

MEMOIRS

Maria Marta Aris-Paul

October 5, 1933 – October 7, 2015



Maria Marta Aris-Paul, wife of Rev. Edwin Muller, died October 7, 2015, after a long struggle with cancer. Born in Guatemala City, Guatemala, October 5, 1933, Maria Marta received a classical bilingual education, excelled both academically and athletically, holding several national swimming records. She is a graduate of Smith College, B.A. (cum laude), and Union Theological Seminary, M.Div. In 1983 Maria Marta was ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church, Diocese of New York. After completing Clinical Pastoral Education, she became Senior Chaplain at Wallkill Correctional Facility in upstate New York. She also served as Priest-in-Charge at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in New Paltz, N.Y. and later became Executive Director of Instituto Pastoral Hispano, located at General Theological Seminary in New York City.

It was through their common work in prisons that Maria Marta and Ed Muller met. They were married in 1980 at The Riverside Church in New York, by Rev. William Sloan Coffin Jr.

A Requiem Eucharist was celebrated by the Rt. Rev. Andrew M.L. Dietsche, Episcopal Bishop of New York, at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, New Paltz, N.Y., on November 7, 2015.

Maria Marta is survived by her husband Rev. Edwin Muller, and from a previous marriage, four sons and two daughters. Ed is the father of five daughters from a previous marriage.

Maria Marta wrote in a chapter she contributed to, *REVOLUTION OF SPIRIT: Ecumenical Theology in Global Context*: "I want to be a bridge between cultures and a healer where healing is needed." As a priest, pastor, teacher, and chaplain, Maria Marta was certainly known as a compassionate healer.

Submitted by: Rev. Edwin Muller

Interment: Rhinebeck Cemetery, NY and Lake Atitlan, Guatemala

LaGretta Bjorn

November 30, 1950 – April 8, 2016



Rev. Dr. LaGretta Bjorn was a lifelong United Methodist and dedicated servant of the Lord. After several years as a successful trial attorney for the UAW, LaGretta answered her call to the ordained ministry. Upon completion of her Master of Divinity degree from United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio, she served several churches in Ohio. Upon completing the requirements for ordination as a full elder in the United Methodist Church, LaGretta moved to New York City to attend Union Theological Seminary where she received a Master of Theological Studies. She completed her academic work at Drew University, Madison, New Jersey, where she received her Ph.D. in Theological Studies.

From 1998 until 2012, LaGretta served the United Methodist Church of Spring Valley, New York. During her tenure there, she served on several Conference and Jurisdictional committees including Black Methodist for Church Renewal and the Board of Ordained Ministry. As a sought-after preacher and worship leader, she was a contributing author to the denomination's liturgical website. LaGretta believed in making a difference for Christ wherever she found herself. The United Methodist Church of Spring Valley became a focal point for community services under her leadership; feeding the hungry through their Community Breakfast and Food Pantry as well as providing clothing to persons in need. She provided support to many formerly incarcerated individuals who were seeking to turn their lives around. Her smile, honesty, and inspiration will be missed.

Submitted by: A.K. Bjorn

Interment: Black Mountain, North Carolina.

MEMOIRS

Rachel D. Booth

July 2, 1922 – September 15, 2015

Rachel D. Booth, widow of Rev. Theodore M Booth, died on September 15, 2015. Rev. Booth served in three Conferences through his career.

While in The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey, he served in St. John's UMC and Franklin St. John's in Newark and Cadwalader - Asbury UMC in Trenton. His career spanned more than four decades.

Joan W. Bort

January 15, 2016



Mrs. Joan W. Bort, wife to Rev. David J. Bort, passed away on January 15th, 2016 at the age of 85. Joan was a graduate of Roxbury High School in Succasunna, NJ (1947) and Trenton State Teachers College (1951). In 1953 at Lake Hopatcong United Methodist Church, she met her husband of 61 years, Rev. David J. Bort and began a lifelong partnership in education and worship. They had two children, David and Susan.

Self-taught on the piano at a very young age, Joan had a love of music that never faded. Her passion for music and teaching young children blended to make her a beloved and inspiring teacher who introduced countless children to singing, piano and other instruments for many generations in New Jersey and Vermont. She was musical director at Zion Episcopal Church Preschool in Manchester Vermont for 15 years. She played the organ for many years both at West Arlington and Sandgate United Methodist Churches in Vermont, her beautiful voice leading the congregation's even while at the organ. She particularly loved organizing and helping children to sing Easter and Christmas music at her churches. She was involved in numerous community choral groups and special performances such as Carmina Burana with VSO and St. James' annual Messiah.

Joan enjoyed traveling and was fortunate to have visited the Holy Land, Kenya, Egypt, the Caribbean, much of Europe and the entire US. Visiting the beaches of the Normandy landings and meeting Bishop Desmond Tutu were some of the highlights of her travels.

Joan's dedication and partnership to her husband and his ministry cannot be overstated. She was the ultimate partner working not only at the organ but behind the scenes as well. Their shared ambition for giving of themselves for the greater good of community was always evident. The world will miss Joan's generous and joyous spirit.

