# PART V

## MEMOIRS

**IN REMEMBRANCE OF THESE FAITHFUL SERVANTS**

### Clergy

| | |
|---|---|
| Richard Kimpton Titley | May 22, 2011 |
| Ezra H. Everett | May 23, 2011 |
| Yohan Choi | May 29, 2011 |
| William Calhoun Swygert | June 1, 2011 |
| James Marshall Smith | June 10, 2011 |
| James R. Crook, Jr. | June 11, 2011 |
| Joseph Glenn Power | July 23, 2011 |
| Carlo Fernando Sevilla | August 6, 2011 |
| Anthony F. D'Angelo (Local Pastor) | August 13, 2011 |
| David Armon Day | August 23, 2011 |
| Allen Waldo Farabee | September 11, 2011 |
| Willie Sessions, Jr. (Local Pastor) | September 30, 2011 |
| Robert L. Holtz, Sr. (Local Pastor) | October 21, 2011 |
| John Edward Rice | November 1, 2011 |
| John Robert Brabham, Sr. | November 3, 2011 |
| Donald Ferrel Padgett | November 6, 2011 |
| Rose Voetmann Grindheim Sims (Local Pastor) | November 12, 2011 |
| Edward Harley Griffith | November 27, 2011 |
| Carroll S. Phillips, Jr. (Local Pastor) | January 17, 2012 |
| Saul T. Pelay (Local Pastor) | March 6, 2012 |
| Charles H. Ketchum, Jr. (Local Pastor) | March 21, 2012 |
| Joel Walter Embry | April 22, 2012 |

### Diaconal Minister

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|---|---|
| Ruth Yaekel Anderson (Diaconal) | April 16, 2012 |

### Spouses

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|---|---|
| Lillian Spencer Carwithen | November 23, 2007 |
| Jayne Hatfield Brackman | May 23, 2011 |
| Ethel Lucinda Crowder | June 16, 2011 |
| Geraldine Ann Cook Strickland | June 21, 2011 |
| Betty Jean Batman Jones | June 30, 2011 |
| Laura Green Boggs | July 7, 2011 |
| Milah Gibson McDavid | September 22, 2011 |
| Connie Witt | September 22, 2011 |
| Carol Wood Rumsey | October 21, 2011 |
| Isaac Wayne Walker | November 16, 2011 |
| Derya Ann English Williams | November 22, 2011 |
| Alberta Darlene Hargis Montgomery | December 19, 2011 |
| Patricia Bolton Guerry | December 19, 2011 |
| Marjorie Jane Gorday | January 8, 2012 |
| Esther Whitmore Gill | February 19, 2012 |
| Marjorie Louise Winton West | March 7, 2012 |
| Rose Marcella Wagoner Harrison | March 10, 2012 |
| Betty Toomer-Bradley | April 7, 2012 |

## CLERGY

### JOHN ROBERT BRABHAM

John Robert Brabham was born on May 8, 1931, in Fitzgerald, Georgia. He was the oldest of five children born to Robert Reece and Christine Medlock Brabham. He grew up in Gainesville, Florida, attending Gainesville High School and graduating from the University of Florida; as a result, he was a life-long Gator fan. He graduated from Candler School of Theology at Emory University in 1956.

His marriage to Eula Crider in 1952 began a partnership that lasted nearly sixty years. Together they had five children: John Robert, Jr., Judy Rae, James Reece, Joseph Ronald, and Jeffrey Reuel. The family was known in many of their churches as John, Eula, and the 5 Js.

He began serving churches in 1951, when he was a student at the University of Florida; he also served student appointments in the North Georgia Conference while attending Emory. John was admitted to the Florida Conference on trial and ordained a deacon in 1953; he was ordained an elder and received into full connection in 1956. He served the following appointments: Trinity, Palatka (organizing pastor), 1956-61; First, Starke, 1961-66; Davie, 1966-69; Hendricks Memorial, Jacksonville, 1969-71; Grace, Miami, 1971-75; Dania, 1975-82; Wagg Memorial, West Palm Beach, 1982-86; Wesley Memorial, Lake City, 1986-90; Trinity, North Port, 1990-95; and Christ, Bradenton, 1995-2001.

While he was pastor in Starke, John served as chaplain for the Florida National Guard at Camp Blanding. He retired in 2001 but continued to serve in ministry by substituting in the pulpits of area churches and by working for a funeral home. He served on many district and conference committees and boards. He also briefly taught religion at a community college. He was supportive of and active in community activities, including Boy Scouts, Hospice, and civic organizations.

John was known as a kind, compassionate pastor who tended his flock faithfully and sincerely, with concern, care, and attention. His wonderful sense of humor and infectious laugh were appreciated by his congregations and remembered long after his tenure had ended. He was truly devoted to and supportive of his family.

John passed away peacefully in his home in Starke, Florida, on November 3, 2011. His funeral service was held on November 7, 2011, in the church where he and Eula were married, First United Methodist Church in Micanopy, with the Reverend Myric W. Laite officiating. He was buried in the historic Micanopy Cemetery.

He is survived by his wife, Eula; daughter Judy B. Vaughn and husband Gary of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida; sons: John R., Jr., and wife Karen of Spring Hill, Florida; James R. and wife Tina of Boynton Beach, Florida; Joseph R. and fiancee Virginia of Lake Worth, Florida; and Jeffrey R. and wife Sandra of Orlando, Florida; seven grandchildren; and three great grandchildren.

Lovingly submitted by the 5 Js

### YO HAN CHOI

Yo Han Choi was ordained an elder in the Detroit Conference in 1979. He served with the Board of Global Ministries in Northern Europe. He transferred to the Florida Conference in 1988 and then served as a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries in 1992. He retired in 1994. He died on May 29, 2011.

Submitted by the Memoirs Committee

**JAMES RUTLAND CROOK, JR.**

James Rutland Crook, Jr., was born on April 26, 1928, in Jacksonville, Florida, to James R. Crook, Sr., and Lena Ballow Crook. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Duke University in 1950, a Master of Divinity degree from Duke Divinity School in 1954, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Drew University in 1987.

Jimmie was admitted to the Florida Conference on trial in 1951, was ordained a deacon in 1954, and was ordained an elder and received into full connection in 1955. He served the following appointments: Glynlea, Jacksonville, 1953-59; Wagg Memorial, West Palm Beach, 1959-65; Dade City, 1965-68; First, Cocoa Beach, 1968-72; First, Naples, 1972-79; St. Paul's, Tallahassee, 1979-83; superintendent, Melbourne District, 1983-88; Trinity, Gainesville, 1988-94. After his retirement in 1994, he served at Cason in Delray Beach.

Jimmie served on the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Florida Council of Churches, of which he was president, 1990-1991.

In 1996 he and his wife, Jean, moved to Waynesville, North Carolina, and he joined the staff of The Foundation for Evangelism at Lake Junaluska, serving as resident staff minister for nine years.

Jimmie died on June 11, 2011, at the John F. Keever Solace Center in Asheville, North Carolina, from complications of a fall. A celebration of his life was held at First United Methodist Church in Waynesville, North Carolina, on June 14, 2011. Joining the Reverend Sanford L. Giles, pastor of the church, were Paul Ervin of The Foundation for Evangelism and three pastors from the Florida Conference: the Reverends Ray Finklea, Jiles Kirkland, and Jay Kowalski. His ashes were placed in the columbarium at First United Methodist Church in Naples, Florida.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Anne Lyon Crook, and a daughter, Julia Crook. He is survived by his wife, Jean; his children, Jana Bartleson, Stephen Crook, David Crook, Carla Hanks, and Elizabeth Crook Wendell; his sister, Alice Blackburn; and ten grandchildren.

Among his many friends Jimmie will always be remembered as a great friend and fierce competitor on the golf course and tennis court. But an even better memory is of his loving and caring heart. He was always giving to family, charities, and others in need of help. In 2001 a young Chinese girl sent out hundreds of pleas for help with much-needed facial reconstructive surgery. Only one person responded; it was her good fortune that it was Jimmie. He singlehandedly raised the funds she needed. Her life and so many others were touched and changed by this kind, loving gentleman. Jimmie was devoted to God, his family, the church, and the community.

Submitted by the Reverend Jay Kowalski

**ANTHONY F. D'ANGELO**

Anthony F. D'Angelo was born in Brooklyn, New York. He did missionary work on Native American reservations in Wisconsin and New Mexico and was ordained a Roman Catholic priest for the religious community of the Priests of the Sacred Heart. After his ordination he served at St. Mary's Catholic Faith Community in Wisconsin, associate pastor at St. Cecelia Parish in San Antonio, Texas, and Christ the King Church in Southaven, Mississippi.

In 1985 he moved to Florida and served parishes in Dunedin and St. Petersburg. While in St. Petersburg he was chaplain for Deacons and House of Prayers. His next appointments were at St. Anthony the Abbot parish in Brooksville and St. Joan of Arc parish in Spring Hill.

During his years of ministry in Florida he also served as dean of Roman Catholic clergy in Hernando Deanery, school pastor for Notre Dame Elementary School in Spring Hill, counselor for S.H.I.N.E., and spiritual director for the United Church of Christ in Spring Hill.

In the United Methodist Church he served as a local pastor at St. George Island, 2003-05. He retired in 2005.

Anthony became a father and grandfather later in his life. He married Helen on December 13, 1997. His transition into the role of family man was challenging and extremely rewarding. He loved taking his wife on vacations all over the world. He was extremely proud of his children and their accomplishments. His grandchildren were his pride and joy, and he enjoyed spending time with them, dressing up, cooking, teaching them Spanish and golf, and playing games.

He was a man of God who served God's people. He believed that life is a mystery to be lived, not a problem to be solved.

Anthony died at age seventy on August 13, 2011 in Brooksville, Florida. Survivors include his wife, Helen; daughters, Maureen Richards and husband Glyn and Patricia Soults and husband Steven; son James Kolberg and wife Nicole; six grandchildren: Matthew, Sophie, Jesse, Alisha, William, and Amanda; sisters, Annette Porfido and Theresa Bianco; and brother, Thomas D'Angelo.

Submitted by the Memoirs Committee

**DAVID ARMON DAY**

David Armon Day was born to Elmer L. Day and Marie E. (Day) Day in Miami, Florida, on April 2, 1940. He married Jean Hammond on August 19, 1962. They have two daughters: Cheryl Day Platt born on July 28, 1965, and Karen Day Ward born on February 7, 1968.

David grew up in White Temple Methodist Church in Miami. After graduating from Coral Gables High School in 1958, he attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology for two years, planning to become an electrical engineer. In the summer of 1960 he felt called to the ministry and transferred to Florida State University, graduating in 1962 with a B.A. He graduated from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in 1966 with a Bachelor of Divinity degree, later changed to a Master of Divinity.

While at Perkins he served churches at Brashear, Ridgeway, Miller Grove, Gafford Chapel, and Alvord. He was ordained a deacon and admitted on trial in the North Texas Conference in 1964. He transferred to the Florida Conference in 1966 and was ordained an elder in 1967.

He served the following appointments: associate, Lake Wales, 1966-68; Alturas, 1968-70; Alturas/Wahneta, 1970-71; Branscomb Memorial, Tampa, 1971-72; Apalachicola/Eastpoint, 1972-80; sabbatical leave, 1980-81; Eastpoint, 1981-1990; Ocoee, 1990-94; First, Frostproof, 1994-96; and Community, Belle Glade, 1996-2000.

David had many talents that he used in the churches he served. He was a ventriloquist with a dummy he had made named Eva Green, who helped him with children's sermons. Adults loved Eva Green as much as the children did. He also used original monologues and drama as sermons on special occasions.

He built fellowship halls at Apalachicola and Eastpoint: he was architect, contractor, carpenter, electrician, and plumber. He helped convert a fish market into the sanctuary for the St. George Island congregation, which had been meeting under a thatched roof arbor on the beach. This was an informal outreach ministry of the Apalachicola church that began as a summer ministry for island visitors. David nurtured them and was instrumental in their eventually becoming a chartered church. He developed the Gulf Coast Service Project, a summer program that brought youth groups to Apalachicola to do home repairs for low-income residents.

He liked to tinker and began repairing radios and TVs at the Apalachicola parsonage. Soon he moved his growing business to a nearby building and developed a tent maker ministry, like Paul making his main living in a secular job. He shared Jesus with many unchurched people he couldn't reach as a minister.

