

Part V

MEMOIRS

Celebration Of Remembrance Of These Faithful Servants

Name	Date of Death
<div> <div>Honorary</div> <div>Bishop Earl Gladstone Hunt</div> <div>March 26, 2005</div> </div>	
<div> <div>Clergy</div> <div> <div>Wendell Henry Joseph Startup (Associate Member)</div> <div>Frederick Durham Rumsey</div> <div>David Harold Talley</div> <div>Robert Durwood Sawyer</div> <div>John Paul Davenport</div> <div>Lister B. Grant (Associate Member)</div> <div>George W. Hamilton Jr. (Local Pastor)</div> <div>Albert Edwin Purviance Jr.</div> <div>Roland L. Petersen (Local Pastor)</div> <div>Cecil Nolan Ogg</div> <div>Kenneth Charles Crossman</div> <div>Theodore Schiller (Local Pastor)</div> <div>Ira Edick Sherman</div> <div>William Standard Echols Sr.</div> <div>Howard Thomas Moody Jr.</div> <div>Oliver Franklin Taylor</div> <div>Walter Ellis Williamson</div> <div>Charles E. Cason (Local Pastor)</div> <div>Elwyn Reed Burke</div> <div>Clarence Mason Yates</div> <div>Theodore Livingston</div> <div>Grant Hinshaw</div> <div>Dannitte Mays Gill</div> <div>Jose Daniel Pelay</div> <div>Winfred Scott Bozeman</div> </div> <div> <div>May 12, 2003</div> <div>April 28, 2004</div> <div>April 29, 2004</div> <div>May 3, 2004</div> <div>May 15, 2004</div> <div>June 19, 2004</div> <div>June 29, 2004</div> <div>July 26, 2004</div> <div>July 28, 2004</div> <div>August 12, 2004</div> <div>September 4, 2004</div> <div>September 14, 2004</div> <div>October 1, 2004</div> <div>October 27, 2004</div> <div>November 9, 2004</div> <div>November 9, 2004</div> <div>December 13, 2004</div> <div>December 31, 2004</div> <div>January 1, 2005</div> <div>March 5, 2005</div> <div>March 7, 2005</div> <div>March 8, 2005</div> <div>March 25, 2005</div> <div>April 14, 2005</div> <div>April 15, 2005</div> </div> </div>	

Diaconal Ministers

Franz Engle	May 1, 2004
Emily Fern Wheeler Hendry	June 7, 2004

Spouses

Jung Ja Yang	April 17, 2004
Fannie M. Wise	April 26, 2004
Kathryn V. Wilson	May 7, 2004
Florida B. Markward Hurley	May 12, 2004
Emily H. Mull Gilchrist	May 22, 2004
Mary Elliott Broyles Jackson	June 4, 2004
Margie Gayle Thompson	July 6, 2004
Helen Charlotte Silas Cooper	July 17, 2004
Martha Aleida Cline Northrup	July 17, 2004
Margaret Simpson Hoffman	August 23, 2004
Lois Sheppard Pendergrass	October 1, 2004
Ruth C. Shirley	October 30, 2004
Frances Jewel Dabney Norton	November 16, 2004
Teresa Alberta Cargill Davenport	December 29, 2004
Elizabeth Waters Hatch	January 2, 2005
Barbara Ann Owen Morris	January 20, 2005
Margaret Elizabeth Scott Floyd	February 20, 2005
Virginia Churchill Mullis	February 22, 2005
Mary Elizabeth Rodgers Simmons	March 3, 2005
Carolyn Joyce Dempsey Neeld	March 5, 2005
Helen Louise Williamston	March 6, 2005
Claire Sappington Schmidt	April 2, 2005

HONORARY

BISHOP EARL GLADSTONE HUNT, JR.

Bishop Earl Gladstone Hunt, Jr., eighty-six, a resident of Givens Estates in Asheville, North Carolina, died Saturday, March 26, 2005. He was born in Johnson City, Tennessee, on September 14, 1918, the son of Earl Gladstone and Tommie Mae DeVault Hunt. He is survived by his wife of sixty-two years, Mary Ann Kyker Hunt of Given Estates, and his son, Dr. Earl Stephen Hunt, and wife Edeltraut of Bethesda, Maryland.

Bishop Hunt received his bachelor of science degree from East Tennessee State University in 1941 and his master of divinity degree from Candler School of Theology in 1946.

He was admitted on trial in the Holston Conference in 1942. Bishop Paul B. Kern ordained him deacon and received him into full connection in 1944 and ordained him elder in 1945.

Hunt began his ministry as a student pastor at Sardis Methodist Church in Atlanta. Returning to the Holston Conference, he served pastorates in Kingsport, Chattanooga, and Morristown, Tennessee, where in 1952 he was named Young Man of the Year. His local church pastorate was interrupted in 1956 by his election to the presidency of Emory and Henry College in Emory, Virginia, where he built a strong faculty, increased the endowment, and expanded the physical facilities.

In 1964 the Southeastern Jurisdiction elected the forty-six-year-old Earl Hunt to the episcopacy. One of the youngest bishops in Methodism, he was assigned to the Charlotte Area. In an exceptional term of twelve years, his courageous ministry led him to appoint the first African-American to the district superintendency in the Southeastern Jurisdiction and to organize a Lay Advisory Council.

The Hunts were appointed in 1976 to the important Nashville Area, where several of United Methodism's general agencies are located. Here he began another ministry—writing. He had previously edited the book *Storms and Starlight*, a volume of messages written by our bishops on the Holy Spirit. In Nashville he wrote *I Have Believed*, which was followed by *A Bishop Speaks His Mind*, *Recovering the Sacred*, and the Denman Lectures, *Evangelism for a New Century*. At the time of his death, he was finishing his last book, entitled *An Open Door*.

In 1980 the Hunts were sent to the Florida Area. While here, he was given one of the most important assignments of his lifetime, chairing the Committee on Our Theological Task. Though he was assisted by a distinguished group of theologians, the document adopted by the General Conference in 1988 bears the unmistakable mark of his own incisive style. This doctrinal statement still comprises Part II of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*. While serving as bishop in Florida, he appointed Charlene Kammerer as the first woman district superintendent in the conference. Under his leadership an extensive program of church development was launched, along with a renewed emphasis on biblical preaching.

Bishop Hunt served as president of the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church from 1987 to 1988. He was a member of the governing board of the National Council of Churches for twelve years and served on the executive committee of the World Methodist Council for ten years. In 1988 he was awarded the World Methodist Chair of Honor.



Bishop Hunt received eleven honorary degrees. He was a popular radio and television preacher and lecturer and a trustee of numerous institutions.

Upon retirement in 1988 the Hunts moved to Lake Junaluska, where he began another phase of ministry by serving as president of the Foundation for Evangelism, an affiliate of the General Board of Discipleship. One of the remarkable aspects of the life of Earl Hunt was his ability to successfully express his unusual talents in so many phases of effective ministry—but at the center have always been education and responsible evangelism. His important work at the Foundation in joining these two areas helped bring a new awareness to United Methodism and helped refocus the church on her major mission of “making disciples of Jesus Christ.”

The Foundation for Evangelism and evangelism in the United Methodist Church are stronger today because of Bishop Earl Hunt. In his role as president of the Foundation, he may have made his most lasting contribution to World Methodism. In 2002 he was given a most deserved honor when the Foundation for Evangelism selected him as a Lifetime Distinguished Evangelist of The United Methodist Church for his exemplary lifetime accomplishments in the area of evangelism.

Bishop Hunt’s memorial service was held the morning of March 30, 2005, at Long’s Chapel United Methodist Church at Lake Junaluska. United Methodist Bishops Kenneth Carder, Lawrence McCleskey, Edward Tullis, and Charlene Kammerer participated in the service. Dr. James B. Logan was also one of the principal speakers. Bishop Hunt’s burial was at Monte Vista Memorial Park in Johnson City, Tennessee, that same afternoon, with Bishop Richard Looney officiating.

Submitted by Dr. Jimmie Crook

CLERGY

WINFRED SCOTT BOZEMAN

The Reverend Dr. Winfred Scott Bozeman was born on June 1, 1918, in Live Oak, Florida, where he graduated from high school in 1935.

Scott received a bachelor of arts degree in 1942 from Florida Southern College, where in his senior year he was elected president of the student body and was named the Honor Walk Student by the faculty. It was at Florida Southern that he made the decision to go into the ministry. He continued his studies at Candler School of Theology at Emory University, receiving a master of divinity degree in 1945.

He married Phyllis Wilson of Montgomery, Alabama, after her graduation from Huntingdon College. She also studied at Candler School of Theology. They had three children.

Admitted on trial in the Florida Conference in 1943, he was ordained deacon and received into full connection in 1945 and was ordained elder in 1946.

Dr. Bozeman’s distinguished service in the Florida Conference included the following appointments: student appointments at Orange Heights, Lakeland, 1939-41, and Spring Lake, 1941-42; Moore Haven/Clewiston, 1945-49; Haines City, 1949-52; Grace, Miami, 1952-1959; First, Tampa, 1959-64; superintendent, West Palm Beach District, 1964-68; First, Clearwater, 1968-74;



superintendent, St. Petersburg District, 1974-1980; conference council director, 1980-83; and superintendent, Leesburg District, 1983-85. He retired to Lakeland in 1985.

In conference work he served as chairperson of the Council on Ministries and the Board of Ministry and secretary of the Board of Education and the Board of Missions. He was a delegate to five General and Jurisdictional Conferences as well as one special session of the General Conference. He was vice chairperson of the Commission on the General Conference.

Florida Southern College awarded him an honorary doctor of divinity degree in 1964. He served as a trustee of Florida Southern College and Bethune-Cookman College.

Scott Bozeman was an effective preacher, a loving pastor, an able administrator, and a Christian statesman.

Dr. Bozeman died on April 15, 2005, in Lakeland. Funeral services were held on April 18, 2005, at First United Methodist Church in Lakeland, with Dr. Robert M. Gibbs, the Reverend Thomas M. McCloskey, the Reverend J. Arthur Padgett, and Dr. Melton Ware officiating. Burial was in Oak Hill Cemetery in Lakeland.

He is survived by his wife, Phyllis W. Bozeman of Lakeland; daughter, Blake Roberts of West Palm Beach; sons, Wilson Scott Bozeman and James Charles Bozeman of Lakeland; sisters, Jeanette Mattox of Live Oak and Betty Willis of Jacksonville; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Submitted by the Memoirs Committee

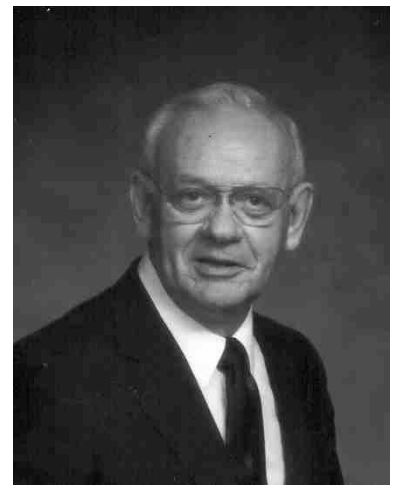
ELWYN REED BURKE

Elwyn Reed Burke was born in the historic town of Elkins, West Virginia, on January 30, 1924, the youngest of three children of Charles William and Minnie Florence Burke. From birth Elwyn was a unique person; he was a rambunctious child at home, a Boy Scout who loved to camp and hike, a drummer in the school marching band, a church member, and a popular outgoing teenager. He was raised with strong moral values and a love of country that motivated him to enlist in WWII. He served in the army air corps, flying more than fifty missions in Southeast Asia, sharing this experience with his sister Hazel, a nurse with the army. He returned home after flying U.S. military planes, but his father still would not let him drive the family car.

His wartime experiences in Asia had a dramatic affect on Elwyn and guided him to the ministry and to a deep purpose to bring a quality of life for all persons. He graduated from Davis and Elkins College, Elkins, West Virginia, in three years; he even found time for extracurricular activities, such as being a college cheerleader and pledging Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

Elwyn received a master of divinity degree from Garrett Theological Seminary in Chicago, where he met and married Ruth Ann Bailey and began his life as a Methodist minister. From their first assignment in Lacrosse, Wisconsin, to the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, to their time of service in Venezuela, to their return to service in Virginia, and finally to their many churches in Florida, they served with love and faith for more than forty years.

Admitted on trial in the West Virginia Conference in 1949, he was ordained deacon in 1951 and ordained elder and received into full connection in 1952. He transferred to the Florida Conference in 1967, serving the following churches: Labelle, 1967-70; South Tallahassee Parish,



1970-71; Leon-Wakulla Parish, 1971-72; Emmanuel, Melbourne, 1972-75; associate, First, Sarasota, 1975; Groveland/Mascotte, 1975-77; Grace, St. Augustine, 1977-80; Coral Way, Miami, 1980-81; Coral Way/Southwest, Miami, 1981-83; First, Pahokee, 1983-85; and Goss Memorial, Orlando, 1985-90. He retired in 1990.

His life and ministry were deeply colored by his WWII experiences, as he saw the entire world's people as God's children deserving of love, respect, and help in times of need. He befriended people from all walks of life, all races, and even other religious backgrounds. His goal was to spread God's love to all he met. He passed on this love and spirit to his family and friends in many ways. He shared his love of the Lord and his mission in life with his partner, Ruth Ann, and passed on his beliefs and love to his daughters through example. Mary Elizabeth became an educator and full-time mother. Marta heard the call to become a minister and devoted her life to God's work in the church.

Elwyn died on January 1, 2005. A service of celebration was held at Coral Gables United Methodist Church on January 8, 2005, with Bishop J. Lloyd Knox and the Reverend Dr. E. Keith Ewing officiating.

He was predeceased by his wife, Ruth Ann Bailey Burke. Both of them are interred in Arlington Cemetery.

He is survived by his daughters, Mary Elizabeth Burke Tillett and the Reverend Dr. Marta Burke; sons-in-law, W. James Tillett and Daniel K. Boyd; and grandchildren, Mathew James Burke Tillett and Sara Elizabeth Tillett.

