

Part VI

MEMOIRS

TROY ROBERT BRADY



The Rev. Troy Robert Brady passed away at his home on Belmont Avenue in Sharpes, Florida, June 25, 1999.

He was born September 30, 1906 in Barbour County, West Virginia, son of the late Walter P. Brady and Bergia Knaggs Brady. He was a graduate of Mountain State Business College in Parkersburg, West Virginia, where he met and married his wife, Elizabeth Thrash Brady.

Both Rev. and Mrs. Brady graduated from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, in 1934. They returned to West Virginia to begin their active ministry in the former United Brethren denomination, which later united with the Evangelicals and the Methodists to form the present United Methodist Church.

They served pastorates in West Virginia for eight years before Rev. Brady returned to Ohio for additional schooling. He received his bachelor and master's degrees in 1945, the B. A. (Magna Cum Laude) from Westerville, Ohio, and the M.A. from Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.

Rev. Brady was assigned to the Evangelical United Brethren Church in Elkins, West Virginia, where he remained for seven years. During this time he led in the building of a large brick church and parsonage and a country chapel on the outskirts of town.

From 1952 to 1956 he was president of Shenandoah College and Conservatory of Music in Dayton, Virginia. While there he laid the foundation for the move of the school to the city of Winchester, Virginia. The institution is now called Shenandoah University.

In 1956 Rev. Brady accepted a call to a church in Bradenton, Florida. During his eleven years there he led in the relocation of the downtown church to the suburbs.

He completed forty years of active ministry at the St. Andrew's Methodist Church in Winter Park in June of 1971, spent several years of his retirement at his home in Virginia, and then moved permanently to Florida to be near his two sons, G. Marion and Howard L. Brady. They survive him, along with his wife, Elizabeth T. Brady. Also surviving are two sisters, Blossom Thrash and Zylpha Perdue of Akron, Ohio, as well as eight grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and one great great grandchild.

Rev. and Mrs. Brady would have celebrated their seventy-third wedding anniversary July 4th, 1999.

Funeral services were held at the First United Methodist Church of Port St. John on June 28, 1999.

MILES J. DE PAGTER



Miles J. DePagter was born July 5, 1913 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He received a bachelor's degree from Asbury College, Wilmore, Kentucky, in 1935 and a Divinity Degree from Emory University, Atlanta, in 1938. He was ordained in 1935.

His first pastorate was at the Harper Avenue Methodist Church in Detroit. From 1942 to 1946 he was a chaplain in the U. S. Naval Reserve and served as a chaplain in Brazil from 1943 to 1946. Leaving the Navy with the rank of Lieutenant Commander,

he worked for the Methodist church and later the YMCA in Detroit and Indianapolis. Later he was a chaplain in prison ministry in Ft. Lauderdale.

He organized the Grace Methodist Church in Venice, Florida and was pastor there from 1960 to 1964. From 1964 to 1969, he served as General secretary of the Sarasota YMCA and wrote a weekly column for the Sarasota Herald Tribune. In 1967 he received the Sertoma Club of Greater Sarasota "Service to Mankind Award".

From 1969 to 1975, he was General secretary of the YMCA in Ft. Lauderdale, retiring after 27 years as General Secretary of YMCAs. He was active in numerous community organizations.

His hobbies included tennis, basketball, baseball, stunt tumbling and swimming team gymnastics. Until his last illness, he walked six miles a day.

Rev. DePagter died September 8, 1999 at the age of 86. Services were held at Vamo United Methodist Church, Sarasota, on September 13, 1999.

He is survived by his wife Doyle and two daughters, Lyn deMartin of New Mexico and Dawn Justice of Idaho.

DAVID A. DENSLOW



David A. Denslow died December 5, 1999 in Gainesville, Florida, survived by his wife of 60 years, Mary, and by a son, a daughter, two granddaughters and a sister. He was predeceased by his brother, the Rev. Lawrence E. Denslow, a sister, and a grandson. Officiating at the memorial service at Gainesville Trinity were the Rev. Dr. Dan Johnson and the Rev. Sandra Martin. Lawrence's son the Rev. David Ross Denslow, now in active retirement near Cashiers, NC, delivered the family's eulogy to David's relatives and friends, including his dear friend the Rev. Ed

Norman, who came from Tarpon Springs with his wife, Irma.

Born in 1916 in Ashtabula, Ohio, David moved with his parents to Florida when 8 years old. He graduated from Miami Senior High School and from the University of Florida. In 1939 he and Mary Sallie Ashmore were married in Eustis, where he was editor of the *Lake Region* newspaper. Following wartime military service, working for a grove care company, and employment with the Lake County Chamber of Commerce, he became a minister.

His Florida charges were Orange City and Lake Helen (joint, 1948-50), High Springs (1954-56), Tampa Christ (1956-61), Williston (1961-63), Clewiston (1963-68), Fort Myers Beach (1968-70) and Bradenton Trinity (as associate pastor, 1970-74). From 1950 to 1954 he was pastor in Wyanet, Illinois, while obtaining a Master of Divinity degree from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary. It was while at Garrett that he met Ed Norman. During David's ministry, he enjoyed the opportunities available uniquely to clergy to touch the lives of others. Typical of many letters among his voluminous files of correspondence

is one from a United Methodist minister in Ohio, thanking him for bringing joy to his life by leading him to Christ. And the ministry provides abundant opportunities to receive as well as to give. He and his family were enriched by a thousand kindnesses, large and small, from parishioners. David especially treasured a long friendship with the Stitt family of Clewiston.

David loved the outdoors, whether camping as a scoutmaster or jamboree chaplain, boating with Mary, flying small planes (sometimes with his grandchildren; Mary wouldn't), or on bivouac as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Civil Air Patrol. During his retirement he played the piano, took photography classes, and wrote poetry and devotionals, several of which appeared in *The Upper Room*. He and Mary spent a year in Brazil with his son and his son's family.

From his early years, David delighted in languages. Daily devotions in five languages deepened his understanding of scriptural passages. While 82 years old, he learned enough Danish to translate a biography set in Copenhagen into English. When he died, a victim of stomach cancer but spared the prolonged suffering that disease often brings, he had spent his last hour reciting his favorite Biblical poetry.

UEL STEPHEN DIXON



Rev. Uel Stephen Dixon was born in 1902 in Tarpon Springs, Florida. He was the son of Stephen W. Dixon and Zonie Snowden Dixon.

Uel was called to the ministry out of a successful dry cleaning business in Tarpon Springs in 1949 and served his first church at Interbay Methodist, Tampa. While leading his congregation there for seven years, he attended Emory University School of Theology in Atlanta during summer months to secure his formal requirements for ordination.

In 1953 Uel was received as a Deacon into the Florida Conference and is remembered as the first fifty-year-old minister to be admitted in Conference history. He was fully ordained as an Elder in 1955.

He later served churches at Hialeah (1956-1962), Northside in St. Petersburg (1962-1965) and retired at age 65 from Trinity United Methodist in Arcadia (1965-1967).

After retiring, Uel was actively involved at Wesley United Methodist in St. Petersburg. He taught Bible Classes, substituted for pastors, and down through the years provided Christian counseling to many in and outside the church.

After 68 years of marriage, Uel was predeceased by Maggie Jones Dixon in 1991. There are two children; a daughter, Joyce Dixon Gause of St. Petersburg and a son, Donald L. Dixon living in Greensboro, North Carolina. There are four grandchildren, three great grandchildren and one great great grandchild.

At age 98, Uel went to be with the Lord on February 10, 2000, after developing complications from a fall in his home. The funeral was officiated by Reverend John Ekers at Wesley United Methodist Church in St. Petersburg. Reverend Robert Barber, a long time friend of the family, and Reverend Henry Cribb, a close family friend, also participated in the service. Burial took place at Largo Cemetery, Largo, Florida.

Reverend Uel S. Dixon served his Lord well and will be remembered by many as a devoted Man of God.

