Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

2016 Journal
Memoirs

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Memoirs

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Clergy

Jerry Franklin Anderson

Rev. Anderson was born August 30, 1939 in Lufkin, Texas, and passed away May 18, 2016 at home in Lufkin. He was the son of Jake Watson “J.W.” Anderson and Dora Emma “Tennie” (Goodman) Anderson.

Rev. Anderson attended Lufkin High School, Lon Morris College and Stephen F. Austin State University, where he earned BS and MS degrees. He also earned a Master of Divinity from Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth.

Rev. Anderson was a school teacher for 19 years. After receiving a call to ministry he pastored United Methodist Churches for 37 years, serving Bronson Circuit, Flint, Golden/Alba, Redwater, Beckville/Allison Chapel, Payne Springs, Corrigan/Moscow, Rehobeth in Carthage, Stewart Memorial in Buffalo and Dew. His current appointment was Homer United Methodist Church in Lufkin. Rev. Anderson was also a chaplain for the Order of St. Luke and a member of the Kiwanis Club.

His hobbies were gardening, fishing and woodworking, but most of all he enjoyed spending time with family and friends.

Rev. Anderson is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Kate McFerrin (Ogden) Anderson of Lufkin; daughter, Christina Anderson Heyduck and son-in-law, Dr. Richard Heyduck of Longview; sons, Jerry Maxfield Anderson of Austin and Curtis McFerrin Anderson of Bedford; beloved grandchildren, Emily Kate Heyduck, Paul Wesley Heyduck, Hannah Ruth Heyduck, Iona Taylor Anderson and Jonah Jake Anderson; brother, Rev. James Willard Anderson and sister-in-law Annette Anderson of Lufkin; uncle, Claud Goodman of Fort Worth; aunt, Mittie Segrest Goodman of Lufkin; and numerous other relatives.

Submitted by Christina Anderson Heyduck, daughter
Lloyd Wayne Bonner

Rev. Bonner was born December 27, 1943 in Cherokee County, Texas to the late H.O. and Louzell (Maines) Bonner, and died Wednesday, June 17, 2015 in a local hospital. He had resided in Hudson most of his life. Rev. Bonner had been in the Methodist ministry for 40 years. He was appointed minister in various Methodist churches in the East Texas area, most recently at Bethlehem First United Methodist Church, where he served as minister for 18 1/2 years. He was very active with the Emmaus Walk for many years. Rev. Bonner was passionate about the Angelina County Jail ministry and worked closely with the Drug Court program headed by Judge Paul White. He was also a former Mayor of Hudson. Rev. Bonner loved children and youth, and was very active in the youth baseball and softball leagues in Hudson. His children and grandchildren were very dear to him and he was proud of all their accomplishments.

Survivors include his wife, Vernell Bonner of Hudson; son and daughter-in-law, Bubba and Sonia Bonner of Hudson; daughters and sons-in-law, Teah and Brian Bowling of Hudson and Darla and Todd Partin of Texarkana; grandchildren and spouses, Derek and Toni Bonner, Paige Bonner, Sascha and Chris McFarland, Dylan Lewis, Derrick McGowen, Matthew Bowling, Luke Bowling, Emily Bowling, Zach Partin, and Hailee Partin; great-granddaughter, Ema Bowling; brother, Curtis Bonner of Homer; sister and brother-in-law, Martha and Kenneth Dunn of Sanger; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Carrol and Tena Deaton of Hudson; and numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Terry Bonner; sister, Elaine Powell; and sister-in-law, Myra Bonner. Pallbearers will be Derek Bonner, Derrick McGowen, Matthew Bowling, Luke Bowling, Zach Partin and Kyle Deaton. Honorary pallbearers will be Danny Vines, Matt Vines, Robert Smith, Chris Smith, Larry Goodwin and Roy Burch.

L.B. Broach, III

The Reverend L.B. Broach, III was born July 30, 1924, in Pittsburg, Texas, the eldest son of L.B. Broach, Jr. and Margaret Wylie Broach. He passed away on July 2, 2015.

L.B. graduated from Perkins School of Theology and was ordained in May 1948 as an elder in the Texas Annual Conference. In 1952, L.B. wed Lucille Alexander, in Dallas, Texas, and they were blessed with two daughters. L.B. faithfully served as a Methodist minister throughout East Texas until his retirement in June 1993 to Plano, Texas. Pastorates included Methodist churches in Quitman (First), Caldwell (First), Tyler (Pleasant Retreat), Port Arthur (St. Mark’s), Crockett (First), Houston (St. Marks), Nacogdoches (First), Marshall (First), and Henderson (First). L.B. also served as the Palestine District Superintendent in the early 1980s. L.B. excelled at pastoral care and administration and won many hearts through his “gentle and quiet spirit.” After retiring, L.B. and Lucille loved hosting their 5 grandsons in their home on Friday nights, where L.B. frequently grilled steaks. He and Lucille were active members of the Disciples Sunday School Class at Christ United Methodist Church in Plano, Texas. A lifelong Rotarian, L.B. served as President of the Nacogdoches Rotary Club in the early 70’s. After his retirement he was an active member of the Plano Rotary Club, also assisting in the organization of the Allen Sunrise
Rotary Club. While we here grieve your passing, L.B., we celebrate your earthly life modeling a beautiful reflection of Christian servant hood. We rejoice in the assurance that you are worshiping at the feet of Jesus.

L.B. is survived by his wife Lucille Broach, daughters Cyndi O’Bannon and her husband Steve and Pamela Peck, grandchildren Micah O’Bannon and his wife Dara, Walter O’Bannon and his wife Shannon, Ricky O’Bannon, Kirk O’Bannon and Alex Peck. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Richard Broach.

Rex Mervin Carleton

Rex Carleton was born Sept. 19, 1937, in Pinckneyville, Ill., and died in Montgomery County, Texas, on Nov. 25, 2015. After his “official” retirement from the ministry, Rex and his wife Marj, settled in Panorama Village near Conroe, Texas. He was a familiar sight at FUMC - Willis, even as he cared for Marj in her final years, and ministered to many, many patients at Conroe Regional Medical Center. Also in “retirement,” Rex drove each Sunday and countless other days of the week to pastor Durkee United Methodist Church in Houston. Few people knew that each of those steps in Conroe and countless other hospitals were physically painful to Rex, who suffered crippling injuries in a car accident early in his career.

In all, Rev. Carleton served more than a dozen United Methodist churches in Texas, Iowa and Kansas. Some of those who remember him best, however, are the students at Stephen F. Austin State University Wesley Foundation. Reports show some 16 students active during the time he headed the foundation went into Methodist ministries.

Rex Carleton is remembered as a peacemaker, who exemplified and emphasized God’s grace in every role he played as a pastor. He was preceded in death by his wife Marjorie Gray Carleton, and is survived by his son John Carleton and wife Jan; daughters Dee Carleton, Betty Greger and husband Ross, Kathy Snyder and husband Bill; his sister Jane Ann Mann and her daughter Michelle. Many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and other relatives also survive.

Submitted by family
Joseph Fredrick Cox

Born in Galveston, Texas (1917), Rev. Dr. Joseph Fredrick Cox was the twelfth of thirteen children of Tyler and Annetta Cox. Prior to his second birthday, the family moved to Houston where Joseph was educated in the Houston Public Schools. After graduating from Washington High School he joined the Civilian Conservation Corps where he assisted with the construction of parks, roads and other community development projects.

Following the C. C. C., Joseph served four years as Mailman Third Class in the United State Navy. Upon receiving an honorable discharge he enrolled in Texas College for Negroes (now Texas Southern University) and studied Business Administration. As a collegian, in his words, he “…recognized God’s call to preach.”