Elwyn was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend, sharing love, laughter, and comfort in times of sorrow. He never met a person he did not find interesting. He is remembered by his family in many ways, for telling stories and for celebrating holidays and family occasions in a big way with food and fellowship. Elwyn was most of all a devoted husband, until his own death carrying a locket with Ruth Ann's picture in his wallet and reciting a special poem to her spirit every night. We hold these memories close as gifts from our father and friend, just as Elwyn was and is a gift from God.

Submitted by Marta Burke

KENNETH CHARLES CROSSMAN

Ken Crossman's favorite word was "shalom" and his favorite definition of that word was "universal reconciliation." He was a master bridge builder across social, racial, and religious boundaries. Making the seemingly impossible happen was his passion, and he constantly motivated his family, friends, and church with his enthusiasm and drive.

Kenneth Charles Crossman was born in Toledo, Ohio, on April 4, 1933. He died on September 4, 2004, after eight years of serious illness, including kidney failure that required four hours of dialysis every other day for those eight years.

He was the youngest of four sons born to Elliott Andrew Crossman and Mabel Miller Crossman. He graduated from his beloved Wabash College in 1955, having lettered in football and having played on the undefeated 1951 team. After attending Harvard Business School, he served in the army from 1956 to 1958. Then, for



eight years, he worked for Yardley of London, Inc., ranked as one of their top salesmen in the country for five of those years.

In 1963, after moving with his family to Plantation, Florida, Ken felt a call to the ministry while attending the Men's Retreat at Leesburg. In 1966 he was received on trial in the Florida Conference and ordained deacon; he was ordained elder and received into full connection in 1969. After graduating from Candler School of Theology with a master of divinity degree in 1968, he served as associate pastor at Park Temple in Ft. Lauderdale until 1970. While there, Ken founded the Specialized Urban Ministries in Broward County and served as its executive director from 1970 to 1977. During his seven years in this role he started many outreach programs, including a tutoring program and a low income housing project; he also served on community boards, including the Broward County Legal Aid Board.

Ken subsequently served Broadway, Orlando, 1977-81; St. Paul's, Melbourne, 1981-87; First, West Palm Beach, 1987-89; Lakewood, Jacksonville, 1989-90; Casselberry, 1990-93; and Deltona, 1993-95. His heart was always in community outreach and missions, and he led many mission trips to South and Central American countries.

In several cities he hosted weekly cable TV interview programs. He also served as the charter president of Orlando Center City Ministries and as president of Habitat for Humanity in Brevard County.

Ken loved Bethune-Cookman College, serving as president of the Lay/Clergy Advisory Board for six years and being made a life member.

Upon retirement in 1995 at age sixty-two, Ken pursued his hobbies and worked to help establish Bridge Builders in Winter Park. After being diagnosed with end stage renal failure in 1996, he became active in the American Association of Kidney Patients and spoke at several national seminars.

He is survived by his wife of forty-four years, Cecily Riley Crossman. They had four children: Catherine Ann Curtis, married to Patrick Dee Curtis; Scott Elliott Crossman, married to Sherry Tye Crossman; Sarah Crossman Sullivan, married to Christopher Michael Sullivan; and John Mark Crossman, married to Angela Barton Crossman. They had seven grandchildren: Kenneth Michael Keesee, Margaret Catherine Keesee, Ellie Layne Crossman, Charles Scott Crossman, John Christopher (Jack) Sullivan, Henry Riley Sullivan, and Claire Riley Crossman. John and Angela were expecting their second daughter, Ava Mae Crossman.

Ken died at home after Hurricane Charley and just as Hurricane Frances was whipping up. His memorial service was held on September 10, 2004, at First United Methodist Church, Winter Park, with Dr. Robert Bushong and Bishop J. Lloyd Knox officiating. His daughter Sarah and his son John shared memories of their father. His daughter-in-law Sherry sang "It Is Well with My Soul."

Submitted by Cecily R. Crossman

JOHN PAUL DAVENPORT

John Paul Davenport was born on April 1, 1920, in Lake City, Florida, the son of John Augustus Davenport and Beatrice Jacqueline Hartman Davenport. He was a 1938 graduate of Edison High School in Miami. He received a B.A. degree from Bob Jones University in 1942 and an M.S. degree from Dallas Theological Seminary in 1945.

The Reverend Mr. Davenport was received on trial in the Florida Conference in 1945, was ordained deacon and received into full connection in 1947, and was ordained elder in 1949. He served the following appointments: Floral Park, Miami, 1945-50; Monticello, 1950-55; associate, Trinity, Tallahassee, 1955-56; Opa-Locka, 1956-59; Perry, 1959-63; Northeast, Tampa, 1963-67; St. Paul's, Orlando, 1967-68, and chaplain, Florida State Prison, 1968-85. After his retirement in 1985, he served as supply pastor at Fellsmere, Bronson, and Ft. White.



From 1945 to 1950 he served as assistant statistician under the direction of the Reverend M.E. Myer. All the work was of course done on adding machines and typewriters, and he recalled the frantic activity involved in getting the reports ready for Annual Conference. As a district missionary secretary, he accompanied Bishop John W. Branscomb on his first episcopal tour of Cuba in 1953.

John Davenport married Teresa (Tess) Alberta Cargill on August 23, 1943. She survived him by seven and a half months.

They had three children: Patricia Lucile Davenport Fuller Davenport, born August 17, 1944; Daniel Lonnie Davenport, born January 8, 1949; and Debra Lee Davenport Kersten, born January 8, 1951; four grandchildren: Holly Fuller-Young, Crystal Fuller-Yates, Teri Davenport, and Scott Davenport; and one great-grandchild, Madeleine Yates. Scott, a U.S. Marine, and Crystal's husband, U.S. Army Captain Paige Yates, serve in Iraq.

The Reverend Mr. Davenport died on May 15, 2004, while working in his beloved outdoors. A memorial service was held at First United Methodist Church in Waldo, Florida, on May 20, 2004, with the Reverend Theodore Schwitzer officiating.

Called at the age of six, "Brother John" served the Lord faithfully for eighty-four years. He used his talents of preaching, evangelism, vocal and instrumental music, artistry, including chalk talks, counseling, and compassion, to the glory of God.

Submitted by Debi Davenport-Kersten and Patti Davenport

WILLIAM STANDARD ECHOLS SR.

The Reverend Dr. William Standard (Bill) Echols Sr. was born on May 23, 1927, on the campus of Young Harris College in Georgia while his parents, the Reverend Frank Q. Echols and Blanche Williams Echols, were students there. His father was a relative of Joseph Hubbard Echols, minister in the Georgia Conference, state senator, and member of the Confederate Congress. His mother was a distant relative of Ernest Vandiver, a former governor of Georgia.

After graduating from Lanier High School for Boys at the age of sixteen, he enrolled at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia. There he served as editor the *Cluster* student newspaper and was named to Who's Who in Colleges and Universities in his senior year. Finishing Mercer at age nineteen, he entered Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta. Upon graduation in 1950, he was admitted on trial in the North Georgia Conference of the Methodist Church. He was ordained deacon in 1949, ordained elder in 1951, and received into full connection 1952.



The Reverend Dr. Echols married Verna Louise Kennedy on January 13, 1951, and the couple had four children.

In North Georgia he served the Dunwoody, McDonough, and Austell congregations and was also conference secretary of evangelism. After eleven years, in 1961, he transferred to the Florida Conference, where he continued serving in evangelism. His pastorates were Coral Way, Miami, 1961-65; Livingston-Anderson (which became St. Mark's), Jacksonville, 1965-67; Jacksonville Beach, 1967-71; First, Lake City, 1971-74; Wagg Memorial, West Palm Beach, 1974-77; Venice/Nokomis, 1977-82; St. Paul, Jacksonville, 1982-84; and Cason, Delray Beach, 1984-88. He took disability status in 1988 and formally retired to Lake Wales in 1992.

Livingston-Anderson had been formed in 1962 by the merger of a church from the former Methodist Episcopal Church and one from the former Methodist Episcopal Church, South. During their pastorate the Echols facilitated the transition of the still-divided church into St. Mark's.

Dr. Echols served as conference secretary for twelve years.

In 1983 he was awarded an honorary D.D. degree by Bethune-Cookman College in recognition of his support of the music program. A music scholarship in his name continues his legacy.

Dr. Echols was a member of the Lions Club in both Dunwoody and Lake Wales, the Kiwanis Club in Miami, and the Rotary Club in Austell. He served on the Polk County Democratic Executive Committee.

He was preceded in death by his parents and by a son, Dr. Scott K. Echols.

Along with his wife, Verna, he is survived by one son, William Echols of Pinellas Park, born in 1952; two daughters, Susan Anne Armour of Wellington, Florida, born in 1958, and Sylvia Ellen Echols of Sarasota, born in 1965; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren, Nathan and Hailey.

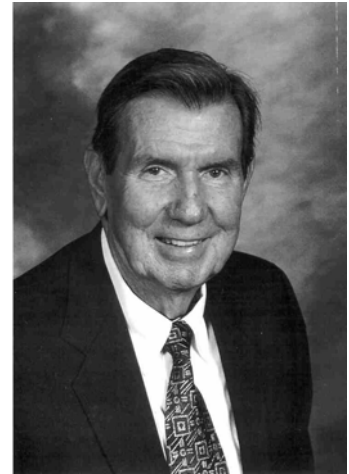
Dr. Echols passed away on October 27, 2004, at Lake Wales Medical Center. Services took place on October 30, 2004, at the First United Methodist Church in Lake Wales, with the Reverend Phillip Short officiating, and on October 31 at the Venice/Nokomis United Methodist Church in Nokomis, with the Reverend Gordon Ralls officiating. Interment was in the Jesse Knight Cemetery in Nokomis.

Submitted by Verna K. Echols

DANNITTE MAYS GILL

Dannitte Mays Gill was born on September 17, 1923, in Thomasville, Georgia, the second of two children of John Boyd Gill and Emmala Parkhill Mays Gill. The family moved about, as his father, an entomologist, followed the white-fringed beetle around the South in his work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture as head of research on the insect.

Dan accepted Christ as Savior and became a member of First Methodist Church in Albany, Georgia, in 1930. In 1938 the family moved to Gulfport, Mississippi, where Dan graduated from Gulfport High School in 1939 at the age of fifteen. He attended Perkinson Junior College for two years. In 1941 he enrolled in Georgia Tech, where he worked as a co-op student in Copperhill, Tennessee, at the Tennessee Copper Company.



In April 1943 Dan reported to Fort McPherson, Georgia, and was assigned to basic training in the medical corps at Camp Barkley near Abilene, Texas. He then studied engineering at the University of Iowa in the Army Specialized Training Program and received basic training in a chemical warfare unit at Camp Sibert, Alabama.

He was sent to Calcutta in 1945 on a forty-one-day trip aboard a ship that had to avoid Japanese submarines. He was deeply moved by the suffering of the Indian people. After a year his unit returned to the United States, and he went back to Georgia Tech. Upon completing his degree in chemical engineering in August 1947, he began work as a chemical engineer at the Esso Refinery in Baton Rouge.

Dan felt God calling him into ministry, so he resigned his job at Esso in 1949 and entered Candler School of Theology at Emory University. After receiving his bachelor of divinity degree, he was admitted on trial in the Florida Conference in 1950, was ordained deacon in 1951, and was ordained elder and received into full connection in 1952. His brother, John Gill Jr., was already a member of the conference.

While he was in school, Dan met Charlotte Claire Orr, a medical technologist at Emory Hospital. They were married on September 8, 1950, and enjoyed a happy marriage of fifty-four years.

Dan's appointments were Tice/Estero, 1951-1953; Ruskin, 1953-56; Edge Memorial, Groveland, 1956-61; First, Boca Raton, 1961-65; First, Plant City, 1965-72; Goss Memorial, Orlando, 1972-77; First, Zephyrhills, 1977-84; and First, Hudson, 1984-86. He led building programs in Groveland, Boca Raton, and Zephyrhills, where the education building was named for him. He retired in 1986, after thirty-six years in the active ministry.

Dan received the conference's Town and Country Award. He enjoyed working for several years with the Florida Conference Family Life Department, and he also served on the Board of Ordained Ministry.

After retirement Dan served as minister of visitation for First United Methodist Church in Tavares and continued his work with the Christian Ashram movement. During their retirement years Dan and Charlotte enjoyed their cottage in Maggie Valley, North Carolina, where he served as a volunteer minister at the Peachtree United Methodist Church for eighteen summers. They participated in many events at Lake Junaluska.

Dan and Charlotte had two sons. David Murrah Gill, born on October 26, 1951, is now pastor of First United Methodist Church in Eustis. He and his wife, Susan Stiles Gill, have four children, Daniel, Andrew, Peter, and Julia. Stephen B. Gill, born on February 1, 1954, is a family

practice doctor in the Green Cove Springs area. He and his wife, Jeanne Brauer Gill, and their three children, Matthew, Jimmy, and Bethany, live in Orange Park.

In August 2004 Dan was diagnosed with acute myelogenous leukemia. He died on March 25, 2005, at Hospice House at The Villages north of Leesburg.

Dan's funeral celebration took place at Edge Memorial United Methodist Church in Groveland. The Reverend David Gill, his son, and the Reverend John Gill III, his nephew, assisted in the service, as did the Reverends Whitney Dough, Tom Pope, and Gene Rutland. His other son, Dr. Stephen Gill, contributed with a guitar solo. Grandson Jimmy Gill, a Baptist minister, also participated. David carried his robe and Jimmy carried his stole from the altar as a symbol of continuing ministry. Interment was in Bogainvillea Cemetery in Avon Park, with the Reverend Robert Thorn and the Reverend Jeff Ramsland officiating.

Submitted by Charlotte O. Gill

GEORGE W. HAMILTON JR.

George W. Hamilton Jr. was born on June 20, 1943, in Ocala, Florida, to George Hamilton Sr. and Inez Jackson Hamilton. After graduating from Howard High School in Ocala he attended Central Florida Community College in Ocala and Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi. In 1963 he completed the Course of Study at Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta.