Joan is survived by her loving husband David; son David; daughter Susan; son-in-law Chuck; sister Jean Martin (George); nephews Gary Martin (Bill) and Douglas Martin (Martha); niece Pamela Schumacher (David); grandchildren Julienne and Jaxton, and numerous cousins, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Helen K. Carlisle

March 25, 2016

Of Shores at Wesley Manor in Ocean City passed away in peace on Good Friday, March 25, 2016. She was 96 years of age. Mrs. Carlisle's passing during Holy Week is especially meaningful given her belief in the Good News of Christ's resurrection. Mrs. Carlisle was born, raised, and educated in Millville. She came to know the Lord as a member of the West Side Methodist Church in Millville where she and Reverend Edmund Carlisle were married on April 4, 1942. They enjoyed 64 years together before Rev. Carlisle's passing in 2006. Mrs. Carlisle was a partner in ministry with Rev. Carlisle. They served the Lord in the Southern New Jersey Conference at pastorates located in Newport, Bridgeport, and Bridgeton. They also served in ministry for several years in Allentown, PA. Mrs. Carlisle and Rev. Carlisle upon retirement from the ministry moved to Ocean City in 1983 where they became members of St. Peter's United Methodist Church. Mrs. Carlisle worked for Stainton's Department Store in the flower shop, and Rev. Carlisle drove the flower delivery van. They enjoyed several cruises on which Rev. Carlisle served as Protestant Chaplain. Mrs. Carlisle was a devoted sister to Charles Kugler and to Emily, Martha, and Edwina. All siblings predeceased her. She was the

MEMOIRS

daughter of Martha and Jacob Kugler. Mrs. Carlisle's father was a glass blower in the Millville glass industry. Mrs. Carlisle was a student of scripture and lived her life as a faithful follower of Christ. Her special hobbies were sewing, knitting, and reading. A favorite pastime was watching televised Phillies games. A day was more enjoyable if a dog was by her side. She was a patron of the Ocean City Historical Museum and donated her wedding dress and veil to it.

She is survived by a niece, Mary Lou Weyand and two great-nephews, Richard and Robert Weyand, all of Trenton. Mary Mohr of Ocean City was a dear and loyal friend. Mrs. Carlisle was a long time resident of Shores at Wesley Manor where she befriended many staff members. Holy Redeemer Hospice staff were invaluable. The staffs of Griswold Home Care and South Jersey Home Care were dedicated to her well-being. Mrs. Carlisle will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

Submitted by: The Daily Journal, March 28, 2016

Interment: Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Millville, New Jersey

Francis M. Coyle

AGE: 88

Riverside, formerly Maple Shade

His life and sermons were guided by the Holy Spirit, and though he was just as comfortable to operate behind the scenes, Frank was foremost in everyone's heart. He led the flock at the first United Methodist Church in Riverside until 2008 and was a pastor for many other churches in the area for over 20 years. Earlier years found him teaching in Maple Shade and working as a guidance counselor and assistant principal at Burlington County Vocational School. He was also a member of the American Legion Post #146 in Riverside. Frank enjoyed long car rides and watching the Phillies and Eagles. He coached Riverside PAL softball; he may have had a losing record, but everyone had a blast. Frank served our nation during [WWII](#); he enlisted in the Navy at the age of 17 and had to stay stateside for a year before shipping out to Okinawa.

His teaching job in Maple Shade earned him more than a paycheck. It's there that he'd meet a young Congetta Capparell. They'd marry, settle in his childhood home in Riverside and be blessed by three children: Allison King (Andrew), Beth Ann Goodwin (Tony) and Matthew. Though he may have been a softly when it came to discipline, he laid the foundation for their faith. He is also survived by his granddaughter, Alyssa. He loved watching her soccer games and always enjoyed sharing a little of his wisdom and stories with her.

Come celebrate 88 great years Thursday 5 to 7 p.m. and Friday 10 to 11 a.m. at Sweeney Funeral Home, Riverside where there will be a service at 11. Interment Lakeview Memorial Park, Cinnaminson.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the First United Methodist Church in Riverside.

Submitted by: Courier-Post, September 29, 2015

Interment: Lakeview Memorial Park, Cinnaminson, New Jersey

Reginald C. Crute

June 29, 1940 – August 22, 2015



Reginald Clarence Crute (pronounced Crootay) was born on June 29, 1940 in New York City to the late Ruth (Comer) and Frederick Crute. Reginald grew up in Harlem and the Bronx. He attended Harren High School and served his country in the Air Force as a radio-radar maintenance technician.

A "Jack of all trades", Reginald worked as a heating equipment repairman and had several side businesses based on his curiosity of how things worked, electronics, and technology. He met Raymond Rudisill while working at the New York City Transit Authority and they fast became friends because of their common interest in electronics and technology. Ray and Reginald would be found on any given weekend attending computer shows and "plotting to take over the world."

