

PART V

Memoirs

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THESE FAITHFUL SERVANTS

Clergy

Raymond Frederick Grossman	May 17, 2012
Virgil Wesley Sexton	June 5, 2012
Guldmarr Jackson Blair	June 8, 2012
Luis Oscar Diaz de Arce	June 10, 2012
Nicholas Godun II	July 25, 2012
Ralph Bowers Huston	August 8, 2012
Michael J. Kelly (Local Pastor)	August 11, 2012
Jaynie Nell Hickman	August 14, 2012
Donald Ray Comer	August 31, 2012
Terrell Taft Brown	September 23, 2012
Thomas Earl Pittard (Associate Member)	October 3, 2012
Donald Mason Mackey	November 2, 2012
Eddie Lee Murphy, Jr. (Local Pastor)	December 25, 2012
William Gordon Mullinax	February 25, 2013
James Robert Messer (Local Pastor)	March 4, 2013
Lee Walter Davidson	March 12, 2013
Alfonso Thomas Delaney	March 12, 2013

Diaconal Minister

Barbara Lee Hudgel Hooks	December 17, 2011
--------------------------	-------------------

Spouses

Pauline Goad Evans	December 10, 2011
Doris Dollar Brackman	May 11, 2012
Mildred Louise Haskins Daniel	June 5, 2012
Nellie Marie Cook VanSickle	June 28, 2012
Mary Anne Fortier	July 9, 2012
Dorothy Lee Jones	July 12, 2012
Sadie Gerald Appleton Howe	July 14, 2012
Harriett Hammond Kribbs Kurtz	August 25, 2012
Ruth Emily Ross Rider	September 2, 2012
Mary Elizabeth Harris Hanks	September 4, 2012
Jeane Russell Buell	September 23, 2012
Joan Elizabeth Dalton	November 10, 2012
Nina Jane Lysitt-Gibson	November 12, 2012
Thelma Hall Tatum	November 13, 2012
Lillian Vee Elkes Martell	December 8, 2012
Thelma Ina Bean Riley Charnley	February 7, 2013
Martha Emily Dwyer Hansen	February 17, 2013
Grace Rosalie Herrmann Soka	February 20, 2013
Hazel Louvenia Tripp Almand	March 30, 2013
Betty Alday Gibbs	April 18, 2013
Sarah Elizabeth (Jane) Compton	April 17, 2013
Sarah Kramer Sherman	April 24, 2013

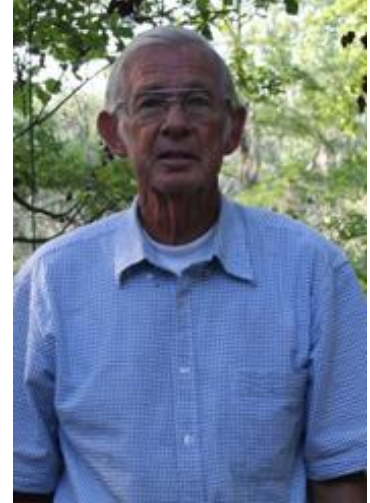
CLERGY

GULDMAR JACKSON BLAIR

Guldmар Jackson Blair was born on July 23, 1928, in Hickory Grove, Florida, to Edwin and Mae Buchanan Blair. Buck, as he was known by his friends, graduated from Pinetta High School, attended Florida State University, and graduated from the University of Florida.

He married Helen McLane on October 17, 1953, and they had five children: Donna and Rhonda, born on November 12, 1954; Melinda and Michael, born on April 1, 1956; and Karen, born on December 21, 1958.

A farmer in Madison County before being called into the ministry, Buck received his B.D. from Asbury Seminary. He was ordained a deacon in 1962, admitted into the Florida Conference on trial in 1963, received into full connection in 1964, and ordained an elder in 1966. He served the following appointments: Ft. White Circuit, 1955-61; Hosford, Liberty Circuit, 1961-64; Inverness, 1964-70; First, Perry, 1970-72; Albright, St. Petersburg, 1972-74; Pine Hills, Orlando, 1974-76; Belle Glade, 1976-79; Wauchula, 1979-87; and Christ, Leesburg, 1987-90. He retired to Wauchula in 1990. In retirement he served at Zolfo Springs, 1998-2002.



Buck enjoyed gardening. In his retirement years he spent most of his time listening to the southern wind whistle through the tall pines. He loved sitting on the porch with his beloved grandchildren, watching the pine trees dance in the wind.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Helen, in 2009. He is survived by his loving family: sisters, Leona Gay of Madison, Florida, and Frances Cantrell of Pinetta, Florida; children, Donna Blair Hernandez and husband Larry of Naples, Florida; Rhonda Blair Schrenk and husband Mitch of Oviedo, Florida; Melinda Blair Luce and husband Jean of Sebring, Florida; Michael Blair and wife Angela of Wauchula, Florida; Karen Blair Gordon and husband Kendall of Jefferson, Maryland; and grandchildren, Kendall Gordon and wife Jacki, Nicholas Gordon, Jamie Gordon, George Schrenk and wife Denise, Blair Sims and husband Matt, Randall Schrenk and wife Suzannah, Shea Luce and wife Kristyne, Ryan Blair, Rowland Blair, and McKenzie Blair; and great grandchildren, Blaine Gordon and Marie Sims.

Buck died on June 8, 2012, in his home in Wauchula. Two memorial services were held: at First United Methodist Church in Wauchula on June 14, 2012, with the Reverend Danielle Upton officiating, and at Hickory Grove United Methodist Church on June 14, 2012, with the Reverend James Howes officiating. He was cremated and rests under the trees of his beloved homestead in Hickory Grove.

Submitted by Melinda Blair Luce

OLIVE TERRELL TAFT BROWN

Olive Terrell Taft Brown, known as Terrie, was born in Asbury Park, New Jersey, to Edward and Florence Booth Taft, on October 16, 1934. After moves to Massachusetts and Maryland, the family moved to Winter Park, Florida.

Terrie graduated from Winter Park High School, attended Stetson University for a year, and graduated from the University of Florida with a B.A. in education in 1956.

She married William Joseph Brown on January 28, 1956. They had three children: Joseph Edward Brown, born on November 2, 1959; Charles Anthony Brown, born on December 1, 1960; and Julie Terrell Brown, born on August 21, 1962.

After her divorce in 1983 Terrie moved to Atlanta, Georgia, to attend Candler School of Theology at Emory University, from which she graduated 1986. She was admitted to the Florida Conference as a probationary member and ordained a deacon in 1987 and was ordained an elder in 1994. She served the following appointments: associate, Mt. Dora, 1986-87; Lake Jackson, Tallahassee, 1987-92; High Point, Clearwater, 1992-95; and Bear Lake, Apopka, 1995-99. She retired in 1999.

As a pastor, Terrie had a love for visiting sick people, shut-ins, and other members of her congregation. That was a big part of her ministry. She was a friend to all. Her children were her life, and she also had a passion for her pets, which were treated as part of the family. She was a voracious reader, completing a book in a day or two. Terrie had a wonderful sense of humor.

In 2010 while living at Country Meadows Independent Living Unit in Bridgeville, Pennsylvania, Terrie was diagnosed with dementia. She entered hospice in May 2012.

She died on September 23, 2012, at Family Hospice and Palliative Care in Mount Lebanon, Pennsylvania. A memorial service was held at John Wesley United Methodist Church in Tallahassee, Florida, on October 6, 2012. Burial was in Orange Hill Cemetery in Williston, Florida.

Terrie is survived by her children: Joseph Brown, Charles Brown and wife Sherry, and Julie Lawhead and husband Brad; grandchildren: Jared Lawhead and wife Alisha and Adam White; brothers Thomas A. Taft and Mitch Taft. She was predeceased by her brother Timothy Taft.



Submitted by Charles Brown

DONALD RAY COMER

Donald Ray Comer was born on July 14, 1931, in Henderson, Kentucky, to Walter Thurman and Jennie Marie Denheiser Comer. He married Ola Sanchez on September 14, 1951. They had three children: Barry, Kenneth, and Donna.

Don graduated magna cum laude from Union College in Barbourville, Kentucky, in 1953, with the highest scholastic average of any ministerial student at that time. While attending school, he served four churches in the Kentucky Conference: Felts Chapel in Corbin, Emmanuel in Barbourville, First in Evarts, and Wallins Creek. After graduation he took a year off to serve a three-point charge in the Lakeland District of the Florida Conference: Webster, Linden, and Center Hill. Ola taught at Webster so that the couple could save money to attend Asbury Theological Seminary.

While at Asbury Don served St. Joseph Methodist Church in Harrodsburg, Kentucky, and influenced a fine young man to enter the ministry. He sang in the seminary choral group and traveled to Canada one year. He graduated in 1955. He served Mt. Olivet in Fleming, Georgia, while attending Candler School of Theology, from which he graduated in 1956.

Don was admitted to the Florida Conference on trial in 1955, was ordained a deacon in 1956, and was ordained an elder in 1958. He served the following appointments: Spring Lake, 1958-60; Asbury, Vero Beach, 1960-63; Inverness, 1963-64; Howe Memorial, Crescent City, 1964-66; Nebraska Avenue, Tampa, 1966-71; Trinity, St. Petersburg, 1971-75; Cleveland, Punta Gorda, 1975-79; Asbury, Bartow, 1979-80; Christ, Hastings/Riverdale, 1980-81; associate, Skycrest, Clearwater, 1981-88; and First, Safety Harbor, 1988-89. He took disability leave in 1989 and retired in 1997.

At Spring Lake he oversaw the construction of a new church building, and at Asbury in Vero Beach he began a new church plant. He was the founding pastor of Lakewood Park in Ft. Pierce, which he served for one year while he was at Asbury. In Punta Gorda he ministered to migrant workers. The family especially enjoyed their five-year pastorate in Tampa, Ola's hometown, where the children excelled in music, swimming, and sports. He served on the Conference Board of Migrant Ministries, 1975-78.

One of the highlights of Don's call to the ministry came in 1960 when he welcomed to Nebraska Avenue the Cuban Church in exile. He shared the pulpit and church facilities with the Reverend Manuel Viera, pastor of the Cuban congregation.

According to Don, "Ola was the hardest person to move as she fell in love with every church and could put her roots down and stay forever." They both felt honored to have served in the Florida Conference.

Don was a wonderful husband, a loving father, and a friend to everyone. He had a beautiful singing voice, which he used to praise God and to uplift others. He lived his life in service to others, with a special gift for visiting shut-ins and those in need. He enjoyed tennis, fishing, and his adorable dog Carlos.

Don died on August 31, 2012, at Morton Plant Hospital in Clearwater, Florida. Funeral services were held on September 2, 2012, at Skycrest United Methodist Church in Clearwater, with the Reverend Nancy Mayeux and the Reverend Michael Pestel officiating. Burial was in Sylvan Abbey Memorial Park in Clearwater.

He is survived by his wife of more than sixty years, Ola Comer; children: Barry Comer and wife Julie of Atlanta, Georgia; Kenneth Comer and wife Laura of Ft. Myers, Florida; and Donna Lapcevic of Crystal Beach, Florida; grandchildren: Noel Quinones, Michael Comer and wife Megan, Mary Kathryn Comer, and Daniel Comer; and sister, Iris Corum of Henderson, Kentucky.



Submitted by Ola Comer

LEE WALTER DAVIDSON, JR.

Lee Walter Davidson, Jr., was born on July 22, 1918, in Wheeler County, Texas, to Lee Walter Davidson and Mildred Priscilla Davis Davidson.

He graduated as salutatorian from Kelton High School in Wheeler, Texas, received a bachelor of science degree from West Texas State College in Canyon, Texas, and received a bachelor of divinity degree from Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, in Dallas, Texas, in 1944. He also did work toward a master of theology at Perkins.

He married Wilmoth Keightly Robarts on July 9, 1945. They had four children: Susan Lillian, born on October 30, 1946; Sheridan Lee, born on May 31, 1949; Walter Sydney, born on December 15, 1953; and George Lamar, born on January 12, 1959. Sheridan Lee died in 1952.

Lee was admitted on trial in the Central Texas Conference in 1942, was ordained a deacon in 1943, and was ordained an elder and received into full connection in 1944. He served at Bardwell and Ennis, Texas, 1941-44. He served as a U.S. Navy chaplain in the Pacific, 1944-46, receiving the U.S. Navy Certificate of Award in 1946.