On June 1, 1969, he married Betty Jean Graham. They had two daughters, Karen Yolunda Hamilton Lee and Laguana Felicia Hamilton Clarkson.

After having been licensed to preach in 1992, the Reverend Mr. Hamilton served Hall's Chapel, Rochelle, 1992-93; Hall's Chapel/DeBose Chapel 1993-2003; and Hall's Chapel, 2003-04.

He received recognition from Sprint United Telephone Company in 1993 for an Idea That Worked and from Local 3176 of the Communications Workers of America in 1997 for his many years of devotion and support.

The Reverend Mr. Hamilton died of a massive heart attack on June 29, 2004. His funeral took place on July 2, 2004, at Temple of Faith in Ocala, with the Reverend Earsel Lewis officiating. Burial was in the Wesley Chapel Cemetery in Cotton Plant.

He is survived by his wife and daughters; three grandchildren, Anquan Lee, Daijhe Lee, and Kelana Clarkson; his father, George Hamilton Sr.; three sisters; and a brother.

George Hamilton Jr. was a devoted husband and father. We loved him with the breath, smiles, and tears of all our lives, and if God choose, we shall love him better after death.

Submitted by his wife and children



GRANT HINSHAW

The Reverend Dr. Grant Hinshaw was born in Westfield, Indiana, on January 15, 1924, to Grant and Ione Kendall Hinshaw.

He graduated *summa cum laude* from Florida Southern College in 1957 with a bachelor of arts degree. In 1960 he received a bachelor of divinity degree from Candler School of Theology at Emory University and in 1972 was awarded a master of divinity degree. He earned a doctor of ministry degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary, a United Presbyterian school, in 1978.

While attending Emory University, Grant was president of his senior class, was voted one of four outstanding seniors, and was presented the Cokesbury Award for Outstanding Writing.

His first church membership was at St. Luke's Methodist Church in St. Petersburg, Florida, where he was one of the original members.

Admitted to the Florida Conference on trial and ordained deacon in 1958, he was ordained elder and admitted into full connection in 1960.

Dr. Hinshaw served the following appointments: Spring Lake, 1955-57; Union Street, Clearwater, 1960-67; First, Naples, 1967-72; First, Jacksonville, 1972-75; First, Sarasota, 1975-82; Christ, Ft. Lauderdale, 1982-84; and superintendent, Ft. Myers District, 1984-90. He retired to Lakeland in 1990.

He was a member of the executive committee of the Florida Conference Council on Ministries and the board of directors of the Florida Methodist Foundation and was elected a delegate to Jurisdictional Conference and alternate delegate to General Conference.

He served with the 9th infantry in Europe during World War II.

On April 18, 1947, he married Ann Hobson in Bradenton, Florida. They had three children: Tracy A. Hinshaw (Forster), born on March 26, 1948; Kendall J. Hinshaw, born on January 28, 1960; and Andrew G. Hinshaw, born on May 22, 1962.

Dr. Hinshaw died of pneumonia on March 8, 2005, in Lakeland. Memorial services were held on March 14, 2005, at First United Methodist Church in Lakeland, with Dr. Robert M Gibbs and the Reverend Tom McCloskey officiating. He was buried at Lakeland Memorial Gardens in Lakeland.

His wife preceded him in death on December 29, 2002. He is survived by his daughters, Tracy A. Hinshaw Forster of Jacksonville and Kendall J. Hinshaw of Lakeland; his son, Andrew G. Hinshaw, of Greenville, Pennsylvania; three grandsons, Rob Forster, Chad Forster, and Casey Hinshaw.; and his sister, Emma Hinshaw.



Submitted by Kendall Hinshaw

HOWARD THOMAS MOODY JR.

Howard Thomas Moody Jr. was born on May 2, 1923, in Jeffersontown, Kentucky, to Iva Lee Johnson Moody and Howard T. Moody Sr.

During the 1940s he received a bachelor of arts degree from Kentucky Wesleyan College. He later obtained a bachelor of divinity degree from Candler School of Theology, Emory University, and a master of arts degree in Christian education from Scarritt College in Nashville, Tennessee. He took post-graduate courses from Vanderbilt University, Iowa State University, and Louisville Presbyterian Seminary.

He was received on trial in the Louisville Conference and ordained deacon in 1946; he was ordained elder in 1955.

The Reverend Mr. Moody served in a number of capacities. He studied Portuguese and served as a chaplain to the Instituto Porto Alegre in Brazil; he pastored churches in both Santo Alegre and Santo Luiz in the Western Interior of Brazil. In 1953 the Reverend Mr. Moody returned to the United States to participate in additional training. It was then that he met Christine Puckett, who worked at Wesley Community House in Louisville, Kentucky. They were married on August 30, 1953, and planned to go back to Brazil; health problems, however, prevented their return. They continued working in the missionary field in the United States, serving together as director and program director at the Yuma Mission Reservation in Yuma, Arizona

The Moodys returned to Kentucky in the late 1950s, and he pastored Methodist churches in Hawesville, Rumsey, Thruston, and Livermore in the Louisville Conference. He also served for fifteen years as director of town and country work at Kentucky Wesleyan College. He authored several articles for the United Methodist Church. He was particularly proud that he was asked to speak on "The Ministerial Call—An Historical Perspective" at the Fifth Aerospace Institute for Religious Leaders in 1965 in Indianola, Iowa, when Dr. Wernher von Braun was also on the program.

In the early 1980s the Reverend Mr. Moody pastored Berlin and Wesley Chapels in the South Georgia Conference. He transferred to the Florida Conference in 1987, serving Calvary in Tallahassee until 1989, when he retired after forty-three years of service to the United Methodist Church.

The Reverend Mr. Moody is survived by his wife of fifty-one years, Christine Moody, and his five children and their families: son, Keith Matthew, and Tammy Moody and their daughter, Keightly; son, Craig Stephen, and Lisa Moody and their daughters, Nicolette and Lauren; son, Kirk, and Lori Moody and their sons, Jason, Paul, Austin, Coleman, and Jordan, and daughter, Skylar; daughter, Elaine M., and Ron Berry and their daughter and son-in-law, Cristin and Robert Whitaker, and son, John; daughter, Sandi, and Bob Cundiff and their son, Logan, and daughter, Madison. He is also survived by his two younger brothers, Nelson Moody and Richard Moody, and a sister-in-law, Eleanor Puckett.

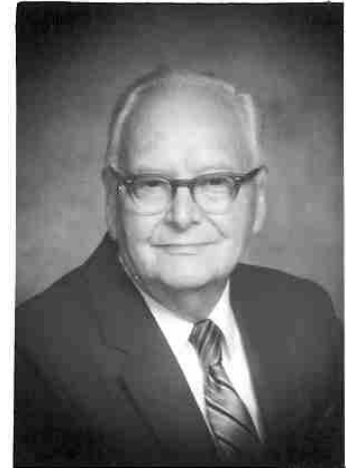
The Reverend Howard Thomas Moody passed away on November 9, 2004, in Tallahassee at the age of eighty-one. Services were held on November 12, 2004, in Trinity United Methodist Church in Tallahassee. Burial was in Culley's MeadowWood in Tallahassee.

Submitted by Christine Moody



CECIL NOLAN OGG

Cecil Nolan Ogg was born on August 20, 1907, in Berea, Kentucky, the son of Egbert and Matilda Chasteen Ogg. He died at Shands Teaching Hospital at AGH in Gainesville, Florida, on August 12, 2004. He was preceded in death by his wife of seventy-two years, Sarah, who died on December 8, 2003. Survivors include his daughters, Joyce Ogg Foster and son-in-law Harry Foster of Gaffney, South Carolina; Janette Ogg of Winchester, Virginia; and Paula Ogg of Williston, Florida. Also included in his family are three grandchildren, Douglas Foster of Spartanburg, South Carolina; Donald Foster of Marion, North Carolina; and Tanya Butler of Gaffney, South Carolina; eleven great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.



Cecil's life was celebrated at Community United Methodist Church in DeBary, Florida, where he had served as pastor in the early 1960s with his beloved helpmate and wife, Sarah. The Reverend Will Furlong and the Reverend James Gaylor officiated. Voices and hearts were lifted to heaven in beautiful song and praise to the Lord whom he loved and served for so many years. He was cherished by many, especially the members of this congregation, from the very young who stood with tears streaming down their faces, likening him to a spiritual grandfather, to every age beyond. His pastor, Will Furlong, remarked, "This Christian gentleman lived a full and remarkably fruitful life and his wonderful presence among us will be missed: his prayers, his gentle spirit, kindly smile, warm greeting and his firm handshake." No one was ever a stranger to him. He was described by one of his former parishioners as the Encourager—a genuine friend, a mentor, and a true disciple of Jesus.

Cecil had a deep love for music. At age five, his musical talents and melodious voice were beginning to be noticed as he sat on the fence: passers-by in their buggies would offer him a nickel to sing for them. A year later a life-threatening illness befell him, but through the constant prayers of his mother, who never left his side for many weeks, he was healed, for God had spared him for a great purpose. During his teen years, he attended Berea College Academy, having to terminate his studies in order to assist his family financially and to work in distant cities. During this time, he met his future wife, Sarah Elizabeth Whitaker, and they were married on December 24, 1930.

During the Great Depression, they settled in Berry, Kentucky, near Sarah's home. He was profoundly influenced to become a Christian by his saintly father-in-law. He was converted in a cottage prayer meeting and called to be a singing evangelist, using his musical talents for the Lord. In 1935 he responded to God's call to enter the ministry, a call that was still as fresh and as strong in 2004. He entered college for six years of formal study and church training at Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky. He graduated with a major in history in 1941 and was received on trial in the Kentucky Conference. He was ordained deacon and received into full connection in 1943 and was ordained elder in 1945. Known for his diplomatic and organizational skills in strengthening the spiritual life and programs of his churches, he established a reputation which was to follow him throughout the rest of his ministry.

In 1959, after twenty-four years in the Kentucky Conference, Cecil, Sarah, and their daughters moved to Florida, where he pastored the following churches: Christ, Holly Hill, 1959-63; Community, DeBary, 1963-68; First, Oviedo, 1968-71; and Otterbein, Tampa, 1971-74. For several years he served on the Board of the Children's Home. He and Sarah retired to DeBary in 1974, but his ministry was not concluded. He served a retirement appointment at Barnett Memorial in Enterprise until 1986, when he retired for the second time, after fifty years as an active minister of the Word. He continued to be actively involved in community and church activities, as well as in

visiting health care facilities, bringing cheer and hope to the infirm. He was in demand as a Bible teacher, counselor, and visiting pastor in DeBary and churches in surrounding communities.

Cecil Nolan Ogg was no ordinary human being. He was considered a spiritual giant by many standards. His humble countenance and winning ways endeared him to all who knew him and to those whose lives were influenced down through the years by his compassion and caring. He was to his family as he was to his parishioners and friends: a constant, honest, unchanging devout man of prayer. His greatest joy in life was sharing God's Word, praying for people's needs and giving of himself to those less fortunate than he.

He has left a rich spiritual legacy to his family and has passed on his mantle to generations to come. His family and friends have been blessed beyond measure to have had this great man of God in their lives. As one of his friends aptly stated, "The good fight is won. His work is recorded in the Book of Life. He now lives on high in a house not made by hands." It is certain that the angels in heaven gave him a tremendous welcome as he was greeted by Jesus, his Master, who must have uttered, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Submitted by his daughters

JOSE DANIEL PELAY

Jose Daniel Pelay was born on February 18, 1939, in Jovellanos, Matanzas, Cuba. His parents were Antonio Ramon and Brigida, who were proud of him because he was the first boy to come to the family after three girls. From his early childhood he was taught to love God above anything else.

In his local church he served in several capacities, such as Sunday school teacher, youth leader, and a hard worker in the missions established by the Jovellanos Church. When he was a teenager, his pastor, the Reverend Jorge A. Leon, asked him to ring the church bell announcing to the whole town that it was time to worship God. He was paid two pesos a month, and even out of that small amount, he faithfully offered his tithe to the Lord.

At age seventeen he fell in love with Edita Torres, whom he had known in church since childhood. Daniel proposed to Edita at a youth camp but she didn't give an answer at the moment. Several days later, during a worship service, she placed her hand on Daniel's, giving him an answer in that form.

They married on September 27, 1961, in the same church where both of them were born. It was a very distinctive wedding because a sister of Edita was married in the same ceremony to Daniel's best friend, the Reverend Sergio Santos, who was also born in that church. Two friends married two sisters. A year before getting married, Daniel and Sergio had experienced God's call to ministry almost simultaneously, their pastor the Reverend Mr. Leon being their spiritual mentor through such a transcendental decision.

In 1957 Daniel was elected representative of the Cuban Methodist Youth to the Methodist Youth Camp in Leesburg, Florida. In 1960 he began his theological studies at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Matanzas, Cuba. Two years later their first daughter, Noemi, was born. Daniel was appointed to different churches within the Matanzas District, and after two years at the seminary, he was appointed to the Central Methodist Church in Matanzas, where he shared pastoral responsibilities with another friend, the Reverend Roy Rodriguez.



Daniel was accepted as a probationary member of the Cuba Conference and ordained deacon in 1963. He graduated from seminary in 1964 and was appointed to the Methodist Church in Pinar del Rio. He was ordained elder in 1965, the year that their second daughter, Elizabeth, was born. He was appointed in 1968 to serve the Marianao Church in Havana, replacing the Reverend Armando Rodriguez, who had been elected to the episcopate. He also served as superintendent of the Havana District for four years while working as pastor in Marianao.

The ministry of Daniel and Edita in Marianao lasted ten years and was very fruitful. In spite of the repression and persecution against Christians at that time, they were guided by the Holy Spirit to keep their church alive and growing. They were able to see that people from that church today are pastors and lay leaders in different parts of the world.

In 1978 Daniel faced a new challenge in his ministry when he was appointed to Cienfuegos. He left a flourishing church to serve a dying one, but the congregation there received them with open arms, and the flame of the Holy Spirit covered the pastor's family and members in such a way that the church started to grow in numbers and commitment to the Lord.

