

# Part VI

## CELEBRATION OF REMEMBRANCE OF THESE FAITHFUL SERVANTS

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date of Death</b>
John Birney Gross	May 6, 1998
Ruth Bartlett	May 9, 1998
Alda Somers Vanderwater	May 14, 1998
Roy Ben Ridley	May 18, 1998
Thomas Walker Obenauer	May 24, 1998
Sadie Moffett	June 9, 1998
Floyd Wilmer Cooper	July 10, 1998
Raymond Kirk DeHainaut	July 23, 1998
Donald Reynolds	August 17, 1998
C. Eugene West	August 19, 1998
Vivian Porter	August 21, 1998
Charles William Rogers, Sr.	August 25, 1998
Robert B. Chapman, Jr.	September 3, 1998
Frances Sledd Blake	September 7, 1998
Bryce W. Nichols	September 16, 1998
Audrey Peck	September 18, 1998
Guy Athearn	October 4, 1998
Ruth O'Steen	October 5, 1998
Gladys Hill Waller	October 13, 1998
Iva Bennett	October 17, 1998
Miriam Tower Wiseman	October 25, 1998
Helen Corry Maxwell Jenkins	November 4, 1998
Harvey McConnell Hardin	November 10, 1998
Marilyn Cockburn	November 14, 1998
Julia Rebecca Ashton Doggett	November 21, 1998
Edna Ruth Murphy	November 28, 1998
Helen Marshall Hartz	December 17, 1998
Charlotte R. Gisler	January 23, 1999
Frederick Earl Stinson, Sr.	January 25, 1999
Laura Marie Alshire	February 15, 1999
Martin Irving Phillips	February 18, 1999
Lucille Moyer	March 8, 1999
Carl Rupert Gay	March 9, 1999
James T. Tompkins	March 11, 1999
Thomas D. Ryan	March 17, 1999
Harry A. Goddard	March 19, 1999
James C. Charnley	April 24, 1999
James M. Ratcliff	April 26, 1999

## **GUY STARBUCK ATHEARN**

Guy Starbuck Athearn was born on March 25, 1908 in Pomeroy, Ohio, the youngest child of William Issac Athearn and Margaret May Humphrey Athearn. He died on October 4, 1998, of congenitive heart failure after a short illness. Guy was preceded in death by his wife, Grace Esther Athearn (April 27, 1998.) He is survived by his daughters, Mary Elizabeth Athearn and Julia K. Draper, as well as one granddaughter and three great grandchildren.

Guy's father was a railroad engineer which led to Guy's life long interest in and love for trains. His father drove the first train into Key West, Florida. At an early age Guy moved to Fort Pierce with his family and later resettled in New Smyrna Beach. It was there that he graduated high school in 1927 (part of the class of 25). It was also during this time that he met his future wife.

Guy attended Peabody College in Tennessee (near Vanderbilt University) but was forced to "drop out" during the great depression. After leaving college, he worked in the hotel business. With the approach of World War II, he entered the military service and was later posted to the European Theater. He and Grace Esther Waters were married on May 22, 1942, in the post chapel at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Two daughters were subsequently born to Guy and Esther: "Betsy" and Julia.

Guy received a call to ministry while he was in high school and, as he often stated, "tried to ignore it." That sense of "call" never left him and became unavoidable after he survived a near fatal injury in battle. He always maintained that God "had to get his attention."

Because he had not completed his college education, Guy was allowed to take equivalency college exams. Dr. Thrift sent the needed exams to the New Smyrna Beach High School principal, who then administered them. Guy took all the exams over the course of three days and passed each of them with an "A". Guy was accepted into the Florida Conference On Trial, June 10, 1954, at the age of 46. He was ordained a Deacon in 1957 and ordained an Elder in Full Connection in 1961. Guy received his seminary education through the Course of Study at Candler School of Theology, Emory University.

Churches faithfully and effectively served by Guy include his appointments to Port Orange in 1954, Pierson in 1956, Livingston Memorial, Daytona Beach in 1958, Orange Heights, Lakeland in 1961, Inman Memorial, Jacksonville in 1964, Orlo Vista (renamed Kirkman Road), Orlando in 1965, Hawthorne in 1969, Bronson in 1971, and Baldwin/Bryceville in 1975. He retired in 1978, though he continued to serve Christ in two churches during retirement.

Funeral services and a celebration of Guy's life were held at the First United Methodist Church of Port St. Lucie on October 8, 1998. Services were led by the church's pastor, and Guy's grateful friend, Tom Derrough.

Submitted by: Mary Elizabeth Athearn and Tom Derrough

### **ROBERT BUNYAN CHAPMAN, JR.**

Robert Bunyan Chapman, Jr. was born September 22, 1918 in Andalusia, Alabama, the son of Robert B. Chapman, Sr. and Beulah Foster. He graduated from Andalusia High School in 1936; attended Emory Junior college in Valdosta, Georgia for two years, 1936-1938; received his Bachelor of Philosophy degree from Emory University 1940 and Bachelor of Divinity degree from Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, Georgia 1942. He was admitted on trial 1942; ordained a Deacon and Elder 1943; admitted in Full Connection in 1944.

Appointments during his ministry: Webster, Center Hill, Linden 1942; Chaplain, United States Army 1944; Redland, Florida City 1946; Hialeah, First 1948; Jacksonville, Avondale 1954; Ft. Pierce, First 1958; Fort Myers, First 1963; Tallahassee, D. S. 1969; Brandon, First, 1975; Pinellas Park 1979; Retired 1982; Florahome 1983; Retired 1986.

Robert married Arlyne Tarpley on August 20, 1942. They were married 56 years. To their marriage five children were born; Barbara Kortemeier, October 31, 1943; Mary Lynn Pierce, November 22, 1945; Robert B. Chapman, III, January 24, 1948; Esther Zissimopulos, December 31, 1951; and David Chapman, July 23, 1957.

He served on the Conference Board of Evangelism, the Committee on Urban Life and the Conference World Service and Finance Commission, where he was instrumental in developing the "fair-share" apportionment formula which is still in use today. He participated in three Evangelistic Missions to Cuba and on the last mission his interpreter was a young man, Herbert Perez, who the following year came to live with Bob and Arlyne to continue his education. Following graduation from Duke University, he returned to Cuba to help his people.

Robert passed away on September 3, 1998 and a Memorial Service was held September 6, 1998 at First United Methodist Church of Daytona Beach, Florida. Officiating clergy: Dr. Montfort Duncan, Dr. Harry E. Mann and Rev. Donald Hughes. He was buried in Shady Rest Cemetery in Holly Hill, Florida.

"Robert B. Chapman, whose breadth of vision and understanding ministry gives to men and women hope." Edwin R. Hartz 6/69

Submitted by: Robert B. Chapman, III, Cherie Chapman and Arlyne Chapman

### **JAMES CORNELIUS CHARNLEY**

Rev. James C. Charnley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Charnley, was born in Lakeview, Michigan on November 23, 1925. Rev. Charnley was a dedicated and humble servant of God for 41 years, who died on April 24, 1999.

*This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it* (Psalm 118:24)! Jim often began his days with these inspiring words of Scripture. He lived a life of thankfulness and joy, using each day as a God-given opportunity to count his blessings, and to be a blessing to his family, friends, neighbors, and church.

*He has shown you, O Mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 5:8).* These words were at the center of Jim's life and ministry. His love for kindness was reflected in his conviction that "People are more important than things."

Born a grandson of Methodist circuit rider John Henry Cornelius, Jim trained for God's service at the Moody Bible Institute, Wheaton College, and United Theological Seminary. He began his pastoral ministry in the Evangelical Covenant Church in 1950. His many meaningful associations with Methodist pastors rekindled the flame of his Methodist heritage.

He was ordained Deacon in the Ohio Conference in 1958, and Elder in 1960. His first appointment in the Methodist Church was to the Central Avenue Methodist Church of Athens, Ohio. He later served as the associate of the Monroe Street Methodist Church of Toledo and as pastor of Enon Methodist Church, Enon, Ohio. Jim voluntarily left the Enon Methodist Church in September, 1966 to serve as a Chaplain in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam crisis. During his military service, Jim was awarded the Purple Heart. Upon his release from active duty in 1969, Jim began his ministry in the Florida Conference. He served as an Associate at First United Methodist Church in St. Petersburg, Highland United Methodist Church in Tampa, St. Mark's of St. Petersburg, Ft. Myers First (Associate), Olga-Ft. Myers Shores, Shingle Creek, Auburndale Lena Vista, and Zolfo Springs. He served God faithfully for 33 years as a clergy member of the United Methodist Church until 1991, when he became a retired member of the Florida Conference, worshipping at United Methodist Temple of Lakeland. There, he continued to serve God by offering words of encouragement and prayerful support to others whenever he had the opportunity.

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he shall direct your paths (Proverbs 3:5-6).* Even when facing his terminal illness, his focus was on the goodness of God and the wonderful life he had been given. His heartfelt joy was not based on circumstances, but on faith. His first wife, Violet, preceded him in death. He is survived by his wife, Thelma, son Stephen M.G. Charnley, Augusta, Michigan; daughter Kathleen Stanley, Kalkaska, Michigan; stepson Asbury Riley II, Land O'Lakes, Florida; Gordon Charnley, LaPeer, Michigan; sister, Josephine L. Abma, Muskegon, Michigan; six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Rev. James Charnley passed away on April 24th at Good Shepherd Hospice due to cancer. His funeral was held on April 29th at United Methodist Temple in Lakeland, Florida. Services were conducted by Rev. Paul Bauer, the Rev. Donald Padgett, and Rev. David Moenning. Burial was held at the Sylvan Abbey Cemetery in Clearwater.

*Well done, good and faithful servant (Matthew 25:21).* Jim now lives in his heavenly home, and will always live in the hearts of all those who were touched by his love.

Submitted by: Kathleen M. Stanley, daughter; Rev. Charles K. Stanley, son-in-law

## **FLOYD WILMER COOPER**

The Rev. Floyd W. Cooper entered his Heavenly home on July 10, 1998. He passed away at East Pasco Medical Center in Zephyrhills. He had been in ill health for several years, and was unable to recover from the trauma of hip surgery necessitated by a fall in late June. Rev. Cooper's last active ministerial appointment was as pastor of First United Methodist Church, Zephyrhills, from 1967 to 1970. He and Helen Cooper, his wife of 62 years, then made that community their home in retirement.

A Memorial Service was held on August 11 at Zephyrhills First United Methodist. The Rev. Alva Brock, a fellow graduate of Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary, presented the eulogy. The Rev. Dan Gill shared personal remembrances, and the Rev. Craig Ford officiated. District Superintendent, the Rev. Aldo Martin, represented the Bishop and the Conference and paid tribute to Rev. Cooper's 34 years of active service, especially noting his missionary activities in Cuba. Rev. Ford conducted a private interment service earlier at the Bell Tower of Chapel Hill Gardens, Dade City, Florida.

Rev. Cooper entered the ministry in 1936 in the St. Johns River Conference, which later became the Florida Conference, Southeastern Jurisdiction, the United Methodist Church. His entire ministry was in Florida, except for military service during World War II, and a brief supply pastorate in St. Ignace, Michigan, immediately following the War. Florida churches he served include Hollywood First; Mount Dora First; Tamiami Temple, Miami; Fort Pierce First; Calvary, Lake Worth; Sarasota First; Rader Memorial, Miami; Sebring First; and Zephyrhills First. During the mid-50's he participated in a preaching mission in pre-Castro Cuba.

He served his country for three-and-a-half years during World War II as a Chaplain in the U.S. Army Air Corps in the Central and South Pacific and retired in the Air Force Reserve with the rank of Major. During a Communion meditation in Zephyrhills in 1993, which was his last time in the pulpit, he recalled an experience in the South Pacific during which he used the wing of an airplane as an altar and served Holy Communion to soldiers and airmen about to go into battle.