In 1984, Reginald met his future wife, Hillary Johnson, while stuck in traffic. She was driving a blue Dodge Diplomat and Reginald mistakenly thought she was an undercover detective. They were married September 11, 1989.

MEMOIRS

Reginald was a faithful servant of God, and his life spoke volumes about the kind of person he is. His faith in God was on display at all times in the faithful way he cared for and served others. He enjoyed helping others and mostly did it anonymously. He would walk in another person's shoes and wasn't afraid to extend himself to meet a need.

Reginald retired from the New York City Transit Authority in 1995, but continued to work. He was last employed by Local 817 "Theatrical Teamsters." When he turned 70, they were required by law to begin paying him retirement, but he continued to work at the job he loved: driving. Despite being diagnosed with prostate cancer, Reginald continued to work up to the end of 2015. He was never bothered by the cancer and lived life to the fullest. He enjoyed driving, visiting new places, helping others, and building computers.

Reginald entered his eternal rest on Saturday, August 22, 2015, surrounded by his wife, Hillary, his aunt, Rebecca, oldest son, Chauncey, younger son, Kevin, his sister from another mother, Marizza, and his brother from another mother, Ray.

In addition to those present, Reginald leaves behind his brother, Frederick Crute ("DJ Red Alert"), oldest daughter, Crystal, younger daughter, Jennifer, and 6 grandchildren: Trey, Devin, Traesi, Brittany, Kamal, and Jordan, daughter in law, Tanya, and son in law, Jerome, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Reginald touched the lives of many and will be missed by all who knew him.

Interment: Calverton National Cemetery in Riverhead, New York

Robert E. Davidson, Sr.

May 4, 1934 – December 23, 2015



The Rev. Robert E. Davidson, Sr., 81, of West John Street, McVeytown, Pennsylvania entered into eternal rest on Wednesday, December 23, 2015, at Geisinger-Lewistown Hospital. He was the last of his immediate family.

He was a 1952 graduate of Lewiston High School, Lewistown, Pennsylvania, received an A.B. degree from Lycoming College and earned a Bachelor of Divinity and Master of Theology from Wesley Theological Seminary.

He started his ministry as Director of Education at the Catonsville United Methodist Church, Catonsville, Maryland; served the Allenport, Singers Gap and Shirleysburg Charge of the Central Pennsylvania Conference at Mount Union, Pennsylvania; in 1963 he transferred to the Northern New Jersey Conference where he served the United Methodist Churches in Westwood, Irvington, Midland Park, Totowa, and Hillsdale. In 1987 he was the Conference recipient of the Deman Evangelism Award.

Upon retirement in 2001 he and his wife, Marjorie moved to Pennsylvania where he served as interim pastor and/or preached in 33 different churches in the Juniata Valley area near

Lewistown.

He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Mifflin/Juniata Concert Association, formerly chaired the McVeytown Borough Zoning Board, and was a passionate clarinet player in the Lewistown Community Band.

He devoted his life to serving people and serving his Lord and was a true minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

A Service to celebrate his life was held at the McVeytown Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, December 30th at 7P.M. with Pastor Scott Andrews officiating. Participating in the service was the Rev. Norman E. Huff and the Rev. Carl H. Kearns.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Marjorie Moist Davidson and their children, Robert E., Jr. and wife Catherine of Montville, New Jersey; William C and wife MaryAnn of Hillsborough, New Jersey; a daughter Beth Ellen Johns and husband David of Glen Cove, New York, and three grandchildren, Alyssa, Zachary and Clayton.

Submitted by: Marjorie M. Davidson

MEMOIRS

Caroline De Esposito

June 28, 1943 – August 21, 2015

Beloved wife and soul mate of Pasqual for 49 years.

Caroline and Pat met as pen pals. After meeting him she immigrated to America. They were married in England and honeymooned in Scotland.

Pat thanks God for 49 years of marriage.

Submitted by: Pasqual De Esposito

Interment: Pocono Pines, Pennsylvania

Donald F. Derse, M.D.

June 17, 1939 – February 12, 2016



He is survived by Linda S. Derse, wife; Peter Derse, wife and son; daughters Christine McNeil and husband Scott; Sara Derse, stepsons Sean Eldridge and wife Rashelle, Scott Eldridge and wife Jennifer, 9 grandchildren.

Attended Lehigh University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with a major in Accounting. In January of 1960, he began work as an auditor for a national accounting firm. He worked there until attending Drew University School of Theology from 1961-1964. Served several United Methodist Churches in New Jersey over the next 14 years.

Attended the University of Medicine in Dentistry of New Jersey where he earned an M.D. degree in 1976. Relocated to North Conway, New Hampshire where he began a 25 year career as a family physician. After his retirement from Medicine, he returned to the pulpit from 2004-2009, serving as settled pastor of the First Church of Christ, Congregational UMC in North Conway.