He transferred to the Florida Conference in 1947 and served the following appointments: Epworth, Jacksonville, 1947-50; Havana, 1950-53; Umatilla, 1953-57; Madison, 1957-58; Peeler, Jacksonville, 1958-62; North Hialeah, 1962-68; First, Kissimmee, 1968-72; First, Titusville, 1972-75; and First, Deltona, 1975-81.

After retirement in 1981, Lee was minister of visitation at St. Cloud, 1981-88; interim minister at Forest Hills, DeLand, 1992; and assistant minister at Orange City, 1996.

One of the highlights of his ministry was serving as chaplain of the Florida House of Representatives in 1953 under Farris Bryant, who later became governor. The two had a private prayer session every morning before the session began.

He was dean at the youth camp for several summers and director of youth work for the Jacksonville, Tallahassee, and Miami Districts. He was an instructor at Lake Junaluska Senior Youth Assembly, 1954, and adult advisor for the United Christian Youth Movement, Florida Council of Churches, 1954-56.

On March 12, 2013, Lee passed away comfortably at his home in DeBary listening to hymns, with his son and daughter-in-law at his side. He took his last breath when "How Great Thou Art" began playing. A celebration of life service was held at Deltona Memorial Funeral Home in Deltona, Florida, on March 17, 2013, with the Reverend Buddy Mason of the Kentucky Conference officiating. Burial was in the Deltona Memorial Gardens and Cemetery.

Lee was predeceased in 1952 by his son, Sheridan Lee Davidson and in 1995 by Wilmoth Davidson, his wife of fifty years. He is survived by his daughter Susan Lillian Davidson of Hemet, California; his sons, Walter Sydney Davidson of Sanford, Florida, and George Lamar Davidson and wife Dianna Claire Davidson of DeBary, Florida; and his granddaughter, Melanie Nicole Rodgers of St. Petersburg, Florida.

Lee wrote of his ministry, "While I was pastor at the North Hialeah Methodist Church, 1962-68, I received 998 new members in six years. I averaged about forty-five to fifty weddings a year. My greatest joy was in being used to lead someone to Jesus Christ and to receive them into the church."

Dad always said he enjoyed the one-on-one visitation with the congregants, so he made a lot of visits to the hospital and to shut-ins and others. He had a great sense of humor and a positive outlook on life. He always had a smile and a twinkle in his eyes, even near the end of his life. His faith in God and life ever after was strong. He gave his own funeral sermon by way of a recording of a sermon given in 1975 while he was at Titusville. The sermon was for Easter and was titled "Shout Hurray at Your Funeral."

Submitted by Lamar Davidson

LUIS OSCAR DÍAZ DE ARCE

The Reverend Luis Oscar Díaz de Arce was born on July 11, 1917, in Cárdenas, Cuba, to Bernardo Díaz de Arce and Mercedes Trenzado. He joined the church in 1929. He was a Sunday school superintendent at age seventeen and director of youth work in the Central District of Cuba at age eighteen. In 1940 he was a delegate to the Florida Conference Young People's Assembly. From 1937 to 1943 Luis was assistant editor of *El Evangelista Cubano*, the official publication of the Cuba Annual Conference.

He received his local preacher's license in 1939, was admitted on trial in the Cuba Conference in 1942, was ordained a deacon in 1944, and was received into full connection and ordained an elder in 1945.

Luis served the following appointments: Universitaria Church, Havana, 1942-45; student, Scarritt College in Nashville, Tennessee, 1945-46; Universitaria, Havana, 1946-50; Cienfuegos, 1950-56; Universitaria, Havana, 1956-57; and executive secretary of Christian education and adjunct professor of Christian education at the United Theological Seminary, Matanzas, 1957-60. He served simultaneously as executive secretary of Christian education and pastor from 1942 through 1960 and was also superintendent of the Central District, 1950-56.

During his ministry in Cuba, he was also editor of *La Revista Trimestral*, a Sunday school quarterly for adults, for which he wrote many of the lessons.

He was a delegate to the First World Youth Congress in Oslo, Norway, in 1947 and a delegate for Latin America to a meeting in Lund, Sweden, to organize the Youth Department of the World Council of Churches. He was a delegate to the Extended Executive Committee of the WCC in Birmingham, England, the same year. He was an organizing member of the National Council of Churches in Cuba in 1952.

Luis left Cuba on September 16, 1960, and came to Florida in January 1961. He worked as a custodian at First Methodist Church, Starke, until June 1962. He then was minister of Christian education at First, Bartow, 1962-63, and minister of education at College Heights, Lakeland, 1963-66. From 1962 until 1966 he was an instructor of Bible and Christian education at Florida Southern College in Lakeland. He officially transferred to the Florida Conference in 1966 and served Riverside, Miami, 1966-70, and Tamiami, Miami, 1970-80. He took medical disability leave in 1980 and retired from active ministry in 1985. For several years he tended to the Miami Beach Mission, which he had established while pastor at Riverside and Tamiami churches.

He served as a trustee of the Florida Methodist Children's Home, an institution he loved and supported throughout his ministry in Florida.

Luis was part of the Hispanic Instructors Program of Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, and attended the founding convocation of Methodists Associated for the Cause of Hispanic Americans (MARCHA) in 1971. He was on the editorial board of *Lecciones Cristianas*, for which he also wrote extensively. He wrote many articles for *el Intérprete* and several devotional meditations for *El Aposento Alto*, some of which were translated into English and also published in *The Upper Room*.

He married Jane Smith on June 24, 1943. She preceded him in death on July 5, 2000. He is survived by four children and their spouses: Marie and Eric Kennedy, Luis and Alejandra Díaz de Arce, Ana and Daniel García, and Carlos and Diana Díaz de Arce. He is also survived by twelve grandchildren, fifteen great grandchildren, one brother, Nilo, and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He died at ninety-four years of age on June 10, 2012, in Hialeah, Florida, where he had lived at Epworth Village since 2000. A celebration of Luis' life was held on June 16, 2012, at Wesley United Methodist Church, Coral Gables, Florida, with the Reverends Daniel García, Emilio Chaviano, and Jacqueline Leverón officiating. Other pastors present participated in the committal of his remains to the sea.

A memorial service was held on June 24, 2012, at the Epworth Village Chapel in Hialeah, Florida, with the Reverends Daniel García, René Ramírez, and Michael G. Rivas officiating.



Submitted by Ana Díaz de Arce García

ALFONSO THOMAS DELANEY

Alfonso Thomas Delaney, Sr., was born on October 4, 1934, in Thomasville, Georgia, to Mamie and Haskell Delaney.

He received his primary education in the public schools of Hemstead, New York. In 1979 Alfonso earned an associate in arts degree from Morristown College in Morristown, Tennessee. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in religion and philosophy from Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Florida, in 1981 and a Master of Divinity degree in 1985 from the International Theological Center (Gammon Theological Seminary), Atlanta, Georgia. In 2003 he received a Doctor of Philosophy degree in clinical Christian counseling from Cornerstone University in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

He was a licensed beautician for seventeen years in New York. He served as student pastor for John Wesley United Methodist Church in Granville, Georgia, 1982-85.

He joined the Florida Conference as a probationary member and was ordained a deacon in 1983 and was ordained a full elder in 1988. He served the following appointments: Mt. Zion, Clearwater, 1985-90; Stewart Memorial, Daytona Beach, 1990-92; and Ebenezer, Miami, 1992-99. After his retirement in 1999, he and his wife relocated to Atlanta, Georgia, where they attended Cascade United Methodist Church.

He was an associate trustee of Bethune-Cookman University and a life member of the Bethune-Cookman Alumni Association.

After experiencing declining health for several years, Al became a patient at A.G. Rhodes Health and Rehabilitation Center in Atlanta, where he lived for eight years. During that time he served as the first patient chaplain in the history of the Center and as president of the Residents' Council Association.

Dr. Delaney went to his heavenly home on March 12, 2013. A celebration of life was held on March 22, 2013, at Cascade United Methodist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, with Dr. Marvin A. Moss, Dr. Vidalia Addy, the Reverend Paul Easley, the Reverend Olu Brown, the Reverend Valerie Delaney, and the Reverend Dr. Edward Wheeler officiating. The Reverend Dr. Edward Wheeler was eulogist.

He leaves to cherish his memories his devoted wife of thirty years, Clara Dodson Delaney; two daughters, Alice Delaney and Alma Delaney; three sons, Alfonso Delaney, Jr., Allen Delaney and wife LaChond, and Clifford Delaney and wife Cassie; stepson, Victor Horsely; mother, Mamie Delaney; brothers, Charles Delaney and Bobby Delaney; sisters, Rossine Delaney and Geraldine Herrin; grandchildren, Cassandra Horsely, Chiquita Horsely, Christopher Horsely, Cierra Hendricks, Chelsea Delaney, Cayla Delaney, Clifford Delaney, Jr., James Delaney, April Delaney, Alfonso Delaney III, Ashley Delaney, and Shaylan Delaney; and a host of cousins and loving friends.



Submitted by Clara Delaney

NICHOLAS GODUN II

Nicholas Godun II was born on December 6, 1946, in Plymouth, New Hampshire, to Nicholas and Dorothy Ruth Ober Godun.

He graduated from Olympia High School in Greece, New York, in 1963 and from Florida Southern College in 1979. He received a Master of Divinity degree from Candler School of Theology in 1983.

Nick married Marcy Gayle Clayton on May 31, 1986. They had two children: Nicholas Godun III, born on June 12, 1990, and Jean Michelle Godun, born on January 21, 1993.

Admitted as a probationary member of the Florida Conference and ordained a deacon in 1983, he was ordained an elder in 1986. He served the following appointments: associate, Trinity, DeLand, 1983-86; Trinity, Winter Haven, 1986-89; First, Pahokee, 1989-90; First, Avon Park, 1990-94; St. Mark's, Ocala, 1994-96; First, Madison, 1996-99; Roseland, 1999-2003; Altoona and Paisley, 2003-04; Paisley, 2004-08; Isle of Faith, Jacksonville, 2008-09; First, Sanford, 2009-10; incapacity leave, 2010-11; Tuskawilla, Casselberry, February-June 2011; and Keystone Heights, Keystone, July-November 2011, when he took incapacity leave.

In 2006 Nick was a finalist for the Grindheim-Sims Award, given to the pastor of a small church for excellence in evangelism and growth.

Nick died in DeLand, Florida, on July 25, 2012, after two and a half years fighting squamous cell carcinoma. Memorial services were held at Isle of Faith United Methodist Church in Jacksonville, Florida, on August 8, 2012, with the Reverend Aaron Ankeny and the Reverend Tim Smiley officiating, and at First United Methodist Church in Sanford, Florida, on August 18, 2012, with the Reverend David Charlton, the Reverend Molly Warren, and the Reverend Jimmy Jones officiating. He was buried in the family burial grounds in Glenwood, Florida.

He is survived by his wife, Marcy C. Godun; his son, Nicholas Godun III; and his daughter, Jean Michelle Godun.



Submitted by Marcy Godun

RAYMOND FREDERICK GROSSMAN

Raymond Frederick Grossman was born in Allendale, New Jersey, on February 19, 1921, the eldest of three sons of Frederick Grossman and Florence Hillman Grossman.

Raymond enlisted in the United States Navy in 1944 and served as a photographer's mate and cook during WWII and the Korean War. After being honorably discharged in 1953, he entered Farmington State Teacher's College and upon completion of his B.S. degree entered Boston University School of Theology.

Raymond was married to Helen Mae Ward for twenty years and they had four children: Nancy Marie Grossman, born on July 26, 1946; Ward Frederick Grossman, born on July 3, 1947; Linda Sue Grossman, born on July 2 1958; and RaeJean Grossman, born February 11, 1960. Helen lost her battle with cancer in December of 1965.

Ordained in the Maine Conference in 1955, he served seven churches there: Wayne Community, North Wayne Community, and Readfield, 1955-58; Farmington, 1958-61; Union, 1961-63; and Corrina and Stetson, 1963-66.

Raymond relocated with his two youngest children to Central Florida in 1966. There he met and married Mildred Carolyn Coppen in 1967 and with this marriage welcomed three additional children to the family: Robert Edward Coppen, born on September 26, 1945; Judi Marie Coppen, born on January 15, 1948, and Debra Lynn Coppen, born on October 13, 1953.