Therein, the path of his life was set. He received a Local Preacher’s License from the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1946 and became an ordained Elder seven years later. The words he preached were proudly lived.

“I strongly believe in helping all people to seek peace and obtain social and economic justice,” he once professed. That mission was personified often, including standing with Wiley College students during the civil rights movement – an effort that branded him “Marshall’s Militant Preacher”. At the time, he was pastoring Ebenezer Methodist Church.

In Beaumont, Texas while pastoring McCabe Methodist Church, he participated in the Ride-along Police Patrol program. While pastoring Wesley Tabernacle, he was named Galveston NAACP’s Man of the Year. He proudly participated in the desegregation effort of the United Methodist Church by assisting with the merger of the Texas and Gulf Coast Conferences.

His pastorates include: St. Andrews, St. Marks (twice), Jones Memorial, St. Mary’s, Calvary and Trinity East (Houston); Ebenezer (Marshall), McCabe (Beaumont), and Wesley Tabernacle (Galveston). He successfully steered several congregations’ building projects. In 1988, Dr. Cox retired after serving as District Superintendent of the Houston South District. Post-retirement, he served as interim pastor at Pleasantville, Brooks Chapel, Shaw Tabernacle, Wesley, Trinity East, Love, and St. James.

In 2015, he celebrated 31 years of marriage to Billie Manning Cox. He was father to one daughter (Bobby), four sons (Frederic, Joseph Jr., Harold and Donald) and three grandchildren (Sharif, Derek and Kitrina.)

His lengthy list of recognitions includes an honorary Doctor of Divinity (1983), and recognition from the United States Congress. Dr. Cox is buried in the Houston Veteran’s Memorial Cemetery.

Submitted by: Donald J. Norman-Cox, son
Laralee Dehart

Laralee – like her sisters Ruthanne, Sherilyn and Carolee – was given a double first name when she was born, on January 31, 1968 in Florence, Alabama. She started her formal education before she entered the world officially, spending her prenatal time with mother Mickey at the local university. She was reading by her third birthday and continued her education through undergrad, seminary, becoming a CPA, chaplain and ordained deacon in the United Methodist Church.

Laralee lived her life on the move, always in pursuit of new adventures. Alabama, North Carolina, Virginia, New York, Florida, Louisiana and Texas were all home to her. Status quo was not her calling: ushering in the Kingdom of God was.

On her many pursuits, she welcomed many companions who provided a lot of encouragement. She definitely moved with a higher calling to succeed – as evidenced by her vocational and educational efforts.

Working hard was a calling she embedded in daughters Morgan, Audrey and Harper, and her calling to parenting was pursued with the same vigor. Her girls now exhibit a lot of her gifts, like compassion, adventure and determination.

2015 brought serious health issues that were beyond her and everyone’s control. Thankfully those issues did not dampen her determined spirit. We are blessed that she recorded a lot of her vision. Her writings can be treasured and shared. One of her last messages was:

“For many years my life verse has been Philippians 1:6, ‘Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.’ Not only is God doing something amazing in the world but God is doing something amazing in us. And the two are intimately intertwined. We get to be part of God’s plan to bring heaven to earth, and in the process we get a little more heaven-like ourselves. Pretty awesome.

So on this Thanksgiving Day, I give thanks for my temporarily unremarkable health, for none of us will be unremarkably healthy forever. But even more, I give thanks for a life that is anything but. I want to live life like it’s the only one I’ve got, because guess what, it is!

May each of us live today and every day ‘to the full,’ carrying out the good work that Christ has already begun in us. Amen”

With her life, we were gifted. We will terribly miss her touch, but we can keep her spirit alive, by being part of God’s plan to bring heaven to earth.

Laralee passed from this life on December 7, 2015.

Submitted by Morgan Dehart, daughter
James Harold Ellison was born in Hubbard, Texas, the son of Lee and Dora (Runnels) Ellison on October 25, 1924. He grew up in Hillsboro where he threw newspapers from his bicycle, worked in the general store, and learned to play the trumpet. He attended Hill Junior College in Hillsboro and Southwestern University in Georgetown before enlisting in the US Army Air Corps. He was in the invasion of Okinawa on Easter Sunday, April 1, 1945 and served there until World War II ended, when he was honorably discharged. He graduated from SMU in Dallas with a Bachelor of Divinity degree and earned Master of Theology degrees from SMU and TCU in Fort Worth.

As a member of the Central Texas and Texas Conferences, he held pastoral appointments at Northside Methodist in Georgetown, a multi-church circuit based in Waxahachie, First Methodist Churches in Bynum, Bethel, Bartlett, Ranger, Olney, McGregor, Hurst, Stephenville, St. Mark’s in Cleburne and Ridglea in Fort Worth. He was associate pastor of St. Luke’s in Houston. He met Lillie Marie Taylor as pastor of her family’s church in Bynum. They married on April 16, 1949 at First Methodist in Hillsboro and had daughters, Martha Linette and Mary Elizabeth, two grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

James served on the Board of Missions and other national Methodist committees. He served on city and county governing boards, working with community leaders and other clergy to facilitate fair representation for all and providing clergy perspective and leadership in matters of civil rights. He was recognized by the Fort Worth Police Department in the 1960’s and 1970’s and by the City of Houston for service on the Police Advisory Committee in the 1980’s.

James raised funds to build a church facility for the Emerson Methodist Mission congregation, comprised primarily of Comanche Indians, near Lawton, Oklahoma, and was recognized as an honorary Chief. The tribe presented him with a chieftain’s headdress with matched eagle feathers and ermine tails.

James attained chaplaincy credentials after studying at Parkland Hospital in Dallas and Harris Hospital in Fort Worth. He served as Chaplain of the Tarrant County Hospital District, John Peter Smith Hospital and Elmwood Hospital in Fort Worth through the 1960’s and 1970’s. He was a Licensed Professional Counselor and a Marriage and Family Therapist pursuing this ministry at St. Luke’s United Methodist Church in Houston.

James was a loving husband and father, mentor, advocate, neighbor and friend. The church and its missions were central in his life. He assisted many in personal growth and healing through faith and theology. He was a great storyteller, quick-witted with a wonderful sense of humor, and he enjoyed hiking, boating, and golf, celebrating 2 holes in one!

He passed away on September 18, 2015 and is buried at Houston National Cemetery.

Submitted by Linette Casey and Elizabeth Edd, daughters
James William Foster

James William (Jim) Foster, 10/6/1949-12/27/2015. A native Houstonian, Jim graduated Westbury High School; Southwestern University, Georgetown, TX; Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University.

A dedicated, loving husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, friend and mentor, Jim touched the hearts of all who met him as evidenced at the Annual Conference Memorial Service with the majority of those attending standing when Jim’s name was called. Jim enjoyed life and loved his friends, making a point to keep in touch, always ending conversations asking, “What can I do for you?” Most of all, Jim loved his family, and he absolutely loved being Chloe’s Papaw.

Serving 40 years in ministry, Jim had great love for the Texas Annual Conference—serving Thorndale Circuit; St. Paul's-Houston; Memorial Drive-Houston; Pleasant Retreat-Tyler; Ashford-Houston; St. Peter's-Katy; nine years-TAC Area Provost with Bishops Hearn, Norris, Huie; John Wesley-Houston. Jim was elected delegate to four General and Jurisdictional Conferences. He served numerous UMC boards and agencies including Board of Trustees-Southwestern University; Houston Methodist Hospital; Board Chair-Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital; UMC General Board of Global Ministries; TAC Board of Ordained Ministry. Jim’s extensive knowledge of the Book of Discipline led him to ask a Question of Law at Annual Conference. He was successful in his 2010 presentation before the Judicial Council. Jim was 2005 Distinguished Alumnus at Southwestern University. In 2005 Jim became involved with the Center for Courage & Renewal, Seattle, WA, serving as a facilitator.