OWEN CORNELIUS DRISKELL



Owen Cornelius Driskell was born May 1, 1923, in Yulee, Florida at the Methodist parsonage. His parents were the Reverend Lovick Pearce Driskell (age 31) and Addie Pearl Goddard Driskell (age 34). He was the fourth of five children born to this family. He had two older sisters, Wilda and Sue, an older brother, Wylie, and later, a younger sister, Mary. The family moved often, taking their farm animals with them. The father preached and built churches throughout the Florida Conference.

"Conny", as he was called, was given \$50.00 to begin his college education. He graduated from high school at Crystal River, 1941. He moved to Lakeland, Florida Southern College, where he was part of a work-study team that built the Frank Lloyd Wright Campus. He graduated from Florida Southern in 1945, majoring in History and Chemistry; then went to Decatur, Georgia, Candler School of Theology, Emory University. He supported himself with as many as five part-time jobs. He sent money home to his mother, whose rheumatoid arthritis made a nursing home necessary. He attempted several times to enlist as a Chaplain but was never accepted because he was blind in his right eye. He met Jeannette Higgs, a nursing student from Lakeland, Florida, at Emory. They married after his graduation, 1948 (Master of Divinity Degree).

He began preaching as a ninth grade student at Hernando Methodist Church and had several student appointments near Lakeland and Decatur. His formal ministerial service began "on trial" in Marathon, early in 1949. He was the first pastor appointed by the Methodist Church to that Community church. He was ordained, "full connection", in 1951, while serving Moore Haven where his first two sons were born. In 1953, he was sent to Clearview, St. Petersburg. The church moved from the back street to a main road during his tenure. In 1955 he served Christ Church, Orlando. There his third son was born and he began a drive-in service. He was sent to Trinity, Lakeland in 1959. By 1962, the family moved to Palm Harbor where their fourth child and only daughter was born. His longest assignment of six years was at Tice (1966-1972). 1972 found the family, without the two oldest sons, moving to the Glenn-Julia Circuit, whose three churches were Glenn-Julia United Methodist Church in Mt. Pleasant, the Sycamore United Methodist Church, and the old Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church. He also served as the Gadsden-Liberty Larger Parish Director. The next assignment was St. Marks, Jacksonville (1975-1977). By this time only one child remained at home, as the family moved, once again, this time to Gulfport, for four years (1977-1981). It was at this church that Jeannette, Conny's wife of 32 years, died at age 52 (July 17, 1980). Conny married Nancy Snell Lee on December 27, 1980, and they were moved to Bunnell, June, 1981. Nancy was a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor who completed a Master's degree in March, 1981 from the University of South Florida. In 1983, he went to serve Interlachen. After five years, June 1988, at age 65 he moved to Gainesville, Christ Church for two years. During the first year he also served the Hague United Methodist Church. In 1990, he moved to Waldo and served there and at Orange Creek-Campville until his retirement on June 1, 1992 at age 69.

The four children of Conny and Jeannette Driskell are:

Jackson Ross Driskell, born Moore Haven on August 16, 1951, currently employed as a computer analyst, married to Lynda Low Driskell, and living in Jacksonville, Florida.

Gregory Leonard Driskell, born September 15, 1952, at Moore Haven, currently employed as a financial analyst, married to Connie Hall Driskell, and living in Aurora, Colorado.

Stephen Bert Driskell, born Orlando, October 7, 1955, currently employed as a computer specialist, married to Jane Miller Driskell, and living in Parker, Colorado.

Jenny Ann Driskell Eckenrode, born September 6, 1962 at Palm Harbor, currently employed as a music teacher at Interlachen Elementary School, married to Howard Eckenrode, and living in Gainesville, Florida. She is the mother of Thomas Allen Eckenrode, born January 4, 1986, Conny's grandson.

Conny and Nancy retired to their home on Lake Grandin in Interlachen, and remodeled it during his first year of retirement. They lived there for almost eight years until a combination of Parkinson's disease and a stroke brought about his death at age 76, on March 13, 2000, at the Putnam Community Medical Center, Palatka, Florida.

Conny Driskell had a "no-nonsense approach to ministry, a sense of humor, and a deep care and concern for people" (The Rev. Ewing W. Carroll, Jr. in a letter). His life work was to provide vision, new insight, and substance for advancing the cause of the Kingdom of God in the Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

DELBERT LINDLE FLOYD



Born August 29, 1910 in Sturgis, Kentucky, Delbert Lindle Floyd, the son of James Edward Floyd and Katherine Brimlow Floyd. Rev. Floyd graduated from Asbury College. He graduated from Asbury Theological Seminary in 1938. Ordained in the Kentucky Annual Conference, he served in Lothair – Vicco, Seco, and Yancey.

Rev. Floyd transferred to the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church in 1938 becoming an Elder in 1942. He served churches in Mims, Tallahassee, Marathon and Clearwater.

Retiring in 1979, Rev. Floyd served on the Board of Avon Park Holiness Camp Association until his death.

Rev. Floyd met married Margaret E. Scott October 12, 1938. From this union was born two children: Paul Lindle Floyd, who died at birth, January 28, 1940; and David Charles Floyd, born December 12, 1945.

Delbert L. Floyd died December 27, 1999 at the age of 89 at the Oaks of Avon with congestive heart failure after having colon cancer surgery. Funeral services were held at Avon Park First United Methodist Church, Wednesday December 29, 1999 at 2 p.m. Burial was at the Bougainvillea Cemetery. The Rev. Hanley Martin, Dr. Eldred Kelly and the Rev. Robert Thorn officiated at the services.

Rev. Floyd is survived by wife Margaret of Avon Park and son David Charles of Hephzibah, Georgia.

ROSCOE WILLIAM MCCLLOUD



Roscoe William McCloud was born on June 16, 1916 in Harlan County, Kentucky. He was the son of William Robert McCloud and Ollie Nolan McCloud. Mary Lee Kiser became his wife on June 3, 1939. The following children with their birthdays were born to them: Robert W. McCloud, June 13, 1940; Jeanette E. Thompson, March 12, 1943; Kenneth D. McCloud, April 15, 1945; Beverly Jo Willhite, October 31, 1948; Tawana Lynn Cone, October 3, 1956

Rev. McCloud served in the United States Military from 1935-1938 and from 1942-1945. Before ministering in the Florida Conference, Rev. McCloud pastored in the following churches in Kentucky: Evarts, 1951-1953; Bybee, 1953-1955; Doylesville, 1955-1957; Bybee, 1957-1958; Mackville, 1958-1962; Science Hill, 1962-1966; Bedford, 1966-1967.

Rev. McCloud was ordained a deacon in the Kentucky Conference in 1955 and ordained an elder in the same conference in 1957. He transferred to the Florida Conference in 1967.

Rev. McCloud was a member of the Kentucky and Florida Conferences for 26 years and served the following churches in Florida during the indicated years: Seffner, 1967-1969; Calvary, Jacksonville, 1969-1970; Aldersgate, Jacksonville, 1970-1972; Seville, 1972-1973; Nebraska Avenue, Tampa, 1973-1975; Sebastian, 1975-1976; Bonita Springs, 1976-1980; Ocklawaha, 1980-1984. He retired in 1984.

Rev. McCloud died on February 23, 2000, after having been in a hospice facility near Ocala, Florida for a number of weeks. His funeral was held on February 26, 2000, at the Ocklawaha United Methodist Church with its pastor, Rev. Gary L. Eldred, officiating. Many were blessed by Rev. McCloud's dedicated work of being a fisher of men unto the Glory of Jesus Christ.

NANCY RODRIGUEZ MELIAN



Nancy Rodriguez Melian was born on December 13, 1945 in Francisco, Camaguey, Cuba to Alessio Quintana and Caridad Melian.

She graduated from the Academia de Musica, Music Teacher, Summa cum Laude, Camague, Cuba, January 7, 1963; Roxbury Community College, Associate in Arts, Cum Laude, Roxbury, Massachusetts, June 3, 1979; Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Master of Religious Education, Summa cum Laude, Hamilton, Massachusetts, May 25, 1984.