After transferring to the Florida Conference in 1966, he served Orange City, 1966-69; Davenport, 1969-72; associate, Anona, Largo, 1972-76; associate, First, Vero Beach, 1976-77; and Wesley Memorial, St. Petersburg, 1977-83. Upon retirement in 1983 he and Mildred moved to Oak Hill, and he served as a minister of visitation under the Reverend Robert C. Brown at Coronado Community United Methodist Church of New Smyrna Beach for five years.

During their time in the Anona church, Raymond and Mildred began traveling with their church family, leading numerous trips to the Holy Land, Great Britain, Europe, and North America. Raymond enjoyed the youth as well as the seniors in his churches and traveled with each age group at every opportunity. His sense of humor and approachable demeanor provided a fun atmosphere on trips. People wanted to spend time with him, and they learned about the Lord through the many experiences Raymond exposed them to.

Through his spiritual guidance many lives turned to Christ for His continued support and sustenance. At one of his churches he opened a coffee house in the Fellowship Hall to give the youth a positive weekly activity to participate in. Throughout his life Raymond loved to fish and paint landscapes. Many times he sang from the pulpit the hymns he loved so much. His family says that if his Sunday messages had been concise and short, they would not know what overcooked pot roast tasted like.

Raymond suffered a stroke in 1998, leading to his admittance into a nursing home in 2001. He went to be with the Lord on May 17, 2012, at ninety-one years of age, as a result of respiratory distress. Raymond is survived by his loving wife, Mildred C. Grossman of DeLand, Florida; his children: Bobby Coppen, Nancy Hotham, Ward Grossman, Judi Dempton, Debra Wildman, Linda Prevatte, and RaeJean Valance; twelve grandchildren; and seventeen great grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on May 22, 2012, at the First United Methodist Church of DeLand, with the Reverend Robert C. Brown, senior pastor of the Coronado Community United Methodist Church, officiating.



Submitted by RaeJean Valance

JAYNIE NELL HICKMAN

Jaynie Nell Hickman was born on October 30, 1935, in Solen, North Dakota, to Thomas Orton Hickman and Eulalie Jordan Hickman. She grew up in St. Paul, Minnesota.

She received a B.A. degree from Hamline University, St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1956, and later received an M.A. degree in Christian music. She graduated from Candler School of Theology at Emory University.

She was admitted as a probationary member of the Florida Conference and ordained a deacon in 1975 and was ordained an elder and received into full connection in 1989. She served the following appointments: associate, Snyder Memorial, Jacksonville, 1975-77; student, Candler School of Theology, 1977-83; Georgia Mental Health Institute, 1983-84; associate, Venice-Nokomis, 1984-87; Melrose, 1987-94; Hawthorne, 1994-96; Boca Grande, 1996-98; and Anthony, 1998-99. She retired in 1999.

Jaynie shared her talents on the piano and organ with her family and friends, as well as her church and community, throughout her career and in retirement.

Jaynie died on August 14, 2012. A memorial service was held on August 19, 2012, at Grace United Methodist Church in Venice, Florida. Survivors are her brothers, William Jordan Hickman and wife Gini and Thomas Jackson Hickman and wife Sally, as well as seven nieces and nephews.



Submitted by Sally and Jack Hickman

RALPH BOWERS HUSTON

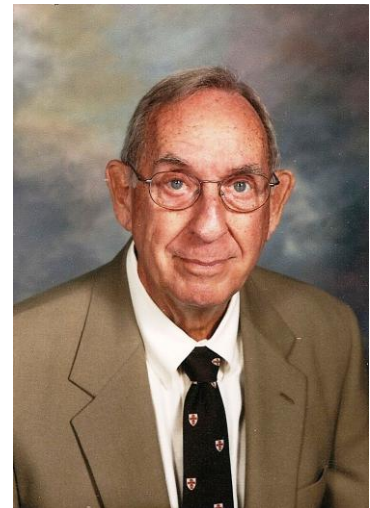
Ralph Bowers Huston was born in Fayette City, Pennsylvania, on March 12, 1921, to Dr. and Mrs. Clyde R. Huston. He graduated from Charleroi High School in 1939, Washington and Jefferson College in Washington, Pennsylvania, with a B.A. in 1943, and Boston University School of Theology with an M.Div. in 1945. He received an honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Washington and Jefferson College in 1958.

He married Elsie Beal of Washington, Pennsylvania, on June 23, 1944. They moved to Florida and raised four children: David, Pam, Becky, and Nancy.

Ralph was admitted to the Florida Conference on trial and ordained a deacon in 1945; he was ordained an elder and received into full connection in 1947. He started his ministry at Callahan in 1945. He then served the following appointments: associate, Trinity, Tallahassee, 1946-48; Woodstock Park, Jacksonville, 1948-52; Jacksonville Beach, 1952-57; South Miami, 1957-64; First, Tampa, 1964-67; superintendent, Lakeland District, 1967-73; Park Temple, Ft. Lauderdale, 1973-77 (merged with First in 1975); Southside, Jacksonville, 1977-81; and associate director, Conference Program Council, with responsibility for Ministry and Higher Education, 1981-87. He retired in 1987.

Ralph was a leader for social change in support of racial integration. He promoted interfaith relations as well as recruitment and mentoring of ministerial students. He also developed mission programs in the Caribbean. His passion for education and mentoring has impacted several generations of church leaders and congregations.

In the 1960s Ralph advised Governor Leroy Collins with moral and Biblical resources in support of racial integration. In Miami he was a key member of an interfaith, interracial committee working with key leaders to



2013 Journal of the Florida Annual Conference – Part V

eliminate segregation. He helped lead racial integration of the Warren W. Willis Youth Camp in Leesburg. In 1973 Ralph's sermon on Watergate was selected for a Freedom Foundation Award.

Ralph organized and established two new churches and led Park Temple and First in Ft. Lauderdale in a successful merger. He led the building of two sanctuaries and several educational buildings. He received more than thirty-six hundred new members into his congregations. He was a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conference five times between 1968 and 1980 and was a member of the General Conference Legislative Committee on Higher Education and Ministry. He was a member of the World Methodist Council for ten years and chair for exchanges with the West Indies for thirteen years. He was a member of the Conference Board of Ministry for twelve years, chairing it for four years, and a member of the committee overseeing mergers with E.U.B. and Central Jurisdictional churches. He was dean of Pastor's School for ten years.

Ralph was founding trustee of Baptist Hospital in Miami, founding member of the Advisory Board of South Miami Hospital; trustee of Wesleyan College, Macon, Georgia; and member of the Board of Visitors of Boston University School of Theology. He was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity and Alpha Kappa Alpha Philosophy Honorary Fraternity. He traveled extensively in Europe, the Holy Land, and the Middle East and promoted and encouraged pastors to travel as part of their ministry.

Ralph will be remembered for his outgoing personality, mastery of storytelling, penchant for joking, and enjoyment of life, no matter the challenge. Maybe his greatest gift was that no matter who you were he always made you feel important and let you know how much you were loved.

After many years of ministry Ralph developed myasthenia gravis, which almost took his life and forced him into retirement. He spent many years battling the disease and lived graciously with his illness until his death on August 8, 2012, at the age of ninety-one. His memorial service was held at First United Methodist Church in Lakeland, Florida, on August 13, 2012, with the Reverend David McEntire and longtime friend Bishop Robert Fannin officiating.

He is survived by his wife Elsie; his four children and their spouses: Drs. David and Lynn Huston; Pam and the Reverend Jim Rosenberg; Becky and Dr. Jack Beal; and Nancy and Donald Fountain; ten grandchildren; and four great grandchildren.

Submitted by Jim Rosenberg

MICHAEL JEAN KELLY

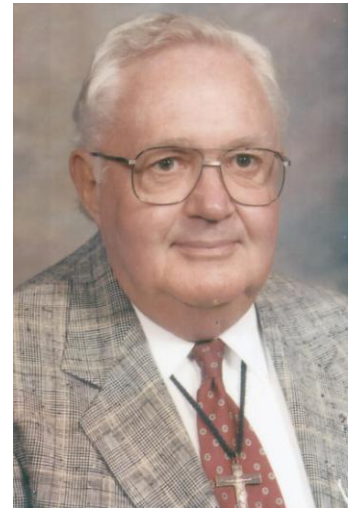
Michael Jean Kelly was born on January 15, 1933, in Waco, Texas, to Michael Kelly and Bonnie Jean Hadley Kelly. He attended Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, New Mexico, and then transferred to Tulsa University, from which he graduated in 1954 with a degree in accounting. He was active in the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity while at Tulsa University. He married Audrey Schwartz on June 30, 1960, in Dallas, Texas.

He was president and owner of M.J. Kelly Company, national insurance brokerage, and president of Missouri Surplus Lines Association.

Michael became a local pastor in the Florida Conference in 1995. He served the following appointments: Eloise, 1994-95; Eloise/Lena Vista, 1995-96, and Carrabelle, 1996-98. He retired in 1998, and he and Audrey returned to Springfield, Missouri. He served on the Conference Work Area on Missions and assisted with the day care facility at Eloise.

He served on many committees through the years at Wesley United Methodist Church in Springfield, which was his home church before he moved to Florida and again upon his return. He was the first president of Springfield Habitat for Humanity.

A life member of the Sons of the American Revolution, he was a member of the Ozark Mountain Chapter, serving his second term as president when he died. He had previously served as vice president, secretary, genealogist, and chaplain of his chapter and as secretary at the state level.



2013 Journal of the Florida Annual Conference – Part V

Michael loved genealogy, visited the Kelly family farm in County Clare, Ireland, in 1988, and at the time of his death was working on a book on his mother's family. He was a direct descendent of Pierre Robert (1656-1715), the first French Huguenot minister in America and was related to Henry Martyn Robert (1837-1923), author of *Robert's Rules of Order*.

He had a high regard for history and a love of his country. He loved his Lord and was a faithful servant to the end.

Michael died of cancer on August 11, 2012, at home. A celebration of his life and journey was held on August 16, 2012, at Wesley United Methodist Church in Springfield, Missouri, with the Dr. Bruce E. Baxter officiating. The Ozark Mountain Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution provided a color guard for the service.

He is survived by his wife of fifty-two years, Audrey; daughters, Robin Pritt and husband David, Jill Green, and Mary Bibey, all of Springfield, Missouri; son Jon Kelly of St. Louis, Missouri; ten grandchildren: Jeremiah Green, Jessica Green, Elise Green, Nicholas Green, Samantha Green, Kevin Pritt, Derek Kelly, Ian Kelly, Sarah Bibey, Rachel Bibey; and eleven great grandchildren.

Submitted by Audrey Kelly

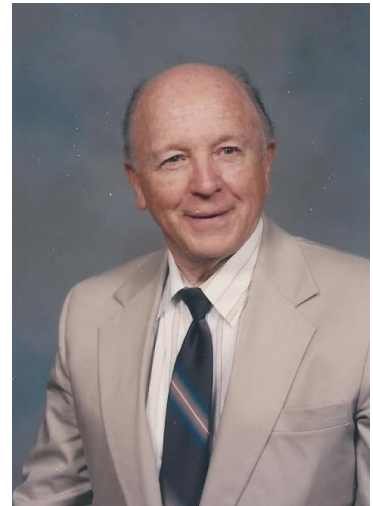
DONALD MASON MACKAY

Donald Mason Mackay was born on May 22, 1916, in Birmingham, Alabama, to Edward George Mackay and Beulah Mason Mackay.

He graduated from Emory University, where he was an active member of the Emory Christian Association and a member of Kappa Alpha Order. He then attended Duke Divinity School, where he was student chaplain.

In 1942 he joined the navy as a chaplain, training at William and Mary College before being assigned to the Pacific Theater during World War II. He was assigned to the PT boats in that region. He returned from the war in 1946.

He was admitted on trial, ordained deacon and elder, and received into full connection in the North Georgia Conference in 1943. He transferred in 1946 to the Florida Conference, where he served the following appointments: Bowling Green, 1946-50; Ortega, Jacksonville, 1950-55; Grace, St. Augustine, 1955-56; Riverside, Miami, 1956-61; Jacksonville Beach, 1961-67; First, Cocoa, 1967-71; First, Seminole, 1971-75; Beymer, Winter Haven, 1975-80; and Cason, Boynton Beach, 1980-84. He retired in 1984. In retirement he served as chaplain of Wesley Manor in Jacksonville for ten years.



A leader in promoting cooperation and harmony during the struggle for civil rights for all people, he was instrumental in integrating the Jacksonville Ministerial Association.