He was a founding member of the Board of North Conway Hospice Program, past Chairperson of the Finance Committee of the Conway UMC, past Chairperson of the Pastor-Parrish Relations Committee, Conway UMC, past member of the North Conway Rotary Club, and past Director of the North Conway Rotary Club. He also served as Chaplain to the Conway Police Department.

In his retirement, he continued to serve as supply pastor to various churches in the area. He also worked for several years at the Conway Scenic Railroad, where he was able to satisfy his boyhood love of trains.

Submitted by: Linda S. Derse

Interment: Memorial Garden, First Church of Christ, North Conway, New Hampshire

Celesta R. Dexheimer

December 29, 1924 – September 20, 2015

Celesta R. Dexheimer, widow of Rev. John R. Dexheimer died on September 20, 2015. Rev. Dexheimer served many churches in The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey, including Dover Grace UMC, Kenilworth UMC, Cranford UMC, he also served as Palisades District Superintendent and in Urban Ministries before he retired in 1991.

MEMOIRS

Douglas Freese Dorchester

March 17, 1924 – November 1, 2015

Born and raised in Connecticut, he graduated from Loomis School in Windsor, from Wesleyan University in Middletown, and from Yale Divinity School in New Haven. He was Valedictorian at Loomis and Phi Beta Kappa at Wesleyan, and served as a chaplain in the Navy during World War II. His career featured a wide range of ministries from the local parish to the denominational level. For over 20 years he served as Executive Secretary of the Board of Education in Southern New England and Northern New Jersey. During this period he also served in a variety of ecumenical positions. While in New Jersey, he always made time for the family to take in the latest Broadway musical, with a special fondness for Radio City Music Hall, and the Rockettes and Tad's Steak House. Doug was also extremely proud of his contributions at Camp Aldersgate, while working for the Northern New Jersey Conference.

He is survived by Janice P. Dorchester, wife; Diane D. Engley, daughter; Ellen A. Langwig, daughter; Marcia L. Dorchester, daughter; Donald W. Dorchester, son.

Submitted by: Diane D. Engley

Interment: National Cemetery, Bourne, Massachusetts

Carl G. Farrell, Sr.

October 20, 1931 – April 5, 2016



Rev. Farrell was ordained a Methodist minister and started his preaching career at Lower bank-Green bank-Weekstown Methodist circuit in 1969.

Throughout his career he served at a total of 9 Methodist churches. He retired in 1998 at which time he served as pastor for the Weekstown Community Church for 2 years. He was instrumental in founding the Lakewood Chapel in Mays Landing, New Jersey and the Jenkins Chapel in Jenkins, New Jersey.

He held a Master's degree in Divinity and served on the Meeting, South Seaville Camp Meeting and Child Evangelism Fellowship.

He was married to Shirley Mingin Farrell with whom he had 2 sons, Carl Jr., and Frank. Upon her death he then married Darlene Greiner Farrell and became stepfather to 2 daughters and a son. He was a grandfather to 9 and great-grandfather of 10.

Submitted by: Carl Farrell, Jr.

Interment: Union Cemetery, Mays Landing, New Jersey

Elizabeth D. "Betty" Follansbee

January 23, 1931 – September 17, 2015



Elizabeth "Betty" Follansbee died suddenly on September 17, at the age of eighty three. A woman of wit, fierce intelligence, curiosity, humor and wisdom, she will be sorely missed by her husband of 63 years, David, her three children, seven grandchildren and great grandson, devoted daughters-in-law, as well as countless students, colleagues and friends.

"Betty" was born in Jersey City, attended Bergen School for Girls and graduated first in her class from Drew University in 1953. While at Drew she met and married David, who became a Methodist minister. Together they served churches in Palisades, NJ, Haverstraw, NY, Demarest, NJ, Nutley, NJ and Hillsdale, NJ. Betty taught Sunday School (publishing a new curriculum for the United Methodist Church along the way), ran youth groups, preached, tutored underprivileged children, all while teaching at the High School and Elementary levels in Cresskill and Belleville. While

teaching fourth grade in Belleville, she was selected as NJ Teacher of the Year.

MEMOIRS

Betty and David "retired" in 1989, and moved to Rhode Island. Betty spent many happy years as a docent at Smith's Castle, in Wickford, where her incredible verbal memory, "cliché for every occasion", grasp of local history, and natural grace as a speaker and teacher were on full display. She was an active member of St Luke's, where she sang in the choir, served countless breakfasts for the "Wednesday Workers", and hosted with beloved friends a weekly Prayer group.

For the past thirty five years she had coped with amazing courage and resilience with the chronic and debilitating pain of Rheumatoid arthritis, to which she finally succumbed, leaning against her husband's shoulder as they drove to her favorite restaurant.

Betty is pre deceased by her parents, Harry and Elsie, her sister Janet and brother Ronald, and her grandson, Matthew.