Rev. Cooper, born May 31, 1904, in Camp Hill, PA, was the sixth of nine children born to Wilmer Lee Cooper and Jessie Florence Myerly. He often credited his mother's deep Christian faith with setting him on the path of service to the Lord. Rev. Cooper worked on the family farm after having completed only an elementary education. As a young man he moved to Chicago and pursued his dream of a formal education. During that time he also felt the call to the ministry. In Chicago he received a B.A. degree from the Illinois Institute of Technology; a B.D. and an M.A. degree from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, Illinois; and completed one year of graduate work at Northwestern University. He was also a graduate of Moody Bible Institute.

During his active years he served on a number of Conference and District Boards, some of which were: Conference Board of Ministry, two terms; Conference Board of Missions, two terms; District Board of Directors, Biscayne

Home, Miami; District Board of Directors, Asbury Towers, Bradenton; and Board of Missions and Church Extension, West Palm Beach and Sarasota Districts.

During his retirement, he served Zephyrhills First as Assistant Pastor; member of the Administrative Board; member of the Commission on Missions; Chaplain, United Methodist Men; assistant teacher and devotional chairman, Bethany Fellowship Class; Lector; and he assisted in Holy Communion, preaching and visitation. He was a loyal member of the men's interdenominational prayer breakfast. He was instrumental in securing a site for Trinity United Methodist Church on Highway 54.

First of Zephyrhills honored him by dedicating its large social hall as "Floyd W. Cooper Hall." A bronze plaque on the exterior of the building carries that designation, and a 16x20 oil painting of him hangs inside Cooper Hall, next to an oil portrait of his dedicated wife Helen. The Charge Conference of Zephyrhills First unanimously named him Pastor Emeritus.

Rev. Cooper was a member of the Zephyrhills Ministerial Association since 1967 and served in all of the offices including president a number of times. He retired as an active member in 1994 and became an associate member. He reestablished the Easter Sunrise Service after it had been discontinued. He also worked out a plan with the late Raymond B. Stewart, High School Principal, for local Zephyrhills ministers to participate in annual Baccalaureate Services.

He was a member of Lions International since 1948 and served in a number of clubs in Florida. He was an active member of Zephyrhills Garden Club and past president of Transplants Circle, and Life Member of Florida Federation of Garden Clubs. He identified himself with Hollywood Lodge 209 Free and Accepted Masons in 1941 and transferred to Zephyr Lodge 198 in 1974, where he was a Life Member and received a Certificate for 55 years in Masonry.

His constant concern for civic and social betterment in the communities where he lived resulted in his receiving the prestigious Annual Award of "Zephyrhills Citizen of the Year" in 1989 from the Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to being survived by his wife Helen, whom he married in 1936, he leaves a daughter, Charlotte Feltyberger, Sarasota, FL; a son, Paul Silas Cooper, St. Petersburg, FL; four grandchildren and six great grandchildren; six nieces and nephews; and one sister, Helen Fager, Carlisle, PA.

As a devoted servant of the United Methodist Church, Rev. Cooper was a strict adherent to the Book of Discipline. But his disciplinarian side was balanced by a creative side. Among his keepsakes is a note from award-winning author MacKinlay Kantor in which he said Rev. Cooper's recitation of The 23rd Psalm at a friend's funeral was the most beautiful and meaningful he had ever heard.

Acclaimed artist Ben Stahl conveyed similar feelings about the way Rev. Cooper conducted another funeral service, and offered as a gift a complete set of reproductions of Mr. Stahl's "Stations of the Cross" oil paintings.

Rev. Cooper's creativity was often expressed in poetry. The following is one of a group of poems he wrote as a result of his experiences in the Central and South Pacific during World War II.

Other survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Maurine Doggett who is married to James Thacker of Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, and Mrs. David Bordeaux (Abbie) who lives in Atlanta.

#### SANCTUARY

No cloistered cathedral this  
Of hand-carved stone and spiring pinnacles!  
No altar here of ancient usage  
Hallowed by the faith of generations past.  
No costly reredos nor stately pews.  
No aids to worship new or old  
Save "thine ancient sacrifice",--  
A heart that's humble and contrite!  
These are thine altars, O our God,  
This wooded spot beside the trail  
Of vaulted trees that skyward reach  
To form a sanctuary vine-arched and vast  
Where battle-dressed men kneel to pray  
And wind-swept boughs and leaves  
Bespeak of heavenly visitings!  
Not made with hands, this temple here,  
But of men's hearts and minds and wills  
That apprehend Thee everywhere!  
Written by: Chaplain Floyd W. Cooper  
U.S. Army Air Corps  
New Guinea, August 12, 1944

Submitted by: Charlotte Feltyberger, daughter and Paul Cooper, son

#### RAYMOND KIRK DeHAINAUT

Raymond Kirk DeHainaut was born in South Charleston, West Virginia, May 19, 1930 to Edith Kirk and Oscar DeHainaut. Ray was second generation, on his father's side, of grandparents who came here as glass blowers from Belgium. Ray attended schools in Kentucky and was graduated from a West Virginia High School as valedictorian of his class. He was a tenor soloist and a trumpet player all of his life. His education continued at West Virginia University where he was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, graduated Cum Laude and was listed in Who's Who in Religion. He was offered scholarships to Julliard School of Music, and Yale, but accepted a scholarship to Vanderbilt Theological Seminary as he had dedicated his life to the Christian ministry. While at Vandy he met Delaine Munday, a Religion major at Scararitt-Vanderbilt. In 1953 we were wed, the year before we graduated with our degrees. We moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where Raymond was Director of the Wesley Foundation of L.S.U. and Delaine served the University Methodist Church as D.C.E. and Youth Choir Director. Three years later Ray received a Danforth Grant and the Bishop Baker award to further his education. In 1954, we moved to New Jersey and took with us our five

month old son, R. Marc. After a year of study, Ray accepted the Rutgers/Douglas Protestant Foundation job. We felt called to the mission field and were commissioned by Bishop Shot Mahal to serve in India. Our visas were denied, so we accepted the call to go to Costa Rica to learn Spanish and prepare for work in South America. We were assigned to work in Cordoba, Argentina where Ray began work as Director of the Student Christian Movement. We served 5 wonderfully blessed, happy years in Cordoba, before returning to Drew University for Ray to complete his Ph.D. dissertation. In 1969 he accepted the job at U.S.F. as Director of the Chapel Fellowship in Tampa, Florida. In a short while Ray became active in campus and faculty activities as well as worked with migrants and interracial and interdenominational groups. With a deep interest in foreign students he began to work with them as they came to U.S.F. His work in this area increased until the university hired a full time person to help them. In 1970 we returned to Drew for Ray to receive his Ph.D. degree. Two years later we felt the call again to return to the mission field and the G.B.G.M. assigned us to work in a new capacity in Bogota, Colombia. He was named director of the Ecumenical Cultural Dialogue Program, a new program to promote better understanding between cultures. Ray thrived on the wide cultural and educational aspects of this life while enjoying his work of bringing peace and understanding between people who had often been enemies. In Argentina he had learned to play the guitar and he used his musical skills in Spanish with groups and for our own family enjoyment. The Arch-Bishop of Canterbury, RR Michael Ramsey, and his wife came to Bogota to visit us and to see Ray's program in action. When our three year mission term was ended, Ray returned to work at 475 Riverside Drive in New York for a year, until he was again offered the job at U.S.F., as the Director of the Chapel Fellowship, which he gladly accepted. With joy we returned to U.S.F. where Ray was active in the M.F.S.A. of Florida, having helped begin their chapter many years before. He once again was an adjunct professor at U.S.F. We were thrilled and honored to be presented the Lee and Mae Ball Award for 1982, in Washington, D.C., for our refugee and peace work. In 1979, we had been invited to teach at our Methodist University Soochow, in China, where Ray was visiting professor for almost a year. The students and church people were most gracious to us while Ray learned Chinese and much about the culture. When we returned to Tampa, Ray was proficient in 6 languages, including Chinese, and he enjoyed reading and conversing as often as possible in the languages he had acquired. After Raymond was Director of the Chapel for 14 years, also teaching as an adjunct professor, we again returned to our beloved Argentina, from 1985 to 1988 where Ray was Professor of Philosophy, Religion and Culture at the Methodist University (CEL). Ray continued publishing articles for the New World Outlook and other important publications, while we continued renewing many life-long friendships from earlier years in Latin America. Raymond returned to a teaching position as visiting professor at METHESCO, in Delaware, Ohio, until 1990 when we again felt called to work as missionaries using the skills God had given us. We were assigned to Barahona, Dominican Republic. In this very needy area, Ray served as Pastor, District Superintendent, Director of Barney Morgan School; he also



taught many how to use the computer. We received over 20 mission work groups (which Ray especially enjoyed) while he helped to organize our school in LaHoya for COPA. He translated and was the first president of COPA. We returned to the U.S.A. where we worked as Peace With Justice Educators for 15 months in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, until we retired in 1995.

Ray had so many wonderful facets to his life. Even after his prostate cancer treatments, we returned to Tampa, bought a home to be near our son and his family, and near U.S.F. where Ray returned to teaching as adjunct professor, which he enjoyed so much. Only I and the Lord know how much friendships and helping people think for themselves (not just accept each statement as complete fact) meant to Ray as a Christian and as an educator. He enjoyed reading and discussing theology, until he died on July 23, 1998. Now he can continue discussing with the Real Authority. He is greatly missed and forever loved by many people around the world.

A memorable celebration of Ray's life was held in Tampa, officiated by the Rev. Paul Butler, Jr., our long-time friend and former missionary; Bishop Lloyd Knox, the Rev. Clark Campbell-Evans, the Rev. John Powers, Martha Edens and Joan Newcomb, of U.S.F. They spoke inspiringly of how Ray had touched so many lives in a positive way.

A church service was also held in Statesville, NC, after which his ashes were placed in our family plot. Remarkably two additional memorial services were held, one in the Dominican Republic and one in Bogota, Colombia.

Submitted by: Delaine M. DeHainaut, Partner in Mission and Wife, Raymond Marc DeHainaut, son, and Willa Munday, mother-in-law

### **CARL RUPERT GAY**

Carl Rupert Gay was born on September 27, 1929 in Sasser, Georgia to Ellis Cleon Gay and Harriet (Keen) Gay, the youngest of five children. His grandfather, the Rev. Nathaniel Frank Gay, was an ordained minister and served churches in the Dublin and Rentz, Georgia area. His grandparents were direct descendants of Ireland and Scotland.

Carl attended church all of his childhood and gave his life to Christ when he was 12 years old at Sasser Methodist Episcopal Church, South. He graduated from Sasser High School in 1946 and with the aid of a scholarship, he worked his way through Georgia Southwestern College, Americus, Georgia and received a degree in Business Administration. After graduation from college, he was employed by Stevens Industries in Dawson, Georgia. It was then that he met Mary Ann of Bronwood, Georgia.

Carl and Mary Ann Royal were married on December 14, 1950, by the Rev. R. H. Forrester. In 1951 they began their first employment together at Robins Air Force Base, Warner Robins, Georgia. They lived in Macon and attended Second Street Methodist Church.

On October 13, 1953, their first child, Carlene was born and in 1954 he returned to his home with his family to Sasser with a transfer in Civil Service to the Marine

Base, Navy Department, Albany, Georgia. Then, on December 6, 1956, twin girls came along, Ralphanne and Rosanne. During this time Carl became a Lay Speaker for the Methodist Church and also a Lay Delegate to the South Georgia Annual Conference. He felt it was a real honor to be a delegate at Epworth-by-the-Sea the year that Bishop Arthur Moore retired.

For an advancement in Civil Service, 1962 found us moving again to Jacksonville, Florida to work for the Federal Aviation Agency. Once a year for CEU's he attended the FAA Academy, Cameron College at Lawton, Oklahoma. In 1978 he retired as Logistic Officer, U.S. Department of Transportation at the Air Route Traffic Control Center, Hilliard, Florida with 27 years service. In 1980, he answered the call to full time ministry in the United Methodist Church. He became a candidate for ordained ministry and in 1982 was appointed to Yulee United Methodist Church. He entered Course of Study at Candler in 1982 and graduated after 5 years. Carl was ordained a deacon in 1987, was appointed to Riverview, Jacksonville in 1986 and Pleasant Grove, Lake City in 1991. He retired in 1995 and was asked if he would return to Pleasant Grove, Lake City in June, 1998 as their retired pastor.