Diagnosed with esophageal cancer in March 2015, Jim faced his cancer journey with optimism and strong faith, continuing to provide his usual strong leadership at John Wesley UMC, even in the event of a devastating fire, his diagnosis and his upcoming retirement.

Jim is survived by his wife, Rosemarie Williams Foster; daughter Stacye Foster, daughter and son-in-law Stefanie and Larry Ciabattari, and 3 granddaughters.

2 Timothy 2:15--Jim’s touchstone throughout his ministry: “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”

Submitted by Rosemarie, wife, Stacye and Stefanie Foster, daughters

Louis Ross Gant, Jr.

Louis Ross Gant, Jr. 87, of Holly Lake Ranch, TX went to be with the Lord on Saturday morning, January 30, 2016, in Tyler, TX. Louis was born in Lake Charles, LA to the late Louis Ross Gant, Sr. and late Flora Lee Wright. While attending Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, TX, he met the love of life, Barbara Ann Holt, on a blind date. They were later married on September 7, 1949 in Nacogdoches. They had two children, the late LouAnn Gant Wassall and Robert Louis Gant.

Louis Attended Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, TX and received his Masters from Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, TX. He began his ministry in 1950 with the Texas Conference as a local pastor on the Nacogdoches Circuit and at Richards-Montgomery. He served in the Texas and Kansas
West Conferences. In Texas, he served Churches at Pineland, Bay City, Linden, Longview, and Bay Town. In 1968, he moved to Kansas where he served First United Methodist Church in Wichita, St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Wichita, Liberal, and Dodge City. In 1987, he became the Superintendent for the Hays District. He returned to Texas to serve at Texarkana until he retired in 1992. During retirement, he served at Holly Tree Chapel in Holly Lake Ranch for eight years.

Louis loved fishing, singing, reading, preaching, golfing and enjoying time with family and friends. He had a good sense of humor and quick wit. To know him was to love him. Louis was preceded in death by his daughter, brother and sister, and his parents. Those left to cherish their memories of Louis include his beloved wife, Barbara Ann Gant of Tyler, TX; son and daughter-in-law, Rob and Elizabeth Gant of Liberal, KS; five grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and numerous friends.

**Robert Davis Joiner, Jr.**

Reverend Dr. Robert “Bob” Davis Joiner, Jr. was born on July 21, 1929 to Robert and Effie (Sue) Harwell Joiner. He grew up in Gilmer and Tyler, Texas. Bob was a graduate of John Tyler High School, Southwestern University, Southern Methodist University and Drew University. Bob was married to Kathryn “Kay” Wolfer Joiner for 61 years. Their children were: Mia Joiner-Moore and spouse, Liz Moore; Mike Joiner and spouse, Kathy; and Misa Batcheller and spouse, Craig. Bob and Kay have four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Bob passed away on August 7, 2015 and is buried at South Park Cemetery in Pearland, Texas.

Bob served as an ordained Methodist minister for 62 years. Bob proudly served as minister at: First Methodist Church, Pasadena; Holy Trinity UMC, Houston; Perritte Memorial UMC, Nacogdoches; St. Paul’s UMC, Baytown; Sunset UMC, Pasadena; League City UMC, League City; Canterbury UMC, Alief; Chapelwood UMC, Lake Jackson; and First UMC, Pearland.

Bob’s dedication to his community also included serving as a volunteer fireman in Nacogdoches and Houston and as a police chaplain in Pasadena. He was a member of Rotary and Optimist International. Bob could be found most days visiting the sick in hospitals, nursing homes, and shut-ins who could not make it to church. He was the true definition of a pastor; someone who watched over their church members as a shepherd watches over his flock. Bob is greatly missed by his family, his many church families and the communities he served.

*Submitted by: Mia Joiner-Moore, daughter*
Bill E. Leediker

Bill E. Leediker was born January 1, 1924 and passed away September 20, 2015, in Dallas. Growing up in Crockett, Texas, Bill achieved the unique distinction of lettering for the Crockett Bulldogs’ football team all four years that he was in high school.

After three years of college and ministering to many small congregations and circuits around the Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church, Bill joined the Marines and drove a tank while serving in the US occupation force in China. After the war, Bill finished his education at Stephen F Austin University and then attended the Perkins School of Theology at SMU.

While preaching a revival during the fall of 1946, he met the love of his life, a young school teacher named Yvonne Coussons from Hemphill. The two were happily married until Yvonne passed in December, 2014. Both are interred at Lakeview Methodist Assembly Cemetery.

Bill’s two favorite appointments were the First Methodist Churches in Mineola and in Palestine – staying over 8 years at each.

Bill and Yvonne are the proud parents of four children: Vonnie Schmitt, Vicki Hassenzahl, Marc E. Leediker, and Kent M. Leediker. They are also survived by six grandchildren and five great-children.

Submitted by Marc Leediker, son

Donald Lee Mitchell


Donald was born in Weatherford, Oklahoma on December 3, 1939. After graduation from college, he worked for National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) as the financial management officer. After retiring from NASA in 1994, He became an ordained pastor of the Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church in 1995 and in 1997. Donald served as a pastor of Pirtle UMV, Laird Hill UMC, Henderson UMC, Lufkin UMC and retired from the Texas Conference in 2003. In 2006, he moved to Galveston, Texas and then moved to Spring, Texas to live with his daughter, Jennifer, in 2010. Donald also served in the National Guard of the United States in 1963 and was honorably discharged in 1968.

Left to cherish Donald's memory are his daughters Jennifer Cradit (Mark Cradit), Carrie Wilburn (Michael Wilburn); three very special grandchildren, Mathew Cradit, Laura Cradit and Tiffany Wilburn; sister Bernice Moore; and brother Bob Mitchell.
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Eugene Carl Murphy

Reverend Eugene Carl Murphy began his life on January 6, 1934, to Clarence and Zula Murphy in Jefferson, Marion County, Texas. He passed away on June 2, 2015.

After completing his elementary and high school education at Macedonia School, he graduated in 1952. He attended Prairie View A&M University. Reverend Murphy served in the United States Army from 1955 to 1957. He also attended Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia and SMU in Dallas, Texas. Reverend Murphy graduated from Wiley College in 1975.

His employment spanned many fields: Lone Star Steel Company, Red River Pipeline, and he served as a United Methodist Minister for over 30 years in the Texas Conference. Reverend Murphy retired in 1996. He was an auto mechanic, an avid hunter, a fisherman, and a great cook.

Reverend Murphy was preceded in death by his parents, Clarence and Zula Murphy; his brothers: Wilburn Murphy, Felton Murphy, George Murphy, Ray Murphy, Edward Charles (Dee) Murphy, Charlie Ray Murphy; one sister; Dollie Morrow.

He leaves to cherish his memories: wife, Violet Murphy; children: Eugenia Butler (James), David Murphy (Murl), Vicki Austin (Woody), Eric Murphy (Ellena), Danny Murphy (Sonya), Anthony Murphy, Shelby Murphy, Gerald Murphy, Kenneth Harris, Marjorie Miller, Ronnie Harris (Tania), Cedric Harris (Berolyn), Stephen Paul Mitchell (VerShunda) and Angela Anthony (Devin); brothers: Adolphus Murphy, Ray Calvin Murphy (Guida), Arthur Murphy, Sheldon Murphy (Ngan); sisters: Claudine Harris (Otis) and Pamela Murphy, a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and many relatives and friends.

