

# Part V

## MEMOIRS\*

### CELEBRATION OF REMEMBRANCE OF THESE FAITHFUL SERVANTS

<b>Name</b>		<b>Date of Death</b>
	<b>Honorary</b>	
Bishop Joel Duncan McDavid		January 8, 2003
	<b>Ministers</b>	
Linwood Stevenson		May 18, 2002
Walter Weber (Local Pastor)		June 2, 2002
Albert Dale Hagler		July 13, 2002
Leroy Elbert Northrup (Local Pastor)		July 15, 2002
Robert Henry Fox		August 21, 2002
Harry Mays Middlebrooks		September 25, 2002
James Francis Tynan Sr.		September 23, 2002
Sergio Anthony Jardon		September 27, 2002
Howard Maureice Felton		November 29, 2002
Barbara Hill Odom (Associate Member)		December 4, 2002
John Boyd Gill Jr.		December 21, 2002
Thomas Howren Norton Sr.		January 9, 2003
Wallace H. Smith (Local Pastor)		January 17, 2003
William Arthur Rountree		February 1, 2003
Roger Fisher Shively (Associate Member)		February 14, 2003
William Goddard Sherman, Jr.		February 26, 2003
Fred William Foster (Associate Member)		March 6, 2003
Vernice Jasper Ragsdale		March 21, 2003
Christian William August Bredemeier		March 26, 2003
	<b>Spouses</b>	
Inez Ruth Jackson Hamilton		April 12, 2001
May Dyal McKinley		April 25, 2002
Minola Koestline		August 9, 2002
Neil Craig Brooks		October 17, 2002
Victoria Peake Standifer		October 27, 2002
Alice Wallendorf Cleveland Nelson		November 22, 2002

Virginia Queen	November 24, 2002
Elizabeth Thrash Brady	December 16, 2002
Gladys Sobrinah Ward Myer	December 23, 2002
Jean Seifert Hayes	December 26, 2002
Ann Hobson Hinshaw	December 29, 2002
Ruthie “Arlyne” Tarpley Chapman	January 20, 2003
Joyce Brown	February 17, 2003
Catherine Louise Cobb Sexton	February 28, 2003
Martha Carolyn Whipple Adams Andrews	March 15, 2003

\*Guidelines for writing memoirs can be found in the “Reports” section under Committee on Memoirs.



## JOEL DUNCAN MCDAVID

Joel Duncan McDavid was born June 10, 1916, in Georgetown, Alabama, the son of Harry Evander McDavid and Ola McCaskill McDavid. He graduated from Murphy High School in 1932; from United Methodist-related Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi, in 1938; and from Candler School of Theology in 1941. He did graduate study at Boston School of Theology. His honorary degrees came from Birmingham Southern College, Florida Southern College, Millsaps College, Emory University, and Bethune-Cookman College.

He married Milah Gibson on August 29, 1942. They had three children: Ben Albert McDavid, born June 3, 1945, now of Montgomery, Alabama; Joel Gibson McDavid, born June 7, 1948, now of Panama City, Florida;

and Karen McDavid Beville, born December 5, 1951, now of Mobile, Alabama.

He died January 8, 2003, from a massive stroke.

McDavid had been serving as bishop in residence at Dauphin Way United Methodist Church in Mobile, Alabama. On the evening of January 7 he was standing at the kitchen sink with Milah when he suffered the stroke. He died later at a local hospital. Just the day before, he had given the devotional at Dauphin Way's staff meeting. The bishop's wife and their three children were at his side when he died, as was his nephew, the Reverend Neil McDavid. Other survivors include six grandchildren and a great-granddaughter. "I just loved him dearly," said South Georgia Bishop Mike Watson. "He was such a wonderful friend."

He was admitted on trial and ordained deacon in the Alabama (now Alabama-West Florida) Conference in 1944 and ordained deacon and admitted to full connection in 1946. He served Grand Bay from 1946 to 1949; Toulminville from 1948 to 1950; Auburn from 1950 to 1958; First, Montgomery, from 1958 to 1966; and Dauphin Way from 1966 to 1972.

Elected bishop in 1972, McDavid was appointed to the Florida Area, where he served eight years. In 1980 he was assigned to the Atlanta Area, which he led for four years. That area, later divided into two episcopal areas, covered the entire state of Georgia.

Following his retirement from the episcopacy in 1984, he served as bishop in residence at United Methodist-related Candler School of Theology in Atlanta for eight years before becoming bishop in residence at Dauphin Way at the invitation of Watson, who was then the church's senior pastor. Both men were elected to the episcopacy from Dauphin Way, Watson becoming bishop in 2000. McDavid's nephew, the Reverend Neil McDavid, is Dauphin Way's current pastor.

McDavid was instrumental in helping establish the Frank Sherman Scholarships at Candler School of Theology, which Watson said was "one of the most significant things that's happened at Emory (University) for student financial aid." He also was a force in starting the Simpsonwood Conference and Retreat Center near Atlanta, said the Reverend Herschel Sheets, a retired pastor in the North Georgia Conference. He served on the Board of Global Ministries, the Board of Discipleship, and

the Board of Higher Education and also held numerous other church, civic, and academic leadership posts.

His funeral was held at Dauphin Way on January 10, 2003. Bishop Charlene Kammerer and the Reverend Neil McDavid conducted the service. He was buried at Pine Crest Cemetery.

Submitted by Milah McDavid



### **CHRISTIAN WILLIAM AUGUST BREDEMEIER**

*Words without action are meaningless. Faith without works to help others is no faith at all.* These are some of the many lessons taught by the Reverend C. W. A. Bredemeier.

Born May 8, 1908, in Hamlin, Germany, to Heinrich August Bredemeier and Luise Friedarika Waltke, Christian William August Bredemeier came to the United States when he was nineteen years old. He received a bachelor's degree from Tampa University and attended Nyack (New York) Seminary. He was licensed to preach in the Florida Conference of the United Brethren Church in 1934 and ordained elder in 1935.

His Florida appointments were Carman Avenue, Tampa, 1933-37, and Limona, Brandon, 1937-42 and 1951-57. He was also superintendent of the Florida Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren Church, 1951-57. He founded Crystal Beach Community Church in 1957 and served as its pastor until his retirement in 1975. In 1957 he also established Faith Mission and Sunset Lodge, Crystal Beach, to provide affordable housing and assisted living in a Christian setting for the low income elderly and disabled. He ran it until 1999. In addition, he served Calvary Evangelical United Brethren Church in Chicago, 1942-51. For twenty years he was chaplain at Helen Ellis Memorial Hospital, Tarpon Springs, Florida. He belonged to First United Methodist Church of Tarpon Springs, the Crystal Beach Community Church, and the Tarpon Springs Rotary Club.

His first wife, Margaret Markert, died of cancer in 1969. In 1971 he married Frances (Scruggs) Paulk. He is survived by her, as well as by his daughter, Betty Earle Huffman, Allentown, Pennsylvania; step-daughter, Virginia Paulk Gardner, Arlington Heights, Illinois; stepson, Dr. Michael E. Paulk, Tempe, Arizona; sister, Irmgard Leistner, Minden, Germany; four grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

The Reverend Mr. Bredemeier passed from this life on Wednesday, March 26, 2003, at Mease Dunedin Hospital. The funeral service was held on March 31, 2003, with the Reverend Dr. James Bradley officiating. Interment was at Sylvan Abbey Cemetery.

He was remembered by his students, his parishioners, and his friends in this way:

*We remember Rev. Bredemeier with love and affection. He was a mentor, a pastor, a friend. We remember his gentle and affirming manner and his constant presence in our lives. We*

*remember a man of God who reflected to us in his words and life the spirit of Christ, our Lord.* –  
The Reverend Charles Swadley

*With affection and honor, we pray God's eternal love for the Bredemeier family.* –  
Signed by persons who were children in the Reverend Bredemeier's Sunday school classes.

Because of C.W.A. Bredemeier, many young people became active in, and remain anchored in, the Crystal Beach Community Church, Sunday school, and youth group. They have grown into teachers, builders, doctors, pastors, and most importantly loving, kind, and caring people who live their lives helping others.

All that a person does in this life to help others—that is the legacy we each will one day leave for others—how we will be remembered and looked upon by God. The Reverend Christian William August Bredemeier touched and influenced the lives of many. His legacy is great and will live on forever. He is now with our Lord Jesus and God in eternal glory and life everlasting.

Submitted by Virginia Paulk Gardner



#### **HOWARD MAURIECE FELTON**

Howard Mauriece Felton was born in Key West, Florida, on October 1, 1916, to Mamie Gates Felton and Thomas Felton. The immediate cause of his death on November 29, 2002, in Lakeland, Florida, was double pneumonia, which occurred as a complication of a massive stroke in February of 2002 and throat cancer, which was diagnosed in August of 2002.

Mauriece was the youngest of eight children. He graduated from Florida Southern College in 1938 and received his master of divinity degree from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in 1941.

With joy Mauriece entered into the fulfillment of his ministry of the gospel of Christ. He was admitted on trial into the Florida Conference in 1940. He was ordained a deacon in 1941 and an elder in 1942. His thirty-seven years of service included East Madison Circuit, 1940; associate, Trinity, Tallahassee, 1941; Cross City, 1942; volunteer in the United States Navy, Chaplain Corps, 1943 until the end of the war. He returned to the Florida Conference and served churches in Venice-Englewood, 1946; College Park, Orlando, 1947; Palatka, 1952; Mount Dora, 1953; First, Hialeah, 1956; Arlington, Jacksonville, 1960; First, Vero Beach, 1962; First, Ormond Beach, 1965; and First, Fort Lauderdale, 1973. He took a sabbatical after a heart attack in 1974 and retired in 1977. Mauriece served as secretary of the annual conference from 1967 to 1973.

Mauriece was baptized at Fleming Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in Key West; his first church membership was at the Tavernier Methodist Episcopal Church, South, on Key Largo.

On May 11, 1939, Maurice married Carolyn David Tyson Yates. The marriage ended with Carolyn's death in May of 1990.

On March 6, 1992, he married Wanda Bresee Pope.