Our Dad had his own volunteer ministry besides preaching the "good news" such as supply Chaplain for Macclenny State Hospital. He helped to organize and was instrumental in forming the North Florida Chaplaincy for Industries. In 1985 and 1986 he served on the JUMMBO in the Jacksonville District, President of the Board of Directors of Northeast Florida Area Agency on Aging 1987-1990. He was also a Sgt. Company "A" 121st Infantry Battalion in the Georgia Army National Guard.

In 1986, he developed lung cancer, a pneumonectomy and radiation followed. He maintained his faith and optimistic outlook, only to have a second malignancy on his vocal cord. That followed with surgery and more radiation. He was always back in the pulpit as soon as possible. December 1998, found him with a serious lung infection and pneumonia plus congestive heart failure. On March 9, 1999, he left us to be with our Lord.

A Service of Death and Resurrection was held at Highlands UMC, Jacksonville on Friday, March 12, 1999 with the Rev. Burnell Jordan, the Rev. Roger Moore, St. Mark's UMC, and the Rev. Ron Gibson, Pastor of Highlands UMC, officiating and Gladys Jordan, assisting. Interment was in Bronwood Cemetery, Bronwood, Georgia on Saturday, March 13, 1999 with the Rev. Ethan Storm, pastor of Sasser United Methodist Church officiating. Carl is survived by his wife, Mary Ann, three daughters, Carlene Spaeth, Ralphanne Cayer, and Rosanne Hilton and two sisters, Ennis McPherson of Albany, Georgia and Ellice Richardson of Sasser, Georgia.

He loved his family and church very much.

Submitted by: Mary Ann Gay, wife

Carlene Spaeth, Ralphanne Cayer, and Rosanne Hilton, Daughters

## JOHN BIRNEY GROSS

The Rev. John Birney Gross was born August 24, 1924 in Barbourville, Kentucky to John Owen Gross and Harriet Bletzer Gross. Rev. Gross had met with Eleanor Roosevelt; was a friend of Fred Halloway, president at Drew University, who later became a bishop; he knew Jess Stuart, author; he bestowed a Doctorate on Kresge Sr. (owner of the Kresge stores later to be known as K-Mart); he knew John Griffin, author of "Black Like Me" who was a speaker at TWC; and he bestowed a Doctorate on astronaut Alan Bean. Rev. Gross graduated from High School, University School, Nashville, Tennessee; DePauw University, Greencastle, Indiana where he majored in History and minored in Music; Drew University, Madison, New Jersey, with a Bachelor of Divinity in 1951 and Masters of Sacred Theology in 1953; and Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee with a Ph.D in Administration in Higher Education.

Among the honors received by Rev. Gross were: Kappa Phi Kappa, Honorary Professional; Phi Delta Kappa, Education Fraternity; Kappa Delta Pi, Education Fraternity; American Associate of Academic Deans; Associate of Academic Deans; Phi Mu Alpha Synchronia, Music Honorary; Who's Who in America, American Education and Methodism; American College of University Presidents and Deans; and Leaders in Education.

Rev. Gross was member of the Board of Directors at: Casa Manana Summer Musicals, Ft. Worth; Arts Council, Ft. Worth; Mental Health Association of Tarrant County, Ft. Worth; American Red Cross, Lakeland, FL; Community Concerts of Alliance, Ohio; Council of Church related colleges; vice president and then President of Council of Church Related Colleges.

Rev. Gross was a student pastor at Mendham Methodist Church, Mendham, New Jersey, 1950-1953; First Church membership, First United Methodist Church, Barbourville, Kentucky; Ordained an Elder in the Methodist Church, September 7, 1952. He was Dean of the Chapel at Centenary College, Hackettstown, New Jersey, 1953-1955; left Centenary to do his two year residency for his doctorate. After receiving a Ph.D. he was appointed academic Dean at Florida Southern College, Lakeland, FL, 1957-1963; appointed Academic Dean at Mount Union College, Alliance, Ohio.

Later in 1968 when appointed Academic Dean (and acting president) for 10 years, at Texas Wesleyan College (now a university), he taught religion at TWC for three years. He became associate pastor at First UMC, Clearwater, 1982-85; and pastor at Druid Hills UMC, 1985-90.

In 1990 he retired and returned to Ft. Worth, Texas. He was immediately hired as Congregational Care minister at Edge Park UMC. He served there until November 1997, when he was afflicted with a stroke. He had an attack of Myasthenia Gravis, was in the hospital for five weeks and in rehabilitation for seven weeks. He was home and recovering well when he had a massive brain hemorrhage. Birney and Mrs. Gross had donated their remains to science so there was no funeral. A memorial service of celebration was held May 16, 1998. He had died May 6, 1998. Services were held at Edge Park Methodist Church where he had served, Rev. Cal Hoffman officiating. Many relatives and former

students at TWC spoke. Music was provided by a professional group, Schala Cantorum of Texas. Mrs. Gross is currently singing her 28th year with B.C. Birney married Lois Feldkircher on July 1948. They would have celebrated a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on July 1998. They had two sons, John Birney II, born June 1952 and Steven Louis, born February 1954. They have one grandson, John R. Gross. Birney remained a member of the Florida Conference.

Submitted by: Lois Gross, wife

### **HARVEY McCONNELL HARDIN**

Born in Capers Chapel Community in Chester County, SC, on January 24, 1909 the son of Joe Neely Hardin, Jr., and Mattie Bell Brice. Rev. Hardin came to Florida in 1917 as a young boy to live with relatives after his father's death in 1913. He knew Jesus from the age of six and "took up the family business" as a preacher since he had four uncles who were Methodist preachers. Two uncles were in the Florida Conference, the Rev. Dr. Smith Hardin and the Rev. H. Carter Hardin. The Rev. David Eli Hardin was in Mississippi and his Aunt Carrie's husband, the Rev. Julius Erasmus Strickland was in South Carolina.

In 1925 he lived at Enterprise with an uncle, the Rev. Dr. Smith Hardin, who at the time was the Financial Agent and Superintendent of the Florida Methodist Children's Home. While there he earned the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America and was graduated from DeLand High School in 1926, after which he became licensed as a local pastor. In 1928, he was admitted on trial to the Florida Conference. After receiving his AB from (Florida) Southern College in 1929, Rev. Hardin went on to be graduated from the Divinity School of Duke University with an M.Div. in 1932, and at that time was ordained as a Deacon. He was admitted into full connection as an Elder in 1934. He was Extension Secretary of the Board of Christian Education from 1933-36, and served as pastor at Alva (1932-33), Trinity/Northside, St. Petersburg (1936-37), Dunedin (1937-39), Concord Park (1939-41), and Childs Park, St. Petersburg (1941-42), before serving as a chaplain in the US Army from 1942 to 1962.

While in the military service, Chaplain Hardin was stationed ten years in the continental US and ten years overseas including Camp Claiborne, LA; the Persian Gulf Command with the engineering group that built the supply road to Russia over the mountains from Iran; twice at Fort Benning, GA; twice in Korea, the second time with the 121st Evacuation Hospital of MASH fame; Fort Myer, VA where he conducted over 250 funerals at Arlington National Cemetery, mostly for casualties from the battlefields in Korea; the Atomic Proving Ground at Eniwetok Atoll in the Marshall Islands, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD and at Verdun, France with US Army Supply Depots throughout France. During these twenty years, he was awarded nine campaign and service medals and two unit commendation ribbons as well as several individual commendations.

Upon retirement as a Lt. Col. From the US Army Chaplain Corps in 1962, Rev. Hardin returned to Florida and was appointed as pastor of the Edgewater United Methodist Church, a new church of 100 congregants. Rev. and Mrs. Hardin built

their own residence which served first as parsonage, and later as their retirement home. While he was pastor, the mortgage on the church property and building was paid in full, improvements made, a social hall built, and plans made for building a parsonage for a new pastor. After retiring from active ministry in 1975, Rev. Hardin supported the pastors of both the Edgewater and New Smyrna Beach United Methodist churches, particularly by visiting newcomers and members in the hospital as well as filling pulpits when needed, and performing weddings and funerals for another twelve years.

During his years residing in Edgewater, Rev. Hardin was active and often held office in various community groups and associations including the Southeast Volusia Ministerial Association, the Salvation Army's Christmas kettle drives, Meals on Wheels, the Humane Society, Edgewater City Employees Pension Board, Parent Teachers Associations, New Smyrna Lodge #149 of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida, Edgewater Post #285 of the American Legions, the Southeast Volusia Historical Society, and the NSB Men's Garden Club. He was particularly involved in the Southeast Volusia Visiting Nurses Association from its early beginnings, holding several offices at various times, storing their hospital beds and other equipment in his "olde barn" when not loaned out, and helping the VNA immeasurably in their drive to get a site and build a local Health Department Clinic, which took several years of work to accomplish.

Over the years Rev. Hardin was honored in many ways, both by the community and the church. He received a letter of recognition from Duke University making him a member of the Half Century Club, and he was the recipient of the Turnbull Grange Lodge Community Service Award as "Citizen of the Year" in 1984. Edgewater United Methodist Church presented Rev. Hardin with appreciation plaques at his retirement in 1975 after serving 13 years as pastor and again in 1987 after 25 years of service. The ultimate accolade came in 1995 when the new addition of a fellowship hall and classrooms was dedicated as Hardin Hall in his honor and his wife's memory.

In his young life, Rev. Hardin was called "Red" because of his red hair which showed a reddish cast even until his death. He met his wife, Mary Baxter Cunningham, the daughter of a redheaded minister and presiding elder in the West Virginia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in a mission study class at Lake Junaluska, NC in 1933. They were married in 1936 and became the parents of three children: Harvey M. Hardin, Jr. born 18 June 1937 and deceased in 1974, Rose Baxter Hardin Jensen born 19 May 1940 and Ann Hardin Starling born 26 November 1950, and grandparents of four. His beloved "M.B." predeceased him in 1985. Harvey joined her on 10 November 1998, after more than two years of progressively declining health due to congestive heart failure, strokes and cancer. He died at the Hospice Care Center in Port Orange, FL, shortly after saying that he was "at peace in the Lord" and slipping into a coma.

A celebration of Rev. Hardin's life was held at Edgewater United Methodist Church on 16 November, 1998. Officiating were the Rev. Richard A. Gallo and the Rev. Dr. Thomas Gensel. Military honors and committal service followed at Edgewater Mausoleum.

Submitted by: Rose Hardin Jensen and M. Ann Hardin Starling

### **BRYCE W. NICHOLS**

Rev. Bryce Weaver Nichols was born in Allen County, Ohio, April 21, 1914 to Rev. Bryce S. Nichols and Velma Weaver Nichols. He and his younger sister, Jaenice, were raised in a loving Christian home by parents actively involved in the Methodist ministry. Many summers were spent on the farm of grandparents Oscar and Maggie Weaver, where Bryce enjoyed raising fancy pigeons, calves, and helping with farm chores. The love of nature came naturally to him through his family's many outdoor activities, especially a love of fishing. As a youth, Bryce excelled academically and in sports. Basketball and track were his favorites, and he set records at track meets in the pole vault and running events. He graduated from Montpelier High School, Ohio May 25, 1932. The prophetic class motto was "Knowledge in youth is Wisdom in old age."

Bryce attended Miami University of Ohio and graduated from the University of Cincinnati June 6, 1939, with a Bachelor of Arts in Early American History. He then attended Law School at the University of Cincinnati, where he enjoyed playing clarinet with a group of fellow students calling themselves the "Dixie Bearcats Band." While working part time as a maintenance man at Christ Hospital to pay law school expenses, he met the love of his life, Neva Abby Howser. She was a bright and beautiful nurse, and he often said he was eager to have an equipment failure on her floor, during her duty shift, simply to see her as he went about his repair work. He and Neva were married April 2, 1936. Halfway through law school, Bryce could no longer deny the call he had been experiencing to serve the Lord through ministry. When he shared this with Neva, her response was "How soon do we start?"