Submitted by Violet Murphy, wife and family

Harvey Rudolph Pace, II

Rev. Harvey Rudolph Pace, II, “Rudy” died on Tuesday June 2nd 2015, at the age of 83, at home with his family, in Lake Charles, La. He is buried in the family plot in Marion, South Carolina. Rudy was born June 21, 1931, in Pomona Park, FL, to Harvey Rudolph Pace and Aileen Middleton Pace. He married Joyce Merle Johnson of Sonora, TX, on August 26, 1960, at Munger Place Methodist Church in Dallas, TX. A graduate of Crescent City High School, Crescent City, FL, and University of Florida (B.A. Speech & Theatre), he also began graduate studies before joining the army. He served in the U.S. Army as a Medic, 1954-1956 – stationed for 18 months in Germany. He then received a Masters of Theology from S.M.U.’s Perkins School of Theology in 1959.


After retirement in 1996, Rudy, Joyce and oldest son Dolph who has Down’s syndrome, moved to Marion, South Carolina. He was named “Pastor Emeritus” of Marion First UMC. After several years in Marion, he, Joyce and Dolph moved to Abilene, Texas to be near son Robert and his family, then moved to be near daughter Joy in Lake Charles, LA, in 2011.

Submitted by Violet Murphy, wife and family
Throughout his life and in each of the towns he ministered, Rev. Rudy Pace was also active in a variety of other functions. A few of those include Boy Scout leader, volunteer firefighter and EMT, a member of Ministerial Fellowship, Churches United in Caring, a long time affiliate of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) organizations. One of his great joys in Abilene was working as the gardener at “Buffalo Gap Historic Village.” Though a member of St. Paul’s UMC with his family, Rev. Pace was briefly out of retirement in order to serve as minister to Epworth UMC.

He is survived by his loving wife, Joyce Johnson Pace; son Dolph Pace; son Robert Pace and wife Jill Walters, daughter Joy Pace and partner Carolyn Woosley; & granddaughter Catherine Keirsey Pace.

Submitted by Joy Pace, daughter

Rev. Michael Richard Proctor

Michael Proctor was born on July 10, 1952, in Coleman, Texas, to Sandra and Billie Proctor, and grew up in Burleson, Texas. A wonderful pianist, Mike earned a degree in music from Tarleton State University in 1974 to become a band director. He answered the call to the ministry and earned a Master of Divinity from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in 1985.

Even as Mike turned to ministry, his love of music remained, and he delighted in the music of the church. He played piano solos at church services, arranged music for Easter orchestras, and absolutely reveled in the beauty of the Easter cantatas. Music became another way for him to worship and serve God.

Mike’s achievements in the churches and communities he served throughout the Texas Conference are numerous, and he was recognized repeatedly for his work. His past charges include United Methodist Churches in the Kosse-Reagan Charge, the Colfax Circuit, Emory, Diboll, and Bridge City. For the last seventeen years, he served the community of Baytown, which included leading the congregation of St. Mark’s through the construction of new church buildings, serving on the Board and as a chaplain for the San Jacinto Methodist Hospital, and serving as a chaplain for the Baytown Police Department.

Above all, Mike’s ministry was driven by his great love for people. That love was expressed in Mike’s great booming laugh that rang through the walls of the churches he served. He had a profound ability to love without reserve, which has had a lasting impact on so many. Perhaps the greatest evidence of his love for people is how profoundly that love was returned to him and his family in his times of need.

Mike passed away on May 20, 2015, after a three-week battle with heart disease. He was preceded in death by his parents and grandson, Dakota Proctor. He is survived by his beloved wife, Cathie; children, Rochelle Bradley, Billie Richard Proctor, Mathew West, and Nathan West; siblings, Pamela Smith, Patricia Bowen, and Mitchel Proctor; and eight grandchildren. His ashes are inurned in the St. Mark’s United Methodist Columbarium in Baytown, Texas.

Oliver Wendell Holmes said that “the charm of music dwells not in the tones but in the echoes of our hearts.” Like the music that Mike loved, the charms and blessings of his life will long echo in the hearts of those who loved him.

Submitted by Rochelle Bradley, daughter
Lawrence David Smith, Sr.

Lawrence David Smith, Sr., 80, of Bryan, Texas passed away on Tuesday, October 20 at the college Station Medical Center. Lawrence was born September 28, 1935 in Longview, Texas to James York and Nann Smith. He grew up in Jacksonville, Texas and graduated from high school in 1953.

He attended Lon Morris College where he met his life partner, Mary Margaret Garner of Palestine. He graduated from Stephen F. Austin University in 1957 and married Mary Margaret on June 1, 1957. He taught school in west Columbia, Texas for three years, and then found a home at Milby High School in Houston where he taught for 30 years. He retired from Houston ISD in 1990 and was called to the ministry in the Methodist Church. He became a local pastor and served at Zion UMC in Iola for one year where he received the Bishop’s Award for Evangelism, Cooks Point UMC for seven years, and then as an associate pastor at A&M UMC. Lawrence loved his years of teaching with many of his former students still in his life. He also found great joy in serving small churches and loving the people he met. He was very blessed to enjoy his retirement with family and friends at the lake, hosting the retired ministers group, church small group, as well as youth and college groups.

He was proud of his family and stayed close to his sons, David and wife Janice, James, Alan and wife Lori Smith, five grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. He and Mary Margaret were married 58 years and worked together serving others. He was laid to rest in the Ministers Cemetery at Lakeview Conference Center.

Submitted by Mary Margaret Smith, wife

Eugene Cornelius Steger

Gene was born on March 12, 1935 and died on February 28, 2016. He was cremated and will be buried at Lakeview Cemetery later. He graduated from Texarkana, Texas Junior College; and he earned a BA in English from Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana. At Southern Methodist University he received a Bachelor's in Divinity. He received his Deacon's Orders in 1958 from Bishop A. Frank Smith and his Elder's Orders later also from Bishop A. Frank Smith.

Gene enjoyed teaching Bible studies. He particularly liked to preach without notes and he had a phenomenal memory for poetry and history. He loved all the churches that he served. He liked to remember Hallsville United Methodist Church and St. John's U.M.C. in Rockdale. We regretted that we didn't stay there long enough to have a street named for us (five years) as promised by Mayor Linwood Mehaffey. Gene was a child of the Great Depression Era. His family rode from town to town as his father looked for work in the oil fields. They lived in several places from Brownsville, TX to Pine Tree to Linden, TX to Centralia, IL. His mother, Gladys Elvana Russell Steger, cooked on a Coleman stove and washed clothes in a river or stream. She held a strong Christian faith nurtured by the United Methodist Church in Doddridge, Arkansas and Williams Memorial UMC in Texarkana Texas. They had roots in northeastern, Texas. His father, John Banker Steger, was kin to some carpenters and stone masons in the Atlanta area. Banker ran away from home as a teenager as his mother the beautiful Laura had died and he was passed from one aunt's family to another. So he joined the military service and lived in India and Panama as a young man. Gene really enjoyed fishing, sports, and watching Dallas Cowboys on TV. He was given a good welcome in most churches, and he
preached forty or more years in the Texas Conference. He had a pleasant Tenor voice and was invited to sing in many cantatas. His family remembers him with love says his wife of 57 years, Mary Lee Seedle Steger. Their three sons are: Richard Rian Steger and his wife Flo Barnes Steger of Kaufman, Phillip Todd Steger of Tyler, TX, and John Eugene Steger and Melissa Deans Steger of Gibsonia, Pennsylvania. The Steger’s had a large family of thirteen grandchildren and greatgrandchildren. Gene will be missed greatly, but considering how he suffered we would not have wished him to stay here.

