

PART V

MEMOIRS IN REMEMBRANCE OF THESE FAITHFUL SERVANTS

Clergy

Don Elmer Jordan (Associate Member)	June 27, 2010
James Arthur Padgett	August 3, 2010
James Earl Ulmer	August 21, 2010
George W. Hamilton, Sr. (Retired Local Pastor)	September 2, 2010
Harold Ellsworth Buell	September 4, 2010
David Harold White (Retired Local Pastor)	September 22, 2010
Rush L. Severance (Retired Local Pastor)	September 27, 2010
Raymond Chester Stover	October 21, 2010
Golden Smith	November 11, 2010
William Doverspike Mullen	December 1, 2010
Alfred Wellington Taylor	December 18, 2010
Donna Mae Wollenweber Griffith (Retired Local Pastor)	December 20, 2010
Dewitt Talmadge Farabee, Jr.	December 26, 2010
Robert Dell	January 5, 2011
Whitney James Dough	February 10, 2011
John Marvin Bartha	February 19, 2011
Edison Lanny Russell, Sr.	February 20, 2011
Jeffrey Young Oglesby	February 22, 2011
Donald Lee Richardson	February 22, 2011
William Wesley Roughton	March 3, 2011
Lawrence Wesley George	March 9, 2011
Luther Ray Stokes	March 12, 2011
Robert Elmore Brown	March 29, 2011
Robert Doyle Bledsoe	April 3, 2011
Thomas Arthur Hughes	April 5, 2011
Holland Rex Vaughan	April 8, 2011
Spencer Dwight McQueen	April 10, 2011
Asa William Sprague	April 12, 2011

Spouses

Mildred Elizabeth McGovern Brady	May 4, 2010
Elizabeth McCastlain Downey	June 13, 2010
Virginia Hendry Sweat	September 10, 2010
Mary Louise Strickland	September 14, 2010
Retha Mae Swisher-Devane	September 20, 2010
Polly Thompson Bowdoin Gavin	November 15, 2010
Elizabeth Pearl Gates Tolle	November 26, 2010
Siria Margarita Acebo	December 1, 2010
Estelle Davenport Moore	December 10, 2010
Doris Virginia Lanier Reppenhagen	December 31, 2010
Roberta L. Carter Tervin	March 20, 2011
Linda Lashley Pearson	April 24, 2011

Clergy

JOHN MARVIN BARTHA

John Marvin (Johnny) Bartha was born in Lynch, Kentucky, on April 4, 1946, to John and Burnetta Baker Bartha. He was the youngest of four children and the only son. In 1972 he married Wanda Haut, and in the years following they had three children: Stephanie Anne Bartha, born on February 28, 1977; John Warren Bartha, born on May 1, 1981; and James Marvin Bartha, born on February 25, 1985.

Immediately after graduating from Lynch High School in Lynch, Kentucky, John traveled to Florida for a visit and decided to make it his permanent home. Following a tour of duty in Vietnam with the United States Marine Corps, he returned to Florida and began attending Oak Grove United Methodist Church in Tampa, where he felt the Lord call him into ministry. With encouragement from the Reverend Jack Kelly, John enrolled at Asbury College and graduated in 1975 with a B.A. in Sociology. He then attended Asbury Theological Seminary and during his senior year worked as a graduate teaching assistant until he received his Master of Divinity degree in 1978. During those years at Asbury College and Asbury Seminary, he pastored the Bloomfield United Methodist Church in Bloomfield, Kentucky.



John was admitted as a probationary member of the Florida Conference and ordained a deacon in 1976 and was ordained an elder in 1981. He served the following appointments: Trinity, DeLand, 1978-80; Wildwood, 1980-85; Palm Coast, 1985-88; Emmanuel, Bradenton, 1988-99; Christ, St. Petersburg, 1999-2001; Oakhurst, Seminole, 2001-05; and Ruskin, 2005-11.

Johnny served on the Sarasota and St. Petersburg District Boards of Ordained Ministry, the IPR Committee for ministry candidates, and the St. Petersburg District Council on Ministries. He was past president of the Flagler and the North Sumter Ministerial Associations. He also served as vice president of the South Hillsborough Ministerial Association. John consulted with the Manatee County Emergency Operations Committee during his tenure at Emmanuel.

An avid fan of football, basketball, and baseball, John loved to coach from the comfort of his recliner. He enjoyed classic cars and fishing and was passionate about providing a quality home life and education for his children. In the most recent years his greatest joy was to spoil his two infant granddaughters, Olivia and Jordyn.

John was called home to be with the Lord on February 19, 2011. A celebration of his life on February 26, 2011, was led by Bishop Timothy Whitaker, the Reverend Dr. Sharon Austin, and the Reverend Dr. Charles Rentz. His life, leadership, and service to the Lord were eulogized by his three children and his closest friends, the Reverend Dr. Ranier Richter and the Reverend Dr. Joseph Jursa. The Reverend Jamie Westlake also shared how John had influenced his decision to become a minister. The music was spectacular, and the greatness of the Lord was loudly praised. Burial was in the Sarasota National Cemetery in Sarasota, Florida.

John is survived by his wife of thirty-eight years, Wanda Haut Bartha; three children: Stephanie Bartha Simmons and husband Joshua, John Warren Bartha, and James Marvin Bartha and wife Michelle; and two granddaughters, Olivia Grace Simmons and Jordyn McKenzie Bartha.

John loved God, his family, his life, and his opportunity to share the faith with the people he served.

Submitted by Wanda Bartha

ROBERT DOYLE BLEDSOE

Robert Doyle Bledsoe was born on April 9, 1929, in Plant City, Florida, to Jesse B. and Pearl Brown Bledsoe.

Educated in Florida public schools, he graduated from Plant City High School in 1946. In 1953 he received a B.S. degree from Florida Southern College in Lakeland and in 1953 a Master of Divinity degree from Candler School of Theology at Emory University. He was awarded an honorary doctorate by Florida Southern College in 1981 and Bethune-Cookman College in 1989.

Bob experienced a call to the ordained ministry as a young man in high school. The Reverend Dr. D.W. Cox, pastor at Springhead United Methodist Church, and the Reverend R.C. Joyner were his mentors. Bob was active in the Methodist Youth Fellowship of his local church and became president of the Lakeland District Methodist Youth Fellowship.



He was admitted into the Florida Conference on trial in 1953, was ordained a deacon in 1954, and was received into full connection and ordained an elder in 1955. He served faithfully for forty-five years, in the following appointments: Cork/Plant City, 1949-53; Trinity, Austel, Georgia, 1953-55; United Methodist Temple, Lakeland, 1955-59; First, Haines City, 1959-63; Spring Glen, Jacksonville, 1963-66; St. Paul's, Eau Gallie (now Melbourne); 1966-69; First, Ocala, 1969-77; First, Ft. Lauderdale, 1977-82; superintendent, Orlando District, 1982-88; and director, Conference Council on Ministries, 1988-94. He retired to Ocala in 1994.

During his ministry Bob held numerous leadership positions in the conference, including chairperson of the Board of Evangelism, the Work Area on Missions, and the Council on Ministries. He was instrumental in the development of the expansion and renovation of the Life Enrichment Center and the Florida United Methodist Youth Camp in Leesburg, Florida. He was a delegate to the Southeastern Jurisdictional and General Conferences. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Florida United Methodist Children's Home. He was also prominent in community affairs, holding memberships on the Board of Directors of United Way, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Rotary Club.

Bob married his high school sweetheart, Marcella Simmons, in 1948. They had one son, Robert Phillip Bledsoe.

Dr. Bledsoe passed away peacefully in the loving presence of his family and the caring hands of Hospice on April 3, 2011, at the Estelle's Hospice House in Ocala, Florida. He had spent the last eighteen months of his life at the Windsor Assisted Living Facility in Ocala.

The family conducted a private graveside service at Highland Memorial Park Cemetery in Ocala, on April 8, 2011. Later that day a memorial service to celebrate his life was held at First United Methodist Church in Ocala. Officiating were the Reverend Allen Johnson, the Reverend Sue Hauptert-Johnson, the Reverend John Few, and the Reverend Odell Miley, as well as Ann Hunter, dedicated layperson, long-time member of the church, and friend.

He is survived by his wife of sixty-three years, Marcella Simmons Bledsoe; his son, Robert Phillip Bledsoe and wife Elizabeth Jaycox Bledsoe; grandson, Robert Simmons Bledsoe; and four sisters: Louise Kier and Jane Howell of Winter Haven, Florida; Mildred Golden of Ludowici, Georgia; and Norma Jean Norman of Cocoa, Florida.

Bob was a caring and devoted husband, brother, father, and grandfather. He managed and balanced well his commitment to God with his love and loyalty to his family.

Submitted by Marcella, Phillip, Betsy, and Robert S. Bledsoe

ROBERT ELMORE BROWN

Robert Elmore Brown was born in Lynn, Massachusetts, on January 3, 1921, the eldest of six children of Edgar Homer Brown, Sr., and Alice Gordon Dickey Brown. He married Edith Hayes in Avon Park, Florida, on October 14, 1947. Their son, Robert Clifford Brown, was born on December 29, 1948, and their daughter, Carol Jean Brown, was born on April 3, 1954.

Bob attended public schools in Lynnfield, Massachusetts. After serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, he lived in Fort Myers, Florida, and attended Florida Southern College. While in college, he served Zolfo Springs Methodist Church. He was admitted to the Florida Conference on trial in 1950, was ordained a deacon in 1951, was received into full connection in 1952, and was ordained an elder in 1954, when he also received the Certificate of Completion of the Four Year Course of Study prescribed by *The Discipline of The Methodist Church*. Appointments he served were Davenport, 1950-52; St. Cloud, 1952-58; First, DeLand, 1958-62; Lake Shore, Jacksonville, 1962-66; Riviera Beach, 1966-72; Azalea Park, Orlando, 1972-73; and First, Punta Gorda, 1973-84.



Although Bob and Edith retired to Lake Junaluska in 1984, they returned during the winters of 1985-2001 to Florida, where he served as minister of winter services at Coronado Community United Methodist Church in New Smyrna Beach, where his son, the Reverend Robert C. Brown, has been senior minister since 1981.

Bob remained active in numerous volunteer activities at Lake Junaluska. He served for several years as dean of Memorial Chapel there. He was also president of the Junaluskans and treasurer of the Junaluska Associates. In 1996 he was recipient of the Junaluska Associates' Chief Junaluska Award, presented for "outstanding and continuous contributions to Lake Junaluska." He had also received recognition from the Southeastern Jurisdictional Administrative Council "in appreciation of countless hours of volunteer service, loyalty, and support of Lake Junaluska Assembly."

Bob died on March 29, 2011, in Haywood Regional Medical Center in Clyde, North Carolina. He is survived by his wife Edith; son, the Reverend Robert Clifford Brown and wife Becky Rutland, of New Smyrna Beach, Florida; daughter, Carol Jean Brown, of Lake Junaluska, North Carolina; three grandsons, Wesley Rutland-Brown and wife Natalie, of Davis, California; Robert Rutland-Brown and wife Grace, of Springfield, Virginia; Randy Rutland-Brown of New Smyrna Beach; two great-granddaughters, Lucca and Sienna, of Davis, California; a great-grandson, Robert James, of Springfield, Virginia; two brothers, Donald Brown of LaPine, Oregon, and Lloyd Brown of St. Petersburg, Florida; a sister, Harriet Jones, of San Dimas, California; and several nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held April 4, 2011, at First United Methodist Church in Waynesville, North Carolina, with the Reverend Sanford L. Giles, Jr., officiating. Burial was in Green Hill Cemetery in Waynesville.

Submitted by Carol J. Brown

HAROLD ELLSWORTH BUELL

Harold Ellsworth Buell was born in Marion Center, Pennsylvania, on March 4, 1915, the son of the Reverend James J. and Adeline Rodd Buell. He graduated from Belle Vernon High School in Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania, in 1932; from California University of Pennsylvania in California, Pennsylvania, in 1935; from Boston University School of Theology with a Master of Theology in 1939; and from the University of Pittsburgh with a master's degree and in 1951 a Ph.D. He did graduate studies at Oxford University in England.

He married Jeane Russell on November 26, 1942, and they had three sons: Rodd Russell Buell, born on March 31, 1946; Bruce Harold Buell, born on January 17, 1948; and Mark Paul Buell, born on March 9, 1951.