Bryce began attending Garrett Biblical Institute and Northwestern University, and student pastored a church in Rockton, Illinois. He was called by the West Ohio Conference to pastor Franklin Methodist Church in Franklin, Ohio. During this exciting and busy time, Neva gave birth to their two daughters, Mary Lynn, March 12, 1943, and Barbara Ann, May 14, 1944. These daughters were raised by devoted, loving parents who early taught them that "God is Love." In 1945, Bryce was appointed to a large inner city church in Cincinnati, Trinity Methodist. Ministries there included a summer farm camp, settlement house, Wesley Home for the Aged, and a Goodwill Industries program. Bryce and Neva began their deep commitment to the rehabilitation of the physically and mentally challenged, and began to build a strong Goodwill Industries program.

In 1949, Bryce was appointed to Armstrong Chapel, one of the oldest and most historic Methodist churches in the Cincinnati area. The small church had been near closing, but blossomed again and grew due to Bryce and Neva's commitment to serving the Lord and His children. On June 12, 1950, Bryce completed his studies at Garrett. Bishop Werner of the Ohio Conference appointed Bryce to the special services areas of the church, and asked that he give his efforts full time to Goodwill work. He became the Executive Director of Goodwill Industries, Cincinnati and surrounding areas. Bryce received many awards for his community service, among them "Man of the Year" from the

Cincinnati Enquirer. Neva worked along side Bryce as the Goodwill nurse during these years. Two mottos were on Bryce's desk during this time: "When you're in business with God, plan big" and "Pray as if everything depended upon God, and work as if everything depended upon you."

In 1951 the Nichols family moved to a small farm outside Cincinnati, and spent many good years there. Goodwill was growing and serving many needs, and the family relaxed by doing "farm work" and taking vacation time at their cottage on Lake Erie. Bryce was appointed Director of Goodwill Industries, Canton, Ohio in 1964. He performed the double wedding ceremony of his daughters there in 1965, Mary Lynn to Raymond Posgay and Barbara Ann to Lowell Clark.

Special appointments that followed included the National Goodwill Board in Washington, D.C., where Bryce served on the Health and Rehabilitation Committee under President Kennedy; Roanoke Goodwill Industries, Roanoke Virginia; Orlando Goodwill Industries, Orlando, Florida, and Bryce joined the Florida Conference in 1969. In 1973, when his family thought Bryce might consider retirement, he was asked to begin a new church. He and Neva moved into a mobile home and began gathering a congregation that eventually became the Boca West Community United Methodist Church. Building this lovely church and serving God's people there was one of his most fulfilling experiences. Bryce retired in 1979 and he and Neva returned to Orlando. These years were filled with great family times spent with their children and grandchildren, all living in Florida. They were active at First United Methodist Church, where Bryce taught the Turner-Torrance Sunday School class for many years. They traveled extensively in their motor home, missing only the states of Hawaii and South Dakota on their journeys. Several cruises were also greatly enjoyed. In 1990 they left their Orlando home and moved to Stuart, Florida where they attended First United Methodist Church. Neva died in 1992 following a lengthy illness. She and Bryce had shared a life of love and service for over 56 years.

Bryce was one of the ministers honored by the Florida Conference in 1993 on the occasion of their 50th anniversary as ordained deacons. Bryce attended Plantation United Methodist Church regularly when he stayed with family there, and felt this was one of his "church homes" also.

Family and friends were a focal point of Bryce's life. He stated "People are life's real treasures." He retained a relish of politics, good stories shared, nature, literature, sports and above all - service to and love of God. As his health declined, physical activities decreased but mental ones did not. To Bryce, life was full of challenges, not problems. During his final illness, he was able to visit with his daughters, sons-in-law, grandchildren, and friends. As one grandson stated, "Grandpa is telling us good-bye, but he's not afraid." On September 26, 1998, Bryce entered into God's loving presence, unafraid, a true Christian gentleman. He left his sister and her family, two daughters and their husbands, five grandchildren and spouses, three great-grandchildren, and many friends. In terms of material possessions, Bryce traveled light through this world, but left all who knew and loved him the legacy of a life truly well and fully lived.

Funeral services were held at First United Methodist Church, Stuart, with Rev. Richard Rohrer officiating. Many friends and family members shared fond

memories of Bryce at the service in celebration of his life. Interment, next to Neva, was at Fernhill Memorial Gardens, Stuart. II Timothy 4: 7, 8 is a passage well suited to our wonderful Daddy, father-in-law, Grandpa, and Great Grandpa. Each day of his life, Bryce began by stating - "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it." No matter the circumstances we all could do well to recite this testimony of faith each day.

Submitted by: Mary Lynn Posgay  
Barbara A. Clark

### **THOMAS WALTER OBENAUER**

Thomas Walter Obenauer was born February 8, 1929 to Linius Obenauer and Lucy Mary Burton Obenauer of Buffalo, New York. In the mid 1930s, he moved with his mother to Coral Gables, Florida, his adopted hometown, where he eventually met Barbara Ann Stuart at a Methodist youth group. They were married on November 23, 1949 at Coral Gables First Methodist Church.

Before joining the clergy, they were members at White Temple Methodist Church and Allapattah Methodist Church. Despite three young children, Tom obtained his Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Miami, while supporting his family by working as a lather in building construction. From 1960-1964 he attended Wesley Seminary in Washington, DC and served as associate minister for five months at Frederick Avenue Methodist Church and three years at Loch Raven Methodist Church of the Baltimore Conference. While there, his joy was working with the MYF.

After seminary, he and his family were assigned to Fleming Street Methodist Church (Key West) 1964-1966; Carol City UMC 1966-1970; Kathleen/Lake Gibson UMC (Lakeland) 1970-1972; Coronado UMC (New Smyrna Beach) 1972-1978; North UMC (Sarasota) 1978- 1982; Bryan Memorial UMC (Coconut Grove) 1982-1984.

During his active ministry, Rev. Obenauer gave special emphasis to his work for civil rights and helping underprivileged people. After four years of struggling with his Parkinson's disease, Rev. Obenauer took disability leave. He and his wife moved to Merritt Island, where he counseled at Parkinson's Support Groups and assisted underprivileged teenagers. His official retirement took place in 1994, four years after his wife, Barbara, had passed away.

On May 24, 1998, with his children present, Tom died of cardiac arrest in Titusville, Florida. A memorial service was held at First United Methodist Church of Titusville. Officiating at his service were the Rev. Ray Finklea, the Rev. Myric Laite, the Rev. Jess Baker, and the Rev. Marvin A. Boyles. He is survived by his sons, David Alan and Donald Scott Obenauer, of Villa Rica and Atlanta, Georgia, his daughter, Denise June Obenauer-Kohnke, of Pittsburg, PA, and his three grandchildren, Amy, Craig and Kelly.

Submitted by: Denise Obenauer-Kohnke



## **MARTIN IRVING PHILLIPS**

Reverend Phillips was born May 9, 1955, to Carolyn Martin Phillips and Irving E. Phillips in Jacksonville, Florida. One sister, Pamela Carter and one brother, Jeffrey Phillips.

He attended and was a member of Murray Hill United Methodist Church from 1957 until his first appointment.

Marty graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in 1973, Florida Junior College at Jacksonville in 1976, University of North Florida in 1980, all in Jacksonville, Florida; and Emory University's Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, Georgia in 1983. He also attended Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida 1975-1976 and Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia 1981.

After graduation from Emory he was assigned to Oakhurst United Methodist Church in Seminole, Florida as an assistant to the minister, serving from June, 1983 to August, 1984. While serving this church he was ordained a Deacon, May, 1984. Shortly, he was appointed to Golden Gate United Methodist Church as their pastor from August, 1984 to June, 1989. There he was ordained Elder by the conference in May, 1986. His final appointment was to serve Wesconnett United Methodist Church from June, 1989 to his death in February, 1999.

He married Susan Grace Brown August 11, 1979, also acquiring two sons: Steven E. Cogburn born November 3, 1968, married Jessica Douglas and has two daughters, Jacklyn Marie and Kathryn Grace; John C. Cogburn born July 28, 1973, married Lesa Murray and has a son, John Christopher, Jr. and a daughter Chase Victoria. Marty and Susan also have a daughter, Morgan Allyn Phillips, born February 14, 1983.

Marty went to be with the Lord after suffering from and fighting most of his life with Chron's Disease. Funeral services were held at Murray Hill United Methodist Church by the Reverend Tom Parrish of Oak Mount United Methodist Church, Birmingham, Alabama; Reverend Guy Weatherly of Oak Crest United Methodist Church, Jacksonville, Florida; and Reverend Albert Rowell of Murray Hill Methodist. Interment was at Riverside Memorial Park Cemetery, Jacksonville, Florida

Marty was loved by many and will be missed by all. His memory shall live on through his ministry, his children, and his grandchildren.

"Well done, good and faithful servant." Matt. 25:31.

## **JAMES M. RATCLIFF**

James Miller Ratcliff was born August 23, 1918, in Waynesboro, Georgia, the son of Charlie and Lera Ratcliff. He grew up with one brother in this small Georgia town. He attended Georgia State College for Teachers and began a student internship of teaching. It was at that point that he "felt his heart strangely warmed" with the call to ministry. He continued his education by attending and

graduating from Asbury College in 1942; he received his M. Div degree from Asbury Seminary in 1945.

In the summer of 1942 he married Virginia Wilkins, also a graduate of Asbury College, and together they served student charges in southern Indiana during seminary years. They became the parents of two daughters: Rev. Carmen Ratcliff Johns, a member of the Florida Conference serving at Beach United Methodist Church in Jacksonville Beach, and Rebecca Ratcliff Brittain, the wife of a United Methodist minister in Rural Hall, North Carolina.

Jim was ordained an elder in the Indiana Conference in 1945 and served the United Methodist Church in Paoli. He transferred to the North Indiana Conference and served churches in Muncie, Tipton, and Elkhart. In 1962, an opening came available in the Florida Conference and the family moved to Orlando. Until his retirement in 1983, he served churches in Orlando, Jacksonville, and Vero Beach.

In the summer of 1976, while serving at Christ United Methodist Church in Vero Beach, Jim married Mildred Kendrick of Jacksonville. They were privileged to have 23 years of wonderful marriage before his death. Upon Jim's retirement, after 38 years of ministry, they moved to Jacksonville where they would be closer to their families. Retirement and James Ratcliff are not synonyms! After retirement, Jim served as an interim pastor in the Jacksonville District and preached almost every Sunday somewhere in the district while pastors were on vacation. He also led many worship services at Wesley Manor Retirement Village.

Throughout Jim's ministry his goal was to lead people to Christ. In the early years, he was active in conference and district youth ministries and made a special effort to give youth an opportunity to respond to Christ's call to commitment; he opened doors for youth to respond to the call to full-time ordained ministry. As the years moved on, he was known for his powerful preaching. He never met a stranger; many people remember him for his friendliness. He always had a warmth and spirit of joy about him that drew others to love and appreciate him. He made a difference in many lives!

Because Jim wanted to expand people's understanding of the Bible and of United Methodism, he led numerous trips to the Holy Land and to England to study our Wesley heritage.

During his last years, Jim suffered from rapidly progressing Parkinson's disease. Even through the struggles and pain of the disease, he never complained and always maintained his bright outlook toward the future. On April 26, 1999, he entered into life eternal and the glorious presence of God. His memorial service was held on April 29 at Mandarin United Methodist Church in Jacksonville, with interment at Evergreen Cemetery in Jacksonville.

Jim is survived by his wife, Mildred; daughters Carmen Johns and husband Travis, and Becky Brittain and husband Tim; stepdaughters Gloria D'Angelo and husband Tony, and Diane Brown and husband Bill; grandchildren Steve, Susan, and Kathryn Johns; step-grand-children S.W. and Whitney Hubbard, and Katherine and Caroline Kirkland; brother William C. Ratcliff.

