901. He was a graduate of the Norfolk school system, William and Mary College, and Union Theological Seminary in Richmond. Joseph Melvin Trower received his deacon's orders in 1926 and was ordained elder and elected a full member of the conference in 1928. Dr. Trower served the following churches: Westhampton; Colonial Beach; Montross; Heathsville; West Franklin; Hampton Roads; Wesley, Petersburg; Marquis Memorial; South Halifax; Pungoteague; Bishop Memorial; Central, Salem; St. Andrews, Portsmouth; Timberlake, Lynchburg.



Dr. Trower loved the Northern Neck. Early in his ministry he served Colonial Beach, Montross and Heathsville. He served Ebenezer in Westmoreland as a retired supply. With 41 active years and six retired years, Melvin retired. These years were varied and eventful. There is no doubt that he was a man of exceptional ability, a minister of qualitative excellence, good character and moral integrity.

Melvin and his first wife, Mary, made a good ministerial team. She was highly talented in children's work, and she taught classes all over the Virginia Conference.

Dr. Trower spent much time and money collecting antiques and valuable relics which he used to decorate their lovely historic home in Leedstown on the Rappahannock River. One night all was lost by a raging fire burning out of control. Undaunted, the Trowers bought a beautiful, spacious brick home at Union Village in their beloved Northern Neck. Here they lived until Mary died.

Later Melvin met and married Mary Ward in 1975. They had 14 good years in a lovely home on Quail Point Road in Virginia Beach. Mary belonged to the Virginia Beach United Methodist Church; and continues to live in her native Tidewater.

In retirement, Melvin resumed work in the Masonic Lodge and went through the Chairs, and became Master of the Westmoreland Lodge A.F.A.M. No. 212.

To sum up the life and ministry of Joseph Melvin Trower, we saw a man who made an unconditional surrender of his life to the service of the Kingdom through the church of Jesus Christ in the Virginia Conference. He was an able preacher, well groomed, very articulate in speech and in the written medium, and the possessor of a sparkling wit; and a lively sense of humor. Melvin was always ready to preach at "protracted meetings." These revivals were a source of soul searching; saving of sinners; and a refreshment of the spirit to season members. He was a dedicated and faithful steward of God's unsearchable riches. Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God (I Corinthians 4:1).

My wife wrote this poem for him in 1980. We hereby dedicate it to the Village Parson.

"The Village Parson" by Claire M. James:

This dweller in the village
 Is unique as one may find
 For his characteristics include
 An ever inquiring mind.
 He is a lively fellow,
 Respects life and all its duty,
 In his lodge, 'mid friends, companions
 He always seeks life's beauty.
 While parsons oft' are noted
 For their seriousness, no less,
 This one is jester
 And tells all jokes with zest.
 Yet when one knows this parson
 It's evident God's call he's heard,
 For he's fully committed to Jesus
 Still preaching from God's own word! —*Frank D. James*

W. Gordon Webner, 1908-1989

W. Gordon Webner was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, July 22, 1908, the son of Frank E. and Mary Rachel Simpson Webner. Gordon received a Bachelor of Arts degree at American University in June 1936, and a Master of Arts degree at George Washington University in 1939. He pursued and completed residence requirements for a Ph.D. in economics and later attended Wesley Theological Seminary and received a Bachelor of Theology in May 1969.



Gordon worked as a transportation economist for the U.S. Government Service from July 22, 1933 until June, 1965, at which time, upon retirement, Major General John J. Lane, USA Commander of Military Traffic Management and Terminal Service, presented him with a Certificate of Achievement in recognition and appreciation of his long and loyal service.

Gordon took early retirement from government service in order to become a minister. He entered Wesley Theological Seminary in September, 1965 and received his Bachelor Degree of Sacred Theology in May, 1969.

In June 1968, Gordon was appointed pastor of the South Fluvanna Charge in the Charlottesville District where he served while completing his final year of seminary. Other appointments served by Gordon were Carmel in the Rappahannock District; Fletchers Chapel in the Alexandria District; Riverton in the Winchester District; and, as retired supply, at Mountain Chapel in the Charlottesville District.

Mr. Webner attended the worship service where the writer of this memoir was preaching the spring of 1968, while on his way to meet with Bishop Gum concerning an appointment. In conversation relating to his being in seminary and his desire to serve the church, he made the statement, "Generally you would think of a minister having 40 years to serve, and I, having taken early retirement, would have only 10 years to serve, so maybe I could be a 'quarter of a loaf.'" "He served his 10 years well. His wife said, "Becoming an elder in full connection in the Virginia Annual Conference, serving rural churches and the wonderful people he had the chance to serve was a 'dream come true' for Gordon."

Gordon married Elva Luella Marsh on October 12, 1940. Elva was a wonderful helpmate to Gordon for 49 years. She was truly part of his ministry to the churches and people he served during his time as a pastor. Gordon died October 22, 1989. Memorial services were held in Sarasota, Florida. —*Joseph T. Carson, Jr.*

Paul James Widenhouse, 1919-1989

Paul James Widenhouse was born and grew up near Salisbury, North Carolina. He joined the United States Navy at 17. In Portsmouth, Virginia, during the middle '50s he was finishing a 20-year stint of service when he felt a call to the ministry. Just prior to completing his Navy service he began taking night courses at what was then the Norfolk Extension of William and Mary College. At the same time he worked with another young man also interested in the ministry, Francis Dalton, in helping to start a new church in Alexander Park in Portsmouth.



When he finished his Navy career in 1957 he moved to New London, North Carolina where he completed his college degree at Pfeiffer College in Misenheimer while serving a charge in New London. After graduating in 1959 he moved to the Stafford Charge in Virginia where he finished his seminary work at Wesley in Washington, again graduating with honors.

His first full-time appointment was at Warwick Memorial in Newport News. He continued his ministry at Northview Church in Roanoke, Zion Grace in Norfolk, Francis Asbury in Virginia Beach, Benns Church, and East Hampton.

Paul's work was not spectacular but was solid in accomplishments. His personality was quiet and he approached his work in a very thorough manner. Typical of that was the immaculate way he did his gardening, his one hobby.

I worked with him in revival services in several of his appointments and, at one in Roanoke, he and I climbed the Sugar Loaf Mountain north of the city. It was an exhilarating experience though quite a tiring climb. The view from the top was exciting and we both agreed that it would not have meant as much if it had not cost us as much exertion. While we were talking together there I said I wondered what we would see if we could have such a long view into our future. After a little thought we both decided that that was better left to surprises.

In Paul's case the surprises were not pleasant. While serving at Benns Church his wife, Geneva, came down with Alzheimer's disease at a relatively young age. The degeneration progressed rapidly with a number of very difficult side effects. In a short period of time it was necessary for her to be confined to the hospital at Williamsburg where she still is at this writing.

Paul continued his work for a time and then, as if to add insult to injury, he contracted Parkinson's disease and had to take disability. Who can say why such would happen to those two? One word about it needs to be added, however. I never heard one word of complaint from Paul, nor did he feel sorry for himself. He tried to keep busy with things such as photography as best he could, being helped occasionally by his only child, Carole.

It is sad that we find such weak ways to evaluate the life and work of quiet people. I have the feeling, however, that we are in for some big surprises when our Lord shows us the true evaluation of all of our lives. —Wrightson S. Tongue

Wasena Franklin Wright, Sr., 1919-1990

He was a builder. It was a part of his nature to leave every building better than he found it. This usually meant larger, but if not larger, then cleaner, brighter and more useful. Just a few days after his death one friend asked another, "What do you think Wasena is doing today?" The answer was "Probably measuring the heavenly mansion to find the best place for an addition." Wasena was called into the ministry from the lumber and building business in Bassett, Virginia, at the age of 37. He and his beloved "Rena" had three teenaged children. He had no educational preparation for the new task to which God had called him. Just when his children needed to be preparing for college, he found that he had four years of college to complete. Ferrum gave



him a start and he finished his college work at Randolph-Macon. He served student charges to support the family -- managing to stay two years ahead of his son, Wasena, Jr. ("Buddy") in school.

He served on the Patrick Charge, at Meadow-Beckham and Goochland. He served Belmont in Richmond 1961-1973 and built a large part of that structure with his own hands. He then served St. Matthews in Alexandria, and the Petersburg District as superintendent from which work he retired.

Wasena's calling was to be a preacher of the Gospel and he built his sermons as carefully as he built church structures. He was bold in his pronouncements against sin and called it by its name.

As a district superintendent, he was the champion of preachers who had been overlooked by other Cabinet members in the district and in his assessment of the potential of his pastors.

Born July 31, 1919 in Henry County, he died in Richmond January 3, 1990. Remarkably, he is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lee Wright, who had celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. His wife, Lorena, who had been his constant support for 50 years, also survives him, and his children, Charles F. Wright, Judy Waggoner and Wasena Wright, Jr., an honored member of the Virginia Conference. He is also survived by six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. His funeral service, attended by more than 300 persons, was conducted at Mt. Pisgah Church, Midlothian, by the Rev. Timothy Whitaker and the Rev. Walter Green.

His family had been with him almost constantly for the last days of his life and one of his children said at the funeral, "He spent a lifetime teaching us how to live and seven short days teaching us how to die." —*Lester D. Nave*

Lyle Higdon Youell, 1901-1989

Lyle Youell, better known as "Baldy Youell," was born in Grundy, Virginia, December 12, 1901. He had two sisters, a number of brothers, and they all grew up in southwest Virginia. Lyle attended King College in Bristol. It was while a student at King College that he acquired the nickname "Baldy," a name by which he was to become known throughout the remainder of his life! Lyle played football at King College. As a young adult, he was well on his way to becoming bald, so he wore a hat wherever he went in his college days. One day he lost his hat and when his fellow classmates saw him, his nickname was born and became a permanent means of identification.



Baldy attended Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, following graduation from King College. He entered the ministry in the Presbyterian Church and served for six years in the service of that church. He entered the ministry of the Methodist Church because he was attracted to the itinerate ministry of our denomination.

Baldy served the following appointments: Rappahannock, Charlottesville District; Westmoreland, Rappahannock District; Bellevue Trinity and Chestnut Hill, Lynchburg District; Byrd Park and Decatur Street, Richmond District; Market Street, Eastern Shore District; Chesapeake Avenue and St. John's, Norfolk District; and St. Paul's Christiansburg, Roanoke District.

Churches which Baldy served grew in membership under his leadership. He had a profound interest in young people, and with his wife, Daisy, maintained an active ministry to youth wherever they served. He took pride in the maturity of youth in the Christian faith. Blessed with an outgoing personality, Baldy was privileged to lead two of his appointments in building programs.

In retirement, Baldy moved to Kinsale and served as supply pastor at Ebenezer, then later moved to Richmond where he became associated with the charge conferences of Trinity and later, River Road. His hearing and vision became impaired in the last days of his life, but not his spirit! His enthusiasm for the ministry and his love for serving God through the church were obvious in all he did and said.

Baldy died Dec. 12, 1989, and was buried at Blanford Cemetery in Petersburg on December 15. He is survived by his wife, Daisy; his daughter, Jean Y. Johnson; and his sister, Nora Y. Banner. When God called him home, He welcomed one who knew that the greatest privilege of any Christian is to be the servant of all. "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, come and share your Master's joy!"
—*George H. Freeman*

1991 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Arthur McKinley Reynolds, 1896-1990

Arthur McKinley Reynolds was born on April 13, 1896, in Stafford County, the son of Almedia Wine and John Monroe Reynolds. At his death on July 18, 1990, he was a resident of the Hermitage in Northern Virginia in Alexandria. Between these more than 94 years, "Mac," as he was known to his many friends across the years, embodied the highest principles of a truly Christian gentleman and sought to share with others his deep and genuine faith in Christ and in the God whom he knew for a certainty and to whom he devoted his entire life.

He began his ministry in the traditions of Methodism in 1925 when he was elected to probationary membership. He was ordained a deacon in 1926. He was admitted to full connection in 1927 and was ordained an elder in 1929. His last appointment prior to retirement was as senior minister at Arlington Forest Church where he served with distinction during that church's greatest growth between 1956 and 1967. Following his retirement, his devotion, leadership, and commitment to God and His church were recognized when he was named "pastor emeritus" by Arlington Forest Church. It was during his pastorate that the church completed its building program with the construction of the connecting unit between the two church buildings in 1960. His appointments, in addition to Arlington Forest, included Branch Memorial, Sledd Memorial, Fulton Hill, Trinity in the Lynchburg District, Rocky Mount, High Street in Franklin, Emporia, Main Street in Waynesboro, Farmville, Granbery, and Main Street in Danville.

On August 30, 1922, Mac was married to Mary Susan Minton, who, through her own commitment to the church, and as a dedicated minister's wife, had an impact in the life of each church they served as an outstanding church schoolteacher. The Susan Reynolds Church School Class and the Susan Reynolds Parlor at Arlington Forest Church were named in her honor. Mac and Susan Reynolds were the parents of four children: Sue Almedia, Arthur McKinley, Jr., James Marvin, and Franklin Reynolds.

His beloved wife of over 52 years died after a long illness on September 25, 1974. He later married Mildred Garrett Taylor who predeceased him in August 1988.

A. McK. Reynolds received the Bachelor of Arts degree from Randolph-Macon College and the Master of Divinity degree from the Union Theological Seminary in Richmond. He did a year of graduate studies at Union, Richmond, in 1931-32. His alma mater, Randolph-Macon, recognized his commitment and ministry with the conferral of the honorary Doctor of Divinity degree. He held many positions of leadership on the district and annual conference level which included membership on the Board of Ministerial Training and Qualification, now the Board of Ordained Ministry, and was named a delegate to the World Methodist Council meeting held in Oslo, Norway in 1961.

Mac Reynolds was truly a Christian statesman who found his greatest joy and fulfillment in faithful and untiring service to his church as a "pastor" in the truest sense of the word. His life was lived out as a testimony to his love of family, his selfless commitment to his church, a profound love for his God. The faith of each person whose life was touched by Arthur McKinley Reynolds has been deepened and the church strengthened because he walked this way. It can be said of him, "Well done, good and faithful servant. Inherit the kingdom that has been prepared for you." —*David A. Balcom*

William Kenneth Haddock, 1908-1990

William Kenneth Haddock was born in Wilmington, North Carolina, October 7, 1908, the son of Richmond Streeter and Mary Janie Haddock. He died in Richmond, Virginia, September 10, 1990, and is survived by his widow, Frances Belman Haddock; one son, William Kenneth, Jr.; and two daughters, Martha Anne Lang and Carolyn Sue Ray. Kenneth Haddock received his license to preach in 1928, was admitted in the Virginia Conference in 1933, ordained deacon in 1934, and elder in 1937.



He served eight churches through the conference and as superintendent of three districts. He served with distinction on a number of the boards and agencies of the conference. He was honored many times -- including an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Randolph-Macon College and election as a delegate to Jurisdictional and General conferences.

His service reached beyond the bounds of Virginia Methodism as a staff member of Finance and Field Service of the General Board of Global Ministries and as a staff member of Health, Education and Welfare of the United States government.

Ken Haddock was abundantly gifted. He had a brilliant mind, was an excellent preacher, and an able administrator.

We became friends in 1936 when the two of us were appointed to churches on the Eastern Shore District. I appreciated his quick wit, his perceptive mind, his never failing courtesy, and his constant friendship across the years. I will miss him.

The service of celebration of his life was held in Trinity United Methodist Church, Richmond, Virginia, with Dr. Eugene R. Woolridge, Jr., and the Rev. Lee Roy Brown, with the writer of this memoir officiating. Interment was in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Richmond. —*Carl J. Sanders*

Herbert Eugene Hudgins, 1900-1990

Herbert Eugene Hudgins was born in Baltimore, Maryland, November 20, 1900, the product of a Methodist Protestant home. Early in his life he felt the call to the ministry. He was educated at Western Maryland College and Westminster Theological Seminary (now Wesley Theological Seminary), where he received his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Sacred Theology degrees. He was received as a probationary member of the former Maryland conference of the Methodist Protestant Church in 1925 and was ordained an elder in 1927.



His years in the ministry were marked with conspicuous success. From 1925 to 1969 he served pastorates in the Maryland conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, and within the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church he served churches in Arlington, Manassas, Newport News, Farmville, Danville, Covington and Roanoke. During this time he also served on the staff of the General Board of Education. In his retirement he served for over seven years as minister of visitation at Boulevard United Methodist Church where his ministry added a depth of warmth and meaning to the service of that great church. Wherever he served (he people responded with enthusiasm, and expressed genuine grief when the bishop moved him on.

He is survived by his wife, Louise, a faithful partner in his ministry across the years; his daughter and a son-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. L. Arnold Frederick; a granddaughter, Carol F. Gentry; grandson, Dr. Louis A. Frederick, Jr.; and one great-grandson, John Christopher Gentry, Jr.

Herbert Hudgins was a loving husband, a devoted father, a faithful pastor and a winsome servant of Christ. He incarnated day by day the Gospel he preached. What better legacy could any person leave?

Funeral services were held in Boulevard United Methodist Church on September 25, at 11:00 a.m., conducted by his pastor, the Rev. Matthew W. Jones, IV, Dr. Eugene B. Wright, and Bishop R. Kern Eutsler. —*R. Kern Eutsler*

Arthur Woodley Henton, 1897-1990

Arthur Woodley Henton was born March 11, 1897 in Melrose, Virginia, of John William and Alberta Florence (West) Henton. “Woodley,” as he was known by family and friends, grew up in the small farming community of Melrose and attended Melrose schools and Friendship United Methodist Church. Woodley and his family were all lifelong Methodists and could recall the days when they rode to “preaching” in a “rockaway” buggy with pull-out seats. Brother Henton answered the call to preach in 1920 at the age of 23. He attended Shenandoah College and completed the four-year course.

While a student at Shenandoah, Woodley met Rosamont Ruth Proffill, a fellow student from Free Union, Virginia. They were married June 2, 1926, at Free Union, and there were no children of this marriage.

Brother Henton was ordained deacon in 1929, elder and full connection in 1931. He began his ministry in Elk Garden, West Virginia in 1926, followed by service at the following locations: Minnie Haw Haw Springs, W.Va. (3 years); Eagle Rock, Va. (3 years); Pembroke (4 years); Lynchburg (5 years); Covington (7 years); Danville (5 years); and finally Stephens City in 1957 for 5 years. Brother Henton retired in 1963.

After retirement in 1963 Woodley and his wife moved to Free Union, Va., and he was called upon frequently to fill pulpits in the Charlottesville area. After the death of his wife in 1968, Woodley continued to live with and care for his elderly in-laws until his own health began to fail and he moved to Windham, a retirement home, in Crozet. Later, further health problems forced Brother to make his final earthly move to Eldercare Gardens in Charlottesville where he died on September 30, 1990. Interment was at the cemetery of Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church in Free Union.

Brother Woodley Henton was a highly respected and loved minister of Jesus Christ, a warm friend and good neighbor, a caring family man and a great conversationalist. He will be missed by those who knew and loved him. —*Gerald P. Coleman*

L. Richard Nease, Jr., 1898-1990

L. Richard Nease, Jr. was living in Wesley Village, Jenkins Township, Pennsylvania at the time of death, October 25, 1990. He was born June 6, 1898, in Lumber City, Georgia, the son of the late Leander R. and Joanna MacAllister Nease.

He was a graduate of Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, where he received a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy and graduate degrees in divinity.

While at Emory University, he received honors with the debating team and was a member of the glee club.

His career as a clergyman spanned 65 years. In the Louisiana conference, he served nine appointments. In the Virginia Conference, he served Woods-Wesley Chapel for three years, and the Providence-Woodland Charge for four years. He retired from the Virginia Conference in 1965. His last clergy position was with the Church of Christ Uniting in Kingston, Pennsylvania, where he served as assistant pastor before retiring in 1971.

He also served as a chaplain in the U.S. Army through both World War II and the Korean War. He had tours of duty in North Africa, Italy, Okinawa, and Japan and was the recipient of numerous commendations from the U.S. Army. He retired with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Surviving are his wife, the former Mary Willard, and daughter, Mrs. Richard W. (Jo Ann) Harris.
—*JoAnn Neale Harris*

Clarence Ambrose Turner, Jr., 1901-1990

Clarence Ambrose Turner, Jr., the only son and first of five children born to Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Ambrose Turner, Sr., was born June 16, 1901, on the family plantation on the James River near Smithfield, Virginia. The rural area provided close family ties. The loving example set by his mother and father and, later, the move to Norfolk in 1919, all provided varied and enriching experiences for him, thus paving the way for him to answer God's call to the ministry. Through the years, he brought honor to his family with his many accomplishments, great preaching, envied appointments and civic and social achievements.



Ambrose was educated in the public schools in and around Smithfield. He received the Bachelor of Arts degree from The College of William and Mary in 1930. Our Lord tugged at his heart and he answered the call to the ministry, receiving his seminary training at Duke Divinity School. He became a probationer in the Virginia Conference in 1930, a deacon in 1932, and an elder in 1934. His retirement came in June of 1966 following a heart attack. His appointments included West End, South Boston; Wesley, Martinsville; East York, Poquoson; Blacksburg; Main Street, Waynesboro; Ginter Park, Richmond; Larchmont, Norfolk; First, Salem; Del Ray, Alexandria. He continued for many years to answer that divine call as a retired minister serving as a parish visitor at Trinity, Poquoson; Community, Virginia Beach; Park Place, Ghent and Larchmont in Norfolk.

He married Lucy Wells, his first love, in 1924. To that union came a daughter, Anne, and a son, Clarence Ambrose Turner, III. Anne died during his first appointment. Lucy died in 1947. He later married Mary Rebecca Thomas who predeceased him.

Ambrose was a diligent pastor, an avid reader, a continuous student while he possessed a great sense of humor, wore a contagious smile and loved life, people and the world. His commitment to his call was so great that he never allowed social, civic or recreational concerns to come ahead of his duty as a pastor. He converted many because of his ability to enter into other people's troubles and bring them hope and confidence -- truly a rare form of evangelism.

His ministry was greatly appreciated in the many churches and congregations he served but also through the following fraternal and civic organizations. He served as a faithful member and chaplain of the Norfolk Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. During World War II, Governor Colgate W. Darden, Jr. appointed him to the Virginia Civil Defense Commission. He was an active member of the Ruth Lodge No. 89 Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Scottish Rite Bodies and Khedive Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He had been a member of the Lions and Rotary clubs during his ministry and served as president of the Blacksburg Rotary Club. He was a member of the Kiwanis Clubs of Alexandria, Salem, and Norfolk, and a life member of Kiwanis International.

Death came late on November 25 following a lovely visit with his three surviving sisters. Mentally alert to the very end and sometimes in great pain, those of us who loved him were so glad to feel he went from a moment of pain to an instant of peace and calm hearing the divine call once more, this time saying: "Come unto me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." Funeral services were conducted at Larchmont United Methodist Church by his pastor, the Rev. W. Dabney Walters, assisted by the Rev. Milford C. Rollins on a stormy, cold November 28 at 11:00 a.m. A full church heard his minister say: "I was not his bishop nor his district superintendent, but as his pastor, I announce his final appointment to the Church Triumphant, knowing he had already heard the words of his Lord, 'Well done thou good and faithful servant, enter into the joys of eternal life.'" "

Burial was in Suffolk, Virginia. —*Milford C. Rollins*

Hugh Hanna Johnson, 1903-1990

Hugh Hanna Johnson was born in Isle of Wight County, June 3, 1903. He joined the church early in life and soon thereafter heard the call to the pastoral ministry. He was educated at The College of William and Mary where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree, and later graduated from Duke Divinity School with a B.D. Frances Torian of Virgilina became his wife in 1932, preceding him in death in 1975.



In 1928, he was granted a license to preach in the Durham District of the North Carolina conference, and later joined the Virginia Conference as a probationary member in 1930. He was ordained deacon in 1932, was received into full connection in 1932, and was ordained an elder in 1934. During the course of his ministry, he received the following appointments: Hyco, Brightwood, Albemarle, Batesville, Halifax, Loudoun, Buchanan, Goochland, Brunswick, Shackelfords, Mt. Crawford, Mt. Carmel in Covington, and Riverton. Hugh retired from active ministry in 1970, spending his retirement in Virgilina and Fincastle.

Hugh died in Fincastle on November 25, 1990, and was laid to rest next to his wife in Virgilina Cemetery. His graveside service was attended by a large number of laity from the churches he had served, attesting to his many years of faithful ministry. Truly it can be said of him: They that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars for ever and ever. —*Willard D. Wash*

George Burton Riley, Jr., 1916-1990

Retired United States Navy chaplain, Commander George Burton Riley, Jr., died on December 14, 1990. He had been a resident of Zellwood, Florida. A memorial service attended by family and friends was held at Mount Dora United Methodist Church.

Chaplain Riley was born in Crawfordsville, Indiana, on March 19, 1916, the 10th of 11 children born to George Burton Riley, Sr., and Emma Bynum Riley.

George graduated from North Webster High School, North Webster, Indiana, in 1934. He received a Bachelor of Arts from Indiana Central College, Indianapolis, in 1941, and a Bachelor of Divinity from Garrett Biblical Institute, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, in 1947.

George Burton Riley, Jr., was ordained a deacon by the Indiana conference of the Methodist Church in 1942. He transferred to the Virginia Conference of the United Brethren Church in 1946 where he was ordained an elder.

The Rev. George B. Riley, Jr., was appointed to and served the Kirklin Methodist Church, Kirklin, Indiana, from 1942-1944. He was associate pastor of High Street Methodist Church, Muncie, Indiana, from 1944-1946. He transferred to the Virginia Conference United Brethren Church and at their 1946 annual meeting, was commissioned to organize and establish a new congregation in Arlington, Virginia. On May 27, 1947, this new congregation was organized. Their new church, St. Marks Evangelical United Brethren Church (the former Brethren and Evangelical churches were merged on November 16, 1946) was completed in July 1948. The Rev. Riley pastored this new church until March 1951, when he enlisted in the United States Navy and was commissioned a chaplain lieutenant (j.g.) and commenced a 20-year career, rising to rank of commander. He was retired in 1975.

George B. Riley, Jr., was married to his college sweetheart, the late Sarah Montgomery Riley, in 1941. She was deceased in 1975. On May 2, 1976, George married Kathaline Ingmire Riley of Zellwood, Florida, his surviving widow. Other survivors include one brother, Edward Riley of South Bend, Indiana; one sister, Beulah Neff of Hobart, Indiana; three stepdaughters, Sharon Brustad, Janet Beck and Suzanne Cox; two stepsons, Vern Doty and David Ingmire; 11 step grandchildren; and two step great-grandchildren. —*Kathaline Ingmire Riley*

Charles Harmon Walton, 1925-1991

Charles and Viola Walton practiced “team ministry” for many years before that term reached popular usage in another context. In addition to other and separate church responsibilities, they visited members and community residents regularly with caring, continuous interest. None of their nine appointments ever reported a net membership loss. The Walton parsonages and personal home were near continuous open houses. Hardly a week passed without friends or parishioners being guests for one or more days. A week was not unusual as a special service to a caring spouse who needed the rest of space and time alone.



Charles, the 14th Virginia Conference member from his mother’s family, was the only son and youngest of three children born to Harmon J. and Marion Enos Walton. From his birth in Clifton Forge, Va., May 13, 1925, he grew toward manhood on a dedicated diet of Christian service through Methodism. After Sunday school and worship at Central Church, Clifton Forge, his parents worked and taught at Wilsons Creek (Iron Gate Charge) Sunday afternoons for more than 50 years. The church was renamed Walton Memorial in 1956, four years before Mr. Walton’s death. Mrs. Walton continued teaching until her death in 1967.

When Charles died in Lynchburg, January 6, in his first year of annuity retirement, he was his immediate family’s only survivor. He is survived by his wife of more than 38 years, the former Viola Carson; a son, George William of Baltimore, Md.; a daughter, Laura Lee Marzetta of Alameda, Cal.; and two grandchildren -- Gregory and Rachel Marzetta.

Funeral services were conducted in Lynchburg and Clifton Forge (January 9) by two of Charles’ brothers-in-law and fellow Virginia Conference members, the Rev. Louis E. Carson and the Rev. Joseph T. Carson, Jr.

Charles attended or was graduated from Randolph-Macon Academy, Ferrum, Randolph-Macon College (Ashland) and the Divinity School of Duke University. His Virginia Conference ministry began by teaching psychology at Ferrum Junior College, 1950-52. Viola joined the faculty in home economics in 1951, and they married the following September in Memorial Methodist Church, Appomattox.

The newlyweds began “team parish ministry” at Keysville in October 1952, which also included Meherrin and Plantersville at the beginning of their five-year pastorate. They also served Buchanan, Bethany (Hampton), Calvary (Stuarts Draft), West End (Portsmouth), Kilmarnock, Leesburg, and Saint John’s in Staunton. Charles’ more serious health problems interrupted the first year at Main Street (Bedford) in April 1983.

Following disability retirement in June and the final move to their home at 101 Holmes Circle, Lynchburg, Charles and Viola entered the ministry of Shiloh during the pastor of their nephew, the Rev. Joseph T. Carson, III.

Charles was a well-rounded, intelligent and perceptive person in his church and private life, as well as a serious, caring and much appreciated pastor. Holiday, birthday and anniversary cards, with personal notes, were mailed annually to a list that grew for 40 years. Charles loved humor, and he was able to see lightness in many of life’s ironies. Older persons and things earned his love and appreciation easily throughout life. His life also was enriched by spectator sports, music and drama. Life’s total experiences strengthened his faith, and his faith discovered deeper meanings for life.

Last December, less than a month before his death, Charles spoke randomly and freely of what he needed and didn’t need from his faith. Viola suggested he should put those thoughts on paper. He sat at the kitchen table and composed his final written words. They were summarized too briefly here and paraphrased for additional brevity.

He didn't need self-righteousness paraded, he wrote, or judgments or fears of an eternal hell. He also included shame, guilt and philosophies that differed from his own.

"I need Jesus," who said: 'I love you,' "even when you do not love me, your fellow human or yourself. "I love him for wearing the thorns on his brow, but I love him for accepting me as I am. 'What a friend we have in Jesus.' Yes, he's my friend."

About a month earlier, Charles had participated in his last funeral service. "He now knows the whys we often wonder about," Charles said. Like that deceased friend and former parishioner, Charles has entered the completeness of life that knows the whys. His life is remembered with love and appreciation, but his absence leaves grief and regrets. —*Fred T. Gilley*

Beverly Felty, 1920-1991

On Thursday, January 10, 1991, loved ones and friends from near and far gathered to honor the life and ministry of Beverly Felty. The setting was Raleigh Court United Methodist Church in Roanoke, Virginia, where, as a child, Bev began his spiritual journey. The service was conducted by Dr. Gregory L. Adkins, pastor of Raleigh Court; Dr. T. Eugene Carter, superintendent of the Roanoke District; and the writer. It was a service of memory and thanksgiving for a loyal friend, a good person, and a faithful minister of Jesus Christ.



Bev was born in Roanoke, Virginia, on October 13, 1920, the son of Wythe D. and Anne M. Felty. He attended Jefferson High School. At Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia, he received his Bachelor's degree in 1942. At Candler School of Theology of Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, he earned his Master of Divinity degree. Later, Randolph-Macon conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity.

Upon completion of his work at Emory University, Bev was ordained and commissioned as a chaplain in the United States Navy in March of 1945. He received an honorable discharge in 1946, was received into full connection in the Virginia Conference of the Methodist Church, and was appointed as the director of the Wesley Foundation at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and associate pastor of the Whisner Memorial Church in Blacksburg, Virginia. He continued his service in our conference as the faithful and effective pastor of Chesterfield Heights Church, Norfolk; Central Church, Richmond; Christ Church, Arlington; Virginia Beach Church, Virginia Beach; Ghent Church, Norfolk; and Arlington Church, Arlington. From 1971 to 1977, he served well as the district superintendent of the Danville District. During the years of his active ministry, he enjoyed taking part in the youth work, especially in summer conferences and camps. He also enjoyed the opportunity of teaching youth and adults in Christian Workers' Schools.

In June of 1984, he retired to the Roanoke United Methodist Home. In retirement, he served as part-time assistant pastor at Raleigh Court Church and later as the chaplain of the Roanoke United Methodist Home. In the latter capacity, as he was returning from some pastoral visiting in a local hospital, on Thursday, December 6, he was involved in an automobile accident which claimed his life exactly one month later on January 6, 1991.

Bev is survived by his wife, Margaret S. Felty of Roanoke; a daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Huffman (Gwen and Harvey) of Winston-Salem, North Carolina; a son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Felty (Michael and Julie) of Alexandria, Virginia; two granddaughters, Lisa Ann Huffman and Kathryn Leigh Huffman; and one grandson, Jack R. Davis.

Following the service of death and resurrection on January 10 at Raleigh Court, interment took place at Evergreen Burial Park in Roanoke. In the words of Paul, "I thank God in all my remembrance" of Bev, and, as it was said of another, I would like to say of my true friend, Bev Felty, "There will never come an end to the good he has done." —*George Wesley Jones*

William Council Peacock, Jr., 1910-1991

William Council Peacock, Jr. was born in Tiptonville, Tenn., May 30, 1910. He graduated from the School of Pharmacy at the University of Tennessee Medical School, Memphis, and married Laura Alleene Cunningham. They moved to Norfolk where he established a pharmacy in the Ward's Corner area which proved to be very successful, the store becoming a meeting place for the community. "Doc" Peacock became a leader of the Ward's Corner Business Men's Association. His daughter, Barbara, also became a pharmacist and married her father's associate, Harry G. Plunkett, Jr. Being severely injured in a robbery, Doc hired a group of Marines in the store, preventing further trouble. One of them, Sam Golden, married the second daughter. The drugstore and its luncheon facility welcomed those of all races and creeds long before the civil rights movement. Doc's concern for all persons, especially the poor, marked him as a man of unusual qualities.



After a deep personal crisis Doc was confronted with a profound spiritual question: Should he acknowledge and accept the call for a complete career change. This resulted in his entrance upon the course of study at Wesley and Duke theological schools in preparation for full ministry in the Methodist Church. His son-in-law faced a similar crisis and enrolled in medical school to become a physician.

In 1963, Peacock became a local pastor and was appointed to the Fifth Avenue and Wesley churches in Portsmouth. In 1965 he was ordained a local deacon by Bishop Walter C. Gum. In 1967 he was ordained a local elder; in 1969 voted into probationary membership in the Virginia Conference; and in 1971 he was admitted into full connection.

He was assigned to the Waverly Charge in 1967 where he remained until 1976. He then moved to St. Matthews Church in Suffolk from which he retired in 1978 to Selby Place, Norfolk.

Bill Peacock was a good minister of Jesus Christ. His effectiveness was seen in the fine service he gave the church and community of Waverly. Mrs. A. Paul Hartz said he had touched every level of that community as no other had. His sermons were creative and original. His profound sense of humor moved him from "funny man" to one with deep philosophical insights. His one-on-one ministry was marked by a divinely-given gift of understanding and compassion. He was the epitome of integrity, having deep convictions for which he made no apology as he confronted the godless and the secular.

Two principles he accented were that we are not called to like everyone, but we do have to love them; and, if you would pull someone out of the gutter, you must be willing to get down in the gutter with him.

As his district superintendent for six years and his across-the-street neighbor for over 10 years, I came to know him as one who often would get out of bed in the night to get some mother's son out of a filthy jail; or confronting the hour of a father's greatest tragedy in the untimely death of his daughter be enabled to dedicate even his own devastation to Almighty God; or, in seeing the mantle of his ministry to Christ passed on to the husband of his youngest daughter rejoice and feel his own ministry had been fulfilled. It is little wonder that Rotary International designated him as a "Paul Harris Fellow." Now in this time surely the lord must be saying, "Well done, Thou good and faithful servant."

A service of death and resurrection was conducted at Miles Memorial Church, Norfolk, on February 15, 1991 by his pastor, the Rev. O. Murry Unruh, Lee B. Sheaffer, Phineas S. Boyer, and Carl W. Haley. He is survived by his wife of 60 years; his two daughters, Mrs. Harry G. Plunkett and Mrs. John F. Shappell of Virginia Beach; nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. —*Carl Wrenn Haley*

James Witt (Jimmy) Brown, 1908-1991

At the memorial service for Jimmy Brown in Williamsburg United Methodist Church on March 5, 1991, a statement of remembrance, written by his daughters, was read to the congregation. In the

opening paragraph they wrote these words about their father: We asked that the love chapter of I Corinthians be read in this service because we can pay no higher tribute to our father than to say that he exemplified the ideas expressed by St. Paul in those verses. To say that “Love is patient and kind... not arrogant or rude... does not insist on its own way...” is to describe Jimmy Brown. LOVE was a major theme of his life. All of us who knew this strong, kind and gentle man would agree that he touched our lives repeatedly with the touch of caring love. James Witt Brown was born in Schuyler, Virginia, on December 7, 1908. He grew up in Richmond, Virginia. After graduation from John Marshall High School in that city, he attended Randolph-Macon College where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree, and Duke University where he received the Bachelor of Divinity and Master of Arts degrees. He was ordained a deacon in the Virginia Annual Conference in 1932 and received elder’s orders in 1934.



During his senior year at Randolph-Macon, Jimmy met Mildred Garrett from Cumberland County at Monumental Church in Richmond where Jimmy had been a member from childhood. Three years later, on June 11, 1932, they were married, and there followed 59 years of joyous life together.

During 14 of his 42 years of active ministry, Jimmy served as pastor of Williamsburg United Methodist Church (1948-1958 and 1970-1974). He also served congregations in the Richmond, Petersburg, Arlington and Peninsula districts. Since their retirement in 1974, Mildred and Jimmy made their home in the beautiful and historic city of Williamsburg. Their life was blessed with three lovely daughters, Beverly Peace of Mission Viejo, CA, Susan Brown of Richmond, and Cathy Southwell of Seaford, and four grandchildren.

Jimmy and I became close friends, as well as colleagues in ministry, when we served together as pastors in Williamsburg Church. His sermons were strong and prophetic in content but always delivered with pastoral sensitivity. Those gifts of wit and humor, which made conversation with him delightful and his countenance sparkle, also added great interest and vitality to his preaching. He was a true friend, a valued counselor and wise mentor in the things of faith and life.

In the closing paragraph of the statement of remembrance prepared by his daughters, they paid the following tribute to his faith:

We know Daddy was ready to leave this world, to experience what he called the adventure of death, and await whatever God has in store. During his last weeks, he frequently asked, in reference to his care, “What’s the next step?” We are sure our heavenly Father, the great caregiver, is now answering that ultimate question, and Dad is responding with joy.

We shall miss that touch of joy and love which he brought to all whom he met, but no one who knew Jimmy Brown will ever forget him.

Thanks be unto God for blessing the world with the gift of James Witt Brown. —C. P. Minnick, Jr.

Louis Cabe Shearer, Jr., 1906-1991

In 1930, Louis Shearer entered the ministry of our Virginia Conference with a distinguished ministerial family background. He followed in the footsteps of his father, Louis Cabe Shearer, Sr., who was a member of our conference from 1895 to the time of his death in 1918. In 1935, Louis married Miss Elizabeth Campbell Eure who was herself both the granddaughter and the daughter of distinguished Virginia Conference ministers: Travis J. Taylor, 49 years a pastor, 1867-1912; and John Walter Eure, a pastor, 1902-1920.



When Travis Taylor came to serve the Appomattox Charge in the 1880s, he found in the James E. Shearer family young Louis Cabe (Sr.), whom he received into church membership and pointed his feet toward Randolph-Macon College and the ministry. Little did he know that the son of this attractive young man would someday marry his own granddaughter and they would together become a part of the ministry of his own calling.

Louis and Elizabeth Shearer, coming out of Court Street Church, Lynchburg, made a magnificent team, serving the Virginia Conference with distinction for 42 years, from 1930: Gladys, West Campbell, Appomattox (his family roots), Buena Vista, Orange, Leesburg, Christ in Arlington, Clifton Forge, Bruen Chapel, Chesterbrook, Trinity in Roanoke, and St. James in Arlington with retirement in 1972.

In the early days of our ministry, we knew both of their widowed mothers: Daisy Bell Shearer and Addie Taylor Eure, dedicated preachers' wives and remarkable missionary "spirits" within the Lynchburg District.

We first knew Louis and Elizabeth at the several conference schools held at Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg, and on the West Campbell Charge where their first baby, Mary Margaret, was born.

Today there are three daughters: Mrs. Margaret Barbour, Orlando, Fla.; Virginia S. Renick, Waltham, Mass.; and Beth Conner Shearer, Chestnut Hill, Mass.; and six grandchildren.

Across the years we admired his work and visited with him at each annual conference. There was always a bright light in his eyes, with his soft-spoken and warm personal greeting. There was always a note of optimism and he was upbeat in his manner of speaking.

Louis was a careful thinker, an educator at heart. He served for many years with our conference Board of Education and he personally led many youth assemblies.

Above all, Louis was a dedicated servant of Christ, whose clean, pure life was lived beyond reproach. He was a man to be trusted, a man to emulate.

Soon after retirement (1972) Louis and Elizabeth went to New England to be near two daughters and to winter in Florida with their other daughter. His last days were at the New England Deaconess Retirement Home, Concord, Mass. He died on Thursday, March 7, 1991, at 85 years of age, with a memorial service in Concord and interment in the Presbyterian Cemetery, Lynchburg, Saturday, March 16. He is survived by his dear wife, three daughters and six grandchildren. —*John Wynn Myers*

Benjamin Thomas Price, 1904-1991

Benjamin Thomas Price was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on April 26, 1904. In 1913, the family moved to Cumberland, Maryland and it was here that Ben matured. Circumstances forced him to leave school at the age of 12 but his hunger for knowledge never abated. As an older teenager he felt the call to the ministry in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, of Cumberland. Here also Ben met Geneva Bittinger, who became his wife and partner in ministry for more than 66 years. Ben was the preacher and Geneva the musician who helped where needed in every church they served.

He began his ministry as a local preacher serving first in Hardy County, West Virginia. He was then appointed to the Riverton Charge where he was able to enroll at Randolph-Macon Academy, finishing high school in three years and being admitted to Roanoke College where he received the Bachelor of Arts degree. His next goal was to become an ordained minister. By way of the course of study taken through correspondence with Emory University he reached this goal and became a full member of the Baltimore conference. At the time of Methodist union in 1939 he was serving the Fauquier Circuit. He found himself then in the Alexandria District of the Virginia Conference. In the Virginia Conference he completed 40 years of active and effective service, retiring in 1966.

In addition to the charges mentioned, Ben served: the Roanoke Circuit, Fauquier, Newport-Pembroke, Montvale, West End in Portsmouth, the Henry Circuit, Urbanna, Campostella, Kenwood and Trinity in Richmond as associate. In writing his remembrances of a long and fruitful ministry, he wrote about going to Trinity, "This was really the only time I had the opportunity of choosing where I would serve and it proved to be the best and happiest of all my churches." He approached ministry with a zeal and commitment which were viewed with admiration and appreciation. Surely no one could have

profited from a more loyal or devoted associate than he was for the writer of these memoirs. He was a trusted friend and confidant. He will be missed.

Ben was very much a baseball player and fan. He had great skill as a pitcher and a hitter. He used baseball as a tool of ministry, reaching out to the young people in playing where there were teams and organizing teams where there were none. He wrote, "I felt I could do as much good outside the pulpit as in it as it gave me the opportunity to meet and help people that I never could reach otherwise."

The Rev. Benjamin T. Price is survived by his wife, Geneva, and two daughters, Patricia (Mrs. David Ruskus) and Barbara (Mrs. Luitpold Wallach). A service of memory was held at Trinity United Methodist Church in Richmond conducted by his pastor, Dr. Eugene R. Woolridge, Dr. Harry B. Eaton, and the writer. With thanks for his ministry among us, we commend his spirit to the Heavenly Father.
—James W. Turner

James Moses Pannell, 1913-1991

"The kindest brother anyone could ever have" is the spoken sentiment of the three sisters of the Rev. James Pannell. He worked in the coal mines of West Virginia and as an orderly in two hospitals while helping to educate his sisters. Having been ordained a deacon in a Baptist church, the call to the ministry was the next step in a life dedicated to the work and calling of God. Jim was born in a small country village called Premier, West Virginia, February 12, 1913, the oldest child of James and Louise Drew Pannell. Educated in the public schools of McDowell County, he later attended and graduated from Knoxville College, Knoxville, Tennessee. While pastoring in Virginia, he attended Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia.



He served four years in the European Operation during World War II where he received the Good Conduct Medal, American Theater Service Ribbon and the Victoria and European Service ribbons.

His work in the ministry began in Jamaica, New York, at the Brooks Memorial Methodist Church where he served as superintendent of the church school and then as an exhorter. This experience prepared him for his first assignment in Knoxville, Tenn. There he pastored Senie Chapel Methodist Church and completed his education. After spending four years in Knoxville, he decided to move to the green pastures of Virginia, where he remained until his retirement in 1978.

He pastored Faith Methodist Church in Richmond, Jackson Street Methodist Church in Lynchburg, Asbury Church in Richmond, Wright Memorial in Portsmouth, and served as associate pastor of Good Shepherd United Methodist Church in Woodbridge. After he retired from the ministry, he remained active by serving as associate director of religion and race in the conference Council on Ministries for two years.

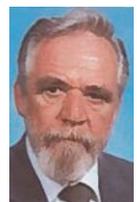
Poor health necessitated his moving to Youngstown, Ohio to be with his sisters. He is survived by one son, Aaron David Pannell, and one daughter, Regina Pannell Smith.

Services for Jim were eulogized at Centenary United Methodist Church, Youngstown, Ohio, with the Rev. Arthur A. Zebbs, officiating.

He will be sorely missed by family and friends, but we can take comfort in knowing what is promised in 2 Peter 1:11, "For in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you." —Pauline Singletary

Richard David Waters, 1927-1990

Playwright, director, actor, genius, pastor, friend: these are just some of the terms used to describe Dick Waters. We came to know him in many roles, all of which he played well and to the fullest until his final curtain call. Dick was one of God's special performers, and God provided him with unique gifts to fit the various roles he was called to play in life. A native



of Lynchburg and a graduate of Lynchburg College, Dick first went to Hollywood to direct one act plays for television, Later, he wrote and directed television drama for the National Council of Churches and entered the ministry in 1958. While completing his theological studies at Boston University and pastoring two Cape Cod churches, he founded a small theater group. "The Fisherman's Players," one of the nation's earliest religious drama companies, was established as a seasonal theater company and church outreach program that produced Dick's original plays. These dramatizations addressed contemporary issues, provided biblical interpretation, and were performed on tour before churches of all denominations, and at various colleges and universities. His more than 30 thought-provoking plays produced both laughter and tears and always left his audiences with much to think about. He often utilized his gifts in drama while pastoring churches in New England, on the Eastern Shore, and Portsmouth districts of Virginia. Many viewed his plays which addressed concerns of society as "prophetic sermons."

Dick and Maria Manos were married in 1955 and shared as partners in ministry for 35 years. Three sons, five foster children, and numerous others who came to know him as father figure and close friend profited from his wise counsel.

Dick will be remembered not only for his contributions as a pastor and playwright, but also for his enormously high energy level, his professional dedication to excellence, his passion, and eloquence. Following the funeral celebration on August 29 in Trinity United Methodist Church, Smithfield, a friend commented, "Both in his relationships and his dramas, Dick shaped strangers into friends." In his play "The Storyteller," Dick wrote, "We are stories, we tell stories, we become the stories we tell." He became the story he told by reaching out to others, and ministering in one of the roles he knew best as one of Christ's servants. In remembering his life and witness we recall that his was "a faith journey well lived." —*R. Franklin Gillis, Jr.*

Darrell Lee Bays, 1920-1990

Darrell L. Bays was born in Lincoln County, West Virginia, on October 27, 1920, a son of Elmer and Garnett Bays. He was the oldest of 10 living children. Following his call to the ordained ministry, Darrell served in the West Virginia Conference, the Troy conference, and transferred to the Virginia Conference in 1960. He served Goshen-Rockbridge, Baths, Sherando-Lyndhurst, Crimora, Tangier, Wachapreague-Quinby, Cashville, Wrights Chapel-Hopewell, Surrey, East Halifax, and Nelsons, where he retired in 1987.



Darrell and Sylvia moved to Farmville and, in retirement, served at Meherrin, and the Nottoway Charge. He entered into eternal rest in Lynchburg General Hospital on August 22, 1990, following an illness of five months. His ministry spanned some 42 years in the three conferences. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Sylvia Mae Bays; two sons, Darrell A. and Rodney Lee Bays; and two daughters, Doreen B. Doney, and Beverly B. Phillips.

Darrell was a rural pastor all of his ministry, and we thank God for rural ministers, willing to serve, even in retirement, the small membership churches and to help them have good leadership. Members of the churches in the Farmville District where he served have expressed their appreciation for his fine work in their churches.

Brother Bays loved his wife and family -- lovely, gracious, mountain people. Darrell loved life; he had a zest for life -- always some project in mind, expressing itself in his hobbies of gardening and woodworking. He had a tremendous garden, and was extremely generous with his vegetables for his neighbors and friends; in woodwork he could make most anything. The writer was a benefactor of both the gardening and the woodworking.

Darrell's final sermon was preached at Bethel and St. John's United Methodist churches on June 3, 1990, where he remarked, "I'm dying with cancer, but it's OK; someday I will enter into full [eternal] life."

A service of worship, praise, and thanksgiving was held on August 25, 1990, at the Smyrna Church (Prospect Charge), at Sheppards, Virginia, by his district superintendent, Henry E. Riley, Jr., and the pastor of the church, the Rev. Thomas L. Walthall. Burial was in the church cemetery. The writer quoted these lines: "Servant of God, well done! Thy glorious warfare past; The battle fought, the race is won, And thou art crowned at last." —*Henry E. Riley, Jr.*

Harry Lionel Meredith, Jr., 1905-1990

Harry Lionel Meredith, Jr. was born May 2, 1905, in Hagerstown, Maryland, the son of Harry L. Meredith and Marie Maisch Meredith. At the age of 55, Harry was ordained deacon by Bishop Paul Neff Garber at the 1960 session of the Virginia Annual Conference in Fredericksburg. In his prior civilian life Harry served first the U.S. Army and afterwards was engaged in automotive and real estate businesses.



Active in the "No Silent Pulpits" program and as part-time local pastor, Harry served 17 years in the following churches in the Alexandria and Arlington districts from 1957 to 1974: Vale, Accotink, St. Luke's, Bethel and Silverbrook. The love and appreciation between Harry and these congregations was manifestly evidenced by the warmth and spirit of the large number of laity in attendance at Harry's funeral at Dulin Church in Falls Church on September 9, 1990.

At Harry's funeral, Arlington District Superintendent Robinson H. McAden spoke the following in his words of tribute: "Harry Meredith was a man who truly loved God, his family, and his church. Each time I visited with Harry the conversation centered on these three. Though he had already retired when I first met him, he was always anxious to find a place to serve. Whether it was teaching a Sunday school class, preaching in a retirement home, or filling in for a pastor in the local church, Harry was quick to say 'yes,' and always prepared to share his faith. He was grateful for what God had done in his own life, and wanted others to experience that walk with God."

It was bypass surgery in 1972 that consequently led to Harry's semi-retirement in 1974. However, as the Rev. McAden said, even afterwards and almost up to his death, September 6, 1990, Harry always readily responded to calls and opportunities for service.

Harry is survived by his wife, Frances Edwards Meredith; a son, Carlisle -- both of Falls Church -- a sister, a brother, and two granddaughters.

Harry enjoyed a love for sports. He was an avid reader, always interested in education, as indicated by his 1956 and 1971-72 study at American University. By nature he was a quiet man, and genuinely valued close friends. As much as life itself, Harry loved his wife and family, and his Lord. —*J. Courtney Sheffield*

James H. Truslow, 1930-1990

The Rev. James H. Truslow died on December 24, 1990. He was born December 6, 1930 in Stafford County, Virginia. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, and their son, James H. Truslow, Jr., and his grandchildren whom he adored. James was actively serving a charge at the time of his death, Falmouth and Antioch United Methodist churches. James was very active in Stafford County. He was the chaplain at the Stafford County Jail; he was also the staff chaplain for Mullins and Thompson Funeral Service. He was a member of Stafford "SERVE," a volunteer group that helps the needy, and he was a member of the Stafford Ministerial Association. The Rev. Truslow served in the Marines during the Korean War. In 1983 James was named "Man of the Year" by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3103 in Fredericksburg, Virginia.



The Rev. Truslow had a great love and knowledge of the word of God and gladly shared the Scripture whenever the opportunity came.

James touched the lives of so many for so long. When someone was down or had sorrows, it didn't matter to James whether they were rich or poor or what color their skin; he was always there. He would stop by to visit those with spiritual or emotional needs with a smile and prayer. He lived his life in the shadow of the cross and, because of his example, four individuals entered the ministry.

The members of both his churches look back upon his long and stable 22-year ministry with profound respect. Members have said, "He shared our happiness and our tears; he taught us about God and our Savior; he loved both the young and the old; he was the most dedicated minister I have ever known and in total disregard for his own health he kept on going." Words such as courteous, agreeable, energetic, intelligent, lovable, devoted servant, and young of heart are just a few words to describe him.

In loving memory of a devoted friend and brother in Christ, we now give thanks to Almighty God. He will remain always in our hearts. —*Dr. R. L. Russell*

1992 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Bishop W. Kenneth Goodson, 1912-1991 (First Memoir)

Bishop W. Kenneth Goodson, called by God to be His minister, was born in Salisbury, North Carolina, on September 25, 1912, the son of Daniel Washington and Sarah Peeler Goodson. He died at his home in Winston-Salem, September 17, 1991, after a long illness. He is survived by his wife and partner in ministry, Martha Ogburn Goodson, and three children: Ann (Mrs. Lany M. Faust), Nancy (Mrs. Dilmus R. Richey), and W. Kenneth Goodson, Jr.; 10 grandchildren; three brothers, Joe M., H. White, and Elwood K. Goodson.



After graduation from the public schools of Salisbury, Kenneth Goodson received the Bachelor of Arts degree from Catawba College in 1934. He received his seminary training at the Divinity School of Duke University. This began a lifelong love for that school. It is one of nine colleges and universities which conferred on him honorary degrees. At the time of his death he was a trustee emeritus of Duke having resigned from the board to accept a position as the first clergy member of the board of trustees of the Duke Endowment. Upon his retirement in 1980, he was invited to become bishop-in-residence at the Divinity School. Dean Dennis Campbell said of him, "He taught for us. He counseled with students. He represented the school all over the world"

Often he referred to his first pastorate at the Oak Ridge Methodist Church and his association with the students at the Oak Ridge Military Academy. It was here that he and Martha began a long and joyful life together in the ministry of the church and in service to the larger world community. He served West Market Street and Muir's Chapel churches in Greensboro, First Methodist Church in Wadesboro, High Point and Charlotte. He served three years as district superintendent of the Winston-Salem District and was the pastor of Centenary Methodist Church of that city when on July 9, 1964; he was elected to the episcopacy of the Methodist Church.

Kenneth Goodson was assigned to the Birmingham Area of The Methodist Church, as bishop of the North Alabama and Alabama-West Florida Annual Conferences. In Alabama, he led the church through the crisis days of the civil rights struggle. In 1972, he came to Virginia as bishop of the Richmond Area. He came as a strong leader and he and Martha soon captivated the people of the Virginia Conference with their winsome personalities and deep concern for the church and her people. He was no stranger to the members of the General Assembly of Virginia, appearing there year after year in opposition to pari-mutuel gambling and on other issues before that body. He led forth as God's man in the capital city.

Ken Goodson had a remarkable capacity for caring. Other people talk about doing something for a friend; he did it. The telephone was an ever present tool of his life. He used it! In his message at the

memorial service in Centenary Church, Winston-Salem, Bishop Dwight Loder told of being met at the airport by a gentleman who said, "I am one of Ken Goodson's 10,000 best friends." He combated loneliness in a lonely job by making his associates his best friends. The Cabinet became his family and he and Martha were in and out of the homes of the clergy so frequently that it was quite natural to welcome them in. I think of him as a "people" person. His office door was always open, as open as his heart, to a person with a problem or a need. He didn't sit very much in his office but walked the halls of the United Methodist Building, dropping in on the staff persons he might find to hear about the work or pass the time of day. He was a great preacher but he also communicated wonderfully well, one to one.

In the general church he served on the General Board of Missions. He was the first president of the General Commission on Religion and Race, served four years as a member of the Division of Chaplains of the Board of Higher Education and Ministry, and served for eight years as the first president of the Board of Discipleship. In April of 1975, he was elected president-designate of the Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church. The next year he assumed the office of president and in that capacity represented the church well in Europe as in the United States.

Most of all we remember him as one of the best preachers in the church. On one occasion he had concluded a sermon at Junaluska a fellow bishop remarked. "That boy can really preach." We loved to hear him. He could take us from laughter to tears in a moment and all of it done in the service of total commitment to God and His church. He never missed an opportunity to witness to the saving grace of Jesus Christ He enjoyed being a bishop but with it was completely human. For that reason he was greatly loved.

Services were held in Centenary United Methodist Church, Winston-Salem, conducted by his pastor, Dr. George Robinson, and Bishop Dwight Loder, with interment at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Greensboro. —*James W. Turner*

James Pass McDade, 1919-1991

James Pass "Jim" McDade was a native of Cedar Grove, Orange County, North Carolina. His parents were John C. McDade and Ellie McAdams McDade. Until the time of his death, Jim enjoyed returning to that area to visit with friends and relatives and to the farm where he was raised. Across the years of his life Jim developed a very strong sense of responsibility and a desire to do his very best. These traits came early in his life with attendance at Aycock High School and Elon College, and later in his service career at Chicago Technical Institute and even later, at Duke University Divinity School.



As the country he loved faced some grave world conditions Jim enlisted in the United States Navy in 1941. This area of responsibility opened up a career that would continue for 22 years. He found success not only in the work assigned to him, but he was noted among his colleagues for his counsel and caring spirit. He retired from his Navy career in 1961 as a Chief Petty Officer.

Even while Jim attended college he had given notice of his commitment and calling to serve and assist in the work of the local church. While in college he served as a lay speaker in churches near Elon College. And now with his retirement from his Navy career, Jim returned to his calling to fulfill service in the local church. With the recommendation of his local church, Central United Methodist Church, Jim returned to complete educational requirements at Duke Divinity School and he was ordained deacon in 1965 by Bishop Gum, and in 1971, he was ordained elder by Bishop Cannon, and admitted to full connection by the Virginia Annual Conference.

Jim and his beloved wife, Virginia Adele Scott McDade, whom he married in 1955, served with faithful devotion the following appointments: Wayne Hills/Oak Hills; Collierstown/Mt. Horeb; Mount

Carmel; Mount Olivet; St. James/West Augusta; Selma. During these years he also served as a conference statistician.

In 1981, with increasing problems of personal health, Jim retired and returned to live in Clifton Forge, Virginia. As long as he had strength to share, he assisted in the services and Sunday school of Central United Methodist Church, and in the pastoral care of a number of neighboring churches. And his friendship would include an early morning call to the office of the writer to express his love and support. Jim was welcomed home by the Lord on June 30, 1991, and his memorial service was held at Central United Methodist Church with the Rev. James Holloman and the Rev. William O. Webster as the worship leaders. —*William O. Webster*

Paul Douglas Martin, Jr., 1916-1991

When death came to Paul Douglas Martin, Jr., August 19, 1991, one of God's noble servants entered the church triumphant. The product of a devotedly Christian home, Paul was born March 25, 1916, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Douglas Martin, Sr. He was an active member of Greene Memorial Church in Roanoke, Virginia and it was there as a teenager he felt the call to the ministry. He prepared for the ministry at Roanoke College where he received the B.A. degree. In 1970, in recognition of his outstanding service to Christ and his Church, Randolph-Macon College awarded him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity. Paul was married to Virginia Akers on February 13, 1938, and for 53 years they were partners in ministry. In addition to Virginia, Paul is survived by three daughters, Sarah Whitmore (Mrs. G. Winston), Suzanne Boltz (Mrs. David), and Rebecca (Mrs. James H. Mosley, II) and six grandchildren.



Paul began his pastoral ministry on the South Franklin Charge in 1938 and successively served the following pastoral appointments: Henry Circuit; Bishop Memorial, Richmond; Eagle Rock-Iron Gate; Warrenton; Trinity, McLean; and Fairlington. In addition to his pastoral appointments, Paul served as a chaplain in World War II and in the Korean conflict rising to the rank of Lt. Colonel. He remained in the reserve Chaplains Corps and gave extensive service as a supervising chaplain. He served also as the district superintendent of the Winchester and the Richmond districts. In 1973, he became the executive director of Virginia United Methodist Homes and served in this ministry until the time of his retirement in 1985. Following his retirement he served as minister of visitation at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Richmond.

His service in the larger life of the church was both extensive and distinguished. For more than a decade he was chosen by his colleagues to represent the Virginia Conference at the General and Jurisdictional conferences. At the General Conference of 1972 he had the high honor of being chosen as the chairman of the committee on Pensions of the General Conference, having served for eight years on the General Board of Pensions. His leadership in the field of care of the aging was recognized when he was chosen to serve a term as chairman of the Association of Health and Welfare Ministries of the United Methodist Church, an organization representing all the caring ministries of the denomination.

Perhaps, to him, the most satisfying ministry beyond the local church in which he was involved was the 18 years he spent on the Board of Trustees of Randolph-Macon Academy. His interest in and contribution to that board led to his election as its president, a position he occupied for more than a dozen years. During his years of leadership of the board the school grew both in enrollment and the expansion of its physical facilities. Only failing health caused him to give up his participation in this enterprise in which he found such great satisfaction.

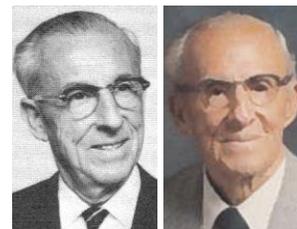
Paul faced a lingering painful illness with the same faith and courage that had characterized his life. Funeral services were conducted at Reveille Church, Richmond, by the pastor Dr. Richard Worden and

the writer, and at Greene Memorial Church, Roanoke by the Rev. M. Chick Wilkerson, Dr. Alpheus W. Potts and the Rev. Harwood Myres. Interment was in Evergreen Memorial Park, Roanoke, Virginia.

Paul Martin was a loving husband, a devoted father, a loved and gifted pastor, and a wise and effective administrator whose life was dominated by his love for Christ and his church. His life and ministry has left an enduring legacy from which succeeding generations will profit. —*R. Kern Eutsler*

Oscar Serrell Good, 1903-1991

Born in Middletown, Pennsylvania, the Rev. Oscar Good grew up in Richmond, Virginia. He graduated from Randolph-Macon College in Ashland in 1929 and Union Theological Seminary in Richmond in 1931. His ministry began in 1926 when he was a student pastor on the New Kent Circuit. Admitted to the Virginia Conference in 1930, he attended each annual conference without an absence for 52 years. The Rev. Good served many churches in various districts of the conference. Devoted to God and God's people, "Goody," as he was fondly known, ministered wherever he was. Active in the community as well as in the church, he was Air Raid Warden Area Supervisor during World War II. He served as a substitute teacher and as a coach. He worked with local AA groups and the judicial system for the rehabilitation of alcoholics. Active in civic groups and alumni associations, he was honored in 1981 at his 50th class reunion at Union Theological Seminary.



In retirement his ministry continued at The Hermitage, Richmond, where he taught Bible studies, preached in the chapel, and did pastoral visiting of the other residents, especially in the health care center. Always a sportsman, he entered the Golden Olympics at the age of 79, winning several awards. Stewardship of physical fitness was important to him and he was a good example to others in his daily exercise.

Preceded in death in 1983 by his wife of 53 years, Elsie Mae Beck, and by their oldest daughter, Patricia Ann in 1984, the Rev. Good died at The Hermitage on August 19, 1991. A service of remembrance was held in the chapel there and was attended by many former parishioners and devoted friends and family. He is survived by two daughters, Carolyn Newsome and Nancy Rowe, six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. —*Elizabeth Smylie, Chaplain, The Hermitage, Richmond*

Harold Eugene Skelton, 1897-1991

Harold Eugene Skelton entered the ordained ministry in 1940 after graduating from Bridgewater College. He was 43 at the time and he had been a shopkeeper with his father at their store, E. P. Skelton and Son, at Weyers Cave prior to entering the ministry. Harold was one of the first people to bring radio to the Shenandoah Valley and local residents would often gather at the Skelton store to listen to programs. Harold was an avid baseball fan and he had played baseball as a young man in local leagues as well as a student at Bridgewater College when he was in his early 40s.



Harold served as pastor of the Highland Charge from 1940 to 1943. From 1943 to 1946, he served as a chaplain in the United States Army. He was also a veteran of World War I. Upon his return to Virginia in 1946, Harold served the New Hope-Fishersville Charge and remained at New Hope until 1953. He thereafter served as the founding pastor for the Huntington-Burgundy Village Charge that eventually became Cameron Church in Alexandria from which he retired in 1965. During his retirement, Harold wrote a book titled *Weyers Cave First Century 1874-1974* which serves as an important document for the history of the area. Harold also served appointments in Waynesboro, Port Republic and Weyers Cave after his formal retirement.

Harold was immensely dedicated to the ministry of Christ. In his later years, he continued to visit from house to house, to write letters of encouragement and comfort and to serve in every way possible. Members of the Cameron Church related how Harold demonstrated exemplary leadership during the formative years of that congregation. Harold loved the church and he was a pastor par excellence. His favorite hymn was “O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go” and his favorite Bible passage Titus 3:4-8. Harold loved to read (especially the Bible), he loved to eat (especially breakfast), but most of all, he loved people!

Harold was preceded in death by his wife, Myrle, and his daughter, Kathleen. He is survived by his daughter, Elaine Fike, and three granddaughters and several great-grandchildren. He leaves a legacy of great Christian service to them and to all whose lives he touched. Thanks be to God for the life and ministry of Harold Eugene Skelton. —*Reginald D. Tuck*

Richard Clifford Barbour, 1898-1991

Richard Clifford Barbour was born August 31, 1898, in Franklin Co., Virginia. He was the eldest of three children of James Millard Barbour and Mary Virginia Bondurant Barbour. He was baptized in Swansonville Methodist Church at the age of 22. This act of commitment was the beginning of a dynamic and effective Christian life. Clifford was educated in the elementary schools of Pittsylvania County. He spent two years at Chatham High School. He then entered Ferrum Junior College and spent six years at Ferrum and graduated in 1929. Clifford was received on trial into the Virginia Conference in 1926, ordained a deacon in 1928. He came into full conference membership in 1929 and was ordained an elder in 1930.



Clifford’s first appointment was the Henry Circuit. Anderson Chapel was one of the five churches and this was Barbour’s home church. He had three fruitful years there. He also served the Patrick Charge with seven churches: Fieldale; Batesville and Hinton Avenue in the Charlottesville District; Sledd Memorial, Stanleytown, and Stokesland in the Danville District; Woodlawn in the Roanoke District; McCanless Memorial, South Boston, Oakland at Dry Fork; Whitmell and St. Johns, Danville District.

Clifford’s ministry was marked by building programs of many of the churches he served. These included a new parsonage at Stokesland, an educational building at Woodlawn, Roanoke, and a new parsonage at McCanless Memorial, South Boston. His best work was in the pulpit ministry, he loved to preach, he loved people, he was evangelistic in his preaching and had good success in his endeavors, winning more than 500 souls for Christ

On December 26, 1928, Clifford married Verta Margaret Wells. She served faithfully with him for more than 60 years. No children were born to this union, but the couple took a foster child to share their home—Charlotte Pugh from Bastesville, Virginia. She is married to R. V. Northington and they have two daughters, who are happily married, and five grandchildren.

Clifford retired in June 1964 and he and Margaret built their home and lived in Swansonville, Virginia, where they continued to serve God’s people being very active in Swansonville United Methodist Church. They were instrumental in helping this community charge achieve station status, donated the land and spearheaded the construction of a lovely new parsonage. After an extended illness, this good and faithful servant entered into the promised rest and reward of his Lord. On a glorious fall day, October 2, 1991, family, friends, and fellow ministers filled Swansonville United Methodist Church to overflowing to honor this devoted servant of Christ. The service was conducted by his pastor, the Rev. Bruce Carper and District Superintendent Louis E. Carson. Clifford is survived by his wife, Margaret Wells Barbour of the home; five half-sisters, Callie B. Jones, Beatrice B. Meadows, Elizabeth B. Williams, Boyard B. Barbour, and Catherine B. Moore; two half-brothers, Toler Barbour, and Paul

Barbour. He was buried in the mausoleum in Danville Memorial Gardens, Danville, Virginia. —*Bruce Carper*

Eugene Wilmot Rawlings, 1905-1991

Eugene Wilmot Rawlings was born into a devotedly Christian home on February 18, 1905. The love of warm and caring parents and the nurture of his local Methodist church formed in him early those strong traits of character which were the hallmark of his entire life. His call to the ministry came early in life. When I asked his sister if she could tell me when Gene's call came she responded, "It's hard to pinpoint because that's all he ever wanted to be." He went directly from high school to Randolph-Macon College and subsequently to Union Theological Seminary in Richmond to prepare himself for the ministry.



On October 25, 1931, he was married to Alma Howard Rawlings and to this union one son, Eugene W. Rawlings, Jr., was born. He is survived by his wife and son and two sisters, Mrs. Willie R. Bailey and Mrs. India R. Foster.

Gene was received as a probationary member of the Virginia Annual Conference on November 2, 1931, having previously served several years as a supply minister. On November 10, 1933, he was received into full connection and continued in the itineracy for 43 years until his retirement in 1974. He served the following appointments: Powhatan Circuit; Chesterfield; Blandford, Petersburg; Branch Memorial, Richmond; Cartersville; York; South Norfolk Circuit; Isle of Wight; Princess Anne; Moneta Circuit; Fluvanna; Stanley; Grace of Warwick; Corinth, Sandston; High Street, Petersburg; Fox Hill Central; Huguenot Road, Richmond; Christ Church, Richmond; and Oakland, Richmond. Following his formal retirement he continued to serve as a retired supply on the West Dinwiddie Charge; Oak Grove-Salem and Bethel. As long as health permitted he willingly served where needed.

The bare record of his pastoral appointments tells us little about the quality of life and ministry of this man. Gene had a wonderful sense of humor -- sometimes a bit caustic when he faced pomposity or pretense, but beneath it all he was a warm, caring person, who knew how to empathize with the sufferings of others. He faced his own problems and disappointments with a faith and courage that was an inspiration to all who knew him. Wherever he served he left behind a company of devoted friends who had felt the helping hand of his ministry. He was often given difficult assignments and knew how to be an agent of healing and reconciliation. Gene was his own man, firm in his convictions and ever ready to pay the price for what he believed. His niece, Ashley M. Bailey, commenting on her uncle said of him, "I always knew that he was the best uncle in the world, but as I spent much time with him in the last years of his life I was surprised to find that everyone loved him as much as I did,"

When Gene was diagnosed with terminal cancer he remarked, "I have spent my life showing people how to live, I will now have to show them how to die." And he did. He faced his death without fear, confident of the love of his Heavenly Father, sure of the resurrection faith, his hand was outstretched in faithfulness to others to the very end. What better way to sum up his life than to say simply as Paul said of his friend Tychius, "he is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord."

Death came to Gene on October 10, 1991. Funeral services were held at Corinth Church, Sandston, conducted by his pastor, the Rev. Stephen B. Hassmer and the Rev. Norman G. Preston, Jr. with interment in Westhampton Memorial Park, Richmond. —*R. Kern Eutsler*

Clinton Traynham Topping, 1904-1991

Clinton Traynham Topping was born September 30, 1904, in Poquoson, Virginia, to Josiah and Amelia Clyde Bunting. In 1912, he united with Tabernacle Methodist Episcopal Church South in Poquoson and was active in



his church until he was called to the ministry. Traynham was graduated from Poquoson High School and Randolph-Macon College. After college, Traynham taught and was an athletic coach at Poquoson High School for three years. I remember him reminiscing about his baseball days on the Poquoson semi-pro team. Traynham had an almost computer-like memory for dates, times, places, and persons, including members of his congregations beginning with his first church.

In 1929, there were two wonderful events in Traynham's life; he was appointed as supply pastor of the St. Martins Circuit on the Eastern Shore and married Charlotte Temple Firth. In 1930, he was received on trial in the Virginia Annual Conference serving as an active pastor for the next 40 years. Traynham served five years on the Eastern Shore, 11 years in Norfolk, six years in Newport News, four years in Dinwiddie, four years in Vinton, two years in Danville, and five years in Richmond.

In 1970, he and Charlotte retired from the pastoral ministry and resided in his native Poquoson where he taught a Sunday school class at his home church until his death. Traynham was a very active and forceful preacher and teacher to the very last. He preached his first sermon at St. Martins in 1929 and his final sermon at St. Martins 62 years later. In addition to Traynham's preaching, in 1991 he gave a historical address on local Methodism to the Peninsula District Historical Society, a tape of which is now in the archives.

Outside of the pastoral realm, Traynham was an ardent gardener, sports enthusiast, and fisherman. In his later years, Traynham did most of his fishing with his son and four grandsons. He, Charlotte, and "the boys" were an extremely close family who were blessed with one great-granddaughter. It is interesting to note that Traynham performed the marriage ceremonies for three of his grandsons and anticipated the fourth in the spring of 1992.

During the last 20 years of Traynham's life, he and Charlotte were the hub of a weekly "meeting and eating" fellowship of many other retired but continuously active ministers and their wives. During this fellowship, Traynham held forth as patriarch. His feeling for the Lord's message came through ever so loud and clear; in fact, I have been with Traynham on many occasions, one in particular in a shopping mall when, without being told, it became evident to this stranger we met, that Traynham was a man called to live and preach the Gospel of Christ. For the past two decades, it has been a wonderful blessing to have had Traynham as a mentor and friend in Christ.

Traynham went home on October 13, 1991. Praise be to God in the Lord Jesus Christ.
—*Frederick J. Pawell*

Delford Neal Calvert, 1900-1991

Delford Neal Calvert was born April 21, 1900, in the small town of Strasburg, Virginia in the Shenandoah Valley. He was educated in the public schools at Strasburg and later attended Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia, and Union Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. In addition he took four years of conference course of study through Emory University, Candler School of Theology and was received into the conference in 1923.



Del's first appointment was riding the circuit and serving six churches in Frankford, West Virginia. Using his horse and buggy, he rode 27 miles one Sunday and preached three times and the next Sunday, he rode 15 miles and preached three times. This was the start of Del Calvert's ministry -- a young man preaching the good news of the Gospel with a song in his heart. His active ministry was to last a total of 50 years (1918-1968) during which time he served 39 churches (19 appointments) with all but four appointments being in the Virginia Conference. Following his official retirement in 1968 he served an additional four churches as a supply minister.

After Frankford, he served the following churches over a 50-year span: Fort Valley, Walkerton, Berkeley, West Virginia; Linden, Riverton, Sudbrook, Maryland; Fairfield, Frostburg, Maryland;

Shawsville; Occoquan; Capeville; Woodstock; Waynesboro, (Basic); Portsmouth, (Parkview); Richmond, (Calvary); Portsmouth, (Elm Avenue); Norfolk, (Norview); and Falls Church, (Culmore).

Del Calvert attended 70 consecutive Virginia Annual Conferences and was the banquet speaker for 10 of the 18 Virginia districts during his ministry in the United Methodist Church. He had served on the Northern Virginia Board of Missions for more than 20 years.

His first wife, the former Angeline Thompson died in 1972. Survivors include his wife, the former Doris Bangle of Alexandria, three daughters by his first marriage, Colleen Miller of Doylestown, Pennsylvania; Jean Darby of Dyke; and Dorothy Ivey of Norfolk; 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Del's favorite hymns were "Amazing Grace," "How Great Thou Art," and "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory." Del's life and ministry have been a blessing to so many people through the years and his life proclaims more beautifully than words that his eyes had truly seen the glory -- yes, the glory of the coming of the Lord. —*Robert H. Miller*

Gilliam Claude Bentley, 1912-1991

On January 10, 1912, Gilliam Claude Bentley was born at the family farm in Campbell County, Virginia, the eighth of 10 children, five boys and five girls, the son of William Jackson and Susan Rosa Trent Bentley. His elementary education was interrupted when he dropped out of school in 1923, because of the illness of his father, to work on the farm in Charlotte County, where the family had moved. After the death of his father in 1926, the family moved to Roanoke where Gilliam continued to work. In 1928, he entered Ferrum Training School, as it was called then, to catch up on his formal education. While there, his sense of call to the ministry was recognized by the Danville District conference which granted a local preacher's license in April 1929. In 1931, he transferred to Jefferson High School in Roanoke, graduating in 1932.



The call to preach means preparation. The next five years were devoted to concentrated study. He received the B.A. degree from Randolph-Macon College, 1932-35, and the B.D. degree from Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Georgia, 1935-37. At Emory he met Alma Kathryn Creighton of Greenwood, South Carolina, a graduate student in the School of Languages, whom he married on December 29, 1937. This union was blessed by three children: Gilliam Dickson, Judith Jackson and Kathryn Creighton. There are 11 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Gilliam was admitted on probation by the old Baltimore conference in 1937. In 1939, he was received into full connection by the conference, meeting in Roanoke, and was ordained deacon by Bishop William Walter Peele. At the first session of the Virginia conference after unification, also meeting in Roanoke in 1940, he was ordained elder by Bishop Peele. While a student at Randolph-Macon, he was supply pastor at Kenwood, Richmond, District, 1934-35. Other appointments included: Fincastle, 1937-41; Epworth, Covington, 1941-45; Hamilton-Purcellville, 1945-49; Highland Springs, Richmond, 1949-55; Memorial, Petersburg, 1955-59; High Street, Franklin, 1959-63; Front Royal, 1963-67; Memorial, Virginia Beach, 1967-69; Sabbatical, 1969-70; West Point, 1970-74; Disability Leave, 1974-77; Retired, 1977.

His service beyond the local church included: member Alexandria District Committee on the Development of Camp High Road, 1946-49, and business manager of the first youth summer camp; District Missionary Secretary on the Petersburg, Portsmouth and Winchester districts, and member of the conference Board of Missions, for 10 years; conference delegate to the National Mission Tour of the West Indies, 1957; member Petersburg District Committee on Building & Location, and Ministerial Qualifications, 1955-59; and member of the conference Commission on Higher Education, 1963-66.

Skilled in tennis, Gilliam played in numerous tournaments as a young man and until he was 60 could beat his son. Also, he was an avid fisherman. He loved gardening and was generous in sharing the vegetables he raised. A major interest was a cottage on the Rappahannock River near the Chesapeake Bay at Foxwells, built in large part by members of the family.

A heart attack necessitated his taking disability leave in 1974. At that time he and his wife Kitty bought a home in West Point where they continued to live during retirement. He sang in the choir and was helpful wherever possible, always supportive of the pastor. In October 1991, he had multiple bypass surgery at Riverside Hospital in Newport News and returned home, apparently in stable condition. On Sunday morning, December 1, 1991, his wife discovered that he had died in his sleep.

A memorial service was held at West Point Church, where he had invested so much of himself, on Tuesday evening, December 3, at 7 o'clock, led by the pastor, the Rev. David B. Lewis. The next day, which was cold, windy, sunny, his ashes were interred at Blue Ridge Memorial Gardens in Roanoke. A graveside service at 2 o'clock was conducted by the Rev. Walter M. Lockett, Jr. and the pastor.

Gilliam enjoyed life. He was a faithful and effective witness to the abundant life we have in Christ Jesus. "Well done, good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of your master" (Matthew 25:21).
—Walter M. Lockett, Jr.

Clyde Wilson Humphrey, 1907-1991

Clyde Wilson Humphrey was born July 25, 1907, in Lancaster, Kentucky, where he received his secondary education at Garrard High School. In 1930, he married Gertrude, his helpmate of 61 years. That same year he received two bachelor's degrees in business education from Eastern Kentucky University. He received a master's degree in business education from Vanderbilt. He then received a master's degree in Christian education from Wesley Theological Seminary. He received a doctorate in education in business at the American University. He received a Ph.D. in business from California National Open University.



He started his career teaching in a one-room school and progressed to high school principal, college professor, regional sales manager for McGraw-Hill Book Company and regional director of business education program for the U.S. Office of Education. He served as associate pastor at Cranford United Methodist Church and Christ United Methodist Church, Arlington. He was ordained elder in 1960 and in 1961 was appointed to the Center for Church Management—the American University as its founding director until his retirement in 1974. He founded the National Society for Religious Organization Management and served as executive director and as a past president until 1990.

He authored a college textbook *Research in Business Education*. He designed and was editor-in-chief of the Prentice-Hall series in *Church Management* (eight volumes), the most comprehensive work in this field. He authored numerous articles and chapters of professional publications.

He was certified to teach world religions by the United Methodist Church and designed a pilot Sunday school program for the General Board of Discipleship, fashioned after college courses. He was a certified director of Christian Education in the United Methodist Church.

He was a charter member of the Hall of Fame of the National Association of Church Business Administration. He was honored by the Interfaith Council for Financial Planning. He served on full- and part-time faculties of numerous colleges and universities throughout the United States. He served as dissertation advisor for several universities. He was a member of the board of National Graduate University and member of Lincolnia United Methodist Church, Alexandria.

Dr. Humphrey wrote, "If churches are to accomplish their purposes effectively, their business affairs must be managed as well as, or better than, those of other organizations. Since churches are service-rendering rather than profit-making, and because of their voluntary nature and the trustee relationship

involved, their business policies and practices must differ in certain respects from those of commercial enterprises and the differences must be clearly identified and thoroughly understood. “

Clyde wrote to help clergy and laity become more effective stewards of church business responsibilities and to strengthen the role of pastors as chief administrators of individual churches.

Dr. Humphrey was a pioneer in the field of church administration and a founding father of the field. He taught many who now serve all across the land on faculties of universities, judicatories and local churches. When he learned that the United Methodist Church with 100 institutions of higher education offered no undergraduate courses designed especially for church management he got busy. He not only impacted his denomination but many others as well.

Dr. Humphrey's Pioneer Delineation was that, “Church Business Management is the science and art of administering church program development, financial resources, physical facilities, office services, staff personnel, and public relations, all in accordance with the most effective standards of religious stewardship. Included in this concept are such managerial processes as forecasting, planning, organizing, delegating, controlling, evaluating, and reporting. Management of a church's business responsibilities is a facilitating function to be regarded not as an end in itself but as an important means to a worthy end.”

I learned of Dr. Humphrey through his writings and reputation. Later I became a student of the center and took every course and seminar offered at the center and grew to appreciate him as a professor, mentor, friend and one who practiced his Christian convictions. He was like a second father to me. He not only changed my life but many in our conference who have benefited from his work. He always expected the church to be more professional.

Clyde served his Master with honor and distinction and today he is a member of the Church Triumphant. On December 6, 1991, memorial services were conducted by his former students and his pastor, the Rev. Randall Blankenship at Lincolnia United Methodist Church, Alexandria District after private interment in Lancaster, Kentucky. His wife, one daughter, three grandchildren and one great-grandchild survive him. —*J. Blaine Blubaugh*

Josiah Alwood Andrew, 1910-1991

“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart.” Josiah Alwood Andrew died in the first week of Advent, 1991 -a gentle and humble follower of the gentle and humble Lord. Josiah Andrew was born on April 3, 1910, in August County, Virginia, the son of Kenny and Carrie Kiracofe Andrew. He attended the University of Virginia, and graduated from Bridgewater College and Wesley Theological Seminary.



Josiah had found the joy of Christ at an early age, and as his wife of 41 years, Helen, said he, “had been in religious work all his life.” During World War II, he served his country as a chaplain's assistant. In 1949, he received his first full-time parish, a six-point charge, of which the largest church was the one at Stanley. That church had a pianist named Helen Dovel, and the new minister seemed to spend a lot of time consulting with the pianist over the choice of the Sunday hymns. At the end of his first year at the charge, the pastor and the church musician were married, on August 1, 1950, in Stanley, by (now retired bishop) Kern Eutsler.

Josiah and Helen served churches in Page, Warren and Frederick counties for over 20 years. He was the pastor of Grace Church in Middletown for over 12 years, and retired in 1975 from the Fairview-Refuge Charge. In all of the churches he served, his gentle, principled, and faithful leadership was fondly remembered, in addition to his well-known habit of quoting his beloved 18th century English and American poets in his sermons. Literature was not only Josiah's college major; it and music were his major avocations. “I write a little bit of everything,” he told the interviewer the year before he died, “history, fiction, hymns, plays, and even poetry sometimes.” His hymns were sung in the churches he

served; his major published play, "Holy Night at Oberndorff," was the Christmas play for a good number of local churches; and his history of the Winchester District, A Church in the Valley, is a valued pan of area church libraries.

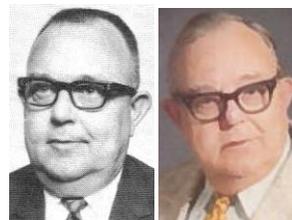
It was in 1956 that Josiah and Helen came to live in Middletown; Helen still resides in that community. During his 35 years there, Josiah was active in many civic organizations, was a member of the Middletown Town Council, and for 30 years was the devoted chaplain of the Middletown Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company.

Josiah died on December 5, 1991, at the age of 81. Perhaps an elegy he wrote a number of years ago speaks to us now:

Beyond the mystic sea, Enjoy your life in the eternal home
Then, at the portal fair, Be waiting over there
To smile and bid us welcome when we come. —*Susan Schweitzer Garret*

Beverly James Davis, Jr., 1921-1991

The sanctuary reverberated with the strong voices of the faithful lifted in hymns of praise. The memorial service held for Dad on December 28, 1991, at Central United Methodist Church in Richmond truly was a celebration of a life that had been dedicated to the Lord's work. Beverly James Davis, Jr. was born in the Surry County community of Dendron, Virginia, on May 4, 1921. After spending his early years in Tidewater, Virginia, his family settled in Richmond. During his teen years, he received God's call to the ministry and began to prepare for his life's work. Following his graduation from John Marshall High School in 1939 and Randolph-Macon College in 1942, he began his divinity studies at Candler School of Theology at Emory University. His education was interrupted when he enlisted in the U. S. Army in 1943 during World War II. His 2-1/2 years of military service included a 10-month tour of duty in the Aleutian Islands as a chaplain's assistant.



In 1946, he returned to Richmond, enrolled in Union Theological Seminary, and accepted a student appointment to Kenwood Church, where he met and married Conna Lawhead. Their marriage produced three sons who, he used to say, brought them three daughters. Five grandchildren followed and became a focal point in their lives.

A pastoral career lay ahead that would span 42 years and cover 22 churches on 12 charges. During his various pastorates, Dad was quite active in the communities he served. In his earlier years he sought out opportunities to participate as a member of volunteer fire departments and rescue squads, actively fighting fires and bringing physical comfort to the injured. From 1965 through 1986, he dedicated countless hours to his additional duties as assistant secretary of the Virginia Conference and editor of the conference Journal. His attention to detail and commitment to the task were well-known throughout the conference. Many civic organizations benefited from his membership and community ministries and ecumenical associations frequently were the focus of his attention. An able preacher and a compassionate pastor, he was well thought of by many.

Mom died in 1985. Dad said the "fun" went out of his ministry after that. He retired in 1987 and then fell ill two years later. Even in his difficulties, he exhibited his great faith. His determination not to be defeated nor to give up touched many lives. After a hospitalization that lasted over two years and having lost his right leg, he was rewarded with three months of independence back in his own home where he was able to achieve a remarkable level of activity and mobility. On December 15 at his home church, Asbury, he preached what would prove to be his last sermon.

Dad died on Christmas Day. Somehow that seemed appropriate. He had been so sick and had suffered so much we could not wish for him to linger. He was buried in Maury Cemetery next to Mom, a

few steps away from his parents and grandparents and within sight of Asbury's original location. Their grave is marked with a stone he designed. It features our church's cross and flame logo and is inscribed "Together they Served." —*B. James Davis, III*

Robert Arthur Rose, 1914-1992

On February 10, 1992, the words, "God's truth abideth still; His kingdom is forever" echoed through Ginter Park Church, Richmond, as family and friends joined to remember and give thanks for the life of Robert Arthur Rose. In the Fairmount area of Richmond, Virginia, Robert was born on February 27, 1914, the seventh in a family of 13 children. As a 14-year-old, he entered Ferrum for a year of high school, and then returned to Richmond. In 1934, he married Lurena Beadles, and together they attended Fairmount Methodist Church.



Eight years after marriage, and with two of their three children, Robert and Lurena went to West Franklin County to serve five churches and finish his high school education. In 1945, Robert received his high school diploma. Four years later, he was graduated from Roanoke College. Summer school at Candler, with a period of correspondence, provided him with his seminary training. Robert served the West Franklin Charge, (Danville), Bethany (Roanoke), Cloverdale Circuit, Pembroke (Roanoke), Christ (Norfolk), Lawrenceville, Wesley Memorial (Norfolk), Colonial Heights, and Community in Virginia Beach.

His children, Robert Edward Rose, Carolyn Rose, and Margaret Fogel speak of observing his care for others which has positively influenced their own life choices. His grandchildren, Debra Rose Martin, Robby Rose, and Joshua Fogel remember his love and good humor.

We remember Robert as devoted to his Christ, to the United Methodist Church and to its ministry. He never wavered from his commitment to the United Methodist ministry, and laypeople as well as clergy found themselves stronger because of his faithfulness.

When Robert and Lurena were retiring from the active ministry following their service to Community United Methodist Church in Virginia Beach, the congregation sent them on their way with a tribute to both of them. The following words were written for Robert: "...through his ministry as pastor, friend, and counselor to youth and adults, members and nonmembers, acquaintances and strangers, he has exemplified the highest traits of Christian living and leadership, has led untold numbers to know the joy of the Christian life and has influenced a number of young people to enter the profession of Christian service..."

Thanks be to God for Robert Arthur Rose. —*F. Douglas Dillard, Jr.*

Harrell Garrett Thach, 1912-1992

Harrell Garrett Thach, son of Benjamin White Thach and Maude Ballance Thach, was born March 28, 1912. He died April 8, 1992. He is survived by his wife, Mattie; two daughters, Barbara T. Fogle and Gloria T. Dennis; 10 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren. Prior to finishing high school, Harrell entered the Navy. While serving in the Navy, he felt God's call to the ministry, but put off answering this call. After being discharged from the Navy, he worked at several different jobs. In the late '40s, Harrell decided to answer God's call to the ministry.



Harrell was appointed as a local pastor to the Brunswick Charge in 1947, as his first appointment. Later, Harrell got his G.E.D. and then a few years after that while serving the Brunswick Charge, drove to Louisburg College along with his daughter where Harrell earned his 60 hours' credit necessary for

him to take the course of study. He completed the course of study and the advanced course of study at Duke Divinity School.

Harrell was ordained a deacon in 1953, an elder in 1955, and became a member in full connection of the conference in 1957. Harrell served 30 years as an active pastor, serving appointments on the Alexandria, Charlottesville, Danville, Eastern Shore, Farmville, Lynchburg, Petersburg, Portsmouth, Rappahannock, and Roanoke districts. During his ministry, he served as pastor to 34 churches.

Harrell was a hard worker and took his pastoral responsibilities seriously. He gave excellent leadership to the churches he served. A real significant aspect of Harrell's pastoral leadership is that today there are 11 ministers in the Virginia Conference who made their decisions to enter the ministry during the time Harrell was their pastor. Out of this group of 11 ministers, at least two have served as district superintendents and all have served the conference effectively.

Harrell's funeral was conducted at Union United Methodist Church, South Boston, Virginia, by his pastor, E. Cecil Gunn, Joseph T. Carson, Jr., and Henry E. Riley, Jr., his district superintendent. —*Joseph T. Carson, Jr.*

Fredric H. Troll, 1923-1992

Fred Troll was born in Mansfield, Ohio, February 9, 1923, son of Fredric H. and Ruth Brown Troll. In 1941, after finishing high school, he went to radio/TV technical schools in Valparaiso and Angola, Indiana. Fred held a first-class engineers license until 1986. While working in radio/TV in Macon and Albany, Georgia, he went to Norman Park College. In 1960, he transferred to the University of Richmond and also worked at the old WXEX TV/radio station in Petersburg. He received his B.A. degree in Bible and Religion in 1962. During his time at the University of Richmond, he was instrumental in founding the university radio station.



In March of 1962, Fred married Virginia T. Cox. Theirs was a happy union. They complemented one another, but most of all, Fred and Virginia loved one another.

Fred entered the ministry in September of 1963 and attended Duke Divinity School. Because of a conference appointment, he moved and received his M.Div. at Southeastern Seminary at Wake Forest, on May 12, 1979. It took Fred 17 years of hard work to achieve his ultimate goal, of which he was very proud.

Fred began his ministerial career at Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church in Danville, Virginia. He went on to serve Ridgeway, Calvary-Olive Branch, Prospect. Oakland in Danville, Asbury Memorial in Danville, McCanless Memorial, Hurt-Motley, Willis and West Buckingham. His services were simple, yet profound. He was a simple man, but more than this, he was my friend. And, this friendship continued until his death on April 20, 1992.

On September 27, 1983, Fred had a stroke and, in January 1984, he took disability leave. In June of 1989, he officially retired. He was living at Hyde Park Farm at the time of his death.

I would like to close this memoir by using a quote from John Donne: "All mankind is of one author, and is one volume; when one man dies, one chapter is not torn out of the book, but translated into a better language; and every chapter must be so translated; God employs several translators; some pieces are translated by age, some by sickness, some by war, some by justice; but God's hand is in every translation; and His hand shall bind up all our scattered leaves again, for that library where every book shall lie open to one another."

Good-bye, old friend, I have and will continue to miss you. But we shall meet again, you and I. —*Roy Oren Creech, Jr.*

Earl Raymond Collie, 1903-1992

Earl Raymond Collie was born June II, 1903, in Danville, Virginia, son of the late John William and Viola Franklin Collie. On September 22, 1954, he married Charlie Fay Murdock whom he met while preaching a revival in Statesville, North Carolina. From that day on they were a great team for Christ. Earl became an approved supply pastor in 1928, a probationary member on November 2, 1931, and was received into full connection on October 30, 1933. His ministry covered a period of 45 very faithful years of service. He served multiple charges to station churches. His last appointment was in Richmond. The Collies moved to Statesville, North Carolina, and became active in the life of Broad Street United Methodist Church upon his retirement. Earl's funeral service was conducted at Broad Street Church with friends and family and fellow civic club members and church members present. It was obvious that his life had touched the lives of many in a very positive manner.



Earl had an abiding interest in mission as his trip to Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico indicated. He served on various district committees. Also, he continued preaching and teaching Sunday school as long as his health permitted. His concern for people and community was also exhibited in his participation in civic organizations like Kiwanis of which he was a past president of the Golden K Kiwanis Club of Statesville.

Each church he served over the years was strengthened by his ability to proclaim the Gospel and administer the life of the church for effective mission and ministry. Truly, this man of God understood fully the great cause to which he had been called and dedicated his life's energy to a meaningful successful fulfillment of his "call to preach."

Earl shared his faith right until his last days upon this earth. Even though sick and in the hospital, he expressed concern for the spiritual well-being of those who cared for him. He would talk to them about their church affiliation and their relationship to Christ in a gentle and loving manner. Even then he never lost sight of the fact that he had been called to "spread the Gospel."

In this day and time it was refreshing for me to come to know Earl and Charlie Fay as their pastor. I say that because it was so very obvious to me that Earl had spent his years in ministry performing the tasks of ministry with conviction, enthusiasm, and compassion. The stories he shared with me about his experiences while serving the local church were not only delightful, they were enlightening, too. Also, Earl's sharing his experience of ministry with me has enabled me to rejoice in my own calling that much more and solicited from me a determination for a greater dedication.

This calling of ours is still the greatest. I have come to believe that as one minister passes the ministerial mantle (which can be done in a variety of ways) on to another that one is enriched and empowered to greater things for the cause of Christ. We in ministry today benefit greatly from those who were in ministry yesterday.

So, may the memory of those like Earl Raymond Collie, who moved from the church militant to the church triumphant on May 10, 1992, serve to inspire and empower those of us in active ministry today.

Well done thou good and faithful servant... —*D. R. Fairbanks Jr.*

Francis L. Garrett, 1919-1992

All those who knew RADM Francis L. Garrett, CHC, USN (RET), rejoice in the fact that he is with the Lord and feel grateful to have known such an outstanding individual. Born into a South Carolina Methodist parsonage in 1919, Chaplain Garrett received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Wofford College in 1940. After receiving his degree of Bachelor of Divinity from Emory University in 1943, he was ordained in the Virginia Conference, Methodist



Church.

With our country still at war, Chaplain Garrett wanted to serve in the Navy Chaplain Corps and in February 1944, was commissioned a Lieutenant (Junior Grade). His first duty station was to serve as chaplain at the Naval Air Station, Alameda, California. He served subsequent tours at Monterey, California; in USS RUDYERD BAY (CVE-81); MCAS, Ewa, Oahu; at 14th Naval District, Pearl Harbor; NAS Dallas, USS HOWARD W. GILMORE (ASS-16); NTC Great Lakes; and USS HORNET (CV A- 12). Chaplain Garrett then attended postgraduate school at Union Theological Seminary, New York City, and after completion was assigned for his first tour in the Chief of Chaplains Office. From there he served three years at the Naval Support Activity, London, England, and then four years as the Senior Chaplain at Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Virginia.

One of Chaplain Garrett's greatest distinctions stems from his service as Force Chaplain for the Third Marine Amphibious Force in Vietnam in 1965 and 1966, for which the President awarded him the Legion of Merit, with Combat "V."

Chaplain Garrett's honors also include an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree conferred by his alma mater, Wofford, in 1967; the B'nai Brith Four Chaplains Award in 1971 and recipient of the Upper Room Citation in 1973.

In 1969, Chaplain Garrett was selected for promotion to the rank of Rear Admiral. Following a year spent as Fleet Chaplain, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, the Secretary of the Navy appointed him to become the 13th Chief of Chaplains of the Navy. He served in that office for the next five years directing religious programs in the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

After 31 years of active service, Chaplain Garrett retired from the Navy and went on to be the senior minister at Epworth United Methodist Church in Norfolk, Virginia.

His leadership came at a critical time in the life of the Navy Chaplain Corps and his policies, philosophies and efforts during his tenure have had lasting effect on the corps.

Moses Harvey once said: "Great Men are the gifts of kind heaven, to our poor world; instruments by which The Highest One works out His design; Light-Radiators to give guidance and blessing to the travelers of time."

Frank Garrett was one of these Light-Radiators and for those of us who knew him and were affected by his life will remember that light and forever be warmed by it. —Margaret G. Thomas, Daughter

L. Carl Whitten, 1934-1992

The Rev. L. Carl Whitten was born September 15, 1934, in Amherst County, Virginia, the son of Della Ogden Whitten and Marvin Buren Whitten. Carl graduated from Amherst High School in 1952. He received his B.A. degree from Randolph-Macon College in 1957, and earned his M.Div. degree from Wesley Theological Seminary in 1962. He began his ministerial career in 1956 at Warsaw in the Virginia Conference. From 1959 to 1968 he served Rawlings-Dawson, and Mayo in the Baltimore conference. In 1968 he returned to the Virginia Conference serving Epworth, Exmore. He also served Main Street in Bedford, and St. George's in Fairfax before being appointed to the Harrisonburg District as district superintendent in 1986.



We realize that such a brief list of facts conveys nothing of the real personality that has gone. Even the fond memories of those left behind are too fragmentary to express the full impact of the one we knew and loved. We can say that we are grateful to our dear Lord for the life of Carl Whitten, His servant, who dedicated his life to God's will.

How deeply Carl loved his family and his devoted companion, Elizabeth Davis Whitten, whom he married on June 7, 1958. How proud he was of his children – Eric, Robin and Lisa. How devoted he was to brother Austin and sister Jeanette, as well as his parents, who both survive him.

Carl touched the lives of thousands of persons in his ministry, whether it be by his preaching, teaching, or relationships to persons, and for this, we are grateful.

However, it was during his illness the past several years as he was losing his eyesight, that he shared his faith so eloquently. It was a terribly difficult time for his wife, Betty and for Carl, but they both witnessed to others as never before. Carl once said at a Cabinet meeting, after the doctor gave a grim prognosis as to his eyesight, “How many times I have taken the trip from Harrisonburg to Richmond, but not once have I stopped to view the glorious sight on top of Afton Mountain, looking down over the valley. But today, I stopped, and looked out on the beauty of God’s world and I praised Him for life and sight and beauty. Why does it take a crisis like I am experiencing to help us keep life in proper perspective?” There was not a dry eye in the room, and those present will never forget his sharing that day.

Carl’s funeral was held at Madison Heights United Methodist Church on May 16, 1992. The service was led by Bishop Thomas Stockton, Dr. Donald Traylor, and the Rev. Bobby Lamb. Our bishop concluded the service by repeating these enduring appropriate words: “Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.”
—*William C. Logan*

Emory N. Tarpley, 1891-1992

Emory was born April 22, 1891, in Fannin County, Georgia, to George and Amanda Tarpley. He had three brothers: Jarvis, Monroe and Elmo. Also seven sisters: Luna, Clare, Bonnie, Florence, Pearl, Ophie, and Leola. In 1910, he married Stella Elizabeth Stanley and had five sons: Cecil, Clarence, Carl, Claude and Crippen. For nine years prior to entering the ministry he taught school and later attended Vanderbilt University and Athens School, now Tennessee Wesleyan, to prepare himself for the ministry.



His first appointment in 1919 was as assistant pastor to the Spring Place Circuit in Murray County, Georgia. In 1920, he was appointed to the First Methodist Episcopal Church in Tallapoosa, Georgia, where he served five years. In 1925, he was transferred to the Holston conference and received an appointment to the First Methodist Episcopal Church in Salem, Virginia, where he served another five years. During the 66 years as a minister, he served the following United Methodist churches in Virginia: Second Church of Salem, now Central; Cave Spring, Roanoke; Goodwin Memorial, Glenvar; Tazewell Avenue, Roanoke, now Calvary; Villa Heights, Roanoke, now Southview; Grace, Roanoke; Bethany, now Norview, Hollins. In retirement he was pastor emeritus of Central United Methodist Church, Salem, Virginia.

Our home was a Christian home, with our father conducting morning devotions before we boys were off to school. He loved to read and prepare his sermons that he delivered four times on Sunday for many years during the Depression: Sunday, 10:00 a.m. at Villa Heights Methodist Church; 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Tazewell Avenue Methodist Church; and 3:00 p.m. at four chapels, three in Franklin County and one in Roanoke County.

He spent the last 15 years living at the Roanoke United Methodist Home. The last four years were spent in the infirmary where he received the loving care of all the nursing personnel. He never failed to say “Thank You, even when he felt his worst. He was a kind and gentle Christian. Emory passed away on May 15, 1992. The funeral services were led by the Rev. A. Howell Franklin, pastor of Central United Methodist Church, assisted by Dr. John Newman, chaplain for the Roanoke United Methodist

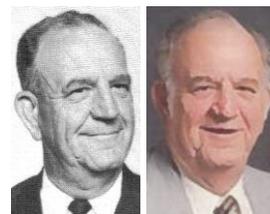
Home and his grandson, Emory Ned Tarpley, pastor of Grace United Methodist Church. Many in attendance were his colleagues in the ministry from around the Roanoke District

He was preceded in death by his wife, Elizabeth S. Tarpley and two sons, Cecil P. Tarpley and Clarence W. Tarpley. He is survived by three sons and daughters-in-law: Carl E. and Etta Mae Tarpley, Claude L. and Irene J. Tarpley, and W. Crippen and Genevieve C. Tarpley; one daughter-in-law, Violet P. Tarpley, all of Salem, Virginia. Also surviving are two sisters, Ophie T. Cockran, Dalton, Georgia; Leola T. Garland, Fairmont, Georgia; nine grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, three great-great-grandchildren, four step grandchildren and three step great-grandchildren.

He was interred in Sherwood Memorial Park, Salem, Virginia. "For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). —*Carl E., Claude L., and W. Crippen Tarpley, Sons*

William B. Livermon, Sr., 1916-1992

Bill Livermon was best known to many as "The Circuit Rider" who rode into people's lives on an old racehorse named Justice. In a three-minute television segment, Bill would offer an object lesson from nature because, in his own words, "I am sure God has built a real lesson into everything He created." In each segment, "The Circuit Rider" would draw on one of these out of Justice's saddle bag and speak simply and in a personal way about God's great love for people.



This same witness touched the lives of many people in his ministry in the local church as well. Bill served the following churches as pastor: Patrick Springs, Reveille in Richmond, North Mathews Charge, Mathews Chapel-Mathews, Powhatan, and Memorial in Lynchburg. In retirement he served the Bethel-St. Mathews Charge, The Gwyns Island Church of the Nazarene, Macedonia Baptist Church, and Westville and Oak Grove Christian churches, all in Mathews County. It was here that Bill and Thelma made their retirement home on Gwyns Island. They welcomed their three sons, William Jr., Robert, and Gary and their families often.

On September 30, 1991, Bill was awarded a special recognition by the Ministry 2000 project of Wesley Seminary. He was recognized for "his contribution in encouraging men and women to respond to God's call to ordained ministry." Having entered the ordained ministry himself at the age of 42, Bill once said, "I've been a railroad man, a post office inspector and traveling salesman, but the most fun I ever had was as a country preacher." This great love for the work to which he had been called inspired five other persons in different churches he served, to answer that call. His son, Bill Jr., was already attending seminary when Bill answered the call to ministry. He often said his son became his "father" as they encouraged each other in the process of answering God's call in their lives.

Bill's pride and love for his family and for his dear Thelma was always evident. That love was extended wherever he met them, and somehow God's love shining through Bill made you want what he had. So, consequently, most people took another step or two along their faith journey -- grew a little more -- came to act in love a little more often -- just for having encountered Bill. —*Rita A. Callis*

Glen Black, 1906-1992

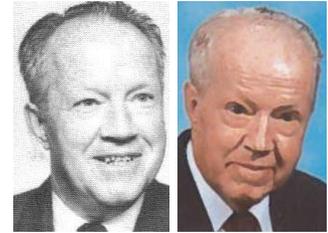
Glen Black was born on March 26, 1906, in Buckhannon, West Virginia, the son of James and Maggie Black. Glen Black worked for 20 years in the coal mines before being called into the ministry. He was ordained an elder in the West Virginia Conference in 1960. Glen served the following churches in West Virginia: Alton-Frenchton, Cottageville, Reader, Gassaway, and Riverton. He then served the following churches in Virginia: Manassas, Glossbrenner Circle, and Iron Gate. In all of his churches Glen was most appreciated for his pastoral care and preaching ministries. After retirement in 1972, Glen

served a six-point charge in Wilson Town, West Virginia, and then settled into a quieter life in Buckhannon. Hunting and fishing became enjoyable outdoor activities for Glen.

Glen Black died on May 22, 1992. The funeral service was held at Poling Sinclair Funeral Home and interment was at Mt. Carmel Cemetery in Buckhannon. He is survived by his wife, Lille R. Miller Black; two brothers and one sister; three sons, Lawrence Black, Ralph Black, and Thomas Black; four daughters, Naddie Hamner, Mary Tenney, Lena Keller, Shirley Cowger; 18 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren. —*Lawrence Black*

James Catlett Murphy, 1907-1992

The Rev. James Catlett Murphy was born in Sevier County, Tennessee, one of four children born to Frank and Rue Catlett Murphy, on July 8, 1907. He attended a one-room school before attending the Murphy Collegiate Institute in Sevierville, then Emory and Henry College from which he graduated in 1933, and then the Perkins School of Theology of Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, from which he graduated in 1935.



He joined the Baltimore conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, through the Lewisburg District, and was assigned to Copeland Chapel in Covington, Va. in that year. He moved to the Frankford-Renick Charge in Greenbrier County, W.Va., from which he transferred to the New Castle Va. Charge at the time of unification of the Methodist Church in 1939. In the Virginia Conference he served Second Church, Salem; Hamilton-Purcellville; Strasburg; Aldersgate, Hampton; Wesley Memorial, Norfolk; Farmville; Community, Arlington; Central, Clifton Forge; Grace, Newport News; and after retirement, as interim pastor of Crenshaw Church, Blackstone for nine months, as well as supply preacher for many charges in the Farmville District.

He was happily married to Miss Mildred Crowe of Blackstone, Va., on October 23, 1940. She is a graduate of Blackstone College and Emory and Henry College, and lives at her home place in Nottoway County. She, one sister, and a niece survive him.

James Murphy served on numerous boards and agencies of the conference, including the Rural Life Fellowship, Boards of Temperance, Missions, Education, Evangelism and Church Extension, plus the Commission on Higher Education, as well as district and city church agencies.

Motivated by a distinct sense of call to the ministry, James worked his way through college and university. He was always a conscientious and serious student of the Bible and a valid witness to the faith. His preaching was marked by a thorough preparation, serious study, and a desire to show forth the unsearchable riches of the Gospel.

No pastor would be more faithful to his pastoral ministry, and he was dearly beloved by his people. His ministry was carried out with deep satisfaction to all. He was a man of high sense of honor and integrity; a man clean of body, mind and spirit. He possessed a very creative mind which manifested itself in unusual sermons and in the perceptive humor with which he greeted every situation. His company was cherished by his friends because of his jovial spirit and great good nature.

He was also a man with a keen understanding of economics and business and he contributed much to good business practices in his churches. In retirement he not only assisted many churches, but helped manage a large farm, growing magnificent vegetables, berries, and fruits which he graciously shared with others. Above all else, he was a man who knew and loved his Lord, and whose daily acts of devotion held a primary place in his life and showed in his loving spirits he showed to mankind. And even now he is still busy—busy in another room, his Father's.

A private service was conducted at the home in Nottoway County with internment in the family cemetery, followed by a public memorial service at the Crenshaw Church, Blackstone, on Saturday,

May 20, 1992, conducted by the Rev. Edward C. Johnson, Dr. Harold H. Fink, and Dr. Carl W. Haley.
—*Carl W. Haley*

Thomas Lupton Simpson, Sr., 1899-1992

T. Lupton Simpson, Sr., was born March 26, 1899, the son of Henley B. Simpson and Ida Monroe Simpson. He was reared on a North Fork farm in Loudoun County and was graduated from nearby Lincoln High School. Lupton received his B.A. degree from Randolph-Macon College in 1925 and attended Union Theological Seminary for one year. He received his M.A. degree and S.T.B. degree from Boston University in 1929. Lupton was married to the former Laurabell Jackson of Chase City, Virginia.



Lupton served in the Methodist Conference from 1924 to 1971; his appointments included Goochland, West End (South Boston), West Campbell, Madison Heights, West Dinwiddie, Pamplin, Mineral, Dillwyn, Round Hill-Bluemont, and Greenwood-Carpers Valley.

His 55 years in the ministry were marked by his great love for people. He is survived by his only child, a son, Thomas L. Simpson, Jr., a daughter-in-law, Dorie L. Simpson, a grandson, Thomas Gregory Simpson, and a granddaughter, Lesilee Simpson Rose. Funeral services were held June 15, 1992, at Hall's Funeral Home in Purcellville. Interment was in the Chase City Cemetery. —*Tom Simpson*

Paul Lewis Staley, 1925-1991

Paul, born September 25, 1925, was the second of two sons born to Dr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Staley of Sardinia, Ohio. The family later moved to Dayton, Ohio, where Paul met and eventually married his lovely wife, Marilyn Goenner, on June 5, 1948. The Lord blessed their marriage with three children: one son, Mark; and two daughters, Sue and Gail. During World War II, Paul served in the South Pacific with the United States Marines (1943-46). Following his honorable discharge, with the rank of corporal, he returned to Ohio and became a student at Ohio University.



In 1967, after being employed as a plant manager for DAP, Inc., and during his career as a service technician for Electro Steam Generator, in Alexandria, Virginia, Paul found himself being called of God to enter the pastoral ministry, a call both heard and heeded. He completed required studies at the Emory Course of Study School, went on to be ordained a deacon on June 15, 1971, at the Virginia Annual Conference convened in Norfolk, and over the years served the following pastoral charges with growing devotion and distinction: Mt. Solon, Churchville, Fairfield, Hot Springs, Millboro, and Iron Gate. At the time of his death, June 3, 1991, Paul was only a week away from being recognized by the annual conference as one of its retiring ministers.

In recent years, Paul discovered a new dimension being added to his ministry. The potential for communicating Christian witness through a ministry of ventriloquism captured his imagination, which brought forth a new talent placed in service to Christ.

Some years ago I heard a teacher define the meaning of “friend” as “...someone with whom you feel free to be yourself.” Few, if any, could personify this definition better than Paul Staley. He had a marvelously gifted way of helping people feel relaxed, accepted, and safe in his presence. His humor, with gentle spirit, and contagious laughter provided such a needed ministry to people with heavy loads and drooping smiles. People enjoyed Paul because Paul enjoyed people. What a gift! —*William R. Fisher*

Gerald Price Coleman, 1929-1991

Gerald, from the first moment that I met him, communicated clearly that there were four loves in his life: his call to ministry, his love of history, his love of family, and his love of baseball, football, basketball and ping pong. The Rev. Gerald Price Coleman was born in Lynchburg, Virginia, on November 10, 1929, to the late Samuel Price Coleman and Doris Elizabeth Tweedy who lives presently in Crozet, Virginia. It was while Jerry lived in Lynchburg, that he learned to love baseball, as he worked at the minor league ballpark. His love for baseball never waned. Less than a month before his death he traveled to Baltimore to watch his “Yankees” win again.



In 1955, he married Martha Fritz Coleman, who supported him in his call to ministry and shared with him four children, three daughters and one son. They are Karen Mimms who lives in Crozet with Martha and her son Michael; Nancy J. Johnson who lives in Decatur, Georgia with her husband who is pursuing his Ph.D. at Candler in Wesleyan Studies; Jonathan David Coleman who lives in Charlottesville; and Linda Elizabeth Coleman who lives in Crozet.

Gerald’s call to ministry came after serving 10 years in the Army. As he responded to the call, he studied at Lynchburg College in Virginia and graduated with a B.A. from Grand Canyon College in Arizona in 1962. After obtaining his undergraduate degree, he attended Duke Divinity School before transferring to Wesley Theological Seminary where he received his S.T.B. in the spring of 1967. His first appointment was in 1957 at New Bethel-Trinity. Over the next 33 years following New Bethel-Trinity, he served Otter, Roanoke Circuit, Gretna, associate at Greene Memorial in Roanoke, Emporia, North Louisa, and Crozet where he spent the last four years of his life in ministry.

Jerry and I met in seminary at Wesley. He was known to many of us as the “Old Man.” During the years that I knew him I was convinced that God had called Jerry to preach the good news. And he did. What more can one say about another than he lived his faith and was faithful to his call.

While serving Crozet, Jerry was involved in the community and the Western Albemarle Ministerial Association as he served as president. It was during this time that the group sponsored several inspirational ecumenical community projects.

Jerry was an avid reader and loved history. He was president of the Charlottesville District Historical Society and served faithfully as a member of the annual conference Historical Society.

On June 15, 1991, the Revs. Joseph T. Carson, Jr.; Samuel E. NeSmith, district superintendent; and Wm. Anthony Layman joined with others at Crozet United Methodist Church to share in the service of death and resurrection for Gerald Price Coleman whose remains were buried in Bedford County.
—*Wm. Anthony Layman*

Leland Stanford Johnson, 1902-1992

Leland Stanford Johnson, son of the Rev. Thomas Edward and Ida Small Johnson, was born February 2, 1902. He died February 14, 1992. He is survived by a daughter, Nancy J. Kidd, a son, Leland Stanford Johnson, Jr., and six grandchildren. His father was a Methodist minister for 54 years; therefore Leland, being raised in a parsonage, the call to the ministry was very definite in his life and he finally decided in the 1950s to answer the call. Leland entered the Methodist ministry as a local pastor in 1959, serving the Callaghan Charge, as his first appointment. He was ordained a deacon in 1962, an elder in 1964, and became an associate member of the conference in 1969.



Leland served 15 years as an active pastor, serving appointments in the Charlottesville, Petersburg, Rappahannock, and Staunton districts. He served eight years after retirement, serving in the Lynchburg and Charlottesville districts. I had the privilege of serving as Leland’s district superintendent for six years during his active ministry and four years as a retired supply minister. Leland was a good pastor

and preacher, always serving the people he was assigned to faithfully. He loved the United Methodist Church. He was a “company man” in every way.

Leland’s work prior to a decision to enter the ministry was as a feed salesman. To have known Leland while serving as a United Methodist pastor and not having known him when he was in the business world, one can well imagine that in the business world, he was an excellent salesman.

Leland’s funeral was conducted in the Oxford Presbyterian Church, Lexington, Virginia, by the pastor, the Rev. Barton Hellmuth and the Rev. Joseph T. Carson, Jr. He was buried in the church cemetery. —Joseph T. Carson, Jr.

James Franklin Spofford, 1959-1991

On October 4, 1959, James D. Spofford and Joan Seal Spofford in Cumberland, Maryland, announced the birth of a son, James Franklin Spofford. When I first met James, it was in May of 1988 in Winchester, Virginia. James and I had only recently received confirmation that in June 1988 that we would be serving as the ministerial team at First United Methodist Church in Charlottesville, Virginia. One of the first things I learned from James was that he was to be called James, not Jim nor Jimmy. So I came to love and to respect James as a person called of God with the gifts and graces for ministry.



From 1988 until 1991, we served the people of First Church. During our ministry, James grew as a preacher and deepened his faith in ministry as he was a very sensitive and compassionate person. He was loved by the older people, worked very well with the youth, assisted at least three Boy Scouts in earning their God and Country award, and matured in many areas of his gifts and graces. His growth enabled him to seek another appointment in June 1991 when he was assigned to Monroe United Methodist Church in Monroe, Virginia, where he served until his death on November 5, 1991.

Though James received his Master of Divinity from Boston University, he spent most of his life in Virginia. Greene Memorial in Roanoke saw him grow from a boy into a young adult. While attending the university, James became involved in Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church where he was approved as an inquiring candidate for ordained ministry. James returned to Charlottesville in 1988 when he was assigned as the associate minister at First Church. He was active with the downtown clergy association and was responsible for the last three Easter sunrise services at Monticello, the home of the late Thomas Jefferson.

His service of death and resurrection was held at First United Methodist Church on November 9, 1991, with Resident Bishop Thomas Stockton, the Rev. Dr. Samuel E. NeSmith and the Rev. Wm. Anthony Layman officiating the service. On November 10, 1991, his remains were buried in Rest Haven Cemetery in Hagerstown, Maryland where the Rev. Dr. Raymond Moreland officiated. The suddenness of James’ death and the quality of ministry that he shared reminds this writer again that it is not how long we live that really counts but how we live. And James lived to the glory of God. —*Wm. Anthony Layman*

1993 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Bishop Walter Kenneth Goodson, 1912-1991 (Second Memoir)

Bishop W. Kenneth Goodson was born in Salisbury, North Carolina, to Daniel Washington and Sarah Alice Peeler Goodson on September 25, 1912. He was called by God to be a preacher of the Word, and the church has seldom had a more devoted servant. He loved the Methodist Church, and the record of his pastorates is testimony to his faithfulness. After his early education in the public schools of Salisbury, he graduated from Catawba College in 1934 and entered the Divinity School of Duke University in the



fall of that year. This school was his love and after retirement he returned there as teacher and mentor for faculty and students alike.

While conducting a funeral at Oak Ridge, his first appointment, he met the love of his life, and in 1937 married Martha Ann Ogburn of Greensboro. She was the light and strength of his life and the heart of his ministry. Martha, as she is affectionately called by all who know her, survives him as their three children do, Ann (Mrs. Larry M. Faust), W. Kenneth, Jr., and Nancy (Mrs. Dilmus R. Richey); and 10 grandchildren. Kenneth Goodson was a family man, devoted to them each individually; and to all together. They were his family about whom he spoke with pride and deep affection.

He served for 27 years as a parish minister in the Western North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church. His appointments were Oak Ridge, West Market Street, and Muir's Chapel in Greensboro; First Methodist Church in Wadesboro; High Point and Charlotte and Centenary Churches in Winston-Salem. He also served for three years as the District Superintendent of the Winston-Salem District. On July 8, 1964, he was elected a bishop of the Methodist Church and was assigned as episcopal leader of the Birmingham Area of the church, which included the North Alabama and the Alabama-West Florida and ultimately the Central Alabama Conferences. In 1972 he became bishop of the Richmond Area, the Virginia Conference, the largest conference in the connection.

In Alabama, he is remembered as a man of unusual courage, a national Methodist leader who felt in his heart that the Christian Gospel and the church demanded an end to racial discrimination. After the Selma-Montgomery March, he was successful in arranging a meeting between Governor George Wallace and some of the leaders of that march. It marked the first time the governor had sat down to talk with a group of black leaders. This marked the turning point in improving relations between the races in Alabama.

Kenneth Goodson came to Virginia saying, "I come with no promises, except to love you and to love the church and most of all to love Jesus Christ. This is all I ask of you in return." The eight years he served as leader of Virginia Methodism were happy years, years of progress in all areas, years of service to Christ and his kingdom, and years of loving and being loved in return.

Ken Goodson had a remarkable capacity for caring. Other people talk about doing something for a friend. He did it. The telephone was an ever-present tool of his life. He used it! In his message at the memorial service in Centenary Church, Winston-Salem, Bishop Dwight Loder told of being met at the airport by a gentleman who said, "I am one of Ken Goodson's 10,000 best friends." He combated loneliness in a lonely job by making his associates his best friends. The cabinet became his family and he and Martha were in and out of the homes of clergy so frequently that it was quite natural to welcome them in. I think of him as a "people person." His office door was always open, as open as his heart, to a person with a problem or a need. He didn't sit very much in his office but walked the halls of the United Methodist Building, dropping in on the staff persons he might find to hear about the work or pass the time of day. He was a great preacher but he also communicated wonderfully well, one to one.

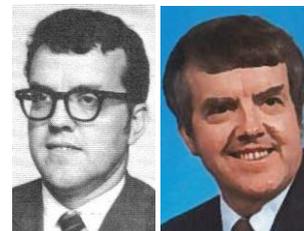
His leadership capabilities were widely recognized as he became the first president of the General Commission on Religion and Race, first president of the General Board of Discipleship, and a member of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. In 1978, he became the first clergy person to serve on the board of trustees of the Duke Endowment. He was the first active bishop to be invited to preach on the Methodist Series of the Protestant Hour. His series of sermons were under the title, "What God is Like." He was elected president of the Council of Bishops in 1976. The ministers and the conference honored him the best way they could by asking him to be the preacher for the Ministers' Convocation and for the 1980 session of the annual conference. Clergy and laity raised money to endow the Goodson Foundation for Homiletics in the hope that good preaching would be a source of constant inspiration to the clergy of the conference for years to come. Seldom does a conference have the

privilege of having an episcopal leader with such a combination of dedication, warmth of spirit, and a captivating sense of humor.

After a long illness, W. Kenneth Goodson entered his eternal home Tuesday, September 17, 1991. The funeral was held at Centenary United Methodist Church, Winston-Salem, a church he once served as pastor. His longtime friend, Bishop Dwight E. Loder, preached the funeral sermon and Dr. George P. Robinson, pastor of Centenary Church, was lector. The burial was in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Greensboro. In grateful thanks for the life of W. Kenneth Goodson, friend and brother, we commend his spirit to God the Father who gives us life. —James W. Turner

Emmett Winbern Cocke, Jr., 1935-1992

Several weeks of hospitalization in 1991 kept Emmett from attending annual conference for the first time in nearly 40 years. When he returned to his pulpit to lead the service of worship and to share his witness to the Word, all were moved by his testimony to God's presence during his ordeal. He concluded the sermon by singing, unaccompanied, a favorite spiritual: "Some glad morning/When this life is over, I'll fly away!"



Emmett was born in Gretna, Virginia, on April 26, 1935. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Emory and Henry College in 1956 and his Master of Divinity from Duke University Divinity School in 1960. He was ordained elder in the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church in 1960. The Doctor of Ministry degree was conferred by Union Theological Seminary in Richmond in 1973.

Emmett began his ministry in Virginia in 1957. He served Hyco and Piney Forest in the Danville District; Reveille in Richmond as associate; campus minister and director of the Wesley Foundation in Richmond; Providence in York County; Asbury, Newport News; Pace Memorial and campus minister at Virginia Commonwealth University; and Mount Vernon and Fairlington in the Alexandria District.

Emmett held numerous leadership positions in the Virginia Conference, including chair of the conference Division of Campus Ministry and chair of the conference Board of Church and Society. He was a delegate to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences. He was a member of the board of directors of the Greater Washington Council of Churches and active in Ventures in Community, a social outreach ministry in Alexandria.

A leader in interfaith, missionary and campus ministries, Emmett was at the height of his professional career when he was found to have Crohn's disease and cancer. The treatment over an extended time included periods of inactivity alternating with periods of remission. "I fear death less than I fear the inability to perform the ministry to which I have been called," he observed. During his last hospitalization, Emmett was permitted his final priestly act, the baptism of his newest grandchild in the Children's Chapel of Johns Hopkins University Hospital. Within a few weeks, death's glad morning came and Emmett's "life was over...."

A Service of Death and Resurrection was held at Fairlington United Methodist Church on September 28, 1992. Officiants included the Rev. Drema McAllister-Wilson, pastor of Fairlington United Methodist Church; the Rev. Marta Burke, pastor of Norland United Methodist Church, Miami, Florida; Bishop Thomas B. Stockton; Dr. F. Douglas Dillard, superintendent of the Alexandria District; Andrew Cocke, son of Emmett Cocke; the Rev. Cynthia Coleman, pastor of Del Ray United Methodist Church; the Rev. John Coffey, retired minister of the Virginia Conference; the Rev. Robert E. Vaughn, pastor of Providence-Woodland United Methodist Churches in Suffolk; and the Rev. Robert Thomason, director of United College Ministries in Northern Virginia.

A combined choir of Mt. Vernon and Fairlington churches led by Louise C. Wilson and Virginia Campbell sang a portion of the John Rutter *Requiem* and a special setting of "For All the Saints."

On the following day, services and interment were held at Anderson Memorial in Gretna, the home church of the Cocke family. Ministerial colleague, the Rev. Richard Faris, conducted the service, assisted by Lynchburg District Superintendent David Smith, and local pastor, the Rev. Carleton L. Thomas and the Rev. Rudy Hearn.

Emmett's surviving family includes his wife of 25 years, Lucy Sydnor Cocke; two daughters, Rose M. Dare and Beth A. Ernst; two sons, Joseph W. and Andrew S. Cocke; his mother, Ruby Cocke; a sister, Juanita Minor; a brother, Welford Cocke; and four grandchildren, Tucker Emmett Dare, Cameron Clair Dare; Maxwell Joseph Ernst, and Spencer Thomas Ernst.

In tribute to Emmett, the *Advocate* observed: *His quiet way of speaking the truth in love challenged many a United Methodist in our conference. He was our conscience. To the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry, Emmett was a tireless worker, sharing his ideas, giving precious time and energy. Imagine a baker kneading dough—a vital step in making the best bread: that's what Emmett did for higher education and campus ministry. In love and with great appreciation, we honor his memory. May God raise up among us rare gifts like Emmett, persons who have so little thought for their own egos and so much consideration for people who are pushed aside in the name of progress or even religion.*

A memorial fund has been established to provide an annual scholarship grant and a social justice award in his honor and in memory of Emmett's joyous and effective ministry. —*John Haines Coffee*

Harold Hasbrouck Hughes, Jr., 1930-1992

The year 1913 was a good one for the Virginia Annual Conference. That was the year that Sidney Albert Hughes and Mary Belle Hasbrouck Hughes moved with their family to Richmond, Virginia, from Kingston, New York. Little Harold, the sixth and last child of the family, thus became destined, in later years, to become an outstanding leader and giant of the Virginia Conference and not the New York Conference.



Harold Hasbrouck Hughes was born in Kingston on October 12, 1903. The family moved to Richmond in 1913 because of the failing health of his father. Both parents died in 1916, and the children were separated in several directions to live with relatives. Harold stayed in Richmond, where he lived with Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Adkins, his aunt and uncle. He attended the public schools, graduating from John Marshall High School. He received his undergraduate degree from Randolph-Macon College, which school later honored him with a Doctor of Divinity degree. He received a B.D. degree from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond.

It was while at Union that he married an attractive young neighbor, Mildred Virginia Powers, beginning a companionship and partnership that lasted for 44 years and ended at Mildred's death on June 23, 1972. They served God together and made their mark on Methodism in the Virginia Conference, the Southeastern Jurisdiction, and the church at large.

Dr. Hughes, for that is what I called him until we served together in the bishop's cabinet in 1965 (then he became "Harold"), had a distinguished ministry in churches around the conference. The list includes: Petersburg, Blandford, Waverly, Richmond Asbury and Broad Street, Fredericksburg, Monumental, Danville Mt. Vernon, Arlington, and Annandale. He served as district superintendent of four districts: Roanoke, Portsmouth, Arlington, and Richmond, where he retired in June of 1976. His devotion to God, his active, alert mind, and his interest in people led countless thousands of his fellow Methodists, both lay and clergy, to a closer walk with God. He lived what he preached and was an inspiration to all who knew him. His keen wit was a trademark, which brought pleasure to many. Another trademark was the green ink with which he wrote his notes and cards. And who will forget his penetrating question with which he would greet you, "Are you doing any good for the Lord?"

He served the conference and church with distinction. One of his emphases was missions. Among his places of service were: president, Board of Missions; conference missionary secretary, and member

of the General Board of Missions. Another interest was history. He served as president of the Virginia Historical Association. He was a trustee of Randolph-Macon College and Ferrum College. He was elected as a delegate to seven General Conferences and nine Jurisdictional Conferences.

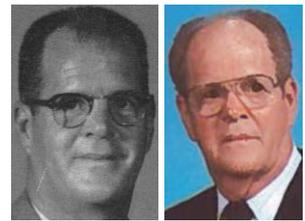
In retirement, from 1976 until 1986, he lived next door to his daughter and her family. In 1986 he moved to the Hermitage in Northern Virginia in Alexandria, where he died on October 8, 1992. He is survived by his son, Bishop H. Hasbrouck Hughes, Jr.; his daughter, Kathryn Fay Hughes Stockton; their spouses, who were like a daughter and son, Mera and “Chuck”; six grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

A final tribute to this Soldier of the Cross was held on October 12, 1992, in Annandale United Methodist Church. Dr. Wasena F. Wright, Jr., pastor; Dr. F. Douglas Dillard, Jr., district superintendent; and Dr. George S. Lightner, friend, participated. Interment was on the same afternoon in the family plot in Maury Cemetery, Richmond, with Dr. Lightner and Dr. Eugene R. Woolridge, Jr., presiding.

Dr. Harold Hughes has preached his last sermon and presided over his last charge conference, but his memory and influence will continue forever. —*Harry B. Eaton*

Carroll Edward Jay, 1921-1992

My father was born in West Virginia on April 21, 1921, and it was there that he met the woman he would marry and spend more than 50 years of his life with. His early years were filled with a variety of experiences: from semipro baseball player and professional umpire to chief of police and school teacher/coach. His love of sports was there to the end. He also served his country with distinction as a lieutenant in the Army during World War II. The call of God upon him would not rest, however, and in 1955 he gave answer and became a lay preacher. He became a probationer in 1956 and was ordained a minister in full connection of the Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1959. He served appointments in Alabama and Ohio while pursuing his education but in 1972 we returned to Virginia where he served in four appointments until his retirement in 1991. Even after his retirement he remained in the pulpit and continued to serve until the time of his death from this world.

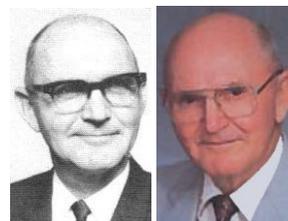


What will always be remembered about him, however, is his strength, courage and devotion. Dad had suffered 11 heart attacks from 1960 to 1971 and had quadruple-bypass surgery in 1972, but he never gave up. For him, to live was Christ, and live he did. He continued to serve our Lord faithfully, sharing with others the riches of God’s grace and love that he had so fully experienced. He could lift the lowliest spirit with a word and a smile, and he spent his life serving the Lord he loved by helping others find light when the darkness that often accompanies this existence had descended upon them.

The later years of his ministry saw him still plagued with heart problems, and he suffered from back problems and a stroke. Still, he continued on to minister to those given to his care. It was a reciprocal love, and he and my mother decided to retire in Patrick Springs. It was there he began to build, on his own, their retirement home. Despite the physical problems he had experienced, his courage and inner strength, that had marked his ministry for so long, continued to shine. Board by board, nail by nail, he built their home from the ground up. He was doing what he loved, working on the kitchen cabinets in the home he envisioned, when he was called to his great home. Dad “lived alive” and his life was a testimony to “keeping on keeping on” to all who knew him. His loss is felt by us all but his example and influence will always be present, and the kingdom is brought ever closer to many because of this life that was lived, one that continues to live in the hearts and memories of all of us. —*Jesse L Jay*

John Courtney Sheffield, 1918-1992

J. Courtney Sheffield was born on July 25, 1918, in Dinwiddie County, Virginia, to Jervis George and Grace Cole Sheffield. He died at the Hospice Acute Care Unit of Northern Virginia on October 14, 1992. He was married to Betty Lou Loftis on February 1, 1944, and for 48 years they were partners in ministry. In addition to Betty Lou, Courtney is survived by three children, Walter Jervis Sheffield, Polly Sheffield Roberts, and Courtney Lou Sheffield Tierney; and eight grandchildren.



Courtney entered the ministry from his home church, While Oak, West Dinwiddie Charge, in the Petersburg District. He was a graduate of Randolph-Macon College, the Candler School of Theology of Emory University, and the Navy Chaplains' School at The College of William and Mary. He did further graduate study at Union Theological Seminary in Virginia.

His ministerial service began in 1943 at Matoaca (Petersburg District). Other churches he served were Bishop Memorial (Richmond), Waverly (Petersburg), Sussex (Petersburg), Beulah (Richmond), McKendree (Norfolk), Stratford Hills (Richmond), Central in Hampton (Peninsula), Christ (Arlington), St. Mark's (Petersburg), and Clarendon (Arlington).

He served twice as a chaplain in the United States Navy. During World War II he was aboard the aircraft carrier *USS Barnes* in the South Pacific. During the Korean conflict he served aboard the troop ship *USS Langfitt*. At Great Lakes Naval Base he was the first full-time chaplain appointed to the Navy Wave recruits and was also chaplain to the Blue Jacket Choir.

In the nine years of his retirement, Courtney was active in Arlington Forest Church and in many community activities such as the United Way, the American Red Cross and the Arlington Kiwanis Club. He was one of the founders of the Family Respite Center in Falls Church. Also, he preached in many Northern Virginia churches.

In his personal life, Courtney demonstrated strength, faith, and a zest for life. Early in his ministry, with God's help, he successfully fought to overcome the crippling symptoms of multiple sclerosis. Years later, when he was stricken unexpectedly with a rapid decline from cancer, he accepted the end of his life with courage and grace. Throughout his adult days, Courtney was a devoted husband, father, and friend. He was a serious student of the Bible, history, etymology of words, biblical archaeology, and enjoyed traveling to many foreign countries. He was an avid sports fan and loved to play golf.

Courtney loved The United Methodist Church and enjoyed being a local church pastor. He was devoted to the Christian ministry and served his Lord with a contagious joy, loving attitude, positive leadership, and sense of humor. He was an excellent preacher and an innovative teacher. During his career he taught many Bible studies on the conference, district, and local church levels.

Courtney Sheffield was an unassuming and gracious pastor with a deep faith and love for people. He walked into a room with a smile, put people at ease, and often told a joke or story. As Bishop Stockton said at the memorial service at Arlington Forest. "Courtney was a Virginia Christian gentleman."

A memorial service for Courtney Sheffield was held at Arlington Forest Church, conducted by the Rev. Richard S. Keller, Dr. Robert L. Parsons, and Bishop Thomas B. Stockton. A private committal service was conducted by the Rev. Richard S. Keller and Dr. Donald H. Roberts with interment in the Chaplains' Section of Arlington National Cemetery. —*Donald H. Roberts*

Lillian Phyllis Russell, 1914-1992

Lillian P. Russell was born in Richmond, Va., on January 14, 1914. She was the second daughter and one of eight children born to Early W. and Goldie P. Russell, a devout Protestant couple. The family was raised in High Park Methodist Church in Richmond, taking an active part in all its activities. Lillian



was the most serious minded of all the children. At a very early age she showed a great interest in Sunday school, the Bible, and seeking out the interpretations of the Scriptures. By the time she was 15 years of age, she was teaching adult ladies classes in Sunday school on a regular basis. The next two years she became more involved and dedicated to what God had called her to do. She said later, and I quote, "My calling was an experience of grace, never deserved, but bestowed."

At the age of 17, she was asked by her pastor, Dr. Walter Deyerle, to speak at the 11 o'clock service on Sunday. She did as he requested, and the following week the Rev. Ralph Yow asked her to preach for a two-week revival at Fairmount Methodist Church. After that her schedule for services was quickly filled. In 1932 she became a full evangelist and spent the next 12 years "on the road." She conducted revivals from Norfolk to Winchester, to Bedford and back to Richmond, also covering many cities in between. During her evangelistic career she carried God's message to literally thousands of people, young and old alike, many of whom were so touched by her message and example that they became interested in furthering their education and entering the ministry.

The Virginia Conference met in Lynchburg in 1944, and it was there that Dr. Roscoe Jones, superintendent of the Petersburg District, offered Lillian the opportunity to be appointed pastor of Blanford Methodist Church in Petersburg. Considering it a privilege, she accepted.

At the time of her arrival, the church was in disarray. The average attendance at Sunday morning services was less than 20 people. They had no choir and very little enthusiasm anywhere. Her reputation preceded her, however, and she was warmly received. She said she always believed God had a hand in sending her there. Through her strong faith in her Heavenly Father, she believed if she spread His message to all who would hear her voice, the church would grow; work hard with interest and God would not let them fail. She preached the Gospel as God's messenger, the church worked hard, and it grew. Morning and evening services were well attended, a choir was organized along with Bible studies. Missions and other programs were established. During this period, Lillian was also completing her formal education by correspondence at Emory University in Atlanta, Ga., preparatory to and for her ordination.

In 1947, she was ordained a Deacon in the Virginia Methodist Conference at Greene Memorial Church, and in 1949 she was ordained an Elder in the conference at Centenary Methodist Church in Richmond. The Rev. Russell has the distinction of being the first woman licensed to preach in the Virginia Conference and the first woman to be ordained an elder in the conference.

In 1950 Blanford Methodist Church built a parsonage and continued to grow in faith, enthusiasm, and numbers. When the Rev. Russell retired after 35-plus years, Blanford United Methodist Church had 400-plus active members on roll, a 20-voice choir, and supported their own programs and all conference endeavors. Miss Russell stated many times, "Only by the help and guidance of our Heavenly Father could these things come to pass."

After a lengthy illness, Miss Russell entered her eternal home on October 15, 1992, and as this dedicated messenger of God stood before her Heavenly Father at the bar of judgment, there could only be one verdict: "Well done thou good and faithful servant. Enter into the gates of heaven...."
—Brothers and Sisters.

Joseph Aaron Kelly, Sr., 1911-1992

Called to a servant's role, the Rev. Joseph A. Kelly, Sr., loved the people given into his care with all his heart. Joe was born in Fayette County, Pa., May 3, 1911, one of seven children. While in grade school, his family moved to Maryland. He spent eight years in the coastal artillery, Quartermaster Corps. In 1943, he joined the Army. He was wounded in action in Italy, receiving the Purple Heart. After the war, he and his wife, Gladys, moved to Pennsylvania and began their family. Joe worked in construction but soon found a nice



farm in West Virginia. Shortly thereafter he responded to a persistent call to the ministry and enrolled at West Virginia University.

Joe began his full-time ministry in West Virginia in 1951 by serving the Wyatt Circuit. On to Blacksville in 1953, Masontown in 1957 and, after serving at Grafton-St. John for about one year, he transferred to the Virginia Conference in 1961. His first appointment was to the West Dinwiddie Charge. It was in this area, 15 years later, that Joe would retire and sink his roots firmly into Virginia soil. Until then, Joe served at Anderson Memorial from 1965, at Bayleys Chapel from 1967, Ridgeway from 1970, and at Middleburg from 1974 until he retired in 1976. For that first year of retirement he also served Bethia in the Petersburg District and North Amelia. Later he served as visiting minister at Highland. Colonial Heights.

Joe and Gladys have six children; Lillian K. Gabriel, Richmond; Joseph A. Kelly, II, Patrick J. Kelly, and William G. Kelly, all of Sutherland; Michael R. Kelly, Wilmore, Kentucky; and Mary M. Kelly, San Francisco. Joe continued his ministry by supporting the churches he once pastored and lending moral and emotional support to the pastors in the charge. In a homey woodshop he built on their land, Joe designed and built furniture and other wood crafts. He also designed and built a small house behind the main building that will house a small family in privacy.

The toll of his wartime service eventually resulted in a brace fit to his leg to accommodate the muscle loss. But a good man cannot be kept down, and Joe continued to serve his Lord to the last. Though weakened and experiencing increased difficulty moving, Joe visited the sick and dying in this community. Finally, unable to stand for long and succumbing to a sudden brain tumor, he was hospitalized. When it was clear that nothing else could be done, he asked to be brought home. He wanted to die among the family he loved and the many friends to whom he had ministered for many years.

In those final weeks of life, Joe continued to praise God and minister to those who came to him. Early on November 10, 1992, Joe received his final appointment. His body was buried at Trinity Cemetery, in the shade of the church and the flag of his country. Joe is survived by his wife and children; a sister, Lillian Hall of Sebring, Fla.; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. —*John E. DeJong*

Betty Adkins Johnson, 1921-1992

The Rev. Betty Johnson entered into full-time ministry with The United Methodist Church when she was 53 years old. Her husband, the Rev. William Rexford Johnson, had a heart attack and was disabled in 1974. The family was worried about how things would work out. The district superintendent asked to meet with Mrs. Johnson and told her that the bishop was going to call her and that she was to say “yes” to the question he was going to ask. The bishop asked Mrs. Johnson to take over her husband’s charge. That’s how it all started! Mrs. Johnson’s husband died in the latter part of March 1975. The family will never forget the sequence of events that followed. The Rev. William Johnson was buried on a Saturday. The following day was Easter Sunday. Mrs. Johnson led the combined services that day at Elliotts Hill United Methodist Church with the Rev. Charles Snead preaching.



The Rev. Betty Johnson served the Rockbridge Charge for several years before moving to the Blue Grass Charge near Monterey. She served five years at Blue Grass and thoroughly enjoyed the rural setting and the people. The Rev. Johnson was constantly busy with the affairs of the church and the people she pastored. She was then appointed to the Stonewall-Westview Charge near Staunton, where she served for six years and then retired. After retiring, the Rev. Johnson was called to preach once again at the Monterey Charge for six months and then to serve as pastor of Rankin United Methodist Church in Stuarts Draft for three months. Finally, her failing health caused her to end her appointed

ministry, and she moved to Summersville, W.Va., to live with her son. The Rev. Johnson was active in the Summersville Memorial United Methodist Church, Summersville, W.Va., until passing away on Nov. 14, 1992.

To describe the love, affection, and care the Rev. Betty Johnson had for her churches and their people would be difficult to explain. I think of two things that would best do it. On one occasion, while helping my mother to move to a new charge, I noticed that the church buildings were in pretty poor shape. I told my wife that the next time we visited, those buildings would be in tip-top shape. Upon our next visit several months later, sure enough—everything was in tip-top shape, including the people of those congregations. The Rev. Betty Johnson was the complete minister. Folks came from most of her former churches to attend her funeral, which was held at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church near Glasgow. This was a moving testimony to me of the type of minister she was. —*David L Johnson, Son*

Lewis Maxwell Shuler, 1918-1992

Lewis Maxwell Shuler was born June 8, 1918, the son of Elbert R., Jr., and Trula Shuler. His days of childhood and youth were spent in Roanoke and Grayson County. He was educated at a small college in Tennessee. He and his wife, Beulah, raised two children—a son, William (Bill), and a daughter, Elizabeth (Tina). Lewis was ordained an Elder in 1963 and was received as an Associate Member in 1969. He enjoyed serving small churches in rural areas. Lewis served his first appointments in the Holston Conference. They were as follows: Clinchco-McClure, Dunbar, Rose Hill Circuit, Broadford, Riverview Circuit, Chuckey Circuit, and Dungannon Circuit. Lewis then served the following churches in the Virginia Conference: Pocomoke Circuit, Newport Circuit, Callaghan, and Huddleston. Because of poor health, Lewis retired early at the age of 51. By then he had served in the ministry for 20 years. Lewis was known for the love he had for the ministry as well as his love for the people he served. His daughter-in-law, Belly Shuler, described him as a “quiet, unique, and very sincere individual who cared a great deal about the churches he served.” His mother, Trula Christenson, described him as a “very faithful person, a man who was full of faith.” He deeply trusted in God and enjoyed the abundant life only Christ can give. After retirement, Lewis could often be found doing odd jobs and much-needed repairs at the Children’s Home. Though he had many difficulties with his health, he never complained and continued to trust in God. In 1987, he was preceded in death by his wife, Beulah. He was also preceded in death by his son, William. He is survived by his daughter, Elizabeth Bettini McClanahan, and by a grandson, Thomas Christopher Shuler.

Forrest Strader Wagoner, 1911-1992

Forrest Strader Wagoner was born November 23, 1911, in the small town of Brown Summit, North Carolina. He was educated in the public schools of North Carolina and then graduated from High Point College (1934) and Westminster Theological Seminary (1937). His first appointment in 1937 was Creswell, North Carolina, which was followed by the following appointments: Philadelphia, Waverly, Corinth, Chester, Zion (Seaford), Fairmount Park, Memorial (Appomattox), Walmsley Boulevard, Trinity (Roanoke), and Ebenezer-Kinsale, from which he retired in 1980 after 44 years of faithful service. Dr. A. Purnell Bailey, a longtime friend of Forrest, wrote of his ministry: “He was a modest but earnest proclaimer of the Gospel. Little children loved him, and his ministry to them was by example as well as word. Forrest loved The United Methodist Church and the four-decades-plus that he gave to congregations in the conference, leaving a trail of devoted service. People trusted him! He was my friend in sharing the love of our Lord Jesus. I treasure the memory of his friendship.” His first wife, the late Frances Williams, died in 1968 and from this marriage there are three lovely children: a son, Forrest II; and daughters, Jane and Mary. Forrest found another great love and, in 1977, married Charlotte Thomas. He died on December 25, 1992. after a long illness. Funeral services were held at Memorial United Methodist



Church, Appomattox, on December 27, 1992, by his minister and friend, the Rev. Joseph L. Lotts. —
Joseph L Lotts

Lee Gipson Bowman, 1931-1992

Lee G. Bowman was born January 2, 1932, in Sierra Leone, West Africa, to missionary parents, Lloyd and Lela Gipson Bowman. Returning from Africa to the Virginia Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren Church (EUB), the Bowmans served in the Dayton area. Lee attended schools there and went on to Bridgewater College, leaving after two years to work for National Cash Register for five years.



Heeding the call to preach the Gospel, Lee was licensed at the 1954 conference held at Waynesboro EUB (now Glovier Memorial United Methodist Church). Lee proceeded to Bob Jones University, where he received a B.A. degree in 1957. That same year, he married Norma Haire, also a Bob Jones graduate. The Bowmans moved to San Piere, Indiana, where Lee served a student pastorate while earning a B.D. from Evangelical Seminary.

Lee was ordained an elder in 1960 and served the Franklin Charge, Pleasant Valley, for six years; Glovier Memorial for 10 years; five years in New Enterprise (Pa.) Church of the Brethren; and returned to Tyler Memorial Church in the Peninsula District. In 1988, Lee took disability leave after a second stroke; he and Norma moved to Arthur, W.Va., Norma's home area. Letters and cards arriving from each of Lee's former appointments attest to his faithful service and the fond memories his parishioners held for him and of the Gospel experience Lee provided through his faithfulness to his Lord. Civic services also endeared community people to Lee. At Franklin, Lee served on the volunteer fire department. In Waynesboro, Lee became chaplain for the rescue squad and later became a certified emergency medical technician. While at Waynesboro, Lee became a member of Lee Lodge AF&AM 209. What most endeared people to Lee was his love of people. Even those who disagreed with him respected him because he did what he believed in. To we who knew him, Lee was genuine and sincere.

Two of the greatest joys of their lives came with the births of Lloyd and Ann to parents who loved children but had none in the early years of their marriage. Lee made sure that he had time for Norma and his children. This was not only something he recommended for others, but modeled by "practicing what he preached." Lee always believed that all the families in his charge were important, including his own.

Lee was always concerned about the repair of buildings on each of his charges. At the time of his disability leave, Lee's own temple fell into disrepair, which he could not repair. On December 27, 1992, Lee was healed and his spirit freed from a broken body. One more cut in an imperfect stone turned him into the perfect ashlar fit for that temple not made by human hands, eternal in the heavens.
—*Gene M. Williams*

Claude Burke Dickenson, 1901-1992

Born in Russell County, Virginia, on May 26, 1901, Claude Burke Dickenson was the son of Thomas Fletcher and Elizabeth Phillips Dickenson. He had three brothers and two sisters, all of whom preceded him in death. After graduating from Honaker High School, Honaker, Virginia, he enrolled in Emory and Henry College to make preparation to answer the call to the ministry which God had bestowed upon him early in his life. It was while he was at Emory and Henry that he met Anne Lee Falin of Stickleyville, Virginia, who later became his beloved wife and constant companion in the ministry. She also preceded him in death on April 22, 1981. Mr. Dickenson received his Master of Divinity degree from Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

He was a member of the Holston Conference from 1927 to 1939, where he served North Tazewell, Lead Mines, and Wytheville circuits. After unification in 1939, he served the North Fork-Elkhorn, Jenkin Jones, Crumpler, Coalwood, and Coal Ford charges in the West Virginia Conference.

Transferring to the Virginia Conference in 1955, he served Greenville-Mint Spring, Staunton; Melfa-Locustville, Eastern Shore; and Amelia, Farmville.

Though “C.B.” (as he was known) retired in 1966 at Greenville, after 39 years as a dedicated pastor and faithful minister of the Word, he continued to stay active in his work as a minister by preaching, leading Bible studies and devotions, and serving on the ministry team for the dying at the Blue Ridge Christian Home, where he had lived since 1982.

C.B. left this life to enter his heavenly home on December 31, 1992. A service of celebration was held at Greenville United Methodist Church on Sunday, January 3, 1993, by the Rev. Steve Lewis, Karl Crowe, and James Holloman. By request of Mr. Dickenson, the sermon was delivered by Mr. Crowe, who had been a close friend for many years. A graveside service was held on the following day in Bluefield, West Virginia. He had a genuine love for God and of people: To know him was to love and admire him. He made lasting friends wherever he lived, many of whom continued to seek his guidance and counsel even to the end. The following is a verse from one of the many poems he wrote:

*To see, Dear Lord, thy blessed face And be supplied with needed grace.
The grace to look no other way, To thank thee for thy Death for me
And love thee for the One I see, O Lamb of God, I bow and pray. —Karl L. Crowe*

Joseph Madison West, 1913-1993

“The kindest, most gentle man I have ever known,” is how his second wife, Betty, describes our father, Joseph Madison West. The youngest of nine children, the fair-haired Joe was born to James and Ida West in Franklin County, Virginia, close to Rocky Mount, on March 23, 1913. Many times Daddy told us stories of his childhood, describing how generous neighbors left food and clothing on their front porch at night when his father was unable to work. Never forgetting his humble beginnings, he remembered his joy upon receiving an occasional toy or orange. Daddy taught himself to play the guitar and loved to have us sing along with him, mostly hymns. Our favorite was “Row Us Over The Tide,” a song about two little children—a boy and girl—whose parents had gone to heaven. A tenderhearted, compassionate man, our father’s eyes were always misty when the song ended. A diligent Bible student, Daddy loved to quote for us the numerous passages he had memorized.



Two significant events occurred when Daddy was 21. Marriage to a raven-haired beauty, Mamie Gray Sigmon, on September 4, 1934, was the first. Then Mama became converted, as she called the experience, under the ministry of Dr. Mordecai Ham; Daddy became a Christian soon afterward. With their newfound faith now the central focus of their marriage, they became charter members of Roanoke First Church of the Nazarene. After being laid off from the furniture factory, Daddy wrote two books of poems and sold them door-to-door to support his growing family. We were deeply touched when an elderly gentleman brought his copy to Daddy’s funeral.

A lay preacher for many years, our father longed to serve his Lord full time. Because he had quit school after the sixth grade to support his family, Daddy lacked the formal education required. Determined to be ordained, he earned his high school diploma using a correspondence course. Next, to avoid an age deadline, he completed a four-year ordination home study course in under two years, while also working his regular job. In 1953, at age 40, he was ordained and then called to pastor the Riverdale Church of the Nazarene, where he served for 11 years.

Subsequently, our father pastored the Roanoke Shenandoah Chapel, Danville First Pilgrim Holiness, West Salem Wesleyan, and three United Methodist charges: Potts Valley, Phenix, and Dillwyn. In 1983 he retired from Goodwin Memorial United Methodist Church. His ministry touched many lives.

After his beloved “Mamie-girl” went to heaven on December 31, 1988, our father was like a lost little boy. Then God wonderfully provided a devoted second companion, Elizabeth Clark Hill, whom he

married on September 1, 1989. When love blossoms between two older people, it is truly marvelous to behold. When Daddy had a stroke following surgery, Betty tirelessly and affectionately cared for him at home. Peacefully, without pain, and surrounded by family, Daddy left us to claim his eternal reward on January 5, 1993, few months short of attaining 80 years of age. —*His Children Iris Ferne West Ryan, Joseph Wayne West, Patricia Jean West Graham*

Abner Ray Cook, 1909-1993

Captain Abner Ray Cook was born on July 19, 1909, at Marshall, Texas, where his grandfather had built the first desegregated church in 1842. His family moved to Whittier, Calif., where Ray later graduated from Whittier College in 1932. Graduating from Duke University School of Religion (Divinity School) in 1935—where he had lived with a group including a law student, Richard M. Nixon, the writer, and 15 other divinity students—he was assigned to Trinity Church, Los Angeles, of the California-Pacific Conference, M.E. Church, South, and later the Phoenix-Capitol and the Williams-Maxwell Churches of the Desert Southwest Conference, followed by Eastmont Church of the California-Pacific Conference of The Methodist Church.

Having been ordained elder in 1939, he was granted a commission as LT(j.g.) in the U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps in 1940, from which he retired in 1969. Ray was transferred to the Virginia Conference in 1958 while serving in Norfolk, Va. His Navy service included Protestant chaplain on the heavy cruiser *Louisville* which was on an Orient cruise on Dec. 7, 1941. His wife, Rose, and young son had just arrived in Pearl Harbor after he left but were evacuated back to Whittier, Calif., in February 1942. Captain Cook was Senior Chaplain at Treasure Island Base, Calif., and Naval Air Station, Alameda, Calif.; and Staff Chaplain, Naval Air Atlantic Command, Norfolk, Va.; Memphis Naval Base, Memphis, Tenn.; and U.S. Naval Hospital, San Diego, Calif. His honors include Commendation for Distinguished Service Kanawaga Prefecture, Yokohama, Japan; Korean Presidential Unit and Naval Unit Citation while on the carrier *Valley Forge*; two letters of commendation as staff chaplain at Commander Naval Air Station, Memphis; and service medal for serving in the Vietnam War where his son, Bruce, was a Naval commander. Ray was honored by giving the commissioning prayer for the carrier *Forrestal* while serving in Norfolk.