He had a great spirit of adventure, loving to fish, boat, and explore local rivers. He and his brother James navigated the Chattahoochee River from Columbus, Georgia, to St. Andrews Bay in the Panhandle.

Don died on November 2, 2012. A memorial service was held on November 5 at the Estates at Carpenters in Lakeland, Florida, where he and Anna Laura had lived since 2003. Another service was held on December 29, 2012, at Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

He was preceded in death by his three brothers, Edward Huchon Mackay, John Leland Mackay, and James Armstrong Mackay.

He is survived by his wife of sixty-six years, Anna Laura Mackay; his sister, Elizabeth Mackay Asbury; and five children: Laura Mackay Berglund, Lynn Ellen Mackay, Donald Mason Mackay, Jr., Dr. Bruce Cole Mackay, and Dr. Edward George Mackay II.; eleven grandchildren; and eight great grandchildren.

Submitted by the Memoirs Committee

JAMES ROBERT MESSER

James Robert Messer was born on February 5, 1943, in Brockport, New York, to James and Mary Judd Messer.

He had three children: Sherry Rogers, born on May 18, 1964; James B. Messer, born on June 6, 1970; and James F. Connors, born on December 4, 1971.

A graduate of Brockport High School, Jim received an associate degree in mechanical design from the Rochester Institute of Technology. He was employed for twenty-eight years as a design draftsman for Eastman Kodak in Rochester, New York. He retired in 1992.

He was licensed as a local pastor in 2004. After serving for three years at First, Port Orange, as assistant pastor, he was appointed in 2005 to Wellborn/Huntsville, where he served until his retirement in 2012.

Jim enjoyed boating and model trains. He was a member of the Suwanee Barbershop Quartet and the Live Oak Pastors Association. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather.

He passed away on March 4, 2013, at his residence in Wellborn after an extended illness as the result of pancreatic cancer. A memorial service was held on March 23, 2013, at Wellborn United Methodist Church, with the Reverend James Richardson, the Reverend Karl Wiggins, the Reverend Matt Dillard, and Dr. Everett Parker officiating.

He is survived by his beloved wife of twenty-six years, Mary Jane Messer; loving daughter, Sherry L. Rogers of Billings, Montana; proud sons, James B. Messer and wife Rachel of Columbus, Georgia, and James R. Connors and wife Kristen of Clifton Springs, New York; sister, Gloria Jean Tabor; four grandchildren; and three great grandchildren.

Submitted by Mary Jane Messer



WILLIAM GORDON MULLINAX

William Gordon Mullinax was admitted into the South Carolina Conference on trial and ordained a deacon in 1966. He transferred to the Florida Conference in 1969 and was ordained an elder in 1970.

He served the following appointments: Hutto Chapel, Jacksonville, 1969-71; Hope, Melbourne, 1971-74; Lake Gibson, Lakeland, 1974-76; Florida City, 1976-78; Big Coppitt/Pine Key, 1978-83; Highlands, Lakeland, 1983-92; and Trinity, Lakeland, 1992-1995. He retired in 1995.

He died on February 25, 2013, at age eighty-two at his home in Melbourne, Florida. A memorial service was held on March 2, 2013, at ALIVE Wesleyan Chapel on the campus of Southern Wesleyan University in Central, South Carolina. He was buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery in Central, South Carolina.

Submitted by the Memoirs Committee



EDDIE LEE MURPHY, JR.

Eddie Lee Murphy, Jr., was born on July 25, 1932, in Ware County, Georgia, the oldest of twelve children of Eddie Lee Murphy, Sr., and Rosa Lee Williams Murphy. He married the love of his life, Allegra Patricia Webb of Locust Grove, Georgia, on August 5, 1956. They were blessed with two children: Angela Vanessa Murphy, born October 13, 1959, and Eddie Lee Murphy III, born January 6, 1963. On March 26, 1999, God blessed them with a grandchild, Zenobia Fijiki Devorkin Murphy.

Eddie received a Bachelor of Science in vocational agriculture from Fort Valley State College in Georgia in 1955 and a Master of Arts in administration and supervision from the University of Northern Colorado. In 1995 he received his Course of Study Certificate from the Candler School of Theology, Emory University.

Eddie grew up in a Christian family and in 1950 joined the First Born Holiness Church in Thomasville, Georgia. Upon moving to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in 1969 he joined Holy Redeemer Church of God in Christ and in 1983 joined Harris Chapel United Methodist Church. Eddie graciously accepted his call into the ministry and was licensed as a local pastor in 1989. He served the following appointments: St. Paul, Deerfield Beach/Mt. Sinai, Hallandale, 1986-91; Harris Chapel, Ft. Lauderdale, 1991-92; Harris Chapel, Ft. Lauderdale/Mt. Sinai, Hallandale, 1992-97; and Harris Chapel, Ft. Lauderdale, 1997-2002. He retired in 1992.

After retirement, he served as pastor of visitation at Plantation and then as pastor of St. Andrews, Ft. Lauderdale, from 2005 until it closed in 2008.

Eddie was influential as a spiritual leader and a facility builder. He led building programs at St. Paul, Mt. Sinai, and Harris Chapel. One of his happiest moments was when Harris Chapel was able to burn three mortgages. He served in several leadership positions in Celebrate Jesus, Inc., and was a member of the South East District Committee on Ordained Ministry from 2008 until his death.

Before going into the ministry, Eddie held a number of educational positions in Georgia and Florida. He was an instructor in and county supervisor of vocational agriculture and an assistant principal for adult education. He retired from the Dade County School System in 1994 to devote himself full time as a local pastor.

Eddie was an active participant in many community organizations in Oakland Park and Broward County. He was active in his wife's campaign for commissioner in the City of Oakland Park and continued his support during her eight-year term as she advanced to mayor.

Eddie was the recipient of numerous awards for pastoral and community service. He and his wife were recognized as Pioneers by the Broward County Historical Commission and Oakland Park Historical Society.

Surrounded by family and in the care of Hospice, Eddie made his peaceful transition to eternal life at home on Christmas Day, 2012. He died of heart disease. Memorial services were held at the Harris Chapel Life Enrichment Center, Oakland Park, Florida, on December 28, 2012, and at Shoal Creek Baptist Church in Locust Grove, Georgia, on December 30, 2012. The Reverend Abraham Carey, retired executive secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries, was eulogist at both services. Eddie was laid to rest in the mausoleum at Westview Cemetery, Atlanta, Georgia, with his brother-in-law, Elder John A. Webb, officiating.

He was preceded in death by his father, Eddie, Sr., and a sister, Loretta Murphy Zachery. Survivors are his mother, Rosa; wife, Allegra; two children, Eddie and Angela Murphy; one grandchild, Zenobia Murphy; and ten siblings: James Clarence Murphy, Annie Laura Murphy Jackson, John Wesley Murphy, Walter Clifford Murphy, Jimmy Levon Murphy, Margaret Edna Murphy Bethume, Linda Sue Murphy Owensby, Janice Delaney Murphy Jones, Carolyn Elaine Murphy, and Charles Edward Murphy. Eddie was a beloved and faithful servant of God who loved his family, his church congregations, and his community.



Submitted by Allegra W. Murphy

THOMAS EARL PITTARD

Thomas Earl Pittard was born on December 29, 1925, in Durham, North Carolina, to Lessie West Pittard (later Covalt) and Thomas Oscar Pittard. At five years of age he went to live with his maternal grandparents in Washington, D.C. Earl always referred to his step-grandmother as Mom; her faith, prayers, and wisdom were a constant presence in his life. His only sister, Norma Kathryn Pittard Hinson, who was older, was a central figure in Earl's entire life.

In the years prior to moving to Florida, Earl had a variety of jobs, from bank runner to free-lance photographer to auto mechanic (which he didn't like) to marketing and display worker at Hecht's Department store to printing press and office machine mechanic at the National Geographic Society for ten years—all in Washington, D.C. He was briefly married, with a daughter, the Reverend Vicki Pittard, of the Virginia Conference.

Earl and his new wife, Leah Rockey, whom he had met at Central Methodist Church in Arlington, Virginia, came to Florida after they were married on February 14, 1959. They settled in Miami and began their family with the birth of Carol Alice on September 11, 1960. Earl again had several jobs while they attended Tarboux Methodist Church.

The family moved to Cocoa Beach in 1963 when he took the job as head mechanic for the print subcontractor McGregor & Werner at Cape Canaveral. Their daughter Linda (Lila) Louise was born on October 6, 1963. Earl and Leah were active members in Cocoa Beach Methodist Church, where he served on the building committee for the current sanctuary.

It was while at Cocoa Beach that Earl responded to the call God had made when he was healed of tuberculosis in the mid-1950s: he got his GED and began the four-year Course of Study at Candler School of Theology in the summers. In 1966 the family moved to Lakeland so that Earl could continue his education at Florida Southern College, and they began their itinerant adventure at Lake Gibson Methodist Church, where Earl was student pastor. Thomas Malcolm, their only son, was born on December 10, 1966.

In June 1968 Earl was ordained a deacon, and he was admitted into the Florida Conference as an associate member in 1970. During his twenty-five years in the active ministry the family served Lake Gibson, Lakeland, 1966-70; Samoset, Bradenton, 1970-71; Alva, 1971-72; Cross City/Old Town, 1972-76; Faith, Gainesville, 1976-78; First, Mayo/New Harmony, 1978-81; Trinity, Seville, 1981-88; and Trinity, Lakeland, 1988-92.

In June 1992, Earl retired from ministry and became, briefly, the Preacher's Relief Board administrator, living in Lakeland in a board home. Six months later he suffered a heart attack while packing supplies for Hurricane Andrew recovery. A subsequent cerebral hemorrhage left Earl paralyzed on his left side, with some emotional and mental challenges but with his speech and memory intact. He wrote poetry and appreciated TV artists, game shows, and good music. In April 2011 he and Leah moved to Sarasota near their daughter Lila. Earl was declining physically, and within a week of the move, he was admitted to a health and rehabilitation center near their home for long-term nursing care; he never returned to their home.

On October 3, 2012, after a day of struggling to communicate with his family, Thomas Earl Pittard died peacefully just before midnight. His memorial service was held on October 7, 2012, at First United Methodist Church in Sarasota, with the Reverend Art McClellan officiating; his inurnment was on December 29, 2012, in the church's columbarium, with the Reverend Charlie Rentz officiating.

Earl is survived by his wife of fifty-three years, Leah; his children: Carol Pittard Hammer and husband Al of Columbia, Maryland; Lila Pittard Levy and husband Bruce of Sarasota, Florida; Thomas Malcolm Pittard and wife Tara of Atlanta, Georgia; and Vickie Pittard of Roanoke, Virginia; his grandchildren, Rafael Aaron Vigil and Thomas Terry Pittard; and his nieces and nephew.

Because of Earl, his family will always know "Who they are and Whose they are."

Submitted by Leah R. Pittard



VIRGIL WESLEY SEXTON

Virgil Wesley Sexton was born on May 25, 1918. He married Catherine Louise Cobb in 1941, and they had three children: Linda and twins John and Judi.

Virgil graduated from Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky, and Garrett Theological Seminary at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. He received an honorary doctorate from the University of Louisville.

Admitted to the North Indiana Conference in 1942, he was ordained a deacon in 1943 and an elder in 1944. He served nine pastorates before becoming superintendent of the Indianapolis District. He then served for ten years as associate general secretary of the Board of Global Missions in New York City, before going to Dayton, Ohio, as an executive with the new General Council on Ministries.

Virgil transferred to the Florida Conference in 1976 and served the following appointments: Ley Memorial, Key West/Big Coppitt, 1976-78; associate, Trinity, Bradenton, 1978-1980; and Rogers Memorial, Bradenton, 1980-82.

Katy was his partner in ministry, deeply involved in the work of the church. When they retired in 1982, they moved to Presbyterian Village in Atlanta, Georgia, to be near their children. Katy died in 2003, after sixty-two years of marriage.

During World War II Virgil was a commander in the Chaplain Corps, U.S. Navy, in the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre. He served in Cuba and Morocco during the Korean War.

He died on June 5, 2012, in Austell, Georgia. A memorial service was held on June 17, 2012, in Lakeview Chapel at Presbyterian Village in Atlanta, Georgia. Interment was in the Memorial Garden at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Atlanta.

