

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

### **PART V: MEMOIRS**

Ministers (A-H)

Ministers (J-W)

Spouses (A-H)

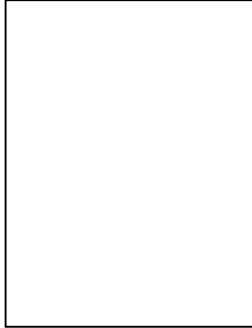
Spouses (K-W)

# PART V

## MEMOIRS

Name		Date of Death
	<b>Honorary</b>	
Bishop Cornelius L. Henderson		December 7, 2000
	<b>Ministers</b>	
Cubell A. Johnson		May 2, 2000
Raymond A. Alley		May 16, 2000
Donald Stocom (Associate Member)		June 8, 2000
Edgar E. Stauffer, Jr.		June 27, 2000
Robert C. Boggs		July 5, 2000
Robert H. Hines		August 26, 2000
Samuel A. Banks, Jr.		September 12, 2000
Thomas W. Woodard		September 18, 2000
John Milburn McLeod		October 17, 2000
Ben Edward Rider		November 2, 2000
Glen B. Tucker		December 14, 2000
Robert E. Grant		December 31, 2000
Milton H. Wyatt		January 10, 2001
Aaron Douglas Hall, Sr.		January 12, 2001
Ronald L. Rearic		January 12, 2001
John A. Briley, Sr.		February 15, 2001
Sidney H. White, Jr.		February 27, 2001
Charles E. Frisina		March 16, 2001
Fern Jeffries Field (Local Pastor)		March 22, 2001
	<b>Spouses</b>	
Jane Diaz DeArce		July 5, 2000
Mary Maxine Williams		July 17, 2000
Ethel L. Rooks		August 11, 2000
Lottie V. McPherson		August 13, 2000
Miriam C. D. Wyrick		September 2, 2000
Miriam Gelzer-Govatos		September 11, 2000
Bertha Mae Hagmeier Morris		October 1, 2000
Hazel Naomi Wilfong		November 2, 2000
Doris J. Buhrman		December 3, 2000
Mary Denslow		December 21, 2000
Marie B. Holmes		December 27, 2000
Nellie B. Williams		January 10, 2001
Ruby L. Adams		January 16, 2001
Laura A. Koons		February 12, 2001
Josie Pierce		March 22, 2001
Autumn Cichon		April 4, 2001

## RAYMOND AMBROSE ALLEY



The Reverend Raymond Ambrose Alley was born June 18, 1908 in Bristol, Virginia, son of Fred and Eva Lee Leonard Alley. When he was five years old, his family moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee. Raymond attended schools in that city until he graduated from Central High School. He received a B.A. degree from Emory and Henry College in Emory, Virginia and a B.D. from Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. In 1962 Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Florida honored him with a D.D. degree.

Raymond experienced a call to the ordained ministry while a member of the Brainerd Methodist Church in Chattanooga. At the suggestion of the Dean of the School of Theology, he applied for membership in the Florida Conference. In December 1933, Raymond was received into the Florida Conference at its meeting in First Methodist Church in Ocala. When appointments were read, he heard his name called as the pastor of the Melrose Circuit. His ministry continued for the next 41 ½ years with these following appointments:

Trenton-Chiefland	1934
Wagg Memorial, West Palm Beach	1936
Groveland-Mascotte	1940
First, Pompano Beach	1942
First, Fort Pierce	1945
Southside, Jacksonville	1950
Superintendent of the Lakeland District	1956
First, Ocala	1961
Superintendent of Melbourne District	1965
Allendale, St. Petersburg	1971
Associate Conference Director as	
Executive Director of the Board of Ministry	1973
Retired to his home in Lakeland	1975

At his second Annual Conference, Raymond met Dorothy Shepherd, daughter of the Reverend James Everett Shepherd and Emma Handley Shepherd. Raymond and Dorothy were married in First Methodist Church, Titusville on June 18, 1935 with the pastor of the church, Dorothy's father, officiating. Theirs was a marriage of unusual beauty and strength. Their marriage was blessed with four children: Ann Lee Alley Earnshaw; Raymond Ambrose Alley, Jr., Paul Fredrick Alley, Emma Jo Alley Sumara. The Alley home was a place of Christian nurture for the four children and a fine model for the congregations they served.

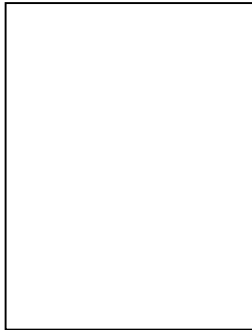
For 41 ½ years Raymond served as a faithful pastor, as well as conference leader of districts, boards, and committees. A man of simple background, he rose to occupy the high ground of moral and intellectual Christian Discipleship. He was a man who embodied the best attributes of a Christian

minister, a person who steadily grew in stature and favor with his peers, a model husband and father, a dependable friend to all.

He died one month prior to his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday and 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of natural causes on May 16, 2000 in the Estates at Carpenter's Manor. The Reverend Tom McCloskey, Associate Pastor, and long-time friends, Dr. Melton Ware and Dr. James Rowan, conducted a Service of Remembrance at First United Methodist Church, Lakeland on May 19, 2000. He was laid to rest in Lakeland Oak Hill Cemetery.

Submitted by Melton Ware

### **SAMUEL ALSTON BANKS, JR.**



Samuel Alston Banks was born on May 16, 1928, in Frostproof, Florida, to Sam and Mary Gatewood Banks. They later moved to Lakeland where he spent his youth. As a young boy he was intrigued by the art of "magic", began lessons and developed an expertise he enjoyed performing for others throughout his life. He also excelled at tennis, which he loved playing and watching. In his later years, Sam was a keen sailor and navigator, which brought him much joy.

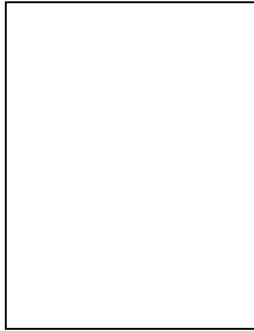
Sam earned a B. A. Degree in English from Duke University; a B. D. Degree from Candler School of Theology, Emory University; and a Ph. D. Degree from the Divinity School at the University of Chicago, with an emphasis in Religion and Psychological Studies.

He served Methodist Churches in Fair Oaks, Georgia; Naples, Florida, and Markham, Illinois, before moving on to teach at Drew University's Theology School. Returning to Florida, he was appointed hospital chaplain and taught at J. Hillis Miller Health Center at the University of Florida, until he accepted the Presidencies of Dickinson College and later the University of Richmond. Finally, he was a part-time professor for Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida, where he loved teaching and tutoring young people. Throughout his career, Sam wrote books on topics he felt most passionate about: health care, the humanities, and psychology.

Dr. Banks passed away on September 12, 2000. His widow Jo resides in Tierra Verde, FL; daughter and son-in-law Lisa and Richard Leiser-Banks in Wake Forest, NC; son Andrew Banks in Hamilton, Bermuda; and son Piers Banks, in Frankfurt, KY. Sam also is survived by five grandchildren: Mark, Graeme, and Jenny Leiser, and Audrey and Emily Banks.

Submitted by his family

## ROBERT C. BOGGS



Robert C. Boggs was born in Dayton, Ohio, on December 21, 1915. He was the son of Otto Boggs and Ellen Tennery Boggs. At an early age, the family moved to Orlando, Florida. Bob was raised in First Church, Orlando, where his mother was a popular Sunday school teacher for most of her adult life. On June 15, 1934, Bob received his License to Preach. Bob graduated from Florida Southern College in 1938. While completing a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Candler School of Theology, he returned to Florida at the request of Bishop Arthur J. Moore to become the Conference Director of Youth

Work. While in this appointment he and Laura Green of Miami met and were married. Bob and Laura worked together building the foundation of the Florida Conference Youth Camping Program and prepared the way for a conference owned camp. This camp was brought to full blossom by Bob's good friend, Rev. Warren Willis. Bob's love for the Conference Camps brought him back to Leesburg as a camp speaker year after year.

Bob was admitted on trial to the Florida Conference at its 1941 session. In 1942 Bob was ordained a Deacon. He was received into Full Connection and ordained an Elder at the 1943 Florida Conference. When Bob left the Conference staff as the Conference Youth Director, he served as Associate Pastor at First Avenue in St. Petersburg with Dr. P. M. Boyd. His other early appointments included First Church Largo, Trinity St. Petersburg, First Church Dunedin and First Church Lake Wales. While in Lake Wales, Bob was elected Secretary of the Florida Annual Conference, a position he held for eight years. After Lake Wales, Bob was appointed to First Church West Palm Beach, District Superintendent of the Tampa District, Southside Church Jacksonville and First Church Ft. Pierce. Over the years, Bob was elected a delegate to the Jurisdictional Conference on several occasions and served as Liaison from the Florida Methodists to the Evangelical United Brethren Conference in preparation for the 1968 merger. Bob is listed in Who's Who in the Methodist Church. Bob retired to Lake Wales in 1985.

During his active ministry Bob was active in civic clubs in each community. In retirement he was secretary of Lake Wales Kiwanis Club and took an active part in its many programs for youth in the community. In October 1996 he was awarded the prestigious Hixson Fellowship by the Lake Wales Kiwanis Club. He was recognized for his community involvement with an Alumni Community Award from Florida Southern College. In 1992 at a celebration of Bob's fiftieth anniversary of his ordination, the Administrative Council of First United Methodist Church of Lake Wales named him Pastor Emeritus.

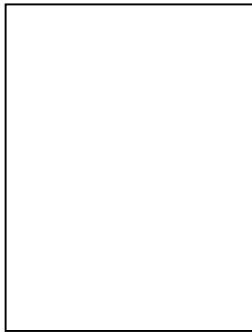
Bob and Laura Boggs were the proud parents of two children. Their daughter Carole Suellen Boggs followed her father in death on December 7, 2000. She was the wife of Michael Smith of Lake Wales and the mother of one

son, Zachary Smith. Bob and Laura also have a son, R. Charles Boggs, Jr., who is also a member of the Florida Conference. He and his wife Barbara Compton Boggs have two children, Amy and Richard Boggs. They presently are assigned to Wesley Memorial Church in Ft. Myers. Laura continues to live in Lake Wales.

Bob entered into the life immortal on July 5, 2000. He had been ill for several years. The services for Rev. Robert C. Boggs were conducted July 11, 2000 at the First United Methodist Church of Lake Wales by Bishop Lloyd Knox, Rev. Bill Baldwin, Rev. Bill Owens, and Rev. Phillip Short. Bob was laid to rest in the City of Lake Wales Cemetery. He will be remembered for the twinkle in his eye, his ready smile, and the funny stories he loved to tell. Always busy, he worked hard, but was ready when God called. May he rest in peace.

Submitted by the Rev. R. Charles Boggs, Jr.

### **JOHN ADDISON BRILEY, SR.**



Rev. John A. Briley Sr., long time Methodist Minister in Florida, died Thursday, February 15, 2001 in Seattle, Washington.

Preacher Briley, as he liked to be called, was born in September 27, 1917, to the late Gladys Briley Bowles and Robert Limeol Briley in Tampa, Florida, where he grew up. He went to Hillsborough High School in Tampa, Florida Southern College in Lakeland for his Bachelor of Science Degree, and Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia for seminary, receiving a Masters degree. He was known around Tampa as the preacher who worked his way through college selling

earthworms and working a garbage truck.

As a United Methodist minister, he served for 41 years in 25 churches in Florida; seven rural churches in Spring Lake; South Miami and Tamiami Temple in Miami; Fairfield, Livingston and Anderson Memorial in Jacksonville; Kissimmee; Pahokee; Wauchula; Silver Palm of Homestead; Mims; Bunnell; Wesconett; Wabasso; Pierson; Plant City; and Dover. After his retirement in 1982, he then served Steinhatchee United Methodist Church and attended the Mayo United Methodist Church. He served with a delegation of ministers to Cuba during the time of Batista. He was noted for his enjoyment of hunting, fishing and story telling.

When Preacher Briley started out in Spring Lake it was not unheard of to be paid in chickens and vegetables. Unmarried then he once wrote his fiancée: "Inez will you please marry me and come quick. I need your help. They only pay me nine dollara a week and I have already spent five on groceries." Page 322 of the 1987 edition of the Florida Flame documents the time Bishop Branscomb caught him cutting services at pastor's school in Leesburg to go fishing. In his will it was specified that part of his ashes be scattered on that spot.