Submitted by: Paul Follansbee

Eugene Wheeler Foote

March 21, 1929 – December 26, 2015



Rev. Eugene Wheeler Foote, 86, of Ocean Grove, died Saturday December 26, 2015 at Manor by the Sea, Ocean Grove. Eugene was born in Staten Island, New York on March 21, 1929 to Frederick and Beatrice Foote. He Studied at Wagner College and then graduated from Seminary School. Rev. Foote was a Methodist minister for many years, and he enjoyed the spreading the word of God to all that passed through his life. He married the former Marilyn Sauer in October 1975. Gene Loved going to the organ recitals at the great auditorium in Ocean Grove and participated in the bible studies with his wife at Manor by the Sea. He was predeceased by his wife Marilyn in August 2015. Surviving are his daughter, Yvette Foote and his grandsons Christopher and Brandon Pepin

Submitted by: Asbury Park Press on Jan. 5, 2016

Interment: Hamilton Methodist Cemetery, Neptune, New Jersey

Marilyn Foote

September 20, 1931 – August 22, 2015

Marilyn Foote, 83, of Ocean Grove, passed away on Saturday August 22 at Manor by the Sea, Ocean Grove. She was born September 20, 1931 in Jersey City to Godfrey and Gertrude Sauer. Mrs. Foote worked for the General Board of Global Ministries in New York until retiring. She was very active in the church, attending United Women's Conferences. She was a member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Ocean Grove and active in their woman's circle. Marilyn loved going to the great auditorium to listen to the organ concerts and other programs there. In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her brother, Richard Sauer and her sister Shirley Sauer. Surviving is her husband Rev. Eugene Foote, whom she met while they were volunteer counselors at The Aldersgate United Methodist Camp, marrying on October 18, 1975, her daughter Yvette Foote and two grandsons Christopher Pepin and Brandon Pepin.

Submitted by: Asbury Park Press, August 30, 2015

Interment: Hamilton Methodist Cemetery, Neptune, New Jersey

MEMOIRS

Edythe S. Green

May 21, 1918 – June 16, 2015



Edythe S. Green, 97 entered eternal life on June 16, 2015 in Newark, Delaware. She was born May 21, 1918 in Stanton, and grew up on her parent's farm on Ogletown Road, Newark. She was a leader in the Epworth League and graduated from Newark schools before attending Goldey Business College in Wilmington. She was employed by Blue Hen Dairy before attending Wesley College, Dover, Delaware and then American University, Washington, D.C.

While attending American University, she worked at Foundry United Methodist Church, and met her future husband, Roy C. Green. After her graduation with her degree in Christian education, they married at Foundry Church, she became a partner in ministry with Rev. Green who was serving the Rockaway Valley Methodist Church in New Jersey. She faithfully served with him at parishes in Jersey City, Bound Brook, and Phillipsburg, New Jersey; Port Jervis, New York; Verona and Rutherford New Jersey before retiring while serving the Englewood

First United Methodist Church. During their appointments she served as a Sunday and vacation bible school teacher, member of the WSCS, and participated in the Annual Conferences' School of Mission. Upon retirement they moved to New Castle, Delaware, where they lived for over twenty years before moving to the Millcroft Senior Living community. They had celebrated 57 years of marriage when Roy passed away in 2006. Edythe was a life member of the United Methodist Women, and a member of New Castle United Methodist Church.

She is survived by her son David R., Nancy G. Wenner, daughter, grandsons Brian Green, Kevin Wenner and Gregory Wenner and sister, Kathryn Pierson.

Submitted by: David R. Green

Richard J. Herritt

May 31, 1923 – September 29, 2015



Rev. Richard J. Herritt attended Penn State College. After a hiatus from education he graduated from Rutgers University, Camden, New Jersey at the age of 57.

As a young man he began working for the Norfolk, Virginia Naval Ship Yard as an apprentice shipwright in 1942. Shortly thereafter he honorably served in the United States Army during World War II. Although he never spoke of it, he was a Radio Operator amongst the troops that landed at Normandy and marched on to the Battle of the Bulge without sustaining any injuries.

Upon his return from the war he continued his career with the United States Government and was employed by the IRS and the Treasury Department, retiring after 20 years of service in 1974 as a Treasury Agent/Investigator.

In 1960 he received his higher calling and in 1964 was ordained a Methodist Minister following in his father's footsteps (who was a minister in Pennsylvania). He served in many churches over a 22 year span and was thrilled to be able to travel to Israel to experience the Holy Lands before retiring in 1986 as Pastor of Fairview Village UMC, Camden, New Jersey. During his retirement he offered his pastoral services within the Cape May United Methodist Church on a regular basis and was always glad to help with visitations and services at Wesley Manor, Ocean City, New Jersey and again at Pitman Manor, Pitman, New Jersey as much as he could though his health was deteriorating.

Richard was one of seven children. He was the husband of Charlotte (deceased 2001) for over 50 years. He was the father of four children, grandfather of nine, and great-grandfather of eight children. He was very proud of the fact that he was able to baptize a number of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Submitted by: Joyce Minosse

Interment: Cape May Veterans Cemetery

MEMOIRS

James L. Hofacker, Jr.