Submitted by Mary Lee Steger, wife

Dwayne Allen Suter

Rev. Dr. Dwayne Allen Suter passed away surrounded by his family on Saturday, September 5, 2015. A child of the Great Depression, Dwayne was born July 15, 1932, in Carnegie, OK to Russell and Flora Suter. The youngest of three children, he grew up on a farm near Eakly, OK at the height of the Dust Bowl, where he helped farm cotton and maize, and raise cattle.

Dwayne graduated valedictorian of his high school class at Eakly, OK. He obtained BS, MS and PhD degrees in Agriculture Engineering at Oklahoma State University in 1955, 1956, and 1972, respectively. He was President of the Wesley Foundation while at OSU.

While attending OSU, he met Carol Bolton Suter at the Wesley Foundation. They were married on September 16, 1956 after he was able to convince her to travel half way around the world to spread God’s message. He and Carol studied at Garrett Theological Seminary at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL and later at the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX. Fulfilling his dream of becoming a missionary, they traveled to the Philippines, where they served as technical missionaries for 12 years in San Mateo, Isabela.

Dwayne and his family returned from the Philippines in 1969 to complete his PhD. He went on to serve as Associate Dean of Agriculture at Texas A&M University for 29 years, counseling several thousands of students, sometimes up to 30 students a day. At the request of Congressman Greg Laughlin, he provided major leadership in the establishment and development of the Agriculture & Natural Resources Policy Internship Program. He also found time to serve on the Board of Methodist Hospital.

He is preceded in death by his parents and his older brother Jack Suter. Survivors include his wife of almost 59 years, Carol Bolton Suter; daughters Deborah Hildebrand and son-in law David Hildebrand of Caldwell, TX, Linda Papadopoulos and son-in law John Papadopoulos of Forest, VA, and Sue James and son-in law Jim James of College Station, TX; grandchildren Mary Nowak of Washington, DC, Clayton Hildebrand of Caldwell, TX, Kathy Papadopoulos Quigley of Omaha, NE, Nicole Papadopoulos of Virginia Beach, VA, and Buck James of College Station; sister Joycle King of Binger, OK; several great grandchildren; and nieces and nephews.
Memoirs

Jerry Gus Vickers

Jerry Gus Vickers of Apache, Oklahoma was born September 17, 1939 in Kilgore, TX to Walter Gus and Ruby Nadine (Moore) Vickers. He passed away at his home in Apache on November 20th at the age of 76.

After graduating from high school, Jerry entered the military and served in the Army. After his service, he went to college and earned his Bachelor’s degree. He was married to Kathy Kimball and to this union, three children were born. He worked in the North Texas Conference of the First United Methodist Church. He served congregations in Marshall (Crossroads UMC), Redwater (UMC), Van Vleck (FUMC), Groveton (FUMC), Texarkana (Williams Memorial UMC), and Jefferson (FUMC). He also worked as a contractor, building homes in the Waskom, TX area. He married Anita Maria Anderson on March 23, 1979 in Tulsa, OK. Jerry belonged to the Lions Club and was a Rotarian before he retired from the ministry and moved to Apache with his wife. He was a carpenter, and enjoyed making cabinetry. Jerry was also an avid reader, collecting many books, especially Bibles. He also enjoyed watching western-themed movies and TV shows.

He is survived by his wife, Anita, of Apache, OK; son and his wife: Paul and Deanna Vickers of Irving, TX; daughter and her husband: DeeAnn and Robert Crow of Waskom, TX; step-children: Dawn and husband, Scott Smith, of Tulsa, OK; Kenneth and wife, Robyn McCreary, Jr. of Owasso, OK; grandchildren: Kayla Vickers, Paige and husband, Jeffrey Witte; Holly Vickers, Brittany Graham, Michael Vickers, Lane Copeland, Brooke Copeland; step-grandchildren: Scott Smith, Jr., Sarah Smith, Seth Smith, Shanon Smith, Joseph McCreary, Katrina McCreary, great-grandchildren: Hayden Cherry, Liam Cherry, Kimberly Vickers, and sister: Betty Jean Lewis Waskom, TX.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his son - John Vickers, and his brother - Joe Bob Vickers.

Submitted by Anita Vickers, wife and family

Douglas R. Walker

Douglas R. Walker was born on August 30, 1947. He passed away on April 1, 2016.

Douglas was licensed as a local pastor in 1996 and served as a Part-time local pastor for many years. He served at Point UMC till 2014. He is survived by his wife Regeana Walker.
Sylvan Merle Waters

Sylvan Merle Waters was born May 22, 1921 in San Antonio, Texas. Merle died on June 28, 2015 at the age of 94. He was the sixth and youngest child of Frederick Andrew Waters and Marie Antoinette Thomasson. He later attended Washington Irving Junior High, and then Thomas Jefferson High School, class of 1938. He worked his way through night school at St. Mary’s University and received his B.A. in History in 1944.

He married the one and only love of his life, Mildred Marie Atkins, on June 23, 1944 at Prospect Hill (now St. John's UMC) in San Antonio. The couple immediately moved to Dallas where Merle received his Master of Theology from the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in 1947.

Merle and Marie were under Episcopal appointment for over fifty-three years in the Methodist Itinerancy, both in the Southwest Texas Conference, now Rio Conference, and the Texas Conference. He began as a local pastor in 1941 and was ordained Elder in 1948. Churches served were Hutchins-Wilmer; Smiley-Westhoff; Smithville-West Point; New Braunfels; St. Mark's, San Antonio; St. John's, Austin; First Church, San Angelo; Bay City; Bethany, Houston; Atlanta, Texas; and after retirement at St. Andrew’s, San Antonio, where he was named Pastor Emeritus. He was on the committee that established Morningside Manor Retirement Home, and in 1964 was one of the first volunteer chaplains at the new Methodist Hospital. Merle served as chair of the Board of Evangelism; Board of Discipleship; Town and Country Commission; secretary of the Board of Missions; chair of Student Week at San Antonio College; and chair of the San Angelo District Council on Ministries.

He was preceded in death by his son, Mark Atkins Waters and Mark’s wife Kathy Webb, and by his siblings and their spouses: Vivian Waters and Ralph Foster, Crystal Waters and Delmer Motley, Frederick Waters and Elizabeth Lancaster, William Waters and Margaret Adelsperger, and Marie Waters and Murray Nevels.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Marie, of 71 years; their children: Carolyn Ruth Waters and husband George Morgan Hamilton III; Stephen Merle Waters; Thomas Douglas Waters, and his wife Claudia Boone Billings.

In the year 2000, the S. Merle and Marie A. Waters Endowment was established at Perkins School of Theology, SMU. This scholarship fund benefits anyone pursuing a calling to the clergy, regardless of race, gender, or denomination and has already helped dozens of aspiring ministers.

Submitted by Steve Waters, son
Memoirs

Damon Lee Wyatt

Rev. Damon L. Wyatt, 82, entered into eternal rest on Tuesday, May 5, 2015. Rev. Wyatt was born on April 7, 1933. He attended public school in Leggett and Livingston, Texas. He served in the US Army from 1953 to 1974. After studying at TSU, Houston Community College (graduated in 1979), and Prairie View A&M, he received his Bachelor of Theology Degree from Union Baptist Seminary in Houston in 1990.