In 1993, he was preceded in death by his wife. While undergoing treatment for a broken back in 1994, Preacher Briley discovered he had multiple myeloma, a

form of bone cancer. Doctors gave him three to six months to live. Alive and doing better after months of treatment, he was moved to Washington State where he alternated living with each of his daughters. He attended their churches and began a new ministry of just going around the neighborhood talking to people in need, regardless of their religious beliefs. In June 2000, he was moved to Providence Mount St. Vincent in West Seattle, a nursing center operated by the Catholic Church. There, though confined to a wheel chair, often with IV's running, he would have the staff take him to minister to people in residence who were having trouble dealing with dying. He died with some family present in a peaceful way on Thursday, February 15, 2001. He was nicknamed the "Florida Energizer Bunny" because regardless of what the doctors said, he just kept on going and going.

Survivors include a son, John A Briley, Jr., Barnesville, GA; a daughter, Signora Briley Armstrong, Toledo WA; a daughter, Inez Briley Taylor, Seattle, WA; a sister, Genevieve Moeller, Brandon, FL; one granddaughter, Angie Briley Tipton, Columbus, GA; one step-granddaughter Holly Armstrong, Mt. Vernon, WA; one grandson, Eric Sundberg, Denver, CO; on great-granddaughter, Katherine Tipton, and two step-great-grandsons, Andrew and Johnathan Tipton, GA; nephews Robert, Henry and Harold Moeller in FL; numerous other nieces and nephews.

Memorial services for Rev. John Addison Briley, Sr. were as St. Paul Lutheran Church – Winlock, WA, Highline United Methodist Church in Burien, WA, followed by a Catholic service at Providence Mount St. Vincent in Seattle. A service was conducted at the Spring Lake United Methodist Church, where his wife is and part of his ashes were placed next to her. Long time fishing partner and friend Rev. Ray Sharp met with close members of the family in Leesburg and scattered ashes where Preacher Briley got caught by the bishop.

Submitted by Inez Taylor

## FERN JEFFRIES FIELD



Fern Jefferies Field was born to Gertrude and Wesley Hamilton in Media, PA on May 19, 1928. They moved to Philadelphia, PA as a small child where she attended her schooling. In 1955 she moved with her family to St. Petersburg, FL. She is survived by her husband the Rev. William H. Field. Three children, Hollie Criswell of St. Augustine, FL, Shelley Hughes of Interlachen, FL and Edward Field of Callahan, FL. Three step-children, William Field of Dallas, TX, Terri Vincent of Palm Harbor, FL, and Nancy Holland of Gulfport, FL, seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; and one sister Ivy Kriescher of

Fairbanks, AK.

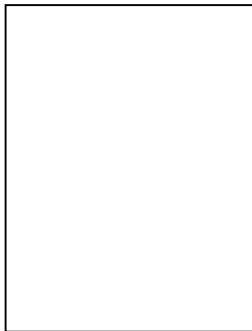
Fern started her banking career as a file clerk for Citizens National Bank. When Citizens Bank became Barnett Bank she was appointed assistant Vice President in charge of Personnel, Bookkeeping and Affirmative Action.

Fern and family joined St. Lukes UMC in 1960 and became a vital part of our lives. She volunteered as minister of visitation under the supervision of Rev. Al Brock. While at St. Lukes, Fern was part of the Ann White Ministries as a counselor. In 1980 she moved to Jacksonville to prepare for ministry as a pastor in the UMC. While in Jacksonville she was a volunteer at Hospice of the Methodist Hospital and later hired as Director of Grief and Bereavement. She was also a volunteer in Pathway (substance abuse), where she did the Spiritual part of the program and a volunteer Chaplain. She was also a part of the healing team of the Christian Healing Ministries in Jacksonville as a counselor. She went to college in Jacksonville and Emory's School of Theology in Atlanta, GA.

In 1986 Fern was appointed to Trinity UMC in Jacksonville where she served until her retirement in 1992. In 1993 she was asked to return to Trinity to serve until a new pastor could be assigned. In 1990 she was diagnosed with throat cancer. After the operation she was given massive doses of radiation which had many severe side effects. She had a long illness and went to be with the Lord on March 22, 2001. She was a faithful servant and fought the good fight and finished the race. She is missed by all.

Submitted by Husband, William H. Field

## **CHARLES E. FRISINA**



Our precious Lord led Rev. Charles E. Frisina from his first spiritual home in the Roman Catholic Church in to membership in a United Methodist Congregation, into active lay leadership in that and other churches, into certification as local pastor and, finally, to ordination and ministry as an Elder in full connection.

Charles was born in Ogdensburg, NY, to Anthony F. and Marion G. Frisina on October 21, 1943. He graduated from the State University College at Potsdam, NY with a Bachelor degree on June 5, 1966

and on the 11<sup>th</sup> married Kay E. Graves also of Ogdensburg. Together they began teaching in the Broadalbin Central School System where Charles continued for 20 years, teaching junior and senior high science students. He developed an elective course called The Exploration of Unexplained Scientific Phenomena Through Literature. He was advisor of the School Yearbook from 1974 to 1986, gaining much fund raising experience as well as insight into what teenagers were all about! He was also a volunteer Audio-Visual Director for the school from 1970 to 1978. In September, 1977, Charles was appointed by the Albany, NY District Superintendent to the Wells, NY, UMC. He remained there for seven years and attended Wesley Seminary in Washington, DC for four summers to complete the requirements for the Local Pastors Certificate. In 1984 he was appointed to the Hagaman, NY, UMC.

In 1986 Charles retired from teaching and was appointed as a full-time local pastor to a three-point charge in Mooers, NY. He also enrolled in a Bachelor



of Theology program at McGill University, Montreal Canada, and completed that degree in 1989. In 1988 he was ordained a Deacon of the Troy Annual Conference of Eastern New York and Vermont. He received his Master of Divinity Degree from the United Theological College, Montreal, Canada, in 1990.

In 1987 Charles and Kay were appointed trustees of The Back-Up Corporation, a Christian ecumenical ministry of backing up ministers and professionals through a bi-monthly newsletter, retreats and seminars. Kay became the secretary/treasurer and Charles vice-president of Spirituality. The corporation owns and operates The Gift Retreat Center in up-state New York.

1991 brought a new appointment to Canajoharie, NY, UMC where he found a great need for his deep grounding and commitment to Methodist doctrine and polity. During Annual Conference, 1992, Charles was ordained Elder, a crowning achievement for him and culmination of a dream. While in Canajoharie, he accepted the Stone Arabia UMC as a part of his charge and he also pastored the Evangelical Church in Marshville.

In 1994 Charles entered the Florida Annual Conference and assumed leadership of the Palm Springs UMC, Hialeah. Living in a large metropolitan area and serving an English speaking church in the midst of an Hispanic community was a challenge and a great joy. In 1997 he was appointed to the Good Shepherd UMC in North Fort Myers, where he served until his death at Tampa General Hospital on March 16, 2001 from complications following triple bypass surgery.

On the conference level Charles served on the Troy Conference Communications Committee from 1984-86 and as the Chairman from 1986 to 1994. He was on the Conference Council on Ministries and also served on the Executive committee. In 1986 he was an instructor of photography at Skye Farm Creativity Camp, part of the conference camping program. From 1991 to 1994 he was secretary/treasurer for the Northeast Jurisdiction Fellowship of Communicators and an instructor for Lay Speaker's Courses, basic and advanced. In 1992 he attended the United Methodist Reporter annual meeting in Dallas, Texas, as a Troy Conference representative. Just prior to his death he had become Fort Myers Lay Speakers' coordinator and taught a basic lay speakers' course for the district.

Charles believed a pastor needed to be a presence in the local community. He taught a World Religions class at a local prison while in upstate New York and was a member of the Early Release From Incarceration Program committee. He participated in ecumenical men's prayer breakfasts, attended a community Bible study and support group with other ministers, served as a member of the Board of Directors of a local Girl Scout Council and volunteered as night chaplain at Ellis Hospital in Schenectady, NY once a month. Until recent years when Charles could no longer drive because of his diminished sight, he led worship services at adult and nursing homes as an expression of his special love of the elderly. He felt deeply blessed by a loving congregation that supported his ministry in so many ways as he dealt with increasing debilitation from health problems.

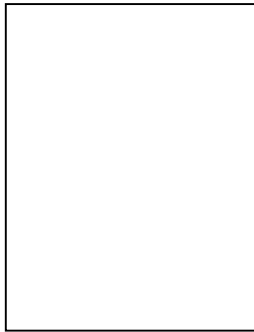
Charles is survived by his wife Kay; daughters Marcy (32), Kerry (30) and son, Ward (29); three grandchildren, Aric, Kali, and Caitlyn; four sisters and four brothers and various nieces and nephews. The Rev. Asa W. Sprague officiated at his memorial service on March 20, 2001, at The Good Shepherd United

Methodist Church of North Fort Myers, with the Rev. Dr. Sharon Patch, District Superintendent, participating.

His Lay Leader wrote of Charles after his death, "We've heard his daughter-in-law's lovely voice, seen his face light up when he talked about a grandchild, tasted his spaghetti sauce, and seen him preach when he could hardly stand up by himself. Sometimes he was a little Catholic, sometimes a little Jewish, but most days he was our Methodist minister. He shared himself with us regardless of how he felt . . . you taught us to *keep the main thing the main thing*. We learned our lesson well, and we know where you are and who you are with. We shall keep your memory alive in the way in which we live our lives and continue to worship our Savior, Jesus Christ."

Submitted by Rev. Asa Sprague

## **ROBERT E. GRANT**



Rev. Robert E. Grant was born November 2, 1940 to Edwin Starkey Grant and Betty Ross Grant of Springfield, Illinois. He graduated from Lanphier High School in Springfield, Illinois in 1958, and later that year began attending Greenville College in Greenville, Illinois. In addition to attending Greenville College, he also attended the University of Missouri in St. Louis, Missouri, Oakland Community College in Farmington, Michigan, Detroit Bible College in Detroit, Michigan, and the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. He received his Associates in Arts degree in Audio-visual Technology from Oakland

Community College in Farmington, Michigan, where he graduated Summa Cum Laude. He completed a course of studies on successful Church Leadership at the Robert Schuller Institute for Successful Church Leadership in Garden Grove, California, in 1975. In 1995, he completed a course of study at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. He loved to study the Greek and Hebrew languages. Even though he was well educated, he preferred to be known as "Just Bob".

Rev. Grant was not raised in a Christian home, but attended a local Presbyterian Church from time to time. He was saved at the First Free Methodist Church in Springfield, Illinois in 1957 and immediately became an active member there. He was a director for the Youth for Christ group from 1959 through 1960. While he was at Greenville College, he knew God was calling him into full time ministry. He was ordained by the Free Methodist Conference in Illinois, Missouri, Michigan and Wisconsin. During that time, he served as Conference President of Youth for five years; he was on the Conference Board of Education for six years; and served on the Board of Evangelism for four years.

Rev. Grant met Glenda Rae Ogden in 1959 at a Youth for Christ meeting. It was love at first sight. They were married July 7, 1963 at Cherry Hills Baptist Church in Springfield, Illinois. They had a daughter, Denise Yates Brown, on June 23, 1964, and a son, Robert Eugene Grant Jr on April 26, 1967. They

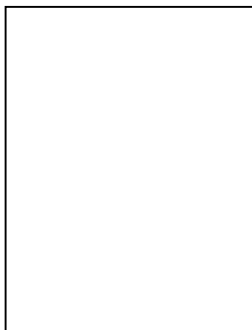
have four grandchildren, Deina Lynn Yates, born February 22, 1982; Brittany Dawn Yates, born October 16, 1984; Brandon Daniel Yates, born November 29, 1985; and Ashley Elizabeth Grant, born March 23, 1988. They served at many churches in the Free Methodist Conference, faithfully doing the work of the Lord. They came to Florida in 1982, where they joined the United Methodist Conference. Rev. Grant served as Pastor at Eloise United Methodist Church in Eloise, Florida from 1982 to 1984. From 1984 to 1985, he served on the Eloise/Alturas Circuit. In 1985, he assumed the position as Pastor to the Alturas United Methodist Church in Alturas, Florida. He stayed there until 1997, when he moved to assume the position as Senior Pastor at the Crystal Lake United Methodist Church in Lakeland, Florida, where he stayed until his death in 2000. He was ordained as an Associate in the United Methodist Conference at the Florida Annual Conference in 1996. During his time of ministry in Florida, he served on the School Advisory Board for three years, and he was on the United Methodist District Council for one year.