Dr. Buell was ordained a deacon and received on trial in the Pittsburgh Conference in 1938 and received his elders' orders in 1940. His first appointment was to the West Brownsville, Pennsylvania, Methodist Church in 1933, when he was eighteen years of age and a college sophomore. His first appointment after graduation from seminary was to Home Mission work in the coal fields of western Pennsylvania, where he served a circuit of five Methodist churches and organized two additional churches. In 1940 he was appointed to teach for three years at Lucknow Christian College in Lucknow, India, where he spent time with Mahatma Ghandi. He was brought home early because of the Second World War. Indeed, he was sailing across the Pacific on his way home when he received word of the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

He rejoined the Western Pennsylvania Conference, where he served for thirteen years. In 1948 he transferred to the Florida Conference as associate pastor to the Reverend Paul Hortin at First Avenue Methodist Church (now Christ United Methodist Church) in St. Petersburg, Florida, where he served four years.

Dr. Buell's pastorates in the Florida Conference included Allendale, St. Petersburg, 1952-56; White Temple, Miami, 1956-62; Hyde Park, Tampa, 1962-67; First, Gainesville, 1967-71; superintendent, Miami District, 1971-75; Christ, St. Petersburg, 1975-78; and superintendent, Gainesville District, 1978-84. He and Jeane retired to Lakeland in 1984.

With a special interest in education, he served as president of the Conference Board of Education and while serving in Tampa taught religion courses at the University of Tampa.

He participated in pulpit exchanges to London and South Africa, where he preached in black townships in 1964 during apartheid. During segregation he helped integrate lunch counters with other clergymen. He led travel groups to the Holy Land, Europe, and the Far East to promote understanding and peace, and he participated in mission trips to Cuba and to Peru and Chile. In 1961, while he was serving White Temple in Miami, the church was awarded *Guideposts Magazine's* Church of the Year Award for its significant assistance to Cuban refugees fleeing Castro's Cuba.

Following retirement in 1984, he continued to travel with Jeane and spent time with his six grandchildren. Dr. Buell was honored for seventy years of ordination as a United Methodist minister at the Florida Annual Conference in 2008.

He died September 4, 2010, in Lakeland, Florida, under the care of Good Shepherd Hospice. He was living at Carpenters Estates in Lakeland at the time of his death.

His memorial service was held at First United Methodist Church in Lakeland, on September 9, 2010. The Reverend Ray Finklea, Bishop Robert Fannin, and the Reverend James Harnish conducted the service. He was buried at Myrtle Hill Cemetery in Tampa, Florida.

Survivors are his wife Jeane; his sons, Rodd and wife Carole of Wellington, Florida; Bruce and wife Gail of Loganville, Georgia; and Mark and wife Courtney of Tampa, Florida; six grandchildren; and two great grandchildren.



Submitted by Mark P. Buell, Rodd R. Buell, and Bruce H. Buell

ROBERT DELL

Robert Dell was born on August 17, 1928, the oldest child of the late Reverend Roosevelt Dell, Sr., and Jettie Tyson Dell. He was educated in the public schools in Bradford County and then enlisted in the United States Army in 1946. He later continued his education at Edward Waters College, Jacksonville, Florida; Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Tallahassee, Florida; and Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Georgia, where he earned a Master of Divinity degree.

On August 17, 1950, he married Annie Jane Rhoad, and to this union a son, Ronald L. Dell, was born.

Upon being licensed as a local pastor, he served the following churches in the Florida Conference of the Central Jurisdiction: Free Canaan, Waldo, 1962-63; Waldo, Free Canaan/ Mt. Carmel, 1963-65; Bethlehem, Mikesville/Pineville, 1965-67; and Bethlehem, High Springs/ Free Canaan, Waldo/ Mt. Carmel, 1968.

He was admitted as a probationary member of the Florida Conference and ordained a deacon in 1971 and was ordained an elder and received into full connection in 1975. After attending Gammon, 1971-73, he served the following appointments: St. John, Ft. Lauderdale, 1973-77; director, Gainesville Group Ministries, 1977-78; McCabe, St. Petersburg, 1982-84; Ebenezer, Orlando, 1984-87; Simpson Memorial, Jacksonville, 1987-96.

After retiring in 1996, he served as interim pastor at Mt. Pleasant in Gainesville, 2007-08, and continued to serve the church as senior assistant to the pastor until his death. He remained steadfast and a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ until his death.

His love for God and the church was manifested in his preaching and in his compassion for the people of God. Reverend Dell left a great legacy for pastors to follow. He walked this road of life with unyielding faith, strong determination, and a willing spirit to do God's will. His enthusiasm inspired many lives, which were saved through his ministry.

Robert Dell was a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend. He had a unique love for people. His friendship was everlasting and true. His love, laughter, and compassion to all will be deeply missed. We can all learn from him. Reverend Robert Dell was a man of great aspiration, an extraordinary man of God. His was indeed a life well lived.

He died on January 5, 2011, at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Gainesville, Florida. Funeral services were held at Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church in Gainesville, with the Reverend Geraldine McClellan officiating. Interment was in the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in Gainesville.

The Reverend Robert Dell walked worthy of the Lord, being fruitful in every good work. He will forever live in the hearts of those who cherish his great legacy: his beloved wife of sixty years, Mrs. Annie Dell; his son, Ronald L. Dell of Starke, Florida; his grandsons, Christopher, Rochard, and Miles Dell, of Dania, Florida; his brothers, Reverend Roosevelt Dell, Jr., his twin, and wife Doreatha of Brandon, Florida, and James E. Dell and wife Cecelia of Miami, Florida; sisters, Ruth E. Holland and husband William, Flossie D. Epps, and Lillie D. Strachan, all of Starke, Florida, the Reverend May Dell Fletcher and Mary D. Ryans and husband Carl, both of Miami; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

"I won't be far away for life goes on. And if you need me, call and I will come. Though you can't see or touch me, I will be near. And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear, all my love around you soft and clear. And then, when you come this way alone, I'll greet you with a smile and a welcome home." --Author Unknown

Submitted by the Reverend Geraldine McClellan on behalf of Mrs. Annie Dell and family



WHITNEY JAMES DOUGH

Whitney James Dough was born on November 2, 1920, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the son of Whitney and Ethel Myrtle Palmer Dough.

He grew up in Delaware and served in the U.S. Army during World War II. After playing in an army band during the war, he was graduated from the University of Delaware with an A.B. degree in voice and from the Conwell School of Theology at Temple University in Philadelphia in 1952 with an S.T.B.

Playing the trombone and singing, Whit was always engaged in music ministry. During college and seminary years he formed a quartet of young men called the Musical Ministers, which traveled extensively throughout America, the Caribbean, and Europe giving concerts and witnessing to their faith. He married Kathleen Heath of Harmony, North Carolina, on February 14, 1947. They had two sons, Ronald and Gregory, both of whom died prematurely. Kathleen died on January 27, 2000.



The Reverend Mr. Dough was admitted into the Florida Conference on trial and ordained a deacon in 1953 and ordained an elder and received into full connection in 1955. He served the following churches: Oneco, 1953-57; First, West Palm Beach, associate, 1957-60; Wauchula, 1960-63; Wesley Memorial, Lakeland, 1963-66; and Wesley, Miami, 1966-72. He took sabbatical leave in 1972-73 and then became an approved conference evangelist, moving to Orlando. He retired from the conference in 1986.

In 1967 he was asked by the Miami Fellowship of Churches to produce and host a thirty-minute weekly telecast, *The Protestant Worship Hour*, which he led for five years. In 1970 he joined Dr. Herbert Bowdoin in launching a radio ministry called *The Methodist Hour*, heard on hundreds of radio stations across America and on short wave around the world. It featured contemporary spiritual music, readings from the *Upper Room*, testimonies of Christian faith and service, and Biblical messages. It became an affiliate of the General Board of Discipleship.

Mr. Dough was best known for his unique Hymn Dramas, multi-media productions about the lives of famous hymn writers that he and Kathleen presented around the country and throughout Britain at the invitation of the British Methodist Church. He traveled the world in evangelistic and educational ministries. He served as president of the National Association of United Methodist Evangelists and in 1965 was given the Philip Award for distinguished service in evangelism. A leader in the international Christian Ashram movement, he served as director of the Florida Christian Ashram, held each February.

In addition to writing many hymns, Mr. Dough was the author of four books: *Fowl Play: Twenty Hilarious Years with a Talking Crow*; *The Sayings of E. Stanley Jones: A Treasury of Wisdom and Wit*; *The Hymn-Writers, Our Unknown Friends*; and *Heavenly Songs for Postmodern Sinners*. He also published a calendar-sized booklet entitled *New Hymns for Bible Truths with Familiar Tunes*, featuring eleven of his hymns and the sayings of Dr. E. Stanley Jones. He recorded albums of his vocal and trombone music.

The Reverend Mr. Dough died on February 10, 2011, at the Gordon Hospice House in Statesville, North Carolina. A memorial service to celebrate his life was held on February 19, 2011, at Clarksbury United Methodist Church near Harmony, North Carolina, which he had attended in recent years. The Reverends John and Judy Wolfe and the Reverend Allen Ingram officiated. His ashes were interred in Harmony in Kathleen's grave and in the family plot in Lewes, Delaware, where his sons are buried. He is survived by two sisters-in-law, Marie Ellis Heath of Harmony, North Carolina, and Patsy Heath Vestal of Yadkinville, North Carolina, and several nieces and nephews.

Submitted by Marie Heath

DeWITT TALMADGE FARABEE, JR.

DeWitt Talmadge Farabee, Jr., was born in Ft. Myers, Florida, on April 17, 1926, to DeWitt Talmadge Farabee and Edith Heath Collins Farabee.

He married Ann Pinchbeck of Guilford, Connecticut, on July 22, 1955. They had four children: Fayanne Farabee, born on October 9, 1956; Joyce Edith Farabee Killinger, born on December 31, 1959; Martha Farabee Bryant, born on April 24, 1962; and Paul DeWitt Farabee, born on October 15, 1965. Martha died on December 25, 1992.

After attending Florida Southern College for a year in 1944, he left to join the army. During WWII he served in the 79th Infantry Division, the 1st Infantry Division, and the 302nd Signal Operation. After the service he returned to college and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Emory University in 1949. In 1952 he received a Bachelor of Divinity degree and in 1964 a Master of Sacred Theology degree from Yale University Divinity School. While working on his master's degree at Yale, he served Summerfield United Methodist Church in New Haven, Connecticut.



DeWitt was admitted to the Florida Conference on trial and ordained a deacon in 1951 and was admitted into full connection and ordained an elder in 1954. He served the following churches in Florida: associate, First, Clearwater, 1952-53; Gulfport, 1953-57; Anona, 1957-62; Miramar, 1964-68; First, Starke, 1968-72; North, Sarasota, 1972-77; First, DeLand, 1977-83; Spring Glen, Jacksonville, 1983-85; and Christ, Lehigh Acres, 1985-89. In 1989 he retired to DeLand, where he was actively involved in First United Methodist Church.

Responsibilities beyond the local church included serving as conference chairperson for the Work Area on Worship, missionary secretary for the DeLand District, vice chairperson for the Conference Committee on Communications, member of the Church Development Committee, and member of other district and conferences organizations.

In 1963 he marched in Washington, D.C., with the Reverend William Sloane Coffin and heard Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech, both of which reinforced his commitment to an inclusive church and racial justice.

DeWitt had a long-time interest in sports, especially tennis, which he played until a few months before his death. He was also interested in music, the theatre, reading, and people. He enjoyed many great musical programs at Stetson University in DeLand.

DeWitt died the day after Christmas, December 26, 2010. A service was held on December 29, 2010, at First United Methodist Church in DeLand, with the Reverend Owen Stricklin officiating. The memorial was given by his son Paul and daughter Joyce. He is interred in Oakland Cemetery in DeLand.

He was preceded in death by his daughter Martha Bryant in 1992. He is survived by his wife of fifty-five years, Ann; one son, Paul Farabee of Tallahassee; two daughters, Fayanne Farabee of Tallahassee and Joyce Killinger of Raleigh, North Carolina; two brothers, Waldo Farabee of Bridgeton, Maine, and Maurice Farabee of Blairsville, Georgia; two sisters, Lois Kurtz and Irene Crow, both of Ft. Myers; and three grandchildren, Elizabeth Killinger, Trip Killinger, and Anna Farabee.