He is survived by his children: Linda Sexton-Patrick and husband Keith of Asheville, North Carolina; John W. Sexton and wife Suzanne of Norcross, Georgia; and Judi Sexton Logan and husband Steve of Wilmington, North Carolina; granddaughter, Anne Faris Brennan of New York City; grandson, Greg Faris; great granddaughter, Penelope Jane Faris of Carrboro, North Carolina; sister, Dorothy Howe of Rockville, Maryland; and many nieces and nephews.



Submitted by the Memoirs Committee

DIACONAL MINISTER

BARBARA LEE HUDGEL HOOKS

Barbara Lee Hudgel Hooks was born on September 24, 1928, in Martinsburg, West Virginia, the daughter of David and Ruth Hudgel. After graduating from Rossville High School in Rossville, Georgia, she attended the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, majoring in vocal music. She sang with the Chattanooga Opera Company for eight years, gave piano, organ, and vocal lessons for twelve years, and started a television program for children. She studied choral conducting at Tennessee Temple University until her senior year, when she moved to Zephyrhills to live with her widowed grandmother. She changed her major and received a B.A. degree in Christian education from Florida Southern College in 1955. She married Robert G. Hooks on June 1, 1955.



Bobbie served as director of music and Christian education at First United Methodist Church in Plant City from 1962 to 1975. There she formed the Warren Willis Singers. This group grew to include more than one hundred teenage singers from seven Methodist churches and five other Protestant denominations. They became well known and performed in churches all over the south, in the Bahamas, on the steps of the Capitol in Washington, and on radio and television. They also recorded two albums, donating the proceeds to worthy causes.

She attended Wesleyan Theological Seminary each year from 1970 to 1973. She was consecrated a lay worker and certified director of music in 1974.

In 1976 Bobbie went to First United Methodist Church in Zephyrhills as associate in Christian education and minister of music, serving until her retirement in 1994. There she formed adult, youth, and children's vocal and hand bell choirs and conducted confirmation classes. Seeing the need, she started the Methodist Day Care Center. When Trinity United Methodist Church in Zephyrhills needed a choir director, Bobbie answered the call, serving there for many years.

She was consecrated a diaconal minister in 1977.

She was a member of Chapter EU of the P.E.O. Sisterhood and former member and past president of the Garden Gate Circle of the Garden Club.

Bobbie and Bob took tour groups to many countries over several years. They both volunteered at Florida Hospital in Zephyrhills, where she accumulated more than ten thousand volunteer hours.

Bobbie passed away peacefully on December 17, 2011, at Gulfside Center for Hospice Care in Zephyrhills, Florida, surrounded by family and loved ones. A private burial service was held on December 22, 2011, at Oakside Cemetery in Zephyrhills, and a service of celebration was held on January 5, 2012, at First United Methodist Church in Zephyrhills, with the Reverend Kenneth Minton officiating.

Bobbie truly loved the Lord and was greatly cherished by many friends for her sweet spirit and inspiring example.

She is survived by her loving husband, Robert G. Hooks; stepdaughter, Nancy Hooks Hubert; children, Allison and Lance; grandchildren, Trey, Ethan, and Abigail; stepbrother, David Hudgel, Jr., and wife Bonnie; stepsister, Nancy Hudgel Gurganus and husband Mike; step-nephew, Andrew Gurganus; five godchildren; and a host of friends.

Submitted by the Memoirs Committee

SPOUSES

HAZEL LOUVENIA TRIPP ALMAND

Hazel Louvenia Tripp Almand was born on January 31, 1915, in New Bern, North Carolina, to Bannie Daughtey Tripp and Walter Tripp.

On April 30, 1936, she married the love of her life, the Reverend Howard Warren Almand, Sr., on Sullivan's Island, South Carolina. They had three children: Howard Warren, Jr., born on September 3, 1938; Marcia Irlene, born on April 26, 1940; and Walter Leslie, born on February 26, 1953.

Hazel's greatest joys in life were making precious memories with her family, church, and friends. Even though Howard received the call to ministry later in life, their time serving churches in the Florida Conference were happiest of her life. They served together in Mt. Pleasant/Sycamore, Chaires/Capitola, Carrabelle, Lee, St. Petersburg, and Wakulla. Hazel was always smiling, happy, and willing to do all she could to help her church families and communities. The word used to describe her ministry with Howard was *love*.

Hazel and Howard retired to Carrabelle and lived there happily for many years. After Howard's death in 1994 she remained in Carrabelle and was active in her church and community and continued helping everyone she could. At the age of ninety she moved to Marianna to be near her two sons.

Hazel died from complications of pneumonia at the age of ninety-eight on March 30, 2013, in Marianna, Florida. Funeral services were held on April 3, 2013, at Carrabelle United Methodist Church, with the current pastor, the Reverend Aaron Batey, and two former pastors, the Reverend Drew Standridge and the Reverend Julie Stephens, officiating. Interment was in Evergreen Cemetery in Carrabelle.

She was predeceased her parents; husband of fifty-eight years; brother and sister-in-law, Clayton and Lil Tripp; sister and brother-in-law, Annie and Johnnie Matthews; and brother-in-law Holton Hall. She is survived by her children: Warren Almand and wife Lydia of Marianna, Florida; Marcia Williams and husband Charles of Charleston, South Carolina; and Walter of Marianna, Florida; sister, Gladys Hall of Virginia; brother, Arthur Tripp and wife Catherine of North Carolina; four grandchildren; and four great grandchildren.



Submitted by Walter Almand

DORIS DOLLAR BRACKMAN

Doris Dollar Brackman was born on March 15, 1933, in Buford, Georgia, to Luther and Annie Long Dollar. Her family consisted of three sisters and two brothers. They were a close-knit family brought up in the church.

After graduation from high school Doris went to work at Sears in Atlanta, Georgia. John Brackman, my brother, was her pastor and introduced me to Doris. After dating for two years, we were married on June 2, 1956. I was transferred from the North Georgia Conference to the Florida Conference and we were sent to Holden Heights in Orlando. Doris was a wonderful pastor's wife. In fact, she was completely dedicated to the role of a committed Christian and a supportive pastor's wife.

Doris had a deep love for her faith, her family, and her friends. She had a deep love for the word of God and was constantly reading religious books. She loved her family and would do anything she could to help them in time of need. She loved her friends and proved it by sending cards for celebration, joy, or sorrow. She had a gift for writing the most needed message. In fact, at her funeral several of her friends told me that they had saved all her cards and read them over and over.

Doris went home to be with her Lord on May 11, 2012. A service of celebration of her life was held on May 15, 2012, at First United Methodist Church in Lakeland, Florida. She was buried at Oak Hill Cemetery in Lakeland. The Reverend David McEntire officiated at both services.

Doris was preceded in death by her brother, Luther Dollar, Jr., and her sister, Lucille Givins. She is survived by her husband, William L. Brackman, Jr.; son, William "Lee" Brackman and wife Gina; granddaughter, Sarah J. Brackman; sisters, Ferrell Dutton and husband Theron and Annette Milford and husband Robert; and brother, Charles Dutton and wife Judy.

When the doctor first diagnosed Doris, he said, "It's real bad. You have acute leukemia. There is no cure." She replied, "I'm not afraid. I know where I am going." The doctor asked, "Where are you going?" Doris replied, "I am going to be with Jesus." Later the doctor told me that he had never seen anyone accept death as she did.

Doris taught us not only how to live but also how to die.



Submitted by her husband, Bill, and family, Lee, Gina, and Sarah Brackman

JEANE RUSSELL BUELL

Jeane Russell Buell was born in McKeesport, Pennsylvania, on May 26, 1920, the daughter of Charles Russell and Charlotte Johnston Russell. She graduated in 1938 from McKeesport High School, where she was the first female editor of the yearbook. She was an active member of the Methodist Church in McKeesport, where she sang in the choir along with her parents.

She was a graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania and also studied at Penn State and the University of Pittsburgh. She was an elementary teacher in both Pennsylvania and Florida.

Jeane married Harold Ellsworth Buell in McKeesport, Pennsylvania, on November 26, 1942, and they had three sons: Rodd Russell Buell was born on March 31, 1946; Bruce Harold Buell was born on January 17, 1948; and Mark Paul Buell was born March 9, 1951.

In 1948 she moved to St. Petersburg, Florida, when her husband transferred to the Florida Conference as associate pastor at First Avenue Methodist Church (now Christ United Methodist Church) in St. Petersburg, where he served for four years. She assisted in his ministry in pastorates at Allendale, St. Petersburg; White Temple, Miami; Hyde Park, Tampa; First, Gainesville; and Christ, St. Petersburg, and while he was superintendent of the Miami and Gainesville districts.

She and Harold moved in 1984 from Gainesville to Lakeland, where she lived until her death. She was an active member of First United Methodist Church of Lakeland and United Methodist Women. She was a former member of P.E.O. She led travel groups to the Holy Land, Europe, and the Far East with her husband and continued to travel with him following his retirement in 1984. He preceded her in death on September 4, 2010. She was living at Carpenters Estates in Lakeland at the time of her death.

Jeane died on September 23, 2012. A private graveside service was held at Myrtle Hill Cemetery in Tampa, Florida, on September 29, 2012, with the Reverend Dr. James Harnish officiating.

Survivors are her sons, Rodd and wife Carole of Wellington, Florida; Bruce and wife Gail of Loganville, Georgia; and Mark and wife Courtney of Tampa, Florida; six grandchildren; and three great grandchildren.



Submitted by Mark P. Buell, Rodd R. Buell, and Bruce H. Buell

THELMA INA BEAN RILEY CHARNLEY

Thelma Ina Bean Riley Charnley was born in Windsor, Ohio, on March 11, 1916. She lost her mother early in her life and as the eldest child helped her father and grandmother care for her younger sister and two younger brothers. As a youth she was active in the Windsor Methodist Church and played basketball in her high school.

She married Al Riley and worked as his partner in a photography business in northeastern Ohio. They were living in Florida when he passed away. Subsequently, while living in Tampa, she met the Reverend James Charnley, who was then pastor of Highland United Methodist Church and who had lost his wife, Violet, just the year before. They were married on February 7, 1976, and she became a vital part of his life and ministry for the next twenty-three years, until his passing on April 21, 1999.

In the course of their marriage Thelma relished the role of ministerial helpmate, accompanying Jim on pastoral visits, especially among the elderly of their congregations. She loved music and sang in the church choir. At each of their parsonages she cultivated beautiful roses and often would take one with her on their visits.

With her marriage to Jim she gained two additional children, Stephen Charnley, who pastors in the West Michigan Conference and Kathleen Stanley, whose ministry is serving on the staff of the Bishop's Office in Indiana. Her son from her first marriage is Asbury Riley, who resides in the Tampa area. She had six grandchildren whom she loved and saw often when she and Jim spent summers in Michigan during their retirement: Dr. Iain Charnley, Autumn Hart and husband Daniel, Leah McDonald and husband Ryan, Nathan Stanley, Rebecca Stanley, and Asbury Riley. She had one great grandchild, Zachary Riley, with whom she had a close and caring relationship.

Thelma's family is most grateful to Asbury Riley, who, for the last dozen years since the passing of her husband, cared for her in his home with loyalty and devotion to his Granny, until her peaceful passing on her anniversary, February 7, 2013. Her memorial service was held in her hometown of Windsor, Ohio, on May 4, 2013, with her son, Stephen Charnley, officiating.



Submitted by Stephen Charnley

SARA ELIZABETH (JANE) CHUPP COMPTON

Sara Elizabeth (Jane) Chupp Compton was born in Miami, Florida, on July 3, 1928, to James Oliver Chupp and W. Mae King Chupp. She grew up in Miami, where she met and married William Hilden Compton on April 23, 1950. They had two children: Cathy Jean Compton, born on August 22, 1955, and Wesley Howard Compton, born on December 6, 1961.

In their early years together Bill served in the Korean War. After his return he focused on becoming a minister, and they moved to New York City, where he studied at Union Theological Seminary, 1956-58. They returned to Florida in 1958, and Jane served with him at churches throughout the conference: Redland, Homestead; Kendrick, Miami; Dunnellon; Port St. Lucie; Mims; Miami Beach; Woodstock Park and Riverview, Jacksonville; Community, Holiday; Calvary, Sarasota; Specialized Urban Ministries, Ft. Lauderdale; Killian Pines, Miami; Wagg Memorial, West Palm Beach; and Trinity, Winter Haven. After their retirement in 1993 they moved to Westminster Woods in Jacksonville, Florida, where Bill served as pastor for several years.