Maurice is survived by his wife, Wanda, and daughters: Ann Carolyn Gore Hunkins of Cleveland, Ohio, born March 21, 1943; Linda Jean McCreless of Hartford, Connecticut, born August 18, 1946; and Maureen Lee Marcus Miller of Atlanta, Georgia, born April 14, 1950; and two grandchildren, as well as two step-daughters, Jane Pope Cleary of Escondido, California, and Gail Pope Soldavini of Walnut Creek, California.

Maurice was a delightful gentleman with a wonderful sense of humor. He possessed a kind and gentle spirit, full of love for his fellow men and women. He was a person of absolute integrity, fun loving, genuine, unpretentious, and very generous to worthwhile endeavors.

A memorial service was held at the First United Methodist Church in Lakeland on December 3, 2002. Officiating were the Reverend Charlie Reeb, the Reverend Melton Ware, and the Reverend Riley Short. Burial was at Oak Hill Cemetery in Lakeland, Florida.

Submitted by Wanda Pope Felton

### **FRED WILLIAM FOSTER**



neighbor children and a few nephews when needed. They owned and operated greenhouses and a floral shop in Assumption until 1953, when they moved to Florida because of Rosetta's health.

Fred completed his Course of Study from Emory University and was ordained a deacon in the Florida Conference in 1964 and an elder in 1966. He became an associate member of the conference in 1969. During his active ministry he served the Enterprise, Oxford, and Hillsborough churches. After retiring to his home in Oxford in 1979, he continued to serve where needed, including Center Hill, Oxford, Lady Lake, and Sumterville. At one point he was serving three churches a Sunday.

In April 1993 Fred unofficially retired again and married Ann Harney of Oxford. They spent ten happy years together enjoying gardening, flea marketing, and traveling until his death. Fred went home to be with the Lord he loved on Thursday, March 6, 2003, after three years of illness. His funeral service was held at Oxford United

Methodist Church on Sunday, March 9, 2003, with the Reverend Dr. Jim Gayler officiating, assisted by the Reverend Larry Harper (grandson-in-law) of Georgia, the Reverend Pete Peterson of Summerfield, and the Reverend Bob Soka of Oxford. He was laid to rest at Pine Level Cemetery in Oxford.

Survivors are his wife, Ann; son, Wilfred William Foster (64) of North Palm Beach, Florida; daughters Mildred Rosetta LaVeigne (65) of Oxford, Florida, and Mary Sylvia Straub (62) of Crestwood, Kentucky; thirteen grandchildren and nineteen great-grandchildren; one sister; and many nieces and nephews. One son, Theodore Arthur Foster, preceded him in death in 1983 at the age of 47.

Throughout his life, Fred never met a stranger and with his quick wit had a story for any occasion. He was loved by family and friends because of the love of Christ he shared with all. From a very young age he placed others before himself and was always willing and ready to help when needed. He didn't know the word NO!

Submitted by the Fred Foster family



### **ROBERT HENRY FOX**

Robert Henry Fox was born on November 8, 1934, in Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania. After moving to Bartow, Florida, in 1947, he graduated from Summerlin Institute (now Bartow High School) in 1952. He was called to ministry while at the Methodist Youth Camp in Leesburg in 1951. He received a bachelor's degree in speech and drama from Asbury College in 1956 and a M.Div. from Candler School of Theology in 1960.

He married Edythe Irene Smith of Hamilton, Ohio, on June 8, 1957. Their first child, Gregory Mark, who was profoundly retarded, died in 1986. Their other children are Jonathan Scott, who is married to Peggy Hollis of Leesburg, and Wendy Laurel of the Naples area.

There are three granddaughters.

Bob was admitted into the Florida Conference on trial in 1958, ordained deacon in 1959, and ordained elder and admitted to full connection in 1961. His appointments included Lady Lake, 1961-62, during which time he organized Christ United Methodist Church in Leesburg, which he served in 1963; First, Clearwater, associate, 1963-66; North Ft. Myers, 1966-71; First, Brooksville, 1971-77; First, Kissimmee, 1977-85; First, Naples, 1985-91; and superintendent of the Leesburg District, 1991-98. After retirement in 1998, he served as part-time director of Operation Evangelization and as interim superintendent of the Orlando District. He served on many district and conference boards, agencies, and work areas and was a trustee of the Florida United Methodist Children's Home.

Always interested in missions, Bob shared his vision with his congregations. He made a number of mission trips and was committed to the United Methodist Volunteers



in Mission program. He also challenged the churches of the Leesburg District to become involved in the Russia Initiative program.

Children and youth were a special interest to him. He developed one of the most extensive confirmation programs for youth to be offered in the conference, including a weekend retreat at St. Simon's Island, Georgia, where he portrayed John Wesley. He began senior citizens' groups in each church he served.

A unique aspect of Bob's ministry was the first-person sermon dramas he presented in costume, freely moving through the congregation. He portrayed ten or twelve Biblical characters.

Always active in community service, Bob organized a class for retarded young adults in Clearwater. In 1972, while serving in Brooksville, he was awarded the Hernando County Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award for his efforts in organizing the Hernando County Association for Retarded Citizens, calling a town meeting to discuss a nursing home for the community, and developing a forum for discussing the drug situation among teenagers. In Kissimmee he spearheaded the formation of a hospice group and introduced his congregation to Project 5000, which provides food to families. The project, recognized with a Walt Disney Community Service Award, spread to churches throughout Florida.

Bob faced his death "with the firm assurance that the best is yet to be." He died on August 21, 2002. A service of celebration was held at Morrison United Methodist Church in Leesburg on August 30, 2002, with the Reverend Barry Lane and the Reverend Jodi Hopkins, pastors of the church, officiating. Bishop H. Hasbrouck Hughes, Bishop Timothy W. Whitaker, and the Reverends Lee Pearson, Delmas Copeland, Harry Baas, and E. Keith Ewing also participated.

Submitted by Edy Fox

### **JOHN BOYD GILL JR.**



The Reverend John Boyd Gill Jr. was born on May 22, 1918, in Monticello, Florida, the first of two children of John Boyd and Emmala Mays Gill. After growing up in North Florida, Georgia, and Alabama, John attended Marion Institute, a military preparatory school in Alabama. It was his family's dream that John pursue a military career, following in the footsteps of his first cousin, Colin Kelly, the first United States hero of the Pacific Theater in World War II. John quickly realized, however, that a military career was not God's will for his life. In 1936, at eighteen years of age, he answered God's call to the ordained ministry, and while still eighteen he was licensed to preach by the Tallahassee District of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

After earning an A. B. degree from Florida Southern College and an M. Div. from Emory's Candler School of Theology, he was received into the Florida Conference on trial and ordained deacon in 1942. He was admitted in full connection and ordained elder



in 1944. During World War II, John served three years as a navy chaplain--in San Diego, the South Pacific, and the Panama Canal Zone--before returning to ministry in Florida.

On December 2, 1945, John was married to Esther Rae Whitmore of Lakeland, Florida, the daughter of Walter and Bertha Whitmore. The wedding was held at Esther's home church, College Heights Methodist Church, in Lakeland. They reared four children.

John and Esther faithfully pastored churches, both large and small, throughout the Florida Conference: Trilby-Lacoochee; Homeland-Alturas; First, Naples; First, Wauchula; First Kissimmee; Community, Belle Glade; First, Dunedin; Grace, Saint Augustine; First, Homestead; First, Perry; Lockhart, Orlando; Davie; Epperson Memorial, Jacksonville; Calvary, Tallahassee; and Saint Paul's, North Miami. In 1981 they retired to Lake Placid, Florida, after thirty-nine years of effective service.

In retirement John and Esther were instrumental in helping found the Spring Lake United Methodist Church in Sebring, as well as being actively involved at Memorial in Lake Placid. After a period of declining health, the Reverend Gill made his journey home to heaven on December 21, 2002, at the age of eighty-four. His service was held on December 27, 2002, at Memorial United Methodist Church in Lake Placid, with the Reverend James Leach and the Reverend Dr. William J. Oakley officiating. Interment was in Oak Hill Cemetery in Lake Placid.

John Gill devoted his entire life to The United Methodist Church and his family. Throughout his life he was proud of his association with his alma maters, especially Florida Southern College, and often boasted that he and Esther, as well as all four of their children, were graduates. He was also an avid supporter of the Florida United Methodist Children's Home and insisted that, in lieu of flowers at his funeral, donations be made to the Home. In retirement, he was active in the Florida Conference Historical Society and gave generously toward the construction of the new Heritage Center.

He is survived by his wife of fifty-seven years, Esther; by all four of his children: Esther Mays Gill, Sara Gill Wunderlich, Mary Gill Isaac, and John Boyd Gill III; by seven grandchildren: Tina and Kathy Wunderlich, Allison and Megan Isaac, Timothy, Benjamin, and Joanna Gill; and by his brother, Dan M. Gill. He also is survived by six nieces and nephews, two of whom, David and Steve Gill, reside within the bounds of the Florida Conference. John's influence on the lives of others is demonstrated by the fact that his brother Dan, his son John, and his nephew David all followed him into the ordained ministry in the Florida Conference.

In his final weeks before passing, the Reverend Gill was asked to sum up his life. He said, "I have no regrets about any part of my life," and then went on to quote the Apostle Paul: "I have learned in whatsoever state I am therewith to be content," and "Rejoice in the Lord always."

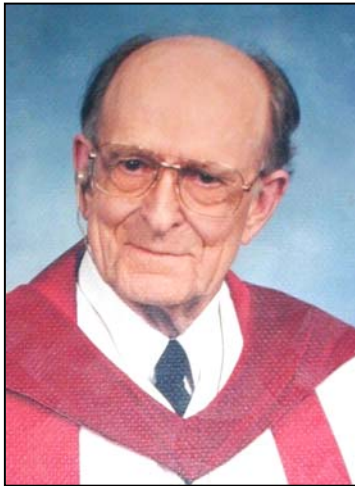
While going through some of his sermons and papers in preparation for the service celebrating his life, the family discovered a poem entitled "The Guide," composed many years ago by a much younger John, that demonstrates that even as a very young man he had a deep and abiding faith. His family set it to music (to the tune of "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling") and had it sung as a hymn during his service at Memorial Church in Lake Placid.