He helped the congregation at Ocoee realize that in order to grow they had to move to a more visible location; later that goal was met when the church merged with Ocoee Oaks. In Belle Glade he started a contemporary service to attract young adults.

An expert in all aspects of computers, he taught a computer programming class for Gulf Coast Community College.

David and Jean retired in June 2000 to the mountains of North Carolina, where he had built their home. There he led Bible studies at the Pensacola United Methodist Church. He pursued his passion for acting by appearing in plays at both the Parkway Playhouse in Burnsville, North Carolina, and the Tallahassee Little Theater. He wrote several short plays, still being performed. In his workshop in the basement, he made furniture to order, including four complete bedroom suites for family members.

In March 2007 David and Jean moved to Westminster Oaks Continuing Care Retirement Community in Tallahassee. He led Bible studies at Tallahassee Heights UMC and at Westminster Oaks and gave weekly devotions in the assisted living facility at Westminster. David was diagnosed with lymphoma in 2009. Following treatment, he was declared in remission. He then served as interim pastor at John Wesley in Tallahassee, May-July 2010, bringing healing to a damaged congregation.

David died of pancreatic cancer on August 23, 2011. His memorial service was held August 27, 2011, at Westminster Oaks, with the Reverend Ken Hamilton and the Reverend Armando Rodriquez officiating. David's ashes were interred in the Memorial Garden at First United Methodist Church in Apalachicola, Florida, on November 4, 2011, in a service conducted by the Reverend Themo Patriotis.

David is survived by his wife, Jean, and their daughters and families: Cheryl and Allen Platt and grandchildren, Jordan, Megan and Bradley; Karen and Bryce Ward and grandchildren Zach and wife Katie and Seth; brother, Larry Day; and sister, Elinor Troup.

Submitted by Jean Day

**JOEL WALTER EMBRY**

Joel Walter Embry was born in Lakeland, Florida, on September 23, 1928, to Wesley Dunn Embry and Alatia Fredonia Churchwell Embry. He was the grandson of the Reverend W.J. Churchwell, long-time member of the Florida Conference.

He received a football scholarship to the University of Kentucky under Coach "Bear" Bryant and also signed a contract as a pitcher for the Boston Red Sox.

He later joined the U. S. Air Force, where he met his bride of sixty-one years, Jo Ann Kreneck Embry. They were married in San Antonio, Texas, on February 16, 1951. After serving four years in the air force, he returned to Lakeland to attend Florida Southern College, from which he graduated in 1954.

Joel and Jo Ann had three children: Joel Wesley Embry, born on January 21, 1952; Alatia Mae Embry, born on April 23, 1956; and Rebecca Jo Embry, born on May 14, 1968.

Joel was a claims agent for State Farm Insurance in Orlando when he received the call into the ministry. He enrolled at Asbury Seminary, graduating in 1966. He was ordained a deacon in 1962, admitted to the Florida Conference on trial in 1965, and ordained an elder and received into full connection in 1967.

He served the following appointments: associate, First, Winter Park, 1964-66; Christ, Orlando, 1966-67; chaplain, U.S. Army, 1967-74 ( including a tour of duty in Viet Nam, 1968-69); chaplain, V.A. Hospital, Prescott, Arizona, 1974-76; chaplain, V.A. Hospital, Biloxi, Mississippi, 1976-1983; chaplain, V.A. Medical Center, Augusta, Georgia, 1983-85; chaplain, V.A., 1985-88; Cross City, January-June, 1989; Christ, Sanford, 1989-90; and First, Green Cove Springs, 1990-91. He retired from the service as a lieutenant colonel in 1988 and from the conference in 1991. After his retirement from the Florida Conference, he served Philadelphia, Liberty, Lewis Memorial, Boneville, and Riverview in the Augusta District of the North Georgia Conference.

Joel was a great cornetist, sportsman, preacher, father, husband, and above all a Soul Winner for his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

He died peacefully on April 22, 2012, from blood on the brain caused by a fall. Our family laid his remains in Oak Hill Cemetery in Lakeland, Florida, where family members are buried. His son, the Reverend Joel Wesley Embry, an elder in the North Georgia Conference, officiated at the graveside service. His wife, Jo Ann, and daughters, Alatia and Rebecca Jo, assisted with songs, scripture, and meditations.

He is survived by his wife, Jo Ann Embry; his son, the Reverend Joel Wesley Embry; his daughters, Alatia Embry Frye and Rebecca Jo Embry Graham; five grandchildren; and three great grandchildren.

Well done good and faithful servant; you have served those in need and your God.

Submitted by Joel Wesley Embry

**EZRA H. EVERETT**

Ezra H. Everett was born on April 8, 1929, in Cairo, Georgia, one of five children of Horace and Annie Williams Everett. He graduated from Stanton High School in Jacksonville, Florida. He received a B.A. degree in religion from Clark University in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1951, an M.Div. from Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1954, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Boston University in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1982.

He married Marvalinia Bell Everett of Savannah, Georgia, in 1951. They had two children: Lynette R. Everett, born on July 2, 1953, and Conycee M. Everett, born on August 27, 1955. Marvalinia died in 1995.

Ezra was admitted to the Florida Conference, Central Jurisdiction, on trial in 1949. He was ordained a deacon and received into full connection in 1951 and ordained an elder in 1953. He served the following appointments: chaplain, U.S. Army, 1954-75; chaplain, V.A. Medical Center, Miami, 1975-80; leave of absence, 1980-81; and Lakeview, Miami, 1981-90. He also served as interim pastor of Bartley Temple in Gainesville and at the V.A. Medical Center in Gainesville.

His duties as a lieutenant colonel in the chaplain corps took him all over the world, including war tours of duty in South Korea and South Vietnam. He was also stationed at army posts in Japan, Europe, and the United States. Among other awards, he received the Bronze Star while serving in Vietnam, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters.

Ezra was a member of the Military Officers Association of America and the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

He was listed in *Who's Who in American Theological Education for Black Clergy*, 1970-1973. He received the Alpha Phi Alpha Leadership and Achievement Award in 1991 and was honored in 1995 as one of America's Outstanding Black Leaders. He was national chaplain for the Clark University Alumni Association.

His interests included travel, family and friends, music–gospel, hymns, and jazz–and books. He fulfilled a dream to visit the Holy Land.

He said that in his life he was most proud of and humbled by his strong personal relationship with God, his ministry, and his choice of the perfect wife with whom he was blessed with two beloved and loving daughters.

Ezra died peacefully from complications of diabetes on May 23, 2011, at the V.A. Medical Center in Gainesville, Florida. A homegoing celebration was held on May 28, 2011, at Bartley Temple United Methodist Church in Gainesville, Florida, with the Reverend Alan Jackson officiating and Elder Clifford Patrick delivering the eulogy. Burial was in the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida with the Reverend Willie Doby officiating.

He was preceded in death by his wife of forty-seven years, Marvalinia Everett, and his siblings, Ezekiel, Joseph, Connie Cee, and Christine. Survivors include his daughters, Lynette Everett of Miami, Florida, and Conycee Everett of Gainesville, Florida; Ricardo Miller of Gainesville, Florida, who was like a son to him; sisters-in law, Ostra Lee Everett of Tampa, Florida, and Josephine Colbert of Savannah, Georgia; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Submitted by Lynette Everett

**ALLEN WALDO FARABEE, SR.**

Allen Waldo Farabee, Sr., was born in Fort Myers, Florida, on June 3, 1918, to DeWitt Talmadge Farabee, Sr., and Edith Heath Collins Farabee.

He married Marion Surrency of Hawthorne, Florida, on June 10, 1941. They had five children: Judith Ann Farabee Terra, born on October 30, 1943; Allen Waldo Farabee, Jr., born on December 10, 1946; Ruth Eleanor Farabee Clark, born on October 12, 1949; Rita Lou Farabee Bush, born on August 16, 1953; and David Clark Farabee, born on February 11, 1957.

Waldo graduated from Ft. Myers High School in 1935, and inspired by his father's involvement in politics, he decided to pursue a career in law and politics. In the midst of the Great Depression, with $35 in his pocket, he hitchhiked to the University of Florida in Gainesville, where he was active in campus life.

During his time in Gainesville he accepted a call to ordained ministry, and after receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1939, he entered Yale Divinity School. While at Yale he served as director of Christian education at Plymouth Congregational Church in New Haven. He received a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1943. Later, in 1975, he received a Doctor of Ministry degree from Drew University.

Waldo was ordained a deacon in 1942 and admitted to the Florida Conference on trial in 1943. In 1943 he was appointed associate at First, Lakeland, and in 1944 he was ordained an elder and admitted into full connection. He served the following churches: Naples, 1944-48; Punta Gorda, 1948-51; Seminole 1951-52; Allapattah, Miami, 1952-57; Calvary, Lake Worth, 1957-59; St. James, Palatka, 1959-60; Allendale, St. Petersburg, 1960-63; Fort Pierce, 1963-67; Miami Springs, 1967-71; Jacksonville Beach, 1971-78; and First, Plant City, 1978-83. In 1983 Waldo retired to Fort Myers, where he was actively involved in First United Methodist Church and taught the Welcome Sunday School Class for twenty-five years.

For twenty years Waldo led a Pre-Retirement Seminar for ministers and spouses who were facing retirement in a year or two. He served for many years as chair of the Board of Pensions of the Florida Conference and in his early years of ministry was chair of the Town and Country Committee. He was also a member of the Florida Conference Historical Society.

Beginning in college and seminary, Waldo traveled extensively, organizing tours and leading people throughout the United States and the world. He represented the Southeastern Student YMCA at the World Conference of Christian Youth in Amsterdam, Holland, in 1939. He led thirteen groups to the Holy Land. By the time of his death, he had visited every continent except Antarctica.

Early in his life he became active in Boy Scouting and remained active in various leadership roles for more than seventy-five years, receiving the Silver Beaver award. Waldo was active in the communities where he served: being involved in Kiwanis Club, eventually serving as lieutenant-governor, and serving as president of a senior citizens high rise board and of a junior high school P.T.A. He was active in genealogical research, especially with his own family, which encompassed pioneer families of Southwest Florida. He was an accomplished musician.

Waldo died on September 11, 2011, in Bridgton, Maine, where he and Marion had moved in August 2009 to be near family in the later years of retirement. A memorial service and celebration of life was held on September 24, 2011, at First United Methodist Church in Fort Myers, Florida, where Waldo had been baptized when he was three months old. The Reverend Allen W. Farabee and the Reverend Lia Willetts officiated. Family members shared memories. Interment was in the Fort Myers Cemetery.

Waldo was preceded in death by a daughter, Ruth Farabee Clark, and a grandson, Jeremy Cobb. He is survived by his wife of seventy years, Marion; two sons, the Reverend Allen Farabee of Buffalo, New York, and David Farabee of Rougemont, North Carolina; two daughters, Judith Terra of Washington, D.C., and Rita Bush of Bridgton, Maine; one brother, Maurice Farabee of Blairsville, Georgia; two sisters, Lois Kurtz and Irene Crow, both of Fort Myers; nine grandchildren; and ten great grandchildren.

The greatest legacy that Waldo Farabee has given to his family and to the many people whose lives he touched is his passion for public service, his belief in the church, and his deep belief in a loving God. We, his family, will be eternally grateful that we had the privilege of having him in our lives.

Submitted by Marion Farabee

**EDWARD HARLEY GRIFFITH**

Edward Harley Griffith was born to Helen Marie Secrest Griffith and Edward H. Griffith on August 29, 1930, in Cleveland, Ohio. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio, in 1952 and a Master of Divinity degree from Drew Theological Seminary in Madison, New Jersey, in 1955.

He married the love of his life, Catherine L. Holm of Barberton, Ohio, on December 23, 1952. They had four children: Rosemarie, Edward, Martin, and Jonathan.

Ed was admitted on trial in the Northeast Ohio Conference in 1954, was ordained a deacon in 1955, and was ordained an elder in 1956. He served at Barberton, East Springfield, Cleveland, Wellington, and Willoughby Hills in the East Ohio Conference.

In 1974 he transferred to the Florida Conference, where he served the following appointments: associate, Hollywood Hills, 1974-76; Asbury, Elfers (became New Port Richey, 1977), 1976-83; Fulford, Miami, 1983-84; Clearview, St. Petersburg, 1984-88; and St. Mark, Indialantic, 1988-92.