The writer best remembers Captain Cook for the deeply serious and devoted commitment in the writing of his graduating thesis on the “Oxford Group Movement,” leading him to becoming a deeply spiritually-minded person. His visit to my father’s parsonage in Covington, Va., for the Christmas season proved to be a blessing to each member of our family, and our love for him has continued through the years. His life and ministry has been summed up by his Duke friend and fellow chaplain Martell Twitchell as follows: “Abner Ray Cook was a distinguished Naval chaplain, a superior preacher, a warm-hearted pastor, and an excellent administrator.” His first wife, Rose, died in 1968, having borne two sons and a daughter. Later he married Mrs. Marguerite A. Johnson, who shared his life until his death in Coronado, Calif., Hospital near his home on January 30, 1993. He had previously informed the writer of his earnest wish to revisit Virginia in the spring, but added, “The last six months have been the worst of my life, but the sentence is about complete.”

He was buried alongside Rose in Cypress Lawn Cemetery, San Francisco, with full military honors. He is survived by his wife, Marguerite, of Coronado; sons Bruce of Intervale, N.H., and Robert of Tucson, Ariz.; daughter Karen of Mt. Vernon, Ind.; and three stepchildren Mark, Scott, and Ericka Johnson.

*Eternal Father, strong to save. Whose arm hath bound the restless wave...
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee Glad hymns of praise from land and sea!*

—Carl Wrenn Haley

Earle William Fike, Sr., 1905-1993

Earle William Fike, Sr., was born December 7, 1904, in Eglon, West Virginia. He was the son of the Rev. Ezra Fike and Cora Hamstead Fike. He was a direct descendant of Christian Fike (what a prophetic name) who settled around 1745 on the Schuylkill River in Berks County north of Reading, Pennsylvania. Dad was part of a family noted for its large number of clergy. The Fike family has produced over 100 ministers. Each generation has had several ministers who have been part of the Brethren heritage (Church of the Brethren). Dad was born in the Brethren Church and joined the United Methodist Church early in his ministry.



He earned his undergraduate degree from Bridgewater College in 1928 (there have been over 50 of us in the Fike family who have graduated from Bridgewater College), and later earned his seminary degree from Duke University's Graduate School of Theology. He also attended school at West Virginia University. The call to the ministry came early for Dad. He knew even as a farm boy in West Virginia that he would become a minister of the Gospel. He often stated that his father was the guiding inspiration for his life's work.

As a minister in the Virginia Annual Conference, Dad served churches throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia including the Eastern Shore, Northern Virginia, and Southwest Virginia. His wife and partner throughout his ministry was Ann Blackburn Fike. Mother loved being a part of Dad's ministry. I think she was called to be a minister's wife. My older brother, Dr. Earle William Fike, Jr., has continued the Fike tradition as a member of the clergy. Our family included six children (three daughters and three sons). Dad had one brother, five sisters, 13 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Dad was very proud of his work with the older adults of the conference. His energy and skills were put to good use in organizing and improving the programs and services for older adults. Dad was also skilled in drawing architectural plans and building. He was exceptionally proud of his design of Tabernacle United Methodist Church in Chancellor, Virginia. As a teenager I assisted him as a carpenter's helper with the construction of Tabernacle. That was a great father/son experience. He also built the parsonage of St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Danville (help in assisting in that construction project fell to my younger brother, Terry Lee). Dad's ministry lasted for over 60 years. His great joy in life was being a minister of the Gospel.

My father was a gifted individual who experienced life with strong emotions. He was a sensitive man who felt the turmoil and confusion of life faced many times over in the lives of those he served. He walked in the valley along with those he counseled, and he walked on the mountaintop when fears, troubles, and doubts were conquered.

Dad died in Danville, Virginia, on January 31, 1993. After two years of failing health, he met death with dignity and grace, and did not complain. His funeral was held at St. Luke's with interment at Highland Burial Park. My two sons, David and John, along with members of St. Luke's congregation were pallbearers. Dad will be missed by his family and those he served. His life had meaning and substance. God has given, and God has taken away. I am especially thankful for the life of my father. I am not depressed about his death. I will remember his life and the love which he gave. My life along with those he served has been immeasurably enriched. —*B. Ray Fike*

James Albert Holmes, Sr., 1925-1993

James Albert Holmes, Sr., son of Beulah Mack Holmes and the late William Arthur Holmes, was born in Charleston County, South Carolina, on November 4, 1925. He was a member of St. Luke R.E. Church in Charleston, South Carolina. James attended Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina. While still a student at Allen University, James was called by God to preach his word. He was ordained

in the ministry in his first appointment at Wyman Station (AME) Church in Winnsboro, South Carolina. He pastored Chappel Memorial AME Church in Columbia, where most of the college students attended.

James was married to Mary Ellen Henry on September 8, 1955. To this union were born three children. He received the Bachelor of Divinity degree from South Carolina State College, and he received his letter of Divinity from Claflin College, Orangeburg, South Carolina. The Rev. James A. Holmes also pastored Miller Chapel AME Church in Newberry, South Carolina.

He served as director of the Neighborhood Youth Corps and as past acting president of Allen University. He also served as a presiding elder of the AME Church over the Spartanburg and Newberry districts, and many more. He also pastored Little White Hall and Greater Trinity AME churches in Spartanburg, South Carolina. The Rev. James A. Holmes did his last full, happy, and joyous services for God in Middleburg, Virginia, where served in the Winchester District. He pastured Asbury, Mt. Olive, and Willisville United Methodist churches.

He became ill while serving in Middleburg. Then he and his wife returned to their home in Newberry, South Carolina. After a long illness, the Rev. James A. Holmes, at the age of 67, slept away. The Rev. James A. Holmes departed this life on February 19, 1993. On this day in a quiet place, Jim, my beloved husband, met the Master face to face.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Mrs. Mary H. Holmes of the home, his mother, Mrs. Beulah M. Holmes of Charleston, South Carolina; two sons, James A. Holmes, Jr., and Jonathan Anthony Holmes; one daughter, Mary Lee Holmes Aiken; brothers, William P. Holmes, Sr., the Rev. Arthur L. Holmes, and the Rev. Sidney W. Holmes; three sisters, Nita H. Henderson, Elizabeth H. Mikell, and Olivia H. White; two daughters-in-law; eight grandchildren; one son-in-law; seven brothers-in-law; nine sisters-in-law; and a host of other relatives and friends. The Rev Holmes help many people along the way, both spiritually and financially. His living was not in vain. —*Mary Ellen Holmes*

Frank Garland Laine, Jr., 1923-1993

Frank Garland Laine, Jr., entered the ministry in 1965 at age 41. Following high school graduation in his native Chester, Virginia, Frank attended The College of William and Mary. His education was interrupted by World War II when he enlisted in 1942 for the duration. He served in the ETO where he was wounded in Luxembourg and received the Purple Heart. After his discharge, he reentered William and Mary and graduated with an A.B. degree, and he then earned his law degree from the T. C. Williams Law School, University of Richmond. While teaching school in Ohio, he met and married Beverly Jean Henninger, his wife of 41 years.



The son of a Methodist family, Frank was actively involved in church life before his call into the representative ministry. The Methodist emphasis on God's all-encompassing grace gave expression to his own experience of God in Jesus Christ. At the time of his call to the ministry, he was an insurance adjuster. He and Beverly and their six children were actively involved in the Keysville Methodist Church. At that point in the long history of the church, Frank was the first to enter the ministry from Keysville Church. His first appointment was the Lunenburg Charge, Kenbridge. He later served the Brunswick Charge, Lawrenceville; Fieldale Church; Scottsville Church; Boonsboro Church, Lynchburg; and Fairview Church, Roanoke. He did not seek the limelight nor positions of prominence. He was an ever-willing servant, unselfish and nonjudgmental, faithfully serving the charges to which he was appointed. At various times he served his districts and the conference, and was especially proud of his service on the board of the Virginia United Methodist Agency for the Retarded.

Retiring in 1990 following 25 years of service, Frank and Beverly returned to their home in Keysville and continued a most active church involvement. He brought with him his sincerity, his

humor, and his love of the arts. Few things gave him as much pleasure as being on his “farm,” where he appreciated God’s bountiful gifts: the land, birds, flowers, trees, and animals. For their 10 grandchildren, his “pretty girls” and the “rug rats,” the farm won’t be the same without Granddaddy. In addition to them, he was proud of each of their six children: Frank Garland, III, Robert Edward, Howard David, Kevin Barrett, Beverly Evelyn, and Melodie Suzanne.

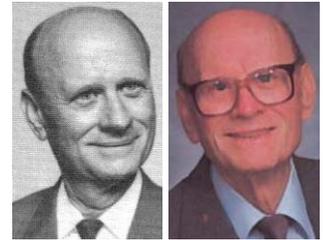
His final four months were a mixture of promise and pain, suffering and blessing. Surrounded by his family and Christian friends, Frank claimed for himself the promises of God that he had taught in his ministry.

He died February 24. Funeral services were held at Keysville United Methodist Church by the Rev. Henry E. Riley, Jr., his district superintendent; the Rev. Stephen B. Putney, his nephew; and Dr. Stephen E. Bradley, Jr., his pastor. It was one of joy and thanksgiving, a celebration of life which Frank firmly believed it should be. Burial was at the Eureka Baptist Church Cemetery within sight of the farm.

Through his life and his quiet faith, the love of God was shining through, lighting the path for others. God, country, family: these were his priorities, in spite of the weaknesses of the latter two. He would ask that you uphold them, and his final admonition from the Book of John, which he dearly loved: “Let not your hearts be troubled. If you loved me, you would rejoice because I go to the Father. Continue in my love...my joy remain with you that your joy may be full.... Love one another as I have loved you.”
—*Dr. Stephen E. Bradley, Jr.*

Oliver Kern Brooke, 1908-1993

Oliver Kern Brooke was born July 28, 1908, in Foryth, Georgia. His parents were G. C. and Lily L. Brooke. Oliver was married to Rosa “Parkie” Guy on June 1, 1940. In addition to Parkie, Oliver is survived by one son, Oliver Kern Brooke, Jr. Oliver and Parkie were married for 52 years, and for 31 $\frac{3}{4}$ years they were partners in the ministry. He also served two years in the Navy during World War II. His education included R.P.I., Richmond, Virginia; Duke University, North Carolina; and Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Virginia.



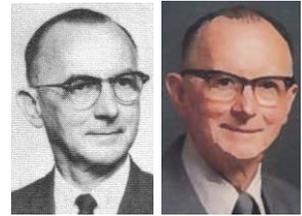
He began his ministerial career in 1948 at Mineral. He went on to serve St. Peter’s in Montpelier, Kenwood in Ashland, Parkview-Warwick, Wesley in Newport News, Wesley in Alexandria, East Hampton, Monumental in Emporia, St. James in Richmond, Christ in Richmond, and Greenville. The Rev. Brooke retired in 1979. After retirement, he served Oak Grove-Salem in the Petersburg District and completed his active ministry at Oak Grove after five years. He retired the second time in 1984.

Oliver had a great love for books and did much printing and writing. He was a faithful minister to his call. The church and its ministry was always uppermost in Oliver’s life. Oliver came to Oak Grove when it was at its very lowest. He and Parkie, together, brought new life to a dying church, set it on its feet, and headed it in the right path to a spirit-filled congregation that is growing and working for the cause of Christ in a way that it had never known before. Oak Grove owes its future to Oliver and Parkie Brooke, for without them in our past, their love, their leadership, and their faithful guidance, we would have no future.

Oliver loved his work and his people. He was dedicated to the ministry of Christ and will be greatly missed by many. “Thru many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come, Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far and grace will lead me home.” Farewell to our loyal friend and loving pastor. You will be remembered in the lives and hearts of many that you served. —*Carol B. Miller*

Frank Lewis Baker, 1901-1993

The Rev. Frank Lewis Baker, 92, died March 12, 1993, in Oak Hill Nursing Home, Staunton, Va. He had been at Oak Hill since January 1992. He previously lived in his retirement home at 13 Partlow Street until he moved in 1987 to Mt. Arlington, N.J., to live with his daughter and son-in-law, the Rev. and Mrs. Roger C. Snyder. He was born September 8, 1901, in Burlington, W.Va., the son of Dr. Frank Lynn Baker and Mrs. Lucy Pierce (Arnold) Baker. Dr. Baker was a horse and buggy country doctor, riding by sleigh in winter, also a farmer, in Burlington, W.Va. The Rev. Baker was a graduate from Keyser High School, Keyser, W.Va., in 1921, and from Asbury College, Wilmore, Kentucky, in 1925. He was born just after the turn of the century with many changes since then, such as telephones, electric lights, automobiles, running water, radios, TV, fountain pens, aspirin, and Coca Cola.



He had 45 years in active work, serving 13 charges, which included 24 churches, most throughout the Virginia Conference. His first two churches were in Maryland before the old Baltimore Conference was separated from Virginia. His first church was a five-church circuit at Flintstone, Md. Two of those churches were in Pennsylvania. There was no parsonage, and he worked from his parental home about 40 miles away, driving a 1924 Ford coupe, his first automobile. He stayed there one year and moved to Frostburg, Md. There he had two churches and a salary of \$1,350 a year. In 1930 he moved to Fairfield, Va., and had four churches, Marquis Memorial Church in Staunton was his next Church, where he built Wesley Hall, a modern educational building which soon became outdated. The churches that followed were in Newsoms, Suffolk, Richmond, and Manassas. At Basic Church, Waynesboro, he laid plans for a large educational building. When he moved to St. John's Church in Staunton, it was only one year old and did not have a parsonage. He proceeded to build his retirement home there. Because the lovely new church had a high pulpit, and the Rev. Baker was short in stature, a box was made for him to stand on behind the pulpit. Later he moved to Newport News, Falls Church, and to his last appointment in Lynchburg.

Upon his retirement to Staunton in 1970, he became pastor emeritus of St. John's United Methodist Church. He preached at many churches surrounding Staunton and Waynesboro in his retirement.

He collected and prepared a genealogy of the Arnold family ancestry and wrote poetry as a hobby. At a play for annual conference, he once portrayed John Wesley.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Nettie Baker, who died in 1979.

Survivors include a son, Frank Arnold Baker of Los Angeles, Calif.; a daughter, Chaucile Snyder of Staunton; a brother, Phil Baker; and a sister, Joanna Lyon of Keyser, W.Va.; four grandchildren, David Baker and Tanya Baker of Los Angeles, Janette Snyder of Chesapeake, and Denise Lancto of Lakeville, Conn.; and two great-grandchildren, Benjamin Baker Lancto and Matthew Christopher Lancto of Lakeville, Conn.

The funeral service was postponed because of a blizzard and later conducted on March 17, 1993, at 10:00 a.m., at St. John's United Methodist Church, Staunton, Va., by Staunton District Superintendent James Holloman, and the Rev. James Cooke, pastor of St. John's. Interment was in Burlington, W.Va. Cemetery. —*Chaucile Baker Snyder*

Claude Franklin Moseley, 1903-1993

Claude Franklin Moseley was born on November 29, 1903, in Mecklenburg County, Virginia. He earned his bachelor's degree from Randolph-Macon College and his Master of Theology from Union Seminary in Richmond. He did additional study at Yale Divinity School. Claude entered the ministry of the Virginia Conference in 1925, serving the West Lunenburg Charge. Other



appointments included Cartersville, Amelia, Newsoms, Basic, Calvary, and Central in Richmond, Trinity in Roanoke, Central in Arlington, Colonial Avenue in Norfolk, Community in Kempsville, and Tabernacle in Poquoson.

He and his wife, Lucile Hopkins Moseley, retired to McGaheysville in 1971.

As Claude's pastor for six years, I knew many splendid things about him, but I learned even more from the family after his death. He was one of the first pastors to include a children's message in the worship service. He was intimately acquainted with the earth and our natural environment. He could "read" the history and potential of the land by keen observation. Claude was instrumental in selecting the sites for Virginia Wesleyan College and Westview on the James. He also enjoyed gardening, hunting, and fishing because these activities brought him close to nature.

He enjoyed inviting groups in his churches to one of his famous "feeds," consisting of his Brunswick stew. Many found Christian fellowship and faith through these joyous events. Claude was known for his keen sense of humor. His son said, "He relished a verbal joust in the form of a retort or a humorous sidestep to others who might start to tease or stick him with a barb. You could almost never catch him off guard."

In addition to all of these marvelous things, Claude Moseley was a person of deep faith in God. This faith sustained him when his beloved Lucile died just a few years after their retirement. It was also his refuge and strength when his son Richard died. He took great pride in Richard's work as a physician at Riverside Hospital in Newport News.

Claude imparted this faith to others as a pastor, a preacher, and as a Christian gentleman. Claude Franklin Moseley went to be with Lucile and Rick on April 12, 1993. His memorial service was conducted by this writer on April 17, in Asbury United Methodist Church, Harrisonburg, Virginia. He is survived by a son, Gerard F. Moseley, Ph.D., of Eugene, Oregon, and a daughter, Frances Moseley Purdum of Richmond; six grandchildren; and three sisters. —*Donald H. Traylor* [Photo courtesy of Central UMC, Arlington]

William Joseph "Bill" Johnson, Jr., 1934-1993

Dr. William Joseph Johnson, Jr., known affectionately as Bill, was a native of Marble Falls, Texas, where he spent the formative years of his life. The son of parents who were deaf and for whom he was constant interpreter and caregiver, Bill early acquired discernment of and sensitivity for the needs of others, finding the role of mediator and counselor necessary and natural. A beloved grandfather, whose insatiable interest in all manner of things Bill also acquired, became a second influence of primary importance in his young life.



Bill studied at the University of Houston, Texas, graduating in 1956, receiving his bachelor of divinity degree from Perkins School of Theology in Dallas three years later. It was here that Priscilla Hampton and Bill met and married, a marriage that was to last 33 years until her death in 1991. Their marriage saw the birth of three children: Priscilla Esther, Anne Elizabeth, and William Joseph, III.

In 1959 Bill joined the Yellowstone Annual Conference, becoming pastor of the Morton Memorial Methodist Church in Bozeman, Montana, and Faith Methodist Church the following year. After a leave of absence to earn a master of arts degree in education at Montana State University, he returned to Faith Church in 1966. During this period, his dual interests in counseling and art flourished, leading him to move to Richmond, Va., in 1967, to continue work in the area of clinical pastoral education at the Medical College of Virginia. In 1969, he joined the Virginia Institute of Pastoral Care (VIPCare), becoming the director of the Richmond pastoral counseling centers a year later; from this position he became the executive director of the institute in 1979, a post he held until 1989. For a period of time Bill served as the pastor of Bethel United Methodist Church in the Ashland District and, through his

association with VIPCare, as an adjunct member of the faculty of Union Theological Seminary in Richmond. He was named a diplomate of pastoral counseling by the American Association of Pastoral Counselors, the highest recognition of professional achievement given by that organization.

To the clergy of the Virginia Annual Conference, Bill was a wise counselor and an informed and helpful lecturer. During his later years, he focused on marriage seminars and became a valued premarital counselor to whom active clergy sent couples contemplating marriage. At the time of his death, he was director of services to ministers and director of the Midlothian Pastoral Counseling Center.

To his family and friends, Bill was known for his passion for sculpting, which he studied with John Torres in Richmond and Andrew Wielawski in Lucca, Italy. Whether in rough-hewn wood or stone, Bill found intriguing forms and faces waiting to be revealed. Sculpting was for him both self-expression and catharsis. His memberships reveal his avid dedication to the art; they included the International Sculpture Center in Washington, the Tri-States Sculptors' Guild, the International Wood Collectors Society, the International Celtic Carving League, the American Association of Wood Turners, plus local chapters and organizations of artists. Following the death of his first wife, Bill married another artist, Emily Vaughn Reynolds, with whom he shared common interests.

Bill Johnson was a warm and caring person who was as quick to see human potential in misshapen relationships and personalities as he was to see aesthetic potential in unformed wood and stone. His absence leaves a void in the lives of those who were his friends and family. The stone waits to be cut.

— *Richard N. Soulen*

Robert L. Tressler, 1890-1993

“Are you offering them Christ, my boy?” These were the words the Rev. Tressler used to begin every visit with a young pastor who is now composing this memoir. I met him at the age of 12 while receiving my first Communion after confirmation class. He was 74 years old, retired, and full of an undying love for serving Jesus. With love and gentle guidance, he shared the next 28 years as I later became an ordained pastor serving the Virginia Conference.

Robert Tressler was born September 29, 1890, in Center County, Pennsylvania. He married his lovely Marie June 19, 1919, while a student at Drew Theological Seminary. He served as pastor in the Methodist Church from 1919 to 1929, when he felt called to independent evangelistic work. For a time he worked with the Christian Alliance Church. It was in 1940 that the Rev. Tressler returned to the Methodist Church, serving as pastor in the Virginia Conference until 1963 when he retired. He served churches in Caroline, Ferrum, Spotsylvania, Bedford, Albemarle, Grottoes, Roanoke, and Burkeville.

During the years of his retirement, the Rev. Tressler was an avid teacher of the Bible at Lakeside United Methodist Church. He assisted every minister appointed to that church from 1963 to 1975. His legacy of spirituality and strong family values inspired several generations of Christians. He dearly loved the children and was influential in many services designed to include “the little ones.”

Many may wonder what happens to retired United Methodist pastors. I can only speak of one whose devotion to God, his country, his family, and to local strangers spans over 70 years. He never wavered in his faith. He always found something good in all people. He was in all places and in all ways an ambassador for Christ. My only regret is that I knew him for only a small portion of a precious life in the Holy Spirit. —*Joseph H. Klotz, Jr.*

1994 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Welford Addison Brooks, 1911-1993

Welford A. Brooks died June 9, 1993, at the age of 82 at his home in Richmond. He had retired several times from the Virginia Conference, only to be recalled to service until he had accumulated 55

years of ministry in both the Baptist and Methodist churches. He spent 32 years in Baptist congregations, including Hardy Central (Richmond), First Baptist (Clifton Forge), and First Baptist (West Point), before moving to the Methodist Church. His ministry in the Methodist Church began at Bethlehem Church (Roseland) and continued at St Peter's (Montpelier), Beaverdam/Rouzies Chapel (Beaverdam), Lebanon (Ashland), Laurel Park (Richmond), and Dunns Chapel (Montpelier). He served 23 years in these congregations before officially retiring in June 1992.

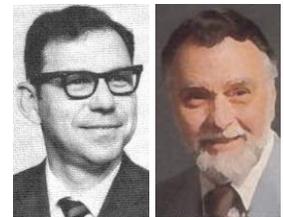


Welford began his ministry in Richmond where he graduated from the University of Richmond in 1934. He moved on to the Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, where he received a Th. M. degree. He did some additional studying at Duke University and at Union Theological Seminary (New York).

Throughout his life, Welford demonstrated the character traits of humility, compassion, faith, dedication, strength, and keenness of mind. These facets of his personality served him well in his work and encouraged and strengthened many persons in their individual commitment to Christ. He always looked to the good in a person just as the Lord does. Welford labored unceasingly in his Master's service until he was called home on June 9. He will be sorely missed by us, but joyously welcomed by his Father. —*Robin R. Bruce*

William Arthur Winfree, 1920-1993

William Arthur Winfree, better known as Bill, was born in Florence, Alabama, October 22, 1920, and grew up in the Portsmouth and Norfolk area of Virginia. He first joined a church choir at age 16, anticipating his lifelong love of music. In June 1942, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps and served 3 1/2 years during World War II, flying 65 missions over Europe. On July 3, 1944, he married Elsie Iverson. Bill was a graduate of Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and attended Duke Divinity School. He was graduated from Westminster Theological Seminary in 1955. He served one year in the South Dakota conference and eight years in the Baltimore conference before coming to the Virginia Conference in 1960. For 27 years he served churches in the Virginia Conference, retiring in June 1987.



Bill sang all his life; he just “couldn't remember when he couldn't sing!” Wherever he lived, he generously offered his gift of singing, which he truly believed was a gift from God. Beginning in 1956, and continuing through his active ministry, Bill sang an annual Christmas concert, a program he designed from the Methodist Hymnal. He thought there were “so many Christmas hymns that we do not sing in our congregational services.” He introduced to many churches to two particular hymns, “In the Bleak Midwinter” and “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly,” which became known as “Bill Winfree's Christmas Hymns” within those congregations.

The power and beauty of the written and spoken word fascinated and intrigued Bill. He did a great amount of writing, some for his own satisfaction, but much of it for his congregations. Drawing on the powerful stories of Scripture, Bill skillfully wrote many “narration-sermons.” He performed these imaginative dramatic-monologues in a theatrical atmosphere for Sunday schools and choirs.

Over the last 15 years of his life he enjoyed participating in community theater, doing everything from set building to acting. He performed in several plays at the Lynchburg Fine Arts Center where he was also a featured soloist with FACinations Chorus. During the last two years of his life, he and his wife, Elsie, received great satisfaction in helping to form a new, highly-acclaimed theater company in Lynchburg. In May 1992, they were named “Honorary Parents” of the Cherry Tree Players.

Adventure and flying were great loves of Bill's life, having had his first airplane ride at age 9 and making his first sport parachute jump in 1975, followed by several more. Bill had a great sense of humor

and enjoyed life to the fullest. His love of life and appreciation of his fellow man (human) were ever-present in his life. Because he well understood young people, the Winfree home was often the gathering place for young neighbors. Several years he was the chaplain of the local high school football teams. The Winfree's also opened their home to several homeless boys.

In 1974, Bishop Goodson appointed Bill to Randolph Street United Methodist Church in Lexington, an African American congregation. While the expected joint venture with Trinity Church did not materialize, Bill accomplished much in his five years as the church's pastor, later concluding, "Those were the best five years of my ministry. I became aware of so much that our brothers and sisters of their heritage are living and feeling."

Bill and Elsie's three children, Jack, Cathy, and Mike, all now professionals, and their six grandchildren, are a testament to the love and commitment Bill and Elsie shared for 49 years.
—James M. Tongue

Paul Emmanuel Folkers, 1901-1993

That's where I tied old Nellie when I rode to town to preach my first sermon." It was 1917, the "preacher" was 16, and the Methodist church was in a little Kansas town called Nashville. Thousands of sermons later, the hitching post still stands. Paul E. Folkers was born near Wichita, Kansas, on June 7, 1901, the ninth of 11 children of Aleida Flyr and Weert Folkers. He graduated from John Fletcher College, now Vennard College, in Iowa in 1929 and went east with his bride, Julia Olson Folkers. He graduated from Drew in 1933, was ordained an Elder in 1935, serving churches in New Jersey: West New York, Westwood and Roseland. In 1942, he returned to the Midwest with a move to Minnesota where he served Tracy, Owatonna and Anon.



His retirement from the Minnesota Annual Conference in 1968 was the beginning of another 22 years of ministry in Virginia. He was appointed to the Danville District. His daughter Eloise and her family lived in Chatham. When he arrived, he was told that Concord and Mt. Pleasant churches didn't have "preaching" on fifth Sundays. Having just retired as the senior pastor of a large multi-staff church with three services, he said he would be there, and anyone who wanted to could come to worship. They came. His congregations also learned that snow didn't stop worship services either. The rare exceptions were the Sundays when it was too icy for his rural congregations to drive. On those Sundays he always walked the six blocks to Watson Memorial United Methodist Church in Chatham. He served Concord/Mt. Pleasant for five years, and remained at Concord for a total of 14 years, "re-retiring" after raising the money and building a parsonage.

A few weeks into his new retirement, he was back to preaching for the next year at Liberty Christian Church at Smith Mountain Lake. In addition to loving the people, he came to a very deep appreciation for the United Methodist connectional system, which, he said, he had not always "cherished" in his many years of ministry. The next year he came back to the Danville District where he served Sledd Memorial (now St. Luke's), Westover Hills and finally Bethel. He "re-retired" for the last time at the age of 88 in January of 1990. The 40-mile drive each way to Bethel from his home in Chatham was more than he wanted to deal with during the winter ice. "It takes a younger person."

Well-known for encouraging young people who felt the call to ministry, there are a large number of clergy today who came from the churches he served in New Jersey, Minnesota and Virginia. He went on preaching missions to Cuba, England, Ireland and spent two summers starting and growing a new church in Yamato, Japan, in the 1950s. Julia, his wife of 61 years, died at 88 in May of 1990. That fall, after his flowers had bloomed, he gave away most of his large flower garden in Chatham and moved to

Stratford House in Danville. For more than a half century in New Jersey, Minnesota and Virginia, people had come to visit his iris garden each year.

An active, avid flower gardener all of his life, he left his last garden to his friends. Resplendent with irises, roses, lilies and other flowers, it consists of the three islands in the parking lot in front of his retirement home, Stratford House in Danville. When asked in his last days how he wanted to be remembered, he said. "Preaching the Gospel, loving the people and growing the flowers." He died on July 20, 1993. A Memorial Service was conducted at Stratford House by the Rev. John LeGault, pastor of the church across the street, Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church. The funeral, celebrating his long life, was held at Concord United Methodist Church near Chatham. Officiating clergy were the Rev. Louis Carson, Danville district superintendent, the Rev. John LeGault of Mt. Vernon, and the Rev. Ray Miller, pastor at Concord. The Rev. George Riggins III, of Whitmell, fulfilled Paul Folkers' request by singing "It Is Well With My Soul" and telling the story. While those gathered sang "We're Marching to Zion," his casket was carried across the road to the cemetery for the conclusion of the service.

He is survived by his children: Eloise Folkers Nemon, Palm Beach, Florida; Winston E. Folkers. Cincinnati, Ohio; Elaine A. Folkers, Suffield, Connecticut; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. —*Eloise Folkers Nemon*

Arville Heath Browder, 1923-1993

Arville Heath Browder was born October 4, 1923, in Clifton Forge, Virginia. He was 16 years old when his father died and he had to go to work on the railroad to support his family. In World War II he served the U.S. Marines in combat. Left for dead on Saipan, his survival marked the earliest call to serve God in ministry. His wounds, combined with boxing injuries and a near-fatal motorcycle accident, left him with a lifetime of physical pain. After the war, he began college at the University of Virginia and finished at the University of Richmond, including one year of law school. He married Anna Marie Ficke and worked for Crane, Co., and then as a collection manager in the American Finance Company. The neglect of his call to serve Christ was reflected in years of intense personal crisis.



A dramatic turnaround occurred in the late 1950s while he was teaching Sunday school at Sherbourne Avenue Methodist Church. It was then that he met Bishop Garber who encouraged him to enter the ministry of the Virginia Conference in 1958. Although the bishop offered a scholarship to Duke and a student appointment, Arville felt honor bound to keep a previous commitment to serve as a supply pastor for six churches in Prince George. Disappointed with pastor's school, he began attending Union Theological Seminary in Richmond. His habit of studying Greek flashcards on the dashboard continued through his appointment to the New Kent Charge and then Shiloh Church near Montpelier. He completed an S.T.M. at Union while serving Bishop Memorial.

It was as "Heath" Browder that he went to serve Madison Heights and then South Boston. At McKendree, he suffered his first bout with lung disease. He served Grace (Roanoke), Orange and Main Street, Emporia, before retiring in 1986. Coming back to Sherbourne, he strived to be the type of church member that any pastor would cherish.

Arville Heath Browder was an outspoken defender of the underdog. He was most satisfied when he could visit shut-ins every week and hospitals every day. He enjoyed ministry with mentally retarded persons. He was known for starting youth fellowships and Boy Scout troops, often serving as a counselor or Scoutmaster. He was active in Alcoholics Anonymous, including founding a unit in a South Boston prison. He was certified as a psychological counselor by the Commonwealth of Virginia. He successfully defended a fellow minister in a church trial. No one who came to him for help was turned away.

He specialized in helping financially troubled congregations, and he was proud of not leaving apportionments unpaid. Perhaps his best-recalled moment was to put forward the motion for a re-vote which desegregated the Virginia Annual Conference. He worked hard for the equalization of pastors' salaries. He is remembered for his colorful revival sermons.

After an aneurysm and the amputation of his legs, a blood clot in the lungs led to his death on August 5, 1993. His funeral at Sherbourne resembled an old-fashioned Sunday night prayer meeting attended by numerous pastors and church leaders. Clyde Nuckols preached on Luke 4 (esp. 28. 31-32); Neil Gutmaker spoke of his mentoring; his son, Charles, and his daughter, Professor Diane Browder-Boswell, shared stirring testimonials. Henry Riley spoke at the interment at Riverside Cemetery.

Arville Heath Browder was hard-nosed in expressing his views, but he was equally sensitive and caring, a loyal friend and an inexhaustible servant of Christ. Not only was he my father, but he was also my pastor, colleague and close friend. In him there shone the Grace of God. —*Michael Heath Browder*

Pleas Shannon Shell, 1900-1993

Pleas Shannon Shell was born July 8, 1900, in Abingdon, Virginia. On July 4, 1919, Pete married Nancy Anne Elizabeth King, a union which was to last 75 years. To this marriage were born two sons, Grandell and James. Educated at Virginia Tech, Pete worked as an electrical engineer before responding to the call of God to enter the ministry. Brother Shell was ordained in the Wesleyan Methodist Church in 1944, and transferred into the Virginia Conference of the Methodist Church in 1951. He was given deacon orders in 1956, and was granted full membership in 1961.



Pete's pastorates in the Virginia Conference began at the South Halifax Charge in 1951 and included Patrick; Asbury Memorial, Danville; Stanleystown; Whitmell-St. John; Oakland, Danville; Tabernacle, Norfolk; and McGaheysville. Retiring in Roanoke in 1967, Pete continued to serve in retirement Villa Heights, Calvary, and Rockingham Court. For some 32 years, Pete and Nancy carried the good news of Jesus Christ to every appointment they were called to serve. Pete greatly enjoyed his work and sought to be faithful in all matters. On September 19, 1993, he was called to the Church Triumphant. His funeral was conducted September 21, 1993, by the Rev. George Pearson, pastor of Southview United Methodist Church. Pete is survived by his wife, Nancy; and two sons, James and Grandell of Roanoke.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us." (Hebrews 12:1). Paul's words fit well the life and ministry of Pete Shell. —*G. Thomas Brown, Jr.*

Millard Ray Floyd, 1910-1993

Millard Ray Floyd was born March 14, 1910, near Mannington, West Virginia. His childhood years centered around the family General Store, Buffalo Methodist Episcopal Church, and Whetstone School. At Whetstone School he met Hazel Garrison to whom he was married on May 14, 1927. The next year daughter Thelma was born. At the age of 23, he experienced his "strange call" to ministry. "I was a most unlikely candidate for ministry," Millard said later. "About the only thing in my favor was my talent for singing." Because of the disinterest of his Methodist pastor, Millard completed the United Brethren course of study under the tutelage of the Rev. L. N. Wilfong of Mannington, and, on April 4, 1933, Millard was granted a Quarterly Conference License to preach.



At the annual conference in Clarksburg in September that year, Bishop B. G. Batdorf appointed Millard to the six-point Arden Charge. "This was one of the happiest days of my life," Millard wrote later. That joy was dampened a bit by a visit to the Arden parsonage the next week. "The parsonage

yard was grown over with tall weeds; the house had not been lived in for a time. The Arden Church beside the house was in bad repair -- the door hung open and a patch was off the roof. One member said, 'So you are our young preacher. You have come to a poor place.' I was still very happy and moved in and went to work." While at Arden, Millard began high school at Phillipi, nine miles away, riding the bus with boys and girls 10 years his younger.

In September of 1936, Millard was appointed to the four-point Rivesville Charge. He finished his last two years of high school work in a single year at Fairmont-West Side High School and graduated in the spring of 1937. That fall he was appointed to the Volga Charge with four churches. Millard was able to reopen a fifth church that had closed two years before. Meanwhile he took two courses at West Virginia Wesleyan College. To save money for full-time college work he did WPA Adult Education work teaching citizenship classes to immigrants.

In 1940, Millard enrolled at Shenandoah Junior College. Hazel worked in the college kitchen and dining room in exchange for meals for the family. Millard graduated in the spring of 1942 with plans to enroll at Bonebrake Seminary that fall. However, Harrisonburg District Superintendent J. Paul Grover asked Millard to serve the Singers Glen Charge because of the death of their pastor. While serving at Singers Glen, Millard enrolled at Bridgewater College graduating in 1944 (on the same day Thelma graduated from Shenandoah).

From 1946 to 1955, Millard was pastor of First United Brethren Church in Roanoke. Just before moving from Roanoke, Millard was chosen by the Virginia Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren (EUB) Church to represent them to the World Council of Churches meeting in Evanston, Illinois. From 1955 to 1959, Millard served First EUB Church in Martinsburg, W. Va. In 1959, he was appointed to Calvary EUB in Keyser, W. Va., and eight years later, in 1967, to Martinsburg-Pikeside EUB Church. His last appointment was made in 1970 by the Virginia Annual Conference of the new United Methodist Church. He was appointed to Elkton United Methodist Church where he served until his retirement in 1974. Three men accepted the call to full-time Christian service under his influence and ministry. All are still working in Christian service: Arthur Grant, Ben F. Wade, and Raymond Edmonds. He also was an important role model and influence for his grandson, the Rev. Barry Penn Hollar.

Millard was active during his retirement: In 1978, he helped organize the Singers Glen Music Heritage Festival. After 25 years as a trustee of Shenandoah College, he was named trustee emeritus. In 1982, he organized the Community Church at the Sun-n-Fun Resort community in Sarasota, Florida. From 1983 to 1992, he was minister of visitation at Asbury United Methodist Church in Harrisonburg. He referred to the nine years of his relationship to Asbury Church as "a great climax or conclusion" to his life and ministry. In January of 1990, Asbury Church honored him by naming him pastor emeritus and holding Millard Floyd Day.

In 1987, Millard suffered a stroke which left him partially disabled. He courageously overcame that setback and regained his ability to walk and drive. He continued to minister to others as he was able. He died on Wednesday morning, November 3, 1993, as a result of complications related to leukemia. He was buried in Singers Glen Cemetery and a memorial service was held at Asbury Church. The service was officiated by the Rev. E. Thomas Murphy and Superintendent Barbara Barrow. The sermon was given by Millard's grandson, the Rev. Barry Penn Hollar. —*Barry Penn Hollar*

George William Harrison, 1910-1994

George William Harrison was born in Old Forge, Pennsylvania, to George and Anna Rohland Harrison on July 4, 1910. He heard God's call to preach in 1930 and first served as a part-time preacher in the Primitive Methodist Church until a pastorate was available in West Conshohocken, Pennsylvania in, 1934, where he met and married Alice Winterbottom



on July 10, 1937. He is survived by his wife Alice, their daughters, Dorothy Virginia Reid and E. Ruth Axtell, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

He served other pastorates in the Primitive Methodist Church in Youngstown, Ohio, and Mount Carmel, Pennsylvania, after which he served appointments in the Central Pennsylvania conference of the Methodist Church at Bendersville and Mifflintown.

George's bright mind was matched with considerable energy and he compressed his academic training over a short period of time between 1942 and 1946, receiving his degrees from Dickenson College in 1944, and Drew Theological Seminary in 1946. He also studied at Princeton and received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Randolph-Macon College in 1971.

In 1950, George moved to the Virginia Conference, serving first as associate pastor at Arlington Church, followed by appointments at Springfield where he was the founding pastor, Park Place in Norfolk, and Centenary in Richmond. During his ministry of 11 years at Springfield, the church grew from its charter Sunday membership of 135 to some 2,700, and constructed its total building facility in two phases.

Upon his retirement in 1973, George and Alice made their home in Annandale, and he continued to share his ministry in various part-time capacities with Mount Olivet and Cameron churches, and maintained his friendship and supportive presence with Springfield Church.

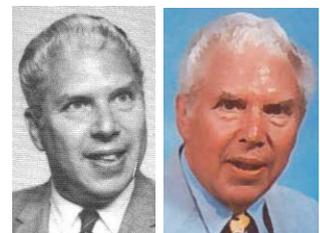
George was extraordinarily well organized and disciplined as a pastoral administrator. He could develop a plan and inspire the confidence of others in committing themselves to that plan. He was an excellent preacher. He held a passion for integrity and authentic witness to the Gospel. His worship liturgy, his preference in church architecture, his personal tastes and lifestyle were all consistent with his strong affinity for classic Protestant plainness. George was known for his love, encouragement, gentle friendship, engaging conversation, sense of humor and the numerous notes through which his pastoral heart reached out to others.

After an illness, George entered his eternal rest on January 5, 1994. His funeral was held at Springfield Church, nearly 40 years from the date of his first worship service with its fledgling congregation. W. James Athearn and Patricia W. Olson, ministers of Springfield, officiated at the service. Burial was at Fairfax Memorial Park.

George often expressed profound gratitude for the privilege of being a part of a church that makes such a great impact on the world. We give thanks to God for the heritage that is ours through George Harrison's witness and work. —*W. James Athearn*

Byron Sylvester Hallstead, 1920-1994

Byron S. Hallstead was born August 1, 1920, the son of Edith and Arthur Hallstead. His childhood and youth were spent in Fulton, New York, growing up with his two sisters, Catherine and Doris. He was married to Jean H. Carr from Chester, Virginia (upon return from an Army station in Greenland). From this marriage came five children: Thomas, Donald, Gail, Brenda, and John; and nine grandchildren.



He was a graduate from Fulton High School and Oswego Normal School, Oswego, New York, and Houghton College, Houghton, New York. His seminary work was completed at Duke, North Carolina. He received his local preacher's license in 1941. In 1942 he joined the United States Army and was stationed at Fort Lee. It was there that he met Jean whom he married on December 10, 1944. He became a probationary member of the conference in 1950 and was ordained an elder in 1957. He served the following churches in the Virginia Conference: Sussex, Emmanuel, associate at Park Place, Courtland, Wesley, Baylake, Community, Oakton, Grace, Asbury and, after retirement, Claremont After retirement he and Jean resided in Surry, Virginia.

Byron led a very full and interesting life other than his ministry. Growing up he was active in the State Street Methodist Episcopal Church, was editor of the Epworth League newspaper, active in DeMolay, led church minstrel shows and plays, and played professional baseball with the Cincinnati Redlegs while in college. He was in the United States Army from 1942-1945 and traveled with the 1st Army Special Service All-soldier Show into a foreign theater where he performed with U.S.O. shows. His performances took him to Greenland, Newfoundland, Iceland, and a number of outposts in the Arctic regions. He liked to sing and often wrote lyrics to songs. He substituted as chaplain after the Dorchester incident for one year until new chaplains arrived. Throughout his ministry Byron worked in community theatrical groups such as the annual historical pageant at Sweetbriar, directed high school glee clubs and many Civitan Theatrical plays. He sang with the ACCA Shriners Chanters, read for the Virginia Voice on a Richmond radio station and directed tours through the Chippokes State Park in Surry, Virginia.

Byron died January 7, 1994, and Jean, his wife, died March 20, 1994. Both funeral services were from Asbury Church, Richmond, Virginia. Interment was in Sunset Memorial Park, Chester, Virginia. —*William G. Price, Sr.*

William Claude Eastridge, 1904-1994

William Claude Eastridge was born March 29, 1904, in Creston, North Carolina, the first of 11 children born to his parents, Marvin C. and Ida Eastridge. In 1921, at the age of 17, he experienced his second birth, receiving Christ as his Savior. After this life-changing experience, he went on to graduate from high school at Cove Creek, North Carolina, and proceeded to Appalachian State Teachers College where he received a degree in elementary education. He then taught the elementary grades for 12 years. During this time he met and married Mamie Woodruff and had five children -- Carroll Eastridge, Alton Eastridge, Sherry Long, Gerald Eastridge, and Tina Henry, as well as 13 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.



He responded to God's call to the ministry with the assistance of Dr. J.S. Hyatt and the Rev. A.G. Lackey in the Western North Carolina Methodist conference. He attended Emory and Henry College over a four-year period, completing his theology requirements. In 1942, he was admitted on trial, ordained a deacon in 1944, and admitted as an elder in full connection in 1946. In the Western North Carolina conference, he served charges at Green Valley, Helton, East Bend, and South Lenoir-Mt Olivet. In 1952, he transferred to the Virginia Conference, serving first at Brookneal, then Buckingham, Montague Avenue, Bedford, Phenix and Middlesex charges. In 1969, after 29 years, he retired and ministered as retired supply until 1980.

Both Claude and his family are remembered affectionately by those whom they served through his pastorates. He was a husband and father who conveyed a single message throughout his life -- "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved and your house." He delighted in the pursuit of spiritual renewal found only in Christ, and in corresponding service -- particularly in visitation with each of the families on his charge. With tremendous single-mindedness, he remained focused on his first love -- Jesus Christ -- and expressed the peace in his heart to others just prior to his leaving to be with Jesus. His example of trust in God at the end of his life on earth truly displayed the reality of Christ and of eternal life with him after physical death. Immediate family members, friends, and even medical staff near him at the end of his life observed the magnificent validation, by God, of a life in service to Christ as God's Grace engulfed all.

William Claude Eastridge—the person, is not dead. Rather he is alive eternally with Christ in inexpressible joy and completeness. To sum up his life on earth, "To live is Christ, to die is gain."

He died February 10, 1994, and services were led by his pastor, the Rev. G. C. Branton, and the Rev. Joseph T. Carson Jr., former district superintendent, at Rehoboth United Methodist Church. —*Jerry Eastridge*

George Lipscomb Waters, 1900-1994

Son of devout Methodist missionaries to Japan, Basil Worthington Waters and Tallulah Harris Lipscomb Waters, George Waters was born in Osaka, Japan, May 21, 1900. When he was 10, his mother became gravely ill and was unable to survive a hurried trip to the United States for medical care; she died when the family reached California. George and his father “hatched it, “ in his words, with his older brothers, Basil Worthington Waters Jr. and Harris Magruder Waters, as B. W. Waters Sr., served Methodist pastorates in the valleys of Shenandoah and Roanoke, ending his work and his life in Buena Vista. After terms in Randolph-Macon Academy and Cave Spring High School, George finished his A.B. degree at Randolph-Macon College, divinity study at Emory University, and further graduate work at Yale University School of Theology. He returned as a missionary to Japan in February 1922.



Octavia Clegg, a Scarritt-educated missionary, was assigned to his mission in 1927; George and Octavia were married in July 1929. They were the proud and loving parents of three children: James Lipscomb Waters of Kent, Ohio; Marie Louise Waters of Radford, Virginia; and Margaret Waters Moore of Nashville, Tennessee.

The couple brought their son Jimmy back to the United States in 1932. George served several charges in Virginia throughout the ‘30s, living in Rockbridge Baths, New Hope, Winchester, and Bloxom. It was in Bloxom in the fall of 1941 that George was recruited by the FBI as a translator of Japanese. Pearl Harbor was bombed less than three months later. George spent the difficult war years maintaining the secrecy required, even from his wife, making unexpected trips and working unexpected hours, often on short notice and without being able to let the family know where he was or what he was doing.

It was with pride and an even deeper sense of call that he cut his salary in half and returned to the Methodist ministry in 1949. He served and profoundly cared for pastoral charges in Halifax, Lynch Station, Stanardsville, Beaverdam, Colonial Beach, Knotts Island and others for the next 16 years. After retirement, he was visiting pastor at Central Church in Staunton for 10 years, and then assistant minister at Basic Church in Waynesboro for almost as long. George and Octavia “really retired” to Showalter Center, Warm Hearth Village, Blacksburg, in 1984, where they lived until Octavia’s death, November 24, 1993, and George’s death, March 21, 1994. George would have been touched and inspired, as were his friends and family, by the funeral service, March 24, at Basic Church, conducted by the Rev. R. Elwood Pack. He would have been especially moved by the words of his good friend, Lemuel E. Irvin, and by the thoughtful arrangements made by lifelong friends Purcell and Dottie Daughtry. His body was interred in Green Hill Cemetery, Buena Vista, beside his wife and near his father.

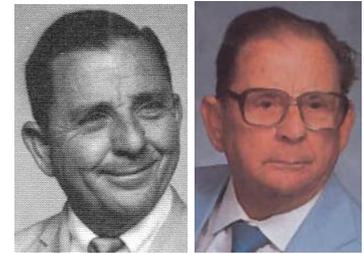
One of George’s favorite hymns serves as metaphor and memory of his long, active, and abundantly satisfying life.

A charge to keep I have, A God to glorify,
A never-dying soul to save, And fit it for the sky.
To serve the present age, My calling to fulfill;
O may it all my powers engage To do my Master’s will! —*Marie L. Waters*

Emory Staley Ellmore, 1915-1994

Emory Staley Ellmore was born the son of the Rev. Murphy Dulaney Ellmore and Lena Grey Rollins Ellmore, March 11, 1915, in Leesburg, Virginia. He met and married Virginia May Coffman while they

were students at Asbury College. They shared a very rewarding life together for 56 years. This life was also shared with their three children, Margaret Ann, Mary Elizabeth, and John Murphy, and their four grandchildren. Emory graduated from Randolph-Macon Academy, Asbury College, and Emory Theological Seminary, but he had what might have been an even stronger preparation for the ministry in that he came from a family of 17 ministers.



He began his ministry in the North Indiana conference in 1938, serving West Lafayette-Stiddham Memorial. Later, in seminary, he served the Shady Dale Charge in the North Georgia conference.

He started his 44-year ministry in the Virginia Conference at the North Frederick Charge, and later Brucetown (Winchester District), Harmony, Hamilton (Alexandria District), Calvary (Staunton District), Princess Anne (Norfolk District), and Mead Memorial-New Hope and Monroe (Lynchburg District).

After his retirement in 1984, Emory served an additional seven years at Sardis-Pleasant Grove and Smyrna-Mt. Tabor in the Charlottesville District.

While in the active ministry, he led Calvary and Henderson churches in significant building programs. Also, while at Calvary, he led the district in members received for one year.

Not only was Emory a loving family man, sharing with them in every way he could, but he extended his caring to other children as well by taking them on outings to share in his hobby which was fishing. He possessed a marvelous sense of humor and was the kind of person who was always warmly welcomed by those who knew him. Even in his final illness, his pastor, Marc Brown, was amazed during a visit that it was he who found strength and encouragement from words spoken to him by Emory, who was still concerned about someone else.

At his memorial service, one minister referred to him as a gentle man. His touch of life was certainly that, a thing so valuable in our violence-prone world.

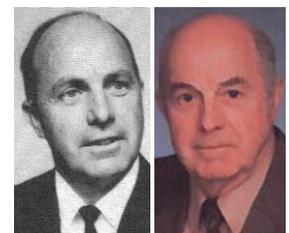
Emory died April 13, 1994, at his home next door to Emmanuel United Methodist Church in Amherst, Virginia, where a memorial service was held April 16, led by Marc D. Brown, pastor. Other ministers taking part in the service were Samuel E. NeSmith, Charlottesville district superintendent; Bernard S. Via Jr.; Robert H. Lawrence; and Wrightson S. Tongue Sr. Many other fellow ministers attended along with a host of family and friends. It was a beautiful spring day with dogwood and azaleas in full bloom, so apropos of the kind of private smile Emory had his last few days.

The Rev. James C. Sprouse Jr. assisted Marc Brown later in the day at the burial service in Leesburg.

Many in the later years of their lives have said they wished they had spent more time with their families and less at work. Emory reached a very good balance. As tribute, his wife, Virginia, wrote, at his passing, "He was a servant of God all the days of his life." —*Wrightson S. Tongue, Sr.*

Beveridge LaMar Lock, 1926-1994

Beveridge LaMar Lock was born May 20, 1926, in Birmingham, Indiana, to Dora Dean Miles Lock and Arthur Manuel Lock. He married Dorothy Virginia Long on December 15, 1946. Together they raised one daughter, Harriet Ann Lock Fletcher, and four sons, Dennis Owen Lock, Arthur Miles Lock, John Edward Lock, and Joseph Earl Lock. The Rev. Lock was the proud grandfather of seven grandchildren who were the lights of his life.



He was a sergeant in the U.S. Army during World War II and a graduate of Asbury College and Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky. He attended Bridgewater College, James Madison University, and the University of Virginia. In addition to his pastorate, he was a certified rehabilitation counselor in the Winchester area for more than 20 years with the Department of Rehabilitative Services.

The Rev. Lock entered the ministry in 1950 and served at various charges including Linden, Dayton, Kernstown, and Relief. He was currently serving his 18th year at the Fairview-Refuge Charge in the Winchester District at the time of his death.

The Rev. Lock was known for his humor, compassion and gentle spirit. One loving comment from a parishioner reads, "He preached funerals so well that it was thought good to be dead." This really reflects Pastor Lock's feelings that death was a celebration of life. His faith was strong and his belief in the wonders of heaven, absolute.

The Rev. Lock was an inspiration to many people, myself included. Through his guidance, love and example, I am currently entering my final year at Shenandoah University in preparation for diaconal ministry. He was not only my father-in-law but also my friend. He will be sadly missed by the many, many people who came to know Christ in a personal way through the ministry of Bev Lock. —*Mary Jane Higgs Lock*

Floyd Montgomery Lucas, 1897-1994

Floyd Montgomery Lucas was born September 25, 1897, in Augusta County. While at an early age of 16, the Rev. Lucas had a call to preach, but because of his poverty and hard times, it was 12 years before it happened. While working as a barber in Baltimore, Maryland, he attended a sunrise service. Following that experience he knew with God's help his dream would come true. In due time, he was at Westminster Theological Seminary studying theology and cutting the students' hair. Later on in life he became a student of The University of Science and Philosophy of Swannanoa, Waynesboro, Virginia.

The Rev. Lucas began his ministry in the Methodist Episcopal Church South of the Baltimore conference. He served 68 years as a fully ordained Methodist minister. His first appointment in 1926 was at Collierstown. From there he went to Highland County, Va.; Petersburg, W.Va.; Stephens City, Va.; Shepherdstown, W. Va.; then back to Virginia at churches in Marshall, Fairfax, Appomattox, Grace Church in Danville, McCansless in South Boston, Phoebus, Elkton, Shenandoah and retired at Riverton in 1966.

After retirement he moved to Appomattox where he preached for the next 25 years all over the county. The Rev. Lucas' first love was always evangelism and in all those years as a minister he never asked for a raise, and never had a loss in membership. He was a Christian gentleman in spirit and conduct at all times and in every circumstance. He was always interested in his fellow man and shared a deep concern for all persons. He had a deep sense of the presence of God.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Ida Byrd Lucas. He is survived by a daughter, Mary Lucas Haley; a son, Wesley Lucas; and four grandchildren. Funeral services were held April 29, 1994, at Memorial United Methodist Church, Appomattox. Burial was held in Riverview Cemetery in Waynesboro with Masonic Rites. —*Mary L. Haley*

Charles Lorraine Winfree, 1921-1994

Charles Lorraine Winfree was born and raised in Richmond, Virginia. He was educated in the public schools of Richmond, Longwood College, the Divinity School of Duke University, Wesley Seminary, American University, and the Ecumenical Center at Yale University. Charles applied his education by making his life count for Christ and for the church he loved responding to the call to ordained ministry by serving with exemplary commitment and dedication. His love for our United Methodist Church and for all persons will always be a source of inspiration and a sterling example of faithful discipleship.



If any man could say that he was in love with his work, I believe that Charles could. He loved preaching and teaching. His long and illustrious service record tells of an active life spent in the highest

dedication to the ordained ministry. He began his ministry serving churches in the Farmville District. Upon completing his seminary education, he served as an assistant minister at Clarendon United Methodist Church in Arlington, and then served 13 years as pastor of St. Matthew's United Methodist Church in Fairfax. Under his leadership, the church grew from an original 157 members to a membership of over 1,000. He then served as pastor of Ghent United Methodist Church in Norfolk. Following that appointment, Charles was the senior pastor at First United Methodist Church in Martinsville.

In 1981, Charles was appointed district superintendent of the Farmville District. Upon retiring in 1986, he served as executive secretary of The Home Corporation. In addition to conference assignments, Charles served on the staff of Wesley Theological Seminary as a pastoral supervisor. He was certified by the General Board of Discipleship as a consultant in evangelism and church growth and by the Institute of Industrial and Commercial Ministries, Inc., as an industrial chaplain. He also served in many other capacities during a long, productive and distinguished ministry.

Charles shared a healthy and wholesome balance of faith, practicality, and reasonableness. The ability to weave life and faith into a single fabric resulted in an authentic, winsome, and compelling discipleship reaching many persons. He never judged other people. He always accepted others without compromising what he believed. He was always ready to share a laugh and lighten a burden. He knew God's grace in Christ and he preached it. His preaching was not confined to the pulpit, but evidenced at every step he took along life's way. Charles had the unique capacity to share his faith wherever he went. In retirement, Charles pressed on with a renewed sense of mission and purpose. He took computer courses, taught in the schools and church, worked on conference programs strengthening our local congregations and was active in church, touching many hearts along the way. Charles willingly spent his life in the mission of the church he loved, for the simple reason that the church is the body of Christ.

Charles loved his family, he loved people and he was committed to youth. He lived fully, and encouraged others to embrace life. He greeted death with inspiring dignity, grace and faith. He spent his life sharing God's Truth in Christ and now he has joined the church triumphant Charles made his life count for Christ and for Christ's Holy Church.

Charles is survived by his devoted wife, Mrs. Margaret Bridgers Winfree; two sons, Mr. Charles L. Winfree Jr., and the Rev. W. Joseph Winfree; two daughters, Mrs. R.D. (Pattie) Munnikuysen, and Mrs. W. B. (Elizabeth) Trimble; five granddaughters, four grandsons, and one great-grandson.

We shall miss Charles, a dedicated pastor and good friend. We know he is safely home, far beyond the pall of time and place, secure in God's keeping, in infinite and glorious splendor, love, wonderment, perfect peace and life everlasting. "So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love." —Doug Gilfillan

Charlotte Elizabeth Seegars, 1921-1994

Charlotte Elizabeth Seegars was never named Miss Franklin County but she should have been. This is where she served and this was home base for spreading the cause of missions throughout the Virginia Conference and beyond. Charlotte was born in Charleston, South Carolina, December 6, 1921, the oldest in a wonderful family of one brother and three sisters. She graduated from the College of Charleston (A.B.) in 1942. She then served 10 years as an educational assistant at Trinity Methodist Church, Charleston.



After graduating from Scarritt College (M.A.) in 1954 with additional studies at Peabody College and Vanderbilt School of Religion, she was assigned as a church and community worker to Franklin County, Virginia, by the Board of Global Ministries of the Methodist Church. She served 22 churches under the Franklin County Methodist Group Ministry, driving many miles over bad roads to get to her

places of service. She established the Henry Fork Service Center for children and youth at Rocky Mount.

Charlotte was certified as Director of Christian Education in the Methodist Church on June 18, 1966. She was certified and consecrated as a Lay Worker on June 14, 1970. On June 13, 1977, she became a Diaconal Minister in the United Methodist Church. She requested a leave of absence from the Board of Diaconal Ministry in June 1981, but continued in ministry in Franklin County. She served in the Virginia Conference for 32 years.

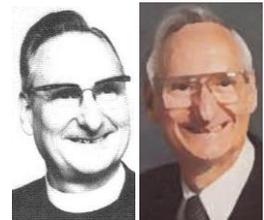
When Charlotte was president of the Virginia Conference Christian Educators Fellowship for two years, the business meetings were great fun. Her wit and humor that were a part of everything she did carried over into business and committee meetings.

Several years ago at annual conference when Bishop Kenneth Goodson referred to Charlotte Seegars as an “angel for God” the only person surprised was Charlotte.

On May 14, 1994, the Rev. William K. Dawson held the funeral service for Charlotte Elizabeth Seegars at Rocky Mount United Methodist Church. The service was so appropriate that it even included songs by small children of Henry Fork Service Center. —*Mary K. Pulliam and Julia F. Woodford*

Meredith Nathaniel DeHaven, 1910-1994

Meredith Nathaniel DeHaven was born June 13, 1910, at Gainesboro, Virginia, the first child of Conrad W. and Amy Brown DeHaven. During his formative years, he attended the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in his home community. In his own words, written in 1938, he said, “It was there, on Jan. 31, 1927, at the age of 17, that I went to the altar in a revival meeting and surrendered my life to Jesus Christ. From that night I believed God wanted me to preach the Gospel... One morning while I was walking to my work, God made it very plain that He wanted me to do. I have never doubted my call to the ministry.”



Meredith attended Randolph-Macon Academy at Front Royal, Va., then graduated from Asbury High School, Wilmore, Ky. He continued his preparation at Asbury College, class of 1938. He never wavered from his loyalty to Asbury College and the United Methodist Church.

He was admitted on trial at Roanoke, Va., Oct 3, 1939. This was the last session of the Old Baltimore Conference with Bishop W.W. Peele presiding. He was ordained elder in 1944.

In his Bible, dated Jan. 23, 1941, he wrote, “I have this day solemnly dedicated my all to God. A change has come., a sense of peace, assurance and victory. I now clearly see that by grace are we saved, and by grace we are kept. What bliss to cease from self and rely only upon Jesus.”

From 1938-47, Meredith served churches in West Virginia, and from 1947-60 in Kentucky. He returned to his home state in 1960, where he served in the Virginia Conference at Piankatank Parish, Middlesex County, 1960-64; Grace Church, Danville, 1964-68; Warsaw, 1968-72; Schoolfield, Danville, 1972-76; Melrose Avenue, Roanoke, 1976-79, when he retired. He served Harmony and Cascade, Danville District, as a retired supply, 1979-87, making a total of 49 years in the pastorate.

On September 18, 1956, he was married to Joanne Griffith DeHaven who survives. Other survivors are two daughters, Laura Susanna Ochner of Danville, Va., Mary Ann Abney, Dayton, Ohio; one son, James A. DeHaven, Kissimmee, Fla.; one brother, Conrad W. DeHaven Jr.

His health declined for seven years. The last year of his life was as a resident of Roman Eagle Memorial Home, where he died just before dawn on May 18, 1994.

His funeral was on May 21, 1994, at Grace Design United Methodist Church, with the Rev. Louis Carson, Danville District superintendent, officiating. The service closed with a congregational hymn that

Meredith had himself chosen for this occasion. It was one he had used in every Easter service he had conducted for many years:

“The strife is o’er, the battle done; The victory of life is won;
The song of triumph has begun. Alleluia! Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee,
From death’s dread sting Thy servants free,
That we may live and sing to Thee. Alleluia!”

Interment was in Highland Burial Park, Danville, Virginia. —*Joanne G. DeHaven, Wife*

1995 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

John Paul Dyksen, 1947-1994

John Paul Dyksen was special. He had a winsome personality, and gifts and graces that God bestowed upon him which resulted in a call to ministry. I first met John when he was a preministerial student at Virginia Wesleyan College and a student minister in his church (Parkview) in Newport News where I served as pastor. Even then, John had a keen understanding of his call to ministry as a servant. A native of “The Peninsula,” John endeared himself to many whose paths crossed his. We developed a lasting friendship. Upon graduation from Wesley Theological Seminary and the completion of the requirements to enter his chosen career as a servant of the Lord, he was ordained an elder in the Virginia Conference in 1975. Thus began a fruitful ministerial career which was cut short by his death due to cancer.



Those who were a part of the churches John served recognized his unique pastoral skills, compassion, caring spirit, and sense of humor, all of which contributed to his effectiveness as a pastor. His appointments included: Vale/Floris (Arlington District); Otterbein {Associate} and Sunset Drive (Harrisonburg District); Urbanna (Rappahannock District); Aldersgate (Charlottesville District); and First (Winchester District).

John viewed each appointment as a new challenge and an opportunity and a privilege to be God’s servant. He loved his people, and they in turn loved and respected him as their spiritual leader. He served his last appointment faithfully even during his illness until he was no longer physically able.

On December 9, the day of John’s memorial service, friends and colleagues joined his family and church family at First United Methodist Church to find comfort in the faith and to thank God for the gift of his life. While there we were reminded of his faithfulness as a servant of Christ.

The philosopher Mauriac once wrote, “No love, no friendship, ever crosses the path of our destiny without leaving some mark.” John has left his mark upon all who knew him. Truly he was a servant of the Lord, faithful to the very end. All those who knew him will be eternally grateful for what he contributed to our journey, because a part of him has become a part of us. His uncompleted work continues through us.

John taught us what is truly important in life: how to love and to serve, how to live, and how to die. Those who knew him will treasure the gifts he gave us: friendship, laughter, joy, love. On December 7, he was given the ultimate gift of resurrection as death claimed his body, and God claimed his soul. As I grieved the loss of such a special friend and man of God, I found comfort in the realization of how much John had already given others in his brief life of 47 years. Celebrating the goodness of his life and remembering these words of Scripture also brought comfort: Well done good and faithful servant... —*R. Franklin Gillis, Jr.*

William Mack Wilson, 1930-1994

Dr. William M. Wilson, the son and grandson of Methodist ministers in the North Alabama conference, was born in Five Points, Alabama, on May 15, 1930. After graduating from the public

schools of Birmingham, he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Greek from Birmingham-Southern College, and his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from Vanderbilt University. A person of broad interests, Bill was awarded a music scholarship during his undergraduate years and served as choirmaster of the Vanderbilt School Chorus while he was in Nashville.



An ordained United Methodist minister, Dr. Wilson was a member of the North Alabama conference from 1948 to 1960 and transferred to the South Carolina conference when he joined the faculty of Wofford College. There for 11 years Bill served successively as chaplain, associate professor of religion, and chairman of the Department of Religion and Philosophy.

In 1971, Virginia Wesleyan College, then beginning its sixth academic session, was much in need of an academic dean who could bring strong leadership and stability to the educational program of the college. I have always privately felt there was a divine hand in guiding Bill Wilson to United Methodism's youngest college, which was so full of potential to develop into a strong liberal arts college.

From the moment I met Bill in the spring of 1971, I liked him. As sons of the Methodist parsonage, we had much in common. I quickly recognized in him the gifts and qualities needed for his position as chief academician of Virginia Wesleyan. As the product of one of Methodism's excellent liberal arts colleges, Birmingham-Southern, and faculty member of another of our fine colleges, Wofford, Bill knew, understood, and appreciated the values and importance of the church-related institution.

As he assumed his responsibilities as vice president of academic affairs at Virginia Wesleyan, Bill brought the stability, leadership and vision the academic life of the college required. It was a joy to be associated with him on a daily basis, always in harmony and with mutual respect and trust. In a unique way the academic dean and the president of a very young college needed to work closely together as brothers, and this we did for 21 years.

In addition to his major responsibilities at Virginia Wesleyan, Dr. Wilson was active in the life of Virginia Beach United Methodist Church. He served as a member of the administrative board and the music committee and as teacher of a large adult church school class for 18 years.

In thinking of my colleague and friend, I recall Bill's intelligence, integrity, wisdom, patience, kindness, compassion, dignity and gift of listening, all combined with an engaging and gentle sense of humor. Bill was the ideal academic leader of Virginia Wesleyan during his tenure. The present remarkable strength of the college attests to his years of service in guiding the academic program for almost a quarter of a century. He was a superb human being whose name is written large in the history of Virginia Wesleyan.

Surviving members of a lovely family are his wife, Martha Jo; four children, Mary Elizabeth, Lisa Barnes, James Cret, and Robert Scot and his wife, Alison; two grandchildren, two sisters and a brother. Two inspiring memorial services were held with many friends and admirers present, first at Virginia Beach United Methodist Church on January 22, and then at Virginia Wesleyan College on January 24. The size of the congregations was an indication of his far-reaching influence. —*Lambuth M. Clarke*

William Edward Hindman, 1929-1995

William Edward Hindman was born in Niles, Ohio, November 8, 1929, and died on May 12, 1995. Following graduation from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, my friend, Bill Hindman, served the following charges: Prince George, Trinity, Disputanta, Matoaca, Chincoteague, Isle of Wight, Bethel-St. Matthew, Bowling Green, Sherbourne, Trinity, Petersburg, Richmond, Dillwyn, and Rehoboth Parish.



While in Bowling Green, Bill was the founder of the first library in Caroline County. A keen mind, Bill served as a chaplain associate at Chippenham Medical Center, and presented brilliant papers for our work in a clinical setting.

Bill had much personal tragedy: a wife killed in an accident which almost took his life; cancer 17 years ago from which the doctors said he would not survive; a near heart attack at Dillwyn because of a defective flue from the furnace, calling himself a survivor.

Bill served well in his several appointments. He had a keen sense of pastoral concern for his people. Bill loved railroading, and had a good collection of model trains. Once he arranged for me to ride on a real railroad engine from Dillwyn to Bremono Bluff and back, a 17-mile run -- it was a thrill for him and for me. When I was his district superintendent, Bill would drop by to see how I was doing. Even district superintendents need friends!

Bill is survived by his wife, Carole Diggs Hindman; one daughter, Rachel Buchanan; and three sons, John, Lee, and Mark.

Services were held at Bethel Church, Bethel-St. Matthew Charge, at Mathews, Va., on May 15, 1995, with the Rev. Amos S. Rideout, Jr., his district superintendent; Dr. Henry M. Matthews; Keith Brown, assistant pastor on the charge (Rehoboth Parish); and Henry E. Riley, Jr., a longtime friend. Burial was in a nearby family-community cemetery. —*Henry A Riley, Jr.*

Henry Maddox Matthews, 1931-1995

Henry and his brother, John Rosser, grew up during the 1930s and '40s in the rural Southside community of LaCrosse, Virginia. In those days, life in such places centered in church and family, and they became deeply interwoven with both as they grew. Their parents were of modest means, but they wanted their sons to “amount to something.” They taught them strong Christian values and beliefs, and a healthy work ethic. John became a college professor, and Henry developed into one of the most influential members of the Virginia Conference in recent memory.



Henry's call to the ministry dawned early in life. He could not remember ever really wanting to be anything else than a Methodist preacher as he grew up, and he early devoted himself completely to Christ and his church. Born February 6, 1931, he was educated in Mecklenburg County schools, and later completed Ferrum (Junior) College, AA., in 1952, and Randolph-Macon College, BA., in 1955. He was elected later to the boards of trustees of both these schools. His seminary training was taken at Emory University, Candler School of Theology, M.Div., 1959, with further graduate study at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, 1968-71. His pastoral ministry began on the Greensville Charge, Petersburg District, and moved through a succession of town stations and challenging appointments. Henry happily went to each assignment believing it to be a “good appointment” and one within the will of God. He was a hard, steady worker and left each church better than he found it. Always, he was equally at home in small country pulpits or in large urban sanctuary chancels. His preaching was direct, simple without being shallow, scriptural and relevant. There were no airs or pretensions. Henry clearly had the brains and education to be academic in the pulpit, but he chose to preach for the people and not for other preachers, as did his Master. In his pastoral work he was a tireless visitor of the sick, the shut-in, the distressed, and those who were without Christ and the church. His singing ministry was well-known; his rich baritone was often heard in churches, especially in his younger years, and in song leading at youth assemblies and elsewhere.

In the superintendency, as well as in the parish, Henry constantly challenged others and himself to higher levels of service. He was always working as hard or harder than any for whom he had leadership responsibility.

As a pastor and district superintendent and connectional minister, Henry demonstrated his real love for people. His ready smile and quick humor made people want to speak to him and shake his hand. He had the simple gift of making each person feel his friendship and attention. When there were occasional confrontations and differences, he bridged them without impatience, sticking to the issues and remaining a friend to those with whom he disagreed.

In addition to pastoral work, Henry was active at the jurisdictional and general levels, elected many times to those conferences and well-known as a participant; and he engaged productively in civic and community affairs as well, and in fellowship clubs and lodges. Along the way he became an accomplished fund raiser and stewardship consultant, working both for the conference and many local churches. And, while Henry had no dreams of episcopacy for himself, he was convinced that the church would not rise higher than the spiritual level of its bishops; so, he worked openly and diligently for the election of the best qualified persons in the conference and jurisdiction. There are today several excellent chief pastors in leadership roles among us who were encouraged and aided by Henry Matthews.

Alice “Betty” Warner Matthews, Henry’s gracious wife, has made the ministry journey with him. A highly successful professional social worker, she traveled the circuits and shared the joys and sorrows of Christian service through the years. Betty’s love and comradeship supported Henry’s own upbeat and positive approach to life. Together, they believed in what could be done; not in what couldn’t. They reared two outstanding children, Hank and Melodie, who have been leaders in United Methodist youth work and ministry in their own right and on their own volition.

It was said by Dr. Ladell Payne, as he awarded Randolph-Macon’s Doctor of Divinity degree several years ago, that Henry Matthews was, “a man touched by God.” So he was. He was what he was called to be: nothing more nor less than a faithful Methodist preacher.

Henry died suddenly on June 5, 1995, after a lifelong struggle with diabetes. A service of celebration was held at Reveille Church, Richmond, on June 9, conducted by Bishop Thomas B. Stockton, Bishop R. Kern Eutsler, Bishop H. Hasbrouck Hughes Jr., and Bishop Carl J. Sanders. Burial was in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Richmond, with the Rev. Joseph Carson Jr. officiating and a brief tribute by the undersigned on behalf of the family.

Henry and I were cousins. We shared the same family circle; we received the same devout Wesleyan heritage; we knew each other from childhood. We have preached in each other’s pulpits, conducted revivals together, buried our loved ones together, promoted the causes of Christ and the church over the same time span. And it’s true for the church and for Henry’s own special dear ones, and for our larger family circle: we were far richer when he was with us, and we are far poorer without him here. We rejoice in Henry’s life and we thank God for his ministry. —*William K. Thomas*

Wilmer Allan Blankenbaker, 1909-1994

Wilmer Allan Blankenbaker was born on April 26, 1909, in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, the son of Nellie Lee Dunavant and Wilmer Ervin Blankenbaker. Wilmer’s father owned a general store and his mother was the postmistress of the community. Wilmer attended the Spotsylvania public schools, and after a brief stay in Richmond he enrolled at Randolph-Macon College. While a college student, he came under the spiritual influence of Dr. Albert Shirkey and made the decision to answer God’s call to ministry. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of 1936, he moved on to Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, where he graduated in 1939. He was ordained an elder in 1940.



Wilmer served United Methodist churches across Virginia, including Kenwood Church in Elmont, Oakland Church in Richmond, Luray Church, Huntington Court Church in Roanoke, Memorial Church

in Lynchburg, First Church in Salem, Annandale Church, Centenary Church in Portsmouth and Centenary Church in Richmond. He retired in 1979. Still eager to serve, he returned to Centenary, Richmond, as a pastoral assistant, working with senior adults and homebound parishioners. He entered full retirement in 1989. In recognition of his competent work in ministry, Randolph-Macon conferred on him the honorary Doctor of Divinity degree.

Most of his friends knew him as “Dr. B.” This was their way of properly acknowledging his excellence of leadership and at the same time affirming his down to earth humanity. He was a distinguished pastor, an authentic friend, and a thoroughly engaging human being. With equanimity he handled both the honors that came his way (of which there were many), and the struggles of life (and there were some of those). He had all the natural equipment to be a leader. He had a quick and probing intellect. He was neither dull nor timid. He had a way of speaking the truth in love, and was a man of integrity, unafraid of being prophetic in his ministry. He was a lifelong servant of the church, but he knew that the church, like every other institution, must stand under the judgment of the God it proclaims, and to do so the church must be in touch with the real world and open to change.

With Wilmer, there was no generation gap. The young people heard him gladly. His letters to the children he baptized, his careful work with couples he married, his mentoring of young pastors -- all were hallmarks of his ministry. He was interested in things of nature, and in his last years he tended a garden, and loved to be in the out-of-doors.

After a long illness, Wilmer departed this life on August 9, 1994, gaining entry into the church triumphant. A memorial service was held August 13, 1994, at Centenary Church in Richmond, led by the Rev. Timothy W. Whitaker, the Rev. William S. Ferguson, and the Rev. David F. Jarvis, II. Wilmer was preceded in death by his eldest son, Wilmer Allan Blankenbaker, Jr., in 1966. He is survived by his wife, Frances, one son and daughter-in-law, Robert Emory and Maureen Blankenbaker; three daughters, Jane Lee Kirk, Susan Adell Blankenbaker, and Beth Anne Wise and son-in-law Frank R. Wise; and three grandchildren, David Allan Kirk, Michelle Christine Kirk and Jeremy Robert Blankenbaker.
—*David F. Jarvis, II*

James Edgar Scott, Jr., 1908-1994

James Edgar Scott, Jr., the son of James Edgar Scott and Margaret DuRant Scott, was born November 4, 1908, in Wofford, South Carolina. He attended the public schools and Wofford College for three years. The family moved to Columbia and Jim, as he came to be known, attended the University of South Carolina earning both a Bachelor's and Master's degrees. He taught school in Georgia four years and then felt the call to preach. He attended the Duke University School of Religion for three semesters. He was appointed pastor of the Skyland churches in 1935, in the Western North Carolina conference. In 1936 he moved back to his native state and was appointed to Waccamaw Church. On September 5, 1938, he and Mary Etta Tomlinson were married. To this union were born a son, James, III; a daughter, Mary Emma, who predeceased her father. He served the Eutawville and Cottageville appointments. He spent one year as a chaplain of the Army Air Force. He served Hebron Wesley for two years and, in 1948, he transferred to Nebraska and served Morrill, Waverly and Alma Ragan. They returned east in 1953 when Jim was appointed pastor of Bowling Green. He stayed there for two years and was appointed executive secretary of The Town and Country Commission and he served in this capacity until 1967. He was appointed pastor of Memorial Church in Petersburg and in 1970 he was appointed pastor of Franktown-Johnson on the Eastern Shore and, in 1973, he came to Charity, served one year and then retired from the active ministry. He served the Whaleyville-Somerton Charge as a retired supply minister.



Jim and “Tommy” lived in Courtland in a Retired Minister's Home until 1993. Due to health problems they moved into a United Methodist complex. He died October 15, 1994. He is survived by his

devoted wife, “Tommy”; one son, James Edgar, III; and two grandchildren, Lisa and Nicholas of Eureka, California. His funeral service was held at the Courtland United Methodist Church Cemetery on October 18, 1994, led by the Rev. James T. Higgins.

As executive secretary of the Town and Country Commission he touched lives of many churchgoers, members and ministers. He often served as pastor to the pastors, offering hints and suggestions that made life move into an easier lane and lead to greater accomplishments. We all relied on his friendship and enjoyed his friendly presence.

The brightness of his day is gone, We see the setting of the sun;
If only we could carry on And live a life like he has done.

He was a friend. —*Ulysses G. Bailey*

James William Hough, 1914-1994

“Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.” (I Corinthians 4:2)

Surely it must be said of James William Hough, affectionately known and loved as “Bill,” that he was faithful as a servant of Christ and steward of God’s mysteries. Bill’s journey in faithfulness began on January 26, 1914, in Norfolk, Virginia. He was the son of Samuel Nelson and Rosalie Howell Hough, and brother of Mary, Elizabeth, Frances, and Herbert. He was educated in the public schools of Norfolk, graduating from Maury High School, class of 1932. In March 1938, at the Park Place Church, he was licensed to preach. Bill received a BA. degree from Randolph-Macon College in 1942, where he was honored as a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Omicron Delta Kappa. He was further honored with the First Campus Citizen Award at Randolph-Macon.



Bill married his beloved “Polly,” Pauline Esther McFall, on November 14, 1936. After more than 57 beautiful, productive and blessed years together, Polly died on April 11, 1994. Two lovely daughters, Patsy Jean and Linda Lee, were born of their marriage. The same year of Linda Lee’s birth, Bill received a BD. degree from the Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, Georgia. He became a probationary member of the Virginia Annual Conference in 1947, and two years later was ordained an elder.

During World War II, 1942-1945, Bill served in the U.S. Naval Reserve, rising to the rank of Lieutenant, S.G. From 1947 until retirement in 1982, he served the following appointments: Walkers-Chesterbrook; Walkers Chapel; Fairfax; Fairlington; Fredericksburg; Trinity (Newport News); Bon Air, Arlington Forest; and Braddock Street, Winchester. He was Pastor Emeritus at Braddock Street until his death. His faithfulness as pastor, preacher and administrator is notable and has been highly complimented by those for whom he was responsible.

Each of these roles was severely tested in the Fredericksburg Church in 1963. During that year several minority persons requested membership. In keeping with biblical theology, The Discipline, and his own faith commitment, Bill prepared to receive two such persons. The decision rested, finally, with the administrative board, which concurred with a majority of one vote. Bill’s response in the throes of emotional stress and spiritual struggle was both as prophet and pastor. He remained the caring shepherd in the midst of opposition, frustration, and serious illness within the family of a prominent and outspoken layperson. In those circumstances, as in all his ministerial responsibilities, Bill was undergirded and directed by his profound love of Christ and his compassion for people.

Positions of note in which Bill served very effectively in the Virginia Conference are: president, Board of Social and Economic Relations; president, Commission on Religion and Race; member, Virginia Conference Council on Ministries. Always an ecumenist, Bill shared leadership in Ministerial Associations and Councils on Human Relations in Alexandria, Fairfax and Fredericksburg. He was on the staff of the Fredericksburg Personal Counseling Service. Bill was active in Kiwanis, and was

privileged to offer prayer at the opening of the U.S. Senate on February 22, 1966. In his retirement, Bill frequently preached and taught in other denominational churches. Sharing his excellent administrative skill, he recruited, organized and personally participated in providing chaplains in the Winchester Hospital and for local civic functions. He received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree at Shenandoah University in 1984.

All who knew Bill Hough know of his avid interest in golf. Once in Fairfax County, I played several holes with him in a heavy snow storm. A colleague suggested that Bill utilized his interest and devotion to golf as an opportunity to relate to persons he was unable to reach in more formal settings. Always the evangelist! His golf accomplishments include a hole-in-one, ninth hole at Washington Golf and Country Club; a hole-in-one, 16th hole, Carper's Valley Golf Club; and a round at Pebble Beach, Monterey, California. On the morning of his death, it appears Bill was dressing for his daily golf game.

Bill was assertively and courageously independent. When he was forbidden to drive, he "scooted" around Winchester on a moped. When he was forced to curtail his golfing due to a severely damaged knee, he had a knee replacement. He raked leaves, shoveled snow and mowed the lawn as long as physically able. He devoted himself primarily to loving, supporting and caring for his beloved Polly in her debilitating illness. Bill was totally committed to living his life to the fullest, a good and faithful steward of the mysteries of God and the realities of his personal existence.

He died alone in his home on October 20 1994. The worship experience, celebrating his life and his death was in the Braddock Street Church with the Rev. John B. Peters, the Rev. Michael S.B. Robbins, and the Rev. Jack A. Minnick officiating. Survivors are his daughters, Patsy H. Stein of Lake Park, Florida; Linda Lee Fallin of Montross, Virginia; grandchildren -- Victoria Bruley, Michael Stapleton, Michelle Fallin and Karen Fallin; two sisters, Elizabeth Riggan and Frances Miller. —*Hugh J. Winston, Jr.*

Clyde Wilton Tinsman, 1896-1994

The Rev. C. Wilton Tinsman, a retired member of the Virginia Annual Conference, was born on August 7, 1896, and died after a long illness on December 10, 1994. He is survived by two daughters, Wilta and Lucy; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. His wife, Georgia Boone Tinsman, died in 1956.



A native of Winchester, Virginia, the Rev. Tinsman worked as a brick and stone mason before responding to God's call to ordained ministry. He was a graduate of Shenandoah College and Lebanon Valley College. He served a number of Evangelical United Brethren churches, primarily in the Shenandoah Valley, including charges in Broadway, Verona, Churchville, Shenandoah, and Winchester, Virginia; Inwood, West Virginia; and Cumberland, Maryland. He was known for building churches, as he used his skills as a pastor in developing congregations and his skill as a mason in constructing brick and stone fireplaces, monuments, and other structures.

In 1968, the Rev. Tinsman retired to "Wild Winds," his home on the mountain, where he lived for many years at peace with God and God's creatures, including deer, squirrels, birds, and other wildlife who frequented his yard. He spent the past few years in a nursing home near his daughter, Wilta's, home in Pennsylvania.

I have many memories of my uncle, but I want to share these two as parting messages to the Virginia Conference. First, I pass on to you the good advice he gave me when I was a new pastor. "Above all, a pastor must love the people and receive their love." Second, here is the biblical reference with which he closed every letter he wrote to me, "Cant. 8:6-7":

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm;
for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave.
Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame.

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it.
If one offered for love all the wealth of his house,
it would be utterly scorned. —*Memoir written by Rev. Tinsman's niece, the Rev. Lucy Hook Porter, OSL, a clergy member of the New York Annual Conference*

William Ridgeway Petre, 1906-1994

William Ridgeway Petre was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to John C. and Anna Ridgeway Petre on December 15, 1906. His father and grandfather had served as Methodist ministers. He was the husband of Helen E. Hostetler Petre. They marked their 63rd wedding anniversary in August 1994. Petre, a retired United Methodist minister and Navy chaplain, spent the last eight years of his life in Willow Street, Pennsylvania. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania (B.A.) and Lancaster Theological Seminary (B.D.), Petre received a Master of Sacred Theology degree from Temple University School of Theology.



While in active ministry for 57 years, he served parishes in Millersville, Mount Joy, Hopewell, Hibernia and Philadelphia, Pa. He was ordained an elder in 1930 and served as a member of the Eastern Pennsylvania conference of the United Methodist Church for 19 years. Petre served 21 years as a Navy chaplain during World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. He retired from the Navy in 1967.

In 1966 he became a member of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church and served at Francis Asbury United Methodist Church in Virginia Beach until his retirement from the Virginia Conference in 1970. While in retirement he distinguished himself as the associate pastor of Epworth United Methodist Church, Norfolk, Va., (1979-83) until moving to Lancaster, Pa. in 1986.

After an illness of five weeks, Petre entered his eternal rest on Christmas Eve, December 24, 1994. William Ridgeway Petre was a gentle man whose spirit was infectious and contagious. He had a deep sense of the presence of God. One of his favorite poems serves as metaphor and memory of his long, active and abundantly satisfying life.

Christmas in Heaven

(In loving memory of all who are spending their first Christmas in Heaven; Author Unknown)

I've had my first Christmas in Heaven: a glorious, wonderful day!

I stood with the saints of all the ages, Who found Christ the Truth and the Way.

So dear ones on earth, here's my greeting: Look up 'til the Day Star appears,

And Oh, what a Christmas awaits us, Beyond all our partings and tears! —*H. Randolph Arrington*

Samuel Everett Donald, 1909-1995

Samuel Everett Donald was born on June 8, 1909, in the city of Clifton Forge, Virginia. Samuel attended the public schools in Clifton Forge and then enrolled in Lynchburg College and received a B.A. degree. After graduating from college, he attended the Divinity School at Duke University for three years and received his B.D. degree. He was ordained an elder in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in 1931.

His first pastorate was a one-year appointment at Boonsboro Church in Lynchburg. Samuel then moved to New York City to study at Columbia University. While there he worked at the Church of All Nations on the lower East Side and supervised 27 boys clubs whose purpose was to bring gangs off the streets and train them in Christian values. Opportunities for sports and Scouting activities were also made available. In 1935, he left his schooling and took a job for a year with the American Friends Service Committee which sought to keep the United States out of the war. When this organization became bankrupt, he returned to the Virginia Annual Conference and was appointed to build a church in

the Kecoughtan community of Hampton. His salary was \$100 a month which was paid by the Home Mission Board of the Methodist Church in Virginia. In time, this congregation became what is today Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Hampton. At this church he met his wife to be, Vi Taylor, but they were not married until 1945.

In 1939, Samuel received an appointment as First Lieutenant in the United States Army to serve in the capacity of a chaplain. Subsequently he was commissioned Captain (1941) and Major (1945).

In the spring of 1941, he was assigned to the Philippines as assistant to the chaplain in charge of Manila and the Subic Bay areas with offices located on Corregidor Island. The following is a quote from Samuel Donald about his next experiences: “In the late spring of 1942, Bataan surrendered to the Japanese. On the night of the surrender of Corregidor three things happened: our flag went down in defeat; we experienced an earthquake; and all the ammunition at the lower end of the Bataan Peninsula was blown up. The following day we were taken by the Japanese on a 125-mile death march during the course of which many American soldiers were bayoneted, shot, or died of exhaustion. Approximately 5,000 men entered Camp O’Donnell where water was scarce and food was practically nonexistent. During the first two months of our stay at Camp O’Donnell, I personally conducted the services for 2,700 Americans who died there of starvation or were murdered.”

Eventually, Chaplain Donald was taken with other prisoners to Kyushu, Japan, where “the forces were separated into groups of approximately 100 and placed in different camps over the island, some working in coal mines and some in the steel mills. Without going into detail, suffice it to say that we received very harsh treatment, poor food, little cleanliness and were forced to go barefooted, even though the weather dropped as low as zero degrees. Those men who died in the prison camp there were cremated and the services were conducted by me.” Chaplain Donald remained a prisoner of war until September 16, 1945.

After arriving back in the United States, Samuel stayed in Woodrow Wilson General Hospital for about six months during which period he married Vi Taylor. He retired for physical disability as a Major from the United States Army at Fitzsimmons General Hospital, Denver, Colorado, in 1947. After a time of travel, Samuel and Vi purchased a small farm in 1949 in Nolesville, Tennessee. There he and his wife worked hard, built the farm and raised cattle. To earn more income, Samuel taught at a G.I. Farm School in Franklin, Tennessee, and subsequently worked for an oil company. Samuel and Vi remained active in the Methodist Church.

Vi and Samuel remained on the farm together until the 1980s when her health deteriorated. In 1994, Samuel Donald was awarded an honorary doctorate from the Divinity School of Duke University. He died on January 31, 1995, in Nashville, Tennessee. He is survived by two nephews, Danny Taylor and Robin Miller, both of Nashville. —*Memoir written by Sara L Manner, Chair, Memoirs Committee, from information provided by the family of Samuel Donald*

Reginald Wainwright Vanderberry, 1900-1995

“I hereby tender my resignation... My reason for leaving is based mainly on my position requiring Sunday work, which I do not feel disposed to do. It is not only against my religious creed but also against my personal conscience.” So said Reg Vanderberry at the age of 18 upon resigning from his first job. It was a forerunner of the pattern that would be a part of his life for the next 77 years until the Lord called him home. Reginald W. Vanderberry was born January 26, 1900, in Norfolk, Virginia, the son of James Henry Vanderberry and Arvilla Davis Vanderberry. In 1921, he married Mary Estelle Whitehurst who shared his life in a marvelous way until her death in 1970. To this union were born a daughter and two sons - Mary Louise Morris of



Wilmington, N.C.; Reginald William of Charlottesville, Va.; and James Greer of Winston Salem, N.C. He is survived by his children, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Reg finished Maury High School, Norfolk in 1917, worked for four years before entering Randolph-Macon College in 1921, graduating in 1925. Having previously been licensed to preach in 1922, he now enrolled in the General Board of Education Correspondence School of The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, finishing in 1929. He had already entered the Virginia Conference on trial in 1925, and was received in full connection in 1928, continuing in active service until his retirement in 1967. During this time he served the following appointments: Salisbury Circuit executive secretary, Epworth League; director of youth work; extension secretary, Board of Education; Market Street Church, Winchester; Hopewell; Lawrenceville; Laurel Hill; Ferebee-Halstead; Graham Road; Farmville; Asbury, Richmond; administrator, Roanoke Methodist Home; and following retirement, one year at Irvington from 1967-1968.

For the first 22 years of his retirement he resided at Topping, Virginia. Having been an active member of the Masonic Order, Reg moved into the Masonic Home, Richmond, Virginia, in 1989. He died there on February 13, 1995. A service of death and resurrection was held at Lower United Methodist Church, Hartfield, Va. It was conducted by the pastor, Robert L. Morris, Jr., and the district superintendent, Amos S. Rideout, Jr. It was most appropriate that the service be held in that place where Reg had been named pastor emeritus. Interment was in Lower Church Cemetery.

The ties of this writer with Reginald W. Vanderberry became very close in our working together with the Conference Brotherhood, of which he was secretary-treasurer for more than 50 years. Doing what was the right thing led him to lead in changing the name to Virginia Conference Fellowship. His was the kind of religion that was a deep and personal thing that sometimes caused differences with those he served. No one need ever question where he stood on moral or social issues. You always found him on the side of love, justice and right. The hymn, "I Want A Principle Within," sung by all the people at the celebration of his life, and the message of the pastor, "A Man Of The Word," spoke clearly of the life of Reginald Wainwright Vanderberry. This writer is grateful for having the privilege of knowing and working with him. —*George S. Lightner*

James Lewis Clements, 1911-1995

The Rev. James Lewis Clements, age 84, died February 22, 1995, in South Hill, Virginia. He is survived by his wife, Blanche K. Clements, of South Hill; three daughters: Carolyn C. Modures of Morehead City, NC, Rosalyn C. Thompson of South Hill, and Scarlett C. Seay of Petersburg; a son, James L. Clements, II, of Smithfield; four sisters: Elizabeth Clements and Bertie Hall of Gloucester, and Minnie Moore and Myrtle Dawson of Grafton; three brothers: Irvin, Richard and Malcolm Clements of Gloucester; nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.



James served for over 42 years, pastoring congregations in Colonial Heights, Danville, Hampton, King William and Madison counties, Lynchburg, Altavista, Petersburg, Richmond and South Hill. After retiring in 1980, James continued to serve at Trinity-Providence United Methodist Charge in South Hill and participated in services at South Hill Christian Church and Colonial Christian Church in Colonial Heights. He attended the College of William and Mary and graduated from Randolph-Macon College in 1937. He attended Union Theological Seminary in Richmond. James was a 33rd Degree Mason and a member of the Order of the Eastern Star Loyalty Chapter #48 in South Hill.

James was a gifted evangelist, a devoted pastor, a loving husband, father, grandfather and brother. His bright smile, and his infectious humor won him many devoted friends, and there are many young people who found their way to the Lord because of his shepherding care. James set his sights on the

upward call of the Kingdom of God, but understood the frailty of the human heart. He accepted people for who they were, but saw in them what they could become through the love of God in Jesus Christ. The Virginia Conference has been blessed by the ministry of James Lewis Clements, and we rejoice with thanksgiving for the glimpse of God that shone through him. —*L. Douglas Hill*

Melville Owens Williams, Jr., 1904-1995

Melville O. Williams, 91, of Oberlin, Ohio, died March 4 at Allen Memorial Hospital after a short illness.

Born in 1904 in Portsmouth, Virginia, he earned his undergraduate degree in aeronautical engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1924, a Master's degree in sociology and religion from Vanderbilt University in 1929, and an Ed.D. from Columbia University in 1935, including work at Union Seminary which led to ordination as a minister in the Methodist Church.

Mr. Williams served as a missionary for the Methodist Church in China from 1929 to 1940 where he taught sociology and was director of religious activities at Soochow University. From 1946 to 1969, he recruited, selected and counseled over 2,500 missionaries for the Methodist Board of Missions in New York City as secretary of Missionary Personnel. Following retirement he took on special assignments with the Presbyterian Church, traveling with his wife to mission stations in Africa, Asia, Indonesia, Europe, and Central and South America.

Since 1985, he and his wife of 68 years, Annie Lee, had lived in Oberlin and Elyria, returning to Oberlin on January 25, 1995, to Kendal.

He is survived by his wife, Annie Lee Williams, of Oberlin; his son, G. Melville Williams, of Baltimore; his daughter, Ann Craig, of Oberlin; seven grandchildren, Curtiss, Steven, Lucy, and Elizabeth Williams, and Julia, Mary, and David Craig; and one great-granddaughter, Margot.

A memorial service was held Saturday, March 11, at First United Methodist Church in Oberlin with the Rev. Judith Claycomb presiding. —*Ann Craig*

John Rallson Hendricks, Sr., 1910-1995

John R. Hendricks wanted to be a minister almost as long as he could remember. When he was 4 or 5, a relative—the Rev. Walter Hendricks of the Holston Methodist conference—came to visit the Hendricks home in Glade Spring, Virginia. From that day, based on the tremendous impression the elder Hendricks had made, young John Hendricks' life was charted. Hendricks graduated from Emory and Henry College in Virginia, then went off to the Yale Divinity School at the height of the Great Depression. He held three jobs at once to make his dream come true. In his final year at Yale, in the spring of 1935, the Rev. Hendricks married Josephine Neal Massengill of Bristol, Tennessee, whom he had met while at Emory and Henry. The couple went on to raise three children: Josephine Neal “JoNeal” Scully of Charlottesville, Virginia; John R. Hendricks, Jr. of Spruce Pine, North Carolina; and Ruthanne Taylor of Snow Creek, Virginia.



The Rev. Hendricks joined the old Baltimore conference and served in Virginia and West Virginia throughout his career. He began in Capon Bridge, West Virginia, driving 225 miles every Sunday to serve eight churches too tiny to have their own full-time ministers. He also served one Lutheran church that likewise couldn't attract its own minister. The Rev. Hendricks spent most of his career in Virginia, serving churches in Middleburg, Falls Church, Norfolk, Roanoke, Waynesboro, Charlottesville, Newport News, Martinsville, and McLean. He retired in 1975 as administrator of the Hermitage United Methodist Home in Onancock, on Virginia's Eastern Shore. Throughout his career, the Rev. Hendricks devoted himself to the cause of Methodist higher education. He was a founding trustee of Virginia

Wesleyan College in Norfolk. Because of his commitment to higher education, his alma mater, Emory and Henry, awarded him an honorary Ph.D., a title he treasured the rest of his life.

The Rev. Hendricks was active in the administration of the church and served on many boards. He was the Portsmouth district superintendent from 1961 to 1967.

After his retirement, he and his wife returned to Martinsville, “because it is one of the friendliest places in Virginia,” he told his family.

Mrs. Hendricks died in 1989. The Rev. Hendricks followed his wife on March 26, 1995.

In his final days, the Rev. Hendricks seemed to find a peace he had not known since before his wife’s death. He died at Franklin Memorial Hospital surrounded by his children. In his final moments, he listened to his favorite hymn “Amazing Grace.” —*JoNeal Scully, Daughter; Sean Scully, Grandson*

Alpheus Wilson Potts, 1908-1995

Alpheus Wilson Potts was born on May 21, 1908. His transfer to his new life came at 11:19 a.m. on April 28, 1995. In between those monumental dates, too much happened to be able to adequately chronicle it here, but some things should be noted. As a teenager he was chauffeur and companion for his father who was presiding elder of the Farmville District. With that exposure it is no wonder that Al became one of three brothers to become third-generation Methodist ministers, their father also being the son of a Methodist minister. He attended Hampden-Sydney College and later was graduated from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond. Randolph-Macon College recognized Alpheus’ contributions to the church as a pastor, a historian, an educator and administrator by conferring on him the Doctor of Divinity degree.



On April 26, 1935, Alpheus married Josephine Smith, a pretty young lady from Texas, who he had met at the Presbyterian Assembly Training School across the street from Union Seminary.

Both while in the seminary and as a probationary pastor he served pastorates in and around Richmond: Sherborne Avenue, Beulah, Branch Memorial, and Chester-Ivey Memorial.

Al and Jo had four children: Louise, Wilson, Betty Jo, and Christie. And to these children were born his 15 grandchildren who, in turn, have been responsible, so far, for 13 great-grandchildren -- with three more on the way!

Always on the cutting edge of the church’s mission, both evangelistically and in social concerns, Al served some of our finest churches, never compromising in the face of conflicting views -- always with courage and total dedication. He was fully committed to the Gospel of Christ in whatever direction it led. Among those churches were Bassett, Trinity-Petersburg, Main Street-Bedford, Huntington Court-Roanoke, Berryman-Richmond, Main Street-Waynesboro, Trinity-Alexandria, and First Church-Charlottesville. His six years as district superintendent of the Staunton District saw the district move forward in every way. Always interested in children and youth, those programs received special attention. Al worked with his preachers and laity to see that all goals of the conference were covered and met. Especially did his work with sometimes ill-prepared pastors of poor churches and circuits pay great dividends in the development of those pastors and in the effectiveness of those churches.

Throughout his ministry Al showed his love for the church by becoming a careful student and recorder of its history. The author of many research papers and a contributor to the church’s various publications, he became recognized as one of the most knowledgeable church historians in our annual conference and in the Southeastern Jurisdiction. He was president of our conference Historical Society and served many years as an officer and member of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Historical Society. He never tired of discussing the journeys of Francis Asbury and the more intimate details of many early churches and church leaders. (One of his daughters told her son, “Don’t ask your grandfather about history unless you have the rest of the day for the answer!”)

But Al's ministry was painted with a broader brush than this: other than his involvement with his pastorates and his historical interests, he served as trustee of Randolph-Macon Academy; as trustee of Shenandoah College and Conservatory; he was at times on the Board of Higher Education, the Board of Christian Social Concerns, the Board of Missions, the Commission on Town and Country Work, the Board of our Appalachian Regional Ministries, the annual conference Committee on Redistricting (at the time 18 districts were created), and on many others. At the same time he was a Rotarian, an honored member of the Sons of the American Revolution, and the Jamestown Society.

Al's love for his church was exceeded only by his love and devotion for his family. In reflecting on his life, Jo said, "He was always fun to be with." And it was with great excitement in their conversation that his family recalled and relived the once-a-year month-long vacations which took the whole clan to so many places across the country. He was always interested in their education, the progress of their work, the coming of each new grandchild, and their new homes. Music and games were always a part of their family gatherings. What wonderful family experiences and memories!

And his many friends, who had come to expect Al to top all of their funny stories, learned from him and Jo the deeper meaning of friendship -- the grand and gracious quality of the man as they drew upon his knowledge and expertise.

Remaining with us, besides his precious wife Jo, and their children and their children's children, are his sister, Frances, and her husband, Bill, as well as a number of sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law.

But now the Scriptures have spoken in their eloquent and wise manner -- and we must hear them and accept their wisdom -- at once grateful to God's mercy and at the same time reluctantly.

"For everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: -- a time to be born, and a time to die...—but He hath made everything beautiful in His time" (from Ecclesiastes).
—*M. Douglas Newman*

Robert Humphrey Athearn, 1899-1994

Robert Humphrey Athearn was born December 28, 1899, at Pomeroy, Ohio, the second son of William I. and Margaret H. Athearn. His death occurred, after a lingering illness, at Madison, Virginia, on August 27, 1994, at the age of 94. He was preceded in death by his wife, Florine T. Athearn (August 11, 1980); and is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Joyce Eddins of Madison, Virginia, and Mrs. Willene Nichols of Clearwater, Florida; six grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and one brother, the Rev. Guy S. Athearn, of Ft. Pierce, Florida.

He graduated in 1918 from St. Lucie High School in Ft. Pierce, Florida, and after several years working with the Florida East Coast Railroad, felt himself called to some type of Christian service. He attended Southern College of YMCA in Nashville, Tennessee, and graduated in 1926. He had a career with the YMCA, working in that program in Florida and Richmond, Virginia, until the war years of the 1940s when he worked as a production engineer for an aircraft company in Baltimore, Maryland. After the war, he taught high school industrial arts in Madison, Virginia.

In 1950, he resumed his career with the YMCA as general secretary of the "Y" in Lake Charles, Louisiana. While in Lake Charles, he became a lay pastor for the Louisiana conference and served small churches in that area, later moving to the "Y" in Alexandria, Louisiana, where, again, he accepted part-time appointments to small churches. In 1958, he accepted a position with the "Y" in Pulaski, Virginia, where he also served small churches for the Holston conference. In the spring of 1964, he retired from his YMCA career and returned to Florida, appointed as a local pastor to the Tarbough Memorial Methodist Church in Miami where he stayed until 1969 when the church merged with Grace United Methodist Church. During these years this church shared its facilities with a Cuban congregation, being somewhat in the forefront of the current emphasis in ethnic ministries. He returned to make his retirement home in Madison, Virginia, while yet spending two more winters in Miami as minister of

visitation for Grace Church. As a retired local pastor from the Florida conference, he was appointed in the Charlottesville District in Virginia to the Gentry-Binghams Charge in 1971, and Woodland Church in 1976-1977.

Bob's mechanical and interpersonal skills blended together into an unusual itinerant career combining the YMCA, teaching and United Methodist ministry. His involvement with youth extends back to his own high school years, and there is no way of counting the number of young people and others who were influenced by his Christian service and ministry. The graveside service took place in the Madison, Virginia, Cemetery. Officiating were Edward P. Gant, Samuel E. NeSmith, and his nephew, W. James Athearn. —*W. James Athearn*

Bill D. McDaniel, 1938-1994

"I never considered doing anything else with my life" was Bill McDaniel's response to having been asked why he became a United Methodist minister. Born in Hurt, Virginia, on the outskirts of Altavista, on September 27, 1938, he was one of five children and was educated in area schools. He attended Bluefield College and, in 1964, completed his training at American University's Wesleyan Theological Seminary in the newly evolved specialty, Youth and Christian Education Ministries.

While serving his initial appointment in Lynchburg, he married Frances Monteith, a Richmond, Va., native and an accomplished musician. Ordained an elder in the Virginia Conference in 1966, he transferred to the Eastern Pennsylvania conference where he served until 1970. Returning to Richmond on honorable location from that conference, he continued working with youth as an English and reading teacher in Richmond's inner-city public schools. During this period he assisted at Corinth United Methodist Church and, in 1988, accepted the pastorate of St. James United Methodist Church in addition to his full-time teaching position. In both pulpit and classroom he gave generously of himself and his talents, as evidenced by the fact that students would come often to his home on weekends just to talk and be with his family.

An accomplished leader, Bill helped St James' small congregation restore its self-esteem and direction by accepting and achieving seemingly impossible goals: membership increased, inactive members returned, higher financial commitments were set and exceeded, and youth activities were reinstated after years of inactivity. Bill set an analytical course to make St. James grow. His positive impact brought a special reverence, beauty and dignity to the worship service and his constant emphasis on "making St. James a beacon on a Hill" to reach out to the surrounding community spreading the Good News of Christ survives his passing. He served this charge until his death on November 28, 1994, one day after delivering his last meditative sermon titled "O God, When Are You Coming?"

Predeceased by his wife, and survived by his son, Berkley Monteith McDaniel, Bill's loss creates a void impossible to fill. A warm, caring friend and shepherd, his spirit continues to live in the memories of those whose lives he touched.

The Easter prior to his death, Bill shared the following anonymously written poem and the deep meaning that it held for him the St. James' congregation. Its hope stands as legacy to the faith that he believed, taught, lived and shared with our God.

Do not stand at my grave and weep. I am not there; I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow. I am a diamond glint on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain. I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you wake in the morning hush; I am the swift uplifting rush
of quiet birds in circling flight. I am the soft starlight at night.
Do not stand at my grave and weep. I am not there; I do not sleep. —*Clint Jones*

Frederick Lelon Gardner, 1943-1995

There are few people on this earth who are blessed with the ability to speak the truth in love. Fred Gardner was one of them. Fred could speak without malice or sarcasm and still proclaim the truth. He could, with love, yet with firmness, tell you that you were wrong in such a way that you never felt condemned. It must have been much the way Jesus reached people. Fred was also blessed with a marvelous sense of humor. A master of the one-liner, Fred could find humor in even the worst situations. This ability stood him in good stead all his life and especially in his illness. As his disease chipped away at the life in his body, his soul was not diminished; it even flourished. Fred taught those around him much about life in the midst of death. Perhaps that was simpler for him than for some because he always seemed to be aware of heaven throughout his life. His faith and the strength of his soul were an inspiration to all who knew him.



Born June 28, 1943, Fred grew up in Hampton, Virginia, and graduated from Hampton High School and Lynchburg College. Answering his call to ministry, Fred studied at Duke. He had the gift of being able to serve small, rural churches, a vanishing breed of pastor these days, but still much needed. He served charges all his ministerial career and was in the Lynchburg, Rappahannock, Danville, and Petersburg districts. The people of Peakview, Montvale, West Campbell, Montross, Providence, and McKenney can all attest to his gentle, loving leadership in their charges. Whatever else Fred did, he loved the people God had him to serve and he did his best to serve them well. In his 20 years of ministry, Fred touched many people, both parishioners and colleagues. There were many who sought out his gentle wisdom when a decision was to be made because he had the gift of being able to see clearly in difficult situations.

There are many who miss Fred greatly -- his wife, Bonnie, and daughter, Melanie; his relatives, his friends. Those who miss him can celebrate the new life in Jesus Christ that he is enjoying, whole and happy now. Still, he is missed, for those who knew him know a gentle saint of the church has gone from our midst. —*Cynthia A. Corley*

Ellis Marcel Lacey, 1907-1994

The Reverend Ellis Marcel Lacey was born on January 27, 1907, in Clark's Gap, Virginia. Ellis was the fourth son born to Elnora and William Lacey. After reaching adulthood, Ellis moved to the Washington, D.C., area, where he pursued a number of vocations. On December 14, 1935, Ellis married Ferol Aulabaugh. The Laceys resided in Arlington, Virginia, and were blessed with four children. Ellis and Ferol moved their young family to Falls Church, where they joined St Luke's United Methodist Church.



Ellis received his call to the ministry while a member of St. Luke's. With the assistance of the Rev. Jerry Fink, Ellis became a Methodist-approved supply pastor. In 1963, Ellis accepted his first appointment at King George Methodist Church, in King George, Virginia. In 1968, he was ordained an elder in the United Methodist Church.

Ellis subsequently served at Shady Grove United Methodist Church in Spotsylvania, and at Dranesville United Methodist Church in Dranesville. In 1975, Ellis retired from full-time ministry, and he and Ferol moved their home to Spotsylvania. Not one to be idle, Ellis continued to serve the Lord at Olivet United Methodist Church in Spotsylvania, and at Liberty United Methodist Church in Bealeton.

In addition to his devotion to the Lord, Ellis devoted his life to community service. He was a Boy Scout leader for many years and president of the Herndon High School Parents Band Boosters (better known as "Band-Aid"). He was an active member of the Democratic Party, serving a number of years

on the executive committee, and campaigning for candidates for office in Spotsylvania County. Ellis spent many years as a special deputy to the Spotsylvania County sheriff and served as their chaplain.

In addition to his wife of 58 years, Ellis is survived by his four children: Lynda Louise Kirstein, Lila Lea Browning, Lauren Lynne Garnett, and Richard Ellis Lacey. He leaves 12 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Ellis died of cancer in his home on July 13, 1994. On Sunday, July 17, 1994, in Fredericksburg United Methodist Church a memorial service was held. Family, friends and ministerial friends joined together in a Service of Worship and Celebration. Those sharing in this service were the Rev. Steve Young, the Rev. James Turner, the Rev. William Logan, the Rev. William Mahon, the Rev. Harry Spear and the Rev. Henry Riley. In the sharing of Words and Remembrance, the life of Ellis Marcel Lacey was well remembered, and his love for the Lord and the people for whom he was a Shepherd was celebrated. The gathered community of faith stood and sang:

“And God will raise you up on eagle’s wings, Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun, And hold you in the palm of God’s hand.” —*William F. Mahon*

Lawrence Eldridge Pritchett, 1916-1994

Lawrence Eldridge Pritchett was born July 12, 1916, at Batesville, Virginia. He was the third child of Russell Custo and Eleyette Virginia Pritchett. In his formative years, he attended public schools in Batesville and in Lynchburg, Virginia. It was during these years he knew God had called him to preach. His mother always told him she knew that he would be a preacher someday but this came later. His mother died at the age of 28. He received his high school diploma from the American School in Chicago, Illinois. Later he married his childhood sweetheart, Mary Elizabeth Walker, on April 25, 1936, at the age of 20. They both attended the Salvation Army College in Atlanta, Georgia.



He became an officer and stayed with the Salvation Army for 14 years. His appointments in the Salvation Army were Roanoke and Logan, West Virginia. He loved the Lord and never doubted his call to preach. He came into the Methodist conference in 1960 and was ordained a deacon on the 12th day of June 1963, by Bishop Paul Neff Garber. He was later ordained elder on June 9 of 1965 at Virginia Beach, Virginia, by Bishop Walter C. Gum. He was an approved pastor in the Methodist Church and was appointed to the Motley-Trinity Charge in 1960, Lafayette Charge in 1967, Hyco in 1968-1970, Mt. Olivet Charge in 1975, and Fulks Run in 1978. He retired on June 15, 1981. His wife of 49 years was stricken with cancer and passed away on August 19, 1984. He married the second time to Dorothy Christine Farmer on April 13, 1985. She later passed away with a massive heart attack on July 4, 1988.

He was the happiest in the pulpit and serving the people. One dear lady called him a walking Bible. He also had a very humorous side and he never stopped working after retirement. He responded whenever he was called to serve anywhere at any time. He served United Methodist churches at McKendree-Asbury, Mt. Hermon, Clover, Payneton-Siloam, Zion, Mt. Horeb-Huddleston up until June 1984.

On December 3, 1988, he was married to Verda Payne Shumate who survives. Other survivors are two sisters, Dorothy Edith Talley of Asheville, N.C.; and Thelma Mamie Perdieu of Lynchburg, Va.; one half-brother, Fred Pritchett of Lynchburg, Va.; one stepbrother, Willie Sprouse, of Altavista, Va.; one stepsister, Louise Fitzgerald of Lynchburg, Va. Also surviving are nine stepchildren, 13 nieces and six nephews.

His health declined for two years and he later passed away November 10, 1994, at Virginia Baptist Hospital in Lynchburg, Va. His funeral was on November 13, 1994, at Powell’s Funeral Home, South Boston, Va., with the Lynchburg District Superintendent Kenneth Jackson, the Rev. Ralph Grow,

Martinsville District; the Rev. Carol Douglas, Lynchburg District; the Rev. E. W. Smith, Greensboro, N.C.; and Captain Michael Hawley of the Salvation Army, Lynchburg, Va., all in attendance. Interment was at the Shady Grove United Methodist Church cemetery. He was buried beside his first wife, Mary Elizabeth. His nephew, David Peridieu sang his favorite song, "Amazing Grace."

He will always be remembered by those who loved and cared for him. —*Verda S. Pritchett, Wife*

Malinda E. Ayres, 1920-1995

It was March 21, 1920, when God smiled on Jessie Flipper and Louis Ayres in Richmond and gave them a daughter, Malinda Elizabeth, who would grow up and become a dynamic leader in the United Methodist Church. Her early training at home and in Boulevard United Methodist Church laid the foundation for a strong faith which never wavered as she lived a life of service to God, her church and community. After graduating from high school, she worked as a bookkeeper for a Drug Co. Desiring to better equip herself to do God's work, she enrolled in Greensboro College where she earned a degree in Christian education in 1952. That same year she was called to be the director of the Wesley Foundation at Longwood College where she touched the lives of students, faculty, administrators and the community of Farmville in a ministry motivated by love.



Malinda was synonymous with campus ministry in the Virginia Conference. She was one of the first women to work for and in campus ministry. Her strong leadership in the field of higher education was recognized by campus ministers, the conference and national Boards of Higher Education. Because of her courage, commitment and support, campus ministry is alive and well in the Virginia Conference.

Malinda was extravagant in her love to family, friends, and all who needed her. She was a friend to the sick, the needy and lonely, listening with her heart and head to the hurts and joys of those in her midst. She gave comfort when needed and chastisement when necessary. Her love and concern knew no bounds. She was famous for her telephone calls, notes of cheer and letters of encouragement. She radiated life and joy and loved her God and appreciated the beauty of God's world. She liked to fish, watch baseball games and travel. She and her friends were planning a cruise to the Panama Canal in the spring and a journey to Hawaii in the fall when death called January 25, 1995.

Malinda retired in 1987 after serving the Wesley Foundation at Longwood and Hampden-Sydney colleges 35 years. Her friend, Merry Lewis Allen, recalls Malinda as an integral part of the Farmville community and it was expected that she retire there among her friends. Malinda continued to serve on the administrative board of Farmville United Methodist Church, where she had served as the Benevolence Fund coordinator for many years. She was a volunteer for the Farmville retirement center, Brookview and Holly Manor Nursing Home, and a volunteer at Southside Community Hospital, serving in the emergency room for 10 years, where she assisted ER patients and their families. She was a founder of the South Central Chapter of the American Diabetic Association. She served on the board until her death.

Malinda was devoted to her brother, John, and his wife, Jean, their children Linda Hamilton, Janet Peck and Johnny Ayres, her three great-nephews, and a great-niece who survive her. A memorial service was held at the Farmville United Methodist Church, January 29, 1995. Representatives from the church, Longwood College, Southside Community Hospital and friends witnessed to the life of Malinda Elizabeth Ayres. These lines from Julia Canvey's "Little Things" capture much of what Malinda Ayres meant to so many.

Little deeds of kindness Little words of love
Make our world an Eden Like the Heaven above.

—*Loreeda Jones Niemann & Merry Lewis Allen*

Lucille Hendricks Gum, 1902-1994

On November 7, 1994, after a long and fruitful life, Lucille Hendricks Gum was called to membership in the Church Triumphant. The child of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Russell Hendricks, Lucille was born in North Carolina on October 22, 1902. Early in her life her family moved to Lawrenceville, Virginia, which she regarded as her home. A lifelong member of the United Methodist Church, her life was centered in her church and her family to which she gave her complete devotion. Indeed, she met her husband, Walter Clarke Gum, in a church when, as a young preacher, became to hold a revival in a church near her home. They were married on October 31, 1920, and to them one child was born, Mary Russell, now Mrs. John Mason.

What a flood of memories crowd in upon us as we think of Lucille Gum today. We remember her great love for and pride in her family. To Walter Gum she was not only a loving wife, but a faithful partner in ministry. Whether as a pastor's wife, district superintendent's wife, or bishop's wife a great host of people remember the gentleness and compassion with which she joined her husband in ministry. Her love for her daughter, Mary Russell, is legendary to all who knew her, and the tender loving care which Mary Russell lavished upon her mother, and particularly in these latter years, is an inspiration to us all.

Her love for the church was certainly one of the hallmarks of her life. Her interest in the Council of Bishops did not abate with the passing years and almost to the time of her death she traveled far and wide to enjoy the fellowship of her friends in the council who had become so much a part of her life. But her love of her local church was equally evident. Her pastors, past and present, with one voice speak of her support of them and the work of United Methodist Women. Her interest in and love for young people led to the establishment of the Walter C. Gum academic scholarship at Virginia Wesleyan College.

We remember her enormous capacity for friendship. An inveterate correspondent, her letters were not perfunctory notes, but a lengthy sharing of herself and her interests often to the extent of writing around the edges of a long epistle. Hers was a giving spirit characterized by countless acts of generosity. Last year she made about 100 loaf pound cakes which she gave to friends and mailed to family members. Always alert to the needs of others, she saw to it that her pastor's daughter received the Walter C. Gum academic scholarship at Virginia Wesleyan College.

Lucille was possessed of a wry and subtle wit which she employed when others sought to transgress that special core of privacy she was unwilling for them to invade. Recently someone had the temerity to ask her age -- a fact she never revealed. Her simple reply was, "I'm 72." Her daughter, Mary Russell, possessed of the same droll wit, remarked, "Isn't that remarkable? She was 2 when I was born."

In addition to her daughter, Mary Russell, Lucille is survived by three sisters, Mrs. Virginia H. Kabrick, Wilson, N.C., Mrs. Margaret H. Elmore, and Mrs. Theodorah H. Jeter of Petersburg, Va.; and four grandchildren, John McClelland Mason, Walter Clarke Mason, William Carrol Mason, and Margaret Anne Holder.

Her funeral service was held in Park Place United Methodist Church, Norfolk, Va., the church her husband, Bishop Walter C. Gum, was serving when elected to the episcopacy. Her pastor, Dr. Charles H. Smith III, and the Rev. W. Dabney Walters, superintendent to the Norfolk District, officiated. The Rev. Walters concluded his eulogy of Lucille with these appropriate words, "When one moves from one church to another, we use the word transferred. Therefore, it is my duty to announce the transfer of Lucille H. Gum, with highest recommendations of her pastors, from the church mortal to the Church Triumphant and Eternal, whose builder and maker is God." —*R. Kern Eutsler*

Eleanor Lupo Sanders, 1916-1995

Eleanor Lupo Sanders was born in Greenville, South Carolina, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. J.C. Lupo, a presiding elder in the South Carolina conference. From birth she knew the joys as well as the tribulations of life in a Methodist parsonage, and especially as a minister's wife, was always a gracious and caring hostess. It made no difference whether Eleanor was the wife of the bishop, the district superintendent or the pastor of the local church she was a friend and confidante to all. The designation "lady" applied to her the highest degree. She was not only liked but also loved and admired by the people of the parish as well as the conference and thought of as one to whom one could go for counsel or advice. She had simple but elegant taste in matters of beauty in the surroundings of God's world and of persons. The secret of it was that "she loved people" and this came out loud and clear in her day-to-day relations, whether working as an occasional employee at Thalhimers department store or planning a reception for the bishop. People were important to her and her life was a constant expression of gratitude to God for His continued goodness.

It is no secret that Eleanor loved to travel and across the years was privileged to become acquainted with much of the world. Some years ago a bus load of Virginia ministers and wives were visiting Israel. No sooner had they crossed over the Jordan River than they received word that Eleanor Sanders wanted to see them in Jericho. Sure enough there she was standing under a sycamore tree similar to one that Zacchaeus might have climbed ages before. She got around but she never forgot their friends no matter where she might happen to be.

Eleanor and Carl met back in 1934 when, as a theology student, he came to talk with her father about an appointment. There was an instantaneous attraction between them and they were married on September 28, 1935. She became a very loving and supportive wife and the mother of two daughters, Lundi Sanders Martin and Eleanor Sanders Kasler. Carl served as the pastor of Cheriton, Chase City, South Roanoke, Broad Street and Centenary churches in Richmond, and Arlington in Arlington. He was the district superintendent in Petersburg, Richmond, and Norfolk and in 1972 was elected to the episcopacy and appointed to the Birmingham Episcopal Area. In every appointment Eleanor shared the ministry of her husband. She loved the United Methodist Church and the fellowship of the ministry. It was as if she had heard God's call to serve as positively as her husband and lived her life fully to respond to the joy of that call. Throughout her life with Carl, from the beginning years on the Eastern Shore of Virginia to the years in the episcopal residence in Alabama, she expressed her love for Christ and his church in many ways but primarily through the giving of herself in a very personal ministry of love and supportive caring.

Surely she heard the Master's voice saying, "Well done, good and faithful servant... enter thou into the joy of the Lord."

Eleanor died on March 24, 1995, in Richmond, Virginia. Her memorial service was conducted at Centenary United Methodist Church in Richmond, with the Rev. Timothy W. Whitaker, pastor, and Bishops R. Kern Eutsler, Thomas B. Stockton and Paul Duffey participating. Interment followed at Forest Lawn Cemetery with Bishops Stockton, Eutsler, Duffey and William Morris participating.
—*James W. Turner*

1996 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Ira Vincent Mercer, 1935 - 1995

Ira Vincent Mercer was born in Princess Anne County, Virginia, on February 27, 1935, the son of Vincent Elmo Mercer and Elsie Lee Tripp Mercer. He attended Courthouse Elementary and Middle Schools before graduating from Kempsville High School in 1954. From 1957 to 1963 he served his country through the United States Army Signal Corps



being stationed in both Korea and Japan. After receiving honorable discharge, he enrolled in 1964 at Louisburg College for the supply pastor's program. In 1965, he transferred to Scarritt College in Nashville, Tennessee, where he graduated with a major in drama and religion. Later, he completed another year at Scarritt's graduate school in an advanced study of Christian education. From 1969 to 1973, Vincent was employed by the American National Red Cross as an assistant field director related to military installations. Through that position he served one year in Vietnam and also at Fort Dix, Fort Hamilton, Norfolk Naval Base and Little Creek Amphibious Base. While attending Scarritt's graduate school, Vincent formed a friendship with another student there, Shirley Ruth Strandberg from Sidney, Nebraska. They were married on April 11, 1971, and became proud parents of twins on June 15, 1972.

In 1973, Vincent responded to God's call for ministry and was ordained an elder in the United Methodist Church after completing his Master of Divinity degree at Wesley Theological Seminary. He faithfully served various appointments within the Virginia Conference for 22 years. In June 1995 Vincent and his family moved to the East Nottoway Charge in the Farmville District to begin what was to be his final phase of ministry. In a few short weeks he endeared himself in special ways with the laity of this charge. He frequently commented to them that he "had finally arrived home to be with the people he loved." However, on Sunday, August 27, 1995, God unexpectedly called His servant to his heavenly home. It seems significant that Vincent's final moment of life came as he was preparing once again to share his faith with a loving and receptive congregation.

A service celebrating his life and resurrection was held with an "overflow" congregation at Grace United Methodist Church of the East Nottoway Charge on Thursday evening, August 31. A graveside service followed on Friday with interment at Rosewood Memorial Gardens in Virginia Beach. Participants in the services were the Rev. Charles B. King, his district superintendent; Dr. Grady W. Powell, pastor of Gillfield Baptist Church of Petersburg; and Pastor Raymond Kauffman of Kempsville Mennonite Church in Virginia Beach. He is survived by his wife, Shirley; a daughter, Ruth Leigh; a son, Vincent Richard; and his mother, Elsie T. Mercer. He was preceded in death by his father, Vincent Elmo Mercer, in 1971. Ira Vincent Mercer "fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith." Thanks be to God for this good and faithful gift. —*Charles B. King*

James Carter Hennings, 1933-1995

Jim Hennings was born on August 15, 1933, in the old Sibley Hospital in Washington, D.C. He was raised in McLean, Virginia. The family was active in Trinity Church, so early in life Jim heard the good news of Jesus Christ. As he grew up in the knowledge and love of Christ, he felt a definite call to ministry. He attended Randolph-Macon College as a part of his preparation for God's work. It was there that I came to know him. We remained friends for 42 years. We attended Wesley Seminary together, we were ordained together, and our first appointments were close. On August 16, 1957, Jim married Sarah (Sally) King of Florence, South Carolina. They have two fine children, Sarah Ellen and William Richard. Our wives and our children became good friends.



Jim served the church with a quiet effectiveness at Trinity in McLean, Fredericksburg, Centreville, St. Thomas, Annandale, Christ Church in Arlington, Immanuel in Alexandria, Lakeside, Burke, Westhampton, and Wakefield. In one place he laid the groundwork for the tremendous growth that happened in subsequent years. In another church he led a building campaign to expand the facilities of a dynamic growing congregation. In one particularly difficult situation he brought calmness, healing, and unity. His last appointment was Wakefield. Here, he and Sally spoke just the right words and did just the right things to bring positive responses and genuine love from the congregation. For as long as he was able, he gave them his best and they loved him for it. After he became ill, people there cared so very

much and supported them in an amazing way. Jim often said to me, “I have ministered to many people through the years. Now these people are ministering to me.”

Jim brought insight and understanding as he served on the Virginia Conference Board of Pensions. He helped fashion our fine health care program with little or no thought that he would benefit from it. As in other areas of his ministry, he did it for others. A staff person from the board said to me, “Mr. Hennings was truly a gentleman and a gentle man.”

Jim went on disability July 1, 1995, and moved to Florence, South Carolina, where he was hospitalized. He died in the hospital on October 20, 1995. He is survived by his wife, Sally; his daughter, Sarah Ellen; his son, Richard; his father, George William Hennings; his brother, Gerald Lee Hennings; and his sister, Joyce Ann Cleland. In his life Jim Hennings “did justly, loved kindness and walked humbly with God.” Because of this we can say, “Farewell dear friend until we meet again.”

—*Donald H. Traylor*

Charles Ellsworth Larew, 1921 - 1995

Charles Ellsworth Larew was born in Knoxville, Tennessee, on December 15, 1921. While attending Rule High School in Knoxville, Charles, then known by the nickname, “Sheriff Lule Belle,” from a cartoon character in the local newspaper, gained statewide notoriety by leading a group of more than 600 students on a successful strike to keep their school from closing. Charles went on to serve in the United States Navy from June 1942 until December 1945, seeing action in three theaters of combat during World War II. Upon discharge from the Navy, he entered Memphis Academy of Arts to become a commercial artist. While Charles was a gifted and talented artist, God had additional plans by calling him into the ministry. Graduating from Carson-Newman College and Southeastern School of Theology at Wake Forest, Charles then was ordained by Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church in Knoxville in February of 1949. He served the following Baptist churches: Rose Hill, Midway and Greenfield in Gretna, Mt. Zion and Howerton in Tappahannock, and St. Stephens in St. Stephens, Virginia.



Charles became a member of the Virginia Annual Conference in 1971 and served Reliance and Ridings Chapel in Reliance and Ivey Memorial United Methodist Church in Colonial Heights. Forced to take disability leave, the result of a devastating stroke, in 1983, Charles fought to regain his health and strength. Moving closer to family members on the Peninsula, Charles began attending Chestnut Memorial United Methodist Church in Newport News. There he was able to continue what he so enjoyed in life—being a pastor to God’s people. Charles loved to preach, teach, and visit those who were homebound. He served as minister of visitation at Chestnut Memorial for over 10 years.

Charles died on July 3, 1995, leaving his beloved wife, Betty, two adoring sons, Michael and David and their families, two sisters, a brother, and countless friends who had been touched by his gracious and generous spirit. While we mourn his passing, we continue to celebrate and remember his courage and determination, his love of God, his unflinching devotion to family, and his many years of faithful service to the church. Throughout his life, Charles sought to embody the good news of Jesus Christ and share that news especially with “the least, the last, and the lost.” Thanks be to God for this servant who remained ever true and obedient to God’s call and who now lives in that eternal Kingdom where the glory of the Lord shines on all the saints. —*Rudy Tucker*

John Thomas Scarborough, 1906 - 1995

The Rev. John Thomas Scarborough was born October 4, 1906, in Prince George County, Virginia, to the late Virgie and Lawrence Scarborough. He was raised on a farm along with one brother, two sisters, three stepbrothers, and two stepsisters. He attended high school in Prince George County and later graduated



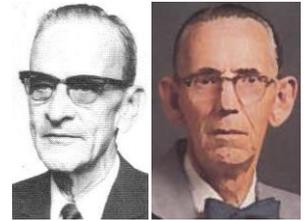
from the University of Richmond. He later married Sallie Cogle on June 28, 1930, and had a son, Thomas, on December 23, 1940. Both Sallie and Thomas preceded him in death.

After becoming a minister he served in various locations such as Disputanta, Amherst, Whitestone, Strasburg, Varina, Seaford, Crew, and Portsmouth. He also served as a chaplain in World War II. After retiring as a full-time minister, he served as an assistant minister in Irvington, Virginia, before moving into The Hermitage Methodist Home in Richmond, Virginia. He remained there until his death on July 8, 1995.

John was a kind and thoughtful individual that everyone loved and thought so much of. Not only did adults love him but children as well. He always had time to spend when anyone needed him, whether in time of sorrow or just on an everyday occasion. He was always the person who would put humor in so many conversations. He was admired by members of his family and friends for his wit. When his health was good, he enjoyed life very much. He always enjoyed sharing the Lord's Word with others and enjoyed other activities as well. Throughout his life he always enjoyed going back to the "country" for a few days to enjoy his family, fresh vegetables and homemade biscuits. He also went fishing whenever he got a chance. He spent many hours fishing in the Rappahannock River with his friend, Mrs. Bee Mason. He used to tell his family that they even had a special "hole" that he and Mrs. Bee could catch fish when no one else could. John will be remembered as a great minister, a wonderful person and will be missed by everyone who knew him. —*Betty S. Brockwell*

James Reardon McKenney, 1911 - 1995

Mac, as he became known, was born the day after Christmas in 1911, and passed away at the age of 83 on September 2, 1995. He was born in Baltimore, Maryland, just a few hours trip by boat up the Chesapeake Bay from Iberius, Virginia, where his family lived in Lancaster County. His father owned a general store and pier at the family place in Iberius, located on the eastern branch of the White River which flows into the Rappahannock River, where he served the watermen fishing and oystering the area. His mother was postmaster of Iberius. Mac loved to tell stories of his youth when he rose very early to go out on the oyster boats in freezing weather.



As a young man, Mac left Lancaster County, as did most of his generation, to find work in Richmond, Virginia. He made good money operating streetcars up and down the Richmond system, and later worked for Nabisco as a route salesman. His calling eventually lead him to begin his ministry career in 1944. He began his studies at Ferrum Methodist School and his ministry in Bath County, Virginia. He went on to serve Selma, and met his wife (Mamie Kidd McKenney) while serving in West Buckingham. They moved to serve Phenix and Hot Springs where their three children, Millie, Jimmy, and Marion were born. Mac continued his education at Lynchburg College.

From there he went on to serve Pembroke, Pungoteague, Gladys, Halifax Circuit, Boydton, Sussex, Andrew Chapel in Montross, Elkton, St. James-West Augusta, and Dinwiddie where he lost his wife of 32 years to cancer. Along the way, he became very involved in the "Virginia Mental Health Association"; was instrumental in establishing the "Town and Country School for Ministers," sponsored by the Virginia Council of Churches, and served as president of that organization for two years, and became a 32nd Degree Mason.

Mac retired in 1980 and returned to the city he was so fond of in his youth, Richmond, Virginia. He made friends easily and returned to the ministry as minister at Brookland Church in Henrico County. He got to know his six grandchildren and enjoyed 13 years of independent living in retirement before deciding to relocate to the Essex House in Tappahannock, Virginia. There he lived independently for two years before being diagnosed with inoperable cancer. No longer able to care for himself he moved

to the Wausau Health Care Center in Warsaw, Virginia, and departed this life in his sleep. Mac was laid to rest, next to his wife, at Mt. Crawford Cemetery in Mt. Crawford, Virginia.

He is survived by his son, James R. McKenney of Richmond, Virginia; two daughters, Marion McKenney Taylor of Staunton, Virginia, and Mildred McKenney English of Kinsale, Virginia; six grandchildren: Elizabeth English, L. W. English, Jimie Taylor, Sydney McKenney, Erin Taylor, and Emily McKenney; and two sisters: Marion Abernathy and Louise Evans.

We will miss my father. —*Jim McKenney*

Herbert Somerville Southgate, 1901 - 1995

Herbert Somerville Southgate was born in Norfolk, Virginia, April 21, 1901, to Thomas S. and Nettie N. Southgate. After attending the public schools of Norfolk he graduated from Virginia Military Academy and then served as superintendent of Southgate Marine Corporation. After several years he accepted the fact that he was called by God to the ministry and entered Candler Theological Seminary at Emory University. Integrity, ability...used to the limit for God, and dedication, best describe Herbert Southgate. After graduation he was appointed to Bassett Virginia Methodist Church. While there his health failed and he became inactive for several years. Later he was able to accept an active role as pastor in the Virginia Conference where he made quite a contribution to God's work as pastor of a number of churches, was conference secretary of missions, superintendent of Roanoke District and was a delegate to the General Conference. He married Isobel F. Southgate, daughter of W. G. and Faye Miller Fletcher. They had one son, Herbert Fletcher Southgate.



Randolph-Macon Men's College, where he had served as pastor, gave him an honorary Doctor's degree. His father-in-law, himself a Methodist minister, commented to his daughter, "Herbert's prayers are gems." Another time, "I have never known a minister to be so beloved by his people." All his pastorates grew in spirit, activity, and numbers. His work was always given an innovative touch. His members realized and appreciated this.

During his years in the active ministry, Mr. Southgate was particularly concerned with religious facilities for young people. While serving his pastorate in Falls Church, he was responsible for the erection of the youth activities building at Dulin Church. Under his leadership in Alexandria, an educational wing was added to Trinity Church.

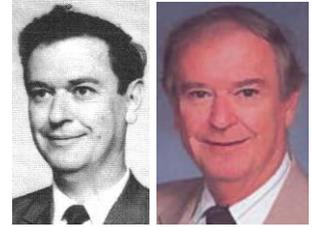
As district superintendent for Roanoke, he directed the purchase of a resort hotel in Crockett Springs near Shawsville, Virginia, and its conversion into a youth camp for the Roanoke District. His work for the Roanoke District was primarily notable for the emphasis he placed upon evangelism. One year during his term of service, the Roanoke District was one of 10 districts in Methodism that had a new gain of 1,000 new members for the year.

In 1960, by appointment of Bishop Paul N. Garber, he became a member of the Board of Trustees of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. There, he served as a member of the staff, director of Church Relations, promoter of the Scroll Program, and as treasurer and vice president. The organization sent him on a mission around the world to investigate worldwide conditions of church and state relations. Highly honored by that organization, he retired in 1970, but continued in his efforts on behalf of the organization.

His final contribution was a well-written and documented book, *The Glory and the Infamy* which he had published and released in 1986. He held membership in the following: The Jamestown Society; listed in *Who's Who of Methodism*, *Virginians of Distinction*, *National Cyclopedia of American Biography*, Kappa Alpha, Kiwanis Club, Rotary, Ruritan, president of Alexandria Virginia Council of Churches. He contributed to various journals and authored *The Glory and the Infamy*. It may truly be said of him, "Well done, good and faithful servant." —*Isobel F. and Herbert F. Southgate*

Charles Reginald Walton, 1928 - 1995

He stood in the middle of the room with his hands folded, watching and waiting for the winning touchdown during the final seconds of a Redskins game. Those who observed him suspected he was praying. Reg Walton had a way of cheering on those around him, whether they were his family, friends, church members, or favored Redskins. He had a way of passing on goodness and courage to others through a caring attitude and encouraging words. Reg was born February 21, 1928, in Roanoke, Virginia, where he was educated in the public schools. To complete his secondary education as soon as possible, he finished high school in Madame Viaud's Preparatory School before departing for classes at Berea College. Reg enlisted in the Army at the close of World War II, serving in the Army Air Corps as an air traffic controller.



Upon returning home at the end of his tour of duty, Reg immediately entered Roanoke College, where he received his B.A. degree in 1950. After college, Reg was appointed to the Hyco Circuit in South Boston, pastoring five churches while attending Duke University. He was awarded an M.Div. degree from Duke in 1954.

While attending college, Reg married his high school sweetheart, Ruth Cadd. Married for 47 years, Reg and Ruth formed a partnership in ministry. A gifted professional storyteller and teacher, Ruth shared his love of ministry and mission. Ruth recalls that Reg knew all of his life he was doing exactly what God wanted him to do, stating that God had called him and he had answered. He was proud only in what God had called him to do.

Reg loved the United Methodist Church and accepted each assignment expecting it to be a "good appointment." The churches he served include New Hope in Stafford County, Gainesville/Sudley in Prince William County, Tabernacle in Poquoson, Chesapeake Avenue in Chesapeake, Lakeside in Richmond, Thalia in Virginia Beach, Bon Air in Richmond, Saint John's in Springfield, Centenary in Portsmouth, and Dulin in Falls Church. Often Reg found himself caught up in building programs in the places he served. The successful construction projects never distracted him from the real ministry with people. Occasionally his friends would try to encourage him to become more involved in conference politics. Reg observed that he was called to be a pastor, not a politician or administrator. This self-understanding characterized the past two years while he served as chaplain for the V.A. Medical Center in Salem. The veterans would tell you, "He really cared!"

More than love, Reg had a passion and enthusiasm for his family, including Ruth; his three daughters, Diana, Carol, and Evella; their families; and his sister, Sarah. Their children and grandchildren's accomplishments reflect Reg and Ruth's ability to listen, encourage, and share in their sorrows and laughter.

Reg Walton died suddenly on September 6, 1995. A service of celebration was held at Cave Spring United Methodist Church in Roanoke on September 8, and was conducted by the Rev. Sam E. McPhail, the Rev. William C. Logan, and the Rev. M. Douglas Newman.

In remembering my friend, I give thanks for a lifetime of ministry faithfully and honorably performed and friendship marked with wisdom and humor. Often I heard as he passed my way, "Love, you'll do just fine." Reg did fine by us and his Lord. —*Sam E. McPhail*

Hubert Allen White, 1910 - 1995

Hubert Allen White was born March 16, 1910, in Cleveland County, North Carolina, the second oldest child, to Rufus E. and May Wray White. He met and married Hazel Grigg in 1934. Their life together lasted 61 happy years. To this union were born eight children. Hubert was the proud grandfather of 14 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. He was called to preach after his conversion in his late 20s and began to prepare himself for the



ministry in the Methodist Church. He attended Roanoke College, the Candler School of Theology, Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, and Duke University in Durham, North Carolina.

Hubert was dedicated to serving God and the people of the churches that he pastored as a member of the Virginia Conference of 40 years. His first charge was the Greensville Charge in Emporia in the Petersburg District. He went on to serve churches in the Charlottesville, Roanoke, Farmville, Portsmouth, Norfolk and Danville districts. In the early years of his ministry, Hubert preached in revival meetings through the summer and fall months in Virginia and North Carolina. He loved people and his desire to win many for Christ kept him working night after night, returning to his own work late on Friday night or early Saturday morning.

Hubert retired June 1980, at the age of 70, and moved to Crewe, Virginia, to be near two of his daughters in his later years. He served the North Amelia Charge of the United Methodist Church and the Christian Church in Crewe for several months after retirement. Hubert passed away on October 25, 1995, at the age of 85. Services were held in Crewe United Methodist Church by the Rev. Charles E. Rowley, pastor; and the Rev. William C. Blalock of Danville, Virginia, son-in-law of Hubert and Hazel. Burial was in Crewe Cemetery where he was laid to rest beside his son, David, who preceded him in death. Hubert is missed greatly by his wife, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Along with St. Paul, Hubert can say, "I have fought a good fight, finished the course and now awaits the crown of righteousness." How thankful he was to have been chosen as one of God's messengers and thankful for strength to be faithful to the end. —*Hazel G. White*

Thomas Edward Weir, 1925 - 1995

Thomas Edward Weir was born on April 6, 1925, the son of Benjamin Frank and Katherine Weir, in Washington, North Carolina. Tom attended public schools in Roanoke and Salem, Virginia. In 1945, he graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering from the University of South Carolina, and was commissioned in the U.S. Navy where he served until 1952. He resigned his commission to enter seminary at Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia. While in seminary, he served a three-point circuit in rural Georgia. Later, he attended the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, receiving a Ph.D. in Theology.



Upon returning to the United States, he was appointed in 1958 as the Wesley Foundation Director, Lexington, Virginia. After serving this appointment for seven years, where he was instrumental in establishing the chaplaincy at Virginia Military Institute, teaching Greek at Washington and Lee University and Bible at Southern Seminary, Buena Vista, he re-entered the Navy as a chaplain in 1964. He was stationed in Norfolk, Virginia; Edzell, Scotland; Naval Air Facility, Washington, D.C.; Okinawa and retired from the Navy at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, in 1975. He was a veteran of World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars.

After his retirement from the Navy, he served as pastor of Cranford United Methodist Church, Lorton, Virginia, for five years and then retired from the United Methodist Church in 1982. Tom continued a very active Christian ministry to people of many faiths and gave active leadership to numerous civic and fraternal organizations where he received notable awards for his generous contribution of his time, talents and money. These organizations included Boy and Girl Scouts, Rotary International, American Red Cross, and Masonic and veteran's organizations. At the time of his death, he was serving as director of Hospital Visitation, Masonic Service Association, visiting Veterans' hospitals nationwide.

After a brief illness, he died on December 24, 1995, and was buried in the chaplains' section of Arlington National Cemetery with military honors. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Rebekah, two sons, Thomas and Charles, and two granddaughters. Tom will be remembered for his keen mind, warm smile, delightful sense of humor and his ever ready pastoral service to God's children worldwide. In the

words of the poet, we can say about Tom, “life was a great adventure with a glorious goal, and beyond the grave, more life and more adventure.” —*Joseph F. White*

Richard Hynson Forrester, 1907 - 1995

Richard Hynson Forrester was born November 12, 1907, in Caroline County, Virginia. He was the son of the Rev. and Mrs. George Thomas Forrester and therefore spent all of his life in a Methodist parsonage or Methodist school dormitory. He was greatly influenced by his Godly parents whose deep devotion to the church and love of people led him into a life of Christian ministry. Dick attended Emory and Henry College, Randolph-Macon College, graduating in 1932, and went on to graduate from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond. Randolph-Macon awarded him the honorary degree, Doctorate of Divinity, in 1964.



Dick began his ministry in 1932 at Bishop Memorial, Richmond. He also served the Essex Circuit, Bethany, Pace Memorial, Leesburg, Altavista, Thrasher Memorial, Vinton, Main Street in Suffolk, Front Royal, First Church, Martinsville, Fredericksburg, Wesley, Vienna, and Prince George. He also served as district superintendent of the Eastern Shore District. When Dick and Agnes retired in 1972, they moved to the Virginia United Methodist Home in Roanoke, and for years he served as pastor emeritus at Thrasher Memorial, where he enjoyed a most successful pastorate.

Dick was blessed with a loving and supportive wife and children. Agnes was always at his side, and his children were a blessing. Dick was highly regarded as both preacher and pastor, and held in high esteem by all who were associated with him in the life and work of the church, fellow ministers and laity. Dick’s life could be characterized as a ministry of caring, service and devotion to God as a faithful servant of Jesus Christ.

In 1989, Dick moved from the Roanoke Home to The Hermitage in Richmond. He was in declining health, and his eyesight was failing, but he never lost the warm friendly spirit which had always been such a vital part of his life. Richard Forrester died December 28, 1995, and was buried in Vinton beside his wife, Agnes. A memorial service was held at Thrasher Memorial Church, Vinton, conducted by the Rev. W. Anthony Layman. A memorial service was also held at Trinity Church, Richmond, where Richard Jr., and his family have been faithful members for many years. The service was conducted by four fellow ministers with whom he had been associated in conference affairs and had special relationships with him and his wife. They were: Dr. Harry B. Eaton, Dr. George S. Lightner, Dr. James W. Turner, and the writer. —*Harold H. Fink*

Charles Delbert (Buddy) Myers, Jr., 1919 - 1996

Charles Delbert Myers, Jr., was born in Norfolk, Virginia, on March 19, 1919, the firstborn child of his proud parents, Charles Delbert Myers, Sr. and Lillian E. Friend Myers. I think of Buddy Myers as being a legend in his time. Buddy loved life and he was blessed with a wonderful and most diversified life! He loved his life’s work and he spent his whole life trying to make people happy. He had two 30-year careers back-to-back and both kept him in front of an audience. Buddy was a born musician. He received his first set of drums at the age of 5, and began his first career as a professional musician—the drummer in a Depression-era band—at the age of 12. From that early start, he went on to become an entertainer and the band leader of the well-known “Buddy Myers Orchestras.” In addition to his music world during those first 30 years, he found the time to accomplish many other feats, including becoming a real estate broker and builder, owning and operating restaurants, nightclubs, a dance studio and a Conservatory of Music.



Buddy had one son, Delbert Leigh, through his first marriage to Irene Sanford. In 1961, he married his female vocalist, LaWana Lee, and accepted the responsibility of helping her raise her three young

children. Through these wonderful children and their spouses, we now have been blessed with 16 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Buddy's second 30-year career started in 1962, six months after marrying Lee. He gave up his worldly life to become a minister. It was a hard decision, one that he had wrestled with for 15 years, before giving in and accepting the call to preach God's Word. He soon learned that the decision to make the change was much easier than the path into, and through, the ministry. In June 1963, Buddy was accepted as a supply pastor in the Virginia United Methodist Church. He served his first appointment in Patrick County, while going to school to complete educational and seminary requirements. He was assigned to serve two churches in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Woolwine and Creasey's Chapel, and attend Ferrum College three days a week. He was in the first special supply pastor's class established at Ferrum for ministers who entered the ministry late in life. He entered the ministry at the age of 44 and, eight years later, after completing his educational requirements, in June 1971, he was ordained as an elder in full connection with the United Methodist Church. That was a happy milestone in his life. During the first 10 years of his ministry, Buddy also served as pastor to Community and Central United Methodist churches in Portsmouth and as associate pastor at Washington Street United Methodist Church in Alexandria.

Buddy took his charge as a minister very seriously and allowed God to take complete control of his life. He didn't stop with formal training. He took on the Holy Spirit as his personal trainer, and allowed himself to be used of God as he ministered through preaching, teaching and singing the Word in the evangelistic field for the remainder of his second 30-year career. He went on "voluntary location" and continued ministering wherever he went. He literally put the Scriptures into practice.

During this time, God took Buddy into every walk of life, into every type of ministry—from preaching and singing on street corners, into campgrounds and old-fashioned tent revivals. By invitation, he ministered in churches of all sizes, from the smallest one-room meeting houses, to the largest cathedrals, and he was called to share with all denominations. He ministered through radio, in Christian restaurants, on television programs, in coliseums, in the Sam Rayburn Congressional Building on Capitol Hill and at the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

Wherever he went, his messages never varied, whether he was preaching, teaching, counseling, or singing, he asked the question: Do you know Jesus? His messages concentrated on the healing of the body and soul—salvation for the soul to live forever, and—accepting the gift of healing that God has for you—regardless of its origin or physical location. He backed up everything with Scripture from the Holy Bible, and then yielded to the Holy Spirit, allowing himself to be used of God to deliver people from sickness, infirmities and eternal hell. His one desire was that everyone would give their hearts and lives to Jesus, and that everyone would live in love, happiness and perfect health. God not only blessed His people, but He blessed Buddy in a tremendous way. He was allowed to see the fruits of the Spirit through his ministry.

One of Buddy's strongest and greatest assets was his voice. Yet, it was one of the first things he lost control of during his illness. It fast became a whisper and eventually incoherent. But, that didn't stop the Lord from using him as a vessel to minister to others. He would walk the halls of the nursing home, smiling at the precious men and women he passed, pat them on the hand or shoulder, and say "God Bless You." Even while bedfast during the last weeks he was with us in the nursing home, the nurses, the staff, the residents and their visitors, would come into his room to speak to him, just to receive a smile and a squeeze of the hand. The love of Jesus was so visible in that smile, that all how saw it, identifies with it.

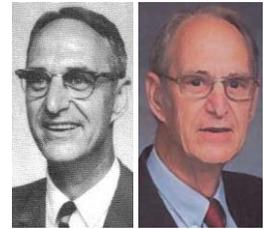
Yes, Buddy Myers is, and will continue to be a legend! His words will continue to bless people as long as his voice is heard through his preaching, teaching and singing tapes. People are still listening to his tapes and accepting the Lord Jesus as their Savior and claiming their blessings. He continues to live

in the hearts of his loved ones and his family. But, most of all, he will continue to live with Jesus forever. What a wonderful legacy to leave to his loved ones.

Buddy won the battle, claimed the victory and went home to be with our Lord on January 13, 1996. If we could see him now, we would probably see him still holding on to the hand of Jesus, winning the hearts of new friends in heaven, leading the heavenly angels' band, and still SINGING FOR THE GLORY OF GOD! He was God's servant, but he was my inspiration, my mentor, my friend, my companion, my strength, my love—he was my husband. —*Mattie LaWana (Lee) Myers*

Edgar Jameson Nottingham, III, 1911 - 1996

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God” (Matthew 5:9 NRSV). Ed Nottingham was a peacemaker. Throughout his ministry he tried to bring people together and encouraged those in his charge to embrace a way of peaceful living. He worked tirelessly on race relations and on trying to defeat the things that separate people from God and from each other. With great wit, wisdom, and courage he patiently served those in need. I first met Ed Nottingham when I was 12 years old and he was my pastor. I was impressed by his genuine interest in me and in who I was. He was the first minister who had ever called me by name. He also allowed the youth of our church to have a say in the life of the church. This often led to controversy, yet he patiently worked it out, and everyone learned from the experience. He sincerely loved and cared for people, and that love and care was lived out every day as he always tried to find good in everyone.



Ed had a great sense of humor and a quick mind that served him, his family and his congregations well. In South Georgia he served Sycamore, Omega and Rhine. In 1942, he returned to Virginia where he served Cumberland, Nelson, Mathews, Scottsville, Fieldale, Corinth (Sandston), Memorial (Petersburg), and Highland Park (Ashland).

As Ed approached the end of his fight with the cancer that was to take his life, I asked him about his accomplishments in ministry. He was quick to point out that one of the greatest accomplishments was not his at all, but that he had the “good fortune” to marry Anna Sue Springfield who shared his life and ministry for 54 years. He was proud of the fact that he had a son (Edgar IV) who was helping people through clinical psychology. He was comforted by the fact that he had helped to patiently guide three young people into full-time ministry in the United Methodist Church. Most of all he was proud of the fact that he had led a life that was dedicated to the perfect love of Christ.

On February 22, 1996, God came and carried Ed home. He was a resident of his beloved Hermitage in his final days where the staff wonderfully supported him and the people who loved him. He continued to inspire those who came to his death bed with unusual ability to put the small stuff aside and to get to the meat of the matter. On February 25, 1996, more than 400 people gathered at Corinth United Methodist Church in Sandston to say farewell. The service was conducted by Dr. Ray Chamberlain, the Rev. Charles Swadley, Dr. John Tate, Dr. Bob Throckmorton, Dr. Steve Hundley and the Rev. Jim Hundley. The service was filled with remembrances, tears, laughter and the hope of the resurrection. He was buried in the Masonic Cemetery, in Culpeper, Virginia. Ed Nottingham was a peacemaker, a child of God, and an unforgettable Christian whose legacy will be felt by the church he loved for years to come. —*James H. Hundley*

Harry Wardell Backhus, III, 1908 - 1996

It was a great day for the ministry of the Virginia Conference when the Christian Endeavor group of Calvin Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia participated in a service at the Rescue Mission. The preacher used as his text Isaiah 6:8, “And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and



who will go for us?’ Then I said, ‘Here I am! Send me.’ “ Harry Wardell Backhus, III was one of the young people present. Later he witnessed, “After that I could not have done anything else but be a minister.”

Abandoning an emerging career with General Motors, he entered Randolph-Macon College to pursue his call. While a student there he was recruited to teach occasionally the Men’s Bible Class at Broad Street Church in Richmond. Not many years thereafter he returned to be pastor (1944-48). While a student at Richmond’s Union Theological Seminary, the superintendent of the Richmond District, Ben Persinger, persuaded him to become pastor of Branch Memorial Church on Church Hill (1935-38).

Having been born October 18, 1908, in Philadelphia, Harry enjoyed living out his Pennsylvania origins in a Virginia Conference setting where he was an admired leader for over 42 years. From Pennsylvania he received his rearing, his Presbyterian origins, his call, and best of all his bride of 58 years. Lillian Clara Hermann and Harry were married on February 26, 1938. They attended the same church and were neighbors in Overbrook, the last streetcar subdivision of Philadelphia. Lillian, who survives him, was always a gracious partner in a significant ministry. Across the years their life together was embellished with worldwide travels.

It early became apparent that Harry had gifts and graces in abundance for a fruitful ministry. His keen mind and gentle spirit were framed in a ready smile. As a preacher he was clear and convincing. His exceptional administrative gifts were a reflection of his personal disciplines and his great care. He understood the importance of administration in the service of God. He was an untiring worker and a faithful pastor. These qualities were put to use in three terms as district superintendent and as pastor of large churches.

In addition to degrees from Randolph-Macon and Union Seminary, his education involved attendance at Columbia University and Union Seminary in New York. In 1957, Randolph-Macon honored him with a doctor of divinity degree.

Dr. Backhus served twice as pastor of Arlington Church. He spent a total of 15 years as district superintendent in the Alexandria District and twice in the Norfolk District. Other appointments were, Branch Memorial; Decatur Street; High Street, Franklin; Broad Street, Richmond and Reveille. In retirement he served on the staff of First Church, Salem, and was later named pastor emeritus of that church. The conference elected him delegate to two General Conferences and four Jurisdictional Conferences. At various times he served on the conference boards of Missions, Evangelism, and Ministerial Training. He also had terms as trustee of Virginia Wesleyan College and Randolph-Macon Academy.

On March 9, 1996, Harry answered yet another heavenly call. A memorial service was celebrated at First Church, Salem, on March 13, with Thomas L. Joyce, Richard L. Worden, Alan D. Thorne and Robert M. Chapman giving leadership. A great congregation filled the church and along with the choir they sang victorious hymns in praise of God and in gratitude for the life of Harry Wardell Backhus, III.
—*Bernard S. Via, Jr.*

John Wynn Myers, 1914 - 1996

John Wynn Myers had a restless, searching mind. He was an evangelist, yet a liberal. He was a leader, yet a servant. He was an intellectual, but he had the common touch. He was full of answers, but also of questions. He had the gift of words, yet his chief loveliness was in what he was. He had a great sense of beauty, but he knew the hurts of the human heart. His presence was always a little bit bigger than life. Born May 28, 1914, in the parsonage at Courtland, Virginia, to Horwood Prettyman Myers and Matilda Manson Wynn Myers, he was the oldest of four sons of a distinguished family. He attended John Marshall High School in



Richmond and graduated from Maury High School in Norfolk. He completed his degree from Randolph-Macon in three years and his theological degree from Emory University's Candler School of Theology in two, graduating in 1936. While at Emory he met Charlotte Scott of Rome, Georgia. On April 9, 1937, he returned to Rome and they claimed each other as husband and wife. For 59 years they shared their significant abilities in rich ministry. To this marriage came two daughters, Sarah "Sallie" Peters and Maude "Maudie" Wynn Mitchell.