Jane died at Westminster Woods in Jacksonville, Florida, on April 17, 2013, after a long illness. A memorial service was held in the chapel at Wesley Woods on May 25, 2013. Burial was in Jacksonville National Cemetery.

Jane was predeceased by her son, Wesley Howard Compton. She is survived by her husband, William Hilden Compton; her daughter, Cathy Jean Compton Stephens; her grandchildren, André Wesley Stephens, Shawn Michael Stephens, and Shannon Louise Reed; and one great grandchild, Shawn Michael Stephens, Jr.

Submitted by Cathy Compton Stephens

JOAN ELIZABETH DALTON

Joan Elizabeth Dalton was married to the Reverend Donald Ray Dalton. They had four children: Don, Jr., Lisbeth Martin, Logan S. and April M. Dalton.

Don was called to the ministry in 1992 and served appointments at First, Archer, and Melrose. He died in 2007.

Joan died on November 10, 2012.

Submitted by the Memoirs Committee

MILDRED LOUISE HASKINS DANIEL

Mildred Louise Haskins Daniel was born in Trezevant, Tennessee, to Silas Edward Haskins and Ruby Willard Tate Haskins on September 12, 1921. She graduated from Gleason High School in 1939.

She married Frank Levi Daniel on September 6, 1943. They had four children: Ruby Louise Daniel Morris, born on August 31, 1944; Don Richard Daniel, born on August 31, 1946; Paul Lee Daniel, born on April 25, 1955; and Joseph Keith Daniel, born on March 26, 1959.

Mildred provided a loving home while Frank served in the navy as an enlisted man while he went through college and seminary. As a member of the Memphis Conference, Frank then served as a chaplain in the navy; he transferred to the Florida Conference in 1957. Mildred served with him in seventeen charges over the course of his thirty-four years in Florida. She filled in as a pianist in many of their churches and led prayer meetings and Bible studies. She was active in the WSCS and the UMW. In her spare time she enjoyed sewing, needlepoint, and reading.

She enjoyed working with children and youth groups and choirs. After retirement she continued to show her love for children in her support of the Children's Home in Enterprise. Birthdays and anniversaries were always remembered with a donation.

Mildred was fully committed to serving the United Methodist Church, always in attendance and in contact with former parishioners long after retirement. She was always ready to offer a word of encouragement, listen to any concern, and have a prayer with anyone, anytime.

She died on June 5, 2012, at the Community Hospice of Northeast Florida, Acosta-Rua Center for Caring. The celebration of her life was held on June 9, 2012, at Murray Hill United Methodist Church, in Jacksonville, Florida, with the Reverend Carmen Arnett and Mother Nancy Suellau officiating. Graveside services were held at the Citra, Florida, Cemetery, with Mother Suellau officiating. On June 22 a memorial service was held at Riverside Presbyterian House, where she had lived for several years, for her friends who were unable to attend the Murray Hill service. Chaplain Vickie Bossuot officiated.

Mildred was preceded in death by her husband the Reverend Frank L. Daniel and granddaughter Jessica Sue Daniel. She is survived by her children: Ruby Louise Morris and husband Reed, Don Richard Daniel and wife Evelyn, Paul Lee Daniel and wife Marian, and Joseph Keith Daniel and wife Mary-Jo; six grandchildren; and fourteen great grandchildren.

One of Mildred's favorite things to say was "Well, I guess all I can do is pray for you." How much her love and prayers are missed!



Submitted by Paul Daniel

2013 Journal of the Florida Annual Conference – Part V

PAULINE GOAD EVANS

Pauline Goad Evans was born on August 14, 1927, in Sycamore, Virginia, to Perry and Hattie Murphy Goad.

She was married to the Reverend Larry Evans and served with him in churches in North Ft. Myers, Chiefland, Tampa, Crescent City, Sarasota, Jacksonville, Port Orange, Orange Park, Lakeland, and Zephyrhills. They retired in 1993.

Pauline was a devoted Christian woman who loved the Lord and shared his message with others.

Pauline died on December 10, 2011, in Ft. Myers, Florida. Funeral services were held on December 15, 2011, at the North Ft. Myers Church of the Nazarene, with the Reverend Van Garner officiating. Burial was in Coral Ridge Cemetery in Cape Coral, Florida.

She is survived by her husband of sixty-four years, Larry Evans of Ft. Myers, Florida; a daughter, Patricia Burnett and husband Sonny of Ft. Myers, a son, Everette Evans and wife Katherine of Tulsa, Oklahoma; a sister, Clara Oakes of Danville, Virginia; a brother, Earl Goad and wife Dorothy Lee of Dry Fork, Virginia; four grandchildren; and three great grandchildren.

Submitted by the Memoirs Committee

MARY ANNE FORTIER

Mary Anne Fortier was a native of Kansas. In the 1980s she moved to Florida, where she met her husband, the Reverend Robert Fortier. She was his faithful partner in ministry for twenty-two years.

She was a member of Laurens Road United Methodist Church in Greenville, South Carolina, where her husband was pastor for twelve years. A lifelong Methodist, she was actively involved in visitation, Sunday school, and choir as long as her health permitted.

Her beautiful smile and hugs were her trademark among the church people she loved dearly. She had a loving heart.

Mary died on July 9, 2012. A Celebration of Life service was held on July 13, 2012, in the chapel of the Thomas McAfee Funeral Home in Greenville, South Carolina. Burial was in Graceland East Memorial Park in Greenville.

She is survived by her husband, the Reverend Robert Fortier; three children: Eileen Shumate and husband John of Grand Terrace, California; Dale Sander and wife Louise of Dallas, Texas; and Anita Moore and husband Ken of Greenville, South Carolina; step-son Keith R. Fortier of Charlotte, North Carolina; four grandchildren: Chris and Brian Shumate and Sarah and Emily Moore; and three great grandchildren.



Submitted by the Memoirs Committee

BETTY CLO ALDAY GIBBS

Betty Clo Alday Gibbs was born in Gainesville, Florida on May 15, 1924, to J.C. and Wortley Dare Holland Alday. She graduated from Gainesville High School in 1942, and in 1946 she was in the last graduating class of Florida State College for Women before it became Florida State University. She received a B.S. in business administration. She was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta and served on the Student Council.

Betty married the Reverend Dr. M. McCoy Gibbs on September 4, 1946. Their children are Robert McCoy Gibbs, Elizabeth Jane Gibbs Bouda, and Carrol Roy Snyder, a foster son.

Together they served many churches throughout the conference as well as three districts and the Conference Council on Ministries. Betty was the consummate supportive spouse and companion in all their places of ministry. She found and made a loving home wherever they lived.

Betty was a homemaker and an active volunteer in her local church, school, and community. She was the organizing president of the Auxiliary Unit at Leesburg Regional Hospital, where her husband served on the original Board of Trustees. She was a longtime member of Chapter BH of the P.E.O. Sisterhood. Betty was known and loved for her gracious hospitality and her genuine compassion and concern for all she met.

Betty died on April 18, 2013, in Leesburg, Florida. Funeral services were held on April 23, 2013, at Morrison United Methodist Church in Leesburg, Florida, with Bishop Kenneth Carter, the Reverend Annette Pendergrass, the Reverend John Harrington, and the Reverend Karen Burris officiating. Burial was in the Evergreen Cemetery in Gainesville, Florida.

She is survived by her husband, Mac; her children, Bob and Jane, and their spouses, Brenda and Michael; grandchildren, Beth Gibbs, Rob Gibbs, Brooke Borg, and Shannon Parson; and four great grandchildren.



Submitted by M. McCoy Gibbs

MARY ELIZABETH HARRIS HANKS

Mary Elizabeth Harris Hanks was born on January 9, 1926 in Miami, Florida, to J.M. and Ruth Elizabeth Scott Harris. Her father was a Methodist song evangelist and hymn composer.

After graduating from Eastern Nazarene College in Quincy, Massachusetts, with an A.B. in biology in 1945, she graduated from Johns Hopkins School of Nursing in 1950 with a B.S. in nursing science. A registered nurse, she specialized in newborn nursery babies and diabetic patients. She also served in public nursing.

She married Carl Hanks on May 28, 1951, in Wadsworth, Ohio. Their children are Steven, born on August 24, 1954; David, born on April 14, 1956; and Gregory, born on March 4, 1958.

Because Carl was a pastor, Mary moved from Wadsworth, Ohio, to Raleigh, North Carolina. He joined the Florida Conference in 1964, and they served in Ft. Pierce, Gainesville, West Palm Beach, Orlando, Sopchoppy, and Monticello.

Mary was faithful and dedicated to Christ and His church, serving as a children's Sunday school teacher, church pianist, and choir member. Her favorite scripture was Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all you heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight."

Mary died on September 4, 2012, after living ten years with Alzheimer's, which ultimately caused her death. She was buried on September 8, 2012, in Roseland Cemetery in Monticello, Florida. Her pastor, the Reverend Wayne Cook, and retired U.S. Navy chaplain, the Reverend Len Dodson, officiated at the graveside service.

Mary is survived by her husband, Carl Hanks, and their three sons: Steven and wife Tammy of Woodland Hills, California; David and wife Andrea of Atlanta, Georgia; and Gregory of Pasadena, California; her niece, Cindy Ingersol and husband Stephen of Colorado Springs, Colorado; her nephew, John Harris of Apopka, Florida; and nine grandchildren.



Submitted by Carl Hanks

MARTHA EMILY DWYER HANSEN

Martha Emily Dwyer Hansen was born on May 9, 1922, in Brownsville, Pennsylvania. The following year she moved with her parents, William and Susan Carp Dwyer, to Canton, Ohio. She attended Canton McKinley High School, where she met her future husband, Henry John Hansen, Jr. They graduated in the spring of 1940, and she began studies at Kent State University in the fall.

Martha married Henry on October 22, 1942, and graduated from Kent State with a degree in elementary education in 1943. Their family expanded with the birth of Grant Clark in 1948, followed by Susan Kate in 1950, Peter William in 1952, and LuAnn Martha in 1956.

With the birth of her children, Martha began a lengthy term as minister's wife and mother at various locations throughout the Northeast Ohio Conference. This vocation was peppered with occasional stints as substitute school teacher. After the family moved to Vero Beach, Florida, in 1965, Martha taught elementary school full time in the Indian River County School District for fifteen years. Widowed in 1968, she began attending Christ-By-The-Sea United Methodist Church in Vero Beach. After retiring in 1980 for health reasons, she moved to Lakeland, Florida, in 1982.



In Lakeland Martha attended First United Methodist Church and carried out a ministry of her own by volunteering as a tutor to help the underprivileged. She started by teaching English to an extended family of Cambodian immigrants and soon expanded her efforts to include tutoring a myriad of subjects to homeless persons at Talbot House to enable them to receive their GEDs. Her association with Talbot House Ministries continued for more than thirty years. She helped countless individuals improve their station in life by giving them the knowledge they needed to achieve success.

She further served God in her personal ministry by volunteering with the Read Lakeland program and the Sandwich Club at First United Methodist Church and by teaching Sunday school for children.

Martha passed away at Lakeland Regional Medical Center on February 17, 2013. Her memorial service was held on February 23, 2013, at First United Methodist Church in Lakeland, with the Reverend W. David McEntire and Bishop Robert Fannin officiating. Interment was in Vero Beach, Florida, with the Reverend Robert Atchley officiating.

She is survived by her four children: Grant Hansen and wife Ann of Knoxville, Tennessee; Sue Atchley and husband Rob of Lakeland, Florida; Peter Hansen and wife Jeanne of Port Charlotte, Florida; and LuAnn Triest of Mableton, Georgia; five grandchildren: Rob Atchley, Jon Triest, Josh Atchley, Amanda Triest, and Wyatt Hansen; and four great grandchildren.

Submitted by Peter Hansen

SADIE GERALD APPLETON HOWE

Sadie Gerald Appleton Howe grew up and lived much of her life in Central Florida. She was born on December 9, 1923, to Sallie Strickland and Bertram Cornelius Gerald in the rural town of Oxford, Florida. When she was a small child, Sadie's father moved his family to Williston to farm and trade horses and mules while her mother worked at home as a seamstress. Sadie spent most of her childhood in Williston and enjoyed being the youngest of four siblings; her sisters were Rubye Brooks, Helen Anderson, and Estelle Deen. In 1941 the Gerald family relocated to nearby Ocala and that same year Sadie graduated from Ocala High School.