She married Mariano Rodriguez on June 22, 1963, at her mother church in Francisco, Camaguey, Cuba, a year after she met him, and a week after he finished his studies at seminary. During her honeymoon she participated at the Annual Conference in which her husband was appointed to his first church.

Nancy has two girls. Her daughter Lissett, who is married to Juan Rosado and living in Boston, has presented the family with three grandchildren: Alejandro, 6, Gabriela, 5, and Laura, 6 months. Her daughter Kyrach is married to Luis M. Arango. They have a son Antony who is two years old.

Her first church membership was at the Iglesia Metodista, Francisco, Camaguey, Cuba, on October 3, 1962. She received her Lay Preacher License from Iglesia Metodista "San Pablo", Camaguey, Cuba in June, 1964. She was ordained in the Southern New England Conference of the United Methodist Church in Springfield, Massachusetts on June 6, 1986, with Bishop George W. Bashore presiding. At that time she was consecrated as a Diaconal Minister.

She was ordained as a permanent Diaconal Minister by Bishop Cornelius Henderson at the Florida Annual Conference, Lakeland, on June 5, 1999.

She was appointed to be Director of the newly created Christian Counseling Center at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, on June 6, 1986. During her work at the center, Nancy helped about 400 people receive their Permanent Residence cards and kept a caseload of 70 clients receiving regular counseling. For a number of years she participated as a member of the Conference Commission on Hispanic Ministry, serving in different capacities.

On June 30, 1999, after a brief illness, Nancy died at Miami South Hospital of heart failure. The funeral service was held at Vior Funeral Home. The Rev. Daniel Pelay, pastor at Coral Way, conducted the service. On July 1, Nancy was buried at Woland Cemetery in a beautiful service directed by Rev. Pelay and Candido Perez, friends of Nancy for 40 years.

JOSHUA REDDICK



Rev. Joshua Reddick was born March 16, 1917 in Scriven County Georgia, to Rev. Robert and Alice Burns Reddick. There were six other children, of whom all but one preceded him in death. His youngest sister, Amy Reddick Spencer, lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Rev. Reddick had two uncles who were Methodist ministers – Rev. Burns in the Atlanta Conference, and Rev. O. A. Burns in the Florida Conference.

Joshua graduated from Scriven County High in Sylvania; Clark College with an AB Degree June 5, 1945; Bachelor and Master of Divinity Degree from Gammon Theological Seminary on May 18, 1948, in Atlanta Georgia. He was a 32nd Degree Mason and an active member in the Omega Phi Phi Fraternity.

His ordination, home church was Spring Head Methodist, Scriven County, Georgia. OT 1944, FC 1945, D 1944, E 1948. Years of service: 53 He served 15 years in the Georgia Conference as Executive Secretary and Pastor of a local church.

Joshua and Alice Martin met at Clark College. After his graduation from Gammon he was appointed to Wilson Chapel Methodist Church near Alice's home, where she was working in the Vacation Bible School and teaching in the Public School. His next appointment was to Haven Methodist Church in Waynesboro, Georgia.

On May 25, 1949, Joshua and Alice married and to this union two sons were born: Alton Rousseau on October 8, 1950 and Richie Christopher, on September 14, 1952, in Savannah, Georgia, where he was appointed to Palen Methodist Church. He remained there until 1961.

In 1961 he was transferred to the Florida Conference as pastor of the Simpson Memorial Methodist Church in Jacksonville, where he served for five years. In 1967, he served as pastor of Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church for a tenure of five years. He was then appointed to Ebenezer United Methodist Church in 1972 and was pastor there for 12 years. In 1984, he was appointed to McCabe United Methodist Church until his

retirement in 1987. He and his wife moved immediately to their new home at 7554 Stidham Drive, Orlando, Florida.

In the Florida Conference, he served as Chairperson of the Work Area on Worship, member of the Committee on Investigation. He received a plaque of appreciation for nine years service on the Board of Trustees of the Florida United Methodist Children's Home and one for serving 13 years on the Board of the Credit Union. He also served for several years on the Board of Ordained Ministry. In 1994, the Florida Conference awarded Joshua a golden certificate for 50 years as a Deacon.

After retirement, Joshua and Alice connected with First United Methodist Church of Pine Hills near their home. January 26, 2000, at 5:00 a.m. our God called him home to rest from his labor. A Service of Praise, Celebrating the Life of Rev. Joshua Reddick was January 29, 2000 at 12:00 Noon at the First United Methodist Church of Pine Hills, 1400 N. Nowell Street, Orlando, Florida, with Pastor Alan J. Liphart officiating.

Joshua's body is deposited in Crypt 34 Mausoleum, the Woodlawn Memorial Park, Orlando, Florida.

JAMES JOHN RUSSO



James John Russo was born May 31, 1927 in Maple Shade, New Jersey. He was the son of Pasquale and Laura Ficca Russo. The family moved to Tampa when Jim was three years old, and he was to spend most of his life in the Tampa, Sarasota, Bradenton area.

As a young man, Jim was a professional heavyweight boxer. He ranked high in the state of Florida, fought in Madison Square Garden, and sparred with Joe Lewis.

Jim's life of crime began in his teens. He became a professional "con man" on America's ten most wanted list, which led him to the Federal Penitentiary in Atlanta. It was here in his prison cell during a time of desperation that Jim began reading a Bible, now time worn and tattered, that his first wife, Betty, gave to him, and God changed his life completely. It was this Bible that went with him everywhere and was used as a tool to reach out to others as he gave his testimony. Once putting his hand to the plowshare, Jim never looked back.

Upon his release from prison in 1966 (he eventually received a full pardon in 1987) he went to Sarasota and joined St. John's United Methodist Church. Within a year and a half he began a successful paint and roof cleaning business, but his passion was for God. He joined the Christian Businessman's Association, worked with Youth for Christ, and became active in the church. Jim was actively involved with the Lay Witness Program and was Conference Director for several years.

United Methodist Men became a significant part of Jim's life. He was one of the men who worked diligently to make the camp and Life Enrichment Center at Leesburg become a reality. After he entered the ministry his Communion Services at the Men's Retreats and the Couple's Retreats became an important part of his life and to those attending. It was also the generosity of those attending that enabled Jim to supply Bibles to prisoners throughout the State of Florida.

Jim got his License to Preach in 1978 and completed his Course of Study at Emory in 1983. He then went back for four years to take the Advanced Course. He was ordained Deacon in 1984; became a Probationary Member in 1988, and received his Elders Orders in 1990. Of all the awards he was ever given, all the recognition, receiving his Elder's Orders was the most significant to Jim. During this preparatory time, Jim served Terra Ceia United Methodist Church and then Rogers Memorial – Samoset (1984-

1989). He graduated from West Virginia Wesleyan College in 1985. This gentle giant was also preaching in prisons throughout the State of Florida and speaking on behalf of his "One Way Prison Ministry" which he founded in 1985. The main thrust of the ministry was preaching and giving Bibles and life changing books to inmates. He was a regular visitor on death row, sharing the love of Jesus. This was rewarding to him, but also the most difficult part of his ministry. Whether president or prisoner, rich or poor, young or old, Jim was no respecter of persons. He shared the love of Jesus and His redeeming grace with everyone. He believed that any commitment to the Lord that was over twenty-four hours could stand some "brushing-up".

In 1986 the Development Center was opened providing a home, food and jobs for ex-inmates. Later on, "Mama Mia's Love Train" provided thousands of toys for inmates to give to their children at Christmas. Jim had a thrift store to help the needy; founded a grocery co-op; and created "Walk with a Brother" which helped soon to be released prisoners integrate into society. He was a member of Coalition for Prison Evangelists; Manatee County Ministerial Association; Coalition for the Hungry and Needy in Bradenton; the District Council of Ministries; and the Southeast Jurisdiction Restorative Justice and Mercy Ministries; and the Governor's Region 5 Committee on Criminal Justice to name a few.