Carmen R. Johns, daughter

## **ROY BEN RIDLEY**

Dr. Roy Ben Ridley was born in Zebulon, Georgia on November 29th, 1917 to George Benjamin and Buena Vista Brook Ridley. He received his license to preach in 1936 at the age of 19, making him the seventh generation of his family to do so. In 1939, he graduated from Bob Jones University in Cleveland, Tennessee and went on to Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky where he graduated in 1943. On September 9, 1942 he married Nancy Honaker Crary of Wilmore in the First Methodist Church of Wilmore, Kentucky with Dr. Marvin Yates officiating.

In his 41 years as a United Methodist minister he served as Navy Chaplain on the General Mann-AP112, Pacific in World War II (1946) and in the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church: Reddick (1944), Chiefland (1947), Crescent City (1949), Arcadia (1952), Winter Garden (1957), Tampa - Seminole Heights (1964), Jacksonville - St. Paul's (1969), Jacksonville - Woodstock Park (1972), Cocoa (1974), Tampa - Oak Grove (1976), Orlando - Lockhart (1981), and DeLand - First (1983) retiring to St. Augustine in 1985 and later Wilmore, Kentucky. More than 20 youth from his churches went on to full-time Christian service.

For 18 years, Dr. Ridley served as missions secretary for his district of the Methodist Church and was conference secretary of social and economic concerns for five years. His concern was for the body of Christ around the world and he spent many vacations with his family visiting missionary friends and preaching in Cuba, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and the Philippines.

Believing that outreach to the community was an important extension of ministry, Dr. Ridley was a member of Rotary for 15 years, Kiwanis for 17 years, and served as a Scout Master for 5 years. He served as president of the Minister's Association in Arcadia, Crescent City, Winter Garden, Tampa and Cocoa. He served on the Board of Trustees of Asbury College (1964-1990) and received an honorary Doctorate of Divinity degree from Asbury Theological Seminary (1967) and their Distinguished Service Award (1974).

Dr. Ridley died on May 18, 1998 in Lexington, Kentucky after a long bout with Alzheimer's Disease. His funeral service was held in Estes Chapel on the campus of Asbury Theological Seminary with Dr. Dennis F. Kinlaw (former president of Asbury College, Wilmore, Kentucky), Dr. C. Edward Smyth (son-in-law and founder of Master's Men Ministries, Seattle, Washington), Rev. Duncan Gray (UM Pastor, Plant City, Florida), Rev. Gordon Ralls (UM Pastor, Lakeland, Florida), Rev. David Grout (UM Pastor, Wilmore, Kentucky) and Rev. T. Michael Hayes (UM Missionary, Botswana, Africa) officiating. Rev. Curran L. Spottswood Jr., (UM Pastor, Sarasota, Florida) conducted the graveside service at the Wilmore Cemetery.

Dr. Ridley is survived by his wife, Nancy Crary Ridley of Wilmore, Kentucky and St. Augustine, Florida; four children: Virginia Marks of Panama City, Florida;

Ellen Smyth of Seattle, Washington; Samuel Ridley of Jacksonville, Florida; Carolyn Ridley of Wilmore, Kentucky; nine grandchildren, and one great grandson.

Submitted by his wife, Mrs. Roy Ben Ridley

### **CHARLES WILLIAM ROGERS, SR.**

Charles (Charlie) William Rogers, Sr. was born in Cedar Key, Florida on January 7, 1911. His parents were Harry Bryant Rogers, Sr. and May Depew Rogers. His first church membership was the United Methodist Church in Cedar Key, Florida. It was later in his life while he was in the Cedar Key Church that he received his call into the Christian ministry. He was licensed to preach the gospel in 1955 and in 1960 he was approved as a supply pastor. In 1969, he received his Deacon's orders to become an Associate Member of the Florida Conference. Through the years from 1955 to 1981, he served United Methodist Churches in Windsor, Campville, Ellzey, Jennings, Hanson, Lake City, Pleasant Grove, Bethel and Siloam. He was serving the Cedar Key Church when he retired in 1981.

Charles was a commercial fisherman before and during his life in the Christian ministry. He always said of himself that he was "a fisherman of fish and of men." His faith in God was something you could feel when he was around and because of this faith many people were touched spiritually and learned of God's grace and love. He also loved his wife and children very deeply. He was a loving pastor and friend to many.

On May 6, 1935, Charles was married to Marguerite Caroline Arline Rogers, love of his life. They were married for sixty-one years. They had four children: Charlene May Rogers Schlemmer, (Ocala, FL), Charles "Buddy" Williams Rogers, Jr., (Cedar Key, FL, deceased), Margaret "Sissy" Rogers Wilder, (Dunnellon, FL), and John David Rogers (Gainesville, FL). There are thirteen grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

Charles was diagnosed with cancer and about five months later he died on August 25, 1998. A service for grief and celebration of his life was held on Friday, August 28, 1998, at the First United Methodist Church of Cedar Key, FL. Place of interment was the Cedar Key Cemetery. Officiating clergy were the Rev. Eugene Zimmerman, the Rev. Barry Andrews, and the Rev. Jim Campbell.

Submitted by: Margaret Wilder, daughter

### **THOMAS DENNIS RYAN, JR.**

Thomas D. Ryan, Jr. was born on June 29, 1920, in Hawkinsville, GA. He moved to Clay County at an early age and was reared in the Doctors Inlet area.

He is a 1938 graduate of Clay High School and received his B.S.A. degree with honors from the University of Florida. Tom received a B.D. Cum Laude degree from Emory University where he also earned a Masters of Theology degree in 1972.

During World War II he was a U.S. Army Platoon leader and Company Commander from 1942 to 1946. He served as an instructor at the U.S. Army Infantry School while beginning his service as a Methodist Minister. He received the Combat Infantry Medal and the Bronze Star.

Tom served as Executive Director of Jacksonville Methodist Home, Inc. and was instrumental in the development of Wesley Manor in the 1950s. He devoted his career to the Methodist Church, founding six mission churches. He was the first pastor of Orange Park United Methodist Church. Later, he moved into the Real Estate field where he was Executive Vice President of the Asbury Realty Company and a Real Estate broker for Rogers, Taylor and Company. Asbury Realty was formed to develop Lake Asbury which included a 100 acre parcel donated to the Methodist Church (Lake Asbury Retreat Center).

From 1980-1982 he was Facilitator for the District Coordinating Council of the St. Johns Community College District. Tom served as Records Management Liaison Officer for Clay County from 1983 until 1990. Tom belonged to many civic organizations including the Clay County Historical Commission, Clay County Development Authority, Clay County Chamber of Commerce, Clay County Democratic Executive Committee, Green Cove Springs Rotary Club, Clay County Historical Society and the Clay County Genealogical Society.

His awards are many, beginning in high school and throughout his life. He is the author of several genealogical books and one on Clay County's historical past. Tom retired from the U.S. Army after 31 years of service with the rank of colonel. His service awards included the Combat Infantry Medal, Bronze Star, and Commendation Letter from the U.S. Army.

Rev. Ryan passed away March 17, 1999. Funeral Services were held Friday, March 19, 1999 at the Orange Park United Methodist Church. The Rev. Pat Turner-Sharpston, Asbury United Methodist Church, officiated at the service. Interment was at Jacksonville Memory Gardens, Garden of Christus, Orange Park.

Thomas D. Ryan, Jr. is survived by his wife, Hazel Wainwright Ryan, four children: Peggy (Larry) Brown of Jackson, MS; Thomas Dennis (Nancy) Ryan, III; Zac Edward Walton (Jeannie) Ryan; James Moody (Angela) Ryan all of Lake Asbury; eight grandchildren; brother Glenn W. Ryan, Doctors Inlet, FL; and sister Frances Glisson, Orlando, FL. Submitted by: Hazel Wainwright Ryan

### **FREDERICK EARL STINSON, SR.**

Frederick Earl Stinson, Sr. was born to Theodore and Nancy Stinson in a cotton mill village in East Point, Georgia on July 27, 1922. He was one of eleven children. His parents gave him a strong love for God and His church, and a solid moral foundation for life.

He answered God's call into the ministry and was licensed to preach at the age of 16 at the Highland Methodist Church in Griffin, Georgia.

Fred's education began at an early age and he graduated from Emory at Oxford, and entered Young Harris College in North Georgia in 1942. While at Young

Harris, Fred was a member of the Champion Debaters and won the title of Champion Debater in 1944. Fred also served student appointments in the mountains of North Georgia while attending Young Harris College. In 1944, he came to Florida and entered Florida Southern College in Lakeland. While at Florida Southern, he served the Methodist church at Zolfo Springs. He graduated in 1946 and stayed to serve the church at Springhead. Then he entered the Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia in 1947. He was admitted on Trial in 1949, ordained a Deacon in 1951, ordained an Elder in 1952 and received into Full Connection.

While at Candler, Fred's gift of a great singing voice provided him with the opportunity of being among 4 male voices chosen in 1949 to be the "Circuit Rider Quartet." Those chosen were Fred, James Ray, Hugh Allen and Gene Sine. This was a rare opportunity for these small town boys to see most of the states from coast to coast and to sing at most of the Methodist Annual Conferences. This quartet traveled with Dr. Roy L. Smith, which was one of life's greatest experiences. They traveled by rail and DC3 airplanes. At each appearance, they began, unannounced, with the singing of the Mariner's Hymn, walking up the aisles, dressed in the garb of the period: knee britches, buckle shoes, and wigs, to the platform. It was a pleasant interruption of routine business.

Fred graduated from Candler in June, 1951, and was immediately appointed to the Walker Memorial Methodist Church in Orlando (2 years later the name was changed to Christ Methodist Church). His other appointments included: First, Punta Gorda in 1955; St. Paul's, Eau Gallie, 1958; Kendall, Miami, 1960; Palm Springs, Hialeah, 1963; Community, Belle Glade, 1969; Grace, Merritt Island, 1972; First, Tarpon Springs, 1979; Wesley Memorial, Tampa, 1981 and St. Johns, Tampa in 1984. He retired August 1, 1987, and for a period of time served as Minister of Counseling at North Bay Community Church in Clearwater.

Fred died suddenly January 25, 1999, leaving behind his wife of 40 years, Jacqueline "Jackie," 4 children, Rita Gayle Mears, Frederick Earl "Rick" Stinson, Jr., Lisa Diane Stinson, and Robin Stinson Thapa; 3 brothers, 3 sisters, 4 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. Fred's first wife, Martha, was his childhood sweetheart who shared his ministry for 16 years, before her death in 1957.

His memorial service at Community United Methodist Church, Oldsmar, was a triumphant tribute to a glorious ministry! Present were members from most of the churches he had served, and a large contingent of retired ministers and one retired bishop. Each one had a testimony and a memory of times and events where Fred ministered to them. Those in charge of the Memorial Service were Rev. Sharon Patch, Pastor, plus Dr. Charles P. Hamilton, Rev. Samuel Montgomery, Rev. E. Jack Matthews, and Dr. Allan R. Stuart. Each shared how Fred had touched their lives with his knowledge, his wit, and his personality.

Fred will live forever; not only in His Father's house, but also in all the lives he touched from age 16 until age 76 — "well done, good and faithful servant."

Submitted by: Jacqueline Kennedy Stinson, devoted wife,  
Charles P. Hamilton, Allan R. Stuart and James L. Ray

### **C. EUGENE WEST**

C. Eugene West was born in Parrish, Florida on March 4, 1917, the son of James Matthew West and Betty Beasley West. He graduated from Bushnell High School in 1934. He furthered his education by studying accounting and received a BS Degree in Business Administration from Florida Southern College in 1942. He received his Master of Divinity Degree from Emory University in 1948 and was awarded a Doctor of Divinity Degree from Florida Southern in 1976. In addition to his academic work, he operated a family owned timber-cattle business 1938-1946.

Gene West and Louise Winton were married July 5, 1942. They have four children, Susan Elizabeth Landa, Stephen Eugene, Janice Marie and James Louis. Gene and Louise were active and influential church leaders in many assignments and responsibilities throughout Florida. He served for over forty years as a member of the Florida Conference of the Methodist Church. His appointments include churches in St. Petersburg, Quincy, Jacksonville, Miami, and two terms as a District Superintendent (St. Petersburg and Orlando). He held responsible positions on conference Boards and Committees, as a Trustee of Florida Southern College and the Florida United Methodist Children's Home. He served as an Alternate Delegate to General Conference and Delegate to Jurisdictional Conference 1968-72-76-80.