On March 27, 1943, Sadie married Charles Lewis Appleton, an aviation instructor at Greenville Air Base in Ocala, and a year later, on March 17, 1944, daughter Steffany was born. As a young housewife married to a Pan American airline pilot, Sadie lived many places, including Miami, Seattle, and Palo Alto, California, where her second daughter, Beth, was born on March 11, 1949. In the early 1950s Long Island became Sadie's next home. She returned to Ocala in 1962 to reunite with family and raise her two children. She found a rewarding career in fine ladies' clothing and excelled as a top sales associate for Blocker's Dress Shop of Ocala, where she was employed until retiring in 1980.

On August 15, 1980, she married Dr. Gaylon Leon Howe in a ceremony performed by Bishop Joel McDavid. Dr. Howe had been named pastor emeritus of First Church, Ocala, and together they led a rich Christian life and shared a loving marriage. In retirement Sadie and Gaylon enjoyed much international travel and when at home they stayed active as community leaders. Before settling back in Ocala, Sadie enjoyed living in Gainesville, where Dr. Howe served as minister of visitation for First Church. When he passed away on January 27, 1989, Sadie continued to find peace, comfort, and love within her church family.

Sadie had lived eighty-eight years when she passed away from natural causes on July 4, 2012. She wished to be remembered as "a Christian who lived a happy life" and described herself as "a people person." Gregarious, she could light up a room and had a gift for telling an upbeat story. Sadie also loved living in Ocala, where she found much spiritual support and happiness, surrounded by close family members and loyal friends.

Mrs. Howe's memorial service was held on July 14, 2012, at First United Methodist Church in Ocala, with Dr. John Few and the Reverend Sue Hauptert-Johnson officiating. Her remains are interred at Pine Level Cemetery in Oxford.

She is survived by her daughters, Steffany Appleton of New Orleans and Beth Appleton Harbaugh and husband David of St. George Island, Florida; her stepchildren, Rhoda Howe Quarterman and husband Lee of Marietta, Georgia, and Gaylon Howe, Jr., and wife Joan of Alamo, California; her grandchildren, Christopher Curry and Patrick Curry and wife Tara; her step grandchildren, Rolf Hunt and wife Beth; Trevor Howe and wife Lenee; and Kasey Howe; her great grandsons, Graeme, Henry, and Isaac Hunt and Amicolola Curry; her great granddaughter, Alyson; and many nieces and nephews.

Submitted by her daughter, Beth Appleton

DOROTHY LEE JONES

Dorothy Lee Jones, known as Dot, was born January 19, 1918, the daughter of Charles S. Lee and Goldie Beckley Lee, who raised four children in Oviedo, Florida, on Lake Charm. She and her siblings were fifth-generation Floridians. Their pioneer Lee grandparents—James Hiram Lee and Laura Barnett Lee—whom Dot remembered, were the children and grandchildren of Lake City, Florida, natives.

Dot graduated from Oviedo High School and earned her B.A. degree in 1939 from Florida Southern College, where she majored in English and was president of Alpha Chi Omega sorority. She then taught English and speech in High Springs, Florida.

In 1942 she married John Louis Jones, a graduate of Candler School Theology at Emory University. They were married in the First Methodist Church of Oviedo, where earlier John had held a student pastorate and had first met Dot. They had three daughters:

Nancy Lee Jones, born on October 14, 1943; Beverly Jones, born on August 2, 1946; and Laura Jones, born on December 30, 1959.

John joined the Florida Conference and for thirty-five years he served, with Dot's help, in United Methodist churches in DeLand, Miami, Boynton Beach, Jacksonville, Fernandina Beach, Venice-Nokomis, Clermont, and Gulfport.

Dot was a woman of many talents: piano playing, painting, drawing, sewing, and singing, to name a few. She took up watercolors again in her late eighties and sent to her friends and family many illustrated cards and bookmarks with her favorite quotations and scripture that will be cherished for a long time to come. She was a woman of wit who loved to tell funny stories. She had a joke for just the right occasion. She also had a wisdom that allowed her to accept and embrace many points of view from many different people, with a gentle and guileless spirit.

She was above all a woman of faith who demonstrated that faith through her actions as she provided her husband with a loyal helpmate until his death. Her faith was and continues to be an inspiration. As she faced many challenges, she would often quote the verse in James "Blessed are those who persevere to the end." She did just that, and it is certain that she heard the words "Well done thou good and faithful servant" from her Savior.

Dot died peacefully on July 12, 2012, after a brief decline. A memorial service was held at Dorothy's home church, First United Methodist Church of Oviedo, Florida, on September 29, 2012, in the historic sanctuary, with the Reverend John Powers officiating. The Reverend Larry Rankin also participated, with a tribute to the enduring friendship Dot and his mother, the late Katherine Rankin, had enjoyed since they were roommates in college.

Dot was preceded in death by her husband; her brother, Charles S. Lee, Jr., of Tennessee; and her sister, Thelma Lee Clonts, and brother-in-law, Rex Clonts, Sr., of Oviedo, Florida. She is survived by her daughters, Nancy Lee Ford of Cincinnati, Ohio; Beverly Coyle of New York, New York; and Laura Jones of Sarasota, Florida; and by her four grandchildren and six great grandchildren. In addition to her sister-in-law, Martha Ann Moon Lee, she is also survived by her brother, Robert E. Lee, and sister-in-law, Jane Seacrest Lee, of Oviedo and many nieces, nephews, and cousins living in Oviedo as well as in other parts of the country.



Submitted by Laura Jones

HARRIETT HAMMOND Kribbs KURTZ

Harriett Hammond Kribbs Kurtz was born in Fitzgerald, Georgia, on March 27, 1922, to James Willis Hammond and Nina Mims Hammond. When she was a child, she moved with her family to Winter Haven, Florida, where she graduated from Winter Haven High School. She attended the University of Florida for a year.

Harriett married Donald E. Kribbs in 1939. He was a United Methodist minister who served appointments in the Florida, Holston, and Tennessee Conferences. They had two children, Donald Lee and Kay. Harriett was the ideal mother whose life was dedicated to her family. Over the years Harriett was employed by the United Methodist Board of Evangelism and Scarritt College in Nashville, Tennessee; by the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio; by the Greater Hartford Council on Alcoholism in Hartford, Connecticut; and by Common Cause in Tallahassee, Florida.

After their retirement she and Don were active the International Air Stream organization, traveling with fellow Air Stream caravaners throughout the United States. They divided their time between Melbourne, Florida, and Helen, Georgia, until 2001, when they moved to Nashville, Tennessee.

In 2007, following the death of Mr. Kribbs the previous year, Harriett moved to Ocala, Florida, where she married Nathan Kurtz on June 3, 2007.

Harriett died of melanoma on August 25, 2012, in Ocala, Florida. Interment was in the historic Spring Hill Cemetery in Madison, Tennessee.

In addition to her parents and first husband, she was predeceased by two brothers, J.W. Hammond, Jr., and Jack Hammond and by an infant sister. She is survived by her husband, Nathan Kurtz; her daughter Kay Coggins and husband Wayne of Nashville, Tennessee; her son Lee Kribbs and wife Ann of Knoxville, Tennessee; four grandsons: James Morris and wife Debbie of Lebanon, Tennessee; Ashley Morris and wife Jan of Maryville, Tennessee; Michael Kribbs of Knoxville, Tennessee; and Douglas Kribbs and wife Tana of Knoxville, Tennessee; and five great grandchildren.



Submitted by Nathan Kurtz

NINA JANE LYSITT-GIBSON

Nina Jane Lysitt-Gibson was born on January 26, 1935, to the late Herbert James and Nina Jane Parker-Lysitt, who lived in Washington Heights in New York City. She received the name Dolly right after her birth when a friend of the Lysitts came to visit and remarked that she looked like a doll.

Her father managed an A&P grocery store across the street from Madison Square Garden and met many of the great Golden Glove boxers when they came to the soda fountain in his store after the fights. During WWII her mother served with the Red Cross distributing medical supplies for the troops. Her brother Jimmy served as a U.S. Navy ship signalman in the Pacific arena during the war.

When Dolly turned six, the family moved to Jacksonville, Florida. She attended Robert E. Lee High School, where she met her future husband and soul mate, Ronald A. Gibson. After high school Ron served six years in the Army National Guard and Dolly attended Jacksonville University, receiving an associate's degree. The two were married on May 30, 1959, at St. Catherine's Episcopal Church in Jacksonville.

Ron was subsequently called to the ministry, and the couple moved to Atlanta, Georgia, where he attended Emory University and Dolly was a secretary at Standard Oil. Their first child, Ronald Antony, Jr., was born in Atlanta on June 8, 1962.

Upon Ron's graduation from Emory, he was called to serve in the Episcopal Church. They moved to their first full-time parish in Valle Crucis, a beautiful mountain valley in Western North Carolina. They lived on a working farm down the mountainside from the Episcopal Conference Center. Like most women of that day, Dolly became a homemaker, taking care of all things domestic and faithfully serving as the vicar's wife. Daughter Karen Sue joined the family on March 9, 1965.

In 1967 the family moved to a small parish in Washington-Wilkes, Georgia. The couple's third child, Philip Andrew, was born there on August 13, 1968. Dolly served not only as the vicar's wife and homemaker but also family nurse, counselor, taxi driver, scheduler, and lead cook. In addition to her family responsibilities, she was active at Dad's side in ministry work.

After another transfer and brief stint in Atlanta, the family moved to Columbus, Georgia, in 1976. This was a perfect place to raise a family, and Ron and Dolly stayed in the parish for almost ten years. During these years the family bought a camper and traveled throughout the Western United States and Canada.

Ron left the Episcopal Church in the mid 1980s. After exploring several paths, including obtaining their real estate licenses, developing and marketing assisted living residences in Savannah, Georgia, and managing a hotel in San Antonio, Texas, the Lord led the couple to enter service in the United Methodist Church. They moved to Florida and Ron served as director of Christian education at Spring Glen, Jacksonville, then as associate at Lakewood, Jacksonville, in 1990. He joined the Florida Conference in 1991, and he and Dolly served at Mayo/New Harmony, 1991-93; Peeler, Jacksonville, 1993-96 and Highlands, Jacksonville, 1996-2001. They were able to travel to Israel and Egypt, as well as to New England and Canada.

Ron and Dolly moved into retirement in 2001 and bought a beautiful mountainside home in Hendersonville, North Carolina. After Ron suffered a debilitating stroke in 2004 and Dolly's health became compromised with Parkinson's disease, they moved back to Jacksonville, comfortably residing at Harbor Chase near the Beaches.

Dolly passed away peacefully on November 12, 2012, at Harbor Chase. A memorial service was held at Arlington Family Church, with Pastors Clint and Cheryl Wilder officiating. She is survived by her loving husband, Ron; her son Tony, his wife Julie, and their children Jonathan, Hannah, and Will of Windsor, Connecticut; daughter Karen of Jacksonville, Florida; and son Andy, his wife Stacy, and their son Grey of Casselberry, Florida.



Submitted by Tony Gibson

LILLIAN VEE ELKES MARTELL

Lillian Vee Elkes Martell began her life on January 20, 1937, in Tampa, Florida. Her parents were the late Osbon and Jocelyn Wheaton Elkes. She grew up in Tampa and attended Hillsborough High School. As a young woman she became an active member of Seminole Presbyterian Church in Tampa, where she met Gerald Edward Martell, whom she married in 1954 in Dothan, Alabama. Lillian and Jerry had five children: Donna Lynn, Glenn Edward, Shirley Ann, Stephen Andrew, and Charles Vaughn.

Lillian loved and served the Lord all her life. She was a devoted wife and homemaker, dutifully following Jerry around Florida and Georgia as a minister's wife. She worked as a secretary for a judge, administrative assistant for a geological department, and administrative assistant in a busy hospital. She was particularly proud of earning her real estate broker's license and subsequently working for Century 21.

Her interests included her family, her friends, sewing, crafts, and genealogy. She was a member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants and served as elder of the Governor William Bradford Colony in St. Petersburg, Florida. She played a vital role in the Florida Conference Ministers' Mates while living in Lakeland, Florida. She loved singing in the choir, coordinating events and productions, and jumping in to help with anything or anyone that needed her help at any of the many churches they served. Her ultimate dream became a realization two years ago when she began her own business, Vee's Vintage designs. She sewed unique vintage aprons for her customers. She loved creating!