Damon served in the Texas Annual Conference, retiring in 2003 from St. Paul’s UMC in Galveston, where he chose to continue serving until 2005.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Evelyn Wyatt in 2006.
Cecelia Sunshine Mann Bynum

Cecelia Sunshine Mann was born February 11, 1928, in Estelline, Texas, the daughter of a Methodist preacher. After receiving degrees from Southern Methodist University and Scarritt College, she married a Methodist preacher, Dan Bynum. Together they raised a family (including a Methodist preacher) as they served churches throughout East Texas. She was an educator in all she did, teaching kindergartners, second graders, elementary readers, Junior High English students, and always her own children. Sunshine loved her family, her dogs, gardening, sewing, and music—listening, singing, and playing the piano. She passed away very peacefully January 7, 2016.

Sunshine is preceded in death by her husband, Dan, and her brother, Jim. She is survived by her children, Dan and his wife Cynthia, Chris, James and his wife Kate, Cecelia and her husband Pete Smith, and Jonathan and his wife Lea. She is also survived by her sisters, Dorothy and Nan. She has eight grandchildren—Jesse, Julia, Matt, Erin, Joshua, Susanna, Luke, and Samuel—and two great-grandchildren—Valerie and Annakate.

Submitted by Jonathan Bynum, son

Wanda Lee Linville Coleman

Wanda Lee Linville Coleman died June 8, 2015. She was born August 16, 1931, in Fort Worth, Texas, to Claude Harrel Linville and Winnie Mae Smith Linville. She moved to Denton, Texas, at the age of 10. She graduated from Denton High School and North Texas State University.

As the wife of Alvis Coleman, a Methodist preacher who she married July 24, 1950, she moved with each new appointment. She added a teaching certificate to her resume in 1965 and taught in schools in Marshall, Newton, Cameron, Rosenberg, Grapeland and Caldwell. She was the mother of three sons and a daughter and stayed active in the community.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, grandson, Kristopher Coleman; and nephew, Kenneth Cogdell.

She is survived by sister, Gayle Cogdell and husband, James, of Round Rock; children, John Coleman and wife, Karen of Elgin, Allen Coleman of Richmond, Linda Smith and husband, Clint of Houston, Kelly Coleman and wife, Maureen of Fort Worth; as well as nine grandchildren, including Jessica Rogers and husband, Matthew of Farmers Branch, Scott Coleman of Austin and Lisa Coleman of Denton; and nine great-grandchildren, including Maecy Rogers and Jared Rogers of Farmers Branch.
Mary Lou Danheim

Mary Lou Danheim was born September 5, 1930 in Beaumont, Texas to Julius and Faye Deatherage Goines. Raised and schooled in Beaumont, Mary Lou graduated from South Park High School. She furthered her education at Lon Morris College, and graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Education from Sam Houston State University. Mary Lou was commissioned a US-2 missionary and was serving as the Children’s Director at the Wesley House when she met and later married Charles Wilbur Danheim on January 24, 1953. They celebrated over 63 years of marriage, raising 4 children and serving others throughout the Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church.

While Charles preached, Mary Lou taught kindergarten for 25 years throughout the Texas Conference. She retired from Conroe ISD where she was honored as the Outstanding Teacher in 1992. After retiring, Charles and Mary Lou spent their time traveling and serving the United Methodist Church through many different programs. She was a kind and loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend who loved to laugh and serve others.

Mary Lou passed away on April 21, 2016. She was preceded in death by her parents.

She is survived by her loving husband, Charles Danheim of Mt. Enterprise; children, Lu Mayfield and husband Dan of Arvada, CO, Griff Charles Danheim of Houston, Mark Ernest Danheim and wife Beth of Houston and Dan Danheim and wife Donna of The Woodlands; sister, Lila Faye McMillan of Brazoria County, 9 grandchildren, numerous other relatives and a host of friends.

Submitted by Charles Danheim, husband

Jenera Daviss

Jenera D. Daviss, 91 of Houston, TX passed away quietly in her home on April 15, 2016. She was born on March 31, 1925. She was preceded in death by her husband, Rev. Isaiah Thompson Daviss, Sr.
**Memoirs**

### Anita Dent

Anita Dent passed from this life on July 15, 2015, at Prestige Estates in Tyler. Anita was born on Oct. 22, 1921, in Henderson, the fourth of nine children born to James Allister and Lottie Lee Morris. She attended grade school at the Bethel Community School and graduated from Henderson High School. She then attended Kilgore College and completed her bachelor’s degree at Texas Woman's University. Later in life she received a master’s degree in library science from Sam Houston State University. Anita had expert library skills and a penchant for accumulating and cataloging sources of media. She established and maintained a church library for First United Methodist Church Pasadena and a book library for Clarewood Retirement Home in the Sharpstown area of Houston, as well as serving as a librarian in the Pasadena ISD for more than 20 years and San Jacinto College.

Anita and George Frank Dent were childhood friends and schoolmates, even though he was older by five years, and were later sweethearts. On Feb. 7, 1943, George had been drafted, and they chose to marry before he shipped out. So, on that Sunday, immediately after worship, before the congregation left, they said their vows and were married for 57 years until his death in 2000. George and Anita established residences in Henderson and later Pasadena and Houston where they lived for 48 years. She moved to Tyler in 2006 and was a member of Marvin United Methodist Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband, George Dent; parents, J. Al and Lottie Morris; son, David Dent; and siblings, Don Morris, Wendall Morris and Carolyn Morris Cooper.


### Lillie Bell Caywood Doss

Lillie Bell Doss, 90, of Austin, TX, formerly of Rockdale, TX, passed away Tuesday, September 15, 2015. She was born September 11, 1925. Lillie was married to Reverend George Edward Doss Jr.

She is predeceased by her parents, Albert Lee Caywood and Fannie Myrtle Caywood, her husband Reverend George Doss, brothers Herbert and Hubert Caywood, and sisters Bertha Williams, Ella Myrtle Caywood, and Ivy Mae Laurence. Survivors include her children, Gloria Jean Hooper, Gelinda Carol Fincher and Timothy Doss, and grandchild Ami Hooper.
Frances Fagan

Frances Rivers Fagan was born December 19, 1918, to Myrtle Nail Rivers and Joel Stafford Rivers in Daingerfield, Texas. She died October 25, 2015, in Deer Park, Texas. She was a graduate of Daingerfield High School and the Dallas School of Business and taught typing after graduation. Frances worked as a secretary and bookkeeper until 1943 when she married Reverend Harold Fagan, in Douglas, Texas.

Harold and Frances served many Methodist Churches in the Texas Conference including: Douglasville, Hawkins, Grand Saline, Rusk, Texarkana, Houston (St. Marks), Marshall, Houston (Park Place), Nacogdoches, Baytown, and Pasadena. Frances was an integral part of the ministry in each of these appointments. In recent years, she was an active member of Deer Park United Methodist Church and the United Methodist Women where she served in leadership positions both locally and district-wide, twice as President. As well as her extensive volunteer work at the churches she served. What Frances loved best was to "baby sit" her five granddaughters. She had a passion for helping other people and worked tirelessly as a reading tutor for local elementary schools. She was also a lifetime supporter of Texas Children's Hospital and Publishers Clearing House.

Frances was fiercely supportive of her family and took great pride in their accomplishments-keeping every news article ever written about each of them. She is survived by children Joel Fagan, David Fagan, Pat Wright and husband Steve, and son-in-law Jim Keal; grandchildren Lindsay (Fagan) Haygood and husband Andy; Kristen (Keal) Dunigan and husband Sean; Tracy (Keal) Melton and husband Clint; Shelby Wright and Mackenzie Wright; and two great grandchildren Tyler Haygood and Drew Dunigan. She was preceded in death by her husband, Harold and her daughter, Fran Fagan Keal.

Frances was generous, caring and intelligent. She enjoyed watching ball games - especially the Astros and Rockets - and beating everyone at dominoes. Frances loved without condition and was loved in return.
Ouida P. Holt

Mrs. Holt passed away August 29, 2015 in Tyler.