Submitted by his wife, Ann P. Farabee

LAWRENCE WESLEY GEORGE

Lawrence Wesley George was born on April 11, 1924, in Birmingham Alabama, the fourth of five children of Herschel and Elsie Ash George. At age twelve years he got his first job at the local hardware store. In 1941 he graduated from West End High School, where he was a soloist on the school program. At Central Park Methodist Church Lawrence taught a Sunday school class in which all the boys made their profession of faith under his leadership. He became a Scout Master, and when his troop was too old for Boy Scouts, he organized the first Air Scout Troop. These boys remained close to their leader until his death.

Soon after high school graduation Lawrence went to work as a stenographer for U.S. Steel in Birmingham. He then joined the U.S. Navy and served as a carrier pilot with Carrier Air Group Eleven during World War II. After his discharge Lawrence was given back his old job with U.S. Steel. He became choir director at Shadyside Methodist Church, where he met and married Mary Lou McCrary. They had three children: Charlotte Elise, born on January 22, 1951; Wesley Ray, born on March 6, 1955; and Mary Alise, born on September 21, 1960.

In 1951 Lawrence graduated from Asbury College, where he served as business manager of the *Collegian*, appeared in the senior play, and often sang with Mary Lou for chapel services. While attending Asbury Theological Seminary, he served as student pastor in several Kentucky churches. He graduated in 1954.

Lawrence was admitted to the North Alabama Conference on trial and ordained a deacon in 1952. He was received into full connection in 1954 and ordained an elder in 1955. In 1954 he transferred to the Virginia Conference, where he served the following appointments: assistant, Wesley, Martinsville, 1954-55; Dry Fork Charge, 1955-57; Swain, Tangier, 1957-62; First, Buchanan, 1962-63; Newsom's Charge, 1963-64; and Mt. Bethel, Fieldale, 1964-67. After transferring to the Florida Conference in 1967, he served Forest Hills, Quincy, 1967-69; Oneco, Bradenton, 1969-75; First, Frostproof, 1975-76; St. Andrews, Winter Park, 1976-78; First, Chattahoochee, 1979-80; Northside, St. Petersburg, 1980-84; and Ridge Manor, 1984-87.

Retiring in 1987, the Georges returned home to Birmingham, Alabama, where they formed the gospel group Wesley Duo and sang in churches, in nursing homes, and at weddings. Lawrence was involved in city work as well, serving as president of the Central Park Neighborhood Association and chief at the voting polls for eight years.

Lawrence died of pneumonia and Alzheimer's disease on March 9, 2011, at the V.A. hospital in Birmingham, Alabama. The celebration of his life was held at Central Park United Methodist Church in Birmingham on March 11, 2011, with the pastor, Dr. Paul Hillard, and the Reverend George Creel officiating. Burial was in Elmwood Cemetery in Birmingham.

Survivors are his wife of sixty-two years, Mary Lou; children, Charlotte Bryant and husband Ken of Arcanum, Ohio; Wes George and wife Belinda of Bradenton, Florida; Alise Rowan and husband Phillip of Greenville, North Carolina; six grandchildren; three great grandchildren; and a sister, Margaret George Swindell of Montevallo, Alabama.

Lawrence was known throughout his life for preaching and singing of his love for God. He continued to use his beautiful voice well into his eighty-sixth year. He was also known as a gardener, photographer, beekeeper, and Cincinnati Reds fan.



Submitted by Mary Lou George

DONNA MAE WOLLENWEBER GRIFFITH

Donna Mae Wollenweber Griffith was born on May 28, 1933, in Aurora, Illinois, to Leo B. and Dorothy Wood Wollenweber.

She graduated from East Aurora High School in 1951; from Elgin Community College, Elgin, Illinois, in 1963; and from the University of Minnesota at Duluth, cum laude, in 1966 with a B.A. in sociology and psychology. In 1976 she earned CNA designation at Edgerton, Wisconsin, Hospital. She attended Northern Baptist Seminary at Lombard, Illinois, 1976-77, and graduated from Candler School of Theology at Emory University in 1990.

She had three children, Fredrick A. Cornwall, born on February 7, 1953; Julie F. Cornwall, born on December 24, 1955; and Lawrence E. Cornwall, born on January 21, 1959.

Donna was associate pastor at Janesville, Wisconsin, Baptist Church, 1976-77. She co-founded with her husband, the Reverend Jefferson Griffith, the Polynesian Village Community Church in Englewood, Florida, which they served from 1979 to 1987. During this period she also served a six-month interim at Edison Street Baptist Church in Buffalo, New York. Jefferson Griffith died in 1986.

She then joined the Englewood United Methodist Church and began the candidacy program. In May 1987 she became full-time minister of visitation and counseling at Englewood. In September of that year she went to Trinity, Charlotte Harbor, as part-time pastor, becoming full-time pastor in 1988, when she received her license to preach. She was family counselor at Englewood and Venice-Nokomis, 1992-97, and associate pastor at Sun City Center, 1997-98.

Donna shared her musical gifts, playing viola for the Aurora Symphony, 1949-1951; the Elgin Civic Orchestra, 1951-1963; the Port Charlotte Orchestra, 1988-1991; and the Venice Symphony, 1979-1996; and violin for the North Port Orchestra, 1998-2004, and the Hawthorne Community Orchestra in Leesburg, Florida, 2005-2007. She also directed the Englewood Fun Chorus, 1986-1988 and 1991-1995.

She died peacefully on December 20, 2010, at Tidewell Hospice House in Port Charlotte, Florida, after a long battle with lung cancer. A memorial service was held on January 18, 2011, at Englewood United Methodist Church, with the Reverends Victor B. Willis, Peggy A. Wilkins, and Herbert T. Agee officiating.

Survivors are her husband, Fred Haynes, whom she married on June 1, 2002; sons, Fredrick Cornwall and wife CJ of Fox River Grove, Illinois, and Lawrence Cornwall and wife Carrie of San Gabriel, California; daughter, Julie Cornwall of Englewood; sister, Jan Vicory of Baton Rouge, Louisiana; stepdaughter, Nancy Herrera of Tinley Park, Illinois; six grandchildren; and one great grandchild.

Donna felt her most important accomplishment was raising her children to become wonderful adults. She was proud of them and her grandchildren and great grandchild. She was grateful to have gone to college and seminary. It was her privilege to serve God through social work, nursing, and ministry.



Submitted by her husband, Fred Haynes

GEORGE W. HAMILTON, SR.

George W. Hamilton, Sr., was born on September 23, 1918, in Marion County, Florida, the tenth of eleven children born to Charlie and Ellen Starks Hamilton.

He married the former Inez Ruth Jackson, who preceded him in death in 2001. To this union five children were born: the Reverend George W. Hamilton, Jr., born on June 20, 1943, and passed away in 2005; Eva Bell Hamilton, born on December 4, 1941; Maehellon Hamilton Wheeler, born on January 3, 1945; Frederick Hamilton, born on July 2, 1951; and Lueseinia Hamilton Roché, born on March 16, 1953.

The Reverend Mr. Hamilton attended Candler School of Theology at Emory University. He completed his theology courses at Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Georgia, in 1956. He was ordained a local elder in 1965.

He served the following appointments: Sand Hill, Gulf Hammock; 1958-60; Paradise, Micanopy, 1960-63; Lowell, Orange Lake, 1963-67; Rochelle, North Lakeland, 1967-69; Solomon's Chapel, Orange Lake, 1969-70; Citra Parish: Debose Chapel and New Hope, 1970-75; Citra Parish: Debose Chapel, New Hope, and Solomon's Chapel, Orange Lake, 1975-77; Citra Parish: Debose Chapel, New Hope, Solomon's Chapel, Orange Lake, and Fairfield, Mt. Hermon; 1977-87; and Wesley Chapel, Cotton Plant, 1987-2004. He retired in 2004.

On September 2, 2010, Mr. Hamilton was at home among his loved ones when his Lord and Savior called him home. Memorial services were held on September 11, 2010, at Ocala West United Methodist Church in Ocala, Florida, with the Reverend Miquell Mack and the Reverend Stanley Jacobs officiating. Interment was in the Wesley Chapel Cemetery in Cotton Plant, Florida, with the Reverend S.S. Robinson giving the eulogy.

Survivors include his four children: Eva Bell Taylor, Maehellon Wheeler and husband Willie J., Frederick Hamilton, and Luescinia Roché and husband Cecil; sister, Alma Bryant; daughter-in-law, Betty Hamilton; brother-in-law, William Jackson and wife Jannie; sister-in-law, Ollie Mae Jackson; three foster daughters, Bettye Tanner, Alice Cunningham, and Queen Streeter; and a devoted grandson, Kenneth P. Taylor. Ten grandchildren, twelve great grandchildren, and a host of nieces and nephews also survive.

The Reverend Mr. Hamilton enjoyed reading biblical books and materials. He loved baseball, watching Animal Kingdom and CNN news, and visiting the sick. He enjoyed being president of the Silver Moon Burial Club. Most of all he loved his family and the Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church.



Submitted by Eva B. Taylor, daughter

THOMAS ARTHUR HUGHES

Thomas Arthur Hughes was born on May 13, 1937, in the Bronx, New York City, to Thomas A. Hughes and Elizabeth Melvin Hughes. He served in the United States Army from 1958 to 1960. He graduated from Florida Southern College in 1961 and received a master's degree in theology from Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina. His daughter, Rebekah Hughes, was born on June 30, 1978.

Tom was admitted on trial into the Virginia Conference and ordained a deacon in 1980 and was ordained an elder and received into full connection in 1983. He transferred to the Florida Conference in 1983 and served the following appointments: Forest Hills, Quincy, 1983-86; Mulberry, 1986-90; associate director, Conference Council on Ministries, serving as editor of the Florida Conference Edition of the *United Methodist Reporter/Review*, 1990-96; and Trinity, Lakeland, 1996-2002. He retired in 2002.

Tom died at Lakeland Life Center in Lakeland, Florida, on April 5, 2011. A memorial service was held on April 16, 2011, at Gentry-Morrison Funeral Home South in Lakeland, with the Reverend Leo Lacey and the Reverend Greg Presley officiating.

He is survived by his wife, Elaine Hughes of Winter Garden, Florida; daughter, Rebekah Hughes of Auburn, New York; stepsons, Larry McClellan and wife Amy of Lake Placid, Florida, Kenneth George Smith of Winter Garden, Florida, and Martin William Smith and wife Erin of Polk City, Florida; five step-grandchildren; and one step-great-grandchild.

Submitted by Elaine Hughes



DON ELMER JORDAN

Don Elmer Jordan was born in Glassport, Pennsylvania, on January 3, 1931.

The first church he served was Acme-Jones Mills in Pennsylvania. He served other churches in Pennsylvania and Georgia before moving to Florida.

He was licensed to preach in 1960 and was ordained a deacon and admitted as an associate member of the Florida Conference in 1969. He served at Westwood, Miami, 1964-65; Alva, 1965-1971 and Redland in Homestead, 1971-72. He withdrew in 1972 and was re-admitted in 1977. He then served at Faith, Tampa, 1977-81, and Dundee, 1981-94. He took disability leave in 1994 and retired in 1999.

He died on June 27, 2010. A memorial service was held at Dundee United Methodist Church on July 10, 2010.

Don was preceded in death by his wife of forty-seven years, Virginia Jordan, and his brother, Ed Jordan. He is survived by his wife, Ann Jordan of Cleveland, Georgia; a daughter, Cathy Dymond of Bradenton, Florida; a son, Thomas Jordan of Tallahassee, Florida; twelve grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Submitted by the Memoirs Committee



SPENCER DWIGHT MCQUEEN, JR.

Spencer Dwight McQueen, Jr., was born in Gloucester, Massachusetts, on April 23, 1940, the son of the Reverend Spencer Dwight McQueen, Sr., and Lillian Cole McQueen. He married Carole Ochandarena of Hialeah, Florida, on August 17, 1963. They had three children, Cathy, born in 1965; Scott, born in 1968; and Cheryl, born in 1970.