Gene was not only a conscientious pastor and preacher, he used his skills, background, and training in administration in the churches he served, and on the boards of directors of dozens of civic and church organizations. The emphasis of Gene's ministry should not be placed upon administrative and leadership skills. There was a spiritual foundation to his entire being! He and Louise demonstrated genuine Christian commitment to each other, their family, and the church. He took seriously the vows of church membership, Christian discipleship, the deep meaning of every part of ordination as Deacon and Elder, and the responsibilities and disciplines of a pastor. He cared.

When Gene was diagnosed with a terminal illness, he said to me, "If I have to go, tell the people it is all right. I believe all the things I have preached through my years as a pastor."

Submitted by: The Rev. Grant Hinshaw

### **LAURA MARIE ALSHIRE**

Laura Marie Alshire was born March 25, 1910 at Pilot Oak, Kentucky. She attended Bible College and graduated in 1930. It was during her time in Bible College that she met and married Otis Christy Alshire. Laura was ordained in the Four Square Ministry. Although she had her own credentials, she served alongside her husband as a helper and beautifully fulfilled the duties of the preacher's wife. She often accompanied him on calls.

Laura and Otis were blessed with two sons and a daughter. Laura was a homemaker and loved to cook and to sew. She made gifts for everyone at Christmas. She and Otis moved to Florida in the late 1950's and served at Port Orange United Methodist Church. They purchased a home in Interlachen for their retirement, but Otis died in 1973 before they were able to enjoy their retirement years. Simply put, Laura was a particular housekeeper and good Christian lady. Laura was reunited with Otis in God's heavenly kingdom on February 15, 1999.

### **RUTH BOURQUARD BARTLETT**

Ruth Bourquard Bartlett was born February 28, 1905 in Marshfield, Ohio to Alexander B. and Margaret Ann (Bergen) Bourquard. Her father was a Methodist minister and served churches in Ohio, Wisconsin, New Jersey and Georgia in the early part of the century. Her aunt, Rev. Daisy Willia Caffray, was the first woman to be ordained a Methodist minister in the northwest and was a missionary who traveled and preached all over the world. While growing up Ruth said she never wanted to marry a minister or a farmer.

Ruth's father died when she was nine and she did the rest of her growing up in Marietta, Ohio and graduated from high school there in 1924.

Ruth attended Taylor University in Upland, Indiana. While there she met Jim Bartlett; they fell in love and married January 3, 1926. Jim was going into the real estate business with his father and she figured that was as far as she could get from either a farmer or a minister.

Jim worked with his father for a couple of years and then became an assistant treasurer at a college in Iowa. While there he was asked to fill in as a preacher at a little country church and he felt the call to become a full time preacher. Ruth agreed if he would go to school and become the best minister he could be.

While Jim was attending Garrett Seminary in Evanston, Illinois he served at churches in Indiana and Michigan. In 1941, the family, Ruth, Jim and daughters (Bonnie Jean born July 20, 1928 and Gretchen Sue born October 4, 1939) moved to Orlando, Florida when Jim joined the Florida Conference of the Methodist Church. Besides the First Methodist in Orlando they served at churches in St. Petersburg, (Euclid), Groveland, Melbourne, Haines City and Cocoa. (Jim was also in the Maritime Service for three years). While in Cocoa, Jim was asked to serve in the field and finance division of the Board of Global Ministries of the Methodist Church. Ruth traveled with him for 12 years until they retired to On Top of the World in Clearwater, Florida.

Jim passed away November 11, 1994 after a long illness. Ruth stayed in Clearwater until March 2, 1996 when she went to live with daughter Bonnie and her husband Ron Delk in Englewood where Gretchen and her husband Red Branning also lived. September 2, 1997 Ruth moved to River Oaks, a retirement facility in Englewood and lived there until she passed away May 9, 1998. There was a memorial celebration of her life in Doans Chapel at Englewood First United Methodist Church with Rev. Bill Nelson officiating on May 13, and interment May



14 in Palm Cemetery in Winter Park, Florida, next to Jim, with Rev. Ray Harrison and Rev. Jim Ulmer officiating.

Ruth is survived by two daughters, Bonnie B. Delk and her husband Ron; and Gretchen B. Branning and her husband Red, of Engelwood, Florida; a foster son Dr. Wai YunSyn and his wife Betty of Stone Mountain, Georgia; two grandsons, Jim Legge and his wife Judy of Clermont, Florida, and Brett Branning and his wife Pam of Sarasota, Florida; four great grandchildren, Peter and Paul Legge and Bryce and Ashley Branning, also a great great grandson Brandon James Legge. Ruth is also survived by two sisters, Margaret Sanner, Columbus, Ohio and Dora Angert, North Ft. Myers, and one brother, Alez Bourquard of Willoughby, Ohio; four sisters-in-law, Lois Bartlett Tracy, Ruth Bartlett Kuykendall and Leah Bartlett Lasbury, all of Englewood, and Marguerite Bartlett of Tampa; and many nieces and nephews.

Submitted by: Bonnie B. Delk

### **IVA CONNOR BENNETT**

Iva Connor Bennett, age 83, died October 17, 1998. She was the widow of the late Rev. William J. Bennett, Jr.

The eldest of five children, she was born in Orlando on February 5, 1915, to Charlie and Hattie Hicks Connor. She was raised in Homestead where she went to school and graduated as a straight A student from Homestead High School. Later in life, after marriage and moving to North Florida, she chose to continue her education. She was accepted at North Florida Junior College at Madison where she was graduated two years later, at the age of 52, with an Associate in Arts Degree.

As a minister's wife she was a valuable help-mate since she played the piano at each church that Reverend Bennett pastored. Their churches, in the Tallahassee District, consisted of Greenville, Shiloh, Aucilla and Mayo. Other churches at which Rev. Bennett was a guest speaker consisted of Lee, Hickory Grove and Pinetta, and, each time, Mrs. Bennett was his pianist.

Mrs. Bennett had two children; Wayne, born on August 23, 1941, who was accidentally electrocuted on October 17, 1971 at the age of 30; and Valjean Bennett Walker who was born on August 14, 1949. Wayne provided her with one grandson, while Valjean provided her with a grandson and a granddaughter.

Mrs. Bennett, at the time of her death, was living with and being cared for by her daughter. Mrs. Bennett had been ill since the first of July. Her funeral was held at Woodville United Methodist Church, where she was a member, on Tuesday, October 20, with burial in the Woodville Cemetery. Officiating ministers were the Rev. T. Gerald Williams and Rev. Laura Beth Fisher.

Submitted by: Valjean Bennett Walker

## **FRANCES SLEDD BLAKE**

Frances Carey Sledd was born at the turn of the century on April 11, 1900, in Oxford, Georgia. Her father, Andrew Sledd, had come as a professor to Emory at Oxford where he met Annie Florence Candler, the daughter of Warren Aiken Candler, then president of Emory College and later bishop in the Methodist Church.

Brought up on college campuses as her father changed jobs, Frances was often home schooled and at sixteen entered Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia. In 1919 she graduated with the highest grades achieved in the college up to that point and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, which honor and expectation she lived up to all her life. Frances taught mathematics both at Girls' High and at Agnes Scott. After a courtship interrupted by World War I, Frances married John Withers Blake on June 13, 1922. Together they started their ministry at Dahlonega in the North Georgia Conference.

Since Withers was originally from Florida, they soon transferred down to the Florida Conference. In all, Frances and Withers served as a team in the Methodist church for 44 years in eleven different churches and on three districts.

Frances and Withers raised a family during those years of active service. Their first born was a son, John Withers Blake, Jr., born on January 20, 1924, in Decatur, Georgia, near Frances' parents. Shortly thereafter mother and son joined Withers at their first appointment in Dade City, Florida. Their second son, Warren Candler Blake, died in infancy. Their daughter, Julia Blake Jones, was born in Jacksonville on November 22, 1927. Julia and John survive their mother and miss her very much.

Frances not only was a devoted mother but also was a loyal and involved minister's wife. In her church life she many times taught children both inside and outside of the Sunday School. She also taught teachers of children in many Leadership Training Schools. During other years she worked with teenagers, both teaching them about religion and leading them in wholesome recreation. While a Superintendent's wife on the Lakeland District she taught a college age class and gave many parties for the students at Florida Southern College. Both Frances and Withers thought it was good to play as well as to work and learn.

During all of her active years in the church, Frances was heavily involved in the various women's organizations. On the conference level she held the office of Secretary of Spiritual Life. All her life wherever she saw a need either spiritual or physical Frances Sledd Blake was right there working on it. Not only was she a supportive minister's wife but also a friend to anyone in need.

In 1965 Frances and Withers retired to his boyhood home in Tampa, Florida, where they continued to be active, as long as their health permitted, in the church of their choice, First United Methodist Church, Tampa. As their health declined, they were assisted and lovingly cared for by their daughter-in-law, Rosalind Almony Blake. Withers died at home on August 11, 1997. Frances died in their home one year and four weeks later on September 7, 1998. Her funeral was held at First United Methodist Church, Tampa, with Dr. W. Scott Bozeman and Dr.

Walter B. Rutland officiating. She is buried in the Blake plot at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Submitted by: John Withers Blake, Jr. and Julia Blake Jones, children

### **JULIA REBECCA ASHTON DOGGETT**

Becky Doggett was born December 16, 1917 at New Smyrna Beach, Florida, the daughter of Maurice W. and Armine Robertson Ashton. She died November 21, 1998 at Waynesville, North Carolina at the age of 80, after 16 years of Alzheimer's. She and her husband, the Rev. Caxton Doggett, were married 58 years. He lives at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina.

Other survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Maurine Doggett who is married to James Thacker of Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, and Mrs. David Bordeaux (Abbie) who lives in Atlanta. Maurine was born at Eustis, Florida, December 20, 1943 and Abbie was born in Brooklyn, New York, June 16, 1946. The four grandchildren are Jorge and John Thacker, adopted from Ecuador, and Julia and Dean Bordeaux. A sister, Mrs. Hunley Elebash, lives in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Becky's funeral was held in the Coronado Community United Methodist Church, New Smyrna Beach, Florida, which had been their first pastorate and where they were married on October 19, 1940. The Rev. Robert Brown, pastor, Dr. John Rooks, and Dr. Melton Ware officiated. Burial was in the Edgewater Cemetery, Edgewater, FL.

Becky graduated from the New Smyrna Beach High School in 1935 and went up to FSCW (now FSU) as one of 700 freshman girls. She received the Mortar Board plaque awarded to the freshman girl making the highest grades and was later elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

She graduated from FSCW in 1939 and as a drama major presented a three act play, doing all the parts herself. That same year the Governor of Florida appointed her to be Miss Florida in the Rhododendron Festival in Asheville and she rode the Florida float in the parade which climaxed the event.

Drama was one of her major interests and she directed numerous plays and pageants in the ten churches they served. At Arlington in Jacksonville she organized a Drama Workshop and produced the three act play "Family Portrait," a play about the family of Jesus. In Jacksonville she was in demand for her dramatic reviews of plays and books. In Winter Park and First Church, Lakeland, she was Counselor of High School students and each year organized a Youth Activities Week with students coming to the church each morning before school for breakfast and an inspirational program. At Hyde Park, Tampa, and Melrose Park, Ft. Lauderdale, she organized and taught young adult classes, serving as a sort of second mother to the young men and women and establishing a lasting friendship with many of them.

The ten churches she and her husband served were: Coronado Community UMC, New Smyrna Beach; Concord Park UMC, Orlando; First Church, Mt. Dora; Rader Memorial, Miami; Winter Park UMC; Winter Park; First Church, Lakeland;

Hyde Park, Tampa; Melrose Park, Ft. Lauderdale; Arlington, Jacksonville; and Community UMC, Daytona Beach. Becky and Caxton retired in 1979 and spent their retirement years in Daytona Beach, Atlanta, and Lake Junaluska, North Carolina.