She was born January 25, 1930 in Shelby County to Ross and Lovie Mae Bowlin Plemons. Ouida moved to the Dallas area in the early 50’s, raising a family of three in the suburb of Irving. She moved to Cedar Creek Lake in the mid 70’s and then in 1997 to Athens. For a great portion of her life she was a sales professional working in the cosmetics industry. At the age of 55 she went back to school to secure her real estate license and continued her sales career. She loved music, dancing and travel. In the 70’s it was trips to the Rockies most every year. In the 80’s it was travel with an RV club all over the western United States making stops to square dance. In the 90’s it was cruise vacations almost yearly from Alaska to South America. She was an outgoing, beautiful woman that people enjoyed being around. Water Aerobics, coffee with her girlfriends and playing 42 gave her great pleasure the last few years of her life. She lined the walls of her home with pictures of her grandchildren whom she loved very much.

Ouida is preceded in death by her husband John Asa Peck, son Howard Bruce Barton and several siblings. Survivors include her husband Lloyd Holt, daughter Brenda Tenny of Dallas, son Lance Peck and wife Teresa of Athens, niece Jeannette Collins of The Woodlands, daughter in law Molly Stegal of Southlake, six grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Rosa Jackson

“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint.” Isaiah 40:31

Rosa Lean Silas was born in Midnight, Mississippi on August 31, 1944 to the late Mary Bell Washington and Johnnie Silas. Rosa passed away on February 27, 2016. Her early years were spent in Waveland, Mississippi where she was baptized at Little Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Waveland. She graduated from Valencia C. Jones High School in 1963. She then attended Wiley College and Texas Southern University, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education. After completing college in 1967 she met and married the love of her life, Lewis Leon Jackson. Rosa and Lewis both attended Gammon Theological Seminary and the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia, where she received her Masters of Religious Education and he received his Masters of Divinity.

She then started her career with Mary Kay Cosmetics in Atlanta, Georgia in 1968 and retired in 2010, after 42 years as a successful business entrepreneur. During her tenure, she became the First African American Consultant East of the Mississippi, and later became the first African American Director East of the Mississippi. She was trained by Mary Kay Ash as a Director and as a National Sales Director.

At the time of her retirement in 2010, she was a Senior National Executive Sales Director. Rosa Jackson’s National Area consisted of five National Directors, 5,256 Consultants, 131 Directors in the United States, 18 Directors in the United Kingdom, and 20 Directors in Mexico. Rosa and Lewis, have traveled all over the world to such places as; Paris France, England, Israel, Africa, Monte Carlo, Rome, Italy, Turkey, Venice, Greece, Porto Rico, Canada, Switzerland and China.
Rosa was preceded in death by; her parents; an infant son, Lewis Jr.; her sisters Ora Lee Garrett, Dorothy McKay, and Barbara Hawkins; brothers Willie Brownlee and Charlie Washington.

She leaves to mourn her passing; her loving and devoted husband of 48 years, Dr. Lewis L. Jackson, Sr.; Children; Rosalynn Jackson Bouldin; Lewis Jackson, II (Bridgette); and Lemuel Jackson (Demetria); five grandchildren; Jonathan Bouldin; Racquel Leonard; Bria and Lewis Jackson, III; Hannah Jackson; four brothers; Lonzell Silas (Cleo); Thomas Hawkins (Ann); Sammie Hawkins (Sharron); and Irvin Hawkins (Trina); Brothers-in-law, Phillip Jackson (Nancy); and Nathaniel Garrett, Sr.; a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Submitted by Lewis L. Jackson, Sr., husband

Dorothy H. Ledbetter

Dorothy Hagen Ledbetter of Austin died peacefully on Monday, June 8, 2015 at the age of 98. She grew up in Milwaukee, WI and graduated from Marquette University. She later attended the University of Chicago, where she met her husband of 53 years, Dr. Robert E. Ledbetter, Jr. They were married on Valentine's Day 1943.

They moved to Austin the next year, where "Dr. Bob", a native Texan, became associate pastor at the First United Methodist Church. Dorothy received her MSW in the first graduating class of UT's Graduate School of Social Work. She then began a long career as a counselor at the Child and Family Services of Austin. She gave to the community as a PTA officer, a Kiwanianne, a Planned Parenthood of Austin Board member, and a volunteer in many political campaigns.

Full of life and fun, Dorothy loved to give parties filled with good food, interesting people and lots of singing. She and Bob were charter members of the Austin Traditional Jazz Society. As a lifelong passionate piano player, she gave her daughters, grandsons and great-granddaughters a love of music and the practical skills to play musical instruments. She never lost this passion and believed that "Music is life, all the rest is details."

Ardent "yellow dog" Democrats, Dorothy and Bob were models of social activism for their children and grandchildren. Conversations around the family dinner table were filled with current events, civil and human rights, women's issues, homelessness, politics and religious beliefs. These regular, open discussions helped to fashion the values and practices that live on in the politically active extended family.

Dorothy is survived by her daughters and their spouses: Dinah and Jesse Boultinghouse, Kathy and David Helfert, and Dottie and Steve Hall, all of Austin; three grandsons and their families: Clay, Jennifer and Jacqueline Michel of San Antonio, Benjamin, Mary Alice, Scarlett, Ginger and Rosalie Riemer of Dallas, and Matthew Riemer and his partner Leighton Brown of Washington D.C. Her husband, Dr. Robert E. Ledbetter, Jr. preceded her in death.
Memoirs

Rose Marie Liedy

Rose Marie Liedy, 81, of Beaumont, TX passed away Friday, December 25, 2015. She was born July 1, 1934.

Rose's love and memories will remain in the hearts of her sons, Rev. Michael Liedy (Susan), Gerald Liedy (Sheila), Alexander Liedy (Debra), Patrick Liedy (Pamela); daughter, Anna Toliver (Clarence); 14 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; host of other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Rev. Hubert B. Liedy, Jr.

Darlene E. Meyer

Clare Darlene Engholm Meyer was born on October 2, 1928. She married Rev. Douglas Eugene Meyer in 1981 and he preceded her in death. Darlene passed on August 3, 2015 in Houston.

Phyllis Nichols

Phyllis R. Nichols was born on December 27, 1926 and passed away on Monday, April 4, 2016.

Phyllis was a resident of Huntsville, Texas at the time of her passing. She was married to Rev. Lewis W. Nichols, Jr., who preceded her in death.

Jeannine S. Pearson

Jeannine S. Pearson was born on March 9, 1934 and passed away on May 27, 2015. She was married to Rev. Paul W. Pearson, who preceded her in death.

Sharlott Prince

Sharlott Prince was born in Rusk on May 3, 1956 to Oland W. and Bevia (Loden) Sides. She was a graduate of Rusk High School and attended Jacksonville College. On February 14, 1976 she and Ray Prince were married in Rusk. They lived in Palestine before moving to Thorndale two and a half years ago. She was a homemaker and had also worked for Cherokee Animal Clinic in Rusk for several years. Sharlott was a member of Pleasant Retreat United Methodist Church near Thorndale. She enjoyed cooking, quilting and loved her children, grandchildren and her pets.

Sharlott passed away Tuesday, September 15, 2015. She was preceded in death by a grandson, Myson Blakemore on October 14, 2007 and her father, Orland Sides March 21, 2012.