"Big Jim" wrote a lot of poetry and two books: Jim about the book of James and By God's Grace. He was a story-teller, filled with the compassion of Jesus and his own homespun wisdom and wit, who influenced thousands of lives for Christ. He is probably best known for always saying, "God is good"; for his story of the Christian Horse, and for his sermon about "Rocky and the Elbow Man". Jim was Prison Ministry for the Florida Conference; our conscience and our guide; our example. Although he officially retired in 1995, he never really retired from what God called him to do. His dream was that the ministry would continue. With God's grace it will.

Jim went home to glory on February 28, 2000, suddenly and unexpectedly, of cardiac arrest. His life and faith were celebrated in a service at Trinity United Methodist Church in Bradenton on March 2, with Bishop Cornelius L. Henderson, Dr. John H. Green and Rev. Douglas S. Pareti officiating. His interment is at Manasota Memorial Park in Bradenton, Florida.

In a tribute to Jim, Dr. John Green recalled when Jim was ordained Elder and he received a spontaneous standing ovation. Dr. Green wrote, and we also believe, that when Jim entered Heaven the angels must have stood and applauded.

He is survived by his wife, Rev. Jean French Russo, and his two daughters Laura Russo Stout (born October 17, 1948) and Jacki Russo (born July 12, 1952), a son-in-law, Joe Stout, all of Myakka City, Florida. He was preceded in death by his son, James Patrick Russo (born April 11, 1950, died May 5, 1972). He is also survived by a sister, Ann Pelaez, Tampa; two step daughters and a stepson, Faith Wineberg, Tampa; Karen Maxon, Hollywood; and Gil French, Commerce Georgia; and seven grandchildren.

God is good.

Submitted by his wife, Jean French Russo

HAROLD CAIN VAUGHN



Harold Cain Vaughn, the eleventh of fourteen children, was born to Houston and Ethel Cain Vaughn, in Prairie, Mississippi on September 5, 1927. After graduating from West Point High School he attended Wood Junior College and the University of Mississippi. While attending summer school at Garrett Seminary in Evanston, Illinois he met Frances McArthur, who was doing graduate study at Northwestern University. They were married in Fort Madison, Iowa, where she was teaching. Harold then graduated from Drake University Divinity School and joined the South Iowa Conference in 1960 as an Elder. During this time they were blessed with three boys: Charles Robert in 1957, Leonard Curtis in 1959, and William Alan in 1963.

In 1965 Harold transferred to the Florida Conference, where he served until his retirement. He also had served student pastorates in the North Mississippi and South Iowa Conferences.

Churches Harold served in Florida were: St. James, St. Petersburg, 1965; Forest View, Jacksonville, 1968; Reeves Memorial, Orlando, 1969; Juno Beach, 1971; St. John's, Tampa, 1972; Perrine-Peters, Miami, 1977; Goss Memorial, Orlando, 1981; Limona Village Chapel, Brandon, 1985; Village Chapel, North Lauderdale, 1988, until his retirement in 1993.

The facet of the pastoral ministry which absorbed much of Harold's interest was visitation. He truly enjoyed getting to know his congregation in their homes.

Raised in a strong Methodist home, Harold received his call to the ministry at a very early age, when he would stand on a stump and "preach" to the farm animals. He overcame lack of funds and a speech impediment to serve his Lord. In every way Harold was a wise and loving husband, father, grandfather and pastor.

Harold left this earth to enter his heavenly home during his third heart surgery, March 6, 2000. He faced this surgery with his usual courage and determination. The funeral service and burial were in his Mississippi home of West Point. A memorial service was held at First United Methodist Church in Lakeland, the Rev. Riley Short officiating.

Harold had a beautiful Christian outlook on life and will be greatly missed by those who love him.

EMORY DOUGLAS WILLARD



Reverend Emory Douglas Willard was born on May 28, 1910, the son of Benjamin Franklin Willard and Betty Lou Baxley. Raised in Appling County, Georgia, he would meet his future bride of 68 years in early childhood. Grace Butler was born on January 3, 1911, in the same farm country where Emory's family farmed.

As children, they would see each other on the mule-wagon that would take them to their different churches. These were weekends that Emory spent with his grandfather because he could be sure he would be going to church. It was the sure, God-fearing, steady hand of his grandfather that Emory never forgot. He remembered it as he grew to young manhood and did Sunday School teaching and later as a member of the Board of Stewards. He remembered it as he lay awake at night listening to the train whistles of the Cotton Belt Line. He remembered it as he studied railroad accounting and Morse telegraphy so he

could handle Western Union messages. He remembered it when he got the call to the ministry.

This call came after he had done enough correspondence coursework to become a licensed teacher, after Grace had written to him (at the request of his "best" girlfriend) to cheer him up while he was away at school, and after he asked her for a date and ended up marrying her on September 30, 1928. Emory and Grace were at his first teaching assignment – Southern Industrial Children's Home – when Emory remembers a voice saying "This may be your last call – the last time you may feel I have called you." Emory then decided it had to be, and Grace shared her husband's spiritual sense and knew her calling was to be a minister's wife.

Emory's next step was to attend Young Harris College in North Georgia, where he worked his way through seminary keeping the books for the college. In 1939, he became a full-fledged Methodist minister. Grace's memory was that a Methodist minister's wife best not unpack too many things from one assignment to another because every three years or so there was a move to another church. For 57 years of active ministry, they served churches all over southern Georgia and northern Florida. Along the way, they managed to raise two sons, David and Paul, along with countless children from the congregations they served.

Reverend Emory said "It took me seven years to consent to it. I know being a preacher was the right thing for me to do."

He died on August 24, 1999, at the age of 89, in Frisco, Colorado. Funeral services were held on Friday, August 27, 1999 at 2:00 PM in the Chapel of Strickland – Miles Funeral Home with Rev. Ricky Varnell officiating. Interment followed in Crosby Chapel Cemetery.

He is survived by one son and daughter-in-law, Paul D. and Brenda Willard of Frisco, CO; one brother, Jewell Willard of Jacksonville, FL, and a granddaughter, Tammy Diez of Guyton.

JESSE EMMETT WALLER



Jesse Emmett Waller was born August 6, 1914 in Macon, Georgia, the son of Benjamin Irving Waller and Carrie Beall Huchingson Waller. He graduated from Lanier High School for Boys in 1932. He received an A. B. degree from Mercer University in 1935 and the B. D. degree from the Candler School of Theology, Emory University, in 1938.

Brother Waller married Gladys Hill of Pomona, California in a ceremony on September 9, 1938 in which Jesse's brother, Harry H. Waller officiated at the Scarritt College Chapel of Nashville, Tennessee. This sacred and happy union was destined for sixty years, and three children blessed it: Mr. Jesse E. Waller, Jr. of Macon, Georgia; Mrs. John C. (Annabeal) Lefler of Misenheimer, North Carolina; and the Reverend David T. Waller of Enterprise, Florida. Nieces, nephews, three granddaughters, a grandson and a great granddaughter also survive Brother Waller.

As a boy, Jesse saved a young fellow at a lake outing from drowning. His participation in the Boy Scouts of America resulted in the award of Eagle Scout. Brother Waller was a 32nd Degree Mason, a Kentucky Colonel, and a member of the Macon Exchange Club. Brother Waller served as guest chaplain for the United States Senate by invitation of a former Governor of Florida, the Honorable Spessard Holland, then Florida's Senior United State's Senator on the Legislative Day of April 6, 1953.

As a lad of about six years of age playing alone on his tricycle, he perceived God saying to him "Jesse, if you will be a blessing for me, I will be a blessing to you." This early claim upon him and other influences and considerations led him to become a minister. This ministry was joyfully expressed through the Methodist church spanning forty years with the Florida Conference, from 1938 until retirement in 1978.

A genuine appreciation for people coupled with a warm-hearted, Christian integrity, a hardy sense of humor and the exercising of a remarkable memory endeared him to many. In the vault of his mind for safekeeping were the names and faces of the people in the congregations he had served. This was like a well-labeled photo album for him which he frequently took pleasure in reviewing. He was a capable and fair-minded leader. He related gracefully and thoughtfully to persons in their various stations of life and sought to be an especially worthy friend to the humble, needy and downcast.