***The Guide*** By John B. Gill Jr.

*Never have I been so lonely, Never were the clouds so gray  
As when I forgot to follow Precious Jesus all the way.  
Jesus never wants to follow, You must keep him by your side;  
Even when you want to leave him Let him always be your guide.  
O, he evermore will lead me Through this life of tempting sights;  
And I'll nevermore be lonely For he'll make each moment bright.  
After I have followed always, Then when I lay down to die;  
I will know that Christ is leading To a home up in the sky*

Submitted by Rev. John B. Gill III

**ALBERT DALE HAGLER**



Albert Dale Hagler was born July 2, 1908, in Davenport, Nebraska, the second son of the two children of Albert Alexander Hagler and the former Adah Mae Hutchison. His father was already, and his mother later became, an ordained minister in the Methodist Episcopal Church; his mother was the second female ordained and the first woman to be given a pastoral appointment in the Methodist Episcopal Church.

At the age of five, Dale was converted to Christianity in his father's church in Gillespie, Illinois. Completing his secondary education in the public schools of Southern Illinois, he went on to obtain bachelor's and master's degrees through Northwestern University's Garrett Biblical Institute at Evanston, Illinois.

While in graduate school, he married Naomi Ruth Fairchild on his twenty-first birthday, July 2, 1929. They had two children: Helen Lynn, born November 4, 1930, and Thomas Albert, born January 5, 1935.

Dale was admitted on trial to the Southern Illinois Conference in 1929. He was ordained deacon and admitted to full connection in 1931 and ordained elder in 1933.

In June 1935 the family moved to Coconut Grove, Florida, where Dale became the pastor of Bryan Memorial Church of the Saint Johns River Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He remained in that position for seventeen years, at that time the second-longest tenure in the conference. While there, he became a nationally known expert in marriage counseling, participating in seminars and training sessions. He was also part of the pioneer local civil rights activities and a fight against political corruption. Partly as a result of these activities, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from Florida Southern College.

From Bryan, he moved in 1952 to Sarasota to become the district superintendent, earning the self-imposed nickname "Old Red Tape." Following that appointment, he moved to First in West Palm Beach in 1957 and then to Saint Luke's in Saint Petersburg in 1963, retiring from there in 1970.

He was the last surviving member of the Saint Johns River Conference who was still a member of the Florida Conference.

Dale died July 13, 2002, in Margate, Florida, of medulary failure. A memorial service was held in Higgins Memorial United Methodist Church in Burnsville, North Carolina, with the Reverend Rick Dean presiding. His ashes were buried later in Illinois alongside those of his wife Naomi.

Submitted by Tom Hagler



### **SERGIO ANTHONY JARDON**

Sergio Anthony Jardon was born December 18, 1940, in New York City, the son of Gerald Anthony and Libby Puig Jardon. His parents moved to Tampa, Florida, and Sergio graduated from Hillsborough High School in 1959. He graduated from Hillsborough Community College in 1980 with an associate degree and from the University of South Florida in 1982 with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications and a minor in religious studies. He graduated from Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1986 with a master of divinity degree. He was ordained deacon and admitted as a probationary member in the Florida Conference in 1986 and ordained elder in full connection in 1989.

Sergio's first appointment was in 1987 to First United Methodist Church in Cross City. He then served First, Hialeah, 1989, and was co-pastor of Poinciana United Methodist Church after First and Miami Springs merged. He then went to First, Green Cove Springs, 1991; Trinity, Orlando, 1993; Christ, Neptune Beach, 1997; Trinity, Palatka, 1999; and Calvary, Lake Worth, 2001. He was active as a supervising pastor in the Jacksonville, DeLand, and West Palm Beach Districts and served on the Annual Conference Worship Planning Team.

Sergio, who was a draftsman for George Young Engineering in Tampa, married Lynda May Akerley on March 20, 1964, while a member of Lake Magdalene United Methodist Church in Tampa. Their son, Sergio Anthony Jardon II, was born in 1966. Sergio and Lynda were both very involved in the ministry of Lake Magdalene. It was while attending a United Methodist Men's retreat with the men's group that Sergio dedicated his life to Christ and felt the call to ordained ministry. Throughout their ministry they stayed close to a Disciple group and met yearly for spiritual renewal with these friends from Lake Magdalene.

Sergio served several transitional churches, including First in Hialeah. It was here that Sergio developed a plan with Jim Rosenburg at Miami Springs to merge the two churches. At the end of the second year, with a 96% favorable vote, the two churches were merged to form Poinciana United Methodist Church. Later Sergio would serve Trinity in Orlando, which a few years before had become a merged church. He saw the need to develop contemporary services to help transitional churches gain a new life. He started these services at Neptune Beach, Trinity in Palatka, and Calvary in Lake Worth.

Of all the churches he served, Sergio felt he might have done the most good at Calvary, his last church. Here he focused on the power of prayer as he always did, but the congregation responded in a powerful way. They found that Sergio's guidance raised their spiritual awareness. When his cancer was discovered, they were ready to support Sergio and Lynda through his battle and through his death on September 27, 2002.

The large crowd at his funeral showed the many lives he touched. The Praise Team he started at Trinity in Palatka came to sing his favorite song, "The Potter's Hand." The Reverend Kendall Taylor, the Reverend Debbie McLeod, and the Reverend Jim Rosenberg officiated. After we merged the two churches in Miami, Sergio claimed it was like we were joined at the hip. So his legacy will go on in my life and in the other lives his faith and spirit touched. His was the example of a true friendship and a dedicated pastor who will not be easily forgotten.

Sergio is survived by his wife, Lynda; his son, Sergio II; his mother Libby Puig Jardon and sister Lillian; and his loving companions, Siberian Huskies Nakeita and Sasha, which he called his boys.

Submitted by Jim Rosenberg



#### **HARRY MAYS MIDDLEBROOKS SR.**

Harry Mays Middlebrooks Sr. was born August 5, 1923, at The Rock, Georgia. He was the son of Nelle Brandon Middlebrooks and Allie Mays Middlebrooks. He graduated from Florida State University in 1948 with a bachelor of arts in philosophy, the first male philosophy graduate of Florida State University. He graduated from Candler School of Theology at Emory University in 1952.

He married Mary Miller of Knoxville, Tennessee, on December 27, 1964, and was the father of two children, Harry Mays Middlebrooks Jr. and Helen Brandon Middlebrooks.

He was received into the Florida Conference on trial in 1951, ordained deacon in 1952, and ordained elder and admitted to full connection in 1954.

His pastoral appointments were Branford, 1952; First, St. Petersburg, associate, 1956; and Williston, 1957. He took sabbatical leave in 1961, and in 1962 entered Florida State University. From 1969 until his retirement in 1981 he served with the Florida United Methodist Foundation.

Harry Mays Middlebrooks Sr. died on September 25, 2002. The funeral was held at Trinity United Methodist Church, Tallahassee, Florida, on Sunday, September 29, 2002, with the Reverend John G. Willis Jr. officiating.

Submitted by Mary Middlebrooks



## LEROY ELBERT NORTHRUP

Leroy Elbert Northrup was born in Enterprise, Florida, on June 26, 1910, the son of Elbert and Grace McRae Northrup. He had two younger siblings, Kenneth and Edna. He attended DeLand High School; Beeler Business School, DeLand; the Army Finance School, Indianapolis; and the American Savings and Loan Institute, Chicago. Following a three-year term of service in the army air force during World War II, Dr. Northrup held executive positions in savings and loan associations for more than twenty-five years. He was a past president of the Florida Savings and Loan League as well as numerous local and county civic organizations.

Dr. Northrup became a member of Enterprise Methodist Episcopal Church, South, as a youth. He was a sought-after lay speaker and teacher throughout the churches in the Florida Conference for many years. He was a trustee of the Florida Methodist Children's Home, Enterprise, and the Sarah Hunt Methodist Children's Home, Daytona Beach. He also was listed in *Who's Who of Methodist Leaders* and *Who's Who in the South and Southeast*. In the 1950s Dr. Northrup became a trustee and member of the executive committee of the board of trustees of Bethune-Cookman College, serving as secretary-treasurer and chairman of the investments committee. In 1972 Bethune-Cookman paid tribute to his dedication and outstanding service by awarding him an honorary doctor of laws degree.

In 1966 Dr. Northrup became the central treasurer for the Florida Annual Conference of The Methodist Church, holding that position until his mandatory retirement in 1975. He then began a new ministry as local pastor for the Georgetown and Welaka United Methodist churches, a pastorate that he and his wife served for eight years. Following his return to his home in Lakeland, he also served pastorates at Good Shepherd in Lakeland, 1987, and Eloise, 1988 to 1990. In 1990 Dr. and Mrs. Northrup moved to Houston, Texas, and he became minister of evangelism at Canterbury United Methodist Church, serving in that position until 1998. During that time he and Mrs. Northrup were honored by the Texas Conference for their ministry in the area of evangelism. They moved to Clarewood House, a retirement community with close ties to The United Methodist Church, in 1998. Although illness prevented his taking an active leadership role at Clarewood, Dr. Northrup continued to share his faith with others.

Dr. Northrup met Aleida Cline at a Florida Conference retreat for Methodist district youth directors on July 4, 1937, and they married on June 12, 1938. They have one daughter, Lynn Northrup Corazao, three grandsons, and one great-granddaughter. Dr. Northrup died from complications of Parkinson's disease on July 15, 2002. Memorial services to celebrate his life were held at Clarewood House on July 18, with Chaplain Rick Walters officiating, and at Canterbury United Methodist Church on July 20, with Dr. Lewis Jackson and Chaplain Walters officiating. During the service his three grandsons paid tribute to their grandfather's influence in their lives. Interment was at the Veteran's Memorial National Cemetery in Houston.

Dr. Northrup will always be remembered as a dedicated servant of God who lived out his faith and witnessed to all with whom he came in contact.