Rev. Grant had many interests. He developed a love for photography at a young age. As a teenager, he worked at a local television station in Springfield, Illinois, as a photographer and director. Early in his photography career, he did photography for weddings. He was an instructor for photography for church promotion at the Detroit Bible College in 1975 and he owned a photography studio from 1981 to 1984. He brought his experience with audio-visual technology into every church he pastored. He brought the Last Supper to life in a living drama, created an audio-visual art presentation in connection with the Madonna and child during Christmas time, and led re-enactments of the Last Supper during Maundy Thursday services. He became certified in scuba diving under PADI in 1970, and took many diving trips. He was fascinated with archaeology and loved visiting historic sites. He had been to the Holy Land twice and planned to go again, but was unable due to his health. He loved to golf and play basketball. He was active in the United Methodist Men's Basketball League at the First United Methodist Church in Lakeland Florida for ten years. He also had a passion for classic cars, and restored a 1953 Chevrolet pick up truck, which he drove around Polk County, Florida, and entered in car shows. He began restoring a 1934 Plymouth, but was unable to finish it. He had a tender spot in his heart for animals, and enjoyed raising and breeding them. During his life, he had tropical fish and rabbits, but his favorite were his birds. He would breed the birds and care for their babies. He then enjoyed trading them at bird shows. He had many passions in life which helped him relate to so many people in his ministry. He was well known for his wonderful sense of humor. You could always count on him to come up with an appropriate joke or pun for any given situation. He was famous for his Elvis impersonations at church talent shows. Although everyone who knew him knew he could not carry a tune, he had a great appreciation for music. His favorite song was Amazing Grace. He often said the words of that song described how he felt, being saved from a rough life going the wrong direction, and being lifted up and called into service for the Lord. With God working through his life, he touched many lives.

Rev. Grant was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1993. It was in advanced stages, and the prognosis was not good. Through surgery, hormonal treatment and nutritional therapy, he was declared cancer free. However, the cancer became active again in 1997. He tried several experimental treatments. Nothing seemed to slow down the growth. The cancer eventually spread throughout his skeletal system. The pain became so great that his medical staff urged him to resign from his ministry position. He refused. Instead of taking the recommended pain medication, he chose to continue ministering to his congregation and the community. He continued this ministry, even from his wheelchair, until November 19, 2000, which is the last service he preached. On Sunday morning, December 31, just in time for church service, with his wife and children present by his bedside at home, he passed away. His funeral arrangements were handled by Lakeland Funeral Home. His funeral services were held at the Crystal Lake United Methodist Church in Lakeland, Florida, on January 3, 2001. Officiating at his service were Bishop J. Lloyd Knox, Rev. Aldo Martin, Rev. William Roughton, Rev. Joseph Philbeck and Rev. Gary L. Ogden. He was buried at Socrum Cemetery in Lakeland, Florida. The words of Paul found in II Timothy 4:7 seemed appropriate at this time and read as an inscription on his headstone: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." He will be greatly missed.

Submitted by Denise Grant Brown, daughter

## **AARON DOUGLAS HALL, SR.**



Aaron Douglas Hall, Sr., the youngest of eleven children, was born to the late George and Mamie Hall on December 1, 1917 in Alachua County, Florida. He spent most of his childhood between Deerfield Beach and Fort Pierce, Florida, where he completed his public school education. His higher education was completed at Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia. As a "boy preacher" he always attended Sunday school and church services before he was ordained by the Methodist Church.

He remembered three important things that happened to him in December 1941 – he acquired his first church, his first car and his wife. He was married to the former Bernice Sweet of Fort Pierce, Florida, who preceded him in death. During their union they were the proud parents of two children, Francenia Hall Scott and Aaron Douglas Hall, Jr.

His experiences included Agent, Inspector and Assistant Manager for the Afro-American Life Insurance Company for thirteen years. He served as Minister of St. John Methodist Church of Fort Pierce, Florida, and Trinity Methodist Church of Cocoa Beach, Florida. Because of his unique administrative ability, at the age of thirty-one, he was appointed by the late Bishop J. W. E. Bowen, as District Superintendent of the Atlantic District, Florida Conference, Central Jurisdiction, which extended from Orlando to Key West, Florida; he served there

for six years. Having completed his tenure, he was appointed to Ebenezer United Methodist Church in November 1955. In 1960, he was elected treasurer of the Florida Annual Conference, Central Jurisdiction, where he faithfully served eight years, until 1968.

Endowed with great leadership abilities and a gift from God, he made tremendous strides in cultivating the minds of hundreds of parishioners to their utmost capacity; provided discipleship which rewarded each member through living a satisfying Christian life; worked tirelessly to build a church free from prejudice and hatred; initiated goals that encouraged social order worthy of being called the Christian Way of Life; and promoted and supported activities that would help maintain a church free from debt.

Reverend Hall found ways through his ministry to present a clear explanation of the Holy Bible, current local and international affairs, contemporary thoughts and creative expressions that could be understood by all members, regardless of age, interest and educational backgrounds.

The worth and dignity of each member was of importance to him. A religious environment was encouraged through his personal responsibility for a wholesome and healthy existence, high moral and spiritual values, and a democratic way of life with basic liberties and responsibilities for all.

Reverend Hall served 33 years as Pastor of Ebenezer United Methodist Church in Miami, Florida. He was a trustee of Bethune-Cookman College for more than 40 years; a member of the Board of Directors of the YMCA of Greater Miami, Allapattah and Carver Branches, Miami, Florida; a member of PULSE, a former member of the District Council on Ministry; a member of the Committee on Urban Ministry; Vice Chairperson of the Board of Managers of the Enrichment School; a member of the Board of Directors of Biscayne Methodist Home, now known as Epworth Village Retirement Community; and Grand Treasurer of the United Order of Pallbearers of America, Inc.

In 1955, he received a citation from Bethune-Cookman College in recognition of Outstanding Service in Religion and Human Relations.

As the ultimate tribute to a man of God, in 1976 the congregation of Ebenezer United Methodist Church purchased a building in his honor . . . the Aaron D. Hall, Sr. Annex. The Aaron D. Hall, Sr., Scholarship Fund was established in 1987 in recognition of his interest in helping children strive for academic excellence. For his exemplary service as spiritual leader of Ebenezer United Methodist Church for thirty three years of pastoral service, the most deserving title of "Pastor Emeritus" was added to his many other deserved honors, tributes, and credits.

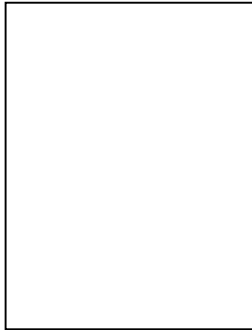
Reverend Aaron Douglas Hall, Sr. will be missed by clergy as well as laity throughout the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference. But nowhere will his death be felt more specifically than the Miami Community at large and Ebenezer United Methodist Church in particular. He leaves a legacy of perseverance, dedication, and commitment worthy of emulation.

He lived so that when his Master called him on Friday, January 12, 2001 at 10:40 PM he answered gladly, rose to meet him and laid his weary head on His breast. He breathed out his life sweetly . . . and the angels in heaven rejoiced.

He leaves to cherish his memory his devoted children, Francenia Hall Scott, Aaron D. Hall, Jr. and David Johnson, three grandchildren, Erica Scott Ladler, Derek Scott, and Aaron D. Hall, III; five great grandchildren; brother, Jessie Davis of Dania, Florida; nieces, nephews and a host of other relatives and friends.

Submitted by F. H. Scott

### **CORNELIUS L. HENDERSON**



Cornelius L. Henderson was born on September 12, 1934, in Covington, Georgia. He married Dorothye Carithers on June 7, 1959. Their union was blessed with the birth of one daughter, Leah Dor-Lyn Henderson Smith (Mrs. Disraeli Smith, Sr.). Bishop and Mrs. Henderson are also the proud grandparents of two grandsons, Disraeli Smith II and Cornelius Linton Henderson Smith.

Bishop Henderson attended Fort Valley State College from 1952 to 1954. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Clark College, Atlanta, Georgia, in 1956. In 1959 he received a master of Divinity degree from Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia. He matriculated at Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Georgia in 1965, and received a Master of Sacred Theology at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1969. Bishop Henderson also received a Doctor of Divinity at Clark College, a Doctor of Divinity at Gammon Theological Seminary, a Doctor of Divinity at Bethune-Cookman College, a Doctor of Laws at Dillard University, a Doctor of Human Letters at Florida Southern College, and a Doctor of Divinity at Rust College.

Dr. Henderson served a variety of churches in Georgia before being elected Bishop on June 17, 1996. He was consecrated Bishop in the United Methodist Church on July 19, 1996, and on September 1, 1996 appointed to the Florida Episcopal Area.

At the time of his death, Bishop Henderson was serving on the Board of Trustees, Clark Atlanta University. He was the founder and the first president of Concerned Black Clergy of Metro Atlanta, and was serving as chairperson of the Board of Directors. He was also a member of the Board of Trustees of Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Florida, Board of Trustees of Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, the First Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees of Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Florida, and was a member of the General Commission on United Methodist Men.

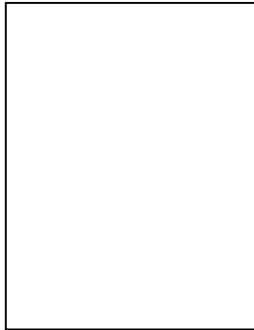
Under his leadership, in 1984 and 1985, Ben Hill United Methodist Church received awards for Evangelism in two areas – receiving the most members on confession of faith, and the largest net increase in membership for the Atlanta-College Park District. The membership increased from 400 to more than 4,500, becoming one of the fastest growing churches in United Methodism.

During his second tenure as Senior Pastor, the membership of Ben Hill was more than 6,700, the largest predominately African American United Methodist Church in the world and the largest United Methodist Church in the Southeastern Jurisdiction. Current membership is over 8,000.

Bishop Henderson succumbed to multiple myeloma on December 7, 2000.

Submitted by Dorothy Henderson

## **ROBERT HOWLAND “PETE” HINES**



Robert Howland Hines was born in Trenton, Florida, on August 15, 1931, the son of Andrew Hampton Hines, Sr. and Louise Dixie Howland Hines. His great uncle, James Howland, was a member of the Florida Conference.

“Pete” graduated from Alachua High School in 1949. While a student at the University of Florida he worked as a radio announcer at WRUF. He interrupted his university schooling to work several years as a professional radio announcer, serving commercial radio stations in Marianna, St. Petersburg, and Lake Wales.

It was in Lake Wales, Florida, while serving as an assistant to the pastor in First Methodist Church that he met Jane Roberts Browder, who was from Lawrenceville, Virginia. They were married September 8, 1956 in Lake Wales. “Pete” returned to the University of Florida, served as student pastor of the Methodist Church in Interlachen and was graduated in 1957.

In September 1957 he entered Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, graduating in December 1959 with a Master of Divinity degree.

“Pete” was admitted to the Florida Conference on trial and ordained Deacon in 1958, then Elder in Full Connection 1962. He was appointed to serve Westwood, Miami in 1959; Highland City 1961; Leesburg, Christ 1963; Gainesville Faith Jan. 1, 1969; Chaplain Goodwill Industries – Suncoast, Inc., 1976. Going on Disability in 1992, he retired from the Conference in 1997, having served the Florida Conference of the Methodist Church for 39 years.

For the last 24 years of his life he was confined to a wheelchair as the result of Muscular Dystrophy. It was from a wheelchair that he had his most effective ministry. He was able to relate in a special way to those who suffered handicaps and disabilities, and he preached and told “The Goodwill Story” in dozens of churches in the Tampa Bay area. He worked within a few days of entering the hospital for his final illness.

Pete was an avid sports fan, a talented writer, and a very effective minister. He had warm affection for the University of Florida and requested that its Alma Mater be played during the Prelude of his memorial service. Having a beautiful singing voice, he was a part of the Ridge Choral Singers in Lake Wales. Good music was an ongoing delight throughout his life.

He died August 26, 2000. A service of Witness to the Resurrection for Pete was held in Maximo Presbyterian Church, St. Petersburg, on September 2. Officiating clergy were the Rev. Holly Wildhack, the Rev. Lacy Harwell, the Rev. Dr. Earl e Rabb, the Rev. Dr. Howard Thompson, and the Rev. Dr. John Few.