Surviving are her husband of 39 years, Rev. Ray Prince of Thorndale; Son Adam Prince of Jacksonville; Daughters, Amanda Prince of Cushing and Alicia Prince and husband Neal of Cushing; Her mother, Bevia Sides of Rusk; Brother, Hershal Sides of Rusk; Seven grandchildren, Tyrese, Di Anglo, Niko, Isiah, Erica, Jay’da and Elyssa.
Memoirs

Elizabeth R. Pry

Elizabeth Sherrill Rice Pry was born in Washington, DC July 23, 1928 and died May 17, 2015 in Bryan, TX. She is buried in Bryan City Cemetery. Betty, a registered nurse, received her B.S. in Nursing at Georgetown University, in Washington, DC where she was a graduate of G. U.’s first nursing school class in 1953.

Perhaps a desire to leave behind the structured environment provided by a mother who was school principal and the Catholic nuns who oversaw the nursing students, she and two friends headed west to California a few years after graduation. They stopped to work a while in Houston. There she met and married her husband, Rev. Guy Pry. The births of their three sons, John, Karl, and Scott interrupted her nursing career to concentrate on child rearing. While rearing their children, they lived in Houston, New Gulf, Bryan, and Wharton. Betty’s devotion to her family ultimately paid great dividends. Far from the stereotypical minister’s wife, Betty provided key support and encouragement to Guy throughout his career. Because she and Guy moved to accommodate his ministerial appointments, when her nursing career resumed in mid ‘70’s, she worked in a variety of nursing roles as clinical nurse and hospital nurse. When they retired to College Station, Betty continued to use her nursing background by volunteering at a local non-profit public health clinic and served over 15 years in this role cajoling clinic patients to adopt more healthy living habits. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, their sons Scott, Karl, and John Pry, his wife, Robyn Pry, and two grandchildren.

Submitted by Rev. Guy Pry, husband

Charles Worth Richards

Charles Worth Richards, 79, of Centerville, Texas passed away peacefully in his home on Sunday, April 10, 2016. He was born on June 6, 1936 in Frankston, Texas to Clifford Richards and Cleo Christopher Richards. Charles graduated with a BA from Hardin Simmons and a law degree from The University of Texas Law School. He was a Retired Army Lieutenant Colonel and further served as a JAG officer in the Reserves. He was an Attorney at Law for many years in private practice. He worked for the Texas Youth Commission from 1995-2000 when he moved to the General Land Office, retiring in January 2016. Charles was active in his church life and in volunteering his services to many people and organizations over the years. He was a faithful follower of Christ and always willing to be helpful to the United Methodist Church being a wonderful witness of God’s grace.

Charles was a wonderful husband, father, son and friend. He is survived by his wife, Rev. Joy M. Richards, pastor of FUMC in Centerville, Texas and their five children, Mark Richards and wife, Susan, Debbie Richards Flemming and husband Mitch, Heather W. Evans and husband Cyrus, Robin Wiley and Chandler Wiley and wife Emily. Also by these grandchildren: Colton and Katelyn Wiley, Danielle Ischy, Dustin Gwynn, Josh Killam, Tyler Tullos and Daniel Flemming; great-grandchildren, Alexis Leatherwood and Rozen Ischy; numerous other relatives and a host of friends.

Submitted by Rev. Joy Richards, wife
Annie Loud Roberson

Mrs. Annie Martha Loud Roberson, 94, of Navasota, died Thursday evening, May 28, 2015.

Annie was born October 3, 1920 in Roans Prairie to James Samuel and Pearl Kinney Loud. She attended school in both Anderson and Navasota and graduated from Carver High School in 1938. Upon graduating high school she attended Prairie View for a year. It was in 1949 that she married Rev. Walter Louis Roberson. As a Methodist minister, they traveled across Texas serving numerous churches. Upon his early death in 1957, Annie returned to Navasota. Over the years she held membership at Loud Chapel, Lee Tabernacle United Methodist Church and was a member of First United Methodist Church of Navasota. Annie enjoyed singing in the choir, her membership in United Methodist Women and loved gardening and flowers.

Annie was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and siblings, Arlo Hubert, Roosevelt, Elliott, Sephronia and Zee Dee Loud.

Survivors include her son, Pastor Arlo Roberson and wife Ethel of Navasota; niece, Lois Singletary and family of Houston; nephews, Jerald Loud and family of Denver, CO, Joe B. Loud and family and Willie Loud and family, all of Houston; along with numerous other relatives and friends.

Gladys Verna Smith

Gladys Verna Lee "Penny" Smith died Saturday April 23, 2016 at her home in Magnolia, Tx. Penny was born in DesArc, Arkansas. She grew up in White Hall, Arkansas and moved to Arkadelphia where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Henderson State Teachers College in 1955. She married Reverend Donald W. Smith in 1953. They pastored churches in Arkansas and Texas for 43 years for the United Methodist Church. She was a home maker raising 4 children. She worked as a Music Teacher in the Magnolia schools. She also worked for the United States Postal Service for 10 years. She served as the Choir Director for many years at the Magnolia Methodist Church.


Theola G. Tapp

Theola Gamble Tapp was born on October 13, 1912 and passed away on January 1, 2016. She was 103 years old. Her husband was Rev. William Tapp. She was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, a sister Azalea Rogers and a brother, Rev. Booker T. Gamble.
Doris Marie Turner

Doris Turner, 68, left her family and friends on May 20, 2016 after a lengthy illness. She was born in Healdton, Oklahoma on December 28, 1948. Mrs. Turner grew up living her childhood day in Plains, Texas. In 1969 she met and married Rev. Jerry Turner. She was a devoted wife bearing two wonderful children whom she adored and cherished.

Doris was preceded in death by her parents, Jim and Vivian Everett; brother, John Everett and her sister, Rhonda Barnett. Doris is survived by her husband, Rev. Jerry Turner; daughter, Cami Sampani; son, Keith Turner; sister, Jan Hembree and her brother, Tom Everett. Also, a host of nieces and nephews and her cherished grandchildren, Hann Bledsoe, Jacob Jeliti, Luke and Leia McCann, Kolton Turner and Kayden Turner.

Joyce Irene Wagner

Joyce Irene Wagner was born January 5, 1932 to Ray and Elsie Moudy of Portage, PA. She was the 5th child with two brothers and two sisters. Her education began in Portage. She loved music in high school and listening to the Old Time Revival Hour. She would imitate on the piano what she heard and began to play by ear long before she took lessons. She accompanied her father and his quartet as they traveled on the weekends singing.

Joyce left home and continued her education in music both singing and playing the piano and accordion. She graduated from Nyack University in Nyack, New York, with certificates in Old Testament studies and music. Moving to Wilmore, Kentucky, she graduated from Asbury College with a B.A. in Education. She sang in Carnegie Hall in New York, and she worked with the Salvation Army.

Following her education she accepted a call to teach at Escola Methodista in San Pedro, Costa Rica, under the Women’s Division of the Board of Missions of the Methodist Church. In Costa Rica she fell in love with Boyd Wagner, and together they continued their ministry in Illinois in the Southern Illinois Annual Conference.

Joyce was married to Boyd for 59 years, 10 months. They had two children, Diania (Dee) Joyce Pace, who married Tom Pace, and Darla Rae Labasse, who married Albert Labasse. Joyce had six grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. She was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Joyce served as a missionary, public school teacher, church pianist, and director of a service for handicapped adults. Through her hobbies she became an artist and writer, publishing “The Lord’s Unfailing Love,” a book of devotions on the Psalms published by Author House.

The Old Testament was her special study, teaching programs on the “Tabernacle.” Her subject of choice was David. Joyce loved the Psalms. She loved to travel, especially to Israel, Rome and Egypt. She was a gracious pastor’s wife, hostess and cook. She felt her call to ministry at a young age and fulfilled it throughout her marriage and to the end of her life when she died on January 30, 2016.

Submitted by Dr. Boyd Wagner, husband