Bedford Circuit (1936-44) was John's first appointment. This was followed by assignments to Cheriton (1940-44); Fairmount and Norview (1944-48), which became station appointments when he left Norfolk; Farmville (1948-52); superintendent of the Staunton District (1952-55); Greene Memorial (1955-60); Washington Street, Alexandria (1960-65); Centenary, Richmond (1965-69); Park Place (1969-72); Centenary, Portsmouth (1972-76); and Granbery Memorial, Covington (1976-79). Retirement to Roanoke brought them back to a place where he had served with great distinction while at Greene Memorial.

Honors and responsibilities came his way. Randolph-Macon awarded him a doctor of divinity degree in 1955. He was elected to the Jurisdictional Conference of 1956 and 1964. He served as president of the Virginia Conference Fellowship and from time to time on conference boards and agencies including Education and Evangelism. He was noted as a preacher and up to the end of his life was in demand to fill pulpits or to give one of his memorable prayers.

John Wynn Myers was the product of a parsonage rearing, the Epworth League, the old Virginia Conference, a proper southern and Methodist education. He was nurtured in the liberal arts; he was sustained by incessant reading and speaking. He was enriched by travel and visits to Chautauqua and most of all by a happy and creative marriage. He was more than a worthy representative of all that. It was a proud heritage disciplined by the Wesleyan tradition. John Wynn Myers understood that "unto whom much has been given, much shall be expected," so he gave back in double portions.

On Thursday, March 28, 1996, his heavenly summons came. A service in celebration of his life was held on Palm Sunday afternoon, March 31, in his beloved Greene Memorial Church where he was pastor emeritus. Participating in the service were Robert Watts and Robert Garner, Walter Lockett, Doug Newman, John Newman and Bernard Via.

So he was among us: preacher, pastor, evangelist, scholar, historian, administrator, husband, father, friend. His years were filled with love, work, and a radiant goodness that blessed us all. —*Bernard S. Via, Jr.*

Pilgrim on the Way (remembering John Wynn Myers):

Above the darkening valley
the sinking sun
illuminates
Mountain tops.

A pilgrim, on the Way, escapes the night.

Faithful friend,
by your leaving
we are diminished,

And in grief's shadows,
size faith.

By its vision
we see you climbing
into the light. — *Bernard S. Via, Jr.*

Ralph Eugene Haugh, 1916-1996

The Rev. Ralph Eugene Haugh, the son of James Lester Haugh and Ruth Naomi Crouse Haugh, was born in Carroll County, Maryland, on January 1, 1916. He graduated from the public schools of the county and, as so many of his generation, found it necessary to find productive work. Numerous jobs took his attention during the early years of the Great Depression until work took him to Front Royal, Virginia, where he came to know Dr. John F. Owens, pastor of Front Royal Methodist Church. In time, Dr. Owens was influential in directing Ralph's interests toward the ministry. Some years had elapsed since high school so he enrolled for a post-graduate year at Randolph-Macon Academy, graduating in 1939, and matriculating at Randolph-Macon College.



It was during his senior year in college that this tall, good-looking student met Miss Margaret Shelton, who had come to Ashland to teach at the high school. This friendship led to marriage and in 1943, after graduation, the handsome couple went to Atlanta where Ralph became a student at the Candler School of Theology of Emory University. There he was awarded the Bachelor of Divinity. Margaret earned a Master of Religious Education degree. In 1946, he received his first appointment in the Virginia Conference of the Methodist Church which was the Kilmarnock Charge in Lancaster County.

His second appointment was the Woodbridge-Occoquan Methodist Charge. In 1955, under his leadership, the two official boards began joint meetings and discussing the possibility of a merger. This merger became reality in 1958 with the first service of the new St. Paul United Methodist Church, Woodbridge, being held on Palm Sunday. Ralph was the last pastor of the two-point charge and the first pastor of St. Paul's, serving over a total of nine years. This was followed by appointments at Culmore in Fairfax County, Main Street United Methodist Church in South Boston, Highland Park in Richmond, and Pender United Methodist Church in Fairfax County.

For 20 years he was the conference statistician. The assistant statisticians looked forward, from year to year, to this opportunity to spend a week under Ralph's direction, pouring over seemingly endless computations. In the days before computers, this work, which would appear boring, was made enjoyable and even fun by Ralph's amiable manner and efficient procedures. He always approached the task with a pastor's heart. It was so great to be with him for a week that his associates hated to see the coming of the computer and the end of the annual week together. He was also the conference calligrapher and many members of the conference will find his artistry on their ordination papers. He retired in 1981 and made his home in South Boston where he was designated pastor emeritus of Main Street United Methodist Church. This writer had the privilege of working with him in the Arlington District and knew him to be a caring pastor, a faithful servant of Christ and his church and a wonderful friend.

It will be remembered of Ralph Haugh that he loved his family—Margaret, his partner in ministry; their son, Gene; daughter, Meg Haugh Chisholm; their four grandchildren and in-laws, Cynthia Haugh and Curtis Chisholm. Just the Sunday before his death he was present at Trinity Church in Richmond for his granddaughter's confirmation.

On Monday, April 1, when a patient at Duke University Medical Center, Ralph received the summons to join the heavenly assembly. The funeral service was held on April 3, 1996, at Main Street United Methodist Church in South Boston with his pastor, the Rev. G. Thomas Brown Jr. and the Rev. Charles B. King, district superintendent of the Farmville District, conducting the service. He will be missed and remembered by many as one who was not only faithful in large responsibilities but also in the small details which make life rich and significant. —*James W. Turner*

William Luther Taylor, 1917-1996

William Luther Taylor was born in Buena Vista, Virginia, July 22, 1917, and died on April 21, 1996, in Staunton, Virginia. He is survived by three daughters: Gay Ranson of Richmond, Sue Shiflet and Ann Hewitt of Swoope; a son, John Taylor of Staunton; two sisters, Joyce Taylor and Dorothy Shields of Waynesboro; and five grandchildren. Bill served his country in the United States Navy during World War II. After his discharge, he became a professional draftsman. When God called him to preach, he began a ministry that would last for more than 45 years. When he died at the age of 78, he was still serving Rankin Church in the Staunton District. During these more than 45 years, he served the following appointments: Bethany in Roanoke, Cloverdale Circuit, Chesterfield, Winterpock, Tidewater Trails, Lafayette, Mount Jackson, Stonewall-Westview, Good Shepherd in Staunton, Callaghan, East Culpeper, West Albemarle, South Amherst, North Amherst, and Rankin. He was also director of the Valley Rescue Mission in Staunton when he served Good Shepherd Church.



After entering the ministry, he attended Roanoke College, Asbury Theological Seminary and Duke Divinity School. Outside my own family, Bill was the dearest friend I had. I knew him for more than 45 years. He was more than a friend. He was my counselor, pastor and confidant on many occasions. He was a man of many talents. He loved to do woodworking and taught that at Wilson Memorial High School. He also taught drafting at Blue Ridge Community College. He was an avid reader. His thirst for knowledge was continuous.

It was Bill's kindness, patience and Christian love that were so winsome to others. He always took time to listen to all in need. He was one of the most generous persons I have ever known. He never accumulated much of material goods because he was always giving to others. Sometimes I thought his heart was too large. He would deny himself in order to help others. He was dearly loved by the churches he served.

His wife, Grace Frazier Taylor, preceded him in death on November 11, 1994. Bill loved his Gracie dearly and never got over her death. He grieved for her until the Lord took him home. The church and all of Bill's family and friends have lost a great soul and devoted servant of Christ. We who are left behind shall miss him but rejoice in the fact that our life was touched by his. A memorial service was held Tuesday, April 23, at Christ United Methodist Church in Staunton by the Rev. Donald Long, the Rev. James G. Holloman, and the Rev. Howard C. Smith.

“Are they not safe with him; And when the veil
Is rent for us, and sight supplanteth faith,
Then, reunited, love shall never fail;
For he that said, ‘There shall be no more death.’” —*Howard C. Smith*

Frederick Anderson Scott, Jr., 1919-1996

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...” (Hebrews 12:1-2a). Such was the earthly life of Frederick Anderson Scott, Jr., “Scotty.” Scotty was born June 20, 1919, in Petersburg, Virginia. He went on to receive his education at Campbell University and the University of Richmond. This led to his calling to serve in the Baptist ministry for 10 years. After this period as a Baptist pastor, Scotty left the ministry and entered the secular work force. His delightful and personable way with people served him well in his work as a hotel manager. However, the call to ministry was ever present in his life, and in 1977 he re-entered the ministry as a local pastor in the United Methodist Church.

At the young age of 58, Scotty returned to school and completed the five-year Course of Study at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. He served the Essex-King and Queen Charge in the

Rappahannock District for five years and Grace United Methodist Church in the Ashland District for five years. In June 1988 Scotty retired to his home in Middlesex County. Not one to be idle, he served as chaplain to the Middlesex Community Service Club, as well as other activities and work that kept him busy and in touch with people.

Fred Scott loved people! His love for people, which came from his passion for the gospel, touched my life the first time I met Scotty, which was on the telephone. We had been talking less than 15 minutes when I asked if he would return to the Essex-King and Queen Charge and help me serve the people that he already knew and had served so well. He immediately said “Yes!” and my spirit soared. Thus began almost four years of the most joyful ministry I have yet known. Scotty and Len, his wife of 20 years, brought a true vitality and team work that blessed me, as well as the charge. Memories of Scotty are always dressed in rich laughter and genuine humanity. He had eyes that always sparkled, a smile that was mischievously impish, and a spirit that forever radiated the love of God in Christ Jesus. A loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and my friend, who “ran with endurance the race that was set before him, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of his faith.” Thanks be to God for the life and ministry of Frederick Anderson Scott, “Scotty.” —*James J. Taylor*

Warren Bowden, 1922-1995

The Rev. Warren Bowden, age 73, died December 11, 1995, in Woodbridge, Virginia. Warren is survived by his wife, Mary Williams Bowden, of Woodbridge, and their only child, Pamela, who resides with her husband, Karl Dahlhauser, in Germany, and two grandsons, Benjamin and Thomas. Warren was born in September of 1922 in Sylacauga, Alabama. He was a graduate of the University of Alabama, and lived and worked in Alabama, Georgia, and North Carolina before coming to Virginia in 1958. He worked in sales and management until 1983 when he recognized his call into the ministry.

Warren attended Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., and graduated in 1987. Warren’s official ministry career was an abbreviated one. He helped out at Mt. Vernon Church, Washington Farm Church, and was hired at St. Paul Church, all in the Alexandria District. He served St. Paul faithfully for nine years as the minister of visitation.

During those nine years, Warren left an indelible mark on those of us who walked this way with him. His laughter and love of life are missed greatly by his St. Paul friends. It is not true that the good we do is buried with our early bones. Nothing is more certain than the influence of a just and good person.

This writer and many others miss Warren’s love of a good joke, or the chance to sit and discuss some current issue in the church. And in the midst of the sadness of our loss, we can hear Warren’s advice and encouragement: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Be of good cheer, be brave. God loves you.”

As Warren slipped quietly from this life, we might have heard someone saying, “There he goes, over the horizon of this earthly existence.” And if we listened carefully, with heavenly ears, we might have been able to hear the angels singing, “Here he comes!”

A memorial service was held on December 14, 1996, at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Woodbridge, Virginia, with Dr. Larry O. Tingle presiding.

Farewell, good and faithful servant of the Lord! —*Larry O. Tingle*

Henry Marion Andrews, 1930-1995

The Lord, in His infinite wisdom and love, enables the paths of our lives to cross the paths of some very special people. Once the paths have crossed, we begin to walk along together and our lives are forever touched and enriched. The Rev. Henry Andrews was one of those special people. Henry lived his life for the Lord and he wanted you to do the same. If your path ever crossed his, you knew this. Henry was firm and steadfast in his faith. He



knew the Word of God. He preached the Word of God. He lived by the Word of God. He was not at all concerned that his message might offend you. In fact, he would give you the choice to leave through any of the doors in the church building. He was there to preach the Word and you were there to receive it. His message was unaffected by world views. While many are willing to deviate from Scripture and accept the changed ways of the world, Henry refused to do so.

Henry would be described by many as a “good ole boy.” Why? Henry met you where you lived. He did not present himself in the way most believe a typical pastor should be. He was very much at home in his blue jeans. He knew that God looks not at outward appearances, but at the heart. He also knew that people’s perception of a pastor limited him. Thus, he did as the apostle Paul would have done. He became like those around him so that he might win souls. Only God knows the number of lives that have been touched by Henry. Surely, Henry did not realize the impact he had on so many lives. His witness for the Lord was so natural. You had only to see Henry’s smile to know that there was something different about him. His words followed his smile and then you knew he loved the Lord. Henry was a friend and fellow servant of the Lord. —*Rhonda F. Allbeck*

1997 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

James Emmett Wilkerson, 1930-1996

In the fall of 1948, an 18-year-old from Lanett entered the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa. There, his world exploded in a new universe of books, lectures and people. Soon, he found his way to the Wesley Foundation where he heard the call of God to carry the new universe into the field of church service. During the next four decades, James Emmett Wilkerson responded to that call and challenged generations of students and congregations to realize their best through commitment, study and discipline. For students, this meant a challenge to discipleship and integrity and for congregations, it meant a challenge to renewed mission and service. The past was respected but never revered. The present with all of its new possibilities was the place in which God was to be honored. Nothing but the best was to be offered.



Emmett received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Alabama in 1952, served several years with the Army in Korea, was made a deacon in 1955, earned a Master of Divinity degree from Emory University in 1958 and was made an elder in 1959. Following ordination, Emmett served his ministry in the Virginia Conference. His appointments were, first, as director of the Wesley Foundation at the University of Virginia; then a year at the General Board of Education in Nashville, Tenn., to direct the national convocation of youth; then graduate study at Boston University; then appointments at Shiloh, Wakefield, Francis Asbury, Norview and Benns churches.

In 1983, Emmett was appointed program coordinator for the Alexandria District where he became a leader in the new ministries that the United Methodist Church sponsored. Following that experience, Emmett was appointed to Melrose, Mount Vernon and finally, Trinity, where on December 12, 1996, he died.

Those of us who were privileged to know and love Emmett, found in him a thoughtful, learned, quiet and deeply sincere man who was unimpressed with material wealth and fame but deeply impressed with ideas and values. He was a man who loved his Lord, his church, his family and friends. Just as he challenged his charges, whether students, congregations, nieces, nephews or godchildren, to give their best to God, he was unsparing of himself—a perfectionist who was gentle and forgiving with others. He had two hobbies that were characteristic: books and travel. He could become lost for hours reading, particularly about historical figures, and traveling whenever he could, he thoroughly enjoyed finding out what was on the other side of the hill.

Emmett served in the Army Reserve as a chaplain, retiring after 30 years as a lieutenant colonel. As a tribute to his outstanding vision and dedication to God's service, the chapel at the Wesley Foundation at the University of Virginia is named the James Emmett Wilkerson Chapel.

Emmett, your family and friends will deeply miss your active presence in their lives but are so very grateful for the legacy of your influence. As for you, as God said to Daniel after a long and honorable service, "But you, go your way, and rest: you shall rise for your reward at the end of the days." —*Bob Lester*

Norman Atkinson Compton, 1919 - 1996

The Rev. Norman A. Compton, age 77, of Monterey, Virginia, went to be with our Lord and Master on Monday, July 15, 1996. He was born on April 13, 1919, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. On September 5, 1940, he married Ann Godshalk. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his son, Dennis Norman Compton and daughter, Diane Melody Compton Bradford, and by four foster children, Rose, Karen, Carl and Jimmy.



Compton was educated at Lower Moreland High School; Eastern Mennonite College in Dayton, Virginia; Duke University in North Carolina; and at George Washington University.

Norman Compton was converted at the age of 32, and was called of God to be a minister at the age of 38. He was a member of Monterey United Methodist Church, Monterey, Virginia. He was appointed to this charge in June 1960 at the age of 41. Other charges he served were: Mt. Crawford, Winchester, Spotsylvania, McDowell, White's United Methodist Church, Hot Springs, Redwood, and Roanoke. After his retirement from the United Methodist Church on June 11, 1984, he served for 10 years as magistrate in Highland County, Virginia, serving both Highland and Bath County, Virginia.

Funeral services were conducted at Monterey United Methodist Church, Monterey, Virginia, by the Rev. Robert L. Haley, pastor; assisted by the Rev. James G. Holloman, Staunton district superintendent; and by Pastor William R. Fisher, a lifelong friend. Burial was in the Monterey Cemetery, Monterey, Virginia.

Compton selected his favorite hymns to be sung at his service, which were "The Church in the Wildwood," "All Hail the Power of Jesus Name," and "In the Sweet By and By." He selected his favorite passages from Psalm 23, John 14, and Ephesians 2:8 & 9 to be read and expounded upon at his service. The poem, titled "Crossing the Bar" was also read at the service.

The verse: "it is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness" was often reflected in many of Compton's notes. Compton was a good husband, father, grandfather, foster parent, and friend. He served his Lord, his family, and fellow man in love. He will remain alive in the hearts of those who knew and loved him. —*Agnes Compton*

Thomas Eugene Carter, 1931-1996

For many, the 29th of September 1996 brought shocking and sad news about our Lord's good and faithful servant, Thomas Eugene Carter. Sitting on his sofa, in the handsome little house in Roanoke he loved so well, he went quietly to his rest. Having spent his life as a Methodist minister, he retired in 1994 in Roanoke where he lived and served the South Roanoke Church and the Roanoke District for 13 years. He possessed those gifts and graces we have come to revere in our ministers. He acquitted himself well in the pulpit; he composed and delivered beautiful and powerful prayers; he counseled with wisdom and compassion; he served his churches and districts with dignity; he effectively garnered considerable funds for his college and his churches; and most importantly he loved his Lord and his fellow man. Emerson said, "To know even one life has



breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.” Using this measurement, Gene’s life was successful many times over.

Born July 29, 1931, the second of two sons to the Rev. O. B. Carter, also a lifelong Methodist minister, Gene carried in his being all the strength, joys, convictions, and also all the anxieties of that rich and disciplined heritage. Of his father, he said, “He had as great a sense of what it was to be a servant of his Lord as any person I have ever known.” Those of us privileged to share Gene’s life would say the same of him. His oft quoted remark of his father’s was “Remember, son, all that you are and all that you ever hope to become you owe to the church.” Gene believed that with all his being. His beloved wife, Dot, was a major part of his life and ministry for 24 years before she died far too young. He said, “She was probably the most normal person I ever knew and was the light of my life.” He held a fierce and unending love for his sons, Scott and Blair, and did all in his power to be both mother and father to them.

A 1953 graduate of Randolph-Macon College, Gene received the B.D. degree from Emory’s Candler School of Theology in 1956. In the ensuing 38 years, he ably served six churches and three districts of the Virginia Annual Conference. Active in the life of Randolph-Macon, he served on its board of trustees and the college honored him with a Doctor of Divinity Degree. At his funeral, a dignified yet warm and personal service, Bishop Thomas B. Stockton said, “He was a rascal but we all loved him.” His friend Doug Dillard, said he was a man equally comfortable with a millionaire or with a good ole boy. His pastor, Don Roberts, graciously shared a beautiful prayer written by Gene on the death of a friend. It is appropriate to conclude this memoir with a few lines of that prayer as our farewell to our friend.

“O God, who strengthens us with your power and your love, hear us now as we celebrate the life of your servant, Gene Carter. In committing his soul into your care and keeping, we bless you for the grace that kindled in his heart, a love and a reverence for you. May we find comfort in the knowledge that Gene has gathered at the table where your saints feast forever in the heavenly home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” —*Frank L. Eagles*

Lyndell Hugh Geisler, Sr., 1909-1996

The Rev. Lyndell Hugh Geisler Sr., age 87, died November 19, 1996, in Boydton, Virginia, where he made his home. The burial was in the West End Cemetery in Wytheville, Virginia. He is survived by his wife, Mary N. Geisler, a son, Lyndell Hugh Geisler II of Mt. Crawford, Virginia; a daughter, Teresa G. Scurry of Sumter, South Carolina; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He lost his first wife Katherine Rash Geisler, who died of cancer, in 1972. Lyndell was a 32nd degree Mason with the Wytheville and Lynchburg Lodges.



Lyndell began his ministerial career in 1958 in the Holston Conference serving Little Walker, Iron Mountain, Large Parish and Flat Ridge, as associates on the Grant and Cerea Circuit. He transferred his membership to the Virginia Conference in 1970, where he served Philadelphia, Boydton, Brookneal, Tyreanna and Mt. Olivet.

After working a number of jobs in his life and raising his children, he decided the Lord had called him to the ministry, where it enriched his life to help people change their lives and come to the Lord Jesus Christ. Lyndell was a devoted pastor, loving husband, father, and grandfather. His smiles and humor won him many devoted friends, especially young people, who found their way to the Lord by his caring. He set his sight on the call of the kingdom of God. He accepted people for whom they were and saw in them what they could become through the love of Jesus Christ. We rejoice in Lyndell’s life and thank God for his ministry. —*Mary Geisler*

Henry Walker Burruss, 1911-1996

The Rev. Henry Walker Burruss died in a Charlottesville nursing home on December 9, 1996. He was 85 years old. He left behind a wife, three children, seven grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and an indelible Christian influence on the lives of hundreds. His intention, upon entering Randolph-Macon College in 1930, was to become a doctor, attending to people's physical needs. Instead, he devoted his life helping to develop young minds and ministering to people's souls. The Great Depression made a career choice with low cost training imperative. Henry chose the field of education, becoming a memorable teacher and principal in Virginia schools, including Albemarle, Mathews and Essex counties.



An example of his Christian precepts, providing the role model for others to emulate, took place during the mid-'60s. As principal of Tappahannock High School, his sensitive handling of the integration issue contributed greatly to averting the type of crisis that frequently shamed neighboring Southside schools. In those troubled times, as in so many throughout his life, Henry used his seemingly innate ability to relate to others to diffuse difficult situations, often through application of his famously quick wit and droll sense of humor. Even when there was little reason for levity, Henry managed to find a chuckle somewhere, saying, "I'm just laughing to keep from crying!"

At age 58, when most men are eyeing a lakefront fishing retreat or leisurely days on the golf course, Henry set out to follow his heart—and his father, the Rev. Frank Burruss—into the ministry. He completed his pastoral training at Duke University and served parishes in South Fluvanna, Batesville and Bethlehem Charges before his official retirement from full service in 1981.

Abhorring the option of discontinuing the work he loved, he continued serving as a replacement pastor on the Nelson, Greene and McDowell charges, stopping only when rapidly failing health forced him to leave his beloved pulpit forever in 1986. Burruss lettered in track at Randolph-Macon and received his master's degree from the University of Virginia; he created jewelry from semiprecious stones; and he always enjoyed a family reunion or a church picnic more than anything. He had a wonderful ability to accept each individual for his or her own personal worth, ignoring popular opinion and common assessment. What he refused to accept was hypocrisy, sloth, disloyalty, meanness of spirit and—especially—anyone not doing their best. Long before it became an inner-city catch phrase, the Rev. Burruss had made "doing the right thing" his personal creed. This is what he taught; this is what he preached; this is what he lived.

Even in his last months, the Rev. Burruss' appreciation of favorite things endured—the lively telling of a story, hearing family talking and laughing around him and seeing old friends. We, the family, thank each and every one of those who were with him—in person or through prayers—during that time. — *Mrs. Lucille Foller Burruss; Mrs. Kathryn Burruss Stapleton; Mrs. Barbara Burruss Lee; and Mr. Henry Walker Burruss Jr.*

William Alan Thomas, 1927-1996

Bill was born in Mathews County, Virginia, December 4, 1927, to the late William V. Thomas and Irene H. Thomas. He graduated from Mathews County Public Schools. Following graduation he worked as a carpenter for six years. During this time, he was an active member of St. Paul's Methodist Church, where he taught a Sunday school class. The call to the ministry came at a very young age for Bill, but the resources were not available for him to attend college. In 1949, he married a high school classmate, Winifred White, who had become a registered nurse. Through their combined efforts he was able to attend Trinity College and Duke Divinity School in Durham, North Carolina, in preparation for God's work.



Bill joined the Virginia Methodist conference in 1956, serving the South Halifax Charge. While there, the charge divided and a new parsonage was built. He went on to serve Oak Hall on the Eastern Shore; Monroe; Fairview - Roanoke; Fairview - Lawrence; Greenwood - Glen Allen; Mechanicsville; McKendree- Norfolk; Trinity - Poquoson; Culmore, Falls Church; Urbanna; Singleton - Rappahannock District; Memorial - Petersburg.

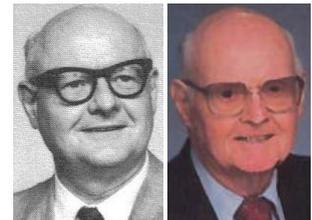
The following was said of Bill as he was preparing to leave an appointment: "Where have the years gone? In retrospect, ours seems to have been but a brief acquaintance; a fleeting glance; the proverbial two ships that meet and pass at night. But look at the multitude of good works, thoughts, and deeds left behind. We of the church are materially richer for your having been here, in that our parsonage now has a garage; our church hall has been completed and improvements have been made to the parsonage. All of this, of course, with the labor free."

"Yet these material riches fade into pale insignificance when compared to the spiritual treasures you leave with us. The Sunday sermon; the patient explanations have instilled in us a deep abiding conviction in our faith that will remain with us—to the last day." Bill was an avid gardener, fisherman and had a love for woodworking. He left evidence of these hobbies wherever he lived. In 1993, Bill retired from the ministry and returned to Mathews County. There he kept busy with his woodwork projects, and in season fishing and gardening.

Bill died December 16, 1996, at his retirement home "Gulls Rest" in Mathews. He was preceded in death by a son, Alan Gordon Thomas. Bill is survived by his wife, Winifred; two daughters, Teresa and Jamie; two sons, William L. and John R.; two daughters-in-law, Sharon and Brenda; and five grandchildren, Sheena, Virginia, Elizabeth, Kathryn and David. A graveside service was held December 19, 1996, at St. Paul's Cemetery. His children and grandchildren read his favorite scriptures and verses as a tribute to a much loved dad and granddad. We will miss you, Dad. —*William, John, Teresa, and Jamie*

William Lyons Sturtevant, 1918-1997

Bill Sturtevant was a Christian gentleman and a dear friend for 60 years. We shared our morning devotions together as students at Randolph-Macon College in a room of the college chapel. William Lyons Sturtevant was born April 19, 1918, the first child of Wilson Wright and Alice Cunningham Sturtevant. He was married to Marie M. Goswick on June 7, 1942. She was a member of his first pastorate, Pinners Point United Methodist Church, Portsmouth. They were married by Dr. William Archer Wright Jr.



They served 11 pastorates in the Virginia Conference: Pinners Point, Oaklette, Boykins, Henderson, Oakton, Lane Memorial, Bon Air, Granbery Memorial, Lincolnia, and Grace, Manassas. He served as an Army chaplain in WWII, and he and Marie served as leaders of the Couples Retreat at our Blackstone conference center for 23 years. Bill was an avid sports fan, and was volunteer coach of both basketball and football in Virginia schools.

Bill and Marie had more than 40 years of dedicated ministry, but the most lasting influence may well be their ministry to young couples. They started out with a small number meeting at the Blackstone conference center twice a year. Its mission was to lift up Christ in couples' relationships. About all their success in this field, they would say, "Give all the glory and credit to the Lord."

Bill was very active in his retirement serving two small churches in the North Carolina conference, near Franklinton, North Carolina, where they lived, caring for Marie's mother. He was elected a member of the Franklinton school board and served for six years. He was president of the local Lions Club, and he was Volunteer of the Year in the Franklinton city schools for his work with special needs children.

In his retirement he acted in three stage plays with the Louisburg College Players. He could put people at ease by laughing at himself and his humanity. He could tell a story about his bald head and have people in the aisle.

Bill died February 18, 1997. The funeral celebrating his life and dedicated ministry was held at Franklinton United Methodist Church, February 21, by the Revs. Rose Conner, Sidney Stafford, Wayne Parsley, Kraig Faust, and Earl Tyson.

Surviving are his wife, Marie Goswick Sturtevant; son, William L. Sturtevant Jr. of Fredericksburg, Virginia; daughters, Claudia S. Parks of Pulaski, Virginia, and Brenda Clegg of Gahanna, Ohio; sister, Dorothy S. Martindale of Dunedin Beach, Florida; and six grandchildren: Michael, Stephen, John, Timothy, Will and Lindsay.

“But for those who honor the Lord, his love lasts forever, and his goodness endures for all generations....” —*Betty Lou and Purnell Bailey*

Herman Miller Elam, 1912-1997

“But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers....” James 1:22

The Rev. Herman M. Elam heard God calling him to be an ordained minister at the age of 23. He accepted that call and used his gentle and persuasive personality to build, strengthen, and motivate the church for the rest of his life on earth. He conscientiously prepared himself to be a servant of Christ, graduating from Randolph-Macon College, receiving his Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in 1942, and a Master of Sacred Theology from Wesley Theological Seminary in 1965. He was awarded the Professional Certificate of Church Management by the American University of Business Management in 1966.



Herman was blessed with a partner-in-ministry. He married Mary Yeaman in 1942. She shared his ministry with active participation and constant support. A “doer” and a faithful servant of the Virginia Conference, Herman served 14 appointments in four districts. A “doer” because things happened where he served. His first appointment (1936-student) was to Corinth which had little hope of surviving since the Sandston government was ready to close the church for nonpayment of delinquent sewer fees. Herman learned the bad news in regard to the demand of payment of the sewer fees. His first order of business was to raise the funds outside of the church. Then he rented out the parsonage, lived with an aunt in Richmond, boarded with a church family, and used the funds from the rent to meet church obligations. At the end of his pastorate, the church was alive and growing with all apportionments paid in full.

A “doer” as a four-year pastorate (1941-45) realized the organization of Lakeside Church (Richmond). This was during the war years and the church history records the following: “On the night of October 23, 1941, sounds of hammers and saws began to ring from the corner of Hilliard Road and Lawrence Avenue where the pastor and members of the congregation commenced the remodeling of the old two story stucco building on the six lots which had been purchased by the church.” An appeal to the War Production Board to build a church building was rejected. Only noncritical material could be used for construction. Herman was not deterred. The growing community at Lakeside needed a church. Herman found some old boxcars standing on a railroad track. These were acquired and the lumber from these was used to build the church. Two years later he found a prefabricated building at Fort Lee which was purchased from the government. The pastor and members dismantled, transported, and rebuilt it for classrooms and other activities. When his pastorate was ended, Lakeside had over 200 members, adequate church facilities, and was debt free.

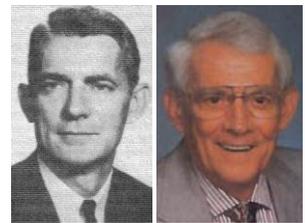
A “doer” as a second congregation was organized under his leadership. During his pastorate (1952-55), Culmore Church (Falls Church) was organized and on Palm Sunday, April 11, 1954, the first

service was held in the new chapel and educational building with over 200 members. Wherever Elam served, things happened. A three-point charge grew and separated into single appointments, churches were remodeled and renovated for more effective ministries, a new sanctuary was built at Lincolnia, existing debts were paid off, plans for future building projects were started and always the word of God was preached, taught, and demonstrated.

Herman retired from the appointed ministry in 1977. He then had more time to enjoy his two daughters, Mary Pat Strowell and Betty White and their families, especially the two grandchildren. During his retirement he was an important person to every Winchester district superintendent as he was available to come out of the “bull pen” to do short term relief in serving churches. For the past 15 years he has been known as “Barnabas” because he was an enabler/encourager to a neighborhood interfaith Bible study group which met in their home. Yes, Herman Elam’s life fulfilled James 1:22 as he heard the WORD of God and lived it through his life as a DOER. —*Lee B. Sheaffer*

Charles Stephen Bartholomew, Jr., 1927-1997

Charlie was a unique, loveable human; he was warm and caring far beyond the ordinary. He began his working career with Sears and we used to tease him that “we got him from Sears.” I once told him that he should have been a Roman senator. He had a soft bass voice, silver hair, blue eyes and a crooked smile. He asked me what sort of senator he would have made—“Oh, you would have thoroughly confused the system and probably helped more folks in trouble than anyone else. And you would have been late for meetings.” That was Charlie. People and their hurts always came first with him.



Charlie’s personality was a mixture of melancholy, gentleness and love. He saw two of his three grown children die—Stephen and Donna. Suffering makes some folks bitter, but others use it as a means of identifying with the hurt of the world. He was one of the best pastors in our conference. He could comfort others with his faith and compassion. He must have had a great source of inner strength.

Charlie was a good preacher. He began his ministry as a part-time lay pastor in the Holston Conference, then received his education at Randolph-Macon and Duke. He was ordained deacon in 1962 and elder in 1969. He served Shiloh at Montpelier, Epworth and Bethel on the Eastern Shore, Chester, Chamberlayne Heights, Oaklette, Cokesbury, Middlesex and, in his retirement, Shackelford’s Chapel.

He was born February 16, 1927, at Goldsboro, North Carolina. He died April 12, 1997, in Richmond. His coronation service was April 15 at his former church in Chester with interment at Forest Chapel in the Rappahannock District. He is survived by his wife, Judy; a daughter, Sue Steele; two grandchildren and a sister. He leaves many friends whose lives are strengthened by his honest love and faith. The separation is temporary.

We quote for him the line of John Greenleaf Whittier which he often used—“I only know I cannot drift beyond His love and care.” —*Carl Douglass*

Edward Homer Kyle, 1927-1997

My dad was born in Martinsburg, West Virginia, on July 20, 1927. His natural father died before he was born. As a young boy, Dad built a bicycle from spare parts and pedaled it around town, doing errands and hauling scrap iron to bring home extra money. His call to full-time Christian service came during a youth retreat, as everyone sang “Jacob’s Ladder.” He worked hard to pay his way through Shepherd College and Westminster Theological Seminary and to help support his mother, Winifred. During this time he was a machinist at the Dunn Woolen Mills in Martinsburg, as well as a laborer with a railroad welding crew in the summer. His



decision to become a Methodist minister was made when Winchester District Superintendent Forrest Oglesby offered him a seven-point circuit in Gainesboro in 1947.

Meanwhile, in the little town of Boyce, Virginia, a young woman named Hilda Suddith told her loyal Methodist parents that she would one day marry a Methodist minister. Her prediction came true in 1953 when she married Dad. Since that time, Dad and Mom approached the ministry as a partnership.

They went on to serve charges in Waterford, Mount Crawford, Broadway and Chase City. Then came Christ in Richmond, Calvary in Danville, Duncan Memorial in Ashland, another Calvary in Stuarts Draft and Saint Mark's in Petersburg. They retired in 1989 to Toms Brook in the northern Shenandoah Valley, but were soon called upon to take on two additional charges at Mount Olive-Shiloh and Fairview-Refuge.

I was always proud to see Dad acting as secretary of the annual conference journal of proceedings and secretary of the annual conference, duties he performed, with my mom's help, from 1966 until 1980. Over the years, he also served on the conference Board of Church and Society, Board of Evangelism, Board of Ordained Ministry, Conference Relations Committee and Parsonage Care Committee.

Those who knew him remember a kind man and a gentleman, possessed of his own strongly-held opinions and convictions, eloquent in the pulpit, a diligent visitor of the sick, the aged and the suffering. His children remember him as a supremely loving father who put his family above mere ambition and won our respect and love with a wise, temperate and attentive fatherly presence. He spoke at each of our high school graduations. The love he showed my mom and the strength of their singular partnership is the great lesson of all our lives.

In addition to my mom, Dad is survived by a sister, June Hope Burkhart; his son, Jonathan Lee Kyle; his daughter, Winifred Kyle Baker and me. In the last few years, he was delighted by the gift of two grandchildren, Samantha Elisabeth Kyle and Gregory Kyle Baker.

Dad died on April 15, 1997. Funeral services were conducted by Dr. William Wade, assisted by Pastors David Palmer and Jack Minnick, at Woodstock United Methodist Church. He was buried in a small cemetery nearby, with a splendid view of the Shenandoah Valley he loved.

“Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace....” —*Edward Willis Kyle*

Richard William Buckingham, 1911-1997

Richard was the son of Richard Thomas and Cora French Dudley Buckingham. He was born at home at 1525 29th Street, N.W., (Georgetown) Washington, D.C., on August 14, 1911. His parents were devoted to the Methodist Church and his great-grandfather was ordained as a Methodist circuit rider in 1814. Rich grew up in the “old Baltimore Conference of the Southern Church” and was an active Epworth Leaguer in the local church, the district and in the conference. He was graduated from American University in 1934 and received his Master of Divinity degree from Drew Seminary and joined the Baltimore Conference in June of 1939. His first appointment was to St. Mary's Circuit, Maryland. Years ago, that congregation presented Richard with a cemetery plot where he was buried on May 11, 1997.



On September 23, 1939, Richard married Muriel Barbara Earl in the Hempstead Methodist Church, Long Island, New York. From their union they had three wonderful children: Barbara, David, and Mary. Both Rich and Muriel count their lives blest with their children and their children's spouses: Dr. Michael Bowermaster, Linda Cook Buckingham and Richard Maturi. In addition, each of their children have had two sons: Thomas and Lewis Jones, Jonathan and Paxton Buckingham, and Craig and Matthew Maturi. And there are two great-grandchildren: Amanda and Marc Jones.

In addition to his pastoral ministry, Richard enjoyed serving as a youth director and counselor in many summer programs. In the '50s and '60s he pioneered in the field of radio and television ministry.

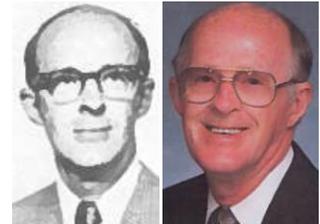
He shared friendship with a Jewish rabbi and a Catholic priest. The parsonage was a haven for the alcoholic, the hungry and the troubled.

In 1982-1985 when retired and living in Minnesota with his daughter and her family, he helped start a new United Methodist church under a lay pastor. Rich was the “associate pastor at \$1 a year.” He thus supplied the needed ministry of an ordained clergyman. Richard had an optimistic outlook on life because he knew the Lord was by his side. He loved people and enjoyed working with them. He entertained his grandsons and other children with magic tricks. Another hobby was genealogy. After 15 years of research of their families, he with his wife published *Prologue: A History and Genealogy*.

His last illness came suddenly. It was discovered that he had a brain tumor and in seven days he was gone. There was no pain. His loved ones were with him at the end. The Service of Death and Resurrection was held on May 9, 1997, at Epworth United Methodist Church in Norfolk with the Rev. Roy P. White officiating. The book from which the ritual was read was the well-worn one that Richard had used during his ministry. Chaplain Gerald H. Sargent gave a witness to his friend’s life. At the end of the service, Richard’s six grandsons were his pallbearers. Wait for me, Richard.... —*Muriel Buckingham*

Henry Clifton Renner, 1924-1996

Harry C. Renner was born in Round Hill, Virginia, on September 16, 1924. God called him to his heavenly home on June 27, 1996. He was diagnosed with a brain tumor and lived for 10 months. Harry graduated from Shepherd College and Wesley Seminary in Washington, D.C. He served churches in Staunton, Culpeper, Charlottesville and the Winchester districts. He was a member of the Ministerial Association, zone leader, president, and chaplain of the Ruritan Club. He also served on the board of the Salvation Army. He accepted Christ at the age of 13 and always wanted to serve his master.



Harry and Vivian Hott were married in 1956. They have two sons, Leonard and David; one daughter, Rebecca Johnson; a daughter-in-law, Sandy and son-in-law, Kenny; two grandchildren, Eric and Scott Johnson. The family express their love for this husband and father, for the high standard he lived by and taught us. He was truly an example of Christianity and a wonderful patient during his illness.

Harry fought a valiant fight against brain cancer while continuing his pastorate at Gainesboro and Laurel Hill Charge until several months before his death. His love and support for Christ’s church was evidenced in every area of his life. When he was not involved in the activities of Gainesboro, he attended Braddock Street and was an active member of the Wesley Fellowship and United Methodist Men. Some Sundays might find him and Vivian at Stephens City United Methodist Church where his son, David, serves as minister of music or still on other occasions at worship with another son and daughter.

To keep the Ten Commandments and to follow the teachings of Jesus were his highest priorities. So devout was he in keeping the Sabbath that on Sunday he never shopped or ate out, devoting the day instead to worship, visiting, and enjoying his home and family.

Harry and Vivian loved to travel and those who accompanied them on many trips abroad will not forget the kindness and helpfulness of the southern gentleman who always helped everyone with luggage, packages and directions. The joy of every trip was greatly enhanced by the presence of Harry and Vivian, a fun-loving, happy couple.

In addition to his pastoral duties, which he attended with love, expertise and commitment, Harry was active in the Winchester community serving as a member of the board of directors of the Salvation Army, and holding offices in the Ruritan Club and the Ministerial Association. He had great compassion

for the destitute and opened his heart and pocketbook to anyone in need while accepting them as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Harry was interested in things of nature and took great pride in having a fine garden which he shared with family and friends. So neat and immaculate was this avid gardener that Jack Minnick commented in his farewell eulogy, “Harry’s the only man I know who gardens in his coat and tie.”

The funeral service was a beautiful tribute at Braddock St. United Methodist Church in Winchester, Virginia, with District Superintendent Jack Minnick; Pastor John Peters, the Rev. Charles Harless, the Rev. Carl Moore from the Winchester Church of God, and Ruth Crum. Burial was in Rest Church Cemetery in Clearbrook, Virginia. Harry would tell us the story of this poem if he could tell us one more thing:

I’m Free

Don’t grieve for me, for now I’m free. I’m following the path God laid for me.

I took His hand when I heard Him call. I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day to laugh, to love, to work or play.

Tasks left undone, must stay that way. I found that peace at close of day.

If my parting has left a void, then fill it with remembered joy.

A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss, ah yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow, I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.

My life’s been full, I savored much—good friends, good times, a loved one’s touch.

Perhaps my times seemed all too brief. Don’t lengthen it now with undue grief.

Lift up you hearts and share with me. God wanted me now: He set me free. —*Vivian H. Renner*

Lawrence Augusta Trent, 1899-1997

On June 6, 1899, as the new century was about to dawn, an angel on a mission of mercy, in Campbell County, Virginia, delivered a son to David Gilliam and Edna Maddox Trent. They named him Lawrence Augusta. God, in His infinite wisdom, saw the changing world taking place and wanted to assure His people that the message of His love would not be forgotten in a materialistic century dominated by war, racial strife, nuclear power and many social problems. Therefore, God not only gave life to Lawrence, He also gave him “new birth” and called him out of the business world into the Methodist ministry to proclaim the love of God to a troubled world. Lawrence prepared himself well for the task God had given him to do by attending Lynchburg College, Emory and Henry, and Duke Divinity School.



Lawrence began his ministry in 1943 as a “local preacher.” In 1969, he became an associate member of the Virginia Conference. Lawrence brought joy to the sorrowful, comfort to the bereaved, hope to the dying, strength to the weak, relief to the poor, healing to the sick, and the message of salvation to his congregation at the North Pittsylvania Charge, Hurt Church, Marsh Memorial where he was instrumental in building a new church and parsonage still in use today. After retirement in 1960, he served the South View Church very effectively until the age of 92. Few ministers have ever shown so much love for their people and received so much love from the same as this dear, kind and gentle man of God.

On Wednesday, January 8, 1997, the angel who 97 years earlier had delivered Lawrence to the world came again and took him to the new world where there are no tears, suffering, grief or sorrow. Then on Saturday, January 11, 1997, the Rev. Avis Bock and the Rev. C. Douglas Pillow brought together family, friends and loved ones in the little church Lawrence loved and served for 31 years. There the immortal words of Jesus were spoken, “I am the resurrection and the life, he that believeth in me though he die; yet shall he live and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.” Although his body was laid to rest in the Fort Hill Memorial Park in Lynchburg, Virginia, his soul we commended to God.

Lawrence is survived by a son, L.A. Jr.; two sisters, Mrs. James E. Marshall, Buchanan, Virginia, and Mrs. John M. Tabb, Williamsburg, Virginia; two brothers, Eran E. Trent, Kilmarnock, Virginia, and David M. Trent, Appomattox, Virginia, and a host of nieces and nephews. Blessed be the man whose life is in the hands of God where no evil can ever touch him. —*C. Douglas Pillow*

William Thomas Roberts, Sr., 1920-1997

William Thomas Roberts Sr. was born on January 1, 1920, in Washington, D.C. In 1938, he moved to Dranesville where he met his wife of 57 years, Evelyn Gardner. Following their marriage, they were blessed with four sons, Stanley Caswell, Ronnie Lee, Michael Allen, and William Thomas Jr. After a two-year tour of duty in the U.S. Army, Bill started his own plumbing business and eventually became a plumbing inspector for Fairfax County.



In 1964, while an active member of the Dranesville church, Bill received a local preacher's license. But Bill was a preacher's man before he became a preacher. I first knew him as lay leader of Dranesville Church where I served as a student pastor. Every pastor needs someone like Bill Roberts to provide encouragement and support! His spiritual witness fed my soul and the souls of others. While actively involved in the church's life as a layman, Bill received a call to ministry. So, he responded to God's claim and call upon his life and left his career to follow wherever the Master would lead him, and go wherever the United Methodist Church would send him as Christ's servant and messenger of the gospel.

While many words can be used to describe Bill, I remember him most as a man of deep faith and commitment to his Lord. Following his ordination as a deacon in 1973, Bill was eager to serve as Christ's representative and determined to become equipped for the responsibilities. He completed the course of studies at Duke Divinity School in 1975 and became an associate member of the Virginia Conference in 1983. His places of ministry included the Richmond Charge, New Hope, Montross Charge, Linden Charge, and the Hillsboro-Bluemont-Roszell Charge. Bill retired in 1990, but came out of retirement to serve the West Loudon Charge. Bill and Evelyn moved back to the Rappahannock District in 1994, where he continued to find avenues of ministry.

Following an intense struggle to recover from extensive injuries resulting from an automobile accident, the Lord called Bill home on May 14, 1997. The words of our Lord speak of Bill's life of faith: "Well done good and faithful servant... Enter the joy of your Master." (Math. 25:21) The words of the apostle Paul also sum up Bill's life and circumstance surrounding his death: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purposes." (Romans 8:28) As we remember Bill's life we rejoice to affirm that he has truly received his reward. Thanks be to God for this untiring servant of the Master. —*R. Franklin Gillis, Jr.*

Bishop William Ragsdale Cannon, Jr., 1916-1997

Bishop William R. Cannon was always on the move, traveling to world capitals on behalf of his faith and becoming close friends of such world leaders as Pope John Paul II and former President Jimmy Carter. Bishop Cannon, 81, died Sunday, May 11, 1997, after being in failing health for the past year. Funeral services were held Thursday, May 15, 1997, at the Northside United Methodist Church in Atlanta. Interment was at the Cannon lot, West Hill Cemetery, Dalton, Georgia. Born in Chattanooga and raised in Dalton, Bishop Cannon was no ordinary student. Elected to Phi Beta Kappa, he earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia and a doctorate from Yale University in 1942. He then spent a year as a Rhodes Scholar studying at Oxford University.



An author of 13 books, which ranged from strictly theological to travel subjects, Bishop Cannon joined the faculty of Emory's Candler School of Theology in 1943 and was its dean from 1953 to 1968.

Cannon Chapel at Emory is named in his honor. At the 1968 session of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, he was elected a bishop of the United Methodist Church and assigned to the Raleigh area. From 1970 to 1972 the Virginia Conference was added to his responsibility due to the disability retirement of the Virginia bishop. From 1972 to 1980 he served as the Resident Bishop of the Atlanta Area and then back to Raleigh for 1980 to 1984 when he retired. Bishop Cannon is remembered fondly in Virginia as a bishop with a brilliant mind and a warm heart and as a dear friend. —*Bishop Carl J. Sanders*

1998 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Edward Phillip Terrell, Sr., 1946-1998

“Lord thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God”...thus he answered God’s first call. Edward Phillip Terrell, Sr., was born July 8, 1946, in Washington, D.C., the son of Dr. Emanuel C. and Charlesetta A. Terrell. The sixth of eight children, Phillip seemed to have been mentor for all.

Among us, Phillip was preacher, teacher, scholar, son, husband, father and friend. He was trained from the cradle, receiving the good news of Jesus Christ, first in the home. Not only was he trained, but also equipped for his many tasks. He was a graduate of Central High School, Louisville, Kentucky; received his B.S. degree in Urban Studies, Howard University, Washington, D.C.; Master of Divinity, Interdenominational Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Georgia; and the Master of Adult Education, North Carolina A&T State University, Greensboro, North Carolina.

Phillip was a man with vision...he had a restless, searching mind. He was a leader, yet a servant; intellectual, yet he had the common touch; he was full of answers, yet he had so many questions; generous, witty, filled with laughter, had a great memory, a thirst for knowledge, the desire for wisdom and a compulsion to teach all. Phillip loved people! He possessed a zeal for life...his first love was God, his second, his family.

E. Phillip Terrell, ordained elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church for years before entering the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, created quite a record for himself, in that he was made deacon in the same session in which he was also made an elder. Phillip faithfully served various appointments within the Virginia Conference for 18 years...always lifting his congregations to new heights.

“I heard a voice from heaven say, come unto me and rest—lay down thy weary one, lay down thy head upon my breast”...thus he answered God’s second call at 10:40 a.m., January 2, 1998. On those who loved him, Phillip left an indelible mark. He was the earthly wind beneath my wings, my loving husband. Tiffany, Tahren, Emanuel and Edward, each have precious memories of their “doting” father, however, we are consoled in knowing that his new residence is with the High Priest, Jesus the Christ, and we are eternally grateful for the life and ministry of E. Phillip Terrell who taught us as Solomon did: “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.” “Yes, we’ll gather at the river!” —*Linda G. Terrell*

Joseph Evan French, 1945-1998

The pastoral ministry of Joseph Evan French was limited to 26 years because of his death at age 52. His pastoral ministry began in 1972 when he became the seminary associate pastor of St. Mark’s Church, Arlington. Upon graduation from Wesley Theological Seminary he was appointed to be the associate pastor of Raleigh Court Church, Roanoke. After two years his pastorate took him to Marshall Church, Winchester District, where he served



for seven years. During these seven years the average attendance in worship doubled and the membership increased by 62. The next pastorate was Henderson Church, Rappahannock District, for a three year period. His last appointment was Francis Asbury Church, Virginia Beach, which he served for 10 years. The average attendance in worship increased from 116 to 271 with a membership gain of 95.

Joe was always an athlete, a student, a participant and a people person. He built his ministry around these characteristics. Every church always had a softball team with men, women and youth. Church attendance was required to be a member of these teams. Even though his goal was always to be the champion team, good sportsmanship, fellowship and Christian character were required. Bowling, volleyball, basketball and other sports were always a part of the congregations' ministries.

Joe was a student and an intellect. He read extensively and was a committed teacher of the Scriptures. He became convinced that The Bethel Bible Study was superior to all other introductions to God's Word and never hesitated to promote his opinion. Marshall, Henderson and Francis Asbury churches have many people (over 150) who have completed this two year concentrated study under his invitation, encouragement and teaching. These people are Bible literate and leaders in their churches.

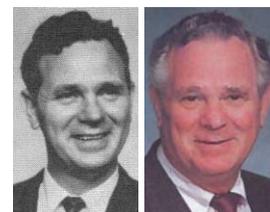
Joe was never a spectator. He was always involved and present in every activity of his congregations. The youth and children were a priority as well as the United Methodist Women, the United Methodist Men and every organization and committee. He led by example in keeping church property in good repair and looking its best. He painted the high steeple at Marshall himself and led the trustees and members to make the house of God a beautiful witness to the community.

Joe liked people. His communication skills allowed him to identify with every kind of personality, age and position in life. He was never married—however, he was wedded to his congregations and they were his family. He preached and taught the faith, believing Isaiah 40:8, "Yes, grass withers and flowers fade, but the word of God endures forever." He challenged his congregations to grow spiritually and to become disciples of Jesus Christ. He encouraged, but corrected his members and always allowed them to know of his love and support for them as well as God's great respect and value for every person. Joe lived his life using Psalm 119:105 as his creed, "Your Word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path."

Thanks, Joe, for planting seeds, for tender loving cultivation, and for serving God and His church to the best of your ability. The world and the church are better because you lived and the harvesting will continue because of your faith. —*Lee B. Sheaffer*

Joseph Taylor Williams, 1928-1997

Joseph Taylor Williams was born on September 17, 1928, in Seaboard, North Carolina, the son of Bessie Ada Allen and Joseph Zachary Williams. As a youngster, Joe and his family settled in Norfolk where Joe attended Granby Street High School. Joe graduated from Emory and Henry College in 1957, and Duke Divinity School in 1962. On September 18, 1948, Joe wed Anne Duff. Married for 48 years, Joe and Anne are the parents of four children: Joanne Williams Latimer, James Marion Williams, Richard Thomas Williams, and Laurie Marie Saunders; and nine grandchildren: Matthew and Anne Latimer; Benjamin and Rachel Williams; Michael Ice; Adam, Catherine and Jennifer Dierks; and Taylor Joseph Saunders.



As a pastor in the Virginia Conference for 38 years, Joe served the following congregations: Christ, Jolliff, Trinity (Cape Charles), Aldersgate, Warrenton, Graham Road, Lincolnia, Granbery, Clarendon, and Mineral. While serving local churches with joy and distinction, Joe served on the conference Board of Education, the Division of Evangelism, the Virginia Conference Historical Society, and the Division of Stewardship. Joe was also instrumental in establishing the Southwest Virginia Emmaus Community.

To know Joe was to be drawn into the presence of a man who was devoted both to the family he loved so deeply and to the service of Christ and the church. Whether you were fortunate to have Joe Williams as a member of your family, as pastor of your church, or as a friend, your life was enriched because of the faith he shared and the joy with which he lived. Joe passed away on July 19, and, on July 26, family, friends and ministerial colleagues gathered at Clarendon United Methodist Church to claim the promises of faith and remember with love and appreciation the life and ministry of Joe Williams. Officiating in the service were Dr. Robert J. Stamps, the Rev. Elizabeth Wright Taylor, the Rev. George Freeman and Dr. Robert L. Parsons. —*Robert L. Parsons*

Martha Irene Lee Goyette, 1924-1997

The Rev. Martha Irene Lee Goyette was a true disciple of God and spent her life serving the Lord. The Rev. Goyette had a passion for life and had the ability to encourage and empower all those she came in contact with. She was very competent at reaching people, calming their fears, sharing their laughter and their pain. Always there to lend a helping hand, with a big smile and open loving arms. She was in every way a “people person.” With carefully chosen words and actions, she comforted those in need. Born in rural Alabama, she found the Lord at an early age, joining the Methodist Church in her teens. Her leadership abilities became evident when she became an officer of the church youth group. She set a blazing pace through college (Auburn University). She held many positions with the Wesley Foundation, including the presidency, and was elected to the National Honor Fraternity for Methodist Students. She was married in 1946 and became a loving wife and mother of three children.



From 1949-1961, the Rev. Goyette held many positions in the church and in public service. She was a key element in bringing the Tidewater, Virginia, area new and inventive programs, such as Vacation Bible Schools and children’s nursery operations. From 1961-1987, the Rev. Goyette continued her trailblazing efforts in the Williamsburg, Virginia, area. She held many offices such as president of the United Methodist Women. She helped to organize the Williamsburg area day care center, becoming the president and chairman of the board. She was active in all church functions and taught junior and senior Sunday school classes.

God called Martha, as all her friends knew her, and she responded in her usual 110 percent way by entering Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. After years of study, hard work and hundreds of volunteer hours, she graduated with a Master of Divinity degree in 1984. From 1983-1990, the Rev. Goyette served as pastor in the Petersburg, Virginia, area, the Harrisonburg District and Stanley United Methodist Church.

Failing health led to her retirement in 1990, leaving her beloved mountains, to live in Naples, Florida. She became involved with the Golden Gate United Methodist Church, teaching Sunday school, preaching on Communion Sundays and providing inspirational guidance. The Rev. Goyette passed away on August 31, 1997, after an extended hospital stay. A memorial service was held at Golden Gate United Methodist Church on Sunday, September 7, 1997. Truly the kind of person we can only hope to aspire to. The Rev. Martha Irene Lee Goyette, with her kindness, grace, honesty, devotion, and her desire for all to know the joy of Christ, will never be forgotten. —*E. L Goyette, III*

James Skelton King, 1914-1997

James Skelton King was the fourth of six children born to Charles B. and Mamie Moore King on November 7, 1914, in Gasburg, Virginia. He was the product of a Christian home and as a child attended Olive Branch Methodist Church. In the midst of the Great Depression, his family experienced the tragic death of his father. At the time, Skelton was a junior in the local high school. Because of his responsible and “take charge” nature, he dropped out of school and took over the family businesses including the local country store,



a cotton gin, and two farms. He completed his high school studies through night courses with the help of local teachers.

During those early years of adulthood, he held together his family consisting of his widowed mother and five siblings. In 1941, he met and married Virginia Frances Walton. They established their home in Gasburg and became parents of two children: Charles Benjamin and Frances Elaine.

The following five years of this family's life were filled with hard work and joyful times in this country village of Brunswick County. But God had something greater in store for Skelton. One Sunday as he was taking his place in Olive Branch Church, he was invited to be superintendent of the Sunday school. This was a man who was neither experienced nor trained to stand before a group of people. Yet it was his nature to face a challenge. He agreed to accept the leadership position, with the result being his call to ordained ministry a few months later.

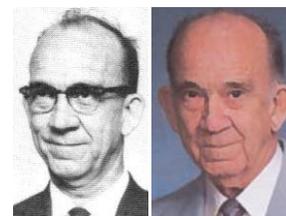
He began his ministry in 1949 as a licensed local pastor of the Cumberland Methodist Charge in the Farmville District. In 1953, while serving the Prince Edward Charge, he began his undergraduate studies at Longwood College, 21 years after high school graduation. With completion of his college courses, he attended Duke University for the ministerial "course of study" training. All of the time continuing to serve his appointed churches, look after his growing family, and care for his aging mother and the family businesses.

During his 30 years of ministry, he served in addition to the Cumberland and Prince Edward charges, the East Nottoway Charge, the Pittsylvania Charge, the West Brunswick Charge, Centenary Church in Jarratt, and Warsaw United Methodist Church, with retirement coming in 1979 from the Boykins Charge. His years of retirement were enjoyed back with his friends and family in the village of Gasburg and Olive Branch United Methodist Church. Even in his later years, he never lost the touch of God's hand upon his life as he prayed with his family and challenged all of those around him to seek the higher levels of living their faith.

On September 21, 1997, he reached out for his Saviour's hand and received that of which he had proclaimed for 30 years. His Service of Death and Resurrection was a great celebration of worship held in his home church where his faith journey had originally begun. The service was led by his pastor, the Rev. David Craig and his superintendent, the Rev. Anthony Layman. Assisting were his bishop, Joe E. Pennel, and his son, the Rev. Charles B. King. "In Thee, O Lord, Have I Put My Trust!" —*Charles B. King*

Carl Wesley Grubbs, 1917-1997

"When the autumn leaves are falling, we know that the spirit of God is still moving upon the face of the earth." Those who heard the rich imagery in this sermon knew the true measure of my husband's ministry. Asking God to inspire his thoughts and the language of his faith, Carl re-created the promise of life in death, reverencing words that echoed the seasons and the passages of time. For him, life was a journey full of hope, full of irony. He needed no notes—no written text—to remind him that eternal spring follows the fall when the autumn leaves, hued with colors of red, yellow, and gold are at their most beautiful as they are dying.



Old churches—new churches—lifelong members—recent converts—one and many heard the inner meanings of a heart dedicated to Christ. From shores to mountains—from vales to glens, Carl followed the "Great Commission" sharing amazing grace and blessed assurance from Ashland to the Eastern Shore—to the Rappahannock, Lynchburg, Charlottesville, and Danville districts. In an unbroken circle of friends—inscribed by the radiance of Christ's love—Carl made his footprints, seeking just a closer walk with God.

The man with whom I shared 34 years ministering to others and 49 years in devotion to each other as husband and wife stood as a deeply loved father to Betty and Helen—a precious grandfather to Dwaine and Karen—and revered colleague of many shepherds in the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Those who served the family when Carl's work on earth was done—Dr. Willy N. Heggoy, the Rev. Wayne Lanham, the Rev. Charles Astin, the Rev. Randolph Rilee, the Rev. Donald Wilson, and the Rev. Rudy Smith—honored Carl's commitment to Christ, his country, his flock, and his family. Comforting the faithful who gathered as the first pristine snow fell at Court Street that wintry day, Christ's abiding love, blanketing the earth, commended Carl's soul to its final resting place—higher than the mountains—where the autumn leaves become the first buds of spring—in the garden of resurrection and pastures green.

In loving tribute,—*Shirley Grubbs*

Moody Gray Wooten, Sr., 1926-1998

His prayers brought us before the throne of God; his laugh and humor just made us feel better; and we knew he loved us and the Lord. His love for Jesus carried him to many places and gave him many friends. He was seldom alone, except in worship preparation. From cold, icy boat rides to a remote island with food and clothes for the isolated residents, to fighting heat and insects in Haiti, Dad always sought to literally make this world a better place for God's children. He was constantly "on the go." Sharing vegetables from his garden or the catch from a "pastoral visit" on the river, answering emergency calls at midnight, visiting those hospitalized or mourning, stopping by to say "Hello." All were avenues to be Christ's representative and Dad never wanted to miss one opportunity.



Dad was a master at taking "nothing much" and making it "really something." He could be given a fallen walnut tree and artfully create Nativities that were warm and yet elegant in their simplicity and finish. Each Christmas would bring forth gifts that were lovingly created in "The Shop." "The Shop" also produced such things as cabinetry and classroom partitions for a United Methodist mission project. Shutters, tables, lamps—Dad could make anything from only a picture. Building did not stop with small items—Dad's congregations in Round Hill, Macedonia (NC), and Warrenton built or expanded their facilities during his pastorate.

Dad could take a heap of rusted metal and missing parts (formerly known as a car) and spend years on patient restoration, refinishing and polishing. He'd call an ad in Hemmings for an original part. He would then have a jewel, fit for any automotive museum, only to sell it for our education.

His creativity did not stop in "The Shop" or garage. Dad used this same gift while sharing Christ's love with people. With his encouragement, others found that they could sing, or arrange altar flowers or teach. Special liturgical services were always unique and poignant. On Maundy Thursday there might be a painted screen which replicated the Upper Room. Easter Sunday morning found us at the river's edge feeling the stirrings of the new day and new Life in Christ. Dad spent much time in preparation for Sunday morning worship. His leadership brought his congregations a sense of reverence and holiness, and yet there was a feeling of comfort with being in God's Holy Presence.

Dad brought God's love to 11 pastorates in the North Carolina and Virginia Conferences. His dedication to the church wasn't always easy, only necessary and joyful. For over 40 years Dad gave the genuine example of "full-time ministry." —*His children, Dee, Debbie, Mary Ellen, and Gray*

Jean Sharon Tennant Rutherford, 1926-1998

Jean was a warm, sincere, loving person who gave of herself unselfishly and unconditionally. Jean Sharon Tennant Rutherford was born October 1, 1926, in Chicago, Illinois, and died on February 28, 1998, in Roanoke, Virginia. Jean received her call to the ministry as a 47-year-old widow with two grown children and a 5-year-old. This call first led her to Virginia Wesleyan College for undergraduate work and then to Vanderbilt Theological Seminary in Nashville for her Master's degree in Theology.



Although Jean began her formal training late in life, she was no stranger to the church and its activities. From her early childhood, through the teens, into adulthood, and even into retirement, Jean was actively involved in local church activities, regularly attending church and Sunday school and participating in a variety of church programs wherever she lived.

After finishing her formal education, Jean took a year off to be with her parents to care for them in their last illness. Now she was ready to begin her own ministry. Her first charge was at Bethel and Beech Grove in Virginia Beach. While serving in the Norfolk District, Jean held the following offices: member, District Council on Ministries; chair, Status and Role of Women Committee; vice chair, Norfolk District Ministers; member, District Board of Ministries.

Jean received her second appointment, to Mt. Pleasant Church in Roanoke in 1987, and served there until her retirement in 1992. While in Roanoke, Jean held the following offices: member, Council on Ministries; coordinator, Youth Committee; member, District Committee on Ordained Ministry.

In addition to offices held at the district level, Jean was also active on the conference level. She held positions on the Board of Ordained Ministry, Virginia United Methodist Agency for the Retarded, coordinator of Youth Ministries, and Committee for the Development of a Model for Pastors in Crisis.

Jean was an active member of the Southwest Virginia Emmaus community. She often served as a spiritual director on walks and was a member of the Board of Directors for three years.

Was Jean active? You bet! She worked with a prison ministry, served as a spiritual leader in a psychiatric hospital, was a volunteer chaplain at Lewis-Gale Hospital, and she was active in Al-Anon and the Emmaus community. Jean gave much leadership in church related ministries and associations as well. She also enjoyed the arts, holding season tickets to the local symphony and the local theatre.

Even retirement did not slow Jean down. After being a widow for 24 years, in May 1996, she married her date from the 1943 Junior-Senior Prom—a man whom she had not seen or had any contact with for more than 50 years! And no, even marriage did not slow her down. Jean continued her church activities as before, preaching, helping with Communion, conducting funerals, leading prayer groups, being involved in an Emmaus reunion group, visiting former parishioners (Jean had a gift for visiting) and teaching an adult Disciple class (32 weeks). Jean taught her last class just two weeks prior to her death.

Church and family were of paramount importance to Jean. She was always eager to serve both. That is how she lived her life—unafraid to give of herself completely. —*Ray Hornig*

Harold Hanger Fink, 1914 - 1998

Harold H. Fink was born January 2, 1914, in Greenbrier County, West Virginia. He was the eldest son of a minister and brother of two ministers. His years of ministerial service spanned more than 43 years. Survivors include his wife, Wilma Evelyn Williams Fink; two daughters, Judith Lee Turbiville and Julia Ann Weatherford; and two brothers, the Rev. J. Carroll Fink and the Rev. William Jeryl Fink. A graduate of Emory & Henry College, Harold received his seminary training at Candler School of Theology, Emory University. He was awarded an honorary doctorate from Emory & Henry in 1959.



Harold's first appointment was to the Roanoke Circuit in 1938. He went on to serve churches in Staunton, Lawrenceville and Hampton. During 1943-1944, he served as pastor of Fulton Hill Methodist Church in Richmond. From 1952-1955, he was pastor of Washington Street Methodist Church in Petersburg.

Following pastorates at Ginter Park Church in Richmond, and Park Place in Norfolk, Harold served six years (1965-1971) as superintendent of the Danville District. He retired in 1981, having served 10 years as pastor of Trinity Church in Richmond.

Harold was a four-time delegate to General Conference, a member of the National Council of Church's general board and served with distinction on numerous district, conference and general church committees and commissions.

More significant than these positions of leadership, however, is the fact that Harold genuinely loved people. He was never too busy to listen to other's concerns and offer help whenever needed. My first experience in this regard was as a high school student in the Danville District, struggling with a call to the ministry. It was to my district superintendent—Dr. Fink, as I knew him then—that I turned for encouragement and advice. Later, it was my privilege to serve as associate pastor for four of the 10 years that Harold served as pastor of Trinity Church. Harold was my mentor in the ministry long before the Board of Ordained Ministry ever thought of formalizing such a relationship within the ordination process. For that relationship and for the invaluable support and guidance he gave me, I shall be forever grateful.

On March 26, 1998, a memorial service was held for Harold at Trinity Church in Richmond. The opening hymn was "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee." Yes, Lord, we adore thee. We adore thee for all thy gifts, especially for the gift of thy faithful servant, Harold Hanger Fink. —*Thomas L. Joyce*

Alan Coffelt Peer, 1934 - 1998

The ministry of Alan Peer was centered in the Shenandoah Valley. Born in Winchester on November 19, 1934, Alan was the son of Wilbur Carl and Madde Coffelt Peer. He was educated in the public schools of Winchester and received his B.A. degree from Shepherd College, Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Alan completed his formal education at Wesley Seminary in 1961, in preparation for serving churches in the Virginia Conference. Also in 1961, Alan married Cathy Compton, a native of Winchester. Ordained a deacon in 1959, Alan began his ministry that year when he was appointed to the North Frederick Charge in the Winchester District as a student pastor. Assigned to organize a new church, Wesley, in the northeast section of Winchester, Alan continued his ministry there from 1962 until 1966, when he became pastor of Bridgewater United Methodist Church.

In 1969, Alan's interest in higher education as an extension of his ministry led him to accept an appointment to Shenandoah College and Conservatory of Music, where he served several years as Director of Admissions. He then served as Director of Development for two years, before being appointed Vice President of Development at Shenandoah. He continued his work in higher education by accepting the appointment to the development office at James Madison University, where he remained employed for several years. Until the time it was necessary for him to take disability leave in 1992, Alan continued his interest in higher education by serving as the president of the National Methodist Foundation for Christian Education, Nashville, Tennessee.

A warm, caring pastor, articulate and creative preacher, Alan Peer served God by serving God's people well. His concern for social justice enabled him to be a spokesman for God to all persons. His ability to see Christian higher education as one of the ways God does God's work enabled Alan to work with dedication in that area of God's Kingdom. His friends and family will miss his ability to see the humor in most situations and to stretch out a little story to make it fit about any occasion. They will miss

his obvious love for other persons, his warmth and good-natured kidding. Above all, the lives of family members and friends will be poorer because of the absence of his humble service.

After a prolonged illness, Alan died on April 18, 1998, in Nashville. His funeral service was held at Wesley United Methodist Church, Winchester, on April 22, 1998. The Rev. Robert Funck and the Rev. Edward Taylor officiated. Alan leaves to mourn him his wife, Cathy, and his two children, Todd and Allison. Thanks be to God for God's gift to us all in Alan. —*Edward J. Taylor, Jr.*

Lansing Burroughs Harmon, Jr., 1921 - 1997

A Richmond native, Lansing was educated in Richmond's public schools. He worked in the insurance industry prior to entering the ministry. His interests were wide and varied. His concern for people was easily detected. Lansing became active in Centenary Church in Richmond, inspired by clergy and laity alike. His sense of calling to ministry led to studies at Duke University's Divinity School. In 1968, he started his formal ministry.



Before retiring in 1986, he had served churches in various districts across the conference. He authored the book, *Have You Met A Saint Lately?* Its publication was an accomplishment that brought him pleasure as it brought help to others. Quite involved and active in the work of Masonry, Lansing's leadership brought him numerous honors from that organization. In all of his endeavors Lansing was very generous, sharing his means as well as his story.

He showed compassion, love and concern in countless errands of favor. He showed them as well in his faithful service in the church. His official retirement did not bring a discontinuance of ministry. Working in local congregations and the relationships that were his, Lansing sought to help others enjoy life as he knew its joy in Christ! In his death Lansing left behind his beloved wife, Eunice. On July 14, 1997, Lansing's funeral brought expressions of respect and love from many friends. Their presence echoed their Lord's words, "Well done, good and faithful servant." —*Douglas K. Wilson*

Clinton Hughes Miller, 1907 - 1998

On January 9, 1998, an angel of the Lord visited the residence of Clinton Hughes Miller, on Coffey Road, Lynchburg, Virginia, and took God's servant to his eternal home in glory. Born in Rock Creek, West Virginia, September 29, 1907, he was the son of the late John B. Miller and Virginia Clay Miller. Clinton earned a B.A. degree from Beckley College, Beckley, West Virginia. Later he studied at Duke Divinity School, Durham, North Carolina, preparing for ministry. After graduating from Beckley College, he began a career of teaching in the public schools of his home state. The Lord, however, had different plans for Clinton and called him into the Methodist ministry. Clinton never saw the ministry as a second career but as "a calling" from God to serve people.



In West Virginia, Clinton served the Beaver-Blue Jay Charge (1949-1954), then the Sharon Darves Charge (1954-1958) at which time he transferred to the Virginia Conference. At his first appointment in Virginia (1958-1964), he led the good people of Boonsboro Church to build a most attractive and serviceable building that continues to serve that community and congregation. Other appointments included: Hurt (1964-1968), Marsh Memorial (1968-1972), then First Church from which he retired in October 1973, because of failing health.

Clinton was well-loved and respected by many, many people in the Lynchburg area because all his ministry and retired years were spent in the same district. It was never hard to love Clinton because he, like Christ, first loved you. Clinton was truly a man of God with deep conviction. He was totally dedicated to Christ and his church. To be in his presence was to be inspired because he always spoke about his love for our Savior and the people he served. He preached the salvation of Christ and led

numbers of people to the Lord. He shared with me that he never preached a sermon that he did not mention forgiveness and love. Here is a message every minister should offer to his/her people.

One of his former members and friend, Mrs. Jean Hamlett wrote, “There will never be a word to tell you what you have meant to me, and continue to mean to me for the rest of my life, so I will just say ‘Please, God, give Reverend Miller the shiniest crown you have, and the softest robe, and the finest pair of wings and sandals, and a garden to work in, and children to love, and all the rewards that he so deserves.’” Clinton was preceded in death by a daughter, Rosemary Tucker Gray. Surviving are his wife, Reba Keeney; a son, Wayne; four grandsons; four great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held, Sunday, January 11, 2 p.m., from Duiguid Rivermont Chapel, Lynchburg, Virginia, by his pastor, the Rev. William Fisher and a friend, the Rev. C. Douglas Pillow. Interment was in the Trinity Episcopal Church Cemetery. We rest the soul of a righteous man in the hands of our Eternal Savior forever. —*C. Douglas Pillow*

1999 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Ernest W. Conner, 1948-1998

Dr. Ernest W. Conner, at a young age, dedicated his life to God. He wanted to give to everyone what he had, which was peace in the Lord Jesus. In April 1992, he returned home to live with his mother, Alice S. Conner. He had multiple sclerosis, which caused him to need assistance to eat, drink and talk on the phone. It even affected his sight. Even though he was bedridden, he would always find the strength to listen and give words of encouragement to those in need. Everyone was influenced by his acceptance of his condition because he did not let it stop him from spending hours, by speaker phone, discussing with others the Bible. People came thinking they would console him in his time of need, but would find that he would be the one that lifted their spirit instead.



He remained faithful to Jesus’ teachings and felt Jesus was guiding and leading him. God had a special place in his heart, and he shared it with everyone he met. Throughout his ministry and even in this time of trial he continued to be faithful to Jesus’ teachings and to spread the message of how Jesus died on the cross for our sins and through Jesus everyone can come to the Father.

Dr. Conner received his Master of Divinity in 1977, and his Doctor of Ministry degree from St. Mary’s Seminary and University, Baltimore, Maryland, in 1984. He was appointed to the North Mecklenburg Charge in Farmville for five years. There he served five churches. For three years he was the district children’s coordinator, 1977-1979, and also the district minister’s vice president in 1978-1979. He was named one of the Outstanding Young Men of America in 1981. He was appointed to Watson Memorial United Methodist Church, Chatham, Virginia. From there he was appointed to the Christ United Methodist Church in Chincoteague, Virginia.

Services were held at St. John’s in Halifax, Virginia, with the Rev. Les Goode, the Rev. Dewitt Loomis, and Mr. Wayne Hart conducting the services. —*Mary Ann Campbell*

Frankie Jean Harris, 1934-1999

My mother, the Rev. Frankie Jean Harris, died on Holy Saturday, April 3, 1999, the day before Easter. In the days before her death, her family gathered around her in her hospital room to keep her company and to give one another strength. Medical personnel and visitors who passed by Mama’s door during those days heard laughter, singing, Scripture and storytelling. Mama wanted it that way. She told us over and over again that her passing was to be celebrated. She knew she was going to join her Heavenly Father. She looked forward with hope and faith over the 3-1/2 years of her battle with cancer

to the day when she would join Him in Heaven. She said she was going to ask God to assign her a lion when she got there. She explained that she had always wanted a really big cat. She had faith that God would grant her that wish.

She gave to her children the gift of faith and active participation with a church family from an early age. Growing up, we were in church every Sunday. My sister and brothers and I recall fondly how Mama would spot with her eagle eyes, a dirt spot we had missed while washing. She would spit on a tissue and clean the spot off our faces right there in the pew. We squirmed and fussed, but we were cleaned. When we were older, she sang in the choir. She was always seated in the choir loft where she could see us. All it took for us to behave was one delicately raised eyebrow from Mama. We straightened up immediately for we knew that the depth of our trouble had a direct correlation with how high that eyebrow went. Mama was a woman of many talents. She was an accomplished musician and singer, artist, homemaker, business woman, counselor and pastor.

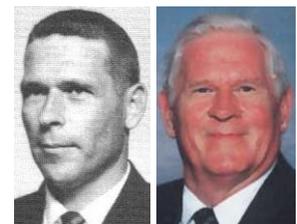
Mama was born in Singers Glen, Virginia, on May 15, 1934. She was a lay minister for a number of years before being ordained in 1994. She was the minister of Mount Bethel and Crimora United Methodist churches. Her memberships included the Fellowship of Local Pastors of the Virginia Conference and the Harrisonburg District Partners in Ministry. There are many things for which Mama will be remembered. Her family, friends and church family most want you to know about her great faith.

Mama's faith gave her incredible courage. Her trust in God gave her peace. She told me several months before she died that her favorite hymn was "Great is Thy Faithfulness." She said she could never sing the words without tears in her eyes and a lump in her throat. She explained that "the words sum up for me, God's love and faith. He has been so good to me." I admit I was stunned. To hear of God's goodness to her when her body was so ravaged by cancer was more than I could take in for a moment. But such was her love of God and her deep faith.

On Easter Sunday, the day Mama was buried on a hilltop in Singers Glen, 12 persons were brought into her church as a result of her ministry. I can see my mother watching contentedly from Heaven, her lion at her side as those persons were welcomed into her church family. I believe that God turned to her and said, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Great was thy faithfulness to me." —*The Frankie Harris Family: Dillina W. Stickley, Dianna L. Chandler, Charles C. Wimer, Robert C. Wimer, III, and Samuel Morris*

Ralph Edward Rice, 1934-1999

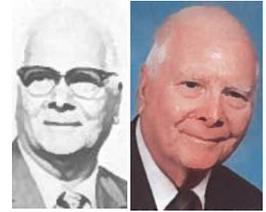
Ralph Rice lived his life in true JOY: J—Jesus first, O—others second, Y—yourself last. Before he came into the ministry he could have played professional baseball, for he was an outstanding athlete. However, he felt the call to preach. He attended Ferrum College for two years, and then attended Randolph-Macon College and Duke Divinity School. Ralph and his wife, Thelma Chewing Rice, had two sons, Paul E. Rice and Thomas W. Rice. Also, five grandsons and one granddaughter. He enjoyed his family, freshwater trout fishing, golfing and church league softball.



Ralph Rice served a number of churches. They include the South Culpeper Charge, Batesville, North Louisa, Isle of Wight, Bethel-St. Matthew Charge, Annex-Crimora, Charlotte Charge, Pungoteague Charge, McKendree-Asbury Charge and Mt. Laurel United Methodist Church. His death came while he was serving at Mt. Laurel, a church he had served for five years. Thanks be to God for His gift to us all in Ralph. —*Thelma Rice*

Alvin T. McElroy, 1906-1998

The Rev. Alvin T. McElroy was born in Winder, Georgia, and was the son of Alvin T. McElroy and Loretta Jones McElroy. He came to Virginia from Georgia at the age of 17, seeking a job in printing. He joined Schoolfield United Methodist Church at that time and remained a member until his death. He was first married to Rosa Mae Carlton McElroy and they had four children. She was his mate for 61 years which included his years of the ministry. He was later married to Madeline Martin McElroy. He spent most of his adult life in Virginia, where he worked for Dan River Mills, Inc. He later became a farmer and while working his fields he felt he had “the call” to do God’s work and so he became a “fisher of men.” This decision led to a meaningful life benefiting humankind.



He entered Duke University and, with God’s help, he accomplished his goal to become a minister. After completing his ministerial studies, he began his preaching duties. Among his churches were Woolwine, Payneton, Gretna, Powhatan and the Eastern Shore. Alvin McElroy was a “people’s person,” as his interaction with people was very good. He was loved and respected by young and old alike. He loved music. In his 21 years of ministry, he started and encouraged his church choirs. He felt that music was a joyful part of religion.

When the Rev. McElroy retired from the ministry, he hooked up a trailer and traveled the United States. He and Loretta finally settled in Danville, Virginia, in 1972, for he said, “There is no finer place and it is home.” He was married to Rosa for 61 years. After she passed away he was at a church reunion, and met up with his teenage sweetheart. They were married when they were 80 years old. They had 10 very happy years together.

As a synopsis of his life, one must consider that he was born during a time of hardship and raised a family of four during the Depression. He overcame many obstacles, and during his ministry he led many people to Christ...therefore his life was meaningful. My Dad always said, “I’ve been blessed.” And he was. —*Virginia McElroy Strader*

Carl Thomas Paughf, 1926-1998

The Rev. Carl T. Paughf was born Jan. 2, 1926, in Orinoca, Virginia, to William Thomas and Mary Wise Paughf. He attended Orinoca Elementary School and the Pleasant View High School. He completed his high school education in Washington, D.C. There he prepared for a ministry career at an early age. He attended Ferrum College and graduated from Lynchburg College in 1962. Carl was ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church on June 14, 1971, and served the ministry for 50 years.



His ministry appointments included: Mount Tabor, Monroe (1948); Toms Brook (1950); Mount Solon (1952); Gainesboro (1955); Mount Airy (1956); Phoenix (1958); Pamplin (1962); Asbury Memorial, Danville (1970); and Painter-Bethel (1973), where Carl served as pastor for 22 years until he retired in 1995. He served as director for 14 years at Camp Occohannock, now known as Occohannock On the Bay in Davis Wharf, Virginia. Carl had a particular passion for youth camps and youth development, and he held various positions in every district he served. He held Scoutmaster and district positions with the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts of America throughout his career.

Carl was a member of the Exmore Ruritan Club and served in the position of secretary from 1973 until 1998. He was awarded special mission recognition by the Bethel United Methodist Women, and a gift for the mission of the church was forwarded to the Women’s Division. He taught English at Central High School in Painter, Virginia, and contributed his time to substitute teaching throughout his life. He served as associate chaplain at Shore Memorial Hospital in Nassawadox, Virginia, since 1973, and in the Industrial Chaplains of the Eastern Shore.

Carl always had time to spend with those in need. He reserved time to visit those who were sick, hospitalized, and confined to their homes. He believed life was a gift of God given to use and share with the love of family and friends. The greatest treasures were those bestowed upon his ministry. He said, “I have experienced everything that a minister could experience with gratefulness in my heart for loving Christians like you.”

“It has been a vision through which human eyes can see beyond, for through our eyes we can see the greatness of God.”

Carl was a faithful and loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend. He dedicated his life to God, his ministry, his family and friends. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Lucille Maddox Paughf; his son, Carl, Jr.; and one granddaughter, Kalyn Blaire Paughf. Carl truly preached and lived by God’s word and he will be missed.

A service was held on Sept. 10, 1998 at the Doughty Funeral Home in Exmore, Virginia. The service was conducted by Elizabeth A.S. Wright, district superintendent, Eastern Shore; Carl’s good friend, the Rev. Emerson Twining, pastor of the Exmore Wesleyan Church; and the Rev. Clarence Bowen, pastor of Painter-Bethel. —*Lucille M. Paughf and Carl, Jr.*

Thomas Jackson Hawkins, 1903-1998

Thomas Jackson Hawkins was born April 9, 190, at Dinwiddie, Virginia, son of Eugene and Emma Jackson Hawkins. He married Edith Virginia Euker on August 15, 1928, who predeceased him. They had two sons, the Rev. Robert Euker Hawkins and Frederick Hawkins. Dr. Hawkins received his A.B. degree at Randolph-Macon College and his B.D. degree from Yale Divinity School. He was ordained deacon in 1928 at Marquand Chapel, Yale Divinity School; probationary member of the Virginia Conference in 1930; an elder and member in full connection in 1932; and a Doctor of Divinity from Randolph-Macon College in 1946. Dr. Hawkins served the following appointments starting in 1926: Chesterfield Circuit, Benns Church; Associate, First Church of Charlottesville; Highland, Williamsburg; First Church, Norfolk; Braddock Street, Winchester; Mt. Vernon, Danville; Green Memorial, Roanoke; superintendent, Rappahannock District; Trinity, Richmond; Duncan Memorial, Ashland; with retirement coming in 1968, after he served as superintendent of the Lynchburg District.



According to the 1931 conference Journal, Dr. Hawkins was appointed as junior preacher at First Church, Charlottesville. During this appointment he initiated and carried on a tremendous work with and among the students at University of Virginia. This was the beginning of a definite work with students that evolved into the Wesley Foundation.

After retirement, Dr. and Mrs. Hawkins moved to their home in Kilmarnock in the Rappahannock District where I, the writer of these memoirs, was appointed superintendent. No young, inexperienced superintendent and his wife could have had a more supportive former superintendent and wife than Dr. and Mrs. Hawkins. During five of my six years in the Rappahannock District, Dr. Hawkins willingly served appointments needing a pastor. Dr. Hawkins died September 19, 1998, at The Hermitage in Richmond. His memorial service was held at Reveille Church conducted by Dr. Steven R. Jones and Bishop R. Kern Eutsler. —*Joseph T. Carson, Jr.*

Rufus Elmer O’Quinn, 1928-1998

Rufus O’Quinn was born September 4, 1928, in Nicholas County, West Virginia. It was in the Mountain State that he met his childhood sweetheart, Helen Bragg. On August 5, 1950, Rufus and Helen were married—a union that produced three sons, David, Rodney, and a son, Randy, who preceded Rufus in



death in 1997. Rufus felt God's call to ministry and served in the West Virginia Conference for four years as a supply pastor. In 1963, he was licensed as a supply pastor in the Staunton District of the Virginia Conference. In the summer of 1969, he completed the Advanced Course of Study at Duke Divinity School. He became a full member of the Virginia Conference in 1971, and his ministry carried him through 10 appointments in various locations throughout the state.

Throughout Rufus' ministry, one could always expect, and receive, sound and compassionate pastoral care. No matter where he was or what the circumstances, Rufus always remained the same. There was no pretense in his ministry or in his personal life. People referred to him as "kind," "loving," "easygoing," "a spiritual leader," and "friend." Congregations appreciated his style of dealing with day-to-day situations, knowing that they could always count on him to be there when needed. His style of dry humor always caused smiles when Rufus came into a room.

Although he retired in 1994, Rufus still accepted preaching engagements until his health prohibited doing so. When his health permitted, he also enjoyed the out-of-doors, fishing and hunting with friends and his sons.

On October 3, 1998, Rufus was transferred to the Church Triumphant. He had chosen, because of the natural beauty of the surrounding mountains he loved, the Whitmer Family Cemetery in Fulks Run, Virginia, as his place of interment.

Rufus will be fondly remembered by those who knew and loved him, and especially by members of churches where he had served as a servant of God who enjoyed the ministry to which he had been called. While we will miss him, we also realize that his is the crowning event for which he had given his life in preparation. Rufus was asked about six months prior to his death what his greatest hope would be, concerning heaven. He replied, "Hearing those words, 'Well done.'" —*David R. Burrough*

Joseph Leslie Stone, 1918-1998

"Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise!" That was Joe Stone's lifelong theme song. He never tired of preaching the gospel and witnessing for his Lord. He believed in the Resurrection and its message of life eternal. "Funerals are celebrations of life as we know it and joyous send-offs to life with Christ!" Joe was a genuine pastor to his flock, a strong prophet of evangelism, an excellent preacher, and an able church administrator. No matter how hectic his life, how burdened his mind with concern for others, he always had time for his family. He never forgot birthdays or anniversaries and each March reserved one special day for kite flying with his daughter. Quite the fun-loving man, he was a great tease with a knee-slapping sense of humor.



Born in Stillwater, Okla., to Charles Holmes and Willie Kate Williams Stone, this descendant of a long line of preachers and exhorters grew up in Greensboro, N.C. Joe earned his bachelor's degree at The College of William and Mary and continued his education at Duke University, earning what would later become a Master of Divinity degree. While at William and Mary, he met and married Jane Frances Dunn, from Washington Street Church, Alexandria, and daughter of William Edward and Harriet Rogers Pollard Dunn. Together, they followed Christ's "Great Commission" through nine Virginia pastorates: the West Franklin and Henry circuits; Ferebee-Halstead and Colonial Avenue, Norfolk; Oakland Avenue, Westhampton, and Highland Park, Richmond; Trinity, Lexington; and Aldersgate, Hampton. Joe held many district and conference positions, most of which focused on evangelism or education. He was also active in many civic organizations. Like his father before him, he boasted of more than 50 years as a member of the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity.

He participated as the only representative from Virginia in the American Mission to British Methodism in 1962, and several years later, he and Jane participated as part of the mission team to Scandinavian Methodism. His devotion to Methodism was enhanced a thousand-fold by his frequent

visits to John Wesley's church and Aldersgate Street in London. Joe retired in 1966, but rarely turned down an opportunity to preach and administer the sacraments. While his first love was always to share the good news of the Gospel, his second career in financial management and tax preparation focused on the unique needs of those in full-time Christian ministry.

After Jane's death, he married Nancy Dodson Truitt of Epworth Church, Norfolk. Following Nancy Truitt's death he married Nancy Spencer Cherry who survives him. He is also survived by a daughter, Jane Hernandez, and grandchildren, Stephen Patterson and Harriet Latta. His memorial service at Centenary Church, Portsmouth, Virginia, closed with these words: "Joseph Leslie Stone came to the closing chapter of his life with this affirmation, 'I know in whom I have believed, and I am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that Day.'" —*Jane Hernandez*

Van Edward Cash, 1920-1998

Van Edward Cash was born July 13, 1920, in a log cabin in Coffeytown, Amherst County, the oldest son in a family of nine children. His parents were John E. and Lucy Crawford Cash. Van volunteered for the Army in World War II, serving as a medic in Europe, suffering from exposure, pneumonia. Following a career as a barber, Van suffered from TB and stayed in the Veterans hospital over two years. During that time, Mary G. White visited him, they fell in love and were married on April 20, 1954. Van felt the call of God to ordained ministry, and was assigned to the Mt. Tabor Charge while attending Lynchburg College, and the summer program at Duke Divinity School. Van, Mary and now baby girl, Pamela Leah, went on to serve the Amherst Circuit, Cape Hatteras in the North Carolina Conference, Bellevue in the Lynchburg District, Capron in the Portsmouth District, Calvary in Richmond, West Fredericks Hills, Providence White, Lynchburg, and Chatham-Granbery Heights in the Danville District, retiring for health reasons in 1988.



Following retirement, Van continued to serve on the North Amherst Charge at Wesleyan United Methodist Church, helping a fellow retired minister as much as possible. Van was a gracious, caring pastor, a good preacher, and served well in spite of declining health. The people loved Van where he served. Upon his death, Van returned to his native Amherst County, in Madison Heights, where he entered into eternal rest on October 13, 1998. A service of celebration was held at Amelon United Methodist Church on October 17, 1998, with burial at Fort Hill Memorial Park, Lynchburg. The following clergy participated: Thomas G. Lee, Raymond Rowland, Henry E. Riley, Jr. and Samuel E. McGee. Survivors include his wife, Mary, daughter, Pamela Tinsley and her husband Charles, and two grandsons, Andrew and Matthew. —*Henry E. Riley, Jr., and Raymond Rowland*

Wyndham Nelson Gregory, 1913-1998

The life of Wyndham Nelson Gregory was one lived with a singleness of purpose—to know and serve his Lord. His ministry, shaped by his fidelity to that purpose, was marked by a faithful and often individualistic adherence to his own sense of the presence of God in his life. Wyndham Gregory was born in Richmond, October 26, 1913, the son of Sherwood Vanderslice Gregory and Julia Clay Tutwiler Gregory, and attended public schools in Richmond. "Wyndy" Gregory was one who came slowly to ministry. He was early taught the precepts of his father, a Baptist deacon. First employed as a power company lineman, he later formed his own electrical contracting company in Round Hill in Loudoun County. It was in the Methodist church there that, after a time, he was called to ministry. With the encouragement of that congregation he was enabled to take up his studies, first at Lynchburg College, where he earned a B.A. in religion in 1952. He studied for ministry at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, where he was awarded the Master of Divinity degree in 1956.



Ordained a deacon in 1954 and an elder in 1956, he was received into the Virginia Conference in full connection in 1956. His appointments, from 1949 to 1972, included: Bellevue, Bedford County; Goochland; Shady Grove, Henrico; St. John's, Springfield; Morrison, Newport News; Trinity, Orange; Memorial, Petersburg; Barton Heights, Richmond; Epworth-First, Covington; and Christ, Covington. After a sabbatical year, he retired in 1972. Reactivated in 1973 to serve Brookville-Shiloh, Lynchburg, he was appointed to Brookeville; he then served Concord, Appomattox County, and retired permanently in 1981.

Wyndham's marriage to Elizabeth Low produced two sons, Wyndham Nelson, Jr., and John Low. In their years together, Wyndham and Elizabeth brought together their individual natures into a partnership in life and in ministry. His retirement years in Alleghany County were fruitful ones. He and Elizabeth participated fully in the life of Emory Church, Hot Springs, where his kindly consideration for the needs of others endeared him to that family of faith.

The pain of Wyndham's life, calling up all the reserves of his profound faith, was the loss by death of Elizabeth in 1984 and both his sons during May 1993. Despite his own loss, his continuing sense of ministry led him to serve as a counselor in a safe home for battered women in Covington; as a library aide in the Falling Springs Elementary School, where he was beloved by the children; as a covenant participant in an Emmaus group; and as a mission volunteer.

Wyndham Gregory died October 19, 1998, and is survived by his brother, Henry Clay Gregory of Richmond; a daughter-in-law, Suzanne Gregory, of Chesterfield, S.C.; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. His funeral service was conducted by the Rev. Bass Mitchell, and he was laid to rest in the cemetery of Emory United Methodist Church, Hot Springs. Wyndham Gregory knew and served his Lord. —*Henry C. Gregory, as told to Patti B. Russell*

Joseph M. Willard, Jr., 1922-1998

Joseph M. Willard, Jr. was the oldest of four children born to Joseph M. and Elizabeth L. Willard on April 3, 1922, in Newport News, Virginia. Joe was active in Riverview United Methodist Church in Rescue, Virginia. In 1977, the pastor became ill and Joe filled in until June 1978, when he was appointed as a local pastor to the Mecklenburg Charge in the Petersburg District. Also in 1978, Joe met Katherine Wray, a member of the Mecklenburg Charge, and they were married December 24th. It was a wonderful shared ministry together.



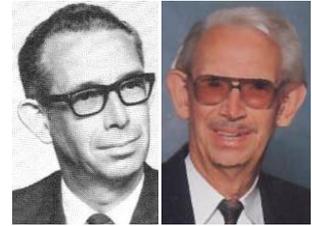
Joe completed his courses of study at Duke University and earned his associate degree at Ferrum College, all of the time continuing to serve his appointed churches. Joe was ordained associate member in the conference in June 1986. In addition to the Mecklenburg Charge, Joe served Gary's, Floyd Parish, and Pamplin Charge. After a few months in retirement, Joe was called to serve Nottoway Charge, Glenwood Charge, and Boydton Charge. Joe still missed that call to preach and was called out of retirement a third time to serve Brodnax Charge in July 1992 until June 1996.

Like everything else that came to Joe's life, he fought the good fight and won the victory over cancer. Joe's love for preaching brought him to Providence United Methodist Church in July 1998, until his peaceful death at his home in Bracey, Virginia, on November 9, 1998. Joe's interests were preaching, gospel singing and anything else pertaining to the Lord's work. Joe will be long remembered for his style of Gospel preaching and the love he shared with the people he served.

His Service of Death and Resurrection was celebrated by his superintendent, the Rev. Anthony Layman, the Rev. A. D. Goodson, the Rev. James Edmonds and Heath Lewis, a nephew to his wife, who gave a very moving and stirring eulogy that made us all understand the impact Joe had made on his life as well as others. The hymn, "He Touched Me," was evident in many lives that Joe touched, and after he had felt that special touch from Christ. —*Katherine Willard*

Thomas Elgin Jackson, 1924-1998

In God's perfect timing, and not ours, the invitation was extended to Tom to join Christ in eternity last November. For us, a kind and gentle witness which spanned some 74 years ended too soon. Over five decades ago, this "Carolina guy" met a "Dismal Swamp gal" and they headed north for the hills of Virginia. Along the way they collected three children who would eventually grow into the "Jackson Clan." Answering the call to ordained ministry, they would find themselves either "near the water" or "in the hills" in their appointments. They served central Virginia, the Northern Neck, the Peninsula, Southside, the Valley, and the Piedmont region. Over the years, Appomattox grew to become "home-base." All along the way, so many lives were blessed by Tom and Daphne. It was impossible not to love him. Every place they served was "the best place" and he was ever ready to boast on the fine people he and Daphne were privileged to serve.



Tom Jackson wore many hats—Christian, husband, father, grandfather, pastor, mentor, NASCAR fan. Hopefully, it was in that order, but on occasion, the priorities were probably a little "messed up." Regardless of his hat, his unmistakable and unrelenting love was abundantly evident.

For me, two words seem paramount regarding my dear friend. First, we know "Who he was," "what he was," and now "where he is." He was human, a people-person. We laughed a lot, worked together, prayed together, vacationed together, shared a mutual love for cars and trucks, and developed a relationship not unlike children and parents. Rare were the occasions when he did not wear a smile.

Second, Tom was the embodiment of "servanthood." The strength of his witness was pastoral; the strength of his pastorates was his loving witness. He earned a Purple Heart during World War II, was a volunteer police chaplain, hospital chaplain and served in rescue squads and other civic organizations. The epitome of his service though, rested with the pastoral ministry. It would have been very rare for him not to have faithfully trudged off to "wherever" to help "whomever" through "whatever." That's what being a pastor meant.

Able to visit with him less than a week before his death, he was working on a sermon. He did a poor job of saying "no"; he retired about three times—he just couldn't get that part right! The servanthood-drive was still going strong.

I am grateful to the Rev. Doug Gilfillan, the Rev. Ronnie Morris, the Rev. David Drinkard, the Rev. Vernie Barrow, and to Mrs. Rhonda Crowley (Tom and Daphne's granddaughter) for their assistance with the service of worship and celebration at Memorial Church, Appomattox. We are so very appreciative to: Daphne; son, Mike and his wife, Nancy; daughter, Cindy and her husband, Ronnie; granddaughter, Rhonda, her husband, Jim and children, Jimmy; and Breanna; grandson David and his fiancée, Kelly; and daughter, Sharon, and her children, Justin, Seth and Ashton, for sharing Tom with us. Burial was in Old Herman Methodist Cemetery on the Appomattox surrender grounds. To many of us, this seemed very fitting for one who had surrendered his life to Christ and who then unselfishly gave his service for others. —*Richard T. Woodall*

Herbert Lee Bowers, Jr., 1932-1998

The Rev. Herbert Lee Bowers, Jr. died quietly at the age of 66 in his home in Machipongo on the beautiful Eastern Shore of Virginia. His body was laid to rest in the cemetery at Johnsons United Methodist Church after services conducted by the Rev. Brooke Willson and the Rev. Albert Lee Crockett. Lee Bowers was born October 22, 1932, in Detroit, Michigan, to H.L., Sr. and Helen Small Bowers. He attended Ferrum and graduated from Virginia Tech before entering Westminster Theological Seminary. His first appointments included Burke-Sydenstricker, Waterford, Wachapreague, Tangier, and



Fairfield. Taking a 10-year hiatus from the itinerant ministry to help raise a family on a farm in the Shenandoah Valley, Lee taught school, raised livestock, and continued to pastor part-time congregations including Collierstown, Mount Horeb, and Vesuvius Baptist. He returned to the full-time ministry in 1977, serving Prince Edward Charge; Onley-Greenbush; Shackelfords; Boykins; Monumental, Emporia; and Grace, Parksley where he retired on disability in 1992.

Lee enjoyed sporting events, painting, and gardening. If you looked closely in his flower gardens you might notice a cucumber or tomato plant mixed in. He had a real passion for fishing and spent his final years as able wetting a hook on the wondrous Chesapeake Bay. Noting his competitive nature, a friend remarked that “Lee wanted to catch the first fish, the most fish, and the biggest fish!” His sense of humor came through in all he did.

We can still vividly remember Lee’s sermon on the 23rd Psalm. He drew from his experiences on the farm where he raised sheep of his own to paint the most vivid word pictures. He made it very clear that this was a psalm of life, not death.

The words of Simeon “lettest now thy servant depart in peace according to thy word” now seem to be so very appropriate. There is no doubt that today Lee “has seen thy salvation,” Jesus Christ our Lord. It is now our task as friends and family to look back with grateful hearts for Lee’s life but more importantly to press on in the faith.

The Rev. Bowers is survived by his wife, Diane Harkness Bowers; four sons, Daniel, Stephen, Timothy, and Paul; and their families; along with many other relatives and friends. For Lee: husband, father, brother, son, pastor, teacher, farmer, friend: Thanks be to God! —*The Family*

Julius Lee, 1932-1998

Julius Lee was a person who not only loved his Lord, but loved and cared deeply for his family and for all those other people to whom he ministered during his 32 years in pastoral ministry. His priorities as a pastor were preaching the Word and being there when a person had a need. He always said, “If they don’t need me now, they don’t need me.” Julius Haywood Lee was born August 15, 1932, in Johnston County, North Carolina, to Harvey M. and Martha Massengill Lee. He graduated from Four Oaks High School, and then served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. Following this, he worked for the Atlantic Christian College (now Barton College) in Wilson, N.C. After finishing college, he taught social studies at West Edgecombe High School, Rocky Mount, N.C. During this time, the call to become a minister of the Gospel, which he had received as a teenager, became very urgent upon him. He then answered the call of his Lord and entered Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, from which he received the Master of Divinity, and later did his CPE work at South Carolina Baptist Hospital.



Julius pastored Ephesus Baptist Church, Spring Hope, N.C., Patterson Springs Baptist Church, Grover, N.C., and Rose of Sharon Baptist Church, Durham, N.C. before coming to the Virginia Conference in December of 1979. He served the Cumberland Charge and Halifax Church in the Farmville District, and the Prince George Charge and Matoaca Church in the Petersburg District, retiring July 1, 1998.

His survivors include his wife, Katherine Cox Lee; a daughter, Martha Lee King, and her husband, Keith Samuel King of Disputanta, Virginia; a granddaughter, Cynthia Rebekah King, age 2; two sisters and three brothers; two sisters having preceded him in death.

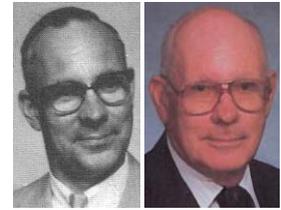
A service of celebration for his life and ministry was held at Matoaca United Methodist Church on January 1, 1999, with the Rev. Howard Gosnell, pastor; the Rev. Anthony Layman, district superintendent; and the Rev. L. W. Adams officiating.

When told in September 1998 that he had colon cancer which had spread, Julius said, “I will be a winner no matter how it goes.” Near the end, as he was slipping away., he smiled and said, “The widow

of Zarephath was going to eat the bread and then die” (1 Kings 17:12). Julius could smile because he knew that, as Elijah had brought the miracle to this widow, the Lord was about to bring him to his victory. Yes, Julius won in the best way for him at 4:40 p.m., December 29, 1998. —*Katherine C. Lee*

Virgil Bland Shrader, 1928-1999

Virgil B. Shrader was born in Marlinton, West Virginia, to Mennonite parents who were farmers. At the age of 20, he married Julia Zelia Jackson in Charleston, West Virginia, on February 14, 1949. Among many things that he did before entering the ministry were: working at the Cases saw mill, the coal mines and he logged dye wood to pay the hospital bill of his firstborn child (which is me). Before entering the ministry, my mother took me into the bedroom every morning and prayed for hours for God to use Dad in some way. She prayed for months (to me it seemed like a long time). One day he heard a voice asking “Will you serve Me?” while driving to work. Dad thought someone was playing a trick on him.



On the way to work on an icy road in November, while working in the mines, the car Dad was driving went over Cheat Mountain. None of the passengers were hurt, only dad. He was taken to the hospital with a fractured skull and a burst ear drum. The doctor wanted to know if he was hurting or needed something for pain. He said that he didn’t have any pain at all. While lying in the hospital he heard the voice again, “I have spared your life, now will you serve Me?” He knew this was God speaking to him. He then entered the ministry after the death of his second child in the year of 1954.

His first charge was a little place called Riverside, West Virginia. He served several churches, plus an African-American church that did not have a pastor. They were so good to us that they saved the front seat just for us on Sunday morning. After Riverside, it was onto Jarrsville for two years where Dad entered Salem College. While at Jarrsville, there were two old sisters that didn’t get out to church, so Dad recorded the service for them. On the way home, he stopped in on the family to share the service with them. While in the middle of this, an old lady peered through the front door and saw the sisters enjoying the service and us children jumping up and down, so the old lady left and told everyone Dad was a Holy Roller (AMEN).

Then onto Upper Tract, West Virginia, and Dad was back to school at Salem College. Money was very tight so Mom worked at the grade school cafeteria where she brought home leftovers for us to live on, and the money she made went to Dad for college. Next it was to Albright, West Virginia, for two years. That is when a bunch of West Virginia pastors thought they would like to go to the Virginia Conference. I think they were called the “ West In Virginia Rat Pack,” and Dad was in the middle of them. In Virginia, he served Rustburg, Blairs, Altavista, Nottoway, Shenandoah, Carson, Floyd Co., Keysville, Eagle Rock, and others. At Iron Gate, a woman told me that Dad took her to the hospital when her husband was in intensive care. He sat with her all day long. When he was in Remington, he was very active in the volunteer rescue squad, and also he became an active chaplain in the Civil Air Patrol.

Dad had a woman call him and asked him to take her son that was going blind from diabetes to a doctor that was over 200 miles away, and he was off in five minutes with no questions asked. He was very strong when it came to doing what is right in the church. But, he had a very big heart of gold. If you needed him, he was there; or if you needed something he would try to get it for you.

Virgil retired from the Virginia Conference in 1989. He went back to farming, what he loved second best. He still remained active in the church. He helped in the clean-up of Hurricane Hugo in North Carolina. The lives that he touched were more than I will never know. Only God has the number.

I sadly miss Dad but, just as God called him to serve Him, he was called home to be with Him. We will all miss his wisdom and love. May we love and serve God the way Dad did. May God Bless us all.
—*Donna Marie Shrader Swann*

Francis Lee Hunt, 1913 - 1999

The love of the ministry began for Francis Lee Hunt when, as a young boy, he gathered his playmates around him and became their preacher in a make-believe church service. Later, his dream of being a minister was realized when he served first as a lay speaker, then as a licensed local preacher and finally as an ordained minister in the Methodist Church. The Rev. Francis Lee Hunt was born Dec. 16, 1913, at Timber Ridge, in Rockbridge County, Virginia, the only son of Joseph Fultz and Alice Ayres Hunt.



While Francis was a boy, the Rev. A. Irvin Orndoff, a Methodist minister who was serving in Rockbridge County, made a strong impression on him. The Hunt family moved to Roanoke County when Francis was a teenager. He attended William Byrd High School where he became a member of the football team and developed what would be a lifelong interest in sports.

In his mid-20s, Francis had a calling to become a minister and began to study toward that goal. He was assisted by friends in the ministry, especially the Rev. Orndoff, who was then serving as pastor of Huntington Court Methodist Church in the Roanoke District. As his pastor and friend, the Rev. Orndoff became a mentor to Francis and strongly influenced the future course of his life. Francis was licensed to preach while he was a member of Huntington Court. The Rev. Orndoff also performed the ceremony when Francis was united in marriage with Christine Wesley Bush on July 29, 1941.

Francis was often invited to speak at local churches. It was at one of these little country churches, Woodland, near Troutville, that Francis had met Christine in 1940. In the summer of 1943, he left his job with Burlington Mills and accepted an opportunity offered in the Norfolk District to go to the Hampton-Langley Field area. There, he visited families in a housing development for defense workers and military personnel and conducted church services in a house rented by the Methodist Church.

In the fall of 1943, Francis was appointed as a student minister to the North Patrick Charge so he could continue his preparation for the ministry by attending Ferrum Junior College. He and Christine began what was to be a journey of many thousands of miles in order to receive their college degrees. In good weather they commuted over 30 miles a day on gravel roads from the parsonage to classes; in bad weather their commute lengthened to over 50 miles. After graduating from Ferrum, Francis was appointed to the Toms Brook Charge, where they attended Bridgewater College, traveling over 100 miles a day for classes three to five days a week. With their goal of graduation foremost in their minds and being young and in love, this demanding time in their lives didn't seem all that difficult.

The long-awaited day arrived in June 1949, when they received their undergraduate degrees from Bridgewater. Francis met the Disciplinary requirements by finishing the Course of Study and was ordained a deacon in 1951 and an elder in 1953, both ordinations taking place in Roanoke with Bishop Paul Neff Garber presiding.

Francis served in the Virginia Conference from 1943 to 1975, when he took disability leave. In 1979, he retired with 35.75 years of service as a member of the conference. He served nine appointments: North Patrick Charge, Toms Brook Charge, Fields in Shenandoah, Monumental in Emporia, Fairview in Roanoke, Basic in Waynesboro, Wesley Memorial in Martinsville, Trinity in Orange, and Cameron in Alexandria.

He loved being in the ministry and served his Lord by serving others, always giving special care and attention to the aged, the shut-in, and the bereaved. He is remembered for his good sense of humor and his smile, for his love of singing and music, for the joy he received in sharing in the fellowship of family

and friends, and for putting his ministry first in his life. He is also remembered as a proud and loving father to their only child, Frances Anne, who was born in Roanoke in 1959.

After he became disabled in 1975, Francis lived 24 years with his family in their home which they bought in Mason Neck in Fairfax County. Francis, at age 85, died on Palm Sunday, March 28, 1999, in the Inova Fairfax Hospital, in Falls Church. The cause of death was respiratory and cardiac failure. He is survived by his wife of 57 years and eight months, Christine W. B. Hunt, and their only child, Frances A. Hunt, of Lake Ridge. His funeral was conducted on Thursday, April 1, in the chapel of the Botetourt Funeral Home in Buchanan, Virginia, by his dear friend of many years, the Rev. David L. Wade, of First United Methodist Church of Hopewell. He was buried in Trinity Cemetery, near Troutville, in Botetourt County. He was preceded in death by his parents and his only sibling, a sister, Louise H. Bandy.

In a letter expressing sympathy and love to his family, a member of a church where he had served, wrote this tribute: "I remember Mr. Hunt with much fondness, because he shared in the happiest day of my life when he came to visit me when my son was born in 1961. He very kindly wrote to me in 1976, when I had an emotional problem and his words were encouraging and thoughtful. I am very grateful for having had my life touched by him and I just wanted to share these words with you as I look back on those days that we were privileged to have with you. My sincerest love and respect." What a beautiful testimony as he is remembered for his life of Christian love and service to others.

"Well done, good and faithful servant," now entered into the glory of your Lord. We will always love you. —*Christine and Frances A. Hunt*

Harry Cleveland Rickard, 1907 - 1999

The Rev. Harry Cleveland Rickard was born September 22, 1907, in Rileyville, Virginia, the son of John E. and Jenny Ann Price Rickard. He died March 15, 1999. He was a graduate of Shepherd College, Duke University and the University of Virginia. His ministry began in 1933 at Churchville in the Baltimore South Conference. In 1939, he entered the Virginia Conference, serving the Gordonsville Charge. During World War II he served as a chaplain in the United States Army. His chaplaincy was from 1943 to 1963. Upon retirement from the Army, he served the Greenville-Mint Spring Charge.



He was a Mason, a member of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church and the United States Organization of Military Chaplains. The latter years of his retirement from the active ministry were spent in Strasburg, Virginia, where he and his wife, Reba, lived for nearly 15 years. They were active in Strasburg United Methodist Church, assisting the church pastor in numerous ways, visiting people in the congregation and community, and providing Christian help and counsel wherever needed.

He is survived by his wife, Reba, who resides in Skyline Terrance Nursing Home, Woodstock, Virginia. What appropriate words can be said of this quiet, unassuming, dedicated Christian gentleman? These come to mind. "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your Lord." —*Sarah P. Faulconer*

David Matthews Smith, 1956 - 1999

Only on rare occasions does someone come into your life who truly makes a difference. David Matthews Smith was one such person. All my life I have heard the term "kindred spirit." David Smith was a true kindred spirit for me. He lived his life with love and grace that were always present. David loved life and lived life to the fullest. Each day was filled with special moments. David was born on July 14, 1956, to Alson and Margarete Smith



who reside in Winchester, Virginia. He struggled with life, relationships, and ministry. Out of these struggles blossomed a beautiful, spirit-filled life that touched the lives of many. His ministry was real and authentic. He was a free spirited young man who shared God's love in many ways. I was blessed with the opportunity to be somewhat of a mentor to David; however, David taught me more at times than I taught him. His love for the Lord was reflected in every aspect of his living. He was a true friend and he loved everyone who came his way.

David approached his ministry as he did life. He never got hung up on theology or church denominations when it came to ministering to all people alike. David was very flexible in his work keeping the needs of others as the focal point of his ministry. It was said by one of his church members, David lived out the 25th Chapter of Matthew. What greater thing could be said of anyone? David Matthews Smith will be missed by many because he touched many. —*David T. Hampton*

2000 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

John M. “Jay” Brackin, III, 1959-2000

I met Jay Brackin when he was a student at Wesley Theological Seminary. He came to work with me as a seminarian in Berryville, beginning an association and ongoing conversation that continued over the years. Jay loved the liturgies of the church, and lived his life and ministry empowered by what Christ offers us in Baptism, the Holy Table, and in the Word, read, sung, preached, and lived out in the world. Jay was born in Staunton, Virginia, on January 16, 1959, the son of John M. Jr. and Margaret (Burns) Brackin. He completed his undergraduate degree at Washington and Lee University and the Master of Divinity degree at Wesley Theological Seminary. He was elected to probationary membership in the Virginia Conference in 1989, and elected a full member and ordained elder in 1997. He served Batesville, Sherando, Wesley Chapel (Chuckatuck), and Broad Street (Portsmouth), where he was serving when he died on March 17, 2000, following heart surgery.



When we gathered at Broad Street United Methodist Church on March 20, 2000, to give thanks to God for Jay's life and work, we centered our celebration in the things that have mattered most for the church across the years. I was especially moved by the visible connections that were represented that day. Bishop Pennel was able to join us for a special word of witness. The Portsmouth District clergy, with their superintendent, Dr. Donald H. Traylor, and many other conference clergy came to honor a colleague and brother. The members of Jay's congregations gathered to give thanks for his influence in their lives. Central United Methodist Church in Staunton, Jay's home church, was represented by those whose presence spoke of that church's influence in Jay's life, and their pride in a local son. All of us gathered with Jay's family and found strength in the fact that these vital connections were being gathered up into an even larger reality—the whole church singing out in praise to God, gathered at the Lord's Table, claiming the promises of Christ. Our sense of loss was real, but we rejoiced in what God had given us and will give us for the days ahead.

A member of Jay's congregation at Wesley Chapel, Carolyn Melchor, had described Jay so beautifully in a description of one of the “pilgrims” in her Chuckatuck Tales:

There was a Parson, ruddy-cheeked and wyde,
Whose friends were many, though he had no bryde.
He bearde was fulle and blacke, his smile benign,
With small, straight teeth which sparkled in a line.
Despite his asthma and a few more ills —
Which meant a steady diet of sprays and pills —
His manner still was kind, his laughter merry
As it rang throughout the sanctuary.
With special talents did our Lord him bless
To help intensify his holiness:
Ful wel he liked to maken melodye
While singing anthems or the liturgy
In lovely, tenor strains; likewise, he'd got
A gift for making sermons on the spot,
So that he didn't, as some preachers may,
Have to plan for what he would say.
The bread and grape of the communion table
He liked to serve as oft as he was able;

In matters of the dead and matrimony He loved to interject much ceremony,
 And on Palm Sunday he'd been known to fling From palms some water at us while we'd sing.
 In fact, though protestant, post-reformation,
 A Methodist, but longing all the while To swing an incense burner down the aisle. This gentle, learned man of
 Celtic strain Loved our Creator more than roots love rain,
 And also films, so at least once a week We'd likely glimpse at dusk a small, white streak,
 His Honda CRX, swift as an arrow And him within it, flying toward the Naro.

I am grateful for what Jay Brackin means to me, and to all in those vital connections that he lived and loved. We commend him to God's eternal care in the words of St. Benedict:

We seem to give them back to you, O God, who gave them to us.
 Yet as you did not lose them in giving,
 So we do not lose them by their return.
 Not as the world gives, do you give, O Lover of souls. —*Daniel L. Garrett*

Michael Alan McCallister, 1949-2000

The Rev. Michael Alan McCallister was born on April 5, 1949, in Covington, Virginia, to William Horace McCallister and the late Ruth Ergenbright. He graduated from Covington High School in 1967. After high school, Mike attended the University of Virginia where he received his B.A. in 1971. Following his graduation from "The University," Mike pursued his call to ministry by attending Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, Georgia, where he received his M.Div. degree in 1975. While in Atlanta, he completed 30 postgraduate hours toward his Ph.D. It was during this period of his life that he felt called to the local church.



Mike's appointments included: Cape Charles: Trinity in the Eastern Shore District (1976-1980); Bermuda Hundred in the Petersburg District (1980-1990); associate at Annandale in the Arlington District (1990-1995); and then to St. Mark's in the Petersburg District from 1995 until his death on March 19, 2000, from cancer. The record should include his deep appreciation for the love and support that he and his family received, especially from St. Mark's. Mike was an excellent preacher, teacher and pastor. His love for music was well-known and appreciated.

Speaking of love, Mike was a husband and a father. Michael Alan McCallister married Marjorie Reese, whom he met at UVA. The marriage was blessed with two children, a son, Michael "Trevor" Reese McCallister and a daughter, Marjorie "Breck" McCallister.

A memorial service was held at St. Mark's on March 22, 2000, with Bishop Joe E. Pennel Jr., and the Rev. Wm. Anthony Layman presiding, and the Rev. Betsy C. Basehore and the Rev. Charles R. Stacy participating. The church was filled to overflowing. As the procession was beginning, one of the ushers said, "It used to be this way every Sunday." The Rev. Michael Alan McCallister, in his death, was able to fill the church. Those who came, came to express their grief, deep thanksgiving and love for one who was called to serve the local church. Amen. —*Wm. Anthony Layman*

James DeWitt Snow, III, 1952-2000

James DeWitt Snow, III was born on January 12, 1952, in Suffolk, Virginia. He married Laura Jean Brandt on August 23, 1975, at Annandale United Methodist Church. They had three children, Joshua, Jordan, and Bonna. The writer was privileged to perform the ceremony and later to baptize the three children. It was my honor to serve as his mentor. He graduated from Warrick High School in 1970, and received a B.A. degree from Elon College in 1974, and Master of Divinity from Duke Divinity School in 1977. He was ordained a deacon in 1975 and ordained an elder in full connection in 1978.

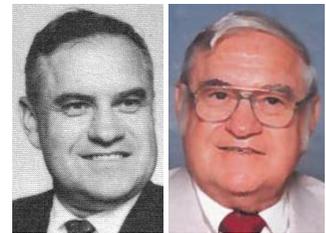


He served the following churches First Church, Broadway and St. James Church in the Harrisonburg District; Asbury Church in the Richmond District; Scott Memorial Church in the Norfolk District; and Sterling Church in the Alexandria District. Jim was an avid reader and prepared his sermons well. His first love was preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. Even in declining health, he preached three times on Sunday morning. He lived under the banner, "To serve the present age, my calling to fulfill oh may all my power engage, to do my Master's will."

Survivors include his wife, Laura Jean, a public school teacher in Loudon County; two sons, Joshua, a junior at Virginia Wesleyan College, and Jordan, a freshman at University of Tennessee; one daughter, Bonna, a junior at Park View High School; his parents, James D. Snow Jr. and Betty Virginia Joyner Snow of Lee Hall, Virginia; and one brother, Barton Mitchell Snow of Yorktown, Virginia. Over 1,000 persons attended the funeral service on April 17, 2000, at Sterling United Methodist Church. Services were conducted by the Rev. William E. Knight, Dr. Lee B. Sheaffer, and the Rev. Alan G. Reifsnyder.
—William E. Knight

Albert Ray Knotts, Jr., 1926-1999

Albert Ray Knotts Jr., was born in Nottoway, Virginia, on April 4, 1926, the son of Albert and Ruth Knotts. Following graduation from high school in Blackstone, Al entered Princeton University and earned a degree in Aeronautical Engineering. Al received a call to the ordained ministry and entered the Divinity School at Duke University, graduating in 1955. Al and Mable Pulley Knotts had grown up as youth on the Nottoway Charge, fell in love, and were married at Victoria Methodist Church on December 18, 1954.



From that union came Ray Knotts III, David Knotts, and Steven Knotts, survivors. Al Knotts was a great pastor, serving at LaCrosse, Prospect, Farmville District, Pembroke, Boonsboro, Wesley in Hopewell, Rocky Mount and Strasburg, retiring in 1991. I came to know Al well while we both were serving at Lynchburg, and were part of a clergy and wives support group. Al served on the conference Board of Ordained Ministry, was District Missions Secretary in three different districts. He was very involved in Volunteers in Mission, going to Mexico, Costa Rica, Sierra Leone, and, in retirement, to Edisto, South Carolina. For a number of years, Al served as secretary for the Virginia Conference Journal. Al Knotts was a dedicated and effective pastor for over 40 years.

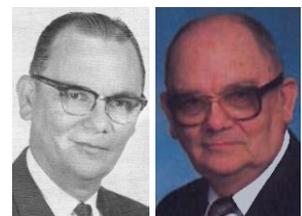
When Al was diagnosed with leukemia and Mable called, I went to the Medical College of Virginia-VCU, Massie Cancer Treatment Center, where we spent many hours together during his illness. Al passed away at his home outside Blackstone on June 28, 1999; a burial service was held on July 1, 1999, at St. Mark's United Methodist Church cemetery, in Nottoway County.

There was a service of Celebration on Sunday, July 4, 1999, at Crenshaw United Methodist Church, led by the Rev. Sylvia S. Meadows, pastor, and the Rev. Charles B. King, superintendent of the Farmville District. Eugene Baker, Barry Burkeholder, and Ray Knotts also offered brief remarks at the service. Regrettably, it was not so that I could be present. Thank God for the true friend I had in Al Knotts.

"...good night, sweet prince, and flights of angels sing thee to thy rest." —Henry E. Riley, Jr.

Garland Wayne Jordan, 1917-1999

Garland Wayne Jordan was born on April 2, 1917, in Fountain Run, Kentucky, the son of Calvin and Georgia Jordan. His family moved to Perkin, Illinois, when he was 5 years old. He lived in Perkin with his parents and two brothers where he graduated from high school. Wayne served seven years in the United States Air Force from 1939-46. Several important events occurred while he was in the Air Force. He married Zella Marie Estelle on August 10,



1940, and heard his call into the ordained ministry in 1944. He received his formal education after leaving the Air Force by earning his B.A. degree from Grand Rapids and his M.Div. degree from the Baptist Seminary in California.

Wayne was ordained an elder in 1956 by the Evangelical United Brethren Church and served pastorates in Indiana, Michigan, and Illinois before transferring to the Virginia Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1964. He served two pastorates in the Virginia EUB Conference and served six appointments in the Virginia United Methodist Conference before retiring in 1983. After retirement he served three appointments in the Petersburg District.

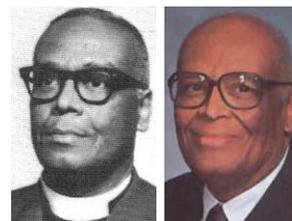
Wayne was known for his well-prepared and short sermons. He constantly was improving his understanding of the Scriptures and challenging the church to follow the Great Commission. Wayne was not a spectator but a participant in all areas of life.

He is survived by his wife with whom he shared 59 years of family life, which was blessed with three sons and two daughters. Wayne died on July 15, 1999, after an extended illness. The Christian Service of Death and Resurrection was held at Wesley Church, Hopewell, with the Rev. Anthony Layman, the Rev. John Crawford and the Rev. Alexander Roberts. He was buried in Fairfax beside his son who preceded him in death.

It can be said, Wayne “ran with endurance the race that was set before him, looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of his faith.” Thanks for the life and ministry of Dr. G. Wayne Jordan. —*Lee B. Sheaffer*

Rawle Seymour Porte, 1924-1999

Rawle became a candidate for the Methodist ministry in his homeland, Barbados, West Indies. Upon graduation from Caenwood Theological College in Kingston, Jamaica, he first served in British Guyana. This is where Rawle met and married Elsa Pollard Porte, who was his lifelong partner. While in Jamaica, Rawle made a significant difference in the life of so many persons as the Manager of Schools, where he worked in the Caribbean. During this period in his life, Methodism took a leading role in elementary and high school education in the Caribbean. Rawle developed festive ordination traditions that continue to this day. In 1972, he helped to develop The Caribbean Ministers’ and Spouses’ Fellowship. This is a group about 200 strong throughout the United States and Canada. Rawle was an active member of this fellowship up to the time of his death.



Rawle and his beloved Elsa served a number of Virginia Conference churches. He served Staunton-Grottoes, Wesley Memorial in Richmond, Roberts Memorial, and was district program director in the Alexandria District. In retirement, he was pastor at St. James in the Peninsula District (1989-1993).

Bishop Robert M. Blackburn appointed Rawle as superintendent of the Peninsula District in 1983, where he served for six years. Bishop Blackburn made this reflection about his working with Rawle: “He was a compassionate leader of the Peninsula District, ministering to the needs of the laity and the clergy. Not only did he exhibit outstanding leadership there, but also in the bishop’s Cabinet. His British background and training brought a sense of Methodist authenticity in his ministry. I thank God for the friendship I have had with Rawle and Elsa.”

Rawle had many passions. He loved his family. Many know that Rawle’s two daughters, Lenisse and Caryl, were the “apples of his eye.” Rawle loved the Body of Christ, our connectional system and the ordained ministry. He enjoyed mentoring persons who were called to the ordained ministry. Despite poor health, Rawle attended the 1999 annual conference and participated in the ordination of one of the ordinands that he had mentored.

Rawle Porte possessed an aura of sophistication and gentleness which was a force for encouragement and strength to those who knew him well, but projected unfathomable mystique to others. He possessed an adventurous spirit, a keen mind and a youthful disposition. We remember him as one who was forever young. —*The Rev. Fitz Allen John, Bishop Robert M. Blackburn, The Rev. Sam NeSmith, The Rev. H. Jack Lynch, The Rev. Melbourne Bailey, Dr. Peter C. Graves, Dr. M. Douglas Newman, and Dr. Arthur Porte*

William Peterson Watkins Jr., 1926-1999

Bill Watkins was born in Goldsboro, North Carolina, on February 26, 1926. A graduate of Emory University and Candler School of Theology, he later took courses from the San Francisco Theological Seminary. He received his Doctor of Ministry degree from San Francisco. Bill Watkins was greatly inspired by his dad's life and career, who also was a distinguished member of the Virginia Conference. Bill served the following churches during his 40 years of ministry: Asbury—Portsmouth, Welborne—Richmond, South Hill, Ferebee-Halstead and St. John's—Norfolk, Huntington Court—Roanoke, Bethany—Hampton, Christ and Community—Arlington, Bruen Chapel—Fairfax, and Marsh Memorial—Lynchburg.



An Eagle Scout, a World War II veteran, Bill was an active member of the Rotary International with over 30 years of perfect attendance. In the Princess Anne Rotary Club of Virginia Beach, he became a Paul Harris Fellow and also served as chaplain. He was a devoted husband to Carolyn Orange Watkins, his wife for 43 years. They have four children: William P. Watkins III, C. Lee Ayoub, Wesley H. Watkins, and Angela O. Watkins. He also leaves five grandchildren and two brothers.

In his last years in the active ministry, Bill formulated sermons taken from foreign travels during vacations. An excellent preacher of the gospel, he loved to preach and used his talent to the glory of God. A lover of people, he enjoyed being with them for weddings, baptisms, anniversary celebrations and eating meals in their homes. He was there for them in sad times when they were sick, unhappy, or had lost a loved one. A lovely gentleman Bill was, with a great sense of humor. His keen sense of wit was with him at all times.

Bill was a great lover of history. He used many names, dates and events of historical importance in his sermons. One of his children said he “gave a sermon as no one else could, with order and precision, all from memory.” His fondness of history was also expressed by his extensive research into the Watkins family genealogy. He produced several volumes which are treasured by the family.

Bill's favorite hymn was sung at his “Celebration of Life” service—“Morning Has Broken.” The words tell of his faith—“Praise with elation, Praise every morning, God's re-creation of the new day!” His service was held at Baylake United Methodist Church on December 22, 1999, by the Rev. Carlton D. Casey. Assisting were the Rev. Robert T. Casey, the Rev. Ted. E. David, and the Rev. Jack E. Scott. The interment was at Washington Memorial Park in Sandston. —*The Watkins Family*

George Sylvester Widmyer, 1915-1999

“When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.
Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small:
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.”

These words from the pen of Isaac Watts reflect the life and ministry of George Sylvester Widmyer. His papers speak of his vision of the cross which God used to call him to ordained ministry. He wrote of one night, in his early teen years, when his mother



pointed his attention to the twinkling stars in God's mammoth sky. While gazing at the mystery of God's heavenly beauty, he beheld a cluster of stars in the form of a cross. From that moment he believed that God had fingered him to proclaim the love of Jesus expressed most fully in that cross.

George S. Widmyer entered God's world on November 1, 1915, and lived each day to its fullest. One of seven children born to the late Ernest and Daisy Stottler Widmyer, he lived his early life in Berkeley Springs, West Virginia. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Lowell Elaine Bartlett Widmyer, on March 30, 1966. Into that beautiful union came four children: George "Fred" Widmyer, Mark L. Widmyer, Sharon P. Dayton, and Cynda C. Widmyer.

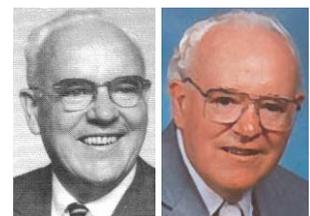
On August 19, 1979, marriage united George to Eva Parker Snyder. Following his retirement in 1980, they moved to Lahmansville, West Virginia, where they resided until his death two days prior to Christmas of 1999. In addition to his wife, Eva, and four children, George is survived by three stepdaughters: Barbara Snyder, Carolyn Goldizen, and Jo Ann Harman; 10 grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; six step-great-grandchildren; two sisters and two brothers. In retirement, he delighted in preaching in various pulpits. He continued actively in the local Ministerial Association, as past president of the AARP, past Lt. Governor of West Virginia District 5 Kiwanis International, the Ruritan Club, Burlington United Family Services and the American Red Cross.

George Widmyer entered the Virginia Conference as part of the former Evangelical United Brethren Church, forming one segment of the union resulting in the present United Methodist Church. He received his first appointment in 1938 at the Berkeley Springs Circuit. From that time until his retirement in 1980, he served pastorates in Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland which included the Blairton-Greensburg Charge, Pleasant Valley, South Branch, Edinburg, Mt. Clinton, Augusta, Potomac Park, Singers Glen and Middleburg. Always the encourager, he introduced his children to Jesus, challenged the people of his churches to growing discipleship, and became a role model for younger colleagues in ordained ministry.

Following his participation in the pre-Christmas service of the Lahmansville United Methodist Church on the evening of December 23, 1999, he returned to his home and died unexpectedly. George died as he lived—joyously, expectantly and ready to meet his Lord. "...it is sweet to know as I onward go, the way of the cross leads home." —*Paul C. Bailey*

Trueman R. Tremble, 1912-2000

The Rev. Trueman Tremble was born August 11, 1912, in Charleston, Illinois, son of Joseph and Viva Mae Tremble. Trueman married Eleanor Virginia Johnson and they had one daughter, Mary Jane, and one son, Trueman R. Tremble Jr. Upon graduation from Charles State University, Trueman taught school for 20 years. At the age of 46, God touched him and called him into the ministry. He completed his seminary studies at Duke University. The Rev. Tremble served the Cumberland Charge, Burkeville, Lancaster, Melrose in the Rappahannock District, and Shenandoah. While at the Lancaster Charge, he received the Rural Minister of the Year Award. Upon retirement, he served the Cokesbury Charge in the Winchester District for 12 years.



He was truly loved by many; and led many to the knowledge of our Lord Jesus. Most certainly he heard the words: "Well done my good and faithful servant." He lived the words of Stephen Grellit:

I expect to pass through this world but once,
Any good thing therefore I can do; or kindness shown any fellow creature,
Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again. —*Eleanor Virginia Tremble*

Elmer Niles Hassell, 1908-2000

“His spirit to God, His Memory in our Heart, His body to the Earth.”

Elmer N. Hassell was born January 2, 1908, in Baltimore, Maryland, the son of a Saban immigrant and a German descendent, the second of seven children. His mother passed away when he was 16 and, at 17, he left the family home, completing night school while apprenticed as a carpenter. He continued working as a journeyman carpenter until “The Great Depression” when he then stood for a Maryland State scholarship exam. In 1929, he was rewarded with a four-year paid education at Western Maryland College. Elmer graduated with a degree to teach biology in 1933. While attending a youth religious retreat in 1935, he was encouraged to attend Wesley Seminary, then adjacent to Western Maryland College at Westminster Maryland.



The Rev. Hassell graduated in June 1937 with a Master of Sacred Theology degree and was assigned by the Maryland Conference to its Wallace Memorial Methodist Church in the Fox Hill section of Hampton. In April of 1938 He married young Evelyn May Bodwell, a native of Washington, D.C.

After unification of the Methodist churches in 1939, he was assigned to serve Oak Grove Methodist Church in the Norfolk District. Elmer went on to serve churches in Luray, Richmond, Franklin, Petersburg, Lynchburg, Lexington, Poquoson, Farmville, Falls Church and Hampton. During his tenure, he wrote for various church publications including the Advocate, The Upper Room, and the Guidepost. He served as member and chairperson of the Virginia Church Temperance League for many years, appearing regularly before the Virginia General Assembly.

He was well-known for his sermons and was a three-time recipient of the Valley Forge Foundation George Washington Medal. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from his alma mater, Western Maryland, in 1958. The Boy Scouts of America presented him the Silver Beaver Award for his service to Scouting.

After retiring in 1973, he returned to Farmville where he assumed the chaplaincy of Southside Community Hospital and was also appointed a director on the National Association of Retired Persons Defensive Driving Program. In 1985, he began regular religious services at Brookview Nursing Home. He continued these services through October of 1999. He served 62 years in the ministry of the Lord being called to conduct services for the Heavenly Church on March 5, 2000, his earthly duties fulfilled.

The graveside services were read by Rev. C. B. King, Farmville District superintendent, from the “Old Ritual” on March 9, 2000, and he was laid to rest only a few blocks from Evelyn’s childhood home and Rhode Island Methodist Church, where he had been assigned as a student minister in Washington, D.C.

Dr. James W. Turner, a close friend, conducted a Memorial Service in Farmville United Methodist Church and used these words: “We give thanks for the privilege which has been ours, to share life with Elmer Niles Hassell, as we recall the qualities of a wonderful life which made others love and admire him, for all goodness and truth which now lives on in the lives of others, his son, Henry; granddaughter, Stephanie; and great-granddaughter, Erin, and by his witness has made the world a better place. We thank you for memories of Elmer, who heard your call to the ministry of the church and thought of it not as a call for a few years but for life. In this spirit he gave himself without reservation to 36 years of active service as a pastor and leader in the Methodist Church and after retirement to ministry among the sick and the elderly for many more years. We thank you, Heavenly Father, that Elmer thought of his life as given to him for the purpose of giving to others as a witness to your Divine love and grace.”
—Henry Niles Hassell

Edwin Russell Spann, 1928-2000

Edwin Russell Spann of one of the royal families of Methodism served the Methodist Church for 20 years in both Texas and Virginia. Born in Dallas, Texas, on December 17, 1928, he was the only child of Dr. J. Richard Spann who served many years as the head of the Board of Ministry of the Methodist Church. His mother was Julia Mouzon Spann, daughter of Bishop Mouzon who presided over the Virginia Conference 1931-36.

In September 1951, Ed married a childhood schoolmate, Barbara Towner, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Walter Towner. Dr. Towner was for many years the head of the Board of Education of the Methodist Church and was later a professor at Scarritt College in Nashville, Tennessee.

Both Ed and Barbara received master's degrees from Southern Methodist University in Dallas. Ed earned a Bachelor of Divinity and Barbara an M.A. in religious education. In 1951, Ed was received as a probationary member of the South West Texas Conference and in 1953 as ordained elder in full connection. While a graduate student working on his doctorate in American church history at Duke Divinity School, he was also chaplain to the Methodist students of Duke University 1953-56.

In 1956, he was appointed pastor of Lytle Methodist Church in Texas; 1957, St. Mark, Corpus Christi; 1959, St. Mark, Victoria; 1963, Pharr, Texas. In 1966, he transferred to the Virginia Conference serving as associate pastor at St. Paul's in Woodbridge; 1968, Washington Farm Church; in 1972 he retired under the "20 year rule."

Ed was a very committed and articulate preacher of the Christian gospel, holding strong social justice views. He was a prophet in the tradition of the Old Testament prophets like Amos. In the Civil Rights struggle he was one of the leaders working for justice and was very active in advocating better working conditions for the migrant farm laborers in Texas and the South.

After his retirement from the church, he worked for over 25 years in the Office of Comprehensive Planning in Fairfax County, Virginia. On March 14, he died at The Hermitage at Cedarfield, Richmond, Va., his retirement residence for the past three years. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, and three children: David, Glenn, and Sarah Spann Saunders.

For almost 50 years, Ed Spann was my true and faithful friend! —*Max W. Wicker*

John Dallas Robertson, 1920 - 2000

John Dallas Robertson was born April 19, 1920, in Norfolk, Virginia. After living in the Midwest for a number of years, his family returned to Virginia and made Alexandria their home. There, Dallas attended Del Ray Church and graduated from George Washington High School. During World War II, he built models of military aircraft at Langley Field. After the war, he began his preparation for the ministry, earning his baccalaureate degree Phi Beta Kappa at Randolph-Macon College in 1950, and continuing his study at Westminster Seminary and Vanderbilt University. In 1954, he was ordained and entered into Full Connection in the Virginia Conference.



In 1952, he married Jennie Martin of Statesville, North Carolina. To that union was born a son, George, who with his wife and two children and his mother, Jennie, survive. Also surviving are two of Dallas' sisters, Genevieve Barclay and Eva Jane Crabill.

Dallas' career in the Virginia Conference included six pastorates and 16 years on the faculty of Shenandoah University. From his ordination until 1967, he served parishes in the following locations: Arlington, Stafford, Urbanna, Norfolk, and Dumfries. After completing his studies for the Ph.D. at George Washington University in 1969, he joined the faculty of Shenandoah to teach courses in history, religion, and philosophy and to supervise the operation of the Division of Social Sciences during the

expansion of a junior college curriculum into a baccalaureate degree program. After retiring from Shenandoah in 1985, he served the Rectortown Charge for three years.

In 1998, he and Jennie moved to Culpeper, Virginia, and joined the United Methodist church there.

In his parish work, Dallas was known for dedicated leadership and compassionate pastoral care; and during his tenure at Shenandoah, he demonstrated a pastor's concern for his students while demanding the highest academic performance. As division chairman, he inspired loyalty and cooperation among his faculty.

While living in Winchester, both Dallas and Jennie were active historians, helping Braddock Street Church develop its archives and giving guidance to the EUB Archives at Shenandoah University, where Jennie worked in the library. Dallas' dissertation on Bishop Christian Newcomer, the United Brethren preaching companion of Bishop Asbury, is in that archival collection. In September 1999, Dallas received the Old Stone Church Foundation Service Award after serving on its board for a number of years.

The Rev. J. Dallas Robertson entered his eternal rest at the Culpeper Regional Hospital Sunday, May 14, 2000, after a brief illness. Funeral services were conducted by the Rev. Marvin C. Cook and the Rev. Bruce C. Souders in Culpeper United Methodist Church, May 16. Interment took place at the Pisgah United Methodist Church Cemetery, Hiddenite, North Carolina. —*Bruce C. Souders*

Alton Brooks Parker Barnes, 1927-1999

Alton Brooks Parker Barnes, the eldest of three children to Brooks Parker Barnes and Isabelle Copes Barnes, was born on August 29, 1927. He graduated from Onancock High School and pursued further studies at the University of Illinois, the Progressive School of Photography, and took extension courses at the University of Tokyo. In 1981, as an ordained minister in the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church, he had graduated from the Course of Study at Duke Divinity School, Duke University.



Parker Barnes was a veteran of the United States Air Force, having seen combat duty in the Korean Conflict. He served with the 67th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing of the 5th United States Air Force, and was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation.

On September 19, 1953, Parker married the former Virginia Lee Howard of Machipongo and shared in the joy of rearing two children, Mary Kerr, and Michael.

In 1958, he joined the staff of the Eastern Shore News, where he became an award-winning writer, and later rose to the position of associate editor until he left the paper in 1969. He was also one of the founders, in 1959, of the Bank of Cheer, which provides food, toys, and blankets at Christmastime for people who are in need. This is done in conjunction with the Eastern Shore News.

Sensing a call to full-time ministry, Parker responded in faith and served with distinction as a pastor in the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Parker's appointments included the Pocomoke and the Accomac Charge on the Eastern Shore, the Phenix Charge in Charlotte County, the Rehoboth Parish in Northumberland County, and the Bowling Green Charge near Ashland. In retirement, he continued to preach and teach.

In addition to newspaper writing, Parker published books, numerous historical articles, and contributions to books such as *Shipwrecks, Skin-Divers and Sunken Gold* by David Horner, *Eastern Shore of Virginia* by Nora Miller Turmann, and *Over On the Eastern Shore* by Henry A. Wise. In addition to writing, he delighted in aviation and was a licensed pilot.

Over the years, Parker was active in numerous community groups such as Onancock Elk Lodge, the American Legion, the Onley and Parksley Masonic Lodges, and VFW. A charter member of the Eastern Shore Jaycees, he was an early member of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association. Also, he was one

of the founders of the Onley Fire and Rescue Company, he was for a while the disaster chairman for the Accomack County Red Cross. Most recently, he worked to refurbish the historic Debtor's Prison in Accomac.

He died on October 28, 1999, after having been diagnosed of leukemia in January of that year. He is survived by his wife, Virginia; a son, Michael; a daughter, Mary Kerr Jefferson; five grandchildren; and a sister, Hetty Rai Widgen. —*The Barnes Family*

Elwood Robert Dunn, 1941-2000

*Give me a gentle heart, that I may do
Naught but the gentle things my whole life through,
Give me a heart as kind as hearts can be,
That I may give before 'tis asked of me.* (Give Me a Gentle Heart by Percy Thomas)



When I remember Bob Dunn, I remember a man of God who was gentle, kind, in love with the Lord his God, and a true servant of others. Bob was born March 4, 1941, in Martinsburg, West Virginia. He became a member of Saint Luke's Evangelical United Brethren Church in that city. It was there that God formed him, later to call him forth into the ordained ministry. As a committed member of that church, Bob was active in the church's youth program, preached often on "Youth Sundays," and became a Sunday school teacher. Such ministries were God's call upon Bob's life for greater Christian service.

In 1959, following graduation from high school, Bob was called to serve in full-time ministry at Berkeley Place Church, the Evangelical United Brethren Church Conference. While serving the church, and attending Shenandoah College, he met his future wife, Marlene Mongan. They were married May 11, 1964, and God blessed them with a son, Robert Scott Dunn, in 1969.

While under appointment, Bob took the five-year course of study at Wesley Theological Seminary and completed his work July 25, 1975. He was ordained a deacon in the United Methodist Church by the then presiding Bishop W. Kenneth Goodson. He was so grateful and proud that the Lord had led him to that "high moment" in his life as he tried to be a faithful servant.

Bob's ministry was fulfilling as he served rural appointments from Mill Creek Charge in Purgitsville, West Virginia, to Big Island-Cove, Big Island, Virginia, and from New Faith Church in Schuyler, Virginia, to Zion Church in Gretna, Virginia. These appointments and others were his joy and that of his devoted wife, Marlene, who said of Bob, "He loved to preach Christ, and the people often told him they could see it in his face."

To look into the face and into the life of Bob Dunn was to know a man of gentleness and quiet witness. He had a loving heart for the people under his charge and for all God's children where he encountered them. His smile and the twinkle he frequently carried in his eyes were genuine and comforting to so many. He loved life and adored the beauty of God's Nature, from the mountain peaks of the Virginias to the streams he loved to fish. He loved to hunt, but he respected all life as gifts from God.

Bob was called to his Heavenly Home on February 9, 2000. His favorite Bible verse was from James 4:14, and his favorite hymn was "It Is Well with My Soul." Those who knew Bob Dunn know that he will not vanish from our thinking as long as life lasts. And, in Christ, we are assured that it is now "well with his soul." —*E. Thomas Murphy, Jr.*

Edgar Fred Cox, 1926-1999

"The Call" is sometimes heard or realized late in life. Sometimes it seems to lie dormant and then spring to life like the crocus or tulip in spring. And like those radiant blossoms, the bloom of a pastorate can brighten many lives before fading away. Such was the ministry of



Edgar “Fred” Cox. His pastoral ministry lasted just 10 years, but few would sell him as short as his time seemed to be. In fact, he still casts a long shadow that continues to touch the tiny congregation of Smith Chapel United Methodist Church in Great Falls, Virginia. He was physically small in stature, but remains larger than life in spirit and fruitfulness.

Fred “always wanted to be a pastor.” That’s what he once told me. He became a local pastor and took the course of study while still working at Eastern Airlines. When he retired from Eastern, he devoted his life to his wife, Emma, his family and his church. His memory is still fresh, and his love of the ministry, the church and his Lord will be remembered for a long time to come.

His portrait hangs in the fellowship hall where the adult Sunday school class meets each week. Recently, one of the students commented, “It really feels right to see him there.” We all agreed, because it always felt right when he was here. And while it’s only a picture now, it reminds us of how people can make a difference in the Kingdom...even if their flower blooms for only a season.

Toward the end of his ministry and life, Fred could barely walk because of extremely bad knees. But that’s not what we remember so much. We remember that he made a difference at Smith Chapel. He made a difference in his church, his family, and in his world. I suspect he is now making a difference in Heaven. He is probably dancing before the Lord with new knees and a newfound energy. This time, however, he will bloom forever. —*David Zuchelli*

Thelma Jeanne Conover, 1924-1999

Jeanne Conover was a person who reached out to people where they were and enriched their lives. Everyone who came in contact with her was blessed by her spirit of caring and service. It’s safe to say that she had the ability to understand the needs of others and to perceive, almost before a word was spoken, where their needs were and how to transmit to them the healing power of God’s love, making God’s presence a reality to them in any given circumstance.

Jeanne’s life of Christian service began during her adolescence when, as a high school sophomore, she felt a clear call to devote her life to God’s call. She was born July 1, 1924, in Canton, Ohio, and grew up in the area of Akron and Cleveland, graduating from East High School in Cleveland. Jeanne’s undergraduate studies were done at National College in Kansas City and West Virginia Wesleyan in Buckhannon, West Virginia.

Scarritt College in Nashville was where Jeanne did her graduate work. She later received the Master of Divinity from St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City in 1974.

The years between these studies were marked with outstanding service to her church in varied tasks and places as she answered God’s call. First, upon completion of her undergraduate work, Jeanne served as a deaconess under the Woman’s Division of the United Methodist Board of Missions, where she devoted 22 years in Christian education and leadership development, mainly in children’s ministries. She served in community centers as Church and Community worker in West Virginia, North East Ohio, and northern Mississippi. Jeanne also served on the conference staff in North West Texas and, in the then Oklahoma Indian Missions Conference, as coordinator of Children’s Work.

During these years, a strong call to the ministry manifested itself in Jeanne’s life and she attended seminary at St. Paul’s. After graduation and ordination as elder in 1976 in the Oklahoma Conference, she was called to work as chaplain at St. Mary’s Hospital in Richmond. Jeanne maintained her membership in the Oklahoma Conference, but became an associate member of the Virginia Conference.

It was through her work as chaplain that Jeanne reached the high point of her ministry—touching the lives of those who were suffering and whose hearts were burdened with fear and pain, bringing them the comfort of God’s Word and presence in their need. This ministry was, in every sense, an affirmation of her call to serve and she is remembered warmly by the patients to whom she ministered, as well as by

their families whose lives she touched. The staff of the hospital who were her co-workers deeply appreciated Jeanne and her work.

After retirement in 1990, Jeanne enjoyed a time of renewal, visiting many places she had wanted to see. Jeanne entered the Nursing Unit of Brooks-Howell Home for retired deaconesses and missionaries in Asheville, N.C., in June 1999. A sudden heart attack took her life in December 1999. A beautiful memorial service was held there for her on December 11. Jeanne's brother, Dick, and her sister, Jo, survived. Jo, however, has since passed away. Jeanne is also survived by several nieces and nephews and many friends. Jeanne was a faithful friend and companion, sharing my life for some 30 years. Indeed, my life has been greatly enriched by having known her. —*Ruth B. Lucy*

2001 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

David Warren Billhimer, 1955-2000

David Billhimer, son, husband, father, brother, friend, and pastor, died on July 4, 2000, in Staunton, Va. He was born to George and Wilma Billhimer on February 9, 1955, in Elkton, Va. He graduated from Elkton High School in 1973, and both West Virginia Wesleyan College and Emory University. After graduation, he joined the Virginia Conference and was appointed to Singer Glen Charge in 1986-1990. His next appointment was to the Boonsboro Charge, 1990-1996; then to Salem-Olive Branch, 1996-1998; and then to Mint Spring Church, 1998-2000.



David was a very talented musician and songwriter, who used his talents in his ministry. One way he used his talent was in the preschool at Boonsboro Church by teaching the children songs he wrote or they would make them up together. On many occasions he would use a song in his sermon to make a point and sometimes he would play for Sunday opening. Also, he was asked many times to do a program for various churches or other organizations. He wrote several songs for the conference and other groups, which he was very proud of and will be used throughout time. He joined the Concord Gospel singing group while in Gloucester and continued some while in Staunton. With the group, David was able to do something he enjoyed and still worship the Lord. David could play the accordion, electric keyboard, drums and percussion, and some brass instruments.

When David preached, he tried to make sure that no matter what level you were at in your journey, you would be able to understand his sermon. He loved to teach, whether it be the children of the church, a Bible study with members, or a class about something the people wanted to learn. It could be seen how much he loved to teach during the week of Vacation Bible School at Mint Spring Church when he taught the fourth- and fifth-graders. He taught them a song and told them about his life as a teenager. He gained a lot of respect from the children by talking about himself and showing that he had problems, too. David also loved going to Discover God's Call and teaching the Bible and helping others on the journey to God. He felt he was helping God's people find their place in this world; also, it was his way of recharging his battery each year.

David loved his family very much and being with them, whether it was the whole family, going out to eat, or meeting at someone's home for a meal. He was a very loving and devoted husband, father, brother, and son. He loved to watch movies and old television shows, play on the computer, or tinker with his trains. Some weekends we would go out sight-seeing or find a special event in the area to go to and, on one occasion, we got lost en route but instead of getting upset, we turned it into an adventure. He enjoyed watching most sports and even played for the Elkton football team. On one occasion, while the church's team was playing softball, he went out into a marsh to retrieve some balls, and came back with mud up to his knees.

David is well missed by family, friends and church members, but we all know that God had another job for him and he was finished with his work on earth. —*Tammy Billhimer*

F. Rebecca Sparkman Righter, 1935-2000

The Rev. F. Rebecca Sparkman Righter died on September 15, 2000, at Arlington Hospital from complications of congestive heart failure and Milroy's disease. Becky, as she was known to all her family and friends, was born on August 28, 1935, in Birmingham, Alabama, and spent her youth in Washington, D.C., where she was called into the ministry at her home church, Mount Vernon Place United Methodist Church. She graduated from the University of Maryland in 1956, and Drew Theological Seminary in 1959. Becky married the Rev. James D. Righter in 1960, and divorced in 1992.



Until her ordination in 1983, Becky served God as a director of Christian education, preschool director, pastor's wife and mother. From 1983 until her disability leave began in 1994, she continued her service to God through her ministerial career at Willis Church (Richmond), St. Stephen's Church (Springfield), Manassas Church, where she was instrumental in the merger with St. Thomas Church to form Manassas/St. Thomas Church, and St. Mark's Church (Arlington). Despite her disabilities and grave illness, Becky carried on her ministry through her involvement in Clarendon Church (Arlington), the Emmaus and Virginia Conference Women's Clergy organizations among others, all of which gave her great joy and fulfillment in her final years.

Becky lived her life for the glory of God, the United Methodist Church and her friends. She dearly loved all the people, especially the children, she met and worked with during her life. After a long battle with illness, the day before her death she said simply, "I want to go be with God." She is survived by her daughter Valerie, of Boyce, Va., and her son Eric, of Arlington, Va. —*Valerie Righter*

Charles Philip Price, 1917-2000

Charles Philip Price, 83, rose to be with his Lord on Sunday morning, October 1, 2000. Before retiring in 1982, Charles pastored the following rural Virginia United Methodist churches and circuits: North Patrick, Cascade, Ferrum-Bethany, Patrick Springs, Highland-Bluegrass, Pamplin, West Franklin, Bethel-St. Matthew (Mathews County), Providence-Woodland (Suffolk), Isle of Wight, Philadelphia (Brunswick County), Rapidan (Madison County), Little Fork (Culpeper), Greene, North Brunswick, and West Mecklenburg. He loved the Virginia countryside, and could often be seen walking from farm to farm, getting some exercise between visits to his parishioners.



Charles' pulpit ministry was highlighted by his extensive use of stories to illustrate his points. He also would regularly quote Scripture or poetry from memory, and believed that the Bible was the only infallible guide to a relationship with God.

In addition to the spoken word, Charles also ministered to his parishes through music. Though not formally trained, he loved music and often led the congregational singing in his small parishes or directed the choir. Sometimes he even played the piano. His favorite choirs learned his beloved "shaped-note" music. Many times, he and his six children would form a duet, a trio or a quartet to provide special inspirational music.

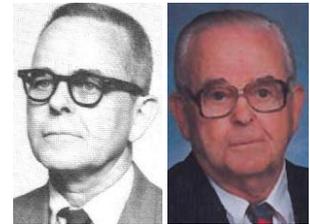
As a rural pastor, Charles had to take on a variety of tasks, including working with the United Methodist Youth Fellowship, supporting Vacation Bible School, playing on the church softball team, teaching midweek Bible study or leading a summer revival meeting. When the opportunity arose, he would also extend the church's walls by conducting a weekly radio broadcast or ministering at a nursing home.

A native of Mayodan, North Carolina, Charles served as a medic in the U.S. Army in Europe during World War II. After the war ended, he completed high school and earned his associate's degree at Ferrum College, and his bachelor's degree from High Point College. He later earned a certificate in divinity from Duke University.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 42 years, Irene Nichols Price. He is survived by a sister, Marion Gish, of Roanoke; by four daughters, Marie Fiester of Baltimore, Bessie Oakley of Durham, Elsie Poulin of Atlanta, and Annette Ferguson of Culpeper; by two sons, the Rev. John Price of Hampton (Bethany), and Phil Price of Suffolk; by seven grandchildren; by two great-grandchildren; and by his devoted friend, Reva Harrison, of Rocky Mount. —*Philip Price*

Percy Daniel White, 1911-2000

The Rev. Percy D. White was born at Dare, Virginia, on May 7, 1911. He was the middle child in a family with three sons. He grew up in a Christian environment at home and dedicated himself to the Methodist ministry during high school. After spending two years at The College of William and Mary, he transferred to Emory and Henry College where he graduated with an A.B. degree in 1935. He then entered Duke Divinity School and received his B.D. degree there in 1938. In October of 1938, he entered the Virginia Conference Methodist ministry.