Ed and Cathy retired in 1992 to Saddlebag Lake Resort in Lake Wales, Florida. Together they served for one or two months a year for seven years as volunteer missionaries in Nassau, Eluthera, and Bimini in the Bahamas. He also served the Lake Wales area at Indian Lake United Methodist Church and Saddlebag Lake Community Church. After they moved to West Melbourne in 2005, he served short terms at St. Paul's in Melbourne and St. Mark in Indialantic.

Ed was called by God to serve when he was thirteen, and with his wife at his side, he served the Lord for fifty-nine years. His family was always precious to him and in turn he was loved by all of them. On Ed and Cathy's fiftieth anniversary in 2002, he was deeply surprised and honored when his children presented him the book he had written, *Counting My Blessings,* which they had published for the occasion.

In July 2011 Ed suffered a stroke that put in him Indian River Center. As his health deteriorated, Cathy and the family continued to visit, hoping he would be able to join the Fiftieth Family Thanksgiving Reunion. He was, however, unable to join them, so about forty family members and close friends each visited him in the nursing home for hugs and kisses. Two days later, on November 27, 2011, Ed went home to the Lord while holding Cathy's and Rosie's hands.

A memorial service was held on December 10, 2011, at St. Mark United Methodist Church in Indialantic, Florida, with the Reverend Nate Steury, the Reverend Steve Miller, and the Reverend Ken Cocker participating. His remains were placed in the Memorial Garden at St. Mark.

Survivors include his wife Catherine; daughter Rosemarie Griffith Cocker and husband Ken; sons Edward H. Griffith, Martin L. Griffith and wife Kathy, and Jonathan Griffith; nine grandchildren; two great grandchildren; and sister Laurine Lewis and husband Norm and their daughter Lauri and husband Mike and their daughter Mandy and her two children.

Ed Griffith has been known as Pastor Ed to all who knew him, as he cared for all he knew.

Submitted by Cathy Griffith

**ROBERT LEE HOLTZ, SR.**

Robert Lee Holtz, Sr., was born in Quincy, Florida, on September 18, 1923, to the Reverend John Roosevelt Holt and Mary Phillips Holt. He was educated in the public schools of Gadsden and St. Johns Counties. Enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1942, he served in World War II. He later continued his education at Florida Memorial College in St. Augustine and Edward Waters College in Jacksonville, Florida. He received his ministerial training at Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia.

On August 12, 1950, he married Rosalind Louise Abel of St. Augustine, Florida, and they had eleven children. She died in 1987.

From 1980 to 1994 he served at St. Stephens in Hastings and St. Johns in Crescent City. He was licensed as a local pastor in 1987. He loved his churches and communities. One summer he developed a program through the St. Johns County School Board to provide free lunches to community children. He retired in 1984.

He died on Friday, October 21, 2011, in Hastings, Florida. Funeral services were held on October 27, 2011, at St. Stephens United Methodist Church in Hastings, with the Reverend Walter Monroe as eulogist. Burial was in Palatka Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Palatka, Florida.

He was preceded in death by his second wife, Lodis Holtz, and his daughter, Cheryl Holtz Young. Survivors include his children: Curtis Holtz and wife Madeline of St. Augustine; Jerome Holtz of Virginia Beach, Virginia; Ricky Holtz Gantt of St. Augustine; LaVerle Holtz and wife Mildred of Richmond, Virginia; Larry Holtz of South Carolina; Robert Holtz, Jr., of Atlanta, Georgia; Tommy Holtz of Hastings; Gregory Holtz and wife Zeata of Maryland; Teneshila Holtz Jones and husband James of Rochester, New York; and Felecia Holtz Williams of Jacksonville; one sister, Jesse Mae Johnson of Quincy, Florida; grandchildren: Joziet, Craig, Jennifer, Rodney, Michael, Jermaine, Tavares, Keyatta, Angels, Tarsha Ray, Regina, Crystal, and Sherlia; and a host of great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

My dad was a loving father, a good husband, and a beautiful person. He was protective of his family and he wanted the best from us. He was a compassionate and honorable man, who was wise in understanding key issues. He will be deeply missed, but he will always live in my heart. I thank God for my dad, who made me the man I am today. He taught me well and I love him for that.

Submitted by Tommy Lee Holtz

**CHARLES H. KETCHUM, JR.**

Charles H. Ketchum was a local pastor in the Florida Conference. He served the following appointments: Miakka, 1981-82; Pinetta/Hickory Grove, 1982-84; Fleming Street, Key West/ Sugarloaf, the Keys, 1984-86; First, Hawthorne, 1986-91; Branford, 1991-92; and Trenton, 1992-93. He retired in 1993. He died on March 21, 2012.

Submitted by the Memoirs Committee

**DONALD FERREL PADGETT**

Donald Ferrel Padgett was born on October 2, 1927, in Pahokee, Florida, a small town on the eastern shores of Lake Okeechobee. His parents were Duncan E. Padgett and Lillian Naomi Shive-Padgett.

Immediately after graduating from Pahokee High School in 1945, Donald enrolled at the University of Florida in Gainesville but was soon drafted into the navy. World War II was ending, so he was able get back into the university in 1947. There he became involved in the Wesley Foundation, a popular church for the students. He served as president of the group at one time.

It was at the Wesley Foundation that he met Frankie Billington. Love bloomed, and they married in 1948. They became the parents of four children: Donna Joy, born in 1950; Donald Duncan, born in 1952; Lillian Suzanne, born in 1956; and John Palmer, born in 1968.

Donald graduated from the University of Florida in 1950 with a B.S.A. in agriculture. He then taught agriculture at Auburndale High School and in Okeechobee with the Veterans on the Farm program. He entered Candler School of Theology at Emory University in 1953, graduating in 1956.

He was admitted to the Florida Conference on trial in 1954, was ordained a deacon in 1956, and was ordained an elder and received into full connection in 1958. He served the following appointments: Chiefland, 1956-60; Chattahoochee, 1960-66; Spring Glen, Jacksonville, 1966-73; Lighthouse Point, 1973-81; First, Ft. Myers, 1981-90; and superintendent, DeLand District, 1990-95. He retired in 1995, having served the Florida Conference for forty-one years.
Donald was active in the Florida Conference, serving on the Board of Ordained Ministry and on the Boards of Trustees of the Florida United Methodist Children's Home and Bethune Cookman College.
During retirement Donald served three months as interim pastor at Edgewater and a month at a Methodist church in Nassau, the Bahamas. He also helped many other Florida churches as long as his health permitted.

Donald was an optimistic, generous, and happy person his entire life, and he had a great love of God and the ministry. His dedication to the ministry was obvious, as his love of work demonstrated. He was devoted to his wife, children, and family and enjoyed life with everyone with his ever-present sense of humor. There was never a dull moment in sixty-three years of marriage.

He continued his love of agriculture, all kinds of water sports, and the great outdoors. He had a great passion for music, especially semi-classical, and he loved the Methodist Hymnal.

In 1991 Donald developed Parkinson's disease. Eventually, complications of the disease took his life on November 6, 2011. He died in Hospice of Port Orange, Florida.
A service of celebration was held at Coronado Community United Methodist Church in New Smyrna Beach, Florida, on Friday, November 11, 2011, with The Reverend Robert Brown, the Reverend Eugene Zimmerman, the Reverend Charles Courtoy, and the Reverend Tom Nelson officiating.
He is survived by his wife, Frankie Padgett; daughters, Donna Moore and husband Burke and Suzanne Reeves and husband Bob; sons, Duncan Padgett and wife Toni and John Padgett and wife Rachelle; brother, Thomas Padgett and wife Sandra; twelve grandchildren; and nine great grandchildren. Donald was a beloved and true servant of God.

Submitted by his wife, Frankie Padgett

**SAUL TOMAS PELAY**

Saul Tomas Pelay was born on December 21, 1941, in Jovello, Cuba. His parents, Ramon Pelay and Brigida Lerena, were grateful to have their fourth child. He attended school in his home town in Cuba and received his high school diploma in 1960.

He met his lovely and beloved wife, Kyra E. Yamboa, in Cuba. They were married on November 18, 1961, and joined their lives forever. On November 26, 1965, their first son, Carlos Enrique Pelay, was born.

In 1968 Saul and Kyra decided to leave Cuba and to come to America looking for a better place to live. Saul received the Lord's call and started his service to the Lord in the community where they lived. He studied at both New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois. On January 26, 1973, their second child, Richard Anthony Pelay, was born. At this time they were living in New Orleans, Louisiana, and serving the Lord in a Baptist church.

When Pastor Pelay moved to Tampa, Florida, he looked forward to continuing his service to the Lord and his community. He was licensed as a local pastor in the Florida Conference in 1998 and that year was appointed to Primera Iglesia Mission in Brandon. His dedication to the Lord and loyal work enabled this group of Christians to grow in faith and memberships. The church was growing through many different ministries and services to the community. Then in June 20030, Pastor Pelay was transferred to Iglesia Metodista Unida Peace in Miami, Florida, where he and his wife continued their work and their services to the Lord.

Pastor Pelay retired in 2007, looking forward to cultivating the land that they had bought when they were in Tampa and also to going fishing, something which he had to postpone till his retirement. Traveling was also one of his dreams. He and Kyra were able to go on cruises and travel to Europe. Their last cruise was the most significant because it was their fiftieth anniversary.

The Lord had His plan for the Reverend Saul Pelay, a plan that surprised his family, his friends, and the congregations and communities he served. Not feeling well and with chest pains, he drove to the doctor and was sent to the hospital, where they recommended heart surgery. He went to be with the Lord on March 6, 2012, during the surgery.

A memorial service on March 10, 2012, was officiated by his pastor, the Reverend Diogenes Hernandez, to honor the Reverend Saul Pelay's life and his service to all he touched. His funeral took place on Saturday March 11, 2012, at the Hillsboro Memorial Cemetery, where family and friends gathered for final farewell memories. Saul was a man who was passionate about his faith, his family, and his friends

His survivors are his wife, Kyra E. Pelay; sons, Carlos Pelay and wife Bethzaida and Richard Pelay and wife Milly; four grandchildren; and four sisters, Raquel Perez, Eva Leon, Damaris Pelay, and Gloria Gonzalez.

Submitted by Kyra E. Pelay

**CARROLL S. PHILLIPS, JR.**

Carroll S. Phillips, Jr., was born in Baltimore, Maryland, on September 15, 1932, to Carroll S. Phillips, Sr., and Miriam E. Mehrten Phillips. In May 1945 the family moved to Winter Haven, Florida, to join his paternal grandparents, Hanson S. and Essie J. Phillips, who had moved there from Baltimore in1925.

Carroll graduated from Winter Haven High School in 1951 and immediately enrolled at the University of Florida. In July 1953 he enlisted in the United States Air Force, and while stationed at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi, he met Betty Ann Lepre. They were married on October 2, 1955, in Honolulu, Hawaii, while he was stationed at Hickam Air Force Base. They remained in Hawaii until he was honorably discharged in May 1957, when they returned to Winter Haven.

Carroll had a thirty-year career in the banking business, having received certification from Louisiana State University School of Banking in 1969 and a B.S. degree from Southwest University in 1985. He was an executive with banks in Orlando, Winter Haven, Lake Wales, Tampa, and Live Oak.

The Lord called Carroll into full-time ministry in 1990, and he enrolled at Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, graduating in 1995. He also received certification from the Billy Graham School of Evangelism. His first appointment, in the Tennessee Conference, was Oak Hill in Rickman, 1991-94. He then came to the Florida Conference as a local pastor and served at Anthony, 1994-98. He retired in 1998. During retirement he served Coleman, 1999-2000; Bronson, 2000-2005; Eloise, near Winter Haven, 2005-06; Indian Lake Estates, near Lake Wales, 2009-11, and Alturas, 2011.

Suffering from liver cancer, Carroll went to be with his Lord on January 17, 2012, at his home in Winter Haven, with his loved ones at his side. His funeral service was held at the Crisp-Coon Chapel in Winter Haven, Florida, on January 20, 2012. He was interred next to his parents at the Lakeside Memorial Park in Winter Haven.

He is survived by his wife of fifty-six years, Betty; three children: Thomas H. Phillips and wife Maggie of Winter Haven, Kathryn Phillips Gunter of Winter Haven, and Dawn Phillips Schmidt of Lakeland, Florida; four grandchildren: Amber H. Dowdy, Cheyenne Ford, Michael D. Gunter, and Joshua D. Schmidt; and two great grandchildren.