He managed and balanced well his commitment to the work of the Church and his love and loyalty for his family. A day seldom passed without his having thoughts of a place beloved in his life, the Indian Springs Holiness Camp Ground near Macon, Georgia where generations of family annually gather.

During his ministry, he preached approximately 3,808 times, he baptized 393 babies, and received 3,128 into church membership. He faithfully undertook pastoral visitation. He officiated at 348 marriages, ushered saints into Glory and comforted the bereaved at 632 funerals, presided over 10 district conferences, led 757 charge conferences and assisted the beginnings and organizing of ten churches in the two districts where he was the District Superintendent. Brother Waller with due consideration recognized and was grateful for the contributions of the able colleagues and staff who served with him.

He delighted in sharing a Florida Conference ministry and simultaneous service in the Cabinet with a brother, Dr. Harry H. Waller. In suffering he was stoic, hopeful, well anchored in that which is Holy, and trusting in Everlasting Life. Brother Waller advanced into the life immortal on November 22, 1999. His earthly remains were placed at rest at the family gravesite near the end of College Street in Macon's historic Rose Hill Cemetery. The greater and enduring part of Jesse Emmett Waller is in the hearts of those who loved him and in the shelter of God's hand.

The Jesse E. Waller record of appointments and privilege of service in the Florida Conference follows (each appointment had its wonderful people and peculiar joys):

June 1938 – 42	Silver Palm/Perrine-Princeton	Miami
June 1942 – 46	Kissimmee (First Methodist)	Orlando
June 1946 – 51	Winter Garden (First Methodist)	Orlando
June 1951 – 55	Bartow (First United Methodist)	Lakeland
June 1955 – 59	District Superintendent	Orlando
June 1959 – 64	Clearwater (First United Methodist)	St. Petersburg
August 1964 – 70	District Superintendent	Jacksonville
June 1970 – 75	Sarasota (First United Methodist)	Sarasota
June 1975 – 78	Hollywood (First United Methodist)	West Palm Bch
June 1978	Retired	

Florida Conference Area Boards and Committees:

1944 – 46	Boy Scouts of America Board Member, Central Florida Council
1944 – 51	Orlando District Conference Secretary
1955 – 60	Board of Trustees, Bethune Cookman College
1956 – 59	Treasurer, Lakeland District Board of Missions and Church Extension
1956 – 69	Board of Trustees, Florida United Methodist Children's Home; president of the Children's Home Board for nine years
1957 – 59	Member, Florida Southern College Advisory Council

1962 – 64	Board of Directors, Suncoast Goodwill Industries
1964 – 70	Board of Directors, Wesley Manor Retirement Home, Jacksonville
1966 – 75	Charter Member, Board of Directors, Florida Methodist Foundation
1967 – 70	Vice President, Board of Directors, Methodist Hospital, Jacksonville
1968 – 70	Boy Scouts of America Board Member, Northeast Florida Council
1969 - 70	President of the Cabinet
1972 – 75	Board of Directors, Asbury Retirement Home, Bradenton
1973 – 75	Manasota Goodwill Industries
23 years	Member of five District Committees on the Ministry
13 years	Treasurer of the Florida Conference Brotherhood (now “Koinonia”)
12 years	Secretary and later Vice-Chairman of the Conference Finance, Budget and World Service Committee
3 years	Member of the Board of Ministry
4 years	Secretary of the newly created Conference Committee on Christian Social Concerns
2 years	Committee on District Boundaries
In Retirement:	
1979 -	Minister of Visitation/Later as Assistant Pastor Emeritus, Centenary United Methodist Church, Macon District, South Georgia Conference
1982 – 85	Pastor Doles United Methodist Church, Macon District, South Georgia Conference
1986	Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge F&AM of the State of Georgia Emory University Alumni Council

KATHLEEN HEATH DOUGH



Kathleen Heath Dough, wife of Rev. Whitney J. Dough, died of congestive heart failure on January 27, 2000. She was born near Harmony, North Carolina, on July 20, 1915. Her parents were Henry F. Heath and Margaret Roberts Heath. She was graduated from Harmony High School.

Rev. Dough and Kathy were married at Wilmington, Delaware on February 14, 1947. They had two children, Ronald and Gregory, both of whom died prematurely.

In their first appointment, at Oneco, Kathy served by singing in the choir. At subsequent appointments (First West Palm Beach, First Wauchula, Wesley Memorial, Lakeland, and Wesley Coral Gables) she took delight in teaching children’s Sunday School classes and singing.

Kathleen traveled all over the world with her husband in evangelistic and educational ministries. She was the sound and light engineer for Rev. Dough’s unique Hymn Dramas, reviewing the lives of famous hymn-writers. She led eleven Hymn/Heritage tours across England and Wales. Her voice was heard on radio (Methodist Hour International) in duets with her husband. She was a member of First United Methodist Church in Orlando.

Her funeral was held on January 31 at her home church, Clarksbury United Methodist Church, near Harmony. She is buried in the churchyard near members of her family. Officiating were Rev. John Wolfe and Rev. Judy Wolfe of the Methodist Hour and Rev. Donnie Durham, pastor.

Tribute to Kathy's loving and delightful nature came to Rev. Dough from all across the United States and England. Among them: "Kathy was like a beautiful flower who opened and enriched all of our lives."

CANNIE A. DUVAL



Cannie A. (Steverson) Duval was born in Enterprise, Alabama, April 12, 1906. She was the first child of a family of nine born to William Luther and Ada Maddox.

She attended the Enterprise High School and graduated in the Class of 1923. She was a member of the high school chorus and also played on the high school basketball team for three years.

She and Orvis Jackson Steverson were united in marriage in 1924. Mr. Steverson had two children, a girl Odeal six years old and a boy James four years old. He lost his first wife, Hettie V.

Clark, in May of 1922. Cannie assumed the mothering of these two children.

Children from this marriage were Cannie Louise, twin girls Mary Nelle and Martha Belle, William Orvis Jr., Eli Pittman, Herbert Jackson, and Francis McConnel, a family of nine children all together.

Cannie served with her husband in Pastoral Charges of the New York Central Conference.

The family moved to Washington D.C. where she completed courses in Medical Missions, Child Guidance, Typology and Bible Synthesis while her husband was studying in the Washington Seminary and Collegiate Institute.

They moved to Van Etten, New York and on to Ovid, New York where her husband was pastor of the churches. She participated teaching Sunday School, sang in church choir, and also taught at Vacation Bible School for four years. Being a co-worker with her husband did not prevent her serving in the community activities.

She was a member of Eastern Star and Chaplain of the Shining Light Chapter in Ovid, New York for six years and Matron of Honor of that chapter in 1961.

She was a 4-H Club leader and president for three years of the Potter Union. She served for three years on the Yates County Women's Christian Temperance Union, and three years as chair of the Seneca County Children's Committees in Lodi, New York. She then became superintendent of the Williamstown Baby Fold of the Interlaken Nursing Home in Interlaken, New York.

She said "we have our second family and we love them as our own."

She and Mr. Steverson moved to Florida when his health gave him some problems. She worked in the Madison Nursing Hospital in Madison, Florida, for one and a half years.

From Madison Florida they moved to Tallahassee, where Mr. Steverson was the founder of the Calvary United Methodist Church. She was also very active and participated in every way in a pastor's wife's duties, as she and Mr. Steverson loved doing God's work. She graduated as an LPN in September 1961 and worked at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, retiring from there as a registered nurse.

On April 26, 1966, Mr. Steverson passed away to be with the Lord.

In February 1971, she married another Christian man, Claude Duval. They moved to Cocoa, Florida. She received a Lay Speaker's Certificate in 1979.

For some reason their marriage didn't succeed or work out and they got divorced. Shortly after that he passed away.

In 1994, Cannie had been living in Titusville, Florida where she was a member of the United Methodist Church.