While at Duke University, Percy met a nursing student named Maude Adams and they were married in 1938. They had three children and all of them attended his funeral: Dr. Percy D. White Jr., of Thousand Oaks, California; Mrs. Maude A. Wilkinson of Alexandria, Virginia; and Mrs. Elizabeth Brownstein of Davis, California. In addition, he is survived by four grandchildren from this marriage.

For nearly 40 years, Percy White served as a pastor in the Virginia Conference with appointments at the following churches: Lynnhaven (now Virginia Beach), Courtland, Chatham, Berryville, Culpeper, Ramsey (Richmond), West End (Roanoke), Aldersgate (Hampton), Broad Street (Portsmouth), Walker Chapel (Arlington), and Belmont (Richmond). In 1964, he took a month-long tour of Methodist mission stations around the world. While active in the conference, he served on the following boards and committees: World Peace, Board of Pensions, Conference Credit Union, Advocate Board of Trustees, and Children's Home. In addition to lecturing at several colleges on youth work, he directed youth assemblies at Blackstone and Danville, as well as youth camps at Pocahontas State Park. He attended three General Conference sessions and four Jurisdictional Conferences. He was also a delegate to two World Methodist Conferences.

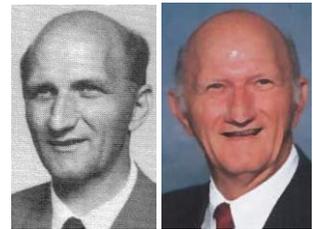
One of Percy's special interests was the Boy Scout organization. He helped organize or reinvigorate Boy Scout troops in many of the churches that he served. His leadership in Scouting led to his becoming an active member on three different Boy Scout Councils. He was also an avid fan of professional sports, especially of the Washington Redskins. His personal sports hobbies included fishing, hunting, and golf. One of his greatest passions was gardening, always producing lots of extra vegetables that he enjoyed giving to friends and neighbors.

While serving as pastor of Belmont in Richmond, Percy met Virginia Bevins and they were married in 1975, one year before his retirement from the ministry. Virginia's large extended family of children and grandchildren became very important in his life since his own children were scattered so far across the country. For 10 years during retirement, Percy directed tours in almost every area of the world for Lloyd's of London and Echols of Birmingham, Alabama. He and Virginia were also instrumental in founding the Young at Heart Club for senior citizens at Belmont, who benefited from the many tours that he planned for them along the East Coast.

Percy and Virginia White moved to the Richmond Hermitage in May 1995, where she died in September 1998. Percy served on the following committees while living at The Hermitage: Spiritual Life, Buildings and Grounds, and Bioethics. He also taught the church school class monthly for several years. Percy D. White died on October 24, 2000, after a brief illness and now rests in God's love and care. —*Percy D. (Danny) White Jr.*

Charles Kenneth Blalock, 1929-2000

Born August 18, 1929, in Macon, Georgia, Charles was the son of the late Floyd Eston Blalock Sr. and Nellie Harmon Blalock. After graduating from Etowah High School in Etowah, Tennessee, and the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, he went on to obtain a Master of Divinity from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta. He entered into his formal ministry in the Virginia Methodist Conference, with his first appointment beginning in 1955 at Lekies Church in Norfolk, Virginia. While there, he met the love of his life, Jessie Alford, a nurse at Norfolk General Hospital. Charles went on to serve many churches throughout the Virginia Conference as a faithful servant of the Lord, touching many lives in each congregation and community with his kindness, compassion and concern. He served the following churches throughout his ministry: Thalia; Tabernacle in Pungo; First at Fox Hill; Elkton; Epworth in Covington; Fairmount Park; Beulah in Richmond; Friendship; Dumfries; Graham Road; and retired at Wesley Memorial Church in Norfolk in 1995. After his retirement from full-time ministry, he kept an active part-time ministry at Epworth Church in Norfolk as visitation minister, which he loved. He also remained active by pursuing his passion for teaching. He taught both at Epworth and Virginia Beach United Methodist churches, revealing God's word through the Disciple Bible Study series and many Sunday school lessons.



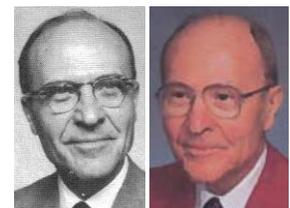
In addition to his loving wife of 44 years, Charles will be deeply missed by other surviving family members and friends. These include his daughter, Susan Blalock Pearman, her husband, Steve, and daughter, Morgan, of Virginia Beach; son, Michael Blalock, his wife, Darcie, and sons, Kyle and Blake, of Herndon; son, Douglas Blalock of Virginia Beach; daughter, Nancy Bloebaum, her husband, Scott, and daughter, Elena, of Cary, N.C.; brother, Floyd Blalock Jr., and his wife, Dora, of Andrews, N.C.; sister, Helen Blalock of Etowah, Tenn.; and numerous nieces and nephews. His love of family was always evident in his love-filled sparkling blue eyes, playful antics and abiding affection.

As a cancer survivor, Charles embraced every day as a gift from God to be lived to its fullest. He lived with eternal optimism and hope, affecting everyone who came in contact with him. He put his faith into practice daily, giving grace to all and setting a Christian example. He collapsed while teaching a lesson on the "Good Samaritan" at Virginia Beach United Methodist Church and passed away from this world to eternal joy and rest with God on December 11, 2000, after a brief illness that followed.

Although, he will be greatly missed by a multitude of parishioners, friends and family, his spirit of love, compassion and grace will live on in those who were blessed by knowing him. His greatest hope would be that the love and mercy of Jesus Christ continue to be shared with all. —*The Blalock Family*

Hampden Harrison Smith, Jr., 1909-2000

Hampden Harrison Smith Jr. was born Dec. 29, 1908, in Blackstone, Va., the son of a Methodist minister. In 1931, he was graduated from Randolph-Macon College. He taught for two years at Randolph-Macon Academy before answering an insistent call and enrolled in Duke University Divinity School. He graduated in 1936 with honors. He was admitted on trial in 1935, ordained a deacon and admitted into full connection in 1937, and ordained an elder in 1939. During his last year at Duke, he served part of the conference year at the Boonsboro Charge



in the Lynchburg District. In the fall, he moved to the Southview-Providence Charge, where he married the lovely Katharine Russell of Richmond. In 1940, he was transferred with his wife and month-old son to St. Paul's Church in Richmond. Then followed a term of service with the Board of Christian Education as its director of adult and rural work. Pastorates followed at Fairfax Charge, Community in Arlington, Washington Street Church in Petersburg, and Main Street Church in Suffolk. He was superintendent of the Staunton District from 1961 to 1967, then served Trinity Church in Alexandria, and Stratford Hills Church in Richmond.

Throughout these 41 years, Ham Smith served on many boards and agencies of the church and was elected as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conference. As registrar and as president of the Board of Ministerial Training, he was able to help large numbers of pastors in their early days to become able and effective servants of Christ.

He was devoted to Randolph-Macon College, from which both his father and his son also graduated. The college awarded him the honorary degree of doctor of divinity.

Bishop Kenneth Goodson acknowledged my suggestion by appointing Ham Smith, in his retirement, to the position of director of the Association of Educational Institutions of the Virginia Conference, which office he held and dignified for many years.

Ham Smith was foremost a preacher. His scholarly manner, his impeccable diction and fluent verbiage made his sermons high moments for his congregations. Above all, Ham Smith was the epitome of what a Christian gentleman should be. In every time, no matter where he was, never was heard any slightest criticism of his integrity or his profound honesty, which were rooted in his commitment to Christ.

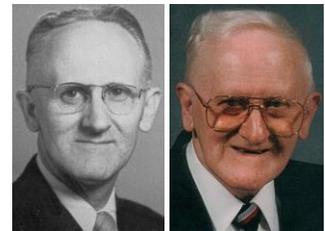
His company was sought by all who knew him for his good humor and sincerity. His and "Kitty's" homes were not only beautiful in the physical sense, but in the spiritual sense as well, as they shared their warm love and hospitality so lavishly.

The Rev. Hampden H. Smith Jr. died on Dec. 13, 2000, in Charlottesville. A service of celebration of his life was held at First United Methodist Church in Charlottesville on Dec. 22, 2000. The pastor, the Rev. Donald E. Carlton, presided, and Bishop R. Kern Eutsler gave the eulogy. Among those celebrating were his son and his son's wife, whom he adored, and their two children, Katharine Smith Santos and H. Harrison Smith IV—and yet another generation, represented by 6-month-old Andi Dakota Smith.

"The greatest gift of life is friendship, and I have received it." —*The Rev. Carl Wren Haley*

Earl Clayton Bateman, Sr., 1905-2000

Earl C. Bateman Sr., 95, formerly of Waynesboro, Va., died at Our Lady of Peace in Charlottesville, Va., on Dec. 30, 2000. He was born Feb. 20, 1905, in Tyrone, Penn., the son of Minnie and J. Clay Bateman. As a young man, he was converted in a service conducted by the Rev. Sawyer, and, at 22, answered the call to the ministry. He graduated from Shenandoah College at Dayton Va., in 1929, and his first pastorate was at Altoona, Penn. He married the former Ruby See, from Roanoke, Va., and the next year he went to Center County, Penn., and served Wayne Church. In 1935, he transferred to the Virginia Conference of the EUB Church and served in Pendleton County, W.Va., for five years. He next served at Blairton Charge near Martinsburg W.Va., and graduated from Shepherd College in 1942.



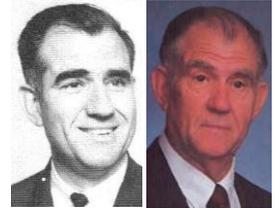
From then on, he taught school and also preached. From 1947 to 1957, he served the Alpine Charge (which was then the Berkeley Springs Circuit of six churches) and taught at Berkeley Springs High School. He was the designer of the Alpine Charge parsonage, which was built when he was pastor. He started youth groups in all six churches and had wonderful Christmas plays and Bible schools.

After teaching in Germany in the American High Schools, he retired to Waynesboro, Va., where he continued to fill the pulpit for many pastors in the area when he was needed.

He is survived by a son, Earl C. Bateman Jr., and his wife, Mae Anna, of Laurel, Md.; a daughter, Virginia Ann, and her husband, the Rev. Charles T. Martindale, of Carroll, Ohio; a daughter, Caroline, and her husband, Presley R. Phillips, of Waynesboro, Va.; and a daughter, Patricia, and her husband, Jack Roby, of Savage, Md.; nine grandchildren, and 23 great-grandchildren. His first wife, Ruby, died in 1956, and his second wife, Lucie, died in 1999. —*Caroline Phillips*

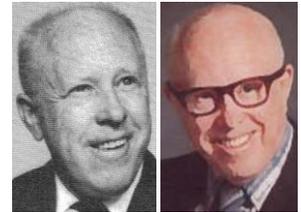
Mahlon Hamlet Elliott, 1919-2001

The Rev. Mahlon H. Elliott, 82, died March 3, 2001. He was born January 12, 1919, in Danville, Virginia. He is survived by his wife, three children, one brother, one sister, and five grandchildren. He served as a chaplain in the United States Navy, graduated from Asbury and Duke Divinity College. He served as a pastor at Mt. Olivet Methodist Church, Danville; West End, Portsmouth; Corinth, Sandston; Oxford, Suffolk; Norview, Norfolk; Blacksburg; Walker Chapel, Arlington; Wesley, Alexandria District; St. John's, Springfield; St. Paul, Woodbridge; Prospect, Mechanicsville; and Ginter Park, Richmond. After retirement in 1989, he served at Mount Hermon Church in Hanover County until his death. —*Marlene Elliott*



Roy C. Vernon, 1913-2001

I met Roy Vernon 30 years ago, in 1971. I had just graduated from seminary and was serving my first appointment in the Virginia Conference. He was serving in his final active appointment. Roy was a seasoned pastor, and I was drawn to him for that reason, and so began a relationship that has been a sustaining grace for me over the years. Roy's listening skills, sensitivity, experience, and empathy were offered to me as gifts. He gave those gifts freely to all in his churches and to the communities where he served. Without him, I do not know if I would have continued in ministry. For his effective ministry, I am a thankful witness!



Born February 23, 1913, in Atwood, Kansas, he was the son of Clifton Everett and Cora Ramey Vernon. He earned a B.S. degree in education in 1945 from the University of Southern Illinois, and an M.Div. degree in 1950 from Westminster Theological Seminary, the predecessor to Wesley Theological Seminary. He began his ministerial career in 1939 and served in the Illinois and Peninsula conferences. Ordained deacon in 1948, and elder in 1950, he then served in the Virginia and New England conferences. In 1963, he was appointed director of Christian Activities and taught at Sue Bennett College, Loudon, Kentucky, until 1968. Returning to Virginia, he served until his retirement in 1978.

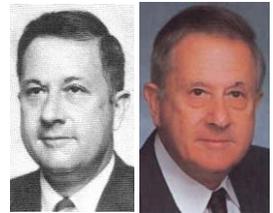
He married Christine Synder on October 1, 1953. Christine is the granddaughter of the Rev. Christopher Sydenstricker who founded seven churches in what was then the Baltimore Conference. Christine lives at Westminster-Canterbury, Winchester, Virginia, where she and Roy had made their home for 10 years. Their daughter, Margaret Bell Vernon, is deceased.

We celebrated Roy's life at a service on March 16, 2001, at Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church, Berryville, where Roy held his charge conference membership. The Rev. Jay E. Luther joined me in assisting the Rev. William K. Dawson, pastor of Duncan Memorial Church. Jay and I had served with Roy over the years. Bill, his new pastor, discovered quickly the special person that he was. Roy taught us that ordained ministry is personal, collegial, and communal. To have exercised our ministries in company with Roy Vernon has been a rare privilege. John Wesley's Covenant Prayer captures Roy's life and work:

*I am no longer my own, but thine.
 Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
 Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
 Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
 exalted for thee, or brought low for thee.
 Let me be full, let me be empty.
 Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
 I freely and heartily yield all things
 to thy pleasure and disposal.
 And now, O glorious and blessed God,
 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
 thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
 And the covenant which I have made on earth,
 let it be ratified in heaven. Amen. —The Rev. Daniel L. Garrett*

Lee Harlan Beville, 1920-2001

Lee Harlan Beville was born in Blackstone, Va., on January 8, 1920. He died in Virginia Beach, Va., on April 23, 2001. Before serving in the ministry, he had a distinguished military career serving in the Army during World War II and the Korean War. He received 14 awards and decorations for his service. In 1976, he retired as a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve. Lee received a call to the ministry of Christ. To prepare himself, he graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and Candler School of Theology. He later received the Doctor of Divinity degree from the Protestant Episcopal Seminary and the Doctor of Ministry degree from Bethany Theological Seminary.



During his years of ministry, Lee served the following churches: Heathsville, New Hope in Fredericksburg, St. James in Alexandria, Oxford in Suffolk, Haygood in Virginia Beach, Ginter Park in Richmond, Baylake in Virginia Beach, and First in Martinsville. He also served as a trustee of Ferrum College and as a member of the Historical Society of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church. In 1985, he retired in Virginia Beach. Lee was married to Margaret Bowers Beville for 54 years. They loved each other deeply through all of those years. Margaret and two lovely daughters, Nancy Prichard and Ellen Mitchell, survive him.

I have known many fine people in my life, none were finer than Lee. His ministry was filled with acts of kindness and caring. All that he did was centered in Christ and people sensed that. There are many who are followers of our Lord today because of some word spoken or some deed of compassion done by Lee. The prophet tells us that the Lord requires that we “do justly, love kindness and walk humbly with our God.” Lee Beville met those requirements every day of his ministry. —*The Rev. Donald H. Traylor*

Jess Vernon Staton, 1925-2001

Jess Vernon Staton was born August 12, 1925, in Lynn, West Virginia, the son of the late Charles Avery “Sandy” Stayton and the late Nancy Charles Stayton Wright. He graduated from McVey High School, McVey, Kentucky, in 1941; received his B.A. from Temple-Chatt, Tennessee, in 1956; graduated from Dabney-Lancaster Seminary in 1984, and continued theological training from Duke Seminary, Durham, N.C. Jess was first married to Virginia Staton and they had two sons, Jess V. Jr. and Stephen; five daughters, Nancy, Rebecca, Beth, Lydia, and Sandy. Later he married Barbara Morse Staton and they had one daughter, Rachel. Jess also had a stepson, Randall Morse, 16 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.



Following 26 years in the Baptist ministry, Jess joined the Virginia Conference of the Methodist Church, serving 23 years in the following churches: Potts Valley and Epworth, Staunton District; Smith's Grove and Trinity, Petersburg District; Wakefield, Portsmouth District; Park View and Zion, Lynchburg District. Jess was proud to have served in the U.S. Army during World War II and enjoyed reminiscing with fellow veterans. He was dedicated to preaching and teaching the gospel and winning souls to Christ. He was persistent in visiting those he thought needed Christ. He was an avid visitor of those who were sick or shut-in and referred to the middle initial of his name standing for "Visiting."

Despite a diagnosis of cancer, Jess focused on his mission of ministry to the needs of his church family and preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. Jess died on May 16, 2001, at his home in Lynchburg. A funeral service was held at Park View United Methodist Church with the Rev. Kenneth J. Jackson and the Rev. C. Douglas Pillow officiating. Interment with military honors by American Legion Post #16 was in Bethany United Methodist Church Cemetery, Forest, Va. "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." —*Sophia Driskill and the Rev. Kenneth J. Jackson*

2002 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Pamela Ruth Cowan Sawyer, 1942-2001

"I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death" (Phil 3:10). These words guided Pam Sawyer's life. They describe both who she was and what she strove to be in life. The Rev. Pamela Sawyer was born December 1, 1942, to Walter and Bettie Corey Cowan of Meadville, Penn. Upon completion of high school, she enrolled in nursing school in Pittsburgh, Penn., graduating in three years with honors. Soon after graduation, her marriage to a military man took her to Texas, California, Virginia, and Germany. Pam put her nursing career on hold while raising her three children; Tracey, Matt, and Joseph. In addition to her children, she is survived by her father, Walt Cowan; one sister, Janie Cowan; and four grandchildren, Alan, Derek, David and Tory.



Pam left her home in Woodbridge, Va., in 1988, to finish her college degree at Asbury College in Wilmore, Ky. She received her undergraduate degree in Biblical Studies and Greek, then enrolled in the three-year seminary program at Asbury Seminary. Both programs were completed with honors. As a member of the Order of St. Luke, Pam was a deep sacramentalist and, like John Wesley, partook of the Sacrament of Holy Communion frequently.

Upon graduation, she returned to the Virginia Conference, where she served her first appointment from 1994-1997 at Mt. Moriah United Methodist Church in the Charlottesville District. In 1997, she was appointed to Herndon United Methodist Church where she served until her death, October 2, 2001.

Pam's greatest gift to all who knew her was her keen ability to see potential for growth. She delighted in pulling individuals out of their comfort zones and watching them blossom and grow. Under her nurturing and love, persons became empowered and unfolded like flowers into the persons God intended them to become. Her ministry and life were truly incarnational, for she looked at everyone she met with the eyes of Jesus Christ.

Pam Sawyer was a pastor, mother, and friend; but she cherished her role as teacher. Her deepest desire was to have an opportunity to "be a teacher to the pastors." Her keen intelligence, coupled with the ability to communicate and impart knowledge was a gift. In ministry, Pam was first a servant and second a student. At the time of her death, she had only the completion of her dissertation before receiving a Doctorate of Ministry in Spiritual Formation at Asbury Seminary.

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death. Throughout her personal faith journey Pam constantly sought to know

Christ more fully, to love him more dearly, and to follow him more nearly. She was never satisfied with the status quo, but always looked to grow to the next level in her relationship with Jesus Christ. Pam has reached her ultimate goal of intimacy with her Lord. It is in the breaking of our own grieving hearts that God will be able to enter more fully into our lives so that, like Pam, we, too, will come to know more fully what it means to “know Christ and the power of his resurrection.” As we honor the life of the Rev. Pamela Sawyer, there is no better tribute we can give her than to embrace what she has taught us by example, through love, and through her Lord. —*The Rev. Elizabeth “Tizzy” von Trapp Walker*

Robert McCleary Marshall, III, 1944-2001

The earthly journey began November 23, 1944, when Myrtle Brown Marshall, the wife of George Lowery Marshall, gave birth to a son, Robert. Robert spent his early years in Arlington where he attended and joined Arlington Forest Methodist Church. The seeds of his faith were sown as he participated in the children’s and youth programs. Following high school, he attended Florida State University, earning a B.A. degree. After college, he entered the U.S. Air Force, served in Vietnam from 1966-1967, was wounded and awarded the Purple Heart. Following his military service, he worked in the field of journalism.



Robert, like so many of his day, drifted away from the church. He struggled to find his place in God’s world and found little personal and professional satisfaction. His early training had given him a foundation in the faith, which led him back to the church in his search to discover God’s plan for his life. During the struggle, he realized God had been calling him to ministry since his youth and he had spent many years running from that call. He answered God’s call with a resounding “yes.” He entered seminary in the early 1980s, with the assistance of a Hollis Williams Scholarship awarded by Arlington Forest United Methodist Church, to better prepare himself to serve where God could use him. Sensing God’s call to serve in Virginia, Robert was ordained a deacon and received on probation in 1984. In 1988, he was ordained an elder and received into full connection.

From 1984-1995, he served Manassas Church, West Franklin Charge, Parnassas-Sangerville, and Middleburg. Following a stroke while attending the 1995 annual conference, he was granted a disability leave in 1996. He continued to share God’s love to those with whom he had contact. He felt his calling had not ended with the stroke, but had been given a new direction. Robert leaves behind a lovely daughter, Elizabeth Regina Marshall; a sister, Edith May Dozier; a brother, George Lowery Marshall Jr.; and many friends. His death has left a void in our lives, but the memories will live forever. The earthly journey ended for God’s servant on November 25, 2001. It is fitting that we commend him to the Master in order that he might spend eternity enjoying the company of the God he served so faithfully. —*The Rev. J. Wade Munford*

Richard Stephan Miller, 1953-2001

After a 14-month battle with multiple myeloma, Richard went to be with his Lord. Survivors include his wife, Loretta; his mother; four brothers; his canine companions, Duke and Scruffy; and a host of friends, colleagues and parishioners. Richard fought his cancer courageously, never once questioning God’s plan for his life. As the illness progressed, Richard’s faith became stronger and his dedication to the Granbery congregation increased as they prayed and cared for him. Although unable to walk the last few months, Richard attempted to maintain daily contact with the members of his church to assure them of God’s abiding love for each of them.



Richard’s first ministerial appointment was the Peakview Charge in Bedford, followed by Bayley’s Chapel in Madison Heights. He next served Trinity in North Garden, then as associate pastor at Fairfax United Methodist Church. His last appointment was Granbery in Covington. Richard was a witty, charming, and vivacious individual with an abundant amount of energy and zest for life. Extremely

gifted intellectually, he graduated magna cum laude from Lynchburg College in 1988, and Duke Divinity School in 1992. Among his many passions was that of reading. Each day he read at least three newspapers and had one of the most up-to-date libraries imaginable. His fun or relaxing activities included golfing, playing his drums, watching inspirational movies, following the Duke University basketball team and standing atop Cadillac Mountain in Acadia National Park in Maine where he always felt renewed, inspired and touched once again by the “hand of God.”

Richard was a gifted communicator, teacher and church futurist. Of all the many gifts and talents he possessed, Richard’s greatest was preaching the Word of God and offering inspirational prayers which moved congregations to tears. In the last few months of his life, as he struggled with cancer and chemotherapy, many persons wondered how he was able to walk up the steps to the pulpit on a Sunday morning. Once he began speaking, Richard became electrified; he held everyone spellbound with this magnificent and God-given calling to preach. As Dr. Leonard Sweet said in his eulogy of Richard, he was filled with confidence and humility and an abiding faith which never allowed him to give up, even when the teeth of death had its marks all over his body. He was indeed the “total package” of what a minister should be.

As each person continues to mourn Richard’s death at such an early age, hope, comfort, and promise can be found in the words of Frederick Buechner from “Whistling in the Dark.”

“When you remember me, it means you have carried something of who I am with you,
that I have left some mark of who I am on who you are.

It means that you can summon me back to your mind
Even though countless years and miles stand between us....

It means that even if I die, you can still see my face and hear my voice
and speak to me in your heart.

For as long as you remember me, I am never entirely lost.” —*Loretta L. Miller and the Granbery Memorial UMC family*

Marshall S. Hamer, 1920-2001

The Rev. Marshall S. Hamer went to be with the Lord June 20, 2001, after an extended illness at the VA Medical Center in Martinsburg, W.Va. He was born on August 2, 1920, in Canton, Ohio, the son of the late Marshall S. and Bessie E. Hamer. He spent much of his teenage years in Portsmouth, Ohio, where he was very active in the Methodist Church. Marshall was drafted into the Army in 1942, and he decided he would make his military experience something to remember. He chose to be a ball turret gunner on a B-17 bomber. He was sent overseas and on Thursday, October 14, 1943, his life was forever changed. The 8th Army Air Force attacked and destroyed the ball bearing factories in Schweinfurt, Germany. This battle would go down in history as the “world’s greatest air battle.” When his plane was hit and he was told to bail out, he had to find his parachute (which was under a knee-deep pile of spent shells). He landed face down in the midst of a German war maneuver. After seven days’ interrogation, Marshall and the other captured POWs were sent by crowded boxcar to Stalag 17 outside Vienna. This trip took 21 days. He spent the next 19 months in that prison camp. He relied upon his education and faith to keep him going. He said he kept his mind and body active in an attempt to keep up his morale. He exercised his body and his mind every day.



One day when speaking to a group of high school students, he stated: “I was just out of high school and I knew the only way out was if I walked out.” That’s what he did, 19 months later; but, first, he had to endure lice-infested barracks and starvation rations—one bowl of “soup” (for want of a better word) a day. When the camp was finally liberated, the German guards—in violation of international law—forced the American POWs to march for 18 days with no food except that for which they could scrounge in

passing. Even though he weighed less than 100 pounds, he found enough strength to make the march. He was liberated at Braunau on May 5, 1945.

On the 37th anniversary of the Schweinfurt mission, Marshall was at Arlington National Cemetery. He was milling through the crowd, when he spotted Gene Sebeck, a former crew member and a bunk mate from prison, with whom he had shared a tea bag for six months. Marshall said, "It was one of the happiest moments of my life." He had not seen Gene since that last night on the hill outside Braunau. While Marshall was still a prisoner-of-war he vowed that if he ever got back home, he was going "to get an education and be a teacher."

Following World War II, he returned to school earning a B.A. in education from Ohio University, and an M.A. in religious education from Scarritt College in Nashville, Tenn. Marshall came to Front Royal, Va., in 1952 and taught Old and New Testament and Comparative Religions at Randolph-Macon Academy for 28 years, where he also served as chaplain and director of Religious Activities. While he was teaching at R-MA, he spent 15 summers as a head counselor at Camp Sea Gull, Arapahoe, N.C. He also served as an adjunct faculty member at Lord Fairfax Community College at Middletown during this time. In the early '60s, he attended Emory University and later attended Wesley Theological Seminary. At this time he became an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church.

After leaving R-MA, he worked for the VA Employment Commission in Winchester as a Veterans Representative for 51/2 years. He also administered aptitude and enlistments tests to high school juniors and seniors and military recruits in the northern Shenandoah Valley, Maryland, and West Virginia. He was a recipient of the Governor's Award for Volunteering Excellence, the DAV National Commander's Citation for outstanding service to veterans, The Chapel of Four Chaplains' Legion of Honor Award, and is listed on the Camp Sea Gull/Camp Seafarer Hall of Fame.

He was a member and former president of the Front Royal Kiwanis Club, life member and former commander of the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 38, member of the American Legion Post No. 53, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 1860. The Rev. Hamer held life membership in the American Ex-POWs and in the Bob Frakes Shenandoah Chapter of Ex-POWs, where he served as a former commander and chaplain for that organization.

Hamer is survived by his wife, Joyce and his son, Marshall III, as well as nieces and nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews.

A memorial service and celebration of Hamer's life was held at the Front Royal United Methodist Church on June 25, 2001. Former students from R-MA and counselors from Camp Sea Gull as well as the American Legion and the VFW paid tribute to him. The minister closed his sermon with an epilogue written by a former camper and now a biology professor at Texas Tech University. He stated: "In the recent movie Mr. Holland's Opus, the teacher (played by Richard Dreyfuss) devotes his life to teaching but, upon his retirement, wonders whether all of his efforts really made any difference. In the final scene, hundreds of his former students assemble in the school's auditorium and give him a standing ovation. At last, he realized how much he meant to his students."

If all of the young people who have been inspired by the Rev. Hamer over the years were to assemble, they could not be contained in a mere auditorium. It would require a huge coliseum. Many of them are busy pursuing their own lives, too busy perhaps to unite in one place for such an event. Nevertheless, Marshall, it should take only a little imagining for you to hear our applause on the days when the leaves rustle in your garden. Please know, old friend, that all of us love and admire you and we always will. —*Joyce Hamer and Lewis Held, Jr.*

James Wesley Turner, 1914-2001

It has been said, "Sudden death is an expression of God's mercy." God's mercy was extended to James Wesley Turner on August 4, 2001, bringing to an end his distinguished earthly ministry of 41-1/2

years in the Virginia Conference, but a lifetime of service to the Kingdom of God. The son of James Hubert and Lizzie Moger Turner, he was born May 30, 1914, in Hampton, Va. With deep roots in the United Methodist Church he attended Randolph-Macon College where he received the A.B. degree and the Candler School of Theology of Emory University where he was awarded the degree of Master of Divinity. In recognition of his outstanding service to the work of the Kingdom of God, Randolph-Macon College conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1961.

Seven churches in the Virginia Conference were blessed by the ministry of Jim Turner: New Market, Bridgewater, Westhampton in Richmond, High Street in Franklin, Asbury in Harrisonburg, South Roanoke and Trinity in Richmond. As inspiring and provocative preacher, a strong administrator, and a caring pastor, the churches privileged to have his ministry not only grew numerically, but also in spiritual depth. Jim was a church builder, having led the congregation at Westhampton in the erection of the present sanctuary. At both High Street and Trinity, he gave leadership in the addition of major facilities for Christian education and fellowship. His unusual gifts in pastoral leadership led to his appointment as district superintendent of the Arlington District and as director of the Conference Council of Ministries from which position he retired in 1982.

Jim served the larger church in many ways. In the annual conference he served as a trustee of Ferrum College; and for 20 years as a trustee of Randolph-Macon College, serving on a number of its vital committees. In the annual conference he served as Conference Secretary of Evangelism and then as president of the Board. From its inception, he served on the board and committees of the Conference Credit Union and was twice its president. He was a delegate to five Jurisdictional Conferences and four General Conferences. He was a member of the General Conference on Finance and Administration.

Retirement from the annual conference did not diminish his service to the causes of the kingdom of God and the larger work of the community. After retiring in 1982, he served for 13 months as Interim General Minister of the Virginia Council of Churches and as vice president and then president of the Board of Directors of the Chaplain Service of the Churches of Virginia. He was a member of the allocation panel for United Way. For a number of years he served as a volunteer Chaplain Associate at Chippenham Medical Center and as the president of the "Old Grads" of Randolph-Macon College.

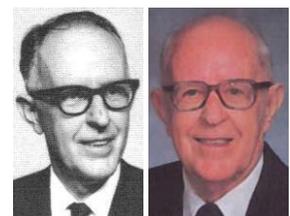
Many honors came to him for his volunteer service. Included among these were the Silver Beaver Award from the Robert E. Lee Council of the Boy Scouts and the Washington Honor Medal of Freedom Foundation. In addition to his honorary degree, his alma mater, Randolph-Macon College, awarded him the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award.

In addition to Ruth, his wife and constant partner of 61 years; he is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Susan Turner Carter; a son, James Wedford Turner; and grandchildren, Patricia Turner, Elizabeth Dutton, R. Berkely Carter Jr., D. Wedford Turner, Christina Carter, and Stephanie Turner.

Few men have served this conference with a distinction and devotion equal to his. His warm friendship and wise counsel will be sorely missed by family, a host of friends, and former parishioners.
—*R. Kern Eutsler*

John Teter, 1911-2001

John Teter once said he was probably the oldest graduate of Ridgeley High School in West Virginia. After leaving school in the sixth grade, he felt a call to the Christian ministry and enrolled into the ninth grade at the age of 23. He went on to receive a Bachelor of Arts degree from Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia, and a Master of Divinity degree from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.



John was ordained a deacon of the Methodist Church in 1943 and served 36 years as pastor at churches in Winchester, Alexandria, Warrenton, Portsmouth, Crewe, Chesapeake, Suffolk, Norfolk, and

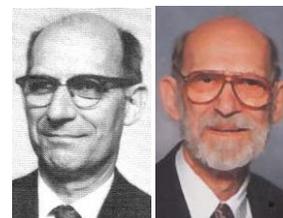
Smithfield. Upon retiring in 1977, he served nine years as associate pastor in two churches and continued conducting funerals, weddings and baptisms when he was needed. He was recognized as pastor emeritus of Miles Memorial Church in Norfolk in 1992.

During his retirement in Norfolk, his wife, Jane, passed away in 1979. He stayed in their home keeping up with daily activities and maintaining his independence until 1993 when he moved to a retirement community in Virginia Beach. John was quite popular with all the friends he made in his new home. He never met a stranger and this helped him to adjust to his new environment. He was well liked and always enjoyed being around people.

John was devoted to his family and was proud of his two daughters and their families. He especially enjoyed activities with his four grandchildren. When declining health kept him from attending church services, he would have his own worship service in his living room on Sunday mornings. John will always be remembered for his dedication to his family, friends, and the congregations he served during his ministry and his continued devotion to God. —*Mary Sue Teter Woods*

Willy N. Heggoy, 1912-2001

Dr. Willy N. Heggoy, age 89, retired at the 1979 annual conference and died October 18, 2001. Dr. Heggoy was ordained as a deacon and elder under the Missionary Rule in Norway Annual Conference of the Methodist Church in 1935, then traveled to Algeria where he served as a missionary. He served for 30 years in the Kabyle Mountain Missions in Algeria. He was the founder and director of the Centre Chretien Maghrebin in Algeria between 1959-1966.



Churches he served in the Virginia Conference included Pungoteague, Montross, Trinity in Lynchburg, and Park Avenue in Richmond. He also taught at the St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Mo., and at the Boston University School of Theology. He served the mission field from Kabylia to Oskarshamn, Sweden, and later, on 18 mission trips to India where he founded the Jon Pioneer Mission in memory of his youngest son.

Dr. Heggoy was preceded in death by two sons, Alf Andrew Heggoy and Jon Magne Heggoy. He is survived by his wife Harriet; two sons, Kore and his wife, Pat, of Pungoteague, Va., and Peter of Monroe; a daughter, Synnove, of Statesboro, Ga.; a daughter-in-law, Julie, wife of his late son, Alf; a sister, Ruth, and her husband, Dr. Per Hassing, of Asheville, N.C. In Bergen, Norway, he is survived by a sister-in-law, Synnove (Sunshine) and her husband, Dr. Henry Henne; brothers-in-law, Leif Berggreen, Borge Berggreen and wife, Torunn; and sister-in-law, Aud Berggreen Horgar; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. —*Kore N. Heggoy*

William N. Colton, Jr., 1911-2001

I want to tell you about my father. He was born in 1911 and lived to be 90 years old. He was the sixth in a line of ministers, although he was the first Methodist. He attended school, went to Loomis, a prep school for Yale University, then attended Yale for three years, until an argument with his father cost him college support. He married in 1947 and moved his family to Virginia, where he heard the call to the ministry in about 1950. He attended Duke University Divinity School, then began a new life in the tiny town of Boydton. He and the family moved to churches in Chesapeake, Fairfax County, Hampton, York County, and Virginia Beach, followed by retirement in Suffolk after his 24-year ministerial career.



There was not a lot of money in a preacher/school teacher family, but he sent two children to college and into public service careers. I have never known anyone who knew his Bible better than my father. He could locate stories and parables, relate current events to events of biblical times, and could describe how the wisdom of the Bible has relevance to today's events and personal events in our lives. Over and

over again, people use words like sweet and kind when speaking of him. His last year was spent in assisted living quarters. Not content to be a resident, he held Bible studies and conducted book readings for the other residents.

Bill Colton was not a great man; he was quiet and unassuming in life, yet he managed to make people around him feel better about their lives. He began life in circumstances that could have led to a life of comfort and privilege. Yet, halfway through it, he chose to forget that and live a life for the benefit of others. My father's legacy is not about what he could have become, or even about becoming a minister. His legacy is the lives of the people he touched in some quiet way, of people who attend memorial services because it's the right thing to do, reinforcing the spirit of love of fellow man, of human kinship in the name of God, and the teachings of Jesus Christ. —*William N. Colton, III*

Norman George Preston, Jr., 1920-2001

Norman, affectionately known as “Norm” by his close friends, was born in 1920 in Shreveport, Louisiana, to Norman George and Mabel Steinwinder Preston. His father was an accountant and his mother had been a teacher before her marriage. From the beginning, school was a pivotal point in Norm's life. He advanced the first three grades in two years while attending a model (demonstration) school on the campus of Centenary College.



Though many of his friends and colleagues in ministry were not aware of it, Norm was a music enthusiast, having a wide range of experience with musical instruments. His introduction to piano, forced upon him by his parents, ended after three years when he had had enough and found someone to buy the piano. However, it launched a journey into musical instruments, from playing in a drum and bugle corps, to trumpet in his first year with the high school band, to the clarinet in his senior year. In college, at Louisiana State University, he switched from clarinet to bassoon so he could tour throughout Europe with the school's Symphony Orchestra. But, he commented later, that was the end of his musical instruments!

At Louisiana State University, he received an accounting degree, then entered Law School for nearly two years, until he recognized his call to ministry and enrolled in the Duke Divinity School in Durham, N.C. He was active in the Wesley Foundation on the Duke campus, including participation in national conferences. He was also active in the Wesley Players, a religious drama group, and served a term as National Vice President.

While at Duke, he met and married the former Elizabeth Kraybill, a registered nurse at Duke Hospital. To make “ends meet” Norm pastored a small church near Durham. After graduating from Duke they went to Connecticut for a year's graduate study at Yale Divinity School. He then became director of the Wesley Foundation at Louisiana Tech in Ruston, Louisiana. While there, Noel, their first son, was born. Later, the family moved to the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, where he became Minister to Students. It was there that Elinor, their first daughter, was born. In 1950, Norm received his first appointment in the Virginia Conference, moving to the McKenney Charge in the Petersburg District. While in this pastorate Kenneth and Beth were born.

Following appointments in the Eastern Shore and in Roanoke, tragedy struck the family when Elizabeth died of a brain cancer in March of 1962. Norm and the children moved to the Park Avenue Church in Richmond. In 1964, he married Evelyn Buchanan. Shortly thereafter Evelyn adopted the children. In Norm's words, “She became a wonderful mother for them and wife for me.”

After five more appointments—Morrison in Newport News, Immanuel in Annandale, Berryman in Richmond, Miles Memorial in Norfolk, and Aldersgate in Henrico, Norm took his retirement in 1983.

As I look back over 35 years of friendship with Norm, I fondly remember a colleague quiet in demeanor, servant to others, and committed to his Lord and the Church. Whether working with him as a

conference statistician for 15 years, talking about his “ham operations,” under the handle of “Norm” or “Circuit Rider,” or just sharing about our churches and our families, he was always attentive, patient, knowledgeable and sensitive.

Henry van Dyke wrote a poem, “The Way,” that captures for me an expression I believe fitting for my friend:

Who seeks for heaven alone to save his soul,
May keep the path, but will not reach the goal;
While he who walks in love may wander far,
But God will bring him where the Blessed are.

Norman Preston always thought of others, always sought to appreciate others, as he lived out the love of his Lord. It is that love, I believe, that has brought him, now, where the Blessed are.
—*E. Thomas Murphy, Jr.*

Alvin Kenneth Lambdin, Jr., 1911-2001

The Rev. A. Kenneth Lambdin, Jr., was born September 15, 1911, in Lynch Station, Va., the eldest of five children born to Alvin Kenneth and Margaret Arthur Lambdin. A. K. Sr. was a minister in the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church for 45 years. Kenneth’s two brothers are retired medical doctors; one of his two sisters, a former teacher, is deceased; the other a retired teacher. Kenneth attended Randolph-Macon Academy, Randolph-Macon College, Emory and Henry College, Emory University, Lynchburg College (A.B. degree) and Union Theological Seminary, Richmond. He began his ministerial career in 1938 at North Pittsylvania and retired in 1978. In the 1950s, he served six years in the Disciples of Christ mission program. In the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church, Kenneth served pastorates in the Lynchburg, Richmond, Rappahannock, Danville, Eastern Shore, Petersburg, Norfolk, and Portsmouth Districts. He especially loved the Eastern Shore and all of Tidewater.



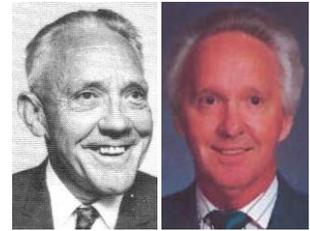
Kenneth married the former Mildred McKinney of Lynchburg, Va., on June 8, 1939. They were the proud and loving parents of six fine sons: A. Kenneth III (Kenny), John Hale, William Morris (Lanny), Arthur Byron, Paul Linden, and Mark Timothy. In addition to his wife of nearly 63 years, and his six sons, Ken is survived by six lovely daughters-in-law, Cookie, Sarah, Betty, Donna, Barbara, and Gayle; and six grandsons, Nathan, Jesse, Matthew, B. J. (Byron, Jr.), Daniel, Taylor; six granddaughters, Suzanne, Laura, Emily, Corie, Shelby, and Kelsey; five great-granddaughters, Davys, Collyn, Emalee, Randa Rae, and Kendall; two great-grandsons, Sam and Matthew; three step-granddaughters, Margaret, Jane, and Tara; two step-grandsons, Josh and Tye; and two step-great-grandsons, Christopher and Cole.

Kenneth’s sermons were outstanding (even his sons admitted that!) He was a teacher of the Bible as well as a preacher of the Good News of God’s Kingdom. Like his father, he loved poetry, incorporating poems skillfully and imaginatively into his sermons. He wrote poetry of his own which appeared in several issues of the Advocate. He inspired at least seven young men (perhaps unnamed others) to enter the ministry. He had a beautiful baritone voice and his singing reached many unchurched persons as well as his own congregations. Kenneth earned the Collegiate Professional Teaching Certificate and did substitute teaching for schools in several of his appointments. Fishing was his favorite recreation. He also enjoyed gardening, reading and studying the Bible, classical music, singing and playing piano.

Kenneth died peacefully December 20, 2001. His memorial service and celebration of his life was December 23 at White’s United Methodist Church, Rustburg, Va., where his parents, grandparents and other relatives are buried. Services were kindly and ably conducted by the Rev. Roy L. Miller, retired, of Roanoke, one of those whom Ken helped to enter the ministry. “Well done, thou good and faithful servant... Enter thou into the joys of the Lord.” (Matt. 23:21) —*Paul Linden Lambdin*

Floyd Jackson Wingfield, Jr., 1930-2001

Dr. Floyd Jackson Wingfield Jr. (F.J.) touched lives through ministry in the churches of Amherst Circuit, Rapidan, Newcastle, Wesley in Hampton, Hot Springs, Bath Larger Parish, Rocky Mount, Smithfield, Belmont in Roanoke, St. Marks in Petersburg, Calvary in Stuarts Draft, Dayton, and Highland in Petersburg. F.J. retired in 1997. His ministry was alive and dynamic. He was quick to crack a joke, and then touch you with a story to make you cry. F.J. loved youth ministry. He took youth groups all over the continent. He took a group to Texas to a Billy Graham Crusade in a bus the church bought with green stamps! Fifteen years later, in a bus named “Holy Smoke,” he took a group to Toronto. He thought children’s “love time” during worship was a highlight, not a hindrance.

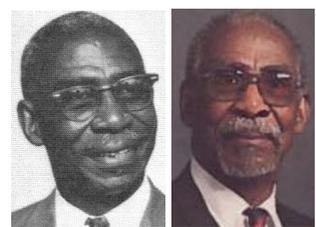


He was full of encouragement for the folks with whom he ministered. He always said, “Just love them.” This was the framework of his ministry. His love and caring went beyond the pastor/parishioner relationship to one of friendship. In every church he served there were those whose souls were touched in a special way by his sharing of God’s love. F.J. was best known for his preaching. He was affectionately known to some as “Preacher.” He shared in the gift of preaching with his father and his four brothers. “He was,” as one parishioner said, “able to move you as he proclaimed the love of God.” After 30 years, I still remember several of the sermons he preached at my home church when I was a young child. His preaching took him to many places to preach revivals, and even took him to Canada and Romania for weddings and missions.

F.J. and his wife, Shirley, lost their son, Wade, in November 1993. In one of those sermons long ago, F.J. told us that God did the hardest thing anyone could ever do; He watched His Son die. This, he said, showed us how much God loved us that He gave His only Son for our lives. I have always remembered the impact of that sermon. In the midst of the grief over the loss of Wade, those words of the love of God touched me again. F.J. developed cancer from exposure to asbestos while serving in the U.S. Navy. After years of surgery and treatment, and more than 40 years of serving Jesus Christ in ministry, he went to be with our Lord on December 26, 2001. His life touched many, and the love of God he shared still lives with these memories in our hearts and souls. —*The Rev. B. Failes, Jr.*

Daniel DeLeon Felder, Sr., 1918-2002

The Rev. DeLeon Felder Sr. was born in Clarendon County, South Carolina, on June 12, 1918. He was the 15th of 17 children born to the late Ellis and Sallie T. Gibson. His mother enlisted him to read the Bible to her daily from an early age while his brothers and sisters worked on the family farm. His desire to read and converse about the miraculous Bible stories with his mother and family cultivated his desire to become a lifelong learner, teacher, and follower of Christ.



D.D. (as he was affectionately known) attended the public schools of Sumter and Clarendon County, S.C. He earned a B.A. in English from Allen University, Columbia, S.C., completed graduate work at Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Ga., and received a Master’s Degree in Religious Education from Howard University in Washington, D.C. He was awarded the Doctor of Divinity degree from Allen University in 1959. Further studies were awarded at the Chaplain School, Fort Slocum, N.Y., and Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va. He also served as a member of the National Teacher Corps. He was an active participant in the Civil Rights Movement during the 1960s. He served his country as a chaplain in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict. After 10 years of active duty, he continued to serve as an Army Reserve Officer, attaining the rank of Major.

On July 7, 1950, while stationed at Ft. Meade in Maryland, D.D. married his true love, Lorraine Perry Felder, daughter of James and Alma Perry of Newport News, Va. He fondly referred to her during their 51-year marriage as “Honey.” They had six children, Ensign Leona F. Moten, Daniel D. Felder Jr., Dr. Loretta K. Felder, Jason J. Felder, Joseph C. Felder, and Danielle F. Edwards. They helped to raise his oldest granddaughter, Lisa M. Bostick, who lovingly called him “Pop-Pop.”

D.D. entered the Virginia United Methodist Conference in 1969 from the African Methodist Episcopal Conference in South Carolina. He pastored churches in Newport News, Norfolk, Lexington-Buena Vista-Covington, Purcellville Circuit, and Staunton-Grottoes Circuit. D.D. enjoyed being a pastor and teacher to God’s people. He was an effective leader who laid groundwork for continued growth and stewardship in every congregation he fostered. He retired from the Virginia Conference on June 1, 1984. Many members and colleagues kept in touch with him and his family as lifelong friends long after he left Virginia.

After retiring, D.D. returned to the family home in Sumter, S.C. He became an associate pastor at Emmanuel United Methodist Church and an active volunteer in the Emmanuel Soup Kitchen, serving and witnessing to the community participants. D.D. was guided in his spiritual journey by his love of God, his devotion to family, church, and ministering to those most in need. He was also passionate about the earth, his garden and livestock. During his illustrious career, D.D. delivered the convocation at his youngest son’s high school graduation, performed the weddings of all of his married children, and baptized each of his grandchildren prior to his health decline in 1998. He continued to spread the “good news” and give love and support to family and friends throughout his illness. He was known by all as one who humorously related stories of human diversity and frailty in an enlightening and uplifting manner.

On Thursday, January 10, 2002, D.D. was called to his heavenly home to undoubtedly hear the words, “Servant of God, Well Done” (one of his favorite hymns). He leaves, to cherish precious memories: his loving and devoted wife; six children; three daughters-in-law, Monica, Teddi and Angela; one son-in-law, Sheldon Edwards; one grandson, Keith A. Werts Jr.; and six granddaughters, Lisa, Lauren, Lindsey, Alexis, Perri, and Erica; a host of nieces, nephews, and other devoted cousins and friends. —*Danielle Felder Edwards*

Hudson T. Hornsby, 1923-2002

Hudson T. Hornsby was born on May 27, 1923, at home in Warwick County, Va., which is now Newport News. Hudson graduated at the age of 16 from Morrison High School, now called Warwick High School. At this time, he felt the call to the ministry and attended Ferrum Junior College. After serving in the U.S. Army as a chaplain’s assistant during World War II, he earned a degree at Randolph-Macon College and later received a Masters of Theology degree at Emory University. He was ordained in 1951, but served in churches before that time.



His first assignment, at Parkview United Methodist Church in Newport News in 1946, began with the congregation meeting in a rented house. He was responsible for building up this church. He served at Denbigh Methodist Church 1951-1953, then was assigned to St. Andrews in Portsmouth until 1959. After six years of service in Loudon County, serving Pleasant Valley Church, he spent a little over a year at Arlington Forest Church in Arlington. From 1966 to 1970, Hudson served St. Mark’s Church in Manassas, then moved on to serve Swain Memorial Church on Tangier Island from 1970-1973. About this time, Hudson decided to buy plans to build a sailboat until one of the Tangier men saw the plans and said, “Mr. Hornsby, ye are goin’ to drown.” Always active in the youth fellowship, he helped establish a skating rink on Tangier Island.

After Tangier, Hudson took a sabbatical and went to Australia. Returning after a few months and residing in Fairfax, Va., he was asked to serve at Roanoke Methodist Church after the death of the young pastor there. The following June, he was assigned to Tappahannock Memorial Church, having the longest tenure of any pastor in that church. He then moved to Calvary Church in Richmond. This is when his train hobby started on a grand scale. After this assignment he returned to Tappahannock in retirement.

Hudson couldn't stay idle for long. Along with his train hobby, he started woodworking, became a member of the community chorus and the Tappahannock church choir, was an officer in the credit union, and substituted for other ministers. He took an interim charge at Grace United Methodist Church in King George County, and later, another at Shepherds at Millers Tavern; then he became ill.

Hudson was a man of many facets. After our mother passed away in 1938, our father remarried and Hudson, a young man of 16, was our father's best man. He was not only a brother, but a stronghold in our lives. He performed family funerals and weddings and we will miss him dearly.

"May he rest in peace. " In God's Love, —*Hudson's brothers and sisters*

Denzil Ray Daniel, 1923-2002

Denzil Ray Daniel was the fifth of seven children, born to Ashton and Sylvia Daniel in Saxon, W.Va., on February 20, 1923. His early education began in a one-room school where his father taught. He later graduated from West Virginia Wesleyan College and attended Temple University. His military experience left an indelible mark on his life when he served in the U.S. Army during World War II in England, France, and Germany.



When he returned to West Virginia, Denzil married his best friend's younger sister, Bethel June Milam, on November 2, 1946. In the early days of their marriage, Denzil worked as a coal miner, but after the birth of their first daughter, he attended a 1949 revival that changed his life. He rededicated himself to his faith and accepted the Lord's call into the ministry. While a full-time student at West Virginia Wesleyan, he served five local churches and, together with another ministerial student, led numerous revivals in the area. He did not measure his ministry's success in numbers, but in how individual's lives were changed. Nevertheless, while both a pastor and full-time college student, for one year he led the West Virginia Methodist Conference in new church memberships. During one Sunday afternoon service, on a river bank, 186 people were baptized.

By his 1952 college graduation, the family had enlarged to three daughters and had begun the tradition of moving every few years. Denzil's next appointment was to five churches on Maryland's Eastern Shore. There he also commuted to Temple University in Philadelphia for postgraduate studies. This was a time of personal struggle for Denzil and Bethel June as the two youngest daughters had been ill from birth. Their trust in God and search for healing eventually led them to University Hospital in Baltimore, Md., where successful treatment was begun.

In 1953, Denzil moved his family to Virginia. His pastoral career spanned four decades during which he served churches located "from the mountains to the sea," retiring in 1987 followed by 41/2 years of additional service as an interim pastor. Denzil was an affable man committed to visiting every member of each of his congregations. A great organizer and an inspiring leader, he drew out the best talents in people to serve the Lord. As a self-taught musician from Appalachia, he was especially fond of the banjo, guitar, and harmonica, and derived considerable pleasure from surprising folks with his talent, punctuating his uplifting and lively tunes with a hearty laugh.

While strongly committed to Christian service, Denzil recognized the importance of sustaining family relationships and set aside one night each week as "family night." Devoted to his family, he

received strength from their affection and taught them much about love, forgiveness, and keeping a strong sense of humor.

His great love also extended to his World War II Army veterans and, although he knew the location of only one of the men 40 years after the war ended, he eventually found all but two of them. For 16 years he organized the annual reunion of the 680th Quartermaster Corps until his health declined.

Denzil was an avid researcher and historian, especially interested in genealogical, Methodist and Civil War history. In retirement, he remained actively involved in various projects including leading efforts for the historical preservation of “The Gables” at Blackstone and serving as church historian for Tabernacle United Methodist Church. His devotion to pursuing the Lord’s work was epitomized in his final days by continuing to encourage church expansion that would better meet the growing community’s needs.

Denzil died February 5, 2002. He is survived by his beloved wife, Bethel June; daughters, Sharon Stafford, Marsha Mirarchi, and Marvella McDill; three granddaughters; two grandsons; and one sister. He was a devoted husband of 55 years, a beloved father and grandfather, a faithful friend, and above all else, a humble servant of God. On March 6, 2002, the Virginia General Assembly passed House Joint Resolution No. 418 as an expression of respect for his memory, stating in part, “...that the General Assembly mourn the passing of a dedicated spiritual leader, the Rev. Denzil R. Daniel.” —*Bethel June Daniel, wife; daughters Sharon Stafford, Marsha Mirarchi, and Marvella McDill*

Marshall W. Anderson, Sr., 1912-2002

Marshall moved from Illinois in 1916 with his Swedish parents and siblings to start a dairy farm in Amelia County, Virginia. His parents and grandparents had left Sweden during the potato famine of the 1880s and, on arriving in the United States, consciously decided to adopt the American life in culture, religion, and language. By the time Marshall was born, his parents had run out of American names and decided to name Marshall after the elected President and Vice President of the 1912 national elections, thus the name Marshall Wilson given two months after birth. To date, the name Marshall Wilson Anderson is in its fourth generation.



Marshall was an important contributor to the success of the Anderson Farm. Despite the long days of early morning and late evening milkings, of corn planting, hoeing and harvesting, and of general farm chores, he found time for school, sports (legend has it he had a “wicked” knuckleball), siblings, friends, and fishing. Marshall was graduated from Lynchburg College in 1936 with a B.S. in Divinity. He attended Vanderbilt University for a brief period but was called back to the farm because of his dad’s illness. Shortly after his dad’s death, he married his lifelong soul mate, Margaret Rachael Adams, on December 23, 1937. During this period of managing the farm and working odd jobs, he was strongly influenced by the Methodist minister in Jetersville, the Rev. Otis Gilliam. In October 1939, Marshall took his first charge in Ashland of the Richmond District. The wife of the first couple he married, Ruth Stanley, still plays the organ at Forest Grove and attended his memorial service.

Marshall’s love of rural life lasted until his death—years of gardening, wild berry picking, apple butter, sorghum molasses, and Brunswick stew making, and country revival preaching. He always chose a rural charge over any other; of 50 years in the ministry, he spent 46 in a rural setting. Marshall served 44 churches. He was named Rural Minister of the Year in the Virginia United Methodist Conference in 1971-72; organized the Lord’s Acre program for Franklin County; and served on the Board of Directors of the Southeastern District of the Hinton Rural Life Ministries. Also, he served as president of the Roanoke TBA, was assistant chaplain at numerous hospitals including Roanoke Memorial, UVA Medical Center, and Johnston-Willis (Richmond), and was industrial chaplain for many companies. Despite his busy schedule, he always found time for his wife, his boys, and later his grandchildren.

Almost countless were the football, basketball and baseball games he attended. In a heartfelt note that Margaret received after Marshall's memorial service from Mildred Lambdin, the wife of Kenneth Lambdin Jr. a former United Methodist minister, she kindly wrote: "He [Marshall] was always himself, poised, never affected or superficial. He left you a wonderful heritage—now [he] has his best appointment ever."

Surviving Marshall is a beloved wife of 64 years, Margaret Adams Anderson; three sons, Dr. Marshall W. Anderson Jr. of Cincinnati, Ohio, Dr. E. Carey Anderson of Oakland, N.J., and John E. Anderson of Lexington, S.C.; five grandchildren, Melissa Cooper of Sanford, N.C., Dr. Marshall W. Anderson III, of Burlington, N.C., Shaun Anderson of Nashville, Tenn., C. Scott Anderson of Washington, D.C., and Kara Lee Pfau of Atlanta, Ga.; two great-grandchildren, Marshall W. Anderson IV, and Caroline Anderson of Burlington, N.C.; a last surviving sibling, Virginia Call of Richmond, Va.; 13 nieces and nephews; a loving caregiver in late years, Polly Ripley; and countless parishioners and dear friends. —*Margaret Adams Anderson*

James Wilton Luck, 1919-2002

The Rev. James W. Luck, 82, died in the Lord, March 4, 2002. Jim began his ministerial career in the Virginia Methodist Conference in 1959 as the associate pastor at Ramsey Memorial, Richmond. Subsequent pastorates served were Bridgewater, Shenandoah, Shenandoah-Stanley, Shady Grove in Henrico, Ebenezer in Suffolk, Corinth in Sandston, and Trinity in Newport News. Jim graduated from Randolph-Macon College, Duke University Divinity School, and did postgraduate studies at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond. He was a member of the National Phi Beta Kappa Association, the National Association of Social Science, Pi Gamma Mu. As a participant in the Industrial and Commercial Ministries (ICM) he served the Henrico Police Department and the Newport News Police Department. He served five years in the U.S. Army during World War II.



Jim is survived by his wife, Joyce Hollins Luck; a son, James Wilton Luck Jr. and his wife Jane; grandchildren Eric Luck and wife, Tammy; and Christopher Luck; sisters Ruth Kobylinski, Setheline Jones, Carolyn Luck, Jerry Wright, and Jackie DeRosier. —*Joyce Hollins Luck*

Jim is survived by his wife, Joyce Hollins Luck; a son, James Wilton Luck Jr. and his wife Jane; grandchildren Eric Luck and wife, Tammy; and Christopher Luck; sisters Ruth Kobylinski, Setheline Jones, Carolyn Luck, Jerry Wright, and Jackie DeRosier. —*Joyce Hollins Luck*

Charles H. Glaize, 1916-2002

Retired Air Force Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Charles H. Glaize died Friday, April 26, 2002. He was born Feb. 2, 1916, in Strasburg, Va., the son of the late Walter & Susan Glaize. Graduated Strasburg High School, 1935; B.A. Emory and Henry College, Emory, VA, 1940; B.Div., Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, Ga., 1942; Army Chaplain School, Harvard University, May 1943 and ordained elder, United Methodist Church, Virginia Annual Conference, February 1943.



He served in the U.S. Army during World War II in the South Pacific on the island of Bougainville and in the Philippines. Released from the Army in 1946, he was appointed to Ferrum College as a professor of history and dean of men, and the pastor of Mountain View Methodist Church. He was recalled to active duty as a part of the Army Chaplain Corps in 1948, assigned to Fort Knox, Ky.

Charles was selected in the initial cadre of chaplains for the newly formed Air Force in 1949. He served for 24 years at various Air Force bases around the world including assignments in Texas, New York, Korea, Delaware, Hawaii, California, Florida and England. While in England he participated in the 25th anniversary of D-Day at Normandy Beach, June 1969.

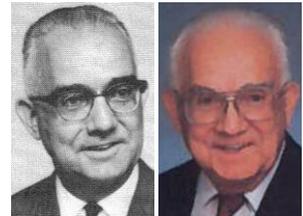
He received the Meritorious Service Medal upon his retirement from active duty in 1973. He then served as a supply pastor at various churches in south Alabama and northwest Florida, including 19 years at Laurel Hill Presbyterian Church, Laurel Hill, Fla.

Charles is survived by his wife of 53 years, Nancy Robertson Glaize of Mary Esther, Fla.; four children and their spouses, Beth and David Butler, Troy, Ala.; Charles H., Jr., and Carole Glaize, Virginia Beach, Va.; John W. and Barbara Glaize, Kathleen, Ga.; Edward R. and Alecia Glaize, Tallassee, Ala.; 11 grandchildren as well as two sisters, Mrs. Herbert Manuel, Richmond, Va.; Mrs. Philip Porter, Vienna, Va. His brother, David Glaize, preceded him in death.

Funeral services were conducted on April 29 at Mary Esther United Methodist Church, 703 Miracle Strip Parkway, with the Rev. Mike Roberts officiating. Burial followed in Beal Memorial Cemetery.
—*The Glaize Family*

George Wesley Jones, 1919-2002

George Wesley Jones: called of God—preacher, husband, teacher, father, song leader, pianist, youth leader—the list goes on! A man of many talents and gifts for all seasons of sacred and secular life. “I have decided to follow Jesus...no turning back,” the gospel song puts it. George Wesley knew as a little boy that God wanted him to be a minister. Neighbors told how he used his Mother Goose book as a Bible and pretended to preach from it.



He was born April 22, 1919, to William and Sallie Jones of Norfolk, Virginia. Encouragement from home and his heavenly Father led him to further his education following graduation from Maury High School. He thrived at Randolph-Macon College and met the challenges of Duke Divinity School. Early immersed in our denomination, George Wesley expressed the beginning of his commitment to Methodism, writing in the cover of the book *The Methodists Are One People* by Paul Neff Garber: “This book was gotten during my visit to the great Uniting Conference in Kansas City, Missouri (April 26-April 30, 1939)—truly the greatest moment of my life thus far.”

That momentous event was followed in 1944 by his speaking to the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference on Saturday evening, June 24. (This incident in George Wesley’s life was discovered by a current Duke Divinity School student from Thrasher Memorial Church who was thrilled to find him mentioned in her textbook *Methodism’s Racial Dilemma, The Story of the Central Jurisdiction* by James S. Thomas.) “One who did make a pointed reference to segregation was a young minister...the Reverend Mr. George Wesley Jones [who] was speaking primarily to young people, but his address was also aimed at the entire conference. When he came to the section of his address, ‘Racialism,’ he said: ‘The first of these obstacles is Racialism, which is an outright denial of the basic laws of the Kingdom, for it certainly seems to deny the fatherhood of God and refuses to exercise the love of one’s neighbor.’” (p. 63)

George Wesley exhibited “love of one’s neighbor” throughout a distinguished ministerial career. In October 1994, on the occasion of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of his ordination, many wrote expressing their appreciation for his service. Longtime conference youth director, Millie Cooper, penned; “God certainly knew what He was doing when He called you into the ministry! And it seems to me that you answered that call with your whole heart and mind and soul! You have been a shining example to me of Christian servanthood for many years.”

Given an honorary doctorate from Randolph-Macon College, the Rev. Dr. George Wesley Jones, exemplified the best of the committed, educated, trained, and competent clergy who serve the local church. He was on numerous Virginia Conference boards and agencies; participated in countless Schools of Christian Mission in our conference as a teacher and song leader; taught in this conference, and elsewhere in many Christian Workers’ Schools; served for years on the staff of the Y.E.S. Program

(Youth Engaged in Service); and served as song leader, recreation leader, teacher, and speaker in youth assemblies, as well as young adult, adult, and older adult conferences. At the Duke luncheon during annual conference, he led the gathered graduates in the singing of “The Alma Mater” and “The Fight Song” over the course of decades.

He enjoyed his Lions Club membership, promoting the annual James Bland Music Contest and was made a Melvin Jones Fellow in 1995. A special honor was his selection as “Virginia’s Outstanding Older Worker for 2000” by Green Thumb, Inc. In 2001, he was the honorary grand marshal of the town of Vinton’s annual Dogwood Festival Parade.

When I was appointed to Thrasher in 1997, I rushed to the conference Journal to see who else was appointed to this large, active 1,200-member church. Only the pastor I was replacing was listed. I prayed for strength to do all that would need to be done. Then I discovered that George Wesley Jones had been employed by the church for 12 years as part-time associate pastor. Was I ever relieved to serve with a pastor I’d known and admired! “Part-time,” did I say? That is what the contract called for, but reality was different. He was at this meeting, that function, teaching here or at a conference or district workshop, and at every event where there was food. He’d help lead two Sunday services, teach a Sunday school class, have dinner with someone, catch an afternoon community program, then an evening event. All that was more than 20-25 hours a week!

Yet, when I’d ask him about subbing for me at finance, building, or property committees, he’d say that’s your responsibility, Senior Pastor! He wanted the noncontroversial, people-related opportunities. I would introduce him, however, as the real senior pastor—the one with the length of service and experience. What a privilege to serve with him for nearly five years. George Wesley Jones completed his service to God on earth by assisting at the 11 o’clock worship, April 14. Taken to the hospital immediately after that because of breathing problems, he never regained complete consciousness and moved to a new (and final) appointment, his Heavenly Home, on May 7, 2002. We thank God for George Wesley Jones gracing our lives!

His appointments included: Christ, Norfolk; Norview, Norfolk; High Street, Petersburg; Timberlake, Lynchburg; St. James & chaplain of Ferrum College; Farmville; Court Street, Lynchburg; and Trinity, Danville. He retired in 1985 to become the part-time associate pastor at Thrasher Memorial, Vinton, serving until his death. While there, he organized in 1986, the Wesley Sunday School Class for young and youngish adults, which he taught for 16 years.

Dr. Jones is survived by his faithful helpmate of almost 56 years, Rachel Littleton Jones; his daughter, Carolyn J. Nelson of Charlotte, N.C.; son-in-law, Randy Nelson; grandson, Allen Nelson; and granddaughter, Jodie Nelson; all of Charlotte; and his son, David Jones of Glen Allen, Va.

A memorial service, with some 400 in attendance, was held at Thrasher Memorial by the Rev. Donald H. Seely, on May 11, 2002. Burial was private in the Holston Conference cemetery near the campus of Emory & Henry College. “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him.” (I Corinthians 2:9) These words from the folk hymn “What Wondrous Love is This” are appropriate for this troubadour for the Lord, “And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on. ...And through eternity, I’ll sing on....” —*Donald H. Seely*

William Emory Cooley, 1913-2002

The Rev. William Emory Cooley was born on November 13, 1913, in Amherst, Va. His childhood was spent in Strasburg, Va., from the age of four. He entered the Methodist ministry from Strasburg Methodist Church. Graduated from Emory & Henry College and the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Ga., in 1939. He was appointed by the Virginia Conference of the Methodist Church to Culpeper in 1930 and in 1940 to the



Albemarle Charge (consisted of four churches).

At the outbreak of World War II in March 1942 he was appointed to the Chaplaincy as 1st Lieutenant in the Army with the 126th Regiment of the 32nd Infantry Division. He served in the Pacific Theater until November 30, 1946, when he was discharged as a Lt. Colonel. During the war, he was awarded the Bronze Star medal for “meritorious service in the Philippines.”

He returned to the Virginia Conference of the Methodist Church in 1946 and was appointed to the Amherst Charge. He returned to active duty in the Air Force at the request of the Methodist Commission on Chaplains when the Korean War began in October of 1950. He was released from active duty in 1958 and returned to the Virginia Methodist Conference.

In 1958, he was appointed to build Aldersgate Methodist Church in Norfolk, Va., and was there until 1960. In 1960, he was appointed to Ginter Park Methodist Church in Richmond, Va., where he served until 1968. He was appointed to Crewe United Methodist Church in 1968 and served there until 1972 when he was appointed to Laurel Hill United Methodist Church in Varina, Henrico County, Virginia, where he served until his retirement in June 1977 after 40 years of service, 12 of which were spent as Chaplain with the Army and Air Force.

He retired to Chesapeake, Va., in 1977 and joined Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Chesapeake. He moved to Cornwall Manor in Cornwall, Pennsylvania, in June 1990 and was there until his death on May 8, 2002. He is survived by his wife, Madelle Fullen Cooley, whom he married on October 31, 1939, of Cornwall, Pa. A son, Dr. William Emory Cooley, Jr. of Bloomington, Illinois; a daughter, Caroline Cooley Halstead of Chesapeake, Va.; a daughter, Susan Rebecca Cooley of Richmond, Va.; a brother, C. Douglas Cooley of Strasburg, Va.; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Burial was at Riverview Cemetery in Strasburg, Virginia. —*Becky Cooley*

Cecil T. Pace, Sr., 1928-2001

The Rev. Cecil T. Pace Sr. and his wife, Ida, were an inspiration to their family and to the many church families they served throughout their years in the United Methodist ministry. Ida died August 29, 2001, and Cecil died just one week later on September 7, 2001. It had been a lifelong calling of Cecil to serve Jesus Christ and he cherished every moment. He especially loved visiting his parishioners and would spend countless hours going to different houses. He joined the Virginia Conference in 1982. Churches he served included Mt. Pleasant, South Fluvanna, James River, and Rock Spring in the Charlottesville District. He also served Mt. Zion Church in the Charlottesville District in his retirement.



Survivors include his son, C. T. Pace, Jr., his wife, Diana, and their children Kelsey and Hannah, of Crozet; his daughter, Tammy Elaine Pace of Richmond; two sisters, Peggy Johnson and Pattie Pace Hann; and a brother, Frank H. Pace. He truly lived his life preparing to enter Heaven and he preached to others the importance of being ready when God called. While we are deeply saddened by their passing, we gain strength from their ministry and praise God for the time we had together. —*C. T. Pace, Jr.*

Robert M. Blackburn, 1919-2002

Bishop Robert M. Blackburn, 82, died March 17, 2002, in Jacksonville, Florida. He was born in Bartow, Florida, graduated from Orlando Florida High School, Florida Southern College, and Candler School of Theology at Emory University and was ordained a Methodist minister in 1943. He retired as bishop of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church in 1988. He served the following pastorates in the Florida Conference: Boca Grande (1943-44); U.S. Army Chaplain with the 16th Armored Division in Europe (1944-46); First Methodist, Orlando, as associate pastor (1946-49); Mount Dora (1949-53); Trinity, Deland (1953-60);



First Methodist, Jacksonville (1960-68); First Methodist, Orlando, senior pastor (1968-72). In 1972, he was elected a bishop in the United Methodist Church and served as Bishop of the North Carolina Conference (1972-80) and then for eight years in the Virginia Conference (1980-88). Bishop Blackburn received honorary doctorate degrees from Florida Southern College, LaGrange College, North Carolina Wesleyan College and Shenandoah University. He was a member of Who's Who in America. He served on the Boards of Trustees of the following: Emory University, Florida Southern College, North Carolina Wesleyan College, Methodist College in North Carolina, Greensboro College, Louisburg College, Virginia Wesleyan College, Randolph-Macon College, Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Ferrum College, Shenandoah University and Randolph-Macon Academy.

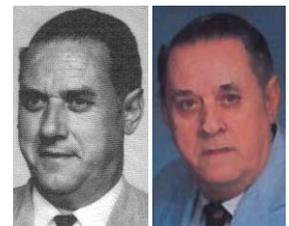
He was married in 1943 to Mary Jeanne Everett of Atlanta, Georgia, who was the mother of his three children: Jeanne Marie Cox (Ray) of Rome, Georgia; Robert, Jr. (Sarah) of Asheville, North Carolina; and Frances Blackburn Harwood (John) of Silver Spring, Maryland. After the death of his first wife, he married Jewell Fannin Haddock in 1978. Jewell was the widow of Judge L. Page Haddock and the mother of Nancy Haddock Price (John) of Tequesta, Florida; Judge Lawrence Page Haddock, Jr. (Christy), Jacksonville, Florida; and Elizabeth H. Ruvo (Richard), Port St. Lucie, Florida. He is also survived by eight grandchildren, five step-grandchildren, and one step-great-grandson.

Services were held at First United Methodist Church of Jacksonville where he had served for eight years and returned to in retirement. The service was led by Bishop Timothy Whitaker, Bishop Hasbrouck Hughes, Bishop Lloyd Knox, and Dr. Gene Zimmerman. Words of remembrance were given by Bishop Kern Eutsler, Bishop Joseph Yeakel, and a written statement was read from Bishop Earl Hunt. Bishops Charlene Kammerer, Carl Sanders, Bevel Jones, and Thomas Stockton were present.

Bishop Blackburn is remembered for his abiding personal integrity and deep love and loyalty to the United Methodist Church. "Bishop Blackburn gained our respect and appreciation for the selfless way he gave himself to his work," said Dr. F. Douglas Dillard, a retired Virginia Conference clergy member, who was a close associate of the bishop. "The mission of the church was always placed before his own comfort, and he faithfully made decisions—sometimes difficult and sometimes routine—with what he thought would be in the best interest of the church," Dillard continued. "Congregational revitalization, the development of new congregations and excellence in ministry marked his episcopal leadership."

William Pryor Tatum, Jr., 1924-2000

William Pryor Tatum Jr., was born the son of William Pryor Tatum, Sr. and Grace Harris Tatum in Richmond, Virginia, where he lived until he reached adulthood. Prior to entering the ministry in 1962, "Bill," as he was called by his friends, was an insurance salesman. He also served in the Navy, during World War II, for three years. On September 6, 1946, Bill was married to Marion McMullin. During their 54 years of marriage, they were blessed with four children, one son and three daughters. They are: Patricia Ann Tatum Poythress of Aylett; William Pryor Tatum III of Gasburg; Jeannette Tatum Gephardt of Aylett; and Marion Jean Tatum Fauver of Staunton.



At the age of 27, Bill had a religious experience which turned his life around 180 degrees. As he surrendered to the Lord, he committed his life to prepare his mind, heart and soul for ministry in the United Methodist Church. In his early years of preparation, he graduated, with honors, from both Louisburg College in North Carolina and Duke's Course of Study. Bill is one of the few full-time local pastors to be ordained as a deacon (1965) and as an elder (1967). Following his ordination, he was received on probation in 1968 and in full connection in 1970.

As a student local pastor, he served three appointments in the Petersburg District. The appointments included Claremont, South Brunswick and Winterpock. After being received on probation in 1968, he

served Mathews in the Rappahannock District, and Grace in the Danville District where he was also serving when he was received in full connection in 1970. As an elder in the conference, his appointments included Fairview-Lawrence Memorial; Alleghany-South Covington; Marquis Memorial; Parkview and Wesley in Hopewell. In 1987, he took disability leave where he remained until he retired in 1992.

As I was a young pastor in the conference, I remember Bill sitting in the canteen area at Blackstone during the ministers convocation with his friends. As smoke surrounded the table and their heads, they would tell stories about their ministries. Their laughter would fill the room, regardless of the truth of what they were sharing. This -experience simply compliments Bill's commitment to bearing witness to what God had done in his life and could do in others. Because he had experienced forgiveness and a new life, Bill wanted others to have a similar experience in being saved.

After being hospitalized in Greensville Hospital in Emporia, Bill died on November 20, 2000. Following his death, a service of resurrection was held at Olive Branch United Methodist Church on November 22, 2000. Dr. Albert C. Lynch, pastor of the South Brunswick Charge, and the Rev. Wm. Anthony Layman, district superintendent of the Petersburg District, officiated. Following the service, Bill's physical remains were laid to rest in the church cemetery as his soul was commended to God. —*Wm. Anthony Layman, Petersburg District Superintendent*

2003 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Joseph Wayne Crews, 1955-2002

Wayne Crews lived life to the fullest! He was active in the church all of his life, even prior to ministry. He was a graduate of Averett College and Virginia Union Theological Seminary. Wayne was ordained a Probationary Member of the Virginia Conference in 1992 and into Full Connection in 1995. He served the Patrick Charge from 1989-1995, and Mount Olivet Church in Danville from 1995 until his death in 2002. Wayne possessed a true pastor's heart. There was a passion for filling people's needs. He was a very gifted musician as well as a superb communicator. Wayne was simplistic, humble, yet deep in his faith. He touched the lives of countless people, far beyond the walls of his congregation. All who knew him are richer for it!



In closing, Wayne was also devoted to his family and countless friends. He is greatly missed, but his legacy will always be with us. Wayne would always sign his correspondence with "Keep The Faith"...and that was the synopsis of his life! —*Darrell T. Campbell*

Donald A. Chapman, Jr., 1947-2002

From the first time I met Don, I knew he was a unique person set apart by his love for the Lord his Savior and his love for the Word of God. In Bible college, he was noted for his self-discipline and dedication to the accurate study of the Word. He immersed himself in Koiné Greek, Hebrew and textual criticism so that when he stood in the pulpit he knew absolutely what he taught was truth. Don was born in Washington, D.C., to Donald and Page Chapman Sr. He trusted in Jesus Christ as his Savior at 8 years of age. His parents were faithful in teaching him and his brother, Mark, the importance of studying the Bible and growing in the Lord. They encouraged Don and Mark in their Sunday school and church attendance. Don attended Washington Bible College as a music major, but came to realize that God was calling him into the ministry.

Don and I spent time in Southeastern Kentucky with Scripture Memory Mountain Mission. Then, feeling the need to further his biblical studies, we moved back to Northern Virginia where he attended Capital Bible Seminary. Don worked in law enforcement in Arlington County, Virginia, while going

through seminary. He eventually gained his Doctorate in Theology. In 1975, Don was called to be the pastor at Berachah Church in St. Augustine, Florida. The Lord gave Don a 10-year ministry of concentrated Bible teaching, radio evangelism, and personal discipleship with this church. In 1985, the Lord moved us, now with five children, to Virginia Beach, Virginia, and then to Suffolk, Virginia. Don worked as an insurance agent for Al Vincent's Insurance Agency and was the keyboardist for The Melody Makers. More importantly, Don was the associate pastor of Ivor United Methodist Church and Rocky Hock United Methodist Church.

Don's life revolved around studying and preaching the Word of God. He used his musical talents not only to write songs, but also to perform them to God's glory. He constantly sought ways to tell others about God. Even during his final hospitalization, his focus was on talking to his doctors and visitors about the Lord, whom he loved dearly. Don was called to be with the Lord on the second of November. Although he is in heaven, Don's work for the Lord continues. The Truth Don lived and preached will grow as we share with others his teaching on what Christ has done for us all. "Because He lives, I can face tomorrow." —*Judith Chapman and family*

Robert Paul Lockwood, 1948-2003

Robert Paul Lockwood was the fourth of six children, born August 21, 1948, in Montgomery County, Kentucky. He passed away in an automobile accident on March 28, 2003. He was preceded in death by a sister, Romano Ester Lockwood; and a brother, David L. Lockwood. Survivors include his wife, Vickie C. Lockwood of Schuyler; a daughter, April Lynn Lockwood of Schuyler; a son, Robert Christopher Lockwood of Verona; his parents, the Rev. Edwin Lockwood and Mary Lockwood of Grimstead; three brothers, Dr. William Lockwood of Newport News, the Rev. John Lockwood of Xenia, Ohio, and James Lockwood of Gloucester.



Bob served in the U.S. Air Force from 1967-1971 during the Vietnam War. He completed his undergraduate degree at Virginia State University and later received his Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond. Bob served at Fairmont Church in the Ashland District from 1983-1987; he served in the Chaplaincy Program at the University of Virginia from 1990-1991; the Batesville Charge in the Charlottesville District from 1991-1997; Aldersgate Church in the Norfolk District from 1997-1999; and Mt. Pisgah Church in the Harrisonburg District from 1999-2001. Bob went on disability leave in 2001 due to medical complications.

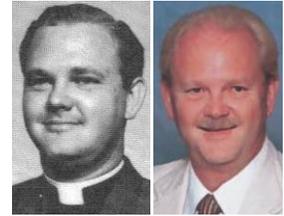
Bob loved the ministry. He was at his best when he was helping others. He was such a comfort to those families who spent many restless, uncertain hours in the hospital during crisis times. The letters I have received testifying to his warmth and kindness has been a blessing to my heart since his passing. He also enjoyed helping the elderly in the community by cutting wood, mowing lawns, and even cleaning out springs on occasion. He loved raising a garden and sharing the bounty with the surrounding community and his congregations. Whenever there was a need Bob was always there.

Bob's memory and reciting of Scripture—chapters at a time—was always of great amazement to me. We were all especially touched during the Christmas season with his recitation of the Birth of Christ in Luke (Chapter 2).

I know Bob will be greatly missed by many. I would like to share with you one of his favorite Scriptures; a section from 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13, verses 1-13: "...For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love." —*Vickie Lockwood and Family*

Richard Eaton Norris, 1944-2003

The Rev. Richard Eaton Norris, 58, of Whissen St., Edinburg, died May 3, 2003, at University of Virginia Hospital in Charlottesville. Rev. Norris was born July 21, 1944, in Richmond, the son of the late Rev. William W. Norris and Nancy O. Eaton Norris. He was a graduate of Randolph-Macon Academy in Front Royal; A.A. (Religion and Music) Ferrum College; Lewis Hotel Training School in Washington, D.C.; B.A. (Religion and Music) Lynchburg College; Master in Ministry from Eastern Mennonite Seminary; Advanced Studies in Religion, Duke University; Chaplain, UVA Certified; Harpsichord, Westminster Choir College.



Richard served as pastor of Otter Parish, Bedford; Bailey's Chapel, Madison Heights; (associate pastor) Fort Hill Church, Lynchburg; Fletcher's Chapel, King George; Shady Grove Church, Glen Allen; Edinburg Parish, St. John's and Wesley Chapel, Edinburg; Basic Church, Waynesboro. He retired due to ill health in 2001.

In music ministry, he was a member of the American Guild of Organists; founder and director of Big Island Community Choir, Madison Heights/Monroe Community Choir; Edinburg Community Choir, co-founder and accompanist for the Holy Terror Group of inter-churches singing ministers and organ concert performer. He belonged to Edinburg Ministerial Association-Clergy Association and was an Ordained Deacon; 1972, Elder; 1996, co-director and director of VA Senior Adult Assembly Conference, Blackstone, 1974-1985; Worship Planner and Organizer at E. M. Seminary; Wesley Heritage Tour-1999. He received honors as a Life member of United Methodist Women; Life member of United Methodist Men and numerous singing and directing credits.

He was a member of numerous organizations; Charter member, Hudson Morris Lodge #80, King George; Life member, Royal Arch Lodge #4, Fredericksburg; American Guild of Organists; Edinburg Ole' Time Festival Committee; Shenandoah Memorial Hospital Chaplain; Shenandoah County Library and Transportation Boards; American Red Cross – Chairman 199?-2001, Waynesboro; Shenandoah Memorial Chaplain of the Year, 1995-96; Masonic-York Rite; Fraternal Order of Police Medal; two UMC Music Medals. His other jobs and interests were hotel career, Virginia Beach; piano teacher for more than 20 years; tour director for various church and community groups; 20-year school bus driver.

His contributions to his churches and communities over the years have been enormous. He will be missed by all who knew him. —*Paje Cross, Daughter*

Gordon Davis Walters, Sr., 1923-2002

The Rev. Gordon D. Walters, Sr., was born on December 7, 1923, to John and Bertha Walters. Gordon was born on Tangier Island, Virginia. As a little boy he sailed from Tangier Island to Morattico, Virginia, in a sailing sloop with his family. There in Morattico his father, Captain John, introduced the seafood business to local residents who had previously farmed. Gordon served his country during WWII and received five campaign stars for battle. Returning from the war, he married his beloved wife, Elizabeth. From this union, four children were born: Gordon Jr. (Mike), Sue, Bertha, and John. Gordon became a master chef and his culinary art was visible at Windmill Point Marina and Resort. Gordon felt the call to full-time ministry and became a lay pastor to the Brunswick Charge, Petersburg District. There he served for 13 years. While there, he was ordained Deacon in 1974 and elected Rural Minister of the Year for 1981-82.



There are heroes of peace, who save and build, as well as heroes of war, who destroy and kill. "Everyman," St. Francis of Assisi once said, "is just so great as he is in the eyes of God—and no greater." And an even better and greater judge of greatness than St. Francis has said that he who would be greatest among men must be servant of all. Loving, unselfish, altruistic, self-sacrificing service to the

largest number of one's fellow men is the regal measure and proof of true greatness. Gordon was sometimes on perilous voyages and was there instilled with courage and hardihood of sailors who brave ocean storms served his Lord well.

He was a man of little formal education but greatly endowed with tremendous mechanical ability. While pastor at Brunswick he helped construct fellowship halls, education buildings, and numerous improvements to parishioners' homes.

Not underneath any stately dome like that of St. Paul's Cathedral or in any consecrated crypt does the body of this Methodist preacher rest. Yet there—under God's blue sky, the dome not made with human hands, in a grave unadorned save by a modest foot-marker of granite that tells the passerby when he was born and when he died—his body is at rest. He was a man who kept back nothing, who preached the gospel of Christ. —*Mike Walters, Son*

Albert Ray Miller, 1927-2002

Albert Ray Miller went to his Heavenly Home on June 28, 2002. He was born on Sept. 20, 1927, in Whitetop, Virginia. He was the son of a Baptist minister. He graduated from Oak Hill Academy in Mouth of Wilson, Chesapeake Community College and Duke University Divinity School. He pastored Red Valley (Boones Mill), Rehoboth (Wirtz), and Concord (Chatham). After retirement he pastored Westover Hills (Danville) and Fork Mountain (Bassett). He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Goldia Miller. He is also survived by three daughters, one son, one brother, two sisters, 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



It was my privilege to know and work with Ray Miller during my first pastoral appointment. During the few years we shared after his retirement, Ray was to me what every pastor hopes to have, a model of Christian discipleship and pastoral leadership that inspires and challenges one to faithfulness in ministry. He was also my friend.

Ray had a keen sense of the dynamics of church life born out of his many years of pastoral experience, but also out of his profound commitment to the integrity and unique challenges of pastoral ministry. This he demonstrated by going out of his way to offer support, encouragement, and assistance whenever it was needed, while yet insisting that he do nothing to “get in the way” of my leadership or the ministry of the congregation. For everyone who knew this humble and gentle man, that was the least of our concerns.

Even in declining health Ray continued to serve others as long as he was able; filling the pulpit, mentoring another new pastor, serving Communion monthly to a congregation in need and, with Goldia, attending Disciple Bible Study classes. He had even, at my urging, dug out his old guitar and began working on the long list of Faith We Sing choruses that we hoped to introduce to the congregation.

It has been said that, as we live, so we die. In the last months and weeks before his death, Ray's spirit of service remained steadfast as he encouraged and ministered to those of us who attended his bedside. His testimony to the Lord's goodness and faithfulness was unwavering. As his pastor, I often felt as if I had received from him far more than I was able to give. Ray was, to the last, a faithful servant of Christ and the church, and an inspiration to this young pastor whose life he touched so deeply and graciously. Thanks be to God for His servant, Ray Miller. —*Bruce Johnson*

William Ernest Pollard, 1911-2002

Love—This word, more than any other, sums up my father's life. Daddy was all about love. About love in all of its many meanings. Love of family. He loved my mother. They were married for 64 years (she always referred to him as “Husband #1”). He loved his parents and his brothers and all his extended family,



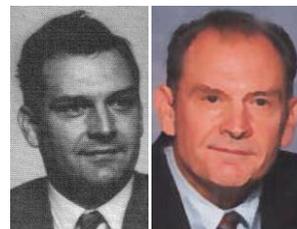
so many of whom lived and live right here in Hanover County. He loved his grandchildren and his great-grandson. He loved his sisters-in-law, his nieces and nephews, and their families. He loved his daughter-in-law as a daughter. And Emory and I never doubted his love for his children. Love of music—Daddy taught us to enjoy the classics. He loved Beethoven, Bach, and Handel, especially. And he loved to make music... to sing, and to play: He taught himself to play the piano, the banjo, the violin, the guitar.

Love of laughter—Daddy always loved a good joke. He loved to tease and be teased. He taught us not to take ourselves too seriously and to enjoy the humor that so often comes our way if we just look for it. Love of nature—Nothing pleased Daddy more than being outdoors. In the snow. At the ocean. On our screened porch in the summer. He marveled at the night sky and the majesty of the mountains. He respected the power of the hurricane. And I think he spoke to Elaine and me the night before last in the most beautiful, golden sunset that I've ever seen. Love of animals—From Blackie, the family dog, to the mule that kicked out his front teeth when he was a boy to the wild animals in the woods, Daddy loved animals. And they loved him. Love of ice cream, Vanilla—He loved to make ice cream using our old hand-crank ice cream freezer. But most of all, he loved to eat it.

Love of neighbor—All people were my father's neighbors. All races, all religions, all nationalities. And he taught us to love them all. Love of God—Daddy loved God and the church with all his heart for all his life. He loved to share God's love with his congregations. His faith showed through in everything he said and in everything he did. And now Daddy is with God. God is Love. —*Joel Pollard, Son*

Lester David Nave, 1929-2002

Dr. Lester D. Nave died of heart disease on his 73rd birthday, Sept. 11, 2002, at his home in Richmond. Les was born and raised in Boones Creek, Washington County, Tennessee. He was raised in Marvin Chapel Methodist Church near Jonesborough. He began his ministry in the Holston Conference, where he received his license to preach at the age of 16. He graduated from Emory and Henry College in 1951. He served Mt. Carmel Church in 1952, near Kingsport, Tennessee, and married Mabel Bruce (Brucie) Wilson the same year. He was ordained a deacon in 1954.



Les received his M.Div. from Vanderbilt while serving the Eagleville Circuit near Murfreesboro as a student. Upon graduating in 1956, he moved to the Virginia Conference where he was ordained elder (1956) and served: Grace (Roanoke, 1956-1961), Greenwood (Glen Allen, 1961-1962), Welborne, which relocated and rebuilt during his tenure (Richmond, 1962-1969), First (Salem, 1969-1973), Trinity (Alexandria, 1973-1976), Williamsburg (1976-1981), as the Danville District superintendent (1981-1986), and as Executive Secretary of Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc., Director of Supplemental Benefits, staff person for the Board of Ordained Ministry, and Director of Ministerial Services (1986-1991). Having suffered from Parkinson's Disease since the age of 43, Les was on Disability Leave from 1991 until his retirement in 1996.

Les served countless boards, agencies, and committees of the Virginia Conference. He was a very gifted, thought provoking preacher. He was not ashamed of the gospel, even when its challenges were difficult to accept. Civil rights was just one issue on which he stood firm, including traveling to Mississippi to register African Americans to vote soon after the Civil Rights Act was passed. He served as one of Virginia's delegates to General Conference in 1984 and 1988. For his distinguished service, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from Emory & Henry in 1988, and was named Pastor Emeritus of Welborne Church in 1998.

Les is survived by his wife of nearly eight years, Frances; his three sons, Dr. David Nave of Sanford, N.C., David's wife Susan, and their children: Brittany, Austin, Wilson, and Taylor; Bruce Nave of Virginia Beach, and his sons: Billy and Joey; the Rev. Kirk Nave of Stephens City (serving Stephens

City Church), Kirk's wife Stefanie Haddix Nave (daughter of Dr. Alexis Haddix, Crewe Church), and their children: Gary and Maggie; Les' sister Gladys Matheson of Bennettsville, S.C., his brother John Nave of Kingsport, Tenn., and his sister Helen Nave Grills of Kingsport, Tenn.; and Lester's stepchildren, Sheila Ray of Richmond, her husband, Steve, and their three sons: Andrew, Jacob, and Zachary; David Callis of Massachusetts, his wife Suzanne and their twin sons: Matthew and Philip.

Lester will be remembered by the countless souls who came to Christ and grew in Christ during his ministry, and by the many clergy who often sought his counsel. Perhaps most of all, Les will be remembered for his quick wit, which allowed so many in this annual conference to laugh while serving Christ together. —*Kirk Nave, Son*

Clemmer E. Matheny, 1930-2002

The Rev. Clemmer E. Matheny went to be with the Lord on Oct. 1, 2002. He was born on Oct. 25, 1930, in Waynesboro, the son of the late Russell Walls and Annis Loving Matheny. Feeling a strong call to serve the Lord, he furthered his education at Ferrum College, Duke Divinity School, and Eastern Mennonite College. Clem began his ministerial career in the Virginia Methodist Conference in 1958 at Oak Hill, Lyndhurst. Subsequent pastorates served were Jollivue/Saint Stephen's, Saint James/West Augusta in the Staunton District, Gordonsville/Barboursville in the Charlottesville District, Fort Republic/Weyers Cave in the Harrisonburg District, Fields/Christ UMC in Shenandoah, and Edgewater/Andrew Chapel in the Rappahannock District.



As a participant in the Industrial and Commercial Ministries (ICM) he served Marval in Dayton and JC Penney in Harrisonburg. He also served as a youth counselor for Camp Overlook. Clem was ordained as a deacon (1966) and as an elder (1968). Following his ordination he served as pastor in 1970.

After 38 years of service he retired in 1994, but he continued to serve his Lord whenever asked to fill in for other pastors. He preached his last sermon at Gordonsville Church for homecoming on Sunday, Sept. 30, and died two days later on Tuesday morning, Oct. 1. He served to the end. In every church he served there were those whose souls were touched in a special way by his sharing of God's love. He cared for his church members as though he were a shepherd and they were his sheep. If you were not at church on Sunday he was out checking up on his lost sheep on Monday. His life touched many, and the love of God he shared still lives with these memories in our hearts and souls.

He was married in 1950 to Charlotte Louise Diggs, who was the mother of his four children: Garry E. Matheny of Staunton, Richard W. Matheny of Staunton, Tina D. Matheny of Verona, and Mark S. Matheny of Waynesboro. After the death of his first wife, he married Linda Marshall Anderson in 1981. One brother preceded him in death, Russell T. Matheny. He is survived by a brother, Richard L. Matheny of Lyndhurst; a sister, Delores Ober of Richmond; three stepchildren, Lisa Newman, Kenneth Anderson, and Marshal Anderson; five grandchildren; one great-grandson; four step-grand-children; and seven step-great-grandchildren.

Clem died on Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2002, at the University of Virginia Hospital in Charlottesville after a massive heart attack. It has been said, "Sudden death is an expression of God's mercy." Services were conducted by the Rev. Alton Washington, Staunton District Superintendent, and the Rev. James Harris of Fishersville Church. Following the service, Clem's physical remains were laid to rest in the Augusta Memorial Park Cemetery as his soul was commended to God. His death has left a void in our lives, but the memories will live forever. —*Linda A. Matheny, Wife*

Samuel Sutphin Cole, 1917-2002

On Oct. 21, 2002, at Lawrenceville United Methodist Church, the Rev. Samuel Sutphin Cole and his wife, Blanche MacKenzie Cole, were remembered in a service of death and resurrection by those in attendance. Blanche preceded her husband in death by less than a day. Dr. Stephen E. Bradley Jr., pastor of the church, the Rev. Wm. Anthony Layman, Petersburg District superintendent, the Rev. John Z. Brandon, a lifetime friend, and the Rev. Lowell D. Petry officiated and participated in the service of death and resurrection. Their interment followed the service at Bethel Cemetery in Alberta, Virginia.



Sam and Blanche are survived by three children. They are Wayne Carlton, Charles Wesley, and Carol Elizabeth Gray. In addition to their children, survivors include four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Sam became a member of the Virginia Annual Conference on June 9, 1958, when he was received by transfer. Prior to serving in the Virginia Annual Conference, he was ordained into the Church of the Nazarene in New England where he served from 1956 to 1958 the First Nazarene Church in West Springfield.

His appointments in the Virginia Conference included six districts, Arlington, Rappahannock, Petersburg, Portsmouth, Charlottesville, and Norfolk. From 1958 until 1983, he served nine different appointments and 11 churches. They were as follows: Piankatank Parish 1958-1960; LaCrosse 1960-1965; Central 1965-1966; Deep Creek 1966-1970; Crittenden: Ebenezer 1970-1974; Monroe 1974-1978; Portlock 1978-1979; West Brunswick 1979-1983.

John Brandon, as he described his friend Sam, remembered him as a man of intellect, a man with a heart full of compassion and one who gave without reservations in serving his Lord.

During the time that I have known both Sam and Blanche as their district superintendent, they were persons who always expressed thanksgiving in whatever relationship we shared together. In retirement, they did not have an easy life. But, I never experienced them without faith in their Lord. They died as they served, with joy, hope, and a Savior who sustained them. —*Wm. Anthony Layman, District Superintendent*

William E. Knight, 1924-2002

In her poem “God’s Appointed Work,” Jean Ingelow writes the following:

*I am glad to think
I am not bound to make the world go right,
But only to discover and to do
With cheerful heart the work that God appoints.*

William E. Knight heard God’s call upon his life long before he became an ordained clergyman in the United Methodist Church. A proud graduate of Randolph-Macon College and Duke Divinity School, his ministry led him from policeman to pastor. In the former, he did what he could to uphold civil law, aid those in distress, and encourage others toward a better life. In the latter, as a clergyman, he embraced the family of God with love in his heart, kindness in his spirit, and joy in sharing the message of the living God. While a student at Duke he served two churches in the North Carolina Conference. Serving as a faithful member of the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church for 40 years, he had the privilege of ministering to six churches in the conference, was richly blessed when selected to be district superintendent in Lynchburg for six years, and completed his tenure in the conference as director of Higher Education and Campus Ministries.



Being a servant of Christ was always Bill’s “felt calling.” Following his retirement he sought to serve his Lord and help others. He worked part-time as a visiting pastor in Richmond, volunteered as a

chaplain for Retreat Hospital, was a volunteer for the State Fair of Virginia, and a volunteer at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens. In all things, Bill Knight served with welcomed humor, a sincere spirit, and always with a cheerful heart. Truly he was a man with special gifts and graces called forth to make a difference in this world “under God’s appointment.” He was a good and faithful servant of God who has now gone to be with his Lord. All who knew him will miss him, especially his family that he loved so dearly. He was a blessing to all. —*Nancy Knight and Tom Murphy*

Russell Daniel Gunsalus, 1907-2002

Russell Daniel Gunsalus, son of Daniel H. Gunsalus and Rachel E. Manderville, was born on July 29, 1907, in Wetervliet, New York. Answering God’s call as a teenager to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, he pursued that call with unbroken passion and purpose until transitioning into God’s presence on Oct. 30, 2002. At that time he was living at the Asbury Center at Birdmont in Wytheville, Virginia, where he continued daily Bible study, writing, reading, and ministering grace to all who came, of all ages, ethnicity, and generations, endearing himself to residents, staff, and medical personnel, as he had to friends, family, business associates, students, and employees throughout nearly a century of a life well lived. He exemplified finally Wesley’s observation that “Our people die well.”

He was preceded in death by spouses Martha Dyer Gunsalus and Agnes Kirtz Gunsalus; a daughter, Phyllis; a brother, Robert; and a sister, Rachel Wildermuth. Surviving are children and their spouses: Martha E. and Ray W. Chamberlain of Knoxville, Tennessee; Dr. Harold R. and Mary K. Gunsalus of Roanoke, Virginia; Rev. R. Douglas Gunsalus of New Hope, Virginia; D. Brent and Lyn K. Gunsalus of Afton, Virginia; seven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren as well as a host of in-laws, and generations of nieces, nephews, and friends.

Dr. Gunsalus studied at Vennard College, United Wesleyan College, Burton Theological Seminary, Pennsylvania Hebrew Educational Center, and Roosevelt McCormick University receiving the AB., Th.B., and Th.M. degrees. Honorary Doctorates followed in recognition of effective ministry and service. For 22 years he taught Bible, theology, and biblical languages. He also served as Dean of theology for five years, and for 13 years as president of United Wesleyan College. Further educational service included vice president of Asbury College, and administrative positions at Eastern Nazarene College and Indiana Wesleyan. His creative unconventional thought, futurist orientation, keen intellect, astute analytical ability, big dreams, strength of will, uniqueness of expression, and childlike good humor kept him in demand in a variety of venues. He served for some years as the superintendent of the Capitol District of the Wesleyan Church, planting about 10 churches in the greater Washington, D.C. area. He held denominational offices and served on the boards of various denominational, college, and business institutions.

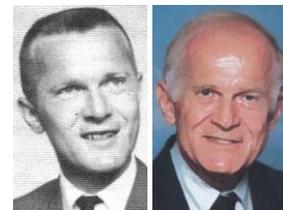
His desire to spread the gospel never abated, his preaching missions taking him all over the United States as well as to 40 other countries since his ordination in 1932. He pastored several churches in Pennsylvania and Virginia for a short time in the 1930s. Then when he and his beloved Agnes retired to Staunton in 1972, they found great joy together pastoring the Mount Crawford, Gladys, and McDowell charges in the Virginia Conference and in a Wesleyan church in Richmond. His writings include the book, *The Man God Trusted*, a devotional journey through the book of Job.

Dr. Gunsalus has been honored by numerous civic and church groups, listed in several Who’s Who publications, and cited by A.C.P.R.A for 30 years of “Distinguished Service” for rational work in the areas of College Development and Fund-raising. In 1976, he received the Governor’s Citation as a Distinguished Citizen of the Commonwealth of Virginia. In 1987, he was honored by United Wesleyan College with the dedication of the Russell D. Gunsalus Learning Center. The Russell D. Gunsalus Reading Room at Houghton College Library houses the Wesleyan Research Collection and rare book collection. Houghton College also administers the Russell D. And Agnes K. Gunsalus Scholarship fund for ministerial students.

Most of all, though, he was dad, husband friend. He embodied the desire to live out that great Wesleyan call to “holiness of heart and life.” Sacrificial in love and exemplary in character both in the privacy of family life, as well as in public, we who loved him and miss him most honor his and Mom’s memory with the desire to serve the Lord well and be blessed, as they were, in old age reaping the rich harvest of a well spent youth and mid-life, surrounded by friends, family, and the love which endures with us eternally. In a recent newspaper interview, Dr. Gunsalus in summation said what is centrally worth saying about a life: “The really high honor of my life has been and remains, the wonderful reality of knowing Jesus Christ as Lord.” —*Doug Gunsalus, Son*

Philip Randolph “Randy” Rilee, Sr., 1936-2002

Philip Randolph “Randy” Rilee Sr. was born on Aug. 5, 1936, to Allan and Sarah Rilee of Glenss, Va. Growing up, he and his family were members of New Hope United Methodist Church in Glenss where he used his musical talents to play the piano and organ. Randy was raised on a farm and learned at a young age the value and rewards of hard work and dedication. As he got older he also helped his father with the family sawmill business. He graduated from Middlesex High School in 1954 and went on to attend Richmond Polytechnic Institute (RPI; now Virginia Commonwealth University) and was studying to become a social worker. This was a tough time in his life as illness struck and after a long period of sickness and recovery, Randy realized that his calling in life was to become a minister. He graduated from RPI and began work at the United Methodist Children’s Home in Richmond, Va. While in Richmond, he married his wife and “rock” of 42 years, Jane. Together, they raised three boys: Phil Jr., Jim, and Doug. As Randy pursued a life of ministry, he attended Duke University’s Course of Study and began serving the Lord as a minister.



He began his career at the West Buckingham Charge, Buckingham, in 1961. He continued his 43 years of ministry with service at the East Halifax Charge, Chatham Heights in Martinsville, Bellamy in Gloucester, Lawrenceville, Woodstock, Asbury Memorial in Chesterfield, and Tappahannock Memorial.

During his ministry, Randy used his talent for getting the many gifted parishioners to serve the church. His tireless commitment and drive to help the church grow both spiritually and in size evidenced his dedication to the ministry. An example of this was his love of visitation and the many hours he spent ministering to the sick and needy as well as going into the community to visit with families searching for a place to worship and get involved. Randy would find time to get involved in all of the activities of the church, whether it was with the men’s group or the youth group. He always seemed to have his finger on the pulse of the congregation and with God’s help, provided guidance and direction to the churches that he served.

In 1997, Randy went on disability leave and they moved to Urbanna where he continued to serve the Lord as Pastor Emeritus in Urbanna Church with visitation and assisting in the worship service. No matter how he was feeling or how tough things were becoming, Randy always had a cheerful smile and kept his head high with a positive outlook. Christ touched Randy’s life in many ways and worked through him in his ministry as he touched the lives of all of us who were blessed to know him. —*Phil Rilee, Son*

Beatrice Callis, 1925-2002

Bea Callis was a woman before her time. Called to preach and pastor, this mother and wife answered the call in 1954, and joined her husband, the Rev. Robert Callis, in ministry. Though never ordained an elder in the Virginia Annual Conference, she was licensed as a local pastor in 1954, ordained a deacon in 1961, and ordained a local elder in 1963. Bea had a supportive



husband in Robert, with whom she co-pastored in several appointments, who said, “People would ask me over and over, ‘Bob, don’t you feel jealous of your wife’s talents as a minister.’ I would reply, ‘Not at all! God made us one in marriage. Therefore, half the praise belongs to me. I’m her husband. I like that!’ “

In the late 1950s when Robert was appointed to South Brunswick Circuit with six churches and over a thousand members, it became evident that the charge needed to be divided into two circuits. Bea began preaching to three churches and Robert to three. They would switch every other week. One man objected, saying “I don’t believe in women ministers.” After hearing the Lord speak through Bea, he said, “Now I do!”

In 1962, another charge had experienced trauma with its pastor. Robert reported that the district superintendent and the bishop agreed that no man preacher could go to that church. Bea was called to preach the word and calm the people. After one year, Central United Methodist Church on the charge became a station and Bea continued as its pastor until 1967.

Her voice was ideal for preaching. She would say, “I don’t really need a microphone to be heard.” She would always carry a white handkerchief in one hand and a yellow legal pad in the other, writing down new ideas as God spoke to her. Her creativity led her to use visuals in worship which reinforced the theme of the worship service. On one Palm Sunday in 1977 at Fieldale Church, where Robert and Bea worked as a pastoral team, they led the congregation in a procession from the ball field with palm branches and a donkey (actually a small mule!) to the church.

Susanna Wesley’s epitaph, written by her son Charles, includes these words:

*Meet for the fellowship above
She heard the call, “Arise, my love!”
“I come!” her dying looks replied
And lamb-like as her Lord, she died.*

Last December, the Rev. Bea Callis was called home to “the fellowship above,” and though you will not find her name listed in the Journal with other clergy who have served this conference, you will find her name written in the hearts of the people she loved and served in Virginia. Well done, good and faithful servant! —*Excerpted from an article by Mary Beth Blinn in the May 2003 issue of the Virginia United Methodist Advocate newsmagazine*

Henry Allen Redd, 1923-2002

A faithful and loyal servant of the Lord Jesus Christ; one called by God who followed that call and lived victoriously as he ministered to each congregation with love, concern, and gentleness—always preaching what God led him to preach. He received a Bachelor of Law degree from the Atlanta Law School, a Bachelor of Arts degree from Mercer University, a Bachelor of Divinity and a Master of Divinity degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and a Doctorate of Theology degree from Fredericksburg Bible Institute.



He was ordained in 1945 and pastored several Baptist churches for many years. One summer Allen baptized more than 70 new Christians in one Baptist church. Later, he joined the Virginia United Methodist Conference and served the following churches: Pamunkey, Saint Paul’s and Mount Vernon, Lafayette and Hall’s, Shackelfords, Heathesville and Corinth churches.

He loved his family and guided each one in their coming to accept Christ. He always enjoyed having his son and three daughters, 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren to visit with him by his side. Allen and his wife, Marion, were married almost 50 years. Allen passed away 26 days before their anniversary.

Here are a few thoughts of people who had known him through the years: “We join with you in celebrating a life well lived. I’m certain Allen was one of those enormously rare individuals who inspires only good and admirable thoughts in anyone he ever knew for an entire lifetime.” “We thought he was a wonderful man. We have often used him as an example of what Jesus wants us to be. He not only preached God’s word but he lived it day by day. We are better Christians because of Allen Redd.”

“Allen was such a special man, truly one of God’s saints. He’ll be missed but we’re grateful for his release from his pain.” “Thank God for the memories of such a good and faithful servant.” “I really treasure the beautiful memories of Brother Redd. He will always hold a special place in my heart. Heaven becomes sweeter as time goes by.” “Preacher Redd married us on Dec. 18, 1955. It will soon be 47 years. We have four children and 12 grandchildren.” “He certainly had a blessed life and touched so many lives with his love and ministry. He was chosen by God to be a leader.” “He was a wonderful person, a perfect pastor.” —*Marion Redd, Wife*

Sidney Lane Willis, 1912-2002

Sidney was converted in 1923 during a revival in St. Paul Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in his hometown of Christiansburg, Virginia. He made a commitment to full-time Christian service at an Epworth League Assembly at Massenatta Springs in 1930. Sidney graduated from Christiansburg High School in 1930, Emory and Henry College (with honors) in 1934, and the School of Religion, Duke University (with honors) in 1937. During the summer of 1936, while assisting in rural churches near Mt. Olive, North Carolina, Sidney was afflicted with a partial paralysis of his right vocal cord. It kept him out of the active ministry for 20 years.



While recuperating in Christiansburg, Sidney was very active in both church and community affairs. He taught a large Sunday school class of young people and served as their evening counselor from 1937 to 1958, save a period of 39 months when he served with Naval Intelligence during World War II. Several of these youth became outstanding leaders in the United Methodist Church. In October 1957, Sidney requested an appointment at the next session of the Virginia Annual Conference. His request was a major leap of faith, since he was uncertain his voice would hold up under the exacting requirements of the active ministry. However, before conference in February 1958, Sidney was appointed as pastor of Grace Methodist Church, Norfolk. His pastorates included Grace, Zion Grace, and Christ churches in Norfolk; Bassett Memorial in Bassett; Main Street in South Boston; and Haygood in Virginia Beach. After his retirement in 1978 he was assistant pastor of St. Paul United Methodist Church, Christiansburg, until June 1984, when he and his wife moved into an apartment at the Roanoke United Methodist Home.

Sidney wrote of his wife, Mabel Collins Willis, also of Christiansburg, “Babs and I have always worked together as a team, both within and outside the home. I thank God for His guiding us in sharing our lives together in such beautiful spiritual relationships.” They have one son and a daughter-in-law, Charles Land Willis and his wife, Sandra, of Easton, Pennsylvania. Sidney was an efficient and effective pastor. His background as an active layman accentuated his ability to perceive both lay and clerical viewpoints. His organizational ability was exceptional, which resulted in well trained and effectual leadership in the local churches he served.

Theologically, Sidney was a student on the spiritual frontiers of faith. He believed faith is an ever-expanding experience of growth and deliverance. This powerful combination of organizational-spiritual orientation undergirded his effective God-centered ministry. One of his prized possessions was an engraved bronze plaque, affixed to a solid walnut shield, featuring the logo of the United Methodist Church. The plaque reads:

Haygood United Methodist Men
With Love and Appreciation to Rev. Sidney L. Willis

“Happy are the eyes that see what you are seeing! I tell you, many prophets and kings wished to see what you now see, yet never saw it; to hear what you now hear, yet never heard it.” Luke 10:23
—*Family*

Woodrow Adams Giles, 1912-2002

Woodrow A. Giles was born Oct. 18, 1912, in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, and died Dec. 19, 2002, in Danville, Virginia. His beloved wife, Leola Irene Johnson Giles, died Sept. 1, 1997. Woodrow joined the Methodist Church at the age of 15 and was very active until he received the call into the ministry at age 40. He was employed by the United Postal Service for 20 years. He attended Averett College in preparation for the ministry. While attending Averett College he was assigned as pastor of Bethel Church and Floral Hills Church. Upon completion of his schooling at Averett, he enrolled in Lynchburg College for his B.A. degree. While attending Lynchburg College, he served in four churches: Bethlehem, Spouts Springs, Bethany and Early’s Chapel. Next he attended Duke University for his Master’s Degree in Divinity. During the three years at Duke University he served the Timberlake Charge.

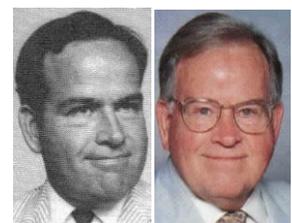


Upon completion of his degree at Duke University he returned to the Virginia Conference and was assigned to Union Church in South Boston where he remained for five years. His next assignment was at Fairview Church in Lynchburg where he remained for four years. Dr. Giles was next assigned to Moseley Memorial Church in Danville where he served for eight years. His next assignment was at Park Place Church in Norfolk. While serving four years at Park Place, he earned a Doctorate of Divinity in 1977 from the Berean Graduate School of Divinity.

He retired and returned to Danville. After retiring Dr. Giles was the fill-in pastor for several small churches. Until a month before his death, he continued to conduct funerals, perform marriages and baptisms, and visit the sick and elderly. Dr. Giles will truly be missed by his relatives and friends.
—*Julia B. Johnson*

Archie Virgil Harris, 1925-2002

A. Virgil Harris, 80, passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 22, 2002, in Charlottesville. He was ordained as an elder of the Virginia Conference in 1958. He retired to his home in Charlottesville in 1986 where he attended Aldersgate United Methodist Church. A memorial service was held at Aldersgate on Jan. 3, 2003, conducted by the Rev. John B. Peters, the Rev. Matthew W. Jones, and the Rev. James W. Thornton.



Virgil was born on Aug. 20, 1922, in Troutville, Va. He was the youngest, and the last survivor, of 12 children born of the Rev. William Charles Harris (also a Methodist minister) and Jennie Mae Wells Harris. After serving in World War II, he graduated from the high school division of Ferrum College where he was a classmate of Virginia Mae Powell, soon to be his wife and beloved companion of 56 years. After attending Ferrum, he attended Randolph-Macon College in Ashland where he received his bachelor’s degree in 1949, majoring in economics. He was awarded the Pi Gamma Mu honorary society key for honors in the study of the social sciences. He was subsequently awarded his Master of Science in counseling from the Richmond Professional Institute, now Virginia Commonwealth University. He also attended the University of Virginia for doctoral studies in the department of Education.

While a teenager in high school, Virgil enlisted in the U.S. Army during World War II. He served in the Pacific Theater as a paratrooper. He was a member of the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment and jumped in combat as a member of the “second wave” of the assault to retake Corregidor in the Philippines, commanded by General MacArthur. He was also a member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The decision to go into the ministry of the United Methodist Church came in 1958. Prior to that time, Virgil was a resident of Louisa and worked for the Virginia Departments of Health and Education. While in Louisa, he served as lay minister, youth counselor, Sunday school teacher and Scoutmaster at Louisa Methodist Church. With the encouragement and guidance of the Rev. Joseph T. Carson Jr., Virgil chose to enter the ministry. He initially served churches in Culpeper and Orange counties. In 1963 he became the associate pastor and youth minister at First United Methodist Church in Charlottesville, serving with his good friend, the Rev. Howard R. Peters. Virgil later served as the minister at Scottsville, Hinton Avenue in Charlottesville, Providence in Richmond and Broad Street in Portsmouth.

After retirement, Virgil continued to pursue his many hobbies as well as his love of reading books, keeping himself informed in many subjects, and especially in religion, philosophy, and Civil War history. He also avidly pursued his love of physical fitness—running a marathon at age 65 and lifting weights and jogging on his treadmill daily until a week before his death. He also greatly enjoyed “grandfatherhood” during his retirement, traveling often to his second home in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, where he watched his only grandchild, Christopher, grow up.

Virgil is survived by his wife, Virginia (the daughter of the late Rev. George Edward Powell of Louisa, who also served Methodist churches in Bassett, Montross, Amherst, North Garden and the Eastern Shore and who also encouraged Virgil to go into the ministry); one son, George E. Harris, an attorney in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida (also a Randolph-Macon graduate) and his wife, Linda; one grandson, Christopher Powell Harris, a senior in high school and many, many nieces and nephews. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. —*George E. Harris*

Robert Daniel Fridley, 1915-2002

John’s Gospel reports, “In my father’s house are many dwelling places.” For 35.75 years, Robert Daniel Fridley dwelt in college classrooms and local churches as college teacher and as pastor. For 21 years he lived in retirement. After a long illness, on Dec. 28, 2002, Bob moved to the dwelling place that God has prepared for those who finish the course as faithful servants of Jesus Christ. A son of the Rev. Samuel Ford Fridley and Laura Jenkins Fridley, Bob was a native of Augusta Springs, Va. He moved from the home of his parents to complete his preparation for his clergy career at Randolph-Macon College and The Divinity School at Duke University. During a part of his time as a student at Duke, he served as pastor of Fountain Place Methodist Church in Burlington, N.C. Upon completion of his seminary work in 1945, he returned to Virginia and became pastor at Fincastle.



In 1947, Bob began a four-year period on the faculty of Wofford College as Associate Professor in the Department of Religion. While in that position, he was a member of the Society of Biblical Literature and the National Association of Biblical Instructors (NABI). On two occasions, he read research papers at annual meetings of the Southern Section of NABI.

In 1951, he returned to Virginia and to his career as pastor serving these Virginia churches: Lunenburg Charge, Branch Memorial, Design-Mt. Olivet, Design, Crozet, High Street in Franklin, Westover Hills in Richmond, Main Street in Suffolk, and Huntingdon Court in Roanoke. While serving as pastor, he also served on conference and district agencies including the Conference Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the Richmond District Committee on Ministry. He retired in 1981.

On Feb. 20, 1952, Bob married Louise Triplett who survives him. A faithful pastor and devoted husband, Bob found time to write poetry, and there is a large collection of his unpublished poems. He was a biblical scholar who also studied history and especially enjoyed reading about the Civil War. His personal library was extensive. He was a connoisseur of fine handmade walnut furniture. In retirement, Bob and Louise lived in Franklin until his illness caused them to move to The Hermitage in Richmond in 1997. A graveside service was held at Elk Run Cemetery in Elkton, Va., on Jan. 2, 2003, with his college classmate and longtime friend, Elmer A. Thompson, officiating. On Jan. 9, 2003, Hermitage Chaplain Anita Mays Warner and Mr. Thompson conducted a memorial service at The Hermitage in Richmond. This earth has lost a gentleman and a scholar. The heavenly kingdom has gained another United Methodist minister who now knows firsthand what we all know by faith. —*Elmer A. Thompson*

Robert K. Wilson, 1914-2003

Chaplain (Cdr.) Robert K. Wilson, USN (Ret.), died on his 89th birthday, Jan. 9, 2003. A native of Booneville, Kentucky, Chaplain Wilson was a graduate of Berea College. After two years as an elementary school teacher, he entered Union Theological Seminary in New York, graduating in 1943. He then joined the U.S. Navy, where he served as chaplain for 21 years. Upon his retirement in 1964, he became the first John M. Camp Chaplain to the Corps of Cadets at the Virginia Military Institute, also serving there as a lecturer in philosophy and comparative religion. Upon retiring from VMI in 1979, he continued his ministry as supply pastor for numerous churches in the Lexington area. He was a member of the Virginia United Methodist Conference, Staunton District.

He is survived by his wife Miriam (Mimi) and four sons David, Robert, Mark, and Richard, and two grandchildren. A memorial service was held in the VMI Chapel on Jan. 25, 2003, with burial at Arlington National Cemetery. —*Miriam (Mimi) Wilson, Wife*

Eugene Pritchard Pollard, 1910-2003

Eugene Pritchard Pollard, 93, of Charlottesville, died Sunday, Jan. 12, 2003, in Charlottesville, Virginia. He was born in Catawba County, N.C. His family moved to Scottsville, Virginia, when Eugene was 10 years old. He was a veteran of World War II and served in the European Theater of Operations. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Rachel Kirby Pollard. Mrs. Pollard currently resides at Winter Haven Assisted Living, 220 S. Pantops Drive, Charlottesville, Va.



In preparation for his ministerial work, he attended Randolph-Macon College and Duke University. He served five districts of the United Methodist churches. The districts were Charlottesville, Richmond, Farmville, Eastern Shore, and Natural Bridge Station in the Staunton District where he retired in 1975. After retirement he moved back to Charlottesville, Virginia, and continued to serve in substitute ministerial work until 1984. In 1988, he received his 50-year pen from Widows Sons Lodge No. 60 AF & FM in Charlottesville.

Rev. Pollard was an avid gardener and continued to work in his garden up until the last couple of years of his life. —*Karlen Layne*

John Floyd Carroll, 1915-2003

After his 1983 retirement, nothing pleased the Rev. John Floyd Carroll more than taking a supply pastoral post with the sort of small congregation he began his career in nearly a half-century earlier. The congregation of Centenary United Methodist Church, located in the Chesterfield County community of Winterpock, where he spent his final years preaching and ministering to his friends and neighbors in this, his final pastorate, referred to him affectionately as



“the Bishop of Winterpock,” a title bestowed by his district superintendent.

During his career, Floyd Carroll led churches throughout Virginia. As a student at Randolph-Macon College, the native of Princess Anne County began his ministry at Providence Methodist Church in Quinton, New Kent County, in 1937. He began his first full-time assignment in Lunenburg County two years later.

Married on Thanksgiving Day 1936, Floyd and his wife Lucy Bonney Carroll, shared 66 years together, a history underscored by a couple of his favorite lines: first, claiming to have “rescued Lucy from North Carolina and making her a citizen of the United States”—and later, introducing his children as “the children from my wife’s first marriage.” He did not lack a sense of humor.

Throughout the 1940s and 1950s, he served assignments at Stokesland Methodist in Danville, Ramsey Memorial Methodist in Richmond, East Hampton-Fox Hill Methodist charge, Cheriton Methodist/Oyster Chapel Charge on the Eastern Shore, and the Beech Grove-Magnolia Charge in the Suffolk area. He was named Rural Minister of the Year in 1960.

J. Floyd Carroll died on Thursday, Jan. 23, 2003. In addition to his wife, Lucy, he is survived by two daughters, Sue Carroll Howell, of Bohannon, and Jean Carroll Boucher, of Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada; a son, John Floyd Carroll Jr., of Chester; six grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. He is interred in Charity United Methodist Church Cemetery in Virginia Beach. —*John Floyd Carroll, Jr.*

Chauncey W. Ellison, 1901-2003

Our father was a most remarkable man. Born April 2, 1901, in Reading Township near Watkins Glen, New York, of Father William Sproul Ellison and Mother Anna Laura Raymond Ellison. William was a descendent from Scottish ancestors who moved to Northern Ireland for one generation, and arrived in upstate New York in the early 1800s. His mother, a Raymond, was a descendent of Count Raymond of Toulouse France of several hundred years ago.



Dad was one of six children, three boys and three girls, all of whom were to grow to adulthood. Five were eventually married and produced eight offspring, four girls and four boys. Their early adult years, the teens and twenties of the 20th century, were most difficult years for families with modest incomes, but their parents—with the help of a relative or two—provided professional training for the three girls and two boys. Dad eventually earned a B.A. and a B.D. from Asbury College and Seminary and a M.A. from Boston Theological Seminary. Dad felt God’s call to the ministry, and after high school spent time at Cazenovia Seminary studying Greek, Latin, Speech, and other similar subjects. He said if you didn’t have the money for Harvard, Cazenovia was the place to go. Though they were not married, mother was also studying at Cazenovia and both of them graduated at the end of the two-year program. They married in 1922 and went to conference on their honeymoon—he as a Local Preacher. He was ordained as a Deacon in 1925 and Elder in 1927. After Cazenovia, they attended Taylor University and returned to New York State to pastor churches in the Ithaca area and attend Cornell University. In 1926 they left for Asbury College, Wilmore, Kentucky, where we lived on the campus. Dad was studying for his B.A. and B.D. He would go to classes in the morning and she would be home with me. In the afternoon Mother would go to the conservatory of music on the campus and study for her degree in Music, and Dad would watch me. My brother Eugene was born there. Dad’s Asbury years included a summer of circuit preaching on Sundays in the Kentucky mountains riding either on horseback or in a “jolt wagon” to travel to four churches, one each Sunday. In 1930, we four left for the Boston area and Dad’s study at Boston University. He had a student pastorate in the village of East Bridgewater, about 18 miles from Plymouth.

Following Dad's graduation with a M.A. from Boston University, we returned to central New York State for ministries in Virgil, Groton, Wellsburg, and Epworth in Elmira. Margaret Jean, our sister, was born while in Groton. In 1944 while at Epworth Church, Dad joined the Chaplain's Corps of the U.S. Navy.

In 1992 we were able to take Dad back to Virgil, New York, south of Syracuse, for the United Methodist church congregation's 100th anniversary and the Village of Virgil's 200th anniversary. While living in Virgil, a village of 1,100 feet elevation surrounded by hills, Dad would make winter time calls to church members while driving a 1930 Chevrolet sedan with chains on the rear wheels. Much of the time he followed a Walter Snowfighter snow plow as it plowed through 8-10 foot snow drifts. After his retirement we were able to take Dad to former pastorate church celebrations in Virginia at Bridgewater, Calvary at Salem, and Cashville Charge at Eastern Shore and E. Bridgewater Mass.

Another side of Dad's life was his love of sports, both as a participant and spectator, particularly baseball. He would listen to the Elmira Pioneers baseball team by radio even when the away games were relayed by teletype to the announcer. Throughout his high school and college years, he lettered in basketball, baseball, and football. During his Navy Chaplain's career he coached the 'Amphion' - AR-13 ship's softball team while anchored at Norfolk.

Upon retiring in 1971 from the active ministry, he and Mother settled in northern Virginia and became active in Friendship Church in Falls Church where he taught the adult Bible class for many years until two weeks before he died. He preached and participated in many church activities. The congregation elected him Pastor Emeritus. He took up golf and drove with Mother to the Burke Lake golf course in Northern Virginia. While Mother studied nature from the car, Dad would play a round of golf. One hole was 160 yds. On two separate occasions, he made the same hole in one stroke. I saw one of these.

Dad enjoyed working with wood. He built two dollhouses complete with windows and shingles, one for a granddaughter and one for a great-granddaughter, assembled a grandfather's clock case, and helped us build bookshelves and finish our present home's basement. Before Mother's stroke, they would play music privately, and at some of his services. She on the organ or piano and he on a trumpet, cornet, violin, or in a beautiful tenor voice. I sang in our choirs and watched the back of his head while he preached Sunday after Sunday. He developed an intense interest in all aspects of the American Civil War and wrote his own version of the Gettysburg battles. He was able to travel to Gettysburg several times, and also participated in seminars.

He was a very patient man and never complained as he took care of Mother for 35 years after her stroke which left her left side paralyzed and with little speech capability. He continued to take Mother to annual conferences. Her last years were in the Northern Virginia Hermitage where she died in July of 1992. Ann and I attend his Asbury College reunion dinners at annual conference in his honor. He will be missed. But we know that because of our faith and his faith and love for his Lord, he is in heaven today.
—*Donald W. Ellison, Son*

Arthur W. Ayers, 1923-2003

The Rev. Arthur W. Ayers, 79, retired since 1993, passed away March 21, 2003. After serving in the U.S. Navy, he received a Master of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary. He began his ministerial career in 1954 at Warren serving five churches. He went on to serve Princess Anne, Gloucester Point, Zion in York County, Trinity in Petersburg, Grace Calvary on the Eastern Shore, Highland Park in Richmond, Greenwood in Glen Allen and Portlock in Norfolk.



He remained in the Norfolk area after his retirement enjoying family and friends. His grandchildren, Kaitlin and Sydney, put the spark in his life. He truly loved living by the water, listening to good music and keeping in touch with old friends. Dad's love of learning continued, even taking a computer class in the last year of his life.

He was predeceased by his wife, Elaine after 34 years of marriage. They entertained, danced, traveled, and laughed together. His selfless acts of kindness, frequently to complete strangers, live on as his legacy. My sister and I cherish his memory and the gifts of language, song, compassion, and love he taught us. Thank you, Daddy. We love and miss you. —*Andrea & Claudia, Daughters*

Lance Keith Knowles, 1903-2003

A native of Montgomery County, Virginia, the Rev. Lance Keith Knowles attended Emory and Henry College. After his graduation in 1934, he began his ministry in McLean, Virginia, in the Old Baltimore Conference. While serving several charges in West Virginia, he met and eloped with his sweetheart Mary Kathryn Kiser. They returned to Lance's home state of Virginia where they served churches from the Allegheny Mountains to the Eastern Shore and from Northern Virginia to Southside with his last appointment being Dinwiddie, Virginia.



Upon his retirement in 1976, Rev. Knowles moved to Farmville, Virginia, and then to the Roanoke United Methodist Home where he pursued his love of gardening and woodworking. His gardening yielded not only beautiful roses, but also one particular harvest of a ton of tomatoes, which made him a local celebrity as he shared with friends, soup kitchens, and homeless shelters. Rev. Knowles' woodworking produced fine furniture and accessories with which he blessed his children, grandchildren, and friends.

Rev. Knowles was very active with his alma mater and was honored by the Emory and Henry Roanoke Valley Alumni Chapter by the establishment of the Lance K. Knowles scholarship.

Lance Keith Knowles died on March 26, 2003. He was preceded in death by Mary, his wife of 62 years, and their youngest son Norman Kiser Knowles. He is survived by one son Lance Keith Knowles II, of Chester, Virginia; three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. —*Lance Keith Knowles II*

Wendell Clark Blevins, 1914-2003

What do you say about a man who never aspired to greatness but who greatly loved his Lord, who never accumulated wealth or fortune but who gave away a wealth of love to those fortunate enough to have crossed his path? What do you say about a man who lived every moment of his earthly existence for nothing better than to bring into existence God's Kingdom of love and life that he had dedicated his life to proclaim? Indeed, what do you say about Wendell Clark Blevins?



He was born on Sept. 5, 1914, in Herndon, Virginia, but before he had reached adolescence his dentist father died, and his one-room-schoolhouse teacher mom had to begin the difficult task of raising two young boys by herself on a farm that would later be incorporated into the expansive Dulles International Airport. He and his brother grew up at Pleasant Valley Methodist Church in Chantilly, Virginia, where their strong, yet gentle, mother planted within them the seeds of ever-deepening faith.

Clark met his wife, Millie Commack, in 1934 Chicago. She was a nursing student at Cook County Hospital where she encountered more than her share of gangsters who had encountered the wrong end of a Tommy gun. He, on the other hand, had gone to the windy city to attend Coyn Electrical School and, after returning to Virginia, continued their courtship by jumping freight trains to hasten their reunions. They married on Aug. 14, 1935, at her home in Idaho when the death of her Quaker father (her mother

had already passed away) necessitated a hastily arranged wedding and the raising of her four younger siblings (ages 5 to 16). Their ready-made family, and the sacrifices it required, would not be their last foray into the world of selfless giving.

The young family returned to the Blevins farm where new children were added to the family mix as Millie gave birth to two sons and a daughter. All the while, Clark was putting his mark on the Pleasant Valley congregation as a dedicated lay leader. In 1948, he entered Virginia Polytechnic Institute, now Virginia Tech, to work on a degree in agriculture. The young couple had set their eyes on the mission field, and what better way to do God's work, they thought, than to send a nurse and a farmer to plant the seeds of faith in faraway soil. While in college, Clark received his first charge as a local pastor, serving the six churches of the Riner Parish until his graduation in 1952.

From there he took his family to Hillsdale, New York, where he entered Drew Theological Seminary and served as student pastor of the two churches on the Hillsdale Charge. He returned to the Virginia Conference in 1956, when he graduated from seminary, to serve the five churches of the West Brunswick Charge near Alberta, Virginia. In 1961, he was appointed pastor of Market Street Church in Onancock on the Eastern Shore. Throughout all those years he was fine-tuning his sharp sensitivity to the needs of other people. Perhaps that is what drew Dr. James L. Robertson, then administrator of the Hermitage in Northern Virginia, to urge Clark to join him in an effort to start a mission church amidst the pawnshops and bars of Rosslyn, Virginia.

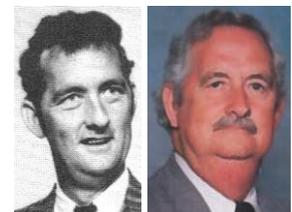
In 1962, Clark was appointed associate pastor of Arlington Temple Church and Community Center, where he and Dr. Robertson attempted to build a congregation, literally, from ground up. Meeting in the basement of a motel, the congregation would eventually build a magnificent steeple-topped sanctuary, complete with theater seating and massive oil paintings of the life of Christ, that today sits majestically atop a service station at the entrance to one of the busiest subway stations in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. Clark would pound the pavement, embracing the lives of prostitutes and bankers alike, and he forged a reputation as one of the most caring souls that ever graced the streets of Arlington County.

In 1966, Clark and Millie began their third family as they took into their home two young boys when their father died of a heart attack. One would eventually become a forester and the other a pastor in the Virginia Conference, serving as editor of the Virginia United Methodist Advocate for some 15 years. Both look upon this time they shared with these very special people as some of the most formative and faith-building years of their lives. In 1974, finally with an empty nest, Clark was appointed to serve as pastor of First United Methodist Church in Lynchburg where he retired in 1979. Moving to Chesapeake, Virginia, the Blevins became active at Deep Creek United Methodist Church where Clark began his final battle with ALS, or Lou Gehrig's Disease. He died on March 31, 2003. His five-year, valiant struggle with this crippling disease was an inspiration to many; and the devoted caring of the congregation and his wife became such an example to others that even the local newspaper was compelled to share the story.

To the very end, he was a man of faith and love; he was truly a servant of Christ. "Well done, good and faithful servant," you can almost hear Jesus saying to the man I have always called, quite affectionately, Mr. B, "enter into the joy of your master" (Matthew 25:21). If ever someone deserved to hear these words from his Master, it is the man called Wendell Clark Blevins. —*Alvin J. Horton*

Roy Oren Creech, 1933-2003

Roy Oren Creech was a large man full of deep and outgoing faith. His relationship with Christ was the cornerstone of his life, and nothing stood between him and his faith in God. Roy's love of God translated into an incredible love of people. His family will always remember that he would say,



“It’s okay to dislike someone, but you still have to love them.” Roy was a loving husband and was married to Mary Creech for 51 years. He was a father to six children, John, Matthew, Mark, Kristle, Tamara, and Sandra. He was a brother to six siblings, and his family was precious to him. He dearly loved each of his seven grandchildren and nieces and nephews. He knew the pain and heartache of losing a child, as his son Mark preceded him in death. He and Mary had built a retirement home in the woods, near Greenville, Virginia, on a piece of ground he called “Beulah Land.”

As a friend, “Dr. Roc,” as he was affectionately known, loved and touched the lives of many people. He never met a stranger, and his outgoing, boisterous nature drew people to him. In a room full of people, he stood out, and yet he was always glad to see you one-on-one. He had a unique ability to make you feel special and important.

Dr. Creech served the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church for 37 years. He served Philadelphia, Surry, Glenwood, Whitmell, Schoolfield, Memorial (Petersburg District), Christ in Staunton, and Calvary (Staunton District) churches. In his retirement, he had served Marvins, and he was currently serving Schoolfield in Danville for the second time. He was known for his love of missions, and especially for his work with the Volunteers In Mission program.

His ministry was not just to his churches and his members, he was a minister to the community as a whole. There was no one to whom he would not offer spiritual comfort or physical aide. He was a regular visitor at the Augusta County Jail, a chaplain with the Staunton City Police Department, and helped to form the volunteer Chaplain service at Augusta Medical Center, where he had been honored in recent years with the title of “Chaplain Emeritus.” He also was a chaplain with the fire and rescue services of Augusta County. It is not possible to know the number of people whose lives he has profoundly touched with the love and grace of God.

In all, as it said in his obituary, “TO KNOW HIM WAS TO LOVE HIM!”

Roy will be greatly missed by the Virginia Annual Conference, by his friends, and by his family. But today, Roy is dancing in heaven and singing (louder than anyone else!) “When the saints go marching in!” In Roy’s new Beulah Land, there is much rejoicing over the one who has finished his course and come at last to that promised land. —*Rev. B. Failes, Jr., and Rev. James A. Harris*

Frank L. Seal, Jr., 1929-2003

The Rev. Frank L. Seal Jr., 73, passed away Tuesday, April 29, 2003. He was born in Chesterfield County, Virginia, on June 26, 1929. He had an honorable discharge from the United States Navy in 1953. He was an ordained United Methodist minister serving Mt. Airy Charge in the Lynchburg District in 1962-1964; Prospect UMC at Mechanicsville in 1964-1966; Bethlehem UMC at Bena in 1966-1970; Lower Middlesex Charge at Hartfield in 1970-1972; Shiloh UMC on Gwynns Island in 1972-1976. In June of 1976, he became the full-time director of Hopesville Ranch for Boys. Rev. Seal was the founder of Hopesville Ranch for Boys that started in 1968. He has received numerous awards and plaques for his work with youth; Book of Golden Deeds from Exchange Club of Warwick, Newport News; recognition from the Hampton Sertoma Club on 1975; Ft. Eustis Chapter of the Protestant Men of the Chapel, 1976; was awarded a plaque for the leadership provided in establishing Hopesville Christian Academy. He was past president of Virginia Association of Children’s Homes; president of Gloucester Ministerial Association; Also president of Middlesex Ministerial Association, and Mathews Ministerial Association.



He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Ruth H. Seal of Dutton; a son Ralph W. Seal, his wife Lisa of Lynchburg; two daughters Sheila S. Boettcher, her husband Gerald of Dutton, and Joyce S. Clarke, her husband Donald of Dutton; four grandchildren Emily, Caleb, Joshua, and Sarah. His brother Beverly

Seal, his wife Barbara of Florida; and a sister Barbara S. Blankenship, her husband Billy of Richmond.
—*Ruth H. Seal*

John Price, Jr., 1929-2003

The Rev. John Price Jr. was born in Yeager, West Virginia, on May 31, 1929, son of Mr. John Price Sr. and Mrs. Virginia Barrett Price. Following his father's death, John Price Jr., at an early age moved with the family to Radford, Virginia. In addition to his parents, Rev. Price was also preceded in death by: his son, John Price III; two sisters, Thelma Vaughn and Vivian Alexander; and one brother, Donald Roland Price.



John is survived by his wife of 56 years, Beatrice Hall Price; sisters, Willie Mae Clemons, Constance P. (Carlton) English, and Patricia Sherman; brothers, Maxie (Ruby) Price, Arrington Lee (Lela) Price, and William H. (Stephanie) Price; brother-in-law, James Hall (Lois); sister-in-law, Clara Mae (Curtis) Blake; grandson, John B. (Cyreeta) Price and great-granddaughter, Ashley Monique Price; daughter-in-law, Lola Price; a foster daughter, Dee (Buddy) Broyles; along with a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins and his Asbury United Methodist Church family.

Licensing for John took place in 1957 at New Mount Olive Methodist Church in Radford where he began his ministry. He was ordained Deacon in 1958 by Bishop Edgar A. Love, and Elder in 1965 by Bishop Charles F. Golden. With his wife, Beatrice, at his side, he served Mt. Pleasant in Dublin, Bethel in Pembroke, and Mt. Pleasant in Marion, Virginia, and St. Mark in Kingsport, Tennessee. These churches were in the East Tennessee Annual Conference and the Tennessee-Kentucky Conference during the days of the Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church. He also served as Executive Director of the Upper Tennessee Human Development Agency.

John and Beatrice's only son, John III, was killed in 1978. This was devastating and the couple left Tennessee and did not serve an appointment for several years while John pursued other business ventures. In 1982, John was appointed pastor of Asbury in Christiansburg. In an article about his career and living with cancer, the NRV Current section of the Roanoke Times in May 2002 states "Price now calls the decision to return to ministry a lifesaver." More and more in his work, he began to emphasize the importance of family... part of each service is set aside for congregation members to share news about their households. Though still painful, the wounds from his son's killing began a measure of healing. "In a way, I think Asbury became kind of a substitute," Price says. "Particularly when you think of the kind of love we lavished on an only child. My wife and I needed some of that returned to us." Along with Asbury he also served as an associate director of the Wesley Foundation of Virginia Tech and served both until 1988. In that year he was appointed Associate Council Director of the Virginia Conference Council on Ministries in Richmond and served until his retirement in 1994. He returned to Christiansburg and pastored Franklin Street in Wytheville and Crossroads in Grayson County from 1994-1996. In 1996 he returned to Asbury to lead the building of the new church facilities and served as the revered pastor until his passing on April 30, 2003.

The Asbury Church family is thankful to God for the life and ministry of the Rev. John Price Jr. and for the great love and family relationship that was shared between us. —*Nathaniel L. Bishop*

Mary Katherine Pulliam, 1916-2002

Mary K. Pulliam was born April 30, 1916, in Gauley Bridge, West Virginia. She graduated from Fayetteville High School where she was valedictorian, cheerleader, lifeguard, and a basketball team guard. She attended Berea College in Kentucky where she was May Queen, star of the basketball team, a member of the yearbook staff, and a piano major. She graduated and became Fayette County, West Virginia's only female sheriff's deputy and tax auditor. She soon married Curtis Lyle Pulliam, whom she had met at Berea College, and became a full-time mother of four, part-time piano teacher, active PTA



leader, teacher of folk and square dance, and tireless Methodist church volunteer. Her husband's job took them to Roanoke, Virginia; Rutland, Vermont; and Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

It was in Milwaukee that her husband suddenly died in 1962, and Mary K. was left a young widow with four children between the ages of 17 and 10. She was offered and decided to take a job in her old church in Roanoke, Huntington Court Methodist. The job was as Director of Christian Education, and it was offered to Mary K. with two understandings: 1) that she would acquire the necessary education for the job as she worked, and 2) if any one of her children needed her while she was at work, she would be there for that child. So she moved her family back to Roanoke from Milwaukee, and began a new phase of her life. She began working a full-time and then-some job, and managed at the same time to fulfill the requirements for the education that the job demanded. True to her commitment, she became certified as an Associate in Christian Education through Scarritt College in Nashville, Tennessee.

She became a Consecrated Lay Worker in the early 1970s, and was consecrated in 1977 as a Diaconal Minister. She served at Huntington Court and Raleigh Court United Methodist churches in Roanoke, Blacksburg United Methodist Church, and First United Methodist Church in Charlottesville. She was recognized as a leader by her peers and was instrumental in the growth of her profession. She chaired the Virginia Conference Board of Diaconal Ministry, and served as President of the Virginia Conference Christian Educators Fellowship. She also served as a board member of the national Christian Educators Fellowship. Through the years, she served as a mentor to many who experienced a call to ministry.

In 1973, Mary K. was named Mother of the Year for the state of Virginia. She was honored in a ceremony in Richmond, Virginia, by then-governor Linwood Holton. Governor Holton shared with the audience many of Mary K.'s accomplishments in her professional life, and then talked about the success that she had raising four children alone. Her children like to say that she was the Mother of Every Year, and that it was nice that she was at least recognized for it once.

When Mary K. retired, she enjoyed family and friends, traveling, playing tennis and bridge, cheering on the Virginia Tech Hokies, continued church work, and serving as treasurer for the District Ministerial Association, and on the Virginia Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. Mary K. Pulliam died Thursday, Dec. 5, 2002, at her home in Roanoke after a short battle with cancer. She was honored in a Roanoke Times article dated 12/31/02 titled, "We Remember—Notable Southwest Virginians who died in 2002." She loved her family, her friends, and the United Methodist Church. We are all better for having had her in our lives, and we thank God for her rich, full life, and boundless energy. —*Jane Riddle, Daughter*

Melissa A. Hudgins, 1933-2003

Melissa Hudgins was such a special person. She was constantly going to school and getting degrees along the way. She graduated from Richmond Professional Institute, got her master's degree in English at The College of William and Mary, obtained a Private Detective License and became a Diaconal Minister. Melissa's Diaconal Ministry centered on her chaplaincy at Riverside Hospital, Newport News. Melissa accepted any call to be present, day or night, as well as fulfilling the hours that were assigned to her. She became a chaplain to the nurses, physicians, and staff while visiting faithfully and compassionately with the patients under her charge. Often, Bill Olewiler's voicemail had a message from Melissa in the middle of the night asking prayer for her and for persons in special need.

Melissa could not do enough for her home church, St. Paul UMC in the Rappahannock District. She oversaw the church's outreach, presided over the most socially involved Sunday school class, led a support group for persons in grief, and responded to all needs to the best of her ability. Melissa was a friend and neighbor to black and white. Melissa loved people from all walks of life. Melissa did not

judge, she accepted. She never voiced an unkind opinion or spoke unkindly about someone. She was a woman you could trust.

Melissa started her day early and went on to the wee hours of the morning, not to mention driving a couple of hundred miles in the process. She prayed constantly—when she woke up, before she ate, during her meal and after her meal. It didn't stop there. She was on the phone with friends offering words of comfort and prayers at their time of need or just because she wanted to. She always had a smile on her face and gave it to people around her. She would make sure she kept in touch with her family. Melissa would drive 200 miles on her niece Donna's birthday just to wish her a happy birthday, then drive home because she had somewhere else she was expected.

Melissa was not punctual. Her nephew and niece would tell her to be at their home two hours before the event. She would still arrive late, but she was prepared to stay. She had enough clothes in her car that she didn't have to buy anything for a year. Her car was her purse; everything was in it. When the weather warmed up, you could find Melissa at the beach, with her Bible, beach chair, and lotion. She loved to walk and did so every day for at least 45 minutes. Melissa had a very good heart. She would give her last dollar away. On several occasions Melissa borrowed money so she could help friends and family. She didn't ask for the money back. She gave from the goodness of her heart and meant it. Melissa by no means was wealthy financially, but spiritually she overflowed.

Melissa Hudgins did not have any children, but was survived by nephews Don Ray Hudgins and Paul G. Hudgins, and sister Joanne Sumner. She was very proud of her family and very pleased Don Ray Hudgins and Donna Blankenship, her nephew and niece, could be present at her consecration in June a year ago. She is greatly missed. Melissa's funeral and memorial service on April 1, 2003, at St. Paul United Methodist Church featured two hours of music and testimony. The Rev. William E. Olewiler, her pastor; the Rev. Rudy Smith, her district superintendent; and the Rev. Douglas Watson, her chaplain supervisor from Riverside Hospital, presided and led in sharing memories. —*Donna Blankenship and William E. Olewiler*

2004 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Wasena Franklin Wright, Jr., 1941-2003

Wasena Franklin Wright, Jr. was known by many titles, including husband, father, and friend. As "Buddy," he was a caring pastor, mentor, and a faithful colleague in ministry. Born in Danville in 1940, Buddy began his ministerial career at the age of 19. During his 43-year ministry he provided pastoral care and leadership for several churches. He served the Ashland Circuit; Epworth, Richmond; Ginter Park associate, Richmond; Calvary, Stuarts Draft; Mount Vernon, Danville; Centenary, Portsmouth; and Annandale, Northern Virginia. In 2000, he was appointed Virginia Conference Council Director where he served until June 2003.



Buddy's undergraduate education was at Ferrum and Randolph-Macon Colleges. He obtained his Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Va., and his Doctor of Ministry degree from St. Mary's Seminary and University.

Buddy was a proud alumnus of Ferrum College whose motto, "Not Self but Others" found expression in his life style. He provided dedicated service to his alma mater by serving on the Board of Trustees for several terms. In 1999, Buddy received the Beckham Medallion, Ferrum College's highest award given alumni for outstanding leadership and service. It has been said that Buddy was "a model of selfless service to family, church, and community."

During his distinguished career Buddy served on numerous church-related boards and agencies at local, regional, and national levels. In addition to his unique pastoral and administrative gifts, Buddy was a recognized scholar and educator. His ministry to families of suicide victims and publications in this arena are among his unique contributions. He was known for his involvement in and passion for mission that reached around the world. He was involved in various mission projects both locally and overseas, including Liberia and worked with Palestinian Christians in Israel. He served on the adjunct faculty of the Jerusalem Center for Biblical Studies and was active in the field of biblical archaeology, leading excavation teams to Bethsaida in Galilee. In expression of his Cherokee heritage, he was also passionate about his work with Native Americans in Virginia and Oklahoma.

Buddy is remembered in many ways. He was a visionary leader who distinguished himself as a man of faith who lived what he believed. What he believed helped him experience the abundant life and enabled him to face his untimely death with courage and confidence. Buddy's faith allowed him to fly higher than most dare to venture and to see what others often miss or ignore.

Services celebrating Buddy's life and ministry were held Monday, July 7, at Annandale United Methodist Church and Tuesday, July 8, at St. Peter's United Methodist Church in Montpelier. A passage of Scripture read as a part of these services came from Isaiah: But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31) How appropriate it was to use this symbolic Scripture to remind us of Buddy's distinctive life. Like an eagle, he soared high above, beckoning us upward and forward. His memory still does the same for those of us whose lives he touched. —*Rev. R. Franklin Gillis, Jr.*

Harry Frederick Edge, 1914-2003

The Rev. H. Frederick Edge died July 4, 2003, in Orange Park, Fla. He was born July 6, 1914, to James F. and Hazel P. Edge in Clarksburg, W.Va. He attended Shenandoah College and Indiana University and in 1943 began his ministerial life in Kingswood, W.Va. He served Evangelical United Brethren (EUB) and United Methodist churches in West Virginia, Virginia, and Maryland for the next 47 years until health demanded his final retirement in 1990.



Churches he served included Kingswood, Manassas, Edinburg, Sleepy Creek, South Branch, Reliance, Churchville, Winchester Charge, Toms Brook, Otterbein (Dayton), Potomac, Shenandoah Station, Toano, Whaleyville, North Franklin, Scottsville, Magnolia (Portsmouth), and Park View.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Alice Belva Edge. Other surviving family includes Harry F. Edge, Jr., Maurertown, Va.; James H. and Joan Edge, Oklahoma City, Okla.; David E. and Trish Edge, Traverse City, Mich.; Alice E. and Andrew Jones, Jacksonville, Fla.; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren and their families.

A former historian of the Virginia EUB Conference, he continued this love during retirement as an avid reader. During his last seven years, he shared the legacy of the Virginia Conference churches as part of the Wesconnett United Methodist (Jacksonville) Church family. The support of that church family was especially important in 2002 for Alice and Fred when their illnesses caused their final move together into their room at the nursing home. The knowledge that Fred's painful struggle with liver cancer is over and that they will be together again in Heaven sustains Alice. —*Alice E. Jones, Daughter*

Donald Lee Truitt, 1931-2003

Donald Lee Truitt—a Christian gentleman, devoted husband, father, and grandfather, a good minister of Jesus Christ, and a diligent and faithful pastor. Don had a good sense of humor and used this as a tool to keep the congregation's attention while he delivered the message of the gospel. Born



May 22, 1931, he and his twin sister were the youngest of six children of Jacob M. and Rosa Miller Truitt of Pamlico County, N.C. Jacob and Rosa instilled a strong work ethic in their children. Don brought this work ethic to his ministry with particular attention to the sick, shut-in, and bereaved.

Bishop Paul N. Garber took an interest in this young man who had difficulty studying due to the loss of an eye. He appointed him to charges near colleges so he could complete studies in Louisburg, N.C., Virginia Tech, and Duke. Don was always grateful to the United Methodist Church for helping fulfill his calling.

Serving churches in the districts of Roanoke, Danville, Eastern Shore, and Petersburg, he was blessed with many very good friends from the “mountains to the seashore.” Among them was the late Dr. Carroll Freeman who performed the wedding of Don and Zuma. Another good friend, the Rev. Joseph F. White, retired and living in Richmond, Va., remained a constant support until Don’s death.

Funeral services were conducted July 15, 2003, on the Eastern Shore by the Rev. Jack D. Pruitt of Belle Haven and the Rev. Paul C. Harris of Covington, brother-in-law of Don.

The family is appreciative of the messages from churches dating back to appointments served in 1955. It has been comforting to hear from those who recall his dedication to missions and global ministries.

Don is remembered by many friends for the comforting funeral service of their loved ones. Quoting Whittier as an expression of his faith and hope:

“I know not where His islands lift Their fronded palms in air;
I only know I cannot drift Beyond His love and care.” —*The Truitt Family*

Robert E. Forrest, 1911-2003

Like Timothy, whose faith was inherited from his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice, Robbie Forrest inherited his faith in Christ from his grandfather Elkanah and his mother Cotha. Elkanah Diggs, a Confederate veteran and the very image of a grizzled old soldier, spent part of Robbie’s growing up years with his family in Poquoson. The old man was hard of hearing and prayed every morning very loudly with a booming voice that could be heard all over the house. From them also he inherited a lifelong devotion to the United Methodist Church, to whose ministry he felt called as a young man living in “Bull Island.”



After graduating from Randolph-Macon College (B.A.) and Emory University (B.D.), Robbie entered the ministry of the Virginia Conference in 1934, serving the Essex-King and Queen Charge. For 44 years thereafter, along with his wife Anne Lewis Forrest of Hampton, whom he married in 1938, he served churches on the Eastern Shore and in Virginia Beach, West Point, Lynchburg, Northern Virginia, and Richmond. They had three children—Nancy Foltz of Sterling and Robert Forrest of Charlottesville who are active in their local churches; the Rev. David Forrest is a member of the Virginia Conference.

These reminiscences of his longtime friend and colleague in the ministry, Jim Reynolds of Roanoke, help to demonstrate the kind of man he was:

“In 1960, Robbie was among those elected to membership on the conference Board of Christian Social Concerns, no doubt having been nominated because of his courageous stands on social issues. He was named to the executive committee. This was the time when lunch counter sit-ins were taking place across the South. When the board president inquired of the executive committee who should be sought as speaker to the board’s report to the 1961 annual conference, no doubt he expected some “safe personality” would be suggested. Rather, Robbie spoke up and recommended the Rev. Floyd Bentley’s daughter. She was one of two Randolph-Macon Women’s College students who had earlier made the news participating in a sit-in in Lynchburg.

At the conference session, the two students were presented, and Miss Bentley gave her testimony about her action. But Bishop Garber, the soul of courtesy, did not rise from his chair to greet her! Moreover, the conference minutes excluded any mention of her. This was the electrically charged atmosphere in which Robbie courageously acted. It is no wonder that he was appointed to serve churches in Northern Virginia.

He was a strong and courageous preacher throughout his ministry. He was a dear friend, and I count it a privilege to have served in ministry with him.” Robert Forrest was a dedicated Christian and pastor all his long years. He died on July 23, 2003, at the age of 91. —*Family*

Phineas Shera Boyer, 1916-2003

The Rev. Phineas Shera Boyer was born in Washington, D.C., March 27, 1916, son of J. Leonard and Mary McGurk Boyer. He married Charlotte Johnson Miller on April 30, 1938, in a garden ceremony at the home of the bride in Ashland, Va. They were blessed with the birth of their daughter Charlotte Anne on June 17, 1940. Phin was fortunate to enjoy two granddaughters, two great-granddaughters and a great-grandson during his life.



Rev. Boyer was educated at Randolph-Macon Academy, where he earned the distinction of being the salutatorian of his graduating class. He served in the United States Navy from 1942-1944. He graduated from Randolph-Macon College in 1957 and was admitted to the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church in 1958. Before entering the Virginia Conference, he served as postmaster in Ashland, Va.

He served churches in Fredericksburg, Chesterfield, Jarratt, Chesapeake, Roanoke, Richmond, Newport News, Norfolk and Emporia. After his retirement in 1982 he served as administrator at the Roper Home in Norfolk and served as interim pastor at numerous churches over the next 15 years.

Phin was a 50-year member of the Ashland Masonic Lodge No.168 serving as treasurer for many years. He also was a 50-year member of the Scottish Rite Bodies and the Eastern Star.

Rev. Boyer was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years in 1997.

He is survived by his daughter Charlotte Boyer Jones and her husband Fred of Hardyville, Va.; two granddaughters Becky Dixon and her husband Mac of Glen Allen, Va.; and Anne Waddy Jones Stallard and her husband Steve of Richmond, Va; and three grandchildren Beth Dixon, and Joshua and Jessica Stallard. He is also survived by a sister, Mary Elizabeth Keating, of North Canton, Ohio.