Music was always an important part of Carroll's life. From childhood he sang in the church choir and while in school sang in the glee club and choruses. For years he sang in barbershop choruses and was a member of several quartets. When stationed at Keesler Air Force Base, he sang with the renowned Kessler Air Force Base Chorus, directed by Glenn Draper. Through the chaplaincy program, Glenn was able to have the group featured on the Ed Sullivan Show in 1954. Carroll was with the chorus when they sang for the dedication of Memorial Chapel at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina.

Submitted by Betty L. Phillips

**JOSEPH GLENN POWER, JR.**

Joseph Glenn Power, Jr., was born February 1, 1921, in Roswell, Georgia, to Maybelle Suddath Power and J.G. Power, Sr. Young Glenn moved with his parents and two much older sisters to New Orleans, where he grew up.

At age sixteen Glenn received his license to preach in the Louisiana Conference. He received a B.A. degree in English literature from Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, in 1944, and an M.Div. from Candler School of Theology there three years later. While at Emory he met and married Lorena Howard. No children were born of this union.

Glenn was admitted on trial in the Florida Conference and ordained a deacon in 1947. He was ordained an elder in 1948 and was received into full connection in 1950. After Glenn and Rene had served at Oakland Park, 1947-48, he was commissioned a chaplain in the U.S. Navy in June 1948.

For twenty-five years Chaplain Power served in the military, in many port cities in the U.S., on Guam, and aboard several ships. He served in the Atlantic, the Caribbean, the Mediterranean, and the Pacific. In the Korean campaign he participated with the 1st Marine Division in the Inchon Landing. His favorite assignment was two years with the NATO Command in Izmir, Turkey, where he could walk some of the paths St. Paul had walked so many years ago.

In 1972 Captain Power retired at the Naval Support Activity, New Orleans, where he was serving as district chaplain of the Eighth Naval District. He continued retirement in New Orleans, caring for his invalid wife, who died in 1998. He attended Aurora United Methodist Church, where he added his voice to the choir and sometimes filled the pulpit. He became well known for calling all the ladies "darlin'."

Glenn married Mary Lou Frederick in 2001, and in 2009—after numerous hurricane evacuations—they went to live at Methodist Retirement Community Pine Crest in Lufkin, Texas.

He loved music—especially opera—art, and literature. He enjoyed reading poetry.

Glenn died on July 23, 2011, a natural, peaceful death at home. Entombment was on July 29, 2011, at Chapel of Faith Mausoleum, Westlawn Cemetery, Gretna, Louisiana, a New Orleans suburb, with the Reverend Jim Barrett of Aurora Church officiating. A memorial service was conducted by the Reverend Martin Doran at the Pine Crest chapel.

Besides his devoted wife, Mary Lou, he is survived by her three children, seven grandchildren, two great grandsons, and his beloved nephew Boyce Wilkie and wife Florence of Harvey, Louisiana.

Submitted by Mary Lou Power

**JOHN EDWARD RICE**

On December 18, 1918, a young Florida Methodist minister in St. Augustine, Oscar Edward Rice, and his wife Mabel Claire Haigler Rice welcomed their second child John Edward Rice. As the only son, John grew up with four sisters, Edna, Martha, Hester, and Lucia.

John attended Florida Southern College, receiving a B.S. degree in 1940. Feeling that God had a plan for him in the ministry, he enrolled in Duke University Divinity School, where he received a B.D. in 1943. Immediately after graduation he married Mary Elizabeth Myers and returned to Florida.

He was admitted to the Florida Conference on trial and ordained a deacon in 1943 and was ordained an elder and received in to full connection in 1945. His first appointment, in 1943, was at Brandon, followed by a move in 1944 to Seminole. During that year his first daughter, Erin Elizabeth, was born.

In 1945 John entered the U. S. Army and served as chaplain aboard the troop carrier SS *Eufaula Victory*, making numerous crossings of the Atlantic as well as some Pacific crossings. Following the end of World War II, Captain Rice was involved with the return of prisoners of war to their respective countries. Upon discharge from active duty in 1948, he served in the U.S. Army Reserve and saw additional active duty during the Korean War from 1951 to 1953. Major Rice was discharged from the Reserves in August 1960 after serving his country for 15 years.

After World War II John returned to the Florida Conference in 1948 and served the church at Dania until his move to Green Cove Springs in 1949. It was there that his second daughter, Mary Pamela, was born. During John's second tour of active duty from 1951 to1953, his third daughter, Lynn Noble, was born. Upon returning to Florida he served Tarpon Springs, 1953-1956, Eustis, 1956-1958; Silver Palm, Homestead, 1958-61; Epperson Memorial, Jacksonville 1961-64; First, Naples, 1964-67; and First, Punta Gorda 1967-69.

Following his retirement from the Florida Conference in 1969, John Rice moved to Atlanta, Georgia, and embarked on a new chapter of his life that included teaching high school science, teaching an adult Sunday school class at Grace United Methodist Church, and pursuing his hobby of magic as a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. He became a charter member of the Southern Order of Storytelling and pursued that interest for the remainder of his life. He served as an entertainment director in North Georgia and as emcee at various folk festivals in the Georgia and North Carolina mountains, where he also played guitar and sang.

After a long, active life, John Edward Rice died surrounded by family on November 1, 2011, at the age of ninety-two. A memorial service was held on November 5, 2011, at The Little Chapel of Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, with the Reverend Gil Watson officiating. His ashes were interred with military honors at Georgia National Cemetery in Canton, Georgia.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Barclay Rice; two sisters, Hester Thompson and Lucia Martin; three daughters, Erin Rice Hart, Pamela Rice Lanza, and Lynn Rice Eddy; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter.

Submitted by Erin Rice Hart

**WILLIE SESSIONS, JR.**

Willie Sessions, Jr., was born on July 1, 1949, in Gainesville, Florida, to the late Willie and Julia Lee George Sessions. He graduated from Lincoln High School in Gainesville in 1967 and attended Bethune-Cookman College and Emory University.
He married Rosie Mae Crenshaw on December 15, 1984.

The Reverend Mr. Sessions served the following appointments: Starke Parish: Greater Bell in Brooker, Mt. Moriah and Pleasant Grove in Starke, and Mt. Vernon in New River, 1980-87; Mt. Zion in Reddick, 1987-89; West Gainesville Parish: Mt. Bethel in Chiefland and Pleasant Plain in Jonesville, 1989-90; Greater Liberty Hill in Gainesville and Pleasant Plain, 1990-95; Mt. Nebo in Alachua and Greater Liberty Hill, 1995-2000.

He retired in 2000 because of ill health. In 2002, however, he felt that his journey delivering the word of God was not over, and he was appointed to Paradise in Micanopy, where he first became a church member and where his spiritual walk as pastor had begun. After six years, when his health no longer permitted him to serve, he passed the torch of Christian leadership on to his wife, the Reverend Rosie Sessions.

In addition to his ministry, he served his community in many ways, including as an Alachua County deputy sheriff and a school crossing guard. He was also surplus property manager for the University of Florida.

The Reverend Mr. Sessions died on September 30, 2011, at Shands Hospital in Gainesville. His homegoing celebration was held on October 8, 2011, at Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church in Gainesville, Florida, with Dr. Geraldine McClellan officiating. Burial was at Patrick Memorial Gardens in Gainesville.
Survivors include his wife, the Reverend Rosie Mae Crenshaw Sessions; six children: Sol Martin, David Martin, Dinah Crenshaw, Frederick Eddins, Calvin Webb, and Erica Sessions; twenty-two grandchildren; and twenty great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son Willie Martin.

He will be truly missed by all those who loved him dearly. In our hearts he holds a place no one else will ever fill.

Submitted by Rosie Mae Sessions

**CARLO FERNANDO SEVILLA**

Carlo Fernando Sevilla was ordained a deacon and became an associate member of the Florida Conference in 2001. He served at Peace Hispanic in Miami, 2001-03. He took incapacity leave in 2003. He died on August 6, 2011.

Submitted by the Memoirs Committee

**ROSE VOETMANN GRINDHEIM SIMS**

A 1943 graduate of Northwestern College in St. Paul, Minnesota, Rose Voetmann Grindheim Sims married Oscar Grindheim in 1944. For twenty-seven years she served beside him as a faithful clergy wife, helping revive small rural churches in the Midwest. She raised three daughters, two adopted sons, and several foster children. After her husband died in 1971, she took up his mantle.

She was ordained a deacon in the Missouri Conference and received a doctorate in education from the University of Missouri. She served as an evangelist, speaking across the country and the world. She traveled several times to Australia with Teen Missions International. In 1973 she married Bill Fisher, who died six years later.

Rose married Jim Sims in 1984 and moved to his home in Dade City, Florida. That year she took on the challenge of pastoring nearby Trilby United Methodist Church, a dying church in a small rural community. With Jim's help she initiated programs to keep homeless children off the streets and provide food, clothing, and shelter for the needy. The diverse congregation grew, the building was expanded and refurbished, and an educational center was constructed. An active youth program and other ministries were instituted. The church was featured in the *United Methodist Reporter* as a Church Aflame.

In 1987 Rose, a local pastor, received the Circuit Rider Award from the United Methodist Church for significant contribution to church growth. She received the Business Person of the Year award from the Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce and the Woman of the Year award from the Network of Executive Women in Tampa. In 1992 she was named a distinguished alumna of Northwestern College.

She was the author of three books: *Papa Was a Promise Keeper*, *New Life for Dying Churches: It Can Happen Anywhere* and *The Dream Lives On*. She established the Grindheim-Sims Award for rural pastors.

She retired from the active ministry in 1991.

Rose died on November 12, 2011, at the age of ninety. Funeral services were held on December 3, 2011, at the Oxford Assembly of God, with the Reverend Derrel Strickland and the Reverend Mike Fordham officiating. Burial was in the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida.

Survivors include her husband, James E. Sims; daughters, Dr. Gloria D'alessandro, Charlottesville, Virginia, and Lee Grindheim; sons, Ronald Grindheim, Prosper, Texas, and Robert Grindheim, Jerseyville, Illinois; brothers, Fred Voetmann, Oregon, and David Voetmann, Seattle, Washington; sisters, Bette Conrad, North Bend, Oregon and Gladys, Canada; and three grandchildren.

Submitted by the Memoirs Committee

**JAMES MARSHALL SMITH**

James Marshall Smith was born on January 27, 1927, to Gladys Burner Smith and James Marshall Smith. His father died when Jim was in elementary school. After several years Gladys married Leon Homer Mullins, who became a caring father to Jim and his siblings.

After graduating from St. Petersburg High School in 1944, Jim entered Emory University, where he was a member of the Glee Club, Sigma Chi, and the Senior Society. During a summer break he accompanied a cargo of range horses by ship to Poland, under the auspices of the Brethren Church.

In order to broaden his educational and cultural experiences, Jim prepared for the ministry at Boston University School of Theology, from which he graduated in 1951. He was admitted to the Florida Conference on trial in 1949 and was ordained a deacon in 1950; he was ordained an elder and received into full connection in 1951. He served at Belmont Heights in Tampa, 1950-52.

He met his future wife, Mary Elizabeth Perry, while living in Boston, and we were married in August 1952. We had five children: Dana M., born on July 17, 1953; Sara E., born on October 13, 1955; Rebecca, born on March 31, 1958; Robert C., born on October 5, 1960; and Ruth E., born on March 12, 1963.

Together we served the following appointments: Livingston Memorial, Daytona Beach, 1952-56; Pine Hills, 1956-60; Mulberry, 1960-63; Gulfport, 1963-71; Port Charlotte, 1971-73; Spring Glen, Jacksonville, 1973-76; Boynton Beach, 1976-85; and Forest Hills, Tampa, 1985-88.

Jim took a sabbatical leave in 1988 and retired in 1989.

Jim started the church at Pine Hills, which was held in an elementary school until an all-purpose room was built, and he directed the building of the sanctuary at Mulberry. Our eight years of ministry in Gulfport allowed our children to be close to their paternal grandparents and to Jim's sister's family. At Spring Glen, John Powers, now superintendent of the DeLand District, became summer youth leader and began a summer camp for inner-city youth.

While we were at Boynton Beach, the World Methodist Council gave Jim the opportunity to exchange pulpits with a British Methodist pastor from Saltash, Cornwall. This was an unforgettable experience for our family. We were blessed to meet and worship with the Saltash congregation and with those in small chapels in the countryside. Members accompanied us on visits to Wesleyan sites.

Upon retirement we bought a home in St. Petersburg, Florida. Jim worked part time for Pinellas Park United Methodist Church, where he took an active role in establishing a day care center and formed an investment club. He was also a volunteer for the senior advocate group S.H.I.N.E.