He graduated from high school in West Palm Beach, Florida, in 1958, spent one year at Florida State University, and then served in the United States Air Force for four years. In 1968 he received his first call to ministry while working for Sears in Orlando. The parents of three children, he and Carole each received a call to enter the ministry. He graduated from Seminole Junior College, and while serving a student appointment in Montverde, graduated from the University of Central Florida in political science. In 1975 the family headed to Candler School of Theology at Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia. Dwight worked as a custodian, pastored a small church, and received his Master of Divinity degree in 1978.

He was admitted as a probationary member of the Florida Conference and ordained a deacon in 1976 and was ordained an elder and received into full connection in 1981. He and Carole served the following appointments: Trinity, Tampa, 1978-81; Gulfport, 1981-87; First, Hallandale, 1987-88; First, Starke, 1988-91; and First, St. Augustine, 1991-2001. Dwight took incapacity leave in 2001 and retired in 2006. They lived in St. Petersburg.

Dwight's career was cut short and he endured various illnesses for ten and a half years. His passing came peacefully on April 10, 2011. His memorial service was held at First United Methodist Church in Gulfport, Florida, on his seventy-first birthday, April 23, 2011, with the Reverend John Powers and the Reverend Mason Dorsey officiating. His remains are at Bay Pines Veterans Cemetery in St. Petersburg, Florida.

He is remembered by his wife, Carole; son, Scott McQueen and wife Laurie of St. Petersburg; daughters, Cathy Bisbe and husband Chris and Cheryl Oglesby and husband Tony, both of North Carolina; eight grandchildren, Steven, Kayla, Zachary, Courtney, Parker, Cameron, Mara, and Eli; sister, Ann of Virginia; brother, John of Germany; mother-in-law, Eunice; and other family members.

Dwight served on organizations in towns where he was appointed and in various capacities on district and conference levels. He enjoyed every minute, especially anything to do with children. He loved being a minister and wanted to be there for people at any hour. He also was a big baseball and football fan and was loyal to whichever team was near the town we served. He was a life-long Seminole fan, a Tampa Bay Buccaneer fan, and finally a Tampa Bay Rays fan, even though he'd been a Boston Red Sox fan his entire life.

He deeply loved his family, was loyal to his friends, served each of his churches faithfully, and finally and willingly relinquished his tired body to Jesus Christ. He will be deeply missed.

Submitted by Carole O. McQueen



WILLIAM DOVERSPIKE MULLEN

William Doverspike Mullen was born on March 27, 1926, in Durham County, North Carolina, to Edesa Kells and Herbert Holeman Mullen. His early years were spent in Durham, where he became involved in music. He was an accomplished boy soprano and won several awards. He also did instrumental work on the saxophone and clarinet. In 1942 he was awarded a music scholarship to the Bolles School in Jacksonville, Florida, where he formed a dance band that played for local events.

Upon graduation in 1944 he entered the U.S. Navy, serving from 1944 to 1946. After his military service he attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he received a B.S. degree in accounting in 1950. He worked for several public accounting firms, including Ernst & Ernst, later obtaining a C.P.A. license and opening his own practice.

On January 13, 1951, he married Virginia Elizabeth Weir, whom he had met through college friends in 1949. They had two children: Carol, born on April 1, 1961, and Linda, born on February 8, 1963. They moved to Tampa, Florida, in 1963, and Bill received his reciprocal Florida CPA license, eventually becoming finance director for the Tampa Port Authority.

In the late 1960s Bill, who had always been a devoted Christian and tireless worker in the church, decided that God had a greater mission for him. He was accepted to the Duke University Divinity School in 1968. Having obtained a license to preach, he served as student pastor for two rural churches in North Carolina, Timberlake and Mt. Tirzah, from 1968 to 1971.

He received his Master of Divinity degree from Duke in 1971. He was received as a probationary member of the Florida Conference and ordained a deacon in 1969 and was ordained an elder and admitted into full connection in 1973.

He served the following appointments: associate, First, Sarasota, 1971-73; Oak Crest, Jacksonville, 1973-77; Allendale, St. Petersburg, 1977-88; and First, Largo, 1988-89. He retired from full-time service in 1989 because of health problems.

He then worked part time from 1990 to 1992 for Pasadena Community Church in St. Petersburg as minister of stewardship. Later he volunteered at several churches to help with stewardship, teach special courses, and help wherever needed. During his active years, he served on the Conference Boards of Evangelism, Trustees, and Pensions, the District Board of Trustees, and various other organizations.

Bill was a man who knew and loved the Lord, was devoted to his family, and always had time for others. He never lost his love of the ocean, spending vacations cruising and his free time building model ships. He also enjoyed teaching and working on his computer. Through the years he was confronted with many health issues but never gave up his sense of humor, his love of life, or his abiding faith and trust in God. He was always about God's work.

In May 2009 he was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a form of bone cancer. After treatment the cancer seemed to be arrested. On October 1, 2010, he was admitted to the hospital for what appeared to be a mild stroke. After testing, cancer was found in his lungs and brain. He enjoyed Thanksgiving with the family and died peacefully on December 1, 2010.

Survivors include his wife of fifty-nine years, Virginia; daughter Carol and husband Patrick Langan; daughter Linda and husband Nils Anderson; and granddaughter, Lorna Anderson.

Memorial services were held in Bradenton, Florida, on a December 4, 2010, with his nephew, the Reverend Dr. Roderic Mullen, of the North Carolina Conference officiating. Burial was in North Carolina.



Submitted by Virginia Mullen

JEFFREY YOUNG OGLESBY

Jeffrey Young Oglesby was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on October 13, 1963, the youngest child of Benjamin S. Oglesby and Mary Young Oglesby.

He married Patricia Ann Bain of Cincinnati, Ohio, on July 1, 1995. To this union were born Joshua Bain Oglesby and Emmanuel Jeffrey Oglesby.

A graduate of Roger Bacon High School in Cincinnati, Jeffrey continued his education at ITT Technical Institute, where he received an associate degree in electronics engineering technology. He later received a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education. After graduation he moved to Florida and taught in Delray Beach.

Upon receiving the call to ministry at the age of twenty-one, Jeffrey preached his first sermon at Christ Emmanuel Christian Fellowship in Cincinnati. He pursued theological studies at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky, where he earned a master of divinity degree. While in seminary he was student pastor at Simpson United Methodist Church in Versailles, Kentucky. Under his leadership a parsonage was built with the help of Habitat for Humanity.

He was admitted as a probationary member of the Florida Conference and ordained a deacon in 1996 and an elder in 2005. He served at Ebenezer, Orlando, 1997-2003; Trinity, Lake City, 2003-2006; Little Chapel, Santos, Ocala, 2006-2009; and New Life Community, Jacksonville, 2009-2011.

Humility, compassion, and vision best describe his ministry. He shepherded his flock and looked after each individual sheep with an eager solicitude. For fifteen years he made God known by building healthy Christian communities.

He died on February 22, 2011. A celebration of life service was held on March 3, 2011, at Lakewood United Methodist Church in Jacksonville, Florida, with the Reverend Moses H. Johnson, Jr., officiating.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia; sons, Joshua Bain Oglesby and Emmanuel Jeffrey Oglesby; mother, Mary Oglesby; sister, Cynthia Oglesby; niece, Ashley Kimble; nephews, Chad and André Thomas; mother-in-law, Vivian Bain; sister-in-law, LaVerne Bain Thomas; and a host of relatives, colleagues, and friends.

Submitted by Patricia Oglesby



JAMES ARTHUR PADGETT

James Arthur Padgett was born on November 27, 1917, in Evansville, Indiana.

He was ordained a deacon in 1948 and an elder in 1950, was admitted on trial into the Florida Conference in 1953, and was received into full connection in 1955. He served the following churches: supply, Curlew, 1946-51; supply, Northeast, Tampa, 1951-53; Northeast, Tampa, 1953-61; Murray Hill, Jacksonville, 1961-70; First, Melbourne, 1970-77; Casselberry, 1977-81; Skycrest, Clearwater, 1981-1984. After retirement in 1984 he served for twenty-five years as minister of visitation at First United Methodist Church in Lakeland.

Before entering the ministry he was a successful businessman and owner of the Crystal Polar Water Company in Tampa.

The Reverend Mr. Padgett died of heart failure on August 3, 2010. Funeral services were held on August 7, 2010, at First United Methodist Church in Lakeland, with the Reverend David McEntire, the Reverend Odell Miley, and the Reverend Ed Dinkins officiating.

He is survived by his wife of seventy-one years, Frances W. Padgett; daughter, Frances Sharon Campbell, Wilmore, Kentucky; sons, James Arthur Padgett, Jr., of Jacksonville, Florida; Steven Brooks Padgett of Montgomery, Alabama; seven grandchildren; and ten great grandchildren.

Submitted by the Memoirs Committee



DONALD LEE RICHARDSON

The Reverend Donald Lee Richardson was born on October 4, 1930, in Detroit, Michigan. His parents were the Reverend Russell Thomas Richardson and Elsie Lee Evans Richardson. Don lived in various places while his father went to divinity school and served as a chaplain in the navy during WWII. The family settled in Florida after the war, and Russell Richardson served the Florida Conference from 1948 to 1970.

Don married Lois Faye Bunton on February 14, 1954. Their children are David Thomas Richardson, born on December 22, 1954; Gerald Allan Richardson, born on April 18, 1956; Greg Howard Richardson, born on January 28, 1959; Timothy Duane Richardson, born on June 6, 1962; and Donna Faye Martinez, born on June 18, 1965.

Don and Lois met at Stetson University in DeLand, Florida, where Don received a bachelor's degree in music in 1953. He then received a Master of Divinity at Duke University in 1956. At Stetson and Duke he participated in the glee clubs, performing solos and piano accompaniment.

Don was admitted to the Florida Conference on trial in 1954, was ordained a deacon in 1955, and was ordained an elder in full connection in 1958. He served the following churches: McIntosh, 1956-58; Good Shepherd, Jacksonville, 1958-59; Good Shepherd/Marietta, Jacksonville, 1959-62; Lakeland District Parish, 1962-63; Trinity, Tampa, 1963-67; Live Oak, 1967-70; Chattahoochee, 1970-76; First, Daytona Beach, 1976-79; First, Riviera Beach, 1979-81; Clewiston, 1981-83; First, Haines City, 1983-86; associate director of development, Florida United Methodist Children's Home, 1986-93; and Community, Holiday, 1993-96.

Don served on the Commission on Archives and History from 1968 to 1974 and was chairperson, 1970-73, when the commission began recognizing churches and clergy celebrating significant anniversaries.

At the Good Shepherd appointment he and the members physically built the sanctuary and the education building. In the 1980s Don led three Appalachian Trail hikes and three Suwannee River canoe trips sponsored by the UMC youth camp program. In several churches, he was asked to direct the churches' choirs. Some of the special performances he directed with these choirs included *The Messiah* and *The Seven Last Words of Christ*.

Playing classical music, gardening, model railroading, stamp and coin collecting, and building rock walls at his North Carolina retirement home were among his interests. He served as scoutmaster of a Boy Scout troop in Chattahoochee for five years. Scouting gave him the opportunity to share his love of the outdoors with others. He led a group to Philmont Scout Ranch for ten days of backpacking in New Mexico. He continued his interest in music throughout his life and performed classical music programs in more than three hundred churches across Florida.

He also sang with the Bel Canto Singers in Daytona Beach, Florida, and the Merry Men in Waynesville, North Carolina. Don also participated in the Senior Games (formally Senior Olympics) in North Carolina and received numerous medals.

In 1996 Don and Lois retired to the Waynesville, North Carolina, home that he had built with his family during vacations. In 2010 they moved to the metro Atlanta area to be closer to their family. He passed away on February 22, 2011, after an extended illness. His memorial service was held at Johns Creek United Methodist Church in the Atlanta area on February 27, 2011. Officiating were the Reverend Nancy Johnson and the Reverend Bryan Lake. Don's ashes will be spread in his garden at the retirement home he built in Waynesville.