A service of celebration was held on Saturday, July 26 in the chapel at Bliley’s Funeral Home on Staples Mill Rd. in Richmond, Va. The service was conducted by the Rev. A. Purnell Bailey and the Rev. Robert Earl Thompson. Interment took place at Woodlawn Cemetery, Ashland, Va.

He was truly loved by many; and led many to the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Most certainly he heard the words: “Well done my good and faithful servant.” —*Charlotte Boyer Jones and Becky Dixon*

Lee Van Ruckman, Jr., 1918-2004

he Rev. Lee Van Ruckman, Jr., who served in the Methodist ministry throughout Virginia for more than 40 years, died peacefully at his home in Lexington on Aug. 6. He was 85. The Rev. Ruckman, who was born in 1918 in Fincastle, Va., was the son of a Methodist minister, the Rev. Lee Van Ruckman, Sr., and Clarice Atkinson Ruckman. Rev. Ruckman was ordained in 1943 after graduating from Duke University Theological Seminary. He met his wife, Gwendolyn Louise Grow, of Lexington, Va., while he was studying at Duke and when his father was pastor at Wesley Chapel in Rockbridge County.



Rev. Ruckman and his wife, a schoolteacher, served at churches in Albemarle County, Fairfax County, Emporia, Chatham, Hampton, Callao, Vienna, Crozet, Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, and Portsmouth. An energetic and compassionate worker in the community, he served in the Ruritan Club, the AARP, the Historical Society, among others. Rev. Ruckman was an accomplished baritone soloist. He was also known for the energy, empathy, understanding, tact, and humor that characterized his ministry.

As an English literature major at Emory and Henry College, Rev. Ruckman loved the English language, just like his spiritual and philosophical leader, John Wesley. He wrote and published poetry throughout his ministry, and a collection of the poems has been recently published and is available by contacting the family. In 1993, Rev. Ruckman visited Aldersgate in London, where John Wesley founded the Methodist Church. During this trip, he preached at two separate Church of England services.

Following his retirement, Rev. Ruckman continued his ministry by organizing a Police Chaplains' program, serving at the request of the bishop at the Collierstown Methodist Charge, and filling in for local ministers.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Gwen; his children, Karen Ruckman, and her husband Alan Pearce, of Washington, D.C.; and Van Ruckman, and his wife Barbara, of Williamsburg, Va.; and his grandchildren, Chris and Shaun Ruckman, and Emma Pearce.

A packed congregation attended a funeral service officiated by the Rev. William Thomas, the Rev. Douglas Newman and the Rev. Charles Carroll. Eulogies were given by Rev. Ruckman's son and son-in-law. —*Gwen Ruckman & Family*

James Roy Smith, 1920 – 2003

Dr. James Roy Smith died on Sept. 8, 2003, at ManorCare in Potomac, Md., and was subsequently buried in Arlington National Cemetery on Chaplain's Hill. Dr. Smith, a native of Cradock, Va., and resident of Northern Virginia for most of his life, was a pastor and former district superintendent in the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church, as well as a chaplain (colonel) in the United States Army.



He began his ministerial career in 1940 at Westhampton. He was an Army chaplain from 1944 to 1947. He went on to serve as pastor at Ramsey Memorial (Richmond) and then served at First Church (Hopewell). During that period, he and his wife, Bonnie Holley Smith, had three daughters: Anne Holley, Martha Kay, and Janet Claire. In the mid-1950s, he moved to Mount Olivet in Arlington, Va., where, under his leadership, the congregation grew to become one of the largest United Methodist churches in Virginia. Dr. Smith served as senior pastor for 16 years and received 2,900 new members into the church. He founded many of the programs which continue to distinguish Mt. Olivet today within the community, among them the Mt. Olivet preschool program and the Mt. Olivet Foundation.

He was widely recognized as a leader in the community and was often asked to deliver the word of the Lord outside of his home pulpit. He spoke proudly of having led pre-game prayers for the Washington Redskins and was personally honored to deliver a sermon at the Washington National Cathedral. The fact that he stayed at one church for 16 years is a testament to his success at building and leading a very large congregation. He was also focused on staying in Arlington until all of his daughters graduated from high school. In 1977, he left Mount Olivet and served as superintendent for the Roanoke District before returning to pastoral ministry, where he always believed he best served the Lord. He then served the UMC ministry at Aldersgate (Alexandria), St. Matthews (Annandale) and Larchmont (Norfolk). Roy Smith retired from the ministry in 1986 and moved to Manassas, Va., where he lived for many years.

Having served in many leadership positions in his own denomination and in interfaith groups, Dr. Smith was particularly active in the work of the military chaplaincy. He was first commissioned as an Army chaplain and served in Europe during WWII. Following release from active duty, he served in the Active Reserve for more than 30 years, retiring with the rank of colonel. He was a three time winner of Freedoms Foundation Awards and also won the George Washington Honor Medal from the Foundation. He conducted preaching missions in the United States, 14 countries of Europe, the Orient, South America, Cuba, and behind the Iron Curtain in Russia, Poland, and East Germany.

Dr. Smith was a graduate of Randolph-Macon College, the University of Richmond, and the Garrett Theological Seminary, Evanston, Ill. His Doctor of Divinity degree was awarded by Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas. He also served on the board of trustees at Randolph-Macon College. Among his accomplishments are two book publications, *God Still Speaks in the Space Age* and *His Finest Week*.

His wife, Bonnie Holley Smith, formerly from Madrid, Iowa, died in 1993. He is survived by his daughters, Holley Green of Warrenton, Va., her husband Thomas and four grandsons; Martha Schneider of Marietta, Ga., her husband Bob, and two grandchildren; and Janet Schultz of Roswell, Ga., her husband Greg, and two granddaughters. All of his daughters are each celebrating over 20 years of marriage, a direct result of the strong values and Christian upbringing they received from both of their parents. —*Janet Schultz, Daughter*

Wilfred H. Berman, 1936-2003

The Rev. W. H. “Bill” Berman passed away on Nov. 4, 2003. He is survived by his son and daughter, four siblings and nieces and nephews and their families—all of whose lives he enriched. Bill was born in 1936 in Muskegon, Michigan. His family owned a weekly newspaper and he wrote for most of his life, first in weekly papers in Michigan, then for the daily newspapers in Honolulu and for his last 15 years as a pastor. He was just short of 50 when he entered Wesley Seminary in Washington D.C. Bill served as the chaplain at Randolph-Macon Academy from 1988 to the early ‘90s. He went on to serve as pastor of Round Hill United Methodist Church from December 1992 to June 1996. Illness forced him to retire in 1996, but he continued to help and inspire others through a web page dealing with his theology and Creation-Centered Spirituality. Bill was often willing to tackle issues others might avoid. He believed all Christians are called to care for one another and to hold individualism and social concerns in balance. As one of his parishioners said, “He taught many of us to view God’s people and His ways in a very different, more understanding way. We are better people for having known him.” —*Mary Berman, Sister*



Howard Edwards, Jr., 1925-2003

The Rev. Howard Edwards, Jr. retired since 1992, died Nov. 13, 2003. He began his ministerial career in 1957 at the Botetourt Charge. He went on to serve Buckingham, Boydton, Batesville, Dinwiddie, Craddockville-Belle Haven, Northumberland, Bellevue, Melrose Avenue, Grace in Danville, Providence in York County, and Page. While he was at Boydton he worked with the Volunteer Fire Department for four years. He also was a member of the Volunteer Rescue Squad while he served at Dinwiddie.



He worked with the police as police chaplain while he was at Danville. He also was a member of the Ruritan Club for a number of years. He was elected Zone Governor for one year.

He went on disability leave in 1987. Survivors include his wife Reba; sons Paul Edwards and the Rev. Bob Edwards, pastor of Memorial UMC in Tappahannock; daughters Rebecca Tate and Mary Walters; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. —*Robert Edwards, Son*

Lewis Minter, 1912-2003

The Rev. Lewis Minter, D.D. was born to Cora Lee Minter and Tomas Granville Minter of Leatherwood, Va., on June 10, 1912. As a child he attended Granbery United Methodist Church. In 1952 Rev. Minter earned his Doctorate of Divinity Degree from Trinity College in St. Petersburg, Florida. He then served as a Methodist minister for 52 years, pastoring more than 30 churches in Virginia and Florida. Although he retired from the Virginia United Methodist Conference in 1978, he continued to preach for an additional 17 years.



Rev. Minter's favorite book in the Bible was Timothy. Rev. Minter wrote two books titled, *Come Into Your Church* and *Come Into Your Church. The Completed Gospel*. These books are devoted to inviting people to accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour. Rev. Minter's entire personal collection of religious books will be donated to Mount Bethel United Methodist Church to serve as a library in his honor. The collection will be available for anyone wishing to read them.

Rev. Minter left this earth on Nov. 27, 2003, Thanksgiving Day. He was preceded in death by his wife Doris Foote Minter; his brother Conrad Minter; three sisters Hilda Gauldin, Mildred Foley Kirks, and Doris Mitchell. Rev. Minter leaves behind one son Timothy Lewis Minter and his daughter-in law Sharon. He united the couple in Holy Matrimony on the May 5, 2002. Rev. Minter's love for Christ will live on with each and every person he encountered. Now he rests in peace with the Lord he loves, and if he were here now, he would invite you to accept Jesus as your Saviour. —*Sharon Quesinberry-Minter*

Clifford Ramsey, 1903-2003

Born at Sydnorsville, just south of Rocky Mount, on Feb. 16, 1903, Clifford Ramsey was the son of the late Dyer Woodson Ramsey and his wife Minnie Florence Matthews, leading citizens of Franklin County, Va. Clifford had four brothers and three sisters. "All eight of us went to college," he said. "The brothers entered business and the sisters became teachers. The product that I sold was designed to keep my brothers honest," he reported. First educated at Ferrum Training School and Randolph-Macon College, he received his theological training at Emory University.



He was a sensitive lad, often seen praying on a hillside for friends in need. In the early years, he was a teacher and then superintendent of his home church Sunday school (Bethlehem in Sydnorsville). It was while serving South Franklin that he courted and married the very attractive and talented Miss Mary Washburn of Snow Creek (which he considered the single most-important event of his life). In subsequent years, there were three children: Leon Clifford Ramsey (1935); Molly Kathryn (1938); and James Calvin (1940).

After three happy years on the South Franklin Charge, he moved to the Cascade Circuit in the Danville District in 1933. The people there remembered the fine quality of his youthful ministry. In 1935 they were assigned to the Capron District, Southampton County. One member wrote, "I remember your ministry at Joyner Church and your preaching strictly from the Bible, the Word of God undiluted." Upon the death of the minister there, Clifford was moved mid-year to a promising church in Hilton Village. He was the eighth minister to serve this community, and it presented a challenging opportunity for this new 36-year-old pastor. The foundations were laid for this church to soon become First Church, Warwick County (now Newport News). In 1945 he and his family were moved to Broad Street, Portsmouth. Some of the people there remembered, "We admired your organizational ability and you inspired the young people"; "I think our church progressed more during your pastorate than at any other period."

From Portsmouth, successive moves took him to Calvary Church, Arlington; and then First Church, Salem (1949). At First Church, he encountered his greatest challenge. He was pastor to college students, faculty, and townspeople. He successfully managed the movement of the church to a new and finer location which provided greater room for expansion of congregation and services. He was remembered there as working “day and night watching over the construction of our lovely building” and “the transition of the location of our church, under your leadership, was made without a dissenting vote.” First Church went on to lead the Roanoke District in new members received.

His subsequent moves took him to Wesley Memorial in Richmond (1953); Oakton in Fairfax County (1958); St. Lukes in Falls Church (1962); St. Andrews, Alexandria (1965); and Highland Springs in Richmond (1968). At all his pastorates, there were individuals who wrote glowing commendations.

Upon retirement in 1972, Clifford and Mary returned to their beloved Sydnorsville and to a newly-constructed home which they called “MerryCliff.” Here they resided for 23 years until, in 1995, they moved to The Hermitage in Richmond to live out the rest of their lives. Mary departed this life to be with the Lord on June 14, 2001, and Clifford followed her on Nov. 28, 2003, at the age of 100. —*Rev. John Wynn Myers (edited by William N. Cox, Son-in-Law)*

Dwight M. Spence, 1901-2004

Dwight Moody Spence was born in 1901 in North Carolina and named for Dwight L. Moody, the famous evangelist. He was the fourth of 10 children who grew up on their family’s farm. Cotton was the main crop at that time, and the whole family worked in the fields. At an early age he “felt called to preach.” It was a struggle for him to get the required education, but he managed to graduate from Elon College and went to Nashville, Tenn., to study at Vanderbilt Divinity School. He attended a small church near the campus where he met Nancy Shockley. They were married soon afterwards.

He began his work serving Congregational Christian churches at different places in North Carolina and Virginia. While living at Elkton, Va., he decided to change denominations. He applied to the Virginia Conference of the Methodist Church and was accepted. The next conference, he was appointed to the Rileyville Charge, comprising seven churches. In the following years he lived in Appomattox, Patrick Springs, Fincastle, Victoria, Huddleston, Mt. Solon, and Cartersville. He served multiple churches at each of these locations. At a new appointment, he studied the church membership rolls and tried to get acquainted with everybody by visiting in the home of each family. He enjoyed his work for many years.

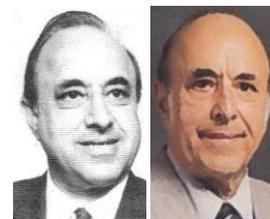
After retirement they moved to Nashville. He enjoyed many simple things. He was a regular visitor to the library and spent a lot of time reading. Poetry was one of his favorite subjects, so he decided to write some himself. A lot of his time was spent writing on his old portable typewriter. For many years he corresponded with family and a few friends from some of the churches he had served. In November he would begin writing notes and a new poem to send with his Christmas cards. He looked forward to receiving cards and hearing news from friends.

He watched old TV shows in the evening. Lawrence Welk and Andy Griffith were two of his favorites. He loved nature and liked to walk the trails in the park. Feeding the birds was one of his pastimes. Fall was his favorite time of the year, and he enjoyed riding around to see the best foliage. A special treat was a riverboat ride on the Cumberland River. It reminded him of the Cape Fear River which ran behind the farm at home. All his life he thought of the farm as home. It still belongs to one of his nephews. Many times he made the trip to visit with his family members, usually in the fall.

In January 2004, he died at the age of 102 and was buried at Mount Olivet Cemetery, beside his wife. She died in March 1982. They left one daughter and two grandsons who miss them. —*Louise Tomlin, Daughter*

Ernest K. Emurian, 1912-2004

Ernest K. Emurian was born in Philadelphia on Feb. 20, 1912. He earned his B.A. from Davidson College in North Carolina, his B.D. from Union Theological Seminary in Virginia, and his Th.M. from Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Randolph-Macon College in Virginia.



Rev. Emurian retired in 1981 as minister of Cherrydale United Methodist Church in Arlington, Va. He served the congregation at Cherrydale for 19 years. His wife, Margaret Virginia Holt, from Madison Heights, Va., died on March 28, 2003. Rev. and Mrs. Emurian lived at the Hermitage in Northern Virginia for over 20 years.

Rev. Emurian has written and published numerous books, hymns, and plays. He was the composer of hymn tunes, anthems, and semi-popular songs. He held membership in ASCAP, the American Guild of Organists, the Lions Club, and The International Brotherhood of Magicians. He was a lecturer on hymnology and religious drama; and, as an after-dinner speaker and philosophical humorist, he addressed conventions and conferences all over the world.

Rev. Emurian was a dynamic force among Virginia United Methodists around the state. He was passionate in his speeches on the floor of the conference. He would lead 2,000 people in hymn-singing at annual conference.

Rev. Emurian is survived by children, Henry Emurian, Katherine Troyer, and Mary Ferguson; and grandchildren, Nat Troyer, Adam Troyer, and Samantha Langley. Funeral services were held on Jan. 29, 2004. at Cherrydale United Methodist Church, with interment at Columbia Gardens Cemetery in Arlington. —*Mary E. Ferguson*

Albert Nelson Fritter, 1918-2004

The Rev. Albert N. Fritter was born on Easter Sunday, March 31, 1918, in Garrisonville, Stafford County, Va. He was the son of the late Enoch N. and Olive Gallahan Fritter. Albert was a graduate of Stafford High School and Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Va., and received a Master of Divinity degree from the Candler School of Theology, Emory University, in Atlanta, Ga. He also did graduate work for a Master of Science degree in Rehabilitation for the Visually Handicapped at Virginia Commonwealth University and at Oklahoma University.



Albert was ordained a deacon in 1944, and an elder in full connection in 1946. He served churches in Powhatan, Heathsville, Hillsboro, Bluemont, Pleasant Valley, Forest Road, Mt. Pleasant, Fairmount, Good Hope, New Hope, Ettrick, and Colonial Beach. While serving as pastor of the Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church in Herndon, the church was named “Rural Church of the Year in Virginia.”

In 1967, Albert was given a special appointment to work for the Virginia Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped. He was a vocational and rehabilitation counselor and a supervisor of the Alexandria, Va., office. In 1977, he was named assistant state supervisor of the Vocational Rehabilitation Field Service for the Virginia Commission for the Visually Handicapped. His work earned him the Virginia Department for the Handicapped Counselor of the Year Award as well as the Elkins Award for both the state and mid-Atlantic region. He retired from the commission in 1983.

Albert went to be with God on Sunday, Feb. 1, 2004, after a long illness. He is survived by his wife, Stella Smith Fritter; one son, Albert N. Fritter, Jr. and his wife, Betty H. Fritter; one grandson, Christopher N. Fritter; two sisters, Christine F. Dent and Barbara F. Duffey; and many nieces and nephews. A graveside service was held on Feb. 4, 2004, at Forest Lawn Cemetery with the Rev. John Peters and Rev. Kathy Gochenour, Trinity United Methodist Church, officiating. —*Family*

Charles P. Robertson, 1938-2004

The Rev. Charles P. (Chuck) Robertson was born June 13, 1938 to Dr. Howard and Cora Robertson; he was reared in Bassett, Virginia. He graduated from J.D. Bassett High School in 1957; in 1959 Ferrum Junior College conferred upon him the associate degree in Arts. West Virginia Wesleyan graduated him with the Bachelor of Arts degree. A Master of Divinity degree was awarded him in 1965 from Asbury Theological Seminary. The Rev. Robertson served for eight years in the pastorate in Virginia, West Virginia and Kentucky. He was honored in 1968 as the youngest clergyman to open Congress with prayer. In 1969, he joined Youth Camps, Inc., as National Field Representative and Chaplain—ministering to young athletes, cheerleaders and majorettes.

The Rev. Robertson served as a member of the Governor's Commission on Human Rights of Kentucky. He was a District Committeeman of the Boy Scouts of America, a member of Southern Churchmen, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Lions International, Ruritans, and the Virginia Jaycees.

In the fall of 1973, the Rev. Robertson went to Atlanta, Ga. to work with JACS (Joint Action in Community Service) where he worked with Job Corp recruits; he later worked in sales and services with various other companies including North American Products and Georgia Pacific. During this time his appointment was Honorable Location. He continued to minister to his fellow man.

The Rev. Robertson became an affiliate member of the First Presbyterian Church of Douglasville in 2001. During his disability and illness he continued to minister to others—at first calling and visiting the shut-ins and later from his hospital bed and wheelchair. The Rev. Robertson is survived by his wife, Lois Robertson, of Douglasville, Ga., and his brother and sister-in-law, William and Helen Robertson of Salem, Virginia.

Edward A. Plunkett, Sr., 1920-2004

Born Jan. 11, 1920, in Lynchburg, Va., the Rev. Ed Plunkett graduated from E. C. Glass High School, went on to Randolph-Macon College at Ashland, later attended Emory University in Georgia, and completed seminary training at Westminster Seminary in Maryland. While a student pastor at Marquis Memorial United Methodist Church in Staunton, Ed met, fell in love with, and married Ella Louise Harvill. Ed and Ella Louise had four children: Ed Jr., Karen, Joseph, and Janet. Ed Sr. died on March 15, 2004. Ed is survived by his wife and children, and by three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by one great-grandson.



Ed's ministry began with a charge of four rural churches in northern Augusta County. Additional charges took the family to Northern Virginia, Winchester, Elkton, Roanoke, Onancock, South Norfolk, Norfolk, Arlington, Staunton, and Charlottesville. After retirement, Ed served for a number of years as a probation officer and counselor for the Juvenile Court System in the Northern Neck area of Virginia. Ed and Ella Louise retired on Afton Mountain in Augusta County, Va., where he was active in support of the county library system and served on the county library board.

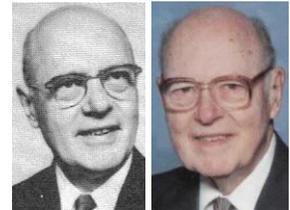
On the conference level, Ed served as chairperson of the Committee on World Peace and on the Board of Ministerial Training. He was known for speaking out on many occasions about the need for the church to be involved in issues affecting world affairs. He also served as chairperson of a special committee on peace education and international relations for the Virginia Council of Churches, an interdenominational group. The Rev. Plunkett also actively assisted the founding of Virginia Wesleyan College by serving as the press agent for its organizers.

In an interview with the *Virginian Pilot* published on Oct. 29, 1960, Ed expressed concern about what he viewed to be an alarming loss of young people in the church, leading to a declining number of members who have benefited from church education as youth. "The best kind of growth for the church comes through the church school," he said. "This is where we must begin. This is where I begin."

Ed was a writer, teacher, artist, pilot, and self-taught computer programmer. He also enjoyed woodworking, golf, fishing, water skiing, sailing, and the study of history and politics. He featured his research on the history of Augusta County on his Web site <www.augustahistory.org>. Ed programmed and developed the Augusta County Library's first computerized circulation system. He was described by the Rev. Gary Milstead at a memorial service at Main Street United Methodist Church in Waynesboro on March 19 as "a true Renaissance man of many accomplishments." —*Ed Plunkett, Jr.*

Joseph S. Johnston, 1910-2004

Joseph Shackford Johnston, D.D., husband of Edna Cralle Sanders Johnston, passed from this life on Maundy Thursday, April 8, 2004. He was known affectionately as Dr. Joe to many throughout his full-time ministry of 43 years and his 16 years thereafter. Born in Farmville, Va., in 1910, Dr. Johnston was graduated from the University of Virginia in 1932 and received a Master of Divinity from Yale University in 1935. His honorary doctorate was bestowed by Randolph-Macon College.



In 1936 he married Edna Cralle, and they celebrated their 68th anniversary this past January. They have two daughters and sons-in-law, Anne and Henry Owen of Wicomico Church; and Virginia and James Philbrick of White Stone; and one son and daughter-in-law, Joseph and Susan Johnston, Jr., of Annapolis, Md.; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Dr. Johnston's ministry began in the Methodist Church (Virginia Conference) in 1935 in Whaleyville. He subsequently served churches in Oakton, Vienna, and Warrenton. He was then appointed to Arlington Methodist Church, Epworth Methodist Church in Norfolk, and Reveille Methodist Church in Richmond, where he oversaw the development of a new church from two old Richmond congregations. In 1959 he became superintendent of the Norfolk District. There he saw his many years of strong advocacy for a Methodist college in Tidewater come to fruition with the founding of Virginia Wesleyan College (VWC) in Norfolk. He was elected the first president of VWC in 1965.

In the latter part of his career, Dr. Johnston served as minister of Washington Street United Methodist Church in Alexandria and of Springfield UMC. He then became superintendent of the Petersburg District from which he retired. A strong proponent of higher education, Dr. Johnston served as a trustee of Ferrum Junior College from 1960-65 and again from 1967-72. He was chairperson of the conference Commission on Higher Education from 1968-72, and was awarded the John Wesley Distinguished Education Award for Higher Education last August.

In retirement, he remained active as interim pastor of two churches and guest minister at many churches of several denominations, and he continued his work on conference committees. He had a gift for, and love of, writing that resulted in several publications throughout his life. In 1972, he wrote "A Time to Heal," a booklet for those who are hospitalized. He edited the diary of his grandfather, Joseph Wesley Shackford (also a Methodist minister in Virginia) in 1991. Last spring, the fascinating memoir of his career in the ministry, "When the Bishops Said, 'Go!'" was published.

His family and friends remember him as gentle, curious (even to his last days) about an endless number of subjects, and never regarding age as a determinant of ability. He was a skilled and eager storyteller and he left behind wonderful true stories from throughout his life (some funny and some most poignant). He loved the church and the fellowship of those who are its members. This is attested to by the fact that he proudly attended every Virginia Annual Conference but one, that being last year's when he was hospitalized. As one editorialist said upon his death, "Dr. Johnston was as full an embodiment of the term "Christian gentleman" as one will find in this life, but he would be most pleased if all of us remembered him as a "good and faithful servant." —*Family*

Steve P. Gaskins, Jr., 1910-2004

Steve P. Gaskins, Jr., born June 29, 1910, in Greenville, Texas, grew up in Methodist parsonages of the old Gulf Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Oklahoma Conference of the Methodist Church in Oklahoma. He graduated from Oklahoma City University (1931), Garrett Theological Seminary, Evanston, Illinois, (1935) with additional study at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, Union Theological Seminary, and Columbia University, New York City.

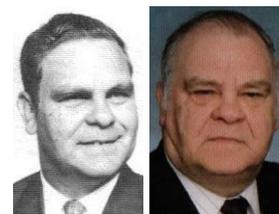


He began his ministry in the Burbank oil fields in the Osage Indian reservation of North Central Oklahoma. While serving his third appointment in Western Oklahoma, World War II broke out. Answering the call of the Methodist Church for young volunteers for the chaplaincy he was immediately mustered into active military service. He attained the rank of colonel in 22 years of ministry to his military congregations in Panama, Australia, New Guinea, and the Philippines. Post war service took him to Fort Benning, Georgia; Governors Island, New York; Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Japan; Office of the Chief of Chaplains in the Pentagon; Germany; and the Presidio of San Francisco. In 1962 he retired from military service from the United States Military Academy, West Point, to become a secretary of the American Bible Society in charge of the Bible Society's distribution to chaplains of the Armed Forces and Executive Secretary of the Eastern Region Office of the American Bible Society in Washington, D.C. After location in the Washington area Chaplain Gaskins transferred to the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and became involved in its activities and ministry in Northern Virginia.

At the end of 41 years of Methodist ministry, Chaplain Gaskins was retired with seven years having been spent in the civilian pastorate, 22 years in ministry to men and women of our defense forces, 13 years with the American Bible Society in promotion of use and distribution of Holy Scripture. In retirement, he and Mrs. Gaskins enjoyed their closing years as members of the Arlington Forest United Methodist Church in Arlington, Virginia. Chaplain Gaskins was married to Miss Geraldine Fenlon of Gurnee, Illinois, in 1934. To them were born four children: Elinor Reitz of Sammamish, Wash.; Katherine Cormany of Boones Mill, Va.; Steve P. Gaskins, III, of Springfield, Va. and now deceased Leo F. Gaskins of Fairfax, Va. Geraldine passed away in 2002. In 1960 his alma mater conferred upon Chaplain Gaskins the Doctor of Divinity degree and he was listed in Who's Who in Methodism and Who's Who in Religion. —*Steve Gaskins, III*

Lawrence Robert Thompson, Sr., 1928-2003

Lawrence Robert Thompson, Sr., was born Sept. 2, 1928, in Canebrake, Va., to Betha Asbury and Dewey Garfield Thompson. He was the firstborn of a proud, itinerant coal-mining family in Southwest Virginia. He married Phyllis Christian on March 8, 1952. Since he was not "Christian" in any sense of the word, she set about winning him to the Lord. At about half past eight in the evening as another warm August day in 1953 came to a close, Lawrence found himself strangely in need of moving from pew to altar in the little Assembly of God church in Berwind, W.Va. Handing his newborn son to his mother-in-law, he made his way forward to an altar where he would kneel and experience one of his numerous encounters with the living Christ. This was the beginning of a journey of faith and a call to ordained Ministry that would change not only his life but the life of his family and, in some way, touch all those who would encounter him as an itinerant soul in Christ's service.



Lawrence's call to ordained Ministry was immediate. He sold all his possessions and moved to Florida to attend college. He and Phyllis worked many different jobs to make ends meet. It was a challenging time, but he did not give up. Following graduation from Southeastern Bible College in Lakeland, Fla., in 1956, Lawrence served as an Assembly of God pastor in Florida, Mississippi, North

Carolina, West Virginia, and Virginia. Much of that time he taught school in addition to pastoring so that he might provide for his family. During this time, his faith and call continued to grow in a dynamic way. While looking for ways to be open to this continuously growing faith experience, he came under the influence of a Methodist pastor. When that pastor was appointed as coordinator of the Bath Larger Parish, he contacted Lawrence and asked him to consider joining him as an associate in Bath Co. Lawrence did and thus begins the rest of the story.

In 1969 Lawrence became a true itinerant United Methodist pastor. He had the distinct pleasure of serving Bath Larger Parish, Craigsville, Patrick, Highland Park in Roanoke, Churchville-West Augusta, and Lawrenceville UMCs. How fitting and affirming for his itinerancy to end in 1991 at an appointment bearing his name.

Lawrence and Phyllis had two children, Larry and Melissa. Larry is the senior pastor at St. Paul UMC in Woodbridge. He is married to the former Vicki Peery, whom he met as a direct result of Lawrence's move to the Bath Larger Parish and into United Methodism. They have four children, Chris, Jeremy, Philip, and Laura. Lisa is a public school teacher in South Georgia and is married to the Rev. Stephen Webb, senior pastor of Bainbridge UMC in Bainbridge, Ga. They have two children, Josh and Lee. Phyllis and grandson, Lee, preceded Lawrence in death.

In 1983, Lawrence married Kathleen Harrison. Lawrence's life was blessed with a new family. Kathleen's children, Joni, Karen, Roger, and Greg, enriched his life and he theirs. He was also blessed by daughter-in-law Dianna and grandson Brandon. Kathleen not only supported him in his Ministry, but loved and cared for Lawrence the rest of his life. Lawrence was preceded in death by daughter Joni.

Outside of his regular pastoral duties, Lawrence loved preaching revivals and homecomings. He never forgot where he came from, and he weaved that into his sermons and lessons. After retiring in 1991, he began teaching a Sunday school class at Jamestown UMC in Jamestown, N.C. As the class grew from 30 to 125 members, Lawrence experienced a spark of new life. He died July 25, 2003, sometime during the night, but only after completing preparation to teach his class on Sunday. One of the great joys of his life was the fact that, under his ministry, some 22 persons entered into ordained ministry. He was faithful to the end and now, as his favorite poet intimates, Lawrence has "crossed the bar." Praise be to God for the life of Lawrence Thompson, who in the love of Christ shall never die.
—*Rev. Lawrence R. "Larry" Thompson, Jr.*

Cleon Washington Meadows, 1916-2003

Cleon Washington Meadows was born Jan. 2, 1916, in Elkton, Va., to Bizzeal and Gladys Meadows, the oldest of 12 children. He died Friday, July 25, 2003, at the age of 87. He was preceded in death by his parents, five brothers, four sisters, his first wife, Mary Louise Meadows of 49³/₄ years and second wife, Lillian Maley Meadows. He is survived by a daughter Barbara A. Weaver of Manassas, a son Donald Ray Meadows of Virginia, a brother James Richard Meadows of Remington, a sister M. Catherine Dvorscak of Vienna, and numerous nieces and nephews. He is also survived by four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



He was a veteran having served in the Army.

He entered the ministry late in life. For years he was an auto mechanic. He came home one evening and told his family that he had been called to the ministry. On the day of my wedding he received the notification that he had been given his first appointment (four churches in Bath County). I lovingly joked that he was not aware I got married as the news of the appointment was so very important to him. In the reception line people were congratulating him on my marriage and the first thing out of his mouth would be "I just received my first appointment!"

He performed the marriages of his son, both of my sons—Jimi and Alan Weaver, nieces and nephews, and the baptism of all four of his grandchildren and two of his great-grandchildren. He retired after 25 years in the ministry. All of these were important milestones in his ministry, but probably the most important to him was the baptism of his youngest brother.

One of my fondest memories was during his first appointment. Not sure if it was the first or second term of that appointment. There was a small church, Bolar, on that charge that sat in the middle of a field with animals walking all around. One Sunday, with my family in attendance, he was preaching the sermon of the Lost Sheep. As if on cue, down the aisle walked a lamb as if he knew that he was being talked about. The congregation thought nothing of this occurrence—but, to say the least, it made an impression on me that is just as vivid now as if it happened yesterday.

My father touched the lives of many people during his lifetime. One such person was Ronald Jones who entered the ministry because of my father's influence and his calling from the Lord. There are lots of people I know about and many more that I will never know.

Daddy retired after 25 years of service. Each of his appointments he enjoyed to its fullest extent. From each of these appointments we, the family, gathered lasting friendships that continue after his death. After retirement he really enjoyed being asked to hold services in various places.

Music was always a big part of our household. Daddy, brothers, sisters, and spouses all sang and were invited many places for the "special music." Music always held a special place in all of his services as well as in his heart.

He was a member of Fairfax Masonic Lodge #43 in Culpeper, the Eastern Star Culpeper Chapter #79, and the Ruritan Club.

He now dwells with the Lord and those who went before him. Daddy always said "If God brings you to it, he will bring you through it."

Funeral service was held Tuesday, July 29, 2003, with the Rev. Frank James, lifelong friend and fellow retired minister, officiating. —*Barbara Ann Weaver, Daughter*

Roy Edward Neff, 1916-2003

Our father, the Rev. Roy Edward Neff, was born Sept. 12, 1916, in a log house that his grandfather built in Snow Hill, W.Va. Before joining the ministry, he was a farmer and cut timber in the West Virginia mountains. Dad always firmly believed in the Christian way of life. We'd like to share some of the things he and Mom taught us growing up.



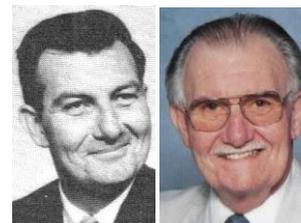
1. Be sincere when we pray.
2. Have compassion for others.
3. Always try to make the best of situations instead of dwelling on what could have been.
4. Forgive and don't hold grudges. When we find it difficult to forgive, pray, and if the words won't come, just keep repeating the Lord's Prayer.
5. Next to God, family is the most important thing in life. Always come home because the door is always open.
6. Laugh at ourselves.
7. Remember to forgive ourselves when we make mistakes.
8. Treat people like we want to be treated, not how we think they deserve to be treated. Remember judgment is God's call, not ours.

When Dad was on his deathbed, he spoke of the many friends he had made over the years and how important all his friends were to him. After sharing that with us, he was quiet for a while. Then he raised his arms into the air and with tears streaming down his cheeks and a smile on his face, he cried, "Glory! Oh Glory, Hallelujah!" After repeating this a couple of times, he rose from his bed, clapping

his hands and dancing on the floor. He was laughing and crying at the same time and kept repeating, “Glory! Oh Glory, Hallelujah!” He went around the bed and kissed and hugged each of his four daughters, and his pastor who was with us. Still crying and overcome with joy, he climbed back into his bed and said, “I’ve seen a glimpse of Heaven—people don’t miss it.” This was the last gift and the greatest gift Dad ever gave us before being called home to be with Jesus on Nov. 23, 2003. —*His daughters and their families, Carol Bradley, Connie Boole, Carmel (Candy) Savage, and Cathy Frey*

Charles H. Comer, 1931-2004

On Easter Sunday, Charles Comer personally experienced the Easter miracle he preached about for over 40 years. He discarded the trapping of a failing body, the limitations of this earthly existence and embraced his son, grandson, parents, and a good friend who died next to him on a forgotten battlefield in Korea. Born July 4, 1931, Charles’ 6-foot 4-inch military bearing seemed more suited for a sergeant in the U.S. Army, which happened to be his rank during the Korean War. He loved his country and was always proud of his military service.



Although Charles did not seem the romantic type, there was one great love in his life, Irene, whom he married in 1955. Second only to Irene was the love he bore for his children: Charles, Katie, and Stephanie and their families. Charles was happiest surrounded by family. Other interests included watching the Atlanta Braves and Washington Redskins WIN. It wasn’t fun being with him while they were losing. He was also a voracious reader of the Bible, ancient history, and the American Civil War. Perhaps that is why I see parallels between Charles and one of his heroes, Stonewall Jackson.

Charles’s rough bravado protected an emotional, tender heart, which endured more than its share of heartache. During the Korean War, Charles and a close friend were charging enemy positions. A shell burst on Charles’ right. He turned to see if his friend was hurt. He was gone—just gone. Charles and Irene lost their only son, Charles (Chuck), to cancer and their grandson, Charles Richard (Ricky) Hill, in a traffic accident. People whose lives were shattered and lost found in Charles a kindred spirit, someone who had lived through the fire himself and been transformed. They found in Charles an unshakable faith in the love of God and the promise of Jesus Christ.

Charles retired in June of 1999, as pastor of Redwood United Methodist Church in Rocky Mount, Va. He had served as pastor for a number of churches in the Virginia United Methodist Conference for 43 years. Upon his retirement, he and his wife moved to Danville, Va., where he served as the minister of Westover Hills UMC until the fall of 2002. He and Irene became active members of Brosville UMC where Charles taught Sunday school. Like Stonewall Jackson, Charles was endowed with the courage to advance in storms of bullets and shrapnel. Both saw humanity at its absolute worst and never lost hope in the power of the almighty Creator. Jackson’s legend lives today only in the pages of history. Charles’ legacy lives on in his family, the congregations he ministered to, the couples he joined in marriage, the children he baptized, the families of the loved ones he buried, and in the thousands of lives touched by Charles’ faith and love. When I heard of Charles’ death I remembered the final words of General Jackson in this life, “Let us cross the river, and rest under the shade of the trees.” —*Rev. Gary Milstead*

H. Karen Claris, 1943-2003

The Christian ministry of Karen Claris began long before her first appointment for the United Methodist Church. Her ministry to Christ was born out of her practical life experience. She was born and raised in Vinton, Va., to a faithful Methodist family. Karen’s first career was as a mother. Her professional career was in the banking industry where she began as a secretary and later became a vice president. During her advancement through the banking industry, Karen honed her speaking and

presentation skills as a teacher of numerous banking courses, where she was able to touch many people. Her strong, vital spirit and deep care for those around her attracted people who were aware of something special working within her.

Karen explored her call to the ministry by first serving as a lay supply pastor to Melrose United Methodist Church. It was little surprise when she followed her calling to formally “Go and make disciples” by studying at Duke University. After becoming a licensed local pastor, she served the congregations of Pierce Chapel and Mt. Pleasant in Botetourt County. Although she had to make concessions to her illness, such as sitting down while preaching, her passion and God’s spirit empowered her to always “do what needed to be done.” Karen understood one of her primary roles to be equipping the saints and mobilizing the laity for ministry.

Her ministry extended beyond the Methodist Church to her active involvement in the Southwest Virginia Emmaus community. She served on many Walks to Emmaus, and was blessed by that community through her service and through the service of its members. The song in her heart from God’s love came out in her involvement in numerous church choirs and musical activities. She was always willing to share her talents on the autoharp or by singing.

Karen was an avid gardener, following in the footsteps of her father. She took great pleasure in planting and watching things grow. This desire to nurture growth applied to people also. She always challenged people to be and do their best, as she always strove to better herself. Her commitment to family was evident in all facets of her life. She was responsible for many family traditions and loved the annual Bragg family reunion. Her husband and helpmate of 20 years, Steve Claris, was vital to her ministry. She gave a lasting legacy of love to her two daughters, and her son who preceded her in death.

Karen Claris was a pioneer in a time when few women were vice presidents in banking or ministers in church. She was a strong soldier in her battle with cancer. Her faithful witness in the midst of adversity, as well as her confidence and joy blessed all who knew her as she offered God’s healing presence in such significant ways. Her ministry lives today in the lives she touched as a joyful, faithful servant of her Lord, Jesus Christ, whom she joined eternally on June 20, 2003. —*Mary A. Zirkle, Daughter; and Rev. Rob Colwell*

Samuel Edward McGee, 1919-2004

Samuel Edward McGee (Sam) was born July 11, 1919, in Huttonville, W.Va. He was the son of the late Ballard & Florence Newhouse McGee. He grew up with seven brothers and two sisters. Sam married Mary Riggleman McGee Sept. 18, 1938, in W.Va. From that marriage were born five children: Edward, Doris Regina McGee Myers, Mary Frances McGee Kanaley and two sons who died at birth. Sam and his family moved to Michigan where his children were raised, attended school, and married. He and Mary Gay had four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. His loving wife Mary Gay passed away with a cerebral hemorrhage in 1970 after 32 years of marriage. Sam’s personal faith began as a teenager when he accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior. In 1950 he was a machine builder at the time he had a calling for the ministry. He began and finished courses of study and was granted a license to preach.



He served two appointments in Michigan, one for three years and one for 1½ years. Sam decided to go full time and moved to Virginia to the Staunton District. He was an ordained deacon in 1973 and approved lay pastor. He served in the Staunton, Lynchburg, and Charlottesville districts, all with harmony and support from all churches. He completed courses of study at Emory University and attended advanced courses at Duke University. Also taking continuing education classes before retiring in 1988.

On Jan. 1, 1982, Sam and Mary Jane Campbell were joined together in marriage at Poplar United Methodist Church in Amherst, Va. Mary brought five daughters into this marriage: Connie C. Deacon, Delores C. Davis, Susan C. Wade, Donna C. Dodgion, and Martha C. Johnson. Together in this marriage they had 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Sam and Mary were married 22 years.

Sam served as a retiree at Bethany, Mt. Tabor, Smyrna, and Poplar UM Churches. He had served over three years as an appointee at Wesleyan Church, Amherst, Va., when he was diagnosed with cancer. Because of taking chemotherapy he could not continue and had to retire again.

Sam loved the Lord. His greatest joy was serving God through preaching the word. He and Mary Jane were a team. At least 3-4 days a week they were on the road visiting the sick in homes and hospitals; visiting the members of the church or sending encouraging cards. The ministry was a full-time job.

Sam was a very talented person. He loved playing the piano, fiddle, and banjo. He also loved working in his shop making crafts for Bible school and for many friends and family. Together Sam and Mary sang in the choir and attended Bible study and Sunday school. Sam greatly missed serving. At 84 years young, Sam desired to go back one more time and preach. The week before his death he had written a sermon “he needed to preach.” He had taken five chemo treatments with one to go. Together Sam and Mary Jane looked forward to spring and enjoying time together.

Samuel Edward McGee passed away on Feb. 17, 2004, at 6 a.m. in Lynchburg General Hospital with his beloved wife Mary Jane and true friend, the Rev. Douglas Pillow, at his side. His funeral was held Feb. 19 at Amelon UM Church, Madison Heights, Va. The following ministers honored him with their encouraging spiritual words to the family at his “celebration of life”: the Rev. Douglas Pillow, the Rev. Arthur Wolz, and the Rev. Clarence Brown, Charlottesville District Superintendent. As a tribute to Sam’s life on this earth his two daughters Mary Frances McGee Kanaley and Martha C. Johnson gave their testimonies and testimonies from each loving family member. Graveside services were held on Feb. 21 at 1 p.m. in Milan, Mich. From one of Sam’s loving children: “It is hard to imagine the number of lives that Sam touched and staggering to imagine how many lives will continue to be influenced for generations to come. I imagine the line of people in heaven thanking Sam for his role in their salvation is long and I don’t see it getting any shorter any time soon.” “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant!’” (Matthew 25:21) —*Mary Jane McGee and Family*

Andrew Davis (Dave) Snead, 1924-2004

“Final Fly-By” (AFSA)

“Well done good and faithful servant” (Matt 25:21).

Dave Snead was born and raised in Lynchburg, Va., along with three brothers and one sister. He was drafted into the Army to serve his country during World War II. Dave served under General Patton. After serving in the Army for three years, he joined the Air Force and completed 21 years of service. Nearing his retirement from the Armed Services, he felt the call of the Lord and started his early ministries while still in the Air Force. He then entered the United Methodist ministry in 1967. He became an ordained United Methodist minister, and served the Moneta Charge of Bethlehem, Emmaus, and Diamond Hill Union churches for 10 years (Lynchburg District). He also served Highland United Methodist Church for 13 years and then entering retirement he was an interim minister to Pleasant Grove, Chatham Heights, Granbery, Pleasant Hill and Bethlehem (Sydnorsville) (Danville District). The Rev. Snead was probably most widely known by his radio ministry, “Proclaim The Word,” which he served for 20 years.



One of Dave’s favorite poems that he kept above his dresser in a picture with an Air Force jet as the background was:

HIGH FLIGHT (by John Gillespie Magee, Jr.):

*Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
 And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
 Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
 Of sun-split clouds —and done a hundred things
 You have not dreamed of —wheeled and soared and swung
 High in the sunlit silence.
 Hov'ring there, I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
 My eager craft through footless halls of air.
 Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue I've topped the
 Windswept heights with easy grace
 Where never lark, or even eagle flew.
 And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod
 The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
 Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.*

As a testament to Dave's ministry in recent times, even when he could not move around nor speak very well, he was still a witness to Christ by making sure that everyone that visited him had a little aluminum cross to carry to remind them of Jesus' Gift of Salvation. His service to his country, his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and his congregations have surely earned him a place at the Heavenly Table of God and he will be sorely missed. To end with two of Dave's phrases would be fitting for everyone to remember: "Praise the Lord" and "Let go and Let God." —*Andrew Snead*

2005 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

John LeRoy Young Jr., 1933 - 2004

The Rev. John LeRoy Young, Jr., was born Feb. 3, 1933, in Hickory, N.C., the son of John L. Young Sr. and Lelia May Cox. He attended Ferrum College and graduated from Lynchburg College in 1955. He then completed his seminary training at Duke Divinity School. He was married to Annette Elizabeth Agee of Stuart, Va. LeRoy and Annette had two sons together, both of whom died at an early age from a genetic disorder. They later helped to raise four teenage young women who needed loving intervention. LeRoy and Annette called them their daughters and loved them so very much.



LeRoy served the following United Methodist churches: Bethlehem, Pleasant Hill, Southview, Springfield, St. Mark's (Manassas), Fairfax, Pender, Stratford Hills, Central (Arlington), Graham Road, Oakton, and Granbery Memorial. While serving in Northern Virginia for most of his ministerial time he was instrumental in helping to found the Wesley Housing Development Center in Arlington and Alexandria. LeRoy retired from Granbery Memorial Church in 1995, due to Annette's health concerns. They continued to return to Covington to visit often. During Annette's illness, friends from Granbery continued to stay in touch through phone calls and visits. Annette passed away Sept. 15, 1997.

On Nov. 27, 1999, LeRoy married Sarah Bostic, a member of Granbery, a widow since 1982. With this marriage he became the father of three sons, Gordon, Jon, and Tim Bostic; three daughters-in-law, Susan E., Ann, and Susan A.; a daughter and son-in-law, Rebecca and Wayne Perkins; five grandchildren, Rosalie, Jonathan, Katelyn, and Kyle Bostic and Benjamin Perkins. It was the perfect marriage for everyone—we were all a family again with a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather.

Moving back to Covington after his marriage to Sarah, LeRoy continued to serve Granbery and the Covington community. He was rehired by Granbery in 2000 as visitation minister. He later became the interim pastor at Granbery Memorial after the death of the Rev. Richard Miller. With Sarah's influence, he became involved with the Alleghany Highlands Habitat for Humanity Board, Total Action Against Poverty (TAP) Board of Commissioners in Covington and the TAP Board of Directors in Roanoke. He

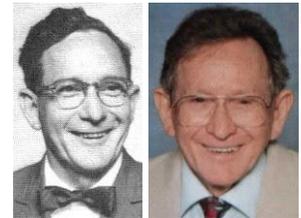
also filled the pulpit at other churches in the Alleghany Highlands when needed. LeRoy and Sarah spent much of their married life cruising and traveling by car.

In early March 2004, it was determined that LeRoy had developed pancreatic and kidney cancer. He passed away at his home in Covington on June 17, 2004. The Rev. Bob Chapman, a very dear friend, having learned of his illness at conference, left and came to be with LeRoy and was there at his death. The celebration of his life on June 20, Father's Day, could not have been more perfect with the wonderful words spoken by his two "adopted" sons, Michael Copeland, serving Granbery and Bob Chapman, whom he loved very much. The Rev. Paul Harris, also, participated in the service. The music by the Granbery Choir was heaven sent. His body was carried to the church and then to the cemetery by a newly restored horse-drawn hearse, last used in 1915, owned by the funeral home. His greatest gift was the love and compassion he shared with others—a wonderful man, loved and respected by so many.

His wife Sarah and her family all adored this man she called "John Le." He brought so much love and happiness into their lives and he felt the same about them. Our loss has been devastating, but we thank God for every moment of the brief time we had with him. —*Sarah B. Young*

James Turner Higgins, 1924 – 2004

My blessed relationship with Jim Higgins goes back to the late 1960s when we were appointed to our churches in the Lynchburg District. This was a wonderful beginning to a friendship that continued for more than 40 years. Jim and his beloved companion began their ministry in the Tennessee Conference at the Hartsville Circuit and his ministry in the Virginia Conference at Moneta in 1956. Jim's attitude was that every appointment was a "good appointment" and one within the will of God. In years to come he would serve the following churches: Bedford Springs, Forest-Shiloh, Hurt, Epworth (Thaxton), Kenwood, Cape Charles, Memorial (Richmond), Charity, Carmel-Coles Point, Parkview (Newport News) and retire in 1990. He was a hard, steady worker and left each church better than he found it. Jim was "at home" wherever he was asked to serve. His preaching was as his lifestyle: simple and direct, scriptural and relevant.



Jim had no pretensions, only fervent love of his people. Jim knew how to care for people: tireless in visiting; attentive to those with special needs and concerns. He had a great sense of humor; people wanted to speak with him, welcome him and respond to him. People felt that he had time to hear and give them his attention. What a wonderful gift! In addition to the local church, Jim also reached out to work with volunteer groups in his communities and to share in district and conference projects.

He loved the out-of-doors; he was a good camper. Joining him in his travels to circuits and churches was his dedicated wife Doris; and joining them would be their attractive children: David A. Higgins, Sharon Higgins Edwards, and Carol Higgins Wray. The blessings of their grandchildren came with Jordan Edwards, Lyndsey Edwards, Lauren Wray, Daniel Wray, Devin Higgins, and Bryan Higgins.

A Memorial Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving was held at Christ Church, Richmond, led by the pastor, the Rev. Lisa Sykes. We rejoice in Jim's life and we thank God for his ministry. —*Rev. William O. Webster*

Donald Eugene Croll, 1920 – 2004

Donald Eugene Croll was born in Topeka, Kansas, youngest of six children. He attended Topeka schools and was graduated from Topeka High School in 1938. He was baptized at age 8 in Kansas Avenue Methodist Church. Graduated during the Great Depression, he found it hard to get a job. Lacking education, he tried fruitlessly to begin a career at the local newspaper but had to settle for jobs as a soda jerk and magazine salesman.



He enlisted in the U.S. Army at the beginning of World War II and came to know a new life after he surrendered his heart to God at the urging of a young Army friend. At that time Don trusted God fully with his life and woke up to a “sun that had never shone brighter and a sky that had never seemed bluer.”

With aspirations of becoming a political writer, he began studying journalism with support from the GI Bill of Rights at the University of Kansas in 1945. But he began to feel called to ministry, and attended a Methodist summer work camp in 1948. How fitting that he and Charlotte, his wife of 54 years until his death July 9, 2004, began their life together by meeting there. It turned out to be more than a coincidence that Don had hoped to serve in Mexico and Charlotte had applied to New York City, but out of four work camps they were both assigned to the same one in Iowa.

Never one to shrink from what he knew to be right, Don asked Charlotte to marry him before they parted at the end of the seven-week camp. She declined, but they wrote each other every day, as he remained in Iowa to attend Simpson College and to serve as a student pastor there. He graduated in 1949 and continued his studies at Candler School of Theology at Emory University where he served as a student pastor during his final year. They were married in 1950.

Immediately after graduation he was appointed to West Mecklenburg Charge, then to West Mathews Charge, Bethany in Hampton, Trinity in Buchanan, Stonewall-Westview in Staunton, New Hope in Saluda, New Hope in Stafford, and Fairmount in Richmond.

After his retirement he accepted teaching tasks in Ginter Park United Methodist Church and taught “Sunday School on Tuesday” at The Hermitage Home and Eastern Star Home for Ladies, all in Richmond. For 20 years after retiring, he used five mornings a week to prepare these Bible lessons. He and Charlotte volunteered for two weeks each at Red Bird Mission during two summers and at United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) for two weeks one summer.

Their family life was as effectual as their ministry, and together they raised four children—Charles, Anita, Sarah Lynn and Marty—with integrity, teaching them to love each other and other people and to sacrifice short-term pleasure for the opportunity to serve God first.

They were taught to seek God’s plan for their lives. Don and Charlotte gave careful attention to their family, taking time to engage in a nightly worship atmosphere with Bible study and hymn singing. Yearly vacations were centered around discovery and new experiences, and spending time together as a family more than pursuit of simple entertainment. As the family matured, life was enriched by Anita’s marriage to Jim Landoll, Marty’s marriage to Jamie Dowdy, and the birth of five grandsons—Andrew Landoll and Luke, Christopher, Isaac, and Stephen Donald Croll.

Don’s gift as a preacher was rooted in the love for language that had initially caused him to pursue journalism as a career. His favorite part of ministry was writing sermons. Because of this he was an energetic and persuasive speaker. Having prepared thoroughly, he would step into the pulpit with assurance and authority and proceed to preach his heart out with genuine and authentic passion. Once he chose to portray Andrew in a Last Supper re-enactment, saying he identified with this disciple because “Andrew was always bringing people to Jesus, and that’s what I like to do—bring people to Jesus.” So in his churches, in his sermons, and in his lessons for more than 50 years he brought people to Jesus.

Well-read in current affairs and a prolific writer outside of the pulpit, his particular joy and avocation was writing religious and political comments through advocacy pieces about family life values, spiritual realities, and conservative politics. He was included in *Who’s Who in the Methodist Church*, Abingdon Press, in 1966.

He lived for his God by “trusting and obeying” for 84 years as a husband, father, and grandfather. Don provided a meaningful ministry to his church, family, and the world around him. Those of us who knew him have a reason to thank God for His goodness as shown by His servant Don. —*The Don Croll Family*

Rudolph Benesh, 1919 – 2004

Rudolph Benesh, better known as “Rudy” was blessed by a life full of love, faith, service and adventure. Born in Wittingau, (Trebou) Czechoslovakia, he had a shared heritage between a Czech father, Ladislav Benes, and a Hungarian mother, Elizabeth Szabo Benes. As many of his generation, WWII had a profound effect on his life, including his service in the Czech National Guard and later the befriending by members of the 16th Armored Division of the United States Army when they liberated Pilzen at the end of the war. Educated at Charles University and Jan Hus Seminary, it was meeting Bishop Paul Garber and receiving a Crusade for Christ scholarship to Southern Methodist University (SMU) that was a turning point in his life. From SMU to Perkins School of Theology, Rudy became ordained as a Methodist minister (and a naturalized citizen), and served Old Mystic and Moodus Methodist churches in Connecticut. His love of education and years of student work brought him to the Wesley Foundation at The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va., where he married Doris Bryan. Doris and Rudy had two daughters, Rosemary and Patricia.



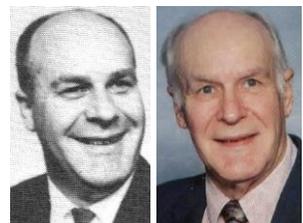
After a brief period of teaching at North Carolina Wesleyan College, while serving churches in Bunn and Henderson, North Carolina, Rudy and Doris answered the call to enter the mission field. Fluent in Czech, Hungarian, German, and English, Rudy was the perfect person to serve a Czech-Austrian Methodist congregation in Vienna, Austria, from 1966-1971. The Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 resulted in a detour from normal congregation duties when the Methodist church worked with “Servitas” and other denominations to house approximately 1,000 refugees escaping communism and provide them with assistance in relocation around the world. It truly was a blessing to be in the right place at the right time.

Returning to the United States after five years in Vienna, he brought the family back to the North Carolina Conference and a very rural setting of the Bladen County Charge. (Rudy’s ability to target shoot a rifle to win the turkey shoot served to amaze the local farmers who had never encountered someone quite like him.) The associate pastor position at Washington Street United Methodist Church (Petersburg) enabled the family to return to Virginia. Hopewell/Centenary United Methodist Churches in Chesterfield, New Hope United Methodist Church in New Hope, Va., and finally Mt. Vernon/Tabernacle United Methodist Churches in Toano/Barhamsville each found Rudy focusing on children and the importance of religious education, service to persons with mental illness (taking students to Eastern, Central, and Western State hospitals) and all the other pastoral duties. At each location, Doris left her mark too in the UMC with her hospitality at the parsonage and beautiful gardens, not to mention the inspiration of her vast abilities, despite partial paralysis from polio.

Retirement in 1985 brought the family back full circle to Williamsburg where for the next 19 years love, life, and faith continued to surround them. In 2004, after numerous health challenges, Doris passed away in March and Rudy joined her in heaven in July. The loss of their parents did not mean the loss of the church family as Patty and Rosemary were blessed by the support and comfort of ministers: Kirk Mariner, Dave Rochford, David Hindman, Carlton and Robert Casey. May the spirit of Rudy and Doris, the warmth of their love and service to God live on in the many lives they also touched throughout their ministry. —*Patty Benesh*

John Legrand Hoke, 1926 – 2004

We were married 54 years, and our Lord blessed us with two sons, one daughter, four grandsons, one granddaughter, two great-granddaughters, and two great-grandsons (the latest born March 1, this year). John received his call to the ministry while working as a shipping clerk for the Southern Bakery in Charlottesville, Va. When he awakened me at 2 a.m. with the question, “What



would you do if I told you that I wanted to be a Methodist minister?" I simply said, "What took you so long?" Then I pledged my support.

At the suggestion of the district superintendent, John served Gentry Methodist Church in Boonesville (outside of Charlottesville) for three years. In 1964, he was appointed to the West Mecklenburg Charge (consisting of four churches) in Chase City, Va. We were expecting our third child. John also began college and seminary in preparation for full-time ministry, completing his education in 10 years.

Other appointments included: four years at the Pamplin Charge of four churches; four years at Andrew Chapel and Edgewater in Montross, Va.; Dayton Methodist Church in Dayton, Va., where he was instrumental in completing the merger of the Methodist and Brethren churches (five years); seven years with South Covington United Methodist Church in Covington, Va. (our hometown). Alleghany United Methodist Church was a part of this appointment for several years before South Covington became a station church.

As John approached age 65, he looked toward retirement. After serving Oxford United Methodist Church in Suffolk, Va., for three years, he retired in 1991, completing 29 years of ministry in the Methodist Church. Following retirement John served as a visitation minister for three churches successively in the Norfolk District where we lived in clergy housing for eight years, returning to the Shenandoah Valley in 1999 to live out our remaining days. We chose Dayton United Methodist Church as our "home" church where my membership remains. —*Helen G. Hoke*

Robert Edward Wolff, 1932 – 2004

Robert E. "Bob" Wolff was born May 9, 1932, in Atlanta, Ga., and was the youngest of 11 children. Bob passed away unexpectedly Oct. 28, 2004, in Villa Rica, Ga., where he recently had moved. Survivors include his wife of 45 years, Doris Estep Wolff of Villa Rica; two sisters, Virginia Tunison and Beverly Dwiggin. Bob served in the United States Navy and received degrees from Georgia Tech and Candler School of Theology at Emory University. While at Emory he worked as Associate Chaplain at Emory Hospital and was the founding pastor of Embrey Hills United Methodist Church near Atlanta. After graduating from Emory, he did not serve an appointment for several years while pursuing other business experiences.



Bob had wide experience in the ministry and the business world. He worked for The Dept. of the Army, Corps of Engineers and the Office of the Secretary of Defense at the Pentagon. He served as pastor of St. Matthias, Fredericksburg; then as Program Coordinator, Alexandria District. He then went on to serve Zion-Grace, Norfolk; Pleasant Valley, Chantilly; and Evangelical in Elkton.

Upon Bob's retirement in 1994, he and Doris returned to Hartwood (Fredericksburg) Va., to live in their log cabin they built on 32 acres in the middle of the woods, to fish in their pond, to garden, play golf, read and travel. He was an avid fan of the Washington Redskins, Atlanta Braves, and, of course, Georgia Tech. During his retirement, Bob served Grace UMC (Hartwood) following the death of John Esaias. In 2004, Bob and Doris finally returned to their native Georgia to be near family.

I remember Bob's energy, enthusiasm, and sense of humor were such an inspiration to all who were fortunate to have him as their pastor and friend. I feel blessed that he was part of mine. Bob never met a stranger. Bob's favorite Scripture was 1 Cor. 13:4, 7-8 and his favorite poem was "The House By the Side of the Road" by Sam Walter Foss. —*Doris Wolff*

Amos Lloyd Laine, 1905 – 2004

“God graced Amos with many years and Amos graced the years that he was given,” wrote a nephew of the Rev. Amos Lloyd Laine. Such was the legacy of a simple country boy who submitted his life to the Lord. Born outside Wakefield, in Southside Virginia, Aug. 28, 1905, he was one of 12 children who grew up living off the land. This rural heritage helped instill in Amos a love of nature. He knew numerous birds by marking and call and got a thrill at mimicking calls and receiving a response. He loved to fish and listen to others’ fishing tales. His vegetable garden over the years provided tomatoes, beans, cucumbers, and other bounty from God’s earth. As a boy, he walked three miles each way to school daily, eventually taking a job as a teenage school bus driver. He never complained of the walk, choosing to remember the journey through the fields and woods as a blessing.



Converted at an early age, his faith legacy stretched back to Bishop Francis Asbury who, in late 1775, preached the funeral service of Amos’ great-great-grandfather, Joseph Lane. That celebration was held in Lane’s Chapel, near Amos’ birthplace. Because of their Christian faith, his family often shared their log home and table with others just for a meal or for weeks, if needed.

An older brother invited him to town where he completed high school and was on the track team. Not knowing what he was to do next, he worked as a house painter, barber, and postal clerk. Three sisters with whom he boarded saw in him a potential and following prayer meetings in their home, believed, along with Amos, that he had a genuine calling from the Lord. They secured funds from family and friends so that Amos could have one year at Asbury College in Wilmore, Ky. Amos flourished there, doing well academically. He worked the breakfast shift in the dining hall making biscuits by the hundreds. Over the decades, his “specialty” was biscuits, always made from scratch, without recipe, by carefully kneading the dough with his expressive hands.

He graduated in 1931, then attended Asbury Seminary completing his degree in 1933. Summers and following seminary, Amos was on a traveling evangelism team in the deep South, helping set up the huge tent and leading the singing. Evangelism continued to “warm his heart” and he never lost that basic element in his subsequent ministry. In 1935, he married Mary Lee of Dunn, N.C., who died in 1961.

He joined the Virginia Conference in 1932, beginning his pastoral work at Kenwood in 1934. He went on to serve Trinity, Richmond; Fairview, Danville; Caroline; Cumberland; Boydton; Prospect; Schoolfield; Drivers-Magnolia; St. James, Richmond; Bethany (Reedville); East Hampton; and High Street, Petersburg. He retired in 1971 with 39.75 years of service. In retirement, he served one year at Tabernacle, Norfolk, and 23 years in the North Carolina Conference at Leslie in Dunn, for a total of nearly 64 years of service.

He passed away Oct. 30, 2004, following a week of procedures and surgeries, just two months past his 99th birthday. At his death, he was the first on the conference’s Roll of Elders in Full Connection. The week prior to his death, he was still driving, shopping, walking daily, enjoying nature, cooking, attending worship, and participating in a Bible study. His service was held at Leslie UMC, Dunn, N.C., on Nov. 2 with his son, Amos Lee Laine, as piano accompanist, and led by his son-in-law, the Rev. Donald H. Seely. Burial was at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Richmond.

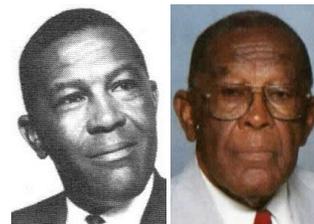
Very talented musically, Amos played the violin, guitar, autoharp, and harmonica, all to God’s glory. He had perfect pitch, could carry a lovely tune, and harmonized in parts. In retirement he took art lessons, painting scenes and still life to express the beauty of God’s world. He loved people, especially his family. Amos never met a stranger. Each occasion was an opportunity to share faith, an inspirational word, or a poem. It was his lifelong joy to be God’s messenger. Above all, Amos was a gentle man—in faith, personality, demeanor, and relationships. His favorite Scripture was Romans 8:28, “And we know

that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” What strength from that faith shone throughout his life.

He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Emma Lee Laine; a son, Dr. Amos Lee Laine of Hampden-Sydney College, Va.; a daughter, Julianna L. Seely, Dunn, N.C.; five grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; a 95-year-old sister, Mrs. Elva L. Magee; and a 91-year-old brother, the Rev. A. Woodrow Laine. —*Dr. Amos Lee Laine, Julianna L. Seely, and Rev. Donald H. Seely*

Godfrey L. Tate Jr., 1919 – 2004

Godfrey L. Tate Jr. was born in 1919, the eldest child of Godfrey L. Tate Sr. and Carrie E. Tate of Staunton, Va. His father was an ordained minister of the Methodist Church who served churches in the Washington Annual Conference. His paternal grandfather, Stuart, as well as two of his father’s brothers, Coleman and Luther, served as local preachers in Staunton’s Augusta Street Methodist Church. Godfrey received his education for the ministry at two Methodist institutions of higher learning in Atlanta—Clark College (now Clark/Atlanta University) and Gammon Theological Seminary (now Interdenominational Seminary). While a graduate student, he taught classes at Clark in the Department of Religion and Philosophy.



His service to the Methodist Church included several parishes in West Virginia and Virginia, where he was superintendent of the Ashland District and served on the administrative staff of the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church. He served as a delegate to several Jurisdictional and General conferences. The library of the Franconia United Methodist Church bears his name in remembrance of his pastoral service there.

He is survived by his wife, Margo, and three brothers, Oliver and Samuel of Staunton, both lifetime members of Augusta Street United Methodist Church, and George, a retired clergy member of the Northern Illinois Conference, who lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico. As we memorialize today our brothers and sisters who have completed their earthly journeys, may we follow them in the hope that we, too, may “lay down our burdens—down by the riverside, and study war no more.” —*Dr. George A. Tate*

Eugene Sowder, 1913 – 2004

The Rev. Eugene Sowder died Nov. 26, 2004, at his residence in Christiansburg. He was born Oct. 12, 1913, in Patrick County, Va. Eugene was an alumnus of Emory & Henry College, a college he deeply loved, and was ordained into the ministry of the Methodist Church on Oct. 12, 1952, in Norfolk, Va. He served the following churches in Virginia throughout his ministry: Bethany, Cloverdale; Cambria; Montgomery Parish; Newport; Gordonsville; Wachapreague; Woodlawn in Roanoke; Hickory; Wright Memorial; Grace in Danville; Union in South Boston; Powhatan; Pembroke, and Floyd Parish. He retired in 1978. In retirement, he served Mt. Elbert-Wesley Memorial and Lawrence Memorial, both in the Roanoke District.



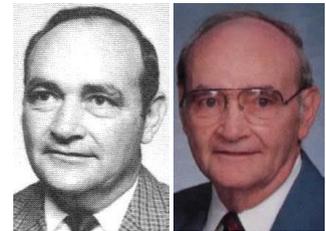
Over the past decade, Eugene spoke on many occasions and for many different circumstances in the Virginia Conference. He attended St. Paul United Methodist Church in Christiansburg since his retirement, served occasionally as minister of visitation in the middle 1980s and participated in the “Joy Singers” senior citizens choir to nursing homes. He was deeply interested in history, especially as it was integrated into the Christian life and faith. Always an avid student of the Bible and church history, he continued in midweek Bible studies at St. Paul UMC, occasionally serving as the leader.

His hobbies included gardening and horticulture, where he devoted countless loving hours to two homes in Christiansburg, one with his beloved wife, Helen, and one in which he had previously lived before their marriage in 1987. His interests involved board membership at Warm Hearth, president of AARP (where he taught driving to senior citizens), volunteering under his wife Helen's leadership in "The Social Club," an extension of the Mental Health Association.

He is survived by his wife, Helen, and a son, Jim Sowder, of his first marriage to Annie Mae, now deceased. Also surviving are grandsons Brett A. Sowder, Loyd E. Sowder, and James Adam Sowder and one granddaughter, Aimee B.E. Sowder; great-grandchildren, Jarrett Alan Sowder, Anthony James Willard, Jacob McKinley Willard, and Samantha Elaine Sowder. The funeral was at St. Paul UMC in Christiansburg, conducted by the Rev. Chuck McHose and the Rev. David Goodpasture. He will be greatly missed by his family, friends, neighbors, and church, but now rests securely in the hands of God. —*Edited from Roanoke Times obituary, submitted by Helen Sowder*

John Alexander Burnley, 1921 – 2004

On Nov. 30, 2004, John Alexander Burnley died at 8:45 p.m. in the West Port Convalescent Center, located at 7300 Forest Avenue in Richmond, with family members surrounding him. His death came on the date of his birth in 1921. He was born in Buckingham County, but spent his earlier days in Appomattox and Lynchburg. During his earlier days, his faith was greatly influenced by his mother and maternal grandmother.



While attending a tent revival meeting on 12th Street in Old City Stadium in Lynchburg, John was converted. Through his conversion, John left Louise (his wife for 61 years) and two of their daughters at home in order to attend Ferrum High School, graduating in 1950. In 1952, he graduated from Ferrum Junior College and transferred to Lynchburg College where he graduated with a B.A. degree in 1954. He was ordained a deacon in 1956 and an elder in 1960.

John's ministry began in 1952 in the Lynchburg District at Southview and continued even beyond his retirement in 1987 as he served Garys in the Petersburg District for seven years. In reviewing John's appointments, one discovers that John stayed four years or more. While many of his appointments were for four years (which was expected of a pastor during that time of his ministry), there were two exceptions. They were Franktown-Johnsons on the Eastern Shore where he served for five years, and Garys in retirement. His appointments included: Southview, Middle Bedford, Mineral, Capeville, Onley, Bethel-St. Matthew, Franktown- Johnsons, Hillcrest, Ebenezer in the Rappahannock District, Highland Springs, and Garys. He was a true itinerate minister as he served on six districts.

John, at the age of 27, went to Ferrum High School. Prior to responding to his call, John and Louise were married on Oct. 16, 1943, in Madison Heights, Va., by the Rev. Ernest K. Emurian. They were blessed with four daughters, 11 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. The daughters are Sandra B. Green, Mary Lou Dickens, Susan B. Parker, and Cynthia B. Trower.

The family remembers John as a quiet, strong, gifted individual. John was athletic, competitive and had a desire for others to come to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. He was a gifted horseshoe player, fisherman, bowler, and woodworker. There are many trophies and other awards that acknowledge his love in these areas. In his latter days, he won an award in the Virginia Golden Olympics playing horseshoes.

Upon hearing of John's death, the Rev. James W. Ward, who retired as an active minister from the annual conference last year, commented, "I have been a minister because of John's relationship with me."

His funeral service was held in Bliley's Funeral Home on Hull Street in Richmond at 10 a.m., Friday, Dec. 3, 2004, with Dr. John B. Peters and the Rev. Wm. Anthony Layman, superintendent of the

Petersburg District, officiating. Following the service at Bliley's, the Rev. Joseph T. Carson III officiated at the internment in Fort Hill Cemetery in Lynchburg, Va.

Out of John's call in the ordained ministry, his life was refocused so that he spent the rest of his life centering himself in offering others the good news in Jesus Christ. As a faithful, loyal, and growing disciple of his Lord, with an ever present smile, John lived in Christ, died in Christ, and was at peace.
—*Rev. Wm. Anthony Layman, District Superintendent*

Gordon Rush Atkeison, 1916 – 2004

Gordon was born and raised in Mobile, Alabama, where he was an active member of, and subsequently ordained in, St. Francis Street United Methodist Church. After graduating from Birmingham Southern College, Gordon traveled around the United States working as an actor, newspaper journalist, radio personality, and high school English teacher. After returning to Mobile, he was employed by the GM&O Railroad. Gordon married Leo Wise in 1943, and they moved to Durham, N.C., so Gordon could attend Duke University Theological Seminary—the first of many moves! Following is a brief summary of his long career: 1944, Clover, Va.; 1946, Spotsylvania, Va.; 1949, Grove Hill, Ala.; 1951, Century, Fla.; 1952, Ala./West Fla., Conference-wide Evangelist; 1953, Castleberry, Ala.; 1954, Hurtsboro, Ala.; and 1955, Brundidge, Ala. During the 1950s, Gordon also spent time each year preaching in Cuba, Guatemala, and Costa Rica; 1956, Marion Ind., to work with World Gospel Missions; 1958, Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico, and Dallas, Tex. (left WGM due to ill health); 1959, Madison, Va.; 1960, Batesville, Va.; 1964, Melfa, Va.; 1966, Dry Fork, Va.; 1967, Emmerton, Va.; 1969, Retired; 1970, became funeral director in Arlington; 1982, and retired & moved to Atmore, Ala. Gordon subsequently served as a “substitute preacher” in south Alabama and north Florida, then accepted appointments to serve full-time in Lottie, Perdido, and Bay Minette, Ala. Only during his last few years was Gordon actually retired.

This list is impressive, but in no way does it begin to illustrate what an adventure it was to share Gordon's life! He loved music and shared his musical talents generously until the last couple of years. He was a scholar and loved words—their sounds, their meanings, and the stories they could tell. His sense of humor still has us laughing, and he passed on his expertise in puns to his children and grandchildren.

Gordon is survived by his wife, Leo, and daughter Sarah Atkeison, in Atmore, Ala.; his son Bill (and wife Kathy) in Mobile, Ala.; his son John, in Wilmington, Del.; granddaughters Billie (& Stacy) Dooms in Richmond, Va., and Jessica (& Clint) Woods in Albuquerque, N.M.; and three great-grandchildren. We miss him! —*Sarah Atkeison*

William B. Day, Jr., 1935 – 2005

Bill was born in Cherrydale, Arlington Co., on his mother's birthday to William B. Sr. and Ruth Yates Day. He had an older sister, Virginia, and two younger brothers, Samuel and Dwight. Cherrydale Church was a very important part of life for the Day family. On April 2, 1955, he married his high school sweetheart, Margie Elliott, at Clarendon Church. Dr. James L. Robertson performed the ceremony. Their daughter Kathryn Ruth was born Nov. 2, 1978.



Bill was a sports enthusiast. He lettered in baseball as the starting first baseman at American University all four years. He played softball in several leagues and was known for being a long hitter. Golf was his passion. Music was an important part of Bill's life. He played the piano and filled in when an organist was not available. He was remembered for his singing—whether as the minister leading the congregation, joining with the choir, or as a soloist.

When Bill entered on trial (probation), he was sponsored both by Cherrydale and Clarendon churches. In 1957 he graduated from American University with a B.A., and in 1960 he was awarded a Master of Divinity from Duke University. In June 1960, his first appointment was as associate pastor, under Dr. John W. Myers, at Washington Street Church in Alexandria. Many friendships were made there.

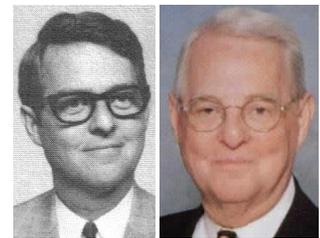
A big challenge was given to him in June 1963. He was sent to a vacant lot in Manassas. The church extension group had named the congregation-to-be St. Thomas Church. Bill immediately canvassed the community, making a list of names and religious preference of every resident in the community and inviting people to worship at a nearby school. The first worship service was held at Yorkshire School on Sept. 15, 1963. Typical of his ministry, he passed on names and addresses to ministers of other denominations, etc., if there was a preference other than Methodist. On Nov. 3, 1963, Charter Sunday, Bill received 98 members, the largest charter membership of a mission church up to that time.

While at St. Thomas, he organized interdenominational services for the community. The parsonage was the site of several Living Nativities and Easter Sunrise Services. In 1966 he received a Certificate in Church Management from American University. On his last Sunday at St. Thomas, the congregation moved into its first building. After a year's sabbatical, Bill was appointed to Burke Church in 1969. At that time Burke, which is located in Fairfax County, was a small community. The congregation was strong in its search for an ongoing knowledge of God. His next appointment was in 1975 to the newly formed Fauquier Charge, which was made up of Wesleyan, in Calverton, and Midland churches. They are lovely country churches with families who have been part of the churches' families for generations as well as people who have moved to the area. The members of these congregations truly love their churches. In 2000, each church became an individual appointment. Bill continued to serve as pastor to the Wesleyan congregation, even after his retirement, until his death. —*Margie Day*

Frederick Douglas Dillard, Jr., 1932 – 2005

“Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith” (Heb. 13:7).

Many who knew Frederick Douglas Dillard, Jr., as pastor, colleague, mentor, and friend wanted to mirror his kind of faith. He was a Christian who ran with perseverance the race that was set before him, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of his faith. Doug died Feb. 15, 2005, at the age of 72, following a courageous battle with the complications of diabetes and heart disease. He is survived by his wife, Marion, and two sons, David, and Douglas III.



Doug's distinguished ministry with the Virginia Conference spanned more than 40 years. Born on Oct. 3, 1932, Doug grew up in West End Church in the Roanoke District, continued his religious training at Oberlin College Graduate School of Theology and Wesley Theological Seminary (summa cum laude, 1958), and went on to pastor local churches across the conference. His first church was Mountain View Charge followed by associate at Greene Memorial (both in the Roanoke District), Immanuel, and senior pastor at Fairfax. He then served as Norfolk District superintendent, senior pastor at Trinity (Richmond), and then as Alexandria District superintendent. Doug also served as Virginia Conference Council Director from 1997 until his retirement in 2000. Following retirement, he returned to Trinity as the minister of congregational care.

At his official retirement celebration in June of 2000, I was asked to offer words of appreciation and wondered how to distill the essence of who Doug was into a fitting description. I decided that what Doug taught so many of his friends, parishioners, and colleagues might be summed up in a version of “Life's Little Instruction Book According to Doug.” And with his transition to the great cloud of witnesses, those reflections again seem a fitting testimony to his character, humor, gentle spirit and, above all, his faith:

- Have a firm handshake and look people in the eye.
- Be a good listener.
- Ponder things in your heart, rather than never having an unexpressed thought.
- Commit the great hymns to memory, and not just the first verse; that way you can stand and sway to the music with ease.
- Learn to play the piano beautifully.
- Be the first to say, “hello.”
- Wear polished shoes and pressed suits.
- Demonstrate the finest hospitality you can offer to friend and foe alike.
- Keep confidences.
- Be kinder than necessary.
- Use your wit to amuse, not to abuse.
- Craft sermons that stir the heart and mind of your listeners until they know God.
- Hang a Moravian star and send out cards at Epiphany.
- Choose your life’s mate carefully, for this one decision will bring much of your happiness.
- Be awestruck by anything with wings...be they angels, stained glass birds, or high-flying planes.
- Never deprive someone of hope; it might be all they have.
- Think big thoughts, but relish small pleasures.
- Practice deep belly laughs, as they’re good for the soul.
- Maintain focus when everybody around you is fragmented.
- Use your intellect to focus on solutions rather than problems.
- Practice humility in every gesture, big and small.
- Pray not for things, but for wisdom and courage.
- Hum “Fairest Lord Jesus” when life gets tough.
- Resist telling people how something needs to be done; instead tell them what needs to be done as they will often surprise you with creative solutions.
- Live so that when your children think of fairness, caring, and integrity, they think of you.
- Serve your neighbor, your church, and your God without reservation.
- And finally...live your life in such a way that others will see Christ in you.

Thank you, Doug, for living out all these things in our midst. We are more fully-formed children of God because you have made your journey among us. —*Carole H. Vaughn*

John Zelna Brandon, 1928 – 2005

On March 11, 1928, in Paducah, Kentucky, Dychus Gilbert Brandon and his wife, Juanita Farley Brandon, were presented with a son named John Zelna Brandon. John was the third child. In his early days his family moved to Michigan. After living in Michigan for a period of time, John and his brother helped their parents return to Kentucky, while John was on leave from the Merchant Marines and between ships in 1947.



During a trip to Kentucky where his parents returned to live, he went to church with a brother. There he pointed to Tennie Marie Chandler who was singing in the choir and told his brother that she would become his wife. He told the writer of this memoir that she was the one who called him into the ministry. They married on Christmas Eve, 1947. During their 57 years of marriage they were blessed with two daughters; Tennie Marie Home of Enterprise, Alabama, and Mary Alice Maitland of Bracey, Virginia.

John was a man of diverse talents, he was widely known in Southside Virginia as a photographer who did weddings, social events, and occasionally assignments from the state police. His work also appeared in the *Richmond News Leader* and the *Richmond Times Dispatch*,

As he moved from the Merchant Marines into college life, he took the Veterans Achievement Test and was number one in the results! This meant that he qualified and was given one year of college credit

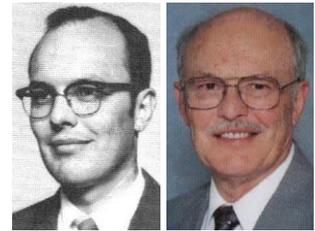
by Lambuth College, Jackson, Tennessee. During his studies, he decided to get married. Therefore, he did not graduate from Lambuth College because he took his first appointment as a pastor in 1953 in order to provide for his wife, Tennie. Following his marriage and appointment, John enrolled in the Course of Study School at Duke Divinity School where he graduated five years later from the required studies.

John preached for 51 years before he re-retired in June 2004. His years of service began in the Memphis Conference with Holladay, and he went on to serve North Lexington, Humboldt, Oak Grove, and Beech Bluff before transferring to the Virginia Conference in October 1953. His appointments in the Virginia Conference included Callaghan, Alleghany-Dameron, Mecklenburg, Mountain View in Vinton, Mountain View in Roanoke, Woods-Wesley Chapel, Woods, Melrose in the Rappahannock District, Aldersgate in the Norfolk District, and in retirement, Trinity in South Hill. John's appointments were within five districts from Staunton to Norfolk. Prior to his death, it was made clear that he lived to preach, he did not preach to live.

A memorial service was held on Sunday, Feb. 27, 2005, at 2 p.m. at LaCrosse UMC in LaCrosse, Va., with his district superintendent, the Rev. Wm. Anthony Layman, and host pastor, the Rev. James H. Fry III, officiating. Two lay people also contributed during the service. They were Dr. Bill Chandler of Texas, his brother-in-law, and Mr. Ramon Minx of South Hill, a very close friend. John's body was cremated and the service of committal was private. —*Rev. Wm. Anthony Layman, District Superintendent*

Jack Hall Pettyjohn, 1934 – 2005

All baptized Christians are called to be ministers. But some hear and heed the words of Jesus Christ more than others: "Inasmuch as you did it unto the least of these, you have done it unto Me." Such a person was Jack Hall Pettyjohn. Born in Southwest Virginia, Jack grew up in Portsmouth and was active in Monumental Methodist Church. His educational journey took him to Randolph-Macon College, Emory School of Theology, Hartford Seminary, and James Madison University. He was involved in Clinical Pastoral Education at Hartford Hospital and the Medical College of Virginia. He served in educational ministries at the following churches: Park Place, Norfolk; Centenary, Lynchburg; Highland Park and Centenary, Richmond; and Central, Staunton. He pastored churches in the Winchester, Harrisonburg, and Staunton Districts, including three predominantly African-American congregations. For 13 years, Jack was a school psychologist in the Augusta County School System.



Jack saw his ministry in the "Tentmaker" model of the Apostle Paul, and he always found ways to weave together his work as a pastor and psychologist. He was a founder of the Rockingham Memorial Hospital Chaplaincy Program, the Valley Pastoral Counseling, and the Community Mediation Center of Staunton. Concerned about inmates coming out of prisons and jails, he devoted his time to this neglected population, especially juvenile offenders. He started the Valley Transition Center and Ex-Offender Rehabilitation Program, in addition to serving on a Restorative Justice Panel. He was a volunteer group leader and counselor at Augusta County Jail for 14 years. Jack received many tributes and honors in the mental health and restorative justice fields.

Jack Hall Pettyjohn left this life on Feb. 20, 2005, and is survived by his wife, Christine Snyder Pettyjohn; daughter, Sharon; son, Daniel and his wife, Kathy, and their two sons, David and Ryan. Jack Pettyjohn was faithful to the Lord he followed all his life. He paid attention to Jesus' declaration as to why He had come: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because [God] has anointed Me to bring good news to the poor, ... to let the oppressed go free...." (Luke 4:18)

It was in his ministry to the marginalized and imprisoned that Jack found the calling that was central. It was in working on behalf of prisoners and ex-offenders that he discovered a passion. While some others of his colleagues were intent on climbing the ecclesiastical corporate ladder, Jack was content to try to bend the small bit of history given him. He had understood well the words of Christ, “I was a stranger and you welcomed Me, ...I was a prisoner and you visited Me.” And now he has also heard the invitation of King Jesus, “Come, you that are blessed by My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” —*Christine Pettyjohn and Rev. Dick Faris*

Thomas Alton Wildman, 1915 – 2005

Born May 6, 1915, Thomas Alton Wildman was number five of 10 children born in a proverbial coal mining “Company” town, Gilmer, West Va., into a stereotypically poor family, led by the quintessential hard-drinking, 40-year miner. After only seven years of schooling and the absence of a harmonious family atmosphere, young Tom followed his relatives and friends into the mines—the only work available. Few places in the country suffered more than the West Virginia coal belt during the Depression, and Tom was far from immune to the diversions of young men in such circumstances. He eventually escaped this underground existence, but took with him lungs forever damaged by breathing 20 years of coal dust.



In 1938, Tom married a girl in the next “holler,” Cymantha Sanders. Old man Sanders was not impressed with Tom’s reputation. But they moved to Fairmont, found more mine work, and began raising, eventually, six children born between 1939 and 1948. Working in a critical wartime industry, Tom could have ignored his draft call, but patriotic fever induced him to enlist in the Navy. He became a qualified machinist-mechanic, but wound up in the hospital for four months toward the end of the war and returned to coal mining.

Having mellowed considerably by both wartime and domestic experiences, Tom helped local congregations take care of their youth and eventually stood in as an evangelical speaker for remote churches in the mountain gullies where no “flatlander” preacher cared to serve. In 1948, Thomas asked the local Methodist district superintendent for certification but was rejected as “insufficiently educated”—zeal and personal reformation notwithstanding.

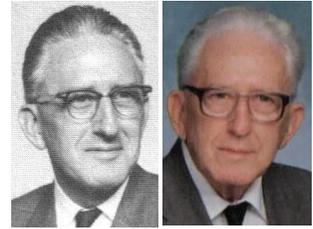
Continuing to serve without fanfare in the early 1950s, Tom drew the attention of more enlightened clergy. One, Rev. Wicke, became a bishop in Pennsylvania, and encouraged Tom to go to college. By 1962, Tom had obtained an associate degree from Fairmont State College, and a Bachelor of Divinity in social theology from Pittsburgh Presbyterian Seminary. As a “mature” student of the school of hard knocks, Tom had an innate capacity to speak with genuine conviction. He won the homiletics prize every year and became a father figure to many younger seminary students—much cherished memories today.

Bishop Wicke provided supply appointments during Rev. Wildman’s studies and a full appointment to Ulysses, Pa., when his native West Virginia could not offer a suitable charge. Virginia offered future appointments: Winchester, Covington, Martinsville, and Catlett. Never one to be idle, Rev. Wildman pursued his love of the outdoors in every post, and taught Industrial Arts at Fauquier High School to make ends meet. Long since diagnosed with black lung disease, he decided to retire for good in 1980 when regular preaching became possible only with medication.

Thomas’ beloved and very supportive Cymantha died in 1988. But through the miracle of modern medicine and a strong faith, he regained enough strength to continue camping—Canadian and even Alaskan trips whenever the mood struck him. His sage advice for personal relations: never put others down, praise when appropriate, advise when necessary. Youth may not always listen but will respond if shown interest. —*Interviewed 8/19/96, Loaves & Fishes*

Joseph Franklin White, 1916 – 2005

The Rev. Joseph Franklin White, longtime resident of Richmond, died April 18, 2005, in Chesapeake, Va. He was born Jan. 27, 1916, in Mathews County, Va. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Virginia Dudley Hodnett White; one daughter, Dr. Rebecca Clark White Adams of Chesapeake, Va.; three grandsons, Joseph Clark Adams and wife Miranda of Fairfax, Va., Christian McGehee Adams and wife Heidi of Broomfield, Col., and Samuel Clay Adams of Durham, N.C. He is also survived by two great-granddaughters Delaney Morgan Adams of Fairfax and Sydney Grace Adams of Broomfield.



Mr. White graduated from Randolph-Macon College in 1939 and later received a master's degree from the University of Richmond. He began his career as a teacher, coach, and principal of Dan River High School in Pittsylvania County, Va. He became a minister and served the following positions in the Virginia United Methodist Conference: North Pittsylvania Charge, Brookneal Charge, Epworth Church in Thaxton, Pace Memorial Church in Richmond, Blacksburg Church, State Director of Campus Ministry; Executive Director of the Association of Educational Institutions; Superintendent of Eastern Shore District; Shady Grove UMC (Mechanicsville). He retired in 1983. —*Rebecca C. W. Adams*

Walter Melancthon Lockett, Jr., 1908 – 2005

Walter Lockett will not be present this annual conference to again give the opening prayer. On May 11, 2005, he transferred to the church triumphant after having attended 71 consecutive annual conferences. His number one place on the conference's chronological list of preachers now passes on. Walter Melancthon Lockett Jr. was born in Comanche, Oklahoma, on Aug. 19, 1908, the eldest of nine children of Walter M. and Susan Alberta Patty Lockett. Educated in the public schools of Comanche and Duncan, he received the B.A. degree from what is now the University of Central Oklahoma in 1928. As president of his college YMCA, he attended the Student Volunteer Movement convention in Detroit during the 1927 Christmas holidays. There he caught a vision of the world church from such outstanding leaders as John R. Mott, Robert E. Speer and Reinhold Niebuhr that helped prepare him for ministry.



After two years of teaching in Oklahoma, he entered Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, Illinois, in June 1930. Before the close of the summer quarter, he became convinced that he belonged in the ministry. After receiving the Master of Divinity degree in 1933, he became pastor of Community Church in Arlington, where he preached his first sermon on June 11, 1933. He continued to serve Community for the next 11 years.

On Oct. 6, 1933, he was admitted on trial (probation) in the old Baltimore Conference by Bishop W.F. McMurry. In 1935, he was received into full connection and ordained deacon by Bishop Edwin D. Mouzon. Bishop Arthur J. Moore ordained him elder on Oct. 10, 1937. In addition to Community Church, he served seven other churches: Larchmont, Norfolk (1944-49); Main Street, Danville (1949-52); Asbury Memorial, Harrisonburg (1952-57); First, Hopewell (1957-61); First, Martinsville (1961-65); Graham Road, Falls Church (1965-70); and Centenary, Lynchburg (1970-74). Following retirement on June 14, 1974, he became Director of Homebound Ministries for Greene Memorial Church, Roanoke, serving in that capacity for 25 years. In appreciation for his exceptional retirement ministry, Greene Memorial honored him by making him pastor emeritus.

His conference responsibilities included: District Missionary Secretary (1940-54); Conference Missionary Secretary (1954-61); Chairman, Salary Supplementation Committee, Conference Board of Missions (1961-68); Member of the Board of Pensions (1968-74); Trustee, Ferrum College (1958-65); President, Virginia Conference Fellowship (1973-77); Chairman, Committee on Memoirs (1976-80).

On Oct. 11, 1933, he married Helen Eleanor Booth of Oklahoma City. Two children were born of that union: Walter Gaylord Lockett, Seaford, Virginia, and Caroline Lockett Cherry, Wayne, Pennsylvania. There are four grandchildren. Helen died on May 4, 1968. On Dec. 7, 1969, he married Virginia Stone Henry whom he had known as district and Virginia Conference Director of Youth Work.

During their years of retirement, Walter and Virginia traveled in Europe, Africa, South America, China, and the South Pacific. They both shared a love for missions and a chief joy was to give slide programs on their travels in churches, mission study groups, and retirement homes.

Throughout his ministry Walter kept a balance among three principal areas of responsibility: preaching, pastoral visitation, and administration. He was concerned that the redeeming love of God, incarnate in Jesus Christ, help people to accept one another in spite of differences of race, culture, or nationality.

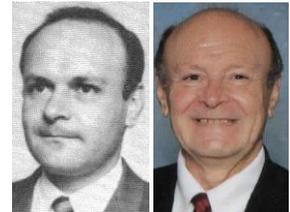
Walter was strong physically, mentally, and spiritually. He was a true follower of John Wesley and a model for the Christian disciplines characteristic of the noble tradition he so completely embraced: frugal and generous; absolute honesty and selfless; he brought a big heart and strong mind to the practice of ministry. His tremendous energy was only matched by his faithfulness all the way to the end of his 96 years.

His body was donated for medical education and scientific study. A memorial service was held at Greene Memorial Church on Sunday, May 29, 2005, with Michael Lyle, Thomas Joyce, Douglas Newman and Bernard Via officiating.

These verses by the Apostle Paul which he considered the most significant passage in the Bible, expressed his commitment and his assurance: “For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor power, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”—Romans 8:38-39 —*Rev. Walter M. Lockett, Jr., and Rev. Bernard S. Via, Jr.*

Gordon V. “Ben” Nelson, Jr., 1934 – 2005

Gordon V. “Ben” Nelson Jr. was born in a log cabin in Champs, Virginia, on Feb. 20, 1934, to Gay and Gordon Nelson Sr., the second of their five children. He grew up in McKinney, Virginia, and graduated from Sunnyside-McKinney High School. After a brief stint working with a state survey party, Ben responded to the call to ordained ministry by graduating from Randolph-Macon College and Duke Divinity School. In the years of his active ministry (1955-2000) Ben served at Powhatan, Fredericksburg, South Sussex, Winterpock, Highland (Colonial Heights), Highland Park (Richmond), campus minister at Virginia Commonwealth University, Basic, St. John’s-People’s, Aldersgate (Chesapeake), St. James and chaplain at Ferrum, Cherrydale, Culmore, St. Stephen’s (Alexandria), Park Place (Norfolk) and Mt. Vernon (Alexandria). On March 7, 1971, he and Alice Brown were married at a morning worship service at Highland Park, which included celebration of the Eucharist and Ben singing a solo to his bride. Their marriage produced four sons (Mark, Jonathan, David, and Lee) and many happy memories, including creative annual anniversary celebrations that took them to such places as San Francisco, Seattle, and Chicago (the last one a whirlwind one day trip).



I met Ben when he was in his early 30s and I was a teenager at Highland Park. I had never known a young preacher, and was impressed. He was easy to talk to, fun to be with, and had a sports car. He had time for teens. After Sunday evening worship, we went to his house to hang out. He counseled us on how to get approval from the official board for a dance in the church social hall. He played softball for the church and coached church basketball teams for the teens. He was interested in the arts, and gave leadership to the conference’s Creative Arts Workshops. He adapted literary works to the church stage,

including Dickens' "Christmas Carol," and his musical about the appointment process (which included his adaptation of "Matchmaker, Matchmaker, Make Me a Match").

Ben's creativity and commitments served the church well. He developed a summer-long Vacation Bible School program for the children of Highland Park UMC and the neighborhood in an effort to bring our new black neighbors into the church, and staffed it with college students. Later, Ben architecturally designed Aldersgate UMC in Chesapeake, something of which he was immensely proud. He was also proud of the fact that he was among the first clergy to serve a cross-racial appointment when he was the pastor of St. John's-People's Charge.

Ben broadened my understanding of what it meant to be a Christian. For example, in discussing the issue of creation and evolution, Ben taught our youth group how to understand the Bible critically, what it is communicating, and how it is interested in something different than simple scientific knowledge and facts. He confronted and held the church accountable about contemporary issues such as race or Vietnam, and did so in an encouraging and loving way. He did the same thing in countless conversations with this racist teen as he pressed and probed me about integration and civil rights for all; and God's grace changed me through his ministry and care.

Even when Ben was treated shabbily by the institution, he continued to serve Christ and love the church. He was among the first to decide he wanted to live with his family in his own home, and rarely fought back when he was punished for his commitment to that vision. Clergy with housing allowances today owe a debt to Ben and his commitment and sacrifice. He was a quiet warrior. Similarly, we have district chaplains and a process for helping clergy transition out of ministry in large part to Ben's compassion for folks whom others simply wished to dismiss.

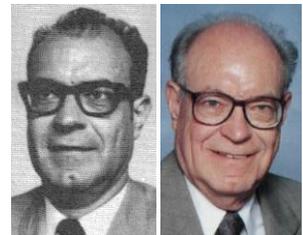
Ben's hand and influence continues in much of what I do in campus ministry today. The critical contemporary issues may have changed, but he taught me the church is where they should be discussed. He taught me to love God with all my mind, and that there was no issue or information that could shatter my faith. He exemplified humility for me (a lesson I still strive to learn), was gracious and kind, rarely losing his sense of humor or his temper, and embodied gentle greatness. He never drew attention to himself, but did good things for the right reasons.

Ben died early in the morning on May 16, 2005, in the company of his children and wife, and was welcomed into the strong embrace of the Risen Christ he served so well. Thanks be to God for his life, his ministry, and his faithful witness to the One who is our hope and peace and joy. —*Rev. David M. Hindman*

Harry T. Broome, 1922 – 2005

Harry Broome was born in Tarboro, North Carolina, on Sept. 8, 1922, and died in Williamsburg, Virginia, May 19, 2005. He graduated from high school in Washington, North Carolina, received an A.B. degree from Duke University in 1943 and a B.D. degree from Yale Divinity School in 1947. He was received on trial (probation) in the Virginia Conference and ordained deacon in 1947, ordained elder and received into full connection in 1949, dedicated his life to service in the ministry of The United Methodist Church and served the following appointments: Wallace Memorial Church in Fox Hill; Christ UMC, Norfolk; Wesley UMC, Vienna; Cradock UMC, Portsmouth; Lincolnia UMC, Alexandria; Park Place UMC, Norfolk; Dulin UMC, Falls Church; and Cameron UMC, Alexandria until his retirement in 1987. After retirement he served as assistant minister at Epworth and Larchmont United Methodist churches, Norfolk.

Harry served on the conference board of hospitals and homes and the conference Commission on Worship, and the Board of Church and Society.



Church members recall Harry's compassion for the poor, the sick, and the elderly. Also his willingness to stand for his convictions regardless of the costs, such as the time when, as president of the Portsmouth Ministerial Association, he led a march through the city in protest over the shooting of Martin Luther King Jr.

Harry had a broad concern for God's people across his world especially in support of two dear friends Marjorie and Dana Tyson's ministry in the Philippines. Harry participated in a pulpit exchange with a sister Methodist church in Seoul, Korea, and was touched and moved to bring his experience home and make real the connectedness of the United Methodists. Upon embarking on a new appointment, Harry would embrace each new community showing special kindness and caring friendships that would endure across the years.

Parishioners speak of his good sermons and unflinching devotion to our precious Savior. Countless times he had "been there" when needed; driving those with no means to the hospital to visit a relative, holding the hands of those coming to grips with the loss of a loved one, and bringing God so close to us all. Once, Harry came to see someone who told him he should not have come because they were not sick enough to warrant a visit from someone who had so many obligations, and Harry's response was, "sometimes I like to see someone who can cheer me up, too." They were thrilled he had come.

Other jobs praised by Harry's parishioners include Christmas tree lot setter-upper, tree unloader, chief waiter and bus boy at the mother-daughter banquet and church breakfasts, lead piano player and fill-in program guest at many monthly meetings—all qualifying references for membership in any United Methodist Men's group.

Harry loved the Outer Banks of North Carolina, in particular the Nags Head area and even composed a piece for the piano that was resplendent with the sounds of crashing waves upon the shore which, when alone or when prompted, he played to any listener's delight and surprise. Harry also held a special love and respect for nature with all its plants and creatures, delighting in pointing out wildflowers, examining rocks and seashells, feeding the birds and planting beds of daffodil and crocus bulbs at every parsonage. He brought an awareness of God's constant love in the beauty of nature. Once, when the nephew of a parishioner and friend came to him to get married wanting only the plain "I take thee..." part and no family, Harry did so with Janet the only witness and she bearing a camera and furnishing a cake.

His children, Alan and Fran, remember first a long black robe with lots of waves that would encircle them in a big, giant hug. They could get happily lost under those folds and folds of smooth, cool robe. Even as a toddler, Alan would sometimes slip out of the pew just as his daddy walked down the aisle after the benediction and fall in step behind, secure in the knowledge that no one would notice him just behind that flowing robe. They remember sitting with their mom, who would remember something important or see someone in the congregation he needed to know was there. Lots of "mysterious" notes were slipped to the usher and passed as offering plates were collected. They remember him going to conference every year for a week. It seemed so long. He always brought each of them a surprise home in his suitcase. That was fun.

There was Harry in a jogging suit. We remember the jogging suit because it reminds us of the concern we felt when he was in for heart surgery, and the gratitude we felt when God raised him up to his continued service and he came back better than ever. Harry described his wife, Janet, as "the perfect minister's wife, with the beautiful smile." She took the components of everyday life and transformed them into elements of joy and inspiration. Harry spoke these words at another's retirement and I repeat them here "You never really leave a place you love...part of it you take with you, leaving a part of you behind." Harry truly walked in the steps of the Master and led others to Christ.

"We thank our God for every remembrance of you." (Phil 1:3) —*Fran Lane*

Robert James Hopkins, 1919 – 2004

On April 26, 1919, in Kingston, Pa., a set of twins was born to William Mozart Hopkins and Lydia Mae Nevell Hopkins—Gladys and Robert, the last of seven children. As Robert grew to manhood, the Salvation Army became a great part of his early years. He attended Salvation Army Training College in New York City. In 1942, he left one Army to join another. Robert joined the U.S. Army where he was assigned to the 2nd Indian Head Division, 38th Field Artillery. He was a forward observer team radio sergeant. He landed with his division at Normandy D+1 Omaha Beach.



He was captured Dec. 16, 1944, in Krinkelt, Belgium, and forced to march to Germany where at Stelay V11A prison camp, a U.S. flag was made with sackcloth and whatever could be found for dye which included blood. This flag ended in Robert's care. He used it in many memorial services. In May 1979, he personally presented this historic flag to the care of the 2nd Indian Head Museum at Camp Red Cloud, South Korea.

After his discharge, Robert returned to the Salvation Army where he met Evelyn Mendell. They were married Jan. 28, 1946. In July 1947, they had a son, Norman.

Robert attended Boston University School of Theology. In 1951, he became an ordained minister for The United Methodist Church. He continued his education at Scarritt College in Nashville, Tenn., where he obtained his evangelistic degree.

Robert lived his life in service to others. He served with the National Guard in six states and was in the New York State Home Guard. He worked with and supported many groups, such as the Natural Bridge Fire Department, (was Chaplain to the 2nd Division Association), Ruritans, Boy Scouts, the Boys Home in Covington, and the Natural Bridge Learning Center.

He was pastor for many churches beginning in New York and then in Virginia. His New York charges included Rensselaer Falls, North Bay, Jewell, Vienna, Lee Center, and St. Regis Falls. His Virginia charges included West Frederick, Lakeland, Stonewall-Westview, Natural Bridge at Beth Horon and Mount Olivet, Lyndhurst, and Peoples-Marvin.

Robert passed on to his promised life with his savior on June 24, 2004. At his graveside service was his Bible, as a memorial to Robert. Upon his sons request, that historic flag made in the P.O.W. camp came back to the states, and it was also a part of Roberts's graveside funeral at Arlington National Cemetery.

Living for God, family, and country was Robert's way of life. —*Norman and Linda Hopkins*

Charles Thomas Perry, Sr., 1936 – 2004

“Loving Servant of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Charlie was called by Christ at any early age. He dedicated himself to Christ's leading. After finishing high school he entered a three-year trade school, Williamson Trade School, to prepare for the mission field. Love in the earthly form entered his life and he married Rebecca Moore. This country boy then experienced city life/city church. The political life of the church was more than he could handle. Deciding that he could help the church more by being active and supportive of the local pastor, he became a lay speaker. He continued on this path for 20 years. In 1976, he became involved with Volunteers In Mission to Haiti. What an experience! In 1977, I joined him on his second trip to Haiti. Over the years he had prayed God would use him in whatever way was chosen. The Haiti trips brought great feelings of doing more for Christ and the church.



In 1978, a door was opened and he stepped through “Here I am Lord”—starting the Course of Study, finishing some college work; there were many mountains to climb. He enjoyed 22 years of serving a

variety of churches in the Virginia Conference. Always faithful to his calling and strong Methodist beliefs, he went wherever he was sent, preaching God's love, plowing fields and planting seeds. He went Home to be with his Lord and Savior with great joy and anticipation. "Charlie, a loving servant of our Lord and Savior." —*Rebecca M. Perry*

2006 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Homer Lefew Lemaster, 1928 – 2005

Homer Lemaster was born in Martinsburg, W.Va., to Frank and Fannie Lemaster, the youngest of their 16 children. When his mother died six months after he was born, his aunt Cora helped with his care and often prayed as she rocked him that he would become a minister. Indeed, while still in high school, Homer did hear the voice of God calling him into His service. From that point on, Homer began that work and never looked back.



He earned his B.A. in English and Modern Languages from Emory and Henry College in Emory, Va. While there, he met and married Lorraine Snyder, who became his valued and beloved helpmate throughout his ministry. While at Emory, he often filled in at pulpits nearby. After graduation he spent two years at Drew University in New Jersey. There he served a two-point charge and nurtured many who kept up with him for the rest of his journey on this earth. His firstborn, Janice Lorraine, also joined them there. The family then moved to Stem, N.C., while Homer attended Duke University, and there served another two-point charge until his graduation in 1952. They then left to begin service with the Virginia Annual Conference, accompanied by daughter number two, Judy Ann.

His first appointment was at Beech Grove/Bethel in Virginia Beach. While there, he lovingly led his flock with the quiet strength and conviction of living a life of personal example that would characterize his ministry. Next, the family moved across "three little ridges" to Highland County where Homer served a five-point charge in the Staunton District. Whites Church in Rustburg in the Lynchburg District, was his first station. The next move was close by—Forest Road in Lynchburg. In 1969, they were moved back to the mountains—this time to Fishersville, again in the Staunton District. While there, Lorraine suffered an injury during the building of a new parsonage, and was paralyzed from the waist down. After 17 years at Fishersville, he moved to his own home in Stuarts Draft and served at the Greenville/Mint Spring Charge. His family was also increased by one again when Dorsey Bull and Judy were married in 1985. The Greenville/Mint Spring Charge eventually became two separate stations, and Homer stayed at Mint Spring until his retirement in 1992.

At that time he was busy helping care for Lorraine until her death in 1999. In 1995, he was named pastor emeritus by the Mint Spring Charge Conference. He remained an active member there right up until his death in September 2005. He taught his Sunday school class, and was working toward expanding the facilities as a member of the building committee. As in all his churches, loving relationships were established that are cherished by his family still today.

Throughout his life, he lived everything he believed and preached. "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" had been a favorite hymn of his since childhood, and it was evident in all he did that Homer walked daily with this special friend. Even as he lay ill, he sang with one of his nurses "Every Day with Jesus is Sweeter than the Day Before." We rest in the comfort of the lessons Homer taught, for we can know with certainty that he now lives in the beautiful joy of that constant sweetness. —*Judy Bull and Janice Lemaster*

Howard Robertson Peters, 1917 – 2005

Howard Peters was born May 17, 1917, in Richmond, Va., to the Rev. J. Sydney Peters and Sara Lee Robertson Peters. He was educated in the public schools of Richmond, Newport News, Petersburg, and

Salem. He received his B.A. from Roanoke College in 1938, his Bachelor of Theology from Princeton in 1941 and his Master of Theology from Princeton in 1943. He relished his experience of study at Princeton and once met and spoke with Albert Einstein while there.

Howard Peters was a fourth generation minister, three of whom were Methodist and one was Baptist. While at Princeton, he was ordained by the Presbytery of New Brunswick and served Clinton Avenue Presbyterian Church of Trenton, N.J., and Lawrence Road Presbyterian Church of New Brunswick, N.J. In October of 1943, he returned to the Methodist Church of Virginia and was appointed to the Elliston-Shawsville Charge. After Elliston-Shawsville, he served Fairview in Roanoke; Lakeside and Barton Heights in Richmond; First Church, Hampton; First Church, Charlottesville; Ghent in Norfolk; Williamsburg in Williamsburg; Trinity in Alexandria; Monumental in Portsmouth; and Crossman in Falls Church. He retired in June of 1986 and in retirement served Trinity of Roanoke until 1991.

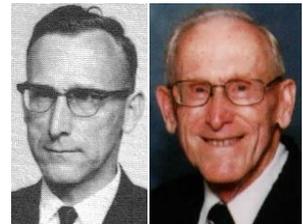


Howard Peters served on numerous boards and agencies of the Virginia Conference including the Children's Home, The Hermitage, the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Virginia United Methodist Credit Union, where he was one of the earliest members. He loved the ministry of the local church and served in that capacity for 48 years. He was a wonderfully effective preacher who crafted his sermons carefully but never used notes in his delivery. Many times after studying and preparing to write his sermon he would sleep and find when he awakened, his sermon was well in place in his mind. This was a great gift from God. His congregations loved his powerful preaching, his warm smile, and genuine compassion.

He was instrumental in mentoring a number of persons who acknowledged their call to ministry during his tenure. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Alice Lindsey Peters, who shared her beautiful soprano voice with all of the churches her husband served. Their four children are Lindsey Christiansen, the Rev. John Peters, Dr. Mary Lee Peters, and Eliza Wagner. —*The Rev. John B. Peters*

Karl Louis Crowe, 1923 – 2006

Karl was one of 13 children and grew up on a farm in Finzel, Md. He was not given the privilege of attending a residential high school, thus after receiving his call to preach, he immediately enrolled in the American School of Education. His pastor drowned while attempting to rescue a child who fell into the river at a church picnic. As Karl had his local preacher's license, the district superintendent asked him if he would assume the responsibility as pastor of the charge until conference. This he did, as well as continue his high school studies by correspondence. He was awarded a high school diploma in the spring of 1946.



He then went to Asbury College where he met the love of his life, Dorothy Gee, who became his wife on June 23, 1951, in Martinsville, Va., three weeks after they graduated. While attending Westminster Seminary (Wesley), he pastored a five-point charge at Hedgesville, W.Va., and Davis Memorial, Cumberland, Md. (Baltimore Conference). Dottie kept busy teaching in a one-room school in Berkeley County, W.Va. In 1956, Karl felt led to transfer to the Virginia Conference where they served the following churches: Goshen, Rockbridge Baths; Mt. Bethel, Martinsville; Schoolfield, Danville; St. Paul's, Chesapeake; LeKies, Virginia Beach; Benn's Church, Smithfield; Noland Memorial, Newport News; and Fairmount Park, Norfolk.

Being obedient to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20), Karl went on two mission trips to Haiti and one to South America. Karl will be remembered as a devoted husband for 54 1/2 years, dedicated preacher, loyal friend, and for his dry sense of humor. He retired in 1991, but continued to fill

in for ministers as needed; he became pastor emeritus of Greenville United Methodist Church in 2003. He is survived by his wife, Dottie, five brothers and a sister. His favorite Bible verse was: Proverbs 3:6:

“In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.” —*Dottie Crowe*

James Ray Wooddell, 1929 – 2006

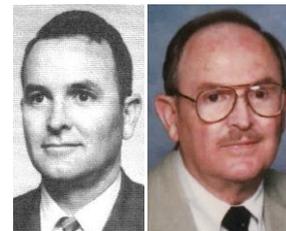
Rev. “Jim” was born in Charleston, W.Va., and served six churches in West Virginia before moving to Virginia. He served three churches in Virginia before retiring from Monroe United Methodist Church in 1995, after having served 49 years in the ministry. He was a very proud graduate of Boston University. He was a member of the Amherst Ruritan Club, and the Clinton Masonic Lodge in Amherst, having received his 50-year membership pin. He was a chaplain in the U.S. Army, attaining the rank of major, and faithfully attended the Emmanuel Church in Amherst, where he often preached and taught the Mattie Ware Sunday School Class.



He enjoyed genealogy research, reading, and traveling—especially to his family’s farm in Pocahontas County. Jim was an avid Virginia Tech Hokie fan, hunter, and fisherman. He is survived by his wife Rosemarie, son Michael of Madison Heights, son Stephen of Omaha, Neb., son Jim of Winter Park, Fla., son Bill of Santo Domingo, son Steve of Williamstown, W.Va., son Jack of Richmond, daughter Jeanette of Charlottesville, daughter Anne and a special son-in-law, Michael, of Greensboro, N.C., daughter Virginia of Billings, Mont., 24 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. He was a loyal and faithful servant of our Lord. —*Rosemarie Wooddell*

Wilfong W. “Bill” Clarke, Jr., 1927 – 2006

The Rev. Wilfong W. “Bill” Clarke Jr., died in Newport News on Jan. 8, 2006. A memorial service was held at Warwick Memorial United Methodist Church on Jan. 11. Bill is survived by his wife Alice; daughters Denise Hurd of Deltaville and Corina Clarke of Yorktown; and son Kemp Williams, of Newport News. He is also survived by five grandchildren. Bill began his ministerial career in 1951 in the North Carolina Conference. There he served several appointments before and during his seminary studies at Duke Divinity School, including the idyllic island village of Ocracoke. He began his service to the Virginia Conference in 1962 at Heathsville. He went on to serve Warsaw, Urbanna, Lawrenceville, Epworth in Exmore, Courtland, St. James in the Alexandria District, Parkview in the Peninsula District, and Covenant in the Portsmouth District. He retired in 1989.



As the son of a professional educator, Bill entered the ministry with experiences and traits that would commend him as a pastor. He already knew the itinerant lifestyle, since his father had moved among school districts in North Carolina, living in homes provided for the school superintendent’s family. And his devotion to learning, his love for books, was instilled at an early age. Bill’s approach to life and ministry was largely cerebral; he loved God with his mind as well as with his practice of the Way. He loved the historic liturgies of the church. He set an example of faithfulness and patience and analytical thinking. He looked at popularly held tenets of civil religion with a critical eye, the way that good old liberal mainline Protestants are prone to do! As a pastor, Bill was able to share his love for books and theological discourse, and many persons enjoyed intellectual and spiritual growth as a result.

As an avocation, Bill loved to fish. To his delight, he often served rural appointments which allowed him to indulge that passion. He believed that those small rural churches could nurture spiritual giants, and he understood that servants of Christ are called to be faithful in little things. After a debilitating illness of several years’ duration, Bill died 10 days before his 79th birthday. He has claimed the reward for his faith and his service: “For you, O Lord, have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling, that I may walk before the Lord in the land of the living” (Psalm 116:8-9). All

who were blessed to have Bill as their pastor, or who had the pleasure of serving in ministry with Bill, give thanks for his life. —*Rev. Larry E. Adams*

Paul Clinton Bailey, 1935 – 2006

On Monday, Jan. 23, 2006, Dr. Paul Clinton Bailey went to be with the Lord he so lovingly and faithfully served all of his life. Paul was born in Martinsburg, W.Va., on Aug. 15, 1935, the son of Clinton Stewart Bailey and Norma Hovermale Bailey. An ordained clergy in the Virginia Annual Conference of the former Evangelical United Brethren Church and The United Methodist Church for 43 years, Paul served the following parishes: Singers Glen Charge; Broadway Charge; Sunset Drive, Broadway; Jamieson Memorial, Clarksville; Timberlake, Lynchburg; Main Street, Waynesboro; and Virginia Beach. He also served as superintendent of the Portsmouth District and interim superintendent of the Norfolk District.



Paul was a four-time delegate to the General Conference of The United Methodist Church and a delegate to the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference numerous times. He was a member of the World Methodist Council, having served as a delegate to four World Methodist Conferences. At the time of his death, he was serving as director of the Ministerial Exchange Program for the World Methodist Council. Since retirement in 2000, Paul had greatly enjoyed his work as a chaplain at Augusta Medical Center (AMC) and AMC Wellness Center.

Paul's work in the Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church includes: member, and later chair, of the Board of Ordained Ministry; lay pastor coordinator for the Board of Ministry; secretary of the Virginia Conference Trustees; secretary of the Council on Finance and Administration; member of the Board of Global Ministries; member of the Board of Pensions; and chair of the Staunton District Committee on Ministry.

Paul did his undergraduate work at Shenandoah College and Conservatory of Music, and Madison College. He held graduate degrees from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, and Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Va. He earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from United Theological Seminary and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Shenandoah University.

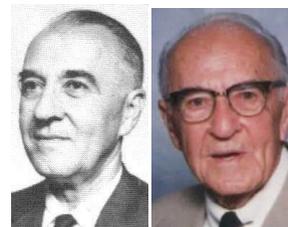
God blessed Paul and his wife of 46-1/2 years, Rosalie, with an extremely happy marriage and two wonderful daughters of whom he was immensely proud: Beth Bailey Heller and her husband, Ted, of Richmond, Va.; and Cathy Lynn Bailey of New York City. Two granddaughters enriched his life and brought him great joy: Emily Palmer Heller and Catherine Bailey Heller, of Richmond. A sister, Nancy Bailey Cline, also survives him.

Memorial services were held at Main Street United Methodist Church in Waynesboro, Va., on Saturday, Jan. 28; at Virginia Beach United Methodist Church on Sunday, Jan. 29; and at Augusta Medical Center, Fishersville, Va., on Friday, Feb. 3. A service of committal was held at Martinsburg, W.Va., on the day before Easter to celebrate Paul's beautiful life and the promise of Resurrection.

The joy of Paul's vibrant personality, his welcoming smile, and his warm hugs will be forever missed by all who knew him. —*Rosalie G. Bailey*

John Wesley Newman, 1911 – 2006

There was only one thing that John loved more than his farm—he'd want to build another church! His ministry of 39 years was marked by his desire to see beautiful churches built. Notable among those in whose construction he played a significant role were Calvary and River Road in Richmond and Williamsburg United Methodist Church. Additionally, he manifested a unique interest in the



establishment and development of new congregations. John Wesley Newman was born on March 8, 1911, in Marion, Va. He received his undergraduate work at Emory and Henry College which later honored him with a Doctor of Divinity degree. He taught school for a while, and receiving a call to preach, he continued his education at Emory School of Theology, Emory University, Georgia.

In 1938, John married Helen Austin in Wytheville, Va. Helen was his devoted partner in all of his ministry and the mother of their two sons, John (who preceded his father in death) and James, who with his wife, Patricia, lives in Williamsburg. John and Helen have three grandsons, Peter, Randolph, and Austin, and two great-grandchildren, John and Caitlyn.

John began his ministry in Ingleside, Md., in 1938 and in 1977 retired from Raleigh Court United Methodist Church in Roanoke. During his ministry he served on many boards and agencies and was for six years the superintendent of the Roanoke District. After retirement, John and Helen lived in Roanoke for 23 years until moving to Williamsburg where John died on Jan. 26, 2006.

In addition to the faithful fulfillment of his calling, John was noted for his friendly, heartwarming relations with everyone he met. His greeting was almost without exception, “Hey, [Name], glad to see ya!” And now he has received his heavenly greeting, the fruits of his labor—”Hey, John, glad to see ya!” —*Rev. M. Douglas Newman*

Russell William Simpson, 1922 – 2006

The Rev. Russell William Simpson, of Longmont, Colo., died Thursday, March 16, 2006, at Timberline Lodge in Longmont. He was 83 years old. Russ was born Dec. 16, 1922, in Cambria, Ill., to Clarence and Helena (Mescher) Simpson. After graduating from Metropolis High School and Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, he attended Westminster Theological Seminary and became an ordained minister in 1949. On June 8, 1945, he married Helen June Gibbs in Cambria, Ill. In 1950, he joined the United States Air Force as a chaplain and rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel. His various duty stations included bases in Japan, Labrador, and the Panama Canal Zone. After retiring from the Air Force in 1970, Mr. Simpson went on to serve for a decade in several United Methodist churches in Virginia, one of which was at Madison, Va. He was especially active in youth organizations and ministries.



In retirement, the Simpsons lived in Fayetteville, Ark., until Helen’s death in 2003. Russ then moved to Marshalltown, Iowa, and finally to Longmont, Colo., to be near his grandchildren. Mr. Simpson loved to fly, and obtained his pilot’s license while in the Air Force. He was also an avid reader and speaker, and regularly played racquetball and tennis. In later years, he enjoyed volunteering his time at the Veteran’s Hospital and was a member of the Disabled American Veterans. He will be remembered as a kind and generous man who would go far out of his way to help others.

Mr. Simpson is survived by his son, David Simpson and his wife, Linda, of Tulsa, Okla.; his daughter, Martha Rooney and her husband, Kurt, of Longmont, Colo.; a brother, Joe Harvey Simpson of Aurora, Colo.; a sister, JoAnne Rasmussen-Sislow of Naperville, Ill.; and a sister, Jane Mulliken of Indianapolis, Ind. He is also survived by a sister-in-law, Catherine Neely of Carson City, Nev.; seven grandchildren, Renee, Natalie, Bryan, Michelle, Christopher, Kyle, and Allison; one great-granddaughter, Miryam, and one great-grandchild on the way. He was preceded in death by his wife Helen of 58 years, his parents, and a sister, June Elliott of Metropolis, Ill.

The following thoughts were written about Russell Simpson by his grandson: In life we come across people that we know are special. People that have something inside their heart that makes them truly special. They inspire us to be better. They inspire us to have good intentions in everything that we do. They inspire us to serve other people. Anyone who met Grandpa could see – that was exactly the way he

was. And his character brings so many positive words to mind that would all accurately describe him. But his LOYALTY was remarkable.

- He was loyal to God, and to our country. I asked him once, I said “Grandpa, what was your favorite part about being a preacher in the Air Force?” He said, “I was a chaplain.” I said, “OK, Grandpa, what was your favorite part about being a chaplain?” He said that when the men came back from war, some of them weren’t right in the head. They were traumatized from the things that they had seen. He said his favorite part was talking to them about it, and helping them feel better. Trying to help make them right again. I didn’t know what to say.
- He was loyal to his woman, our Grandma Helen. Through the 58 years they were married to the very last of her days, he stood by her while she was sick, until that day that she passed. And I’m sure he’s by her side right now.
- He was loyal to his children and to his grandchildren until the day that he passed. I remember how protective of me he was when I was a boy. He would do anything for any of us if we asked him to.

He was a man in all of the most respectful ways that you could be a man. And in knowing him all my life, and now trying my best to become a man, I can honestly say: That if I can live to be over 80 years old, and look back on my life and say that I was half the man that my grandpa was...I will be happy. —*Martha Rooney*

Ki Sok Park, 1928 – 2006

The Rev. Ki Sok Park was born Dec. 31, 1930, as the first child of Mr. Heung Jin Park and Mrs. Chun Oak Park (Kim) in Hweing Sung, Kang-won Province, South Korea. His father died in 1935 when Ki Sok Park was 5 years old. In 1950, due to the outbreak of the Korean War, he was separated from his mother. In 1953, he enrolled at Methodist Theological Seminary in Korea. Throughout his 46 years of service to the Lord, he oversaw the construction of three churches, started two new churches, and pastored a total of 10 churches.

His ministry in the United States started in 1981 with Korean UMC (currently Central Korean UMC) in Dallas, Texas. In 1988, his ministry took him to Savannah and Hinesville, Ga. In 1992, he served Charleston Korean UMC. He moved to Portsmouth, Va., in 1994. He retired from the clergy in 1998. In 2002, he started a Korean United Methodist church congregation in Rocky Mount, N.C., until the church was able to find a permanent senior pastor.

Rev. Ki Sok Park’s life was full of many hardships in both his personal life as well as in his ministry. Having no source of financial support since age 15, he worked several jobs in order to pay for his education. Also, due to the hard economic conditions in Korea after the Korean War, many of the churches in Korea could not support a pastor or construct new church buildings. Looking back, one can see the good Lord protecting and comforting Rev. Ki Sok Park in his difficult journey. His life was a testimony of serving and trusting Jesus in every walk of life, even in the deepest valleys.

In 1961, the Lord gave him Chae-youn Cho as his wife and blessed him with two sons and two daughters. Having no family since age 15, he cherished God’s blessing and sacrificed much to ensure a better life for his children. On May 4, 2006, the Lord called the Rev. Ki Sok Park into his everlasting arms. He is survived by his wife, two sons (Hyo C Park and Young C Park), two daughters (Annie E.K. Lee and Amy H.K. Park), and six grandchildren. May the Lord continue to bless him and his family.

—*The Park Family*

Helen Graeff Ellerman, 1925 – 2005

Helen Graeff Ellerman’s father was an Episcopal Rector in Chambersburg, Pa. As a teenager, Helen started playing the organ for her father’s services at an elderly home he founded in Shippensburg, Pa. Helen received a Bachelor of Music degree from Sweet



Briar College, and a Master of Sacred Music degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York City. At Union, she studied organ with the renowned organist, Robert Baker.

In 1977, Helen would be among the first church musicians to be consecrated a diaconal minister. She retired from the conference after serving churches for over 40 years. All the churches Mrs. Ellerman served were in Virginia except for the seven years she served Luther Memorial Church in Erie, Pa. In Erie, she met her husband, Ray, a harpsichordist, and the two teamed as a duo presenting many recitals on harpsichord and organ. In Virginia, Helen served as music director at Mount Vernon UMC in Danville, Broad Street Christian in Martinsville, Asbury UMC in Harrisonburg, and Luray UMC in Luray. At Asbury and Luray, she enhanced their music program with the organization of a handbell choir.

As an organ teacher, Helen has students now playing in churches in Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Virginia, North Carolina, and Colorado. These students all say Helen was the only teacher who taught them how to play a “church service.” Helen enjoyed going to conference and played the organ there on many occasions.

For seven years, Helen ran a weeklong summer music camp at Camp Overlook for children 9-17. Mornings were filled with singing and the afternoons, swimming and games. There was an abandoned log cabin in the woods to which all campers had to hike. Helen sneaked into the cabin and let out blood curdling screams, earning her the nickname “Witchie Poo.” The camp closed with a Saturday morning concert for parents.

In her retirement years, she joined her husband’s hobby of candlemaking. They joined the International Guild of Candle Artisans. They hosted two conventions for the group and Helen wrote “little ditties” that she sang at meal times. One of these was voted to be the organization’s official song. They were awarded the Pathlighter Award for their service to that organization in 2001. Anyone who has met Helen will remember her laugh. It was quite unique. She never met a stranger. If they were aloof, she made them friendly; somber, she made them smile; sad, she made them happy; and mourning, she comforted them. —*Ray Ellerman*

Mary Baugh Olewiler, 1938 – 2005

Mary Baugh Olewiler, 67, Virginia Conference diaconal minister, died suddenly in Gloucester Court House, Va., on Nov. 7, 2005. Mary was born on March 11, 1938, in Tazewell, Va., in the Holston Conference. She attended Tennessee Wesleyan College, Athens, Tenn., and the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, Va. As youth minister, Director of Christian Education (DCE), and Director of Program Ministries, Mary served churches in the Holston, Virginia, and Baltimore conferences for 20 years. In Tennessee, Mary was DCE, youth director, and office manager at churches in Spring City and Oak Ridge, before undertaking further training at the Presbyterian School of Christian Education, Richmond. In Virginia, Mary served Ginter Park, Richmond (trainee); Bon Air, Richmond; and Christ Church, Arlington. She finished her career at Good Shepherd United Methodist in Silver Spring, Md., before marrying the Rev. William E. Olewiler, pastor of the Beulah/St. Paul Charge, Rappahannock District, in 1983.



In retirement, Mary served on the councils on ministries of the Rappahannock, Roanoke, and Lynchburg districts. She was also chair of Children’s Ministries on the conference Age Level & Family Ministries Council. With Brenda Smith, she designed the first children’s section of the annual laity retreat. Mary felt a special closeness with her colleagues in the Christian Educators’ Fellowship.

Rev. William E. “Bill” Olewiler survives, along with Mary’s sister-in-law, Martha Baugh Clarke; a niece, Sharon Baugh; and two nephews, Michael and Philip Baugh. Bill enjoys remembering that theirs was a boss/secretary relationship—Mary, DCE, was the boss, and Bill, administrative assistant at Christ

UMC, Arlington, was the secretary. They worked together in Christian Education and Program Ministries for 10 years before their marriage. Mary's gentleness and empathy were well-known wherever she worked and lived. She had a rare talent for openness and caring, even with people who were hard to understand or to know.

Martha Baugh Clarke adds: "I am the wife of Mary's late brother, Walter. In honor of Mary, I want to comment on the bond of family. "Mary was a supreme example of how family can maintain a keen, detailed, and intense interest in each other. No matter the miles, Mary kept close by caring intensely and in detail about us. Family ties like that are vital to nurture the human spirit. Mary was a nurturer and very caring family member. We will truly feel that loss of her caring. We vow to keep the Baugh earthly family bond strong now that Mary, Walter Jr., Grandmother Baugh, and Grandfather Baugh are now all together as a heavenly family." —*Rev. William E. "Bill" Olewiler*

Ruth M. Mayhall, 1921 – 2005

This is Helen Ayers Johnson of Shinnston, W.Va. Every time I try to write something, not already written, about my late aunt Ruth Mayhall, it is hard to speak of her in the past, not the present. My heart is filled with sadness over her passing, but I know she is with God and no longer in pain. I loved her very, very much. She was my second mother, my friend, and my counselor—all those and more. We talked very much—sometimes several times a day. She was always concerned about my health and recovery after breast cancer, taking the medicine, and all the things I'd worry about, she'd say not to—that I'd just worry myself into more stress. Sometimes she sent me card after card of encouragement, and she'd write down Bible verses to read.



She loved us dearly and was always there for us. She never expected anything from anybody—just to try to be the best they could be. Everybody loved my aunt Ruth, daughter of Charles and Nora Mayhall. My late mother, Hazel Mayhall Ayers, was her sister. They had a little sister, Mabel, who died at 13. There were five brothers: Roy, Charles, Howard, Frank, and Richard. Richard is the only surviving sibling. There are several nieces and nephews (greats- and great-greats- and a great- great-great niece). She has a United Methodist Women's circle named in her honor here in Shinnston, W.Va. Ruth will be remembered always, and sadly missed by all of us. —*Helen Ayers Johnson*

Alexander Curry Yates, 1932 – 2006

"All you need to do is love each other as God loves you." This is the gospel according to "Yukkie," the Rev. Alexander Curry "Yukkie" Yates, who on March 31, 2006, was welcomed by his Heavenly Father whom he had loved and served so diligently. He was born Alexander Curry in Newport News, Va., on Aug. 12, 1932, and died at Dominion Village of Williamsburg on March 31, 2006. Orphaned at a very young age, Yukkie and his brother Bobby were blessed to become a part of the special family of Jeannette Jackson Beazley and Joseph Ashton Yates. Yukkie graduated from Charles City High School in 1949 and attended Ferrum Junior College, Randolph-Macon College, and many more, including Duke Divinity School, on his journey into the United Methodist ministry, in which he served for 35 years.



On June 11, 1955, Yukkie married Elva Anne Berry and became part of another big, loving family. His love became manifested in his children and grandchildren; daughter, Anne Curry Yates Rice, wife of Craig Sheldon Rice and mother of Stephanie Lynn and Melissa Diane of Escondido, Cal.; and his son and best friend, Alexander Curry Yates II, husband of Marjorie Carver and father of Charlotte Alexandra Leslie Miranda and Levon Curry of Charles City.

In his lifetime, Yukkie touched the lives of many people as he served in the Air Force for three years during the Korean conflict, as a technician at Reynolds Metals, for the Navy at Naval Weapons Station,

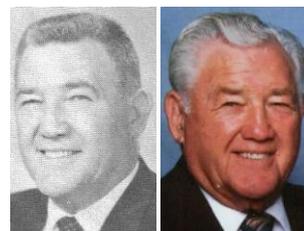
and managed Jerrald's Truck Stop while attending Randolph-Macon College. In 1957, Yukkie became principal of Samaria Indian School where he proudly helped to educate the first graduating class of the Chickahominy Indians of Charles City and New Kent.

In 1960, Rev. Yates entered the active Methodist ministry serving the Otter Charge. He also served Brookneal, Brucetown, Gum Spring, Vale-Floris, St. James and retired from Norview in 1995. From 1965-1968, Yukkie was president of the board of directors of the Virginia Symphony. He volunteered as chaplain for Fairfax and Alexandria Hospitals, Fairfax Police Headquarters and the Hermitage of Northern Virginia. Rev. Yates served on many Methodist boards and agencies and was very active with the Ruritans in many areas of Virginia. He was honored with a Jefferson Cup when he gave the invocation for the state Senate in 1985. Yukkie was laid to rest at Micah Cemetery in Charles City beside his loving family, after a memorial service at Charles City Memorial United Methodist Church.
—*Elva B. Yates*

2007 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Henry Sneed Amidon, 1917 – 2006

The Rev. Henry S. Amidon died Wednesday, June 21, 2006. He was born Sept. 25, 1917, in Garrisonville. Early in life he moved to Triangle. He served in the Marine Corps with the 5th Marine Division for four years during World War II. His call to the ministry came fairly late in life. At 37 years of age, he returned to school to complete his education. Henry was ordained a minister in The United Methodist Church at Virginia Beach in 1963. He served in 10 churches throughout the conference: Stafford Charge, Stafford (1954-55), Sydenstricker UMC, Springfield (1956-63), Mount Pleasant UMC, Chesapeake (1963-65), Braddock Street UMC, Winchester (1965-69), Woodlawn UMC, Roanoke (1969-72), South Hill UMC, South Hill (1972-75), St. James UMC, Alexandria (1977-79), Central UMC, Salem (1979-81), Christ UMC, Arlington (1981-84), Tabernacle UMC, Spotsylvania (1987-90).



Henry was honored to open the 89th United States Congress, Second Session with a prayer on Sept. 29, 1966. He was a member of the ICM (Industrial and Commercial Ministries) chaplain program. Henry served as a police chaplain during many of his appointments. Henry retired from active ministry in 1984, but returned to the pulpit as a fulltime pastor at Tabernacle UMC in Spotsylvania, where he served three years. Upon his second retirement he was elected pastor emeritus at Tabernacle UMC, a title he held until his death. In retirement, Henry kept busy with weddings, funerals, and filling the pulpits of other churches. He had an unflinching appetite for service to others and was filled with the joy of living. He felt age was not a time of life, it was a state of mind—so he stayed forever young.

For 22 years, he was very active in the Tabernacle community. He was devoted first to the plans and then to the building program of a new church addition. It was his prayer to be the first funeral celebrated in the new church. God answered his prayer. His family and friends remember him as a generous, loving, and caring person. He never knew a stranger and was always smiling. He held a special place in his heart for children. We are thankful for his life and his vibrant ministry and the many lives he touched, some of whom are known only to God and him. Survivors include his wife of almost 65 years, Shirley; a daughter and son-in-law, Sherry and Martin Peatross; one sister, Josephine Dillon; a nephew, Joseph DeSanto; two grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son, John Blaine Amidon. He was buried at the Dumfries Cemetery with military honors. —*Shirley F. Amidon; Sherry and Martin Peatross*

Amos Purnell Bailey, 1918 – 2006

Dr. Amos Purnell Bailey, a Virginia Conference pastor for 68 years, was promoted to glory on Sunday, July 16, 2006. A native of Grotons, Accomac County, Purnell received his call to ministry at age 15 while listening to the congregation of Pocomoke Methodist Church sing “What a Friend We Have In Jesus.” He was educated at Randolph-Macon College (B.A.); Duke University School (B.D.); Union Theological Seminary, Richmond (Th.M.); Union Theological Seminary, New York, and the Ecumenical Institute, Jerusalem. Purnell was later honored by Randolph-Macon College with a Doctor of Divinity degree. A significant endowment was given to the college in his name to fund scholarships for students in pre-ministerial studies in 2002, to be named the A. Purnell Bailey Pre-Ministerial Program for Ordained Ministry.



Purnell had a distinguished career as an Army Chaplain with the First Cavalry Division during World War II. He began writing the syndicated column, “Our Daily Bread,” in the Stars and Stripes newspaper in Tokyo in 1945 while serving on General MacArthur’s staff.

As a member of the Virginia Annual Conference, Purnell served the following churches: North Emporia; Beulah, Chesterfield; New Kent, Richmond; Oak Grove, Norfolk; Grace, Newport News; Centenary and Reveille, Richmond. He also served as the superintendent of the Richmond District 1961-67 and led the district to purchase and develop Camp Westview on the James. From 1970 until he retired in 1982, Purnell served as the Executive Secretary of the Division of Chaplains, Board of Higher Education and Ministry and as Vice President of the National Methodist Foundation of that same board. He served as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences four times.

Purnell is survived by his wife, Betty Lou Sheffield Bailey. His first wife, Ruth Hill Bailey, died in 1992. He has four daughters, Carol Harriman of Alexandria; Anne Page of Raleigh, N.C.; Elizabeth Richardson of Richmond; and Jeanne DodgeAllen of Fairfax; 17 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He is also survived by one brother, Homer Bailey, of Tulsa, Okla.; and three stepchildren, Walter Sheffield of Fredericksburg; Dr. Polly Roberts of Roanoke; and Courtney Lou Tierney of O’Fallon, Ill.

After a private burial at Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond on July 21, a memorial service was held at Fredericksburg United Methodist Church on July 22, 2006. Purnell will be remembered for his genuine love of God, his compassionate spirit, his winsome personality, his marvelous voice, his sharp wit, his love of the church and those called to serve in ministry, and his deep devotion to his family and his friends worldwide. For over 73 years, Purnell served as a faithful servant of God. On Sunday, July 16, on the way to celebrate the resurrection, he slipped quietly into the eternal Kingdom. May he rest in peace. —*L. Douglas Hill*

Billy James Edmonson, 1925 – 2006

Bill was a very unique person. He always told me that “after God, I was next in his heart.” I knew that to be true for almost 33 years. I have never known a man who loved his Lord as much as Bill. Never once in his illness (Parkinson’s disease, diagnosed in 1998) did he ever blame God or feel sorry for himself. He witnessed to the day of his “going home,” just by “being there.” The hospice staff told me they had never met another like him. He had a keen wit. He always kidded with them. He did everything he was asked to do until about the last two weeks before he left us when I had to witness his complete inability to do anything for himself.



No one but God was going to tell him what to preach. When one sermon ended, he was already praying, reading his Bible, for guidance to the next one. He often remarked that if it were not for having

the need to eat and the daily items that required money, he would preach just for the joy of it. He actually wanted the Lord to take him home from the pulpit.

He served the Cashville Charge, the Wachapreague/Quinby Charge, and Trinity United Methodist Church, all on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. He was appointed to Wallace Memorial in Fox Hill, Hampton, for three years. Due to my dad's illness, I wanted to return to the Eastern Shore. The only appointment open was the Greenbackville Charge. He had started out with a three-church appointment—all while attending Duke, at that time for six years. It was hard but we persevered.

He did not want to retire from another three-church appointment. But, if God was going to place him there, that's where we would go. And, so we did. It was an appointment we enjoyed so very much. The people of Greenbackville opened their arms to us and learned to love Bill and me. I continue to have dear friends there as well as all the churches he served.

Bill was a retired Senior Chief Petty Officer of the U.S. Navy. He was navigator of the USS John F. Kennedy, the last ship he was on before retiring after two years of shore duty. He loved the Navy. He "grew up" in the Navy, he often said. His two loves were the ministry of God and the U.S. Navy.

The "Prayer of Remembrance" and the people part of the "Silent Remembrance" was read responsively at his beautiful Going Home Service: "Gracious and loving God, we remember with great joy and thanksgiving, your faithful servant, Billy James Edmonson. We give you thanks for his life, his service to his country, and his faithful ministry to you and your people. As a husband, father, brother, grandfather, minister and friend, we thank you for the way he touched our lives. As one of your saints, his witness lingers in our lives and calls us to a life lived for others in your name. Creator God, giver of life and love, we pause now to praise you for the life, death and resurrection of Bill Edmonson. We thank you, O God, for Bill who was a good and faithful steward of your gifts of grace. We thank you for the way he preached your word, cared for your people, and brought sinners into your grace. May he now hear your, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant.'" May we be bold enough to follow his example."

I think the above excerpts from his service says as much as I can think of. There are so many. It would take a book to write all this Man of God did that was not known to man. —*Lorraine P. Edmonson*

John Max Brown, 1933 – 2006

John Max Brown became a minister in his middle-age years. He was known to friends and family as Max. He was known as Dad to me. My father began his journey into the ministry by sharing his fellowship with the people of Cokesbury UMC, in Prince William County, where he had been a member since the early 1960s. Hoping to contribute more of his life to God, my father undertook the studies necessary to realize his calling to the ministry. Most notably, he attended Duke University, where he earned a Certificate of Attainment in 1995. In 1996, he was ordained Deacon and elected an Associate Member of the Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.



My father served several churches in different areas of Virginia, beginning his ministry in Fairfax County, serving both Silverbrook UMC and Accotink UMC in the 1980s. He owned a business prior to joining the ministry, continuing its operation while pastor of Silverbrook and Accotink. He also served proudly as a chaplain in the Industrial and Commercial Ministries for the National Capital Area during those years. In 1990, he moved to Covington, serving Mt. Carmel UMC for three years. Shortly afterwards, he sold his business and devoted his full attention to the ministry. Beginning in 1993, he served both Pembroke First United Methodist Church and Mount Lebanon UMC in Giles County, over the next seven years.

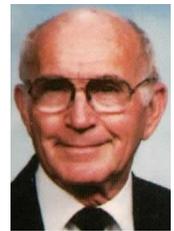
He retired from the ministry in 2000. My parents moved to their home in Stafford County, attending Grace UMC in nearby Fauquier County. The one constant thread that runs through my father's work is

his devotion to the people he served in his capacity as their pastor, giving counsel and friendship to every member of each church.

After a few years away from the ministry, he returned to Accotink as a retired pastor, where he continued to serve his congregation until the week before his death last August. Mary Elizabeth Brown, my mother, was a loving partner to my father, giving a great deal of her time working in each church where he was a minister. My parents were married for over 47 years. My mother passed away in September 2005, shortly after my father had suffered an illness that took his right leg. As devastating as those events were to him, he chose to remain active in the ministry. It gave him joy to continue serving God. My mother and father were excellent parents to my sister Laura and me. They were equally wonderful grandparents to Laura's son, David, their only grandchild. My parents gave us unconditional love. That same unconditional love was given to everyone they met through my father's ministry as servants of God. —*John Max Brown, Jr.*

Frank W. Blake, 1918 – 2006

The Rev. Frank W. Blake of Parksley, husband of Maxine Lawhorn Blake, retired United Methodist minister, passed away Sept. 7, 2006. He was born Oct. 26, 1918, in Milton, W.Va., son of Warren Wood and Alice Gwinn Blake. After graduating from Milton High School in 1936, he graduated from West Virginia Wesleyan College, followed by graduate studies at Duke University, Emory University, and Boston University. He put himself through high school, college and graduate school working various jobs and even owning a French fries and ice cream shop! He was a self-made man of high morals who dreamed of becoming a CPA until receiving a divine calling to the ministry. He felt much too shy to be a speaker, but God provided the words that flowed flawlessly from his lips.



Prior to joining the Virginia Conference, Rev. Blake served several churches in his home state of West Virginia. He then served the Phenix Charge and the Burkeville Charge in Virginia. He served in Bolton, Conn., while continuing with his graduate studies at Boston University. Upon the completion of his studies, Frank returned to the Virginia Conference, where he served the Accomac Charge on Virginia's Eastern Shore.

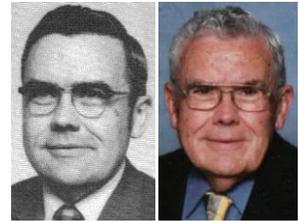
Health issues eventually forced an early retirement from the ministry. This was a very difficult and traumatic decision, since his illness kept him from using his voice. Refusing to ask for help, he was a firm believer that God gave him a good mind and two hands which he would use to support his beloved family. He became a home builder and real estate developer, and used these avenues to continue teaching God's word, especially when he was elected to the board of directors for the Accomac-Northampton Electric Co-op, on which he served over 35 years. He was a board member of Old Dominion Electric Cooperative and for six years was an officer on the Cooperative Finance Corp. board in Washington, D.C. Serving on the CFC Board, he was a part of the financial decision makers lending funds to Rural Electric Associations throughout the United States.

In retirement, he was asked to serve the Cokesbury United Methodist Church in Onancock, where he served for 13 years and was named Pastor Emeritus. Rev. Blake always felt the worst part of the ministry was taking a salary for doing what he enjoyed most. His first major project in giving back to God, was to provide the seed money to build a new church on the Eastern Shore. His family is continuing his wishes by giving back contributions—equaling his salaries—to the churches on which he served. He is survived by his beloved wife of 67 years, his son Frank W. Blake II and his wife Judi, daughter Betsye B. Russell and her husband John, numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

For over 25 years, he took great pride in the home he built, proudly named "The Parson's Paradise."
—*Betsye Russell*

Samuel Allen Stanley Jr., 1922 – 2006

Samuel Allen Stanley Jr. was born in Roanoke on Sept. 4, 1922. He was raised in Melrose Methodist Church in Roanoke and received a Bachelor of Arts from Roanoke College and Bachelor of Divinity and Master of Divinity degrees from Emory University. At 15 he gave his life to full-time Christian service while attending a youth conference at Massanetta Springs. He spent his last five years at a related retirement home.



He was ordained as deacon of the Methodist Church in 1945 and as elder in 1947 and served nine appointments in the Virginia Conference, each with great joy and dedication: Cambria Charge, Pembroke Charge, Woodlawn (Roanoke), McKendree (Norfolk), Providence (Richmond), St. John's (Staunton), Graham Road (Falls Church), First (Hampton), and Walker Chapel from which he retired in 1990. After retirement he served as pastor of visitation for Providence and Bon Air churches (Richmond).

He served on the Commission on Worship for the conference and the Southeastern Jurisdiction. He served on the Board of Ministry, the Board for the Children's Home, the Staunton/Augusta County Mental Health Board and the Board of Wesley Housing Development in Northern Virginia. He also enjoyed the opportunity of teaching youth and adults in Christian Workers' Schools across the conference.

He was passionate in his leading of worship, always attempting to make it vibrant and meaningful—and in his pastoral care of the congregations he served. In her book, "From Gung-Ho to Godbearer," Kenda Creasy Dean writes "My supervising pastor in seminary was a seasoned Southern parson named Sam Stanley. Sam pastored a little chapel in Arlington and people packed it to the gills every Sunday.

You could easily underestimate Sam because of his laid-back style and bone-deep gentility. He wore his considerable clout like an undershirt, unconscious of it. Yet Sam was both the strongest and most subtle pastor I have ever known. Despite his determined opinions, he seldom spoke at meetings. He made himself available for appointments or counseling or coffee. He was an ace preacher; worship was memorable and moving.... 'There's really only time for two things in ministry,' he drawled one afternoon as we zipped around the beltway to 'check in'—without warning—on the fifth or sixth person that afternoon. 'Lead a fine worship. Visit the people. The program, leave to volunteers and gung-ho seminarians.' Sam took great joy in working with seven seminarians from Wesley Seminary."

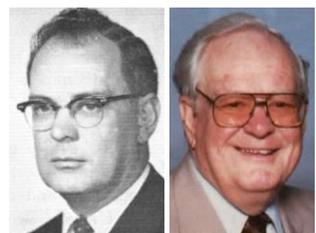
Some of his favorite memories were working with the choir to produce the folk mass *Blowin' in the Wind*, participating in a variety show in which he got to play Al Jolson, and going with a youth mission group to Austria for three weeks. He loved literature, the theater, music, art and movies.

He married Ruth Smith in 1946. They had five children, Samuel III, Debra Leap, Mark, Timothy, Martha Jones, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A quote from John Donne attached to his prayer desk reads "I will not live until I have seen God and when I have seen Him, I shall never die." —*Ruth Stanley and Debra Leap*

Robert Lucius Bridgers, 1921 – 2006

Dr. Robert L. Bridgers was born March 11, 1921, in Ridgeley, W.Va., to Rev. L. G. Bridgers and Mamie Albright Bridgers. He graduated from Handley High School in Winchester in 1940 as valedictorian. Bob graduated from Shenandoah Junior College in Dayton in 1942 and from Otterbein College in Westerville, Ohio, in 1944, where he received a B.A. degree in Sociology, magna cum laude. He graduated from United Theological Seminary in Dayton in 1947 with a Master of Divinity degree (with honors). He was ordained in the Church of the United Brethren in Christ on Dec. 20, 1947.



In 1947 he married Bonnie Brentlinger in her home church near Dayton. The couple had two children Elwood Brent Bridgers of South Hill and Ruth Elizabeth Bridgers Edmonds of Hopewell. The Bridgers family served churches in Cumberland, Md., (a mission church); Keyser, W.Va., (where their children were born); Harrisonburg, (where after the church merger they became United Methodists in 1968); Clifton Forge, and South Hill until 1985 where he retired. In 1978 Bob was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree by Shenandoah College after having been a member of the Board of Trustees for 25 years.

He lived an active life after retirement. His hobbies included woodworking and singing. Bob and Bonnie led seven tours—to the Passion Play in Germany; to the Holy Land, including Egypt; to the British Isles; to Scandinavia; and to Greece, where they retraced the footprints of St. Paul. He also served as an usher for Crowder-Hite-Crews Funeral Home.

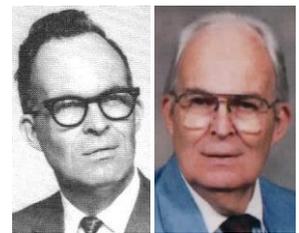
Bob always loved singing. He began singing in church groups in junior high school. While a student at Handley High School in Winchester, he sang in a community choir which represented the state of Virginia at the World's Fair in New York City. He sang baritone in every church choir where he was the pastor.

While serving Evangelical United Brethren (EUB) churches, Bob was Youth and Camp Director from 1948-1960. As a United Methodist he served on the Board of Directors at Roanoke Retirement Homes; the Virginia Conference Retirement Homes, Inc.; the Board of Virginia Family Services; and the Virginia Conference Board of Pensions. Locally he was active in the Ministerial Association and received a lifetime membership after serving 25 years in the South Hill Lion's Club. He was also chaplain of the South Hill Firemen and head of volunteer chaplains at Community Memorial Health Center after his retirement in 1985.

Bob loved the pastorate, loved his members and loved preaching. In spite of health problems, which began with tuberculosis when he was a ninth-grader and heart trouble from 1970 on, and many other ailments, he kept his sense of humor—always got the last word. He taught Sunday school classes and conducted Bible studies in each of his churches in addition to conducting two worship services weekly for many years. Bob's funeral service was held at South Hill UMC, with burial at Crestview Memorial Park. —*Bonnie Bridgers*

Carroll Clinton Goodridge, 1926 – 2006

Carroll Clinton Goodridge was born on Aug. 23, 1926, in Boyce. He was the only child of Edward Clinton Goodridge, who died when Carroll was only 7, and Ethel Carroll Goodridge who died when he was 17. His lifelong ambition from childhood was to become a minister. His great-grandfather gave the land for a church to be built in Clarke County with the opportunity to name it. God had been good to him, thus Providence Chapel was built. It was the first church Carroll preached in as an interim when the minister left before annual conference.



He graduated from Boyce High School in 1945. The district superintendent made arrangements for him to serve the Blue Ridge Charge in order that he could enroll in Bridgewater College. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1949. He enrolled in Westminster Theological Seminary and received a Bachelor of Sacred Theology in 1952, while serving the Loudoun Charge. He was appointed to the Kernstown Charge and enrolled in Wesley Theological Seminary for a master's degree in counseling, graduating in 1957. In 1959, he was appointed as an associate at Highland Park in Richmond. From 1963 to 1970 Carroll was at Middleburg and then he served Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Charlottesville from 1970 to 1973. From 1973 to 1982 he was in Crozet and from 1982 to 1990 in

Bridgewater, when he retired. During his retirement, he served Ottobine in Dayton in the Harrisonburg District until 1996.

In Richmond he worked with Alcoholics Anonymous and volunteered at the penitentiary. Carroll served on the conference Historical Society and the boards of the Hermitage in Richmond and Roanoke. He taught at Eastern Mennonite Seminary in Harrisonburg for eight years. He volunteered for 24 years at the Bridgewater Home and was an interim chaplain. He preached in the Union Christian Church located at the President Calvin Coolidge State Historical Site in Plymouth, Vt., for 20 years each summer. In 1971, Carroll was the speaker for the sunrise service at Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson. In October of 1995, with friends and family Carroll celebrated 50 years in the ministry and in October of 2005 he celebrated 60 years with friends and family.

On Oct. 15, 1951, he married an Arlington school teacher, Nina Mae Goodrich, who survives him after 55 years of marriage.

Carroll was an avid reader and had a marvelous sense of humor. The compelling force of his life was to help people find hope in their lives and to preach the good news. He never met a stranger. During his illness he inspired people because of his attitude concerning his life and death. On Dec. 14, 2006, God took him to live in a home that released him from his suffering.

He was a special friend and mentor to many people during his lifetime. He was especially proud of having mentored in their early ministry Dr. James A. Hewitt III and the Rev. H. Donald Hawks. These two pastors were privileged to minister to him during the last months of his life, along with Harrisonburg District superintendent, the Rev. Edward Pruitt. —*Rev. H. Donald Hawks*

Donald Ray Davidson, 1936 – 2006

Don was born in Columbus, Ohio, on Nov. 6, 1936, to Percy and Olive Davidson. Even at an early age it was evident he was a natural born salesman with his good humor and laughter. Don gave his heart to Christ during a revival in Mount Olivet UMC in Concord, Va., as a teenager. He followed through with baptism and membership. In 1967, Don was painting the outside of his house. He came into the house and announced to me saying, “Ann, God just talked to me and I believe he is calling me to preach.” My reply, “Oh, yeah. You’ve been in the sun too long. “Our daughter was only 4 months old, Chris, 3 years and Mark, 4 years old.



In 1971, Don preached at our home church in Columbus, Ohio. His sermon title was “Obedience is better than sacrifice.” (1 Samuel 15:22) At the end of the sermon, he remarked that if God could find a way for him to go into the ministry with a wife and three small children, he’d go. Shortly, thereafter, the wheels began turning in the presence of his uncle and cousin, the Rev. Fred Davidson and the Rev. Ron Davidson. They told him how he could go to college, preach, live in a parsonage and get paid. Soon thereafter, an opening at a charge in the Virginia Conference became available. Within a week we left Galena, Ohio, and drove to Farmville, Va., where Don met with the Rev. Jake Mast. After the meeting, Rev. Mast told Fred, “I was afraid not to appoint him. He has the hand of God on him. It was evident through the spirit.”

In October 1971 Don was appointed to West Campbell Charge. He served rural churches in Southside Virginia except for one year in Culpeper. Don served The United Methodist Church with 34 years of service. Don was never a scholar in high school, but he really looked forward to completing his educational requirements as a pastor in The United Methodist Church. He completed the Course of Study at Duke in July 1976. In June 1973, he was ordained deacon and in 1977, associate member.

Don served the Lord in civil organizations as well as religious organizations—from police and Ruritan Club chaplain to chairman of Department of Social Services.

He retired in 2003. He wanted to help his colleagues in ministry receive pastoral care; so, in conjunction with the Rev. Vance Midget, hospital chaplain, they put together programs for all the ministers in the Halifax area. Don was also active in the Halifax Ministers' Association. After six months of retirement, Don pastored Union Christian Church as part-time work.