Submitted by Lynn N. Corzaao



#### **T. HOWREN NORTON, SR.**

Thomas Howren Norton was born in St. Petersburg, Florida, to the Reverend Marvin Hendrix Norton and Maude Edna McKenzie Norton on February 11, 1914. His accepting the call to ministry made him the fifth generation in succession to serve in the United Methodist Church and the third in Florida, following his father and grandfather, Wilber Fisk Norton. He was married to Frances Jewel Dabney of Lancaster, South Carolina, on June 6, 1938, and is survived by her and their children: Mrs. Maureen N. Baker of Snow Hill, North Carolina; Rev. Thomas H. Norton Jr. of Saint Petersburg, Florida; Mrs. Julia N. Stevens of Plantation, Florida; and John Hendrix Norton of Albany, Georgia; a sister, Kathryn Williams of Middleburg, Florida; ten grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. He was eighty-eight years old when he died on January 9, 2003, in Lakeland, Florida.

His illness last year ended his sixty-six years of perfect attendance at his beloved annual conference. Howren graduated from Florida Southern College in 1937 with a B.A. in religion. After serving churches as a local supply pastor, he joined the ranks of the ordained clergy on trial in 1938 and was assigned to Oviedo. The next year he entered Candler School of Theology, Emory University. He was ordained a deacon in 1940 and an elder in 1941 and graduated in 1942 with a bachelor of divinity degree. That year he was appointed to Ortega, Jacksonville. Being assigned to a vacant piece of property in 1945, he founded the Lake Shore Church in Jacksonville. He helped cut the crab orchard stone for the new sanctuary, build a Sunday school building, and establish a drive-in church at the Normandy Drive-in Theater. He was a builder and believed in evangelism. Nine years later, in 1954, he was transferred to Palatka's Saint James Church, where he built an education building, bought a new parsonage, and developed a ministry to the Rodeheaver-Sheriff's Boys Ranch. He worked closely with Judge P. B. Revels in helping young people find hope and a new life after legal problems. It was during this time that Howren led evangelistic crusades in Cuba, which are fondly remembered by the Reverend Aldo Martin, as they helped influence his life and call into the ministry. Howren led Saint James Church in sponsoring a young man from Cuba named Pepe and brought him to the United States for training and work so that he could help support his family in Cuba. He also cherished, supported, and worked at the Children's Home at Enterprise and the Warren Willis Youth Camps at Leesburg.

In 1959, Calvary in Lake Worth was Howren's next assignment. Again, being a builder, he led the church in renovating the sanctuary, buying a new parsonage, and sponsoring a new church, Lakeside in Lake Worth. It was from this church that in 1964 he was invited to serve on the cabinet as the superintendent of the Orlando District. As



evangelism was his motto and building his forte, Sanlando Church is a model of Howren's vision of strategically placed churches in growing neighborhoods. To respond to the problems of the inner city churches, he helped develop the "group ministry" concept, which used a senior pastor in charge of several associates serving multiple churches. This prototype was also used in the Jacksonville District. Five churches and 2,531 new members were added to the district. Howren also served the following churches before retiring in 1982: First, Hollywood, in 1969; Manhattan Avenue, Tampa, in 1973, and Village Chapel, Brandon, in 1980. His evangelistic zeal led him to have at least one revival annually for his church and often one for someone else.

Howren chaired the Building Committee that raised the funds to build the present United Methodist Building in Lakeland. He also served on a number of conference boards and agencies, including Missions, Evangelism, and Ordained Ministry. After retiring, he served as president of the Florida Conference Historical Society. It was his dream someday to have a building to house our conference's rich heritage.

Howren was a man of great fidelity and compassion, first to his God, then to his beloved "Frankie," his family, his conference, and his many, many friends. He was an avid fisherman, model railroader, and builder, reconstructing several homes. His all-time greatest pastime was to share Jesus Christ with a stranger. Just last year, while in the nursing home, he led a man to Christ and baptized him and was also counseling a couple wanting to marry. Howren died from postoperative conditions for the repair of a broken hip.

T. Howren Norton was twice called by God: once to the ministry and then into the Church Triumphant.

Submitted by his family



### **BARBARA HILL ODOM**

Barbara Hill Odom was born to Robert and Daisy Mae Hill on November 9, 1951, in Lakeland, Georgia. Barbara accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Savior at an early age. Barbara attended the public schools of Lanier County, Georgia, until her eighth grade year, when she relocated to Saint Petersburg, Florida, with her family. Upon graduating from Sixteenth Street Junior High School, Barbara entered Gibbs High School, where she met her husband, Don. She was active in the modern dance group and student government. Barbara was a popular student who was elected junior attendant to the homecoming queen.

Barbara attended the University of South Florida, where she was a member of the African-American Society and a volunteer tutor for the Intensive Tutorial Program and was elected the university's first Miss Uhuru. After a two-year stay in Gainesville, Florida, where she supported Don during his law studies, Barbara returned to Saint Petersburg, where she and her family joined McCabe United Methodist Church.

Barbara's early professional endeavors were in the field of banking and marketing; however, she was soon drawn to community work. She served as executive director of



McCabe Community Development, Inc., as a program coordinator for the Pinellas County Urban League, and as executive director of the community program of Childs Park Church, where she started several ministries, including a daycare center, a food bank, and a cold-night shelter for the homeless. It was in the context of her church-centered community work that she received the call into the ministry. While still pursuing her religious studies through the summer program at Emory University's Candler School of Theology, she was assigned as associate pastor at Lakewood United Methodist Church, Saint Petersburg, where she served from late 1993 to mid-1997. In 1998 Barbara was appointed associate pastor at Trinity in Saint Petersburg, where she served for two years. In June of 2000 Barbara returned to Lakewood as senior pastor, serving until her passing on December 4, 2002.

Barbara became a local pastor in 1994 and was ordained deacon as an associate member of the Florida Conference in May of 2002. Barbara's work for the glory of God extended far beyond the walls of her churches. She chaired the Florida Conference Bishop's Initiative on Children and Poverty, spearheading a successful campaign to raise funds to build a school in Mozambique, Africa. In addition, she served on many district and conference councils and committees, including the District Council on Ministries, Ethnic Minority Church Concerns Committee, Conference Capital Needs Committee, Conference Outreach Ministries Committee, Conference Vision 2000 Task Force, District Leadership Development Training Committee, and District Shalom Zone chair.

Barbara's survivors include her husband of thirty-two years, Donald R. Odom Sr.; two daughters, Donita Moody and Barbara Asha Odom; a son, Donald R. Odom Jr.; and two granddaughters, all of Saint Petersburg, Florida. She is also survived by her mother, Daisy Mae Hill; brother, Arnold Hill; sisters, Deborah Hill, Mary Collins, and Linda Hill, all of Saint Petersburg; and brother, Robert Hill, of Austin, Texas.

Submitted by Donald R. Odom, Sr.



### **VERNICE J. RAGSDALE**

Vernice Jasper Ragsdale was born June 6, 1913, in Cullman County, Alabama. He was the oldest child of Jessie Ophelia Smith and William Jasper Ragsdale. He had five younger sisters. As a child, he was unable to get much formal schooling, as he went to work in the fields with his father at the age of four. When his parents later separated, Vernice and the oldest sister went to live with the family of N. N. Skinner in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. There Vernice worked on the Skinners' farm for room and board until the age of twenty-two.

Vernice was called to preach the word of God while working in the fields. He had to catch up on his education and at the age of twenty-two entered Baxter Seminary, a Methodist-affiliated college preparatory school in Baxter, Tennessee, in Putnam County. He worked for his room and board and was in time dean of boys. He also served as a student pastor on a circuit of four churches, the farthest

being eighteen miles from Baxter. Vernice walked to his churches each weekend to preach. In March of 1940 he married Emma Doyne Denny, also a student at Baxter. He graduated from Baxter Seminary on May 19, 1941, just before his twenty-eighth birthday.

Following this graduation, Vernice attended State Teachers College in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. After moving to Florida, he obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Education from the University of Florida in 1948 and was received on trial in the Florida Conference the same year. He was serving the Methodist Church in Newberry at this time, having taken the pastorate in 1946. He continued his studies for the ordained ministry through correspondence with Candler School of Theology in Atlanta. He was ordained a deacon in 1955 while serving the church in Cross City, was admitted to full connection in 1956, and was ordained an elder in 1957.

Vernice and Emma Ragsdale had two sons, Denny Ragsdale, born September 5, 1941, in Baxter, Tennessee, now a medical doctor in Melbourne, Florida, and Dural R. Ragsdale, born October 25, 1947, in Newberry, Florida, now a United Methodist Minister in the Mississippi Conference. There are six grandchildren and one great grandchild from this family.

In June 1965 Vernice married Corinne B. Cassels in Okeechobee, Florida, and his family expanded to include Corinne's two sons and two daughters, John Burdeshaw, Ben Burdeshaw, Beth Gubler and Paula Williams, their spouses, and their children.

Vernice served churches in Newberry, 1946; Webster, 1948; Cross City, 1953; Okeechobee, 1957; Islamorada, 1965; Starke, 1966; DeBary, 1968; Saint Marks, Saint Petersburg, 1973; Callahan, 1975; and Avon Park, 1977. During his active ministry, he started new churches in both Fort Drum and Indiantown. He retired in 1979, returning to Okeechobee, where he continued to serve the churches there and in Indiantown.

Vernice died in Okeechobee, Florida, on March 21, 2003. His service was held in the First United Methodist Church of Okeechobee on March 23, 2003, with the Reverend Fred Gardner officiating. He leaves behind his wife of thirty-seven years, Corinne, four sons, two daughters, fifteen grandchildren, eighteen great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren. A man who faced everything head on, a man who was as at home behind a pulpit as a plow, Vernice demonstrated the inescapable fact that from impoverished, humble beginnings, a man of determination and faith could become an effective servant of the Lord. He will be sorely missed by his family and by those whose lives he touched with his ministry for the Lord.

Submitted by Corinne Ragsdale

## WILLIAM ARTHUR ROUNTREE



William Arthur Rountree, the first born of William Jennings and Lillie Mae Straw Rountree, was born March 14, 1923. He survived his younger sister, Beatrice Lemire, and is survived by his younger brother, Allen Rountree. Known as Bill to his friends, he was a person to whom there were no strangers, only friends God had not yet given him the opportunity to meet.