In October 1994 Cannie fell and was hospitalized for a few days. Her good friend Dolly Boggs contacted the family as "the time had come", she did not need to be alone as she couldn't carry on and take care of herself.

On November 3 1994 she moved to Hialeah with daughter Odeal and son John. Cannie's health kept declining so in April 1998 she was admitted into Susanna Wesley Nursing Home, a part of Epworth Village, owned by the United Methodist Church.

On August 10, 1999 she had to be admitted to Hialeah Hospital, Hialeah, Florida, where she passed away August 15, 1999.

She is survived by brother Jack Maddox, Phoenix, Arizona; sister-in-law Marjorie Maddox, Springfield, Virginia; daughters Odeal Steverson Millovan, Hialeah, Florida, born November 25, 1917; Mary Nelle Steverson Rawleigh, born January 30, 1926; Martha Belle Greek, born January 30, 1926; sons William Orvis Steverson born July 14, 1927; Eli Pittman Steverson, born May 6, 1929; Herbert Jackson Steverson, born June 25, 1930, and Francis McConnel Steverson, born March 2, 1935. She also had a son James Woodrow Steverson, born March 26, 1919, died May 3, 1985, and daughter Cannie Louise Steverson Dove, born February 5, 1925, died October 9, 1986.

Services were held at Roselawn Cemetery, Tallahassee, Florida. Rev. Barbara Awoniyi of Calvary United Methodist Church performed the services.

Submitted by Odeal Millovan, daughter

FRANCENE JACKSON FRAZIER



Francene Jackson Frazier was born November 29, 1929, in Alachua, (Bland County) Florida. She was the daughter of the late Mary Virginia (Cherry) and Simuel B. Jackson.

Francene's academic training had its beginning in the public schools of Alachua county. She continued her education at Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Florida where she received her BS Degree in Elementary Education. She later received a Masters and Specialist Degree in Reading from the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida.

She was united in holy matrimony to Rev. William L. Frazier. To this union one daughter, Debra, was born. Francene loved her family unconditionally.

She began her spiritual life early at Bland Chapel Methodist Church (Bland Community). In later years Bland Chapel merged with Paradise Methodist Church. She served faithfully as a member of: the senior choir, the Pastor Parish Relations Committee, the United Methodist Women, the Administrative Board and numerous other capacities where ever she was needed. She was also a member of the Lily White Benefit Society, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., the Ministers Wives of the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church. In her quiet manner she was loved by many. She loved children and always extended herself to try and help children however she could.

Francene led a full and happy life. She succumbed Sunday, August 8, 1999 after attending a beautiful church service and visiting her husband at North Florida Regional Medical Center. Her death was sudden and unexpected to beloved family members and friends.

Her memory will live on in the hearts of a loving husband, Rev. William L. Frazier of Alachua, FL; one daughter, Debra Frazier-Sermons (Eddie) of Ballwin, MO; three grandchildren; Zavier D. Sermons of Gainesville, FL, Edmond K. Sermons and Erin K. Sermons both of Ballwin, MO; one great granddaughter, Kiara D. Sermons, of Gainesville, FL; three sisters, Mrs. Mayola Jackson Brown of Baltimore, MD, Mrs. Eunyta Jackson Simmons of Gainesville, FL, and Mrs. Leoris Jackson Richardson of Alachua, FL; two sisters in law, Mrs. Elizabeth C. Jackson of Mt. Dora, FL and Mrs. Mable Frazier of Alachua, FL; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and endearing friends.

MARY FAIRCLOTH GLENN



Mary Faircloth Glenn, widow of Dr. John Capers Glenn, a former minister of First United Methodist Church in West Palm Beach, died February 4, 2000, in Macon, Georgia. She was 98 years old.

She was born in Truetlen County, Georgia, the daughter of James Louis and Marietta Ridgedell Faircloth. She was the sister of Congresswoman Iris F. Blicht.

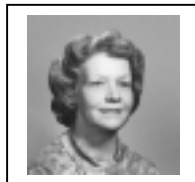
She and Dr. Glenn were married in 1954. A member of the Florida Methodist Conference, his ministerial career was spent in the pastorate and related services.

In 1960 Dr. and Mrs. Glenn retired and moved to Macon to be near her daughter, Mrs. R. L. Dunn and her family. They became related to Vineville United Methodist Church where he served as Minister of Visitation and taught the Ed F. Cook Bible Class.

Following Dr. Glenn's death in 1979, Mrs. Glenn continued the visitation ministry and taught the Sidney Baynes Sunday School class for several years.

Funeral services were held at Mulberry Street United Methodist Church. Dr. William H. Hurdle officiated and burial was in Riverside Cemetery in Macon.

MARY AGNES JACKSON



Mary Agnes Jackson, the wife of the Rev. Leslie Jackson, died on December 14, 1999 in Perry, Florida at the age of 85. She was born on April 6, 1914 in Mayfield, Kentucky to Tom Emerson and Daisy Mae Brizindine who converted to Christianity and became a devout Christian. She was one of seven children and had a great love for music. Murry College was close by and it was there she studied both organ and piano and taught music nearly all her adult life.

She married Rev. Leslie Jackson in 1945, and spent the rest of her life playing organ in churches where she was needed. She worked side by side with her husband by working with the adult, youth and children's choirs throughout his ministry. She was a wonderful helpmate in the church with her melodious alto voice. She also gave piano and organ lessons. Together they served churches in Peoria and McComb, Illinois. Due to Aggie's health problems they transferred to the Florida Conference where they served at Highpoint in Clearwater, Roseland on the East Coast in the Melbourne District, as well as churches in Perry, Steinhatchee, Branford and McCall's Chapel.

Aggie was a member of Steinhatchee United Methodist Church at the time of her death. She is survived by her husband the Rev. Leslie C. Jackson of Perry, Florida, and a

daughter Diane Morriss of Memphis, Tennessee and several grandchildren. Her funeral service was held at the First United Methodist Church of Perry, Florida on December 16, 1999. Burial was held in Memphis, Tennessee.

FLORENCE BENTLEY PARK



Florence Bentley Park was born in Notasulga, Alabama, on May 18, 1924, the daughter of the Reverend John Smith Bentley and Susan Golden Bentley, a pastor and wife of the North Alabama Conference of the Methodist Church. Florence graduated from the Talladega County High School in Lincoln, Alabama, May 28, 1943 where she was a member of the National Beta Club. She attended the Alabama College for Women in Montevallo, Alabama, where she majored in Social Studies and English.

On June 8, 1945 she married the Reverend Marvin R. Park, Jr. in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. In 1951 Marvin and Florence moved to Florida. Marvin joined the Florida Conference of the Methodist Church where they served churches for the next 37 years.

Florida churches served were: Epworth, Jacksonville, 1951; Hendricks Memorial, Jacksonville, 1955; Live Oak, 1956; Brooksville, 1960; Fulford, Miami, 1965; Aldersgate, Ft. Lauderdale, 1970; St. Andrews, Brandon, 1976; First, Deltona; 1981, retiring in 1988. Immediately following retirement Florence and Marvin accepted part-time work with the Florida United Methodist Children's Home. Later the Park's bought their retirement home in Deltona.

Florence was the mother of three boys: M. Ross Park, III, born August 9, 1947, and lives in Austin, Texas; John Bentley Park, born March 27, 1951, and lives in Austin, Texas; Richard S. Park, born December 7, 1964 and lives in Charlotte, North Carolina. Florence has three grandchildren.

During summer months Florence and Marvin lived in their home at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, a home they dearly loved and largely built themselves. Following the four summer months they were anxious to get back to the Children's Home where they served as coordinators of Local Church Representatives for the Home. They traveled to churches throughout the Conference presenting programs, speaking at worship services and raising funds for the home. Often they would be gone from the Home for weeks at a time. Florence loved representing the Home and demonstrated great concern for children in the local churches as well as on the Home's campus.