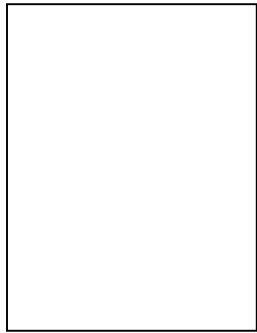
Another memorial service was held September 6 in his home church, First United Methodist of Alachua. Those officiating were the Rev. Joe Smith, the Rev. Bill Yeager, and the Rev. Ken Kleckner III. His ashes are interred in the Newnansville Cemetery near Alachua, Florida.

Pete is survived by his wife of 44 years, Jane; a brother, Andrew Hines, Jr.; a sister, Frances Hines Kolner, and many nieces and nephews.

His courage, determination, and faith in God helped him carry on. His example will be reflected in the lives he, through Christ, has changed.

Submitted by Jane Browder Hines, wife and Andrew H. Hines, Jr., brother

### **CUBELL ARCHELAUS JOHNSON**



Rev. Cubell Archelaus Johnson was born in Miami, Florida, November 14, 1914, to the late Reverend Archie and Lucia Johnson. He was the only son born to this union. Cue, as he was so affectionately called, remembered most his grandfather Pa Edgar's steadfast love for the Lord and his unwavering dedication to the Ministry. Cue, a tenor soloist, delighted in singing and listening to others sing. One of his most cherished memories of his beloved mother was hearing her sing the hymn "Under His Wings" while his sister (deceased) accompanied her on the piano.

Before graduating from high school in Miami, Cue moved to Alice Town (Hatchet Bay) in Eleuthera, Bahamas with his parents. While living in Hatchet Bay, he worked with Professor Gibson at the "All Age School." When Cue returned to Miami as a young man he worked at Legetts Drug Store on Miami Beach. He was later inducted into the United States Army. During his tenure of duty he served overseas in the Philippines and in Noum'ea, New Caledonia. It was in this country that he received the call to the Ministry. When he returned home from the Army he thought the call was just a fright of war. He tried to resume his regular lifestyle, but to no avail. He became restless and dissatisfied. He knew then that God had something for him to do. He knew within his heart that he must go into the ministry; that he must follow in the footsteps of his grandfather, Pa Edgar, and his father, the Reverend Archie Johnson.

While in the Army Cue received a little black Bible from Mrs. Janie Dixon of Ebenezer Methodist Church in Miami and used it throughout his tour of duty. He later had this Bible refinished and used it as long as he could read the small print. It was this little Bible that he used in preparation for the Ministry at Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia. When leaving for Atlanta to study, he informed his relatives and friends that he was going to take a course in



preaching. To his amazement, upon arrival the President of Gammon had already registered him at Clark College. Because of Cue's obedience to God's call, his willingness to learn and eagerness to serve, he graduated from Clark in three and one half years. After graduating from college, he returned to Gammon Theological Seminary where he enrolled; in 1953 he received a Bachelor of Divinity Degree. In 1985 he exchanged the Degree for a Master of Divinity.

While attending Clark College he met Lizzie Pearl Bacon of Toombs County, Georgia. Immediately there was a genuine, unique attraction between them. This developed into love that grew deeper and deeper. On July 17, 1951, after graduating from college, Cue married the love of his life, the charming and beautiful "farm girl" from Georgia. And though there were no children born to this union, God blessed them to be godparents to a host of young men and women all over the world.

During his pastorate, Cue served in many offices, among which were Conference Executive Secretary for the Board of Education, District Superintendent of the South Florida District, and Chaplain (PT) of the Veteran's Hospital in Tampa, Florida. In the late '50's under his leadership, Ebenezer Methodist Church in Orlando became the first to have live radio broadcasts of the Sunday morning services. In the mid '70's, during his tenure at Ebenezer Methodist Church in Jacksonville, he initiated a live radio broadcast of the Sunday School Lesson each Saturday that extended from Jacksonville throughout Central Florida.

He was blessed to pastor as follows:

1953-55	Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church, Bradenton
1955-57	Graduate Student, Boston University School of Theology
1957-61	Ebenezer Methodist Church, Orlando
1961-63	Tyler Temple Methodist Church, Tampa
1963-67	Trinity Methodist Church, West Palm Beach
1967-69	District Superintendent, South Florida District
1969-72	Ebenezer United Methodist Church, Orlando
1972-75	Ebenezer United Methodist Church, Jacksonville
1975	Sellers Memorial United Methodist Church, Miami
1975-1984	Tyler Temple United Methodist Church, Tampa
1977-84	Chaplin (PT) Veteran's Hospital, Tampa
1984	Retired
1976-2000	Tour Host, Educational Opportunities for Clergy & Laity
1993-2000	Volunteer, Hospice Care of Broward County, Inc.

After retirement in 1984, Reverend Cubell Johnson and Liz returned to Fort Lauderdale and immediately began work at Harris Chapel under the pastorate of the late Reverend Horace W. Lewis. The church was in the process of building a new Sanctuary. Reverend Johnson was chosen Chairman of the Building Committee and held this position until completion. Upon completion of the building project, he had the cornerstone made in Georgia, transported to Florida, and installed in the appropriate place. He also shared his expertise in the building of the Life Enrichment Center under the pastorate of Reverend Eddie L. Murphy, Jr. Rev. Johnson was a blessing to the Harris Chapel congregation

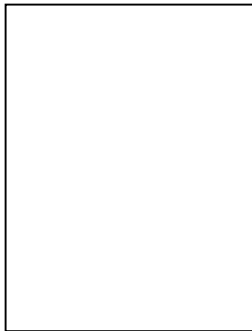
and the Broward County community as an active retired minister serving in various capacities.

Tuesday morning, May 2, 2000, near 8:30 a.m., in the Hospice unit of the North Broward Hospital, with his wife, Liz holding his hand and head, Rev. Johnson passed quietly away. He was funeralized at Harris Chapel United Methodist Church on May 6, 2000, and laid to rest at Forest Lawn Cemetery Central, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Left to cherish his memories are his devoted wife, Lizzie Bacon Johnson; nieces and nephews, Elsie and John Hanna, Janice Hill, Cheryl Hankins, Lenora Young, Robert and Donald Simms, Miami, FL, Claudell Young, Baltimore, MD; Lee and Lavett Saunders, Joe Johnson, Nassau, Bahamas; James and Bertram Cambridge; eleven sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law: Lela Bacon Batson and Carrie Bacon McLendon, Ft. Lauderdale, FL; Teasie Bacon Fields (Paul), Vallejo, CA; Equilla Bacon Phillips (Johnnie), Jewell Bacon, Joe Bacon (Eva) Syracuse, NY; Maudie Bacon Anderson (Rufus), Eugene Bacon (Alene) Edon Bacon (Rosetta), Herman Williams, Jr., (Irene), Hercules Bacon (Gerene). And a host of other sorrowing relatives and friends too numerous to name, but we hold them just as close.

Submitted by the family

## **J. MILBURN MCLEOD**



John Milburn McLeod was born February 14, 1911, in Ft. Myers, Florida, the fifth of ten children born to the Rev. William H. McLeod, pioneer Methodist Evangelist and his wife, Beulah Wiggins McLeod. Both of his parents were native Floridians. Tampa Heights Methodist Church was a thriving congregation when Milburn joined at age 7, and there began a lifelong commitment to the church and to the ministry.

Milburn McLeod was educated in the public schools of Fla., graduating in 1928 from Hillsborough High School in Tampa. In 1936 Milburn received his B. A. from Florida Southern College. From there he went

to Candler School of Theology at Emory University, where he earned his B. Div. in 1938.

He received his first license to preach in 1930, was admitted "On Trial" to the Florida Conference in 1938, ordained a deacon and admitted to Full Connection in 1940, and ordained an elder in 1941.

On July 8, 1941, Milburn McLeod married Betty Morqus of Arcadia, Florida at Trinity Methodist Church in Arcadia, with the Rev. John Branscomb officiating. In May of the following year, he entered the United States Army as Chaplain. Their first son, James M. McLeod, was born on December 27, 1942. Milburn was in the service of his country for 48 months during which time he crossed the English Channel in the D-Day Invasion of Normandy and served in the December 1944 Battle of the Bulge. Son John H. McLeod was born on June 27, 1944.

Milburn McLeod was honorably discharged from the service on December 11, 1945 and came home at last to his wife and two sons, the younger of whom he had never seen. Milburn McLeod was awarded five battle stars and the Bronze Star for meritorious service.

Milburn McLeod's appointments in the Florida Conference were: Brandon, 1938; High Springs, 1940; Chaplain in the United States Army, 1942; Oveido-Geneva, 1945; Morrison Memorial in Leesburg, 1946 (where their third son, Thomas H. McLeod was born on February 26, 1949); Lakeland, First Church, 1952; Jacksonville District Superintendent, 1959; St. Petersburg, First Church, 1964; DeLand District Superintendent, 1967; Tampa, Manhattan Avenue, 1971; West Palm Beach, First Church, 1973. He retired in 1976 after 38 years of full time ministry.

A leader from his earliest years, he served as an officer in the Epworth League and as president of the Florida Methodist Young People's Assembly. In 1947 he was a member of the first building committee of the Florida Conference Youth Camp in Leesburg. During his active ministry he served most of the major boards of the Annual Conference. He was a trustee of Florida Southern College, Bethune-Cookman College, the Florida Methodist Children's Home, and was chairman of the Board of Ordained Ministry at the time of his retirement in 1976.

Dr. and Mrs. McLeod retired to Lakeland to live in the first home they had ever owned and enjoyed attending and supporting First United Methodist Church where he often taught Sunday school.

After several years of deteriorating health, Milburn McLeod died on October 17, 2000, at the age of 89. His funeral service was held at First United Methodist Church, Lakeland, in the beautiful sanctuary which was built and dedicated during his years as Senior Minister there. Officiating clergy were Dr. Riley Short, the Rev. Tom McCloskey, and Dr. H. Melton Ware. The Rev. Thomas H. McLeod, son, and the Rev. Deborah A. McLeod, daughter-in-law, paid tribute to his life and years of service to the church. Interment was at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Arcadia, Florida.

Dr. McLeod is survived by his wife of 59 years, Mrs. Betty M. McLeod, three sons, James M. McLeod of Limerick, Ireland, his wife, Tyree and their daughters Sylvia, Anna and Elena; John H. McLeod of Annapolis, Maryland, his wife, Jennifer, and their son Chase; and Thomas H. McLeod, of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, his wife, Debbie, and their sons Will and Jack. Dr. McLeod is also survived by two younger sisters, Mrs. Ellie M. Rice of Brandon, and Mrs. Laura V. Welles of Sarasota.

Born in the Florida of yesteryear, going barefoot until his first pair of shoes at age 13, hunting in the Everglades each winter with his father and his brothers, growing up poor in things of the world and rich in family and a heritage of faith, J. Milburn McLeod was a man like no other. The era of church leadership with which he was familiar is no more, but the seeds of faith, planted in the hearts of men and women and girls and boys live on, and will never end.

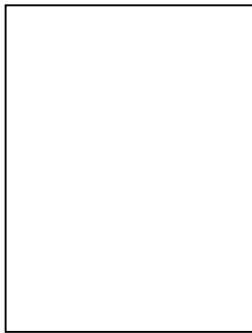
Much was required of him. The words of his commanding officer, in the citation of the Bronze Star sum up the strength and conviction of this son of Florida Methodism: "There is no adequate yardstick for the degree of warmth and

unselfish devotion that Chaplain McLeod has manifested at all times and under all conditions. A truly accurate measure lies only in the spirits and hearts of those who have come under his influence. By word and example he has implanted the teachings of Christ in the minds and hearts of thousands of men. Yet by his good-natured humanness, he has made himself a comrade to all and a living picture of his teachings and of his faith."

Milburn McLeod loved the church and his Lord. He fought the good fight. He finished the race. He kept the faith, and has now received the crown of righteousness.

Submitted by the McLeod Family

## **RONALD LAMONT REARIC**



Ronald L. Rearic was born January 10, 1926 in Kittanning, Pennsylvania, the son of Harry B. Rearic, Sr. and Margaret Blose Rearic. Ronald had one brother, Harry B. Rearic, Jr.