He is survived by his wife of fifty-seven years, Lois Bunton Richardson; their children: David and Becky Richardson of Rosman, North Carolina; Gerald and Doris Richardson of Magnolia, Texas; Greg and Tamara Richardson of Covington, Georgia; Tim and Adele Richardson of Maryville, Tennessee; and Donna and Sonny Martinez of Roswell, Georgia; and thirteen grandchildren and one great-grandson. Don is also survived by his sister, Patricia Whittlesey of Waynesville, North Carolina, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Submitted by Greg Richardson



WILLIAM WESLEY ROUGHTON

William Wesley Roughton was born on March 24, 1925, in the Methodist parsonage in Cumings, Kansas, the oldest of three children born to the Reverend William Harvey Roughton and Easter Bell Mosser Roughton. Returning to the family farm in Sandersville, Georgia, as a child, Bill graduated from Sandersville High School and went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree from Asbury College, Wilmore, Kentucky, in 1945, and a Master of Divinity degree from Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Kentucky in 1948.

In 1946 he married Madeline Lounette McCullough from Tarrant City, Alabama, to whom he was married for sixty-three years, until her death in 2009. Bill and Lounette had three children, Kenneth Marshall Roughton, Philip Hugh Roughton, and Judith Earline Roughton.

Bill was admitted into the Florida Conference on trial and ordained a deacon in 1948 and was received into full connection and ordained an elder in 1950. Assigned to a six-acre parcel of land in Ft. Pierce as his first pastoral appointment, Bill organized and led a new congregation, Community Methodist, 1948-54. He then served the following appointments: Goss Memorial, Orlando, 1954-61; First, Ft. Lauderdale, 1961-66; superintendent, Tallahassee District, 1966-69; superintendent, Gainesville District, 1969-72; Cason Memorial, Delray Beach, 1972-78; Christ, St. Petersburg, 1978-82; superintendent, Lakeland District, 1982-85; and First, Melbourne, 1985-90, from which he retired after forty-four years of ministry.

In addition to his work as a pastor, Bill was elected to Jurisdictional and General Conference delegations, served on the Board of Christian Social Concerns, the board of Shade and Fresh Water, and many other district and conference committees. He was active in the Emmaus and Kairos ministries well into retirement. His alma mater, Asbury College, awarded him an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree. During his tenure as a district superintendent, Bill's kind, cooperative style earned him the nickname "Sweet William" in the cabinet.

In retirement he and Lounette continued a team ministry, as together for thirteen years they visited in nursing homes and provided pastoral care with homebound members of First Church in Lakeland.

His skill in listening, coupled with his love for people and commitment to the basic rights and value of every human being, prompted Bishop James W. Henley to appoint him to the Gainesville District following the dismantling of the Central Jurisdiction, to provide leadership in the integration of the Methodist Church. He never hesitated to courageously take a stand in the name of what he understood to be God's truth. With an unshakable belief in God's power to transform the human heart in a way that changes the way a person lives in the world and a passionate commitment to fairness and justice, Bill captured the essence of Wesleyan Christian faith. Because of that faith, Bill's life and ministry influenced many, many people for the sake of the Christ he faithfully served and loved.

Bill died on March 3, 2011. A celebration of his life and ministry, led by the Reverend David McEntire, was held at First United Methodist Church, Lakeland, Florida, on March 12, 2011. Interment was in Lakeland Memorial Gardens.

He is survived by his son Ken and wife Sandy, his son Phil and wife Mica, and his daughter Judy; six grandchildren; and eight great grandchildren.



Submitted by the Roughton Family

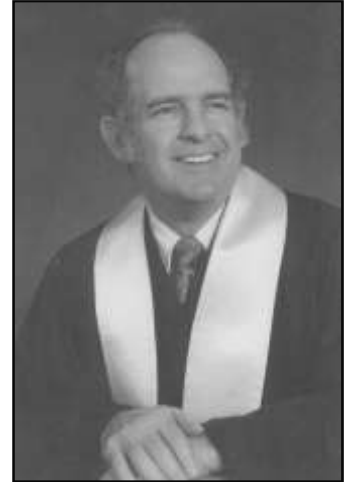
EDISON LANNY RUSSELL, SR.

Edison Lanny Russell, Sr., was born in Miami, Florida, on December 14, 1933, the son of Flossie Mae Key and George Erwin Russell, Sr.

He married his high school sweetheart, Marlene Miller, on June 21, 1953. They had four children: Edison Lanny Russell, Jr., born on September 23, 1954; Fred Erwin Russell, born on April 29, 1956; Belinda Russell Lang, born on August 7, 1957, and Robert Brian Russell, born on September 12, 1958.

Edison graduated from Jackson High School in Miami in 1952. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Florida Southern College in 1955 and a Bachelor of Divinity degree, later renamed Master of Divinity, from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in 1957.

He was admitted into the Florida Conference on trial and ordained a deacon in 1956 and was ordained an elder and received into full connection in 1960. He served the following churches: Perrine-Peters, Miami, 1957-64; First, Dunedin, 1964-72; Riverside Park, Jacksonville, 1972-76; Trinity, Bradenton, 1976-82; First, Ft. Lauderdale, 1982-84, and Temple Terrace, Tampa, 1984-87. He was associate council director for the Florida Conference from 1987 to 1996, serving as director of New Church Development, 1990-96.



When he retired in 1996, he and Marlene moved to Jacksonville, Florida, to be near three of their children. During Edison's retirement years he continued to touch many lives with his deep, caring attitude. Traveling was one of his passions, and he was able to make many trips, including to the Bahamas, the birthplace of his mother, and to Key West, Florida, the birthplace of his father and grandfather.

After having been diagnosed with cancer in December 2010, Edison died on February 20, 2011, with Marlene at his bedside. A service celebrating his life was held at Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church in Jacksonville on February 24, 2011, with the Reverend Tom Sofge, Jr., the Reverend Harry Baas, Jr., and the Reverend Jeff Bennett officiating.

He is survived by his wife, Marlene, and their four children: Edison Lanny Russell, Jr., and his wife Denise, Fred Erwin Russell, Belinda Russell Lang and her husband Tom, and Robert Brian Russell and his wife Lisa; and by his brother, Ronald Lee Russell.

Submitted by Belinda Lang

RUSH L. SEVERANCE

Rush L Severance was born on October 4, 1927, in Mayo, Florida. He was a life-long resident of the Branford/Lafayette County area.

He was a twenty-one-year veteran Master Chief of the U.S. Navy, having served in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. He was also the owner/operator of Badcock's in Branford and co-founder of the Suwannee River Bluegrass Festival.

As a local pastor he served McCall's Chapel, 1992-95, and Hanson/Rocky Springs, 1996-99. He retired in 2000.

The Reverend Mr. Severance died on September 27, 2010, following a long illness.

Funeral services were held on September 30, 2010, at the First Baptist Church in Branford, Florida, with the Reverends Bruce Williams, Carroll Phillips, and Tim Hamm officiating. Interment was in Maypop Cemetery in Maypop, Florida.

Survivors include two daughters, Chelle Severance and husband Lee Jones of Louisville, Kentucky, and Liz Severance Byrd and husband Dennis of Branford, Florida; four sons, Marcas Severance of Mayo, Florida, Victor Severance of Steinhatchee, Florida, Matthew Severance and wife Faith of Thomasville, Georgia, and Scott Severance of Louisville, Kentucky; a sister, Erma Lee Sullivan and husband Paxton of Branford, Florida; sisters-in-law, Lois Severance of Branford, Florida, and Helen Andrews of Lake Panasoffkee, Florida; two brothers, Bob Severance of Salt Springs, Florida, and Donnie Severance of Branford, Florida; ten grandchildren; and thirteen great grandchildren.

Submitted by the Memoirs Committee

GOLDEN SMITH

Golden Smith was born in Greer, South Carolina, where he attended the public schools and graduated with honors from Dunbar High School. He furthered his education at Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, Florida, where he met the love of his life, Mary Alice Cook of Jacksonville, Florida.

At an early age Golden knew he was called to preach the gospel. After graduating from Bethune-Cookman, he furthered his studies at Garrett Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois.

He served as dean of men at Savannah State College in Savannah, Georgia, and then taught mathematics at Mather Academy in Camden, South Carolina. He was dean of men at Claflin College in Orangeburg, South Carolina, for four years. He and his wife and baby daughter then moved to Jacksonville, Florida, where he taught mathematics for twenty-five years in Duval County Schools, at Northwestern, Raines, and Ribault High Schools. He also taught in the evening adult education program and at Boylan Haven, a private school under the auspices of the Women's Division of the United Methodist Church.



He was admitted on trial into the Florida Conference, Central Jurisdiction, and ordained a deacon in 1957 and was received into full connection in 1959.

His appointments were as follows: Bowen, Jacksonville, 1957-58; Boylan Haven School, 1958-59; Paradise, Alachua, 1959-61; Cedar Key, 1961-63; Hastings, 1963-65; St. Joseph/ Mt. Zion, Jacksonville, 1965-77; Trinity, St Augustine, 1977-84; Ocala Parish: Wesley, Cotton Plant/Zion, Ocala, 1984-86; Mikesville Parish: Bethlehem, Mikesville/New Mt. Zion, Columbia City/Mt. Carmel, High /Springs, 1986-87; Scott Chapel, Melbourne, 1987-92. He retired in 1992.

He participated on numerous boards and committees on both district and conference levels, including the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Work Area on Religion and Race. At each of his appointments he also served in the community.

Golden Smith died on November 11, 2010. Funeral services were held on November 22, 2010, at Stewart Memorial United Methodist Church in Daytona Beach, Florida, with the Reverend Dr. M. Silas M'Mworio officiating. Burial was in Greenwood Cemetery in Daytona Beach.

He leaves behind his loving wife of fifty-nine years, Mary Alice; one daughter, Mary Alvee and husband Ricky; six grandchildren; ten great grandchildren; sister-in-law, Shirley Bing; cousins, Douglas Gregg and Selma Perry; and his childhood friend, J.B. Norris.

Submitted by the Memoirs Committee

ASA WILLIAM SPRAGUE

Asa William Sprague was born on June 10, 1935, in Schuyler Lake, New York. He graduated from Middleburgh, New York, High School and received degrees from Excelsior College, United Theological Seminary, and McGill University in Montreal, Canada.

He taught music and humanities in New York public and private schools and then became a media consultant and trained teachers and corporate trainers. He also served as director of educational training systems for a division of General Electric.

He was president of The Back-Up Corporation, an ecumenical Christian organization designed to support individuals, groups, and businesses in working toward an enriched and more meaningful life. The corporation owned and operated The Gift Retreat Center in West Chazy, New York.

He was admitted into the Troy Conference and ordained a deacon in 1983 and was ordained an elder and received into full connection in 1985. In that conference he served churches in New York and Vermont. He was chair of the Communications Committee, the Conference Council on Ministries, and the Advisory Council for Spiritual Formation.

He transferred to the Florida Conference in 1991 and served the following appointments: First, Plantation, 1991-93; associate, Englewood, 1993-97; Sun City Center, 1997-2001. He retired in 2001.

He and his wife Beverly co-directed many children's camps at Skye Farm Camps. The Reverend Mr. Sprague maintained an extensive schedule of speaking engagements, worship presentations, and retreat leadership. He was an author of many journal and newsletter articles and also served as an adjunct professor of courses in religion, grief education, technology, and media utilization. He had an ardent interest in bio-ethics and served on several hospital ethics committees, the Vermont State Ethics Network, and the Tampa Bay Alzheimer's Association.

The Reverend Mr. Sprague died on April 12, 2011, at the Wesley Health Care Center in Saratoga Springs, New York, after a long illness.

He is survived by his beloved wife of thirty-three years, Beverly K. Sprague, also of the Wesley Health Care Center; son, Theodore Sprague of Laramie, Wyoming.; daughter, Mary Ann Wedeman and husband Timothy of Waterford, New York; son, Timothy Ogsbury and wife Shelly of Fort Ann, New York; daughter, Jeanne Brandone and husband Michael of Boise, Idaho; son, James Ogsbury of Round Lake, New York; daughter, Kate Owens of Delmar, New York; and many grandchildren.

A celebration of the Reverend Mr. Rev. Sprague's life took place on Saturday, April 16, 2011, at the Shenendehowa United Methodist Church in Clifton Park, New York.



Submitted by the Memoirs Committee

LUTHER RAY STOKES

Luther Ray Stokes, a native of Homewood, Mississippi, was born on October 16, 1924, at the old home place in Scott County, Mississippi, to the late Earnest and Ethel Stokes.

He was a veteran of the United States Navy, having served his country during World War II as a pharmacist mate in St. Albans, New York, and San Bruno and Tadeen Camp Elliot, California, before being honorably discharged December 31, 1945.