In 2006 we moved to Westminster Suncoast Retirement Center in St. Petersburg. After suffering strokes in 2009 and 2010 and undergoing colon surgery in May 2011, Jim died on June 10, 2011. His memorial service was held on June 18, 2011, at First United Methodist Church in St. Petersburg, his home church, with the Reverend John Powers leading the worship. The Reverend William Smalling led a burial service for the family at Royal Palm Cemetery in St. Petersburg.

Jim is survived by his wife, Mary; sons Dana M. Smith and Robert C. Smith; daughters Sara E. Smith, Rebecca Tseng, and Ruth E. Hughes; and eleven grandchildren.

Jim loved the teaching aspect of ministry above all, whether in study groups or in preaching. He loved the game of baseball, both watching and playing. During his college years he considered making it a career. He also loved golf and the friends he made playing in the various appointments around Florida. He was an affectionate and hands-on husband and father.

Submitted by Mary P. Smith

**WILLIAM CALHOUN SWYGERT**

William Calhoun Swygert was born in Miami, Florida, on January 5, 1929, to Robert Shields Swygert and Harriet Eliza (Lila) Carley Swygert. He attended public schools in Miami and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Florida in 1951. He attended Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, receiving a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1953. He worked in Capitol View Methodist Church in Atlanta while he was at Emory.

He married Lola Jean Featherston on June 10, 1953, in Paris, Arkansas. They had met on the Emory campus, where she was studying to be a director of religious education. They had three children: Paul Thomas, born on September 27, 1955; Martha Lois, born on January 25, 1957; and Mark Andrew, born on October 14, 1964.

Bill was admitted into the Florida Conference on trial and ordained a deacon in 1952 and was ordained an elder and received into full connection in 1955. His appointments were North Hialeah, 1953-56, also supplying Matecumbe at Islamorada; associate, Trinity, Tallahassee, 1956-58; Ojus, renamed York Memorial, Miami, 1958-61; First, Auburndale, 1961-65; Reeves Memorial, Orlando, 1965-69; Palm Springs, Hialeah, 1969-73; First, Wauchula, 1973-76; First, Frostproof, 1976-80; associate, Pasadena Community, St. Petersburg, 1980-90; and First, Seffner, 1990-92. He and Lola retired to Lakeland in 1992. In retirement he served as associate at First, Zephyrhills, for six months.

Bill began the church at North Hialeah, where he set records for new churches, taking in more than three hundred new members between July 1953 and June 1956. At Ojus, he was recognized for building the educational wing, having saved the church a great deal of money by acting as the contractor. His main emphasis at Pasadena was church growth and evangelism, and a significant number of new members were received during the ten years he was there. At Seffner he skillfully led the church out of its financial crisis in 1991.

He served as assistant conference statistician for several years in the days before computers made compiling reports easier.

One of Bill's interests was world history. Sitting in Sunday school under Dr. Ben Wade, he often added to the discussion by referring to events or persons from world history.

Bill was appointed as a biographical candidate to represent Lakeland, Florida, in the 2008-09 *Cambridge Who's Who Registry Among Executives and Professionals.*

Bill suffered a heart attack and stroke in 2005, followed by open heart surgery in 2006 and another stroke in 2007. A third stroke, in 2011, left him unable to talk, walk, or swallow. Having signed a living will that he did not want heroic measures taken to keep him existing but not living, he passed on peacefully to be with the Lord on June 1, 2011.

A memorial service was held at the Estates at Carpenters in Lakeland, Florida, on June 12, 2011, with Chaplain Norm Bradney officiating, the Reverend Henry Schmidt giving the meditation, and the Reverend William Fisackerly the Reverend Ed Dinkins, and his son, Paul Swygert, reflecting on their experiences with him. Another memorial service was held on June 25, 2011, at First United Methodist Church in Lakeland, with the Reverend David McEntire giving the meditation and his son, Paul Swygert, the Reverend Harry Russell, and Dr. Richard Burnette remembering life experiences. Committal was in the columbarium at the church.

He is survived by his wife, Lola; his sons, Paul Swygert of Babson Park, Florida, and Mark Swygert of Tampa, Florida; his daughter, Martha Ellingsworth of Orlando, Florida; his sister, Julia Goff of Olympia, Washington; his grandchildren, Jennifer Borondy, Nicole Ellingsworth, Kelly McCullagh, Nathan Swygert, and Laura Swygert; and four great grandchildren.

Submitted by Lola Swygert

**RICHARD KIMPTON TITLEY**

Richard (Dick) Kimpton Titley was born on January 31, 1923, to Ralph and Elsie Choate Titley in Newark, New Jersey. He grew up with his older brother, Bill, and younger twin sisters, Ruth and Catherine, in Springfield, New Jersey.

He met his wife, Margaret (Peggy) Campbell, while attending Penn State University. After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1944, he went on to Drew Theological Seminary. While there he served at Picture Rocks, Bendersville, and Carlisle, in the Central Pennsylvania Conference. Dick and Peggy were married in 1945 and had two daughters: Jane, born on March 18, 1946, and Donna, born on September 11, 1947.

Dick was ordained a deacon in 1947, and in 1948 he received a Master of Divinity degree from Drew and was admitted on trial in the Central Pennsylvania Conference. He transferred to the Florida Conference in 1949, was ordained an elder, and accepted the challenge to start a new church, Ocean Roads in Jacksonville, later Peeler Memorial. With the onset of the Korean conflict, he answered the call for chaplains and joined the U.S. Navy in the fall of 1951. Finding such service compatible with his love for the sea, he went on to serve for twenty-six years.

He served at U.S. Marine Corps and Naval bases and hospitals as well as with many ships, including an aircraft carrier and submarine tender. While stationed at Philadelphia Naval Hospital he co-founded the skiing program for amputee Viet Nam Veterans, and he was also responsible for establishing a hobby shop for naval personnel at Bethesda Naval Medical Center. He was passionately dedicated to supporting the men and women of the navy and marines. He even risked his own health to help the medical personnel in Viet Nam prepare incoming wounded, exposing himself to Agent Orange, which later led to the development of prostate cancer and multiple myeloma, eventually contributing to his death.

After retiring from the navy in 1977, he served as minister of visitation for First United Methodist Church in Virginia Beach, Virginia, for two years before moving back to Florida in 1981 and being appointed chaplain for the Waterford Retirement Community in Juno Beach. In 1984 he retired from the active ministry and moved to Azalea Trace Retirement Community in Pensacola, Florida, where he and Peggy lived for twenty-two years. There he actively participated in First United Methodist Church, serving as assistant pastor, Sunday school teacher, and volunteer for many projects and activities. He also served briefly as a hospice chaplain.

Dick could be considered a modern-day Renaissance man with his many hobbies and interests. He built their home in Virginia Beach, as well as furniture, including altars and lecterns for chapels and churches. He and Peggy were a great team: he would build and she would paint and polish. In retirement, they put their talents to use with Habitat for Humanity. He also built a dinghy for his sail boat, which he and Peggy sailed up and down the East coast. He tailored his own suits and made the sails for his boat.

He played the euphonium, sang in choirs and choruses, and appeared in *Guys and Dolls.* He and Peggy traveled extensively with Elderhostel and made a trip around the country, by the end of which he had visited every state. He also tinkered in the dark room, printing the photos he took wherever he went. He loved to laugh, always had a joke on the ready, and would tear up from laughing at *Reader's Digest* jokes.

After sixty-one years of a happy marriage, Peggy passed away in 2006. In 2008 Dick moved to Granite Farms Estates Retirement Community in Media, Pennsylvania, to be near his daughter Jane. He died there peacefully at noon on Sunday, May 22, 2011, just about the time many church services end—a fitting time for a man who had characterized his life as "my adventure with God."

A memorial service was held on May 27, 2011, at Granite Farms Estates, with the Reverend Iain Crichton and the Reverend Jim Hallum officiating. Part of his cremains were buried in the Rush Township Cemetery in Pennsylvania with his wife, Peggy, and another part buried at sea by a U.S. Navy chaplain.

He is survived by his two daughters, Jane Titley Berkow (formerly Bishop) of Baltimore, Maryland, and Donna L. Titley of Los Angeles, California; his four grandchildren, Christopher and Jonathan Bishop and Jenisha and Richard Hasselberger; one great granddaughter, Ella Jane Bishop; and two siblings, William Titley of Maplewood, New Jersey, and Catherine Veninata of Port St. Lucie, Florida.

Submitted by Jane Titley Berkow, daughter

## DIACONAL MINISTER

### RUTH YAEKEL ANDERSEN

Ruth Yaekel Andersen was born in Toledo, Ohio, on August 1, 1916, to Jesse Bogle and William Yaekel. She graduated from Libby High School in Toledo.

She first came to Florida as a babysitter with a family on vacation in Sarasota and met my dad, Al Andersen, when she went into the bicycle store where he worked to rent a bicycle. He later invited her to go to the First Methodist Church with him. When she went back up north, he followed her and got a job there. They married in April of 1935 and moved to Fort Myers, Florida, where Al opened a bicycle shop. Eight years later he was drafted, and about that time they found out Ruth was pregnant. She moved to Michigan and stayed with the family of Al's brother, a doctor, until Al came back from the war.

When he returned, they decided to move to Sarasota. After having another child, they moved to Winter Haven, attracted by the small-town atmosphere. Al opened Andersen Cycle & Key Shop, which is still operating today. Ruth began working with children and youth at Beymer Memorial Methodist Church and became active in the American Legion Auxiliary.

When the two children, Marilyn and Jim, were in high school, Ruth began taking classes in religious education at Florida Southern College. Al died in 1974, and she later began teaching in Christian education workshops and lab schools all over the Southeast. She also wrote several units of United Methodist curriculum. In 1978 she finished her studies at Scarritt College and became a diaconal minister. In addition to serving as director of Christian education at Beymer, she also served at College Heights in Lakeland and Morrison in Leesburg. She continued to take courses and teach until she retired in 1985.

Her hobbies were reading and volunteering, but her passion was education. She loved to learn new things and share them with others. She treated all people with equal good will and had a compliment for everyone she met.

Ruth died peacefully on April 16, 2012, in Winter Haven, Florida, and donated her body to the University of Florida for research. A memorial service was held on April 22, 2012, at Beymer United Methodist Church in Winter Haven. Clergy officiating were Dr. Rob Harding, pastor at Beymer, and Dr. Bob Hornback, former pastor and her close friend.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Albert Trigve Andersen. She is survived by her son James Alan Andersen of Winter Haven, Florida; daughter Marilyn Andersen Shepherd of Lake Wales, Florida; four grandchildren; and five great grandchildren.

Submitted by Marilyn Andersen Shepherd

## SPOUSES

### LAURA MARIE GREEN BOGGS

Laura Marie Green Boggs was born in Garrett County, Maryland, on April 22, 1920, the daughter of Charles Alexander Green and Florence Susan Lee Green. In January 1926 the family moved to Miami Beach and became active in Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church, South, which later became First. Laura graduated in 1937 from Miami Edison High School, where she was president of the Girl Reserves and a member of the National Honor Society and Miami Edison Cadets. As a cadet she performed for President Franklin D. Roosevelt, marched in parade with Amelia Earhart just before her fateful flight, and presented flowers to Sonya Henie during a water show at the famed Biltmore Hotel.

After graduation Laura began studies at the University of Miami. While there she became a member of Nu Kappa Tau Honorary Fraternity, charter president of the Beta Nu Chapter of Delta Zeta Sorority, and president of the YWCA. She is included in the 1940-41 edition of *Who's Who.* She graduated in 1941 with an A.B. in psychology and education.

She taught in elementary and junior high schools in Miami and also worked for the Board of Censorship there. Toward the end of World War II she was pressed into service as the boys' football coach at Kenlock Park Junior High. During this time she was active in the leadership of the Caravan Movement and the early years of the Youth Camping Program of the Florida Conference. During these years of service an enduring romance began with the then Florida Conference director of youth, the Reverend Bob Boggs.

Laura accepted the position as director of religious education at First Methodist Church in Lakeland. She and the Reverend Robert C. Boggs, Sr., were married there on August 31, 1945. Her beloved husband passed away in 2000, just short of their fifty-fifth wedding anniversary.