Ron was a 1944 graduate of Kittanning High School, Kittanning, Pennsylvania. He served in the United States Army during WWII. While stationed in Germany he was wounded and received the Purple Heart. Ron attended Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky, from 1946 – 1948. He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Western Maryland College in Westminster, Maryland, in 1949, furthering his education with a Masters of Divinity Degree from Pittsburgh-Zenia Theological Seminary in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1953.

After being discharged from the U. S. Army and returning to his hometown, Ron started attending Union Avenue Methodist Church. It was at that time he felt the call to serve the Lord. It was there also that he met his future wife, Harriet Orr. They were united in marriage on December 19, 1946. They have three children, Ronald Dennis, Deborah Lynn Spedeker and David Mark. He has six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Ron was ordained a Deacon in 1950, and an Elder in 1954 from the East Ohio Conference. Ron served numerous churches in the East Ohio Conference. His first church there was the First United Methodist Church of Tiltonville, Ohio. After serving Calvary United Methodist Church in Coshocton, Ohio, for four years, Ron was asked by the Conference to try to former Evangelical United Brethren Church and Calvary Church (which were only a few blocks from each other) together as one congregation. After many meetings and much prayer the two congregations were brought together and formed the Park United Methodist Church. It was decided to use the Brethren Church as their place of worship since it was the larger and newer of the two churches. Ron stayed on six more years helping successfully to bring the two congregations together as one, working in the community to bring the unchurched the gospel of the Lord Jesus

Christ. In all he served ten years in Coshocton, Ohio. Ron's two sons met and married girls from Coshocton.

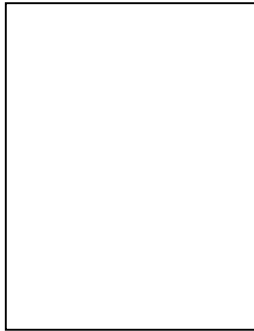
In 1979, Ron transferred to the Florida Conference. He served Anthony-Sparr in 1979. From 1980 to 1987, he served the Anthony Church. He served Rainbow Lakes from 1987 until his retirement in 1989.

Following a lengthy illness he developed pneumonia and left to be with our Lord January 12, 2001, just two days after his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday.

A celebration of Ronald's life was held at Anthony United Methodist Church in January 14, 2001. The service was led by Rev. John Suskey, Rev. Janice Suskey and Rev. Booker Short.

Submitted by Harriet Rearic wife, and Diana Rearic, daughter-in-law

### **BEN EDWARD RIDER**



Ben Edward Rider, the son of Frank Rufus and Alice Crites Rider, was born in Hancock County, Ohio, February 7, 1924. His entrance into the Father's House came November 2, 2000, after a long period of illness and treatment, and he was laid to rest at Oak Hill Burial Park, Lakeland, Florida. He was married to Ruth Emily Ross, the daughter of his family's pastor, Rev. Fred Ross, on June 27, 1948. Out of that blessed union came two daughters, Dr. Mary Ellen Rider of Lincoln, Nebraska and Judy Rider Berry of Roswell, Georgia; a granddaughter, Lisa Diblick and a great granddaughter, Celeste Diblick, both of Jasper,

Georgia. The celebration of his life service was held at First United Methodist Church, Lakeland, Florida, on November 6, 2000, with the following participants: Dr. Riley P. Short, Dr. Roland D. Vanzant, Rev. Charles W. Lovell, Rev. Charles D. Reeb, Dr. Ben Wade, and Dr. Mary Ellen Rider.

Ben Rider's call to ministry came at a young age, as he grew up on a farm in northeast Ohio. As God often does, He took this man's special qualities and talents, and molded them into his own unique style of ministry. Ben's warm and gracious spirit enabled him to not only make long and enduring friendships but to reach persons for his Lord who in turn moved into a ministry of their own. This intense leadership and mission spirit for outreach gave birth to two new churches, Ocean View United Methodist in Juno Beach, Florida, and Trinity United Methodist in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. This spirit for outreach extended to his desire for every congregation he served to have a solid foundation in stewardship, to experience the joy of giving, the thrill of discipleship, the fulfillment that comes in caring for others.

This gift led the conference to choose him as the Conference Chair of Stewardship as well as to appoint him as Director of Development to our Florida United Methodist Children's Home where he raised the level of support significantly to our home. The children there knew that people cared because this man was opening doors for a better life for them. He had received earlier the

distinguished Mary McLeod Bethune medallion from Bethune-Cookman College for his exceptional work in civil rights. These traits for caring were exemplified in his own witness and pastoral ministry, as he would sit for hours in hospitals with parishioners who were facing a crisis in their life. They knew their Lord and the church cared because His servant, Ben, was there.

His ten years as Regional Director at Educational Opportunities extended his outreach throughout our church and the world. His emphasis on the educational and spiritual benefits of study and traveling in Biblical lands for a better understanding of the culture from which the scriptures came had a tremendous impact upon those who, with Ben, walked where Jesus walked. The program of urging pastors to have this experience and offering scholarship to enable them to go was a phenomenal success. It enriched the preaching of the pastors and the commitment of the laity who traveled with them. They returned to their churches with a renewed appreciation for the gospel and an increased devotion to the Savior. Ben was most proud of the forty five times he led groups to the Holy Land, where he opened the door for them to these awe-inspiring experiences. His accumulated experience in these trips, his warm sense of humor along with his warm heart, made it possible for him to weave stories that brought meaning for life along with the gift of laughter.

Two people have never been better matched in temperament and for ministry than Ben and Ruth Rider. They were constant companions in their travels and walk together through all the experiences that life offered them: joy, gratitude for life, challenge, courage, love for people and each other. They were excited in their desire to call people to the very best in life they had come to know through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Life is short and we have not  
Too much time for gladdening the hearts  
Of those who travel the way with us.  
Oh, be swift to love! Make haste to be kind.  
Submitted by Roland D. Vanzant

### **EDGAR EUGENE STAUFFER, JR.**



The life of Rev. Edgar Eugene Stauffer, Jr. spanned just over 82 years, but his story began long before his birth and his legacy continues in the countless lives he touched. It was a life built on his Christian faith. When asked what person he admired most, this is how he answered. "Jesus, because he hits you at the very center of your heart, your soul and your conscience. He and his way is the ever approachable but never attainable, and the ground of our hope."

The third generation pastor was born the youngest of five to Dr. E.E. Stauffer Sr. and Reba Feger Stauffer on July 20, 1917 in Lebanon, PA. He graduated from

Lebanon High School in 1935 and Albright College in 1939 with a Bachelor of

Science. He then answered the call of the ministry and laid the foundation for his life of service in the Evangelical School of Theology. He graduated in 1944 with a Bachelor of Divinity. His first assignment as a student pastor was simultaneous duty at the Allentown Emanuel Evangelical Church and the Catasauqua Evangelical Church in Allentown, Pennsylvania. He was then called to serve his country for two and a half years as a Lieutenant Chaplain during World War II. There he met Mary Liles, a WAC in service, on a blind date. They were married on May 1, 1946 at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. Following their discharge from the Army in 1947, the couple weathered three winters in Easton, Pennsylvania, before heading to Florida.

Ed began his thirty-year service in the Florida United Methodist Conference in Englewood. His career included appointments in Ft. Lauderdale, Stuart, Boynton Beach, Zephyrhills, Jacksonville, Deland and Palmetto. One of his proudest accomplishments was being the founding father of Trinity United Methodist Church in Jensen Beach (near Stuart). The church celebrated its fortieth anniversary just last year.

A creative and inquisitive man, Ed wrote original works in drama and song for his congregations. He penned four hymns (including one for daughter Lynda's christening) and numerous plays along with a myriad of sermons. His favorite subjects were Christmas and Easter and he created special productions for the holidays.

Their Florida roots and extended Methodist family also nurtured two daughters, Susan Stauffer and Lynda Stauffer Woodring. Both graduated from Florida Southern College and continue to be active in their respective church communities.

While his active status came to an official conclusion at North Fort Myers United Methodist Church in 1983, he continued to participate as a leader in faith, taking on the role of pastor at Rogers Memorial Church in Bradenton for two years.

Even in retirement, Ed rarely rested. He and Mary took advantage of their empty nest to travel extensively. Their journeys took them all throughout the United States, Europe, China, Russia, Mexico, Africa and the Middle East. In between their trips, Ed stayed active in both the ministry and his community. He was a volunteer guide at the Gamble Plantation state park as well as an in-house minister at several funeral homes in the Bradenton area. His strength and comfort were blessings to many families who were faced with the loss of their loved ones. His philosophy of life and death was also a source of inspiration for his own family during the final weeks of his days on earth. While facing imminent death from terminal cancer, Ed was quoted as saying, "...if this is the road to my father's house, oh what a journey it will be".

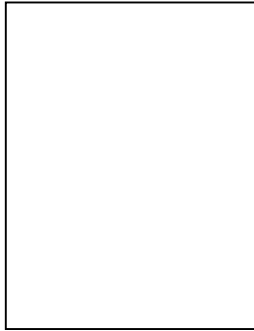
Mary, his daughters and his grand children, Sam and Emma Woodring, surrounded Ed when he was raised into resurrection on June 27, 2000. Rev. Peter Whittier was also at his side to usher him into eternal life with his master. His memorial service was held on July 1, 2000 at Ellenton Funeral Home and was officiated by Rev. Whittier, retired minister Rev. Herbert Loomis and

Sarasota District Supervisor, Rev. David Herman. He was interred at Mansion Memorial Cemetery in Ellenton, Florida.

Ed was remembered by many with generous donations to the Florida United Methodist Children's home in Enterprise, Florida. Even without his physical presence his dedication to his Christian faith lives on in works today.

Submitted by his family

## **GLEN BAKER TUCKER**



Rev. Glen B. Tucker was born on April 16, 1918, in Williamson, West Virginia. He was the son of Roy E. Tucker, and Dora Ella Parks. Rev. Tucker attended Duke University in North Carolina, where he received his ministerial degree on August 8, 1958. Before receiving this degree, he had been ordained a deacon in the Holston Conference, at the Second Methodist Church in Knoxville, Tennessee, by Bishop Roy Short. He later was ordained Elder in the same Church and conference on June 6, 1959, also by Bishop Short. Rev. Tucker was with the Holston Conference of the Methodist Church from 1959 to

1962. He served churches in Belfast, Virginia; Castlewood, Virginia, Surgoinsville, Tennessee; and Rural Retreat, Virginia, before moving to Florida in June of 1962. All of the churches he served were part of the Virginia/Tennessee Holston Conference. Rev. Tucker then became part of the Florida United Methodist Church Conference, receiving his Associate Membership on June 3, 1969.

While in the Florida Conference, he served Meadowbrook Methodist Church 1962-1964 in Orlando Florida; Grace Methodist Church 1964-1967 in Plant City, Florida; Pierson United Methodist Church 1967-1970 in Pierson, Florida; Asbury Methodist Church 1970-1972 in Orange Park, Florida; Union Park Methodist Church 1972-1978 in Orlando, Florida; Matecumbe Methodist Church 1978-1979 in Islamorada, Florida; Crawfordville Methodist Church 1979-1980 in Crawfordville, Florida; and his final appointment was a Apalachicola Methodist Church 1980-1983 in Apalachicola, Florida. He then retired from active service on May 27, 1983.

During his years of service in the Florida Conference, he was the Spiritual Guidance and Friendship Counselor to the Apalachicola, Florida Senior Health Care Center in 1983. He was also chaplain and an Honorary Colonel for the 710<sup>th</sup> Florida Army National Service Company in Apalachicola, Florida.

Rev. Tucker and his wife, Arizona Quarles Tucker, were married on November 6, 1937. They raised a son, Robert G. Tucker, and a daughter, Yvonne Tucker Kutcher. Rev. and Mrs. Tucker had three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

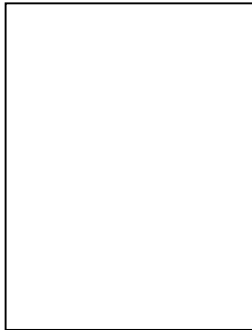
Rev. Tucker succumbed to pancreatic cancer on December 14, 2000, at the home of his daughter. His funeral was held at the Woodlawn Memorial



Chapel in Orlando, Florida. Rev. Clarke Edwards of the First United Methodist Church in Brandon, Florida, officiated, and Rev. David Juliano of Trinity United Methodist Church in Orlando, Florida, assisted. Rev. Tucker was laid to rest with his wife at the Woodlawn Memorial Cemetery, with the Rev. Dean Witten, District Superintendent for the Orlando District providing the benediction.