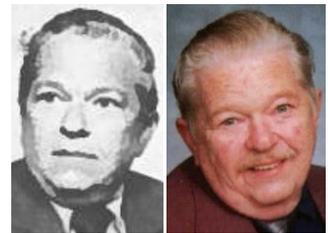
Don really loved people. He was a great salesman for the Lord. He was a salesman for Mrs. Paul's fish when God called him to be his salesman. He was a great fisher of men, bringing many souls to Christ with his love of the Lord, his good sense of humor, deep, infectious laughter, and his knowledge of the Bible. He was known for his uplifting and comforting funerals and his joy in performing weddings.

Don had many medical problems but he wanted to continue to preach. He had a stroke in November 2005, but was able to continue to press on. Before being put on the respirator, one day after being admitted to the hospital on Nov. 3, Don said, "I am ready to go. This body has just given out." After being in the hospital for 31 days, Don died. He is now completely healed and in the presence of the Lord. Luke 4:15 reads, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has called me to preach good news."

Don is survived by his wife, Ann; son, Christopher Ray Davidson; and daughter, Melanie Ann Watts. He was preceded in death by a son, Donald Mark Davidson. —*Ann Davidson*

Lloyd Coral Judy, 1925 – 2006

The Rev. Lloyd Judy became a United Methodist pastor in 1962, as a member of the North Carolina Conference. Prior to becoming a pastor, Lloyd had been serving as a chief in the United States Navy for 11 years. After the Navy, he worked for C&O Railroad—now known as CSX—for almost 10 years. He became a local pastor in 1962, serving Cumberland Methodist Church in the North Carolina Conference. He continued to serve in North Carolina from 1962 to 1968. He finished seminary and transferred into the Virginia Conference in 1971.



His first appointment in Virginia was as an associate pastor at Centenary in Richmond. He then served Ferrum UMC in the Danville District (1973), Rodes Chapel in the Charlottesville District (1976), Fairview UMC in the Roanoke District (1982), Moseley Memorial in the Danville District (1986), and Christ UMC in the Staunton District (1990). In 1993, Lloyd retired from the ordained ministry and took up residence in Fishersville, Va. In retirement, he worked as the Fishersville UMC Director of Christian Education, until health issues required him to "retire" again.

When asked about becoming a minister, Lloyd would answer, "If there is something else you can do for a living, then you should. But if you cannot see yourself doing anything but preaching, then you have been called to do so."

Lloyd was married to Thelma ("Tonie") Jobses in 1946. Tonie was a lively and active helper in Lloyd's ministry, until illness forced her to restrict her activities. She often said she knew God was doing the preaching when Lloyd's eyes turned a bright baby blue. She preceded Lloyd in death by more than 10 years. They have two daughters and sons-in-law—Sandy and Mark Keith, and Patricia and Richard Stulting. There are three grandchildren.

Lloyd was a voracious reader and a teller of stories. He had a dry sense of humor and enjoyed his retirement by keeping the pastors of Fishersville UMC on their toes. At the same time he was a strong supporter of these pastors—offering words of encouragement and visible support. A measure of one's influence is when children and youth express positive feelings for someone. When Lloyd died, many children and youth expressed that they missed him, and shared moments where Lloyd had done something special in their life. His great sense of humor meant that he usually got the last word, as he did when he died Dec. 7, 2006—a day that will live in infamy. —*Roy White and Sandy Keith*

William Braxton Epps, 1917 – 2006

“Do not let your hearts be troubled.”

William Braxton Epps—’Bill’ to his fellow pastors and Braxton to his family—soldier, husband, father, grandfather, brother, friend, pastor, servant of the Lord. He touched many lives in different ways, at different times. He brought us hope, peace, and love when our hearts were troubled. The Rev. William Braxton Epps, retired, died Dec. 19, 2006. He began his ministerial career in 1945 on the Philadelphia Charge. He went on to serve North Mathews, Powhatan, Phenix, Albemarle, King George, Shackelfords, North Patrick, Keysville, Fredericksburg, and Brucetown. He went on incapacity leave in 1980 and then retired in 1985. Survivors include his wife, Doris C. Epps, two daughters, Gail and Dana, son-in-law Randy, and three grandchildren, Jeremy, Justin and Crystal Allman.



A kind man, he started his career on the Philadelphia Charge, where he won the heart of Doris. The two of them took off on a life journey of 58 years that gave each of them a chance to minister to others in their own way, with their own gifts.

Being a pastor’s family is unique, sometimes difficult, with interrupted dinners or holiday celebrations or vacations, and the phone ringing out in the night, sending the pastor (Daddy) out again. When the time came to help his own children say goodbye to a beloved parakeet, Braxton delivered a eulogy, prayed an eloquent prayer, and led them in the only hymn they knew—O Come All Ye Faithful—over a bird wrapped in a handkerchief, and the bowed heads of two little barefoot girls in the heat of the summer. Braxton blessed “Budgie” and sent him on to his reward with all the proper seriousness of the occasion. That is the kind of pastor and father William Braxton Epps was.

Braxton lived what he preached. He was a witness to all how to be a member of God’s family and treat one’s brothers and sisters in Christ. He was not one to say a cross word, or anything negative about anybody. He was a person who never met a stranger, and who brought out the best in those he met. His laugh was goofy and infectious. His sweet unassuming voice wafted over each sanctuary great and small, and he led every hymn as if it was his favorite. While Braxton was a gifted pastor, his most special gift was his beautiful, meaningful, prayers. Even as his memory started to fade in the slow goodbye at the end of his life here, the ability to pray with power and wonder continued to be a part of his life and his ministry to those around him.

Braxton may have never mastered the two-step or an elegant waltz, but he certainly did master the dance of life, and if we follow his lead, we will encounter the living Christ. We will encounter salvation. We will understand why he chose to devote his life to the telling and the singing of the old, old story.

Braxton’s life had its challenges, but he met them with dignity and a trust that in truth, all is in God’s hands. He knew God’s dwelling places. He rested there from time to time. Now he dwells there.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God. Believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?...Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” Amen. —*Gail Epps*

A. Woodrow Laine, 1913 – 2007

A. Woodrow Laine, 93, retired Methodist minister and a longtime resident of Richmond and recently of The Hermitage of Richmond, died on Jan. 18, 2007. He was made exceptionally well for many things, many people, many worlds. Originally from Sussex County, Va., he was the 12th and youngest child. As husband and father, Woodrow was “ready-made” for his family’s formation, security, direction, and happiness. He was married to Frances Cotten Laine for 57 years, and after her death was married for 12 years to



Virginia Featherstun Laine. Other survivors include his two daughters Barbara L. Robertson and her husband Donald W. Robertson of Richmond; and June L. Van Thoen and her husband Anton N. Van Thoen, and his grandson, Laine R. Breeden of Parsippany, N.J.; his sister Elva L. Magee of Wakefield, Va., and her family; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother, Amos L. Laine, also a retired minister with the Virginia Conference.

Woodrow's humble work ethic made him a youthful, yet disciplined, worker; and his moral and spiritual sensitivity made him ready to be guided through Boulevard Church's door into Methodism's pastoral ministry. He began his ministry in 1942 as a licensed local preacher, serving a student pastorate as a supply pastor on the Ashland Circuit (Dunn's Chapel, Forest Grove, Mount Hermon and St. Peter's).

Upon his graduation from Randolph-Macon College in 1944, he entered Emory University in Atlanta, where he served as a traveling preacher on trial until his graduation in 1946. After his ordination, he became a member of the Virginia Methodist Conference in 1947, serving until his retirement in 1979.

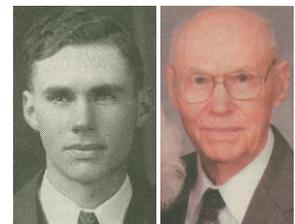
During his ministry of 37 years, his pastoral appointments came easily. He served churches in King William, on the Bowling Green Charge (Hopewell, Shiloh and Bowling Green), at Oxford in Suffolk, South Hill in South Hill, Ramsey Memorial in Richmond, and Shady Grove in Mechanicsville. His good sermons, pastoral heart and rare good humor made him a "Champion Shepherd" in every parish where he lived and served.

In addition to his lifelong ministry, he was a man for all seasons: an avid gardener, woodworker, fisherman and hunter. He loved to laugh and always had a good joke ready for repeating often. He enjoyed playing banjo, the autoharp, guitar, and loved to sing. He especially loved to eat and never missed a meal. He never met a stranger. He never raised his voice, except in the pulpit. He was a kind, gentle and honest man, who loved his family dearly.

Woodrow established a unique place in our hearts and memories for which we are and ever shall be grateful. As C. S. Lewis wrote: "Your place in heaven will seem to be made for you and you alone, because you were made for it, made for heaven as a glove is made for a hand." —*Barbara Robertson*

William B. Ramey, Jr., 1937 – 2007

Bill Ramey led a blessed life filled with family and spiritual purpose. He was born on June 11, 1937, just outside of Winchester, Va. His parents, Boyd & Elsie Ramey, and his only sister, Margaret Johnson, still live in Winchester. His daughter, Rita DeFilippo, lives in Ashburn, Va., with her husband, Mike, and their two daughters, Chloe and Sophia. As a young man, Bill was active in the 4-H Club, the church, and he also played trombone in the high school band. He went to Shenandoah University, Lebanon Valley College, and received his Master of Divinity from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. He was ordained as an Elder in 1964.



He served the following churches: Mount Horeb (Harrisonburg), Highland Park (Roanoke), First Church (Dayton, Ohio), Trinity (Richmond), Bethany (Purcellville), Chester (Chester), Raleigh Court (Roanoke). He retired in 1997.

In 1999 he was the marriage celebrant for the wedding of his daughter, Rita, to Mike DeFilippo. In 2002 he became a grandfather to Chloe Elizabeth, and then he became a grandfather again in 2004 when Sophia Grace was born. He was a loving granddad who enjoyed playing with the girls and being part of their lives. Family and history were so important to him. He loved to tell stories of the history of Winchester and of his life growing up on a farm.

During his lifetime, Bill enjoyed traveling both in the United States and abroad. His trips included France, England, Portugal, Spain, Austria, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Canada and Jerusalem. One of his trips to Mexico was with Habitat for Humanity where he helped construct homes for families there. Bill's interests also included a love of classic cars and of organ music and musical theater.

By nature, Bill was a counselor and mentor. He thoroughly enjoyed serving as a mentor for candidates for the ministry, which he did many times during his career. He served on the Winchester District Church Location and Building Committee. He also chaired the committee which developed the Crossroads United Methodist Church in Ashburn (where his granddaughters now attend preschool). In recent years, he worked on the Evangelical United Brethren archives committee at Shenandoah University.

Bill Ramey will be remembered by many as a beloved pastor, a mentor, a spiritual leader, and someone who brought great comfort and a warm smile to so many people who knew him. He will be remembered by family as a loving and supportive father and grandfather. We are proud to celebrate his life and continue his legacy. —*Rita DeFilippo*

Wesley Joseph Nelson, 1935 – 2007

The Rev. Wesley Joseph Nelson, 71, of Ferrum, Va., died Jan. 21, 2007, at his home after a battle with cancer. He was born Aug. 13, 1935, in Beloit, Wis., and was the son of the late Joseph O. and Grace Wheeler Nelson. In addition to his parents, a brother, Herbert Nelson and two sisters, June Zuckerman and Keith Ann Nelson, preceded him in death. Surviving are his wife, Annita Palmer Nelson; a daughter, Deborah R. Nelson, Madison, Wis.; and two sons, Eugene J. Nelson and his wife Theresa Blaser, Madison, Wis.; and Rev. Dr. Michael Lee Nelson and his wife Elaine, Chesapeake; and two grandchildren, Jeremy Alan and Claire Melinda Nelson, Chesapeake. He is also survived by a brother, Calvin R. Nelson and his wife Georgette of Springfield and many brothers and sisters-in-law and nieces and nephews.



Wes graduated from Beloit College in 1957 with a B.A. After graduation, he registered as a conscientious objector to the military draft, and worked at the Menninger Clinic for psychiatry in Topeka, Kan., as his alternative service. After two years at Menninger's, Wes entered seminary at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. In 1961, he was ordained a Deacon in the Methodist Church (in the North Texas Conference as a courtesy to the East Wisconsin Conference), and in 1963 was ordained Elder in the East Wisconsin Conference. From 1962 to 1963, Rev. Nelson served Johnson Creek and Concord Methodist Churches in the East Wisconsin Conference; and from 1963 to 1965 he served Monona Methodist Church in the West Wisconsin Conference. In 1966, he entered the George Peabody College for Teachers, where he earned a Master of Library Science.

In 1970, he and Annita moved to Ferrum, where he was employed by Ferrum College as Associate Librarian for over 30 years, retiring in December 2000. While living in Ferrum, he became involved in many civic and volunteer organizations: He was a member of the Ferrum Fire Department (and later board of directors), a lifetime member of the Ferrum Volunteer Rescue Squad, and the

Ferrum Lions Club. He also served on the board of the Southern Area Agency on Aging, Franklin County Habitat for Humanity and Franklin County United Way. A former chair of the Franklin County Chapter of the American Red Cross, Wes also served many years as an instructor and instructor trainer. He also served for many years as an election official for Franklin County and on the Franklin County Transportation and Safety Commission.

In 1998, Wes transferred his conference membership to the Virginia Annual Conference. In that year, he began serving as pastor to St. James UMC, the church he had been associated with since

moving to Ferrum. In 2000, he was also appointed to New Hope UMC between Callaway and Rocky Mount. Wes retired from the Virginia Conference in 2002, and continued to serve both churches for one more year.

There are three things that I think I would want people to remember about Wes Nelson, my dad. The first would be that Dad took very seriously what Jesus called the greatest commandment, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. And the second is like it, to love your neighbor as yourself.” Dad knew that it is impossible to love God without loving your neighbor. In Dad’s case, I think it also meant loving the neighborhood, the community. I can see in how Dad lived his life that he believed individuals have a responsibility to contribute to the greater good of the community, and the communities’ responsibility to all those “neighbors,” ensuring that even “the least of these” are cared for with dignity and integrity.

The second thing to remember about Dad is how much he loved my mom, and how much she loved him. Especially in those last few months, as Mom was able to be there for him as a wonderful nurse as well as wife. It always eased his mind in those days to know that she was the one taking care of him.

And the third thing that I would want us to remember, is that this is not the end. In the resurrection of Christ, God has given us the greatest gift and the greatest promise of everlasting life in the Kingdom of God. This was symbolized, for my dad, in his favorite funeral story. I know, it sounds kind of odd to have a “favorite funeral story,” but this was Dad’s. Many people know that Winston Churchill, the great Prime Minister of the United Kingdom who led them through World War II, took great pains in planning his own funeral to a minute detail. The funeral took place in St. Paul’s Cathedral in London, and after the benediction a lone bugler stood high in the dome and played “Taps,” that universal signal that the day is over, and it is time to rest. But Churchill did not want that to be the final word, and so he had left instructions that as soon as the last note of “Taps” faded, a second bugler began to sound “Reveille,” the signal that a new day has dawned and it is time to arise. This is not the end, but for Dad, a new beginning. Praise be to God. —*Michael Lee Nelson*

Albert N. Honaker, Jr., 1922-2007

Albert (Al) N. Honaker Jr., 84, of Arlington, Va., died of congestive heart failure on Feb. 16, 2007, at the Arlington Hospital Center surrounded by his family. Al was born in Pocahontas, Va., on Feb. 25, 1922, to Albert Sr., and Dora Mitchell Honaker. While attending school in Pocahontas, Al worked at the A&P Store and later the Pocahontas Fuel Company Store. He enlisted in the Navy in 1942 and served during World War II. Following the war he graduated from Bluefield (W.Va.) Business College and then earned a degree in finance at the University of Virginia in 1949. After college he had his call to preach, thus entering the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Ga., where he received his Master of Divinity in 1951. He served Methodist churches in Woodridge and Gainesville, Ga., during his enrollment at Candler. He then joined the Virginia Methodist Conference and was assigned to his first church in Batesville, near Charlottesville. He subsequently served the following churches: Arlington Methodist, Arlington; St. Johns, Springfield; Huntington Court, Roanoke; Central, Hampton; Trinity, McLean; Calvary, Arlington; St. Paul, Woodbridge; Lincolnia, Alexandria; Central, Arlington; and Epiphany, Vienna. Al was instrumental in the formation of the National Capital Area Walk to Emmaus and served as spiritual director for many teams, as well as Chrysalis and Kairos.



Following retirement in 1992, Al continued to preach at Falcon’s Landing Military Retirement Home in Sterling for 10 years, and taught Bible at the Hermitage Methodist Home for many years. Throughout his career he led many tours to the Holy Land and other destinations worldwide. Also, Al traveled to India and Pakistan in support of church missionary work.

Upon returning from the war, Al married his high school sweetheart, Pearl Fisher, who succumbed to cancer in 1971. Al and Pearl had four children; Charles David of Denver, Colo.; Richard Albert (and daughter-in-law Ginger) of Dallas, Texas; Robert Jackson of Sterling, Va.; and Ruth Marie of Wilmington, Del.

In 1975 he married Arlin Gearhart Gordon and their marriage was one of joy and peace for 32 years. They adopted a fifth child, Theu Mai (and son-in-law Doug) Weinberg, who came to this country as a teenager from Vietnam during the war. Al had three granddaughters, Michele Honaker, Decatur, Ga.; Delany Honaker, Dallas, Texas; and Kim Mai Weinberg, Chantilly, Va. He also leaves many nieces and nephews and in-laws, all of whom were much loved.

Rev. Honaker was known and loved for his dedication to his Christian mission, his eloquent style of preaching, his personal commitment to his congregation and his wonderful example as a spouse, father and grandfather. The legacy he left was one of love, dignity, Christian stewardship, devotion to the Lord and his family. —*Arlin Honaker*

Jack B. Taylor, 1910 – 2007

Jack B. Taylor was born Oct. 16, 1910, in Oak Hall. His parents were Elwood and Rida Taylor, and he had three sisters and a brother, all of whom predeceased him. He became a member of Downings Church at an early age. His preparation for his ministry included earning the B.A. degree from Randolph-Macon College and the B.D. degree from Candler School of Theology of Emory University. He became a member of the conference on trial while he was a seminary student in 1933 and, at the time of his death on Feb. 26, 2007, Jack was listed first in the Chronological Roll of Elders in Full Connection. He was ordained Deacon in 1936 and Elder in 1938.



Jack and Gwyndolyn Files were married on April 6, 1935, and to this union were born two sons, Robert and Beverly. Robert predeceased Jack. Gwyndolyn and Beverly survive him. Jack and his new bride moved to Hog Island where his pastoral ministry actually began, but that was an assignment that began between sessions of the annual conference. The first appointment at a session of the conference was as pastor at Melfa-Locustville. Jack and Gwyn also served North Mathews, North Mecklenburg, Scottsville, Hinton Avenue, Westhampton, Memorial in Lynchburg, Washington Street in Petersburg, Westover Hills, and Dulin before his retirement in 1976. After his retirement, Jack was pastor of Good Shepherd in Richmond from 1976-1982. His ministry to others did not cease with the end of his being pastor at Good Shepherd, for he continued in his retirement home, The Hermitage in Richmond, as he visited among others living there, especially those in Health Care. It was not until Jack became a patient in Health Care that he ceased regular pastoral visits.

After retirement, Jack and Gwyn became campers and joined the Holiday Rambler's Club. They traveled extensively from Florida to Canada. Jack was appointed national chaplain twice. A memorial service was held at Good Shepherd Church in Richmond with the Rev. Edward Walker, the Rev. John Briggs, and Hermitage Chaplain Denise Bennett leading the service. His grandsons, Owen and Jack II, read passages of Scripture. His son, Beverly, shared family memories. Taylor was a consummate pastor and a faithful servant. In Jack's death, Earth has lost a dedicated and capable church leader; God's eternal kingdom has gained a dedicated servant. —*Gwyndolyn Taylor and Elmer A. Thompson*

Ronald Smith Clark, 1925 – 2007

The Rev. Ronald S. Clark, of Fairfax, Va., went Home on May 4, 2007. He was predeceased by his beloved wife of 46 years, Doris Clark.

Born in Midland, Mich., on March 5, 1925, Ron moved to Loudon County in 1935 with his family to work several farms. He entered the U.S. Navy in 1943 where he attended signalman school in Jacksonville, Fla. He served with distinction during World War II aboard the USS Euryale and the USS Caswell. After the war, he finished high school under the G.I. Bill at McKinley Tech in Washington, D.C. He graduated from Shepherd College in 1952 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts and served as Vice President of the Emeritus Club until only recently. While working on his master's degree at Westminster Theological Seminary in Westminster, Md., he met and married Doris Jeanne Good of Fairfax, Va. Ron began his ministerial career in 1952 as a student pastor at the Sterling Charge. He went on to serve Pamplin, Montague Ave., Galilee in Sterling, Pembroke, Gordonsville, Chuckatuck and Browns Cove/Mt. Moriah. He retired in 1975. Returning to Fairfax, he and his son Mark owned and operated R. S. Clark & Son, a contracting business until 1991.



Ron led a vivid life, marking all those who met him with his caring for people, sense of justice and simple, unaffected love. He was a bold splash of color on our canvas, always serving in the only way he knew, and felt privileged to walk among God's people.

He is survived by his children, Mark and Susan Clark of Roanoke; Marcia and Richard Peterson of Dumfries; Monica and Jefferson Hobbs of Frederick, Md.; and Miriam and Al Saguto of Williamsburg, Va.; his grandchildren, Christopher Tate, Ariel Clark, and Matthew Tate; sister Patsy Laycock and husband Joe; and brother William Clark and wife Nita; and nieces and nephews.

My dad never served a "big" church or a "first" church. He was not a great administrator, he misspelled words in the bulletins occasionally, he didn't particularly enjoy board meetings and was never a favorite of the "inner circle" and decision makers at any of the churches he served as far as I can remember. But when he straightened up his full 5'5" frame and stepped behind the pulpit and opened the King James version of the Bible (he would read nothing else) and began to read, you knew that the hand of God was upon him; and by the time the sermon was finished you knew that God had indeed been in attendance at that service. I calculate that during my life I heard my father preach more than one thousand sermons. Never the same one twice and never one that was delivered in haste or in a spirit that was not appropriate to being behind the pulpit. That is how I will always remember my father, standing tall behind a pulpit clothed in a black robe enjoining in a voice that could shake the rafters, "Turn with me now to the New Testament and read the words of the Apostle Paul where he says..." Amen and Amen. —*Mark D. Clark*

Eugene Braxton Wright, 1917 – 2007

Dr. Eugene Braxton Wright, retired United Methodist minister, went to be with the Lord Saturday, May 5, 2007, at the Sanders Retirement Community in Gloucester. He was 89 years old. Rev. Wright earned a bachelor's degree in religion from Lynchburg College, attended Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, earned a Master of Religious Education from the Presbyterian School of Christian Education, and received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Lexington Theological Seminary. He preached 40 years in United Methodist churches including Boonsboro, Sherbourne Avenue in Chesterfield County, Trinity in Poquoson, Chestnut Hill in Lynchburg, Epworth in Falls Church, and St. Andrews and Berryman in Richmond. After he retired, he served as interim minister at Payne Memorial in Cumberland and as an assistant pastor at Boulevard United Methodist in Richmond.



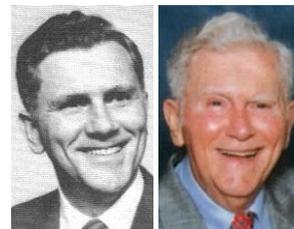
A native of Lynchburg, Va., Dr. Wright is the author of "The Way It Was" (2002), his memoirs. Some of his stories were published in Lynch's Ferry: A Journal of Local History (Fall/Winter 2004/2005) and the Good Old Days magazine (January 2006). Perhaps his most poignant story is "Judgment Day" (from "The Way It Was") in which he describes a childhood fear of Judgment Day that

he overcame when he realized that Christians would spend eternity in the presence of God. His favorite Scripture, which he often quoted with emotion, was Revelation 21:4 (KJV): “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”

Survivors include his wife, Melvena Drinkard Wright; two daughters and their husbands, Linda and Richard Kettelhut and Sheryl and Douglas Stinchcum; six grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and his sister, Joyce Fore. —*Sheryl Wright Stinchcum and Melvena Wright*

Max W. Wicker, 1924 – 2007

After one boy and two girls, the Southern Pines, N.C., printer got another baby boy. It was on Aug. 7, 1924, when Max W. Wicker was born to Mary Black Wicker and William Cleveland Wicker. One of Max’s early achievements was that, as a 10-year-old, he ran the press at Aberdeen’s Dixie Printing Company. In 1944 he enlisted in the Navy’s V-12 program, choosing Duke University for accelerated training. This was the beginning of a long and cherished association with Duke.



His time at the university was cut short by orders to the USS Panamint where he printed maps for mine sweepers in the Pacific Theater during the closing years of World War II. After the war he re-entered Duke. Upon achieving his undergraduate degree, he entered the Divinity School. During his last year in seminary he became chaplain to the Baptist Student Union for Duke. This position continued for two years after graduation. On Aug. 6, 1955, he married Ann Stewart. To this union came Mary Ann Wicker Robertson, Edie Wicker Wibaux, Stewart Wesley, Susan Wicker Yunker and William James Wicker.

His first Virginia Conference appointment was in Richmond as associate at Ginter Park, followed by assignments to Highland Park in Richmond, Brookland in Richmond, Wesley Memorial in Charlottesville, Windsor Hills in Roanoke, Del Ray in Alexandria, Fredericksburg, Springfield and Calvary in Arlington. In retirement he returned to Del Ray Church to serve as interim pastor. In 1999 he and Ann returned to their beloved North Carolina. He served on numerous conference boards and agencies including The Board of Ordained Ministry and the Board of Pensions.

His 39 years of active ministry were marked by exceptional pastoral care, strong preaching, and loyalty to the connection and its causes. He was full of good works. He and Ann were much loved by their congregations. The administration of his churches was characterized by common sense, a generous spirit and faithfulness to the program of the entire church. He had a progressive stance on Christian social concerns. No one worked harder to prevent state sponsored gambling in Virginia. Max gave his all to this ill-fated endeavor, inspiring clergy friends and parishioners to join the fight.

The great loves of his life were obvious—Ann and their children, the Lord of the church and his congregations, his friends, Duke University and travel. He and Ann hosted more than 20 tours, mostly overseas. In their travels friendships were enhance and expanded. He was a cherished friend. A funeral service was held on Sunday, May 13, 2007, at Page Memorial United Methodist Church in Aberdeen, N.C. Internment was in the Wicker family plot at Beulah Hill Baptist Church Cemetery on land given by his grandfather upon which the church was built. —*Bernard S. Via, Jr.*

Carl Julian Sanders, 1912 – 2007

Carl Julian Sanders was born May 18, 1912, in Star, N.C., and died March 7, 2007, in Birmingham, Ala. After graduating from Wofford College and the Candler School of Theology at Emory University, he joined the Upper South Carolina Conference of The Methodist Church in 1934. In 1935, he married



Eleanor Lupo who preceded him in death on March 24, 1995. On June 28, 1997, he married Billie Jo Perry, who had been his secretary when he was the Resident Bishop of the Birmingham Area.

He transferred to the Virginia Conference in 1935 and served effectively in the following appointments: Cheriton 1936-40, Chase City 1940-44, South Roanoke 1944-48, Broad Street (Richmond) 1948-55, superintendent of Petersburg District 1955-56, superintendent of Richmond District 1956-61, Centenary (Richmond) 1961-65, superintendent of Norfolk District 1965-71, Arlington 1971-72.

Beyond the local church he proved to be equally effective in his leadership, serving as president of the Board of Evangelism, member of the Board of Finance and Administration, chair of the Commission on Higher Education, and member of the General Board of Publications. He was one of the founders and a trustee of Virginia Wesleyan College in Norfolk and served as a trustee of Ferrum College, Randolph-Macon Academy, and Alaska Methodist University.

In 1972 Dr. Sanders made history at the Southeastern Jurisdictional (SEJ) Conference by being the first person ever to be elected a bishop on the first ballot. He was assigned to the Birmingham Area consisting of the entire state of Alabama and the northwest panhandle of Florida. His Episcopal Area included two conferences, the North Alabama Conference and the Alabama-West Florida Conference.

During his eight years as bishop, he led campaigns in both conferences for higher education and pensions and served as president of the United Methodist Committee on Relief. As bishop, he traveled extensively around the world, visiting refugee camps and mission work in Africa, Asia, and Europe. In 1980, he retired as an active bishop.

Bishop Sanders was a rare individual, the likeness of which we will never see again. He was a powerful preacher, a compassionate pastor, and a skillful administrator. He knew how to order the life of the church and he had the courage to do it! He had the God-given gift of making the Scripture come alive, and his stories and illustrations drove home his points in a clear and concise manner. He

received three Freedom Foundation Awards for his sermons: "One Nation Under God" 1962, "Independence and Beyond" 1977, and "In God We Trust—Do We or Don't We?" 1987. In 1980 he gave the opening sermon to General Conference and the Consecration Sermon to the newly elected bishops of the SEJ Conference.

He was a man of great faith and vision, who never met a stranger. His outlook on life was positive to the very end, as he would say, "It's a great day" or "Everything is all right." In his last years, he often said, "It's been a great life. The Lord has been good to me!" His ministry of more than 70 years is a radiant testimony of his love and devotion to Jesus Christ and his church.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two daughters, Lundi Martin of Richmond and Eleanor Kasler of Lancaster, Ohio; two stepdaughters, Elizabeth Perry and Judy Shipp of Birmingham, Ala.; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and a brother, Charles Sanders, of Rock Hill, S.C. Funeral services were held on March 12 at Trinity United Methodist Church, Richmond. Bishop Paul A. Duffey and the Rev. Gene C. Tatum officiated, assisted by Bishop B. Michael Watson, Bishop Charlene P. Kammerer, Bishop Joe E. Pennel Jr. and Bishop R. Kern Eutsler. Burial was in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Richmond.

Longfellow, in "A Psalm of Life," reminds us "We can make our lives sublime, and departing leave behind us footprints on the sands of time." Carl Julian Sanders has left behind his footprints on the lives of all he has touched, from the crystal blue waters of Cheriton on Virginia's Eastern Shore to the rolling hills and sands of Alabama! His footprints are deep and eternal. "Well done good and faithful servant!"
—Gene C. Tatum

Herbert Gill Stewart, 1909 – 2006

Herbert Gill Stewart (Herbie) was born on May 3, 1909, in Petersburg as the second of five children to Charles H. Stewart Sr. and Willetta McCann Stewart. The family moved to Portsmouth in 1926. This began the start of his career as a church organist at Park View Methodist while still a junior in high school. His father served as choir director until Herbert took over. He served Park View Methodist Church until 1958.

Herbert started piano lessons at age 9. He later attended William and Mary College for two years where he sang in the Glee Club and played the organ on Sundays. In 1938, Herbert and others had a vision for a community concert series in Portsmouth. His musical legacy continues today because PCCI is currently celebrating its 68th season.

On April 5, 1941, Herbert married Idoline Roberts. They spent much time together and enjoyed traveling until her death in 1985. In 1942, Herbert became a member of the American Guild of Organists. In 1952, he organized the Portsmouth Chapter for the Guild. Herbert served in the Army from 9/4/43 as chapel, post, radio and theater organist at various Army posts until he was honorably discharged in 1945.

September of 1959 brought Herbert's church membership to West End Methodist Church, where he served as the organist and choir director. He enjoyed a very close relationship with the church pastors as well as the church members. He was a Sunday school teacher in the Dean Cornelius Class. In 1960, he was consecrated and certified as a Minister of Music at the Virginia Annual Conference of The Methodist Church. He retired with the title of Minister of Music Emeritus at West End United Methodist Church after 32 years.

In 1986, he began mini-concerts at eight local nursing homes. From 1986 to 1999, he played 4,225 piano concerts for their residents. In September 2002 he became a resident at the Churchland House and played for his fellow residents up until Jan. 27, 2006.

Herbert was a man of many talents. He was a "participating member" of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP). He composed 11 cantatas, numerous anthems, arranged compositions for his church choirs, and co-wrote an anthem "God Will Answer Prayer" with his father. Herbert taught more than 150,000 music lessons in 44 years (which included lessons for more than 100 area church organists). He presented hundreds of local radio and TV programs and taught Sunday school for 40 years. His faith in God was enormous.

On Jan. 29, 1985, he wrote a song that he requested be sung (and it was) at his funeral. It is titled "Jesus Christ Rules Over My World."

Herbert summed up his life when he wrote: "I'm proud to be an American. I'm proud to be a Christian. I'm proud to be a Stewart. I'm proud to be a gentleman. I'm proud to be a Child of God. I'm proud to be a Methodist. I'm proud to be a vet. I'm proud to be a church organist. I'm just about one of the proudest humans alive, and a son of a gun."

HERBIE, WE WILL ALL MISS YOU VERY MUCH. —*Ann Stewart*

Geneala Van Valkenburgh Swink, 1929 – 2007

O May this bounteous God Through all our life be near us, With ever joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us; And keep us in His grace, And guide us when perplexed, And free us from all ills In this world and the next. Geneala was freed from the debilitating ills of Parkinson's Disease on Friday, March 2, 2007. Geneala was born Jan. 15, 1929, in New Orleans. The daughter of a Methodist minister, the church was a part of her life from birth. Moving from church to church as preachers' children do, Geneala grew up in Louisiana, Kansas and the Methodist Camp Grounds on the Biloxi Shores of Mississippi. She was



graduated from Millsaps College and Emory University Graduate School. She became the Director of Children's Work for the Mississippi Conference.

In March 1962 she attended the Methodist Recreation Workshop in Leesburg, Fla. There she met a handsome, witty Virginia pastor, Fletcher Wilson Swink. He later stated in his annual Christmas letter, "We had a number of conversations about theology and related ecclesiastical subjects. It developed that she was to be the Associate Supervisor of the Laboratory School for Workers with Children at Lake Junaluska, N.C., in the summer. During the next few weeks, I began to feel an acute need for further leadership training." They were married on March 2, 1963. Geneala and Fletcher had one much cherished daughter, Martha Susan, and shared 20 wonderful years together until Fletcher's death in 1983.

The Mississippi Conference's loss was Virginia's gain. Geneala served as pastor's wife to Epworth, Skipwith, St. Luke's (Falls Church) and Smith's Chapel United Methodist churches. She was the Director of Christian Education/Diaconal Minister at Fairfax, Franconia, Crossman, Dulin and Stratford Hills United Methodist churches. During these years she became involved in the clowning ministry. As Rainbow the Clown, she visited nursing homes and taught many workshops to help others share this ministry. She was involved in children's ministry on the conference level and wrote and published children's curriculum.

After her retirement in 1991, Geneala enjoyed travel with friends, especially her Christian Educators Fellowship "traveling buddies." She returned to Dulin UMC as a member of the congregation until finally moving to the Hermitage in Richmond to be closer to her daughter. She was proud to be the first resident to be allowed to bring along a beloved pet. While there she lobbied for a water aerobics program and became a watercolor artist, winning ribbons at the State Fair.

Geneala was a faithful servant of God, devoted wife and loving mother. She is survived by her daughter, Martha Susan Swink Shippee. Now thank we all our God With heart and hands and voices, Who wondrous things hath done, In whom his world rejoices; Who, from our mothers' arms, Hath blessed us on our way. With countless gifts of love, And still is ours today. —*Martha Susan Swink Shippee*

Jean Rosen Spencer, 1946 – 2006

Jean Rosen Spencer, 59, of Limeton, Va., died on Thursday, Aug. 17, 2006. Rev. Spencer was born Sept. 16, 1946, in Martinsburg, W.Va., to the late C. B. "Ben" and the late Dorothy Borden Rosen. When her Lutheran family moved to Leesburg, little Jean said they were church shopping because there was no Lutheran church in town. A Methodist ever since, she met her future husband, John, in church while in high school. She grew up in Leesburg, graduating as valedictorian of the class of 1964 at Loudoun County High. She graduated from Madison College with a B.A. before teaching Latin at Loudoun Valley and Spotsylvania High schools for a short while. She resided in Springfield while she was employed by EEI of Alexandria as a word processor operator and copy editor for 24 years.



Long active in church, she was fond of telling the story of her ironing board conversion on Oct. 6, 1994. From that date she was passionate about her Lord striving for ways to serve Him.

In 1998 she answered her call to the ministry and returned to school, receiving an M.Div. from Wesley Theological Seminary. She served Melrose United Methodist Church in Lottsburg for two years starting in 2003. She also held services at Lewisetta during the summers. During that time she discovered she had a passion for the ministry, working hard to ensure everyone would "Fully Rely On God" (FROG). Frogs of all kinds began to appear everywhere in the parsonage, and the new children's program, the "Peace Frogs," was named in her honor. She loved to tell of salvation through Jesus. In the fall of 2003 she coordinated Melrose serving as an area emergency response center after Hurricane

Isabel. The Melrose building campaign was officially started, developing detailed plans and drawings for a new fellowship hall. She was active in the Fredericksburg Emmaus community and served as Spiritual Director on one walk. Unfortunately she had to take a leave of absence for her health in 2005 to control the psoriasis that occasionally caused severe cellulitis.

In April 2006 she moved with her husband to the Limeton area and thought she was fully recovered.

For many years she was an active volunteer, as a Cub Scout Den Leader, soccer coach, traveling soccer team manager, NVSL swim team manager, Sunday school teacher, and Stephen Ministries Series Leader at Sydenstricker UMC. She loved to host the large, typically 12 to 18, family gatherings for any holiday or family occasion.

She is survived by her husband of 37 years, John H. Spencer; a son, John Michael Spencer and his wife, Stephanie Rausch Spencer of Fountain Hill, Penn.; and a daughter, Julie Rebecca Spencer of Sterling.

A celebration of life was held at Pender United Methodist Church, Fairfax, on Wednesday, Aug. 23, by the Rev. Kenny Newsome and the Rev. Tracy McNeil. —*John Howard Spencer*

Douglas Gale Belcher, 1961 – 2006

Douglas Gale Belcher was born in Princeton, W.Va. He was a man of strong moral values and commitment. Doug met his wife to be, Donna, when he was in the fifth grade. Doug and Donna were married after high school and moved to New Castle, Va., in 1983, where they lived and raised their three children, Travis, Trista and Troy. Travis and his wife, Jessica and Trista and her husband, Bryan, live in New Castle; and Troy lives at home with his mother, Donna, also in New Castle.

Doug was the kind of man that never met a stranger. He was a joker and loved to pick at everyone. He was loved in all aspects of his life; from his home life and family to his friends, in his ministry and even into the work place. Doug had a way with people that was a true gift and could only have been ordained by God. Doug had a humility that was second only to his service to God.

An accomplished cabinetmaker, Doug excelled in the companies where he worked and quickly advanced to leadership positions. Even though he was promoted quickly, his gentle spirit would never allow him to offend anyone.

Doug's ministry began long before his service in the pulpit. He was the lay leader, Sunday school superintendent, and teacher in the local church in which he served prior to becoming a Licensed Local Pastor. Doug was appointed to Andrew Chapel UMC in Buchanan, where he began to serve as a lay supply pastor in July 2005. He attended Licensing School, became a Licensed Local Pastor, and started Course of Study at Duke Divinity School in 2006. The congregation at Andrew Chapel UMC loved Doug and his family and continues to miss him.

To be with Douglas Gale Belcher was to be in the presence of Jesus Christ. We all love and miss you, Doug, with your sweet, gentle spirit that really was that of Jesus Christ. —*Danny L. Kesler*

Marjorie Virginia Tyson, 1922 – 2007

God gave Marjorie Tyson three things that defined her life: a love for her Lord, a love for young people, and a love for travel. He also gave her a life of excitement, adventure, and purpose. Marjorie was born in Parish Memorial Hospital in Portsmouth, the daughter of Adelaide Jones Tyson and Allen Joshua Tyson. She had an older brother, Roy, and a younger sister, Dana. She grew up in Cradock, the first planned community in the United States. Dr. Edgar Potts was the pastor when she joined the Methodist Church. He later drove his family to Buck Hills Falls, Pa., to attend the service when she was commissioned as a Methodist missionary.

After graduating from Cradock High School she studied at Mrs. Johnson's Secretarial School. Upon completion of that program she got a job working at the Seaboard Airline Railway for 17 years. While working there she taught Sunday school, was secretary of the Sub-District Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF), a member of the church's Board of Education, and was later a youth counselor.

When asked to be district Director of Youth Work, Marjorie felt the need for more education. She enrolled in night classes at William and Mary's Norfolk division. During this time she was elected chairman of the Virginia Conference Young Adult Organization Committee on Church Loyalty and Evangelism. Her vacations were spent attending conferences at Randolph-Macon Woman's College, the Youth Leadership Development at Lake Junaluska, the Cleveland Conference, also Purdue and the Portsmouth District training event. She always challenged others to attend these conferences.

In 1955 at Dana's commissioning as a missionary, Marjorie was challenged by Mission Personnel Secretary Marguerite Twinem to also enter the mission field. In 1959 she went to the Philippines for the first time. Always a student, Marjorie graduated from Northwestern University with an M.A. in religion and from Scarritt College with an M.A. in church and community. She took other classes at Wesley Seminary in Washington, D.C., Vanderbilt Divinity School and Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville, Tenn.

Marjorie was a licensed Director of Christian Education in the Virginia Conference and was consecrated a deaconess in the Philippines by Bishop Paul Locke Granadosin. While in the Philippines she served as conference missionary in Mindanao and in the Northwest Conference, president of Asbury College and was the official correspondent of the World Division of the Board of Global Ministries, a charter member of the Child Welfare Organization of the Philippines as well as a member of the Board of Trustees of Mary Johnston Hospital for 17 years.

She and Dr. Prudencia Fabro encouraged the Philippine Deaconess Board to join Diakonia. In 1995 the group hosted the International Organization in Manila with more than 500 people attending. The library in the new building at Lingayen Christian Center is named for Marjorie. After serving 26 years in the Philippines, she retired and was instrumental in the formation of the Tidewater Association of Philippine Methodists along with Portsmouth District Superintendent Don Traylor, Dr. and Mrs. Ray and Elma Pascual, Dr. Vianmar and Florie Pascual.

An article in the Filipino Methodist stated: "She came to the Philippines as one committed to Christ and called to serve the youth. She believed in what God can do with the potential of one young person who is committed to Jesus Christ. Indeed, Miss Tyson was an American missionary with a Filipino heart." —*Dana Tyson*

2008 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

James Floyd Richmond, 1909 – 2007

James Floyd Richmond, born Dec. 29, 1909, on McCallester Ridge near Wileysville, Wetzel County, in West Virginia, was the eldest son of the late Friend and Julie Jane Dakan Richmond. Floyd met his Jesus at the altar of a small country church during a revival. He was fortunate that surrounding him were supporting Christians and clergy. Through their encouragement and his devotion, he thought he could meet a higher calling. Arrangements were made that he could be assigned a charge while continuing working. He had 30 years of service with Wheeling-Pitts. Steel Benwood Corporation. The Friendly, W.Va., charge had seven churches, and was 60 miles from the steel mill. He used his vacation time to study at the seminary in Washington, D.C. Fate may have played a part, for there was a steelworkers strike, a little later a retirement buyout, and a conference ordaining. The next few years, we think, he served six charges including 20 churches. Fate may have again stepped in, because a West Virginia Conference



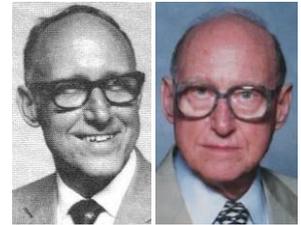
disappointment became a Virginia Conference blessing. In the Virginia Conference, he served Rehoboth Parish in the Rappahannock District from 1970 to 1974, when he retired. Although he was a “come here,” he loved Virginia—Kilmarnock in particular—because of the people he had grown to know and love so much. We think our mom, the former Helen Mae Klag (deceased), his wife of 61 years, was his perfect life’s companion. She fulfilled her special ministry. After returning home he continued worshipping and serving that small country church. His last sermon was with failing eyesight.

Churches Floyd served include: 1959 – Friendly Charge, Raven Rock, Long Reach, Friendly, Zion, Archen’s Chapel, Shiloh, and Little; 1964 – Bowen Charge; 1966 – Friendly Charge; and 1968 – Reader Charge. Association memberships included: United Methodist Men; Every Man’s Share Nashville, Tenn.; Society of St. Andrew, Big Island, Va.; FM.AM Phoenix Lodge No. 73, Sistersville; Chapter No. 27 R.A.M. Commandary Knights Templar of Paden City, W.Va.; Farm Bureau of Marshall County, W.Va.; vice president Board of Directors, Senior Center, Moundsville and Glendale, W.Va.; Volunteer Nutrition program Golden Towers; Historical Society, Jackson Mills. He was a member of Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church in Rocky Mount, Va.

Survivors include: three sons and one daughter: Floyd Dean (Phyllis) Richmond; Ronald Dale Richmond; Susan Carol (Jerry) Waters; James David Richmond; 12 grandchildren; 32 great-grandchildren; 11 great-great-grandchildren; three brothers Oren (Slim), wife Grace; Elmer, wife Mary; and Robert Daken, wife Margorie. —*The children of Helen Mae and the Rev. James Floyd Richmond*

Robert Harris Kesler, 1918-2007

Frederick Buechner was fond of noting that the French translation of the Beatitude “Blessed are the meek” was “Heureux sont les debonnairs.” Robert Harris Kesler truly exemplified the adjective “debonair” in its best meanings: gracious, courteous, stylish, friendly, and blessed with a grace-filled spirit. Harris was known for being a dancer, actor, scholar, traveler—and one of the Virginia Conference’s most respected pastors.



Born on Aug. 25, 1918, Harris was the son of Ernest P. and Maude H. Kesler of Roanoke. He was a proud graduate of Roanoke city schools, of Randolph-Macon College (where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa), and of Duke Divinity School. He served a seven-point charge in Prince George before becoming a Navy chaplain in 1944 and serving in the Pacific theater. Upon his Navy discharge in 1946 Harris married Sarah Thomas of Oxford, N.C. Together they moved to New York City, where he studied at Union Theological Seminary under noted theologian Paul Tillich, among others.

Returning to Virginia in 1947, Harris served eight appointments. Three of them were named Main Street (surely some sort of conference record): McKinney, Main Street (Emporia), Duncan Memorial (Ashland), Main Street (Suffolk), Asbury (Hampton), Epworth (Norfolk), Main Street (Waynesboro), and First (Salem). He was widely recognized throughout his 41 years of ministry as a skilled preacher, compassionate counselor, and effective pastor.

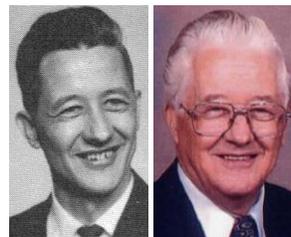
Harris retired in 1984, and he and Sarah returned to live in Ashland. Randolph-Macon College had previously honored him with a Doctor of Divinity degree, and he proudly served on the college’s Board of Trustees for 22 years. In 1996, Sarah, his beloved partner through 50 years of marriage, faith and dancing, passed away. Shortly thereafter Harris moved to the Hermitage at Cedarfield; he was soon regarded as one of their most congenial, fit and well-dressed residents. In 1998 Harris celebrated his 80th birthday by riding one of Paramount’s Kings Dominion’s famous roller coasters.

This writer was honored to have known Harris Kesler as a parishioner, mentor, fellow Kiwanian, friend, and brother in Christ. His sudden death on June 23, 2007,—this writer’s birthday—has left an elegant void in the fellowship of the Virginia Conference. One can pray he was greeted by God Eternal

with a beatitude of grace: “Blessed are you, my beloved and debonair servant. Enter into my joy.”
—*Lawrence W. Buxton*

Calvin Brewster Johnson, 1927 – 2007

Calvin B. Johnson died July 15, 2007, in High Point, N.C., after a debilitating illness of several years duration, six weeks after his 80th birthday. He is survived by his wife, Marvel (Oswalt, married in 1950), and their four children: Philip (& Cindy), Miriam (& Fred) Van Pelt, Stephen (& Kendra), and Ruth (& Chris) Caul. He is also survived by six grandchildren and one brother. His family was the love of his life.



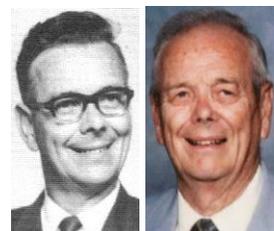
Calvin was born in Bluefield, Va., on May 30, 1927, to William Andrew and Ida Crouse Johnson. The family moved to Pound, Va., shortly after Calvin was born. He had four brothers, one of whom was his twin. Although they grew up in the Appalachian coal mining region, the family earned their living by truck farming on those mountains. He accepted Christ at age 10 in a community-wide revival and joined Pound Methodist Church (Holston Conference). At age 16, he accepted God’s call to preach. After serving a brief time in the United States Navy at the end of WWII in the Philippines, he entered Asbury College and later, Asbury Theological Seminary, from which he earned an A.B. and M.Div. degrees respectively. During those years, he was a dedicated student of the Scriptures, served as a student pastor, and participated in other mission opportunities.

Calvin was admitted into the Virginia Conference in 1955 and served the following appointments (districts in parentheses) until his retirement in 1990: Alexander Park/Parkside (Portsmouth); Christ (Peninsula); Wallace Memorial (Peninsula); Stokesland (Danville); Mount Bethel (Danville); John Wesley College in North Carolina; Rockbridge (Staunton); Parrish Court (Staunton); and Oakland (Danville). He served John Wesley College for 14 years as administrator/professor and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from this institution in 1984.

Calvin was a man of fervent prayer, a serious Bible student, and thoroughly committed to being a conservative Christian theologian and scholar. He loved books, collected them, read them, and even wrote one, *Beyond the Point of No Return*, reflecting his concern for recent trends in The United Methodist Church. Very few preachers have been more loyal to Christ and his church than Calvin throughout his life. As a Spirit-filled pastor and college president, he was attentive to duty and always full of concern, compassion, and Christ-like care for people in need. Every day and in every way, Calvin did the work of an evangelist, telling the good news, preaching the word, and lifting up our Lord wherever he went. In his retirement years, he completed a review of every chapter in the Bible in outline form. It took him seven years. Though a gifted leader, a successful husband and parent, Calvin walked in great humility, giving all the glory to Christ whom he loved and served. —*Marvel Johnson and Several Friends*

Albert John Schrader, 1922 – 2007

My name is Ann J. Schrader and the task fell on me to write this memoir of my father, the Rev. Albert J. Schrader. I find it difficult to do so for obvious emotional reasons—I’m still grieving over the loss of my dear, sweet father. Not to mention, he was an English major in undergraduate school and quite the poet. Anyway, I’m not sure I’ll do justice to my dad’s memoir.



My dad grew up in Pittsburgh, Pa. As I recall, he told me he became saved at a tent revival and experienced a true calling to serve God. He was raised in the Methodist Church in an area close to his family’s home. His father was a pioneer in the remodeling kitchen business during the Depression. My grandfather, Albert D. Schrader owned three businesses in Pittsburgh at the time. A construction business, a remodeling kitchen business, and a miniature model

business where my grandfather hired veterans to make models of what your new kitchen would look like. My grandfather would go door-to-door to sell the new kitchen ideas.

My father was a teenager during this period and he had the good fortune to go to college. He started out at Boston College, but after one year decided that the winters were too cold there and transferred to another small college, Mt. Union College in Alliance, Ohio. At Alliance, he received a B.A. in English. From Mt. Union, he went on to seminary school at Duke University in Durham, N.C.

My grandfather attended his graduation at Duke along with my father's mother and siblings. My father graduated from Duke in the late '40s. While at Duke, he met my mother, Mary Nadine Jobe; she was called Nadine. They met while my father was in summer school at Duke and she worked in the school cafeteria. She was out of East Carolina College and decided to go to nursing school. She was on a government scholarship to become a war nurse and attended Whatts Hospital Nursing School. Fortunately, the war ended around the time she graduated but my father was insistent on marrying her before she graduated. So off to Virginia went my dad's family and my mother's family for the wedding. Whatts Hospital had a rule that the nurses in training were not allowed to marry before graduation.

My grandfather was shoveling snow and died suddenly at the age of 52. My grandmother, Beulah Schrader, asked my father to come back to Pittsburgh to run the family businesses but my dad felt his true calling was to serve the Lord. My parents moved to Hillsboro, W.Va. where my dad served his first church and my mother worked at the closest hospital. She convinced my dad to go back to Duke and complete his thesis; so he did.

My dad decided to become a Methodist minister in the Virginia Conference. My parents served a church in Herndon, Va., and on the Eastern Shore and then my dad decided to join the Navy. He spent three years in the Navy while my mother and two brothers were stationed in California. The family returned to Virginia where my dad served churches on the Eastern Shore, Lynchburg, Lexington, Staunton, Fairfield/Vesuvius, and finally as a visiting minister in Richmond, Va. In Richmond, my mother, Nadine, was suffering from Alzheimer's, diabetes, and had already survived breast cancer. My father took care of her until she had to be placed in assisted living and eventually several different nursing homes. After her death, my father went back to work and served as a visiting minister until his melanoma cancer caught up with him. He had been fighting it for some time and eventually died from brain cancer.

During his time in Richmond, he continued to help support and take care of his children John, David, and myself. David had diabetes and fought a long battle with the disease until he too died in Richmond. My dad survived David by one month and two weeks. I was able to be at both their sides when they passed away. My dad was a wonderful, sweet, caring man who loved his work, and was a true servant of the Lord. He was a good husband and a great father. He loved to work in the yard and play golf. I imagine him in heaven hitting those holes in one. —*Ann J. Schrader*

William Neil Raney, Sr., 1918 – 2007

Bill was born Feb. 24, 1918, in Drayton, N. D. He was the fifth of seven children. His father had migrated from Canada to the Red River Valley looking for fertile soil with no rocks. Here he homesteaded hundreds of acres of land still being farmed by his family. His mother was the first white child born in the Dakota Territory. The winters in North Dakota were severe, and his father took his young family to the Santa Clara Valley in California, where once again he began to acquire land. So, Bill and his four brothers and two sisters grew up sharing their summers in California and North Dakota.



Bill brought his parents east on a trip when he was in junior college and decided to transfer to the University of Richmond where he graduated with a B.S. degree. When he entered Candler Theological School in Georgia he accepted a student pastorate in Flowery Branch, Ga. He loved his experience there

but the following year he transferred to Union Theological Seminary in Richmond. Graduation took place in 1945. During his seminary time he again had a student pastorate at Sherbourne Avenue after which he served as the full-time pastor for two years. In 1946 he married Marjorie Jenning, his wife of 62 years. Once he was asked by a professor at Union why the Raney's don't do interdenominational work. After all he was a Methodist, Marg was a Baptist and both of them were in a Presbyterian school.

Dr. Jack Engle appointed them to the Spotsylvania Circuit of five churches. This was the first time a group ministry was tried in Virginia. With the help of two other pastors on Sundays, Hillcrest and Tabernacle became stations in two years. The charge covered 365 square miles. While there, Bill was asked to reopen Locust Grove, a church closed many years before. Bill found great joy in seeing all of these things happen in due time to the glory of our God.

Scott Memorial at Oceana was the next appointment. Bill felt a great challenge to minister to the vacationers at the beach, so the first drive-in church in Virginia was born. The first summer all 50 states had been represented by people worshiping in their cars often in bathing suits. On Sunday afternoon he began services at Thalia in a fire station. One Sunday a large black snake came swinging from the rafters but, in spite of this, eventually, Thalia Methodist was born; then the Raney tribe went to Chestnut Hill in Lynchburg. He went on to serve Duncan Memorial in Berryville, where Sen. Harry Byrd was known to the parsonage children as Uncle Apple Byrd. Bill once again saw an opportunity to start another church as pastor of Wesley Church in Martinsville. Eventually, Chatham Heights was born to the glory of God. Bill loved the students of nearby Washington & Lee University and Virginia Military Institute who came to Trinity Church in Lexington. Then, came Christ Church, Richmond; Herndon in Herndon, Va.; Trinity in Smithfield and Skipwith in Richmond, after which he retired. He is survived by his wife, Marg, one daughter, Leslie Raney Dawley, and one son, C. Craig Raney. William Neil Raney, Jr. and Martha Raney Moore preceded him in death.

Bill is sorely missed and his wonderful ever present smile cannot be forgotten. "And I thank Christ Jesus, our Lord, in that he counted me faithful putting me into the ministry." 1 Timothy 1:12
—*Marjorie J. Raney*

Patricia W. Olson, 1933 – 2007

Whom shall I send and who will go for us? Here am I, Pat said, send me.

There in the pulpit of the chapel at Wesley Seminary she felt a final pull, the call to God's ministry. Wanting a break from her professional life, she had enrolled to audit one preaching course at Wesley. And as she embarked upon this "practice sermon" with her chosen text from Isaiah, she had at last the answer to the nudging questions that seemed to follow her throughout her life—where was God really leading her through a lifetime of learning, preparation, and service.



Now sure of her calling, she enrolled full time at Wesley and graduated with honors in 1989. Rev. Pat is remembered as a loving pastor, helpful counselor, and dynamic preacher while serving for two years during seminary at Mill Creek Parish UMC in Derwood, Md., and in her appointments in the Virginia Conference, both rural and urban. She served the East Culpeper Charge, Hopewell UMC in Lignum and Richardsville UMC; as associate pastor of Springfield UMC in Northern Virginia, where she made use of her Spanish language skills; and finally the Cedar Run Charge in Fauquier County, Trinity UMC in Catlett and Mt. Horeb UMC in Bristersburg. In retirement, she loved guest preaching and work as volunteer chaplain at Fairfax Hospital.

Before that moment in the Wesley Chapel, Rev. Pat had occupied other pulpits as a lay speaker, including that of her home church in Arlington, Mount Olivet UMC. She had lived a full 54 years with varying careers in public speaking, radio and television, office management, and successful representation of her country abroad as a diplomat's wife. Service overseas also offered opportunities

for lay ministry and the challenge of raising three children—Michael, Kirsten, and Kathy. It all began in Milwaukee, Wis., in the deepest depths of the Depression. Patricia Kay Whipple was born in 1933. World War II brought the family to Texas, to Houston, Kerrville, and then Corpus Christi. There she met a high school and Methodist Youth Fellowship chum, Oscar Olson. She was a radio/television major at the University of Houston, a pioneer in public television. Pat served as “weather girl” and had interview programs on the first two seasons (1953-1955) of KUHT, the first public television station in the United States. Upon graduation, she traveled to Bremerhaven, Germany, to marry Oscar, who was there completing his military service. Almost three decades in the Foreign Service followed, with assignments to Caracas, Venezuela; Barcelona, Spain; Ciudad Juarez, Mexico; West Berlin; Panama City, Panama; and Quito, Ecuador. During time in Washington, D.C., Pat worked with an ecumenical group in the Methodist Building on Capitol Hill and later as assistant to Elizabeth Campbell, founder of Washington’s public television station, WETA. While in West Berlin, she hosted her own program on Armed Forces television, extolling the many attractions of that fascinating city.

Rev. Pat suggested her own epitaph: “I had it all—including just enough pain, just enough disappointment to KNOW I had it all.” And she gave her “all” in a lifetime of service and devotion to the Lord’s work. She is sorely missed. —*Oscar Olson*

Philip Wesley Thomas, Sr., 1913 – 2007

Philip Wesley Thomas, Sr., felt the tug into ministry by the Holy Spirit as a young boy of 6 years old. Whenever there was a chicken, rabbit, or family pet that died, Phillip would stand on a stump or climb up into a tree and preach the funeral. Philip was born in Lara, Va., on May 15, 1913. He was one of four sons of Prince Albert and Evelyn Cockrell Thomas. He answered his call into ministry when he was 26 years old after graduating from Randolph-Macon College with a bachelor’s degree in art. In 1941, he married the other love of his life, Eleanor Louise Kellum. Philip’s loving wife supported them both while Philip attended Westminster Theological Seminary in Westminster, Md., and obtained a master’s degree in sacred theology.



Between 1945 and 1980, Philip served: Lebanon-Providence (1945-1949), LaCrosse (1952-1956), Prospect (1956-1960), Bowling Green-Shiloh (1960-1964), Chincoteague (1964-1968), Stanleytown (1968-1971), Oak Grove/Chesapeake (1971-1975), Christ/Covington (1975-1980), retired in 1980, Shackelford Chapel (1984-1989), and was the volunteer chaplain at Thousand Trails Campground for 12 years.

During his ministry, Philip served on numerous boards and committees on both the Virginia Conference and the district levels. When “Pop” Smith ran the Methodist Children’s Home, Philip took a youth group there every summer. He was, also, a familiar face at the Hermitage on the Eastern Shore. The Boy Scouts of America was close to Philip’s heart, where he served as a wonderfully dedicated scoutmaster. He was very active in all the communities of which he was appointed and held various offices in the Ruritan Club and the Masonic Lodge.

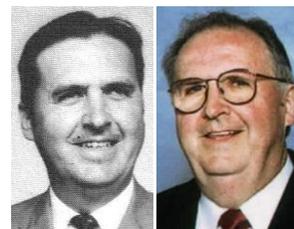
Philip loved preaching, especially sermons dealing with the Ten Commandments. He never met a stranger, and loved everyone he met. Philip was known for being available “24/7” to the people in his congregations. There were interrupted meals, calls in the middle of the night, and vacations cut short, but he understood it as his service to God and to his family in Christ.

Philip was taken home to be with the Lord on Sept. 18, 2007. He was loved, respected, and adored by everyone—especially his wife, Eleanor, of 66 years. In fact, Eleanor missed him so much, that within 11 weeks, she followed him into eternal glory on Dec. 13, 2007. They are both laid to rest on the

grounds of Philip's home church, Hopewell UMC, in Farnham, Va. Survivors include two children.
—*Eleanor Thomas Bowen, Daughter*

William Duncan Parrish, 1929 – 2007

William Duncan Parrish was born on Saturday, Jan. 26, 1929, in Winston-Salem, N.C., to Sydney Monroe and Alma Pope Parrish. At the age of 17, he had a life-changing conversion experience at a Youth for Christ meeting. The Youth for Christ director was the pastor at the local Christian and Missionary Alliance Church. Bill began attending church there where he met Mary Ruth Alspaugh. Bill and Mary dated for three years and were married for 57 years when he passed away on Oct. 2, 2007.



Bill graduated from Hanes High School in Winston-Salem, in 1947, and was voted “most intellectual” by his classmates. He cherished the word of God and memorized vast portions of Scripture that remained with him throughout his life.

Bill received his baccalaureate degree from Nyack College in Nyack, N.Y., and a Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Va. An honorary Doctorate of Divinity was conferred upon him by Shenandoah University of Winchester, Va., in 1986.

He served the Virginia Conference as pastor of the Bethel-Gum Spring Charge in the Richmond District; Skipwith Church in Richmond; Bethany Church in Hampton; Larchmont Church in Norfolk; Washington Street Church in Petersburg; and Annandale and Arlington United Methodist churches in Northern Virginia. In addition, he served as the district superintendent for the Winchester District. He also served as a member of the Virginia Conference boards on ministry, education, and global ministries. In 1984 he was selected as a delegate of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference. Prior to his ministry in The United Methodist Church, Bill served two Christian and Missionary Alliance churches for seven years.

Following his retirement from The United Methodist Church in 1992, Bill served as the president of the Norfolk Lions Club, and was chairman of the Sight and Hearing Committee of that club for many years. He and Mary also did volunteer work for Meals on Wheels.

Dr. Parrish is survived by his wife, Mary; his children: Deborah, David, Sarah, Cynthia, Philip and Anne; and 10 grandchildren: Michael and Philip Parrish; Mary Elizabeth, Sarah, and Meredith Coleman; Samantha and Ryan Parrish; John and Matthew Harrison; and Katherine Ackley. He is also survived by a brother, Robert C. Parrish, of Winston-Salem, N.C.

During his retirement Bill enjoyed the bounty of his family. He authored a book titled *Better Together*, which provides his family with a written history to enjoy and pass on to future generations. If pride be a sin, then Bill happily sinned when it came to his family. One of his favorite verses was Psalm 16:6: “The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage.”

Bill died as he lived, with grace and dignity, and without complaint. His family misses him terribly.
—*The Parrish Family*

Eric Richard Alexie, Sr., 1916 – 2007

The Rev. Eric Richard Alexie, Sr., 91, passed away Oct. 4, 2007. He was born in Massachusetts. His mother was Finnish and his father was born in Russia to Swedish parents. His parents immigrated to the United States and became citizens in 1935. He was immersed in different languages during his young life and was proud that he spoke at least five different languages. He was a member of Mensa. He was an avid sportsman in high school and college but his college was interrupted by World War II. He



served in the United States Army and was in the Battle of the Bulge.

While stationed in Norfolk, Va., Eric visited First United Methodist Church. It had become customary that Marion and Leon Davis invite soldiers that visited church to come home with them for dinner. This was probably the best meal that Eric ever had, as it introduced him to his wife, Vera Mae Davis.

Eric worked for the United States Post Office for a while but this didn't seem to offer him the fulfillment he desired. He contacted Dr. Douglas Newman and inquired about how he could become a minister. They talked, and together they came up with a plan. Eric went to seminary at Duke University and, as we know, he found the fulfillment that enriched his life as well as the lives of so many that he ministered to.

Vera and Eric had one son who was the joy of their life. He too was named Eric, but they fondly nicknamed him "Buster." Together the family moved about to minister to different churches in the Virginia Methodist Conference. He served churches in Ford, Surry, Emporia, Jarret, Isle of Wright, Chesapeake, and Roanoke, Va. He loved to preach, and when he retired, he taught Sunday school for many years at First Church in Norfolk and at Raleigh Court in Roanoke.

Eric and Vera Mae were close. She supported him in everything he did just as he supported her. She was there for him in every new church he served. Likewise, when they retired, he supported her when there was a need for them to move in with her elderly parents and care for them. Their marriage was a testimony of unconditional love. They were always together. They could finish each other's sentences. As the years went by, the two complemented each other quite well. Old age brought some bitterness with the sweetness. Vera Mae's physical health declined, but her mind remained clear. Eric's strength and stamina remained strong (despite his pacemaker), but his mind became a victim of Alzheimer's. Together, they could function quite well. When Vera Mae passed away Aug. 2, 2007, Eric could not grasp that she was deceased. They had been married for 63 years. He continued to hear her calling him. He looked for her daily. On Oct. 4, 2007, he was reunited with her.

The lives they led were a testimony to their faith. The lessons they left behind are valued. The love they spread is cherished. The joy they gave is treasured. The destination of their journey is known. —*Sharon Alexie and Eric "Buster" Alexie, Jr.*

Jon Syfrit Stewart, 1938 – 2007

The Rev. Jon S. Stewart, 69, died Nov. 2, 2007. He began his ministerial career in 1977 with the North Indiana Conference. He joined the Virginia Conference in 1986 and served Beckham, McGaheysville, Capron, Ridgeway and the West Dinwiddie Charge. He retired in 2000 and was serving at Rainbow Lakes UMC in Dunnellon, Fla. Survivors include his wife, Fern E. Stewart; son, Timothy Loche Stewart; and 11 nieces and nephews. —*Virginia United Methodist Advocate, December 2007*



William Donald Moore, 1931 - 2007

The Rev. Dr. William D. Moore was born in Tarboro, N.C., and was the first of five children born to William D. and Elizabeth Moore. As a young child he felt God calling him to minister, so he would stand on a stump and "preach" to his father's tenant farmers. They indulged him, and as a teenager he would often conduct services in their churches.

Although Bill excelled in public speaking and was an excellent student, he did not follow this call after graduating from high school. He attended Mars Hill College in North Carolina for a year and returned home to become a farmer. Bill's heart was not in farming and soon he was praying for God to get him out of the cotton field.



His prayer was answered and he became a local pastor and part-time student. While serving churches in North Carolina he attended the Pastor's School Program at Duke Divinity School during the summers, as well as North Carolina Wesleyan College. While serving in Halifax, he met and became friends with Bishop William Cannon. Bishop Cannon, impressed with Bill's extensive library, encouraged him to enroll in a four-year college.

In 1971 Bill moved to the Virginia Conference, attending Virginia Polytechnic Institute while serving North Patrick. (He remained an avid "Hokie" fan until his death. In his later years, he wore a Tech cap constantly, even while sleeping). With a B.A. in philosophy from Virginia Tech, he moved to Georgia. There he served churches in Culloden, Yatesville and Stewart Avenue United Methodist Church in Atlanta while attending Emory's Candler School of Theology.

After completing his Master of Divinity he returned to the Virginia Conference where he served William Watters, Remington, and Riverton. It was while in Riverton that he completed his doctorate of the ministry from The University of the South jointly with Vanderbilt University. Bill went on to serve East Nottoway, Capron, and Elkton.

In 1992 he was placed on Incapacity Leave and moved to Norfolk. He and his wife, Ann, became part of the "Selby Bunch"—retired ministers living on Selby Place, also known as "Vatican Row." In 2004 Bill and Ann left Norfolk and moved to Winchester. Dr. David Forrest, his district superintendent and friend from N.C. Wesleyan College, asked Bill to fill in at Mount Zion United Methodist Church in Hamilton. A few Sundays turned into months. Bill's love of God and the ministry was renewed as he loved the people of Mount Zion. They were a wonderful gift from God before and during his final illness.

On Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2007, at 9 o'clock in the morning, the Rev. Dr. William Donald Moore received his final call from his Lord and Savior. Bill is survived by his wife, Ann; his daughter, Nina S. Moore; two stepdaughters, Gwen Ware and Denise Hart; two stepsons, Gregory Woods and Jon Woods; and seven step-grandchildren. He is also survived by two brothers, Thomas Moore and the Rev. Raby Moore; as well as two sisters, Anne Bradley and Faye Collins. A memorial service was held at his childhood church, William and Mary Hart Presbyterian Church in Leggett, N.C. Dr. William Withers, the Rev. Sidney Epperson, and Dr. Thomas Coffman officiated. Well done, good and faithful servant—the walnut tree is behind you at last. —*Ann W. Moore and Nina S. Moore*

John Durkovich, 1925 – 2007

John Durkovich was born Jan. 20, 1925, to Slovak parents, Andrew and Anna Durkovich, of Johnstown, Pa. He was the first in his family to be born in America. Growing up during the Depression era, he and his family experienced many hardships. Learning to appreciate the simple things in life, John's favorite snack consisted of crumbled saltine crackers in milk. This treat remained a favorite of his throughout his lifetime.



Following two tours of duty in the United States Navy, John responded to God's call to ministry in The United Methodist Church. He completed his undergraduate education at Ferrum and Randolph-Macon colleges, and earned his Master of Divinity degree from Duke University. John was ordained an Elder in the Virginia Annual Conference in 1961. His ministerial career, which began in 1956, spanned 51 years. He served the following appointments: Dinwiddie; South Sussex; Matoaca; Bath Larger Parish; Phoebus; Chaplain Veteran's Administration Center, Hampton, Va.; Chief of Chaplains Veteran's Administration Center, Long Island, N.Y.; Mathews; Gloucester-Mathews; Irvington and Asbury.

Being a forthright and compassionate servant of Christ, John's ministry was undergirded by the power of prayer. He was an effective preacher and caring pastor. His joy and exuberance for life lifted

the spirits of people. Always committed to the mission of the church, John traveled to Mexico and Russia as a Volunteer In Mission.

As a community servant, he was one of the founding members of “Hands Across Mathews,” and an instructor for the State of Virginia A.S.A.P. Alcohol Education program. President Jimmy Carter asked John to serve on his committee for the American Disabilities Act. Other avenues of service in Mathews County included the rescue squad and the American Red Cross.

John took a special interest in children and youth. He once stated, “If you want to remember me, don’t forget to stoop to a child, not look down at them, and recognize him or her as someone to love.” He found his work on the Virginia Conference Board of Ordained Ministry a rewarding one. This author is honored that John referred to him as “my son in the ministry.” He was an able mentor.

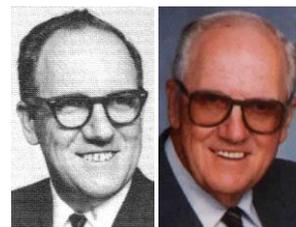
John enjoyed fishing with family and friends. His boat stories were legendary. Duke basketball was a passion for him. He had fun engineering the train at Busch Gardens. The Masonic Lodge #20 was a great pleasure for John because he was thought of as a brother. John, a proud graduate of Ferrum College, served both as its alumni president (1961-62) and as a member of the Board of Directors (1996-1999).

God blessed John and his wife, Betty, whom he married on Nov. 26, 1955, with a happy marriage of deep friendship and three children of whom he was immensely proud: Andy and his wife, Joanne; Becky Zeller and her husband, John; and Mary Anna Canter and her husband, Glen. His five granddaughters, Tracey, Jessie, Megan, Taylor and Emily enriched his life and brought him great joy. John and Betty were not only a team in their marriage, but also in their efforts to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.

John, a child of God who loved the church and its ministry, died Nov. 26, 2007. Because of his faith in the saving grace of Jesus Christ, he was prepared for his homeward journey. A celebration of the life and ministry of John Durkovich was held at Salem United Methodist Church, Mathews, Va., on Dec. 2, 2007. “Well done, good and faithful servant!”—Matthew 25:21 —*Rev. Amos S. Rideout, Jr.*

Robert Edward Carty, 1923 – 2007

Bob Carty, as he was known by everyone, was born near Abingdon, Va., on Jan. 27, 1923, to Maiden and Ella Carty. He was one of 11 children and, as the stories are told, was very rambunctious in his young years. He and four of his brothers served in World War II. Bob saw combat in North Africa, Italy and Germany. After the war, he returned to Abingdon and entered 9th grade, completed high school and earned a degree in agriculture education at Virginia Tech. He came to Pittsylvania County and began teaching agriculture and later industrial arts in the county school system at Callands, Brosville and Tunstall high schools.



During college, he met and married Lois Blair, who passed away in 2005. During their 57-year marriage together, they raised three children and were active in the community and ministry influencing many wherever they served. In 1960, Bob began his ministry serving part-time at Westover Hills (Danville District). He completed his seminary degree by correspondence with resident work at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. He also continued teaching until finishing seminary.

After seminary, he entered full-time ministry serving at Westover Hills, Floral Hills, Calvary, Saint Johns, Mount Pleasant and Bethel Methodist churches in the Danville District. Lois served at his side as music leader, pianist, church secretary and a host of other roles throughout his ministry. She also worked as the secretary to the Danville District superintendent for many years. Some say that is why Bob was never assigned to a church very far from Danville. He lived on the family farm in Swansonville, Va., for his entire career.

Bob would testify that he farmed because he “loved” it, taught because he “chose” it and preached because God “called” him to it. He had a unique way of weaving the paths we love and choose in our

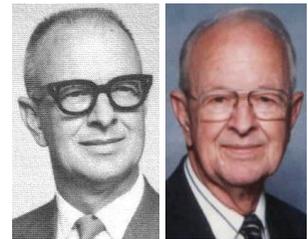
lives with the things God calls us to do, and showing how the pieces fit into God’s plan. Bob was a shepherd. He would never say his gift was preaching, although his leadership from the pulpit was a gift to many.

But his shepherding gift was what made him so very special. No one ever came in contact with Bob Carty without leaving the encounter in a relationship. His ministry gift was to come alongside in whatever situation he found—whether it was crisis or happy moments, picking vegetables, plowing the fields or painting the house—whatever he found people doing, that he would also do. He shared burdens, crises and joys. He was sought after for many weddings and funerals because those who knew him felt and understood how he was a part of their lives and wanted him to be involved in their special events of the heart.

Bob went home to be with the Lord on Dec 12, 2007, after sharing an early Christmas with his family all around. During his last two years as his health deteriorated, he lost much of his ability to speak. But God in His majesty never took his gift of prayer. Bob communicated with God in prayer to his last day with a voice that was clear and perfectly articulate—a special gift to those of us for whom he prayed. —*The Children of Bob and Lois Carty: Fitz Carty, Rachel Setliff, and Steve Carty*

Homer Payne Carper, Jr., 1919 – 2007

Homer (“Bubbie” to Marge, “Pop” to the kids) Carper grew up in Park Place UMC, Norfolk, where he heard the call to preach the gospel as a young married man working at the navy yard as a toolmaker during the War. After graduating from Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, he entered the Virginia Conference at Toano and went on to serve 11 appointments as an Elder spanning 42 years’ service across the Commonwealth. While serving churches he attended William and Mary, Virginia Tech, and completed the B.A. in Bible at Bridgewater College.



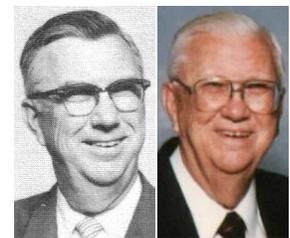
Even though he suffered hearing loss as a child, he was musically gifted, singing in the Park Place Choristers, and playing the violin in the Norfolk Symphony. He loved gardening, especially roses, and was a talented mechanic, keeping the parsonages repaired and the used cars running between charges.

He and Marge were a great team. He pastored and she kept the home fires burning, sang in the choir, played the piano beautifully, and taught the children. They were greatly loved everywhere by the people they were sent to serve, and they kept up with the many friends they made over the years. They were never rich with the things of this world, but they were rich beyond measure in the life and love they shared in 63 years of marriage. And they were rich beyond measure in the joy of serving the Lord and loving His people through their years of ministry together.

Homer will be remembered as a kind and gentle soul who laid down his life for the sheep as did the Good Shepherd he followed and served. —*Bruce Carper*

Harry Bosman Eaton, 1915 – 2007

Harry Bosman Eaton was born in Portsmouth, Va., in 1915, and grew up in Norfolk. He was shaped in the faith by Epworth Methodist Church and the Wesleymen of the Epworth Bible Class. While a young man at Epworth, he sensed God’s call to ordained ministry. Harry graduated from Maury High School and then attended his beloved Randolph-Macon College, who later honored him with a Doctor of Divinity degree. His seminary training was completed at Candler School of Theology.



Harry demonstrated exceptional interpersonal skills and strongly connected to parishioners in the local church. Harry served Corinth, Goochland, and Trinity in the Richmond District, Court Street in

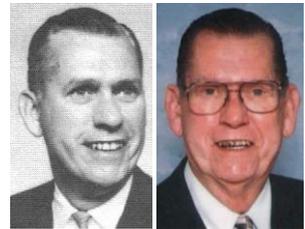
Lynchburg, and Trinity in Alexandria. He demonstrated gifted leadership as district superintendent in Winchester, Arlington, and Richmond. His final appointment was as Director of the Conference Council on Ministries. In retirement, Harry Eaton served Trinity in Richmond as the Minister of Visitation for 18 years.

Harry Eaton had a most distinguished career in ministry serving the church as a delegate to numerous Jurisdictional, General, and World Methodist conferences. While pastoring at Trinity in Richmond, the church experienced unparalleled growth, the fastest growing church in the conference at that time. Harry was truly “beating the bushes” for new members. But he always credited his lay people for their exceptional service and commitment. During his ministry at Trinity, Harry’s gifted wife, Caroline, was his most able partner in ministry and led the youth program with great vitality. After her untimely death, Harry met Ruby Lee Jewel, who was an absolute jewel to him. Ruby Lee’s hearty laughter and contagious smile brought joy once again to Harry’s life. Harry confirmed that no one was more blessed than he for having been given by God such wonderful life partners for marriage and ministry.

Harry B. Eaton was one of the truly exceptional pastors of Virginia United Methodism. He brought wisdom, compassion, and unbounded enthusiasm to the ministry. He never ceased caring deeply for The United Methodist Church he faithfully served and fervently loved. —*The Rev. Dr. John B. Peters*

Ernest Canter Priddy, Jr., 1927 – 2007

Ernest Canter “Bill” Priddy, Jr., was born June 19, 1927, to Ernest C. Priddy, Sr., and Dorothy Lawrence Priddy. He attended public schools in Hanover County and received his Bachelor of Science from Richmond Polytechnic Institute (now Virginia Commonwealth University) in 1967. In 1949 he married Catherine Spiers and they had two children. Prior to becoming a United Methodist minister, he served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and the Korean War. After his discharge from the Navy he was a pharmaceutical salesman until the early 1960s when God called him to the ministry.



He served his student ministry at Belmont United Methodist Church, Richmond, Va., and in 1963 started St. Luke’s United Methodist Church in Chesterfield County. He served Asbury United Methodist Church – South Richmond (now Asbury-Memorial) from 1968 until 1979, then was appointed superintendent of the Eastern Shore District. In 1983 he was appointed to Washington Street United Methodist Church, Petersburg, Va., until he retired in 1997. In retirement he served Blandford United Methodist Church, Petersburg, until 2004. In 2007 he became pastor emeritus of Blandford.

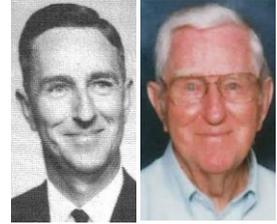
Bill Priddy was a former trustee of the Virginia Wesleyan College, served as chaplain to the Richmond Fire Department and the Petersburg Police Department and started the chaplain program at Chippenham Hospital in Richmond. He was a member of the American Legion Post No. 2, a 50-year member of Manchester Lodge No. 14 A.F. & A.M., a member of the Colonial Heights Historical Commission and served on the board of John Tyler Community College and various other boards and agencies, both church and civic.

Bill Priddy was a dedicated servant to “The Lord” for 43 years and he loved every one of those years. He never met a stranger and was a real people person. He had a natural ability to deliver a message to his congregation that kept them wanting more, and week after week his congregations would grow, as word about what a wonderful minister he was traveled throughout the communities he served. He always had a big warm, friendly welcome and smile for everyone.

In 1991 his wife passed away and in 1992 he married Linda Shelley, who survives him. He is also survived by his two children, Ernest C. Priddy, III, and Elizabeth P. Pointek; stepdaughter, Lauren Hertell; and grandson, Michael J. Priddy. —*Beth Pointek*

Ardell Fielding McClung, 1918-2008

My father was called to the ministry while he was in college, and after finishing his degree in journalism, he completed his master's in theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (Louisville, Ky.). His first pastoral duties, as an assistant at Del Ray (Alexandria) Baptist Church in 1943, included riding his bicycle downtown to deliver the Sunday bulletin to the printer. However, he soon became pastor at the Baptist church in Keysville, Va., where he met and married my mother, Ruth Ferguson McClung. His baritone voice and her alto voice blended beautifully, and music became an important part of their life and their ministry together. After serving several Baptist churches and completing another master's degree at Union Theological Seminary (Richmond), my dad entered the North Carolina Methodist Conference. I never knew exactly why he decided to become a Methodist, but I know he was excited about the teachings of John Wesley. In fact, one of my fondest memories is of seeing how deeply moved he was when we located the marker in London on the spot where John Wesley "felt his heart strangely warmed."



In 1955, Dad started Grace Methodist Church in Clinton, N.C. Sunday services were held in the showroom of an old car dealership at first, until an educational building could be built. He also served churches in Wallace, Goldsboro, Durham, Rocky Mount, and Maxton, before returning to Virginia as pastor of Kenbridge United Methodist Church in 1967. His other appointments in the Virginia United Methodist Conference included Zion in Seaford, Duncan Memorial in Berryville, Norview in Norfolk, Boulevard in Richmond, Princess Anne Plaza in Virginia Beach, Smith Memorial in Collinsville, and Bethany in Hampton. He also earned a doctorate in ministry at Berean Christian College and Seminary in Kansas.

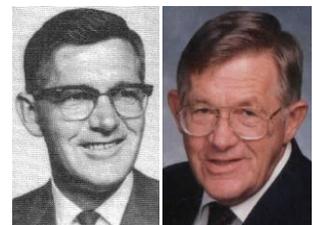
Although he retired officially in 1988, at the age of 70, my father remained active for many years. In "retirement," he served as interim pastor at Wistar Heights in Richmond, Gum Spring, Jarratt, and the Emmaus/Diamond Hill Charge in Moneta. He also served an interim pastorate at Independence Christian Church in Ashland. He enjoyed preaching, and was always happy to fill in when he was asked. Mac McClung embraced life, and lived it with a genuine love of God, his family, and the many friends and church members who touched his life during 65 years in the ministry. His own words at the funeral for a beloved family member may best portray his Christian faith:

I believe that a person's life speaks to the world as his funeral, but a funeral service is for the celebration of a Christian's life. It is for the Christian a coronation. Revelation 2:10 says, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." Jesus said "I go to prepare a place for you, that where I am there you may be also. Therefore, we can trust ourselves and our loved one to his care and goodness, for he is both the Lord of life and the Conqueror of death. – Amen.

Dad's wife, Hazel Wells Mayo McClung, has been a wonderful companion and helpmate for the last seven years. She has become a valued part of our family, and her family has welcomed us into theirs. He is also survived by his son (my brother), Wallace N. McClung; a brother, William H. McClung; two stepsons, Robert W. and William E. Mayo; five grandchildren; and three step-grandchildren. My mother, Ruth F. McClung, died of cancer in 1990, and his wife Alice Wilson McClung died in 1999.
—Ann Fielding McClung

Edward Eugene Guldenschuh, 1926 – 2008

Edward Guldenschuh ("Ed") was one of seven children born to Arthur and Violet Bryant Guldenschuh, in Binghamton, N.Y., and grew up in the Binghamton-Endicott-Vestal Triple Cities area of New York State. He was a U.S. Navy veteran, and served as a torpedo man on a PT boat in the Philippines during World War II. After the war, he worked for the Endicott-Johnson



Company, and then, for many years, IBM, in computer design and development. In the early 1960s, he also served two small Methodist churches in New York State as a licensed part-time pastor, and completed summer course work at Wesley Theological Seminary.

In 1965, he and his family moved to Durham, N.C., where he continued his work with IBM at its Research Triangle Park location. He remained very active in his local Methodist church and served as a guest pulpit speaker, as God provided opportunities. In 1969, he answered the Lord's call to full-time ministry and he and his family relocated to Brodnax, Va., where he began serving his first appointment in the Virginia Conference—a three-point charge—while pursuing his academic studies at Atlantic Christian College and course work at Duke Divinity School.

From Brodnax, he went on to serve appointments at West Brunswick in the Petersburg District, Shiloh in the Ashland District, New Hope, Carmel-Coles Point, and Beulah-St. Paul in the Rappahannock District, and St. James-West Augusta in the Staunton District. He retired in 1995, and was serving Rankin Church in the Staunton District at the time of his death.

He loved his Lord, and he loved to preach and teach the message of salvation. He will be remembered for his love of his local congregations; for his inspired and heartfelt messages; and for his unique ability to empathize with and help those who sought his counsel.

He enjoyed sharing good times and conversation with family and friends, reading, golfing, and fishing—especially on the lake at the family cabin in Canada. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, June; three brothers and a sister; two sons, Blaine and Jon; a daughter, Lynette Doyle; eight grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

His favorite hymns were *Are Ye Able?* and *How Firm a Foundation*. His favorite Bible verse was Galatians 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ—[in Him] I have shared His crucifixion; it is no longer I who live, but Christ, the Messiah, lives in me; and the life I now live in the body I live by faith—by adherence to and reliance on and [complete] trust—in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself up for me." (Zondervan, *The Amplified Bible*) —*Lynette Doyle*

Wesley Sheffield, 1920 – 2008

Wesley Sheffield was born Nov. 15, 1920, in Inwood, N.Y., to Harold and Eva Wright Sheffield. He died April 12, 2008, in Sarasota, Fla. Wesley was the brother of Muriel Sheffield Hark and Gilbert Sheffield. Wesley graduated from Western Maryland College, Westminster, Md., Union Theological Seminary in New York, and the University of North Dakota. He earned degrees in English, history, theology and pastoral counseling.

Wesley flew 30 missions in a B-24 bomber during his service to his country in World War II. After his service experience, he became night city editor of *Newsday*, Long Island's largest newspaper. After he graduated from Union Seminary, he became pastor of Methodist churches in Columbia, N.J., Brooklyn, N.Y., Massapequa, N.Y., and Indianapolis, Ind. In retirement he served as interim pastor in the Congregational Church in Sayville, N.Y.

He rendered other services as president of Wesley College, Grand Forks, N.D.; Director of Academic Counseling and Assistant Vice-President for Administration at C.W. Post Center, Long Island University; Adjunct Professor in Religion at C.W. Post and Nassau Community College; Vice President for Administration at Dowling College; Fund-raising Consultant with the United Methodist Office of Finance and Field Service, and President of the United Methodist Foundation of Virginia.

During his retired years, Wesley taught creative writing to students in the Venice, Fla., Public Library, Pierian Springs Academy, Sarasota, Fla., and at Bay Village Retirement Community in Sarasota. He was husband of Dr. M. Luise Sheffield, Counseling Psychologist; father of David Evan Sheffield, Environmental Engineer, State of Georgia; grandfather to Joseph Wesley Sheffield, Alastair

Drew Sheffield and Katrina Marie McBrien. Wesley touched many in his long and dedicated career. —
Luise Sheffield

Robert Lee Consolvo, 1915 – 2008

The Rev. Robert Lee Consolvo, a retired minister of The United Methodist Church, passed away May 2, 2008. He was born in Norfolk Nov. 27, 1915, to the late George B. and Lilla Harrison Consolvo. He graduated from Maury High School in 1935, enrolled in Randolph-Macon College and completed three years before joining the Navy in 1941, where he served throughout World War II.



As a seaman on the USS Hornet-CV8, Robert witnessed the takeoff of Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle, leading 16 B-25 medium bombers to bomb Tokyo and other nearby cities. He was on board this ship in the “Battle of Midway” in which four Japanese carriers were sunk, an action that turned the war around. Because of skills perfected as a youth swimming in the Elizabeth River, Robert was able to survive the sinking of the Hornet in the “Battle of Santa Cruz Island” Oct. 26, 1942, by swimming to one of its escort ships.

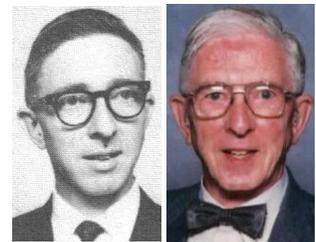
After returning to the United States, he completed officer training school requirements at Northwestern University and became a commissioned officer. He served as the commanding officer of a coastal minesweeper, sweeping the approaches to the New York Harbor, then as skipper of the same type of vessel working out of Argentia, Newfoundland.

Robert left the service and returned to Randolph-Macon in 1946 to complete his final year. Following graduation, he was employed as a caseworker in the welfare departments of Norfolk and Virginia Beach (then Princess Anne County) and from there became superintendent of the Sussex County Welfare Department. When the pastor of a local church became ill, Robert was asked if he would fill in until a new minister could be assigned at the fall conference. Before conference met, the church members asked Robert if he would resign his position with the welfare department and become their full-time pastor. The invitation reignited an earlier call to the ministry. Robert served the Stony Creek Church for five years while completing seminary work at Duke University. He later served churches in Portsmouth, Suffolk, McKenney, Isle of Wight County, Lynchburg, Wakefield and Virginia Beach. He participated as a board member of several agencies at both the district and conference levels and served several years as the director of summer camps for youth.

Following retirement from the ministry, Robert gave generously of his time and talents wherever he was needed; many benefited from his efforts. He was so fondly remembered that even in retirement he was asked to officiate at weddings of many who attended his services as children. He was a wonderful pastor to his parishioners and will be greatly missed by his family and many friends.
—*Betty Consolvo*

Jack Hampton Arnold, 1924 – 2008

Jack Hampton Arnold was born Oct. 18, 1924, in Portsmouth, Va., to Jasper Frederick Arnold and Harriette Myrtle Hampton Arnold. After graduation from high school, he attended Randolph-Macon College. In 1943 he joined the U.S. Navy and the V-12 unit at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, and then the V-12 unit at Duke University in Durham, N.C. In 1949 he graduated from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Ga. (Master of Divinity).



While in Atlanta, Jack met and married Jo Ann Brittingham. They shared 58 years of happy marriage, and adopted three wonderful children—Catherine, John and Mary Ann. His family loved the

humor and cheerfulness he brought to all their days together. He spent lots of “Saturday time” with his children, and his guidance helped them to be the wonderful adults they are today.

Jack loved Bible study, preaching, stamp collecting, antique clocks and being a local church pastor in the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church. He retired in 1990 and lived in Hampton, Va., until the time of his death at 83 on May 9, 2008. He is buried in Olive Branch Cemetery in Portsmouth, Va. —*Jo Ann B. Arnold*

Leonard L. Hazelwood, Jr., 1924 – 2008

Leonard Hazelwood, Jr., was born Dec. 14, 1924, in Newport News, Va., to Ethel and Leonard L. Hazelwood, Sr. Rev. Hazelwood served in the Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church for 42 years. He served the Isle of Wight Charge; Sterling Charge; St. Mark’s, Manassas; Walmsley Blvd., Richmond; Ferebee-Halstead, Norfolk; St. Thomas, Manassas; and he retired from Foundry, Virginia Beach in 1992. After retirement, he served Messiah and Great Bridge in Chesapeake as a visiting minister.



The Rev. Leonard L. Hazelwood, Jr., died on May 21, 2008, in Chesapeake. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Ray Hazelwood. He is survived by his wife and best friend of 52 years, Harriette M. Hazelwood; his sisters, Ella H. Brooks and Betty H. Schoolar; and his brother, James Hazelwood, and wife Ginny. He is also survived by a host of nieces and nephews, plus some very special adopted nieces and nephews in West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

He will be greatly missed by those who loved and knew him. Leonard lived his life true to his favorite saying, “Life is not a journey to the grave with intention of arriving safely in a pretty well-preserved body, but rather to skid broadside, thoughtfully used up, totally worn out and loudly proclaiming, ‘Wow, what a ride!’” —*Harriette Hazelwood*

Herbert Paul Hoffman, 1928 – 2008

Mere words cannot do justice to this gentle giant of a man! Herbert Paul Hoffman, the first of three children, was born in Youngstown, Ohio, to Lucille and Paul Hoffman. Herb was educated at Youngstown University, Westminster Choir College, and Wayne State University’s Institute of Music, graduating with a diploma in conducting and voice. His entire life was devoted to the church.



For the first 32 years of his career he served across this country as Minister of Music in Methodist churches from 800 to 4,000 members. He served United Methodist churches in Pontiac and Ferndale, Mich.; Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio; Phoenix, Ariz.; Athens, Ga.; Johnson City, Tenn.; and Abilene, Texas; For the last 20 years of his career he served as Director of Programs, Administration, Evangelism, and Lay Ministries in Albuquerque, N.M.; and Centreville, Va. He was consecrated as a diaconal minister in 1977, retired in 1999, and continued to work for two more years after that.

Here are excerpts from letters to Herb by three senior ministers with whom he had worked upon the anniversary of his 50 years of professional service: “Dear Herb... I was blessed by your friendship, love, compassion, patience, faithfulness, dedication, and skills. I cherish those years together. You taught me so much. I will be forever in your debt.” —Edwin Chappell “Herb, you are the one single colleague in ministry who has had the greatest impact on my life. Your constant encouragement helped me, and everyone around you, to dream great things and attempt great things for the glory of God... You have surely been a blessing to many more than you will ever know!” —David Jones “Dear Herb... In my travels across the years and across the planet, I have had the privilege of coming to know

many outstanding Christian leaders. You are among the finest leaders in the Christian movement.” — Ken Callahan

Poet Mary Oliver penned these words: “To live in this world you must be able to do three things: 1.) To love what is mortal; 2.) To hold it against your bones, knowing your life depends upon it; 3) and when the time comes to let it go, to let it go.”

Herb Hoffman and Doris Burley were married on Oct. 14, 1967. (“To love what is mortal.”) And though they both had children by previous marriages (Doris had two daughters and Herb had two sons), Herb loved the girls as his own, and Doris loved the boys the same way. Herb and Doris rejoiced in each other and their four children and seven grandchildren—“kissing the joy as it flies”—through 40 years. (“To hold it against your bones, knowing your life depends upon it.”)

(“And when the time comes to let it go, to let it go.”) We can let go of our friend, Herb Hoffman, in the faith that either he will (or already has) heard the words, “Well done, good and faithful servant...enter into the joy of your Master.” But we will never let go of our memories of Herb. We will live by our memories of him. We will live by our memory that Herb was in Christ... and that Christ himself was in Herb Hoffman! “Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!” —*The Rev. Dr. Bert Sikkelee*

Frederick James Lentz, 1948 – 2008

Fred was a barber when he received his call to pulpit ministry. Starting as a lay speaker, he did well and soon was accepted as a full-time Local Pastor. Fred’s commitment to Christ was growing deeper. His heart was in sharing the good news and he put much energy into doing that. He worked regularly at self-improvement, looking to “go on to perfection.”



Fred was gregarious; each time you might meet him, his warm greeting reminded you that you were a welcome and worthy person, a fellow child of God. Although pained by his early death, his many friends recall him with love and thank God for the opportunity to have known him.” —*Rev. George W. Stewart*

The Rev. Dr. Fred Lentz was a minister for the Middlesex Charge. “Pastor Fred,” as we came to know him, was a member of the Masons and also the Elks. In the short time we had with Pastor Fred, we learned that his life was much like a patchwork quilt—colorful bits and pieces put together to tell us about the many journeys his life had taken. Life as a merchant mariner, a salesman, barber, cook and that of being homeless. These are just a few of the patches in his life’s “quilt.” I am sure there were many more “patches” yet to fill the “quilt.” As our pastor, Fred always encouraged our church members to be involved—not only in the church, but in the community—to reach out to those in need, the lonely, and the sick. Pastor Fred was involved in many community activities in our surrounding counties and was devoted to helping many outside of our church families. Pastor Fred’s sermons always had a little “bit of humor” just to get the message across, and to make sure we “got it”! His parting words after each worship service was “Remember, Friends—It’s all about Jesus.” —*Dorothy M. Wyatt*

2009 ANNUAL CONFERENCE¹

Byron R. Wilkinson Sr., 1938 – 2008

Byron Ray Wilkinson Sr., was born May 22, 1938, in Narrows, Va., to Cecil B. and Kathryn S. Wilkinson. His wife and Ferrum College sweetheart is Alice Simmons Wilkinson of Iron Gate, Va.

¹ Memoirs for the following were not available by press time for the 2009 *Journal*: Conley A. McMullen, Kenneth Dale Amstutz, Howard Cleveland Green, Whitaker W. Shelton, Thomas William Evans, Robert J. Rooks, William Edward St. Clair, A. Harris Daniel, Susan Chidester Hill, and John Michael Hyde.

Byron felt God call him to the ministry as a teenager, and at age 18, he received his first local preacher's license. Thus, he began his long study for the pastoral ministry. He served as a student pastor while attending Ferrum College, Roanoke College and Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. As a member of the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church, he served in the Winchester, Roanoke, Arlington, Lynchburg, Norfolk, Charlottesville and Alexandria districts. One of his great loves was that of being a New Life and New World Missioner with his denomination's Board of Discipleship. That evangelism strategy took him to many of the states east of the Mississippi and to Australia and England. He later joined with the Billy Graham Association, helping to carry out crusades with Franklin Graham. His great love for evangelism ministry was evidenced as his peers elected him to serve as the president of the Board of Discipleship from 1979-1983. Byron served only two churches that were less than 100 years old, and thoroughly enjoyed watching the older churches come to grips with their missions and all that was necessary to make those missions into reality.

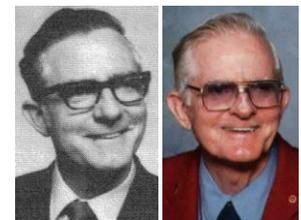


In addition to his wife, he is survived by his sister, three daughters, one son, and four grandchildren. After serving for 48 years as a pastor in the local church, Byron retired and with his wife moved to their home in Lynchburg, Va. But, he wasn't to be retired for long, as he took a position with Averett University as an adjunct professor, teaching the Old and New Testaments and Ethics. He also filled in as he was needed at a funeral home in Lynchburg, taught an adult Sunday school class, and filled pulpits for pastors in their absence.

Byron passionately followed the command of Jesus "to go into the world and make disciples of all men." Our Lord welcomed him on June 11, 2008, as he heard God say: "Well done, good and faithful servant." —*Alice Simmons*

Edgar Lee Chattin, 1921 – 2008

E. Lee Chattin was born Jan. 28, 1921, on a tobacco farm near Danville, Va. It was during a snowstorm, and when his mother, Annie Kate Innman Chattin, entered labor, his father, Albert Prichett Chattin, a sharecropper, took a buggy out into the storm to meet the doctor. As a result, Dad was sometimes called "Snow Boy" as a child. He grew up on the tobacco farm, was "saved" in his teens, and experienced a call to ministry soon after. He preached for a time as a tent evangelist, and often said he was referred to as a "boy preacher." He worked packing bearings for weaving machines in "the mill" (Dan River Mill) to earn money, and with some assistance from a local church, he began his formal education, attending Ferrum College, Duke University, and Emory and Henry. He joined the Virginia Conference in 1948, serving in Collierstown, and a year later, in Bath. He also occasionally preached at a nearby Presbyterian church while the church was without a minister. He served a six-point circuit that included performing the full complement of six services every fifth Sunday. He talked of being so tired when he finished those Sundays that he would stagger across the threshold and drop into bed. But, apparently, he was not too tired to take notice of a striking young brunette who lived up in the mountains near Burnsville. Her name was Chloe Gwendolyn Rodgers, and if there was one thing she knew for certain growing up, it was that she would NEVER marry a minister. Their fate having been sealed, they ran off to be married in 1949.



Service in United Methodist ministry shaped their lives together over the next 44 years, in Paint Bank, as they began a family, and on to McDowell, Mount Carmel, Covington, New Castle, Gloucester-Matthews, Grottoes, and Wakefield; and in addition, well into retirement, at Mountain View and Montvale. Dad worked full time until he was 80, leaving the pulpit with some reluctance in 2002, and settling with Chloe in Richmond, Va., in their first home together that was not a parsonage. Shortly thereafter, Chloe was diagnosed with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, and entered hospice. E. Lee helped

care for her until her death at home, surrounded by family, in 2004. From 2004 to 2008, E. Lee ministered to every person he encountered, occasionally (and joyfully) preaching at a local Presbyterian church during the times they did not have a minister. He was active up until June 13, 2008, when he entered the hospital. He was discharged into hospice June 18, and died at home on June 20, 2008, surrounded by friends and family. He is survived by two daughters, Dawn Gwendolyn Chattin and the Rev. Emma Lee Chattin; two brothers, Robert D. Chattin and the Rev. Norman S. Chattin; three grandchildren; and many chosen family members too numerous to mention.

Looking back, nearly all of my father's ministry consisted of work in rural communities, and he was a champion of building projects. I know of at least five small country churches that had outhouses when he arrived, and a multi-room Sunday school addition, complete with indoor plumbing and toilets, when he left. My dad also leaves a legacy of community service, having served as a chaplain and medical technician on the Craig County Rescue Squad, as a member of the New Castle Town Council, and as an Industrial Chaplain in the Harrisonburg and Roanoke areas. My dad always will be remembered (by those who knew him best) for his gift of storytelling. He always had a sermon in his pocket, a prayer in his heart, a smile on his face, and a twinkle in his eyes. We miss him. —Rev. Emma Lee Chattin, on behalf of the Family

Richard M. Robertson, 1911 – 2008

When I think of my dad, I think of how God had a plan for his life and provided for him many times as he did when he was born and weighed only 3 pounds. God stepped in and my father survived. As a child, he would stand on top of the garage and conduct church services to brothers and sisters and children in the neighborhood. In high school, he heard God's call and decided to go into the ministry. But money was tight during the Depression years and he could not afford to live on campus at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland. So, with a combination of rides to Richmond, trolleys and trains, he commuted to Ashland from Colonial Heights each day. He said at times he was not sure how he could continue, but God would provide what he needed.



One day he attended a district youth meeting at Boulevard Methodist and sat across the table from a beautiful young woman. Using his ministerial powers as the associate minister of Centenary, he called the church office to get her address. On Oct. 8, 1942, he married Ruth Hood to begin the first of almost 60 years of married life. God provided.

Dad loved to garden. He always found some place to create a garden even if all he grew was tomatoes. I can see him now in his work overalls standing in the backyard watering his garden. But most of all, he loved to share the results of his labor with family and friends. It was a place where he felt close to God.

In 1953, Dad took us to Holden Beach, N.C. There was something about the sand, ocean, and salt air of this small island on the Intercostal Waterway that became a special part of our family. We have returned there for more than 50 years. Even on vacation, he served God. In 1961, a new chapel was built on the beach. Dad preached there the first year it opened and for every year after until 1999.

Even in his last days at the nursing home, as his health was declining, he was still serving God. He came into the dining room and announced that he would like to pray. His minister voice came out of that weak little voice. The staff said he prayed the most beautiful prayer and when he finished all the staff was crying.

The last church service Dad was able to attend was Easter 2008. It reminded me of the many Easter services he had conducted over the years. For several years, he concluded his Easter sermon with the same poem. I can still hear his voice as it began to build as he read the last verses of the poem.

*They thought that they could bury him. They nailed him to a tree.
I know! I know! I know he lives! Because he lives in me.*

He would want us to remember and practice these words. This year was his first Easter in heaven. He lives in the hearts of his family and in the many lives he touched over the years. 1938-40, Surry Charge; 1940-42, Centenary, Richmond; 1942-47, Market Street, Onancock; 1947-48, Laurel Hill, Richmond; 1948-49, Conference Director, Adults; 1949-53, Main Street, Bedford; 1953-62 Dulin, Falls Church; 1962-66, Boulevard, Richmond; 1966-70, Raleigh Court, Roanoke; 1970-76, Washington Street, Alexandria; 1976-81, First Church, Newport News; and 1981-91, Minister of Visitation, Beulah. —*Richard H. Robertson*

Gaynor Curtis Shepherd, 1937 – 2008

Gaynor Curtis Shepherd, “G.C.” as everyone knew him, passed over to eternal life on July 16, 2008. He was born in Montgomery County, Va., on Oct. 21, 1937, to Merle E. and Florence Shepherd. He was the third of 14 children and grew up in rural southwest Virginia. His father, Merle, was a local pastor in the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church and was sent to the Phenix Charge where “G.C.” completed his high school education and met the second love of his life, Geneva Frances Ayers of Charlotte County. On April 6, 1958, “G.C.” and Geneva were married.



“G.C.” received his calling into the ministry during his high school years and did lay preaching for several years while holding secular positions. He entered the full-time ministry with the Virginia Conference in 1958, taking an appointment at the West Buckingham Charge. He continued working on his educational requirements and eventually graduated with a B.A. from Virginia State University and he completed the Course of Study for Ordained Ministry at Duke Divinity School. He was ordained deacon in 1965, associate member in 1972 and elder in 1979.

“G.C.” served the church for nearly 40 years until his forced retirement for health reasons (heart) in 2001. During his years in ministry he served the following: West Buckingham Charge, West Franklin, Bedford Springs – Campbell, Otter, Moneta, East Nottoway Charge (Grace, Butterwood, Liberty, Rocky Hill), Stuart, Bethany (Reedville), Urbanna, St. John’s (Norfolk) and Christ (Chincoteague).

“G.C.” was a devoted pastor who gave of himself fully to the duties and responsibilities of the ministry. He went in to each church loving the people and he left each church with the people loving him and Geneva. He will be remembered as the pastor who loved the people through thick and thin. He was a master at developing good working relationships which would become lasting relationships. His son Curtis said of his dad, “The reason dad’s heart was weak was that whenever God would give him strength for his heart, Dad would give it away to someone else who was hurting.” “G.C.” was the type of pastor who was always available for the people whenever there was a need. I can remember many times of interrupted meals, late night calls, and returning early from vacations in order for Dad to help a hurting or mourning family entrusted to his care. I think of him as a true “shepherd” who was devoted to his flock. He loved God and he loved serving God by serving the people God entrusted to his care.

When I finally answered the call to the ministry, my dad became more than a father to me. He became my mentor and confidant. I always had looked up to my dad with greatest admiration, respect, and wonder; for he was always willing to listen and help when I called upon him. He guided me and supported me as he did anyone who asked of him. I will forever be indebted to him.

He will be missed terribly by his devoted wife of 50 years, Geneva, his four children (Deborah, Curtis, David, and Thomas), and other family members and friends, until we are reunited with him in the halls of glory. But for now we rest in the assurance that he reigns with the King of kings and Lord of lords. Rest from your labors, dear Dad, we love you! The conference and the communities that he served

have lost a very special and loving person; but they will all say, “We were blessed for having known him.” —*Rev. Thomas B. Shepherd*

Vera Mae Curd, 1931 – 2008

Vera Mae Boenig Curd was born Feb. 6, 1931, in Refugio County, Texas, to the late Walter A. Boenig and Ellen Mae Boenig, who survives her at 103 years old. Vera was one of seven children. She graduated from Sam Houston University in 1953. On June 8, 1957, she married T. Henry Curd and they had two children: Joy Lee Curd of Tampa, Fla., and James Walter Curd, of Fishersville, Va. She had five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



While growing up, Vera worked hard on her family’s cotton farm in Beeville, Texas, and she enjoyed spending time perched on a tree limb with a good book. She taught English and Music in Texas public schools for several years before moving to Virginia with Henry in 1957. Vera continued to teach in the Augusta County school system until 1966. Vera also helped her husband with his auction business for 50 years, serving as clerk/cashier and was one of the best bid-catchers in the business. In 1988, at the age of 58, Vera was called into the ministry. She attended Eastern Mennonite Seminary and was ordained by The United Methodist Church in the early ‘90s. Vera was appointed to two churches: Stonewall United Methodist and West View United Methodist, where she faithfully served until her retirement in 2001. She was a member of Fishersville United Methodist Church for 51 years, where she served as choir director, Sunday school teacher, Ladies Bible Study leader, prayer warrior, part-time minister, and in several other positions and on various other committees. She also served as president of the Shenandoah Valley Aglow [an international trans-denominational organization of Christian women].

Vera was a very special person. She had many interests and loved to travel. Vera flew a single engine plane solo from Weyers Cave to Roanoke and back, and was just a few hours away from obtaining her pilot’s license. She was very courageous. She once packed up her mother, two young children and a family friend’s child, and traveled across the United States and back, stopping at every attraction along the way—a trip they all still cherish today. On her trip to the Holy Land, her hotel caught on fire and she had to escape down a ladder in the middle of the night. Vera had a very creative mind, was very patient and could fix almost anything. She enjoyed watching football, going fishing and she worked the hardest crossword puzzles—in ink!

Those who knew Vera always will remember her wisdom; her kind, compassionate heart; her warm, friendly hugs; her special laugh; and her deep love and commitment for Jesus Christ. Vera read every translation of the Bible—most more than once. She studied the word constantly and was a true disciple. Vera had a special way of caring—an inner peace that comforted everyone around her. She was so strong in her faith that just being in her presence had a calming effect. She never got upset, never worried and always praised the Lord. It was this inner peace; her faith in Jesus Christ, that comforted her and her loved ones as she courageously faced her illness during the months preceding her passing. During a time when most would collapse under the tough trials, Vera held steadfast to Jesus Christ and never wavered.

We only can guess at the many lives that were touched by Vera. We only can strive to be as holy as she. We thank God for Vera every day, and while we miss her deeply, we look forward to our reunion and the chance once again to feel her warm embrace. —*T. Henry Curd*

James M. Becker, 1943 – 2008

James Monroe Becker died at age 65 in Norfolk, Va., on Aug. 29, 2008. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., he was the son of the late Fred “Beck” and Jeanne Becker. He was raised primarily in Falls Church, Va.

He was passionate about the many facets of his life: preaching the good news of Christ; sharing his love of history and joy in teaching with anyone who wanted or needed to hear; reading his beloved books and loaning them to neighbors, friends and students; and participating in the political process, both locally and nationally. In a journal that he kept for a short time in the early '80s, he wove these interests and ideas throughout the entries so effortlessly and naturally into the narrative of his struggle to understand what the ministry of Jesus Christ was calling him to do. It is clear that all of these disciplines and interests were vehicles for his faith and his vocation to minister to those both within and outside of the Church. Jim acted on his commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ in many ways. He opposed the Vietnam War; and he continued to be committed to peacemaking and to be an advocate for those who suffered.



He served as a pastor in the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church from 1973 until his retirement in 2005. Although he served churches throughout Virginia, he primarily served in northern Virginia and the Tidewater areas. After his retirement, he continued to be active in the church and the conference and he continued to teach at Old Dominion and Tidewater Community College. Jim volunteered with the Institute of Industrial and Commercial Ministries, serving as a chaplain in that program with the Fairfax County Police Department and in a number of programs in the Tidewater area. Prior to his death, he was writing a book regarding Norfolk politics at the turn of the 20th century.

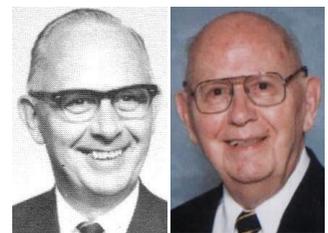
It may surprise some to know that Jim grew up in the Presbyterian Church, in a family which included several generations of elders and clergy. His brother, Phil, encouraged the development of his faith; and at William & Mary, Jim became involved with Methodism through the Wesley Foundation, and decided to commit his life to ministry. He worked as a civil rights volunteer in southwest Georgia prior to attending Union Theological Seminary in New York. He then took, what some might think was, a detour to Chapel Hill, N.C., and the university there, where he earned his master's degree and his doctorate in American History, and developed his love for the Carolina Tar Heels.

Jim would be pleased to know that his clerical garb, his beloved convertible, his books, history papers, his pictures and even his piano have found a welcome home with friends, a senior residence, neighbors, local church and college libraries, the archives of the Virginia Conference – and, yes, even Ghana. The list and variety of recipients reflects the variety and richness of his life and the ways that he touched and continues to touch us still.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Phil. He is survived by his niece, Mary Jeanne Becker of Memphis, Tenn. —*Mary Jeanne Becker and Peggy Becker*

Carl Wrenn Haley, 1912 – 2008

The Rev. Carl Wrenn Haley died Aug. 30, 2008. He was born Nov. 27, 1912, in Strasburg, Va., the fourth son of the Rev. and Mrs. James H. Haley, a minister in the Baltimore Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South (MECS). Carl also followed in the master's footsteps from his youngest days.



In the fall of 1929, at age 16, he took the train to Emory and Henry College with all his worldly fortune—a 100-dollar investment given him by the presiding elder. He graduated cum laude in 1933 and then went to Duke University Divinity School in Durham, N.C., where he graduated with honors in 1936. After receiving his license to preach in 1930, he filled in at many local churches during his college and university years, but after graduation he was admitted to the Baltimore Conference of MECS and appointed to Frostburg, Md., to supply two churches. He was transferred to the Virginia Conference in December of 1936 to fill two circuits left unsupplied, and remained in the conference until his retirement in 1990. Churches he served included

Boonsboro/North Bedford Circuit, Fox Hill, Duncan Memorial in Ashland, where he also served as chaplain at Randolph-Macon College, Cradock in Portsmouth, Belmont in Roanoke, Calvary in Arlington, Washington Street in Petersburg, Central in Staunton, Trinity in Newport News, Arlington Forest in Arlington, and First Church in Charlottesville. He was appointed as superintendent of the Portsmouth District from 1973 to '79 and after his presumed "retirement" he was administrator of the Lydia Roper Home in Norfolk from 1979 to '83 and then associate pastor of Baylake Church in Virginia Beach until 1990.

During all these years, he was tireless in his devotion to the church, serving on many committees in a leadership role, hosted Elderhostel for 10 sessions and was on the board of directors of many organizations including the Pastors School, the Virginia United Methodist Homes, and the Virginia Conference Children's Homes. A champion of education, he supported Virginia Wesleyan from its inception both financially and as a trustee. In 1971, Rev. Haley delivered a sermon at the White House by personal invitation of President Nixon who was a housemate during his university years at Duke. The Rev. Haley also was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from Randolph-Macon College in 1965 and another from Emory and Henry in 1998.

Surviving him are his devoted wife of 45 years, Margaret Young Gifford Haley; one son, Carl Wrenn Haley Jr. and his wife Elaine Crume Haley of Richmond; a daughter, Cynthia Haley Spencer; five grandchildren: Benjamin Alan Crume Haley and wife Joriel Foltz Haley, Jason Patrick Haley, all three of Seattle, Wash., Eva Lynn Haley Doody of Richmond, Steven Gowens, and Max Spencer, both living in the Tidewater region; two sisters: Martha Orem of Denver, Col., and Lucy Laudenslager of Allentown, Pa.; plus many beloved nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his first wife Eva Gantt Haley and a son, Russell Haley. —C. Wrenn Haley, Jr.

Charles Lee Ammons, 1936 – 2008

Charles Lee Ammons was born July 26, 1936, in Cumberland, Md., to Lee Roy and Hulda Mae Ammons. When he was 5, he and his family, which came to include three brothers, moved to Virginia Beach, Va. It was there that he formed a lifelong love of bald eagles, as he watched them swoop down for fish in Crystal Lake. In 1954, he graduated from Oceana High School. Intending on a naval career, he then joined the United States Navy, where he worked in bomb disposal for two years. During that time, though, he attended a youth retreat sponsored by the Norfolk District, and it was there that he received his call to the ministry. He graduated from Ferrum College in 1959 and from Pfeiffer College in 1961, with degrees in sociology. He received his Master of Sacred Theology from Wesley Theological Seminary in 1967.



He began his ministerial career in the Baltimore Conference in 1961, before transferring to the Virginia Conference in 1962. On July 28, 1962, he married his best friend Claudette Crabtree. Together they made a life bound by Jesus' words in Matthew 25:35-36: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." God blessed their union with five children: Daniel, Heather, Lara, Crista and Judith. Charles was a simple man who preferred the intimacy of a small church. He served in mostly rural churches and charges throughout Virginia.

As a pastor, Charles' greatest gift and joy was visitation. He took Jesus' call to visit the sick and the widow as his personal mission. In addition to visiting his own flock he also volunteered as a hospital chaplain. He enjoyed high school sports and volunteered with local high school teams wherever he was appointed. In the fall of 1990, he had the life-altering experience of being a pilgrim on Walk to Emmaus. He was on fire about this; teaming 17 times and encouraging everyone he knew to go.

In 1998, the onset of Parkinson's required him to take early retirement. While this was the end of his official ministerial career, he was not about to stop ministering to others. He was involved in Discover God's Call. He was active in the Breakthrough Intercessory Prayer Ministry as both a board member and intercessor. He was known as a "prayer warrior" and that he was. You never had to wonder if he meant it when he said he'd pray for you. Often, he'd start praying with you right then and there! The last four years of his life he was associated with Mechanicsville UMC, where he was very involved with the men's ministries. He often said that Parkinson's could take his body and mind but he would not let it take his spirit. It was that fiery determination that kept him fighting and touching an untold number of lives for 10 more years.

On Aug. 31, 2008, he lost his earthly battle and claimed his victory in heaven. He is survived by his faithful wife of 46 years, Claudette; five children; 12 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. His favorite Bible verse, which he drew significant comfort from in his last years, was Isaiah 40:31: "But those who hope in the Lord, will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." How happy we are that he is now soaring on his own wings. —*Judith Ammons Fussell*

Morgan Shelton Smart, 1925 – 2008

Morgan Shelton Smart was born on April 19, 1925, in Bloxom, Va., to the Rev. and Mrs. Laxton Smart. He graduated from the College of William and Mary with a history degree, attended Duke University Divinity School and New England Conservatory of Music, and received a Bachelor of Music degree from Virginia Commonwealth University. He attended graduate school to study music at the University of Indiana and taught music in public schools in Petersburg. It was at Indiana University that he attended the Indiana Area Conference and received the call again to go into ministry.



He served United Methodist churches in the Virginia Conference for 37 years. From 1953 to 1990, he served 12 appointments. Two were Trinity (as associate and minister of music in Alexandria, and pastor in Danville), two were Wesley (Hopewell and Wesley Chapel, Chesterfield,) Timberlake (Lynchburg), Pembroke, Beulah-St. Paul (Matthews), Aldersgate (Richmond), Faith (Alexandria) Market Street (Winchester), Victoria and Tabernacle (Fredericksburg).

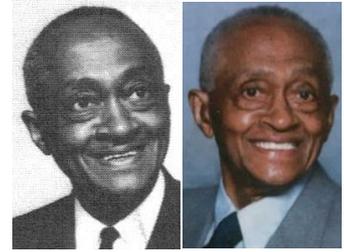
He also had a long career as a musician, beginning with playing the church organ at 14. He directed many church choirs and served as organist for eight years, including five years at a Catholic church after his retirement in 1990. Ordained the first minister of music in the Virginia Conference in 1962, he was able to preach the word and praise through music throughout his life.

In February 1955, while living in Old Timberlake Tavern and holding services on the first floor, he married Nancy Perkins and brought her to the old tavern to live for a few months until an apartment was found for them. It was a cold and drafty summer resort, but he preached the word of God there until the church was built. Morgan always was available to help in any way; he never met a stranger. To fully serve his congregation, he interrupted his meals, took late-night calls, and shortened his vacations. Always the scholar, his sermons came from studying his large collection of books throughout the week, and he rose early on Sunday morning to go over his sermon once again. Throughout his long life, he loved a good laugh, sang a lovely baritone, and admired beauty—especially Chinese porcelain, colored glass, or pipe organ concerts. He was a Renaissance man.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy, of 53 years; daughters Katherine Smart and Ann Smart Martin; his son-in-law Carl Martin; and loving granddaughter Katherine Morgan (Kate) Martin, who was the joy of his life. He was laid to rest in Nancy's home church Beulah Baptist Church in Fluvanna County. Since it was Beulah, he loved to sing "Beulah Land, Sweet Beulah Land." —*Nancy Perkins Smart*

Carl W. Renick, Sr., 1913 – 2008

Rev. Carl Wayland Renick Sr. was born in 1913 to the late Charles and Rose Johnson Renick of Lewisburg, W.Va. Rev. Renick graduated in the first class of Bolling High School (1936) in Lewisburg and graduated from North Carolina A&T State University (1942) in Greensboro, N.C. While living in Greensboro, he met and married the love of his life, the former Edna Lee Tonkins (native of Greensboro) in 1944. To this union were born five children: Carl Jr., Edward, Edwina, Nancy, and Angelyn.



Prior to becoming a full-time pastor, Rev. Renick was employed at the Greenbrier Hotel in White Sulphur Springs, W.Va. (1950 to 1966). He was ordained as a deacon and elder in The United Methodist Church after graduating from the Baltimore Area Pastors' School (convened at Bennett College in Greensboro). Across his more than 40 years as a pastor in West Virginia and Virginia, he served part-time and full-time appointments at United Methodist churches (UMC), including: St. James UMC (White Sulphur Springs, W.Va.); Main Street UMC (Ronceverte, W.Va.); Randolph Street UMC (Lexington, Va.); and Calloway UMC (Arlington, Va.). In addition, he was the former pastor of churches in West Virginia (Lincoln and Gap Mills) and Virginia (Buchanan, Burnsville, Buena Vista, Covington, Indian Rock, and Warm Springs). He retired in 1981 from his full-time career as a pastor in the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church.

After his retirement, he and his wife returned to Lewisburg. He served as an active pastor emeritus of John Wesley United Methodist Church and was a Christian mentor to many people. He was an avid community volunteer. A few of his community service activities included: Senior Friends member; Chaplain at Greenbrier Valley Medical Center; Prison Visiting Service volunteer at the Alderson Federal Correctional Institute for women; frequent visitor to nursing homes and leader of the homes' worship services; member of the Lewisburg Board of Zoning Appeals; board member of the Shepherd's Center of Greenbrier Valley; member of Bolling Alumni Association; and board member of Bolling, Inc. Additional volunteer services included being past president of Greenbrier Valley American Association of Retired Persons (AARP); active member of Greenbrier County Chapter of National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); board member of Habitat for Humanity; and trustee of the historic African-American cemeteries in Lewisburg.

He received numerous accolades and awards, including: Distinguished West Virginian Award presented by Governor Bob Wise (2004); the Shepherd's Center Community Service Award (2005); and the Lifetime Achievement Award in the West Virginia All Black Schools Sports & Academic Hall of Fame (2008).

He peacefully departed this life on Oct. 21, 2008. He was preceded in death, in addition to his parents, by his stepmother, Alice Green Renick; three children, Carl Renick Jr. and infant twins, Edward and Edwina Renick; his twin sister, Mabel (Carl) Thomas; and brothers, Charles (Susie) Renick Jr. and James (Constance) Renick.

Survivors include his wife of 64 years, Edna Lee Tonkins Renick; two daughters, Nancy Renick (Chicago, Ill.) and Angelyn Renick (Atlanta, Ga.); and a host of other relatives and friends.

He was a devoted husband, father, friend, pastor, mentor, and community leader who inspired the lives of the many people whom he touched. We are forever grateful to God for blessing us with the 95 years of life and legacy of the Rev. Carl W. Renick Sr. We will remember him for his Christian commitment to the personal motto of "he went about doing good." (Acts 10:38) —*Edna, Nancy and Angelyn Renick*

Merlin W. Shorb, Sr., 1934 – 2008

The Rev. Merlin W. Shorb, Sr., 73, died Nov. 8, 2008, of aspiration pneumonia in Olney, Md. He was a singer of inspirational music with the Shorb Brothers and a retired minister of United Methodist churches in Virginia.



The Shorb Brothers – Merl, Wil & Happy – began singing together as children in their home church, Layhill Free Methodist, and at the Free Methodist Campground in Spencerville, Md. They started singing professionally in 1958, sharing their music and evangelism throughout North America. The group was described as “one of the most outstanding organizations in the East today” (The Gospel Singing News, December 1961). In their first two years traveling as a professional group, they made over 900 appearances—traveling 70,000 miles. The Shorb Brothers performed in churches, youth rallies, religious campgrounds, parochial schools, college campuses, retirement homes, hospitals, state and local fairs and the World’s Fair. During the 1970s and early 1980s they appeared annually for a weeklong engagement at the Montgomery County Fair. They recorded 18 albums.

After serving the Lord with the Shorb Brothers for 23 years, he answered an even greater call: full-time minister in Rappahannock County, Va. He served three churches simultaneously in Rappahannock County—Flint Hill United Methodist, Sperryville United Methodist and Willis Chapel United Methodist—preaching three sermons every Sunday. Shortly after taking on these churches, he decided to return to school. Attending the Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., he received his Master of Divinity degree in 1988.

While serving as spiritual leader and minister, he took on any job required—no matter how small. He published the church bulletin, led Bible study groups, and directed three choirs during the practices and services.

In 2005, he published his book *Koinee: In Defense of the God of the Bible (Book I & Book II)*. These books, addressing interpretation of the Bible and the perception of Christianity, took him a decade to write. Merlin believed that the Bible was an ever-changing message, thus he was working on a revised edition of his book at the time of his death.

In 1959, Merlin met his wife, Joy, during a Shorb Brothers performance at her home church in Baltimore, Md. They were engaged one month after they met and married within five months. Theirs was a deep, true, once in a lifetime love—celebrating 49 years together last September. After retirement in 2005, Merlin and Joy moved back to Silver Spring, Md., to be with their family. They have three children, Merlin Shorb Jr. (wife, Mayra), Denise Shorb and Jennifer Zuppas (husband, Nick), and seven grandchildren, Tyler, Joyce, Merlin III, Rebekah, Caroline, Nicholas and Zoe.

Merlin and Joy faithfully attended the Oak Chapel United Methodist Church where Merlin led a morning Bible study, attended the men’s Bible study, preached in the absence of the pastor and sang in the choir. Merlin never stopped studying and writing about the Lord.

Merlin’s friends and family describe him as someone who was truly in love with the Lord. He lived his life every day in accordance with the laws of the Bible, following His Word every step of the way. He was a beautiful example of how the Christian life should be lived. The void that has been left in the hearts of his family and friends will never be filled. He is truly missed. —*Jennifer Zuppas*

Milton Chick Wilkerson, 1913 – 2008

Milton Chick Wilkerson was born Oct. 22, 1913, at home on the family farm in Prospect, Va. His mother said it was the night of the first killing frost. Chick was the oldest of three children born to Annie Chick Wilkerson and Joseph Milton Wilkerson. His early school years were in a one-room schoolhouse. He excelled in school and graduated from Hampden-Sydney College at age 19. His



desire to help others led him to enter the ministry. He received his preacher's license in the Southern Methodist Church in 1934 and held a student appointment in Durham while completing his ministerial studies. Chick received his Master of Divinity from Duke University in 1937 and began his active ministry that same year.

Chick served churches in Powhatan, Cartersville, Clarksville, Hampton, Blacksburg, South Boston, Staunton and Hopewell. At each of these churches he guided the congregation in a remodeling, expansion or new building program. He was known as a "builder of churches." In 1966, Chick's career in the ministry changed paths. He accepted a position as administrator of the Lydia Roper Retirement Home in Norfolk and the Eastern Shore Retirement Home. In 1967, Chick continued his career in administration at the Roanoke Methodist Retirement Home where he remained for 15 years until his retirement in 1982. At the time of his retirement, Chick's 47-plus years of service in the ministry placed him first in his conference class in years of service.

Chick served on numerous committees throughout his career, including ones charged with planning for retirement facilities in various parts of the state. He especially enjoyed his time spent as registrar of the conference Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications, a group in charge of candidates for admission to the ministry. Chick also served as a workshop leader for professional conferences, counselor at youth assemblies, member of the conference Board of Education, chair of the Family Life Committee and member of the Hermitage Board of Trustees.

Chick was a World War II veteran. Commissioned a first lieutenant in the United States Army in 1941, he served three years as a chaplain on active duty in the South Pacific arena. He had signed up as a reserve chaplain and ended up assigned to active duty.

Chick was married to Margaret Payne Underwood at Duke University chapel on Feb. 16, 1938. He met Margaret while both were enrolled at Duke. She was a native of Durham N.C. It was a real-life example of city girl meets country boy. Their first parsonage did not have electricity, telephone or running water. It came complete with a wood stove and outhouse. This was a first for his new bride. Margaret's musical talent was of great benefit in the churches he served. She was the "light of his life" during their 67 years of marriage prior to Margaret's death in July 2005. When Margaret's health failed and she required nursing home care, he went with her so she wouldn't be alone. Chick was her constant companion and lived out the true meaning of their wedding vows. At her death, Chick said that any accolades he had received over the years of his ministry were due to her faithfulness and help.

Chick loved his family and was a devoted and wonderful father and husband. He was so proud of his son, Larry Chick, and daughter, Peggy Anne. He enjoyed antiques and collecting many different things with his son and was saddened when Larry predeceased him at the age of 51. His pleasure with his daughter included time spent with his three grandchildren and a great-grandson whom he referred to as "little angel." Chick was blessed to be involved in life's activities right to the end. He was a big, but gentle, man who never lost his sense of humor and love of jokes. His love of family and life led him to talk about living to be 100. On Dec. 10, 2008, Chick died at age 95 after a long and fulfilling life. He greatly will be missed by friends and family, but we know he is rejoicing with the rest of his family and in God's care. —*Peggy Jennings*

Royal Beverly Watkins, 1917 – 2009

Royal Beverly Watkins, 91, faithful son of our heavenly Father, was called to the Father's home on Jan. 22, 2009. He began his journey in Poquoson, Va., on Aug. 30, 1917. After his call to the ministry and graduating from Poquoson High School, he attended Randolph-Macon College and Candler School of Theology at Emory University. He served as an active Methodist minister for 43 years in Virginia. He started his ministry in Norfolk, in two small churches



simultaneously (Denbigh and Riverfront). It was during World War II, and one of the churches grew so rapidly with military families that the one church was made his sole charge. He was then moved to Richmond where he served a church that was moving. Next, he and his growing family moved to Alexandria where his church (Fairlington) grew and prospered over 10 years. Since the church was just outside of Washington, D.C., he had diplomats, government workers and people who had lived all over the world as members. These 10 years of his ministry were quite interesting and exciting for him.

The family then moved to another growing church (First) in Newport News, Va. Next, he served as the district superintendent in Portsmouth. A district superintendent is the supervisor for a group of churches and it is a thankless job requiring lots of night time meetings, sometimes 60 miles from home. He then became the pastor of Arlington Methodist Church, when it was one of the larger Methodist churches in Virginia. He went on to be superintendent of the Danville District, followed by the Alexandria District. He rendered valuable service to the Virginia Conference on numerous boards and committees. In retirement, he served as part-time visitation minister for two churches in Portsmouth.

Rev. Watkins was known for his quiet and effective leadership, his scholarship, and his interest in church membership growth and congregational care. His warmth and smile will be remembered as hallmarks of his personality. He was a friend and counselor to many. He and his wife moved to San Leandro, Cal., four years ago to be near their daughter. At Carlton Plaza, where he lived in retirement, he will be remembered for the care he gave to the community rose bushes and his warm, congenial spirit.

Beverly is survived by his wife and constant teammate, Maxine Hines, of Williamsburg, with whom he celebrated 69 years of marriage and service together. He also is survived by three children: Thomas and wife, Joan, of Lynn, Mass.; Robert and wife, Karen, of Denver, Col.; and Lucy and husband, Koen Baum, of Oakland, Cal.; as well as five grandchildren: Jessica of Denver, Col.; Alison of San Francisco, Cal.; John and his wife, Sara, of Brooklyn, N.Y.; Joni of Fort Collins, Col.; and Jason and his wife, Carrie, also of Fort Collins, and their three children, Cale, Maya and Aden; and many friends.

Beverly's life was lived within the words of that Scripture which says, "And now abideth faith, hope, love; these three, but the greatest of these is love. Therefore, choose love." (1 Cor. 13:13, 14:1a) —*Lucy Watkins, Daughter; The Rev. M. Douglas Newman*

Wilbur Edgar Thomas, 1927 – 2009

Wilbur Thomas was born March 12, 1927, in Richmond, Va., to George and Bernice Thomas. He received his B.A. degree from the University of Richmond and Bachelor of Divinity from Duke University. On Sept. 1, 1951, he married Fern Kerricks in Warrenton, Va. As a young boy, his grandfather in Barboursville, Va., took him around to visit all of his friends. He said, "This is my grandson and he's going to be a Methodist preacher." This prophecy came true. He was an active member of Highland Park Methodist Church in Richmond, where Jimmy Robertson was pastor and encouraged Wilbur and other young men to enter the ministry.



His appointments in the Virginia Conference included Buckroe Beach; associate at Braddock Street; North Mathews, Chatham Heights, Trinity in Disputanta, Scottsville, Ridgeway, Tabernacle in Fredericksburg, Ocran in Sutherland, and Trinity-Tabernacle Amelia. After retiring in 1993, he attended Corinth United Methodist Church in Sandston where he assisted with services until his health declined. He lived a life of faith and love sprinkled with a good sense of humor. He was a true gentleman, living as a shining example to his family, friends, and congregation.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Fern; daughter, Patricia Koury; son, James Thomas; granddaughter, Alexander Koury; grandsons, John Thomas Koury, Jeremy Thomas, and Joshua Thomas; and great-grandsons, Weston Thomas and Harrison Thomas. —*Fern Thomas*

Burgess Grey Selby, 1921 – 2009

Burgess Selby was born Nov. 19, 1921, in Burgess Store, Va., the son of Samuel Coles and Sadie Monroe Selby. He and his three brothers grew up on the family farm “Greenfield” and he attended Fairfields Methodist Protestant Church (later Fairfields United Methodist Church) as a child and young adult. He graduated from Reedville High School in 1938. In 1942, he entered the Army/Air Force and served during World War II. While stationed at Hamilton Field in Sacramento, Cal., he met his future wife, Betty Swift. They were married in 1946 and moved back to his home in Virginia. They spent the next few years living at Greenfield, where he farmed and worked other jobs.



In May 1950, Burgess began preaching locally. In October 1953, he received his first pastoral appointment to the Culpeper Circuit, where he served from 1953-56. He preached at eight churches, making the rounds in his 1940 Chevrolet. From 1953 to 1955, he also attended the Approved Pastors Schools at Duke University during the summer. In 1958, Burgess was ordained an elder of the Methodist Church.

Over the years, Burgess and Betty Selby raised six children while serving various churches throughout Virginia. In addition to Culpeper, he served at North Mecklenburg (1958-63), Eagle Rock (1963-66), Melrose (Lottsburg) (1966-69), South Brunswick (1969-75), West Dinwiddie (1975-79), Greensville (1979-83) and Salem (Patrick Springs) 1983-88.

His last appointment—where he had only one church, of which he lived next door—was quite different than his first charge of eight churches, typical of the changes he saw in the Methodist Church during his career.

In 1988, Burgess retired from active ministry in The United Methodist Church after 35 years. He and Betty moved to Suffolk, Va., where they became active members of Providence United Methodist Church. From 1989 to 1994, Burgess also served Clarendon United Methodist Church as a part-time pastor.

In 2006, Betty Selby passed away and by that time, Burgess’ health was also deteriorating. In June 2008, he moved to Elmcroft Assisted Living facility in Chesterfield County to be closer to his children. He passed away there on Feb. 18, 2009, at the age of 87.

He is survived by six children and four grandchildren. —*Marian Selby*

Wilber Jackson Milliner, Jr., 1930 – 2009

The Rev. Wilber J. “Jack” Milliner Jr. of Locustville, retired United Methodist pastor went to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on March 1, 2009. He was born April 18, 1930, in Locustville, Va., son of the late Iva Martin Milliner and the late Wilber J. Milliner. Rev. Milliner is survived by his wife, Joyce Brown Milliner. They celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary on April 2, 2008. They had no children.



Jack lost his father at age 13 becoming the man of the family which consisted of his mother, his aunt, and two older sisters. After his father’s death, his mother closed the general store that had been operated by his grandfather and later his father. The Locustville Post Office which was located in a corner of the country store was moved down the road to another small general store. At age 16, the young entrepreneur decided to reopen the Milliner store becoming the youngest store operator in the county.

Jack graduated from Onancock High School, Randolph-Macon Military Academy, and Duke Divinity Course of Study School. He was the beloved pastor of the Guilford-Bloxom-St. Thomas charge for 16 years and retired from the Melfa UM Church in 1992. He was one of the most well-known and greatly loved pastors on the Eastern Shore.

Jack was very active in district offices and activities during his ministry. He was on the Steering Committee for Camp Occohannock on the Bay during two successful capital fund drives; secretary for District Board of Church Location and Building Committee for many years; served as trustee of Hermitage on the Eastern Shore for 10 years; served on District Board for planning and building new District Parsonage; District Board Chairman of Family Ministries; secretary District Conference for many years; and served on Conference Board of UM Foundation. Worship service attendance tripled in both charges he served and two successful building programs were accomplished during his ministry with two large social halls and Sunday school facilities—funds raised and buildings paid for—with a total cost of more than \$200,000. He conducted about 140 weddings and about 1,000 funerals.

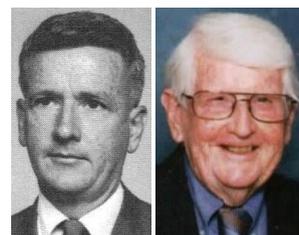
Prior to being called into the ministry, he was a self-employed grain farmer on his seaside farms. In his youth, he was an avid outdoorsman who loved to hunt, fish and trap. He trapped enough otters to make his wife, Joyce, a full-length coat and a short cape. Jack was also a published author of the book *Fooling Mr. Otter*, as well as quite a number of poems. He was a gun collector and had two extensive stamp collections.

Jack was a great storyteller of Eastern Shore lore and historical events. He loved to recite lengthy poems and Scripture. His family called him “the great entertainer.” He enjoyed practical jokes and was the center of attraction in any crowd.

He built his childhood sweetheart, Joyce, a beautiful home on the seaside waters of Burton’s Bay which included a special sewing room. He loved to tease her about her collection of fabric, patterns, buttons and sewing machines. Jack was blessed with a lovely voice. He had a very pleasing and distinctive delivery and rarely needed a microphone in the pulpit. He will be remembered by his genuine love of God, his compassionate and generous spirit, his sharp wit and winning personality, his sense of humor and his deep devotion to Joyce. The most amazing thing about him was how many lives he touched during his lifetime. —*Joyce B. Milliner*

Henry Barker Sudduth, 1928 – 2009

Henry Barker Sudduth was born in Birmingham, Ala., on Feb. 17, 1928. He grew up in Huntsville, Ala., and after graduating from high school, he worked for Woolworths. He was transferred to Jacksonville, Fla., and then to Petersburg, Va. While living in Petersburg, he attended Washington Street Methodist Church and it was here he felt God’s call to the ministry. He attended Ferrum Junior College, Randolph-Macon College and earned his Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary.



While at Randolph-Macon College and Union Seminary he served Willis Church in the Richmond District. While serving Willis, he married Sarah Lee Comer whom he had met at Ferrum. They had three sons and seven grandchildren. Henry was strictly a family man. He always was pleased when members of the family came to visit. In addition, he liked to garden and ride his bicycle. It was not unusual to see him out at 5:30 in the morning on his bicycle.

He served seven churches in the conference: Willis in the Richmond District, Dry Fork in the Danville District, Brookneal and Fairview in the Lynchburg District, Fox Hill Central and Aldersgate in the Peninsula District. In addition to these churches, he was the first pastor of St. Lukes Church on the Peninsula. He served this church for seven years. While serving St. Lukes, he saw the first unit of the church and a parsonage built. While serving Fox Hill Central he became interested in the volunteer

chaplain program at Hampton General Hospital. He helped to get this program started and it continues to be active.

Henry was dedicated to preaching, visitation and ministering to the needs of the people in the churches and communities he served. After retiring in 1994, he continued working as the assistant pastor at First United Methodist Church–Fox Hill. Health issues caused him to stop in 2007. However, he continued teaching a Sunday school class until the Sunday before God called him home on Friday.
—*Sarah Sudduth*

George S. Lightner III, 1909 – 2009

Seven decades ago, an itinerant Methodist preacher went forth to sow the seeds of the gospel.... From the majestic hills of West Virginia to the pristine waters of the Chesapeake Bay, the Rev. Dr. George Lightner planted seeds of God’s grace in hundreds upon hundreds of lives in localities to which he was appointed to serve. He had that unique gift of relating the gospel to persons from all walks of life. His winsome presence elicited the warmest affection and deepest respect from all who knew him.



Dr. Lightner began his distinguished career of pastoral ministry at Lost River, W.Va., followed by service in Virginia at churches in Edinburg, Berryville, Onancock, Richmond, Suffolk and Portsmouth. He was superintendent of the Roanoke and Richmond districts. Elected five times to the General Conference of the Methodist Church, including the historic 1968 conference creating The United Methodist Church, he also was a delegate to the World Methodist Conferences in London, Denver and Honolulu.

A man with innate business acumen, Dr. Lightner provided strong leadership in the financial matters of our conference. He was a founder of the Virginia Conference Credit Union and served as its first president. He also served as executive secretary of the Virginia Conference Board of Pensions from 1970-79. His diligent efforts in revamping the pension program resulted in a strong, stable plan which continues to serve our pastors well to this day.

Upon retirement, Dr. Lightner was minister to the homebound at Reveille Church in Richmond until 1996, visiting “the elderly” who were frequently much younger than him. His final chapter of ministry was spent at Vision of Hope Church in Harrisonburg, serving as pastor emeritus to this “restart” congregation. His wisdom and inspiration proved invaluable, leading this growing fellowship forward through the many challenges inherent in building a new church facility.

Dr. Lightner was preceded in death by his first wife, Laota, and his second wife, Nancy. His legacy will continue to be celebrated by his devoted wife, Ruth Gray; his sons, Burt, Sam, Brent, John and Steve; his daughters, Penny and Carol; and an extended family of 16 grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

Indeed, each day he would exclaim, “It is so wonderful to be a child of God!”— and this grateful optimism touched the lives of all who knew him.

Dr. Lightner held the distinction of having the longest continuous attendance at Virginia’s Annual Conference,—74 years—and, as its oldest member, he was afforded the honor of delivering the opening prayer. At the 2008 conference, he concluded his invocation with these words of thoughtful petition:

*Dear Lord and Father of mankind, Forgive our foolish ways,
Reclothe us in our rightful mind, In purer lives thy service find,
In deeper reverence, praise! Amen! —David Burch*

James Carroll Fink, 1923 – 2009

In John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress, Christian departed from Interpreter's House along the High Way (Salvation) till he came to an ascending place where stood a cross: "So I saw in my dream that, just as Christian came up with the cross, his burden loosed from off his shoulders, and fell from off his back; and it began to tumble; and so it continued to do, till it came to the mouth of the sepulcher where it fell in, and I saw it no more." James Carroll Fink, the middle child of Charles W. and Ellen Hanger Fink, was no stranger to the cross. He stood in its shadow many times and led countless pilgrims to that "ascending place." On March 8, 2009, in the 85th year of his life, the journey was completed, his burden was in rapid descent to the sepulcher, and he joined the company of the Church Triumphant.



Born into a Methodist parsonage in Ridgley, W.Va., on May 7, 1923, Carroll married his high school sweetheart, Ruth Keith, in Lewisburg, W.Va., on June 20, 1945, a marriage which modeled Christian love and mutual respect for nearly 64 years. Walking a familiar path, he answered a call to Christian ministry that was graced by his Lord, framed by his Church and guided and encouraged by his home and family, a setting which produced three servants of Christ who became distinguished pastors and leaders in the Virginia Conference.

Carroll's academic preparation for ministry was pursued at Emory and Henry College, Emory, Va., and at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, Ga. He was one of three contemporary brothers in the Virginia Conference in the latter half of the 20th Century. Harold H. Fink predeceased him, and William Jeryl Fink is retired in Richmond.

Always the servant of Christ with a pastor's heart, Carroll was appointed to churches in the Lynchburg, Arlington, Portsmouth, Roanoke and Alexandria districts and was chosen by the bishop as superintendent of the Peninsula and the Portsmouth districts. His appreciation for the ministry of the laity and the collegial fellowship which he enjoyed with fellow pastors were the hallmarks of his ministry in the Virginia Conference.

Carroll retired in 1988 after 40 years of active service. He and Ruth lived for a time in Portsmouth until, in 2000, they entered the Roanoke United Methodist Home where they joined many old friends and colleagues, where they made a host of new friends, and where Ruth remains.

In addition to his wife and brother, his survivors include a daughter, a daughter-in-law, five grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. A naturally jovial spirit, Carroll will be remembered for his infectious laughter with a hint of mischief in it which often endeared him to friend and stranger alike. In our sorrow, the words of the master of the house not made with hands echo in our hearts at Carroll's home-going: "You have done well, Pilgrim Friend. Come on in and share my happiness." —*Lewis H. Morgan*

George V. Puster, Sr., 1923 – 2009

The Rev. George V. Puster Sr., 85 years old and retired, passed away on March 15, 2009. Survivors include a daughter, Elizabeth Koris of Richmond; three sons, Dr. George V. Puster Jr. of Chester, Gen. David W. Puster of Charlotte, N.C., and John Mark Puster of Chesapeake; two granddaughters Cortney Arnold of Round Hill, Kristen Puster of Charlotte; and two grandsons, Brandon Puster of Virginia Beach and Matthew Puster of Philadelphia. Rev. Puster joined his second wife, Maxine, at Arlington Cemetery on June 12.



Rev. Puster grew up on a farm in Emporia, Va. His four siblings preceded him in death. Rev. Puster was a 1951 graduate of Randolph-Macon College and a 1954 graduate of Chandler School of Theology

at Emory University, Atlanta, Ga. He served as a Navy pharmacist's mate in the Pacific during World War II. As a chaplain in the Navy Reserves he rose to a rank of lieutenant commander.

Rev. Puster began his ministerial career in 1949 at Lebanon-Providence. He went on to serve Mt. Pisgah in Midlothian, Pocomoke on the Eastern Shore, Beulah-St. Paul in Mathews, Pembroke (where he oversaw the building of the current sanctuary), Strasburg, Pleasant Valley in Chantilly, Harmony in Hamilton, as associate at First in Hampton, Mt. Pleasant in the Roanoke District, historic Nemo-Princess Anne, and Lynnhaven. He retired in 1988. During his retirement, he served Laurel Hill-Chestnut Grove and Christian Newcomer. He volunteered at the local hospitals and schools. He taught Bible at Randolph-Macon Academy for a short time. He was a member of Front Royal United Methodist Church. —*Beth Koris*

Osborne B. Hough, 1926 – 2009

It has been said that the purpose of life is to live, to love, to learn, and to leave a legacy. By the grace of God, Osborne “Red” Hough lived a full and abundant life. Red Hough was born in Waterford, Va., a small Loudoun County community, and except for two years of military service, he lived his entire life in Virginia. As a young adult, he moved to Norfolk, Va., and was working at an automobile dealership when he heard God’s call to ordained ministry in the Methodist Church. Answering the call, he went to Randolph-Macon College and Wesley Theological Seminary. As a student at Randolph-Macon, he served the Tidewater Trail Charge and while completing his seminary degree, he was appointed to Pender Church.



Red’s entire full-time ministry was served in northern Virginia. After Pender, he served as the Annandale associate. He then served St. Thomas (Manassas) and Herndon. Following his retirement in 1986, he served as assistant pastor at Galilee Church in Sterling. Red is remembered for his preaching and his caring presence, and he served God to the very end. Weeks before his death—while confined to a wheelchair—he assisted the pastors of Manassas-St. Thomas UMC in an infant baptism. He lived.

Red’s life and ministry touched many people: he loved God and he loved people. He had the ability to connect with young and old, rich and poor and he used the life lessons he learned to help people in his churches and in his community. To his credit, he was willing to learn and grow. He knew himself to be a forgiven sinner and his life demonstrated the transforming power of grace. He loved and he learned.

Although his legacy might be remembered in the churches he served, his proudest legacy is his family who follow his example. He is survived by his wife, Judy; a son and daughter-in-law, the Revs. Neil and Anne Hough; a daughter and son-in-law, Laura and Chris Shelton; two stepsons and their families, Kevin and Katie Mayjor and Bryan and Jeannie Mayjor; four grandchildren, Rob and Andrew Richardson, Megan Mayjor, and Jacob Shelton; and a cousin, Mary Kirby and her husband Marshall.

Through his family, Red’s legacy of living, loving, learning, and serving God in ministry in the Virginia Annual Conference continues. Judy Hough is an active member of Manassas-St. Thomas Church. Neil and Anne Hough are pastors in the Virginia Conference and Laura and Chris Shelton both serve on music staffs of Virginia Conference churches. Every Sunday morning, five Virginia Conference churches are served in some way by Red Hough’s legacy.

Osborne “Red” Hough lived, loved, and learned for 82 years. He died on Easter Saturday, April 11, 2009. By God’s grace, his legacy lives on. —*The Hough Family*

David Alexander Balcom, 1934 – 2009

David Alexander Balcom seemed to know the middle name of every pastor in the Virginia Conference—and the names of spouses. He was the embodiment of all that is good about the “connectional” system. David died



at the age of 74 on April 19, 2009. He was born July 16, 1934, in Ames, Iowa, to the late Robert B. and Holdine Primrose Balcom. He was married on June 16, 1956, to E. Jean Wehrly Balcom, who survives him. Also surviving are three daughters and seven grandchildren and his brother, Roger C. Balcom, also a retired member of the conference.

David served for 40 years prior to his retirement in 1997 as pastor of Clarendon UMC, Arlington Forest UMC, Herndon UMC, Grace UMC (Manassas), Calvary UMC (Arlington), and lastly, Trinity UMC (McLean). He was the executive secretary of the Northern Virginia Board of Missions from 1968-1971 and served as superintendent of the Ashland District from 1984 to 1990. He was an emeritus member of the Board of Governors of Wesley Theological Seminary and was a trustee of the Virginia Conference Historical Society. He received the John Wesley Award for Distinguished Graduate of Wesley and the Ministry 2000 Award for the Virginia, Baltimore-Washington, West Virginia and Pennsylvania Conferences for leading persons into ordained ministry. Other areas of noted service include: secretary, Northern Virginia Board of Missions of UMC; trustee, Virginia Conference Historical Society; past president, Northern Virginia UMC Historical Society; Board of Higher Education & Campus Ministries; Arlington District Finance Committee and Committee on District Superintendent; Board of Ordained Ministry until 2004 and Arlington District chaplain.

He was a graduate of Wilson High School in the District of Columbia, Western Maryland College (now McDaniel College), and Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., and was a Mason for 53 years.

A service celebrating David's life was held at Trinity UMC in McLean and the church was filled with his brothers and sisters in ministry from across the conference. A few weeks later, the Wesley Commencement service at the Washington National Cathedral was dedicated to David on what would have been the 50th anniversary of his graduation. Jean, who was in every way his partner in ministry, represented David in the front row. —*David McAllister-Wilson*

Leon Franklyn Ellis, 1915 – 2009

The Rev. Leon Franklyn Ellis, 93, husband of the late Miriam Ewell Ellis of Saxis, Va., went to be with his Lord on April 23, 2009. Born in Saxis, on Sept. 9, 1915, he was the son of the late Bertie R. and Rhona Mae Ellis. As a teenager, he developed a love for baseball and played on the Saxis Texaco Stars baseball team and later on the Saxis softball team. He held the distinction of being an ambidextrous baseball pitcher and was considered by many to be one of the most outstanding baseball players ever raised on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. He had dreams of playing professionally, but God had other plans for him.



In 1933, he served in the Civilian Conservation Corps, and in 1934 and 1935, he served in the Citizens Military Training Camp. In 1937, he married Miriam Aloes Ewell and had one daughter, Polly Leona, who was born in 1940. Throughout his life, he was very active in his home church and held every office in the church. He taught the Young Men's Bible Class for 14 years, and was a class leader, lay leader, choir member, assistant church treasurer and local preacher.

His major occupation was as a waterman until God called him into the ministry. His ministry began in 1962, when the district superintendent notified him that he had received an appointment in the Staunton District. There must have been divine intervention because although he was not in attendance at conference that year, he was appointed to fill one of the four available openings. God had indeed opened the door for him. His ministerial assignments included: Goshen-Rockbridge Baths Charge, Staunton District – five years; Essex-King and Queen Charge, Rappahannock District – one year; Greenbackville Charge, Eastern Shore District – four years; Sussex Charge, Petersburg District –

one year; Tangier Charge, Eastern Shore District – two years; Greenbackville Charge, Eastern Shore District – three years; and Capeville Charge, Eastern Shore District – four years.

He was ordained a deacon on June 9, 1965, and ordained an elder on June 13, 1968. He attended two summer sessions at Duke University and officially retired from the active ministry on June 14, 1982.

After his retirement, he served another year at Capeville United Methodist Church, nine months at Goshen-Rockbridge Baths, and six months at Tangier. In addition, he served seven and a half years at Hallwood Baptist Church and preached many times at Bethel Baptist Church. He also had the opportunity to preach at his home church, Saxis United Methodist, and preached in all but five Methodist churches on the Eastern Shore. His wife of 65 years, Miriam, who passed away in 2003, was a constant source of support and strength. They frequently performed duets and often were accompanied by their daughter.

His memory forever will be cherished by his daughter, Leona, and son-in-law, Larry; his grandchildren: Kimberly Jenkins and husband, Anthony, and Angela Olson; great-grandchildren: Brandon, Ryan, Brooke, Chad, Logan, Tanner, Austin, and Savannah; sister-in-law, Yvonne Hickman, whom he loved like a daughter, and husband, Bill; and several nieces and nephews.

(Dad accepted two ways of spelling his middle name. The Virginia Conference records have his name as “Franklin.” However, some of his personal files show a spelling of “Franklyn”; hence the reason for the spelling in this memoir.) —Leona Ellis Olson, daughter

Marion Glenn Goodpasture, Jr., 1924 – 2009

Marion Glenn “M.G.” Goodpasture Jr. was born Sept. 6, 1924, in Bristol, Tenn., the only child of Marion Glenn Goodpasture Sr. and Harriet Frances Dix Goodpasture. M.G. was reared on his parents’ farm in the Cedar Springs community of Wythe County, Va. He came to know the Lord Jesus Christ as part of the worshiping fellowship at what today is the Asbury United Methodist Church, within sight of the historic camp-meeting ground founded by Bishop Francis Asbury on the banks of Cripple Creek.



Some years later, in reflecting upon his childhood lived in the midst of the Great Depression, M.G. remembered with appreciation that, unlike many families of the period who had to resort to bread lines for subsistence, food was generally plentiful on the family farm. Cash, however, was in short supply. As such, M.G.’s father had the unenviable task of telling his young son that it would not be possible to purchase the bicycle he wanted for Christmas due to the fact that the money would be needed to help pay the taxes on the farm property.