Bill served as a member of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Navy. While in the navy he came to know God's calling to pastoral ministry. Retiring after twenty-two years of active military service, he took up studies and earned an associate of ministry from Duke University in 1971. As an approved supply in 1965, he served Sunset Heights Methodist Church in Plant City, Florida. He was ordained deacon in 1968. Assigned to the Newberry-Springhill Circuit in 1969, he became an associate member of the Florida Conference in 1971. Bill moved on to serve Trinity, Miami, 1972-77, and then Hernando United Methodist Church, where his health necessitated his retirement in 1985. Six years later he was called to fill the pulpit at Floral City United Methodist Church until 1994.

He married Virginia Mae Martin on September 12, 1947. They served the Lord together for forty-nine years, until the Lord called Virginia home on December 16, 1996. Bill and Virginia were blessed of God with sons, Carl Thomas, on May 5, 1948; Roy Allen, on July 17, 1952; and Charles Edward, on August 10, 1954; and one daughter, Billye Dean Fetrow, on March 23, 1950.

Having suffered several major and many smaller strokes, Bill was called to glory February 1, 2003. All his family and many close friends were with him at the time of his passing.

Funeral services were led by the Reverend Brian T. Baggs Sr. and a friend of many years, the Reverend Ray Finklea, at Hernando United Methodist Church. Bill was buried with full military honors at the Florida National Cemetery at Bushnell, Florida. Graveside services were conducted by another friend of many years who also served Hernando United Methodist Church, Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel Alfred M. McGowan. Funeral and graveside services were held February 6, 2003.

Submitted by Betty A. Rountree



### **WILLIAM GODDARD SHERMAN JR.**

William Goddard Sherman Jr. was born in Jacksonville, Florida, on August 28, 1921, the son of Dr. William G. Sherman and Helen Smith Sherman. He graduated from Winter Haven High School in 1940 and was a member of First Methodist Church (now Beymer Memorial), in Winter Haven. He served his country in World War II in the Pacific Theater as chaplain's assistant and organist for services. He graduated from the Art Institute in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, in 1949. He attended Boston University School of Theology and graduated

from Pitt-Xenia Seminary, Pittsburgh, in 1952. He earned a doctorate in theology from Luther Rice Seminary, Jacksonville, Florida, in 1967.

On November 17, 1945, he married Sally Kramer. Three children blessed this happy marriage: Paul, born May 6, 1951; Jocelyn Sherman Boyle, born August 20, 1952; and Timothy, born July 3, 1956.

Goddard was ordained in the United Presbyterian Church in 1952 in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania. The family moved to Florida in 1953, and he was admitted to the Florida Conference on trial; he was admitted to full connection in 1954. He was pastor of the Interlachen church for several months in 1953. He was sent to Riviera Beach in June 1953, to Stuart in 1956, and to Melrose Park in Fort Lauderdale in 1959. He transferred to the North East Indiana Conference in 1959. In 1964 he transferred back to the Florida Conference, serving at Christ Church in Jacksonville Beach in 1964; Snyder Memorial in Jacksonville in 1965; Saint Johns in Winter Haven in 1968; Seminole Heights in Tampa in 1969, First in Boynton Beach in 1974, Riviera in Saint Petersburg in 1978, and Wesley in Fort Myers in 1979. In 1984 he retired after thirty-one years of service.

He served as district missionary secretary and was on the Board of Ordained Ministry. Goddard especially enjoyed teaching in Christian Enrichment Schools. He also taught Bible in junior colleges and was adjunct professor in Eastern Religions at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

He was a free lance cartoonist and his work was published in national magazines. His pen and ink art has been seen on church bulletins, brochures, posters, and devotional books.

His post-retirement years were busy and happy. He served on the staff at Park Avenue United Methodist Church, Valdosta, Georgia, doing Bible studies, teaching Sunday school, making hospital calls, and preaching where needed. A cartoon of his was a weekly feature of the *Wesleyan Christian Advocate*.

His health declined after he experienced several mini-strokes. Weakness and respiratory problems overtook his body, and Goddard passed peacefully to his father's house on February 26, 2003. Memorial services were held at Park Avenue United Methodist Church in Valdosta, with the following ministers officiating: the Reverend Dr. Craig Rikard and the Reverend Doug Veal, pastors at Park Avenue United Methodist Church; the Reverend Duncan Gray, a retired member of the Florida Conference; the

Reverend. V. L. Daughtery and the Reverend Bob Dorsey, retired members of the South Georgia Conference. The Service of Committal was held at River View Gardens, Valdosta.

*Sing with all the saints in glory, sing the resurrection song,  
Death and sorrow, earth's dark story, to the former days belong.  
All around the clouds are breaking, soon the storms of life shall cease,  
In God's likeness, we, awaking, know the everlasting peace.*

Submitted by Sally Sherman

### **ROGER FISHER SHIVELY**

Roger Fisher Shively was born April 25, 1914, in the small rural community of Denver, Indiana. He was the second of three sons born to Thomas Albert Shively and Myrtle Ardell Fisher Shively.

Roger spent his youth growing up on the farm. After graduating from high school, he ventured seventy miles to attend Manchester College, a Brethren college located in North Manchester, Indiana. There he met his future wife, Margaret Yotive Jordan. After their college years they were married and blessed with two daughters, Mari Etta Shively Zook, of Tampa, Florida, and Rita Ann Shively Collins, who resides in Auburn, Indiana.

A licensed Church of the Brethren pastor, Roger was for the next ten years pastor of the Liberty Mills Church of the Brethren in Liberty Mills, Indiana.

During the next several years his profession was varied, consisting of work in sales, presidency of the Detroit Business Institute, and ownership of three Cecil Business Schools in the Carolinas. During this time he married Sara Levilla Williamson Bruckart, and they spent their lives together in Indiana, Michigan, South Carolina, and Tampa, Florida. Roger continued his work in the ministry by serving as pastor, educator, and associate at many small churches in areas where they lived. He joined the Michigan Methodist Conference in 1960.

He sold the business schools in the Carolinas in 1972 and moved to Tampa. There he was called as associate pastor at Seminole Heights United Methodist Church. While serving, he attended Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta and became an associate member of the Florida Conference in 1975.

In 1974 he was appointed minister of the Homosassa United Methodist Church. The small church of thirty-five members grew to a congregation of more than 450 members during his seven years of service.

He retired in 1981 but continued working in the community and serving in charitable work, including being past president and secretary-treasurer of the Homosassa Rotary Club, president emeritus of Citrus United Basket, secretary-treasurer of the Stage Stand Cemetery, and founder of Masonic Lodge #378.

In August 1985 Roger was appointed to the Homestead United Methodist Church, where he served as assistant pastor until a stroke in 1986 forced him to retire from active work.

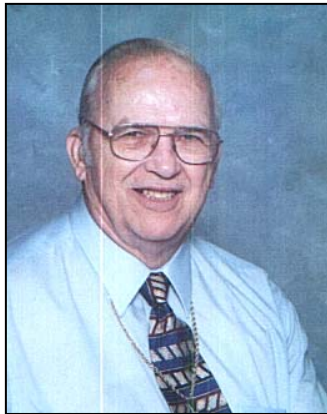
In 1987 he was named pastor emeritus of First United Methodist Church in Homosassa and later was honored for his faithful service by having half of the fellowship hall named for him.

Roger and Sara celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary with many friends and family in June of 1996. During the next few years they spent a happy retirement. Their life was saddened with the unexpected death of Sara's son, Philip Merle Bruckart, in May 1997, preceding Sara's death in December of 1997.

Roger continued to live in his home in Homosassa until failing health required him to be relocated to Brentwood Health Center in Lecanto, Florida, where he passed away with cancer and heart failure on February 14, 2003.

The celebration of Roger's life was held in the First United Methodist Church of Homosassa on February 18, 2003, with the Reverend Mark Whittaker, Father Hoge, and Sandra Gardner officiating. Burial was in the Stage Stand Cemetery in Homosassa.

Submitted by Mari Etta Zook



### **JAMES FRANCIS TYNAN SR.**

James Francis Tynan Sr. was born November 12, 1924, in Renfrew, Pennsylvania, to John H. and Laura E. Fisher Tynan. He graduated from Butler High School, Butler, Pennsylvania, in 1942.

Between 1943 and 1946, during World War II, Jim served in the Eleventh Airborne Division, 188<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry. From 1948 to 1966 he served in the United States Navy. In 1950 he received a certificate as a qualified electronics technician third class, S/M Base, New London, Connecticut, and a certificate in the Navy Training Course to become an electronics technician second class at the S/M Base, New London, Connecticut.

In 1953 he completed a study course at the United States Naval School, electronic technician, class A service school command, NTC, at Great Lake, Illinois, and received his certificate. That year he also completed a course at the United States Naval School Instructors, Class C-1, Naval Schools Command, at the United States Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia, and received his certificate. After completing the course of Polaris telemetry at Lockheed Missiles and Space Division in Sunnyvale, California, in 1959, he received his certificate. In 1961 he received his certificate after completing the basic submarine course at the Naval Submarine School, United States Naval S/M Base, New London, Connecticut, as ET2 (P1), United States Navy. In 1962 he received a certificate as qualified in the submarines, on the Trutta (SS-421).

Jim married Edna Hilliard on June 9, 1946. They had eight children: James Francis Tynan Jr., Jerry Lee Tynan, Joseph Wayne Tynan, Mark Jeffrey Tynan (now deceased), John Tynan (now deceased), Cynthia Tynan Couch, Sylvia Tynan Curry, and Edna Jane Tynan. Edna passed away in 1981.

On June 17, 1990, Jim married Betty J. Bauman Erdos. She passed away on May 26, 1996.

He married Margaret "Ann" McDowell on November 7, 1998. She survives him.

Jim graduated from Florida Southern College in 1974 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. In 1977 he graduated from Candler School of Theology, Emory University, with a master of divinity degree.

He was ordained deacon and admitted on trial in the Florida Conference in 1976 and admitted to full connection and ordained elder in 1979. He was also an affiliate member of the South Carolina Conference.

Jim completed the advanced training program for clergy in cancer care at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute at the University of South Florida in 1988 and the comprehensive bereavement skills training at the Center for Loss and Life Transition in 1997.