June 7, 1950 – March 15, 2016



Rev. Hofacker enjoyed a large circle of diverse and devoted friends and was especially proud of his "Point Pleasant Beach family". Jim enjoyed all that the Jersey Shore offered, including boating, fishing, and clamming. He jokingly referred to the shore as paradise. Jim served two terms as a member of the Stafford Township Council and was an active member of the Point Pleasant Beach First Aid and Emergency Squad.

Rev. Hofacker was a graduate of Union College in Kentucky and Boston University. He faithfully served the following parishes spanning four decades: Wayside United Methodist Church, Manahawkin United Methodist Church, Belmar First United Methodist Church, First United Methodist Church of Asbury Park, and retired from Pennington United Methodist Church.

Rev. Hofacker is survived by beloved family, including two sons and a daughter-in-law, Brian and Annemarie and Mark; two grandchildren, Andrew and Meghan; sister Barb Bengtson and her husband, Tom; nephews and niece, Bradley, Scott, Thomas, and Jeanne; aunt Jean Hofacker, and cousins, Joan, Eugene, George, Fritz, Dena, and Delaney.

Submitted by: Mark Hofacker

Interment: Greenwood Cemetery, Brielle, New Jersey

Gladys Frances Hulitt

September 30, 1917 – March 15, 2016



Gladys Frances Hulitt, age 98, went to her eternal home on March 15 at the Waconia Good Samaritan Care Center. A celebration of life service will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2 pm at Westview Acres [433 W. 5th avenue] in Waconia.

Gladys, who lived in southern New Jersey for the first 93 years of her life, moved to Waconia in 2010 to live at Westview Acres and be close to family. She was born September 30, 1917, in Centre Square, NJ, the first child of the late Clarence D. and Elva K. Norton who were a farming family growing tomatoes and asparagus.

In 1939 she married the Rev. Daniel Hulitt, a Methodist minister from the Philadelphia/New Jersey conference, and were blessed with a marriage of 68 years. They served several churches in southern Jersey and ultimately retired to Marmora, NJ.

Her first career involved the duties of a pastor's wife and mother to two sons, Douglas Ray, and Daniel Brian. With maturing boys she used her free time to volunteer at the Methodist Hospital in Philadelphia. She later became Director of Volunteers, and continued to expand the services offered by the loyal volunteers. She ultimately accepted the position of the Director of Public Relations/Volunteers, one that she would hold until her retirement. She served in many professional capacities, including President of her regional Public Relations Society, as well as a member of numerous boards and Methodist associations.

Gladys and husband Dan enjoyed many travels throughout the USA and the world, often traveling by rail and serving as the hosts for the trip. Many of the home trips involved time with their 4 grandsons. Gladys loved to cook and paint, and her 100+ year old recipe for "meat pie" became a staple for many coast to coast family gatherings. Her art has been displayed at various venues, most recently at Westview Acres and currently at the Waconia Library.

Gladys is preceded in death by her parents, Clarence and Elva Norton; her husband, Daniel Hulitt; sister, Lois Jess; and son, Douglas Hulitt.

She is survived by her loving family: brother, Dr. Clarence I. Norton (Jeanie) [N. Augusta SC]; son, Daniel B. [Jewell], Waconia, MN; Grandsons James, [Meghan] Oxford, GA; Brooks [Maria], Philadelphia, PA; Chris [Debi] Camarillo, CA; Geoffrey [Jess], Eden Prairie, MN; and nephew Carl Jess [Brenda], West Palm, FL. Also surviving are great grandchildren Juliana, Amelia, Ryan, Cameron, Alexander and Sophia and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

MEMOIRS

Harold Paul Johnson

April 19, 1923 – August 15, 2015



Harold Johnson was born and raised in Trenton, New Jersey. After high school he enlisted for 6 years in the United States Navy. He was a radioman and communications technician, First Class Petty Officer. He graduated from Pennington Prep School, Western Maryland College and Drew Seminary.

He met Ethel at his home church, Broad Street Methodist Church when she was the organist and Choir Director. They were married 3 weeks shy of 60 years.

He was a pastor at Centenary Methodist Church in Berlin, New Jersey for 15 years, 1955-1970 the longest time of any pastorate. In 1958-1960 a two story educational building was built for \$90,000 and paid off in 6 years. He was also involved with the Salvation Army and Fire company chaplain.

He served 3 years at the two churches in Westville and completed his ministry at Grace United Methodist Church in Eatontown, New Jersey after 10 years. He had a unique ministry there as the facilities were shared with the local Presbyterian congregation. Every other Sunday was a Methodist or Presbyterian service. A wonderful relationship, setting an example for New Jersey.

He and Ethel retired to Stuart, Florida in 1983 and for 7 years he was the visitation pastor. In 2005 they retired to Penney Retirement Community in Penney Farms, Florida.

Harold was a caring, calming, loving and dependable pastor. A parishioner said he was full of wisdom and a perfect example of Christian love.