In 1945 he enrolled at Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky, where he graduated in 1950 with a B.A. in philosophy and religion. While at Asbury he met and married Clara Orander from Crumpler, West Virginia, on August 4, 1948. During his time at Asbury he served the student charge of Berry and Boyd in the Lexington District. He graduated from Asbury Theological Seminary in 1954 and pastored the Vicco Methodist Church in the Barbourville District for a year.

He was ordained a deacon in 1954 and was admitted on trial into the Florida Conference in 1956. He was received into full connection and ordained an elder in 1958. He served the following appointments: Sopchoppy Circuit, 1955-63; First, Monticello, 1963-1965; alumni secretary, Asbury College, 1965-67; Williston, 1967-77; First, Lake City, 1977-79; sabbatical leave, 1979-80; and approved evangelist, 1980-1986. He retired in 1986.

While serving at Asbury under the direction of his dear friend and president of the college, Dr. Z.T. Johnson, he was secretary and treasurer of the Alumni Association, director of public relations, and editor of the *Asbury Alumnus*. As an evangelist he formed the Luther R. Stokes Evangelistic Association, which continued until 1985.

People were his greatest treasure, and he loved spending time in visitation. He was a life-long Mason of the Homewood Lodge. He made cane syrup, grew a garden, tended to his animals, fished, and hunted in Gulf Hammock.

He died on March 12, 2011, at the V.A. Hospice Serenity Place in Lake City, Florida. A graveside service was held on March 20, 2011, at Orange Hill Cemetery in Lake City, with the Reverend Wes Smith, Judge Joe Smith, and the Reverend Will Clark officiating.

Survivors include his former wife, Clara, of Lake City, Florida; daughter Paula Powers of Lake City; son John and wife Melanie of Lake City and Lewis and wife Cindy of Gainesville, Florida; sister, Esther Irene and husband Joe of Laurel, Mississippi; sister-in-law Carolina Stokes of Maryland; half brothers William Clark and wife Rose of Brookhaven, Mississippi, and Jimmy Boykin and wife Barbara of Petal, Mississippi; granddaughters Allison Powers-Vendig of Dallas, Texas, and Jessica Wike Johnson of Yulee, Florida; great granddaughter Lyndsy; great grandsons Perace Powers-Vendig and Nathaniel Stokes. He was preceded in death by his parents, his brothers Earnest Curtis and James Marzell, sister Hazel Marie Wolf, and half brother Billy Ferrell.



Submitted by the Memoirs Committee

RAYMOND CHESTER STOVER

Raymond Chester Stover, known as Smokey, was born on December 2, 1923, in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, to Fenton Stover and Hazel Knapp Stover.

He married Peggy Lou Bowers on June 2, 1948, and they had a daughter, JoAnn, born on March 26, 1957. He served in the navy during WWII and was a sales representative for Standard Oil. Company

A graduate of Williamsport, Pennsylvania, High School, he received a B.S. degree in physical education from Lock Haven State Teachers College and a B.D. degree from Candler School of Theology at Emory University in 1967. While at Candler he supplied pulpits in Nine Mile and Ellijay, Georgia.

Admitted into the Florida Conference on trial and ordained a deacon in 1967, he was ordained an elder in 1969. He served the following churches: St. Luke's, Lake Worth, 1968-72; Lake Alfred, 1972-74; Holden Heights, Orlando, 1974-83; associate, Pine Castle, 1983-86; and Holden Heights, 1986-93. He retired in 1993.

In retirement he served as interim pastor at First, Auburndale, for six months in 1996, and he provided the meditation for Wednesday night dinners until the last two months of his life.

Smokey touched many lives and will always be remembered for passing out Hug Coupons and for his hugs. He passed them out to everyone wherever he went. He was a true servant of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will be missed by many.

After having been under the care of Good Shepherd Hospice for a year, he died of cancer at home on October 21, 2010, with his family by his side. A memorial service, with military honors, was held on October 31, 2010, at First United Methodist Church in Auburndale, Florida, with his daughter, JoAnn Meeks, nephew Bob Jolloff, and the Reverend Doug Townley officiating. Burial was at Lake Hickory Nut in Winter Garden, Florida.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife of fifty-three years, Peggy and three brothers, Art, Earl, and Bill. He is survived by his daughter, JoAnn Meeks and husband Wayne of Auburndale; his brother, Fenton Stover of Williamsport, Pennsylvania; two grandchildren, Shawn Buchanan of Winter Haven, Florida, and Jeremy Meeks of Lakeland, Florida; eight grandchildren, Kayli, Dakoeven, Sierrra, Malina, Hagen, Tristan, Austin, and Kayla; sister-in-law, Betty Stover of Kissimmee, Florida; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Submitted by JoAnn Meeks



ALFRED WELLINGTON TAYLOR

Alfred Wellington Taylor was born in West Palm Beach, Florida, on November 16, 1929, to Cecil Arnett Hutchinson and Obedia Melchi Taylor.

He married Ophelia Williams on December 24, 1957. They had five sons: Edward Taylor, born on July 6, 1951; Ronald Taylor, born on May 5, 1953; Victor Taylor, born on April 17, 1954; Aaron Taylor, born on November 25, 1958; and William Taylor, born on November 2, 1968.

He received a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy and religion from Bethune-Cookman College in 1958 and attended Gammon Theological Seminary, 1958-59. He was admitted to the South Florida Conference, Central Jurisdiction, in 1951, was ordained a deacon and admitted into full connection in 1953, and was ordained an elder in 1955.

He served the following appointments: St. John, Ft. Pierce, 1980-81; Mt. Zion, Clearwater, 1981-83; St. Mark, Lakeland/St. Luke's, Plant City, 1983-87; Lake City Parish, 1987-90; Mt. Nebo/Paradise, Alachua 1990-95; and Simpson Memorial, Riviera Beach, 1995-96. He retired in 1996.

The Reverend Mr. Taylor died on December 18, 2010. His memorial service was held at Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church in McDonough, Georgia, with the Reverend Dr. Howard Wright officiating. Burial was in Forest Hills Cemetery in Forest Park, Georgia. He is survived by his wife, Ophelia Taylor; sons, Edward Taylor, Ronald Taylor, Aaron Taylor, and William Taylor; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Submitted by William H. Taylor

JAMES EARL ULMER

James Earl Ulmer, Sr. was born April 3, 1927, to James Henry Ulmer and Carrie Elizabeth Hull Ulmer in the community of Curlew, Florida, in the Palm Harbor area of Pinellas County. When he was a year old, his family returned to the family farm in Hampton County, South Carolina. After he completed the ninth grade, the family returned to Palm Harbor and Jim graduated from Tarpon Springs High School.

Jim married his high school sweetheart, Lois Walters, in 1946. She preceded him in death on October 25, 1990, shortly after their retirement. They had three children: Janet Elaine Holmes, born on July 14, 1946, died on October 10, 1996; James Earl Ulmer, Jr., born on January 22, 1948; and Natalie Anne Ulmer Ussrey, born on December 16, 1967. In 1991 Jim married Judith Ann Bushman, who had been a member of Concord Park United Methodist Church in Orlando, where he was pastor from 1973-77.

Jim was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1945 and served two years, including occupation duty in Europe; he also served two years at Ft. McPherson in Atlanta, Georgia, during the Korean Conflict.

He graduated from Florida Southern College in 1955 and Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, with a M.Div. in 1958. He was licensed to preach in 1950 and served as a student pastor at Ft. Ogden, Nocatee, and Gibsonton while a student at Florida Southern College. He also served as student pastor at three churches in Illinois while he was a student at Garrett. He was admitted to the Florida Conference on trial in 1955, was ordained a deacon in 1956, and was ordained an elder and received into full connection in 1958.

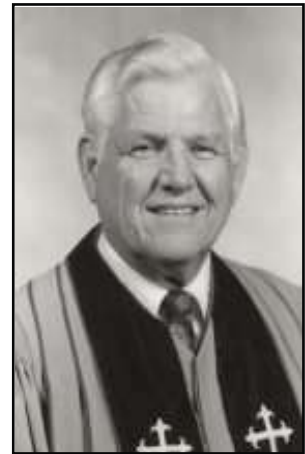
Jim served the following churches after graduating from Garrett: First, Sarasota, associate, 1958-59; Tice, 1959-62; First, Tarpon Springs, 1962-65; Brooksville, 1965-68; First, Sanford, 1968-69; sabbatical, 1969-70; Wauchula, 1970-73; Broadway-Concord Park, Orlando, 1973-77; Florida United Methodist Children's Home, director of development, 1977-79; Sanlando, Orlando, 1979-86; First, Lake Wales, 1986-88; and Christ-by-the-Sea, Vero Beach, 1988-90.

After retirement in 1990, he served Christ, Sanford; Concord Park; Taft; and Grace, Orlando. Jim was also a volunteer chaplain at Health Central Hospital in Ocoee, Florida, from 1993 to 2004. After moving to Apopka in 2004, Jim and Judy attended Zellwood United Methodist Church, where Jim was active in the Caring Shepherds group, visiting shut-ins on a regular basis and serving them communion.

Jim had his first open heart surgery in 1996. On July 19, 2010, he again had open heart surgery for aortic valve replacement and a bypass. The heart surgery went extremely well, but he developed pneumonia and other complications and died suddenly on August 21, 2010. His memorial service was held at Zellwood United Methodist Church on August 31, 2010. Officiating clergy were the Reverend Nadine Richmond and the Reverend Ron Allen; also taking part were the Reverend Dean Witten and the Reverend Jeffery Smith.

He is survived by his wife Judy; his children, Jim, Jr., Natalie Ussrey and husband Keith, Brian Skiles, and Laura Depew; ten grandchildren; seven great grandchildren; two brothers; and two sisters.

Jim was a people person and had a wonderful sense of humor. He loved people, and they responded to his warm and loving nature. He always had a smile for everyone and did not know a stranger. He often said in his later years that the essence of Christianity was expressed in the words of Jesus: love God and love people. Jim was a humble Christian but strong in his faith and love for God and people. He has heard the words of Jesus: well done, good and faithful servant, enter into that home prepared for all those who love God.



Submitted by his wife, Judy Ulmer

HOLLAND REX VAUGHAN

Holland Rex Vaughan was born in Holmes County, Florida, on October 27, 1932, the younger of two boys born to Walton Weston Vaughan and Mary Laird Vaughan, life-long members of Mt. Ida Congregational Methodist Church in New Hope, Florida. As a boy Holland attended local schools in Florida and Geneva, Alabama. In 1954 he received a bachelor's degree from Troy State Teacher's College (now Troy University) in Troy, Alabama. The day after graduation he married his high school sweetheart, Dorothy Jean Braswell.

He taught high school band for two years, in Dalton, Nebraska, 1954-55, and in Altha, Florida, 1955-56, during which time his son Norman was born on February 12, 1956. He was called to the ministry and attended seminary at Candler School of Theology at Emory University, 1957-59. Holland was admitted on trial into the Alabama-West Florida Conference in 1956, was ordained deacon and elder in 1957, and was received into full connection in 1959. He earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary in 1980.



During seminary, he served two years as pastor of the Cumming, Georgia, Circuit, and in his last year he commuted to serve a church in Panama City, Florida. After graduation he returned to Nebraska and served a circuit of three churches near Cody for one year, 1959-60, during which time his daughter Eleta was born on November 27, 1959.

After transferring to the Florida Conference in 1960, he served the following appointments: Riverview, 1961-62; Nebraska Avenue, Tampa, 1962-66; Springfield, Jacksonville, 1966-70; Venice-Nokomis, 1970-76; First, Plant City, 1976-78; St. Paul's, Melbourne, 1978-81; Merrell, Fort Lauderdale, 1981-82; Spring Glen, Jacksonville, 1982-83; Trinity, Arcadia, 1983-85; First, Pahokee, 1985-89; First, Fort Meade, 1989-90; St. Mark's, Ocala, 1990-94; associate, First, Brandon, 1994-95; and Trinity, North Port, 1995-96. He retired and moved to Gainesville in 1996. In retirement he served McCall's Chapel in Branford, 1996-99, and Wellborn, 2000-03. He and Jean attended Wesley United Methodist Church in Gainesville.

Holland died unexpectedly on April 8, 2011. His funeral was held at Mt. Ida Congregational Methodist Church in New Hope, Florida, his family church, on April 16, 2011. He was buried in the adjoining cemetery amid generations of relatives. The officiating ministers were his good friend, the Reverend Harold Hendren, and the Reverend Tom Whiddon.