During the Mariel crisis, in 1980, Daniel and his family arrived in the United States, where he was appointed to serve the Carol City United Methodist Hispanic Church in the Miami District. Through the vision and efforts of the district superintendent, the Reverend James Lloyd Knox (now a retired bishop), a new Hispanic church was established at the North Hialeah United Methodist Church. Daniel was appointed to begin that new church, which in eleven years was able to reach financial self-support.

In 1992 Daniel faced yet another challenge in his pastoral ministry when he was appointed to Coral Way United Methodist Church in Miami. Once again the power of God and the dedication of this humble servant made possible a revival in the church, in numbers as well as in finances. Daniel's vision and passion for the construction of a new sanctuary spread to the leaders of the church, encouraging them to fulfill that dream. The result of that faith adventure is the beautiful building that for the glory of God stands in the corner of Coral Way and 79th Avenue in Miami as a powerful witness to the vision and enthusiasm of a man of God who had big dreams for the Lord and was rewarded by Him with the fulfillment of those dreams. That building will always be a witness to the faith and dedication of the Reverend Daniel Pelay.

After forty years of faithful service in the ministry, Daniel decided to retire in 2000. Many people didn't understand his decision because they thought he was still young, but Daniel kept his word and retired against all opinions. Today we give thanks to the Lord that, by making that decision, he was able to live his last five years more dedicated to his wife, daughters, and grandchildren.

In 2001 Daniel and his family were part of another ministerial dream in the Miami District: La Nueva Iglesia, which they wholeheartedly supported. Daniel was the inspiration of that new church as to its location, design, and vision. There he celebrated special services such as Thanksgiving Day, Christmas, New Year's Eve, and especially the Holy Supper during Holy Week. Daniel preached his last sermon on Good Friday 2005 and led a play he called "The Winner."

He went with the Lord on April 14, 2005, when he was received with shouts of acclamation and the Lord's voice was heard: "Well done, good and faithful servant! Come and share your master's happiness."

Funeral services were held on April 17, 2005, at North Hialeah United Methodist Church in Miami, with Dr. Rinaldo D. Hernandez officiating. Burial was in Dade South Memorial Park in Miami. Survivors are Edita, his wife of forty-two years; his daughters, Noemi and Elizabeth; and his grandsons, Carlos Daniel and Jean-Carlo.

Submitted by the Reverend Rini Hernandez

ROLAND LEE PETERSEN

Roland Lee (Pete) Petersen was born in Lincoln, Nebraska, on April 20, 1925, the son of Thorval M. Petersen and Anna M. Wachter Petersen. After graduating from Lincoln High School in 1943, he served in the United States Navy until 1946. He then entered the University of Nebraska, receiving a B.S. degree in civil engineering. After graduation he worked on the building of the Illinois Toll Road, as well as on projects for several other companies.

He soon met a young lady, Shirley Paulson, and they were married in Sycamore, Illinois, on March 30, 1957. They had two children from a previous marriage: Nancy Ann Cantrell, born on August 13, 1954, and Tim A. Petersen, born on July 17, 1956. Pete and Shirley were married for forty-seven years.

In 1960 Pete opened his own construction business, expanding it as far south as Florida. After its rapid growth, he sold it to a large firm in New York and left the company. At that time he found his Lord and started reading the Bible and attending Bible classes. Pete and Shirley attended Community United Methodist Church in Casselberry, and it was not long before he was conducting the Sunday evening prayer group. At the request of Dr. Eldon Simmons, district superintendent, he took over Bear Lake United Methodist Church in Forest City in January 1977. He was licensed to preach in 1978. He remained at Bear Lake until 1980, when he began the Course of Study at Emory University, completing it in 1981.

He served Forest Hills, 1981-82; Oxford/Lady Lake, 1982-84; St. Andrews, Daytona Beach, 1984-85; Lake Como/Georgetown, 1985-87; Webster, 1994-95; and Coleman/ Sumterville, 1997-98. The Petersens then moved for three years to North Carolina, where he served several churches.

Roland loved his Lord, his family, and all his parishioners. He never left a church but what he was welcomed back with open arms and hugs.

He was diagnosed as terminal, and while he was being cared for at home, God called him to his heavenly home on July 28, 2004.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his son, Tim A. Petersen, of Atlanta; his daughter, Nancy A. Cantrell, of Franklin, North Carolina; three grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter. His sisters, Arthella Harris, of St. Simons Island, Georgia, and Norma Babulski, of Aurora, Illinois, also survive.

A service of celebration, which Roland had planned, was held at Oxford United Methodist Church. Several friends, ministers, and his children spoke about his love for people and for life and about his happiness in meeting God, as he had preached for twenty-three years. His remains were taken to the National Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida, for burial.



Submitted by Shirley R. Petersen

ALBERT EDWIN PURVIANCE

The Reverend Albert Edwin Purviance, beloved minister and missionary in the Florida Conference for more than thirty years, was called to his heavenly home on July 26, 2004.

He was born on December 4, 1913, in Rome, Georgia, the son of Albert Edwin and Marion Dickinson Purviance. A graduate of the University of Florida and Candler School of Theology at Emory University, he was admitted on trial to the Florida Conference and ordained deacon in 1943. He was admitted into full connection and ordained elder in 1945. He began his ministry at Child's Park Methodist Church in St. Petersburg, where he served from 1943 until 1948. The appointment included Gulfport from 1943 to 1945.

He and his wife, Mable, felt called to the mission field in 1948. They served for nine years in Alaska, where he was the founding pastor of the First Methodist Church in Fairbanks, the northernmost Methodist church on the North American continent. That ministry was interrupted by a one-year appointment to Trinity Methodist Church in Tampa, 1951-52.

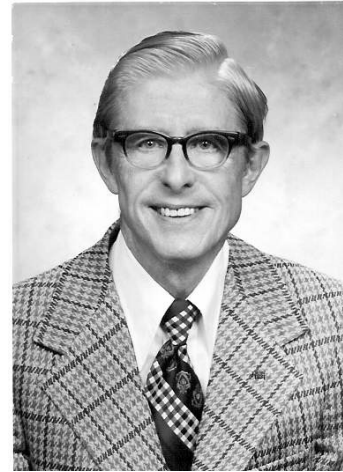
He also served Palm Springs, Hialeah, 1958-63 and, after a year's sabbatical leave, Grace, St. Augustine, 1964-69. He was appointed to Children's Ministry in 1969. He retired in 1972.

In 1965, the Reverend and Mrs. Purviance established World's Children, Inc., a corporation dedicated to caring for destitute children overseas. Today, World's Children sponsors seventy-one orphanages. To date, more than forty thousand children around the world have been clothed, fed, and educated.

The Reverend Mr. Purviance was the author of eighteen religious books.

He is survived by his wife of sixty-five years, Mable Blanton Purviance; a son, David Purviance; a daughter, Evelyn Haupt; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

His funeral was held on July 31, 2004, at First United Methodist Church, Clearwater, with the Reverend Russell T. Belcher officiating. He was buried at Sylvan Abbey Memorial Gardens in Clearwater, Florida.



Submitted by Evelyn Haupt

FRED DURHAM RUMSEY

Fred Durham Rumsey was born on January 3, 1924, in Phenix City, Alabama, to Desser Cook Rumsey and Young Albert Rumsey.

After graduating from Phenix City High School, he went to work for the Coca Cola Company. One night in a revival at Phenix City Methodist Church he accepted the call to the ministry. The revival was preached by Dr. Harry Denman, who became a personal hero to Fred.

Fred attended the University of Florida, serving churches at Haile, Anthony, and Newberry while enrolled. He graduated from Florida Southern College in Lakeland in 1956 with a bachelor of science degree. In 1959 he received a bachelor of divinity from Candler School of Theology at Emory, from which he received a master of theology degree in 1972. While at Emory he served Redan, Rock Ledge, and Rock Chapel.

He was admitted on trial in the Florida Conference and ordained deacon in 1957 and was ordained elder and admitted into full connection 1960.

He served Forest Hills, Tampa, 1959-61. He was on honorable location from 1961 to 1990, during which time he served as supply at Grant Chapel, Winter Park, for a short while and at Aldersgate, Orlando, 1978-91. When he was readmitted in 1990, he continued for a year at Aldersgate, which had become Faith. He was appointed to North Jacksonville from 1991 until his retirement in 1994. He then served Trinity in Jacksonville as part-time pastor. He fully retired in 2003 and moved to Orlando, where he served the Taft church until his death. He also served Grant Chapel in Winter Park.

Fred was married to Carol Wood Whitehurst Rumsey in 1969. He had two children from a previous marriage, Carol Wirbel, age fifty-five, and Frederick Denya, age forty-two. He had one stepson, David Whitehurst.

Fred died on April 28, 2004, while taking an afternoon nap. He was honored with a memorial service at Trinity United Methodist Church in Orlando, with the Reverend Timothy Smiley and the Reverend Ron Wood, Carol's brother, officiating. He was interred at Woodlawn Crematorium Garden in Orlando.

His one great wish was to die still on the job. He preached on Sunday and died the following Wednesday. God has gained a beautiful soul and the United Methodist Church has lost one.

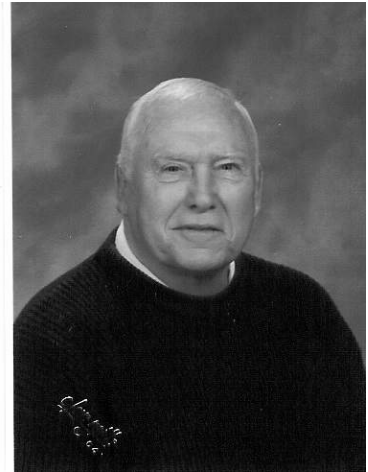


Submitted by Carol Rumsey

ROBERT DURWOOD SAWYER

Robert Durwood Sawyer, the third of five children, was born on August 22, 1932, in Ogdensburg, New York, to Clinton and Addie Bogardus Sawyer.

The family moved to Buffalo, New York, where in 1948 Bob dropped out of school and enlisted in the United States Army. After basic training he was sent to Japan to serve with occupation forces. In June 1950 he became a member of Task Force Smith, the first outfit sent into the Korean War. He was wounded twice, earning two Purple Hearts, Silver and Bronze Stars, a Special Certificate of Valor, and several other awards. After his tour of duty he returned to the United States, where in June 1952 he received an honorable discharge at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin.



While stationed at Camp McCoy, Bob met Lynette Dregne. They were married on June 27, 1952, and for the next several years made their home in Buffalo. During those years Bob made his living in the construction field, helping to build the Niagara Power Project in New York, the Logan Tunnel in Boston, and parts of the New York State Thruway—experiences that would serve him well in his future ministry.

In 1965, after a serious illness which kept him hospitalized for seven months, Bob responded to God's call in his life, accepted the salvation offered through Jesus Christ, and began the long journey into the parish ministry.

The journey began with earning his high school equivalency. He then received his B.S. from Houghton College in New York State in 1969. After moving to Illinois, he earned his M.A. from Wheaton Graduate School in 1970, majoring in communications. In 1974 he received his M.Div. from Northern Theological Seminary in Chicago.

Bob was ordained an elder in the Free Methodist Church of North America, serving three local churches during the years he was completing his education. While living in Illinois, Bob produced and presented a half-hour Christian radio program that aired on Sunday mornings, aimed at the "man of the street" in an effort to reach those who might not be in church. He was also heavily involved in the Billy Graham Chicago Crusade.

Bob came to Florida in 1972, serving two years as a supply pastor. In 1974 he was admitted to the Florida Conference as a probationary member and ordained deacon. He was ordained elder and admitted into full connection in 1976.

He served the following churches: Ocklawaha, 1972-80; First, Chiefland, 1980-81; Perrine-Peters, Miami, 1981-85; Pine Hills, Orlando, 1985-88; North, Sarasota, 1988-89; Wesley Memorial, Lakeland, 1989-91; and Beach, Fort Myers, 1991-96.

In Ocklawaha and Perrine-Peters, and in one Free Methodist Church, Bob guided and supervised the building of new sanctuaries, drawing heavily on earlier construction experience. He served on the Florida Conference Communications Committee and as a supervising elder for young pastoral candidates. In Miami he served as volunteer chaplain for Holiday Inn and from 1990 was volunteer chaplain for the Twenty-first Regimental Combat Team Association, a group of army veterans.

Bob and Lynette had five children: Robert D. Sawyer Jr., born on January 6, 1953; Tari M. Friemuth, born on August 22, 1954; Clint D. Sawyer, born on November 16, 1961; Tami M. Locklear, born on January 23, 1963; and Kyle D. Sawyer, born on February 18, 1967. There are thirteen grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

Upon retirement 1996 in he and Lyn made their home in Summerfield, Florida. After a valiant battle against several illnesses, including heart disease, diabetes, and anemia, Bob entered the hospital in Ocala, Florida, on April 21, 2004, and went home to God on May 3, 2004. His funeral was held on May 7, 2004, at First United Methodist Church in Ocala, with the Reverend William Owens and the Reverend Gary Eldred officiating. He is buried in the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida.

Submitted by Lynette A. Sawyer

IRA EDICK SHERMAN

Ira Edick Sherman was born on February 1, 1914, in Westville, New York, the son of Ira and Bessie Edick Sherman. He graduated from high school in Oneonta, New York, in 1931 and from Hartwick College with a bachelor of arts degree in 1935. He earned a bachelor of divinity degree from Boston University School of Theology in 1938.

He was admitted on trial in the Wyoming Conference (New York and Pennsylvania) and ordained deacon in 1938. He was admitted into full connection and ordained elder in 1940.

He was appointed to the Springville, Pennsylvania, Circuit of the Wyoming Conference in 1938. In 1941 he was sent to the Marathon and Killawog Circuit in New York.

Ira enlisted in the army air force as a chaplain in 1943 and served at airfields in Manchester, New Hampshire; Presque Isle, Maine; and Bermuda.