Two children were born to Laura and Bob: the late Carole Suellen Boggs Smith and the Reverend R. Charles Boggs, Jr. Carole and her husband, Mike Smith, had a son, Zac Smith. Zac and his wife, Annie, have Laura's three great grandchildren, Sadie, Donovan, and Eli. The Reverend Charlie Boggs has two children, Amy Marie Boggs Hatfield and her husband, Don, and Richard Compton Boggs. Laura had a brother, Charles Alexander Green, Jr., who passed away as a young child.

Laura spent many years as an active part of the conference lab schools, Christian education training events, and especially the Woman's Society of Christian Service and United Methodist Women. She worked tirelessly beside Bobby in each of their churches and in service to the pastors and their families in the Tampa District. For many years she helped edit the Florida Conference Journal while Bobby was conference secretary.

Laura passed away on July 7, 2011, at Port St. Lucie, Florida, Medical Center. A memorial service on July 18, 2011, at First United Methodist Church of Lake Wales, Florida, and interment beside her beloved husband and mother at the Lake Wales Cemetery were conducted by the Reverend Jeff Kantz. Another memorial service at First United Methodist Church in Fort Pierce, Florida, on July 19, 2011, was led by the Reverend Dr. Gary Spencer and the Reverend Shirley Groom.

Submitted with love and devotion by the Reverend Charlie Boggs

**JAYNE HATFIELD BRACKMAN**

Jayne Hatfield Brackman was born on July 31, 1930, in Camden, New Jersey, to Howard and Kathryn Hatfield. She was one of four children and the only girl. She was raised in a home filled with love and care, but it was not a Christian home. Her mother went to Sunday school and church, but that was about all.

When Jayne was fifteen, she went to Malaga Camp Ground in Malaga, New Jersey, and gave her life to Christ. From then on she was a new creature in Christ Jesus. Her life was different. At this time her church, State Methodist Church in Camden, New Jersey, received a new pastor, an evangelical preacher who was a graduate of Asbury College. Because of his influence, a Sunday school class established a scholarship fund for a worthy student to go to Asbury College. Jayne was the first recipient and in 1948 enrolled at Asbury. In 1952 I transferred from Clemson College to Asbury, and Jayne and I dated for two years, became engaged, and married at State Methodist Church in Camden in August 1953.

We moved to Atlanta so that I could attend Candler School of Theology. I graduated in 1956 and transferred to the Florida Conference, where we served until my retirement in 1994. Jayne taught school and was librarian at Eustis Elementary School. In 1995 we moved to Grand Island, Florida, where she was active in the ministry at Old Mill Stream Park and served on the board of Grand Island Cemetery. She also served as president of the Asbury alumni organization.

Jayne had surgery for cancer in 2002 and was free of cancer until April 2011. She had hospice care for the last days of her life. On the last day, May 23, 2011, the family gathered around her bed, singing Gospel hymns and choruses and reading the Scriptures. At one point she looked up and a smile came across her lips and our daughter, Beverly, said "Mom, do you see the angels?" And she said, "Yep." About an hour later she took her last breath and went to Heaven. Funeral services were held on May 27, 2011, at First United Methodist Church in Eustis, Florida, with her husband, the Reverend John Brackman, officiating. Burial was in Grand Island Cemetery in Grand Island, Florida.

She is survived by her husband, the Reverend John M. Brackman; daughter, Beverly Elaine Brackman Lorenz and husband Blake of Orlando, Florida; son, John Brackman, Jr., of Winter Garden, Florida; two brothers, Richard Hatfield of Escondido, California, and Charles Hatfield of Peoria, Illinois; grandson, Jonathan Blake Lorenz and wife Serenity; granddaughters, Suzanne Ferreira and husband Felipe and Laura Elizabeth Lorenz; and many beloved nieces and nephews.

Jayne influenced hundreds of people with her testimony and witness for Christ. She not only taught us how to live, she also taught us how to die.

Submitted by her husband, John Brackman

**LILLIAN SPENCER CARWITHEN**

Lillian Spencer Carwithen was born in Alachua, Florida, on November 17, 1920, to Lillian and Ernest Spencer. A 1939 graduate of Alachua High School, she received a bachelor's degree from Florida Southern College and a master's degree from Florida Atlantic University. As a young person she participated in the Comradeship Teams of the Methodist Church.

Mrs. Carwithen was a home economics teacher for forty-four years. She served as senior class sponsor for many years and took students on numerous trips. She was a creative and talented person who enriched the lives of her students in many ways. She was president of the Florida Home Economics Association, as well as the Florida Vocational Association.

After her retirement she was a volunteer at Lawnwood Regional Hospital in Ft. Pierce, Florida, and also delivered Meals on Wheels. She was a member of the Garden Club of Ft. Pierce and took pride in having beautiful flowers and landscaping at her home. She was active in First United Methodist Church in Ft. Pierce, playing the piano and singing in the choir. She was a charter member of Alpha Delta Kappa, an international honorary organization for women educators. In retirement she traveled extensively and participated in numerous Elderhostels.

Lillian died on November 23, 2007, in St. Augustine, Florida, following a lengthy illness.
A graveside service was held at Newnansville Cemetery in Alachua, Florida, on November 18, 2011, with the Reverend Rob Atchley officiating.

She was preceded in death in 2002 by her husband, the Reverend Frank Carwithen, whom she married in 1995. Survivors include her brother, Ernest Spencer and wife Rose Anne of Alachua; sisters, Mary Uhl and husband Bob of Decatur, Georgia, and Esther Whetstone and husband Henry of St. Augustine, Florida; and four nieces and five nephews.

Submitted by the Memoirs Committee

**ETHEL LUCINDA YARBROUGH CROWDER**

Ethel Lucinda Yarbrough Crowder was born on July 21, 1916. She married Wilbur P. Crowder on September 12, 1936. After he was called to the ministry in 1955, they served churches in Bonita Springs, West Hollywood, Fruitland Park, and Lady Lake. They retired in 1980. Her husband died on November 4, 1986.
Ethel died on June 16, 2011, in Ft. Myers, Florida. Graveside services were held on June 18, 2011, in the Charlotte Harbor, Florida, Cemetery. Survivors include her son Jim Crowder and daughter Linda Moore.

Submitted by the Memoirs Committee

**ESTHER WHITMORE GILL**

Esther Whitmore Gill, wife of the late Reverend John B. Gill, Jr., was born to Bertha and Walter Whitmore in the small farming village of Corbin, Kansas, on November 14, 1916, but by the by the time she was three, her family had moved to Lakeland, Florida, where she graduated from Lakeland High School. In 1938 she received an undergraduate degree from Florida Southern College, graduating as valedictorian. Esther later received a master's degree in library arts from George Peabody College in Nashville, Tennessee. She utilized her degrees serving as an assistant librarian at Florida Southern and the Lakeland Public Library.

On December 2, 1945, she married the Reverend John B. Gill, Jr., in her home church, College Heights in Lakeland. John was serving as a navy chaplain, based in the Panama Canal Zone. After their wedding Esther joined John in Panama, where they stayed until he was discharged and returned to service as a pastor of local congregations in the Florida Conference.

During the next four decades, John and Esther faithfully served a number of congregations up and down the state, always working as a ministry team. Throughout her life Esther used her musical talents playing the piano and organ in the churches they served. After their marriage she devoted herself to being a preacher's wife and a stay-at-home mom. Together John and Esther raised four children: Esther M. Gill, Sara Gill Wunderlich, Mary Gill Isaac, and John B. Gill III. Esther was a loving, supportive, caring, and soft-spoken mother—always patient, never raising her voice or becoming angry. Esther and John always encouraged their children to pursue their dreams. She modeled what it meant to be a wonderful mother.

In 1981 John and Esther retired to Lake Placid, Florida, a central location where all their children and their growing families could visit. During these later years, they were blessed with two sons-in-law, a daughter-in-law, and seven grandchildren. Just a few days before Esther passed away, she welcomed the arrival of her first great grandchild.

While John was never employed in retirement, he and Esther devoted a number of years, working with the Reverend Perry James, to help establish a new congregation in Sebring–Spring Lake United Methodist Church. As they aged, they transferred their church home to Memorial United Methodist Church in Lake Placid.

After John passed away in 2002, Esther stayed active until 2009, when it became evident that she would no longer be able to stay at home alone. During her remaining years she was a resident of an assisted living facility, enjoying frequent visits from her family and from friends in her church.

On February 19, 2012, at the age of ninety-five, Esther went home to be with the Lord. On February 25, 2012, family and friends gathered for a wonderful service at Memorial United Methodist Church in Lake Placid to celebrate Esther–"a life well-lived." Esther's earthly remains are interred at Oak Hill Cemetery in Lake Placid.

She is survived by her children: Esther M. Gill of Lake Placid, Florida; Sara Gill Wunderlich and husband Paul of Davie, Florida; Mary Gill Isaac and husband Jerry of Lakeland, Florida; and John B. Gill III and wife Terri or Ormond Beach, Florida; grandchildren, Tina, Kathy, Allison, Megan, Tim, Ben, and Joanne; and one great grandchild. She was predeceased by her husband, John, and brother, Paul Whitmore.

While Esther can no longer make music praising God on the earth, she is now praising God with the heavenly choir. It's not surprising, therefore, that the verse she selected for her grave marker was from Psalm 92: "It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High, proclaiming your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night, to the music of the ten-stringed lyre and the melody of the harp. For you make me glad by your deeds, Lord; I sing for joy at what your hands have done."

Submitted by John B. Gill II

**MARJORIE JAMES GORDAY**

Marjorie James Gorday was born on August 29, 1933, in Jackson, Mississippi, to Joseph E. and Natalie R. James, the youngest of six children. She married Robert E. Gorday in 1951 in Jackson, Mississippi. Marjorie and Bob had grown up attending Grace Memorial United Methodist Church in Jackson.

Prior to her husband's retirement in 1993, she served faithfully and effectively for forty-one years as a United Methodist minister's wife in the Mississippi and Florida Annual Conferences. From 1952 to 1962 they served in the Mississippi Conference and air force chaplaincy. In 1962 they moved to Florida, where they served the following churches: First, Clearwater; Crystal River; Epperson Memorial, Jacksonville; Perrine-Peters; Swaim Memorial, Jacksonville; Port St. Lucie; Trinity, Deland; and Trinity, Sarasota.

During the nineteen years of their retirement, Marjorie served in various capacities at First United Methodist Church in Clayton, Georgia. She gathered many warm and fulfilling friendships through United Methodist Women, choir, handbells, and Sunday school. She enjoyed reading, gardening, quilting, and traveling with her husband and family.

On January 8, 2012, Marjorie passed away peacefully at home under hospice care after a twenty-seven month struggle with colon cancer. Funeral services were held on January 11, 2012, at First United Methodist Church in Clayton, Georgia, with the Reverend Charles Green officiating. She was laid to rest in the Rabun Memory Garden Cemetery in Tiger, Georgia.

She is survived by her devoted husband of sixty years, Robert E. Gorday; loving children: Grace Franus and husband Jack, Mary Osterholt and husband Mike, Mark Gorday and wife Michelle, and Paul Gorday and wife Khanh; five grandchildren, Julia, Ryan, Eric, Jonathan, and Joshua Gorday; sisters, Alice Mizell and Frances Green; and brother, William James and wife Sybil.

God blessed us with her life. For this we are truly thankful, and we will cherish her memory.

Submitted by Robert E. Gorday

**PATRICIA BOLTON GUERRY**

Patricia Bolton Guerry was born on August 7, 1936, in Chattanooga, Tennessee, to Ruth Henderson and Robert Bolton. Pat, or Patsy as she was known to her childhood friends, was the valedictorian of her 1954 graduating class at Red Bank High School in Chattanooga and went on to study music at Cadek Conservatory in Chattanooga, the University of Chattanooga, and the music divisions of the University of South Florida and the University of Miami. She studied piano under Karl Cadek and Gary Wolfe; organ with Robert Fulton, cathedral organist at St. Mary's Cathedral in Miami; and voice under Richard Lapo, son of Dr. Cecil Lapo, secretary of the Division of Worship of the United Methodist Church.

She married Jean U. Guerry and served with him at appointments throughout the conference. She was organist and director of music at a number of his churches. She also taught private lessons in piano, organ, and voice. Pat's greatest love and accomplishment, however, was that of wife, mother, and especially grandmother.

Pat passed away peacefully with her family at her side on December 19, 2011. She had been the victim of Lewy body dementia for several years. A memorial service was held on January 8, 2012, at Christ Church in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, with the Reverends Phil Roughton, Heather Collver, and Fawn Mickel officiating.