He is survived by his wife of fifty-six years, Jean Vaughan, of Gainesville; his brother, Kenneth Vaughan of Old Town, Florida; his son Norman Vaughan and daughter-in-law Judy of Callahan, Florida; and his daughter Eleta Sucsy and son-in-law Peter of Keystone Heights, Florida. He is also survived by his grandchildren Erin, Meghan and her husband Jesse Aspinwall, Neil and Keith Vaughan, and Anna and Kai Sucsy. His first great grandchild, Jace, was born on April 15.

Holland grew up in the country and while the majority of his ministry was urban, he maintained a strong affinity for rural life. As a young man he and his brother earned money for college by raising chickens; as an adult, while serving at various churches, he hunted raccoons and rabbits and raised hunting dogs, chickens, and doves. Always energetic and active, he enjoyed travel. In the 1970s he led church youth groups on trips to the western United States, Labrador, Canada, and Nicaragua. He also exchanged churches for a month with a minister from Portadown, Northern Ireland. Later he organized tours to the Holy Land. The center of his life was the ministry. He loved talking to people, whether he knew them or not. He was fortunate to be able to do this until his death. He will be greatly missed by his friends and family.

Submitted by his daughter, Eleta Sucsy

DAVID HAROLD WHITE

David Harold White was born in Urbana, Ohio, on December 16, 1932, to David and Carris Bowen White. He married Lois Compton on April 27, 1974, and they had three children: Stephen White, now deceased, David Raymond White, and Carris White.

David worked in agriculture and construction and was a captain at Eastern Airlines. After his retirement from aviation, he experienced a spiritual rebirth and felt a calling to serve God and the church. He began as a lay leader in LaBelle United Methodist Church and then was an associate pastor at Christ United Methodist Church in Lehigh Acres. In 1990 he was appointed to Old Town, where he served until his retirement in 2000. He was licensed as a local pastor in 1992 and completed the Course of Study at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, in 1995.

David died peacefully on September 22, 2010, from respiratory failure, at Hospice in Lake City, Florida, with family at his side.

Because David was a storyteller and loved covered dish dinners, a memorial service in the form of a covered dish dinner was held on October 25, 2010. His memory was celebrated by friends and loved ones who related stories of how he touched their lives. The Reverend Louie Mabry officiated.

Survivors are his wife, Lois C. White; his son, David Raymond White; and his daughter, Carris White.

David was a people person, a story teller, and a loving husband and father. He had a huge presence and leaves behind a void of equal size.

Submitted by Lois C. White



Spouses

SIRIA MARGARITA ACEBO

Siria Margarita Acebo was born to Juana Rosa Medina and Esteban Quevedo on December 29, 1933, in Alacranes, Cuba. She was the youngest of six children.

Siria graduated from the Bible School of Los Pinos Nuevo in Placetas, Cuba, in 1953, receiving a certificate in Christian education. She married the Reverend Benito Acebo in 1955 and was a full partner in his ministry for almost fifty-six years. Siria was dedicated to teaching children the love of Christ through her active role as Sunday school teacher.

After ten years of pastoral service in Cuba, in 1967 the Acebo family immigrated to the United States and embraced a new way of life and tradition. They were greeted by Bishop James Lloyd Knox, coordinator of Hispanic ministry in Florida. Bishop James W. Henley appointed the Reverend Mr. Acebo and his family to Wesley Hispanic United Methodist Church in Miami.

The family is grateful to the United Methodist Church and the Florida Conference for the love and support they received during their early years in this country. Their twenty-eight years were served at Wesley in Miami and the Spanish ministry at Nebraska Avenue in Tampa.

Siria passed away at the age of seventy-six on December 1, 2010, in her West Palm Beach home. Her funeral service took place at the First Hispanic United Methodist Church in Lake Worth, Florida, with the Reverend Dario Acuna and the Reverend Jacqueline Leveron officiating.

She is survived by her husband, the Reverend Benito Acebo; two daughters, Ester Story and Marta Rodriguez; sons-in-law, Robert Story and Jorge Rodriguez; grandchildren Kristine, Jacqueline, Jovan, and Janel; and great grandson, Victor.

The Reverend Mr. Acebo and his family are grateful to the many friends who continuously prayed and kept in contact during her illness and passing. Siria loved the Lord with all her heart. She was a loving wife and a special mother, grandmother, and great grandmother.

Submitted by the Reverend Benito Acebo, Ester Story, and Marta Rodriguez

MILDRED ELIZABETH McGOVERN BRADY

Mildred Elizabeth McGovern Brady was born on February 7, 1925, in Avon, South Dakota, to the Reverend Joseph C. McGovern and Frances McLean McGovern. She was a member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Mitchell, South Dakota.

She attended the Methodist School of Nursing in Mitchell, South Dakota, 1943-46, and Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana, 1946-48. She became a registered nurse in 1946.

On August 29, 1948, she married the Reverend Harold E. Brady. Together they served Evangelical United Brethren and United Methodist Churches in South Dakota, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Iowa. After their move to Florida in 1980, she served alongside him at Biscayne Methodist Home in Miami, Manhattan Avenue in Tampa, Epperson in Jacksonville, and Asbury in New Port Richey. They retired to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, in 1991.

Mildred's hobbies included reading, playing the piano, sewing, crocheting, cooking, and baking. She had the gift of being a wonderful hostess, well known by family and friends for her meals, desserts, and candies. She also had the gift of making and keeping good friends.

Mildred died on May 4, 2010, from Alzheimer's disease. Funeral services were held on May 8, 2010, at First United Methodist Church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Officiating clergy were the Reverend Rodney Gist, the Reverend Bill Bates, the Reverend Dick Boyd, and the Reverend Randy Hogarth. Burial was in Woodlawn Cemetery in Sioux Falls.

She is survived by her husband, the Reverend Harold E. Brady; two daughters, Barbara Ann Brady Stanley and husband David and Carol Jeanne Brady; a brother, George S. McGovern; grandsons, Chris Stanley and wife Jen and Kyle Stanley and wife Mindi; and three great grandchildren, Kathleen, Kegan, and Arianna Stanley.

Submitted by her daughter, Carol Brady



ELIZABETH MCCAHLAIN DOWNEY

Elizabeth McCastlain Downey was born October 9, 1932, in Memphis, Tennessee, to the Reverend Morris and Bessie Tayloe McCastlain. She grew up in a Methodist parsonage while her father served in the Memphis Conference.

When she attended Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia, she met Jack Downey, who was attending Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta. Beth and Jack were married in 1953, and she received her B.A. in English Literature in 1954. The couple continued study at Edinburgh University in Scotland and in 1958 began their ministry in the Florida Conference at Riverside Park in Jacksonville.

Beth served alongside her husband in Cocoa Beach, the University of Florida, Stuart, and Boca Raton. Because she was good at family relationships, however, her best ministry was to her five children: Jackson, born in Atlanta on June 28, 1954; Bonnie, born in Scotland on August 1, 1956; Lucy, born in Jacksonville on July 22, 1959; Linda, born in Cocoa Beach on February 23, 1962; and Rachel, born in Gainesville on February 8, 1970. Jackson received an M.D. from the University of Florida, while all four of the daughters graduated from Florida Southern College in Lakeland. Three of the girls are currently in full-time ministries with their husbands.

While serving in Boca Raton, Beth attended Florida Atlantic University, receiving an M.A. degree in English Literature in 1979. She became a college professor at Palm Beach Community College and later at Valencia Community College. Jack attended her classes using a false name, and they had interesting exchanges as student and teacher. Beth's specialty was American literature, and she especially liked Flannery O'Connor, who depicted the way God can break into lives and moments unexpectedly.

When the family moved to Lakeside in Lake Worth, she began a ministry to college students in the parsonage on Sunday evenings. Lively discussions about faith drew students into dialogue with her and one another over the issues of young single adults. She inspired them in a journey of faith because of the wonder of her own faith in Jesus.

In Jack's last appointment in Lehigh Acres she sponsored a Sunday school class for young adults grappling with the issues of marriage and raising children. This same group came to lead the larger church body.

Beth was a bright and burning lamp for Jesus. She loved well and reflected Jesus Christ as she ministered to others even her last days. The most amazing thing about her life and ministry is the bond that she created with her children and grandchildren and their spouses, all of whom are intentionally and actively serving in the ministry of Christ.

Beth died on June 13, 2010, in Cocoa Beach, Florida, where they had retired in 1994. Funeral services, conducted entirely by her grandchildren, were held on June 19, 2010, at Long's Chapel United Methodist Church in Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. A memorial service was held at First United Methodist Church in Cocoa, Florida, on June 26, 2010. She is buried in Waynesville, North Carolina.

She is survived by her husband, Jack, a retired member of the Florida Conference; her five children and their spouses; sixteen grandchildren; and three great grandchildren.



Submitted by Jack Downey

POLLY THOMPSON BOWDOIN GAVIN

Polly Thompson Bowdoin Gavin was born in Griffin, Georgia, on May 23, 1928, to Sam and Bertha Thompson. She grew up in Plant City and graduated from Plant City High School in 1946. She attended Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky, and graduated from Florida Southern College in Lakeland with a degree in elementary education.

On June 4, 1950, Polly was united in marriage with Herb Bowdoin, a United Methodist pastor and evangelist. Together they served the Lord, until Herb passed away after forty-three wonderful years of marriage. Polly and Herb had three children, who survive her: Kathy Toole of Orlando, Florida; Jan Oswald and her husband Jim of Middleburg, Florida; and Mike and his wife Wendy of Longwood, Florida.

After losing Herb, the Lord blessed Polly with another wonderful marriage. On January 15, 2000, Polly united in marriage with Fred Gavin. Fred's three children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, along with Polly's, are thankful for their ten wonderful years together. They shared a special love in their later years as Fred affectionately called Polly "Sugar."

She was a gifted educator. Over the years parents would request that their children be placed in her class, where they were loved and educated. Polly loved to learn, and her greatest joy was reading with her grandchildren.

Polly passed away in Zephyrhills, Florida, on November 15, 2010, as a result of trauma caused by an accident. She slipped peacefully into the arms of Jesus, surrounded by her loving family. She is survived by her husband Fred Gavin; his three children, Dennis Gavin and his wife Barbara of Dover, Florida; Debbie Cribbs and her husband Danny of Brandon, Florida; and Patrick Gavin of Lakeland, Florida; her three children and their spouses; sixteen grandchildren; and seven great grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister, Sammie Carpenter of Douglas, Georgia, and many nieces and nephews.

Polly's service was conducted at First Baptist Church in Dover, Florida, on November 19, 2010. The service was lead by Dr. Jiles Kirkland, Dr. Odell Miley, and Dr. David Brazelton, all long-time friends of the Bowdoin family. She was buried next to Herb in the cemetery of First Baptist Church in Dover.

Polly's legacy is that she loved her God and her family. She taught us all how to live and love unconditionally. This is not good-bye, Mom. This is until we see you again.

Submitted by Jan Oswald, daughter



ESTELLE DAVENPORT MOORE

Estelle Davenport Moore was born on June 7, 1921, in Franklin, Tennessee, to William Arlin and Frances Amanda Davenport. She was married to James Howard Moore on June 19, 1945. They had two children: James Howard Moore, Jr., born on February 18, 1962, and Cheryl Estelle Moore Nelson, born on February 18, 1963.

She was helpmate and full participant in the ministry of her husband. They came to Florida from West Virginia in 1965 and served in McClenny, Madison County, Ellenton, Tampa, Gainesville, Ft. Meade, and Jacksonville. The Reverend Mr. Moore retired in 1988 and died in 1990.

She was a member of Good Shepherd United Methodist Church in Jacksonville, Florida.

Estelle died on December 10, 2010. Graveside services were held on December 16, 2010, at Florida Memorial Gardens in Rockledge, with the Reverend Alan Liphart officiating.

She is survived by her children, James Howard Moore, Jr., and wife Cristie and Cheryl Moore Nelson; grandchildren, Jamelyn Cherelle Nelson, Ethan Ray Nelson, Shelby Breann Nelson, and Jared Edens; and great grandson, Logan Gage Landon.