In 1946 he returned to civilian life and served a student appointment in Albany, Illinois, while studying at Garrett Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. He earned a master of arts degree from Northwestern University in 1947 and was appointed to the Apple River Church. It was there, in 1950, that he received a call to missionary service in Cuba.

During the next ten years in Cuba he served churches on the Isle of Pines, at Guantanamo City, and at Cardenas. When the revolutionary government took over the banks and refused to cash American checks, the family was forced in October 1960 to return to the United States.

In 1961, after several months of study in Nashville, Tennessee, the Shermans were sent to Argentina, where he served at Rosario, Villa Devoto, Villa Ballester, and Lomas de Zamora.

They returned to the United States in 1974, and Ira retired from missionary service. He served two years in the Florida Conference at Opa-Locka, retiring again in 1976. He then was minister of visitation at North Fort Myers United Methodist Church for two years, thus completing forty years of pastoral service in 1978.

Ira married Edith Elizabeth Batty on April 9, 1938, in Ware, Massachusetts. Their marriage was blessed with three children: Arnold Ira Sherman, born in 1940; Catherine Elizabeth Sherman Perrealt, born in 1942; and Harold Dean Sherman, born in Cuba in 1952. Arnold Ira preceded him in death in 1995.

Ira died on October 1, 2004, in Fort Myers, Florida, at the age of ninety. His memorial service was conducted by Pastor David A. Liddell at North Fort Myers United Methodist Church. Bishop J. Lloyd Knox, who had known the Shermans in both Cuba and Argentina, also took part in the service.



Submitted by Edith B. Sherman

WENDELL HENRY JOSEPH STARTUP

Wendell Henry Joseph (Van) Startup began life in Chicago, Illinois, on January 17, 1927, in a large family of immigrants from Yugoslavia. His mother, Anna Maticka, named him for three of her brothers. He was given a father when the man Anna married adopted him. David William Startup and Anna had one daughter, Mary Lou Startup, born in 1931.

The Matickas were Catholic, so Van received all the training the church offered small boys, and he wanted to be a priest. In his teens he became an active member in the youth group at Northbrook Presbyterian Church, where his father was a member.

Van enlisted in the United States Navy before graduating from Lane Technical High School, so the navy gave him a certificate of high school completion. His tour of duty during World War II was aboard ship in the Pacific Arena. He was wounded in a kamikazi raid in which he could have been killed had the deck officer not pushed him off the gun mount.

After the war, he returned to Chicago to resume his studies at a Chicago electronics college. He married a girl from Northbrook Presbyterian Church, Mary Jane Austin, on January 5, 1947. They had a daughter, Jeanne Marie, on August 12, 1948. Restless and dissatisfied with jobs in Chicago, he accepted a job as an electrician with NASA at the Space Center in Cape Canaveral, where he worked from 1952 through 1954. Mary Jane would not join him in Florida, and she divorced him in 1954. As a result, Van began drinking and carousing and even quit working. When he had no more money and no place to stay, he went to a Salvation Army shelter. Sober again, he enlisted in the United States Coast Guard. His first assignment was the Coast Guard Air Station in St. Petersburg. He liked the coast guard— working with electronics, furthering his training in his field of expertise, and flying search and rescue missions. He kept re-enlisting.

He visited Euclid Methodist Church with a coast guard friend and met Barbara Jean Lawyer Dornbusch. In order to see her, he had to go to church because when he was off duty, she was busy with junior high youth, choir, and office work. He found himself working with her or her two children, Warren, eleven years old, and JoAnn, nine years old.

In June 1956 the coast guard sent Van to a naval school in Portsmouth, Virginia. On the way to Virginia, on June 6, 1956, he and Barbara were married in Folkston, Georgia. His daughter Jeanne came to live with them in 1964. Throughout Van's coast guard career, wherever they sent him, the family was active in a Methodist church.

Van's final tour of duty was at the Coast Guard Air Station in Opa-Locka, Florida. The Startups became members of Miramar United Methodist Church. With encouragement from William Brooks and from the lay leader, Arthur Hawley, Van began the Course of Study to become a minister, taking his leave time to go to Emory University every summer.

While driving to Emory, Van made two life-long friends who influenced his spiritual growth: Horace Lewis, an African-American who pastored a church in Ft. Lauderdale, and Naomi Orputt, a Native American who wanted a Methodist church on the Brighton Seminole Reservation. She liked Van's spirituality and charisma so much that she specifically requested that the Florida Conference send him to Brighton to help her achieve her dream.

Wendell H. J. Startup was ordained deacon in 1972 and appointed part-time pastor at Wesley Chapel in Ft. Lauderdale, where he moved his family into his first parsonage. He gave up flight pay so that the coast guard could not send him flying on Sundays.



At Van's retirement ceremony from the United States Coast Guard on February 24, 1973, he was presented with a Bible and a pulpit robe. He had spent a little more than twenty-five years in the service of his country; now he was to start a new career in service to the Lord.

As a local pastor the Reverend Mr. Startup served Wesley Chapel, Ft. Lauderdale, 1972-73; Sopchoppy/Panacea, 1973-75; Cherry Lake/Greenville, 1975-76; First, Hawthorne, 1976-78; and Suwannee Valley Circuit, 1978-79. After becoming an associate member of the Florida Conference in 1979, he served the following appointments: Ft. Ogden/Nocatee, 1979-81; Seminole Mission 1981-82; Lake Helen/Forest Hills 1982-84; Lake Helen, 1984-85; West Hollywood, 1985-87; Dinsmore/Inman, Jacksonville, 1987-88; Lee, 1988-89; and Micanopy Circuit, 1989-91. He was able to help establish the church at the Brighton Seminole Reservation. After his retirement in 1991, he and Barbara returned to Pinellas County, where they attended Friendship United Methodist Church in Clearwater. Van was a volunteer minister there and at Mt. Zion until he went home on May 12, 2003, at the age of seventy-six.

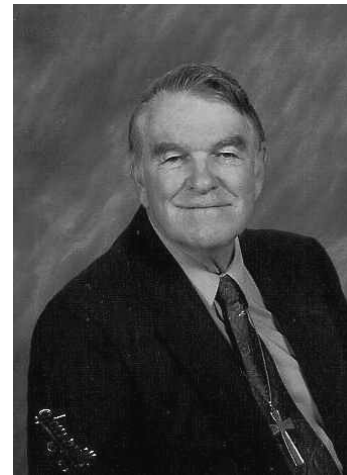
A memorial service was held on May 14, 2003, at Friendship United Methodist Church with the Reverend Patricia M. Daniels, pastor, and the Reverends James Mitchell and Kevin James officiating. His family of three children, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandsons were present among a crowd of friends. He was buried with military honors on May 15, 2003, in the National Cemetery at Bay Pines, Florida.

Submitted by Barbara L. Startup

OLIVER FRANKLIN TAYLOR

The Reverend Oliver Franklin Taylor, a resident of Port Saint Joe, Florida, died on November 9, 2004, at his home. He was preceded in death by his parents, Owen Oliver and Kate Taylor, and brother, Paul Lane Taylor.

Oliver was born in Miccosukee, Florida, on May 2, 1925. He graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in Jacksonville in 1943. Soon thereafter he served in World War II, having joined Company 1, 511th Parachute Infantry, 13th Airborne Division. After being discharged in 1945, he moved to Miami and joined the Miami Fire Department. While attending his new church home, Trinity Methodist, he met his future wife. They were married on January 26, 1947, and while in Miami they had three children, Cliff, Karen, and Kenny. During his ten years with the Fire Department, Oliver was promoted to the rank of captain.



After several years of contemplating a calling, in 1958 he accepted appointment as a supply preacher with the Florida Conference, serving the Lake Lindsey Circuit and then in 1960 the Kathleen Circuit. During this time he was attending Florida Southern College. He was received on trial in the Florida Conference and ordained deacon in 1963, the year he entered Duke University Divinity School. He was ordained elder and received into full connection in 1967.

After he received his divinity degree, Oliver and his family returned to Florida. He and Laura served the following churches: Bunnell, 1966-69; Emmanuel, Eau Gallie, 1969-72; Wesley, Miami, 1972-76; Miramar, 1976-84; Olympia Heights, Miami, 1984-87; and Glynlea, Jacksonville, 1987-90. After retirement to Port Saint Joe in 1990, Oliver served as visitation minister at First United Methodist Church in Port Saint Joe until his death. He and Laura enjoyed volunteering with the Book Buddy program at the Port Saint Joe Elementary School.

Funeral services were held on November 13, 2004, at First United Methodist Church in Port Saint Joe, with the Reverend Jesse Evans officiating. He was buried in Holly Hill in Port Saint Joe. Survivors include his wife, Laura; his sister, Alice Goodland, and his brother, Owen Taylor.

Oliver has been called again. We believe he is still visiting family and friends called before us, and even a stranger or two.

Submitted by Laura Taylor

WALTER ELLIS WILLIAMSON

Walter Ellis Williamson was born on December 28, 1914, to Walter Franklin and Lola Ellis Williamson in Seminary, Mississippi. He spent his boyhood in various towns in Mississippi. In 1941 he married Laurene Hurst of Jackson.

He received a B.A. degree in religion from Millsaps College and masters degrees from Emory University and the University of South Florida. He received a doctorate in theology from Luther Rice Seminary.

Ellis was received on trial into the Mississippi Conference in 1943, was ordained deacon and elder in 1944, and was received into full connection in 1947. He served churches in Mississippi, Georgia, and Wisconsin before transferring in 1957 to the Florida Conference, where he served Seminole, St. Petersburg, 1957-61, and Christ, Fort Lauderdale, 1961-65. He was professor of sociology and religion at Florida Southern College, 1965-70, and at Jacksonville Junior College, 1970-77.

During World War II he served as an army chaplain in the Pacific, and he served again during the Korean conflict.

After retirement in 1977, Ellis and Laurene fulfilled a twenty-year dream of moving to the mountains of North Carolina. They settled in Blowing Rock, where he pursued his lifelong love of painting and where they had an art and crafts gallery. In the spring of 1998 they moved to Tarboro, North Carolina, residing at The Fountains at The Albermarle.

Ellis died on December 13, 2004, in a hospital in Tarboro. A graveside service was held on December 15, 2004, in Greenwood Cemetery in Tarboro, followed by a memorial service at The Fountains at The Albermarle. The Reverend Peggy Rodgers Leggett officiated.

Surviving are his wife of sixty-three years, Laurene, and four children: Sandra Almy and husband, Tim, of Delray Beach, Florida; Melody Dearmon and husband, Bill, of Nakuru, Kenya, East Africa; Christopher Williamson of Newberry, Florida; and Mark Williamson and wife, Sally, of Atlanta. Thirteen grandchildren also survive him.

Submitted by Laurene Williamson



CLARENCE MASON YATES

Clarence Mason Yates was born in Sedalia, Kentucky, on December 23, 1919, into the home of a Methodist clergyman, Marvin Caleb Yates, and his wife, Willie Lee Wray Yates.

Clarence was called of God to preach at the age of six. At the age of twelve he became the youngest licensed preacher in the Memphis Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; he preached his first sermon when he was thirteen years old.

During his teen years he ministered as a youth evangelist. He enrolled in Asbury College in 1937. In the summer of 1941, after graduation from Asbury, he traveled across the United States, ministering with a vocal quartet from the college. He was received on trial in the Kentucky Conference in 1942, and in 1944 he graduated from Asbury Theological Seminary. He also attended Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and did graduate work at the University of Pittsburgh. Later, the Florida Theological Seminary awarded him an honorary doctor of divinity degree.



As a student pastor during his seminary days, he served churches in the Kentucky Conference. His first assignment was to five little churches near Somerset; he was later assigned as youth pastor to the First Methodist Church in Lexington.

From there, he moved to the Northeast Ohio Conference, where he was ordained deacon in 1944 and ordained elder and received into full connection in 1946. He served churches in Ohio for ten years: Rayland, Hopewell, Rush Run, Dillonvale, Peoples Church in Cleveland, and Carrollton. He then moved back to the Kentucky Conference, taking a small struggling congregation in Lexington and, with God's help, building it into the thriving Centenary Church.

From Lexington, God led him to join the Florida Conference in 1959. He served the following appointments: Miami Springs, 1959-60; sabbatical, 1960-61; Sebring 1961-65; Trinity, Miami, 1965-66; First, Miami, 1966-67; First, West Palm Beach, 1967-73; Hollywood Hills, 1973-74; and Pine Castle, Orlando, 1974-85. During all those years he was active in radio and television ministry.

He was a frequent preacher at revivals and crusades and on high school and college campuses. Throughout his ministry many have been won to a new life in Christ, and scores have been called to go into full-time service for the Lord.

After officially retiring in 1985, Clarence became a full-time evangelist. He traveled throughout the United States as well as in Europe, Haiti, and Guatemala, telling the good news of the transforming grace of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. His lifetime Scripture verse was Matthew 6:33, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." He often taught a Sunday school class at Pine Castle.

In 1997 Clarence was declared legally blind, the victim of macular degeneration. His excellent memory, however, enabled him to continue preaching, leading Bible studies, teaching Sunday school, and performing marriages, baptisms, and funerals. Eventually he developed congestive heart failure, which kept him from carrying out all the things his active mind and spirit continued to envision. He nevertheless used all the strength and opportunities the Lord gave him until he was called to his heavenly home on March 5, 2005. His celebration service was conducted by the Reverend William Pickett at the Pine Castle United Methodist Church on March 13, 2005. He was interred at Woodlawn Cemetery in Orlando.

He is survived by his wife of sixty-three years, Charlotte Louise Mott Yates, of Orlando; two children, Sharon Yates Gladstone, who lives with her husband in Carrollton, Georgia, and Philip Yates, who lives with his wife in Jacksonville; five grandchildren, Garrett Wesley Gladstone, Leighton Chantel Yates, Rebecca Louise Gladstone Mowen, Jordan Edward Yates, and Dorian Elizabeth Yates; and one great-grandchild, Tatum Charles Mowen.