Lillian went to be with her Lord on December 8, 2012. A service celebrating her life was held on December 12, 2012, at First Baptist Church in Hogansville, Georgia, with Dr. Wallace Wheelles and the Reverend Clinton Hughes officiating. A graveside service was held on December 16, 2012, at Myrtle Hill Memorial Park in Tampa, Florida. The Reverend Ron and Gloria Sumter and the Reverend J.C. and Ina Powell were in attendance.

Lillian is survived by her husband of fifty-eight years, the Reverend Gerald Edward Martell, of Hogansville, Georgia; her brothers, Osbon Elkes and Raymond Elkes and wife Florene, of Tampa, Florida; her children: Glenn Martell and wife Lori of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Shirley Jerman of LaGrange, Georgia; Stephen Martell and wife Patricia of Austin, Texas; and Charles Martell and wife Diane of Ocala, Florida; nine grandchildren; and two great grandchildren. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her daughter, Donna Lynn Martell; her sister-in-law and niece, Julie and Diana Elkes; and her son-in-law, James Jerman.



Submitted by Shirley Jerman

RUTH EMILY ROSS RIDER

Ruth Emily Ross Rider was born in the parsonage of Salem Methodist Church, Francisco, Michigan, on December 31, 1927, to the Reverend Fred and Ethel Moellenkamp Ross. Her father served in the German Methodist Conference and then in the Ohio Conference.

Ruth attended Findlay College in Ohio, 1945; Ohio Wesleyan University, 1946; and Florida Southern College, 1962-64.

She married Ben Rider on June 27, 1948. They had two daughters, Mary Ellen Rider, born on December 27, 1950, and Judith Ann Rider, born on May 15, 1953.

Ruth was an active pastor's wife, supporting her husband in a student pastorate in Illinois and in his pastoral assignments in the Florida Conference: Park Temple in Ft. Lauderdale, Clewiston, Riviera Beach, First in Bartow, First in Daytona Beach, the Children's Home, Gulfport, Olympia Heights in Miami, St. Paul's in Eau Gallie, Jacksonville Beach, and Satellite Beach. She served as occasional organist or pianist in several churches and as her husband's secretary in connectional positions. She shepherded members in all the churches they served. When they retired in 1986, they moved to Lakeland. Ben died in 2000.

An active member of First United Methodist Church in Lakeland, Ruth attended the Bykota Sunday School Class. She was active in the Retired Clergy group, serving in a leadership role. She served for three years as secretary for the residents' association at the Estates at Carpenters in Lakeland.

Ruth passed away on September 2, 2012, in Lakeland, Florida, after a thirteen-year battle with breast cancer. A celebration of life was held on September 7, 2012, at First United Methodist Church in Lakeland. The Reverend David McEntire, the Reverend Riley Short, and Judy Berry officiated at the service. The Reverend David McEntire officiated at the family interment service preceding the memorial service.

She was predeceased by her parents, her husband, and her sister, Evangeline Castillos. Her immediate surviving family includes her daughters, Dr. Mary Ellen Rider of Lakeland, Florida, and Judith Ann Rider Berry and husband Gary of Roswell, Georgia; granddaughter, Lisa Kjellstrom of Cumming, Georgia; and brother, Dr. Paul F. Ross of Seattle, Washington. She leaves four grandchildren and six great grandchildren.



Submitted by Mary Ellen Rider

SARAH KRAMER SHERMAN

Sarah Kramer Sherman, known as Sally, was born in Whitinsville, Massachusetts, on March 29, 1921, the oldest of eight children of Ida and Gordon Kramer.

She married Goddard Sherman on November 17, 1945, and they had three children: Paul, born on May 6, 1951; Jocelyn, born on August 20, 1952; and Timothy, born on July 3, 1956.

From 1953 to 1984 Sally served with her husband at churches throughout the conference, interrupted by a brief stint in the North Indiana Conference. After their retirement in 1984 they moved to Valdosta, Georgia, where Goddard served on the staff of Park Avenue United Methodist Church.

Sally's life was characterized by her gentle, caring, and serving spirit. She was a member of the PEO Sisterhood, in which she held many offices over the years. Sally was also active in her Sunday school class and the Parlor Class at Park Avenue United Methodist Church, as well as United Methodist Women, an organization that meant a great deal to her. She served as an officer in each of these groups. She also used her talent of playing the piano to assist when needed.

Sally enjoyed reading, baking, knitting, quilting, gardening, and bird watching. With six brothers and one sister, family was always important to her.

She died on April 24, 2013, after a brief illness. Survivors include her two sons, Paul Sherman and Tim Sherman of Valdosta, Georgia; her son-in-law, James W. Boyle of Valdosta; her granddaughters, Sarah Boyle and Stephanie Boyle of Valdosta and Allison Veal and Brian Veal of Forest Park, Georgia; one great-grandson, Aaron Veal of Forest Park; her sister, Marjorie Jensen of Rochester, Vermont; her brothers, Harry Kramer of Franklin, Massachusetts, Robert Kramer of Equinunk, Pennsylvania, and Donald Kramer and wife Donna of Holliston, Massachusetts; and many nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Sherman was preceded in death by her husband of fifty-eight years, the Reverend Dr. Goddard Sherman; her daughter, Jocelyn Boyle; her brothers, Francis Kramer, Gordon Kramer, and Clarence Kramer; and her parents, Ida and Gordon Kramer.

Funeral services were held on April 28, 2013, at Park Avenue United Methodist Church, Valdosta, Georgia, with Dr. Craig Rikard, the Reverend Hale Bishop, and the Reverend David Tart officiating. Interment was in McLane Riverview Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Valdosta.



Submitted by the Memoirs Committee

GRACE ROSALIE HERRMANN WILSON SOKA

Grace Rosalie Herrmann Wilson Soka was born on December 3, 1921, in Dubuque, Iowa, to Henry Herrmann and Ada Betsy Campbell Herrmann.

She attended grade school and high school in Dubuque, graduating with high honors. She earned a B.S. in public school music from Dubuque University, graduating as valedictorian and Phi Beta Kappa member in 1944. She was a member of the YWCA, Lambda Society, Student Council, a capella choir, band, and orchestra.

After graduation she became the bride of Marine Lt. Carroll Robinson Wilson on July 11, 1944. Her marriage to Bob was cut short on June 2, 1945, by a Japanese sniper's bullet on Okinawa.

In struggling through her grief, Grace entered the University of Dubuque Seminary and found that the only way through was to return good for evil. This led to her studying Japanese at Yale for a year and then spending the next five years teaching music and English at Hiroshima Jogakuin, a girls' school in Hiroshima. She found teaching rewarding; she loved her students and they loved her.

On furlough she enrolled at Garrett Biblical Institute and during the year met and fell in love with a former nightclub entertainer named Bob Soka. They were married on June 1, 1954, and immediately spent three months with Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence Lacour's team in Fukushima, the least Christian prefecture in Japan, establishing ten new churches.

On their return to the states, Grace took up the role of pastor's wife as Bob continued his seminary training and served a two-year student appointment at Neoga, a three-point charge in Illinois. In Florida they served the following appointments: Grace, West Palm Beach, which met in the parsonage; St. Paul's, Ft. Lauderdale; Oviedo; First, Coral Gables; Englewood; Christ, Neptune Beach; Parkway, Pompano Beach; Old Stone, Key West; and Asbury, New Port Richey.

Over the years Grace was employed as organist and choir director in various churches and as a librarian and public school teacher. She also directed the Key West Community College Choir for a term. A special achievement was organizing and sponsoring a tour in Florida for the choir of Hiroshima Jogakuin.

After their retirement in 1987 Grace served for seven years as organist at Asbury in New Port Richey, with Bob as choir director. Then at Belleview she and Bob played piano and organ duets for another seven years. Concurrently they were members of the Belleview and Morrison, Leesburg, choirs. They moved to Johnson City, Tennessee, in 2006, and she became a member of Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church.

Grace entered Eternal Glory on February 20, 2013, after an eight-year battle with Alzheimer's. A memorial service was held on February 24, 2013, at Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church in Johnson City, Tennessee, with Bishop Richard Looney, the Reverend Michael Lester, the Reverend Joseph Dowling Soka, and the Reverend Doug Grove-DeJarnett officiating. A second service was held on March 1, 2013, at the Belleview, Florida, United Methodist Church, with the Reverend Lloyd McClelland, the Reverend Joseph Dowling Soka, the Reverend Terry Knight, the Reverend Bill Knight, and the Reverend David Carefoot officiating.

Survivors include her husband of fifty-eight years, the Reverend Robert Soka of Johnson City, Tennessee; two children, Mary Carefoot and husband David of Seminole, Florida, and Christina Dowling Soka and husband Joe of Bristol, Tennessee; four grandchildren: Rebecca Ann Carefoot, Megan Christina Carefoot, Joel Robert Dowling Soka and wife Chelsea Rye, and Ryan Dowling Soka; two sisters, Marjorie Rickert of Hudson, Florida, and Ruth Clark of Dubuque, Iowa; two nieces, DeAda Mally of Italy and Karen Griffith of Iowa City, Iowa; and a nephew, Judson Clark of Dubuque, Iowa.



Submitted by the Reverend Robert Soka

THELMA HALL TATUM

Thelma Hall Tatum was born on October 27, 1911, in Mt. Berry (Rome), Georgia. She received an A.B. degree from Florida State University and taught school for a number of years.

She married the Reverend Hoyt Tatum and they had one son, William Hoyt Tatum.

Thelma served with Hoyt at churches throughout the conference, as well as on the St. Petersburg and Miami Districts. Always a team, they had long and distinguished lives of service in the Florida Conference. They retired in 1976.

They were leaders in Mature Years Retreats into their retirement. Hoyt dealt with the spiritual content and Thelma led the physical exercises. After Hoyt died in 2001, she continued a special ministry promoting healthy living and leading countless physical exercise classes. She was ready to give anyone lessons in daily exercise on body strength and weight loss.

Residents at the Estates at Carpenters in Lakeland remember her whirling dances, following the music with her rolling walker around the dance floor and encouraging everyone to get up and get moving. "Don't waste your life sitting down," she said. Thelma was a vivacious, outgoing lady who never met a stranger.

Thelma died on November 13, 2012. A graveside service was held on November 19, 2012, at Miakka Cemetery in Sarasota. A service of remembrance was held on November 20, 2012, at the Estates at Carpenters, where the Tatums had moved in 1996.



Submitted by the Memoirs Committee

NELLIE MARIE COOK VANSICKLE

Nellie Marie Cook VanSickle was born on January 2, 1920, in Nicholasville, Kentucky, to Dr. Thomas Grier Cook and Nellie Maude Hill Cook. She was the third of three daughters, all of whom married Methodist clergy.

She graduated as valedictorian from Nicholasville High School in 1937. She attended Asbury College, where she served as librarian and received certificates in organ and piano. After graduating in 1941, she served on a Methodist caravan, training young people in leadership in churches in Pennsylvania.

At Asbury she met her life-long partner, Lee R. Van Sickle, who graduated in 1940. While he was studying theology at Boston University, she assisted her father in his medical practice. They married on August 23, 1943, and had three children: Camilla Ann VanSickle, born on February 24, 1945; Jan Thomas VanSickle, born on November 23, 1947, and George Grier VanSickle, born on April 13, 1957.

Nellie became an accountant and served as an auditor for H. & R. Block. She was the first auditor for the Florida United Methodist Credit Union.

In retirement Lee and Nellie moved to the Penney Retirement Community in Penney Farms, Florida. There she began the Free Income Tax program and also developed the stained glass department. Her stained glass view of Penney Memorial Church hangs in the Board Room of Penney Retirement Community, and stained glass works are in a number of houses in the community. Beginning in 1955, she also developed the stained glass program for Silver Bay YMCA on Lake George, New York. She did custom windows for people who had summer homes there.

Nellie died on June 28, 2012. A memorial service was held on September 7, 2012, at Penney Memorial Church, with the Reverend David Allen of the Kentucky Conference officiating. Burial was in Valley View in Silver Bay, New York.

Nellie was preceded in death by her parents and her sisters, Amanda and Ruth Cook. She is survived by her loving husband of seventy years, Lee Roy VanSickle; her daughter, Camilla Ann VanSickle; her son, Jan Thomas VanSickle and wife Robin; her son, George G. VanSickle and wife Kate; and four grandchildren.

Nellie lived a great calling—music, stained glass art, and accounting. A wonderful wife and mother, she was always a gracious, unselfish, and loving person to all who knew her.



Submitted by Lee R. VanSickle