From 1966 to 2002 Jim served as pastor of several United Methodist churches in Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. His Florida appointments were Newberry, 1977; Lake Butler, 1982; Branford, 1984; and First, Waldo/Orange Creek Campville, 1985. He retired in 1990.

Jim served on the Older Adult Board of Education of South Carolina from 1999 to 2002. He was a hospice chaplain in Gainesville, Florida, and Bennettsville, South Carolina, and chaplain at Grand Strand Regional Medical Center, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, from 1993 to 1998. He retired in 1991 but returned to fill in at various churches in 1993.

From 1993 to 1995 he served at Ebenezer United Methodist Church in Bennettsville. He then went back to Myrtle Beach to fill in when needed. From February until June 1998, he served the Blenheim Charge. In November 1998 he went as pastor to the Tatum Parish, Clio, South Carolina, and Bennettsville, serving there until his death.

On September 23, 2002, James Francis Tynan Sr. passed away from a heart attack. Funeral services were held on September 27, 2002, at the Berea Convention Center in Bennettsville, South Carolina. Burial was at Parnassus Cemetery in Blenheim, South Carolina, with full military honors. Dr. Lemuel Carter and the Reverend John Watts officiated at the services.

Submitted by Mrs. James F. Tynan, Sr.



**MARTHA CAROLYN WHIPPLE ADAMS  
ANDREWS**

Martha Carolyn Whipple was born Jessie Louise Barker on January 31, 1918, in Albany, Georgia, to a widow with one small child. Annie Cornelia Hafer and her husband, Joseph Caswell Whipple, of Quitman, Georgia, adopted her shortly thereafter. She spent most of her childhood there, with short stays in Waycross and Adel, Georgia. She was salutatorian and vice president of the senior class when she graduated from Quitman High School in 1934. She graduated from Georgia State Woman's College (now Valdosta State) in 1938. She taught high school English in Butler, Georgia, for a year and then attended summer school at Emory University to work on a master's degree in library science. While there, she met John Thompson (Jack) Adams Jr., who was a



student at Candler School of Theology and working as a night watchman on campus. They met on the steps of Glenn Memorial Methodist Church. Six weeks later--and after walking a lot of beats, the only time they had to spend together--they agreed to marry if their feelings lasted. They were engaged at Christmas and married in Quitman on April 6, 1940. They enjoyed forty-four years of marriage--except, Carolyn always said, the year and a half that Jack was in France during WW II.

Jack was already serving the six churches of the White Springs, Florida, Circuit when they married. They moved the next year to the East Madison Circuit. The first of four daughters, JoAnne, was born during that pastorate. He left from there to enter the chaplaincy of the U.S. Army. Their second daughter, Kathy, was born about a week after he left for Europe, and Carolyn literally did not know where in the world he was. He returned after the war to serve Garden City, and from there they went to Seville, where Jane was born, then to Oviedo, Clewiston, and Northwood in West Palm Beach. Their fourth daughter, Susan, was born there in 1952. They went on to Tarboux Memorial in Miami, First in Sanford, and Winter Garden. St. James in Palatka was next, followed by First in Punta Gorda. His final pastorate was Keystone, outside Tampa. From there they moved to Enterprise, where he served as the director of development at the Children's Home.

Carolyn was a worker and a helpmeet in every situation as well as a loving mother to their four daughters. She cooked for anyone who came to the parsonage door in need of a meal. Her home and yard were always full of flowers. At retirement in 1978 they moved back to Punta Gorda but soon moved to Statesville, North Carolina, to be closer to family. After a long illness during which Carolyn served as nurse, Jack died there on September 11, 1984.

In 1987 Carolyn married William Ed Andrews, a retired Methodist minister from the Western North Carolina Conference who had lost his wife. They made a happy life there and in 1996 moved to Arbor Acres, a United Methodist retirement village in Winston-Salem. After Bill went into health care in 2001, Carolyn visited daily to feed him his meals. He passed away on April 7, 2002. Carolyn suffered a heart attack on Christmas Day, 2002, and went on to her glory on March 15, 2003. She was laid to rest in Statesville next to Jack.

Their four daughters survive: Mrs. Kenneth R. Evans (JoAnne), Mrs. Earl J. Evans (Kathy), Mrs. Charles G. Kirby (Jane,) and Mrs. H. Franklin Penn (Susan). She was loved also by the five children of her second husband. Carolyn was grandmother to twenty-three grandchildren. Until her final illness she remained active gardening, swimming, sewing, and fixing wonderful meals for herself and her neighbors. She participated in all aspects of her church, Sunday school, and United Methodist Women. She had been elected president of her Sunday school class at Maple Springs United Methodist Church in Winston-Salem but had to resign because of poor health.

Carolyn personified Christian love. She will be greatly missed by her family and the scores of friends she made and kept in touch with over many years and many moves. All who knew her enjoyed her quick sense of humor, her sympathetic ear, and her generous spirit.

Submitted by Jane Adams Kirby



### **ELIZABETH THRASH BRADY**

Elizabeth Thrash Brady passed away Monday, December 16, 2002, at Sand Point Senior Living in Titusville, Florida, at the age of ninety-five. She was preceded in death by her husband, the Reverend Troy R. Brady, who died in 1999. At the time of his death, they had been married for seventy- three years.

Elizabeth was on born September 7, 1907, in Sutton, West Virginia, daughter of Marion James and Lillie Henderson Thrash. She graduated from Parkersburg, West Virginia, High School in 1926. She married Troy Robert Brady on July 4, 1926. Her older son, Marion, was born May 24, 1927.

With her husband, Elizabeth graduated from Bonebrake Theological Seminary (now United Theological Seminary) in Dayton, Ohio, in 1934. Troy was ordained later that year.

In the years that followed, the Reverend Troy Brady served United Brethren churches in West Virginia and Ohio. Their younger son, Howard, was born in 1935, during his first pastorate in Cairo, West Virginia. In his final West Virginia pastorate, he helped build a new church building for the Evangelical United Brethren Church (now Otterbein United Methodist) in Elkins. In 1952 he was called to the presidency of Shenandoah College and Conservatory of Music in Dayton, Virginia (now Shenandoah University, relocated to Winchester). Elizabeth graduated from Shenandoah College in 1953 and from James Madison University with a B. S. in education in 1955. She taught for the next two years in an elementary school in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Troy Brady left Shenandoah in 1956 and briefly served Glovier Memorial Evangelical United Brethren Church in Waynesboro, Virginia, before moving to Bradenton, Florida, serving Emmanuel Church from 1957 to 1968. During this pastorate, Elizabeth taught fourth grade in a Bradenton public school.

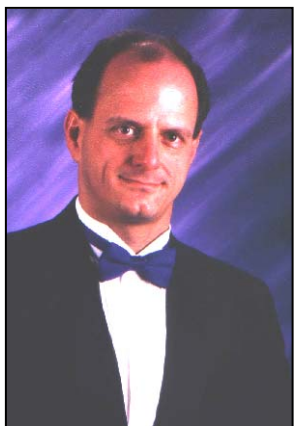
The Bradys' final Florida pastorate was from 1968 to 1971 at Saint Andrews United Methodist Church in Winter Park. They retired to Singers Glen, Virginia, but also served Mountain Valley Church near Harrisonburg from 1973 to 1975, before retiring completely. For a number of years they spent summers in Virginia and winters in Florida, before returning to Florida permanently in 1989.

Among Elizabeth's major interests were travel, reading, and writing. At the age of eighty-four, she learned to use her computer and published "Reclaimed Memories," her memoirs. She also published a book on the genealogy of her family and edited and published a collection of her husband's writings, some seven hundred pages total.

Elizabeth's husband preceded her in death on June 25, 1999. She is survived by one sister, Beulah Cook; her two sons, Marion and Howard; eight grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

The memorial service for Elizabeth was held at First United Methodist Church in Port Saint John, Florida, on Friday, December 20, with the pastor, the Reverend Dr. Dan Parrish, officiating. She and her husband are entombed at Brevard Memorial Park, between Cocoa and Titusville, Florida.

Submitted by Howard L. Brady



### **NEIL CRAIG BROOKS**

Neil Craig Brooks was born in Pensacola, Florida, on December 22, 1960. He attended Faulkner Junior College in Bay Minette, Alabama, and graduated with a bachelor's degree in music education from Florida State University. He subsequently received a master's degree in music education from the University of Florida.

Named director of bands at Lake Butler Middle School in 1983, Neil received the 1998 district Teacher of the Year award. He also received the Innovative Teaching Award from the Florida Music Educators Association for his work on multiple intelligences as they apply to the music classroom. Neil taught band for several years at Lincoln Middle School in Gainesville and in the fall of 2000 joined the faculty at LaVilla School of the Arts in Jacksonville, where he taught band, orchestra, piano, and music theory. A member of the Florida Bandmasters Association and Music Educators National Association, Neil frequently served as an adjudicator and clinician.

He was active in the music ministry at Trinity United Methodist Church in Gainesville and volunteered as a United Methodist Youth Fellowship counselor for several years. He was employed at Trinity as director of the chancel choir, orchestra, and string ensemble. He composed and arranged music for the choirs and orchestras and often accompanied special services.

Neil died on October 17, 2002. He is survived by his wife, the Reverend Kandace Lynn Brooks, associate minister at Trinity, whom he married on November 23, 1991; daughter, Kailee Janelle Brooks, born August 3, 1994, of Gainesville; mother, Jane Hazelbaker Brooks, of Pensacola; sister, Melanie Miller, of Gulf Breeze; brothers, Norman Brooks, of Crawfordsville, Iowa, and John Brooks, of Pace, Florida.

Submitted by Kandace Brooks



### RUTHIE "ARLYNE" TARPLEY CHAPMAN

Ruthie "Arlyne" Tarpley Chapman was born in Fife, Georgia, on January 6, 1920, to Robert and Ruth Lloyd Tarpley. The family moved in 1925 to Holly Hill, Florida, where Arlyne grew up attending the public schools and graduating from Mainland High School in 1938.

After high school she attended Emory University School of Nursing in Atlanta, Georgia, graduating in 1942. While at Emory she met the Reverend Robert B. Chapman Jr., and they were married in the Emory University Chapel on August 20, 1942.