Submitted by Charlotte Yates

DIACONAL MINISTERS

FRANZ HOWARD ENGLE

Franz Howard Engle was born on June 19, 1928, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, to Jacob Howard Engle and Bertha Frantz Engle. He served in the U.S. Army in Korea in 1952. He received a bachelor's degree from Tulsa University and a master's degree in organ and choral conducting from Westminster College in Princeton, New Jersey. He then served as organist/choirmaster at Court Street United Methodist Church in Lynchburg, Virginia, and as assistant professor of music and choir conductor at Lynchburg College.

In 1967 he came to First United Methodist Church in Sarasota, as organist/choirmaster. Franz was one of the pioneers in being consecrated a diaconal minister in the United Methodist Church in 1977.

He served as dean, sub-dean, and secretary of the local chapter of the American Guild of Organists and was for many years a director of the Sarasota Concert Association. He was a charter member of the Fellowship of United Methodist Musicians and vice president of the National Association of Disciples of Christ Musicians.

With his mastery of the English language, Franz could always be depended on to proofread or to know the correct protocol for any occasion. He was a brilliant bridge player and an accomplished cook who graciously entertained his friends in his home. He served on the Kitchen Committee, organizing fundraisers to purchase appliances for the kitchen and planning delicious fellowship supper menus. He often served as master of ceremonies.

Many years ago Franz initiated Balloon Sunday on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday as a way to uplift the church family before moving into the reflective and spiritual season of Lent, a tradition that continues. A world traveler, he visited six of the seven continents, delighting in these travels. After his retirement in 1990 he substituted at First United Methodist until his death, served other churches when called upon, and played for services at Plymouth Harbor Retirement Center.

Franz was an elf who was playful, like Mozart, but was also steadfast and immovable, never compromising, always making the finest music. He was frugal to the end: he gave us only seventy-five years of his life.

Franz died on May 1, 2004. A memorial service was held at First United Methodist Church in Sarasota on May 8, 2004, with the Reverend Dr. James E. McWhinnie and the Reverend Dr. Paul L. Hartsfield officiating. In accordance with his usual unselfish love for others, his body was given to the University of Florida for medical research.

Submitted by the Reverend Dr. James E. McWhinnie



EMILY FERN WHEELER HENDRY

Emily Fern Wheeler Hendry was born on December 27, 1915, to L.H. and Caroline Wheeler in Pellston, Michigan. She was an adept student of music from an early age and completed studies at the Florida Bible Institute in Tampa in 1937. There she met and married her husband, the Reverend E. Pierce Hendry, on May 12, 1937.

She earned a bachelor of science degree from Florida Southern College in 1942, with majors in music education and elementary education, and a master of arts degree in music education from the University of South Florida in 1969. She did additional study at Stetson University, Florida Atlantic University, the University of Tampa, and Johns Hopkins Conservatory in Baltimore. Her formal organ study was done with Cliff Cameron in Atlanta while her husband was in seminary. She continued her education in master classes and workshops of the Florida Fellowship of Music, Worship, and the Other Arts and with the American Guild of Organists.

She was consecrated a diaconal minister in 1978 and was certified as a director of music.

Her husband's ministry of forty-one years took them throughout the state: to Kathleen, Boca Grande, Lakeland, Fort Myers, Bradenton, Largo, Jacksonville, Tampa, Saint Petersburg, Plant City, and Highland City. Wherever they went, she trained and directed adult, youth, and children's choirs.

In Largo Emily developed five choir and two orchestra programs. Her youth choir won top awards in the Florida Federation of Music Clubs competitions. At Christ United Methodist Church in Lakeland, a small church going through a development program, Emily's adult volunteer choir consistently had twelve to eighteen voices. She wrote an article about choir schools for the *Methodist Music Magazine* in 1961. She also taught music in several public schools, developing and directing choral and orchestra programs that consistently won superior ratings in statewide competition.

From 1937 on, Emily held offices in many local units of United Methodist Women and its predecessor organizations, including three years in the United Brethren Church. After serving eight years as district secretary, president, and secretary for financial interpretation for the Lakeland District, she became the conference secretary of publicity and public relations, having already edited *Genesis*, the Florida Conference United Methodist Women's newsletter, for four years.

She taught mission studies for United Methodist Women in numerous Schools of Christian Mission. She successfully completed the facilitation and teaching of Disciple I, II, and III at College Heights in Lakeland, where she also served as director of Christian education.

Throughout her life Emily enjoyed keeping diaries. In later years she went beyond just recording personal events to journaling, a spiritual discipline that involved meditating on a scripture passage and then writing her thoughts and reactions. A few years ago, as a Christmas gift to her family, Emily shared a year's worth of her journaling in the form of a daily devotion book. What a marvelous way to share her faith with those who have come after her. This special lady left a legacy of faithful commitment to and love for her Creator and her Hendry family.

Emily died on June 7, 2004, in Plant City, Florida. A memorial service was held at College Heights United Methodist Church in Lakeland on June 9, 2004, with her pastor, the Reverend Delano McIntosh, officiating. She was predeceased by her husband on December 26, 2001. She is survived by her children: Sallie Wilkinson and husband, Bill; the Reverend Judy Weger and



husband, Brian; Dale Alderman and husband, Doug; and Gene and wife, Debbie. Ten grandchildren and nine great grandchildren also survive, as does her sister, Evelyn Wheeler Towler, of Dunedin.

Emily was knowingly and unknowingly a mentor and role model to many people during her eighty-eight years, always giving the glory and acknowledgment of all to her Heavenly Father and her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Emily was a talented lady who shared God's love wherever she went, and we shall miss her.

Submitted by Dale Alderman

SPOUSES

HELEN CHARLOTTE SILAS COOPER

Helen Charlotte Silas Cooper, ninety-three, died July 17, 2004, at Westminster Palms Retirement Center in St. Petersburg, Florida, her residence since 1998. She was born and raised in Ishpeming, Michigan, but spent most of her adult life in Florida. She was the widow of the Reverend Floyd W. Cooper, who predeceased her in 1998.

She was a 1929 graduate of Ishpeming High School, where the quotation next to her senior photograph was "A rare embodiment of beauty and talent." Both of these attributes followed her throughout her life as a faithful minister's wife.

The Reverend Mr. Cooper began his ministry in 1937 in the St. Johns River Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He and Mrs. Cooper lived and served in the following Florida cities: Hollywood, Mount Dora, Miami, Fort Pierce, Lake Worth, Sarasota, Sebring, and Zephyrhills. During World War II, while her husband was serving as a chaplain in the U.S. Army Air Corps in the South Pacific, Mrs. Cooper was a housemother at the Lake Bluff Orphanage in Illinois.

Over the years Mrs. Cooper was active in the Woman's Society of Christian Service, United Methodist Women, and the P.E.O. Sisterhood, as well as garden club activities in Zephyrhills. She was an accomplished china painter and a talented pianist, violinist, and alto soloist. In Zephyrhills she taught an adult Sunday school class that often had more than two hundred attendees, rivaling worship service attendance at some area churches.

Mrs. Cooper is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Charlotte and George Feltyberger of Sarasota. Her granddaughters from the Feltyberger family include Frances and husband Juan Levesque of Wesley Chapel, Florida, and Helen and husband Rick Dull of Sarasota. Great grandsons on that side of the family are Joshua, Christopher, and Corey Stapleton. Great granddaughters are Erica and Jessica Dull.

She is also survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Paul and Carolyn Cooper of St. Petersburg. Grandchildren from the Cooper family are Allison and husband Michael Zehnder of Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Jordon Cooper of Honolulu, Hawaii. Great grandchildren are Silas and Elizabeth Zehnder and deceased great-granddaughter Marie Cooper Zehnder.

A number of other family members, including her brother and sister-in-law, Robert and Joyce Silas, of Hibbing, Minnesota, also survive.



A memorial service was conducted for Mrs. Cooper on Saturday, August 21, 2004, at First United Methodist Church in Zephyrhills, with the Reverend Craig Ford officiating. Following cremation in July, the Reverend Mr. Ford conducted a private family inurnment ceremony at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens in Dade City.

Submitted by Paul S. Cooper and Charlotte Feltyberger

TERESA ALBERTA CARGILL DAVENPORT

Teresa (Tess) Alberta Cargill Davenport was born on January 10, 1922, in Dallas, Texas, to William Alonza Cargill and Emma Lucille Cargill. She graduated from North Dallas High School in 1940.

She married the Reverend John Paul Davenport on August 23, 1943. As a minister's wife and loving mother of three, she dedicated her life to the Methodist church and to the service of others in her community.

Her husband died on May 16, 2004. They are survived by their three children: Patricia Lucile Davenport Fuller Davenport, born August 17, 1944; Daniel Lonnie Davenport, born January 8, 1949; and Debra Lee Davenport Kersten, born January 8, 1951; by four grandchildren: Holly Fuller-Young, Crystal Fuller-Yates, Teri Davenport, and Scott Davenport; and by one great-grandchild, Madeleine Yates. Scott, a U.S. Marine, and Crystal's husband, U.S. Army Captain Paige Yates, serve in Iraq.

Mrs. Davenport died on December 29, 2004, of arteriosclerosis. A memorial service was held on January 15, 2005, at First United Methodist Church in Waldo, Florida, with the Reverend Theodore Schwitzer officiating.

Submitted by Debi Davenport-Kersten and Patti Davenport



MARGARET ELIZABETH SCOTT FLOYD

Margaret Elizabeth Scott Floyd was born in Lexington, Kentucky, on August 3, 1910, to Morton N. and Elizabeth Kriegel Scott. She spent her early years in Wilmore, Kentucky, where she met the Reverend D. L. Floyd. They married on October 12, 1938, after he completed his seven-year program at Asbury College and Seminary. They had two children: Paul Lindle Floyd, who died at birth, January 28, 1940; and David Charles Floyd, born December 12, 1945.

D. L. began his ministerial service in the Kentucky Conference in 1938, transferring to the Florida Conference in 1957. Margaret served with him in Mims, Tallahassee, Clearwater, Crescent City, Marathon, and West Palm Beach. She taught school for several years early in their ministry.

They retired to Avon Park in 1976. D. L. died on December 27, 1999.

Margaret and her husband were active in many pursuits, including bicycling and shell collecting. After their retirement they made an extensive trip out west. Margaret took up painting at the age of sixty and became quite accomplished, winning numerous awards. She also enjoyed music, especially the piano.

In July 2000 Margaret entered the Oaks Nursing Home in Avon Park, which became home to her. She broke her hip in January 2005 and passed away on February 20, 2005.

Funeral services were held February 22, 2005, at the Stephenson-Nelson Funeral Home in Avon Park, with the Reverend Robert Thorn and the Reverend Eldred Kelley officiating. Burial was in Bougainvillea Cemetery in Avon Park.

Margaret is survived by her son, David Charles Floyd of Hephzibah, Georgia.

Submitted by Jean Alexander, long-time friend



EMILY H. MULL GILCHRIST

Emily H. Mull Gilchrist, was born on July 21, 1911, to Henry and Emma Mull in McKeesport, Pennsylvania. She was active in the Kephart Memorial United Brethren Church until she became the bride of Frank B. Gilchrist, also of McKeesport, on November 1, 1932.

Frank served at First United Brethren Church in McKeesport and at Industry before his marriage. In 1932 he was received into the Allegheny Conference and appointed to Beaver Falls. He was ordained elder in 1935. In 1942 Frank and Emily were appointed to pastor the First United Brethren Church of Youngwood, where they served until they were transferred to the Florida Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren in 1960. Frank served First (later Otterbein) Evangelical United Brethren Church in Tampa until his untimely passing in 1967, when he met his Lord. Mrs. Gilchrist later became a member of the Lutz United Methodist Church. She went to meet her Lord on May 22, 2004.



Her life was dedicated to God, and she was a witness of God's love to all whom she served. She fulfilled her role as a supportive wife and loving mother, while at the same time she worked fervently in the church to further the mission of the ministry of her husband. She led the women of the church by teaching classes, leading projects, and hosting and planning fellowship events for the church. She had a great admiration and compassion for the work of missionaries around the world. Both she and her husband led a humble, simple life focused on the richness of their relationship with God, serving faithfully and always presenting a Christ-like example. Emily pursued her love for writing cards and letters throughout her life until she reached the age of ninety. Her sincere love for people was expressed in hundreds of communications reaching out to comfort, witness, and share her faith with others.

We speak of the wonderful achievements within the church and for the church; however, shining brightly is the legacy she left behind with her family of children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She set the example of family love and Christian faith that reaches across generations. Her strong faith and love of God have touched every member of the family in a positive way.

She was preceded in passing by their son, David Sheldon, a traffic accident victim, on March 16, 1974. Her survivors, all in Florida, include son Frank Lee of Polk City, son Roger Jon of Palm Beach Gardens, daughter Emily Sue of Longboat Key, five granddaughters, and six great-grandchildren. Services and burial were at the Garden of Memories in Tampa, with Dr. Duncan L. Gray and Mr. Maring B. Swart officiating.

Submitted by Sue Gilchrist

ELIZABETH WATERS HATCH

Elizabeth Waters Hatch was born on October 3, 1923, in Stone Mountain, Georgia, to Bonnie Brannan Waters and Clyde Waters. She attended junior college in DeLand, Florida, and took classes at Emory University.

While at the junior college she met the Reverend Monroe C. Hatch, who was one of her professors, and they were married on September 3, 1942. They had two children, Mark Monroe Hatch, born on June 2, 1951, and Robert Waters Hatch, born on May 31, 1954.

Liz served in ministry alongside her husband for more than fifty years—in Waldo, Chiefland, Jacksonville, Hialeah, Melbourne, and Tampa. She was a gifted music director, an inventive and creative program director, and a gracious hostess, tireless in her work for the United Methodist Church and the Lord Jesus Christ. Beautiful in appearance and spirit, she was a true Southern lady, loved by her family and host of friends.

She died on January 2, 2005. Funeral services were held on January 5, 2005, at Southside United Methodist Church in Jacksonville, with Dr. Wayne Wiatt, the Reverend Donald Mackey, the Reverend Carl Shafer, and Dr. Gene Zimmerman officiating. Burial was in Greenlawn Cemetery in Jacksonville.