Florence was a leader in the organization of the United Methodist Women and held offices in the local church, district and annual conference. Florence was a talented leader and organizations too numerous to mention benefited from her leadership and generosity of spirit, talents and financial support. She never wanted recognition for her efforts, always quietly serving and supporting her husband in his ministry and at the same time doing things for others, meeting human needs that her insight and caring heart recognized.

For over thirty years Florence taught in the public schools, primarily as a substitute teacher. When other teachers would talk of discipline problems, Florence would comment that she had no such problems in the classroom. Her firm, caring spirit was met by respect from her students. She was outspoken in her strong faith that called for responsible living and action. A Methodist in heart and action, she loved her church and its people.

Born in a Methodist parsonage and spent all her married life in a parsonage, Florence made everyone feel at home when visiting the Park's. To sit at her dinner table was a delight no one so privileged wanted to forget. Marvin is a gifted gardener and Florence delighted in processing and sharing fruits of their large gardens. When I was assigned to the Children's Home, Patsy and I were delighted to know that Florence and Marvin were the parsonage family. On one of our numerous trips with the Park's, Florence told me that when she died she wanted me to "preach her funeral service." This request humbled this friend and never was such a request taken with more diligence and love.

Florence enjoyed traveling and boasted of having visited every state in the United States except three. She and Marvin twice spent a month in Nassau as visiting minister at the Ebenezer Methodist Church.

Marvin and Florence were on a cruise when, at Freeport, Bahamas, Florence became ill and suffered a massive heart attack and entered life eternal at the Freeport hospital. When word reached this writer of her death, I told my wife that they were celebrating their 54th wedding anniversary and conclusion of the spring harvest. It had been our fortune to attend their 40th and 50th anniversary celebrations. "Precious Memories, How they linger . . ."

A memorial service celebrating the life and ministry of Florence Park was held in the First United Methodist Church, Deltona, on June 11, 1999, by the Rev. Robert K., Percy, Pastor; Dr. Edward L. Dinkins, Jr.; and Dr. Monfort C. Duncan, Jr. Interment was in the Deltona Memorial Cemetery, Orange City.

Her family and friends celebrate her life. "We thank God for her faith and works, for her zest for life, and the beauty she created wherever she lived" wrote her husband, Marvin.

Dr. Edward L. Dinkins, Jr.

WALTER WOOD SCOTT



Walter Wood Scott was born on March 22, 1909 on the family farm near Portage Prairie, Niles, Michigan. He grew up on the farm with his parents and one sister.

He graduated from the local elementary rural school, from Buchanan High School, earned a B.S. degree from Western Michigan University, and an M. S. and PhD. From Michigan State University.

While in Michigan he was employed as a science teacher at Rockford Senior High School, then as the Superintendent of the Columbiaville School System, the North Muskegan School System and the Holland School System. While serving as School Superintendent, he received the National Educator's Award for his design of a new senior high school.

He then served as Associate Dean of the College of Education at Michigan State University. He enjoyed 46 years in public education.

After retirement, he served as a visiting professor at the College of Education at the University of Louisville.

Mr. Scott was an Old Testament teacher and a Disciple Bible Study teacher at First United Methodist Church of Coral Gables.

He is survived by his wife, the Rev. Barbara Scott, and his four children; Dr. Paul Scott, Ellen O'Laughlin, Sarah Scott and Marcia Scott.

MARGARETTE A. SMITH



Margaret Ann Smith was born January 15, 1912 in East St. Louis, Illinois, the daughter of Dennis and Margaret Torok Kulchar. She died in Lakeland, Florida on April 25, 2000. She was a graduate of Indiana University in South Bend, majoring in Sociology. For nine years prior to her marriage to Rev. H. Paul Smith, she was Assistant Director of the St. Joseph County Council of Churches. She came to Florida in 1977 with her husband when he became Executive Director of the Florida United Methodist Development Fund.

One of her major interests was art and she worked to become a better than average artist. When she moved to New York in 1966 (her husband had become a staff member of the Board of Global Ministries) she had an opportunity to study at the Philadelphia Art Museum and with the Artist's Student League of New York. She became a member of the New Jersey Art Association.

A second major activity for Margarett was her work with the Laubach Reading Program. In a very short time she discovered that she had an exceptional ability to work with adults who were learning to read. She found great satisfaction in this involvement, and continued it until recent years when declining health made it impossible.

About a year prior to her death Margarett wrote of her life as follows: "This has been a life of much love, much beauty and much joy. A little poem I hung in the children's room wished for them: 'Less loss than gain, more days of happiness than pain.' I thank God for such a life. I pray that in passing this way, I have given some joy, hope, beauty and love in return for the privilege of being..."

RUTH KING THRIFT



Ruth King Thrift was a beautiful, gracious lady of many gifts whose gentle influence and humble life of giving and loving are a treasured legacy.

She was born on February 14, 1910, in Greenville, North Carolina, the daughter of Blanche Draughon and Henry T. King. After the deaths of her parents when she was a child, she grew up in the home of her aunt and uncle in Whitakers, North Carolina.

A graduate of Louisburg College and Duke University, she worked as director of religious education in St. Paul Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in Goldsboro, North Carolina, until her marriage in 1934 to Charles Tinsley Thrift, Jr., her college sweetheart. She joined him at the University of Chicago, where she worked to support them while he completed studies for his Ph.D.

Charles entered the ministry of teaching at Southwestern University, Georgetown, Texas, in 1936 and then was appointed professor of religion at Florida Southern College in Lakeland in 1940.

Ruth was a loving wife and enthusiastic helpmate to her husband. Their three daughters were nurtured by her love and the example of her Christian faith.

After her husband became president of Florida Southern in 1957, she served as a gracious hostess to faculty, students, the Florida Conference, and the Lakeland

community. Whether it was a small dinner or a reception for several hundred, she charmed her guests. As a friend said, "Her heart beat in rhythm to the life of the college." She enjoyed sewing, cooking, collecting recipes, entertaining, opening her home to others, and traveling with Charles, both in this country and abroad.

Ruth did not live in her husband's shadow, however, as she distinguished herself in many avenues of leadership in the community.

Her love of her church manifested itself in the many roles she assumed in College Heights in Lakeland. She was a leader in the education program through the years, taught Sunday school for all ages, and was a member of the Administrative Board and most other church bodies. She served as president of the Woman's Society of Christian Service and as a circle leader, continuing to be active in United Methodist Women and her circle until her death.

In 1950 she was the founding president of Church Women United in Lakeland. It was an organization dear to her heart, and she participated in its activities as long as she was able. She recently received the Valiant Woman recognition from the organization. She was a member and past president of Chapter W, P. E. O. Sisterhood, as well as of the Women's Association at Florida Southern. During her children's school years, she served as P. T. A. president at several schools.

Upon his retirement in 1976, Charles was named chancellor of the college. In retirement, the two of them remained active in college and community life, opening their home to many groups. The Charles T. and Ruth K. Thrift Scholarship was established at Florida Southern College in their honor.

After her husband's death in 1984, Ruth continued her involvement in church and community activities. She helped organize the Prayer Ministry at College Heights, served as lay leader, and was faithful in ministry to the sick and shut-ins. At Grand Court Retirement Home, where she lived for the last five and a half years of her life, she was a member of the Vespers Committee and the Poetry Club.

In February she observed her ninetieth Valentine birthday at a celebration hosted by her daughters in the Eleanor Searle Drawing Room at Florida Southern College.

Ruth died on Good Friday, April 21, 2000, after a month's illness. The Reverend William J. Oakley, her pastor, and Dr. Walter Y. Murphy, retired president of LaGrange College, LaGrange, Georgia, conducted her memorial service at College Heights United Methodist Church on April 24.

She is survived by her daughters Nell Thrift, Lakeland; the Reverend Helen Sue Thrift, Warner Robins, Georgia; and Mary Chambers and her husband, Carlile, Atlanta, Georgia; and by her sister-in-law, Susie W. Thrift, Durham, North Carolina.