Submitted by daughter, Yvonne Kutcher

### **SIDNEY HENRY WHITE, JR.**



Sidney Henry White, Jr. was born on October 14, 1912 in Holly Springs, Miss.; the son of Sidney and Gertrude Jones White. He was a graduate of Florida Southern College in 1938 and the Conference Course of Study. He married Ruby Walker on January 17, 1940. They were blessed with a son, Sidney Henry III on August 13, 1948.

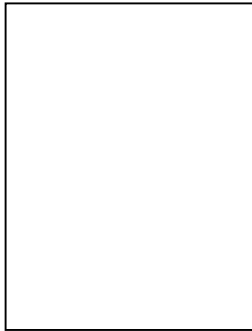
In 1941 Sidney became a member "on trial" of the Florida Conference. He was ordained Deacon in 1942, Elder in 1944, and was accepted into Full Connection in 1945. He retired in 1977 with 36 years of service. During those 36 years he served the following churches: Zolfo Springs, Friendship (1941); Lake Placid, (1942); Trilby-Lacoochee (1945); Davenport-Dundee (1945); Lealman, St. Petersburg (1947); Edgewood, Ft. Myers (1949); Apalachicola (1951); Brandon (1956); Woodstock Park, Jacksonville (1958); Livingston Memorial, Jacksonville (1960); Fleming Street, Key West (1962); Tamiami Temple, Miami (1964); Grace, St. Petersburg (1965); disability, (1973).

In addition to serving his congregations faithfully, Sidney also served the Conference. For more than ten years he served as an Assistant Conference Statistician. After retirement he served as an assistant to the pastor of First Church, Tampa during communion and other special worship services.

Sidney died in Lakeland, FL, on February 26, 2001 secure in the faith that he was safe in God's hands. He is survived by his wife, Ruby and his son, Sidney, III; and a brother, Curtis, of Memphis, Tennessee. Funeral services were held at Lanier Funeral Home in Lakeland on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. He was buried in Roselawn Cemetery in Lakeland. Two officiating ministers were the Rev. Gordon Ralls and the Rev. Ray Finklea.

Submitted by the Rev. Gordon Ralls

## THOMAS WILLIAM WOODARD



Thomas William Woodard was born July 23, 1941. He was born in Gross Point, Michigan. His father was Thomas William Farron and his mother was Gloria Ann VanDeven. His adopted father's name was Gil Woodard. Tom received his high school diploma from Dundar High School in Royal Oak, Michigan. He attended Manatee Junior College and graduated December 15, 1977. He then attended the University of South Florida and graduated June 10, 1979. He received his Master of Divinity Degree from Emory University on June 14, 1982. Tom received his Deacon orders May 26, 1981 and Elders orders on May 21, 1984. He attended South Florida Center for Theological Studies and received his Doctor of Ministry, May 30, 1993. While attending the different colleges he pastored as a student pastor. His first appointment as a student was Myakka City United Methodist. While attending Emory he pastored two student appointments in North Georgia. His first full time appointment was Manatee United Methodist Church in Bradenton, Florida. After seven years there he was moved to Cutler Ridge United Methodist in Miami, Florida. In 1996, he came to pastor at Christ United Methodist in Lakeland, Florida.

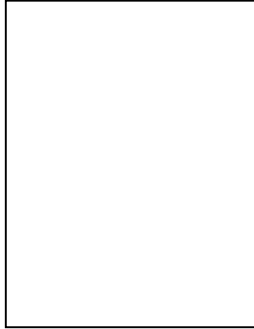
While in Bradenton he led several mission trips to Belize in Central America. The members of the mission team were from Manatee United Methodist Church, and with his leadership completed several work projects at schools and parsonages in Belize. While in Miami he also took a team to Belize and worked on a school. He had a love for mission and had a special relationship with the pastors in Belize.

On October 4, 1960, he married Betty L. Hindman. He had nine children: Gloria Ann Woodard, born January 31, 1962; Gail Alise Woodard Miglia born June 4, 1963; Thomas A. Woodard, born December 12, 1968. He and Betty also adopted Barbara Beckly, born June 12, 1968, Erna Christine Woodard, born June 17, 1969, Andrew and William Woodard, born December 1, 1991, and Samuel Woodard, born October 27, 1991. They have nine grandchildren. They also raised as their own Teya Saunders, born August 8, 1992. His love for family is more than words can say. Tom and Betty were also foster parents to many children throughout their marriage.

Tom pastored in Miami through Hurricane Andrew and the recovery process. It was a hard time for the church but he never missed having services, as well as serving as a food distribution location. Cutler Ridge United Methodist Church did not have electricity for one year after the hurricane; it was a very happy day when the rebuilding project was done.

Tom started cancer treatment in 1994 and went home to be with the Lord on September 18, 2000. His daughter, Gloria Woodard, preceded him in death on December 31, 1999. She also had cancer. Rev. James Sheffer officiated at his memorial service at Christ United Methodist Church, Lakeland.

## MILTON H. WYATT



Milton Hans Wyatt was born on September 21, 1902, in Bradenton, Florida. His parents were Matthew Hanstead Wyatt and Minnie Johnson Wyatt. Bradenton was his home throughout his years of growing up. He was a great grandson of William Wyatt, one of the first settlers of Manatee County.

Milton Wyatt graduated from Manatee High School in 1921. He continued his education at the University of Florida, graduating in 1925 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. At both institutions he was active in sports and campus organizations. His college diary records his early interest in the ministry and his regular attendance at Sunday school, church services, and prayer meetings. At some point he decided to spend his life in Christian service. He continued his education at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, where he received a Bachelor of Divinity Degree in 1927. Emory later upgraded this degree to Master of Divinity.

First Methodist Church, Bradenton, Florida, was the church where Milton Wyatt grew up, attended Sunday school, and joined the church. He was admitted to the Florida Conference on trial in 1927. He was ordained a deacon in 1929 and an elder in 1931. He was appointed to Wimauma and Ruskin in 1927; to Greensboro Circuit in 1929; to Havana in 1930; to Main Street, Jacksonville, in 1932; to Haines City in 1934; to Arcadia in 1937; to Avondale, Jacksonville, in 1939; to Winter Park in 1940; to Arcadia in 1942; to Quincy in 1945; to Riverside, Miami, in 1949; to Sanford in 1953; to Leesburg in 1957. He served the conference as Executive Secretary of the Board of Education from 1961 to 1967. His final appointment was to Fernandina Beach in 1967. He loved the ministry, and would gladly have continued until mandatory retirement age, but his wife was in declining health and needed a warmer climate than north Florida. He retired in 1969 to Bradenton, Florida, where he served for nine more years as Minister of Visitation at First United Methodist Church.

Milton Wyatt married Mary Anderson, daughter of Dean J. N. Anderson of the University of Florida, on January 6, 1928, in Gainesville, Florida. On October 6, 1929, a daughter, Nancy Jane, was born. This was a Sunday, and the excited new father called off services in one of his seven churches so that he could hurry to Gainesville to see his new daughter.

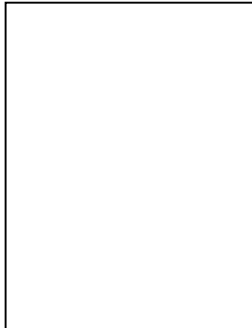
Milton and Mary Wyatt were married for 55 years. In 1982 they moved into Asbury Towers, a Continuing Care Retirement Community in Bradenton, within sight of the place where Milton spent his boyhood. Mary died in 1983. Milton continued to live in the Retirement Community, which provided him with companionship and increasing care as he needed it. In declining health for the last five years, he died peacefully on January 10, 2001, in the Health Center at Westminster Asbury Towers. A service of celebration of his life was held in First

United Methodist Church, Bradenton, with Rev. Richard Nussel and Rev. Howard Warren officiating. He is buried in Fogartyville Cemetery in Bradenton.

Submitted by Nancy Wyatt Ezzard

## **SPOUSES**

### **RUBY LEE HEAD ADAMS**



Ruby Lee Head Adams was born on April 13, 1920, to the late Mr. James Richard and Mrs. Lillie Mae Neal Head in Lamar County, Georgia. She is the granddaughter of the late Mr. Reuben and Mrs. Emily Thomas Head, and the late Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Laura Hammond Neal. Mrs. Adams is also the great granddaughter of the late Mr. George and Justine Thomas, the late Mr. Alexander and Martha Carter Neal, and the late Mr. John and Martha Barlow Hammond.

Mrs. Adams elementary education was in Lamar County public schools, and she completed her high school education at Booker T. Washington in Atlanta, Georgia. Mrs. Adams also studied at the Volusia County Community College.

Mrs. Adams married the late Rev. John H. "Adam" Adams, Jr. in January, 1943. This marriage lasted 53 years, and produced one son, the late Mr. Rubert Vonn Adams, Jr.

Mrs. Adams was a faithful and devoted wife to the late Rev. John H. Adams during his studies at Morehouse College and Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia. She was also a devoted mother and daughter. Her life centered around the Trinity (Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit) and her family.

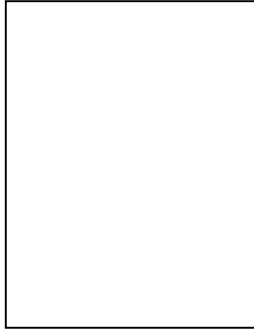
Mrs. Adams traveled extensively with her late husband. She has resided in Alabama, Illinois, and Florida. She and her late husband traveled to the Holy Land in the late 1970s or early 1980s.

Mrs. Adams has transitioned from this life to another on January 16, 2001. She will be missed by her grandson, Rubert Vonn Adams of Atlanta; two brothers, Johnny Head and Geneus Jefferson of Atlanta, and a host of nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews, and two great great nephews, and one great great niece.

Mrs. Adams spirit will remain with us forever. We love you!!

Submitted by the Head and Adams Families

## DORIS JOHNSON BUHRMAN



Doris was born in Dudley, Georgia, on February 20, 1910 to Arthur and Lucinda Johnson. Doris' father was a real estate broker, and the enticements of Florida's land boom led him to move the family to Lakeland in September of 1925. Doris flourished in Lakeland, making a number of friendships that would be resumed many years later when she returned to work for the Florida Conference. Her musical gifts enabled her to earn money playing the piano for silent movies in a Mulberry theater, and her athletic ability, displayed with her high school's basketball team, brought her all-state team recognition. This happy period came to a close when

the family returned to Macon, Georgia, in June, 1927. There, Doris enrolled in Wesleyan College and began formal, academic piano study.

1928 found the Johnson family in economic straits, and Mrs. Johnson decided to bring the family to Tampa, where she would find work as a seamstress, and where Doris would supplement the family's income by demonstrating sheet music for the customers of Kress Department Store. The Johnsons joined Tampa's Bayshore Methodist Church, where Doris played the piano and attracted the attention of its new minister, Asbury Ronk Buhrman; the attraction was mutual, and, in June, 1930, Ronk and Doris were married by his father, Rev. William P. Buhrman.

Ronk's and Doris's first son, Arthur Brice, was born in April, 1931, and in September, 1932, Ronk won a scholarship to Emory University Seminary. While Ronk studied theology at the Seminary, Doris audited other courses at the University; and when he toured the Wesley Chapel and Belmont circuits, she of course played the piano for their services. In December, 1934, they moved to Griffin, Georgia, where Ronk had been appointed minister of its Searcy Memorial Church.

Rejoining the Florida Conference in June, 1935, Ronk was appointed minister of the First Methodist Church of Palmetto. It was in September of their first year in this town that their second son, Charles Bacon, was born.

In January, 1938, Ronk was appointed Director of the Wesley Foundation in Gainesville, and Doris' role as a minister's wife expanded to include significant responsibilities as hostess of the students' "parsonage" and as planner and director of many substantial Foundation social activities and events. Nonetheless, she found time for classwork at the University, and secretarial study there led to her appointment as Secretary of Gainesville's First Methodist Church by its minister, Rev. Henry Blackburn.

Ronk and Doris and their family were sent to the Salem Methodist Church of Havana, Florida, in June, 1943, where Doris applied her organizational skills by planning and directing public school events and in helping Ronk develop

a more active youth program and a reinvigorated music program in the church. Her direction of summer Bible School programs was especially effective.