She is survived by her husband, Dr. Monroe C. Hatch of Melbourne; son, Mark, and his wife, Deborah Francisco Hatch, of Melbourne; son, Robert Hatch of Orlando; brother, Mack Waters of Monroe, Georgia; and two sisters, Martha Woodyard of Snellville, Georgia, and Rachel Atkins of Alpharetta, Georgia.

Submitted by Debbie Hatch

MARGARET SIMPSON HOFFMAN

Margaret Simpson Hoffman was born on October 28, 1953, on a dairy farm in North Yorkshire, United Kingdom, where she was raised. Her father was Jack Simpson. Besides being a dairy farmer he was also a Methodist local preacher. Her mother, Gladys, resides in Richmond, North Yorkshire. Margaret worshipped her entire life at Hunton Methodist Church. She graduated from the University of Leeds in 1974 in mathematics. She then accepted a teaching position at Prior Pursglove Sixth Form College in Guisborough, in northeast England. She taught math there for twenty-seven years, and for ten years she was the director of the Lifelong Learning Program of the college.

In 2002 while visiting friends in North Miami Beach she met the Reverend Stephen Hoffman. They began to communicate regularly and visited in each other's homes. In February 2003 they became engaged to be married. At the same time Margaret began having trouble walking. Her symptoms progressed rapidly. By April her walking was impaired to the point that she took sick leave from work. Because of the uncertainty they faced, she and Stephen moved the date of their wedding forward to April 17, 2003. In July Margaret could walk only with the aid of a walker. She was referred to the ALS Clinic at the University of Miami, where she was told that she had a rapidly advancing case of ALS. Stephen resigned his appointment as executive director of Halifax Urban Ministries and requested family leave so that he could personally care for her.



In September 2003 Margaret experienced respiratory distress and chose to have a tracheotomy. From that time forward she was dependent on a ventilator for breathing. She eventually lost the ability to move any part of her body. Margaret received twenty-four hour care from her husband, her stepdaughter, and a team of nurses. She lived joyfully with a spirit of pure being. At one point she used her computer to write, "I have never been happier!"

Margaret's interests included traveling and reading, but her main hobby was her friends. She maintained and nurtured friendships throughout each season of her life. Her holidays to various countries were enriched by sharing those experiences with many friends. She was known as an attentive and encouraging listener who was always lots of fun. During her illness a number of her friends traveled to her home in Daytona Beach to visit with her.

Margaret formed her life through prayer and faith. She was attentive and faithful in worship and was a supporter of several ministries. An encourager of many, she was an inspiration to all in how she lived her life surrendered to God's grace working in her life.

The progression of ALS continued so that Margaret lost all facial expression, and we who cared for her relied on experience and instinct to determine if she was comfortable.

On August 23, 2004, with her family present, her husband at her side, and attended by an exceedingly gracious doctor, Margaret was allowed to die. One close friend who was there described that experience as "sacramental." Memorial services were held at Covenant United Methodist Church in Port Orange, Florida, and at Guisborough Methodist Church and Richmond Methodist Church in the United Kingdom.

Margaret is survived by her husband, Stephen; her mother, Gladys Simpson; her brother Paul and his wife Ruth; a beloved nephew and niece, Daniel and Rebecca; and a step-son and step-daughter, Leonard and Meredith. Margaret's remains were scattered in the fields of West Arrathorne, the family dairy farm in North Yorkshire.

During her last months Margaret sent this message to friends in England: "I want everyone to know that despite my incapacity I am happy. I am extremely thankful for the peace and joy that I feel, for the gift of being able to let go of so much, for the deep sense of knowing that God has been in all of this, for the encouragement of those who, even when I can do nothing, tell me I can still make a contribution to their lives, and for the daily miracles we have experienced that have enabled us to cope."

Submitted by the Reverend Stephen G. Hoffman

FLORIDA (LORI) B. MARKWARD HURLEY

Florida (Lori) B. Markward Hurley was the devoted wife of Wallis M. Hurley for nearly sixty years. Wallis died on January 15, 2002; Lori joined him on May 12, 2004.

Lori was born on March 24, 1922, in Washington, D.C., as Florida B. Markward, one of three children of George and Rose Markward. As an adult she chose Lori as her nickname. Lori's parents predeceased her, but her siblings survive. Her older sister, Virginia Robinson, lives in Annapolis, Maryland, and her younger brother, George Markward, lives in Bedford, Massachusetts.

The Markwards loved to travel, and their young family made two extended trips to Florida before they decided to settle in Hyattsville, Maryland. In fact, some of Lori's classmates called her "Swampy" for the notorious swamps in the state of Florida. In high school Lori became friends with May Hurley (now May Flynn), who introduced Lori to her brother, Wallis Hurley. Lori and Wallis became great friends and married on Valentine's Day in 1942 at the Hyattsville Methodist Church.

Lori and Wallis had four children, two boys and two girls: Michael Drew, Penelope Leigh, Darryl Lynn, and Brenda Jane. Michael Drew died on March 18, 2001, survived by his wife, Cynthia; Darryl Lynn died on February 7, 2004. Penelope (Penny) married Richard Gold in 1966; they live in Indian Head, Maryland. Brenda lives in Orlando, Florida.

Because of health problems Wallis needed to avoid cold winters, so in 1959 the Hurleys packed up their young family and moved from Riverdale, Maryland, to Orlando. Lori's dream had always been to return to Florida, the beautiful state that she loved from her travels as a youngster with her family.

Wallis started his career in the ministry in 1967 by attending the Baptist Bible Institute in Graceville, Florida. Lori worked during that time as a bookkeeper for the college and as a substitute teacher in the local school system. After Wallis graduated, he enrolled in the Course of Study at Candler School of Theology at Emory University and was appointed to the Steinhatchee United Methodist Church in 1972.

Wallis and Lori served together in Steinhatchee, 1972-1974; Wakulla/Woodville, 1974-1976; Kathleen, 1976-1979; Lena Vista, 1979-1982; and Greensboro, 1982-1984. A local pastor, Wallis was ordained deacon in 1975.

In 1984 they retired to the home that they had purchased in Orlando in 1959. After retirement, they enjoyed traveling with the National Camping Methodists and visiting family and friends throughout the country.

After Wallis died, Lori sold the house in Orlando and moved to Ormond in the Pines, an independent retirement community. She enjoyed the beautiful pool and made new friends quickly. She also enjoyed traveling to see family and friends and was delighted when they could come by for a visit.

In March 2004, after suffering from a blood disorder for nearly a year, Lori moved back to the Orlando area. Her illness progressed to acute leukemia, and she died peacefully on May 12, 2004, in Health Central Hospital near Orlando.

Lori was buried next to Wallis at Highland Memory Gardens near Apopka, Florida, following funeral services on May 15, 2004, at the First United Methodist Church of Pine Hills, with the Reverend John Hubbard officiating.

Lori is survived by her two daughters, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.



Submitted by Brenda J. Hurley

MARY ELLIOTT BROYLES JACKSON

Mary Elliott Broyles Jackson was born on April 19, 1908, in Atlanta, Georgia, to the Reverend Dr. Thomas M. Elliott and Mamie Glenn Elliott. Dr. Elliott was a member of the North Georgia Conference and in later years a columnist for the *Atlanta Constitution*.

Mary Elliott graduated from Georgia State College for Women and was awarded a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education. She taught English and mathematics before leaving to raise her family with her first husband, Charles Joseph Broyles, of Johnson City, Tennessee.

In 1944 the family moved to Jacksonville, Florida, where Mr. Broyles died in early 1955. Mary married J. Barclay Jackson in 1957. After many years as members of Riverside Park Methodist Church in Jacksonville, the family transferred their membership to Avondale Methodist Church, Jacksonville, when the newly-ordained Reverend Mr. Jackson received his first appointment, as associate pastor there. In 1959 he was appointed to Southside Estates in Jacksonville. In their next appointment, in 1961, he and Mary united Central Boulevard and Floral Park churches in Miami to form Lakeview Methodist Church. He served there until 1965, when he was appointed associate pastor at Coral Gables, serving until his death on June 18, 1974. Mary remained at Coral Gables as an assistant to the pastor until illness forced her to retire in 1984.

Mary's children are Colonel Robert F. Broyles of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, born in August 1939, and Beverly Broyles Mitton of Charleston, South Carolina, born in December 1943. There are six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Mary Elliott Broyles Jackson died on June 4, 2004, in Charleston, South Carolina. She was interred in the family plot in Jacksonville. Officiating was the Reverend Dr. Richard M. Cromie, formerly of the Royal Poinciana Chapel in Palm Beach, Florida, and president of Desert Ministries in North Carolina.



Submitted by Robert F. Broyles

BARBARA ANN OWEN MORRIS

Barbara Ann Owen Morris was born on September 15, 1937, in Omega, Georgia, to Zeddie Love Owen and Johnnie May Woodall Owen. She graduated from Winter Haven, Florida, High School in 1955 and attended Wesleyan College from 1955 until 1957.

She was married in 1957 to John William Holden II, with whom she had two children: John William Holden III, born February 16, 1961, and Randolph Owen Holden, born May 29, 1962. In 1961 she was voted Mrs. Augusta and was first runner up for Mrs. Georgia.

She and the Reverend Paul E. Morris Sr. met while he was managing the United Methodist Youth Camp at Leesburg. Ann was working in the United Methodist Building as support staff for the Youth Department. They became acquainted when Paul came to Lakeland to meet with the Reverend Tom McCloskey, who was director of camps. It was love at first sight, and they married on May 2, 1992, at the Graham-Sapp Chapel at the Youth Camp.

Ann passed away on January 20, 2005. A celebration of her life was held at First United Methodist Church in Bartow on January 24, 2005, with the Reverends Roy Lowe, William Roughton, Tom McCloskey, and David Dodge officiating. She was buried in the National Cemetery in Bushnell.

She is survived by her husband Paul; her two sons, William and Randolph Holden; two granddaughters, Carson and Mary Reeves Holden; three step-sons, Paul, Tom, and Charles Morris; four step-grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

An accomplished mixed-media artist, Ann was accepted into many juried competitions, including outdoor festivals, and won numerous awards for her work. She said, "I believe that the only way for an artist to grow in vision and creativity . . . is to be one's self, purely, simply, and completely. I am a creator and I create best when I use my total self, body, mind, and spirit to arrive at a place of oneness." She was active in many local art associations, including the Imperial Art Gallery in Lakeland, where her art hangs for all to see.



Submitted by Paul E. Morris Sr.

VIRGINIA CHURCHILL MULLIS

Virginia Churchill Mullis was born on November 7, 1925, in Milton, Massachusetts, to Herbert Dudley Churchill and Mabel Sargent Churchill. She attended Boston University, leaving after one year to marry the Reverend Lloyd W. Mullis on August 27, 1944. They had met when she accompanied him on the piano while he was taking voice lessons.

Four children were born to them: David L. Mullis on August 7, 1945; Robert W. Mullis on April 15, 1947, Linda M. Kelly on September 13, 1949, and Stephen C. Mullis on December 27, 1951.

The Reverend Mr. Mullis began his ministry in the Nebraska Conference, later serving in the New Hampshire Conference. In 1959 he transferred to the Florida Conference, where he served churches in Clearwater, Mims, Ellenton, Sylvan Abbey, and Apalachicola.

Virginia was an accomplished musician and choir director in the churches in which her husband served. She was a devoted grandmother of five, enjoyed traveling, and loved animals. She was retired as a medical assistant at the Mease Clinic in Dunedin, Florida.

She died on February 22, 2005, at the Peninsula Care Center in Tarpon Springs, Florida, after a lengthy illness. Her funeral took place on February 25, 2005, at Sylvan Abbey Funeral Home in Clearwater, Florida.



Submitted by Linda M. Kelly

CAROLYN JOYCE DEMPSEY NEELD

Carolyn Joyce Dempsey Neeld was born in Tampa, Florida, on November 4, 1928, to Joseph Edward and Leila Francis Dempsey. She was the third child following a sister, Wilma, and a brother, J. E.

She graduated from Hillsborough High School in Tampa and later attended Florida Southern College with her husband.

In 1946 at the Nebraska Avenue Methodist Church in Tampa, she met the man who would become her husband, Jennings A. Neeld Jr. In that evening service, she was singing in the choir and singing to that sailor too. On February 12, 1949, they were married in the church that she continued to attend.

In January 1950 they were blessed with their first child, Jennings III, and in June 1953 Lonnie blessed their home. In 1954 she joined St. John's Methodist Church, where Lloyd Knox was her pastor. There she led that sailor to worship with her. Later they joined Forest Hills, where she supported her husband's call to preach. For the years that followed, she was mother, wife and homemaker, and school secretary.

Carolyn entered the ministry alongside her husband in 1960. She moved in 1961, leaving her home for their first appointment in Dover. She spent the first eleven years of their ministry putting her husband through college and seminary. She served with him at First, Miami, where he was associate, 1967-70; Christ, Leesburg, 1970-76; Oviedo, 1976-83; and Killearn, Tallahassee, 1983-86. Even though she reluctantly became a pastor's wife, by the grace of God she truly fulfilled the role. She spent her time teaching Sunday school, singing in the choir, and reaching those on the fringes through the witness of God's love. In those twenty-six years, she not only served as the pastor's wife but also built her career as a bank teller. During their last appointments, she saved to build a home in north Georgia.

In 1986 her husband had by-pass surgery, which brought disability retirement. They moved into their north Georgia home, where she was caregiver and helpmate. She planted, canned vegetables, and made jellies and jams. She grew blueberries for friends, but her joy was baking cookies and blueberry muffins for her children and grandchildren as well as coconut cream pies for her husband.

Carolyn was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer on January 2, 2004. Fourteen months later, on March 5, 2005, she was robbed of this earthly life. Through this ordeal, with God's grace, she suffered only one pain, on the morning of her returning to the One who created and redeemed her. She is now absent from the body and present with God. Carolyn was always committed to Christ and in sickness and health kept her vows for fifty-six years. We will miss her voice and presence, but we know she is singing now in the Lord's heavenly choir.