He is survived by his wife Ethel M. Johnson

Submitted by: Ethel Johnson

Interment: Stuart, Florida

Elizabeth J. Karcher

July 16, 1936 – January 23, 2016



Elizabeth raised eight children as a single parent, teaching all to have a love of God and care for others. Elizabeth was a home health aide for 42 years, caring for the elderly and children. As a young child Elizabeth helped to care for a neighbor child afflicted with Cerebral Palsy.

Elizabeth spent the last 43 years serving the Lord to the best of her ability. She was a Sunday school teacher, Sunday school superintendent. As well as a member of various committees, PPR, Administrative board, Trustees, Education, Scholarship, Membership, Worship and N.O.W.

She served as a visitation minister and an at-large delegate to annual conference.

When told she only had months left to live, she told her husband she would not be able to go out anymore. Therefore, he went home to pack up all her clothes and took them to AC for their church's feeding ministry.

Submitted by: Anthony S. Karcher, Sr.

MEMOIRS

Dorothy G. Kirk

February 25, 1932 – October 14, 2015

Dorothy G. Kirk, widow of Rev. Robert E. Kirk died on October 14, 2015. Rev. Kirk served many churches in The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey, including Vernon UMC, Matamoras UMC in Pennsylvania and Epworth UMC in Elizabeth. Rev. Kirk served for 33 years before retiring with Dorothy.

Anne R. Layton

June 23, 1918 – February 7, 2016



Devoted mother and grandmother. Family came first, also devoted to the Farmingdale, New Jersey Methodist Church where she was raised and raised her family there also.

Supported this church by working within it in many organizations and charities. She was devoted wife to her husband and family as well as teaching school in Howell and Freehold, New Jersey for thirty years.

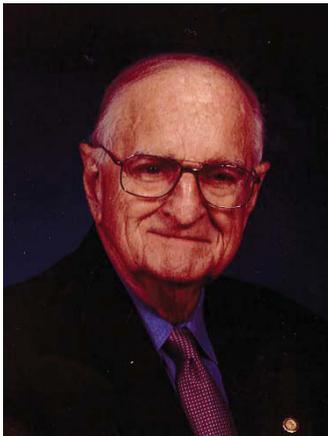
Survived by her son, Terry Van Ben Thuysen, granddaughter, Terri Anne Harper and three grandsons.

Submitted by: Terry Van Ben Thuysen

Interment: Evergreen Cemetery, Farmingdale, New Jersey

William J. McCullough

June 4, 1924 – October 20, 2015



Rev. William J. McCullough, 91, passed away on October 20, 2015 in the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home, Vineland, New Jersey after a lengthy illness. Born in Brooklawn and raised in Gloucester City, New Jersey.

He was the son of the late Henry and Elizabeth McCullough and was also pre-deceased by an infant son, William J. Jr. (Little Bill), two sisters, Katherine Warren and Henrietta Pauly, and a nephew, John Warren, Jr.

He was a graduate of Gloucester City High School and a veteran of World War II where he served in the European Theater, was wounded and was a prisoner of war in Germany. Prior to responding to the call to the United Methodist Ministry, Bill was a major appliance salesperson for Hurley's, Camden; Snellenberg's, Philadelphia; and Bamberger's, Cherry Hill Mall.

He began his ministry in 1964 as a part time local pastor in Gloucester Heights then, in 1966, began full time ministry and pastored Highlands; Wesley Memorial, Bridgeton; Pemberton, and Audubon from where he retired in 1992. In 1999 through 2003 he pastored in Minotola. He was ordained Deacon in 1969 and was the first group of full time local pastors received into Associate Conference membership.

He was married for 66 years to June D. (Reining), and is also survived by 5 children; Kevin, Keith, Keneth, Kathi and Kris. He had 11 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren, 1 great-granddaughter, 1 step great granddaughter and a sister, Bernice Fisher of Audubon, 3 nieces and nephews and great great nieces and nephews.

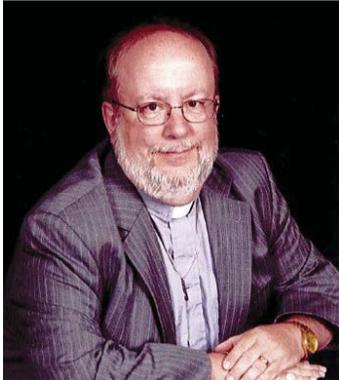
Submitted by: June McCullough

Interment: Locustwood Memorial, Cherry Hill, New Jersey

MEMOIRS

Glenn K. Miller

December 11, 1955 – September 20, 2015



While attending a youth retreat at his home church, Highlands, UMC, Glenn, at the young age of 12, answered an altar call which would change the course of his life forever. Glenn's original ambitions were to be a lawyer, as he listened to the preacher speaking he heard someone whisper in his ear..."this is what you will be doing for the rest of your life".

Glenn was born in Newport, Rhode Island. At the age of 2 his family moved to Highlands, New Jersey where he attended Highlands Elementary School and Henry Hudson High School. He received his Bachelor's Degree from Albright College and went on to New Brunswick Theological Seminary to receive his Master of Divinity Degree.