An indomitable spirit, Ruth King Thrift worked tirelessly for her Lord. Her Christian character shone brightly in her selfless devotion to family, friends, and the church. Her daily life was a testimony to her faith

Submitted by: her daughters

ROBERT DOLAN TUTT



Robert Dolan Tutt was born on May 29, 1922 in Lake Wilson, Minnesota, the son of Fred and Myrtle (Olsen) Tutt. After graduation from high school, Mr. Tutt ran successful farming and rental maintenance businesses, then became president of Robert D. Tutt & Sons, Inc.

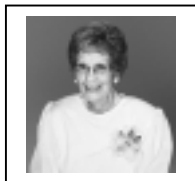
Mr. Tutt was a lifelong member of the United Methodist Church, serving at various times on the Administrative Board, the Trustees, the Finance committee, Staff/Parish Relations committee, the Council on Ministries, and the work areas of Missions and Evangelism.

Mr. Tutt married Mary Lou Hagan on December 24, 1943. The couple was blessed with the birth of Nancy (Tutt) Hammerman on December 24, 1947, Robert C. Tutt on October 12, 1949, Claire (Tutt) Richter on July 7, 1969.

Mr. Tutt passed away on December 23, 1999 in Melbourne, Florida. Memorial services were held at Satellite Beach United Methodist Church on December 29, 1999. Ashes were interred in Satellite Beach United Methodist Church Memorial Garden and Kirkland, Illinois, with Rev. Mike Shirley presiding.

Mr. Tutt is survived by his wife, the Rev. Mary Lou Hagan Tutt and three children.

ROSAMOND LEE VANDERVEER VOSS



Rosamond Voss was born on April 20, 1907 in Coloma, Michigan in Berrien County. She was the first-born child and grandchild on her father's side. Her parents were Roy Vanderveer and Myrtle Melvina Lee. She was a descendant of Robert E. Lee and also of John "Johnny Appleseed" Chapman.

She and her three siblings were born in the farmhouse on the homestead her Vanderveer grandparents had settled on. She was surrounded by a loving, caring family of English and Holland Dutch ancestry. Her background was excellent and her character was formed early and just grew better as she got older. At age 13 her father died and her mother took the family to St. Petersburg, Florida. Her parents had moved there in 1905 for health reasons. Her mother was a talented pastry chef, and was able to support the family, but when she was 54 she died also. Rosamond never turned her back on her siblings. Her sister Elizabeth says "I can honestly say she was the most loving, caring person I've ever known in my lifetime."

Mrs. Voss attended elementary school in Coloma, Michigan, and was a 1924 graduate of St. Petersburg High School. In 1925 she graduated from Boyd Business College. Her first church membership, in the 1920s was at First United Methodist Church, St. Petersburg, Florida. She gave many volunteer hours to her church and to many organizations she was involved in.

In the 1970's she met the widowed Rev. Charles Hannibal Voss. They were married for about 19 years, with her becoming Mom Rosamond to his four sons (Stephen, Charles, William, and Henry) and their wives, and grandma to the little ones, loving them and being loved by them.

As always happens, life does end, and when Rev. Voss went away she moved in with her sister Elizabeth Pabst for her last eight years.

She passed away on September 6, 1999 in Bay Front Hospital, peacefully in a comatose state. On September 19 a memorial service was held in the sanctuary of First United Methodist Church, St. Petersburg, Florida, with Dr. Marvin Sweat and Dr. Terry Markins officiating. She was laid to rest on September 20 in Memorial Park, St. Petersburg.

RUTH ANN ROBINSON WALKER



Ruth was born in Durham, North Carolina, spent her childhood years in Connecticut and Massachusetts, and moved to Bradenton, Florida, as a teenager. She knew adversity early, her mother dying when Ruth was only seven and her father when she was in high school. However, she had a wonderful relationship with Evelyn, her second mother, who nurtured Ruth's love of books and reading. Ruth received both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Library Science from the Florida State University with a focus on children's literature.

In her second year at FSU, she met a young man who was to become her best friend, soul-mate, pastor and husband; their college pastor, J.P. Floyd, "tied the knot" on 24 August 1968 while her beloved grandfather, Max, "sweated it out" in a tuxedo on a hot Florida evening as he walked her down the aisle. Her first librarian position began a few weeks later in Mebane, N.C., where she ran a branch of the county library and earned her Ph.T. degree (Putting Hubby Through) from the Divinity School of Duke University.

Library work was mostly put on hold as Ruth and Rick served Florida United Methodist congregations side-by-side for 17 years; she was able to be a school librarian in Collier County while they served the Marco Island Church. Through most of that time, she used those talents to enhance Sunday School programs and to secure resources to support and nurture mission work, local and worldwide. She was a flier of kites and chaser of rainbows; and yet she was a rock of vision, insight and compassion. One of her greatest pains, as medical concerns limited her options, was having to give up her Sunday School class; of course, it was a children's class!

Joy and excitement of pregnancy had turned to devastation when she miscarried; years later, much was revealed of her character and values when the Nephrology and Obstetrics Departments at Shands told her she must abort to protect her own life and they would no longer treat her if she did not: the only decision she knew that needed to be made was selecting another doctor. She had no major problems through pregnancy and the shining jewel of her life was born and named for Ruth's two mothers, Evelyn Ruth.

After more than a decade of medical crises, Ruth expired on 22 June 1999. She had endured total kidney failure followed by years of dialysis, finally receiving a transplant. Subsequent problems and complications included multiple fractures in both feet (from parathyroidism and loss of calcium) which confined her to a wheelchair and several surgeries, the last of which was a total colectomy which no one expected her to survive. Several prominent physicians turned into evangelists when they talked about her next two and one-half years of survival, which she did with a patient, loving spirit which was a testimony to her faith and her Lord. Her Service of Life, Death and Resurrection was celebrated on Sunday, June 27, 1999, at First United Methodist Church, Sanford.

God gave her to us to bless our lives
with love, insight, faith, commitment, courage, beauty and enthusiasm.
And when her physical body was no longer able to sustain her eternal spirit,
God received her back into the bosom of his love to wait for us.

Submitted by her husband, Rick

SARAH HEMINGWAY WICKER



Sarah Hemingway Wicker was born in Kingstree, South Carolina on 14 June 1928. Her parents were Furney Rhem Hemingway and Gary Cheatham Hemingway. Sarah had one brother, Furney Rhem Hemingway of Atlanta, Ga. Sarah graduated from Winthrop College in 1949 with a Bachelors of Science degree in Physical Education.

During the summer of 1948, at Lake Junaluska, N.C., Sarah met a handsome young theology student, William "Bill" Wicker. They were married one year later on 14 June 1949. William Wicker graduated from Chandler School of Theology, Emory University. Both Sarah and Bill became members of the Florida Annual Conference in 1950.

Sarah and Bill served churches in Riviera Beach, Fort Meade, Key West, Brandon, St. Petersburg, Fort Myers, St. Cloud, Perrine, Arcadia, and St. Augustine. In 1975, Sarah began a temporary career teaching Sex Education at the Warren W. Willis camp, in Leesburg. After the death of Bill in 1979, Sarah went to work at Centenary Methodist Church in Quincy Florida, where she also ran the Centenary youth camp every summer. After 4 years in Quincy, Sarah took the same position at First United Methodist Church, Ormond Beach. Sarah retired in 1991 when she decided she was going on a 360-day trip around the world. She left for her trip in 1992, alone.

During her 30-year marriage to Bill, they had 5 wonderful children: Judy Wicker Maynard, 25 September 1951, West Palm Beach; John Rufus Wicker, 17 June 1953, West Palm Beach; David William Wicker, 1955-1971, Fort Meade; Robert Rhem Wicker, 26 August 1959, Key West; and Susan Wicker Pinson, 28 July 1961, Kingstree, S.C.

Sarah died on 25 February 2000 at home of heart failure. The love and prayers of family and friends surrounded her. There was a celebration of her life held at First United Methodist Church, St. Augustine on 29 February 2000. She was laid to rest along side Bill and David in Coleman, Florida. The officiating Clergy were: Dr. Barbara Williams Riddle, Rev. S. Dwight McQueen, and Dr. Gordon Craig.