She is survived by her husband, Jean U. Guerry, retired member of the Florida Conference; daughter Sheryl Rose and grandson Dana Rose; daughter and son-in-law Libby and Jerry Giostra and grandson Brandon Giostra; sister Cathryn Kirk and husband the Reverend M. Gene Kirk, retired member of the Holston Conference, of Knoxville, Tennessee; and sister Carolyn Cofer of Soddy Daisy, Tennessee.

Submitted by Jean U. Guerry

**ROSE MARCELLA WAGONER HARRISON**

Rose Marcella Wagoner Harrison was born in log cabin in Bourbon County, Kentucky, to Layson and Maude Wagoner. The first person in her family to go to college, she graduated from Asbury College, where she met the love of her life, Ray Harrison. Rose and Ray were married on August 18, 1951.

Ray went on to earn a degree in theology, and Rose was instrumental to his success at Candler School of Theology, supporting him by taking on many duties, including typing his papers. After Ray completed his degree in 1959, they moved to Clearwater, Florida, and became a part of the Florida Conference. Ray was an active member of the conference for thirty-five years, and Rose was his partner and support through all those years.

Like many ministers' wives, Rose was the silent partner in a living profession of faith. Because of her dedication to taking care of many of the everyday tasks, Ray was able to give and serve others more fully. They raised three children: Renee Page, born on February 28, 1954; Rochelle Lynn, born on August 3, 1956; and Ragan Kent, born on November 8, 1963. Rose was a loving and nurturing mother, as well as a happy grandmother to six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Upon retirement in1994, Ray and Rose moved to Lakeland, Florida. They spent many summers in their second home in Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. They also enjoyed more time with their family and many great friends. They continued to have adventures, traveling all over the United States as well as to many other countries all over the world.

Rose's priorities were faith and family, but she always loved adventure and fun and never wanted to be left out or behind, no matter how wild the adventure might be. We, her three adult children, realize how fortunate we have been to have had such a wonderful mother to raise and support us.

Rose died on March 10, 2012, after a seven-year battle with cancer. Funeral services were held at First United Methodist Church in Lakeland, Florida, on March 17, 2012, with the Reverend David McEntire officiating. Burial was at Oak Hill Cemetery.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ray, and brother, Layson Wagoner. Survivors include daughters Renee Long of Lakeland, Florida, and Rochelle Harrison-Shoemaker and husband Phil of Wasilla, Alaska; her son Ragan Harrison and wife Kim of Tallahassee, Florida; six grandchildren: Eric and Dirk Williamson, Taj and Tia Shoemaker, and Jodie and Jamie Wells; two great grandchildren: John Bradley and Eli Thomas Williamson; sister Payge Speakes of Denver, Colorado; and brother Robin Wagoner and wife Carolyn of Cocoa Beach, Florida.

Submitted by Ragan, Rochelle, and Renee

**BETTY JEAN BATMAN JONES**

Betty Jean Batman Jones was born on October 11, 1926, in Vincennes, Indiana, to Emery E. and Zora E. Batman. She graduated from Flora High School in Flora, Illinois, and then moved back to Vincennes to attend Vincennes University. In 1947 she met a sailor on leave, Ralph A. Jones, Jr., whom she married on February 27, 1949.

Betty Jean was a homemaker and Tupperware dealer. She also enjoyed substitute teaching for the Clay County Public Schools during the 1960s and 1970s. She was a long-time member of First United Methodist Church in Green Cove Springs, Florida, where she taught Sunday school, was choir director, and was a member of United Methodist Women. She was a member of O.E.S. #45, Khem Temple chorus, Daughters of the Nile, V.I.A. of Green Cove Springs, Social Order of Beauceant #200, and Homemakers Sweet Adelines.

She died peacefully on June 30, 2011, in Orange Park, Florida. Funeral services were held on July 6, 2011, at First United Methodist Church in Green Cove Springs.

She is survived by her husband of sixty-two years, Ralph A. Jones, Jr.; daughter Jean Ann Jones Shaw and husband Mark of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida; son Ralph E. (Buddy) Jones and wife LeAnne of Green Cove Springs, Florida; granddaughters Joanna C. Shaw Frost and husband John, Bethany M. Shaw Johnson and husband Andy, and Hannah Jones; four great grandchildren: Sari Frost, Selah, Ocean, and AJ Johnson; niece Cassie Lackey; and three great nephews. She was pre-deceased by her parents, infant son Ralph, and infant daughter Sherry.

Submitted by Ralph A. Jones. Jr.

**MILAH GIBSON McDAVID**

Milah Gibson McDavid was born in Winona, Mississippi, on May 7, 1916, to Ben and Rachel Dodds Gibson. A few years later her younger brother, Mark L. Gibson, joined the family. They moved to Whistler, Alabama, when Milah was nine. There at the Whistler Methodist Church youth group she met her husband of sixty-one years, Joel McDavid. They were married on August 29, 1942.

Milah and Joel served Alabama churches in the Alabama-West Florida Conference: Grand Bay; Toulminville; Auburn; First, Montgomery; and Dauphin Way, Mobile.

Milah devoted her early married years to being a homemaker and wife. As the mother of three children–Ben Albert McDavid, born on June 3, 1945, Joel Gibson McDavid, born on June 7, 1948, and Karen Anne McDavid, born on December 7, 1951–she spent many hours attending sporting events and using her seamstress skills. Milah was a wonderful cook whose recipe for strawberry cake was used in a local Montgomery restaurant. Her culinary skills helped her serve as a wonderful hostess for staff meetings, district superintendent gatherings, and many church functions.

While Joel was in seminary, Milah worked as a secretary at the Candler School of Theology. She later worked in the registrar's office at Murphy High School in Mobile, and she had more than fifteen hundred hours of volunteer service at Providence Hospital in Mobile.

Milah was also active in the United Methodist Church. She was president of United Methodist Women of First Church in Montgomery and treasurer of the group at Dauphin Way in Mobile. She was elected an honorary steward of the Administrative Board, the highest honor a layman can receive at Dauphin Way.

Joel McDavid was elected to the episcopacy in 1972, and the McDavids spent eight years in the Florida Conference and then four years in what was then the Georgia Conference. After retirement in 1984, he served as bishop-in-residence at Candler School of Theology at Emory University for eight years and then became bishop-in-residence at Dauphin Way United Methodist Church in Mobile.

As a bishop's wife, Milah accompanied Joel on mission trips to India and South Africa. Upon their return she made presentations around the conference to church and women's groups. Milah often spoke to young ministers' wives on the role of the wife of a minister. The Florida Conference presented her a trophy as The Bishop's Chauffeur. This was especially meaningful to her, as she had learned to drive at the age of forty-five.

Milah was a devoted, loving wife and mother. Her life reflected a giving Christian spirit, led by faith, dedicated to her family, her church, and her Lord. This dedication was reflected in her role as a minister's wife, with years of service to her church and the communities to which they were appointed.

Milah died at age ninety-five on September 22, 2011, at the Oakwood North Baldwin Center for Living in Mobile, Alabama. A celebration of life service was held on September 26, 2011, at Dauphin Way United Methodist Church in Mobile, Alabama, with interment in Pine Crest Cemetery in Mobile. Officiating were the Reverend Robin Wilson, the Reverend Kathy Jorgensen, and Dr. Jeff Wilson.

She was preceded in death by her husband of sixty-one years, Bishop Joel D. McDavid; her parents, Ben and Rachel Gibson; and her brother, Mark L. Gibson. She is survived by her children: Ben McDavid and wife Mary, Joel McDavid and wife Ginny, and Karen Anne Beville and husband Lewis; her six grandchildren; and her seven great grandchildren

Submitted by Ben McDavid

**ALBERTA DARLENE HARGIS MONTGOMERY**

Alberta Darlene Hargis Montgomery was born on July 17, 1942, in Owaneco, Illinois, to Elva and Mildred Hockman Hargis. She graduated from Catlin, Illinois, High School and then traveled to Seattle, Washington. There on June 20, 1961, she married Tyler Montgomery, who was stationed aboard ship. They had four children: Tyler, Jr., born on March 3, 1962; Theresa, born on March 1, 1964; David, born on January 28, 1967; and Robert, born on December 6, 1971.

Darlene accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior on March 18, 1948, at the Owaneco United Methodist Church as they sang "Where He Leads Me I Will Follow." She lived her life following her Lord. Darlene's faith in her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was evident in her passion to share His love through her actions and deeds. She had a special gift that allowed her to seek out those in need of a listening ear or a special touch and hug. No one could pass by her without receiving a loving hug. She loved to sing hymns to her children as well as in the church choir. Just watching her sing, one could experience not only the words but her faith and love of God, as the light of Christ shone through her facial expressions and body language.

In serving her Lord, Darlene taught first graders in Sunday school for many years, was active in United Methodist Women's circles, sang in choirs at Crystal River, Hernando, Oxford, and Williston United Methodist Churches, and supported many ministries within each of these churches.

During Tyler's more than twenty-year career in the navy, Darlene was not only the rock for their children but the go-to person for other navy wives. The chaplain at Bainbridge Naval Station once said, "I would have stopped by but it looked like you had a very full house." Darlene was the unofficial chaplain, counselor, and mother for the younger wives.

As Tyler answered the call to pastoral ministry, Darlene stepped forward and walked hand in hand with him as they served churches in North and Central Florida. Through her ministry Darlene touched the lives of many in countless ways. She was devoted to her family, with a special love for her grandchildren. Her values have been instilled within each of them, and they will continue her legacy of love and compassion.

Darlene and Tyler renewed their wedding vows in June 2011 as they celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary. They had the formal ceremony that they were not able to have in 1961; their children and grandchildren made up the wedding party. Following the celebration they enjoyed their trip of a lifetime with a land and sea tour of Alaska. This completed Darlene's journey of having been in each of the fifty states.

Darlene died suddenly on December 19, 2011, in Crystal River, Florida. Celebration of Life services were held at Hernando United Methodist Church, in Hernando, Florida, on December 29, 2011, with the Reverend Kelly Greenawald and the Reverend Bob Martin officiating. Interment was in Fero Memorial Gardens, Beverly Hills, Florida. The Hernando United Methodist Church choir was joined by the choirs of Crystal River, Oxford, and Williston United Methodist Churches as they sang Darlene's favorite hymn, "The Old Rugged Cross."

Darlene is survived by her husband the Reverend Tyler P. Montgomery; son Tyler Montgomery, Jr., and wife Dottie; daughter Theresa Montgomery Cain; son David Montgomery and wife Gail; son Robert Montgomery and wife Jeanine; and grandchildren: Jennifer, Kenny, Kristi, Nicholas, Andrew, and Kristina. She was preceded in death by a granddaughter, Adriana Lynn.

Submitted by the Reverend Tyler Montgomery

**CAROL WOOD WHITEHURST RUMSEY**

Carol Wood Whitehurst Rumsey was born on December 23, 1930. She married Fred Durham Rumsey in 1969. Together they served at Aldersgate, Orlando; North Jacksonville; Trinity, Jacksonville; Taft, Orlando; and Grant Chapel, Winter Park. Her husband died on April 28, 2004.

Carol died on October 21, 2011. A memorial service was held on October 25, 2011, at First United Methodist Church in Winter Garden.

Submitted by the Memoirs Committee

**GERALDINE ANN COOK STRICKLAND**

Geraldine Ann Cook Strickland was born on November 11, 1926, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to Ronald and Eleanor Oppenneer Cook. She was educated in the local schools, graduating with honors from Godwin High School, where she was an active student, a willing worker, and homecoming queen. Upon graduation in 1944, she was hired by the Upjohn Company in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

On May 17, 1946, she married Hugh Shepard, an accountant who early developed a serious heart condition that required a warmer climate. They moved to Florida, where their two sons were born: Steve, on April 20, 1948, and Bruce, on March 30, 1951. In Orlando Gerry taught a Sunday school class at Reeves Memorial Methodist Church, where they were members, until Hugh was transferred to Miami. They joined Norland Methodist Church there in 1960, and Gerry became church secretary, a job that lasted for sixteen years under four pastors. She was highly qualified for the position, as she was an orderly person and had been secretary to a bank president.

More important than being skilled in filing and shorthand, however, Gerry was intelligent, cheerful, and caring. She helped young mothers with little children. Wherever she found problems, she worked to find solutions. She cared for her ailing husband and parents while tending to all her responsibilities. She was an artist in needlepoint and used it artfully, and she enjoyed the Florida outdoors.