Arlyne was a full-time mother, homemaker, and supportive minister's wife, attending all church, district, and conference functions and visiting the sick and lonely, often leaving freshly baked cookies or cake. She and "Brother Bob" served churches in the Florida Conference: in Webster, Florida City, Hialeah, Jacksonville, Fort Pierce, Fort Myers, Tallahassee, Brandon, Pinellas Park, and Florahome. While she and Bob served the Avondale Methodist Church in Jacksonville, during one of Bob's evangelical missions to Cuba his interpreter was a young man, Hebert Perez, who came to live with Arlyne and Bob to continue his education. Following his graduation from Duke University, he returned to Cuba to help his people and is now a professor at the University of Oriente. Arlyne always considered Hebert as another son and he loved her in return as a mother.

She and her husband retired to Holly Hill in 1982. The Reverend Robert B. Chapman Jr. predeceased her in September 1998. From 1984 they were both active members of the former First United Methodist Church in Daytona. Arlyne was an active member of the United Methodist Women.

She is survived by her brother, Lloyd Tarpley, Jonesboro, Georgia; three daughters, Barbara Kortemeier, Marietta, Georgia; Mary Lynn Pierce, Holly Hill; and Esther Zissimopulos, Tarpon Springs, Florida; two sons, Robert B. Chapman III, Holly Hill, Florida and David A. Chapman, Casselberry, Florida; ten grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Arlyne passed away on January 20, 2003. A memorial service was held January 25, 2003, at Tomoka United Methodist Church of Ormond Beach, Florida, with the Reverend Stephen Hoffman officiating. She was buried in Shady Rest Cemetery in Holly Hill.

*"The greatest joy and privilege is being Bob's wife and as a minister's wife being able to share in the joys and sorrows of congregations we have served since 1942. The Lord has been so good to me and I thank him each day for being a child of His." – Arlyne Chapman, 1980*

Submitted by Robert B. Chapman III



### **INEZ RUTH JACKSON HAMILTON**

Inez Ruth Jackson Hamilton was born on August 26, 1922, in Albany, Georgia, the daughter of Coot and Eva Bell Jackson.

She died on April 12, 2001. Funeral services were held at Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church in Cotton Plant, Florida, on April 21, 2001. Interment was in the Wesley Chapel Cemetery.

She is survived by her husband, the Reverend George Hamilton Sr., a retired local pastor in the Florida Conference, and her children, Eva Bell Taylor; the Reverend George Hamilton Jr., a local pastor in the Florida Conference; Maehellon Wheeler; Frederick M. Hamilton; and Luescinia Hamilton Roche, all of Cotton Plant. Other

survivors are a brother, three foster daughters, six sisters-in-law, two brothers-in-law, ten grandchildren, twelve great grandchildren, one step-grandson, and many nieces and nephews.

Submitted by the Hamilton family



### **JEAN SEIFERT HAYES**

Jean Seifert Hayes, widow of the Reverend Raymond Hayes, went to be with the Lord on December 26, 2002, after a chronic illness.

Jean was born in Rye, New York, on March 17, 1919, to William and Della Seifert—the oldest of seven children. She attended classes at Vennard College, where she took several courses in library science.

Jean and Raymond were married on September 14, 1941, in Michigan.

Jean was the consummate minister's wife. She served as Raymond's right arm for more than thirty-five years in the ministry. They came to Florida from Michigan in 1950. They served United Methodist churches all over the state: Hawthorne, Brandon, Riviera Beach, Manatee Memorial in

Bradenton, Trinity in Arcadia, Pine Hills in Orlando, and First in Inverness.

Jean was a great cook, who loved to entertain and also to cook church dinners. She was always active in the work of the church. She led the youth group for many years then began teaching little children. "Miss Jean" loved those little ones and they loved her. In Inverness she had many in her youth group and later took care of their children.

When Raymond died suddenly at the age of fifty-five in 1975, Jean was the rock for her children, friends, and church members.

She went to work for the Inverness Library. She retired from there at the age of seventy-seven after many years of service.

Jean could do anything except drive, so after the Inverness United Methodist Church moved out into the country, she started attending First Presbyterian Church, which was across the street from her home. As always, she was active in many programs. She was also a member of the Inverness Women's Club and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

She and Raymond loved to travel, and she continued to travel after his death. Her last trip was to Australia and New Zealand in 2000.

Jean's funeral was held December 30 in the First Presbyterian Church in Inverness. Interment was next to her beloved Raymond at the Oak Ridge Cemetery there.

She was preceded in death by her son, Steven R. Hayes, of Daytona Beach, Florida. She is survived by daughters, Susan J. Hayes, of New Port Richey, Florida, and Janet Kearns, of Floral City, Florida; and daughter-in-law, Tammy Hayes, of Daytona Beach. She has seven grandchildren, Timothy Hayes, Kevin Kennedy, Andrew Hayes, Kathryn Dorsey, Marianne Hayes, Kelley Parker, and Bill Kearns, and five great grandchildren, Tabitha, Terzea, Robert, Katelyn, and Juliet. She is also survived by sisters, Ruth Fogg, of Leslie, Michigan, and Anne Wood, of Encinatas, California; and brothers, Karl Seifert, of Sarasota, Florida, and Glenn Seifert, of Green Valley, Arizona.

Submitted by Susan J. Hayes

#### ANN HOBSON HINSHAW



Ann Hobson Hinshaw was born in Westfield, Indiana, on May 23, 1924, and died in Lakeland, Florida, on December 29, 2002, of Parkinson's disease. She had a great life between those two dates. She is survived by her husband, the Reverend Dr. Grant Hinshaw, who served the Florida Annual Conference for more than thirty years. She served faithfully by his side in all of those appointments. Ann grew up in Florida and married Grant after he was in the military and was serving in the Veteran's Administration. When he decided to become a Methodist minister, there was no doubt that Ann would put her many talents to work as a "Preacher's Wife."

And talents she had. She developed a vibrant puppet ministry. We never saw a more talented person at costuming; most are unforgettable. She put on fellowship suppers that still can't be topped. She was great at organizing church-wide events. She gave humorous programs at cabinet meetings and performed funny and memorable skits at Retired Clergy Retreats.

Ann and Grant have three children: Tracy Forster, born March 26, 1948; Kendall Hinshaw, born January 28, 1960; and Andy Hinshaw, born May 22, 1962. They have three grandsons: Rob Forster, Chad Forster, and Casey Hinshaw.

Ann was a very unassuming person. "What you see is what you get" describes her to a "T". The "see" could stand for "C" as in:

Christian – through and through; Caring – she came once a week to play scrabble with my shut-in mother; Creative – she made puppets, costumes, etc.; Called – with Grant to the Methodist ministry; Cook – such great food; Classy – never an unkind deed or word; Cute – she really was; Capable – nothing she could not do; Charismatic – loved by all; Cunning – in a creative way; Compassionate – to the down and out. Last, she was COURAGEOUS when she fought her last illness with great dignity. Ann loved her husband. Ann was devoted to her children. Ann adored her grandsons. Ann was a joyous pastor’s wife. Ann worshiped and served her Lord. What more could you wish for.

A memorial service was held at First United Methodist Church in Lakeland on January 2, 2002, conducted by Dr. Riley P. Short, Dr. W. S. Bozeman, and Dr. Paul Hartsfield.

Submitted by Virginia Hartsfield

### **MAY JOSEPHINE DYAL MCKINLEY**

May Josephine Dyal McKinley, widow of the Reverend J. Edward McKinley, passed away peacefully in Montgomery, Alabama, on April 25, 2002. She was buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in Palatka, Florida, on April 28, 2002, with the Reverend Hardy B. Sandlin III officiating.

May was born in Owens Ferry, Georgia, on October 24, 1910, the oldest daughter of Lillian Flood Dyal and Benjamin Franklin Dyal.

She and Ed were married in Cross City, Florida, on November 6, 1933.

Together they served congregations in Lake Butler, Hawthorne, Citra, Tampa, Jacksonville, Sanford, Fort Pierce, the Gainesville District, Saint Augustine, and Miami. Upon Ed’s retirement they moved to Palatka. Ed passed away in 1978, and May continued to live in Palatka until she moved to Montgomery in 1999 to be near her oldest daughter, Mary Stephens.

May is survived by one brother, Benjamin F. Dyal; two sisters, Cora Lee D. Horn and Patricia D. Crawford; four children, John E. McKinley, Marvin D. McKinley, Mary M. Stephens, and Barbara M. Hollis; nine grandchildren; and fifteen great-grandchildren.

Submitted by John E. McKinley



## GLADYS SOBRINAH WARD MYER



Gladys Sobrinah Ward Myer was born August 23, 1906, in Brooks County, Georgia, to Bessie and Terrance Ward, both of whom were devout Christians of the Baptist faith. In 1912 Gladys moved with her parents to Boynton, Florida (now Boynton Beach). She attended grammar school in Boynton and graduated from Lake Worth High School in 1924. She was the pianist for the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in Boynton when the Reverend. M. E. (Everett) Myer became the pastor, and romance blossomed. They were married in that church on September 2, 1924. The Reverend Fred Blackburn performed the wedding, and Gladys was always proud of the fact that his son later became a bishop of the United Methodist Church.

In a real sense, appointments of Everett to churches also included appointments of Gladys, for she committed herself completely to every church just as he did. Over the years of their active service in the conference they served dozens of churches over much of the state of Florida, from Redlands in the south to Havana in the north, and retired from Cross City in 1959. Several of these appointments were to circuits of two or three small churches, many of which have now been consolidated into larger churches.

An honor of which she was most proud was their appointment as statisticians for the Florida Conference. The appointment began in 1945 and ended in 1964, some years after he retired. Their children remember how she enlisted their help with the recording and compiling of data from each church and reporting it to the annual conference each year.

Gladys and Everett had six children, all of whom began school during the depression. Those were hard times for everyone, and “poundings” of food were standard ways of paying preachers in many of the churches they served, but Gladys made sure that there was always food on the table and clothes to wear to school and to church.