Submitted by Cheryl Moore Nelson



LINDA LASHLEY PEARSON

Linda Lashley Pearson was born on November 14, 1930, in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, to James Maynard (Bill) Lashley and Mary Caroline Lashley. When she was five, they moved to Lakeland, Florida. She attended schools in Lakeland and in 1952 graduated from Florida Southern College, where she received an A.B. degree in pre-school education. It was here that she met Lee Pearson III, whom she married on February 9, 1952.

Her next three years were spent in Atlanta, Georgia, teaching first grade at Druid Hills Elementary School while Lee was in seminary at Candler School of Theology at Emory University. Their oldest son, Lee IV, was born on July 2, 1953. During the summers they lived at the Methodist Youth Camp in Leesburg, Florida, where Lee was leader of the Youth Team. In June 1955 they were appointed to Gainesville and in 1957 to Lakeland, where Linda Caroline was born on October 5, 1957. From there they went to Tampa, where Martha Jolyn was born on August 6, 1961. Appointments to Miami, Tallahassee, Lakeland, St. Petersburg, where Kevin Nathaniel was born on August 31, 1973, and Miami followed. In 1979 they moved to Leesburg to the Life Enrichment Center, where Lee was director. After retiring in 1995 they continued to live in Leesburg.



Over the years Linda was a Camp Fire leader, Cub Scout den mother, pre-school teacher in a weekday church day school, and a regular pre-school or kindergarten teacher in Vacation Bible School.

Linda had two hobbies: gardening, particularly growing roses, and being a watercolor artist. As with anything she chose to pursue, she became accomplished at both. She loved and cared for her family as a wonderful and devoted wife and mother.

On Easter Sunday morning, April 24, 2011, Linda at age eighty left this life and moved into her eternal home. A memorial service was held in on April 30, 2011, in the chapel at the Warren W. Willis United Methodist Camp in Leesburg. Participating in her service were the Reverend Jess Schload, the Reverend Joe Smith, the Reverend Gene Zimmerman, and Mr. Mike Standifer. A private burial took place at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens in Leesburg.

Surviving are her husband Lee; all four of her children: Lee Pearson IV and wife Sharon of Sebring, Florida; Caroline Feaster and husband Lynn of St. Petersburg, Florida; Jolyn Charron and husband Alan of Orlando, Florida; and Kevin Pearson of South Florida; her two sisters, Diane Jordan and husband William of Atlanta, Georgia, and Karen Ruthven and husband Joe of Lakeland, Florida; and nine grandchildren.

There is an emptiness now in our family that cannot be filled. She will be missed greatly but with great memories and much love.

Submitted by her husband, Lee Pearson

DORIS VIRGINIA LANIER REPPENHAGEN

Doris Virginia Lanier Reppenhagen was born in Baltimore, Maryland, on May 3, 1930, to William A. and Bessie Riley Lanier. She grew into an ambitious and beautiful young woman who, because of her love of the Lord, received her bachelor's degree in religious education.

She was the dedicated wife of Arthur A. Reppenhagen, Jr., her loving husband and best friend. They worked side by side for more than fifty years, serving churches throughout the conference. Their last church was Big Coppitt Key, which they served after Arthur's retirement. They lived in Key West, where Doris was hired as a teacher at Truman Elementary School in 1967. She also taught at Glynn Archer and Sigsbee Schools. She moved from general education to the Exceptional Student Education program that took her through to her retirement in 1995.

Doris always believed that the world is out there waiting to be discovered: "We must open our hearts, our eyes, our ears, our minds, and our imagination. We must sit silently to observe, to create, and then move out to make his world a better place to live. We must explore new horizons. Time never stands still, my child! We must do all we can while we are able."

Doris passed away on December 31, 2010, with her loving family at her side. Funeral services were held on January 10, 2011, at First Congregational Church in Key West, Florida. Burial was in Southern Keys Cemetery on Big Coppitt Key, Florida.

She was predeceased in 2007 by Arthur A. Reppenhagen, Jr., her husband of fifty-four years. Surviving are her daughter, Tamera Lynn Reppenhagen, to whom she was a loving and supportive mother and friend; her son, Arthur Timothy Reppenhagen; and her grandson, Julian Chase Alexander Boen Reppenhagen, who bestowed her most valued title, that of Grandmother. She will be missed each day by her children and friends.

Submitted by Tamera L. Reppenhagen

MARY LOUISE STRICKLAND

Mary Louise Strickland came to Florida with her husband, the Reverend William D. Strickland, in 1979, when he transferred from the Louisville Conference. They lived in Lakeland, and he served as director of deferred giving for the conference until his retirement in 1992.

Mary Louise died on September 14, 2010.

Submitted by the Memoirs Committee

VIRGINIA HENDRY SWEAT

Virginia Hendry Sweat was the loving minister's wife of the Reverend Dr. J. Marvin Sweat. A life-long member of First United Methodist Church in St. Petersburg, Ginny loved her church work, her church family, and her choir life. She enjoyed supporting Marvin in his work as minister of visitation. She was known as Sweet Ginny because of her loving spirit. She was devoted to her family and was a loving friend to countless people. She never met a stranger.

In addition to her active church life, Ginny was a member of the P.E.O. Sisterhood and a sustaining member of the Junior League. She was a graduate of St. Petersburg High School and the University of South Florida. She worked for thirty-three years for the American Automobile Association.

Ginny died on September 10, 2010, at Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Florida. Funeral services were held on September 15, 2010, at First United Methodist Church in St. Petersburg.

She is survived by her loving husband, the Reverend J. Marvin Sweat of St. Petersburg; her sister, Laureen H. Lynn of Mobile, Alabama; her brothers, Donald W. Hendry of Oldsmar, Florida; Robert W. Hendry, Jr., of St. Petersburg; and William M. Hendry of St. Petersburg; nieces, Kara and Erin Hendry; nephews, Donny, Andrew, John, and Matthew Hendry; stepdaughter, Alice Jeanne McGuire of Cullowhee, North Carolina; stepsons, James M. Sweat III of Boynton Beach, Florida; Thomas W. Sweat of Richmond, Virginia, and David Scott Sweat of Naples, Florida; twelve grandchildren; and three great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, Robert W. Hendry, Sr., and Hildred J. Hendry, and her sister, Martha J. Hendry.

With blessings from heaven Ginny lived joyfully, with warm and loving hugs for all and happy smiles giving hope and joy. She gave happiness as a minister's wife with hope and courage. In a real sense she was an evangelist.

On May 7, 1949, Ginny came from God to bless our world. On September 10, 2010, she returned to God to receive the blessings of His heaven. Jesus made it so. Hallelujah!

Submitted by J. Marvin Sweat



RETHA MAE SCALES SWISHER-DEVANE

Retha Mae Swisher-Devane was born on September 22, 1928, in Elkhorn, West Virginia, to Harry M. and Cora Blanche Ferguson Scales. She was a retired CNA, having worked in hospitals and nursing homes. She was a past member of Cork United Methodist Church in Plant City and attended Faith Wesleyan Church in Lakeland. Retha enjoyed reading, shopping, and being with her family.

Together with her first husband, Reverend Paul D. Swisher, they served churches throughout the conference until he died in 1988. Her second husband, Donald G. Devane, also pre-deceased her, as did her sister-in-law, Virginia Ferguson, and two brothers, Kecil and Clinton Scales.

Retha is survived by her daughters, Paula Walters and husband Tom of Polk City, Florida, and Debbie Nichols and husband Richard of Naples, Florida; her sister, Jewel Clements of Plant City, Florida; her brother, Freddie Scales and wife Barbara of Plant City; five grandchildren: Chris, Crystal, Jason, Isaac, and Nathaniel; eight great grandchildren: Elaine, Christian, Raelynn, Rayden, Alyiss, Calvin, Jasmine, and Jada.

Funeral services were held on September 24, 2010, at the Kersey Funeral Home in Auburndale. Interment was in Auburndale Memorial Park.

Submitted by the Memoirs Committee



ROBERTA L. CARTER TERVIN

Roberta (Bobby) L. Carter Tervin was born on October 25, 1937, in Dubois, Pennsylvania, to Homer B. and Kathryn L. Cobb Carter. Her early years were spent in Rochester, New York, and she later moved with her family to Clarksburg, West Virginia, where she met and married James Hurst. They had two sons, James E. Hurst, born on May 15, 1961, and Timothy A. Hurst, born on July 27, 1962. Her husband passed away in 1977.

For many years she was a nursing assistant in the delivery room of Rochester Memorial Hospital in Rochester, New York. When she moved to Bradenton, Florida, in 1972 she worked as the office manager for Dr. Robert Teahan, a cardiologist.

She married the Reverend Wallace Tervin on September 25, 1980, in Bradenton, Florida. In 1990 they moved to Ft. Ogden, Florida, where Wallace became the pastor of the Ft. Ogden United Methodist Church. In 1995 they retired and moved to Lake Wales, Florida, where they were living at the time of her passing. In 2004 Wallace came out of retirement to pastor the Indian Lake United Methodist Church. Bobby became a faithful, full-time first lady of the church. For years she was a member of the Sassy Singers of Lake Wales and of the church choir.

Bobby passed away from lung cancer on March 20, 2011. A memorial service was held at the Indian Lake United Methodist Church on April 2, 2011, with the Reverend Carroll Phillips and the Reverend Wallace Tervin officiating. Burial was in the National Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida.

She is survived by her husband, Wallace Tervin; five sons: James Hurst and Timothy Hurst of Clearwater, Florida; David L. Tervin and wife Leslie of Lakeland, Florida; Wallace R. Tervin and wife Betsey of Bradenton, Florida; and Roger W. Tervin and wife Kaprecia of Ft. Smith, Arkansas; nine grandchildren; two great grandchildren; a sister, Jo Ann Bense of Penfield, New Jersey; and a brother, James Carter of Ellenton, Florida.

Submitted by Wallace Tervin



ELIZABETH PEARL GATES TOLLE

Elizabeth Pearl Gates Tolle was born in Tampa, Florida, on December 3, 1907, to Laurie Gates and Rosalee Pearl Hart Gates. She was the granddaughter of Edward F. Gates, a circuit-riding pioneer of the Florida Conference. Her uncle, Edward J. Gates, was also a member of the Florida Conference.

A graduate of Hillsborough High School, she attended Florida State College for Women in Tallahassee, 1925-26. She then transferred to Florida Southern College in Lakeland, where she met Joseph A. Tolle. They were married on November 27, 1927.

Four children were born to Elizabeth and Joe: Betty Jo, born on October 13, 1928; Rosalee, born on September 29, 1931; Caroline, born on July 19, 1934; and Joseph Augustus, Jr., born on December 16, 1936. They adopted Ann, a foundling, born on April 14, 1941, and sponsored a young man from Singapore, Wai Mun Syn, who became a member of their family.

Elizabeth served with Joe in Ft. Lauderdale, Pahokee, Key West, Ft. Pierce, Sanford, Bradenton, Miami, Sebring, and the Tallahassee and DeLand Districts. They retired to Tampa in 1971. Joe died in 1981.

She was the author of five delightful books: *A Leading Partner*, the story of her fifty-three-year partnership with Joe Tolle; *The Rhythm of Life: Early Settlers of Florida*, stories about her family heritage and her childhood in Hillsborough County; *Ninety with the Fringe on Top*, essays and poems about growing old with joy and humor; *Women of the Bible*; and a collection of poetry.

Elizabeth was a woman who lived life to the fullest. She was accomplished in gardening and sewing, and she loved to travel. She was active in the Woman's Society of Christian Service/United Methodist Women at each of their pastorates and served in numerous official capacities through the years.

Elizabeth died on November 26, 2010, a week before her one hundred third birthday. A memorial service was held at First United Methodist Church in Tampa on December 4, 2010 with the Reverend Dr. Duncan Gray and the Reverend Michael Frazier officiating. Interment was in Lake Carroll Cemetery in Tampa.

She was predeceased by her husband; her daughters, Betty Jo Johnson and Ann Smith; son, Wai Mun Syn; sister, Laurie B. Gates; and brother, Edward G. Gates. She is survived by her daughters, Rosalee Schoder and Caroline Roberts of Tampa, Florida, and son, Joseph A. Tolle, Jr., of Melbourne, Florida; her brother, Laurie Gates, Jr.; and sixteen grandchildren, twenty-eight great-grandchildren, and six great-great-grandchildren.



Submitted by William Schoder