Her husband died on October 12, 1973. His services were held in Norland Church, with the Reverend Gordon Strickland officiating. The following year was difficult, but Gerry¸ efficient and pleasant, continued her tasks, even working late at times to carry out the program of the church. Three years later, on December 26, 1976, she retired to marry the pastor of Oakhurst United Methodist Church in Seminole, Florida, the Reverend Gordon Strickland. She was doing what she had said she could never do: be a pastor's wife. She did it well for nine years, until Gordon retired in 1985.

As they were moving into their new home in Largo, Dr. Tom Kelsey persuaded Gordon to take a position on the staff of First United Methodist Church in Clearwater, Florida. These were twenty-three enjoyable years. Gerry joined the altar guild: decorating for Christmas, Easter, and other celebrations appealed to her willing-worker nature. She made and embroidered towels for presentation at infant baptisms, establishing a tradition. She was also able to schedule activities that fulltime employment had not permitted. She loved to travel and made trips to Michigan, New England, Colorado, and other areas.

Gerry made her trip to Glory on June 21, 2011, a few days after suffering a stroke. Her memorial service was held at First United Methodist Church in Clearwater, Florida, on July 1, 2011, with the Reverend Scott Alan Baker officiating. She was laid to rest in Serenity Gardens Memorial Park in Largo, Florida.

She is survived by her husband, the Reverend Gordon Strickland; sons, Steve Shepard and Bruce Shepard; and sister, Evelyn Cook.

Gerry was a happy person with a sense of humor and joy. She loved the wonders of creation and life. She was a loving person, and people loved her.

Submitted by her husband, Gordon Strickland

**BETTY JEAN TOOMER-BRADLEY**

Betty Jean Toomer-Bradley was born on December 27, 1950, in Miami, Florida, to the late Nathan Kenneth Toomer and Sarah Mae Boynton-Toomer. She was the third of six girls; her oldest sister, Juanita Toomer, preceded her in death.

She accepted Christ as her personal savior at an early age. She was a devoted member of Kerr Memorial United Methodist Church in Perrine, Florida. Throughout her membership she served as an usher, sang in the various church choirs, and was a member of the Newsletter Committee, United Methodist Women, and the Board of Trustees.

Betty attended R.R. Moton Elementary School and Richmond Middle School in Miami. She graduated in 1968 with the first graduating class, as well as the first integrated class, of Miami Killian High School. Betty went on to earn a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from Nova University, now Nova-Southeastern University, in 1978 and a Master of Science Degree in Varying Exceptionalities from Biscayne College, now St. Thomas University, in 1980. Her education empowered her to serve for more than thirty years as a teacher of students with varying disabilities in the Miami-Dade County and Alachua County Public School Systems.

On October 19, 2002, Betty married the Reverend Bobby L. Bradley, Jr., who preceded her in death in 2007. She served with him as First Lady at Kerr Memorial United Methodist Church in Miami and Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church in Gainesville.

In August 2011 Betty was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Together with her family, her friends, and her faith she battled for eight courageous months. On Saturday, April 7, 2012, Betty's earthly life was completed and her heavenly journey began. Funeral services were held on Saturday, April 14, 2012, at Glendale Baptist Church in Miami, Florida, with the Reverend Earl Rich, pastor of Kerr Memorial United Methodist Church, officiating. Committal services were held at Graceland Memorial Park in Miami.

She leaves the following individuals to carry on her legacy: children, Donnie Jackson and wife Katrice and Nikka Lester and husband Reginald; grandchildren, Natashia and Tanashia West, Sherron Jackson, and Nia and Sanai Lester; sisters, Gloria Montgomery and husband Henry, Carrie Jenkins, Rita Smith, and Patricia Joy and husband Calvin; brother, Willie Spencer and wife Juanita; uncle, George Toomer and wife Mary of Perry, Georgia; nieces, Shenetha Roberts and husband Ronnie, Tambre Patterson and husband Cordell, Tasha Jenkins, Latoya and Tiffany Smith, and Patrice Joy; nephews, Michael Cheatham, Brian Toomer, Tenerral Bohler, Tornell Jenkins, Willie Michael Smith, and Calvin and Jarvis Joy; mother-in-law, Clara Nelson of Daytona Beach, Florida; father-in-law, Bobby L. Bradley, Sr., of Massillion, Ohio; sisters-in-law, Seletha and Mary Denise Bradley of Daytona Beach, Florida; great nieces and nephews; and a host of loving cousins and friends.

Submitted by Nikka Lester

**ISAAC WAYNE WALKER**

Isaac Wayne Walker was born on December 3, 1942, in Columbus Georgia, to Isaac W. Walker and Janie Lucille Sumner Walker. He was raised in Tifton, Georgia, and moved with his family to Tallahassee, Florida, when he was a teenager. He graduated from Leon High School in Tallahassee in 1960 and attended Abraham Baldwin College in Tifton, Georgia, 1962-63.

He married Sara Jo Evans on September 4, 1965. They had a daughter, Suzanne Michelle, born on June 12, 1967.

Wayne served in the United States Marine Corps Reserves. He was an entrepreneur: the original owner of Walker Paint and Body Shop in Tallahassee, a cattleman in Gadsden County, and owner of a construction business. He was a member of Forest Hills United Methodist Church in Quincy, where his wife serves as pastor. He was always supportive of his wife's ministry. He was committed and dedicated to the Lord, his family, and his friends.

Wayne died of cancer on November 16, 2011. A candlelight graveside service was held on November 17, 2011, at Woodville Cemetery in Woodville, Florida. His grandchildren, family, and friends led the service. A memorial service was held on November 19, 2012, at Forest Hills United Methodist Church in Quincy, Florida, with his wife and pastor of the church, Sara J. Walker, and his daughter, Suzanne Johnson, officiating.

Survivors include his wife of forty-six years, Sara J. Walker; daughter, Suzanne M. Johnson and son-in-law, Donald Johnson of Monticello, Florida; five grandchildren: Justin, George, Sara, Virginia, and Phillip Wayne Johnson; mother, Janie Lucille Walker of Quincy; and brother, James Walker of Tallahassee, Florida.

Submitted by Sara Jo Walker

**MARJORIE LOUISE WINTON WEST**

Marjorie Louise Winton West, known as Louise, was born on February 9, 1916, in Bushnell, Florida, to Charles and Marie Weihe Winton. She graduated from Bushnell High School as valedictorian in 1934 and attended Florida Southern College for one year.

In 1924 Louise accepted the Lord at a summer revival in Bushnell when she answered the call–*every night*, until finally the minister told her that she didn't have to come to the altar at each service. At about the same time, Louise met her future husband, Gene, when he and his family moved to Bushnell when she was in third grade. Gene, who was actually a year younger, promptly told the school *he* was in third grade too. It was the easiest grade skipping in the family. The two families lived across the street from each other from that time until several years after Louise and Gene were married on July 5, 1942. So for almost seventy-five years the lives of Louise and Gene were intertwined. They celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1992 in Orlando.

Louise and Gene had four children: Susan Elizabeth Landa, born on January 10, 1945; Stephen Eugene West, born on November 23, 1948; and Janice Marie West and James Louis West, born on February 13, 1950.

In addition to her love of her God and her family, Louise loved to read, to sew, and to travel. She was a voracious reader who as a child used to take her book and an apple, hide up in a neighbor's huge oak tree, and read and read. She passed her love of books on to her children who in turn shared it with their children. Louise was an accomplished seamstress. She made her sister's wedding gown, sewed Easter outfits by the score, and made ball gowns, prom gowns, casual clothes, and business suits for her extended family.

Louise inherited her love of travel from her mother, who answered "Yes" when asked if she wanted to go–without even knowing the destination. Louise and Gene took their children on a trip every summer, usually to the beach or the mountains. The most memorable trip was across country to Seattle by way of the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, the redwood forests, Yellowstone, and Mt. Rushmore. On their own, Louise and Gene traveled to almost all the fifty states, the Holy Land, Europe, and for their fiftieth anniversary, Australia and New Zealand.

Louise served with Gene at Palatka, Newberry–where they arrived the first year with one child and left after the second year with four, including the new-born twins–First Methodist in St. Petersburg, Child's Park in St. Petersburg, Quincy, the St Petersburg District, Allendale in Jacksonville, Kendall in Miami, and the Orlando District.

For the years of their ministry, an appointment began with "moving Thursday," and moving days were mainly Louise's responsibility. The family packed, washed baseboards and windows, polished mirrors, dusted furniture, and vacuumed, swept or mopped floors. Then when everyone, especially Louise, was exhausted, there was the drive across or up or down the state to the new home. Nothing really like it!

Louise died on March 7, 2012. A memorial service was held on April 14, 2012, at First United Methodist Church in Bushnell, Florida, with the Reverend Jeffery D. Thomas officiating.

Her husband, Eugene West, preceded her in death in 1998. Survivors are her four children: Susan Landa of Safety Harbor, Florida; Steve West and wife Aleda of Phoenix, Arizona; Jim West and wife Peggy of Starkville, Mississippi; and Janice West of Largo, Florida; six grandchildren; eight great grandchildren; two sisters; two nieces; and one nephew.

Louise lived a long and happy life. She was secure and serene in her faith and never doubted her welcome in heaven or the knowledge she would be reunited with her husband and family already there.

Submitted by Susan West Landa

**DERYA ANN ENGLISH WILLIAMS**

Derya Ann English Williams was born on June 21, 1950, in Birmingham, Alabama, the sixth of eight siblings born to Herbert and Rebecca English. She enjoyed an active childhood and attended public schools in Birmingham. Baptized at an early age, she was an active member at St. Paul AME Church in the Smithfield community of Birmingham.

Always one to excel academically, she graduated with honors from A.H. Parker High School and then earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology from Morris Brown College in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1971. She earned a Master of Arts degree in guidance and counseling from the University of Alabama in 1973 and later completed a summer course in evidence-based medicine at Oxford University in Oxford, England.

On August 19, 1972, Derya was married to the Reverend Newton Edmund Williams. To this union were born a son, Moses English Williams, and a daughter, Rebecca English Williams.

Derya worked at Rust College in Holly Springs, Mississippi, until 1978, when she and her husband joined the staff of Edward Waters College in Jacksonville, Florida, where Derya served as chief counselor, psychology instructor, and dean of students until 1988.

She joined the staff of River Region Human Services in 1982, serving with loyalty and integrity. She rose from part-time residential therapist to administrator. A creative leader and inspiring motivator, Derya was promoted in 2000 to the position of vice president of program development and in 2003 became chief executive officer and executive director of River Region Human Services, a position she held at her death.

Recognized as an authority in the fields of HIV/AIDS prevention, intervention, and treatment, Derya served at the local, state, and federal levels. She was a founding member of the Minority AIDS Coalition of Jacksonville, co-chairperson of Ryan White Title I Mayor's Health Planning Council, and a member of the Mayor's Mental Health Task Force. By traveling to South Africa, she demonstrated her commitment to fighting AIDS in the international arena through participation in the US/South Africa HIV/AIDS International Network.

Derya always made it a priority to work faithfully in ministry alongside her husband. Her untiring devotion glorified God, and her life was a labor of love. She inspired all whose lives were touched by her engaging spirit, zest for life, and compassion. She appreciated the potential in others and challenged them to dream and to achieve heights not yet realized. Guided by her faith and her commitment to serve the Lord, she was a dedicated member of United Methodist Women and the chancel choir at Ebenezer United Methodist Church in Jacksonville, where her husband has served as pastor since 1995.

Derya fought the good fight and finally succumbed to the ills of breast cancer on November 22, 2011. Funeral services were held on December 3, 2011, at First United Methodist Church, Jacksonville, Florida, with the Reverend Lawrence Barriner, the Reverend Cecil Cone, and the Reverend Newton Williams officiating. Interment was in Edgewood Cemetery in Jacksonville.

She is survived by her husband of thirty-nine years, the Reverend Newton Williams; her children, Moses Williams and Rebecca Williams; a cherished grandson, Winston English Williams; four sisters; a brother; two sisters-in-law; and a host of nieces, nephews, and loving family members and friends.

Submitted by the Reverend Newton Williams

**CONNIE WITT**

Connie Witt was married to the Reverend Jasper O. Witt. She served with him at the following churches: Mandarin, Jacksonville; Edge Memorial, Groveland; First, Haines City; St. Paul's, Miami; First, Williston; and Crystal River. They retired in 1987, and her husband died in 2010. Connie died on September 22, 2011.

Submitted by the Memoirs Committee