In June, 1945, the family moved to Arcadia, where Ronk assumed the ministry of its Trinity Methodist Church. It was in Arcadia, in March, 1947, that Ronk and Doris decided to enlarge their family by the adoption of a daughter, Margaret Lynn. Notwithstanding the renewed demands of family care, Doris resumed concentrated study of the piano and organ, and also found the time for active work with the youth of the Church and of the community.

June of 1948 saw the family move to St. Augustine, where Ronk became minister of its First Methodist Church. During their stay there, they took into their home, for a year, a German exchange student, under the sponsorship of the Society of Friends, and permanently, Doris' now ailing mother. Though burdened with concern and duty brought on by the declining health of her husband and daughter, as well as her mother, Doris' church support remained unabated.

Ronk Buhrman's final appointment, in June, 1952, was as minister of the Trinity Methodist Church of DeLand. Upon his untimely death that fall, Doris carried out his administrative duties until his replacement, Rev. Robert Blackburn, could be named by the conference. Trinity Church then, in recognition of Doris' abilities and commitment, and conscious of its own needs, hired her as its Secretary and Youth Director. Wider community recognition also resulted in her induction, in 1953, into the P.E.O. Sisterhood.

She held the DeLand Church positions until September, 1955, when she was invited to become Director of Religious Education at Christ Methodist of St. Petersburg by its minister, Rev. Paul Horton. In this position, she did outstanding work, extending her efforts to the youth choirs of the church for which she organized summer music camps.

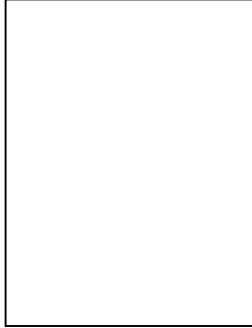
In July, 1963, Doris moved to Lakeland, having been appointed Circulation Manager of the Florida Edition of the *United Methodist Reporter*. In 1966 she became its Editor, and in 1967 her position was incorporated into the Conference Council. During the early 1970s, she assisted retired Bishop James Henley in the conduct of religious tours of the Holy Land and to the John Wesley environs of England.

Doris retired in March, 1976 and took up residence in a Conference-owned house in Lakeland. In November, 1995, she moved to Pinellas Park to be nearer to her sons, and a year later became a resident of Westminster Shores in St. Petersburg. Her residence there progressed slowly and sadly from private villa, to assisted living, to nursing facility, where, on December 3, 2000, she passed away at the age of 90.

Her surviving family, friends and church associates mitigate their sadness with reflection on her exemplary contributions and service to the United Methodist Church: as parishioner, musician, minister's wife, church secretary, youth leader, administrator, religious education director, and journalist.

Submitted by son, Arthur P. Buhrman

## **AUTUMN CICHON**



Autumn Cichon was the wife of the Rev. Ron Cichon, pastor of Lake Jackson United Methodist Church, Tallahassee.

The couple married June 1, 1996. She was killed in an automobile accident on April 4, 2001.

Autumn was the mother of three children: Warren, who preceded her in death at the age of 3, a son Dan Roddenberry, homicide investigator with the Florida Highway Patrol and Miami resident, and a daughter, Lisa Freeman of Jacksonville who is a registered nurse. She had four grandchildren.

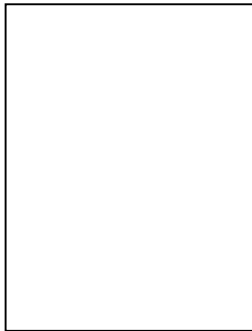
Over a 33-year period, she collected several honors during a distinguished career in Florida government, which included working in the Governor's Office for Governors Bob Graham, Wayne Mixson, Bob Martinez, and Lawton Chiles.

Autumn was a supportive pastor's wife and was beloved by her church family. She faithfully supported her husband's work with the Jim Russo Prison Ministries, attending numerous services in Florida's prisons.

She was 61 at the time of her death.

Submitted by Ron Cichon

## **JANE DIAZ de ARCE**



Beulah Jane Smith was born to the Rev. Henry Smith and his wife Beulah Vann Smith in Nicanor del Campo, Cuba on August 28, 1911. She lived in Cuba until Mr. Smith's poor health necessitated the family's return to the United States in the fall of 1923. The family settled in Siloam Springs, Arkansas, until Mr. Smith's death in March of 1924. Jane, her mother and her sister then relocated to Conway, Arkansas where Jane completed high school in 1930 and went on to Hendrix College from which she received her BA Degree in 1933. She taught in the public school system in Arkansas before feeling God's calling her to a ministry of service. In 1938 she went to Scarritt College in Nashville from which she received the Master of Christian Education degree in 1940.

She was a deaconess working in the Wesley Settlement House in Chattanooga, Tennessee, when she felt God calling her to return to her native land. She went to work as a teacher in the mission field in Cuba. It was there that she met the Rev. Luis O Diaz de Arce, a pastor in the Cuba Annual Conference. They were wed on June 24, 1943 at the First Methodist Church, in Miami, Florida. Four children were born to this marriage, all of whom have survived her: Marie Jane Kennedy, Luis Henry Dias de Arce, Ana Celia Garcia,

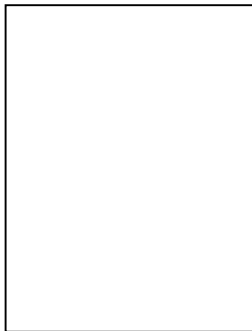
Carlos Augusto Diaz de Arce. In addition to her spouse, children and children-in-law, Jane is survived by twelve grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Jane worked in Cuba as a teacher and volunteered as a church pianist and organist until the family was forced to emigrate in September of 1960. She continued her service to the church in this country working alongside her husband in the churches he pastored. After Luis retired, she continued to serve as a church organist and pianist until ill health forced her to completely retire in 1997.

She died July 5, 2000, surrounded by her spouse, children and several grandchildren, at Susanna Wesley Health Center in Hialeah where she had been living since March, 2000. Funeral services were held July 8, 2000 at Tamiami United Methodist Church with Chaplain Emilio Chaviano and the Revs. Abel Rodriguez and Daniel Garcia officiating. Her remains were buried at Dade South Memorial Park, Miami.

Submitted by daughter, Ana Diaz deArce Garcia

### **MIRIAM GELZER-GOVATOS**



Miriam Gelzer-Govatos was born in Elat, Cameroun on November 15, 1953 to David and Elizabeth Gelzer, missionaries of the Presbyterian Church USA.

Miriam's association with the mission field provided her with many experiences abroad, including a meeting with Heile Selasi, the former Emperor of Ethiopia.

After attending high school in Egypt, Ethiopia, and England, Miriam attended university in Aix en Provence, France and the College of Wooster (Ohio), from which she received a Bachelor's Degree (1975).

Miriam went on to attend Yale Divinity School (M.Div. 1978; STM 1979) and was ordained by the Presbyterian Church USA in July of 1979.

Miriam married Jim Govatos on August 26, 1978. Upon the completion of his M.Div. at Yale Divinity School, the couple traveled to Australia where they pastored churches of the United Church in Australia for nearly 10 years. Her wider church responsibilities included the development of support groups for women and a key role on the planning commission for the Synod of Victoria.

Upon their return to the United States in 1989, Miriam returned to school at the University of Michigan where she earned a Masters of Information Science in Archives. In addition to her job as a full time mother, Miriam served as a branch librarian for the Port Huron, MI, library system.

Miriam moved to Florida when her husband, Jim, received an appointment to Indian River City Church in Titusville. Shortly after her arrival, she developed a rare form of cancer, which claimed her life on September 11, 2000.

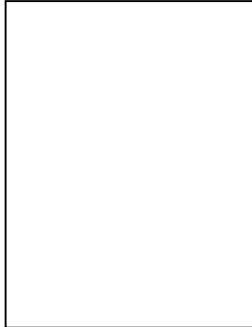
Miriam is survived by her husband, the Rev. Jim Govatos, a daughter, Phoebe Gelzer-Govatos, a son, Asher Gelzer-Govatos, her parents, two brothers



and two sisters. She is also survived by many spiritual children whom she led to the Lord and discipled.

Submitted by Jim Govatos & family

## **MARIE BEAMAN HOLMES**



Marie Beaman Holmes, wife of Robert Collier Holmes, a member of the Florida Methodist Conference for seventy years, was born in Troy, North Carolina, on October 6, 1902. She was the daughter of Griffin Scofield and Matt Hurley Beaman. She graduated from Troy High School and enrolled at Guilford College, Guilford College, North Carolina.

While at Guilford, Marie was a campus leader: a star of the campus musicals, a tennis champion, as well as a most exuberant cheerleader, her red hair most recognizable at most Guilford athletic events. Marie Beaman graduated from Guilford College in 1924, and later attended Bryn Mar College in Bryn Mar, Pennsylvania for one year.

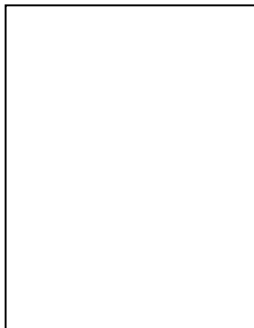
Marie taught in several North Carolina schools before accepting a temporary position at Dunedin, Florida, where she met the new Methodist minister, R. C. Holmes, and spent the next seventy years in Florida. They were married on the steps of her home in Troy, on October 4, 1930, by her uncle Reverend Sherman Beaman, a Methodist minister in the Western North Carolina Conference.

Upon Dr. Holmes retirement in 1966, the Holmes moved to Lakeland, where he organized and directed the Florida Foundation and Marie became active in the church and community life of Lakeland. She and Dr. Holmes were members of College Heights Methodist Church; she was past president of the W Chapter of P. E. O. and an active member of the garden and antique clubs. She graciously opened her home for social events, benefiting church and civic groups. This home, which they built in Lakeland upon retirement, has been given to Florida Southern College, where Dr. Holmes was an active fund-raiser and member of the Board of Trustees for over fifty years.

Marie Beaman Holmes died on December 27, 2000, at age ninety-eight, almost four years after Dr. Holmes. She remained in her own home, gracious and generous until her death. She was buried beside her husband in Quincy, Florida, a charge that had been very close to both their hearts.

Submitted by Beaman Griffin

## LAURA A. KOONS



Laura A. Koons died Monday, February 12, 2001, at her daughter's home in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Born at the family farm near Westerville, Ohio, on July 8, 1905, she was the first born child of L. Hadley Conklin and Myrtle Clymer Conklin. A graduate of Westerville High School and Marion College, she taught for thirty years in school systems in Ohio. Laura was a gifted teacher and taught Sunday school classes for children in Ohio and, in retirement, led the adult class at the First United Methodist Church of Madison. Her first husband, Edwin L. Ambrose, two brothers, Dean Wesley Conklin and Joseph Hadley Conklin, and her second husband of almost twenty years, the Rev. Arthur F. Koons, predeceased Laura in death.

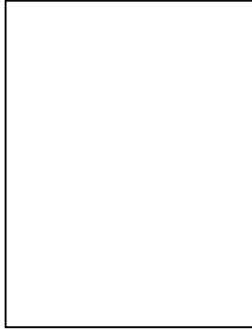
Laura and Arthur, married in 1965, served as a United Methodist pastoral couple in Wellborn, Hilliard, Lee and Hickory Grove and chose to retire in nearby Madison, Florida. As retirees, they enjoyed traveling in their motor home, being active church members and participating in many community organizations. Laura received a Volunteer of the Year award from the Madison Public Schools for her volunteer work as a reading tutor. Following Arthur's death in 1984, Laura remained in Madison, enjoying her "church family", friends and neighbors until 1998 when she came to Ann Arbor to live with her daughter (Gene) and son-in-law, Donald Bennion. At ninety-five she enjoyed conversation with family and friends, attending weddings and reunions, music following politics, and hearing good sermons until her death, quietly at home in Ann Arbor on Monday, February 12, 2001.

Laura is survived by three beloved sisters: Faye Conley of Elmira, NY, Frieda Bennett of Westerville, Ohio, and Helen Hunsberger of Bellevue, WA. Surviving grandchildren include David Handley Bennion, Salt Lake City, Elizabeth Bennion Turba (Andrew) South Bend, Indiana, and Rebecca Bennion Callebs (Steven) of Canton, Michigan, and great grandchildren, Phoebe Kay Callebs and Hadley Benjamin Callebs of Canton. Six nieces and six nephews and their children and grandchildren also survive her. Additional survivors include two stepdaughters, Lois Scott (Fred) of Piqua, Ohio, Delores Fowler (Robert) of Westerville, Ohio, and stepson Ed Koons (Darlene) of Carmichael, California, and their children and grandchildren including her namesake, Laura Bethany Schaefer of Piqua, Ohio.