She is survived by her husband, the Reverend Jennings A. Neeld Jr.; two sons and daughters-in-law, Jennings and Robin Neeld and Lonnie and Barbara Neeld; a sister and brother-in-law, Wilma and Kenneth Hurst; and five grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, five nieces, and four nephews.

A memorial service was held at First United Methodist Church, Copper Hill, Tennessee. The Reverends Barbara Clark, J.C. Powell, and Joe May officiated.



Submitted by Lonnie Neeld

MARTHA ALEIDA CLINE NORTHRUP

Martha Aleida Cline Northrup passed away on July 17, 2004.

She was Tampa District youth director and met Leroy Northrup at a Florida Conference retreat for district youth directors in 1937. They were married on June 12, 1938.

Dr. Leroy Northrup was a leader in Florida Conference work and activities. After a twenty-five-year career in savings and loan associations, he served as conference treasurer from 1966 to 1975. Upon retirement he began a new ministry as a local pastor. Mrs. Northrup also became a local pastor. Together they served Welaka, Georgetown, Good Shepherd in Lakeland, and Eloise.

In 1990 they moved to Houston, where Dr. Northrup served for eight years as minister of evangelism at Canterbury United Methodist Church. During that time they were both honored by the Texas Conference for their ministry in the area of evangelism.

They had one daughter, Lynn Northrup Corazao, three grandsons, and one great-granddaughter. Mrs. Northrup was preceded in death by her husband on July 15, 2002.

Submitted by the Memoirs Committee

FRANCES JEWEL DABNEY NORTON

Frances Jewel Dabney Norton was born in Lancaster, South Carolina, on October 22, 1917, the youngest daughter of the Reverend Thomas Alexander Dabney, a Baptist pastor, and Julia Belle Tyler, a Baptist missionary. She graduated from Anderson Junior College with a major in home economics specializing in food services. She was a member of the debate team and lettered in basketball.

While working in Homestead, Florida, and living with her aunt and uncle, the Sidney Livingstons, she met a young revival preacher at Silver Palm United Methodist Church, the Reverend Howren Norton. They were married on June 6, 1938. She worked as a civil servant at the Jacksonville Naval Air Station, a bookkeeper for a car dealership, a church secretary at Peachtree Road Methodist Church in Atlanta, and a professional homemaker. She was active in establishing choirs, children's ministries, Sunday school classes, Bible studies, and field trips for youth groups, especially to Lake Junaluska, North Carolina.

She and Howren sponsored Holy Land tours, and she enjoyed their trips to Israel. Her personal enjoyments were entertaining in her home, sewing, singing, and playing the piano. She loved people and helping others; she often fed the homeless from her own kitchen. She was an excellent story teller, and on a cool evening in the mountains with the lightning bugs a blinking, she would tell us children about "Little Orphan Annie." It would sometimes take us several days to realize that the only "goblins" out there were the ones running around in our minds.

Frances served with Howren throughout the conference: in Oviedo, Jacksonville, Palatka, Lake Worth, the Orlando District, Hollywood, Tampa, and Brandon. He retired in 1982.



With Howren, she moved twenty-one years ago to their home on Park Street in Lakeland. They served together in the Florida Conference Historical Society and visited for First United Methodist Church, where she also taught Sunday school and was a member of the Intercessory Prayer Group. They so loved the conference that they gave \$25,000 to the Archives Building project to sponsor the conference room in honor of the six successive generations of Methodist pastors from the Norton family.

Frances was a life member of the Junaluska Associates in Lake Junaluska. She was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and a life member of the United Methodist Women.

Frances died on November 16, 2004. Services were held on November 19, 2005, at First United Methodist Church in Lakeland, with the Reverend Dr. Robert M. Gibbs officiating. Burial was at Oak Hill Cemetery in Lakeland.

Frances was preceded in death by her husband, the Reverend Thomas Howren Norton Sr. She is survived by her children, the Reverend Thomas H. Norton Jr. of St. Petersburg; Mauren Norton Baker of Snow Hill, North Carolina; Julia Norton Stevens of Plantation, Florida; and John Hendrix Norton of Albany, Georgia. She had ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

We will forever be grateful for her love, her guidance, and her spirit in the Lord.

Submitted with love by the children of Frances and Howren Norton

LOIS SHEPPARD PENDERGRASS

Lois Sheppard Pendergrass was born May 8, 1905, in Columbus, Ohio. The youngest of five children, she was the daughter of the late Reason Benjamin and Mary Leona Shoemaker Sheppard. Her father was a railroad engineer, and because of her mother's poor health, the family moved south and lived mainly in North and South Carolina.

Mrs. Pendergrass went back to Columbus to finish high school, graduating in 1922 from North High School. She later briefly attended the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina in Greensboro but left to care for her mother. In 1929 she met Edward Julian Pendergrass at a Sunday school class in Florence, South Carolina. Her family was living in Florence at the time, and Edward Pendergrass was a native of that town. The couple had a whirlwind romance of about two weeks and married June 26, 1929, leaving immediately afterward for Florida, where he had his first ministerial assignment.

From 1929 until 1964 the Pendergrasses lived in Florida, where she assisted her husband in his ministry, which took them throughout the state: to Fort White, High Springs, Cross City, Fort Pierce, Lakeland, Tampa, Tallahassee, and Orlando. In 1964 he was elected bishop and assigned to the Jackson Area, composed of the North and South Mississippi Conferences, serving there with distinction during the difficult days of the civil rights movement. Upon his retirement in 1972, they relocated to Lakeland, where he served as assistant to the president of Florida Southern College until 1989. Their ministry was chronicled in 2001 in a Ph.D. dissertation at Florida State University by Dr. John Burnett. Bishop and Mrs. Pendergrass were a great team, he with his southern graciousness and she with what was described as "northern charm." She supported her husband's ministry, whether it was entertaining clergy, serving at church functions, or attending to family matters.



Mrs. Pendergrass was an avid traveler and took several trips to Europe and other international destinations. She loved to entertain, so the house was always a center of activity. She collected antiques and was a voracious reader. Through the years she played the piano, sang in the choir, and taught Sunday school. She was a member of the P.E.O Sisterhood, Lakeland Chapter of the D.A.R., and Circle 10 of United Methodist Women at First United Methodist Church, Lakeland, where she was a member from 1972 until her death. A beautiful lady with a generous spirit, she radiated warmth and love to all with whom she came in contact.

The Pendergrasses had three children: Amy Katherine Miller Campbell, born on November 2, 1932; Edla Ann Burns, born on October 11, 1938; and Edward Eugene Pendergrass, born on August 26, 1940. Unfortunately all the children predeceased their parents. Bishop Pendergrass died in 1995 at the age of ninety-five. Mrs. Pendergrass is survived by her granddaughter, Katherine Miller Burnett, and great-grandchildren, John Edward Burnett and Amy Katherine Burnett, all of Reno, Nevada, along with four other grandchildren and nine additional great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Pendergrass died October 1, 2004, at the age of ninety-nine. Her funeral was held October 7, 2004, at First United Methodist Church in Lakeland, with the Reverend Dr. Robert M. Gibbs, the Reverend Thomas W. McCloskey, and Bishop Robert E. Fannin officiating. On October 31, 2004, she was eulogized by Bishop J. Lloyd Knox at the Celebration of Remembrance during the Council of Bishops meeting at Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island, Georgia. She was buried beside her husband, daughter Amy, and son Edward Eugene at Myrtle Hill Cemetery in Tampa, Florida.

Submitted by Katherine Miller Burnett

CLAIRE SAPPINGTON SCHMIDT

Claire Sappington Schmidt was born in Plant City, Florida, on February 20, 1932, the daughter of B. Earle and Emily Cooper Sappington. She later lived in Vero Beach.

A graduate of Florida State University with a degree in education, she married Henry M. Schmidt on August 27, 1954. With him she served churches throughout the Florida Conference: in Jacksonville, Orlando, St. Petersburg, Ft. Lauderdale, Dade City, Lake Worth, and Ruskin.

Although she was a homemaker, her main interest was genealogy. Upon their retirement, she and Henry traveled many miles in their Winnebago motor home gathering information on their relatives' history.

Claire died at home of lung disease on April 2, 2005, at the age of seventy-three. Her service was held at First United Methodist Church in Lakeland on April 7, 2005, with the Reverend Dr. Robert M. Gibbs and the Reverend Dr. Melton Ware officiating. Burial was at Crestlawn Cemetery in Vero Beach.

She is survived by her husband; her daughters, Jean Harville of Little Rock, Arkansas, and Carolyn Wertz of Cary, North Carolina; and four grandchildren.

Claire had a keen mind. From memory she could give names and dates of family members and their spouses going back to the 1800s. Although interested in the past, she was a forward-looking person, up to date in current affairs. She enjoyed life and everything in it. Her smile was contagious and her love for others was genuine.

Submitted by Henry M. Schmidt



MARY ELIZABETH RODGERS SIMMONS

Mary Elizabeth Rodgers Simmons was born on January 29, 1919, in Chiefland, Florida, to Claude Eugene Rodgers and Lawson Register Rodgers. In 1937 she graduated from Chiefland High School, where she was a Hall of Fame member of the basketball team and a star tennis player.

She married the Reverend Dr. Eldon Simmons on April 14, 1940. She was his helpmate as he served churches throughout Florida: six years as a student pastor; thirty-five years as an active member of the Florida Conference, including six years as a district superintendent; and seven years as a retired supply pastor. She had a reputation for improving the parsonage wherever they lived.

After Eldon's retirement in 1981, he served four years as supply pastor at First United Methodist Church, Dunnellon. They then moved to Lakeland, and Eldon continued to supply churches. In 2000 they entered the Florida Presbyterian Homes in Lakeland, where Elizabeth died in the Health Center on March 3, 2005.

Elizabeth was a beautiful lady who radiated God's love to all with whom she came in contact. She was happiest when she was with her husband and her family, whom she loved dearly.

A memorial service was held at College Heights United Methodist Church in Lakeland on March 7, 2005. Her pastor, the Reverend Delano McIntosh, and the Reverend Michael C. Oliver officiated. Interment was at Chiefland Cemetery, with the Reverend David Adams leading the committal service.

In addition to Eldon, Elizabeth is survived by their five children: Rodger Eldon Simmons of Lakeland, Catherine Elizabeth Fox of Ocala, Jean Ann Garrod of Kissimmee, Robert Eugene Simmons of Orlando, and Mary Diane Proulx of Orlando; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.



Submitted by her family

MARGIE GAYLE THOMPSON

Margie Gayle Thompson was born on July 14, 1905, in Bloomington, Indiana, the fifth of ten children, to Dessimae and Andrew Hendricks. She was the widow of the Reverend Charles (Charlie) Thompson, who died in 1979.

Margie Gayle May was a widow with two children when she married Charles Albert Thompson on September 14, 1935. Her daughter, Peggy May Hardin, was born on August 15, 1928, and her son, Ernest May Thompson, was born on April 19, 1934.

Margie and Charlie served throughout Florida: Naples/ Bonita Springs, 1939-41; Parrish, 1941-42; Ellenton/Terra Ceia, 1942-45; First, Perry, 1945-47; superintendent of the Florida Methodist Children's Home, Enterprise, 1947-53; and St. James, Palatka, 1953-54. In 1954 the Reverend Mr. Thompson opened and became superintendent of Sunny Shores Villas in St. Petersburg. He served there and as a conference evangelist for one year. Additional appointments were Beymer Memorial, Winter Haven, 1955-61; First, Pompano Beach, 1961-63; and Allapattah, Miami, 1963-67. He retired in 1967, and they returned to Bradenton and their home church, First United Methodist.

Margie assisted Charlie in his approximately fourteen years as editor of the *Florida Methodist*. It was a time-consuming job in the days before computers and fax machines.

She had many fond memories of the Children's Home. She redecorated the girls' bedrooms, shopped for the clothes, was in charge of distributing Christmas gifts, and did whatever else had to be done. When Margie and Charlie left the Children's Home, they took with them a foster daughter, Mary Allman Conner, who later preceded them both in death. Margie kept up with the "kids" and attended the Alumni Association Reunion each September through 2002.

Margie moved to Sanford, Florida, in the early 1980s to be near her daughter and grandchildren. She died on July 6, 2004, of congestive heart failure. Her funeral was held on July 8, 2004, at Gramkow Funeral Chapel in Sanford, with the Reverend Janie Ray officiating. She was buried beside her husband in Old Mansion Cemetery in Ellenton, Florida, on July 9, 2004.

Submitted by Peggy M. Hardin



HELEN LOUISE WILLIAMSTON

Helen Louise Williamston, seventy-four, of Sun City Center passed away on March 6, 2005.

Helen graduated from the University of South Florida with a master's degree in education. She taught elementary school in Alachua, Avon Park, and Ellenton.

She supported her husband in his mission work in Cuba and in Belize, as well as in United Methodist churches in Callahan, St. Petersburg, Port Orange, Alachua, Avon Park, Ellenton, and Crystal River. Upon his retirement in 1988 after twenty-seven years of pastoral ministry, they made their home in Sun City Center. Helen's extensive volunteer work included many ministries there in First United Methodist Church, where she was a Stephen minister. She also volunteered with the Emergency Squad and Samaritan Services in Sun City Center. She loved children, was a tutor, and was a teacher's aide among the migrant workers in Wimauma.

Helen was preceded in death by her husband, The Reverend Bentley A. Williamston, on January 4, 1991. She is survived by her daughter, Marcia (John) Chess; three grandchildren, Theresa (Al Perdue), Johnny Chess, and Brittany (Robed) Clark; five great-grandchildren; and family members, Maria Acosta, Luisa Mayer, and Arian Dickerson.

Graveside services were held on the morning of March 9, 2005, at Mansion Memorial Cemetery in Ellenton, Florida, followed by a memorial service that afternoon in the Sun City Center United Methodist Church. Participating in the service were the Reverend Dr. Warren Langer and the Reverend James L. Niemeyer, senior minister and associate minister of Sun City Center United Methodist Church, and the Reverend Harris Jones, retired United Methodist pastor.

Submitted by Sun City Center United Methodist Church