Becky's two daughters, Maurine and Abbie, say this of their mother: "Who was Becky? To quote from one of her favorite plays: 'One of what we all are . . . less than a drop in the great blue motion of the sunlit sea. But it seems some of the drops sparkle. Some of them do sparkle.'"

"I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed in us."

Submitted by: Caxton Doggett

### **CHARLOTTE RICHARD GISLER**

Charlotte Richard, the daughter of Walter and Mayme Richard, was born on October 27, 1914, in Asheville, NC and was raised in Atlanta, where her father owned a novelty business distributing advertising paraphernalia. Her parents were lay leaders in the Parkview Methodist Church and in the Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church. Her father was a close, personal friend and confidant of Bishop Arthur Moore.

In 1938, Charlotte was one of the early women graduates of the University of Georgia, gaining a Bachelors Degree in Fine Arts. In her own right, she was an accomplished pianist, a respected photographer, and an artist in oils and water colors of landscapes and still life.

She met Robert J. "Bob" Gisler in 1938 when he entered the seminary at Emory University in Atlanta. They were married in 1939 and moved to Florida following his graduation as they began their service to churches throughout the Florida Conference.

Charlotte was a full partner in her husband's ministry. She was a full time, unpaid, employee of each church they served, performing office work and supplementing Bob's activities and responsibilities. Of the churches they served over 40 years, their 10 years at the Snyder Memorial Methodist Church in downtown Jacksonville and 10 years at First Methodist Church in Ft. Pierce were perhaps their most satisfying. In most of the churches they served, they left their mark by donating church bells to illuminate the communities adjacent to the churches.

Health reasons brought Bob to retirement in 1981 and they moved to a house on Hunt Avenue near Florida Southern College in Lakeland. FSC was their first love and they supported the college by endowing a ministerial scholarship fund, by donating bells for the campus, and by participating in college events. Charlotte herself, after Bob passed away in March 1995, donated music scholarships for women attending FSC and made an endowment for the benefit of the Georgia Methodist Conference. First Methodist Church, Lakeland, benefitted in many ways from the efforts of this couple who considered retirement a curse. Charlotte worked countless hours doing volunteer printing and binding for various church

projects. She and Bob took on Conference Archives and literally invested thousands of hours during their 13 years at Hunt Avenue working on archival projects and training church people throughout the conference in archives and the preservation of church history.

Charlotte moved into Carpenters Estates, Lakeland, in June 1995. Shortly thereafter, she discovered she had cancer in an advanced stage. She never once complained, even into the last few weeks of her life. Her humor, her sense of dignity and her faith stayed with her to the end. She passed away on January 23, 1999. The Rev. Riley Short, First United Methodist Church, officiated at her funeral. Her remains were placed in a column burial at the church. Charlotte was survived by her nephew, John Gisler of Ft. Pierce and her niece, Joyce Gisler Hotchkiss, of Orlando.

She was a beautiful lady and will be sorely missed by her family.

Submitted by: John Gisler, nephew

### **HELEN MARSHALL HARTZ**

Helen Edna Marshall was born in Commerce, Missouri on November 6, 1914 to Garrett and Edna Gaither Marshall. Garrett Marshall was the Sunday school superintendent of St. Paul's United Methodist Church, where Helen joined as her first church membership.

She spent her early years along the Mississippi River in Missouri, attending public school in the Commerce, Missouri area and graduating with her seven classmates from Benton High School on May 13, 1932.

Following high school she went on to attend Southeast Missouri State Teachers College in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, seeking a degree to become a teacher. It was while at college that she met Edwin Rubin Hartz, a native of Kinder, Missouri and pastor of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Commerce. She completed two years at Southeast Missouri State Teachers College before the Reverend Jesse M. Layton married the couple in Commerce on January 31, 1934.

In May of 1934 Helen moved to Durham, North Carolina where her new husband became Assistant Pastor of the Duke Memorial United Methodist Church. She put her education on hold to support her husband while he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Divinity and a Doctorate in Sociology at Duke University. The couple resided in Durham until May 1935, then moved to Roxboro, N.C. where her husband served as pastor of the Grace United Methodist Church. Helen was a full-time pastor's wife, typing Edwin's sermons, managing the church bulletin, attending all church functions and serving the congregation with all of her time and energy.

She was able to continue her education, completing her third year of studies at the Teachers College in Kansas City, when the couple moved back to Missouri and Edwin became pastor of the Institutional United Methodist Church in Kansas City. However, her education was put on hold again with the birth of her first daughter, Ella Jean, in August of 1939. She elected to become a full-time mother

to Jean and her second daughter, Marie Louise, who was born in November of 1942.

Helen placed her family first, continuing as wife and mother through moves to the Linwood Boulevard United Methodist Church in Kansas City, and the United Methodist Church in Aurora, Missouri. She moved back to southeast Missouri to teach Math and Art at Sikeston High School, and combined first and second grades at Commerce Elementary School, while her husband served as United States Navy Chaplain in New York, the Pacific Area, and Tokyo Bay during World War II.

Upon Edwin's discharge from the Navy, the family moved to Tallahassee, Florida where Edwin became a Professor at FSU and Helen was able to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education, graduating in 1948.

With her diploma finally earned, Helen began her teaching career in earnest at Caroline Brevard Elementary School in Tallahassee. She taught 25 of her 27 years as a third grade teacher at Caroline Brevard, interrupted only when Edwin was recalled to active duty during the Korean War. During those other two years, 1952 to 1954, she taught at the Post School marine base at Paris Island, South Carolina. Helen was an active member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Tallahassee. In parallel with her teaching career, she was a full-time homemaker, and full-time loving mother. She was a full-time supportive minister's wife, attending all church functions, calling on the sick and needy, typing Edwin's sermons, and maintaining the church bulletins. In addition, she was a full-time active university professor's wife, graciously hosting other professors, supporting his career by typing lectures and correspondence courses, maintaining the files, and generally supporting all university activities.

Following her retirement from teaching, Helen again became a full-time minister's wife when Edwin retired from FSU and served as pastor of Gray Memorial Methodist Church in Tallahassee, and Woodville Methodist Church in Woodville, Florida. She remained active in the Florida State Retirement Association until she and Edwin moved to Dunedin, Florida in 1995.

Helen lived with her daughter, Marie Louise, after Edwin's death on December 21, 1997. She suffered a series of strokes and passed away on December 17, 1998 from cardio-respiratory arrest. She was 84 years of age. She was buried at Culley's Meadowwood in Tallahassee on December 21, 1998, exactly one year after her husband's death. The Reverend Joe Stiles, pastor of Calgary Methodist Church in Tallahassee, performed the service.

She is survived by two daughters, Jean Beamer of Atlanta, and Marie Louise Hickson

of 1706 Anglers Court, Safety Harbor, Florida 34695; a sister, Annabelle Cannon of Farmington, Missouri; two grandchildren; and two great grandchildren.

Written by: Marie Louise Hickson, Daughter.

## HELEN CORRY MAXWELL JENKINS

Helen Corry Maxwell Jenkins was born in Russellville, Alabama, November 15, 1893, one of two girls in a family of seven boys, to John Thomas and Mary Emmett Corry Maxwell. Helen was educated in normal schools in and around Haleyville, Alabama where the family moved when she was in her teens. But she always stated that her mentor teacher was her marvelous mother, Mary Emmett Maxwell, "Mamie" as she was called. "Mamie" was a very beautiful and talented lady who assisted in hundreds of births, and was the local unofficial visiting nurse for hundreds of people in Winston County. She was instrumental in making it possible for scores of young people to go to college and many to become preachers in the Methodist Church. She gave the land and was the early leader in the organization of Maxwell Chapel United Methodist in Haleyville, Alabama. The organizing minister for Maxwell Chapel was her son in law, James E. Jenkins, who was a young preacher in the first years of his ministry at the time. Helen Jenkins was the last charter of Maxwell Chapel which is even today an active appointment in the North Alabama Conference.

On December 23, 1911 Helen married James E. Jenkins. J. E. Jenkins was a member of the Florida Conference for 25 years as well as the North Alabama Conference for 24 years. Jim and Helen started their ministry in Addison, Alabama and in 1911 they were appointed to Jim's home church in Mt. Hope. There they started their family. Three sons and two daughters were born to the Jenkins, each one born in a different city in Alabama: Jimmy, who died in 1989; John T., who died in 1994; Martha Helen Baldwin, who died in 1981; Bob, who is a retired member of the Florida Annual Conference and living in Pinellas Park, Florida; and Betty Jo Witherspoon who lives in Tustin, California.

Jim and Helen moved to Florida in 1933 from Pell City, Alabama and served the Kingston ME Church South in Daytona Beach; later that church was to become Livingston Memorial Methodist Church. They also served Bunnell, Tavares, Vero Beach, Kissimmee, Homestead, Clermont, and Livingston Memorial in Jacksonville where they retired in 1957 and moved to Vero Beach, where Jim became the Minister of Visitation at First Church. They served the church at Vero Beach during the War years and were very active in servicemen activities in tandem with the Chaplains at the Vero Beach Naval Air Station. Old First Church was a gathering place for sailors on liberty and became the home away from home for hundreds of men and women serving our country during the war years. Helen also became a mother away from home for many of the men.

At 84 Helen toured the Holy Land and at 94 she was praying that she would live long enough to complete a book on the genealogy of the Corry, Maxwell and Jenkins families. It was published in 1989 under the title "Family Ties" by her son John T. Jenkins in Macon, Georgia.

Jim died in 1961 and Helen lived for a while in a conference house in Vero Beach before moving in with her sons and daughters until her death. She appreciated the care given to her by her daughter and daughters-in-law enormously and said with great appreciation many times "surely there is a special place in heaven for those who give care to their loved ones in their last days."

Helen passed away in her sleep at the Laurels Nursing Home in St. Petersburg, Florida, November 4, 1998 just eleven days short of her 105th birthday. She was buried at Crestlawn Cemetery in Vero Beach next to her husband Jim and her daughter Martha Helen. She is survived by a daughter Mrs. Betty Jo Witherspoon of Tustin, California, a son Robert M. Jenkins of Pinellas Park, 12 grand children, 11 great grand children, and 3 great great grand-children.

Her funeral service was held at First United Methodist Church in Vero Beach with her grandsons as pallbearers. Her pastor, the Rev. Michael Oliver, Senior Pastor of First United Methodist Church in Vero Beach, her former pastor the Rev. Delmas Copeland, and her great nephew the Rev. Marvin Mack Buttram, pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church, Cullman, Alabama, officiated.

A great lady, a great life and a marvelous legacy of love, faith, courage and devotion to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Submitted by: Robert M. Jenkins

### **SADIE MOFFETT**

Time is ...  
Too slow for those who wait...  
Too swift for those who fear...  
Too short for those who rejoice...  
Too long for those who grieve...  
But for those who love...  
Time is eternity.

Sister Moffett was born in Punta Gorda, the daughter of Samuel and Mary Giles, July 7, 1912. She married J.W. Moffett on February 9, 1935, who went to be with the Lord January 9, 1988.

Sister Sadie was a faithful servant as brother Moffett pastored churches in North Florida. Following the death of Brother Moffett, Sister Sadie came to live with her sister in Ft. Myers, Florida. She attended Trinity United Methodist with her sister Ada. We always looked forward to her being with us at our services. Sister Sadie went home to be with her Lord on June 9, 1998. We had a Great Celebration service for Sister Moffett on June 11, 1998 at Trinity United Methodist Church. Her final resting place is in the Garden of Memories in Ft. Myers, Florida. She is survived by her sister, Sister Ada Jackson, of Ft. Myers, Florida.

Rev. Donald F. Rock, Sr.

### **LUCILE OWENS MOYER**

Lucile Owens Moyer was born June 17, 1910, at Evergreen, Nassau County, Florida, to Linton L. and Sophronia H. Owens. She was one of 11 children born to this pioneer farm family. Both her grandfather John Owens and her father served as Superintendent of Nassau County Schools and her father also served as County Judge. Mrs. Moyer graduated from Fernandina High School in 1929,



where she and her twin sister Louise were known for their musical talent. As were all her brothers and sisters, Mrs. Moyer was baptized and confirmed at Yulee Methodist Church in Nassau County. In 1936, she married Q. Ainsley Dyal in Fernandina Beach. This marriage produced a daughter Lucy Louise in 1946, but ended with Ainsley's sudden death in 1957.