In 1959 Everett and Gladys retired to a lakefront home, which they built in Orange Springs, Florida. This was the first home that they could call their own and the first in which they had lived for more than the four years customary for Methodist ministers. After retirement, they continued to serve as Sunday morning and short-time supply ministers, in an interim appointment to Citra, and as visitors to the ill and home-bound in the Hawthorne/Melrose area. They also helped establish a church at Fort McCoy. Their last move was to Melrose in 1970. They became justifiably proud of the yard they cultivated and loved. Everett died in 1993 after almost sixty-nine years of marriage. Gladys continued to live in the house until March of 1999, when because of failing health she moved to Park Place Assisted Living Home in Gainesville, where she continued her habit of service to others.

Her six children, their spouses, thirteen grandchildren, and twenty-three great-grandchildren all were a source of pride to her, and their photos adorned her apartment at Park Place. She passed away peacefully on December 23, 2002, with her oldest granddaughter and oldest great-granddaughter at her side.

Submitted by M. Everett Myer Jr.

## **ALICE CLEVELAND NELSON**



A compassionate and attentive listener. A vibrant and intelligent woman. A true and loyal friend. A devoted and faithful servant of Christ. Alice was all of these things and so much more. She served the Lord with an overflowing heart and shared His unconditional love with those she met. Alice never met a stranger, and she deeply touched the lives of many throughout her life.

She began her journey on earth in Chicago, Illinois, on July 14, 1915, as the sixth and youngest child of the Reverend and Mrs. Gustaf Emmanuel Wallendorf. Graduating from Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois, in 1936, she majored in English, leading into a lifelong love of words, books and literature. It was at Wheaton that she met the Reverend Doctor Millard C. “Mike” Cleveland, the love of her life and father of their three children. Mike and Alice faithfully served in the Florida Conference for forty three years and enjoyed retirement before his untimely death in December 1992. Her three married children survive her: Paul Millard Cleveland of Seymour, Tennessee; William Wallendorf Cleveland of Saint Louis, Missouri; Carolyn Cleveland Buie of Ocala, Florida; along with eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren, one of whom was born three months after her death but whom she prayed for regularly. She also leaves her niece, Patricia Wallendorf Wallace of Nashville, Tennessee.

Her marriage to Mike brought Alice to the Florida Conference in 1939, where she quickly adapted to “southern ways” while serving congregations in Miami, Saint Petersburg (twice), Fort Myers, Tampa, Orlando, Fort Lauderdale, Lakeland (as District Superintendent), and Clearwater. Being a supportive pastor’s wife came naturally to her, and her graciousness and hospitality showed through. She entered into all phases of ministry with zeal and fervor, even serving with honor when elected as a delegate to the General Conference in 1988. One of her strengths and passions was working with young singles – a ministry she continued for more than thirty seven years. Alice was a strong support and encourager and many church members, as well as clergy and spouses, sought her counsel. She enhanced this gift when she earned a master’s degree in rehabilitative counseling from the University of South Florida while she and Mike were serving the Lakeland District. Alice counseled persons the rest of her life, long past retirement.

After Mike’s retirement in 1982, Alice became an active and loyal member of First United Methodist Church, Lakeland. She sang for many years in the choir (as she did in many churches), staunchly supported Florida Southern College, and became involved in numerous church and community activities. Alice remarried in November 2001 to Dr. Delbert H. Nelson, M.D., a friend and classmate from her days at Wheaton. They spent four happy months together before his death in March, 2002. Alice completed her earthly journey at her home in Lakeland on November 22, 2002. Her memorial service was held at First United Methodist Church, Lakeland, on November 26 with the Reverend Doctor Riley Short officiating, assisted by the Reverend Thomas McCloskey and the Reverend Charles Reeb. The Reverend John Willis and Mrs. Wade Setliff also shared.

Alice's legacy includes a vital and vibrant witness to her Savior, and a deep and abiding confidence in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Submitted by William W. Cleveland

### CATHERINE LOUISE SEXTON



Catherine Louise Sexton was born in Catechee, South Carolina, on September 24, 1920, one of the twelve children of Lillian Morrow Cobb and Warren Waller Cobb. Upon graduation from high school, Catherine started college at Lander, a Methodist girls' school in South Carolina. For the remainder of her college education, she transferred to Asbury College, from which she graduated in 1940 with a degree in home economics. The United States Government immediately employed Catherine to teach in a special program of education in Owensboro, Kentucky.

In 1941 she married Virgil W. Sexton, a graduate student at Garrett Theological Seminary, and became his partner in Methodist ministry. They served several student appointments in Indiana and Illinois prior to his ordination. Catherine also operated the graduate school bookstore on the Northwestern campus.

Their first full-time Methodist appointment was at Middleboro, Indiana, in the North Indiana Conference, but not for long. The bishop asked Virgil to go as a Methodist chaplain in World War II. Catherine held up the home front. With Virgil back at war's end, other Indiana appointments were at Van Buren, Elkhart, and Goshen churches. But the Korean War interfered. Called back to the navy, Virgil left Katy again as a chaplain. Then came appointments in Decatur and two churches in Indianapolis where Virgil was named district superintendent. Katy was busy in local church ministry but also in inner city projects and as a board member of Goodwill Industries.

Catherine then went to New York City, where Virgil had been elected as an executive of the Board of Global Ministries. During that time she traveled widely throughout the world with him as he inspected mission stations. As a result, Catherine sponsored several new medical missions for infants, children, and pregnant women and challenged pharmaceutical companies to ship medicines thereto. Katy then went along to Dayton, Ohio, where Virgil had been named as an executive of the then new General Council of Ministries of the United Methodist Church. There she began working as an interior designer. The Sextons then moved to Florida intending to retire. Not so. The bishop insisted that the couple were needed. Transferred into the Florida Conference in 1976, they were appointed to one church in Key West and two in Bradenton. Catherine always was deeply involved in the work of the church.

The Sextons had three children. Linda married Keith Patrick and lives in Connecticut. The twins, John and Judi, are both married, Judi to Steve Logan. Both live in Atlanta, Georgia. Following the children upon retirement, Catherine and Virgil moved

to Presbyterian Village in Atlanta, a retirement center. It was there, after a three-year illness, that Catherine died of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis on February 28, 2003. Following a memorial service, Catherine was interred in the Memorial Garden at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Atlanta.

Catherine taught home economics in many different high schools over the years, but she is best remembered for her labors in local churches and her success as an interior designer. For a lifetime, she designed interiors for homes, churches, and soup kitchens. One of her colleagues at her Florida business, Village Interiors, says the minute Catherine sees the angels in heaven, she shall most likely say, "If y'all would just rearrange your wing feathers a bit, you would look a little better!" Probably so!

Submitted by Virgil Sexton

### **VICTORIA PEAKE STANDIFER**



Victoria Peake Standifer, age eighty-nine, widow of the late Reverend Edgar Thomas Standifer, died Sunday morning, October 27, 2002, in Bradenton, Florida, just a week after experiencing a massive stroke.

She was born Victoria Isabeth Bell Peake, September 28, 1913, in Jasper, Arkansas, the first child of four born to Thomas Fennie and Ollie Harper Peake. The family moved to Jacksonville, Florida, when Victoria was twelve years old, believing that the climate might be good for the father's health. He died when Victoria was fifteen. Times were hard, but her mother was determined to keep the family together. While her mother took in laundry and helped others with canning, Victoria took a job in a furniture store during the day and went to high school at night.

The family attended Epperson Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, South, where Victoria played the piano. When she was twenty-one, the single Edgar Thomas Standifer was appointed pastor to her church. Three years later, on June 8, 1937, Ed and Victoria were quietly married in the home of one of Ed's clergy friends. They spent their "honeymoon" at annual conference. The folks at Epperson still lament the loss of their piano player.

Victoria was Ed's true partner in ministry, typing his notes for him, typing and running the church bulletins, visiting with him, teaching classes, helping in Vacation Bible School, playing the piano, and actively participating in the women's groups at church. She made do with whatever meager salary the church paid; she cooked anything and everything for their table, including chicken, rabbit, and squirrel, as well as exotic things such as possum and turtle. She sewed most of her sons' clothes as well as her own. As poor as they were, whenever a person came to their door asking for food, she fed them.

The conference moved pastors often. They served Pompano, 1931; Dinsmore-Epperson Memorial, 1934; Trinity-Northside, Saint Petersburg, 1937; Enterprise, 1938;

Jasper, 1940; Seminole, 1943; Chattahoochee, 1944; Auburndale, 1946; Okeechobee, 1947; New Port Richey, 1949; Oveida-Geneva, 1950; Ellenton-Terra Ceia, 1954; Ellenton, 1956; Bowling Green, 1958; Charlotte Harbor-Cleveland, 1962; and then as retired supply at Parrish, 1964. When Ed retired in 1966, he and Victoria were like newlyweds, buying their own furniture for the first time.

During Ed's last years and then after his death in 1971, Victoria lived in Bradenton in a house donated to the conference. She took good care of the house, minding the yard, seeing to repairs, and overseeing the tenants who lived on the second floor. When she thought it was time, she made arrangements to live at Asbury Towers (now Westminster-Asbury Towers) in Bradenton. As long as she was able, she attended First United Methodist Church in Bradenton, serving as their faithful delegate to annual conference, teaching Sunday school classes, and helping with United Methodist Women functions. When she was no longer able to attend, the church came to her with frequent visits, calls, and cards.

She will always be remembered as a kind, sweet, loving person who accepted the good in all people and never seemed to notice the bad. She was a true servant of Jesus Christ her whole life. She was also a terrific cook who left many recipes for her family to enjoy.

Ed and Victoria had two sons, the Reverend Robert Thomas Standifer (Linda), born July 25, 1939, serving at First United Methodist Church, Jupiter, and Wayne Edgar Standifer, born January 27, 1944, of Saint Petersburg. They had four grandchildren, Beth Murray (Pete) of Auburndale, Florida; Tommy Standifer (Tammy) of Lakeland, Florida; Jill Standifer of Chicago, Illinois, and Mike Standifer (Mindy) of Lakeland, Florida; and seven great-grandchildren.

Her funeral, held at First United Methodist Church of Bradenton, was conducted by her daughter-in-law, the Reverend Linda Standifer. Burial was at Mansion Memorial Park in Ellenton.

Submitted by Linda Standifer