As the lone son on the family farm, M.G. could have accepted a deferment from military service during World War II. He chose, instead, to volunteer for service in the U.S. Navy, serving as quartermaster aboard the LST 817, part of the grand flotilla engaged in the Pacific theater of operations. A graduate of Rural Retreat High School, Asbury College, and Asbury Theological Seminary, he served pastorates in Kentucky while a seminarian and served rural charges in Bland and Montgomery Counties, Va., as well as Inskip United Methodist Church in Knoxville, Tenn. He was named Holston Conference Pastor of the Year in 1960.

M.G. came to the Virginia Conference in 1965 to serve on the administrative staff of Ferrum College, beginning as Director of Church and Community Services and concluding some 24 years later as Director of Planned Giving. Throughout his years at the college, M.G. sought to live out the institution’s motto: *Non Sibi sed Aliis* (Not Self but Others). As a founder and initial Director of the Blue Ridge Institute at Ferrum, he oversaw the growth of that program into the Blue Ridge Farm Museum of Appalachian mountain cultural life, and the annual Blue Ridge Folklife Festival at Ferrum.

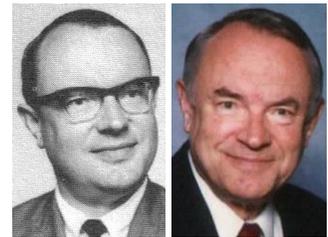
A founder of the Franklin County Community Action Program, he served as its chairman for nearly 20 years. He gave leadership to various church and civic organizations including the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce and the Federal Credit Union, and also provided special work with rural and minority churches. A recipient of the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award presented by Ferrum College, he was honored by Lions International and the Ferrum Lions Club as a Melvin Jones Fellow.

He and his wife, Thelma Hardesty Goodpasture, retired to Ferrum in 1989 where they were active in the St. James UMC congregation. M.G. died April 24, 2009, after an illness of some seven weeks. A service of worship and celebration in memory of M.G. was held at Vaughn Memorial Chapel, Ferrum College, on April 28, 2009, with the Rev. Bruce Tuttle and the Rev. Mary White presiding. In addition to his wife of 60 years, he is survived by six children—H. Glenn Goodpasture of Fredericksburg, M. Carol Goodpasture of Charlottesville, Samuel H. Goodpasture of Richmond, Mark D. Goodpasture of Fredericksburg, Kay Goodpasture Powell of Broadway, David A. Goodpasture of Christiansburg—and by eight grandchildren.

“As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to the faithful” (Psalm 103:13). —*H. Glenn Goodpasture and David A. Goodpasture*

Wilhelm Siegfried “Zig” Volskis, 1932 – 2009

The Rev. Wilhelm Siegfried “Zig” Volskis, 76, died Saturday, May 2, 2009, at his home in Staunton. He was born Sept. 9, 1932, in Jekabpils, Latvia, son of the Rev. Wilhelm and Ieva-Erna Konrads Volskis. He is survived by Sue, his wife of 47 years; daughters Lydia Volskis and Susannah Volskis Francis and son-in-law Todd Francis; beloved grandsons Nicholas and Samuel, to whom he was known as “Poppi”; his sister Astrida V. Bishop; and nephew Steven Bishop and his family.



Most of Zig’s childhood years were spent on a farm in Latvia. Toward the end of World War II, his family was forced to leave their home. For the next five years, they were refugees living in Poland and Germany. Zig and his family arrived in America in 1949, when he was 17, and settled near Ashland, Va.

After graduating from Randolph-Macon College with Phi Beta Kappa honors, he attended the Divinity School of Duke University, receiving the Master of Divinity degree. Later, studies at the University of Virginia would grant him a Master of Arts degree in philosophy. While at the University of Virginia, Zig was blessed to meet his future wife Sue, a nursing student.

Becoming a member of the Virginia Annual Conference in 1955, he was ordained an elder in 1959. Before retirement from St. John’s United Methodist Church in 1996, Zig served a number of churches throughout the state; Rehoboth Parish (Kilmarnock), Greene Charge, Fincastle Charge, St. Paul’s Woodbridge (Associate), Grottoes, Emmanuel (Amherst), Market Street (Onancock), Main Street (Emporia), Court Street (Lynchburg), Oak Grove (Chesapeake), First United Methodist (Newport News), Otterbein (Harrisonburg), St. John’s (Staunton). In retirement Zig continued his ministry at Glossbrenner (Churchville), Jollivue (Staunton – interim), and as sacramental elder at West Augusta.

Zig’s ministry was characterized by thoughtful sermons and a desire to teach the faith. In autobiographical remarks he prepared for a friend to read at his memorial service, he wrote: “In my ministry, in my preaching, teaching, visiting, counseling and in my ministry’s other aspects I have always proceeded with the faith that our Christian faith tells us the truth about God, that it tells us the truth about our world, and about ourselves. And that there is hope for us.” He ended his prepared remarks to friends and family which were read at his memorial service with “May God Bless all of You. Grace and Peace, Zig.”

Zig always considered himself to be a very fortunate person; fortunate in the family he had, fortunate in the friends he had, fortunate in the turn of events that took him from being a homeless refuge after

World War II to his new home in Virginia. He loved books and reading and had a lifelong love of poetry. Zig was an avid golfer, had a lively sense of humor, and enjoyed vacationing in the West Virginia mountains for many years. Zig loved his family and appreciated his friends. His faith was that in God's great future he will see them again. —*Sue Volskis, Lydia Volskis, Susannah Volskis Francis*

Ricky A. Griffith, 1955 – 2008

Pastor Rick Griffith was born in Buckhannon, W.Va., on Nov. 29, 1955, and went home to be with the Lord Jesus Christ on July 16, 2008. Pastor Rick was starting his fifth year as the pastor of Fairmount and Bishop Memorial UMC in Henrico County. Pastor Rick not only preached the gospel, but lived it every day of his life alongside Cathy, his bride and companion in the ministry.



Pastor Rick was given the gift of spreading the love of God. Whether it was to: bring the message to two congregations every Sunday morning, spending quality time with our young ones during Children's Moments, sharing God's word to inmates at a correctional facility, spending Chrysalis weekends with teenagers, sharing God's love with pilgrims on Emmaus or just offering some blessed reassurance to a waitress who needed it. Pastor Rick was always eager to share the gospel of Jesus with all whom he came in contact.

God planted, in Pastor Rick's heart, the seed which would grow into the spiritual force that commanded everyone's attention each Sunday morning. His passion and enthusiasm for the word of God touched all who listened to his messages.

His favorite saying was: I am happy and healthy. Yes, Pastor Rick was happy and healthy in the Lord, each and every day. He was called to be God's messenger in the community. Let us never lose sight of that. His memory will live on in our hearts and souls forever.

Pastor Rick had a high calling years ago. Now the Lord has summoned Pastor Rick, to an even higher calling—that of a heavenly servant in the presence of the Most High, our Lord and Savior. He now has been able to touch the face of God. We all can be reassured that Pastor Rick has been welcomed into Our Father's Kingdom.

God has embraced him and has spoken these words: Well done my good and faithful servant.

Pastor Rick graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in 1979 and worked for Brooks & Co. General Contractors, Inc., for 24 years, then answered the call to serve God as a minister in The United Methodist Church. He graduated from the School of Theology at Virginia Union University with a Master of Divinity degree in 2006. Pastor Rick loved to play golf, fish, hunt and cheer for VCU basketball and University of Virginia football.

Pastor Rick was a loving husband to Cathy and the proud father of his sons, Christian and Nathaniel, daughter-in-law, Stephanie and "bride-to-be," Meghan Kelleher. He also is survived by his mother, Pat, and sister, Cerena.

We love you and you will always hold a special place in our hearts! —Cathy Griffith

Tori Rae Randall, 1960 – 2009

This is about our daughter, Tori Rae Randall, pastor. She was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Oct. 6, 1960, to Collin M. Randall and Shirley E. Switzer Randall. When she was 5 months old she and her parents moved from the city to the farm. When she was 18 months old, she welcomed home a baby brother. She started grade school in Dysart, Iowa, and finished high school in Reinbeck, Iowa. All through her school years she was a very good student. Between ninth grade and graduation she was always on the honor roll. She was the first in her senior class to be accepted at college, probably because she was the first one to apply for higher learning. She called me on the CB to tell me that the University

of Iowa had accepted her; she was so happy. In the fall of 1979, she started college and as far as I could tell she wasn't one bit afraid of going so far from home, 11/2 hours away.

She was like any other student; she would call home when she needed money or had her feelings hurt so bad she was about to cry. It took me a couple of years to figure out that on Monday she was hurt and by Tuesday she was just fine, but I didn't know it until the next Friday. I would call her to see how things were and she would say "what disagreement?" She did great in college as far as grades went, but I didn't find out for a very long time that she no longer wanted to be a lawyer. She wasn't sure what she wanted to do with her life. She told us when she planned to go to seminary that it was always in the back of her mind since she was in Rainbow. That is a group of girls who do secret work, but it involves the study of people of the Bible. She really loved Rainbow.

After she graduated from college, she moved to several different cities around the Midwest; then one day she came home and announced she was moving to Richmond, Va. It wasn't long before she moved to Hague, Va. She started working for Virginia Tech while there, and she loved the work. She was doing work with small grains and she felt like she was back home in Iowa, for she grew up on the farm. Soon she learned they were cutting jobs, so she said "I'm going to seminary, I've always had a feeling for the church, other than just attending, and off she went.

Tori drove two hours to and from school until it was getting her down. She called me to tell me she was selling her house and moving to Richmond. I was quite surprised, for I thought right away when she told me she was going back to school and where, that that was what she should have done. So she did sell the house, and what a difference; she wasn't quite so tired. Tori was one who loved driving, but I never once gave it a thought something was wrong with her. That was in the spring of 2006. In November of 2006, they discovered she had a tumor. The cancer was in her colon, liver and lungs. She had the surgery and she called on all her church family, friends around Richmond, Hague and of course her family from all over the United States, to pray for her. She was so confident that her faith would see her through; and it did—for two years, she fought it.

Tori was assigned to the Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Charge in Amherst, Va., and she couldn't have been sent to a better charge. The people around her were just outstanding. They loved her and she loved them back. So many times she would call me and tell me how much she loved being a minister and the three churches she had. She was so happy, her three cats and two dogs could run in the huge yard, they could bark, too. The people of her three churches did so much for her—at times they would take her for her treatments; and the food they took to her—they were just wonderful.

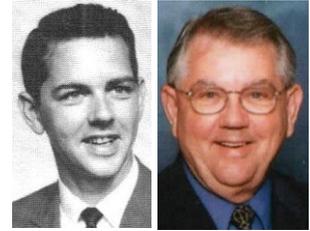
Tori had one of the best memories of anyone I ever knew. She was quite the book lover and very picky as to how her books were taken care of, but she could remember almost every book she had read. One time Tori and I were shopping and Tori made a remark to me. I turned to her and said "Gee, Tor, I wasn't born yesterday"; and she said, "No, just late the night before." That is how we were with each other.

I know this is long, you may have to edit it. I haven't told you much about her brother and sister, but there was a time all three of them were close. But she went to Virginia and they stayed behind. We all knew that somehow we would never have her back home again to live among us. Now, she is—at least she is in Northeast Iowa. She died Jan. 9, 2009, in Richmond, Va. We had her services at Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church Jan. 24, 2009, and brought her back to Iowa in February 2009. On April 21, 2009, we completed her burial in Dysart, Iowa, next to her grandparents, also with her special dog Molly. Those were her wishes. You will never know how hard it was to do this memoir. —*Shirley E. Randall*

2010 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

James Wesley Ward, 1938 – 2009

Because he wanted to go to the movies with his friends and his mom did not have any money to give him, little 8-year-old Jimmy Ward sat down on the back steps and prayed for the money he needed and also promised if his prayer was answered he would serve God for the rest of his life. He got up and wandered out into the honeysuckle thicket in the woods behind the house and stumped his toe on something. Upon investigation he found enough scrap iron to fill his little red wagon and took it to the local scrap iron dealer who paid him a penny a pound...or \$1.75. That was a lot of money for an 8-year-old during the days of World War II. He kept a quarter and gave the rest to his mom.

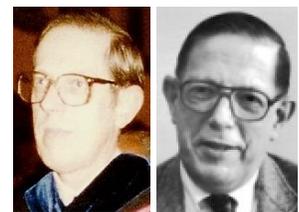


About 17 years later, with only a high school diploma, a wife and two small children, he set out to keep his end of the long-ago bargain with God. Through a series of events, which only a loving God could arrange, James Wesley Ward was appointed as Student Supply Pastor of the Epworth Methodist Church in the Danville District at the Annual Conference in Virginia Beach in 1963. He was also enrolled as a pre-ministerial student at then Ferrum Junior College. Over the next few years, he continued serving churches while attending and graduating from Lynchburg College and Duke University. With ordination finally accomplished, Jim sought out other avenues of service in addition to the duties of pastor. For three summers in the early '70s he worked with two fellow ministers to run the Buckroe Beach Ministry and also became a Chaplain to the Hampton Police Department under the auspices of Institute for Industrial and Commercial Ministries. For years he spent a week in February with a team of fellow ministers in Richmond compiling the statistics from the minister's annual reports. Jim was trained to work with Churches in Transitional Communities and also to do Listening Evangelism. One of the greatest loves of his years in ministry was Volunteers In Mission. For about 15 years, Jim was involved in or led about 30 teams in places like Jamaica, Cuba, Chile, Homestead, Fla., after Hurricane Andrew (three times), and Appalachia. All of these activities took place while Jim served a total of 16 churches over 41 years.

Other than his faith and his love of family, there were two enduring interests in Jim's personal life—the Washington Redskins and golf. He was able to play golf regularly during the five years he enjoyed his retirement in Williamsburg with Donna, his wife of nearly 50 years. He also is survived by two sons, two daughters, five grandchildren and an older brother. —*Donna G. Ward*

James Cecil Logan, 1932 – 2009

The Rev. Dr. James Cecil Logan died of cancer, Oct. 17, 2009, at the age of 77, surrounded by his clergy and seminary colleagues. A service of Death and Resurrection was held at Braddock Street United Methodist Church on the 24th. Seven times elected a delegate to the General Conference, he served as chair of the clergy delegation five times. He was educated in the finest universities of his time. But he did not make his mark as a widely-published systematic theologian. His body of work was his teaching and his preaching, the record of his itinerancy, and his work in guiding, encouraging and chastising the Methodist movement. He was, in all these respects, a modern John Wesley.



Logan was prepared to be a classical theologian. He studied philosophical theology at Boston with additional work at Harvard, St. Andrews, Basel and Cambridge. But early on he sensed these were not classical times. When he was installed in the James C. Logan Chair in Evangelism he said: "We are hovering between the two great ages of man—the age of belief and the age of unbelief—the age of great

credulity and the age of great doubt.” In this age, with his academic preparation, Logan could have practiced apologetics—building clever philosophical defenses for religion in retreat. Instead, he wanted to unite “his knowledge and his vital piety.” He wrote once: “Faith does not consist in regarding propositions as true, or in a capacity for dogmatic understanding, but in a struggle, in a dialogue with God—even when God may be silent. We should wrestle with this Lord, as the woman of Canaan did, even when He seems to be silent. We should not let Him go until He blesses us.”

He found his voice in Wesleyan theology and began to proclaim: “Grace upon Grace,” “Grace free for all free in all.” Jim’s ministry was his theology of Grace. St. Anselm described theology as “faith seeking understanding?” So many people have said, “Dr. Logan helped me put it all together.” His teaching was a means of God’s prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying Grace. And that’s what he was for the church.

This is why it was significant that later he became the E. Stanley Jones Professor of Evangelism. The church had come to think the goal of “evangelism” was church membership. Professor Logan taught that the Good News is the divine imperative of Grace. His mission field was The United Methodist Church itself. He took seriously John Wesley’s explanation for the founding of our little society: “To reform the nation, particularly the church, and to spread scriptural holiness across the land.” As he said, “Our ecclesiastical structures or our connectionism were shaped to facilitate the mission to which we felt we had been called by God...the danger is imminent that we can succumb to making our local churches or our connectional system the objects of mission rather than the instruments of mission.”

He loved music and church politics and driving the Virginia byways. And he loved the company of clergy. Most of all, he loved students. He said, “The classroom is my world and my students are my means of Grace.” He didn’t use that phrase lightly. Like John Wesley, he had no children, except for: all the people who stayed in seminary or got through the Board of Ordained Ministry; those who called him to cross the state to fill pulpits or lead retreats; and those who turned to him in times of doubt or trouble. The church, especially the Virginia Annual Conference, was his family and his legacy.

As he was dying, Jim had a number of lively theological conversations around the bedside with former students who are members of this conference. It was as if he was back home around the table in the refectory. And like Jefferson returning to Monticello, we have taken this scholar/statesman of the church back to Wesley Seminary to the resting place at the edge of the statue of John Wesley, and his monument reads: “Beloved scholar, teacher, mentor and friend who taught us Grace upon Grace.”
—*Rev. David McAllister-Wilson*

Robert Howard Conerly, 1924 – 2009

The Rev. Robert H.(Bob) Conerly served The United Methodist Church for 50 years in pastorates in Mississippi, Virginia, North Carolina, and for 28 years as a missionary in Mexico. He was born Dec. 29, 1924, in Mississippi and died Dec. 18, 2009, at his home in Sandy Ridge, N.C., after a lengthy illness. Following military duty in World War II, he earned a B.A. degree from Millsaps College, and a Master of Divinity degree from Emory University. In 1980 he earned a Physician Assistant degree from Duke University Medical School. This enabled him to enlarge the scope of his ministry of church planting and church strengthening in Mexico to the building and staffing of medical clinics.



Bob’s first pastorate in the Virginia Annual Conference was at Piney Forest Chapel, Danville District. He was the founding pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church, Danville District. Some years later, he served one year at Franktown-Johnson, Eastern Shore District. Bob was predeceased by an infant son. His immediate survivors include his wife, Beth Joyner Conerly, whom he married in 1951, three sons, one daughter, 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. “I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith” (II Timothy 4:7). —*Beth J. Conerly*

Lee Roy Brown, 1921 – 2009

Lee Roy Brown was born April 17, 1921, to Daniel Spencer Brown and Etta Flippin Brown at Guinea Mills in Cumberland County, Virginia. He was the fourth of five children in a farming family, and his father's death when he was 11 only increased the hardships brought on by the Depression. His family had close ties to nearby Antioch Methodist Church, the land for which had been given by his great-grandfather. His mother passed on her love of music and the church, and taught him to be honest and to care about other people. His childhood memories included participation in church Christmas and Children's Day programs. He developed an ambition to be a minister, and his pastor, the Rev. Wallace R. Evans, gave him encouragement toward that goal.



Upon graduation from Cumberland High School at age 16, he entered Randolph-Macon College, encouraged and supported by his older sister Elsie. He graduated from college in 1941, the only one of his siblings to do so. In 1944 he received his Bachelor of Divinity degree from Emory University's Candler School of Theology and began his 44 years of active ministry. That summer he served the Brunswick Charge in the Petersburg District, and at the fall Annual Conference, he was appointed to the Gordonsville Charge. Appointments followed to Wachapreague, Tabernacle (Chancellor), Haygood, Main Street (Emporia), Charles City, Mechanicsville, Zion (Seaford), Dumfries, Bruen Chapel, Epiphany (Vienna), and St. Mark's (Hampton). He retired in 1986, moved to Richmond, and served Bethel (Oilville) for two years.

Lee Roy very much wanted to get to know his church members, and upon each appointment, he would visit as many as possible in their homes. His gentle spirit was well received, and he offered comfort, compassion, and guidance to many people through the years. Likewise, in his retirement, he wanted to be of service to people, and he volunteered at Henrico Doctors' Hospital for 20 years, doing everything from filling water pitchers to registering outpatients, still finding ways to connect with and comfort those he met.

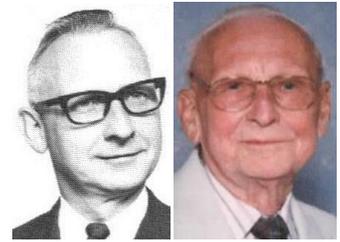
For the first 10 years of his ministry, Lee Roy was a bachelor. In 1954, he married Pauline Hudson at Centenary Methodist Church in Richmond, after some matchmaking by his district superintendent and Pauline's former pastor, Dr. Walter Gum. He was happy to have the love and support of his new wife, as well as her secretarial skills for preparing the Sunday bulletin in their first few churches together. Their daughter, Martha Nell, was born in 1956, and was a source of joy and pride to her father, providing another outlet for his boundless love and another life role for connecting with people.

Upon Lee Roy's "final" retirement from Bethel, he and Pauline became active at Trinity United Methodist Church in Richmond. Lee Roy taught the Mastin Sunday School Class once a month, participated in Bible studies, and enjoyed participation as a retired minister in occasional services. He loved working with flowers in his yard, walking regularly with a group of his neighbors, keeping up with some of his retired minister friends, traveling to elder hostels, and spending time with his granddaughter, Jillian. He and Pauline moved to a close-by retirement community in 2007 so that he could maintain his activities for as long as possible. He died suddenly on Dec. 19, 2009, and his memorial service was held Dec. 23 at Trinity Church. He is survived by Pauline, his wife of 55 years, his daughter and son-in-law, Martha and Craig Schiele, and his granddaughter, Jillian Schiele.

Throughout his life, Lee Roy touched his family, his friends, and his church families with his smile, his patience and humility, his kindness, and his supportive and caring nature. He always tried to lead by Christian example, and with Christian love. —*Pauline H. Brown and Martha B. Schiele*

Charles B. Spivey, Jr., 1926 – 2009

The Rev. Charles B. (Chuck) Spivey Jr., 83, of Charlottesville, was called home to his Heavenly Father on Thursday, Dec. 24, 2009. Rev. Spivey was born March 22, 1926, in Raeford, N.C., to the late Charles B. Spivey Sr. and the late Eunice Baker Spivey. After high school, Chuck enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served during World War II from 1944-1945. Upon his discharge, he attended Old Dominion and the College of William and Mary and later, when called to the ministry, Duke Theological Seminary.



Rev. Spivey served in the United Methodist ministries from 1960-1964 at Parkside UMC in Portsmouth; 1964-1969 at Capron UMC in Southampton County; 1969-1977 at Trinity UMC in Danville; 1977-1984 at St. Paul UMC in Christiansburg; 1984-1988 at Springfield UMC in Springfield; and 1988-1994 as district superintendent of the Rappahannock District, based in Urbanna; retiring in 1994 to Charlottesville. After his retirement, he was very active at Aldersgate UMC. He was a member of the Lions Club, Kiwanis Club, Ruritan Club, Masons and the Scottish Rites.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a son, Laurence (Larry) C. Spivey.

Chuck is survived by his beloved wife of 59 years, Peggy Q. Spivey of Charlottesville, whom he married April 8, 1950, in Portsmouth; a son, Mike Spivey, and his wife Liz of Afton; three sisters, Gertrude McClenney of Chesapeake, Irene Lockstampfor of Waynesboro, Penn., and Barbara Anne Lankford of Chesapeake; five grandchildren, Sarah, Lauren, Julia, Jessica and Kathryn; three great-grandchildren, Luke, Kalli, and Alexi; and a daughter-in-law, Pamela (Pam) Spivey of Charlottesville.

Peggy currently resides at Rosewood Assisted Living and may be reached at 2029 Lockwood Drive, Apt. 316, Charlottesville, VA. 22911. —*Mike Spivey*

Howard M. Wilson, 1930 – 2009

The Rev. Howard M. Wilson, 79, retired associate member, died Dec. 25, 2009. He began his ministerial career in 1977 at Leesburg (Hamilton). He went on to serve John Mann in Winchester. He retired in 1996.

Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Lillian; two daughters, eight grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, one goddaughter and a special aunt. —*Reprinted from the February 2010 Virginia Advocate newsmagazine*

John Harvey Bartee, Jr., 1940 – 2010

The Rev. John “Jack” Harvey Bartee Jr., 69, retired Elder, died Feb. 1, 2010. He began his ministerial career in 1963 at St. Luke’s, Buckland. He became an intern at a Wesley Foundation in Pennsylvania, then was a student in Ohio and Virginia. He went on to serve as Minister to Youth at North Broadway, Columbus, Ohio; returning to Virginia as associate at First, Martinsville; then serving Foundry; as district program coordinator, Arlington District; St. John’s, Staunton; Cherrydale; St. Thomas, Manassas; and Manassas/St. Thomas. He retired in 1991. He was serving Sardis and Bethany in the Charlottesville District at the time of his death.



Survivors include his wife, Anne (Hailey) Bartee; son, Jonathan M. Bartee; daughters, Jessica B. Thompson and Joanna P. Bartee; and five grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a son, Thomas J. Bartee. —*Reprinted from the March 2010 Virginia Advocate newsmagazine.*

Norman Jason Flythe, 1916 – 2010

- A Tribute -

To a quiet man who spoke not of himself and so left that to others.

The Early Years (1916-1939): Norman Flythe was born in Portsmouth, Va., the only son of Travers Norman Flythe and Mary Maude Stephenson Flythe, who also had two daughters, Florence and Mildred. Like most boys, he enjoyed swimming, softball, and the outdoors. He graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in Portsmouth in 1933, and a few years later went on to get a degree in Religious Studies from Randolph-Macon College.



Norman began work as a clerk at the Portsmouth Navy yard (1935-1940). While at a church retreat, a mutual friend, Ada Brangan, introduced him to Catherine Cecelia Smith (daughter of Badger Conley Smith and Clyde Dolores Shell Owen). He immediately was smitten with her and contrary to his usually quiet self, he talked her ear off during that first meeting. She, who was a real talker all her life, couldn't get a word in edgewise. They married March 2, 1937, and this union of a lively talker (Catherine) and a quiet do-er (Norman) was to endure for 57 years.

In 1940, with a wife and a small daughter, Sara Joanna, Norman got the call to be a minister. He entered Randolph-Macon College in Ashland and graduated in three years with his B.A. in Religious Studies in 1943.

The Ministry (1941-1979): Norman matured into a quiet man who lived by convictions and taught by example. Upon graduating from college, he entered Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Va., and graduated in 1946. While still in college, he served as a Student Pastor at a Methodist church in Sandston. Once out of seminary, Norman went on to serve as a minister in the Virginia Methodist Conference for his entire career. In the 38 years between 1941 and 1979, he was to minister to 44 churches. The size of his charges ranged from seven churches at one time in Rappahannock County to only one church in the town of Atlantic on the eastern shore of Virginia.

As a minister in those days, Norman was expected to perform the full portfolio of pastoral duties. When it came to sermons, Norman did not invoke hell fire and damnation. He spoke in parables and allegories. In one sermon he likened people to various species of fish, thus softening any critical or harsh messages. As for the duties that required social interaction, Norman welcomed Catherine's easy sociability and support as she joined him on most visits.

Do not, however, believe that Norman was without backbone or conviction. In 1953, while ministering in Atlantic, Va., he took a stand in the pulpit regarding the rights of black people. This was not a message that the church people wanted to hear, and it resulted in his being transferred to another church the following year.

Another notable milestone came in 1963-64 when Norman took a leave of absence from the church to get his master's degree in education from the University of Virginia and at the same time to serve as the principal of a public school.

The Later Years (1979-2010): With retirement came quiet adventure and achievement. In 1979, he moved to Woodland, N.C., where he stayed until 1990. During this time, he gardened with Catherine and joined her at yard sales. He also became THE expert on genealogy concerning the population of Northampton County, N.C.

On Feb. 7, 1990, Norman's son, Owen Norman, died of a heart attack at the young age of 39. Norman and Catherine immediately stepped in to play a larger part in the lives of Owen's children. They moved to Raleigh and joined Holland's United Methodist Church in Garner, N.C. In addition to spending time with the grandchildren, Norman sang in the choir and played hand bells. The church was

still the linchpin in his life. On Aug. 12, 1994, Catherine died of a stroke and was buried in Holland's cemetery along with her son, Owen.

After the death of his beloved Catherine, Norman took a three-month missionary trip to Armenia in 1995. Although he expected to mentor ministerial students or play some similar role, he ended up living with a family and being escorted around Armenia, being told the story of their current strife. As a result, he developed a rich understanding for why things were tough for them now that the Soviets were gone. He returned home feeling somewhat disappointed that he could not have done more while he was there. Once he was home, though, he collaborated with his daughter, Mary Catherine, to create a slide show telling the story of the Armenian plight. He used the slide show to raise money for Armenia.

Due to failing health, Norman went to live with Mary Catherine in Springfield, Va., in 2003. He was happy and safe living with his daughter, and he had an opportunity to develop a close and loving relationship with his great-grandchildren. All in all, the years in Virginia with Mary Catherine allowed him to enjoy many family gatherings that included the entire Flythe clan. When Norman's mobility and memory failed, he moved to the Hermitage of Northern Virginia, where he lived his final days in the care and comfort of this fine nursing home run by The United Methodist Church. —*The Family*

Joseph Alfred Carter, Jr., 1922 – 2010

The Rev. Joseph A. Carter Jr., was born March 20, 1922, in Richmond, Va. He was the son of the late Joseph A. Carter Sr. and S. Evangeline Steward Carter. He was educated in the Richmond Public Schools, and graduated from Armstrong High School. He studied theology at Virginia Union University, Duke and American Universities. Rev. Carter served in the U.S. Army and also worked for the U.S. Postal Service.



His ministerial career began in the Washington Conference in 1960; he served in the North Carolina-Virginia Conference in 1965, and became a member of the Virginia Conference in 1968. He served the following churches: Faith at Kilmarnock, the Wayne Circuit, West Staunton, and he retired from Galilee UMC, Edwardsville, Va., in 1987.

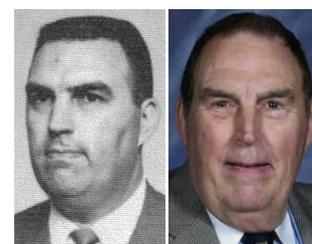
After retiring, Rev. Carter returned to his home church Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church (formerly Leigh Street Methodist) in Richmond, and served faithfully as an associate minister until his death. In addition to his ministerial duties at Wesley, he always remembered ministers and laity on their birthdays and anniversaries, and established the Remembrance Ministry at Wesley to acknowledge special days in the lives of Wesley members. He also served as a faithful member of the Industrial Chaplains. Rev. Carter gave his all to God and ministry in sickness and health.

Rev. Carter departed this life Feb. 6, 2010. He was preceded in death by his wife, Sylvia Carter, and all three of their children. He is survived by his widow, Mildred Carter, whom he married in 1999. —*Rev. Rodney Hunter*

William Reid Kyle, Jr., 1933 – 2010

“In the bulb there is a flower, in a seed an apple tree,
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
...unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.”

With a song of resurrection, the last public words were sung over the life and ministry of William Reid Kyle Jr. by a capacity congregation of First United Methodist Church, Hampton, Va. His death came unexpectedly at the age of 76 on Feb. 10, 2010, while vacationing in Sydney, Australia. His home-going was celebrated on Feb. 20, 2010, by the congregation that cradled his faith and nurtured him throughout his life.



Born into a Christian home, Bill enlarged that devotion to Christ's Church in his own faith and mirrored it in nearly a half century of pastoral ministry in the Virginia Conference. His involvement as a youth and young adult in all aspects of the church brought him to the threshold of the call to Christian ministry, which he answered eagerly and served faithfully for the rest of his life.

After serving in the U.S. Army, his preparation for ministry led him to Randolph-Macon College in Ashland and Duke Divinity School. He was ordained an elder in 1969 and his itinerancy took him to St. Paul/ Mt. Vernon in Ruther Glen, Reveille in Richmond, Warwick Memorial in Newport News, Windsor Hills in Roanoke, Peakland in Lynchburg, Wesley in Vienna, Thalia in Virginia Beach and Front Royal in Winchester. Upon retirement in 1999, he served as Minister of Congregational Care at First United Methodist Church, Hampton, until his death.

During his pastorate at Warwick Memorial, Bill gave significant service as an Industrial and Commercial Ministries chaplain at Busch Properties, Williamsburg. In retirement, he often was called upon to mentor candidates for ministry in the conference.

While a student at Randolph-Macon, Bill met Shirley Stevens of Ashland. Their marriage in 1963 created a nurturing Christ-centered home into which their sons, William Reid Kyle III and Christopher Stevens Kyle were born. Their partnership in ministry spanned 46 years and eight pastoral appointments.

Bill is survived by his wife, Shirley Stevens Kyle; sons, William Reid Kyle III of Williamsburg, and Christopher Stevens Kyle and his wife, Mari, of Harrisonburg; grandchildren, William, Olivia and Abigail; sisters, Shirley K. Conway and her husband, Edward, of Hampton, and Ella Mae Wimer and her husband, John (a retired United Methodist pastor), of Suffolk; nephew, William Nevin Wimer of Suffolk; and niece, Rebecca Carlson, and her husband, Cliff, and their two children, Kyle and Makayla, all of Chesapeake.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William R. and Lula B. Kyle; and granddaughter, Elizabeth S. Kyle, his littlest angel.

(Matt. 25:23) "Well done, good and faithful servant." —*The Family*

Weldon Ray Crockett, 1925 – 2010

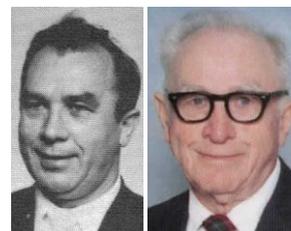
In loving memory of the Rev. Weldon Ray Crockett, age 84, who died Feb. 12, 2010. He was a retired associate member who began his ministerial career in 1973. He served several churches on the Eastern Shore: Pungoteague, Pocomoke, and Melfa. He also served Amissville, Chatham Heights, and Parnassus. A true delight of his life was teaching others about the Bible. He mentored others young and old to become teachers and preachers.



He was preceded in death by his wife, Bertha Crockett. He was a devoted and loving father to his two daughters, Vicky Bisson and Jessie Robbins. Survivors also include a grandson, Timothy "Logan" Robbins. —*Vicky Bisson*

Carl Jay Yow, Sr., 1920 – 2010

The Rev. Carl Jay Yow, Sr., 89, a resident of Belvidere, N.C., and associated with the Virginia Conference since 1951, died Feb. 12, 2010, in a Smithfield, Va., nursing home. A memorial service was held at Edenton (N.C.) United Methodist Church on Feb. 16. Rev. Yow, an active minister for 31 years before retiring in 1986, had served the King George, Accomac and North Garden circuits, Elkton, Hickory, Ettrick, Sherbourne Avenue (Richmond), West End (Roanoke), Rocky Mount, Shiloh (Montpelier) and Aldersgate (Charlottesville).



He was born in Jamestown, N.C., son of the late Carl H. and Lena Osborne Yow. He graduated from Gilford (N.C.) College and Duke Divinity School. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Merle Briggs Yow; five children, Robert B. Yow, of Jacksonville, N.C., Rebecca Y. Crabill, of Luray, Carl Jay Yow Jr. of Oak Ridge, N.C., Lena Grant of Chesapeake and John Yow of Carrollton; two brothers, the Rev. Howard B. Yow and Thomas B. Yow, both of Greensboro, N.C.; 11 grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren.

An avid student of agriculture, he had spent his retirement years tending his small North Carolina farm. He also had enjoyed hunting and fishing and was an accomplished wood craftsman. Family was a favorite focus for Rev. Yow by being involved in his children's lives from their first steps to teaching them life skills to officiating at their weddings and baptizing their offspring. —*Rev. Ralph H. Crabill*

Trevor Deree Turner, 1929 – 2010

Trevor's career spanned more than 60 years with service in ministry and education. In addition to serving nearly 30 years in the Army chaplaincy, he served churches in Virginia and Georgia. He was a student pastor at the Woodridge Charge while a student at the University of Virginia, a student pastor at Salem Methodist Church near Covington, Ga., while a student at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, and pastor of Peakland United Methodist Church in Lynchburg.



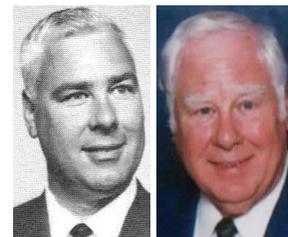
As a U.S. Army chaplain, Trevor was assigned to various stateside posts: Fort Gordon, Ga.; Fort Meade, Md.; Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Fort McNair, Washington, D.C.; Fort Bliss, Texas; and Fort Rucker, Ala. He had several overseas tours, as well, in Korea, Panama, and Germany, and was a veteran of the Vietnam War. His last military assignment was Command Chaplain of the U.S. Army Alaska Command at Fort Richardson, Alaska.

Upon retirement from the Army in 1981, Trevor was appointed president of Randolph-Macon Academy in Front Royal. During his 16-year term, he renewed the 118-year-old academy by expanding the campus to 135 acres, founding and building an adjacent middle school, modernizing and renovating the existing facilities including the historic Sonner Hall, and constructing several new buildings: Crow Hall, a math and science building, Fulton Fine Arts and Maintenance Complex, and a girl's dormitory and dining hall now known as Turner Hall in his honor.

After his retirement from Randolph-Macon Academy in 1997, and until his death, Trevor served as executive director of Faithnet, an interdenominational Christian Internet site dedicated to information, fellowship, study, devotions, and providing worldwide online pastoral counseling. Trevor is survived by his wife of nearly 58 years, Lois, three children, 10 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. —*The Family*

George Henry Gravitt, 1935 – 2010

The Rev. George Henry Gravitt of South Boston, served as a Methodist minister for 41 years, had a comforting way, a talent for whittling, a love of camping, and an eye for antiques. He had the voice you listened to, many people have often said. He was always the voice of calm. He really knew the people [in his churches] and took the time to get to know them and relate to them. Rev. Gravitt died of cancer Tuesday, April 6, 2010, in a hospital in Halifax County, where he retired from the ministry in 1999. He was 74.



Born at home in Virgilina to a tobacco grader and a seamstress, he had a "special talent for the ministry for as long as he could remember." He earned a literary diploma from Ferrum Junior College in 1955, and married his high school sweetheart, Lois Conner, in 1956. They lived in Richmond while

he earned a bachelor's degree at Randolph-Macon College, and then moved so he could earn a Master of Divinity degree at Duke University.

Rev. Gravitt's first pastorate was at Creasey's Chapel, a small, rural church at Woolwine, in 1960. His next assignments included Providence Church at Brosville, near Danville, and churches of the same names in Gordonsville and Barbourville. When the Methodist Church merged with the Evangelical United Brethren to form The United Methodist Church in 1968, he went to Verona United Methodist Church in Verona and later Oxford Church in Suffolk. In 1977, he became pastor of Crewe Church in Crewe, where he oversaw the completion of a new building. He also served Huntington Court Church (Roanoke District), Trinity Church (Danville District), Wesley Memorial Church (Alexandria District) and Main Street Methodist Church in South Boston (Farmville District) before his retirement.

In his spare time, he worked with wood. "He said that whittling was a clarifier of thought and tranquilizer of mind, and that a whittler was easy to listen to." He was an enthusiastic camper by travel trailer and motor home and had been a regular on monthly outings of church camping clubs. Rev. Gravitt had built shelves, made furniture and set up displays at the South Boston Museum, collected antiques and was the go-to person to identify an antique. In addition to his daughter, survivors include his wife of 54 years, Lois Conner Gravitt; two sisters, Janis Murray of Mebane, N.C., and Florence Buchanan of Virgilina; and two grandchildren. —*Buzz Reynolds*

Robert Henry Eason, 1920 – 2010

Robert Henry Eason was born Sunday, Aug. 1, 1920, in Charleston, S.C. When he was 4 hours old, his father, who was superintendent of the church's Sunday school, placed Robert's name on the Cradle Roll of Trinity Methodist Church. Throughout his childhood and youth, he was active in his church. During the summer of 1941, he participated in a Methodist Youth Caravan. After receiving training at Lake Junaluska, he was sent to Virginia where his team spent the summer working with young people in several Virginia churches. Upon his return to Charleston, he was asked to preach at an evening service in his home church. During that service he experienced a definite call to the ministry.

Three and a half years of Naval service during World War II delayed his preparation for the ministry. As a line officer, Bob participated in the invasions of Sicily, Salerno and Normandy. On Feb. 17, 1946, he and Ens. Helen E. Mansfield were united in marriage at the Naval Ammunition Depot in Hawthorne, Nev. He was released from active duty on May 17, 1946. Later, after he had received his seminary training at Drew Theological School and Boston University School of Theology, he served as a Navy chaplain during the Korean conflict from 1953 to 1955.

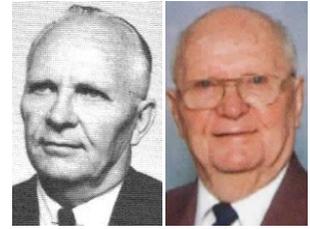
After serving student churches in New Jersey and New Hampshire, Bob became an ordained elder. He spent nine years in the North Carolina Conference, then moved to Virginia in 1964. His Virginia appointments were Park View, Portsmouth; Chesapeake Avenue, Chesapeake; Wesley Memorial, Norfolk; Scott Memorial, Virginia Beach and Wesley, Hampton. He retired in 1985.

In 1997, Bob and Helen moved to Vermillion, S.D. Until he became unable to participate, they were active members of First UMC's Adult Sunday School, the Breakfast Study Group, the Reconciling Task Force and the Welcome Table. Bob died April 7, 2010. He is survived by his wife of 64 years; two children, Barbara Goodman of Vermillion and Richard Eason of Brussels, Belgium; as well as four grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; a brother, Hugh, of Sullivan's Island, S.C.; and several nieces and nephews. Bob was a dedicated minister, a champion for human rights, a biblical scholar and, best of all, a wonderful husband and loving father. —*The Family*

Richard Lee McNutt, 1917 – 2010

The Rev. Richard L. "Mac" McNutt, 93, retired Elder, died April 19, 2010. Rev. McNutt served in the United States Navy from 1934 to 1959, retiring with 25 years' service. He began his ministerial

career in 1964 at Big Island-Cove. He went on to serve Wallace Memorial, Providence (Yorktown), Cokesbury (Woodbridge), and Courtland. He retired in 1984. During his retirement, he served Melrose Avenue. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ethel Kingery McNutt. Survivors include a son, Lee F. McNutt; daughter, Barbara Jean Brooks; grandchildren, Kelly McNutt Wells, Lee Anderson McNutt, C. Lohr Brooks Jr., and Darrell William Brooks; and nine great-grandchildren. —Reprinted from the June 2010 *Virginia Advocate* newsmagazine



James F. Hannah, 1954 – 2009

Jim was my partner in life, in love, in family, and in ministry for more than 30 years. No one who knew him can say he was boring; his passion for living life fully is remembered by all of us who loved him and for whom he loved. He was ordained an elder in The United Methodist Church and faithfully served congregations in the Ashland, Roanoke, Richmond, and Danville districts. He also served his community as a highly decorated police officer in the city of Richmond while on honorable location from the conference. During the last four years of his life, he truly was a shepherd, both to the sheep of the churches he served and to the beloved goats on his farm.



Jim left many friends, church members, family members, and four-legged critters to grieve his loss, among them being: the Rev. Susan Hannah, his wife of 30 years, and their adult children: Stuart, James, Timothy, and Rebekah. Jim’s legacy to all is that we are to “Dance with Life” and in the words of Paul: “We have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.” (1 Cor. 13:13, *The Message*) —*Rev. Susan Hannah*

James Houston Hundley, 1952 – 2009

The Rev. James “Jim” Hundley was born June 1, 1952, in Richmond, Va., to the late Clyde and Mary Lou Hundley. He grew up in a loving household on the East End of Richmond, the house where his parents remained until their deaths. He was a proud resident of Richmond and student at Varina High School. Jim was quite the actor in high school, acting in all of the plays he could. This spilled over to his home church, Corinth UMC in Sandston, where there was an active drama group which put on big productions for the benefit of the youth ministry and its involvement in mission. One of his proudest roles was the father in *The Family Nobody Wanted*. If you know the play and knew Jim, you know why this is true! He also sang in choral groups and enjoyed lots of good friends.



He experienced his call to ministry as a teenager. Being in and around church was second nature to him. He participated in several youth ministry activities of the Richmond District and the annual conference. When considering colleges, he had heard about a young school called Methodist College in Fayetteville, N.C. Jim applied and spent a wonderful four years there, majoring in sociology. He had the great experience of working as lay supply in several churches while he was a student there. He returned from college to attend Wesley Theological Seminary. He successfully squeezed three years of a seminary education into seven years, graduating in 1981. This does not mean he was idle in those years. He was serving churches and always managed to find a mission which required his help more than his need to finish seminary. He was ordained elder while kneeling alongside his brother Steve at the Annual Conference session in Virginia Beach in 1982.

He served appointments in the Alexandria, Winchester, Peninsula, Richmond, Norfolk and Lynchburg districts. At the time of his death on July 12, 2009, he had been serving Southview UMC in the Roanoke District for only 12 days.

Jim had a long life commitment to mission. He was a volunteer in his teen years at the Bethlehem Center in Richmond when it was located in Fulton Bottom. He went on to be a paid staff member at the center for several summers. He was a part of the purchase of the Bethlehem Center bus that was purchased with Green Stamps, a fact that has not escaped the memory of many who were a part of that ministry in those days. He was very active as a team leader for United Methodist Volunteers In Mission (UMVIM) in several countries. He was the Disaster Relief Coordinator for the Virginia Conference for several years. United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) asked him to travel for them on a few occasions. He was also proud of the opportunity he had to be a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) chaplain in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Jim met the love of his life, Alice Kenady, when he worked as youth minister of Rockville UMC in Maryland, during his first year in seminary. They met in September of 1974 and were married on June 21, 1975. The care and kindness Alice showed to his ministry was always evident wherever they served. Jim was ever so proud of his two wonderful daughters, Kathryn Ricotta of Norfolk, Va., and Anne Hundley Davis of Chicago, Ill. The addition of his sons-in-law, Mike Ricotta and Nathaniel Davis, was exciting and welcomed by Jim. In his last days, he was crazy about the coming birth of his first grandchild. Joseph Ricotta was born in October, an addition that would have been huge for Jim.

His funeral service was held at Southview United Methodist Church on July 14 in the midst of a loving congregation that received all of the grieving guests with love and concern. Many remembrances of his life were shared in and around the funeral. Most were about funny things he said or did, but many were heartfelt memories of the sacrificial care Jim shared with many. He would often say to those of us in his family that someone who had died had gone to the “house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.” He would do so with a smile as he quickly rattled off that II Corinthians 5:1 passage. Well now he has gone to the “Jim house” not made with hands. He is missed. —*Rev. Stephen C. Hundley*

Jane Inscoe Myers, 1946 – 2010

The Rev. Jane Inscoe Myers was born Aug. 10, 1946, to George Welford Inscoe Jr. and Lela White Inscoe of King George County, Va. Jane’s father was killed in an accident at the Naval Surface Weapons Laboratory in Dahlgren, Va., in March 1948, when she was just 18 months old. Two years later, she moved with her mother and older sister to Westmoreland County where she spent her early childhood. In 1959, her mother remarried and they all moved to Richmond, Va.

Jane attended Henrico County schools and graduated from Douglas Freeman High School, and cosmetology school. She worked for a while as a hair stylist. A first short marriage produced one son, but ended in divorce. She went to work at Dominion Power and there she met her future husband, James Robert “Bobby” Myers, a divorced father of four children. They were married and their blended family lived for a while in East Richmond before moving to Amelia County. After leaving Dominion Power, she worked as a financial manager for a Chrysler dealership, and finished her degree at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, where she majored in business administration.

Jane was always active in the Methodist Church, from the time she was baptized, and all through her adulthood. She held most lay positions at Trinity United Methodist Church in Amelia County and was lay leader for several years while she wrestled with the calling to the ministry in middle age. She and her husband decided that all the children were grown and they were willing to make the sacrifices for her to return to school and perhaps become a pastor. She officially became a licensed local pastor at the June 2006 Annual Conference and was assigned to the West Dinwiddie Charge in the Petersburg District. She had three churches, Corinth UMC, Trinity UMC, and White Oak UMC.

Membership at each church increased under her leadership and she loved her calling, the wonderful people in her congregations, and was happier than she had ever been in her life. The congregations of all three churches rallied around her when she was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer in August 2008.

She continued to serve all three churches and continued her studies at Wesley Theological Seminary while undergoing treatment which included surgery, radiation, and repeated chemotherapies. She fulfilled a dream she had cherished since joining the ministry when she preached at her childhood church, Grant United Methodist Church in Westmoreland County on Nov. 29, 2009.

Sadly, the cancer continued to spread, and she was forced to resign her ministry effective Dec. 31, 2009. She died early on the morning of Feb. 15, 2010, with her husband, sister and brother-in-law, her pastor, and close members of her congregations gathered around her bed in prayer. She passed peacefully into the arms of her Savior. She is survived by her husband, four of their five children, nine grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren; her sister and brother-in-law; and two aunts. Her funeral was at Trinity United Methodist Church in Amelia on Feb. 18, 2010, officiated by her friend and mentor, the Rev. Michelle Lindsey. Burial followed at Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Amelia.

While Jane's ministry was short, it was profoundly effective in uniting her congregations. Under her leadership, attendance and membership increased. She touched many lives both inside and outside of her church and was blessed by each of them in return. —*Arlene Fultz*

Lawrence Wade Creedle, Jr., 1947 – 2010

Lawrence Wade Creedle, Jr., was born Oct. 17, 1947, in south central Virginia—South Hill. He grew up there and graduated from Park View High School in 1966. He served his country on home and foreign soil from 1966-1968. He got married in 1969 to Nancy Kidd, also, a resident of South Hill. He was employed by American Tobacco Company until he accepted his call into the ministry in 1972. He attended John Tyler Community College and then went on to Virginia Wesleyan in Rocky Mount, N.C., where he received his B.A. degree, and continued his studies at Southeastern Baptist Seminary where he received his M. Div. degree.



During his ministry, he served the Prince George Charge, Philadelphia Charge, Mountain View Charge, Kenwood UMC (Petersburg), Ridgeway UMC and went on to serve Swain Memorial UMC on Tangier Island his last 13 years.

Wade was a loving father to his daughter, Miracle Dawn Gittman of South Hill, and his son, Lawrence W. Creedle III, of Tangier. He was the proud “Poppie” of three grandsons, Christopher Edward Parks, Zachary Burton Creedle and Christian Wade Creedle. In addition to his wife, children and grandsons, he is survived by his sister, Betty Puryear, and her husband, Bill, and many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins. After a lengthy illness, Wade was called into eternity on March 7, 2010, from the home where his mother was raised. His remains rest in a farming field behind that house where he spent the last four years of his life. —*Nancy Creedle*

2011 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

James Lee Dodd, 1931 – 2010

The Rev. James Lee Dodd, 78, died March 8, 2010. He began his ministerial career in 1963 as a professor at Ferrum College. He went on to serve as a professor at LaGrange College, professor at the University of Georgia, and as the Regional Director of the Georgia Department of Mental Health in LaGrange. He retired in 1980.

Survivors include his wife, Jacquelyn Trammell Dodd. —Reprinted from the October 2010 *Virginia Advocate* newsmagazine

Alfred Lee Eastman, 1924 – 2010

Alfred Lee Eastman was born Aug. 24, 1924, in Greensboro, N.C., to Fitzhugh Lee and Thelma Dixon Eastman. He had two brothers, Robert (deceased) and Richard; and one sister, Carol Hargrove.

He graduated from Newport News High School in 1942 where he played football and was known as “Red” for his red hair. Following in the footsteps of many young men in Newport News, Va., he entered the apprentice school at the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Co. It was not his passion, and on the day of graduation, he picked up his tool bag, quit and left.



He joined the Navy in 1943 and served three years during World War II in the Asiatic-Pacific area on the USS SABIK Liberty ship. His ship transported 15,696 troops and 28,000 tons of cargo over 56,693 miles of travel. Believe me, the family has memorized and taken pride in the stories from Leyte Gulf, Okinawa, Guadalcanal, and life on the ship. He came home with a tattoo on his arm (which caused a stir at more than one church) and, little known by anyone but the family, a pierced ear.

A few days after his return from the war in 1946, he married Dorothy Page Bell—who actually lied about her age to get him to date her. It was a match made in heaven. They both worked at NASA in Hampton, Va., where they bought their first home. Philip Lee Eastman was born Jan. 9, 1954. During that time, there were no Methodist churches nearby, so Al and Dot participated in starting a church, which is now Bethany United Methodist Church in Hampton. The initial services were held in their home on Cornwall Terrace. Heavily influenced by that experience, Al attended Randolph-Macon College to earn his B.A. and moved to Poughquag, N.Y., to serve the Poughquag Methodist Church, while attending Drew University in New Jersey to earn his B.D. During that time, Brenda Susan was born Aug. 1, 1956.

Upon graduation, a Washington state bishop urged Al to come to Washington, but as the Rev. A. Purnell Bailey said “Al was not moved by the Holy Spirit, but moved by the Holy Girl,” as Dorothy emphatically said, “I am going home to Virginia.”

Al served Christ UMC in Newport News, Kilmarnock UMC in Kilmarnock, Memorial UMC in Appomattox, Franconia UMC in Alexandria and St. Stephens UMC in Burke. He then served as superintendent for the Harrisonburg and Rappahannock districts.

During his service in Harrisonburg, Dorothy and Philip, as well as Al’s mother, Thelma Eastman, passed away with cancer. Several years earlier, he lost his brother, Bobby. These were devastating losses from which Al never fully recovered. He was truly devoted to his family and he would continue to grieve for the rest of his life.

Al was an avid visitor during his career and continued during his retirement to visit in nursing and assisted living homes. He did not want anyone to feel alone or lost.

I have always been a daddy’s girl, so in the last 25 years, Al has spent much of his time with me and his granddaughters, Amy, Debbye and Robin. He has influenced and enriched our lives beyond comprehension. He was overjoyed at the births of his great-grandchildren, Kayla, Madelyn and Alexis; and though he never saw Parker, born June 10, 2010, he was able to comprehend and be proud that he had a great-grandson. July 2010 brought one more great-granddaughter, Sophie Michelle. Al often said his “status” as a senior increased with the number of great-grandchildren he could brag about.

Alfred Eastman was an incredible man who not only preached the word, but lived it. He had a unique sense of humor and a truly eloquent way of getting his point across. It was amazing, at his funeral visitation, to hear past parishioners mention specific sermons that had touched their hearts throughout the years.

We miss him dearly, but his imprint on our lives will always be there. I truly believe you never lose a person entirely, they take a piece of your soul with them and you keep a piece of theirs in your heart forever.

Thank you for celebrating his life with us today! —*Brenda Eastman Barber*

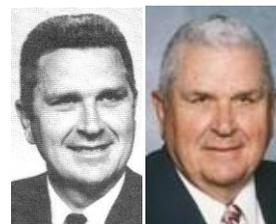
Robert Emory Couch, 1927 – 2010

The Rev. Robert Emory Couch, 82, retired Elder, died June 20, 2010. He began his ministerial career in 1954 as a student at Candler. He served the North Carolina Conference in 1954 at Kennakeet, then 1955 at Bath. He returned to the Virginia Conference in 1956 and served Brunswick, Dinwiddie, Brucetown, Brookneal, Rock Spring, Annex-Crimora and Massanutten. He retired in 1978. Survivors include his wife, Stella; sons, Robert, Richard and Dowman; daughter, Melanie; five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. —Reprinted from the August 2010 *Virginia Advocate* newsmagazine, with additions from the Couch family



Marvin Claude “Windy” Cook, 1920 – 2010

The psalmist said in Psalms 116:15, “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.” Windy might never have thought of himself as a saint, but we all sure knew him as a faithful servant of the Lord; a shepherd of his people whom he was appointed to love and serve. He was a country kind of preacher. And he showed so many of us how to trust, how to have hope, how to be faithful and how to live. Sure, a sinner saved by the grace of God, but now most assuredly part of what we know now as “the communion of saints.” “Thou wast his rock, his fortress and his might, thou Lord his captain, in the well-fought fight, thou in his darkness drear his one true light.” A soldier for Christ—faithful, true and bold. And yes, Windy too has fought the good fight, finished the race and kept the faith. The number of lives he touched between being a medic in the U.S. Army on the second day of Normandy and during the Battle of the Bulge and serving as a pastor in the Methodist Church for over 36 years, we’ll never know. All the holy moments he spent with people in prayer, in counseling, sitting by bedsides, or across a dinner table, or on some fairway; maybe in placing water on the head of an infant, child, teen or adult, or pronouncing a couple husband and wife, or committing a member and friend’s soul into God’s good keeping.



Marvin Claude Cook was born in Flint Hill, Va., July 25, 1920. He and Danna Richardson (who survives) met in Norfolk and were married June 13, 1942, in the Oceanview Methodist Church. They have two children: Rick and his wife, Sharron; and Linda and her husband, Jim. There are four living grandchildren: Melaney, Cooper, Taylor and Austin. They lost Kevin when he was 15. There are three great-grandchildren: Janey, Shelby and Sydney.

Windy graduated from Rappahannock High School in 1938. As a medic in the U.S. Army, in some of the fiercest fighting, in the cold of winter, I’m sure Windy held onto his faith which he learned as a little boy at Flint Hill Methodist Church. You know how brave he had to be, and I’m sure those years affected his call into ministry. There was no doubt he was called. When asked, he said that God had promised him to be with him wherever he went and Windy said, “He was.”

After the war, Windy got into some lay speaking at Willis Chapel and during that time responded to the calling of God to go into ministry as a pastor. He began college at the University of Virginia for two years while he served the Nelson County Charge with four churches. He went to Duke Divinity School in the summers. He would serve four more charges over his ministry career to include eight years at Duncan Memorial in Berryville, nine years at Farmville and seven years at First Methodist in Culpeper, until retirement in 1986. In retirement, Windy was appointed to Jeffersonton United Methodist Church

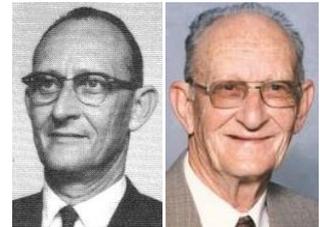
where he was asked to go and close the church. Someone must not have read his ministry record sheet. He not only did not close it, but it grew and added on in his three years.

He was always down-to-earth, very personable and practiced the advice he gave when he said, “Just love the people.” And he did. And because he did, everywhere he went, the churches grew in numbers, in size with expansion programs and in ministry.

Windy loved the Lord and he’d want us to as well. Windy loved people—all people—and he’d want us to as well. He wanted us to know how much he appreciated the fact that God allowed him to serve. He considered it a privilege to serve God and God’s people. And every time we have that opportunity, Windy would want us to embrace ministry as a privilege as well, until we too have finished our race and rest from our labors. —*Linda Kemp, using excerpts from her father’s eulogy, written and spoken by the Rev. Dr. Randy Orndorff, lead pastor, Culpeper United Methodist Church*

Clifton C. Blythe, Jr., 1917 – 2010

Rev. Clifton C. Blythe, Jr., was born June 12, 1917, in Franklin, Va. He grew up working in his family’s laundry business in Franklin and was president of his senior class at Franklin High School, Class of 1936. After high school, Rev. Blythe earned a business degree at Benjamin Franklin University and eventually took over his parents’ business when they retired. Rev. Blythe constructed a new more modern facility and added a new service just coming into vogue—dry cleaning.



Rev. Blythe was an active member of High Street UMC in Franklin and served in numerous leadership positions. In the 1950s, he became a lay minister serving small churches in Southampton County that did not have a full-time pastor. When the call came to go into the full-time ministry, he sold his business and went to Duke University Divinity School, graduating in 1960.

As the first full-time pastor of Magnolia UMC in Suffolk, Rev. Blythe led the church in relocating after eminent domain took the church’s educational wing and fellowship hall. Several years later, eminent domain threatened to force the relocated church to abandon plans to expand. Rev. Blythe consulted with then Gov. Mills E. Godwin Jr., the church’s former attorney, who arranged to save the church property and allow the planned expansion to go forward.

In 1966, Rev. Blythe was sent to Trinity UMC in Richmond, where he served as associate minister and minister of evangelism and used his business background to supervise the construction of a new educational wing at Trinity. Rev. Blythe served seven years as pastor of the old, established Market Street UMC in Onancock on the Eastern Shore before being appointed to Emmanuel UMC in Amherst and later was appointed to St. Andrews (Portsmouth) in 1977 where he retired in 1986 and became “Pastor Emeritus” of St. Andrews.

Because of his lay experience, Rev. Blythe had the gift to interpret theological teaching into something the average person could appreciate and understand, and was able to create more enthusiasm, interest, activity and financial giving. He had the ability to not just encourage his parishioners, but to motivate them to do more than they had done in the past.

Rev. Blythe was the widower of Edna R. Blythe, whom he married on Christmas Day in 1938. “C.C. and Edna” enjoyed over 72 years of marriage. Mrs. Blythe passed away on April 12, 2010, and Rev. Blythe followed her to his heavenly reward on July 14, 2010, at age 93. Rev. and Mrs. Blythe are survived by three sons, Earl, Stephen and Barry; a sister, Frances B. Holt; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. —*C. Earl Blythe*

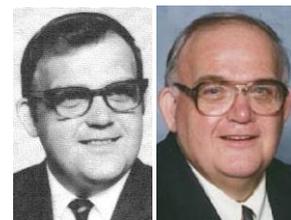
Marshall F. Driskill, Jr., 1936 – 2010

The Rev. Marshall F. Driskill Jr., 74, retired associate member, died July 29, 2010. He began his ministerial career in 1988 at Sussex. He went on to serve Glenwood (Farmville District) and the Bedford Circuit (Lynchburg District). He went on incapacity leave in 1997. He retired in 2002. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Jennie W. Driskill, and his second wife, Sandra A. Driskill. Surviving are his daughters, Linda D. Gysin and Sarah D. Stenzinger; sons, David S. Driskill, William M. Driskill, the Rev. R. Mark Driskill, Paul F. Driskill and Ted E. Driskill; stepsons, Norman G. Proffitt and Russell W. Proffitt; 15 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. —Reprinted from the September 2010 *Virginia Advocate* newsmagazine



William Floyd Mahon, 1938 – 2010

The Rev. William Floyd (Bill) Mahon began his ministerial service in 1962 as a pastor in the Virginia Conference and served for 40 years until his retirement in 2000. The son of Mary Elizabeth Harrover and William Harold Mahon, he was born in Lorton, Va. From his humble beginnings, according to his wife, Jean, of 43 years, “He felt the hand of God upon him.”



Bill had a way with people. His smile, his laughter, and attentiveness attracted people to him. His honesty and his dependable service, whether in secular work or ultimately in full-time Christian service, was “rock solid.” Following his graduation from Randolph-Macon College and Duke Divinity School, his pastoral ministry began as the associate pastor at Mount Vernon, Alexandria; pastor of Hillcrest, Alexandria; Brookville, Brookville-Shiloh in Lynchburg; Aldersgate in Charlottesville; Shiloh in Ashland; Ocran in Petersburg; Charity and St. Paul’s in Norfolk; Warsaw in Rappahannock; Lakeside in Ashland; and upon his retirement, he served as the associate pastor at Courthouse Community, Virginia Beach.

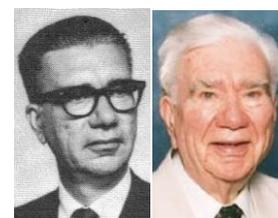
Bill had a heart for missions, to share the love of Jesus Christ. He did this through his district missionary work and his involvement in mission trips in several countries outside the United States. He had a blessed way of winning the hearts and minds of those he encountered, whether laity or clergy. He knew that “the Lord was his Shepherd,” and he sought to emulate the Great Shepherd as God gave him the ability to do so.

Reflecting on Bill’s life one is reminded of the quotation from Proverbs 10:7; “The memory of the righteous is a blessing. . .” Indeed, Bill was a blessing to his wife, his sons Cliff and Eddie, and to his larger family, and to his colleagues and friends. A good man, a good and faithful servant of the church has passed our way, but his shadow casts itself upon all who knew him. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was right:

*Were a star quenched on high, For ages would its light,
Still traveling downward from the sky, Shine on our mortal sight.
And so when a good man dies, For years beyond our ken,
The light he leaves behind him lies Upon the paths of men.* —The Rev. E. Thomas Murphy Jr.

William Archer Wright, Jr., 1918 – 2010

The Rev. Dr. William Archer Wright Jr. passed away peacefully in Richmond Aug. 15, 2010, surrounded by his family. Dr. Wright was a descendent of Mordecai Cooke, a Virginia planter who settled in the early 1600s at “Mordecai’s Mount” (Church Hill) in Gloucester County. Starting with his great-grandfather in 1852, Dr. Wright’s ancestors and descendants have continuously served nearly 160 years as Methodist ministers in the Virginia Conference. His daughter, the



Rev. Elizabeth Wright Taylor of Hampton, Va., and his grandson, the Rev. John Archer Squares, of Poynton, England, carry on the Methodist ministerial tradition.

Bill was born in 1918 at Belle Haven, Va., on the Eastern Shore. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa and ODK from Randolph-Macon College in 1939, and completed his Master of Divinity in 1942 at Union Theological Seminary in New York. He and his wife of 64 years, Elizabeth Johnson Wright of Franklin, Va., were married in 1946. Of her, he wrote in his book, *Recollections and Reflections*, "Beth has provided the warm heart my theology needed to make it live." (pg. 341)

In 1952, Rev. Wright went on sabbatical to New York City to work as Director of Student Affairs for the American Friends of the Middle East, a foundation for international education and cultural exchange. He was also an accredited observer at the United Nations. During this time he traveled widely throughout the Middle East. He returned to the ministry in Virginia in 1956.

Beginning in 1942, Rev. Wright served churches on the Eastern Shore, in Portsmouth, Merrifield, Smithfield, Newport News, Springfield and Clarendon. He was superintendent of the Charlottesville District, a position his father held 50 years earlier. He was the religious books reviewer for the *Richmond Times Dispatch*, and wrote articles for the *20th Century Quarterly*, *Virginia United Methodist Advocate*, *World Outlook*, *Christian Century* and *Christian Advocate*. He served the Virginia Conference on numerous boards and agencies including the Commission on World Peace, the Board of Education as president, the Virginia Council of Churches as chair of the Division of Life and Work, the Committee on Research and Planning as chair, the Board of Pensions, the Board of Church and Society, and the United Methodist Foundation as director. Rev. Wright retired from the Virginia Conference in 1986 after serving as Executive Secretary, Board of Pensions, and Director of Ministerial Services for the Associate Council on Ministries. In 1986 he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Randolph-Macon College. Dr. Wright served on the Board of Trustees at both Randolph-Macon and Ferrum Colleges.

Dr. Wright is survived by his wife, Beth; daughters, Elizabeth Taylor and Ann Dye; sons, John Johnson and W. Archer Wright III; 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Bill Wright was a scholar, poet, teacher and preacher. He was a man of deep faith, quiet strength and gentle humor. He was a lover of God, family, humanity, and Creation. His grandson, John, put it this way: "He taught me the faith as Christ taught his disciples, by modeling God the best way that he could. . ."

The following is a poem that Dr. Wright wrote. Though deeply personal for him, it resonates with many as a witness to life as God's own:

TETRALOGON

WONDER coaxed me from the womb when all that is was new.
Wonder is the hunger of the mind.
In wonder I have fed at history's cornucopia of thought, and thought my own thoughts.
In wonder I have tried to comprehend a universe without boundaries.
In wonder I have contemplated the mystery of myself: Who, What and Why;
And the mystery of death.
In TEARS and LAUGHTER, pain and joy, was I born.
Up-flowing from that deep interior well where sweet and bitter waters mix,
Tears and laughter are the converse of the soul in language pure and wordless.
I have laughed at the wit of women and men, and the antics of dogs and cats.
I have laughed in the excitement of books, and teachers, and things learned.
I have laughed and wept in the presence of beauty: sunset and storm,
canyons and peaks, pyramids, mosques and cathedrals, music and pictures.
I have wept alone in the secret closets of my mind.
I have wept for ravaged waters, snail darters and mountain firs,

*And for brothers and sisters in blood stained streets of the global village.
 I have laughed with God in the joy of his Creation.
 I have wept with God before the Cross.
 LOVE embraced me at my birth.
 Father's hands and Mother's heart, surrogates for God.
 Logos of God;
 Cosmic concretion, confuter of chaos:
 Ground and goal of our humanity;
 Sweet mystery of man and woman joined, and joy of families;
 Love is the emotion of God creating.
 I love, and in loving know and am known.
 Is there more than these four?
 WONDER, LAUGHTER, TEARS, and LOVE. —The Wright family*

Marvin Dana Hunt, 1925 – 2010

The Rev. Marvin Dana Hunt died Aug. 26, 2010. Born Sept. 4, 1925, to Patsy (Garner) and Fowler T. Hunt, Dana was raised and educated in Halifax County, Virginia. In 1943, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and after stateside training entered the Pacific theater as a gunner/radioman aboard a [patrol bomber] PBY Catalina, conducting patrols and cleanup operations on Guam, Peleliu and other islands until the war's end. Dana was fond of noting that the enemy surrendered less than a year after he joined the fray.



After the war, Dana entered what was then Ferrum Junior College, later convincing his new girlfriend, Hazel, to enroll there as well. After graduation, Dana continued his education at Lynchburg College and began a long career in the ministry.

He and the former Hazel Wall were married in April 1949, and their first son, Marvin, arrived in December 1950. Another son, David Marcus, was born in September 1952.

Dana's ministry took the family to rural Christian (Disciples of Christ) parishes throughout Virginia, including Beaver Dam, Green Bay, Emporia and Red Oak. In 1958, he entered The Divinity School at Duke University and, while serving churches in Burlington and Stokesdale, N.C., pursued his seminary degree. After graduating from Duke with a Master of Divinity, he served congregations in Durham and Greenville, N.C. While in Greenville, Dana earned a master's degree in Counseling at East Carolina University.

Dana and Hazel returned home to Virginia and The United Methodist Church. In 1976, Dana was ordained a deacon by the Virginia Conference and was appointed to Williamsburg (Peninsula District) as the Associate Pastor. In 1977, Rev. Hunt was ordained an elder.

Subsequent appointments took the Hunts to Chase City (Farmville District); Forest (Lynchburg District); Main Street (Danville District); and Bethlehem (Lynchburg District). He retired in 1991. During his retirement, Dana served part-time appointments at Hyco (Farmville District) and Schoolfield (Danville District). He also found great satisfaction serving as a trustee at his beloved Ferrum College.

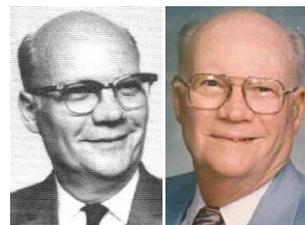
In a ministry spanning nearly 50 years, Dana touched the hearts and minds of thousands through his powerful preaching and private counseling. It truly can be said that Rev. Hunt left the world a better place through his service to so many congregations and communities. Near the end of his life, Dana proclaimed that "there is no greater life than the life lived in ministry." He is sorely missed by his family and friends, who take consolation in knowing that he fought the good fight and has been rewarded for his dedication in the pulpit and in his daily life to Christian principles.

He is survived by his wife, Hazel; his son, Marvin, and daughter-in-law, Robin, of Durham, N.C.; his grandchildren, John Miles and Alexandra Outland of Raleigh, N.C.; and his sister, Thelma Bagwell,

of Stuarts Draft, Va. He was predeceased by his parents, a brother and sister, and several half-siblings, as well as his son, Marc. —*Marvin Hunt; Rev. Michael Reaves*

Elmer A. Thompson, 1921 – 2010

Born into a church-going family in rural Maryland, with a father who would later become a local preacher and a mother who loved her boys equally, Elmer A. Thompson was a servant of the church and a friend to many within, as well as beyond its walls. His beloved wife, Helen, was by his side in marriage for 57 years and was, in Elmer’s words, “such a positive influence on my life.” Elmer and Helen had a special relationship with their nieces and nephews, taking them on individual summer trips as each one turned 12 years of age. In addition, Elmer and Helen had what Elmer called his “extended family” of friends who were like children and grandchildren.



Elmer was granted a Local Preacher’s License in 1938 and was ordained an elder on Oct. 17, 1948. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Randolph-Macon College in 1942 and from Boston University with a Master of Divinity in 1948. Elmer’s studies focused on Christian education and Bible, and with his brilliant mind and phenomenal memory, he became quite a theologian as well as an exemplary Christian educator. In honor of his outstanding leadership in the church, in 1972, Randolph-Macon College conferred upon Elmer the Doctor of Divinity degree.

Elmer spent the first 10 years of his ministry serving as a rural pastor while studying at both college and seminary. During the war years, Elmer couldn’t serve in the armed forces due to his bad hip, but he filled pulpits at home so that others could serve as military chaplains overseas. He even taught math and chemistry in the Caroline County schools when there was no one else to teach those subjects at the high school.

At the request of his bishop, Elmer served for four years as the Dean of Ferrum Junior College, helping to stabilize the college by closing the high school and enabling a focus on the junior college. Elmer made quite a mark on not just the college but also its students, as well into retirement he kept up with some of those students.

Again, at the request of his bishop, Elmer served for 10 years as the Director of the Local Church for the General Board of Education of The United Methodist Church. Elmer traveled across the country designing and leading laboratory schools for ministers and local church teachers.

Yet again his bishop called, and Elmer spent 20 years on the Virginia Annual Conference Council on Ministries staff. He traveled widely around the conference, teaching ministers to become more effective educators, leading local churches in goal setting and program planning, and training both professional and lay church workers. Elmer identified with and supported the Christian educators and diaconal ministers of the annual conference. He was an early champion of clergywomen and cross-racial appointments. Elmer represented Virginia at the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conferences of 1976, 1980, and 1984. Elmer helped to develop the Youth Engaged in Service (YES) summer mission program, and so guided at least a dozen young people to hear their call to ordained or diaconal ministry. Elmer retired in 1984, but his ministry would continue on in the local church which Helen had joined in 1973, Skipwith UMC in the Richmond District, and then finally at The Hermitage, teaching and preaching as long as he was able and pastoring and theologizing right up until the end. Elmer died with a clear mind, a warm heart, and a love of the Lord that shone through him in his love for others. —*Kathryn F. Talley*

Carleton Lee Thomas, Sr., 1927 – 2010

On Sunday, Oct. 3, 2010, Carleton Lee Thomas Sr. went to be with the Lord that he so lovingly and faithfully served all of his life. He was born in Roanoke, Va., Dec. 11, 1927.



He was the son of Clarence Wilson Thomas and Lilly Kidd Thomas. He graduated from Jefferson Sr. High School in Roanoke in 1946. He joined the U.S. Navy and served in Sasebo, Japan, from 1946 to 1948. He graduated from the University of Richmond in 1952. He was an avid sports fan and at the University of Richmond, he played football and tennis. Carleton graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., in 1955. He was ordained to ministry in 1955 and also became an educator serving in private and public schools. Later, he served God through The United Methodist Church at Rockbridge Charge, Staunton District; the Charlotte Charge, Farmville District; and North Fluvanna Charge, Charlottesville District; and Anderson Memorial UMC, Lynchburg District. After retiring in 1993, he served the New Hope/Trinity Charge in the Lynchburg District.

Carleton leaves to cherish his memories to his wife Jackie of 54 years; two daughters, Wanda Lee Thomas and Robin Lynn Rowland and husband Gary; a son, Carleton Lee Thomas Jr. and wife Bethel; and three grandchildren, Dara Rowland, Kaley Thomas and Jordan Thomas.

A true disciple of Christ, Carleton lived what he preached. He lived with JOY, which he often said stood for Jesus first, others second, and yourself third. He had a tremendous knowledge of the Bible and his teaching was often spontaneous and unique, making each person think for themselves. He often compared lessons learned in the Bible with our modern day living. Through the knowledge of Carleton's teaching, we felt we knew Jesus and his disciples on a personal level. Carleton loved music and sang in the choir; he harmonized to every hymn and song. He would often begin singing his favorite hymns during family gatherings and encourage his family to chime in. Carleton loved people and he never met a stranger, because of his radiant smile and welcoming personality. We miss him daily, but have peace knowing he graduated to his home with the Lord.

A memorial service was held Oct. 7 at New Hope United Methodist Church in Rustburg with the Rev. Charlie S. Haley Jr. officiating. Full military honors were presented by the American Legion Post 16. —*Jackie, Wanda, Robin and Carl Jr.*

In the 15th chapter, 14th verse of John's Gospel, Jesus said to the disciples, "You are my friends if you do what I command you." I believe Rev. Carleton Thomas did what Jesus commanded, and he was a friend of Jesus. I met Rev. Thomas in 1977-1978; when he was the minister at Anderson Memorial United Methodist Church in Gretna, in the Lynchburg District. My life at that time was somewhat out of order. There was a situation in my life that I did not know how to deal with. I wanted it to go away. I shouted about it, cried about it, cursed about it. One Sunday morning before the sun had risen, I was lying in bed. I asked God to help me. A light appeared in the corner of the bedroom (no one was awake to see it except me).

The light was there only a second or two and disappeared. I felt a peace come over me that I hadn't experienced in many years. For the first time in years I knew what I was going to do. I got up; made a pot of coffee; was polishing my shoes, when my wife, Jackie, came into the room and said, "Where are you going?" I'm sure she was surprised when I said, "I'm going to church." The greeter that day at church was an old friend. He greeted me as if I had never left the church which I attended as a boy. The greeter introduced me to Rev. Thomas; he reached out to me, shook my hand and welcomed me. Rev. Thomas baptized our youngest daughter and me during worship one Sunday.

My wife, Jackie, moved her membership from another denomination to Anderson Memorial. We were together in a way we had not been as a family. We became friends with Rev. and Mrs. Thomas (also named Jackie). I was asked to serve as lay leader and lay member to Annual Conference. Later, I became a local lay speaker and a certified lay speaker.

Jackie and I attended Annual Conference for many years with Rev. and Mrs. Thomas, and we have some fond memories. One year we were returning from Annual Conference in Virginia Beach. It was around 4 p.m. when we arrived in Norfolk. The military was leaving their duties for the day. The traffic was heavy (being from Gretna there was a few more cars than we were accustomed too). Rev. and Mrs.

Thomas were following Jackie and me. We were watching the traffic and for the Thomas' behind us, when all at once they were not there. We didn't know what had happened. After we went through the Hampton Roads Tunnel, we stopped and waited, but they didn't come. We journeyed on, always watching in the mirror for them. About two hours after we had arrived home, the phone rang. It was Mrs. Thomas. She was laughing and said they had gotten on an off ramp and the Marines stopped them at the entrance to the Naval Base in Norfolk.

During Annual Conference the next year again in Virginia Beach, Rev. and Mrs. Thomas' first grandchild was born. Rev. Thomas and I went that year together. Our wives stayed home. The day after their granddaughter's birth, at about 4 a.m., Rev. Thomas said, "Are you awake?" I replied, "Yes." Then he said, "Let's go home." He had gone as long as he could without seeing his first grandchild.

We were at Annual Conference at Norfolk, visiting the Cokesbury section. Rev. Thomas bought some books. A couple was standing there that knew him and ask him if he was buying those books for himself? He handed me the books and told the couple "I'm buying them for him to get him started in the ministry."

I don't know if it was a shock to the couple, but it was a pleasant surprise to me. Rev. Thomas was very instrumental in guiding me in worship and into the ministry. I was blessed to serve after him on the New Hope/Trinity Charge (currently New Hope/Sharon).

Some years ago, Rev. Thomas asked me if I would conduct his funeral when the time came. He also requested that Mr. Steve Stadtherr have a part. Some years later Rev. Thomas' health continued to worsen and he became bed-ridden. We all were saddened at his death on Oct. 3, 2010.

Rev. Thomas' life was one of faith in God, the Father; Jesus, the Son; the Holy Spirit and the Inspired Word of God—the Holy Bible. A life that was dedicated to serving God through ministering to all of God's children. His was a life of leading through teaching not only by word; but also through deed. Teaching by preparing individuals for a life as a Christian, a follower of Jesus. Teaching us to love God and our neighbor. Rev. Thomas' life was one of preparation to live our earthly life to the fullest. Preparing himself and us for the day of our departure from our earthly life.

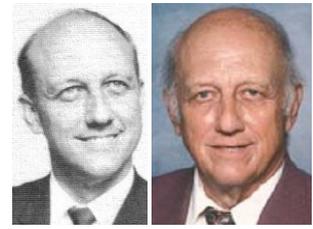
In The New Testament Scriptures from 2 Timothy 4:6-8, the Apostle Paul was writing to his beloved Timothy, advising him of his death—perhaps at any time. To advise all that would read his writings that he had fought the good fight, had finished the race and had kept the faith. That to me is the life that Rev. Thomas had lived. He wanted to leave a message for his family members and to those of us who had been blessed to know him that this is the life we too should live.

Rev. Thomas loved music and singing, especially the hymns and Easter and Christmas cantatas. Some of his favorite hymns were sung by Ms. Chapple Skillman, with others being sung by the congregation. I believe each of the hymns were a reflection of his faith and the life that he lived. Once when Jackie and I visited with Rev. and Mrs. Thomas, he would talk for a while and then become silent. Mrs. Thomas placed her hands on each side of his face and said, "Honey, is there anything you would like to say?" He smiled, said yes, and began to sing "I Love to Tell the Story." I told him, "You have always been a minister and you always will be a minister." Rev. Thomas talked about graduating—that he was going to graduate. Rev. Thomas has now graduated from a life that is temporary to a life that is eternal; and he is still singing his beloved hymns and telling the story. I am proud to say Rev. Thomas was my minister, my teacher and my friend. To God be the Glory; for the life of His servant. —*Rev. Charles Haley, pastor of New Hope/Sharon Charge*

Douglas Gordon Ebert, 1926 – 2010

Douglas was born Sept. 10, 1926, in Winchester, Va. He was the fifth of six children born to Isaac and Mary Ebert. He attended schools in Winchester and graduated from Handley High School in 1944.

He was drafted into the Army during World War II and, after the war ended, served the remainder of his duty in Korea. Upon completing his military service, he enrolled in Potomac State College in West Virginia. He completed one year there, before transferring to the University of Virginia school of electrical engineering. Two years into the program he decided to study religion and received a bachelor's degree in 1951. That September, he entered the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta. In December of 1953, he received his Master of Divinity.



January 1, 1954, he arrived at McGaheysville UMC in the Harrisonburg District. Six years later, Doug was transferred to Virginia Beach to organize Foundry UMC. During his six years at Foundry, there were three building programs. The third structure, a multipurpose facility, has since been named "Ebert Hall" in honor of Doug.

Doug's next appointments were Marquis Memorial in Staunton, St. Andrews in Alexandria, Fairview in Roanoke, as Associate at Calvary in Arlington, then as pastor of Chesterbrook in McLean, Del Rey in Alexandria, Shady Grove and Mt. Olivet in Spotsylvania. Doug retired in 1993 and moved to Lake of the Woods in Orange County. In 1994, he accepted an appointment to Antioch and Falmouth in Spotsylvania, where he served for three years. He continued to serve Antioch for an additional eight years before again retiring in 2005.

Doug is survived by his wife, Mary Catherine; his brother, Lewis; his son, Stephen; daughter-in-law, Andrea; and grandchildren, Aaron and Stephani. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Pamela, in 2004. Douglas died Oct., 11 2010, two weeks after heart bypass surgery. He touched the lives of many and made the world a better place. Throughout his 51 years of service, Doug truly was a humble servant of God. —*Mary C. Ebert*

Eldred Cecil Gunn, 1921 – 2010

Eldred Cecil Gunn served The United Methodist Church from 1942 to 1968 and from 1982 to 1996. During his first period of service, he served numerous churches in northern Virginia and was instrumental in the groundbreaking and building of Graham Road UMC. Together with an active congregation, Cecil led a successful membership drive and fundraising campaign. As a result, there were three worship services every Sunday morning. Cecil was also dedicated to camp ministry. During his early years, Cecil became a camp director of High Road Camp, which grew and expanded under his leadership.



From 1982 to 1996, Cecil served several small-membership churches in the Petersburg, Farmville, and Harrisonburg Districts. Whenever he had the opportunity, he would assist and encourage other candidates to enter the ministry. He would provide them with invitations to preach in his churches. He enjoyed being a pastor, promoted church campaigns, and followed the annual appointment process with much anticipation. Cecil enjoyed being with people, entertaining them, and he had many friends, old and new, throughout the conference. —*Alda V. Gunn*

Gary Raymond Bodie, Jr., 1930 – 2010

Born to a career Navy father, Raymond spent most of his childhood in Norfolk, Va. After his father's retirement, the family moved to South Carolina, where Raymond graduated from Greenville High School and then from Furman University. While at Furman, he was asked by the district superintendent to serve as a supply pastor for the Salem/McBee Charge.



After graduating from Furman University, Raymond and his bride, Martha Ellen Bailey, moved to Atlanta, Ga., to enroll in the seminary at Emory University. They

continued to travel to Greenville each week to serve the two churches. Salem built a new sanctuary under his leadership.

Upon graduation from Emory, and the birth of their first child, the family went to Lynn, Mass., to serve the Lakeshore Park Methodist Church, and Raymond enrolled at Boston University to continue his studies in Pastoral Counseling.

In 1955, the family moved to Norfolk, where Raymond was assigned to a vacant lot in the Little Creek area to organize and build a new church. St. John's was organized, and the first stage of the building was completed. After seven years of service there, he was transferred to Falls Church to Graham Road UMC. His next assignment was as co-pastor with Dr. Wilmer Blankenbaker at Annandale UMC. This was a unique idea and probably the first of this sort of assignment. Following Annandale, Raymond was transferred to Aldersgate UMC in Hampton, Va. These were turbulent years with a lot of social issues such as the Vietnam War, school integration, fair housing, etc.

In 1970, Raymond took early retirement and started a second career as a businessman in Hampton. He owned and operated Peninsula Homes, and was active in the development of downtown Hampton, served as Chairman of the Board for Low Income Housing, and actively participated in the Assisted Housing Development, the Newport News Homeowner's Association, and in the development of Great Oak Apartments for the Elderly in Newport News. In 2000, Raymond took his second retirement from the business world to move to Georgia and become a full-time grandfather after his daughter adopted 38 children.

In 2008, he was diagnosed with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis, and he died Oct. 25, 2010. He is survived by Martha Ellen, his wife of 58 years; daughter Cynthia of Bogart, Ga.; sons Gary R. Bodie III of Hampton, Va., and James C. Bodie of Tallahassee, Fla.; and 43 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. His daughter, Ellen, preceded him in death. Raymond was a faithful servant in all aspects of his life. —*Sarah Beam, Granddaughter*

Edward Turner Wright, 1933 – 2010

The Rev. Dr. Edward Turner Wright was born Aug. 17, 1933. He was the son of the late Ralph Parrish and Margaret Moore Wright of the London Bridge area of Virginia Beach, Va. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Peggy Wood Wright; one son and daughter-in-law: Edward John Ralph and Debra Wright; three daughters and sons-in-law: Karen and Chuck Unroe, Meg and Marcus Glenn, Roberta and Todd Smith; and eight grandchildren: Heather and Megan Wright; Madelaine Unroe; Christopher and Lisa Glenn; Brandon, Ethan, and Kristin Smith.



He graduated in 1951 from Oceana High School (Virginia Beach), in 1955 from Randolph-Macon College (Ashland), in 1958 from Duke Divinity School (Durham, N.C.), and in 1989 he received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Union Theological Seminary (Richmond).

He served for 48 years as a pastor in the Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, serving churches in Virginia: Blairs, Edinburg, Fort Valley, Mount Solon, Churchville, Annex, Gretna, Ettrick, Achilles; and in Nashville, Tenn.: Belle Meade and Scottsboro.

During his 48 years, he also taught at Randolph-Macon College and in public schools in Winchester and Harrisonburg, Va. In Nashville, he and his wife both did substitute teaching in the public schools while Dr. Wright was furthering his education by attending Vanderbilt University (Divinity School).

Dr. Wright died Sunday, Oct. 31, 2010. His funeral service was Sunday, Nov. 7, 2010. It was conducted by his son-in-law, the Rev. T. Todd Smith. Burial was at Signal Hill Cemetery in Hanover County. —*Peggy W. Wright*

Harry Burnett Randall III, 1925 – 2010

Harry Randall lived a full and interesting life. He would probably say he lived a blessed life as well. He was born to Harry and Aleda Randall on Nov. 10, 1925, in Washburn, Wis. His childhood was spent in Washburn, where he graduated from high school before joining the Marine Corps. He later graduated from the University of Wisconsin in Madison.



Harry served in the Marine Corps for 24 years and retired in 1969 with the rank of major. He served during three wars—World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

Upon retiring from the Marine Corps, Harry answered the call God had placed on him earlier in his life to become a minister, and attended Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Col. He was ordained a deacon in 1970 and an elder in 1973 in the Rocky Mountain Conference. He served churches in Colorado, Wyoming and Virginia (Brookneal UMC) for 22 years before retiring and moving with his wife, Louise, to Oklahoma in 1992.

Harry was a lifelong fan of the Green Bay Packers, Chicago Cubs and the Wisconsin Badgers. He enjoyed playing golf, bridge and loved to challenge family members to games of cribbage and chess.

Harry Randall died Nov. 5, 2010, in his home at Epworth Villa in Oklahoma City, Ok. Surviving are his wife of 55 years, Louise; daughters, Jane, and husband,

Jim Fowler, of Katy, Texas; and Jennifer and husband, David Price, of Alvin, Texas; and son, Jonathan, and wife, Michelle Randall, of Lakewood, Wash. Also surviving are seven grandchildren: Emily, Hannah and Andrew Price; Derek and Daren Fowler; and Shae and Alexis Randall. A granddaughter, Danielle Randall, preceded Harry in death. Also surviving is one brother-in-law, Beryl Covington, of Appomattox, Va.

Harry will be remembered as a beloved pastor, a loving husband, a caring and supportive father, a respected father-in-law and a never-to-be forgotten grandfather. —*Louise C. Randall*

William Archer Moon, Jr., 1918 – 2010

William Archer Moon Jr., was born March 2, 1918, in Spout Spring, Va., a son of the late William Archer Moon Sr., and Mattie Ethel Martin Moon. Bill attended the public schools of Appomattox County where he was active in 4-H and FFA [Future Farmers of America] clubs. He went several times to Kansas City for National FFA Conventions. Once he came within one-tenth of a point of earning two firsts in livestock judging.



Bill went on to earn degrees at Ferrum Junior College, Randolph-Macon College and Candler School of Theology, and Emory University, Atlanta. In the summer of 1945, Candler sent him to Cuba for six weeks to work with a missionary couple, John and Hazel Stroud. As a result of his observations, Bill said he was not surprised by the Cuban Revolution.

In 1944, a mutual friend introduced Bill and a young graduate student at Emory. They reconnected late in the school year. Courtship was largely through mail and very occasional meetings. On June 14, 1946, Bill Moon and Wise Spigner were married in Washington Street Methodist Church, Columbia, S.C.

In the spring of 1946, Bill was appointed to the Halifax Circuit, then to the Moneta Circuit, Gretna Circuit, Peakland (where he built the first unit), Franktown-Johnsons, Charity, Luray, Cokesbury, Fairmount Part, and Forest Road, from which he retired in 1983. After retirement, he served as Visitation Minister at Fort Hill UMC between pastoring Meade Memorial-New Hope and Madison Heights.

Bill enjoyed growing vegetables and always had a garden, whether large enough to help fill the freezer or just a tomato plant for salads. Picture framing was another activity he enjoyed. Travel to visit family and friends and an occasional trip out of the country enriched Bill's retirement.

Bill's death on Nov. 9, 2010, was not unexpected, as he had been in declining health for some time. He was 92. The Revs. Philip M. Waltz and Janet D. Hawkins led his memorial service on Nov. 13, 2010, at Fort Hill UMC, Lynchburg, Va. Bill is survived by his wife of 64 years, Wise Spigner Moon; a daughter, Margaret W. Moon; three sons, the Rev. William A. Moon III, Dr. Edward T. Moon and Charles S. Moon; three grandchildren, Emily M. Brownlee, William A. Moon IV, and David A. Moon; four great-grandchildren; a sister, Margaret A. Moon; and a brother, Roy A. Moon. —*Wise S. Moon and Edward T. Moon*

James Mason Cosby, 1929 – 2010

The Rev. J. Mason Cosby was born the sixth of seven children to Hugh and Sallie Cosby of Bon Air, Va., on Nov. 12, 1929. Growing up, he and his family attended Bon Air Methodist (later Bon Air UMC). One of his early responsibilities at the church was to arrive early on Sunday morning to stoke the coal furnace. He was educated in Methodist institutions, graduating from Ferrum Junior College in 1957 and Randolph-Macon College in 1959. He attended the Divinity School at Duke University, graduating in 1962, and received an M.A. in evangelism from Scarritt College in 1972.



Mason served as a pastor in the Virginia Conference for 42 years, starting as a student associate to the Rev. Joseph T. Carson Jr. in the Louisa Larger Parish. Later, as pastor of the Daleville Charge in Roanoke, Va., he presided over the consolidation of that charge, and the building of St. Mark's UMC. He also served as associate pastor of Dulin UMC, and as pastor of Watson Memorial UMC, Herndon UMC, Dunn Loring UMC, Warrenton UMC, Burke UMC, Leesburg UMC, Great Falls UMC and Arlington Forest UMC.

After his retirement in 2000 at the age of 70, Mason and his wife, Clair, moved to Midlothian, Va., where they attended Mt. Pisgah UMC. He continued to preach, teach, and preside over Communion until prevented by complications from multiple myeloma. He passed away at home on Nov. 15, 2010, and was interred at Providence UMC in Richmond.

Mason is survived by his wife of 38 years, Clair. Other survivors include his son James M. Cosby, who with his wife, Adriane, and son, Oliver, reside in Baltimore; daughter, Sallie Hess, who with her husband, Josh, and son, Philip, reside in San Francisco; and daughter, Sarah McGiverin (pastor of the Newsoms UM charge from 2005-07), who with her husband, Brian, and daughter, Hannah, reside in Durham, N.C. He is also survived by two sisters: Alma Pope, of Bon Air UMC, and Margaret Higham, of New Life UMC.

Mason felt some of his greatest life accomplishments were directing district evangelism programs and leading building programs for churches and parsonages. He is remembered as a loving and wise pastoral counselor and as an inspiring preacher. He loved to sing, and knew many hymns by heart. In his last days, he enjoyed having hymns sung to him, especially the resurrection hymn, "Joy to the World." —*Sarah McGiverin*

Earl Summeral Tyson, 1928 – 2010

Earl S. Tyson was born Feb. 26, 1928, in Ayden, N.C. The fourth of Jack and Irene Tyson's 10 children, Earl followed in the footsteps of his preacher father, as did his five brothers. Together they formed a unique and dynamic



team of servants not only within The United Methodist Church, but reaching out to and impacting the world beyond.

In 1953, Earl married Betty Jo Benfield, the daughter of a Methodist preacher. After graduating from Guilford College, Earl took his theological training at Duke Divinity School and Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Va. He served churches in the North Carolina Conference until his transfer in 1957 to Virginia, where he pastored the Surry Charge and, as an associate pastor under the leadership of Dr. A. Purnell Bailey, at Centenary in Richmond. He also served Collinsville, Huguenot Road, and West End in Roanoke before answering in 1970 a call into the ministry of evangelism. In 1967, Earl and Betty were drawn into a ministry to girls with special needs. Known as Emmaus, the ministry was established in King George, Va., and continues to offer to a troubled world the love and transforming power of Jesus.

After receiving an appointment as Conference Evangelist, Earl and his family settled in Scottsville, Va. Their home, Snowdon, on land once owned by the Jeffersons and situated along the James River, became the hub of Earl's ministry and a place of joy and renewal for him. The Lord graciously honored Earl's walk in faith as He provided for the family through the years. Earl and Betty's four children, Tony, Teresa, David and Tina and most of their 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren live nearby. Earl's love of family was interwoven into his sermons and best remembered through his "Papaw stories."

Earl's parish spread across the world, as he ministered through the international retreat movements of both the Camps Farthest Out (CFO), founded by Glenn Clark, and the Christian Ashram, founded by Methodist Evangelist and Missionary E. Stanley Jones. Several times a year, Earl joined North Georgia Conference Evangelist Rick Bonfim in his mission to Brazil and traveled there with him proclaiming the Resurrection power of the Lord. Through his great love for the Holy Land and the desire to share it with others, Earl developed a ministry of pilgrimages which began in 1974 and continued until 2000. Many years ago, the Earl S. Tyson Evangelistic Association established in Williamsburg an annual board retreat that has been a place of joy and renewal in Christ.

While preaching a revival in the spring of 2002, Earl suffered a cerebral hemorrhage and massive stroke, which left him disabled until his home-going on Nov. 27, 2010. During those sad years, Earl's presence, the memory of this great man of God, and the miraculous love and support of friends helped to sustain and undergird the family throughout this tragic period. We continue to share wonderful stories of the love of Jesus experienced and of lives transformed through the life of this one man. He left to all an inspiring legacy of love and faith.

How he loved to preach and to sing of the greatness of our Lord! We rejoice that at last Earl has been released to speak and sing forever God's praises. The Kingdom has been expanded, the church strengthened, and the world made a brighter place because a man named Earl Tyson lived. —*Betty Jo Benfield Tyson, Jim Radford*

L. Lawson Byrd, 1926 – 2010

The Rev. L. Lawson Byrd, retired Elder, died Dec. 9, 2010, at age 84, following several years of declining health with Alzheimer's disease. While pursuing a career in education as a teacher, school administrator and college professor, he attended seminary at Duke Divinity School. He was ordained a Methodist minister and served churches in Virginia for 16 years, retiring in 1988.

He began his ministerial career in 1972 with the Gretna Circuit. He went on



to serve Chatham Heights, Danville District; High Street in the Petersburg District; Asbury in Newport News; Zion in the Peninsula District; Brookville in Lynchburg; Providence-Woodland and then at New Hope in the Rappahannock District.

He served as a volunteer with Industrial Ministries and as a volunteer chaplain at Riverside Hospital, Newport News, Va., when a minister in the Peninsula and Rappahannock districts. As a member of the Tidewater Chapter of Submarine Veterans of World War II, Rev. Byrd was the Chapter Chaplain for a number of years. He was appointed National Chaplain of the Submarine Veterans of World War II serving from 1997-2000.

Survivors include his wife, Ann; daughter, Laurie Ann Flowers; son, David William Byrd; grandson, Ross Flowers. Also surviving him are an adopted brother, H. D. Byrd of Darlington, S.C.; three sisters-in-law; and numerous nieces and nephews. —*Ann Byrd*

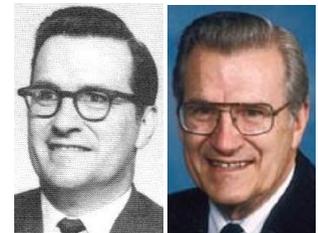
Herbert Pollard Hall, 1922 – 2010

The Rev. Herbert Pollard Hall, retired Elder, 88, of Irvington, died Dec. 14, 2010. He began his ministerial career in 1947 with Gordonsville. He went on to serve Melfa-Keller-Locustville, Pocomoke, Whaleyville, Bethel-St. Matthews (Richmond District), Atlantic, McCanless Memorial, New Hope (Fredericksburg), Lebanon (Ashland District) and Memorial (Richmond District). He retired in 1987. He was preceded in death by his wife of 61 years, Roberta Dunaway Hall. Survivors include three sons, Herbert Pollard Jr., Rev. Wesley Hall and Kenneth Hall; and five grandchildren. —Reprinted from the January 2011 *Virginia Advocate* newsmagazine



Walter S. Green III, 1924 – 2011

Born Nov. 22, 1924, in Wilmington, Del., the Rev. Walter S. Green III was the son of the late W. Smithers Green Jr. and Virginia Conwell Green. He died in the Newberry County (S.C.) Memorial Hospital on Jan. 18, 2011. Rev. Green was valedictorian of his high school class and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa at Dickinson College. He attended Westminster Theological Seminary and graduated from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.



Pastoring his first church in 1942 at the age of 18, Rev. Green was under episcopal appointment for 65 years. He was a member of the Ohio Conference from 1945-1951. Rev. Green served 10 appointments in the Virginia Conference: Design-Mt. Olivet (Alexandria District), 1951-1954; Bruen Chapel (Alexandria District), 1954-1959; St. Paul (Woodbridge), 1959-1962; Hinton Avenue (Charlottesville), 1962-1966; Larchmont (Norfolk), 1966-1969; Welborne (Richmond), 1969-1973; Granbery Memorial (Covington), 1973-1976; Messiah (Springfield), 1976-1980; District Superintendent (Staunton), 1980-1985; and Fort Hill (Lynchburg), 1985-1987. Rev. Green retired in 1987, but remained a member of the Virginia Conference, where he had served on numerous conference boards and agencies. He then moved to Newberry, S.C., where he served as a retired supply minister for another 21 years under three different appointments.

Walt met his partner in ministry, Marjorie, when he was attending Westminster and decided right away that if he wanted to hear her musical talents the rest of his life, he needed to marry her. Together, they served 18 appointments including seven with building projects. The chapel in his last building project at Messiah UMC in Springfield, Va.—where 976 people joined the church during his four years of ministry there—bears his name.

As a minister, Rev. Green was known for his many talents including his ability to remember names and make all persons feel welcome. He made visiting church members—those who were regular in

attendance and those who were not—a personal commitment. He was a great storyteller and often incorporated humor into his sermons. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, pastor and friend. Walt often said that if he had to fail as a minister or as a parent, he would rather fail as a minister. He failed at neither.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Marjorie Strickland Green; daughters, Rebecca Joyce Green of Silver Spring, Md., and Mary Anne (Howard) Byrd of Lugoff, S.C.; sons, Ted T. Green of Garrett Park, Md., Dr. John W. (Mary Sue) Green of Newberry, S.C., and Joseph H. (Janet) Green of Sequim, Wash.; 11 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by four grandchildren. —*Marjorie S. Green and Family*

Carol Martha Rogers Thornton, 1945 – 2011

Early on the morning of Jan. 27, 2011, Carol began the final part of her journey home, fully expecting the one more surprise her Lord promised her long ago. Carol had a very difficult year with many hospitalizations and much suffering. She made the decision to come home, and with the help of her family, church, friends, and hospice sought God's complete healing. Shortly after making this decision, Carol told her husband, Jim, that she had fought the good fight and was now ready to meet her Lord, Jesus Christ. She died very peacefully two days later.



Carol was born Nov. 23, 1945, in England at rural Whitheather Lodge at the foot of Woolly Hill. She was a “war baby” born to her father, Arthur, a U.S. soldier, and her mom, Ruby King, a British citizen, and member of the British army. Carol came to the United States on Easter Sunday in 1946, a U.S. citizen. She is survived by her mother, Ruby A. Rogers; her husband, the Rev. James W. Thornton Sr.; their children, James Jr. (Jay) and Julie Hull; five grandchildren: Sarah, Delaney, Rachel, Macauley, and Zachary; a sister, Susan Gauthier; an aunt and uncle; several nieces, nephews, and cousins both in the U.S. and in England.

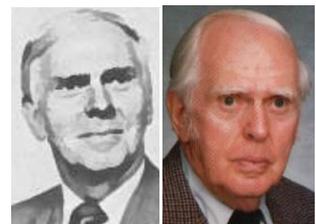
Carol grew up in Richmond, Va., graduated from John Marshall High School, and attended college in Richmond. She worked as a secretary, an administrative assistant, and a medical assistant. After completing the Course of Study at Wesley Theological Seminary, Carol became a local pastor in The United Methodist Church. She served churches on the Eastern Shore, Albemarle Co., and retired from the Mineral-Mt. Pleasant Charge after an 11-year appointment. She was an effective minister as a lay person in her church, a pastor's spouse, and a clergy person.

Carol's entire adult life was devoted to helping others, and both preaching and living the message of God's love found in the gospel of Jesus Christ. She will be missed by all who knew her. Carol would want you to believe the amazing truths found in Isaiah 43:1-5.

Carol had hoped to author a book titled *Say Words Over Me*, which would include both humorous and poignant stories drawn from her experiences in ministry. The title was taken from the words of an elderly church member who was opposed to having a woman in the pulpit. After hearing Carol preach a few times, he told her as he was leaving the morning worship service that she wore her robe very well, and that he would like for her to say words over him at his funeral. —*Jim Thornton*

Marcus Herrin Bloodworth, 1913 – 2011

The Rev. Marcus Herrin Bloodworth, 97, of the Hermitage on the Eastern Shore in Onancock, Va., passed away Sunday, March 13, 2011, at his residence. Born in Rocky Point, N.C., on June 23, 1913, he was a son of the late William Ennet Bloodworth and Emma McLendon Bloodworth. Reared in the Brambleton area of Norfolk, he graduated from Maury High School, of which he remained very involved. He had many friends and attended many



reunions over the years. He was also a 60-year Masonic Veteran.

Rev. Bloodworth was a graduate of Randolph-Macon College, and attended both Duke University and Boston University for graduate studies. He began his ministerial career in 1939 with the North Carolina Conference, serving for a brief time before transferring to the Virginia Conference. He then served Virginia Beach (as its first full-time minister), Cheriton, Richfield, Blackfoot, as associate at McKendree (Norfolk), then served Accomac, LeKies, and again Accomac. He also served in Idaho, Cape Cod, Mass., and London, England, before retiring to the Eastern Shore. Although “retired” in 1978, he continued to serve on the Eastern Shore; remaining very active until the 1980s. During his retirement, he served the Cokesbury-Mears Memorial Charge and Melfa.

While in Accomac, Marcus resided in historic “Bloodworth Cottage,” which dated back to the latter 1700s. He beautifully and lovingly restored this cottage, where he made his home for more than 40 years, until moving to the Hermitage. Rev. Bloodworth was well-known for his quick wit, sense of humor and love of laughter. He was an avid gardener, dog fancier and bird watcher, and enjoyed opera music and listening to many choirs throughout his lifetime.

Survivors include a son, Mark Bloodworth Moses and his wife Janet of Roanoke, Va.; eight nieces and nephews: Jimmy Bloodworth, Kaye Shaw, Faye Walker, Jeffrey Bloodworth, Sharon Driscoll, Debbie Everton, Roy Meekins and William “Bill” Meekins; and many great-nieces, great-nephews and special friends. Other than his parents, he was predeceased by two sisters, Evelyn B. Jones and Elizabeth Meekins; and four brothers, William “Buddy” Bloodworth, Hunter Bloodworth, Robah Bloodworth and Jesse Bloodworth. —*Janet Brown*

Joseph T. Carson, Jr., 1926 – 2011

The Rev. Joseph Thomas Carson Jr. died March 15, 2011, at his home in Richmond. He is survived by his wife, Bernice Smith Carson; son, the Rev. Joe T. Carson III (Regina); daughter, Bernice Ann C. Jones (Gerald); grandchildren, Alan and Sara Jones, Joseph and Susanna Carson; brother, the Rev. Louis E. Carson (Geneva); and many nieces and nephews. Born on July 13, 1926, in Campbell County, Va., to Joe and Annie Texas Martin Carson, his home church was Mt. Olivet Methodist Church. After serving in the U.S. Army during WWII, he opened a country grocery store and operated it until he responded to the call to preach.



Joe held degrees from Ferrum [Junior] College, Randolph-Macon College, and the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. While in college at Randolph-Macon, he served as a student pastor to Mineral, Mt. Pleasant, and Macedonia churches in Louisa County. As a student at Candler, he served student appointments in the North Georgia Conference. After becoming a member in full connection of the Virginia Conference in 1956, Joe returned to Louisa County, Bernice Virginia Smith’s home county, where he served the Louisa Larger Parish and Louisa Church. Bernice and Joe married on Dec. 27, 1956, and lived in the county where they began their family. During this time, he served two terms as mayor of the town of Louisa, followed by two years as County Coordinator. He gave leadership to the Louisa County Planning Commission, Memorial Hospital Medical Service Center, and Industrial Development Corporation.

His following appointments were Rappahannock District Superintendent, Fort Hill Church in Lynchburg, Charlottesville District Superintendent, Director of the Conference Council on Ministries, Shady Grove Church in Mechanicsville, and in retirement, Fairmont Church in Richmond, along with United Methodist Family Services (UMFS). He was Rural Pastor of the Year in 1964 and gave longtime service as: the Director of Golden Cross and the Preacher’s Relief Society, the founding Director of the United Methodist Foundation of the Virginia Conference, and conference Trustee. He was the group

administrator of the Ministers' Hospitalization and interim director of Virginia Methodist Homes, Inc. He served on the Committee on Supplemental Benefits, the Minimum Salary Commission, the Board of Health and Welfare Ministries, the Virginia and Southeastern Methodist Agency for the Retarded and the Committee on the Episcopacy. He was an alternate delegate to the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference in 1968 and 1992, and a delegate to the five meetings of that body between 1972 and 1988. A General Conference delegate in 1972, 1976, and 1980, he was a director of the General Council on Finance and Administration from 1984-1992.

He believed in giving opportunities, the joy of apportionments, being kinder than necessary, and meeting World Service commitments on Easter Sunday. He often said the place of the minister, was, "to really stick with those facing hardship, sickness or death." He lived what he believed.

Funeral services and fellowship luncheon were conducted on March 18, 2011, at Saint Andrew's UMC in Richmond under the leadership of Al Lynch, pastor, Norman Chattin and Bob McAden. Interment was at Hillcrest Cemetery that afternoon, followed by a reception at Louisa UMC. During one of their last times together in worship at Saint Andrew's in July of 2009, my parents heard "Gentle Voice," an anthem by Susan and Lee Dengler. It was offered again by the St. Andrew's choir as a final tribute to my father.

Do you hear the voice of Jesus Gently calling, "Come unto me"?

Gentle voice so full of love, Gentle words so rich in mercy.

"You are my beloved child. Come to me. I will give you rest." —Joe T. Carson III

Robert E. Taylor, 1919 – 2011

The Rev. Robert E. Taylor, 91, retired Elder, died March 16, 2011. He began his ministerial career in 1961 at South Amherst. He went on to serve Bethlehem in Roseland, the Gloucester-Mathews Charge, and Henderson. He retired in 1985. Survivors include a daughter, Elizabeth Taylor Morris; two granddaughters; three great-grandchildren; and a niece and nephew. He was predeceased by wives, Geraldine Vandegriff Taylor, Arlene Whisnant Taylor and Mae Dodson Taylor. —Reprinted from the May 2011 *Virginia Advocate* newsmagazine



Jay Earl Luther, 1928 – 2011

Jay Earl Luther, 82, died on March 26, 2011 in Fredericksburg, Va. Mr. Luther was an ordained elder in The United Methodist Church, having served 29 years after ordination in 1971 by Bishop Kenneth Goodson of the Virginia Conference. His appointments included Antioch and Grace churches in the Fredericksburg area; associate at Fredericksburg; Locust Grove in the Roanoke Valley; Fishersville in the Shenandoah Valley; and Zion Church in Spotsylvania, after retirement in 1994. Jay most recently was Minister of Visitation at Fredericksburg UMC.



Before his ordination as clergyman, Jay served two years in the enlisted ranks of the U.S. Army, having reached the rank of sergeant. He then attended the Academy of West Point and after graduating in 1952, reached the rank of lieutenant colonel before retiring in 1970.

Perhaps because of his early United Brethren and Mennonite beginnings, or his assignments throughout the world which allowed him to work with missionaries, Jay's favorite hymn has always been "In Christ there is no east or west; in Him no south or north; but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth."

Jay is survived by his wife of more than 58 years, Ruth Searle Luther, as well as three children and eight grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first child, Dennis Jay Luther. —*The Luther Family*

Hugh C. Paschall, 1926 – 2011

Hugh Carlton Paschall was born March 11, 1926, in Richmond, Va., and died March 31, 2011, at his home in Ruther Glen, Va., following a lengthy illness. Rev. Paschall graduated from John Marshall High School, where he served as captain of the cadets of E. Company. He earned his undergraduate degree from Richmond Professional Institute and a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary. He served in the United States Marine Corps during World War II in the South Pacific. Rev. Paschall was ordained as an elder in full connection in the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church in 1961 and faithfully served congregations throughout the annual conference for 35 years. He retired from active ministry in 1991. Appointments that he served include Mt. Pisgah UMC, Midlothian; Shady Grove UMC, Henrico County; Watson Memorial UMC, Chatham; Trinity UMC, Smithfield; Epworth UMC, Falls Church; Farmville UMC; Franconia UMC; and Central UMC, Arlington.



Hugh Paschall is survived by his wife of 59 years, Jayne Paschall; two daughters, Gloria Runyon and husband Rex, and Jayne H. Caudle; two sisters, Marjorie P. Younger and Elizabeth P. Brenner; a brother Jack F. Paschall and wife Joyce; six grandchildren; six nieces; one nephew; and one great-grandson. He was preceded in death by his parents Clyde and Ethel Paschall.

Rev. Paschall was an avid tennis player and in retirement developed skills as a home builder. Rev. Paschall served the annual conference as a member of the Board of Church and Society. He was involved with the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity and the Fifty Plus Club in the Lake Land ‘Or Community.

The family asks that memorials be directed to Rehoboth United Methodist Church, Habitat for Humanity, or to an organization of their choosing. —*Jayne H. Paschall*

William Edward Basom, 1915 – 2011

William Edward Basom was born Feb. 22, 1915, to Edward C. and Carrie (Bordlemay) Basom. He and Ruth Nash married on Aug. 25, 1939. They would have celebrated their 72nd wedding anniversary this year. Bill graduated from Albright College in 1935 and the Evangelical School of Theology in 1938. He pursued a year of graduate study at Union Theological Seminary, NYC, 1938-39, and further study at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Va.



From his roots in Central Pennsylvania, he went on to serve for a half century in the Washington, D.C., area, where his influence continues. As his friend Eric Sevareid said, “When we talk about the cement that holds society together, we are really talking about the Bill Basoms of the world?? He is a one-man conspiracy of goodwill.”

Reconciliation was the focus of his 42 years of ministry at the Beverley Hills United Methodist Community Church (BHC) in Alexandria. From BHC’s beginning in 1938, Basom welcomed all comers with “Bring the best you know from your background and share it.” He was skillful at bringing together people of differing backgrounds and perspectives, helping ease tensions across ethnic, religious, and ideological lines. This was the heart of his life’s work.

Basom applied his conciliatory skills to key issues of 20th-century America: racial justice, education, religious ecumenism, and medical ethics.

In the area of racial justice, Basom had both the courage to lead and the humility to work quietly behind the scenes. Following the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., when a riot was brewing a few blocks from BHC, Basom helped calm the scene. Earlier that decade, Alexandria's mayor had tapped him to head a commission to desegregate the city's lunch counters and other public accommodations. By collaborating with business owners and the African-American community, the commission accomplished this without fanfare or violence.

Education was important to Basom as a means of interrupting the cycle of racism and religious mistrust. In 1939, he founded the Beverly Hills Church Preschool. In 1945, he and his wife, Ruth, joined Kathryn and Harold Stone to found the Burgundy Farm School in Fairfax, Va. Burgundy was the only racially integrated school in Virginia for over a decade. To promote ecumenism and relax religious tensions, Basom invited other clergy to join in dialogue. Following Vatican II, this interaction led to joint projects and pulpit exchanges, first among Catholics and Protestants, and later expanding to include Jews. When Alexandria's Temple Beth El was awaiting completion of their new synagogue, BHC invited them to use their sanctuary for services. Bill's confirmation classes included visits to Muslim, Jewish, Orthodox, Catholic, Seventh-Day Adventist, Mormon, Quaker, and other places of worship.

As a board member of the Alexandria Hospital, Basom initiated and chaired one of the nation's first bioethics committees. Its purpose was to foster the compassionate use of increasingly complex medical technology, including in end-of-life decisions. When he moved to Lewisburg in 1990, he started a bioethics committee at what is now RiverWoods Senior Living Community, and served on another at Evangelical Hospital.

Throughout Bill's life, his ability to foster open conversation was a mark of his ministry. He didn't let his own beliefs limit the circle of his caring. Rather than impose his thoughts on others, he invited all to participate in an ongoing process of exploration. Bill was a man of warm heart and spacious mind, with room for the beliefs and concerns of others.

When Bill and Ruth moved to Lewisburg, he began leading a group at Beaver Memorial United Methodist Church to wrestle with life's fundamental questions. This "Genesis Class" welcomed (and still does) all who are interested in sharing the quest for understanding.

At 96, Bill died peacefully on Sunday, April 10, 2011, surrounded by his family. His last days were filled with gratitude, curiosity, and humor. When told by a Genesis Class member that he would always be in "Genesis," he responded with a little smile, "But now I'm in Exodus." Bill is survived by his wife, Ruth, their four children and seven grandchildren. They all remember him as the man who, despite his extensive involvement in the broader community, put family time on his calendar first and built other commitments around this core. —*Kit Basom*

Robert James Callis, Jr., 1924 – 2011

The Rev. Robert James Callis Jr., 87, retired Elder, died March 2, 2011. He began his ministerial career in 1948 at Claremont-Surry. He went on to serve Philadelphia, South Brunswick, Gladys, Mead Memorial, Powhatan, as the associate at First in Newport News, Norview, Fieldale, Mount Clinton in the Harrisonburg District, and Lawrenceville. He was placed on incapacity leave in 1985. He retired in 1991. He was preceded in death by his wife of 56 years, the Rev. Beatrice Simmons Callis. Survivors include a daughter, Deborah Callis Old; a son, Robert James Callis III; three grandsons; and two great-grandchildren. — Reprinted from the June 2011 *Virginia Advocate* newsmagazine



Deborah Grindall McNeill, 1946 – 2011

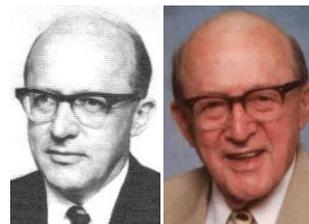
Deborah Grindall McNeill, 64, retired local pastor, died May 4, 2011. As the former Deborah Facer, she served as full-time local pastor of the South Brunswick Charge in the Petersburg District from 1987 to 1992 and of Mineral UMC in the Charlottesville District from 1992 to 1994. Later, as Deborah McNeill, she served as full-time local pastor of Eastland UMC in the Ashland District from 2007 to 2010, when she retired.



She was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas McNeill, and a son, Larry Facer Jr. Survivors include two sons, Michael Facer and Mark Facer; four grandchildren, Larry III, Kaitlin, Christina and Alexander; a brother, Emerson Jon Grindall; and two sisters, Janet Taylor and Emily Dame. —*Reprinted from the June 2011 Virginia Advocate newsmagazine*

Ferdinand “Ferd” Wagner, 1918 – 2011

The Rev. Ferdinand “Ferd” Wagner, 92, retired Elder, died May 8, 2011. He began his ministerial career in 1942 at Wesley (now Arlington Forest). He went on to serve Christ (Arlington), Lakeside, Belmont (Roanoke), Noland Memorial, Central (Staunton), Dulin, First (Martinsville), as superintendent of the Peninsula District, then pastor of Trinity (McLean). He retired in 1986. During his retirement, he served First (Martinsville).



He was preceded in death by his first wife, Barbara Arndt Wagner; his second wife, Dorothy “Dottie” Huey Wagner; and a daughter, Cynthia Louise Wagner Carter. Survivors include a daughter, Mary Elizabeth Wagner Smucker; two sons, Ferdinand L. Wagner and John Wesley “Wes” Wagner; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. —*Reprinted from the June 2011 Virginia Advocate newsmagazine*

Roy Carl Drake, 1946 – 2011

Roy Carl Drake, 65, retired local pastor, died May 9, 2011. Roy served as associate pastor of the Wakefield Charge and was the first pastor of the Rocky Hock-Ivor Charge, all in the Portsmouth District. To his death, he was serving as pastor of Burton’s Grove Christian Church, UCC, and was named their pastor emeritus on April 24, 2011. He taught at Eastern Carolina Christian College for more than 12 years. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Margaret Bradshaw Drake; three sisters and three brothers. Survivors include his wife, Evelyn Barlow Drake; her sons; two daughters, Nancy V. Beale and Wendy V. Twisdale; two grandchildren; a sister; a brother; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.



—*Reprinted from the June 2011 Virginia Advocate newsmagazine*

Leighton Ernest Harrell, Jr., 1923 – 2011

The Rev. Leighton Ernest Harrell Jr., 88, retired Elder, died June 14, 2011. He was born Feb. 5, 1923, in Richmond, Va., to the late Leighton E. Sr. and Gertrude C. Harrell. He graduated from Andrew Lewis High School in Salem. He earned his B.A. from the University of Maryland, College Park, a Master of Divinity from Duke University, and a Ph.D. from Michigan State University. He began his ministerial career in 1946 at New Castle. He went on to direct the Wesley Foundation at Virginia Tech (VPI). He then was appointed pastor at Herndon, served as Army chaplain during the Korean War, taught at several universities, worked for the Veterans Administration, performed marriage and family counseling, and started a finance company. He retired in 1976. After moving back to Roanoke, he returned to his first love, preaching, as Pastor Emeritus at Grace UMC.

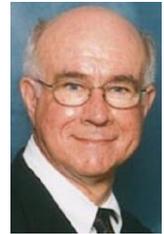


In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by a brother, William Guy Harrell. Survivors include his daughters, Leigh M. (Harrell) Williams and her husband, Rob, and Lindy E. Harrell; and brothers, Stanley G. Harrell and wife, Lucy, and Earl S. Harrell and wife, Kitty.

A memorial service was held at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 19, 2011, at Grace United Methodist Church in Roanoke. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to Grace United Methodist Church, P. O. Box 19686, Roanoke, VA 24019 or to the Wounded Warrior Project. —Reprinted from the August 2011 *Virginia Advocate* newsmagazine, with excerpts from a Roanoke area publication's obituary [see second memorial, below]

Carl William Ulrich, 1944 – 2010

Carl's life was a journey toward the Kingdom of God, toward community. The only son of immigrant parents who soon divorced, he grew up in an orphanage. He learned self-reliance and many times throughout his life he felt very alone. Nevertheless, he liked people and nurtured friendships wherever he went. He had an intuitive knack for understanding other people quickly, for seeing what really mattered to them. When, as an adult, he discovered the love of Jesus, it gradually became clear to him that he could share that source of strength and comfort with others. What had been a professional concern for ethics and fairness during a long career working with corporations became a deeper concern for helping individuals find spiritual fullness.



Carl grew into faith at Calvary UMC and Beverly Hills UMC in Arlington and Alexandria. He entered Wesley Seminary and as graduation approached, he closed his law practice and devoted himself full time to his new calling. He liked to say that he never looked back once he “crossed the bridge” from Washington, D.C., and took up his new life as a minister in the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church. With the help of his faith, he changed not only his career, but himself. His famous impatience with the shortcomings of others fell away, he developed tolerance and compassion and humility. He committed himself to serving all God's people.

His first appointment as a student pastor was to Silverbrook UMC and Accotink UMC in Fairfax County, where he facilitated the transition of that two-point charge to two independent churches. After graduation, Carl was appointed to Central UMC in Mathews, Va. He spent seven years there before coming to Belmont UMC in Richmond in 2009.

He often spoke of the influence of people he met in the Methodist connection, and he sought out opportunities to learn from them. As the years in the ministry went by, he welcomed invitations to be a teacher and mentor to others. He served in leadership positions on the Rappahannock District, with the Society for Wesleyan Studies, and on the board of the United Methodist Foundation of the Virginia Conference.

Carl was born in 1944 in Mt. Vernon, New York. He graduated from high school in Annapolis, Maryland, in 1963. Upon graduation from Rice University in 1967, he was commissioned in the U.S. Marine Corps and served in Vietnam. He earned a law degree from Georgetown University and practiced in the field of energy law for almost three decades. He married Christine Rowland in 1967 and during 43 years of marriage acquired two daughters, Susanna and Catherine, two sons-in-law, David Corey and Pawel Nazarewicz, and one grandson, Cassius Corey. Carl enjoyed good health all his life, liked to sail, loved music, sought out challenges that helped him learn and grow, and made it a priority to keep in touch with friends old and new. His death at age 66 after surgery to repair a damaged heart valve was an unexpected and sad loss for all who knew him. —*Christine Ulrich*

Joseph W. Hagenlocker, 1946 – 2011

The Rev. Joseph W. Hagenlocker died of cancer on May 7, 2011, in his home at the age of 64. Joe was diagnosed on January 5, 2011, and was given only a short time to live. The first thing he said to his wife after the diagnosis was “It’s OK, I am ready.” Joe entered the ministry later in life after a career in the military for 32 years and in Juvenile Justice and Department of Corrections for 33 years simultaneously, which gave him life experiences to bring to his ministry.



Pastor Joe, as he was called, loved the Lord with all his heart. He worked very hard as a part-time local pastor to unite the church with a goal to serve the Lord by helping others and making disciples for Christ. Pastor Joe always responded when someone tried to give him credit for something by always saying “Give God the Glory.”

Although Joe will be missed by his wife and family, there is that assurance that we will see him again. “Well Done Good and Faithful Servant.” —*Oneida Hagenlocker*

2012 ANNUAL CONFERENCE²

Leighton Ernest Harrell, Jr., 1923 – 2011

Leighton Ernest Harrell Jr. was born on February 5, 1923, in Richmond, to the late Rev. Leighton E. Harrell Sr. (Ret. Col., US Army) and Gertrude C. Harrell. The family moved several times during his childhood as his father served churches in the Virginia Methodist Conference and as Chaplain at the CCC camps in the Shenandoah Valley.



Leighton Jr. graduated from Andrew Lewis High School in Salem. After high school, he started as a freshman at University of San Antonio, to be near his family at the base where his father was stationed as an Army Chaplain. Following his father’s transfer to the Washington D.C. area, Leighton transferred to and earned his B.A. from the University of Maryland, College Park. He then earned a Master of Divinity from Duke University.

One of his first churches was in New Castle as a part of circuit appointment. During his time in southwest Virginia, he also worked with the Wesley Foundation at Virginia Tech. His last church in the Virginia Conference was in Herndon. From there, he joined the U.S. Army as a chaplain in 1950. He served in Korea during the conflict, describing his arrival in Korea on a blustery day in February as one of the coldest days of his life. He was then stationed in Germany for several years. After leaving the Army in the late 1950s, he worked toward a Ph.D. in Marriage & Family Counseling from Michigan State University (MSU). During his time at MSU, he served as a supply minister for several churches in Michigan. He then taught psychology and counseling at Indiana University of Pennsylvania in Indiana, Penn. and Eastern Carolina University in Greenville, N.C. In the 1960s and early 1970s, he worked as a counselor for the Veterans Administration in Salisbury, N.C. and Perry Point, Md. While working for the Veterans Administration, he taught as an adjunct professor at Rowan-Cabarras Community College in N.C. and Harford Community College in Maryland. In the late 1970s, he served at Gatch Memorial United Methodist Church in Baltimore, Md. as associate pastor, while running a private marriage and family counseling practice. He was also very active in multiple Masonic organizations in Maryland, holding the position of National Chaplain for the Sojourners in the early 1980s.

In the mid-1980s, he started a finance company, which he continued to operate until 2007. During this time, he occasionally served as visiting minister for churches whose ministers were on vacation or attending conference. After moving back to Roanoke Valley in 2008, he began attending Grace United Methodist Church in Roanoke. It was here that he returned to preaching on a regular basis, as a Pastor Emeritus, assisting the Rev. Dick Jones.

² Memoir not available at press time: Donald H. Traylor, 1935 – 2011; and Wayne H. Wiley, 1938 – 2012.

He was active in the Roanoke VFW chapter, acting as chaplain at various events. Throughout the years, no matter where he lived, he was an avid sports fan and enjoyed playing golf. His favorite teams included the Duke Blue Devils, Maryland Terrapins, Baltimore Orioles, Baltimore Ravens, and the former Baltimore Colts (before they left Baltimore). Upon moving to Roanoke, he enjoyed attending Salem Red Sox games. A lover of music as well, he attended the Baltimore Symphony frequently during his time in Maryland and the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra Pops series after moving to Roanoke. He was also a skilled bridge player, having been taught by a friend in the Army while stationed in Germany.

Leighton preached his last sermon on Easter Sunday in April 2011. He passed away on Tuesday, June 14, 2011, at Roanoke Memorial Hospital. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, William Guy Harrell. Survivors include his daughters, Leigh M. (Harrell) Williams and her husband, Rob, and Lindy E. Harrell; and brothers, Stanley G. Harrell and wife, Lucy, and Earl S. Harrell and wife, Kitty. —*Leigh (Harrell) Williams*

Augustus Benjamin Chidester, Jr., 1924 - 2011

When I first met Ben Chidester, I couldn't even pronounce his name, much less spell it. I wanted to meet him so he could come and visit my first husband who was dying of leukemia. But with Ben's busy schedule as minister of the Boones Mill United Methodist Church and always helping others, he never had the opportunity to visit him in our home in Boones Mill. But he always greeted him with warmth and enthusiasm after church services each Sunday. Meanwhile, my husband passed away, and a year later, Ben's wife, Joan, passed away.



Ben and I shared our sorrows and hopes and dreams. We married on St. Patrick's Day in 2001 and began a life of fun and adventure. On our first trip we flew to Alaska where I had lived for almost 40 years. That was followed by four more years of adventure in our Roadtrek mobile home with our little Maltese, Frisky. For his 80th birthday, Ben celebrated by taking an exciting rubber raft trip down the frigid gray waters of the Nenana River in Alaska.

In between years of traveling to Alaska, we traveled to New England and Canada where he would show me all the churches where he had ministered and the beautiful places where he had been. Wherever we traveled, Ben never met a stranger. He was always so warm and had so many friends everywhere.

I was always so proud to be his wife and support him in his entire ministry. He was not only a minister but also a friend to all. —*Mrs. Dorothy (Dot) S. Chidester*

John Wesley Inge, Jr., 1917 - 2012

The Rev. Dr. John Wesley Inge Jr. was transferred to the Church Eternal on Sept. 1, 2011. He was born on Aug. 28, 1917, in Cifax, the youngest of five sons of John Wesley Inge II and Oneida Wingfield. Dr. Inge received a Bachelor's Degree from Lynchburg College, a Master of Divinity degree from Duke Divinity School, a Master of Arts from Presbyterian School of Education, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond.



Dr. Inge was an elder in the Virginia Conference, serving churches in Huddleston, Annandale, Concord Circuit, Stanleytown and Mechanicsville.

He was Director of the Wesley Foundation at Old Dominion University from 1960 until 1966. He accepted an offer from Dr. C. Ralph Arthur, president of Ferrum College, to join the faculty in 1966. He taught courses in World Religions and Biblical Literature until 1982. The C. P. Minnick Award for Excellence in Religious Studies was established in his honor at Ferrum. An endowed scholarship was

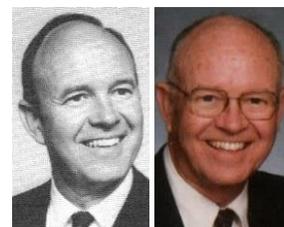
established by Mr. M. L. Griffiths in 1997. The Methodist Room in Stanley Library honors his parents, John Wesley Inge and Oneida Wingfield Inge.

Following his retirement from Ferrum College, he served as a supply pastor at Burnt Chimney, Pleasant Grove and St. James United Methodist churches.

For many years he taught short courses in the Virginia School of Christian Mission, He was a representative of the Redbird Mission in Kentucky. He was active in many areas of service in Franklin County. He was named a life member of the Franklin County Historical Society. He held several positions in the Carilion Franklin Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. During 40 years in the Lions Club, he received the Melvin Jones Fellow Award. His main hobby was attending gem and mineral shows in North Carolina and Virginia. He admitted that he was a “rock hound.” Many citizens of Franklin County affirmed, “You could always depend on Wes.” He simply taught and followed the gospel. —*Excerpt from the obituary written by Rev. James S. Angle*

Jenus Green Long, Jr., 1920 - 2011

Jenus Greene Long Jr., was born near Seaboard, N.C., on July 1, 1920, the first of four children of Jenus Greene Long and Annie Laura Gay Long. He grew up on his father’s farm. His family attended Concord Methodist Church. J.G. attended N.C. State in 1937 for a year and later Chowan College. He graduated from High Point College in 1944. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Westminster Theological Seminary in 1946.



His seminary shared a campus with Western Maryland College, where he met Vernelle Cullen Ports, daughter of Rev. George W. Ports. He married her on Sept. 27, 1946. They had a son, Paul Victor, in 1948, and a daughter, Patricia Vernelle, in 1951.

In nearly 39 years of ministry in the Virginia Methodist Conference, J.G. served pastorates in Monterey, Cape Charles, Thaxton, Pleasant Valley, Forestville, Onancock, Virginia Beach, Petersburg, Culpeper, Staunton, Arlington and Stuart. He also served on the Conference Program Council, the Regional Board of the Virginia Methodist Homes, and the Christian Social Concerns Commission.

J.G.’s hobbies were deer hunting, vegetable gardening, travel and the stock market. He took his family on camping trips to more than 30 states, including trips to Florida, Nova Scotia and the 1962 Seattle World’s Fair.

In retirement J.G. took care of his mother in Roanoke Rapids during the last years of her life. She left him her house, where he lived for more than 20 years before moving to Elmcroft, a Raleigh assisted living and memory care facility, four years ago.

J.G. died at the age of 91 on Sept. 5, 2011, at the Hospice of Wake County inpatient facility in Raleigh, N.C., where he received wonderful care. His funeral was held in Concord United Methodist Church, where he grew up. His ashes were buried in Seaboard, near his parents’ graves, as he wished.

William Henry Acosta, 1929 - 2011

The Rev. William Henry Acosta, 82, of Richmond, passed away peacefully on Sept. 13, 2011. He was born June 11, 1929, in Louisville, Kent., to Baldemero Merito Acosta and Nancy Lee Acosta. Bill grew up in Louisville. He earned his B.A. from Kentucky Wesleyan College and his Master of Divinity from Emory Theological Seminary. Bill married his college sweetheart, Marilyn Fitzpatrick, and they settled in the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church serving churches in Tidewater, Northern Virginia, Southwestern Virginia and Richmond.



Bill is survived by his wife, Marilyn; two daughters, Nancy (Grady) and Elizabeth (Rob); one son, Robert (Andrea); 10 grandchildren; one brother, Edgar Acosta (Raquel); and two sisters, Grace Acosta and Margaret Ellen Goldsborough.

Known for his sense of humor and playful nature, Bill was a genuine, giving, gracious individual who loved the Lord, his family and people of all natures. He will be missed.

Rendell Ray Rozier, 1950 – 2011

Born May 11, 1950 in Cleveland, Ohio, Rendell Ray Rozier was the middle child and oldest son of John and Mildred Rozier. In school Rendell was a straight-A student, a member of the Cleveland All-City Orchestra and earned a football scholarship to Ohio State University. But after one year he decided college was not for him, and he enlisted into the United States Navy.



Completing boot camp at Great Lakes Naval Recruit Center in 1969, Rendell embarked on a six-year journey aboard the aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy as an Electronic Technician. At the height of the Vietnam War, the Kennedy mostly operated in the Mediterranean. Rendell was thrilled by the chance to travel (on bicycle!), and he immersed himself in the European cultures.

Finishing his contract with the Navy in 1975 and finally ready for college, Rendell matriculated through Randolph Macon College and then pursued a Master of Divinity from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Georgia. Here he also found an opportunity to pursue his lifelong passion for classical music as a member of Candler Choraliers and the Glenn Church choir. While in Georgia, he worked as a chaplain for the Egleston Children's Hospital. He also met his future wife, fellow student Annette Braden, who coincidentally happened to be from Germany.

Following seminary and newly married, Rendell accepted an appointment as the pastor of Galloway United Methodist Church in Falls Church. After a successful pastorate of 2½ years he returned to his earlier love, the Navy. When asked why, he would say, "I miss the sailors."

He rejoined the Navy, but this time in the position of an officer and a chaplain (and, yes, a gentleman too) – a position which allowed him the most contact and influence with the sailors. The Navy again sent him and his family traveling, to duty stations in San Diego, Okinawa (Japan), Groton and Great Lakes. A daughter, Julia, was born in 1986 and a son, Benjamin, was born in 1989. In 1994, the Navy selected Rendell for one year of Ethics studies at the Interdenominational Seminary at Berkeley.

Rendell saw it all – the range of human suffering on ships and submarines, in hospital rooms, mental health wards, prisons and homes. He saw the victims of fires, ship wrecks, car crashes and murder. His military training served him well, or he might not have been able to handle the rigorous work schedules and physical demands of the job. He worked tirelessly to bring real help, love and hope to people. When challenged to justify how he could be part of a war machine as a Christian, he responded that he wasn't there to bless the military mission. He was there to represent God's unconditional love in an often harsh and unforgiving environment. Of course, he witnessed also the joys of new marriages, new babies, promotions, achievements and retirements. Rendell was a generous department officer and well loved by his office staff.

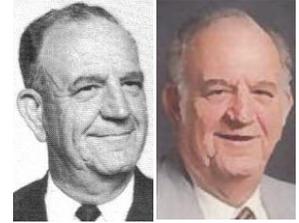
Rendell always resisted being defined by others. He believed that Christian love transcended all differences between people, and he defied anyone who would tell him that he should or should not do something because he was African American.

Toward the end of his career, Rendell could no longer ignore worsening health problems, which ultimately led to his retirement. Long hospital stays ensued but Rendell was determined to see his children commence their lives, and he even managed to travel across the county to see his oldest walk across the stage of Harvard College.

A chaplain to the end, Rendell worked to learn the names of the nursing staff that cared for him and apologized for being such an inconvenience. He is survived by his wife, daughter, son, parents, sister, brother, and many other family members. Rendell touched the lives of many, was loved by us all and will be forever missed. —*Annette Rozier*

William R. Livermon, Jr., 1938 – 2011

To the glory of God and in loving memory of “Bill Tom” Livermon, son of the late “Bill” Livermon, pastor, Virginia Conference, and of the late Thelma Livermon, cinematographer of “Justice and the Circuit Rider.” The first Call of God came to Bill Tom at age 17 when he was a senior at Martinsville High School. Changing his goals from architecture to ministry, he graduated from Randolph-Macon College and went on for a Master of Divinity degree from Duke Divinity School. Meanwhile, he had married Miriam Rothwell, started a family and served six happy years at three Danville District appointments. The second Call came during those years as the couple agreed, “We’ll go where You send us,” expecting to go to the mission field.



The third Call became specific at Annual Conference after the Foreign Missions report one evening and the Military Chaplains’ report the next morning. Bill Tom wrote to the Commission on Chaplains: “I feel very strongly that I have been called to volunteer for a tour of active duty as a Chaplain in the Army.” He was one of five Methodists in the country to be accepted that year.

Bill Tom served God and country for over 20 years, being the recipient of many miracles of provision, protection and guidance. He ministered in communities and on Army installations worldwide – in Vietnam, the United States, Germany and Panama. Some of his assignments were to the 41st Signal Battalion, the 39th Signal Battalion, post chapels, the 6th Armored Cavalry Division and the 101st Airborne Division. Among his awards and achievements were Army Commendation Medal with two oak-leaf clusters, Meritorious Service Medal with one oak-leaf cluster, Bronze Star and the earned privilege of training for and wearing the highly-prestigious Air Assault Badge. Throughout, Bill Tom matured in the Lord, was liberated in the spirit, and grounded in the Father.

Forced into early retirement by his health, Bill Tom experienced many more miracles of provision, direction and survival. His warm love for people and his strong character, as well as his gift of wisdom, blessed all who crossed his path. Sent home to die, he was to have another 25 years of service for the Kingdom as chairman of the board for Teamwork Ministries, chaplain for Maritime Ministries, and sought out by many for guidance and counseling.

Bill Tom enjoyed music – playing the piano and his Irish folk harp; travel – learning French and traveling in France and Israel. He really liked cars and enjoyed everything about the water – the beach, swimming and especially sailing. His favorite Bible verse was “Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” (Isaiah 40-31.)

Barbara B. Barrow, 1940 - 2011

Barbara was born in Waynesboro, on Jan. 21, 1940. She graduated from high school when she was 15 years old, and she graduated from college at the age of 18. She received a Business degree from Davis-Elkins, a Master of Divinity from Eastern Mennonite Seminary and a Master of Education from James Madison University.

Barbara was ordained as an Elder in 1978. She served as Director of the Wesley Foundation at JMU, pastor of churches in Edinburg and Lynchburg, Superintendent of the Harrisonburg District and Conference Director of Higher Education and Campus Ministry. In that position, she was awarded the Frances Asbury award in 2001.



Barbara and I were married on Aug. 8, 1988; (8888) became our lucky number. Barbara retired in 2001 and moved to “The Villages” in Florida. She was diagnosed with cancer (Multiple Myeloma) in 2004, and after five surgeries, she was in remission until May of 2011. Quietly and peacefully in my presence, she went to be with the Lord the morning of Dec. 5, 2011.

Barbara had a strong warm spirit and turned to the Lord in times of crisis or adversity. She was known as “the lady with a smile” in our church in Florida. She deeply cared about others and often gave her time and contributions to care for the less fortunate. One year she wanted us to celebrate our wedding anniversary by helping out at the Food Kitchen in Richmond. Whenever there was a difficult situation in the church, she would say “what is the pastoral thing to do?” She was not bitter about her disease. When others would question, she always said “why not me?” She never complained.

She loved her church and the people she worked with. Her faith never wavered.

There were few women ministers in the Conference when Barbara entered. Many times a young woman minister would come up to her and say, “Thank you for paving the way for us. You are a true pioneer.” That she was. Emerson said, “It is not length of life, but depth of life.” Barbara gave depth to life. She will be dearly missed. —*Rev. Vernie Barrow, Jr.*

William Price Combs, 1923-2011

How do you measure the life of a human being? Jesus said simple acts of love were the most important ways in measuring a life: visiting a stranger who soon becomes a friend; taking the time to get to know someone during a meal; listening to the stories of a person who longs to share them; joining in with the amazing imaginations of a precocious child. For a pastor, leading the church into full participation in God’s kingdom is a fascinating pursuit. In the midst of that pursuit, it is good to take the time “to just be with people.” Bill Combs had that kind of time.



Bill was born on Sept. 3, 1923, to Sarah Goff Rucker Combs and Rev. Gilbert Reynolds Combs in Lexington, Ky. His father transferred from the Kentucky Conference in 1928, and began serving churches in the Western North Carolina Conference. Bill started school in Charlotte, N.C., graduated from the Darlington School in Rome, Ga., cum laude, in 1940, and received his undergraduate (1944) and Divinity School (1948) degrees from Duke University. As an Elder in the Western North Carolina Conference, Bill served churches in Oak Ridge, Kona, Randleman and Sparta, before transferring to the Virginia Conference in 1961.

Bill and his wife, Jeanette Hester Combs (a native of Greensboro, N.C.), were married for 57 years. They raised three children: Steve of Salisbury, N.C.; Marian of Forest, Va.; and Jon of Washington, D.C.

In the late 1950s and early 60s, pastoral counseling was a new field, prompting Bill to move his young family to Virginia in order to continue counseling studies in the Washington, D.C. area. Because of his special love for people and his gift of listening, Bill’s main focus in ministry evolved into counseling. In 1964, he became a charter member of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors.

In Virginia, Bill served Fletcher’s Chapel in Passapatanzy (King George County); Carmel in Hague (Westmoreland County); Raleigh Court in Roanoke; the Buchanan Circuit (Botetourt County); Highland Park in Roanoke; Monroe-Bethany in Monroe; Victoria Church in Victoria; and in retired status, the Montvale Circuit (Bedford County). His pastoral ministry spanned 44 years.

Bill and Jeanette retired in Roanoke, and during this time Bill continued his interest in learning American Sign Language. He was a member of the Virginia Conference Commission on Disabilities and the Star City Hearing Loss Association in Roanoke. Bill loved speaking and teaching sign language to

anyone who was interested. He was also a serious student in the area of Palestinian and Israeli relations. He prayed daily for peace and for Palestinian statehood.

During Bill's Memorial Service on Dec. 23, 2011, a portion of a letter written by a former colleague was read: "There is a quality of companionship which I have found with you that I have found with few colleagues. Companion—*cum panis*—breaking bread with and seeing the One who shares our human darkness. If one of my children were to die, I would call you and tell you of that. Yours would be among the first four or five calls, simply because I know that you would understand and just be there with me. You would not try to make excuses for what God had done or failed to do."

So to Bill—husband, father, pastor, colleague, and friend—thank you for all the years of companionship. —*Rev. Steve Combs*

Eugene Spencer Condrey, 1926 - 2012

We cherish the last seven words of Jesus spoken from the cross, the last being "It is finished." Likewise, we are touched by the last words of the late Peter Marshall as the medics were taking him to the hospital and he looked up at his wife, Catherine, and said, "I'll see you in the morning." Eugene Spencer Condrey prayed from his death bed, "Lord heal me or take me." On Sunday he said to Evelyn Condrey, his wife, "I'm not going to be here come Tuesday." She asked, "Where are you going?" He answered, "I'm going to heaven." Early Wednesday morning a nurse entered his room, and the body was there, but the Spirit had gone to heaven as he predicted – God had both taken him and healed him. A funeral service was held at Whitten's Timberlake Chapel on Jan. 7, 2012.



Eugene Spencer Condrey was born in Richmond, the son of Richard and Hazel Condrey. After some years working in the business community, he heard the call of God to enter the Methodist ministry. He began his ministry in 1977, becoming an Ordained Elder in 1986. Being filled with the Holy Spirit, he served the following churches, all in the Lynchburg District: Emmaus-Diamond Hill, Gladys Charge and Concord. He retired in 1993. In retirement he served Forest, Peaksview, Shiloh and Wesleybury.

Not only did Gene endear himself to his parishioners he also served them faithfully for 29 years, from 1977 to 2006, until his health began to fail. His greatest love was for Jesus Christ, and he preached stirring sermons inviting people to come to Christ and surrender their lives to him. He wanted people to love Christ as much as he loved Christ.

Each year during the 1980s, the Evangelism Committee of the Lynchburg District held a training session weekend for any lay person who was interested in learning how to win souls for Christ. Gene, having been so successful in bringing people to Christ, taught one of the classes. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Gene touched the lives of many people and inspired them to share the message of salvation with their home church. This was just one of the many ways Gene used to share Christ with others. No minister was ever more committed to his calling than Gene Condrey.

Yes, Gene was a minister of unusual talent and always brought joy, hope and gladness to all who knew him. Of course, there is emptiness in the hearts of his beloved wife and family, as well as the many that have been touched by this humble man of God. Yet his powerful influence and messages will live on in the hearts of those who remain. —*Rev. C. Douglas Pillow, Retired, Lynchburg District*

James Andrew McClung, 1943 - 2012

The Rev. James Andrew McClung was led home by the angels on Jan. 7, 2012. He became an instant member of the celestial choir. He was born March 23, 1943, in Norfolk to Blair and Lillian McClung. He received his diploma from Granby High School, Norfolk, in 1961. He went to Ferrum College where he completed an A.A. in 1963. He would later graduate from Emory and Henry



College with a B.A. in 1968. He received his M. Div. from Duke Divinity School in 1972. He acquired an Accredited Clinical Pastoral Education (A.C.P.E.) Certificate from the UVA Hospital in 1973 and received a Master of Special Education from VCU in 1983.

Jimmy became a member of the Virginia Conference in 1969 when he became a probationer and deacon in the church. He served the Stem-Bullocks Charge on the Durham District while a student at Duke Divinity School. During this time, Jim served as a student chaplain at both Duke Medical Center and Murdoch School and Hospital for Mentally Handicapped Persons. He did his internship as a chaplain at the UVA Hospital from 1972-1973. He was the pastor at Rustburg UMC from 1973-1979. He then served as the director for the Virginia United Methodist Agency for the Retarded (VUMAR) from 1979-1993. In 1985, he started Camp Rainbow Connection for mentally handicapped youth and adults which still continues today. He returned to the parish ministry serving Ramsey Memorial UMC from 1993-1996, Laurel Hill UMC from 1996-2003 and Miles Memorial UMC from 2003-2005. Once again he was called to a conference level position as the director of Church and Community Relations for the Virginia United Methodist Homes Inc. and served there for five years.

He always felt that God had blessed his ministry and provided many opportunities for spiritual growth in his own life. The greatest joy for him was to know that God used him and his God-given gifts wherever possible. His life was characterized as one of compassion for all people including those who some would deem unlovable. Jimmy loved his family, and it was said that Betty, his wife of 45 years, was the anchor for this larger than life ship of human compassion and infinite talent. Receiving God's miracles several times in his life, he was quick to tell others never to give up. He never gave up while fighting his courageous battle against Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Throughout his journey he continued to touch others and spread God's word.

Jimmy was definitely one of a kind, and when he was born, the mold was thrown away! He was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, uncle and friend. We will all treasure the legacy of life which he left for us. Above all, we will remember the sparkle in his eyes, his boisterous laughter and all the love he spread through genuine hugs. We love you Jimmy and know we will see you again someday. We will carry you in our hearts forever! Love you more. —Betty McClung, Walt McClung, Tondra McClung Atkins

Louis Alvin Timmons, 1940 - 2012

Lou was born in Dagsboro, Del. on Sept. 28, 1940, and died Feb. 10, 2012. He was the son of the late Jack and Evelyn Timmons Simpson and his stepfather, Edward Simpson. Lou had an interesting life and career. He was a student at Wesley College before leaving to join the Navy and being sent to the west coast. As a Vietnam veteran, he then returned to become a shop steward for the Teamsters Union, graduated from Virginia Wesleyan College, and went on to Wesley Seminary. He served Saint Mark Church in the Portsmouth District, White Post Charge in the Winchester District, Mount Vernon in the Peninsula Conference (Sharptown, Md.), and Cheswold Charge in Delaware. Back in Virginia, he served Mead Memorial in the Lynchburg District, Highland Park and Prices Fork in the Roanoke District, Atlantic UMC on the Eastern Shore, and he spent one year in Brunswick County at the Philadelphia Charge before he retired. He served the Melfa church in retirement, and his last preaching was at the Bloxom Community Nazarene Church.



He had a gift for preaching the Word, and he was dedicated to helping those who needed help along the way. He was blessed to be co-director at Casa Esperanza along with Carmen Colonna. He loved bringing people into the church from the streets. It frequently got him in trouble.

Lou never wanted to be president, but he always wanted to be dictator for a week. He was earthy, and there was still a lot of sailor and teamster in him. He owned two boats and a camper, and he was at

home on the water except when the Coast Guard had to go out and find him on a couple of occasions. The boats and the camper were donated to Light House Ministries for the homeless when he could no longer go out to sea.

The Rev. Timmons is survived by his wife and best friend of 42 years, Sylvia Faye Morse Timmons; his sons, Eric J. Timmons of Winchester and Edward S. Timmons, his wife Terri and one grandson Jakob, all of Winchester; one brother, J. Robert Timmons of Brazil; five sisters-in-law, Sandi Morse and husband Brandon, Robin Shipp Morse, Tami Morse, Gloria Persinger and husband Melvin, and Rose Morse Lawson; brother-in law, Donald Ray Morse and wife, Sandra; and several nieces and nephews.
—*Sylvia Faye Morse Timmons*

Loyde M. Middleton, 1925 - 2012

The Rev. Loyde Middleton, 86, died in Laurinburg, N.C. after battling Alzheimer's Disease for many years. He was born at home outside of Marked Tree, Ark. in 1925 to the late Alma and Grady Middleton. Initially, he received his education at Martin Junior College and Middle Tennessee State. He went on to get a BA at Tennessee Technical University and ultimately received a Master of Religious Education at Candler School of Theology at Emory University.



He was “called to preach and missionary service” as a junior in high school. After graduating from high school in 1943, he began serving as a student minister in the Tennessee Conference until 1947. He joined the Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church as a special term missionary to Bolivia (1947 to 1950). He was ordained during the Tennessee Annual Conference in 1951.

In March of 1951, while studying at Scarritt College in Nashville, Tenn., he met Sarah Louise Locke (a short-term missionary to Brazil) and married her in June of 1951. Together they returned to Bolivia where they served as commissioned missionaries until 1968. After their return to the United States, they continued to serve The United Methodist Church.

In June of 1968, he joined the Virginia Conference, where he served Ivey Memorial, Barton Heights, Crenshaw, Grace, Ferebee-Halsted and Ferebee-Halsted/St. Luke's United Methodist churches. He was a member of the Board of Missions and District Secretary (1969-1972), Elected Member (1972-1976). He also served as Core Interpreter for the General Board of Global Ministries, consultant for Committee on Churches in Transition and Virginia Commission on United Methodist Information (1971-1976).

If I could use only a few words to describe my father, it would be courageous and faithful. Even when faced with the adversarial forces of the Bolivian military during a revolution in 1964, he stood his ground protecting the lives of the radio station staff, the broadcasting equipment, and even demanding the return of stolen property, which was taken during the coup. I remember his courage when, while serving in Blackstone, he and Mom were attacked and shot by a woman to whom they had offered transportation and support. He wore the scar on his face from the gun-shot wound without boasting nor malice. After his retirement from the Virginia Conference, while living in Huntington, W.Va., his courage and his faith once again propelled him into danger when he tackled and fought off an assailant who was holding a knife to the church secretary's throat. He never felt he was a hero, but only a servant of God. If only we could all have the courage to live our faith every day, as he did, and face adversity with courage knowing that God stands with us. —*Patty Middleton, Daughter*

Rudolph Doyle Kidd, 1927 - 2012

Rudolph Doyle Kidd, 84, of Williamsburg, passed away on April 7, 2012. He was preceded in death by his wife, Rhea Kidd, and his son, Steve Kidd. Rudolph devoted his life to the service of God, serving as a United Methodist



Church minister for 46 years, primarily pastoring churches in the Virginia Conference, including Chestnut Memorial United Methodist Church in Newport News. The Rev. Kidd was a graduate of Emory University in Atlanta, Ga., earning a Master of Divinity. He also attended seminary in Richmond.

Throughout his years of ministry, Rudolph married many couples and baptized many children, taking great joy in baptizing his own children and grandchildren into the faith. Serving by his side was his loving wife and servant of God for 61 years, Rhea, whom he now joins for eternity. He was also a loving and devoted father to his two sons.

The Rev. Kidd was an avid vegetable gardener and in his younger years, an avid sportsman, including baseball, swimming and basketball. He is survived by his son, David Kidd, and David's wife, Judy; grandchildren, Jane and Mary; and his daughter-in-law, Eileen Kidd.

Thomas W. Oder, 1918 - 2012

The Rev. Thomas W. Oder, 93, of Reedville, died on May 24, 2012. The Rev. Oder served in the United Methodist Virginia Conference from 1961 to 2007. During that time, he served as pastor at Mount Moriah United Methodist Church, White Hall; Bethany United Methodist Church, Reedville; Asbury United Methodist Church, Foxwells; and several others.



He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Joy McNiell Oder; sons, Kenneth W. Oder and his wife, Cindy, of California, Larry E. Oder and his wife, Debby, of Troy, Robert H. Oder, and his wife, Debbie, of Reedville; one brother, Harry A. Oder Jr. of North Carolina; sister-in-law, Tina McNiell of Rhode Island; eight grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Kitty Cline Cox, 1919 - 2012

Kitty Cline Cox, 92, of Richmond, entered into eternal rest on Feb. 23, 2012. She was preceded in death by her parents, Dr. John Cline and Kitty Plott Cline; her brother, Rev. John Maxwell Cline; and her husband of 50 years, John Finley Cox. She is survived by her two loving daughters, Pamela Cox Wilson (Robert) of Ormond Beach, Fla., and Kitty Cox Witthoefft (Gary) of Richmond. She was adored by her six grandchildren, Paige, Robbie and Matt Wilson, Erin Witthoefft Irwin (Bart), Lauren Witthoefft Baggett (Chip) and Adam Witthoefft; her four great-grandchildren, Campbell and Alexis Irwin, and Will and Nora Kate Baggett; her sister, Evelyn Cline Roach of Lexington, N.C.; and her sister-in-law, Alice Stewart Cline; four nieces and one nephew.