While serving Memorial Methodist Church in Fernandina Beach, Rev. Nelson P. Moyer suffered the loss of his wife Marjerie following a lengthy illness. The Moyers had three children: Nelson P. III, Sharon Ann and Ruth Elizabeth. In 1965, Rev. Moyer and Lucile Dyal were married in Memorial Methodist Church and began a joint ministry that took them to First United Methodist Church in Boynton Beach, Community United Methodist Church in Holiday and First United Methodist Church in Largo. Rev. Moyer retired in 1982, but continued his ministry as Associate Pastor of the United Methodist Church in Hudson. They are remembered fondly by the many friends they made and retained through the years from all the churches they served together. The Moyers returned to Nassau County in 1984 and remained active together in Memorial United Methodist Church until his death in 1987.

Mrs. Moyer had a lifetime of service to her church and community. In recognition of her service, she was honored with a life membership in the Women's Society of Christian Service, now United Methodist Women, in 1964. She remained active and committed to the life of her beloved church. Although she struggled with orthopedic problems during the past three years, at the time of her death, she was serving as Co-Chairperson of her circle. Her many friends and loved ones will remember her joyful spirit, loving heart and perpetual smile.

Mrs. Moyer died at home, after a brief illness, on Monday, March 8, 1999. She is survived by her daughters Lucy Dyal Hadi and Ruth Moyer Davis of Tallahassee, Sharon Ann Versteegh of Shreveport, LA, and Dr. Nelson P. Moyer of Iowa City, IA, grandchildren Trent and Tracie Moyer, Brian, Kristin and Mark Davis, and sisters Louise O. Flood of Yulee and Lucy O. Cowart of Jacksonville. Funeral services were held at Memorial United Methodist Church in Fernandina on Thursday, March 11, with the Rev. Dr. Bruce Jones officiating. Interment was at Bosque Bello Cemetery in Fernandina Beach.

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#### **EDNA RUTH CAPPS MURPHY**

Edna Ruth Capps Murphy was born in Durham, North Carolina, June 15, 1917. She was a local singer who had her own radio program. She was also a Powers Model. She attended FSU for woodworking and metal working classes and taught kindergarten. As a child she attended the Episcopal High Church. She and Hugh Edwin Murphy were married November 7, 1936, when he was attending Duke University. Their first appointment was Ft. White. Their retirement followed Key West. They had only one child, Kathryn Ruth. She had four grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. Edna Ruth Murphy passed into the arms of Jesus November 28, 1998, at Martin Memorial of Stuart, FL. A viewing was held at Wallace and White Funeral Home. A Memorial Service was conducted on

December 5, officiated by a friend, Dick Reed, who led in a sharing service. Interment was at Fernhill Gardens with her late husband, the Rev. Hugh E. Murphy.

### **AUDREY MARJORY PECK**

Audrey was born in Mayville, New York, March 21, 1929 to Glen and Iva Arnold. She spent most of her time either swimming in Lake Chautauqua or skating on it in winter as a child. When she wasn't doing that she rode the passenger steam boat that her grandfather was captain of for many years. Audrey graduated from Mayville Central School in 1946 and was married in August to the new kid in town who was also 17.

After a hitch in the army we built a house in Mayville and started raising our four children there. Then in 1959 we moved to Ft. Pierce, Florida where we continued to raise our children in Community United Methodist Church. They are Charles L. Peck, Jr., Jerry W. Peck, Dennis C. Peck and Marjorie A. Abbott, and all live in Florida. In 1965 her husband Charles felt God's call into the ministry and in 1965 started college at Indian River Junior College, then in 1967 we sold our business and moved to Lakeland to go to Florida Southern College. Two of our children were out of high school and two moved with us to Lakeland where we started making the necessary adjustments in our family life. One of Audrey's skills was helping to make these adjustments. Likewise in our ministry she, like so many other minister's spouses, learned to move and adjust and at least act happy most of the time. Though she may not always have been thrilled with our appointments she was committed to God, to His ministry and His church. Audrey worked at the Methodist building for four years while Charlie was in college and in the office of a carpet mill in Chatsworth, Georgia during seminary.

Audrey died September 18, 1998 after undergoing reconstructive surgery on her spine in an attempt to relieve the pain she had had for many years. She died at North Florida Regional Hospital, Gainesville. Burial was at Charlotte Harbor.

Submitted by her husband of 52 years, The Rev. Charles L. Peck

### **ALDA LARUE SOMERS VANDERWATER**

Alda Larue Somers Vanderwater was born to Ella May Neu and George Edward Somers, on a farm near the village of Castleton, in Stark County, Illinois, on June 19, 1906. She graduated from Peoria High School in June 1923 and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Eureka (Illinois) College in June 1927. Despite being profoundly deaf from early childhood, Alda graduated as Salutatorian of her class. During her senior year at Eureka, Alda began dating Leonard Frederick Vanderwater, still a junior because of his service in World War I. Alda and Leonard were married on a Sunday afternoon, between his morning and evening student preaching duties, November 27, 1927, in Dansville, Illinois. After his graduation in June 1928, they hitchhiked from Illinois to Connecticut to attend

Hartford Seminary. Alda fell in love with New England's people and traditions. She and Leonard served a student parish at Bantam, Connecticut, during their Hartford years. She earned a Master of Arts in 1931. Leonard's first parish as an ordained minister was at Boulevard Christian Church in Miami, Florida, in May 1932. After he left that church, the young couple joined White Temple Methodist Church, Miami. A daughter named Khaleah Somers Vanderwater was born August 15, 1934. Leonard accepted the pastorate of the Methodist Church in Davenport, Florida, and the couple began serving the Davenport Church on July 1, 1935. Alda's primary role was one she loved dearly: that of "Preacher's Wife." She said to her daughter, "WE chose to serve." Their pastoral assignments took them all over Florida: Eustis, 1940; Melbourne, 1942; Jacksonville, 1946; Belle Glade, 1947; St. Augustine, 1951; Cocoa, 1952; Haines City, 1956; New Port Richey, 1959; Roseland, 1963; and, after Leonard's retirement, they served the Port St. John church from 1973 until June 1985.

Alda taught school in many of their parishes, especially when she was needed. Her first job was teaching third grade in Davenport. All of the rest of her career was spent with first graders, teaching them to read, write, and do arithmetic, and the multitude of life lessons that six-year-olds must learn. During the 1940s in Melbourne, she and one other teacher divided 80 students into two classrooms of 40 each! Every one of those children learned to read. Alda taught at Tropical Elementary School on Merritt Island during the 1950s. While the Merritt Island school was being built, the Cocoa Elementary school building became Merritt Island Elementary in the afternoons. Despite it being the "sleepy" time of the day for the little ones, again every one of them learned to read well, and an astonishing number of these particular children earned graduate degrees 18 and 20 years later. Alda taught first grade during the couples' New Port Richey years. She worked as a substitute teacher in Frontenac during their Roseland years.

Both Alda and Leonard loved traveling. They began in 1928 and their last trip was to England in 1989. They were so thrilled to be living in this remarkable century. They studied the history and learned as much as they could about each of the 50 United States before visiting there. They drove a camper up the Alcan Highway to Alaska. They visited Hawaii twice. Group tours included one to New Zealand, Australia, and the Fiji Islands. The trip that ranked as Alda's all-time favorite was twelve days on a mailboat going in and out of the Norwegian fiords and up around the North Cape to within a few miles of Russia. Alda was an avid reader and had a lifelong love of learning. With Leonard, she spent five summers during the 1980's at Mansfield College, Oxford University, England.

Alda Vanderwater died in Wuesthoff Hospital, Rockledge, Florida, on May 14, 1998. Her memorial service was held on May 23, with The Rev. Trall Heitzenrater presiding, and The Rev. Robert Atchley, The Rev. Kenneth Cocker, The Rev. John Davenport and Dr. Raymond Finklea participating. On May 24, the Rev. Kenneth Cocker committed her ashes through word and song in the Memorial Garden of The First United Methodist Church of Melbourne, which she loved so much.

*Exerant omnes. Acta est fabula. Dominus vobiscum.*

Submitted by: Khaleah Vanderwater Bryant, Daughter

## **GLADYS HILL WALLER**

Gladys Hill Waller was born July 23, 1910 near Stilwell, Oklahoma. Her parents were Rev. Benjamin Thomas Hill and Matilda Ann Price Hill. Gladys' maternal grandmother was 1/8 Cherokee Indian. This aspect of her ancestry evoked interest and pride for her and her four older sisters and one younger brother.

Gladys moved with her family to Pomona, California in 1927 where she graduated from High School and Junior College. In Pomona she attended the Holt Avenue Methodist, and that small church had a profound influence upon several young adults. As a result, six enrolled at Scarritt College for Christian Workers in Nashville, Tennessee. Gladys helped to defray her expenses by serving as the telephone switchboard operator for the college. From the group of six evolved two missionaries, a Methodist pastor and wife, and two young ladies, each of whom married a young Methodist preacher.

Gladys received her BA degree from Scarritt in June 1937 and was employed by the Women's Division of the Board of Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church South. She was assigned to work one year with 17 rural churches in the area around Eldorado, Arkansas.

On the night of September 9, 1938 in the Scarritt College Chapel in a ceremony with Dr. Harry H. Waller as officiating clergyman, Gladys Hill was one of the young ladies from the little Holt Avenue Methodist Church in Pomona, California to marry a Methodist minister. For forty years Gladys served lovingly, faithfully and effectively as "the preacher's wife" in the following churches: Silver Palm, Perrine and Princeton, 1938-1942; Kissimmee, '42-'46; Winter Garden, '46-'51; Bartow, '51-'55; Orlando District '55-'59; Clearwater '59-'64; Jacksonville District '64-'70; Sarasota '70-'75; Hollywood '75-'78. For a few years Gladys wrote a weekly article based on International Sunday School lessons for approximately thirty newspapers in several states.

After forty happy years in Florida, she enjoyed retirement in Macon, Georgia. For eighteen years she helped with visitation to Centenary United Methodist members who were physically unable to attend church. For three years she served as "pastor's wife" of The Doles United Methodist Church in Macon. With her quiet and modest ways Gladys was always loved by the people.

Illness and pain were not strangers to her. It seemed she had more health problems than any person could endure. Through them all, Gladys was blessed in most remarkable and surprising ways with quick recoveries - thanks be to God for His healing and divine help.

Her physical life came to an end on October 13, 1998 after breaking her hip in a fall two days previously. The interment in the Rose Hill Cemetery in Macon was a private service with only the family attending. An hour later the memorial service was conducted in the Centenary United Methodist Church on October 16, 1998 with Rev. Edwin Smith, pastor, and Dr. Laudis Rick Lanford, former pastor, officiating at both services. Survivors are: Husband, Jesse E. Waller; children

Jesse E. Waller, Jr., Gladys Annabeal Waller Lefler, David Thomas Waller; four grandchildren and one great grandchild.  
Submitted by: Jesse E. Waller, husband

### **MIRIAM TOWER WISEMAN**

Miriam Tower Wiseman was born on October 11, 1912 on Martha's Vineyard Island, Mass. Her grandfather, Madison Edwards, was the founder and first chaplain of the Seaman's Bethel, a mission outreach to sailors located at Vineyard Haven, Mass. Miriam's father, Austin Tower, was the next Bethel Chaplain, serving until his retirement in 1957.

Miriam grew up on Martha's Vineyard, leaving after High School to attend Simmons College in Boston where she trained as a registered nurse. She worked for several years as a Public Health Nurse and in various hospitals throughout New England.

In 1943, Miriam Tower became the wife of the Rev. George William Wiseman who was pastoring the Oak Bluffs and Chilmark Methodist Churches at the time. For the next ten years the Wisemans served several pastorates in New England. During that time their family grew to include three daughters, Joanne, Donna and Dianne.