A memorial service was held at the First United Methodist Church in Ann Arbor, MI., on February 17. The interment ceremony occurred at the historic mausoleum of Otterbein Cemetery in Westerville, Ohio, on May 26. A Celebration of Life service is planned for June 6, at the First United Methodist Church of Madison. We give thanks, Creator God, for Laura's courage, faith-based strength, grace, and gift of joy. We offer praise and thanksgiving for the life, spirit, and ministry of your loving disciple, Laura A. Koons.

Submitted by Gene Bennion

## **LOTTIE VIRGINIA IRVING MCPHERSON**



Lottie Virginia Irving was born December 7, 1908 in Gainesville, Florida to James and Marie Haile Irving. She graduated from Bethune-Cookman College in 1938 with a Normal Diploma (High School). She then attended Tuskegee Institute, graduating August 9, 1946 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education. She received her Masters of Arts Degree in Education from Columbia University on December 16, 1953. She was the first principal of Duval Elementary School in Gainesville, Florida, in 1938-39.

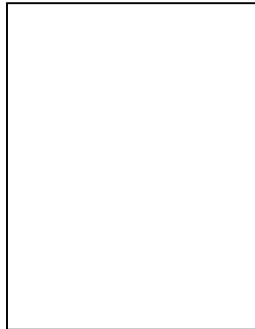
Lottie Virginia Irving was joined in Holy Matrimony to the late Reverend Thomas Benjamin McPherson on June 29, 1937. Their union was blessed by the birth of three children, Virginia McPherson Hayes, David L. McPherson and Walter McPherson.

Mrs. McPherson was a member of Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church for more than 75 years. She always attended and enjoyed Sunday school as a pupil, teacher and musician. She was a member of the choir, a trustee and the Senior Home Mission Society until her health would no longer permit.

On Sunday, August 13, 2000, at approximately 10:25 PM, she slipped away due to cancer. Going Home Celebration was held on Friday, August 18, 2000 at 4:00 PM at the Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church. Interment was at Forest Meadows East Memorial Park, Gainesville, Florida, Rev. Thomas A. Wright, officiating.

Submitted by her daughter, Virginia McPherson Hayes

## **JOSIE LOUISE PIERCE**



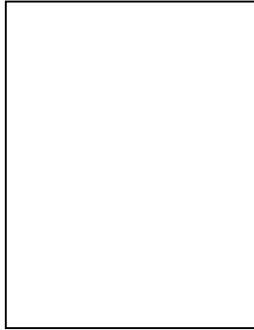
Josie Pierce was born December 21, 1914, in Cedar Key, FL. She moved to Chiefland in 1972. She joined Eugene Pierce in holy matrimony, who preceded her in death on April 9, 1979.

She was a member of Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church of Chiefland, FL where she was the pianist, assistant church secretary, member of the deaconess and Minister Wives Association under her health began to fail her.

Mrs. Pierce closed her eyes into rest on March 22, 2001, at Ayers Rehab Center of Trenton, FL..

Mrs. Pierce is survived by her nephew, Johnnie Browning, Jr. (Valda), Lakeland, FL; three great nephews: William Leon Browning, Lakeland, FL, Johnnie Browning III, Lakeland, FL and Tony Browning (Patricia), NH; her cousin, Carrie B. Winberly, Chiefland, FL and a host of other caring and loving cousins and friends.

## ETHEL ROOSEVELT LILES ROOKS



Ethel Roosevelt Liles Rooks was born in Bailey, North Carolina on January 16, 1913. Her father was Percy Lee Liles and her mother was Minnie Leigh Ruffin Liles.

She graduated from Bailey High School in 1930, and that fall entered Campbell College in Dunn, North Carolina. After two years, she transferred to Meredith College in Raleigh, North Carolina, where she studied for a year. In June of 1961 she resumed her studies, and was awarded an AB degree in June, 1962.

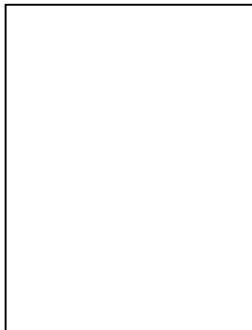
Ethel joined the Methodist Church in Bailey, North Carolina in 1920. She was an active church member all her life.

On August 31, 1939, Ethel married Reverend John James Rooks, and joined him in his pastorate at Trinity Methodist Church in St. Petersburg, Florida. During this time, she bore their children, John James Rooks, Jr., MD. on November 22, 1941, and Marianne Rooks on September 28, 1944. At Trinity Methodist, and at all subsequent churches John served, Ethel was active in relief activities, Sunday School teaching, teacher training, and Women's Society of Christian Service.

Ethel died the night of August 11, 2000, over four years after she was stricken with a severe, disabling cerebral hemorrhage. A Memorial Service was conducted for her on August 19, 2000, in the Auditorium of Carpenter's Home Estates in Lakeland, Florida. Rev. William Oakley, pastor of College Heights United Methodist Church in Lakeland, Florida, officiated. Dorothy Ally, Phyllis Bozeman, Dr. J. James Rooks, Rev. John F. Few, Rev. Eugene Rutland, Rev. Caxton Doggett, Dr. Melton Ware and Rev. William Fisakerly contributed to the program.

Submitted by daughter, Marianne Rooks

## HAZEL NAOMI WILFONG



Hazel Naomi Hamrick Wilfong, daughter of George Burton Hamrick and Daisy Romaine Freeman Hamrick, was born in Gypsey, West Virginia, on April 2, 1916.

Her first church membership was the Rivesville Church of the United Brethren in Christ which her parents founded and built. Mrs. Wilfong carried water for the cement when she was a child. The stained glass windows were also given by the Hamricks and are still enjoyed by the church which is now the Rivesville United Methodist Church.

She attended schools in the Fairmont, WV area. Since married women weren't allowed to continue their schooling in that era, Mrs. Wilfong continued her schooling at home and received her GED in 1963. She also graduated from the Lighthouse for the Blind in Tampa in 1989.

On May 6, 1933, she married Leslie Howard Wilfong in New Salem, PA. Their only child, Hazel Joanne (Sue) Wilfong Starford, was born August 31, 1938. Mrs. Starford resides in Deer Lodge, MT. Two grandsons, Bruce Wilfong Starford of Lutz, FL, and Brian Scott Starford of Brandon, FL, and one great grandson, Keith Wilfong Starford, also survive.

Mr. Wilfong was ordained in the Church of the United Brethren in Christ in 1943, the Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1946, and the United Methodist Church in 1962. (He followed in the footsteps of his father, the Rev. Lester N. Wilfong who also was ordained in these churches).

They served pastorates in: Arden, WV, 1940-41; Buckhannon, WV, 1942-48; Weston, WV, 1948-54; Monessen, PA, 1954-55; White Springs, FL, 1955-61; Riverview, FL, 1962-71; Retired, 1971; Port Tampa, FL, 1971-74; Grace, Plant City, FL, 1974-77; Nebraska Avenue, Tampa, FL, 1977-82; Seminole Heights, Tampa, FL, 1982-85.

Rev. Wilfong continued to serve churches as needed and conducted funerals and weddings until his death May 9, 1996. The Wilfongs celebrated 63 years of marriage.

Mrs. Wilfong died November 2, 2000, at Lakeshore Villas Extended Care facility in Tampa. She donated her body to the University of Florida Shands Memorial Teaching Hospital in Gainesville as did Rev. Wilfong, in the hope of helping others through their gifts. A memorial service was held November 19, 2000, at St. John's United Methodist Church in Tampa officiated by the Rev. Gary Beam of St. John's United Methodist Church; the Rev. Jay Goforth of Community United Methodist Church in Daytona Beach, and the Rev. Ted Sauter of North Naples United Methodist Church.

Submitted by Sue Starford, daughter

## MARY MAXINE WILLIAMS



Mary Maxine Williams was born in Capon Bridge, West Virginia, on May 24, 1914. She was the daughter of Harry Aljourn & Drucilla Alice Jolley Sirvaugh.

She was a very loyal Methodist, loved music, loved to travel, loved animals. Originally from West Virginia, she was a stenographer in the Navy Dept. in Washington D.C. during WWII, where she met her first husband Ben Reddick, who was from Florida. After the war, they were glad to leave the snow country.

Upon moving to Florida, she became active in the Grace United Methodist Church, Tampa. They then

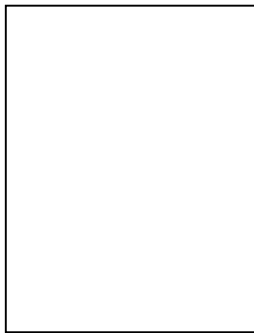
moved to Thonotosassa United Methodist Church where she was president of UMW three different times.

After the death of Mr. Reddick, she remained actively involved in the church. On January 6, 1980, Maxine married the Rev. W. Ray Williams who was her former pastor. The Rev. James Harvester married the couple in the Thonotassassa church.

Mrs. Williams suffered from Alzheimer's disease and was placed in an assisted living facility in Brandon in July of 1999. She passed away on July 17, 2000.

Services were held at Thonotassassa United Methodist Church with the Rev. Dennis Roebuck and James Harvester officiating. Burial was at the Garden of Memories Cemetery, Tampa, FL.

### **NELLIE B. GARDNER WILLIAMS**



Mrs. Nellie B. Gardner Williams was born May 4, 1915 in Albany, Georgia, the youngest of five children born to Joseph and Mattie Clark Gardner. She was the devoted wife of the late Reverend Handy G. Williams, Sr. On Wednesday, January 10, 2001, Mrs. Williams was called to transition from life to life eternal.

Mrs. Williams attended Clark College and Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia. She was a resident of East Palatka, Florida, for over fifty years. She was a woman of faith known for her generosity, love for her church, love for her community, her love for the least of these, and her unswerving commitment to raising her family.

Mrs. Williams is survived by her sister, Mrs. Ella Grace Whitfield of Jacksonville, Florida; seven children: Gloria W. Willis of Atlanta, Georgia, Nellie W. Bryant (James Byant) of Accoquan, Virginia, Joseph Gardner Williams of Jacksonville, Florida, Reverend Geraldine McClellan (Richard A. McClellan, Sr.) of Gainesville, Florida, Kappitola E. Williams of Atlanta, Georgia, Cynthia W. Curry (Garland Curry) of Miami, Florida, and Colonel Thomas W. Williams (Darlene Williams) of Ft. Belvoir, Virginia; seventeen grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren; and many adoring nieces and nephews, cousins and friends.

Mrs. Williams stood as a solid rock in the lives of her children, as she steered them through turbulent times, after the death of her husband in 1961. There were times when it seemed to be no way out, but for the grace of God she did not become dismayed, she stood firm. The strength that we witnessed in her was not her own, but that of an awesome God.

"Mama", "honey", "doll baby", as she was affectionately called by her children is gone in body, but her spirit is as strong as the earth that feeds us, the water that cleanses us, and the wind that refreshes us from the North, South, East and West. When we think of mama now, we think of her wings gently

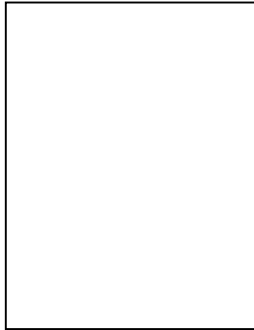
pushing us onward and upward as we prepare to meet her in the New Jerusalem.

Thank God for the memories of life and love shared with this loved one, so near and dear, now hidden from our eyes, but for a moment. We thank God for days and months and years, long or short, for they seem so brief now; and we thank Him for the shortness between today and tomorrow.

For tomorrow there will be sunrise and we shall be there with them and with Him, whose victory is love and who deserves all honor and glory.

Submitted by daughter, Geraldine W. McClellan

### **MIRIAM C. D. WYRICK**



Miriam Wyrick was born September 29, 1900k in Tyrone, Pennsylvania. She with her husband served at Lealman, Gainesville, Hernando, Cedar Key, Boca Grande, Parrish, Cork and Pinetta United Methodist Churches. She passed away on September 2, 2000, in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Submitted by her family