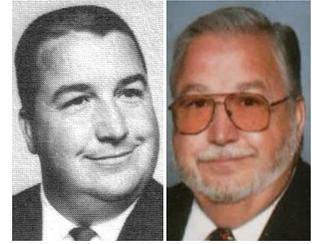
The oldest daughter of a Methodist minister, she was born in Webster, N.C., and raised in many different towns throughout North Carolina. She received her undergraduate degree from Greensboro College and did graduate work at Duke University and Northwestern University.

She began her long career in Christian Education at Trinity United Methodist Church in Durham, N.C., where she met and married her husband. Moving to Charleston, S.C., she worked at John Wesley United Methodist Church and later at Stratford Hills United Methodist Church in Richmond. The last church she served was Trinity United Methodist Church in Richmond, where she was a member. She was active in the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church and the Richmond District as Diaconal Minister in The Virginia Conference. In addition to her church work, she was devoted to her family and friends. In her later years, the residents and staff at The Hermitage at Cedarfield became her family as well.

2013 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

James A. Edmonds, 1936 – 2012

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



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

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

James William Meredith, 1938 – 2012

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



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

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

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

Jim always enjoyed the ministry of preaching, sharing God’s word and working with those in his churches. He was an exceptional father in every aspect, a great teacher, a political analyst of deep understanding, and most of all, an inspiring, brave soul - the most generous man you could ever wish to

meet. His life was guided by those characteristics. Several church members from Bassett Memorial remembered him as a friend and that he was always there when you needed him to be. Jim is missed by all who knew him.

William Troy Kessler, 1928 – 2012

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Arthur Leon Holmes, 1925 - 2012

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



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

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

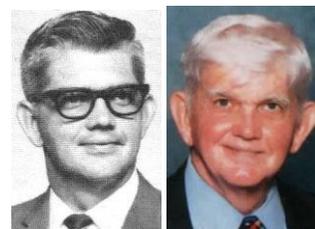
Ira Lee Andrews III, 1938 – 2012

Ira Lee Andrews, III, a native of Petersburg, died on Aug. 16, 2012. Ira earned Phi Beta Kappa academic and Omicron Delta Kappa leadership honors as a Randolph-Macon College student and graduated from the College in 1959. He earned a Master of Divinity Degree at Emory University's Candler School of Theology. He served Centenary United Methodist Church in Jarratt, before returning to Randolph-Macon College in 1963 as Professor of Religious Studies and added duties of Dean of Students in 1973.

He retired from Randolph-Macon College in 2006, and was awarded an honorary Doctorate in Humanities in 2010. In 2011, the college dedicated a new residence hall for freshmen in his honor. As an ordained United Methodist minister, he served on numerous conference boards and committees throughout the years. Ira loved music all his life and sang in the choir at Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church, where he also was a Disciple Bible Study and Sunday school teacher.

James B. Grimmer, 1937 – 2012

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



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

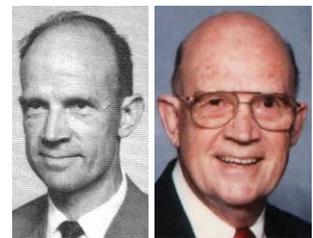
During the last eight months of his life, family and friends were given the joy of being able to express love, re-tell stories, share laughter and have meaningful dialogue with Jim. Anne, his wife of 51 years, with family, friends. Home Health and Rockbridge Hospice “angels” were able to care for Jim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

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

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

George G. Henley, 1924 – 2012

The Rev. George G. Henley of Aylett, Va., departed this world to dwell in the house of the Lord on Sept. 25, 2012. The second of five children, he was born on September 8, 1924, to the late Earle E. Henley Sr., and Elizabeth Haddon Henley. The son of a Methodist minister, George, too, served the Virginia United Methodist Church for 40 years before retiring in 1987.



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

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

Robert C. Painter, 1918 – 2012

On Nov. 5, 2012, members of the Virginia Conference lost a dear friend and shepherd, the Rev. Robert Painter. Born in Bramwell, W.Va., on Aug. 5, 1918, to Robert and Rosa Bell Painter, he was the second of four children. His uncle gave him a guitar and he learned to play well enough to hitchhike to



Bluefield, where he was invited to play. He later took violin lessons and shared his musical talents with his congregations for many decades.

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

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

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

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

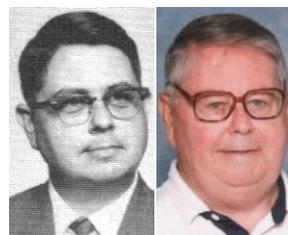
Rev. Painter's wise and concise sermons always included a joke, usually a bit corny. His gentle spirit touched not only our congregation but many in the community with his quiet loving care. His generosity extended to include the bounty of his garden.

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

As Pastor Emeritus at Mathews Chapel, his life was honored by this message on the church sign: "We will miss you, Pastor Painter, a loving father, granddad, shepherd and role model for us. Godspeed." He is survived by wife Roberta, daughter Malinda, son Tom, six step-children, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well as one great-great-grandchild. They would like to express appreciation and thanks to Pastor Harry Loyd for his loving presence and guidance during Rev. Painter's illness and death. —*Family and Friends*

Oliver M. Unruh, 1928 – 2012

Oliver Murry Unruh was born into a preacher's family on Aug. 3, 1928, in Richmond. His father was the Rev. John Garland Unruh, and his mother was Elsie Murry Unruh. Murry had two older brothers, Garland and James (Jack), who would also become a minister. The itinerancy—the way of life for Methodist clergy families—took the Unruhs to appointments across urban and small-town Virginia.



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

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

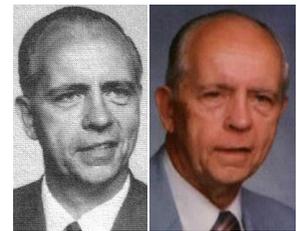
In 1991, Murry retired to Lynchburg, where he continued to assist in local churches as long as his health permitted. For the first time, he lived in a home of his own (without benefit of parsonage committee) until a move to a retirement community in 2011.

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

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

Paul Peyton Campbell, 1924 – 2012

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



Perhaps you remember Paul Campbell because you learned about God from him during Sunday worship services or a confirmation class. Perhaps you were a teenager who played Twister in his living room or badminton in his back yard during UMYF gatherings or lay witness missions. Maybe he counseled and joined you and your mate in marriage, or visited you in the hospital, or sat with you beside a dying loved one. Despite the church meetings and frequent hospital or home visitations (something ministers did much more of in the past), he was very good at balancing the responsibilities of a pastor and a father. He taught his children how to play tennis, swim, and bowl. He and Ellen modeled teamwork. You see, although Paul was the one in the pulpit, Ellen was truly a partner in ministry. Paul often said that every church he served got "two for the price of one." Those churches included: Tappahannock Memorial (1959-1963); Fairmount (Richmond, 1963-1966); Good Shepherd (Henrico, 1966-1969, Paul started this one); Hillcrest (Fredericksburg, 1969-1973); Trinity (Disputanta, 1973-1979) Kenwood (Petersburg, 1979-1984); and Christ Church (Covington, 1984-1988).

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

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

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

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

Ronald Ralph Jones, 1940 – 2013

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



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

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

He is survived by his wife, Lois, of 48 years and three children and their spouses: Nedra Michele Blick, Julia Dawn Lam, Ronald Ralph II. He was very proud of his six grandchildren: Evan Courier, McKenzie Blick, Jordan and Josh Lam, Jessica and Amanda Jones. He is survived by one brother, Shelby D. Jones, and family of Tennessee.

Donald N. Fridinger, 1928 – 2013

Donald Nelson Fridinger was born Jan. 6, 1928, in Martinsburg, WV., to the late Herman Granville and Myrtle Agnes Fridinger. He committed his life to Christ at the age of 8 years at the Martinsburg First Evangelical United Brethren Church, where he held his membership until his entry into the ministry. Don graduated from Martinsburg High School and attended Shenandoah College. He received his B.A. from Lebanon Valley College and his Masters in Divinity from United Theological Seminary (formerly known as Bonebrake Theological Seminary) in Dayton, Ohio. It was in Dayton where he met and married Norma Jean Nuscher when he was a student pastor at Norma's church.



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

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

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

He came to the Franklin Church in September 1952 and leaves an impressive record of accomplishments. Rev. Mr. Fridinger led the congregation in a financial campaign that amassed the \$42,000 needed for the new church. He not only helped with the church finances, but he designed the structure, a beautiful brick church with seven classrooms and a seating capacity of over 300. The new church was dedicated May 1, 1955. He also assisted in the completion of the new parsonage, located near the church, and was instrumental in the division of the Franklin Charge and the Pendleton-Grant charge. During the three years that Mr. Fridinger worked in Franklin he made many friends who regretted to see him leave.

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

William C. Taylor, Jr., 1927 – 2013

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



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

Harry Long Kidd, Jr., 1925 – 2013

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



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

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

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

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Christine H. Kidd; five children, Lawrence P. Kidd (Pinar), Lois K. Barrett (Dr. Mark), Dr. Timothy W. Kidd (Sandra), Stephen B. Kidd (Jeanna), Esther K. Washing (Steven); 15 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He was very grateful and very proud

of the family God gave to him - a family that made great sacrifices, a family equipped to go forward with great grace, forgiveness, and love. Harry leaves behind a spiritual legacy that will go forward through each and every one who has been touched by his life. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

Earl Devine Martin, 1926 – 2013

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



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

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

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

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

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

Herbert Eugene Baker, 1933 – 2013

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



Rev. Baker married Sandra Jean Whittaker on June 10, 1956, at the First Evangelical United Brethren Church on Braddock Street. He is survived by his wife of more than 56 years; two daughters,

Kendra Jean Sours of Winchester and Andrea Jean Clark of Fairfax Station; two sons-in-law, Dicky Sours and Steven Clark; one granddaughter, Chastity Dawn Sours; a great-grandchild, Sean Christopher; and three step-children, Brenda Clark, Anna Clark and Justin Clark.

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

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

The family gathered Feb. 26 from 5-8 p.m. to receive friends at the Omps Funeral Home. The organist, Voyne Omps, also played the organ at Rev. and Mrs. Baker's wedding. A private graveside service for his immediate family was conducted by the Winchester District superintendent, Dr. Larry Thompson, on February 27. A memorial service was held on March 1 at the Braddock Street UMC in Winchester led by Winchester District superintendent, Dr. Larry Thompson, and the Rev. Steve Melester, whom Rev. Baker mentored. Rev. Baker requested that both clergy and their spouses sit together as a "body of servant partners" as he truly believed he and Sandra were partners together in the ministry. He kept his Charge Conference credentials at the First United Methodist Church, where he attended as a child, received the calling for ministry and married. Memorials may be sent to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) of the denomination at Virginia Annual Conference, P.O. Box 5606, Glen Allen, VA 23058.

Terry Jefferson Burley, 1915 – 2013

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



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

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

Carl E. Manear, 1919 – 2013

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



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

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

Carl was preceded in death by his infant daughter, a daughter and a son. He was a member of the American Legion, a 50-year member of the Masonic Lodge of Grafton, a member of the York Rite, Scottish Rite, and he was a 32-degree Shriner.

He was a member of the Senior Circle and the Holiday Rambler Recreational club, where he also served as the Virginia State Chaplain. —Submitted by Rev. Wade L. Sirk

Edgar U. Hoover, 1915 – 2013

The Rev. Edgar U. Hoover, of Roanoke, passed away on Thursday, March 28, 2013. He was born in Varnville, S.C. He was preceded in death by his parents; three sisters; and his wife, Pauline Long Hoover. Enlisting at age of 17, he served proudly in the U.S. Navy as a radio operator. He then worked for the FAA as an aircraft communicator for four years. He graduated from Wake Forest and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. The Rev. Hoover served churches in Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina and Virginia, including Greene Memorial United Methodist in Roanoke and Fairlington United Methodist in Alexandria.



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

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

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

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

Robert Chesley VanGilder, 1930 – 2013

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



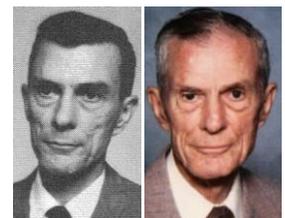
After high school, he moved to Elkins and worked as a clerk and meat-cutter at Kroger. Here he met Delores Irene Chenoweth. Bob enlisted in the Army in 1951 and served for two years. Part of this tour of duty was spent in Germany. Bob and Delores married in December of 1953. After the service, he enrolled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

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

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

Glenn Gilbert Williams, 1925 –2013

Glenn Gilbert Williams was born Oct. 1, 1925, in Suffolk, to Charles Frederick and Otto Gilbert Williams. He graduated from Saluda High School in 1942. He served in the Navy during World War II in the Hospital Corps from



1943 to 1945. He attended Randolph-Macon College, graduating in 1949. He worked for the summer as a sports reporter for The Hopewell News. He then gave in to God's call to follow his previous three generations of Methodist ministers in Virginia and enrolled in the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta. There he met and married Jean Kirkpatrick, his companion and support until his death.

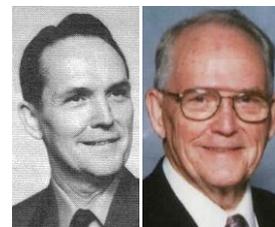
Glenn received his Master's in Divinity and returned to serve the Virginia Conference. In October, 1951, he and Jean were assigned to the Middlesex Charge, which consisted of Centenary, New Hope, Old Church and Forest Chapel, all in or near Saluda. There was a short article published in the newspaper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

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

Glenn was an avid reader and student all of his life, and a disciplined athlete. He enjoyed watching and participating in sports. His hobbies included running and stamp and coin collecting. Glenn's great-grandfather was Thomas Lovett Williams who served in the Virginia Conference from 1853 to 1889 for 36 years. His grandfather was Charles Henley Williams who served from 1890 to 1936 for 45 years. Glenn's father, Charles Frederick Williams, served in the Virginia Conference from 1923 to 1970 for 47 years. Glenn died in Ashland on March 30, 2013. He leaves behind his wife, Jean, two children - Frances Williams Ellis in Fairfax and George Gilbert Williams in Richmond, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Wrightson S. Tongue, 1916 – 2013

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



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

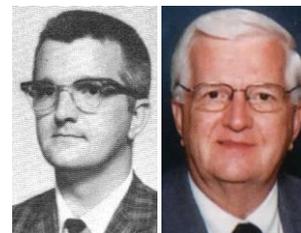
End - Portsmouth, First - Lynchburg, Central - Hampton, St. Paul's - Woodbridge, and Wesley - Alexandria.

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

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

Edward Coleman Johnson, 1939 – 2013

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



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

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

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

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

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

Bishop Leontine Ruth Turpeau Current Kelly, 1920 - 2012

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



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

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

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

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

Leontine died June 28, 2012. The memorial service was held July 5, 2012, at Jones Memorial UMC in San Francisco. The officiants were Bishops Warner Brown, Minerva Carcano, Violet Fisher, Charlene Kammerer, Linda Lee, Marcus Matthews, Felton May (the eulogist), and Anne Brookshire Sherer; along with the Rev. Staci Current, pastor of Jones Memorial. The Bishop is survived by her 100-year-old sister, Angella Turpeau Hayes; her children, Angella (Robert-deceased), Gloster Jr. (Yvonne), Rev. John David (Staci), Pamela; grandchildren, Angelyn Current, Tiffany Current (Jeremy Feig), Faith Current Anderson (Obediah), John David Current Jr., Leon Current; and great-grandson, David Williams.

James A. Pace, 1962 – 2012

“Bidden or not bidden, God is present.”

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

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

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

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

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

Michael Jamieson Putnam, 1940 – 2012

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

For most of his life, Mike served as a lay member of various churches. It was not until the early 1980s that he joined The United Methodist Church. I was serving as the pastor of Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Chesapeake when Mike and his wife, Anne, decided to ask that their membership be transferred. Mike made it very clear that he only wanted to attend worship and possibly Sunday school, but did not wish to get involved in any other way. In his words, “I do not want to be a chair or serve on any committees.” Mike wanted to sit back and let others do the work. However, God had other plans for Mike. He finally agreed to serve on the Administrative Board, but was not happy doing so. As a retired banker, I convinced him that he would be a wonderful chair of the Finance Committee, where he served for three years.

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

Mike was a big man who could easily intimidate anyone who did not know him. But he had a heart that was even bigger. Mike had a heart of gold. He would do anything for anybody. One year at the Annual Conference in Roanoke, a special announcement was made that a lady from Chesapeake needed

to catch a ride back home if anyone was leaving early. Her son was ill and had been taken to the hospital. Mike responded by calling his wife to meet him half way. After passing her off to his wife, he returned to Roanoke in the early morning hours and remained for the rest of the conference.

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

Anthony Christopher Busic, 1963 – 2012

The Rev. Anthony Christopher Busic, 49, of Salem, passed from this world and into eternal life on Monday, July 23, 2012, and is now resting peacefully in the arms of Jesus. The Rev. Busic was born in Mathews County, son of the late V. Raymond and Loraine Smith Busic. He graduated from Mathews County High School and Virginia Wesleyan College, where he earned his Bachelor's degree in history. He later attended and graduated from Duke University with a Master's of Divinity.



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

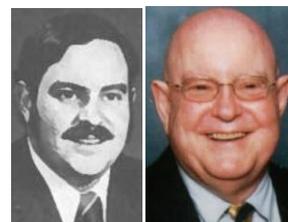
He is survived by his loving wife, Vickie Tetreault Busic; by two daughters, Jacqueline Busic (fiancé Ryan Clifton) and Lisa Duca; by his son, Kenneth Busic; by his brother, Raymond "Howdy" Busic (wife Helen); his sister, Rebecca Busic, and his two nephews, Scotty Busic and Jeffery Busic.

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

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

Albert Clayton Lynch, 1947 – 2012

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



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

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

Al was a people person. He had the heart of a pastor. As an active member of Alcoholics Anonymous and Chaplain for the Henrico County Police Department and the Henrico County Sheriff’s Department he became the unofficial pastor to so many. Al performed their weddings and buried their dead. They sought his help because they knew he cared. He was no less a pastor to his own congregation. Al would drive any distance to extend the ministry of the church to a member in need. He spent his day and night to fulfill this ministry, often to the detriment of his own health.

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

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

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

Lesley Elton Trail, 1954- 2013

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

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



District, and Main Street United Methodist Church, Bedford, in the Lynchburg District. His home church was Rockingham Court United Methodist Church in the Roanoke District.

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

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

2014 ANNUAL CONFERENCE³

Eugene Jackson "Jack" Parrish, 1927 – 2013

Eugene Jackson Parrish (Jack) was born on Aug.10, 1927, at Nortonville, in Albemarle County, the youngest of five children of Louis Cranston Parrish and Mamie Wood Parrish.



Jack graduated from Broadus Wood High School in 1945. In the fall of that year he joined the U.S. Merchant Marines and took training at Sheepshead Bay in Brooklyn, N.Y. After finishing training and earning his Coast Guard Certification, he sailed on many different ships, mostly Liberty Ships of World War II vintage. Various ships carried him to ports in England, France, Germany, Italy and North Africa.

After leaving the U.S. Merchant Marines, he attended the Nashville Auto Diesel College and opened his own auto repair shop at Nortonville until 1954. He was then drafted in the U.S. Army. After basic training in Fort Jackson, S.C., he was sent to Germany, where he spent 17 months in the 704th Ordinance Battalion. After being discharged and returning home to Nortonville, he began working at the Charlottesville Auto Parts Corp. After several years he worked his way up to becoming part-owner and vice president of the company. When the business was sold he and his wife, Glory, leased and operated a small grocery store (called Markwood) located between Nortonville and Earlysville for a couple of years.

Jack had been very active in Bingham United Methodist Church, in Nortonville, after his marriage to Glory Roach in 1957. He served as Sunday school superintendent and teacher, and also as a lay leader in the Charlottesville District. In 1973, he was appointed to fill in as a local pastor at Mount Chapel UMC near Ruckersville. Not realizing at the time that the Lord was preparing him for future service, he thought he would be there for only a few weeks, but the conference appointed him pastor at Mount Chapel for 1974-75. Then realizing that God had called him, he began to prepare for the education he needed. He attended Piedmont Virginia Community College in Charlottesville and Rappahannock Community College in Glens. He got his seminary training at Duke Divinity School.

Jack became affectionately known as "Rev. Jack" during his ministry. He served on the Schuyler/Green Mountain Charge in Nelson County; the West Mathews Charge at Mobjack in Mathews County; then served at Ebenezer UMC at Oldhams in Westmoreland County. His last full time appointment was Weyers Cave UMC in the Shenandoah Valley before retiring in 1994.

Rev. Jack stayed very busy in retirement for many years, being pastor at Mount Vernon/South River Charge for a while as well as filling in for other pastors as needed. He preached many revivals (which he

³ Memoir not available at press time: Robert J. Bull (Bill), 1920 – 2013; Omar R. Fink, 1918 – 2013; Ralph Stalter, 1921 - 2014; and Thomas L. Walthall, 1922 – 2014.

really liked doing) not only at Methodist churches, but also at Baptist and Brethren churches. He filled in as pastor for while at Stanardsville Baptist Church until they hired a Baptist pastor.

Jack was a family man and a “people” person. He was always friendly and he never met a stranger. He loved pitching horseshoes, playing Scrabble and going to University of Virginia women’s basketball games. He was an avid Virginia Cavalier fan of both basketball and football. He was a former member of the Weyers Cave Ruritans and a member of the Albemarle Ruritan Club. He enjoyed bluegrass, country and especially gospel music. He was a member of the Piedmont Virginia Fiddle & Banjo Association.

Jack went to be with the Lord on June 6, 2013, after a long battle with Alzheimer’s. Jack is survived by his wife of 55 years, Glory Roach Parrish of Charlottesville; three daughters: Diane Bunyea and her husband, Matt, of Ruckersville; Marcia Parrish of Charlottesville; and Becky Sadler and her husband, Barry, of Dutton. Also surviving him are three grandchildren: Kelly Smoker and her husband, Philip, of Keswick; Brandon Bunyea and his wife, Sarah, of Stanardsville; and Jessica DeHoux and her husband, Josh, of Foster; and five great grandchildren: Tyler, Will, Mason and Lily Bunyea and Jackson DeHoux. Jack was a loving husband, devoted father and grandfather, and is greatly missed by his family. We look forward to our reunion with him in Heaven one day. —*His family: Glory, Diane, Marcia & Becky*

William Albert “Bill” Jester, 1932 – 2013

The Rev. William “Bill” Albert Jester was born Sept. 14, 1932, in Suffolk, the son of Carl Franklin Jester and Mary Stephenson Jester Lewis. Bill is survived by his best friend, constant partner and devoted wife of 55 years and three months, Katie Curry Loflin Jester, of Roanoke, who he affectionately called “Kay.” Their marriage (March 15, 1958, in Asheboro, N.C.) was a testimony of unconditional love. He is also survived by their son, W. Albert Jester Jr., and his wife, Angelique; two grandchildren: Brandon Albert Jester and Faith Armindy Jester of Uniontown, Ohio, near Akron; an older brother, C. Franklin Jester, Jr., of Franklin; a step-sister, Patricia Jester Apperson, and her husband, Norris, of Newport News.



Bill graduated from Randolph-Macon College with a BA in 1955, where he was a member of Theta Chi fraternity and Pi Delta Epsilon (Honorary Journalism.) He received a Bachelor of Divinity from Candler School of Theology, Emory University in Atlanta in 1958; and a Master of Divinity, also from Candler, in 1972. Both Bill and his wife, Kay, are members of the “1836 Society of Emory University.” Bill became a member of the Virginia Conference in 1956 and was ordained an Elder in 1960, in full connection. He served with distinction for 40 years prior to retiring in 1996.

Through the grace of God, he ministered in the name of Christ at: Buckrow Beach, Hampton (1958-59), Peninsula District; Broadway (1959-60), Winchester District; Rappahannock Charge (1960-62), serving Flint Hill, Washington, Sperryville and Willis Chapel churches in Charlottesville District; Rhodes at Afton (1962-64), Charlottesville District; Beth-Horon at Natural Bridge Station (1964-66), Staunton District; Wayne Hills and Oak Hill (1966-69), Staunton District; Grace at Middletown (1969-76), Winchester District; Hites Chapel (1975-76), Middletown; Singers Glen Charge (1976-80), Harrisonburg District; Brookville (1980-84), Lynchburg District; Market Street (1984-86), Winchester District; Trinity at King George (1986-94), Ashland District; Grace at Rollins Fork (1996-1998); Luray (1994-96), Harrisonburg District. After retiring in 1996 and moving to Roanoke, Bill served part-time at Lawrence Memorial at Bent Mountain (1996-2011).

At all of the appointments, a net gain was realized in membership and worship attendance. All “Prior-claim and World Service Apportionments” were paid in full at all of these churches every year! Preaching the Word of God was top priority, and Bill enjoyed weaving into his messages “stories and illustrations” and “solos by his wife.” Bill (and Kay) became well-known to all of their many friends and

loved ones as the organizers who created lasting and profound friendships in the neighborhoods where they lived and in the churches they served. This was evident on March 15, 2008, when more than 150 friends and former church members attended their 50th wedding anniversary celebration dinner, hosted by their son and his family, held at Lawrence Memorial UMC.

Bill loved to grow roses, and during the growing season, there were roses in a vase every day in their kitchen window. He was a loving and nurturing husband, and he spoiled their five dogs: Waga, Blaze, Gold, Peppy and Blondie. His life was filled with service to his Lord, Jesus Christ as he followed his calling to many churches in Virginia. His calm and inner strength and his supportive and loving wife, Kay, helped many churches learn the real meaning of being a “Christ-filled community.” His wit endeared him to many, and he was always one who had a joke or story to tell. His unfaltering spirit blessed all of those who came to know this gentle giant of a man. Since 1996, Bill loved living in their home in Roanoke surrounded by wonderful neighbors and friends. Upon retirement, Bill placed his charge conference membership at Greene Memorial UMC in Roanoke. They became active members of the Paul Coffey Sunday School class. Bill filled in teaching the class when needed, and they enjoyed serving the church as greeters, serving communion and supporting the Greene Memorial Fine Arts Series.

Bill left a legacy of faith and love. His life was an inspiration and his memory a benediction. As some people journey through life, they leave footprints wherever they go. Footprints of kindness, love, courage, compassion, humor, inspiration, joy and faith. Even when they are gone, we can still look back and clearly see the trail they left behind—a trail bright with hope that invites us to follow. Bill left all of us this trail to follow him to Jesus. —Submitted by Kay Jester and the Rev. Jim McClung

Marilyn Lee Gaylord Spencer, 1943 - 2013

Marilyn Lee Gaylord was born on Aug. 16, 1943 to Olive and Everett Gaylord. Marilyn loved animals of all kinds all her life, and as a child even to the point of carrying a blind chicken around in her bicycle basket.

Marilyn started her ministry activity early by play-preaching in the pulpit as a child while her mother cleaned the church. She was active in civic events, and academics. She loved tumbling athletics and was adventuresome. In her youth, Marilyn was active in 4-H and won several national awards. Marilyn attended Marietta College and was struck blind in her freshman year with M.S. It was at a church communion that she again received her sight. Graduating from college she moved to Sacramento, Calif., to become a medical technologist and met her husband. They were married July 30, 1966. The couple moved to North Dakota for her husband’s graduate school, where their son and daughter were born. They moved to Durham, N.C. for three years and then to Woodbridge in 1976. Marilyn was active as a National Zoo volunteer in her spare time, and she was working as a microbiologist until her retirement to become a minister.



While serving in a Northern Virginia hospital and helping an AIDS patient to deal with his affliction, she felt her calling for the ministry. Marilyn entered Wesley Seminary and received graduation in May 1997. She first served as associate pastor at Bethel Church in Woodbridge until 2000, and during a Vacation Bible school event, entered the ranks the few who had kissed a camel. While at Bethel she was active in Emmaus and often served as the pastor for the women’s walks. She was active in mission work and took her high school groups to Mexico to help build additional facilities at a border church, and then to several rebuilding projects in our inner cities. She worked as a volunteer in free medical clinics and Volunteers in Mission to Jamaica. A second assignment in 2000 was the Gordonsville-Barboursville charge until her retirement in 2006.

In addition to preaching the gospel, a few of the highlights of her leadership during this period included leading a group of parishioners to help the rebuilding efforts following the Katrina disaster;

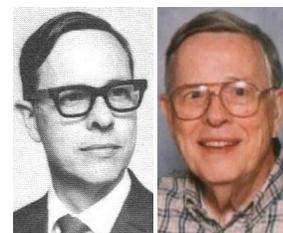
establishing a food pantry and a community based rebuilding program for the less fortunate in the community.

Following her retirement in 2006, she and her husband became Virginia Master Gardeners in Prince William County and she took on an active role in helping to raise her three grandchildren. She remained extraordinarily active with her family, her community and the church, right up to her passing into God's hands from lung cancer on June 25, 2013. She is lovingly survived by her husband, her son and daughter and her three grandchildren.

Marilyn was a minister for the community as well as her own parish and family members. She always had time to listen to someone and give them support, and was loved by her parishes and many in the surrounding communities. Although Marilyn will be sorely missed by all who knew her, she was always humbled in the knowledge that her Savior's open arms were ready to welcome her home at the end of life's journey. —*As remembered by her husband, Henry Spencer*

Roscoe Marvin White, Jr., 1918 – 2013

Marvin served the Virginia Conference and many of its churches for more than 42 years. He retired in 1983. In August of that year, he was asked to serve as the interim pastor at St. Mark's UMC. In June of 1984, he stepped back into retirement.



Before Marvin retired, he served 12 churches all across the Virginia Conference: Christ Church, Newport News; Bethany UMC, Hampton; Charles Wesley UMC, McLean; McKendree UMC, Norfolk; Thrasher Memorial UMC, Vinton; Epworth UMC, Exmore; Herndon UMC, Herndon; Providence UMC, Dare; South Covington UMC, Covington; Shenandoah UMC, Shenandoah; and Bishop Memorial, Richmond. While serving at Shenandoah, he married Bettie Marie Albert. Together they had three children, Roy, Lisa, and Kim, at three different appointments.

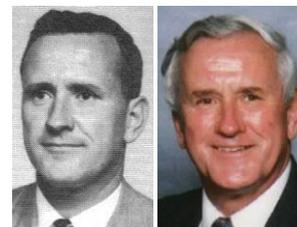
Marvin was the son of Dr. Roscoe M. White, a pastor and educator; and Edith Denny White, an officer in the conference Women's Society for Christian Service (UMW). Marvin was the grandson of Bishop Collins Denny, a bishop of the M.E. Church, South.

Marvin was a quiet, gentle soul who excelled at calming turbulent churches and turbulent people. He sought no recognition or honors other than being known as a pastor who served God and God's church. His son Roy has said, "Once I asked Dad, 'Dad, what do you think is the unforgiveable sin?' Dad paused then said, 'I guess the only unforgiveable sin is to refuse to believe you can be forgiven.'"

Marvin accepted people for who they were. He never judged anyone. When racial strife erupted in Virginia during the Civil Rights years from 1956-1968, Dad did not hesitate to include and acknowledge people of all races. This sometimes created problems for some of his church members and some of the leaders, then, of the Virginia Conference. These were the days of resistance to integration and fear and distrust of civil rights for all races. Through it all, Marvin quietly practiced his beliefs and by example tried to bring his people into the light of faith and love. When many conference leaders waffled over how to respond to Dr. King's call justice and love, Marvin was already practicing justice and love, quietly, in his parish ministry. His example helped many to change their attitudes and grow in faith, hope, and love. He was a quiet, hard-working, compassionate pastor, serving God and the church.

Howard Cabell Smith, 1926 – 2013

Howard Cabell Smith was born on June 28, 1926, in Martinsville. He was the son of a Methodist minister, the Rev. Ernest C. Smith, who served in the Virginia Conference for more than 50 years. Growing up in a pastoral family,



Howard experienced firsthand the joys and challenges of being a part of the United Methodist Church.

Howard graduated from Concord High School in 1944. Before he could undertake any of his college or career goals, he received a draft notice and was assigned to the U. S. Army. Howard was sent to basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C., and later was stationed in Germany and other parts of Europe as World War II came to a conclusion. After returning to the U.S., he enrolled at Ferrum College in the fall of 1946.

While a student at Ferrum, Howard had many accomplishments. From 1947-1948 he was vice president of the student body and a member of the Veterans Association. He was also captain of the basketball team in 1948, being voted most athletic the same year. Howard completed his two-year studies there in May 1948. While at Ferrum, he met his future wife, Gaytha Alma Whitlock, and they were married in 1950. This union yielded two children, Patricia and Paul Smith.

Howard later enrolled at and graduated from Virginia Southern Business College in Roanoke. He completed classes there in accounting and bookkeeping. He fully expected to have a long, successful career in the business field, but while attending his brother Aaron's church, Villa Heights Methodist in Roanoke, Howard felt the call to full-time ministry and pursued a different career path. He later completed religious studies at Bridgewater College in 1961 and then attended Westminster Theological Seminary in Westminster, Md. He entered into the Virginia Conference as elder in 1963.

Howard served the following charges: Page, Mount Solon, Stanley, Broadway and New Hope in the Shenandoah Valley; Bassett Memorial in Bassett, and Basic in Waynesboro, retiring from there in 1991. Howard also held several district and conference positions. He was a member of the Regional Board of the Roanoke United Methodist Home and a member of the conference Board of Church and Society.

Howard died Oct. 28, 2013, and is survived by his daughter, Patricia Mitchell; son, Paul Smith and wife, Vickie; and granddaughters, Erin Leigh Stemick and Ashley Page Smith, as well as several nieces and nephews. Gaytha preceded Howard in death on Sept. 12, 1999.

During the course of preparing this memoir, the Rev. Harley Bender, a close, personal friend of Howard's, shared some of his memories of their friendship. Harley recollected a time in 1994 when he suffered a heart attack and was out of the pulpit for several months. He stated, "While I was recovering Howard filled the pulpit for me without any pay or compensation other than the goodwill of the people and my deepest appreciation. Howard also came to visit me every day and brought me my mail."

He recalls Howard as being an avid golfer and always immensely enjoyed playing with him on a weekly basis as they both loved the game so much they wanted to play that often. Harley further stated, "I will always remember him as a true and special friend and an excellent minister for the Lord, Jesus Christ and as a loving and caring pastor. He was a person of high integrity and devotion to the Lord. Through this relationship Howard endeared himself to me forever."

Growing up as the nephew of Howard, I recollect fondly spending many Christmas seasons and other holidays with him and his family. Due to the untimely death of my father (Rev. Aaron D. Smith) at a young age, Howard and I developed more of a father-son relationship in his later years. I remember Howard as proclaiming great faith in the Lord, having an enjoyable sense of humor, and always being able to give great advice on whatever subject matter was being discussed. At every church he ever served, the congregation profited immensely, both spiritually and financially. Howard was able to put his business skills and spiritual guidance to good use at every charge, particularly at the New Hope appointment, where a new sanctuary was constructed under his pastorate.

One special memory I have of Howard and Gaytha was how they were such devoted fans of the Atlanta Braves and were certain never to miss a telecast of their games when they aired regularly on Atlanta's TBS network. I don't think there was a happier day for them both than when the Braves reached their pinnacle by winning the 1995 World Series.

Howard is certainly one to be missed. His gift of ministry to the Virginia Conference will be long remembered by all of those who knew him. He did a good job at every appointment he served and is still praised for guiding many churches during some difficult times. I am a better person for having Howard as my uncle and, like all others, rejoice in the fact that God has called him home to his eternal reward.
—*Jonathan O. Smith*

Raymond Sidney Kelley, 1925 – 2013

The eternal spirit of the Rev. Raymond S. Kelley, Retired, left the earthly body on Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2013, at his home in Ironto. He was the son of the late Raymond Ashler and Bertha Stewart Kelley. He is survived by his immediate family: wife of 65 years, Joyce, of Ironto; daughter, Shirley McDonald and her husband, Paul, of Lawrenceville, Ga.; son, Capt. Michael R. Kelley, USCG, Ret, and his wife, Joanne, of Palm Harbor, Fla., and three grandchildren: Brittany Nahman and her husband, Chris, of Los Angeles; Chase Kelley, a college sophomore at Northeastern University in Boston; and Rowan Kelley, a high school sophomore in Palm Harbor.



Kelley certainly didn't plan to become a minister. He left home to go to work at age 13 and at 18 was drafted into the Army. He was trained as a medic stateside but upon arriving on Utah Beach at Normandy in 1944, he was handed a rifle and "volunteered" to be an Military Policeman. He was wounded in Germany and carried both physical and mental scars until his death. He returned to high school after his discharge and graduated with his wife in 1949.

In the small Methodist Church in Elliston, on a rainy night in September of 1957, he heard Rev. Ed Taylor preaching and he responded to the message, the subject of which he could not recall. In early 1963, he felt that God wanted him to "go and preach the gospel" and he received his license to preach from the Locust Grove United Methodist Church. He pursued and successfully completed the required five-year Methodist Course of Study while working full time in production management, and also pastoring the four-point Rich Valley Circuit in Smyth County. He was ordained by Bishop L. Scott Allen at the 1970 Holston Annual Conference at Brainard UMC in Chattanooga. He continued his education by attending religion courses at Wytheville and New River Community Colleges, and continuing education units offered by the conference and district. From early childhood he had a passion for reading anything he could find and in his later years was comforted by his collection of reference books surrounding him.

In 1963, he received a call from the district superintendent to fill in on the Botetourt Charge. At the annual conference in 1964, he was appointed to the Alleghany-Piedmont Charge, now known as Alta Mons UMC. During his years there, he moved to Marion to accept a position with Brunswick Corp., but continued his appointment for two more years, driving back and forth from Marion to Shawsville (160 miles round trip) on Sundays for services and to visit the sick. He was appointed as a part time minister to the full time, four-point Chatham Hill Circuit in Rich Valley in the Holston Conference in 1968.

In October 1972, he left his employment with Brunswick to go into the ministry full time. He accepted an invitation to minister to the Christiansburg Circuit. He remained there until appointed to the Pembroke Charge in 1975. He remained at Pembroke until 1990, when he retired. He held many revival services during this time and at one time preached 18 weeks consecutively, driving every night as far as to Floyd, Appomattox or Rocky Mount.

After retirement, he accepted part-time appointments with various churches in the New River Valley and continued preaching for another ten years until his health began to decline. He continued teaching the adult Sunday school class at White Memorial UMC in Shawsville until his failing health made it impossible to do so.

During his years at Pembroke he was honored as the Virginia Conference “Rural Pastor of the Year” in 1978. He was not only the church’s minister, but his loving care and concern for all people caused local church and community leaders to call him “the community’s pastor” and “the shepherd of the hills.” His reference books were donated to Pembroke’s First UMC library, and to pastors throughout the Virginia Conference who expressed an interest in them... much to the chagrin of his son who had to carry the boxes to the car.

Rev. Kelley loved God and His people with a special emphasis on little children and those who may be hungry; significant donations were received and have been distributed to local organizations in his memory. The colorful birds, squirrels, deer, rabbits and God’s other “critters” that came to visit him each day now come to comfort his family.

John B. Morris, 1950 – 2013

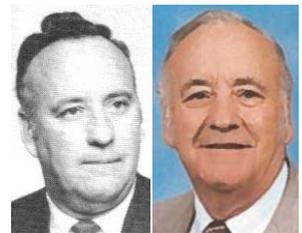
The Rev. John B. Morris, 63, of Williamsburg, passed away on Nov. 13, 2013. Morris graduated from William & Mary, and went on to Duke Divinity School, where he graduated with his Masters in Divinity. He served as minister in 12 churches for more than 40 years in Virginia and in North Carolina. He loved helping and blessing people. He loved his grandchildren, and his family remembers his sense of humor, and how much he loved to learn and teach. He gave his time to hospice organizations in Williamsburg, where he received one of the first awards for Spiritual Advisor.



Rev. Morris is survived by his wife of 35 years, Bettie Morris; children, John T. Morris (Laura), Jennie Morris Martin, David B. Morris, and Ellie Morris; grandchildren, Amber, Chase, Dane, Olivia, and Xavier; parents, Barry and Betty Morris; brothers, Howell Morris (Laurie) and David Morris (Deirdre); sister, Lee Anne Saslavski (David) and a large extended family.

Robert Fletcher Hardy, III, 1922 – 2013

R. Fletcher Hardy III, my daddy and the pastor of my growing up years, was born in Chester in 1922. During his childhood, the family followed his father’s railroad jobs, moving from place to place. They settled in the Brosville community, near Danville. Dad met the love of his life, Ann Arnn, and after he returned from World War II, they married in 1946.



When the call to full time pastoral ministry came, he and Mom moved to Wilmore, Ky., to attend Asbury College then Asbury Theological Seminary. During his seminary years, he pastored Rock Bridge Methodist Church and People’s Chapel. He completed seminary then returned to the Virginia Conference and was ordained Elder in 1957. He served a variety of parishes. He started his ministry in a five point charge, served as a Conference Evangelist, and even served the same appointment twice. His appointments included: Oakland (Dry Fork), Stokesland (Danville), Locust Grove (Salem), Fox Hill Central (Hampton), Madison Heights (Madison Heights), Pleasant Grove (Figgsboro), and Harmony (Cascade).

Dad deeply loved people and followed Jesus’ example of meeting needs wherever he encountered them. He often brought strangers into our home offering a meal and a place to sleep. He provided meaningful work and a safe place of recovery for many people working through difficult life journeys.

Dad loved to preach and felt a special call to evangelism. He preached many revivals in churches all over Virginia and across the Southeast. He was also deeply committed to challenging people to deepen their faith through Bible study, prayer and service to others. He was instrumental in equipping many men and women to answer God’s call to full time ministry.

Dad’s work with a retreat center in the Blue Ridge Mountains, grew from his commitment to nurture believers in their faith. He envisioned a place where children, young people and adults could all could

rest in the beauty of God's creation and nurture their faith through conferences, retreats, and camps. Dad invited others to join in this work and Higher Ground Christian Retreat Center took shape. While continuing to serve pastorates, Dad recruited family and friends to give resources and labor to develop this ministry. As a result of my father's faithfulness, Higher Ground Christian Retreat Center still exists in ministry today.

Above all, Dad was committed to his family. Mom and Dad raised seven children together. We all knew that Dad loved us deeply. He supported our dreams and helped us achieve them. He and Mom celebrated with us when life brought great joy and walked with us through our most unimaginable sorrow. We always knew they were praying for us every day and ready to help us in any way they could. As their health began to fade and we stayed with them each night, bedtime always meant hymn singing and prayer for all the concerns of the family and close friends. He died Nov. 21, 2013.

Robert Fletcher Hardy leaves behind a legacy of deep love for God, for his family and for The United Methodist Church. —Submitted by Margaret Hardy Snider

Anderson Davidson "A.D." Goodson, 1923 – 2013

Anderson D. "A.D." Goodson, born Aug. 8, 1923, in Ward, W.Va., son of a coal miner, slipped away to join the Army at 16 with a friend. His basic training was in Fort Knox, Ky., and he was then sent to Valparaiso, Ind., for instruction to be a telegraph operator. He was shipped overseas to Ireland on the Queen Mary, and then to North Africa, where he served until his hearing was damaged by the bombing. He returned to the states hoping to be employed by the railroad but it was not possible because of his hearing impairment, so he enrolled in West Virginia Tech and graduated with a BS in teaching. He was employed by Webster County School System. Due to Betty's health problems, he returned to Oak Hill, W.Va., where he opened a cabinet shop. It was during this time a teaching position opened at the Miller School of Albemarle, outside of Charlottesville, and due to difficulty in obtaining materials for cabinet-making, he decided to take the teaching position which included teaching a Bible class.



While there, he attended and joined Batesville United Methodist Church, started speaking in church and became interested in becoming more than a layman. During this time, our daughter, Kim, was born, and to add to this excitement, a door opened for A.D. to become a pastor on the Flint Hill Circuit.

This was just the beginning of the many churches he would serve, such as the First Church in Charlottesville as the director of youth work, pastor in Nelson County, Clarksville, Lawrenceville, Front Royal, Hampton, Franklin and Mecklenburg County, serving two churches—Providence and Trinity. At each of the churches he served he made improvements, as it was his joy to leave every place better than when he came, whether it be in remodeling, building a parsonage, making crosses, building a communion table and cabinets, just to name a few.

A.D. had a great love for God, his family, his country and everyone from all walks of life. He had many God-given talents and hobbies such as teaching, preaching, carpentry, golf club making, gardening and artistry which opened up so many doors for him, and he met so many wonderful people. To know him was to love him. One of A.D.'s greatest joys was to see and be part of individuals becoming lay leaders or entering the ministry. He had bragging rights on several. He considered Rev. Thomas T. Markham Jr. to be his "first son" in ministry.

Getting older with bone and skin problems slowed his actions, but he continued to be jolly, enjoyed the church, civic activities, Chamber of Commerce, the American Legion and parades.

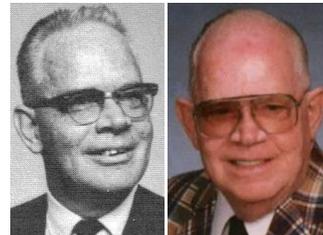
A life story seen through the eyes of wife, Betty, wishing to say thanks to all friends who helped him in his life adventures in Virginia Conference, the American Legion, and all who crossed paths with him.

Love of God's great blessing for all.

Rev. Goodson is survived by his wife of 66 years, Betty Fisher Goodson; his daughter, Kim Goodson Clary, and her husband, Ed, of South Hill; a sister, Gloria Webb, of West Virginia; and two grandsons: Mike Clary and wife, Jennifer of Church Road; Dane Clary and wife, Shelley, and great-granddaughter, Kinley, of Bedford.

James Walker Unruh, 1923 – 2013

The Rev. James Walker Unruh died on Dec. 4, 2013, in his home in Blackstone. He was a Methodist minister in the Virginia Conference for 40 years. Unruh was a graduate of Randolph-Macon College in Ashland and Union Theological Seminary in Richmond. He was also a veteran of World War II. Rev. Unruh was born in Richmond on Nov. 6, 1923. His parents were the Rev. John Garland Unruh and Elsie Murry.



He is survived by: his wife of 62 years, Anne Temple Unruh; and his two children, James Walker Unruh Jr. of Chapel Hill, N.C. and LuAnne Unruh of Louisa. He was predeceased by his two brothers, John Garland Unruh and the Rev. Oliver Murry Unruh.

Rogers Staton Laudermilk, 1937 – 2013

Rogers Laudermilk was born Feb. 4, 1937, in Covington. He graduated from Covington High School in 1956 when he then moved to Waynesboro to work at the General Electric plant, where he worked for several years, during which time he and Katherine were married. He also worked in automobile sales before beginning a successful career in real estate until being called to the ministry.



Rogers and Katherine were members of Calvary UMC in Stuarts Draft, where Rogers was active teaching Sunday School. During this time, he felt a desire to serve others and answered his call to ministry. The Rev. Buddy Wright helped guide Rogers through the process.

Rogers was licensed to preach in September of 1974 and ordained a deacon June 14, 1977, by Bishop Kenneth Goodson. He attended and completed course of study at Duke Divinity School, then attended Ferrum College and transferred to Longwood College, where he earned degrees in history and education. Rogers was ordained elder June 18, 1990, by Bishop Tom Stockton. Rogers began serving in the Staunton District and over his career served the Farmville, Harrisonburg, Danville, and Winchester Districts. He retired in 1996.

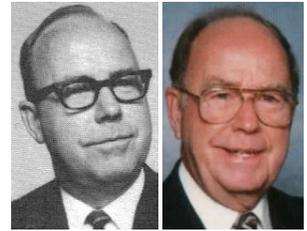
Rogers enjoyed music and singing with his son and granddaughter. He always said music was just as important in worship as the preaching. He was also a great storyteller and gave many memorable sermons. Rogers was always involved in building projects and ministered to Brown Chapel in the Farmville District when their church was destroyed by a fire. He also served on the Camp Overlook Board of Directors. Rogers knowledge of the Bible was amazing. He enjoyed teaching Bible studies and mentoring others into ministry.

Rogers was also involved in emergency services beginning in Waynesboro in the 1960s and continued that work serving with the Buckingham Volunteer Rescue Squad as well as a member of the Stephen City Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company. He had an interest in amateur radio holding a general license with the FCC, call sign W4CK4. He enjoyed history of all kinds as well as the outdoors. He loved hiking, camping and taking long walks.

A celebration of life service was held at Little Mountain UMC in Frederick County, and a committal service followed in the Little Mountain Cemetery.

Henry S. Moody, Jr., 1926 - 2014

Henry S. Moody, Jr., born on Jan. 22, 1926, and died on Jan. 13, 2014. He was the second of five children born to Henry S. Moody Sr. and Louise Childress Moody in Richmond. Educated in Richmond Public Schools, he graduated from John Marshall High School in 1943. He volunteered for military service in the Army Air Corps. Henry had a love for flying and wanted to become a pilot. Because of an abundance of pilots, he was trained to be a gunner on a B-17 bomber. His size designated him to be a ball turret gunner. After 35 missions over Germany, he returned home. The war ended soon after. Henry took advantage of the G.I. Bill and attended the University of Richmond, majoring in accounting and business. While still in school, he was married to Marion MacMillan on June 4, 1949. They had met at their home church, Berryman. They were soon blessed with two girls.



After graduation, Henry went to work for Esso Standard Oil for eight years. He learned to fly and purchased a plane with a friend and played semi-pro baseball. Near the end of the eighth year with Esso, Henry felt God's call to quit his job and study for the ministry. He was obedient, after a struggle of about three months. He entered Union Theological Seminary in Richmond and received his degree.

Henry's first appointment was to Central Chapel, now Huguenot Road UMC, Richmond District. His assignment was to survey the Bon Air area for a new church. His next appointment was to St. Matthews in Goochland County. From there he moved east of Richmond to Willis Church in Glendale. His next appointment was to Mount Pleasant in Roanoke. He was then sent to the Harrisonburg District to serve Evangelical in Elkton. From there he went to Sledd Memorial in Danville. After that, he returned to the Roanoke District to serve Central UMC in Salem, where he retired in 1991. Immediately after retiring, Henry was asked to serve Locust Grove for 10 months. It was a pleasant time in spite of his being in the mood for retirement.

Henry will be remembered for his great love for Jesus and his close walk with the Holy Spirit. His love for his family and his flock, his generosity, as well as his humility, endeared him to so many people. Many have said that they could see Jesus in him. He loved life and had a great sense of humor.

Henry is survived by Marion, his wife of 64 and a half years; daughters, Beth E. Moody and Christy M. Davis and her husband, Wayne; their sons, Cameron, Andrew, and Corbin and his wife, Deborah Davis. He is also survived by two of his sisters, Genevieve Long and Sandra Richardson, and his brother, Ronald H. Moody. A memorial service was held on Jan. 17, 2014, at Central UMC in Salem. The Rev. Kristen Holbrook used many of the words that Henry himself had written for his own service, inspiring others to be more loving and humble. Even in his death, just as in his life, Henry wanted Glory to be given to God, not to Henry Moody. Praise God!

William F. Quillian, Jr., 1913 – 2014

Dr. William F. Quillian, Jr., died March 4, 2014, at Westminster-Canterbury where he and his wife have lived since 2003. He was born on April 13, 1913, in Nashville, Tenn. His parents were Dr. and Mrs. William F. Quillian. His father was a Methodist minister whose career was mostly in educational (president of Wesleyan College in Georgia) and church administrative positions. He had one sister, Christine Quillian Searcy, whose husband, Dr. Hubert F. Searcy, was president of Huntingdon College.



Dr. Quillian graduated from Emory University with the A.B. degree. He continued study at Yale University, receiving the B.D. and Ph.D. degrees. He was awarded the Day Fellowship by Yale, enabling him to spend a year in study at Edinburgh University in Scotland and at the University of Basel in Switzerland.

He has been awarded the following honorary degrees: LL.D from Ohio Wesleyan University, Hampden-Sydney College and Randolph-Macon College, Litt.D. from Emory University and L.H.D. from Randolph-Macon Woman's College.

He is survived by his wife of 74 years, Margaret Weigle Quillian, a Vassar graduate and the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Luther A. Weigle, her father having been formerly dean of the Yale Divinity School, and four children, William F. Quillian III (Tina) of Lynchburg; Anne Acree Quillian of Atlanta; Katherine Quillian Solberg (Terry) of Cody, Wyo.; and Robert M. Quillian (Sue) of Olympia, Wash. Also surviving are a niece, Jane Searcy Sheffield, eight grandchildren: Laura, Quint, Adam, Teague, Kimberly, Mary, Joshua and Elizabeth, and five step-grandchildren: Chris, Craig, Dawn, Eric and Grant—along with numerous great-grandchildren and step great-grandchildren and one step great-grandchild.

An ordained United Methodist minister, Dr. Quillian's career was mostly in education. He began his career in education as assistant professor and then professor of Philosophy at Gettysburg College from 1941 to 1945. In 1945 he was appointed professor of Philosophy at Ohio Wesleyan University. In 1952 he became president of Randolph-Macon Woman's College, now known as Randolph College, a position which he held until retirement in 1978.

Following retirement, he accepted employment as senior vice president in what was then Central Fidelity Bank (now Wells Fargo Bank), a position which he held for 10 years. Immediately upon retiring from the bank position, he was appointed the first executive director of the Greater Lynchburg Community Trust. He served in that position for 10 years, retiring again in 1998.

Throughout his career he was active in civic and philanthropic endeavors; positions held included president and director of the Greater Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce; board member, president and campaign chair of the United Way of Central Virginia; director of the Lynchburg General Marshall Lodge Hospital; director and president of the Lynchburg Fine Arts Center; president of Point of Honor, Inc.; director of the Lynchburg Museum System, of Family Services of Central Virginia, of the Lynchburg Metropolitan Red Cross Chapter, and of the Adult Care Center; Member of the Development Advisory Committee of the Virginia Legal Aid Society; member and vice chair of the Board of Governors of the ATO Fraternity Foundation; and Director of The Westminster-Canterbury Foundation.

Other recognitions and awards include The Jackson Davis Award for Distinguished Service to Higher Education given by the Virginia Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (1979); The Brotherhood Citation from the National Conference of Christians and Jews (1972); The "Dink" Cloyd Award for Service to The Greater Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce (1987); The United Way's Virginia Whitehouse Award for Outstanding Community Service (1992); The Hunton YMCA's Distinguished Community Service Award (1992); The Greater Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce's Pro Opera Civica Award (1992); the 1989 Governor's Award for Volunteering Excellence; The Mayor's Award of Excellence (2001); and the Greater Lynchburg Community Trust Quillian Award, established in 2011 with Dr. Quillian as first recipient.

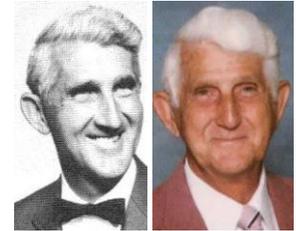
Quillian was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Omicron Delta Kappa, the American Philosophical Association, the American Academy of Religion, the Society for Values in Higher Education, and the American Association of University Professors. Publications included *The Moral Theory of Evolutionary Naturalism* (Yale Press, 1945), *Evolutionary Thought in America* (Yale Press, 1950), *Voices from R-MWC* (Warwick House Publishers, 2010), and numerous articles for philosophical, educational and religious journals.

The recreational love of Dr. Quillian's life was the game of golf, at which he was, if not the best, at least the most persistent in striving to shoot his age, which, but for knee and hip problems in his later years, would no doubt have been another of his accomplishments.

No one had ever met him who was not immediately drawn to him because of his natural charm and grace. His love for his family, college and community was deep and abiding, and he lived by the principle that doing the right thing in all situations was not simply the correct choice, but the only choice. In the words of Cab Calloway, like Minnie, Dr. Quillian “had a heart as big as a whale.”

Thomas Robert Boggs, 1924 – 2014

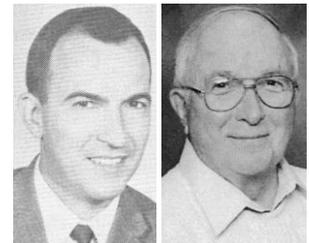
The Rev. Thomas R. Boggs, 89, died March 8, 2014 in Lynchburg. He served in World War II, receiving two Purple Hearts in battle. Born in Bret, W. Va., he began his ministry in West Virginia in 1958 serving five churches. He moved on to North Carolina, then in 1966 came to Virginia. He received his education at West Virginia University, Chicago Evangelist Institute, Louisburg College, Ferrum College and a four-year course of study at Duke University. He was ordained deacon in 1961, elder in 1963 and associate member in 1969.



Serving the Lord was the love of his life. He asked me to go with him to preach Sunday, a couple of weeks before his death. He had finished preparing a sermon to preach. The second love of his life was golf. He and the Rev. Ed McClain were partners for 25 years. Both were very good. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, in 30 years of marriage, both serving their lives together in the service of our Lord. Tom felt retirement meant to keep on working at what he loved most by taking on a part-time appointment. He loved life. —Submitted by his wife, Elizabeth Boggs

William Henry Smith, 1927 – 2014

The Rev. William H. Smith, 87, of Appomattox, died March 19th, 2014. He was born in Dayton, Ohio on March 3, 1927, of the late Mary Elizabeth (Edwards) and William Henry Smith, Sr. A Navy veteran, he served in World War II aboard the USS Walter X Young. After attending seminary at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, William founded and served as minister at Sleepy Hollow Community Church in Falls Church from 1953-1965. After working in education and human resources for several years, William returned to the ministry in 1988 as pastor at New Hope UMC until his retirement in 1992.



He was predeceased by his wife, Dorothy, in 2006. He is survived by his sister, Helen Armentrout (Lewis) of Timberville, his children, Michael (Debbie), Sue (Buck), Timothy and Jennifer, ten grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

Ralph J. Wimmer, Sr., 1921 – 2014

The Rev. Ralph J. Wimmer, Sr., loving husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather, 92, of Boones Mill, died March 25, 2014. He was born Dec. 19, 1921, to the late Claude A. and Nellie M. Wimmer. He was also preceded in death by his sisters, Frances White, Helen Reid and Margaret Nolan; and brother, Carl Wimmer. Ralph was a graduate of Jefferson High School, received a Bachelor's degree from Roanoke College, a Master's degree in Education from Virginia Tech, a Master's Degree in History from Radford College and completed the course of study for the UMC through correspondence and attended Duke Divinity School.

Ralph Served his country in World War II as a member of the United States Army. He taught in Roanoke City School System, was a professor of American History at Ferrum College for 35 years, served as chaplain in the Boones Mill Lions Club. He was also a photographer at many weddings over the years and enjoyed taking photographs of his family, which are a treasure. One of his favorite hobbies was being a beekeeper, locally known as Ralph's Honey, which many felt was the best honey in Franklin County. Ralph also loved driving for Abbott Bus for several years. He and Dot took several trips around the United States during his time as a driver.

Ralph was known to so many people as an United Methodist minister, having served Bent Mountain, Catawba, McDonald, Shiloh, New Hope and for 35 years at Boones Mill UMC. He was also a member of Isaacs Lodge #29 AF & AM of Boones Mill, Raised to Master Mason in 1965, was Worshipful Master of Isaacs Lodge #29 AF & AM in 1970 and 1997, District Deputy of 39th Masonic District in 1975 and Grand Master of Masons of Virginia in 1984. He was a member of Roanoke Valley Shrine Club, member of Kazim Shrine for 45 years and he was a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason and Past Master. He was a member of Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Virginia.

Ralph is survived by his wife of 65 years, Dorothy B. Wimmer; their children, Ralph Julian Wimmer Jr., and his wife, Claire; Jeanne Wimmer Banks and her husband, Marshall; Cyndee Wimmer Holland; Sandra Wimmer Funk and her husband, Tim; son-in-law, Dennis Holland. He is also survived by eight grandchildren, Jennifer Cribbs (Wayne), Jason Wimmer (fiancée Katie), Miranda Banks, Joshua Banks, Mariah Banks, Cole Holland, Carrie Holland, Sarah Funk; two great-grandchildren, Madison Cribbs and Jordan Cribbs.

The family would like to offer special thanks to Tim Funk, his son-in-law, dear friend and caregiver for Ralph, to the personnel at Pheasant Ridge Nursing and Rehab Center who were so kind to Ralph and his family during his brief stay there, hospital personnel at Carilion Franklin Memorial Hospital and Roanoke Memorial Hospital, and to the members of the Boones Mill Volunteer Rescue Squad.

Ralph was a wonderful and loving husband and father and his whole family will miss him so much. The family takes comfort knowing that he lived a wonderful and full 92 years of life and that he is now in Heaven with his parents and siblings and with his heavenly Father. It is also a comfort that he is no longer suffering, but has been made whole again.

Patricia M. Bain, 1942 – 2014

The Rev. Patricia M. Bain, 71, of Norfolk, died March 31, 2014. Pat was a graduate of Radford College, Hollins College and Wesley Theological Seminary. Throughout that time, she was a wife and mother of three children. She was always active in The United Methodist Church and raised her children with solid beliefs. Pat served in many capacities, from preschool teacher to Sunday School teacher, to youth group organizer. Pat took groups of kids to places they had never been, including skiing at Massanutten and Holy Land USA with the YACS (Youth Active in Christian Service) program. She was active in women's groups and often volunteered within community organizations.



Pat was briefly sidetracked when she was diagnosed with lymphoma, a type of cancer, in 1989. Throughout the course of her treatment, which included chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant, her faith never wavered. She obtained full remission and finished her education.

She was thrilled to begin her ministerial career in 1992 at Mount Carmel/Trinity/Millwood Charge in the Winchester District; followed by Gladys in the Lynchburg District; and Cumberland and North Amelia in the Farmville District. On those busy Sunday mornings when she had three services in three different places, she could be seen driving in full robe and sash all around town. Her kids called her the “flying minister.”

Easter was her favorite time of year. At her memorial service, her good friend Marj made a small wooden cross with chicken wire around it. This is something Pat would do for every Easter season. The wood and wire, usually around eight feet tall, would be on grand display in front of her churches, representing the Lenten season—a time of sadness, rough and dark. On Easter Sunday, Pat would provide cut flowers to the parishioners, and encourage them to place the flowers among the holes in the chicken wire. By the end of the day, the wooden cross was hidden, being reborn into a beautiful display of God's love.

Pat's health declined over the years, and she was placed on incapacity leave in 2003 and retired in 2008. She moved into the Lydia Roper Home in Norfolk, and was supported and assisted by their staff who helped to meet her needs.

Pat's youngest daughter, Cathy, lived nearby and always visited and took Pat out to do her favorite things—eat and shop! Pat also took great delight in spending time with Cathy's children, two young girls who could always get a laugh out of "Granny." Pat also enjoyed seeing her other children and five other grandchildren, especially at Christmas when everyone would get together to visit. Pat had a host of friends, all of whose lives she greatly affected.

Her two best friends, Marj and Sylvia, played a constant role in Pat's life over a more than 20-year span. Pat was always bragging about going out with them, to special places like Busch Gardens and their favorite restaurant, Mi Hogar. Her friend Ted always helped when he could, with a ride around town, or picking up her favorite things. Her friend Barb took her to church and her women's group. Pat touched so many in her lifetime, and her spirit continues to be present with all who knew and loved her. A celebration of life service was held April 5 in Norfolk.

Ralph Edelle Monroe, 1928 – 2014

The Rev. Ralph Edelle Monroe, a retired United Methodist minister from Sharpsburg, Md., had fought with failing health for a decade and finally succumbed and went home to be with Heavenly Father on April 6, 2014, in Richmond. He was 85.

Monroe served the West Virginia, Virginia Conference and Baltimore-Washington conferences over more than six decades in the ministry. Any task which Rev. Monroe was given he carried out with dignity and professional ability. In his retirement years he volunteered his service as clergy for the Washington County Maryland Hospital Association, and provided historical information to the Tolson's UMC Chapel Restoration Project.

Tolson's Chapel is a historic African-American church located in Sharpsburg and the boyhood church of Rev. Monroe. It is also a place of site-seeing near the Antietam Battlefield. Rev. Monroe was dedicated to both the church and the community his intelligence and charisma won for him friends in all walks of life. Monroe is preceded in death by a daughter, Sara Avon Monroe, and son, Thomas Robert Monroe. He is survived by his wife, Louise McCann Monroe, a daughter, Michelle Monroe-Willis, son-in-law Charles Willis, and one dog grandson Charleston of Chester, Virginia. He also has several nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and colleagues who will be missing him.

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 2 Timothy 4:7.

Margaret L. "Peg" Mitchell, 1947 – 2014

Pastor Margaret "Peg", retired Elder, died April 15, 2014 at home in Alexandria. A celebration of life service was April 25 also in Alexandria. Peg Mitchell was born in Cleveland, Ohio on November 13, 1947 to Glenn and Mildred Nottingham. She graduated from Sharpsville Joint High School in 1965. She received a BA in Library Science from Slippery Rock State University in Slippery Rock, Pa., in 1972. She attended a summer filmmaking program at New York University in the class of 1975. She was ordained deacon in 1998. She attended Virginia Union University Theological Seminary in Richmond, earning a Master's of Divinity in 2004. She served the God she loved 15 years in the ministry including: Pine Grove/Wesley Chapel UMC in Winchester, the Warren Charge in Front Royal and the Axton Charge in Martinsville.



In 2007 she had to go out on medical disability and in 2013, she retired and was looking forward to spending more time with family. She was hosting a Bible study at the retirement community where she was living, continuing to bring the word of God to many people.

Peg was a great woman and knew how to bring people to the Lord. She will be missed and heaven has certainly gained an angel. She is survived by children: Tessa (and husband Kevin) Sanborn of Springfield and Clayton (and wife Anita) Mitchell of Alexandria. She is survived by five grandchildren: Christopher, Cassidy, Bethany, Abigail and Hannah. Memorials were asked to be given to churches in Peg's honor.

Walter Roberts “Bob” McIvor, 1946 – 2014

Walter Roberts (Bob) McIvor was born June 15, 1946, in Petersburg to Roberts and Sylvia McIvor. He attended a few years in the Petersburg school system and then his family, which now included his sister Kathryn, moved to Dinwiddie County where he graduated from Dinwiddie County High School.



During his youth he received and accepted a call to the ministry. He attended Randolph-Macon College and graduated in 1968 with a Bachelor of Arts. Bob then went to Georgia to attend Candler School of Theology at Emory University, where he graduated with a Masters of Divinity in 1971. While attending Candler, he met Suzanne Tapley, whom he married in June 1970.

The first year of marriage he served a student appointment in Suwanee and then came to the Virginia Conference after graduation and served his first appointment—the Surry Charge. He served other churches and in 1974 and 1978 their sons, Matthew and Jonathan, were born. In 1979, Bob joined the Navy as a chaplain. After serving at sea, on shore with the Marines, and overseas for three years, he retired from the Navy in 1994. He then served local churches in the Virginia Conference before his retirement from the conference.

Bob had an intuitive mind and a sense of humor that served him well in counseling and in preaching. He cared very much about those he served and preached the gospel in an eloquent manner. He served on the Board of Ordained Ministry and took this position very seriously. He was a builder; the education building at Beech Grove UMC in Suffolk was built during his pastorate.

Bob died on April 15, 2014, after a lengthy illness that he endured with grace and dignity.
—Submitted by Suzanne McIvor

Dermont James Reid, 1920 – 2014

The Rev. Dermont James Reid, 93, died April 20, 2014. He was born on July 3, 1920, in Thomasville, N.C., to the late Hugh and Emma Reid and grew up in Burlington. He was predeceased by a son, Kenneth David Reid. He is survived by his loving wife of 70 years, Tennie P. Reid; a daughter, Carol R. Ward and her husband Rudy; granddaughters, Christina Ward Sulzer, and her husband Tom, and Carrley Reid Norton and her husband Ryan; and his great-grandchildren, Hudson and Ann Harper Sulzer and Brody Norton.



After graduating from high school, he served in the U.S. Air Force before starting his quest to become a Methodist minister. He obtained a B. S. degree from Elon University and a degree in Divinity from Duke University. Before graduating from Duke, he started his career in Haw River, N.C. After graduating, he served churches in Elizabeth City, Burlington, Laurinburg, Henderson and Greenville in North Carolina; Wichita, Kansas; and Red Wood and Staunton in Virginia before retiring. After retiring, he and Tennie returned to Burlington.

James Kermit Meadows, 1939 – 2014

James Kermit Meadows, 74, of Mocksville, N.C., died Wednesday, April 23, 2014, at his home. A native of Raleigh County, W.Va., he was born May 1, 1939, to the late James O. Meadows, Jr., and Marjorie Moody Meadows. He was a graduate of Stoco High School



in Coal City and St. Leo College. He had been a resident of Davie County in North Carolina since 2002, was a member of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church, and attended Hardison United Methodist Church.

He served proudly for 20 years in the United States Air Force, achieving the rank of Senior Master Sergeant. Following his military career, he worked in an administrative capacity with the U.S. government until his retirement in 1995. He retired in order to answer the Lord's call to become a United Methodist minister. He served five churches in the Staunton District. Although formally retired from the ministry since 2002, he continued to serve the Lord through his daily activities. At the time of his death, he was employed by the Davie County school system.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife of 56 years, to whom he was totally dedicated, two sons, one daughter, eight grandchildren, as well as other extended family members. He loved God, his country and his family to the nth degree. He was a role model to many. Loved by all who knew him. His physical presence will be missed but he will never ever be forgotten as he was simply "a good man."

Dale M. Wilson, 1932 – 2014

The Rev. Dale M. Wilson, 81, died April 29, 2014, at Heritage Pointe, Warren, Ind. He was born in Richmond, Ind., the son of the late, Harmon and Nellie (Beasley) White and was later adopted by Marion and Florence (Harris) Wilson. He graduated from Richmond High School (class of 51), went on to earn his Bachelor's degree from Oakland City University and Master's degree from Christian Theological Seminary. On July 3, 1960, he married Patricia Ottinger, in Indianapolis.



Rev. Wilson was a pastor with the Northern Indiana and Virginia Conferences of the United Methodist Church after beginning with EUB churches. He was also a healthcare chaplain at St. Mary's Hospital in Richmond, Va., and Nanticoke Memorial Hospital in Seaford, Del.

Survivors include his wife of 53 years, Patricia Wilson, a son, Nathan, of Arlington; a daughter Kathryn Conley, Mechanicsville; two grandchildren, Kathryn (Kacy) Marine, and Samantha Conley; a brother Howard White; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers, Lowell White, Kenneth White, Ron Wilson and a sister Betty Mitchell.

He was a kind and jolly man who persevered to complete his goals in life.

Charles Ashby Shumate, 1961 – 2013

The Rev. Charles "Chuck" Ashby Shumate was the oldest son of Carolyn and David Shumate. Chuck planned to be a doctor and his siblings Tammy and Mike were shocked that he switched to ministry. His grandmother was praying for a preacher in the family and was thrilled. Chuck married the love of his life, Joyce. Their love and family quickly grew, giving birth to five daughters in six years. Chuck and the Shumate family served seven appointments in the Virginia Conference: Asbury Memorial: Bachelors Hall, Oak Hall Charge: Oak Hall, Fairview: Lynchburg, Amelon: Madison Heights, Morrison: Newport News, Market Street in Onancock and Haygood, Virginia Beach.



In 2013, Chuck was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer. When he found out he was dying one of the first things he said was, "This might mean I get to meet my Maker in whom I've professed my faith a little sooner." Chuck lived every moment to the fullest, playing with his grandchildren, watching the sunsets, harvesting vegetables from his gardening, eating cupcakes, and always finding a way to make others laugh. Even in moments of great pain, he would respond to the question, "How are you?" by saying, "So far so good!"

Charles dedicated his life to serving the Lord. He was an amazing husband, father, and pastor. Chuck was an amazing person who knew how to dream big, love deeply, and give selflessly. He lives on through his loving wife of 32 years, Joyce; his daughters: Sherri, Kimberly, Jennifer, Chrystal, Heather; sons-in-law: Dan, Matt, Mark, Brendan; grandchildren: Joey, Bradley, Riley, Maggie, Zoey; siblings Tammy and Mike, and an amazing group of extended family and friends.

Kenneth Julius Jackson, 1951 – 2014

Kenneth Julius Jackson was born Jan. 12, 1951 in Greenville, S.C. Ken was the second of five children born to James and Phyllis Jackson. During his early years he lived with his parents and four siblings, his aunt and uncle and their six children and his maternal grandparents. He attended St. Anthony's Catholic School and Joseph E. Beck High School. He was a member of John Wesley United Methodist Church in Greenville.



After graduating from high school, Ken attended South Carolina State University, where he played the tuba in the marching band, one year traveling to California to play in the Tournament of Roses Parade. He was also played on the Jazz Band and travelled to Mexico. He was a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. He graduated from college in 1973 and moved to Roanoke to work as the District Executive for the Boys Scouts of America. In 1976 he transferred to Northern Virginia to become the District Executive for the Alexandria District. It was through the Boy Scouts that he met Gail Bell, who was in charge of youth programs for Hopkins House.

Ken was fond of telling how he met Gail on Monday and asked her to marry him on Thursday of the same week. They were married in July, 1977. Their first child, Elizabeth, was born in September, 1978.

During the next year Ken decided to answer his call to the ministry and enrolled in Wesley Seminary in Washington, D.C. During seminary, Ken served two student pastor appointments, working with the youth at Washington Plaza Baptist Church and Herndon United Methodist Church. After graduating from seminary Ken was appointed to serve Asbury UMC in Newport News, Virginia. He was ordained an elder in 1984. Christopher and Kara were born during his tenure in Newport News. In 1987 the family moved to Highland Park in Richmond. In 1990 Ken was appointed to Franconia UMC. In 1994 Ken became the superintendent of the Lynchburg District. In 2001 the family moved back to Northern Virginia where he served as senior pastor of St. Matthews. In 2010 Ken was appointed as the District Superintendent of the Alexandria District.

During his ministry Ken served on the following conference committees: Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc., Joint Committee on Review, was Chair, Commission on Religion and Race, Board of Ordained Ministry and Conference Council on Finance and Administration. Ken was a General Conference delegate in 1996, 2000 and 2004, a Southeastern Conference Jurisdictional delegate in 1996, 2000 and 2004, and an alternate SEJ delegate in 1992, 2008 and 2012. Ken's always ended his sermons with "And all God's children say Amen."

Cheryl Lynn Simmons, 1955 – 2014

Cheryl was born Dec. 14, 1955, to Thomas and Betty Simmons in Baton Rouge, La. Her father, who passed away six months before her death, was a retiree from the United States Navy. Cheryl went to her heavenly home on March 22, 2014. She is survived by her mother, Betty and sister, Terri Cook and husband John. Cheryl accepted Christ as her Savior and was baptized when she was eight years of age. She was dedicated to her calling to serve the lord. She loved people and especially children, and recalled often their dedication and baptism.



Cheryl graduated from Bayside High School in Virginia Beach. She went to Louisiana College and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Music, Summa Cum Laude. She then went to the University of

Louisville in Kentucky to work on her Masters in Music. She attended one year and felt the call to go into the ministry. She graduated from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville with a Master of Divinity in Religious Education. After seminary she was a Baptist Student Union intern in Roanoke. While there she was ordained by the Calvary Baptist Church in 1982. She served two Baptist Churches as an associate: First Baptist in Waynesboro and Vienna Baptist in Vienna. She then served as associate pastor at Arlington UMC in Arlington. On June 12, 2000, she was recognized by the Virginia Conference as an elder. She served Bethlehem in Unionville, Salem, Rhoadesville, Community in Virginia Beach, Central in Hampton, First UMC Fox Hill and West End in Portsmouth.

Cheryl was recognized five years in Outstanding Women of America. Her life bore witness to her dedication to the Lord and to the people to whom she ministered. She was a caring and generous person. She served on the Ethics Committee and was chair of the Virginia Annual Conference Planning Committee. Emmaus weekends were very special times for her. She is greatly missed by her family and all who loved her. God saw fit to take Cheryl to be with Him at an early age, but her legacy will live on for many years in the lives she touched. Our loss is heaven's gain.

Mary Margaret Cook Jones, 1959 – 2014

On Good Friday, Mary Margaret Cook Jones, pastor of Motley and New Bethel Churches in Hurt, died in the parsonage she loved amid the community she cherished and felt called to serve. Mary is survived by spouse Dale; sons Matthew and Mark, and Mark's wife Jen; mother Margaret "Peggy" Cook; sisters Colleen Hewitt, Bonnie Cook, and Rebecca Miller; and numerous other family members.



Mary was an active member of St. Luke UMC in Lexington, Ky., when God called her to full-time ministry. She enrolled in Lexington Theological Seminary and in 1994 graduated from Asbury Theological Seminary. In late 1995, she moved to Virginia Beach to become director of Christian Education at Thalia UMC. In 1997 she was consecrated as a diaconal minister in the Virginia Conference.

Mary's ministry at Thalia was appreciated by those within and beyond the congregation; in 1999 she became minister of Outreach at Virginia Beach UMC. In 2000 she was ordained deacon. At Virginia Beach UMC, Mary developed a singles ministry, worked with the evangelism team and other committees, did counseling and had primary responsibility for cultivating new members. She met with new or prospective members, led classes in basic Christianity, and conducted new member orientations, helping those unfamiliar with United Methodism understand the UMC. Bob Cofield, senior pastor for four of Mary's 10 years at Virginia Beach, noted that "Mary could identify with the youth of the church as easily as she could with the older members." Bob remembers Mary as a team player and "a very caring person who wanted to make sure that she provided a meaningful ministry for the members of the church she served. She felt that if the staff could not work together effectively, then how could we expect the members of the church to do so." Always an avid animal lover, Mary volunteered at the local animal shelter and occasionally adopted homeless pets. She also helped with Emmaus and Chrysalis retreats, was a counselor with Tidewater Pastoral Counseling, and wrote some articles for the Virginia United Methodist Advocate.

In 2009, Mary was appointed as pastor of the New Bethel/Motley Charge. The Rev. Larry Davies, Mary's district superintendent, remembers getting lost taking Mary to the two churches. "Mary simply laughed and took it all in stride." With her first visit, she had a strong sense of God's call to these churches and their community, affirmed by her DS: "She knew God called her to serve New Bethel UMC and Motley UMC on the Lynchburg District, and she served them both with gusto. Not only did all the church members know who she was, the whole community got to know her quickly. She had a huge heart for people, whether they were members or not and she was known as the 'Pastor who cares.' If you didn't see her personally, you would soon hear from her on Facebook."

Mary's second year and the first part of her third year at Motley/New Bethel were complicated by cancer surgery, radiation and chemotherapy. However, she missed only two Sundays during that time, continuing to preach, teach, baptize new Christians and receive new members, and leading New Bethel in constructing a long-discussed fellowship hall. Davies noted "even when she was sick and unable to visit, she kept up correspondence with everyone."

After a season of restored health, Mary's cancer returned with a disabling vengeance in 2013. Dick Daily, who stepped out of retirement to serve alongside Mary at Motley and New Bethel during the final year of her life, aptly described her: "Mary and I forged a strong and mutually-supportive bond in a very short time. That was easy with Mary; she would let you be yourself, love you for who you are, and help you walk in faith to reach your highest level of service. Though she was truly a 'country girl' at heart, she was comfortable in any crowd, but, by her own accounting, was best in one-on-one conversations. Mary was a terrific counselor, and through the years of her ministry in the Church she had a significant role in helping many individuals rise up out of adversity and find their God-directed path. Mary found her calling, and she invited others to discover theirs. Mary's greatest gift in ministry was her great capacity to love, which was also her greatest asset as a friend, colleague, wife, mother, daughter, sister and Soldier of the Cross. I use that last phrase to describe her because she showed us all how to live and how to die. She was one of the most devoted Christians that I have ever met...nothing phony or pretentious in her. She was humble, funny, told the truth, and held your hand and your heart. Like the many friends, colleagues, parishioners, and family, it was my great joy to have known, loved and been loved by Mary Jones." —Dale Jones, with Rev. Robert F. Cofield Jr., Rev. Larry E. Davies, and Dr. Richard A. Daily

Shirley Annette Pomeroy, 1949 - 2013

S. Annette Pomeroy was called home by her Lord and Savior on Aug. 6, 2013, at 64. She was born in Morgantown, W.Va., to Theda and Willis Pomeroy. Family was very important to her. Her daughter Sara-Ann Pomeroy was dearly loved. Annette also stayed close with her sister Donna Guseman, and brother Kent Pomeroy and their families. After teaching in West Virginia for a few years, S. Annette attended Duke University to acquire her Masters in Religious Education. She continued to seek knowledge and training throughout her life and acquired certifications in Older Adult Ministries and Accounting.



She served the Christian ministry as a Diaconal minister and Certified Director of Christian Education for 33 years in both the West Virginia and Virginia Conferences. Congregations served include St. Marks UMC and First UMC, Clarksburg in West Virginia, and Larchmont, Community, First UMC Newport News and Crenshaw in Blackstone. In retirement, S. Annette became an active member of Warwick Memorial UMC, Newport News.

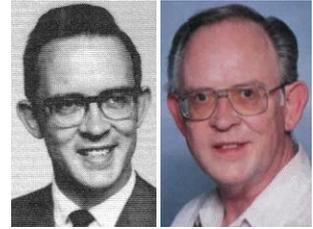
S. Annette was active on several committees and boards. These included the Virginia Conference Board of Ordained Ministry's Certification Committee, Peninsula District Committee on Ordained Ministry, the conference Board of Diaconal Ministry, Peninsula District Council on Ministry, and conference Christian Educators Fellowship.

S. Annette touched many lives throughout her life and work. She gave her life to her family and the service of the Lord. She is greatly missed by everyone she touched.

2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE⁴

Roger C. Balcom, 1936 - 2014

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

From the depths of your love, you give to us, A life so full and free.

You gave your life that we might live, Oh Lord...

The wealth that we have, the songs that we sing Our hearts, our lives, our everything,

We lift now, Oh Lord, to you. —Submitted by Carolyn Balcom and Roger's friend, Rev. Jim Truxell

⁴ Memoir not available at press time: Joon Sup Han, 1926 – 2014; Floyd A. Murphy, 1926 – 2014; Frankie L. Perdue, 1953 – 2015.

Sandra Stamey, 1943 - 2014

Reverend Sandra Hill Stamey, 70, went home to be with her Savior on June 19, 2014 after a very brief and sudden illness. She was born in Montgomery, Alabama on August 6, 1943, to J. B. and Margueritte Hill. She grew up in Alabama and attended Mississippi State College for Women before marrying David O'del Stamey on September 3, 1963. In college she studied journalism and was a member of the Reveler Social Club and the honor society, Lantern. While supporting her husband in his career, Sandy stayed home and raised their three children. She was always available to drive to soccer practice, drama rehearsal, or Girl Scouts. She served as Girl Scout leader for over 15 years as both her daughters participated. When the children were older, Sandra went back to school and obtained a Bachelor of Science, Magna Cum Laude, in Early Childhood Education from Texas Woman's University in December 1984.



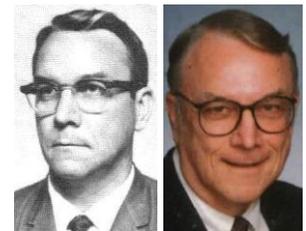
She was in her 50s when the Lord called her to be a pastor and she obeyed. She earned her Master of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington DC in May of 1997. She was ordained in the United Methodist Church, Virginia Annual Conference. She served as Associate Pastor at Herndon United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

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

She will be very missed until we join her in Heaven.

Clyde D. Nuckols, 1931 - 2014

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



Holley M. Hensley, 1918 - 2014

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



Clifford L. East, 1923 - 2014

The Rev. Clifford Lyle East, Jr., 91, of Harrisonburg, passed away Wednesday, July 09, 2014, at Harrisonburg Health and Rehabilitation Center. A son of the late Clifford and Bessie Dent East, he was born February 3, 1923 in Richmond.



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

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

Robert F. Newcomb, 1938 - 2014

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



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

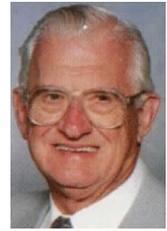
Robert was a devoted husband to his wife of 52 years, Sandra; loving father to his daughter Sandra Newcomb Weisman and husband Steven, and proud grandfather to his grandchildren: Alexander Lee and Elizabeth Rose Weisman.

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

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

John Staperton Davenport, 1925 - 2014

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



As part of his dedication to service and education, Rev. Davenport participated in special activities, which included travel with the Baptist World Alliance on a South America Tour in 1960. In 1965, Rev. Davenport traveled to the Holy Land and Europe, and once again, Rev. Davenport returned to the Holy Land in 1972, with the Missionary Journey of Paul and Holy Land Tour. For years to come, Rev. Davenport often spoke of these journeys with others, providing them with direction, insight, and enlightenment. In fact, following his regular service to the church, Rev. Davenport ministered as a guest speaker at many churches. At Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Rev. David Drinkard remembers Rev. Davenport's continued desire to share the word of the Bible, and minister to others. Rev. Davenport is remembered to having said to Rev. Drinkard, "God did not call me to retire. He called me to preach." Rev. Davenport's service was not only limited to the church. In 1943, Rev. Davenport worked with the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company in Raleigh, West Virginia, and in Beckley, West Virginia, in 1947. During his absence from the railway, Rev. Davenport served our nation during World War II in Europe as a Staff Sergeant in the United States Army.

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

Guy Benson Hamilton, 1944 - 2014

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



He met Cheryl in Hagerstown, Md., where she was attending college and where his platoon was at Camp David on TDY. They met on a blind date. They were married two years later. During their life together of 46 years, they lived in Alexandria, Herndon, Chantilly and Nokesville; until their retirement

in 2007 when they settled in Fairfield Glade, TN. Two sons were born—Guy Jr. in 1973 and Mark in 1982. Guy was so proud of them and loved them immensely. They enjoyed sports together and most particularly NASCAR. He was delighted to have two daughters-in-law and was very proud of his grandchildren: Cameron & Cassidy, Elizabeth & Benson.

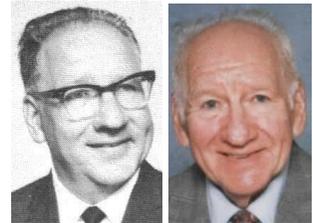
Guy was his happiest while serving Asbury UMC as its pastor for 15 years. He had a big heart for missions and headed up several mission trips to Haiti and WV. He was kind, considerate, and compassionate; never held a grudge and was always forgiving. He had a quick and funny sense of humor that made everyone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

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

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

Luther M. Marks, 1926 - 2014

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



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

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

After that, Luther preached for a short time in a little community church. Before long, he met a Methodist District Superintendent who suggested that he should become an ordained Methodist preacher. Luther accepted the challenge. He went on to Concord College and from there, on to Duke Seminary. During his time at Duke, he took an appointment to a Methodist Charge. One Sunday Luther suggested to the folks there that black folks were equal to white folks. This simple message brought him

and his family a few threats. Still, most folks respected him for standing on the principles and promises of God's Word. After that, he preached for a few years in the West Virginia Conference in the little towns of Montcalm, Boomer, and Brushfork before coming to the Virginia Conference where he stayed the rest of his career. Luther preferred rural and small town appointments and asked not to be sent to churches located in the large metropolitan cities of Virginia.

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

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

Homer A. Hall, 1924 - 2014

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



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

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

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

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

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

Harold M. Fuss, 1925 - 2014

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



From a very early age – three or four years old – he felt called to be a preacher. At 18 he was appointed to three small churches as a student preacher while attending college and seminary. In the fall of 1946, Harold moved from the Baltimore Conference to the Virginia Conference and was appointed to eight small churches in the north end of the valley with

a parsonage that had no indoor plumbing. Harold and Jackie were united in marriage February 8, 1947 in Washington, D.C. That union brought a gift of love and joy in their three children, Gerald F. Fuss Sr., Christopher S. Fuss (member of the Virginia Conference), and Deborah Ann Fuss Wagner.

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

Harold was always greatly involved with youths, both in the church and in the community. He served for many years as a volunteer chaplain with the training and then guidance of The Institute of Industrial and Commercial Ministries, Inc. He was proud to be a Methodist minister. He retired after 44 years of active ministry and moved on a small farm where he continued his intensive work gardening, woodworking and growing Christmas trees. He self-published a book about his life and Christian ministry. Harold was born into a very poor home in Gerrardstown, W.Va., but he was rich in his Christian faith and blessed thousands with the fire of his convictions. He is survived by his wife, Jackie, of 67 years. —*Composed by the Rev. James John at Jackie's request*

Ernest Richard Babel, 1940 - 2014

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



Warren Lee Reeves, 1914 - 2014

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



1965. During 40 years of active ministry, as local pastor, deacon, and elder, he served numerous churches throughout Virginia.

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

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

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

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

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

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

William G. Price, 1921 - 2014

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



James L. Duley, 1926 - 2014

Jim transferred his membership to the Church Eternal on December 19, 2014. After returning from World War II, Jim felt that ministry was his calling, perhaps from a sense of duty, and certainly with heart-felt gratitude for being one of the



boys who made it home. Jim began in 1948 while a student at American University, serving Sudley-Gainesville. While there for 10 years, he also graduated from Wesley Theological Seminary, 1953. In 1955 Jim traveled to the Holy Land, writing articles to a local newspaper which he later made into pamphlet and delivered as a presentation to many area churches.

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

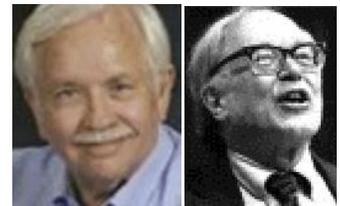
Many people have used a single word to sum up his career & character: “energy”. His humor was contagious as well. Family was always a priority. His loving wife, Barbara, enjoyed 64 years of marriage and supported him faithfully. Together they raised five children. When colleagues asked him if he played golf, he’d quip: “No, I have children.” His highlight was helping to build Aldersgate (Alexandria) where over sixteen years nearly 4,000 people joined under his leadership.

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

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

William “Bill” Mallard, Jr., 1927 - 2014

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



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

Professor Mallard was recognized as one of the most popular and influential of Candler’s teacher. He received numerous awards for his ability in the classroom including The Emory Williams

Distinguished Teaching Award in 1981, given by Emory University. He is the only Candler faculty through 2014 to have taught 43 years at Candler and to have received the Thomas Jefferson Award for outstanding service to Emory University, 1989. He received an honorary doctorate from Randolph Macon College in 1980. In 2014 he received one of the 56 Centennial Medals awarded by Candler in celebration of its 100 years. He retired from his job at Emory in 2000 but not from his profession of preaching and teaching until the progressive disease in his left brain surfaced in January of 2014.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Gatra Reid, their children, Reid (Alison and grandsons, Charlie, Chapman and Bo), Gatra Winn, and Rob (Karen and grandchildren, Edison and Elena Gatra), his brother, Cole (Kathy), his brother-in-law, Bob Reid (and Joan), nieces and nephews and close extended family members. Bill was a man of genuine humility, fine intellect, great laughter and deep commitment to his faith, his family and his teaching ministry. His voice, whether speaking, singing or responding, was a gift to all who knew him. The video of his Memorial Service on January 3, 2015, can be found on the Candler School of Theology web site or the You Tube link: zN7MEC0XR10. If interested, it was his request that memorial gifts in his name to be given to the Candler School of Theology, the setting for his ministry for 43 years.

Matthew M. Nelson, 1938 - 2015

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



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

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

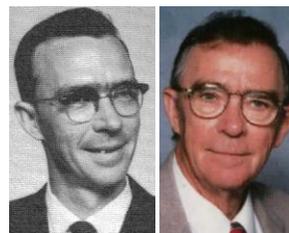
He was an educated man with a friendly, caring, and gentle demeanor. He was known for his devoted faith, sense of humor, and kindness. He was noted by a pastor and friend, Don Jamison, as "distinguished by his lack of self-importance." He loved music and could play the accordion, the auto harp, the organ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

Matt had many hobbies such as woodworking, music, setting stones and making jewelry, fixing lamps, and creating picture journals. He combined his interests with his desire to help others and will be remembered for his gifts of preaching, teaching, creativity, and encouragement. He made every effort to live as an example of Christ. He truly dedicated his heart, mind, and soul to the ministry of serving the

Lord and it is by God's amazing grace that Matt is now abiding in the presence of the Lord for an eternity in full joy.

Melvin Ott Davis, 1936 - 2015

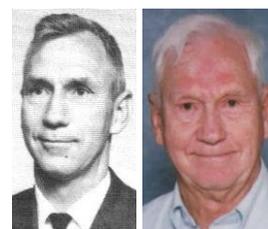
The Reverend Doctor M. Ott Davis of Chester, Virginia, died on January 28, 2015. Dr. Davis was the son of James McClellan Davis and Bettie Matthews Davis and was born in Brunswick County, Virginia, on January 3, 1936. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Betty Thomas Davis of Chester; his three children,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



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

Gary James Shelton, 1922 - 2015

The Reverend Garry James Shelton, 92, of Roanoke, Va., died Thursday, February 5, 2015 at "The Hermitage in Roanoke." He was the son of Chesley Wade Shelton and Annie Laura Parker Shelton. Garry graduated from Amherst High School, Lynchburg College, Duke University Divinity School, and he completed advanced studies in Education at Virginia State College. Garry was a veteran of the U.S. Army, having served during World War II in the South Pacific. Ordained as an Elder in the Methodist Church by Bishop Paul Garber, Garry Shelton served 32 churches and organizations over his 53-year ministry. After he retired in 1987, he continued to serve churches throughout Central Virginia.



He is survived by his lovely wife of 70 years, Virginia Campbell Shelton; two children, Joan Shelton Dowdy and husband Dan, and G. Michael Shelton and wife Sandy. His children commemorate their love for their father through the words of his five grandchildren who called him "Papa"—Jason, Ben Lauren, Kirk and Hannah. First grandchild, Jason: "We loved a man we all called Papa. He helped form our lives and made us better people. He instilled in us what was most important to him—his love of God, his family, his congregations and the hundreds of people he helped over the years. He once said 'the best thing about being married, is our two children, Joan and Mike, and five grandchildren. My goal is to hang around long enough to enjoy at least one great-grandchild.' Papa has four great grandchildren and he loves them all. Papa touched so many of our lives in such a profound way. When I was born on March 23, 1976, he became Papa for the first time. On February 5, 2015, Papa left us to go to a better place. There is a place in our hearts that will always be reserved for Papa Shelton."

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

always remember him smiling and laughing and freely giving the grandchildren ‘cabbage leaves’ (money) from time to time.”

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

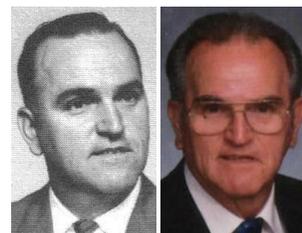
Fourth grandchild, Kirk: “I became a member of the Shelton family by marriage rather than by birth. My parents divorced when I was too young to form memories of them together. In 1988, at the age of four, I became a full member of the Shelton family as a son and grandson. This all began with Papa and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

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

Robert J. Day, 1927 - 2015

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

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



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

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

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

Dad is now with our mother who was indeed a partner in ministry with him. Dad and mother created the kind of environment where I was also able to hear God's call on my own life. Thanks, Dad, for all you have done for me. —*Your Son, Rev. Michael G. Day, Lakeland United Methodist Charge, Farmville District*

H. Warren Landis, 1924 - 2015

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

He was predeceased by his parents, Elsie G. Landes and Henry D. Landes, two sisters, Goldie Landes and Marie Young, three brothers; Ray, Carl and Leslie Landes of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. He is survived by his wife, Wanda E. Landis and daughters, Katherine Warden of Williamsburg, and Nancy Rubin (Jonathan) of Chesterfield, Virginia, two sister- in- laws, Janet and Darlene Landes also from the Shenandoah Valley, 4 grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.



As a Methodist minister, he served 9 appointments in the Virginia Conference, including Phoebus United Methodist Church in Hampton for eight years. His final assignment was as a chaplain at the Hampton Veterans Administration Medical Center. He also served as an active duty and reserve Air Force chaplain. He graduated from Shenandoah University; James Madison University; Emory University Chandler School of Theology, and Boston University with a Doctorate of Ministry.

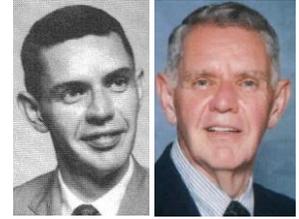
As a veteran of WWII, he participated in the Normandy invasion and the Battle of the Bulge where he was captured by the Germans on Christmas Day and imprisoned in two separate work camps. During that time, he was wounded twice, but was sent back to continue with his unit. He received various commendations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

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

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

Robert L. Watts, 1936 - 2015

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



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

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

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

John N. Wimer, 1930 - 2015

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

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



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

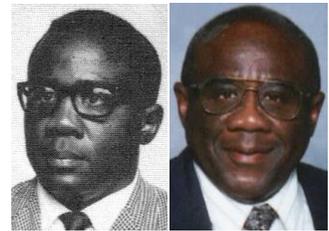
John was a graduate of Kempsville High School after which he studied Aircraft and Engine Mechanics at Wm. & Mary-VPI, Norfolk. He served in the U.S. Air Force earning the rank of Staff Sergeant at which time he received the call to the ministry. He then attended Wake Forest College and Drew University.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

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

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

John C. Barr, 1930 - 2015

The future is not ours to know, and it may never be; let us live and give our best, never anticipating or doubting the power of our Savior; asking nothing of tomorrow except “Thy Will Be Done.” In the stillness of the afternoon on March 22, 2015, John Cleveland “JC” Barr departed this life to join his Heavenly Father and loved ones who had gone before him.



He was born in Williamsburg County, South Carolina on August 26, 1930, the eldest son of Nancy and Rev. C. C. Barr—an U.S. Army Veteran, who served as Chaplain in Norfolk, Va., Heilbronn, Germany, and Ft. Benning, Ga., and retires with the rank of Colonel. He was united in Holy Matrimony to Nora Owens in August 1955. To this union two children were born.

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

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

Rev. Barr returned to his childhood home in June of 1997, so he could “farm.” Cherishing fond and lasting memories today include his wife Nora O. Barr; one son, Cleveland “Jerry” Barr; one daughter, Myrna Barr-Cook; 3 grandchildren, Aaron, Amaron, and Mya; one sister, Bertha (Fred) Session; 5 nieces, 2 nephews and a host of other relatives and friends, especially those who assisted in his care for the last five years at McNair Nursing Facility, Laurel Gardens, and Kingstree Nursing Facility.

Edwin G. Burch, 1938 - 2015

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



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

Ed Burch came to the ministry later in life. A former engineer with a genius IQ, he was called by God at the age of 40. He was a natural storyteller and his sermons often evolved from a combination of scripture and a story. Reading his sermons provides you with a glimpse of a genuine “what you see is what you get” man. Within his sermons he embedded spiritual lessons, politics, history, jokes, headlines, morality, and literature. Somehow, in one message, he was able to tie a story of the family cat getting

caught in a tree to Matthew 3:1-12 and in another make the comparison between Robert L. Ripley of Ripley's Believe It Or Not to Doubting Thomas.

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

There is one career choice that, for good or ill, has always placed a lot of emphasis on hearing an early and persistent calling...the ministry. Some of us know at least one. They were the kids who conducted all the pet funerals, organized all of the fake weddings, and sometimes held rather spooky prayer vigils at odd times of the evening. Then there are those people who receive a calling within their church. Those who experience a much more dramatic calling as a result of a transforming experience in their lives; maybe not a Damascus Road moment, but certainly a recognizable calling. These are men and women who have been well settled in perfectly normal lives. God often calls us while we are running errands or doing the thankless chores of life. He calls us when we least expect it. His calling to me was like that. I was painting my daughter's bedroom. And He laid his hand on my shoulder, very gently, very softly. And He said, "I need you to do something for me."

Reverend Burch believed we are all chosen for a purpose. Our purpose, as Christians, is to proclaim the Gospel until we meet our Maker. Ed Burch served that purpose as well. —*Sallie Johnakin-Putnam, Edwin Burch's daughter*

James W. Tinney, 1939 - 2015

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



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

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

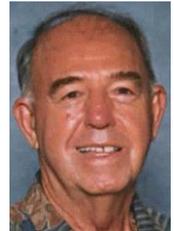
But most of all, he was an encourager. Always positive about ministry together and with a broad smile on his face and he surely was a Key of C man. This is what I mean. Since we both could play, we would alternate with each other's bells, and I knew Jim's would happen to be either C or B area player,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

Yes, even though Jim was not an elaborated nimble bell player, nevertheless without Jim's bass C bell we could not build the right sound. Yes, he showed me who he was the day before he passed, as he thanked all of the family members and church members with no regrets but gave thanksgiving to the Lord who gives and shows grace and life. Jim said, "I wonder what kind of choir is in heaven so I can play! Jim loved Ann, and it was heartbreaking to watch and hear him saying the last words at the hospital that he fondly reminds Ann about the first dance they took long time ago and said, "I loved you from that first day." It is our time to remember Jim. I asked Sandra Walton, our church music director to gather some thoughts from both choirs as Jim was a member of each choirs. The following will be our choir's tribute to Jim. Thank you Jim and we will miss you. Urbanna United Methodist Church was truly blessed when Rev. Jim Tinney decided to retire and become a part of our church family. Immediately, he joined our chancel choir and contributed greatly to our bass section. He was a leader and perfectionist and wanted to "get it right". Others leaned on him to know when there was a troubled spot, for Jim read music and knew. He also provided solos during our summer worship services and blessed us all with his talents.

When our the Urbanna UMC Hand Bell Choir was revived, Rev. Jim Tinney jumped right in and did a beautiful playing our lowest bells. Again, he carried the bass section and used his musical skills to enhance our bell choir. He is very much missed. We were truly blessed to have Jim & Ann Tinney retire in the town of Urbanna and become prominent members of Urbanna United Methodist Church. He worked with each minister that came to UUMC and always helped in any way he could. Praise God for you Rev. Jim Tinney and keep on singing. —*Hyung Moon, Pastor, Urbanna UMC*

William O. Webster, 1932 - 2015

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



William L. Walters, 1939 - 2015

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



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

Sandra Kruschwitz Hamilton, 1949 - 2014

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



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

Richard Hilton “Rik” Davis, 1959 - 2015

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



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

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

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

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

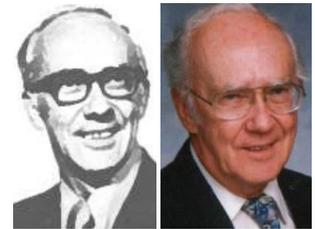
Joon Sup Han, 1926 - 2014

Reverend Joon Sup Han of Springfield, Va., died June 22, 2014. He was born September 30, 1926. He was a retired ordained Elder in Virginia Conference, whose credentials from Korean Methodist Church had been recognized in 1982. His only appointment in Virginia Conference was Korean of Arlington, 1982-91, after which he retired.



Floyd Albert Murphy, 1926 - 2014

Floyd Albert Murphy died at age 88 at Blue Ridge Hospice Inpatient Care Center, Winchester, October 11, 2014. He was born a High Point, N.C., January 4, 1926, and attended Taylor University (B.A. in 1956). He was admitted to Virginia Conference and ordained a Deacon in 1966, and he was ordained an Elder in full connection in 1968. His 31 years of assignments and appointments were North Fluvanna (supply, 1960-65); Rapidan (supply, 1965-66); Rapidan (1966-70); Calvary-Salem (1970-78); St. Marks-Arlington (1978-85); Glovier Memorial (1985-1990); retired in 1990 but served Cumberland (retired supply, 1990-91). His wife Betty has been living in Winchester.



He was ill for several months and spent 20 days in Envoy Home, but died at Blue Ridge Hospice Inpatient Care Center. Floyd was the husband of, the love of his life, Betty Smith Murphy for 66 years. He was father to five fine children; Ellen, John, Peter, Jayne and Kathleen; grandfather to Patrick, Chris, Ben, Elizabeth, Eric and Jay and great-grandfather to Jordan, Dakota, Brenna and Liam. He grew up in Brentwood, Md.; graduated from Mt. Rainier High School; and in 1944 was drafted into the army during WWII and served in the Philippines and Japan during the occupation. After arriving home and attending electronics school in Kansas City, he received his F.C.C. certification license. After being married and with two children, he was called to the Ministry and while serving Fowlerton United Methodist Church in Indiana, he enrolled at Taylor University in Upland, Indiana and graduated in 1956 with his degree in Biblical Literature. He faithfully served The United Methodist Church for 46 years in Indiana, Georgia, and Virginia since 1960. [Obituary, Phelps Funeral Services]

Frankie Lee Perdue, 1953 - 2015

Dr. Frankie Lee Perdue, an active member of Virginia Annual Conference, died Monday, January 19, 2015, at age 61. Born August 11, 1953, in Rensselaer, Ind., he was the son of the late Oscar Hampton and Mabel Louise Marshall Perdue. He was a U.S. Army veteran serving 3 years active duty and 4 years in the U.S. Army Reserves. He attended Jefferson Community College (1975-77); Elim Bible Institute (1979-81); Eastern Mennonite College (B.S. in 1986); Eastern Mennonite Seminary (M.A. 1986, M.Div. 1988); and Trinity Theological Seminary (D.Min in 2000 with high distinction, G.P.A. of 3.95) in Newburg, Tenn. He was admitted to Virginia UMC Conference as a Probationer and ordained a Deacon in 1983, and ordained an Elder in full connection in 1986. His appointments over 27 years in Va. UMC were West Campbell (1988-92, first 2 years as Licensed Local Pastor); Brucetown-Welltown (1992-95); Front Royal (Assoc., 1995-98); Calvary-Salem (1998-2001); St. Matthias-Fredericksburg (2001-04); Louisa (2004-05); and Ettrick (2005-08); and Clergy medical leave since 2008.



He gave back to the community by serving on several boards of the Salvation Army and supported many children through the years, taking great pleasure in knowing that this made a lasting difference in the lives of third-world children and their families. He was preceded in death by his parents, and brother, Henry Perdue. Survivors include his wife of 39 years, Edris T. Perdue of Christiansburg; sons and daughter-in-law, Jamin Perdue of Christiansburg, Joel and Sarah Perdue of Roanoke, and Jared

Perdue of Wytheville; brothers and sister-in-law, Steve and Kathy Perdue of Lakeside, Calif., and Freddie Joe Perdue of California; and grandchildren, Kody, Chloe, and Gwyndalynne. Full military graveside services were held January 23rd at Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin, Va.

2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Norman K. Allen, 1926 - 2015

Norman K. Allen was born in Des Moines, Iowa, 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 husband Alois Wollersberger; four grandchildren, Dulany Devening, Andrea Devening and husband Curt Sydnor, and Eric and Nina Wollersberger; and his sister, Doris Ewan. Norman served in the U.S. Navy 1943-45 at the end of WWII. He was a graduate of Westminster Choir College in Princeton, N.J., and served as a Minister of Music in Roanoke, Va., for 8 years before coming to Charlottesville, where he served in this capacity for 32 years. Norman continued to work part-time as a church organist after retiring. He was the founding Dean of the Charlottesville-Albemarle AGO Chapter (1976-77) 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 age 67. 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 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 unfailing 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.

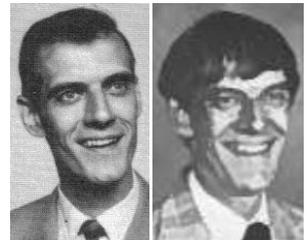
Albert M. Davis, Jr., 1947 - 2016

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 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 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

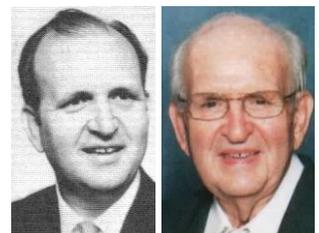
The Rev. Dr. Carl H. Douglass, Jr., 86, of Smith Mountain Lake, died Saturday, August 22, 2015. He was the loving husband of Brenda Mosier Douglass. A United Methodist minister for 60 years, Dr. Douglass served 16 congregations in Virginia Conference. After earning his divinity degree from Boston University 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 20 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 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 10 children from three families are proud to call him that: Brent Douglass and Carter of Staunton, John G. Douglass and Cindy of Richmond, Carol D. Jacoby and Jamie of Richmond, Steven G. Douglass and Tammy of Leesburg, David Stafford and Sharon of Raleigh, N.C., Andrew Stafford and Nicki of Raleigh, 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. He had 23 grandchildren and 4 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, Va., with the Rev. Dr. Riley R. Smith, Jr., the Rev. Larry E. Davies, and the Rev. Richard H. Ecklund officiating, 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; 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 grandchildren Scott Thurston, Graham Ferguson, Amy Thurston, and Ryan Ferguson; and six nephews.

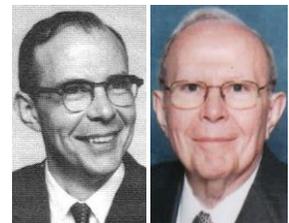
William Ferguson, known by most as Bill, served as a full-time minister in the Va. United Methodist Conference for 49 years and as a visitation minister for 17 years after his retirement. He was born in Hampton, Va., where he lived until his college days. He first attended Shenandoah College and Conservatory in Dayton, Va., and then earned his B.S. 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, a six-point (church) charge; Boykins, a four-point charge; Emporia-Monumental; Hampton-Bethany; Rocky Mount; Culpeper; Westhampton (Richmond); Lakeside (Richmond); Westover Hills (Richmond); Westhampton (Richmond, visitation minister); and Centenary (Richmond, 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., March 25, 2016.

William "Jeryl" Fink, 1929 - 2015

Dr. William Jeryl Fink was the son of a United Methodist minister and the brother of two United Methodist ministers. He was born in Cumberland, Md., November 8, 1929, and he died in Richmond, Va., 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 Virginia Conference was as an Associate Minister at Fairlington United Methodist Church in Fairfax County, Va. Two years later he started St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Falls Church, Va., where he served for 6 years. He then went to Wesley United Methodist Church in Vienna, Va., for 7 years. In 1968 he was sent to Centenary United Methodist Church in Lynchburg, Va. Two years later he went to Richmond, Va., where he served Reveille United Methodist Church for 8 years. In 1978 he became District Superintendent of Petersburg District for 2 years, then Superintendent of Roanoke District for 4 years. In 1984 he moved back to Richmond 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 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 eight grandchildren.

Gene went to seminary late at age 40 after serving in the U.S. Navy and working with his father in the family business, Cary Gee Music in Richmond. He served Essex-King &



Queen Charge on Rappahannock District, Cherryvale in Staunton, and Grace-Calvary on the Eastern Shore. He then served in the United Methodist Building as Director of Leadership Development for 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 2 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, 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 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 West Virginia—and United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. His education was interrupted by World War II. Roy served 44 months in the U.S. Army in Company A of 93rd Signal Battalion, Third 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 am on November 29, 2015, which was their 70th 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, Va.; 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, he 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 the EUBs 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 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 7 years of its operation, while also serving a full-time pastorate.

Roy had many fine qualities, but two stand out. First, 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. Second, 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 February 8, 2016, survived by his wife, Helen, and two sons, John and George, and their families. He was born in Eupora, Miss., in 1933. He attended Millsaps College, graduating with a degree in history in 1954. During his college career, he served as student minister at 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 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 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 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. Holloman, 1929 - 2015

Rev. James Holloman transferred his membership to the Church Eternal November 17, 2015, a faithful servant of Christ. He was born November 4, 1929, in Stantonsburg, N.C. His father died when he was 10 years old. He had a paper route and swept floors in the town store to help his family. When he was 17, he joined the U.S. Navy to be assured of a college education. He served his country 5 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 Portsmouth District. His last appointment was District Superintendent on 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 March 14, 2016. The son of the late Roy and Llyrya Messner, he graduated from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute in 1961 and attended West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon, W.Va. In 1983 he graduated Summa Cum Laude from Shenandoah University in Winchester, Va. After entering the Ministry, Jim pastored a number of congregations in Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church. Jim is survived by his wife Linda; three sons, Matthew (Wenona), David (Tina), and Philip (Michele); and three granddaughters, Marissa, Lara, and Skyler.



John Avery 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); and daughter-in-law Chasity Stewart. He also leaves an abundance of nieces; nephews; cousins; other relatives; in-laws; and a multitude of friends.



Whitney W. Parrish, 1928 - 2015

Chaplain Whitney W. Parrish, CHC, USN (RET), 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 step-grandchildren, Charlie Lines, Kaelin Cali, and Mykaela Cali; and great-granddaughters Abigail and Hannah Wilck and Mia Sanford. Prior to entering the Ministry, Whitney served 10 years in U.S. 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 Lee Pigg, 1939 - 2016

The Rev. Kathryn Lee 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 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, Tex., before moving to Virginia Conference, where she served as Director of Campus Christian Community at Mary Washington College; and churches in Portsmouth, Chuckatuck, and Matthews, before retiring in Bridgewater, Va., 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, D.C., 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, S.C.; and several nieces and nephews.

Norma Jean Townsley Poole, 1947 - 2015

The Reverend Norma Jean (Pegram) Townsley Poole was born in Dothan, W.Va., 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 and Cheryl (Poole) Umbach and husband the 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, Va., died Saturday, November 28, 2015, at his home at Orchard Ridge Retirement Community. Rev. Ritter was born March 30, 1936, in Berryville, Va., 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 was ordained a Deacon in 1965 and Elder in 1967. 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 a 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 August 3, 1957, in Alexandria, Va. 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 husband, Bobby of Stephens City, Va.; three sons, Mark Nelson Ritter of Winchester, Va., Rev. Paul James Ritter and his wife, Rev. Valerie Ritter, 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 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, Ala.; Mary B. Eslick and husband L.L. of Lacy’s Spring, Ala.; and Nancy Marshall and husband Don of Tuscaloosa, Ala.; and the mother of Jim, Cathy, Mary B., and Nancy—Sara Nell Hutchenson of Lacy’s Spring, Ala. 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 Richard Scott, 1930 - 2015

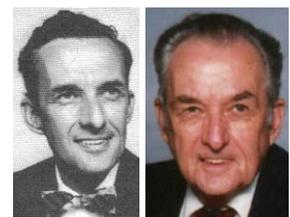
Charles Richard Scott, 85, was preceded in death by his father Gerald and mother Willie Scott, brother Earl Scott, and sister Betty S. Poole. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Blanche W. Scott; his daughters, Robin Scott (David F) Hensler and Barbara Kaye Scott; his brother, Giles Scott; his grandchildren, Lindsey R Hensler, Travis S. Hensler, and Heath R Hensler; 11 nieces; and 3 nephews.



Charles served churches in 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, as well as a wonderful loving and devoted father and grandfather. He will be truly missed.

Darrel Russell Shoop, 1925 - 2015

Rev. Darrel Russell Shoop, 90, passed away 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 they began their life together farming in upstate New York. After having six children, Darreld felt the calling to the Ministry. Upon being ordained into The United Methodist Church, he gave his farm to his brother-in-law and began his ministry in Camptown, Pa. 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 five churches in Northern Pennsylvania. He moved back to New York and continued his ministry there until 1965. He left the Ministry and became involved in the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s. One year later, he felt the call again back into the Ministry in Virginia Conference, and he moved his family (with eight children now) to South Brunswick Charge in Gasburg, Va. He continued serving churches in Prince George County and Trinity United Methodist Church in North Garden, Va. 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, King George, and Mechanicsville. Rev. Shoop retired from Virginia UMC Conference in 1990. During his 25-year retirement, he mentored several pastors. He was a member of Oakwood United Methodist Church in Columbia, Va. 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 husband Wayne Hartwell, Darreld “Russ” Shoop II and wife Sharon, David Shoop, Paul Shoop and wife Vali, Philip Shoop and wife Sandy, Valerie and husband Larry Johnson, and the Rev. Joseph Shoop, Pastor of Bethel United Methodist Church in Woodbridge, Va., and wife Debra.

John V. Sweeney, 1946 - 2016

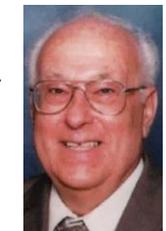
John V. Sweeney went to be with his Lord Tuesday, April 26, 2016. John was born in Lowville, N.Y., the son of the late Vernon E. and Elsie Mekkelson Sweeney. John served in the U.S. Navy for over 20 years, retiring in 1986. He then went on to serve as a Pastor in The United Methodist Church in Virginia and New York 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; and sister Joan Ripp. He also leaves behind many loving nieces and nephews.



Jerome F. “Jerry” Weigel, 1944 - 2015

Jerome F. Weigel (Jerry) was born April 13, 1944, in Denver, Colo., to Katie and Ignatius Weigel. He was the oldest of four children. Jerry joined the U.S. Navy at age 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 a 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.

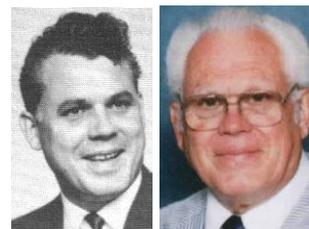
Reverend Jerry was a very integral part of all ministry areas during his tenure at Greenwood United Methodist Church. He loved being a part of our Youth Ministry. Whenever the youth had an event, Reverend Jerry was there not only to show his support but to participate in many of the activities. His exuberant participation was extremely popular with the youth and inspired them to be more involved not only in 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, Mass., 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; brother Robert Weigel; his stepchildren, Darlene Ohlenbusch and Dan Foote; and his grandchildren, Tiffany Bock, T. Baxter Barham, and 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

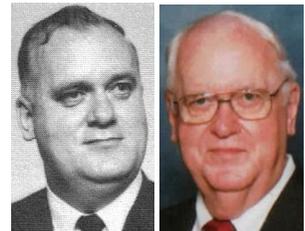
The Rev. James D. White was born in Chester, S. C., September 30, 1930, a son of the late Bonner Dale and Janet Wallace Ballantyne White. His wife, the Rev. Virginia Mae Richards Condrey White, preceded him in death March 23, 2014. Surviving are three sons, the Rev. John D. White and wife Beverly of Richmond, Va., Mark D. White and wife Yolanda of Newburg, and the Rev. James H. Condrey and wife Cyndi of Belpre, Ohio; three daughters, Elizabeth Ann White Woodward of Swoope, Va., 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 Shrou, Camellia Lynn Richardson, Thomas James "TJ" Condrey, James Marshall Shurm IV, Scott Shane, Shannon Leigh Kraus, Stacey Lynn Kraus, Lawrence "Larry" Ray Snow, Shelly Lynn Pinti Wilfong, Stephanie Dawn Pinti Stuart, and 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 Shrou, and Adelyn Grace Shrou. 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, Pa., in 1952 and completed his M. Div. from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Va., in 1958. The Rev. White pastored churches in Alabama and Virginia through June 1972. He was a member of Virginia Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church. He engaged in interdenominational Christian Retreat Ministry 1972-77 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 1978, retiring in October 1997. After 46 years in the Ministry, the Rev. White retired from The United Methodist Church 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 1978-97, 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

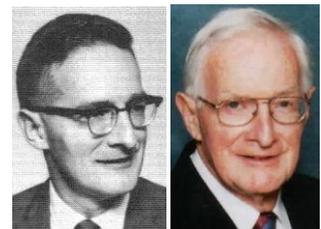
Reverend William “Bill” Ray Withers was born in 1930 in Rock Cave, W.Va., the son of the late H. Scott and Ersie J. Withers. He was a veteran who served in the National Guard. He received his Associate’s degree from Potomac State College, his Bachelor’s degree from Shepherd College, his Masters in Divinity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



He retired from full-time ministry in June 1996 and continued to serve churches until June 2013. Bill ministered in both 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 September 26, 1953, in Oakland, Md. In addition to his wife of 62 years, he is survived by his daughters, Susan Marie Fisher and husband Terry of Jonestown, Pa., Mary Elizabeth “Beth” Stone and 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 husband Seth, BM2 Jacob Bashioum, AE3 Travis Bashioum, Brittany Stone, PFC Joshua Stone and wife Jordan, John Stone, Alexander Shiflett, Brandon Withers, Tyler Withers, and Connor Withers; and one great grandchild, Rahab Rosanna Adkins.

Eugene Ray Woolridge, Jr., 1929 – 2016

On Sunday, May 1, 2016, Dr. 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., 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 wife Deborah, Laura Jane Wright and husband Archer, and James Vernon Woolridge and wife Carrie. They have 11 grandchildren and one great-grandchild, who have brought them much joy.

An ordained clergy in 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 1972-78. Gene was a four-time delegate to General Conference of The United Methodist Church and a six-time delegate to Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference. He served for 8 years on the General Board of Church and Society, was both a member and chair of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, and was chair of the Conference 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 May 12th at Virginia Beach United Methodist Church. —*Submitted by Robert F. Cofield, Jr. (Retired)*

2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

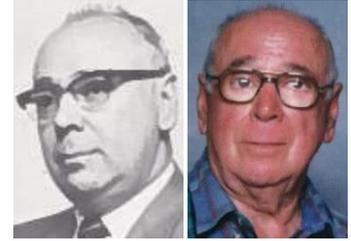
James Shank Angle, 1936 - 2017

Rev. James Shank Angle transitioned from his earthly body to his heavenly home April 13, 2017 after several months of failing health. He was born on November 19, 1936 the only child of Ralph and Ruth Shank Angle. Preceding him in death are his parents and his first wife, Dr. Kathleen Bailey Angle. Surviving are his wife, Kate Harmon Angle, step daughter, Mary (Dennis) Reaser; two step grandsons, Alan (Susan) Powers and Philip Powers; two step great grandsons, Remington and Jacob Powers; cousins, Betty Linkous of Christiansburg and Gerald Pendleton of North Yorkshire , England. James was a graduate of Shawsville High School, and an honor graduate of the College of William and Mary (A.B.) and M.E.D.) He received his Master’s Degree in English from Middlebury College. He also completed post graduate studies at Vanderbilt, Duke, Oxford and Cambridge Universities. He was a professor emeritus of English and public speaking at Ferrum College where he taught for 34 years, and served as chair of the Humanities Department. Jim was also an ordained minister in the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church for thirty years. He served as pastor of St. James United Methodist Church for eight years and then served as pastor of Goodwin Memorial United Methodist Church for 44 years. More recently he was an adjunct Professor at Virginia Western Community College.



Lewis C. Armentrout, Jr., 1924 - 2016

Lewis Armentrout and I have been friends for many years. If I were to say when we met, it would be when he came to the Clover Hill UMC in 1974. Over the years we became good friends and helped one another in our churches on various occasions. I will share a few of my memories of Lewis. Lewis loved life and got all out of each day that he could. He loved all aspects of his ministry, which included Massanutten Charge at Elkton (1964-1974); Clover Hill UMC (1974-1983); and West Brunswick Charge at Alberta, Va. (1983-1989). Lewis retired in 1989 and returned to his farm at Timberville. However, the Lord decided it wasn't time for Lewis to stop preaching. He "filled in" as pastor of Fairview Church of the Brethren at New Market 1994-2014, until his health began to fail.



First and foremost, Lewis loved, served, and shared our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Sharing the Good News was his passion, and he did it faithfully for many years. He was committed to his congregational families. Lewis was always working to win one more person to Jesus Christ, right up to his last days in the hospital. Lewis was very much a family man. He was married to Helen 70 years, and together they reared two daughters. His love for his family was evident to all he encountered, and Helen was his devoted help-mate in the various pastorates which he served.

In his later years Lewis enjoyed playing a game with me. He would call with some Bible trivia or theological question, and he expected me to find an answer. Then I would pose a question for Lewis to find the answer. One of his questions was, "Where in the Old Testament were three persons raised from the dead?" Another special memory—Lewis liked to have fun. After he and Helen had amassed quite a few anniversaries, he began writing a play each year to celebrate their anniversary. Members of his church at Fairview were actors in these plays, and I was invited to have a role. Lewis must have spent many hours incorporating his sense of humor into these productions—they were always good for a lot of laughs. If I were to describe Lewis' life in a few words, it would be that he loved the Lord, his family, and life in general. Lewis was a great friend, and I am blessed that he was a part of my life.—Submitted by W. L. "Sonny" Henkel Pastor of Victory Fellowship Church, Dayton, Va.

H. Randolph Arrington, 1931 - 2016

If ever there was a faithful son in Christian Ministry it was Herbert Randolph "Randy" Arrington. He was born March 9, 1931, the 7th of 11 children. He was raised on a farm, and at age nine, following a church revival he attended, he received his call from God to serve the Lord in ministry. He joined South Hill Methodist Church and thus began his journey into ministry. He attended Ferrum Junior College (1951-53), Randolph-Macon College (B.A. in 1955), and Union Theological Seminary of Virginia (1958-1960). As a senior at Randolph-Macon College he was called by Bishop Kenneth Goodson to start a new church in Hopewell, which became Wesley Methodist Church Aug. 23, 1955, with 83 charter members. In 1958 he married his sweetheart of 4 years, Annie Mae Hays; together they had four children, Anne, Pattie, John, and Mark. It was while Randy was in seminary that the Bishop called upon him once again to establish a church in Kenwood, where the congregation was meeting at Ruritan Community House with 37 members. By the time the church was erected there, were 350 members, certainly a mark of Randy's good pastoral work and evangelistic spirit.



A committed servant of the Church, Randy served with devotion, zeal, intensity, and compassion to all he encountered. He was admitted to Virginia Conference as a Probationer and made Deacon in 1959, and ordained Elder in full connection in 1963. Over 46 years he committed himself to winning souls for Jesus Christ with a spirit that was infectious. Among his appointments were Wesley, Hopewell; Kenwood, Petersburg; Campostella, Norfolk; St. Paul's, Chesapeake; Scott Memorial, Virginia Beach; Westhampton, Richmond; Mt. Vernon, Danville; Epworth, Norfolk; and Bon Air, Richmond. He also

served as Conference Director of Ministerial Services, Registrar to Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, and President of United Methodist Foundation of Virginia Conference. In retirement Randy pastored Prospect Church, Mechanicsville, and later served as Visiting Minister of Adult Ministries with his wife Annie for Shady Grove Church, Mechanicsville. Now, he and Annie are serving directly the Lord of the Church in that House Eternal. God bless you both! —*The Reverend Dr. Thomas Murphy*

Avis Bock, 1939 - 2017

The Rev. Avis Bagley Bock, 77, of Madison Heights, passed away Feb. 19, 2017 at Guggenheimer Nursing Home after a long illness. She was the wife of the late Rev. James Ray Bock. Born July 28, 1939. in St. Louis, Mo., she was a daughter of the late Joseph Herman Bagley and the late Wilhelmina McKinney. A daughter, Crystene Gilliland, also preceded her in death. Rev. Bock was a graduate of Lynchburg College and attended Duke Seminary. She was a retired minister with Va. Conf., where she was a former Pastor of Southview UMC. Rev. Bock is survived by her daughter, Cynthia Woodroof and husband Jeff of Lynchburg; son John Rosser and wife Susan of Amherst; eight grandchildren, Joseph Campbell, Jonathan Mikles, Eric Campbell, Brian Campbell, Sarah Rosser Bostwick, Angel Mikles, Emily Jean Rosser, and Willow Mikles; and seven great-grandchildren.

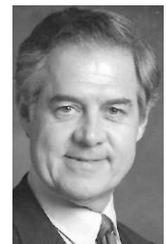
William James “Bill” Burleigh, 1941 - 2016

William “Bill” Burleigh was born in 1941. In 1965, he proudly followed in the footsteps of his father, James S. Burleigh, and uncle, Hugh Burleigh, by becoming a Methodist minister. Among the churches he first served was Asbury-Parkside on Portsmouth District. While there, a community center and day care were established. Other appointments saw building projects completed, too. Bill took incapacity leave from Friendship UMC on Arlington District in 1995, and moved to the family farm outside Lynchburg. In retirement, he was an active participant of Centenary UMC in Lynchburg. Bill had an awesome memory and loved to tell stories of the people and churches he served, especially things that were funny. Though church was always top priority in his life, Bill also enjoyed the farm. Music was a favorite part of his life, and he sang with the Jefferson Choral Society. At his death Sep. 3, 2016, Bill left behind his wife Susan Burleigh, daughters Karyl Bloyer and Catherine Smith, grandsons Zachary and Sean Smith, and many friends and associates. The heart fails, but the spirit lives on.



Frank Sprint Crim, 1930 - 2017

The Rev. Frank S. Crim, 86, of Berryville passed away Jan. 22, 2017, at Winchester Medical Center. A retired minister of Va. Conf., Rev. Crim was born in Winchester, his beloved hometown, Oct. 14, 1930. At Handley High School, Frank was president of the senior class of 1948, co-captain of the varsity football team, and an avid member of various dance committees and clubs. After bypassing a possible opportunity to play in the National Football League, Frank attended Duke Seminary in Durham, N.C. While earning a Master of Divinity degree and serving as Associate Chaplain at Duke University Medical Center, he met and married Minnie J. Crim, a nurse from North Carolina and later the mother of his children.



After seeking to be a chaplain in the Military, he served as Associate Chaplain at Methodist Hospital in Houston, Tex; Dean of Men at Randolph-Macon College, his alma mater; Chaplain at Camp Takoa, Hendersonville, N.C.; and held appointments throughout Va. Conf., including Pace Memorial UMC, Richmond; St. James UMC, Alexandria; McKendree UMC, Norfolk UMC (where he was active during the civil rights movement); and Epiphany UMC, Vienna. He led numerous retreats at Blackstone UMC Retreat Center, UMC Camp Highroad, and other places; and he conducted many seminars, including at Foundry UMC, Washing D.C. He also served as chaplain of Fairfax Hospital (now Fairfax Inova

Hospital), and was a pastoral counselor in the Fairfax and Winchester areas, serving people regardless of their ability to pay. He returned to the Winchester area in 1997, where he served as minister at Cool Spring UMC in Delaplane and taught in the Elder Hostel program at Shenandoah University.

Frank was beloved by all, including over 30 cats and dogs, and human friends throughout his life. He conveyed God's love everywhere he went, touching the nursing home and hospital staff during his brief last days. Rev. Crim is survived by his wife, Corin H. Crim of Berryville; daughters Lucy Lee Crim of Knoxville, Tenn., and Dr. Jennie Lynn Crim (Psy.D.) of Fairfax; son F. Sprint Jr. of Leesburg; brother Floyd Gladstone (Buddy) Crim of Palmetto, Fla.; and cousin Mary Lou Sprint of Winchester.

Donald Purgold Davis, 1934 - 2016

Donald Purgold Davis, 82, died Dec. 12, 2016, at Heron Cove in Gloucester. Don was born in Seaford Oct. 15, 1934. He was a 1952 graduate of Poquoson High School, a 1956 graduate of Randolph-Macon College, and received his Masters of Divinity from Duke University. He also received a Masters of Education from The College of William and Mary. Don retired from Methodist Ministry and from Gloucester County School System after 25 years as a 4th grade teacher. He was also a member of Stephen Ministry, United Methodist Men, taught Sunday school, and was a choir member over 60 years. He was a long-time member of the Va. Poultry Breeders Assoc. and an avid gardener and poultry breeder his entire life. Don was preceded in death by his wife, Anne Presson Davis; parents Leonard and Virginia Davis; and sister Dolores Hautz. He is survived by his loving wife of 31 years, Miriam Davis; children C. Keith Davis (Lisa) of Gloucester, Kevin Davis (Stephanie) of Mechanicsville, Jack Thomasson (K. K.) of Sandy Utah, Barry Thomasson of Phoenix Ariz., and Ame Gilbert (Stephen) of Beaverdam; grandchildren Travis Davis (Adriana), Erin Fairbanks (Warren), Mary, Elizabeth, Paige and Leah Thomasson, Kayla, Collin and Lyndsey Gilbert, Abigail and Olivia Davis; and four great-grandchildren.



Ernest Dyson, 1926 - 2017

Rev. Ernest Dyson, Ed.D., died April 22, 2017, at Mary Washington Hospital in Fredericksburg. Ernie was born Sep. 6 1926, in Philadelphia, where he attended Olney High School. He left high school early to serve in the U.S. Merchant Marine and then the U.S. Navy, participating in the invasion of southern France. Ernie was aboard destroyer *U.S.S. Benson* alongside *U.S.S. Missouri*, in Tokyo Bay, when the Armistice was signed, Sep. 2, 1945. He left the Navy in 1946, and received a Bachelor of Science from Temple University in 1950, as well as a Masters and Doctorate in Education in 1956 and 1965. He received a Master of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary in 1984. After a career in public school education, including as a high school teacher, principal, and district superintendent in Pennsylvania, he decided to enter the Ministry, pastoring in Virginia at Hopewell, Bowling Green, and, most recently, Hillcrest UMCs. Ernie authored two books, *Living With God in Loss* and *Yearning For Eden*. He was on the staff of Fredericksburg Personal Counseling Service for many years. More recently, he counseled at Lake of the Woods Church and also Wilderness Community Church, where he was a member and preached. Ernie was predeceased by his sons Ernest and Theodore; and siblings James and Doris (Payne). He is survived by his dear friend and partner, Helen Ramsey, of Spotsylvania; brother Ronald and wife Linda of Wilmington, Del.; loving nephews; and "adopted" children Robert and Cathy Kravetz. Ernie will be missed by the many whose lives he touched as an educator, author, minister, counselor, and friend.



Robert Halco “Bob” Garner, 1935 - 2017

Robert H. Garner of Roanoke passed away Mar. 6, 2017. Bob married his high school sweetheart, Loretta Dillehay, and they had two children, Robert Dale & wife Susan of Altamonte Springs, Fla., and Pamela Culbreth of Greensboro, N.C., who passed away in 1994. Bob and Loretta have grandchildren Zachary Robert Culbreth of Roanoke and Rachel Elizabeth Garner and Robert Maxwell Garner of Altamonte Springs, Fla.; and one great-granddaughter.



Bob entered Oxford Masonic Orphanage at age 11 where he grew up and graduated from John Nichols High School on the campus of the orphanage in Oxford, N.C. He was a Morehead Scholar at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and continued his education at Greensboro College in Philosophy and Religion. He graduated from Wesley Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity. Those who were close to him knew his passion for scholarship. He loved the pursuit of knowledge and writing. He considered his book, *The Way of St. Francis*, to be one of his greatest accomplishments. He took great pleasure in authoring sermons and would light up when an idea for a new one came to him. His wife Loretta remembers his delight when he shared passages with excitement and enthusiasm. She especially remembers his joy in writing and delivering his sermons, “The Lord of the Dance,” “A Whole Lota Shakin’ Goin’ On,” and “Singing in the Rain.” She often said his excitement over a new sermon was only matched by his excitement over a UNC win. When he wasn’t partaking in scholarly endeavors, his favorite activity was cheering for the Tar Heels with his grandson Zachary and son Dale.

Bob was dedicated to Ministry. He was ordained into the Methodist Church in 1959. He served multiple assignments for Va. Conf., including Associate Minister at Mt. Vernon UMC in Alexandria, Hillsboro Circuit near Leesburg, Associate Minister at Wesley UMC in Vienna with good friend Jerry Fink, Tabernacle UMC in Virginia Beach, Great Bridge UMC in Chesapeake, Central UMC in Arlington, First UMC in Charlottesville, Greene Memorial UMC in Roanoke, Minister of Visitation at South Roanoke UMC, and Boones Mill UMC. Bob also served Va. Conf. as Vice-President of Board of Ordained Ministry, Chairman of World Hunger Commission, Delegate to Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, and Editor of Virginia United Methodist Heritage (the annual publication of the Virginia Conference Historical Society). He also served as Secretary of the Board and Registered Agent of Arlington Hospital while serving Central UMC in Arlington.

Although Bob’s professional activities and friendships gave him great satisfaction, nothing brought him greater pleasure than being a father, grandfather, and husband. His many friends and family members will always remember his hilarious Irish jokes and stories, delivered enthusiastically with a rich and colorful Irish brogue. Bob’s favorite movie was “Singin in the Rain.” He loved it’s joy and he loved the scriptural significance of hope, faith, and optimism. In his sermon of the same title he said: “I’ve been through a lot in the past several years. Whoever said that growing old is not a game for sissies”—surely knew what he was talking about.... But when people would ask, ‘How are you?’ (he’d smile that inimitable smile and say), “I can still sing in the rain.”—Dale and Loretta Garner and Ernie Zulia

Paul Cassidy Harris, 1930 - 2017

Rev. Paul Cassidy Harris, a third generation United Methodist minister and associate member of Va. Conf., died Jan. 21, 2017. He was the husband of Patricia Walker Harris for 60 years—they married in 1956. He is survived by son Brian Cassidy (Danielle) and daughter-in-law Dora Michelle Harris; grandchildren David (Haley), Andrew, Brianna; and a great-grandson. Other survivors include step-granddaughters; five step-great-grandchildren; sister Zuma Truitt (Rev. Donald), Eastern Shore; brothers Larry (Tommi) of Goldsboro, N.C., William of Jacksonville, Fla., Jay of Glen Allen; and numerous nieces and nephews. Preceding



him in death was son Richard Paul; and parents Rev. William Glenn (Virginia Pauline Curtin); and brothers Alvin Glenn and Harry Adrian. Paul was born Sep. 17, 1930, in Premier, W.Va. He graduated from Gary (W.Va.) High School and spent the next 4 years in the U. S. Navy aboard *USS Taconic* serving during the Korean Conflict.

At age 39 he left a managerial position at Eaton Corporation in Salem and answered God's call to begin the Ministry. He finished 2 years at Virginia Western in Roanoke and pastoral studies at Duke University in Durham, N.C. Paul served Va. Conf. as clergy of six churches: Crockett Springs, Catawba Charge; Lafayette/Halls, Roanoke District; Mt. Bethel, Danville District; and Parrish Court and Mt. Carmel, Staunton District. While in Danville District, Paul served as representative to Camp Altamons for youth and was a representative on Evangelism to Lake Junaluska. While on Staunton District, he was a delegate to World Conference on Evangelism at Hilton Head, S.C. He was also president of Staunton District Ministerial Association 2 years.

Paul and his wife, Pat, enjoyed hosting tours overseas. They took groups to Israel and Jordan on seven occasions. They also took groups to Greece, Turkey, and Italy following Apostle Paul's missionary journeys and in 2010 to see the Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany, and to see the Austrian Alps. Paul loved to preach and held revivals all over the Conference. He had a heart for missions and the Haitian people. He went there two times to witness, preach, and build a school. Paul retired in 1994. He built his dream, a log home, on the Jackson River in Alleghany Co. He spent many happy hours fly fishing and tying his own flies. He attended Granbery Memorial UMC in Covington and continued to serve the Lord singing in the choir and teaching Sunday school. —Submitted by his wife, Pat Harris

Hunter P. Mabry, 1933 - 2016

Dr. Hunter P. Mabry, 82, died in Roanoke July 9, 2016, after a long struggle with chronic radiation damage to his intestinal tract many years ago. Born in Timber Ridge in Rockbridge Co., he was a native of Shenandoah Valley. During his youth he lived in the Waynesboro area and graduated Wilson Memorial High School, Class of 1951. Later, he completed a B.Sc. in Rural Sociology at Virginia Polytechnic Institute (Virginia Tech), B.Div. at Candler School of Theology (Emory University), and served as a missionary to the Philippines, 1959-63, under the UMC Board of Missions. Desiring to help train persons to become pastors, he completed his Ph.D. in Sociology of Religion and Social Ethics at Boston University School of Theology in 1969, and over the next 25 years he served on the faculty of the United Theological College, Bangalore, under the sponsorship of UMC Board of Global Ministries (GBOGM), where he helped train students at the B.D., M.Th., and D.Th levels. His published writings include *Christian Ethics, An Introductory Reader, The Christian Clergy in India, Vol. 1, Social Structure and Social Roles, and Manual for Researchers and Writers*. He was predeceased by parents William P. and Hallie Kemp Mabry. Survivors include sister Marie Lowe, Mississippi; beloved wife of 53 years, Dr. Esther Galima Mabry; son Philip of Waynesboro, and daughter Ruth of Oman along with son-in-law Abdulrahim Al-Bahlani and grandchildren Malik and Zakaria. After his retirement from the GBOGM in 1996, he devoted much of his time and energy to voluntarism—he was one of the founders of the Virginia Chapter of Methodist Federation for Social Justice and Augusta Coalition for Peace and Justice; participated actively in other social justice established organizations such as Virginians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty and Virginia Organizing; and initiated actions on issues such as restoration of voting rights and opening of job opportunities to ex-felons who had paid their debt to society.



D. Michael Meloy, 1943 - 2017

The Rev. D. Michael Meloy, 74, of Richmond died Feb. 26, 2017. Born in Roanoke Jan. 9, 1943, to Cyrus E. “Bud” and Elsie Padgett Meloy, he spent his childhood in Roanoke and Northern Virginia. Mike was nurtured in his faith at a young age by his Grandma Williams, who had a hunch he might become a minister one day. He graduated from Ferrum College, George Washington University, and Union Theological Seminary. In Summer 1969 (after nearly failing Greek in summer school), Mike married Jane Sydney, and they embarked upon a wonderful life and ministry together.



Their ministry began at Westhampton UMC, where Mike was involved with the youth program and became Associate Minister. In 1973 the family moved to a two-point charge, Mt. Vernon in Toano and Tabernacle in Barhamsville, where Mike also served as a volunteer firefighter with the rescue squad and was active with youth at the conference level. Mike and Jane Sydney’s ministry continued with moves to Huguenot Road in Richmond (1977-1985), Immanuel in Annandale (1985-1989), and Windsor Hills in Roanoke (1989-1996). In 1996 Mike was appointed Peninsula District Superintendent. He continued in this role until 2004 and retired from full-time ministry in 2005. In retirement, Mike continued sharing his faith as Minister of Congregational Care at Williamsburg UMC.

Throughout his ministry, Mike worked to build relationships and nurture others in their faith. Serving others was also an especially important part of Mike’s ministry. On trips to Appalachia through the Appalachia Service Project (ASP) and Mozambique through Va. Conf., he was deeply affected by his encounters with others who shared profound faith and gratitude amidst economic strife. Although his ministry was always an important part of his life, Mike was also a devoted husband, dad, “G-daddy”, and friend. He cherished times with family and friends, whether it was sitting around the table talking, dancing to Motown in the kitchen, or walking the sandy shores of the beach. Mike and Jane Sydney also enjoyed quiet weekends hiking through the woods at The Peaks of Otter. Mike also had a love of planes, trains, and automobiles. He could often be found at an airport watching planes take off and land or at Virginia International Raceway (VIR) enjoying a weekend of classic car racing. His favorite mode of transportation was the Norfolk and Western Class J 611 steam locomotive. He loved watching the train run and hearing its mournful whistle echo throughout Roanoke Valley. Mike is survived by his wife of 47 years, Jane Sydney Meloy; daughters Ashley and husband Dustin Love and Mary Douglas and husband Mark Roscoe; grandchildren Cameron Love, Emmie Love, Sydney Roscoe, and Sam Roscoe; as well as many additional family members and friends.

Shirley Mercer, 1935 - 2016

Our mother, Shirley, became a local pastor after her husband, the Rev. Ira Vincent, passed away in 1995. She was appointed to three different charges. A true Christian, Shirley firmly believed in helping people any way she could. Her biggest joy was seeing the beautiful children in church. Her eyes lit up seeing them wander around looking at everything, talking to people, and having a good time. In as many ways as she could, Mom involved them in the worship service. One person, who later joined Mom’s church, arrived late one Sunday morning. Her adopted daughter, a part of the youth group which was singing that morning, had wanted her to come and had told her the church was awesome. Seeing the woman arrive, Shirley stopped in the middle of what she was saying to greet the woman with these words, “Welcome, come on it!” This person felt really welcomed, and from then on thought a great deal of our mom. In fact, she thought of our mom like her second mom. She said mom was the gentlest and sweetest person she had ever met. When she touched our mom’s hand, she said she felt as though she was touching God. Although not a church goer before meeting our Mom and attending her church, once she met our mom she began attending regularly. She had found a place a welcome and love. Mom was



the best wife, mother, sister (adopted sister to all), adopted mother, grandmother, great grandmother, and a grandmother to two special dogs. —Submitted by her family with love and appreciation for our Mom.

David Arthur Russell, 1941 - 2016

David A. Russell, 75, passed away peacefully at home Sep. 30, 2016. He was born to Elroy Arthur and Esther Mae Russell in Marshalltown, Iowa, Apr. 3, 1941. When Dave was 4 years old, his parents moved from Iowa to the mountains of Kentucky, to serve as home missionaries at The Red Bird Mission. He grew up at Mill Creek, Bright Shade, Beech Fork, and Beverly, Ky., loving the people of the area, the mountain culture, and nature. Dave developed a heart for people from an early age. He would ride on horseback (or a mule) behind his dad on Sunday afternoons to hold services for a small group of people in an isolated area. He met his wife Phyllis while attending Red Bird Mission High School, graduating in 1958. They married in 1962 and just celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary.



When Dave graduated from Warren Wilson College, he wanted to serve his country; he joined the U.S. Marine Corps and proudly served 4 years. They moved to Virginia in 1964, and he worked for Continental Can Company; in 1966 he started his government career with The National Park Service as a gardener, loving to work with the soil and keeping the grounds of our National Capital looking beautiful. Later, he became a Park Technician helping to plan and establish what was then called “Turkey Run Farm”, a 15th-century working farm. He portrayed the “dirt farmer.” When the FBI built their training facility at Quantico, he wanted to help beautify those grounds. He made a lateral transfer from the Interior Department to the Justice Department. He started out as an agronomist and worked there 30 years, retiring in 2003.

Dave loved God and always served in some capacity in his home church and community. He was a Stephen Minister and an Industrial Commercial Ministries Chaplain. He always said he could serve God best as a layperson, but God has a sense of humor and later in life Dave felt the call to Pastoral Ministry. He became a Licensed Local Pastor in Va. Conf. He served Salem UMC in Widewater and later as Pastor of Congregational Care at Ebenezer UMC, both located in Stafford Co. He never met a stranger, loved to “know your story,” and was respectful of everyone. He was an amazing husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin, Man of God, story teller, encourager, and lover of life, of people, and of God’s great creation. One friend said, “Dave taught us how to serve God, and to have fun doing it!”

Dave was blessed with his wife who was always by his side, two children, five grandchildren, and a great granddaughter, who were an additional source of joy and pride in his life. The family shared many happy and precious moments together. They remember him as being kind, compassionate, and caring; and he taught them to have strong Christian values, to be people of integrity, and to enjoy life to the fullest. He never met a stranger, always ready to listen and give encouragement. He will be missed by all who were fortunate enough to have known this man of God, who led his life by example. To know Dave was to love him. He is survived by his devoted and loving wife, Phyllis Russell; children Shannon Arthur and Lisa Laufer (Art); grandchildren who were the apple of his eye, Chad, Abby, Jasiah, Eric and Eddie; a great-granddaughter; sisters Margaret Cleaver (David), Rebecca Cutshall, and Aunt Phyllis Dunham; - a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins; and many loving friends.

Daniel Gilbert Spaugh, 1946 - 2016

Rev. Daniel G. Spaugh was born in Winston Salem, N.C., Oct. 31, 1946, to the late Raymond M. and Mamie Speas Spaugh. I first met Danny in 1989, when I served as a Local Pastor at Community UMC (Portsmouth). From that time forward, we grew in friendship and mutual trust, and I witnessed his great love for the Word of God as



contained in the Holy Bible. In short, Danny lived the “Great Commandment,” and he worked diligently as a “shepherd” to fulfill the “Great Commission.” His memory is truly a treasure which will never die. We had many talks about his being called by the Lord to enter Christian Ministry, and his journey began in 1992. I had the great honor to recommend him for acceptance into the UMC ministry and to witness his excellent progress in his ministerial calling. Further, it was a blessing to see him accepted as a candidate for UMC ministry and become a student pastor as he progressed through Virginia Wesleyan College and Duke University Divinity School, and earning his Master of Divinity Degree.

Danny was exceptionally gifted in the depth of his scriptural knowledge and its teaching. He loved to teach Biblical history and its applications in the world of today. He lived as the man of whom the prophet wrote in Micah 6:8, commanded to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with his God. That description was a perfect fit for the Rev. Daniel G. Spaugh. As a man, he valued the truth of God’s Holy Word, and he lived a never-ending quest to seek God’s wisdom in every aspect of life and ministry. In his time serving the Lord, he brought the Word so strongly to two members of the church he was pastoring that one is now a minister in Portsmouth District and the other serves a church out of state. He was also a faithful husband, being married to the earthly love of his life, Bette. They were a team that could face any challenge and their love would never die. The last church Danny served was in Winchester, where they both enjoyed their time spent in the mountain community meeting new brothers and sisters in Christ—and especially learning how to make apple butter! Rev. Spaugh retired from UMC ministry in 2011, and on Dec. 27, 2016, he went home to be with the Lord.

Nancy Bageant White, 1938 - 2016

Rev. White was born and raised in Washington D.C. At a young age, Rev. White was a determined and focused young lady, always focused on doing above and beyond which carried over during her time as a UMC pastor. She worked hard to receive high grades and awards and was an officer in her Student Government. After graduating Woodrow Wilson High School, she completed D.C. Teachers College and followed with teaching in Anacostia schools. She worked diligently to provide the best for her students, both with their class work but also helping them with learning life skills. Wherever we were, she was always involved with the church, the youth, and Sunday school. As she got older she felt a strong desire to learn more about having a personal relationship with our Savior the Lord Jesus.



Later in life she felt a strong call to the Ministry. After much prayer and talks with pastors and church leaders, she started her studies to become a pastor at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington D.C. She completed enough classes at Wesley to be ordained as a Deacon in 1988. Before she could complete all her classes, her husband Doug was relocated to Germany for work. This did not deter Rev. White. She found a Baptist Seminary in Switzerland, and worked with Wesley Seminary to find classes that were transferable towards her Master’s in Divinity. Her determination to become a pastor was shown in so many ways. The Baptist Seminary was located in Ruchlacoohn, Switzerland, outside of Zurich. The first year, Rev. White stayed on campus for most of the week to complete her courses. The following year with only a few courses left to take, she would commute. She would leave Frankfurt in the morning, take the Metro to Frankfurt train station, take the train to Zurich, transfer to the local train to Ruchlacoohn, and walk up the hill to seminary. On her return she would repeat all of the transfers and finally arrive home at 11 pm. Upon our return to the states, Rev. White completed her final courses at Wesley and graduated with her Master of Divinity Summa Cum Laude in 1991 and started her ministry. Her first charge comprised churches. One was a former Episcopal Church built in the 1800s. This church didn’t have a room for Sunday school classes or even bathrooms. The church had plans to renovate, yet never started. Rev. White stepped in and helped get a project moving to start the addition for the church. She was moved to her next charge before its completion. A few years later, the

pastor that replaced Rev. White was commended at annual conference for having the greatest percentage increase in membership in Va. Conf. It could not have happened without Rev. White's determined efforts.

There is so much more that could be said about Rev. White's ministry. Her work with the many churches she served made each a better place for the members and pastors that followed. After her retirement, Rev. White couldn't stop serving the Lord. She pastored small churches that needed a pastor and always taught Sunday school when possible. She continued to the end with her Sunday school class. When she could no longer manage the lessons and prayers, her loving husband, who always supported her, would help her along and contribute to the teachings. In her last days in the nursing home, she would always insist the residents pray at each meal and would provide comfort along with singing and reading scripture. Lovingly, you would catch her correcting visiting clergy when it came to the scriptures. Rev. White truly knew God's Word. Our loving and faithful Rev. Nancy Bageant White was the Lord's Servant till the end.

Weldon Darrell White, 1933 - 2016

Weldon's father was Darrel Weldon White and his mother was Marie Cook White. He was born in Indiana, and the family moved to Florida when he was 12 years old. His sister, Virginia Marie White, was 13-months younger, born Dec. 18, 1934. As a teenager Weldon was involved in many Youth-for-Christ activities. His first preaching was in Spanish to a small congregation in Florida. Weldon married Linda Faye Marshall Oct. 12, 1963, at Trinity UMC in Roanoke by H. Wark Curry. Our first UMC appointment was in June 1964 to Mt Solon Charge (Parnassus, Mt. Solon, Sangerville, and Centerville UMCs). Weldon attended Bridgewater College, graduating in 1967. In June 1967 we moved to Marshall, serving Rectortown Charge [Rectortown, Cool Spring, and The Plains (later renamed St. Mark's) UMCs].



Weldon attended Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., graduating in 1971 with a Masters in Divinity. In June 1972 we moved to Waynesboro to serve another St. Marks UMC. Weldon became active in the community, continuing to hold early Sunday services at the drive-in theater and very active in the Lurnmor School, a school for disadvantaged children before they were incorporated into the regular school system. Our first son, Darrel Weldon White, was born Nov. 11, 1972, and our second son, Marshall Wesley White, was born Nov. 19, 1975. In June 1977 we moved to Chesterfield Co. to serve Sherbourne UMC. In June 1981 we were assigned to St Mark's UMC in Richmond, when it was located on Midlothian Turnpike. In June 1984 we went to St James UMC in Pleasant Valley. In 1985 we moved to Sedley to serve the Trinity Circuit (Grace Memorial and Sebrell UMCs). On Christmas Eve 1986, the Sedley Baptist Church members, whose pastor died of a heart attack while on a community caroling event, joined with Grace Memorial for a candlelight service. On the morning of Dec. 26, 1986, Grace Memorial burned. We worshiped with the Baptist members a couple of Sundays, then with our sister church, Sebrell, through January; we then met in a two-room building known as Woodman Hall until our new structure was completed. I don't believe there are more supportive people anywhere in the world! Our son Darrel graduated high school there and joined the U.S. Army. In 1991 we moved to Waynesboro to serve Wayne Hills-Oak Hills Charge. Our son Marshall graduated in 1993 and still lives in the area. Weldon retired June 1996, and we were blessed with the birth of our first grandson the same day. Weldon loved flowers and made parsonages and church yards beautiful with his work. After retirement we decided to attend St Marks in Waynesboro and enjoyed reuniting with old friends and making many new friends.

Hugh Jackson Winston, Jr., 1920 -2016

Hugh and Annabel Winston were a team. Married 11 years with two daughters, Hugh had a calling to go into the Ministry. It was 1952. They sold their home in Norfolk, packed up all of their belongings, and headed to Randolph-Macon College, where they settled into GI Village and started on a great adventure. They both worked on campus, and Pixie, their dog, followed Hugh to classes. It wasn't long before Hugh was assigned his first two churches, Hanover Charge, which included Enon and Lebanon churches. He spent 5 years in Hanover while he finished his education at Randolph-Macon and started at Union Theological Seminary. He finished seminary while serving as Associate Pastor of Highland Springs Methodist Church. Over the next 6 years he moved three times. After Highland Springs came Waverly, New Hope, in Stafford County, and Arlington Forest as Associate pastor, and finally to Culpeper Methodist as head pastor. After Culpeper, he served Main Street in Suffolk and back to Northern Virginia to Wesley UMC; then to the Reston Ecumenical Churches from which he retired. He then went back to Wesley as the Minister of Visitation.



In addition to his appointments, Hugh served as a statistician for Virginia Conference for 18 years, as well as on various boards and commissions. He was always involved with various civic organizations and was active in the mental health field as a Pastoral Counselor. At age 93 Hugh became a published author with his book of sermons for special days, Nothing Can Stop Christmas.

Through all the moves Annabel was by his side. Focusing on young members of the congregations, she was a youth counselor at the local, district, and conference levels. She was associated with the United Methodist Student Movement and was always active with United Methodist Women. Additionally, she was active in the community, serving as a fund chairperson for the American Red Cross, Job Corps case worker, and Pink Lady at Culpeper Hospital. While they were devoted to the church, Hugh and Annabel also had other passions. Hugh's was softball and Annabel's was art. Hugh played softball well into his 80's as a member of the Northern Virginia Senior Softball League. Annabel was an award winning artist. She was also an accomplished seamstress, woodworker, and entrepreneur. Hugh and Annabel were an extraordinary couple. They celebrated their 75th Wedding Anniversary Oct. 22, 2016, Hugh's 96th birthday.

His death Nov. 21, 2016, came as a shock to his family and friends. He had been active and well until the day before he died. Annabel had suffered a severe illness 16 years prior to her death Jan. 21, 2017, and all felt blessed to have those additional years with her. Hugh and Annabel were devoted to each other and their family, but they were also devoted to their church and their God. With extraordinary faith and love, Hugh was both a gentleman and a truly gentle man, with a ready smile, a kind heart, and a true love of life! They will be missed!

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