On his journey he served many churches in the GNJUMC. His love of teaching God's word to children drew him to work with Camps and Conferences at Mt. Misery as an Outpost Director for many years. As his devotion for the camping ministry grew he answered the call to apply for the Administrative Directors position at Mt. Misery, where he served for six years. His love of preaching God's word to the people led him back to the pulpit in 1996, where he spent the rest of his time in this life preaching the Gospel.

In his free time Glenn enjoyed music, camping, traveling, watching sports and spending time with his grandchildren. He was a passionate NY Giants fan which is no easy task when serving churches near the Philadelphia area. He also served as Chaplain of various Fire Departments and as an EMT on several First Aid Squads. As a young man he followed in his father's footsteps and became active in DeMolay and Freemasons. He was a 33rd Degree Freemason and belonged to the Scottish Rite in Bordentown.

Glenn is survived by his wife of 35 years, Jeanne, two children, Robert Sopko and Lisa Chirdon; and his beloved grandchildren Robert Jon Sopko, Alyssa Sopko, Jonathan Chirdon and Michael DiCaro. He is also survived by three siblings Terri Lyn Allfrey, Michael D. Miller, and Jeffrey Miller and his nieces Jamie Lyn, Nicole and Amanda.

Submitted by: Jeanne Miller

Evelyn Musgrove

January 16, 1935 – May 9, 2015



Evelyn "Bibby" Maryann Musgrove went home to be with her Lord and Savior May 9th of 2015 after an extended battle with cancer. Evelyn was born January 16, 1935 to the late Hazel and Levin W. Molock, III in Cambridge, Maryland. She was the eldest of four children.

Evelyn's childhood unfolded in Fork Neck where she attended Water Methodist Episcopal Church and received her early religious teaching. She attended Mace's Lane High School and later transferred to the West Philadelphia High School, where she graduated. Upon arriving in Philadelphia, she joined Tindley Temple United Methodist Church where she was a member of the Youth Choir and Methodist Youth Fellowship Organization. She went on to continue her education at Mercy Douglas Nursing School.

Evelyn was introduced to the love of her life, RC Musgrove, on a blind date. They married in 1954 and went on to have four boys from their loving union; Richard Carl, David Wesley, Gene Oliver and Ira Vaughn. Early on, she cared for her children full time but went on to become employed at The Naval Aviation Base and Aviation Supply Office as a Key Punch Operator and Supervisor. The family served the Military for 23 years traveling to Germany, Texas, Panama and Georgia.

In 1977, she joined Trinity Cheltenham United Methodist Church under the leadership of Rev. James L. McClendon. Evelyn was very active in the church and served many roles including President of Gospel Chorus, Correspondence Secretary of the Committee of Finance, a Lay Speaker, a member of The United Methodist Women's Association, President of Communion Steward, Chairperson of the Council of Minorities and a member of the Kitchen Committee. She was also a member of the Philadelphia Seminar Choir. In 1991, she rejoined The Church of the Good Shepherd as an affiliate member. In 1992, Evelyn's husband was appointed pastor of Mount Hope United Methodist Church in Salem, New Jersey. She once again took on an active role by serving as the Vice President of the United Methodist Women's Association, and revitalizing the Youth Choir and the Sunday school.

MEMOIRS

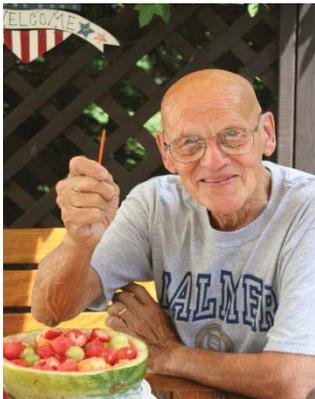
Evelyn is survived by two sons; David Musgrove (Geralline) and Gene Musgrove; three grandchildren, David Musgrove, Jr. (Inayah), Tiffany Musgrove, and Aniequa Musgrove; two great-grandchildren, David Musgrove III and Elijah Musgrove; a daughter in law, Euzera Musgrove, two sisters; Geraldine Smith and Rulene Molock; two sister in laws, Flora Musgrove and Ann Marie Smith; two brother in laws, Rudolph Musgrove (Jean) and Lyson Musgrove (Eclester) and a host of in laws, nieces, nephews and cousins. She was preceded in death by her husband RC Musgrove; two sons, Richard Musgrove and Ira Musgrove and a brother, Rudolph Molock.

Submitted by: David W. Musgrove

Interment: William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Wrightstown, New Jersey

Malcolm K. Palmer

July 25, 1926 – April 1, 2016



Malcolm K. Palmer passed away suddenly on April 1, 2016 at Hackettstown Hospital. He was 89.

Born in Meadville, PA, he was the son of Rev. and Mrs. Malcolm R. Palmer. He lived in Mt. Holly, New Market, Dunellen, Middletown, Parsippany and Chester NJ before moving to Long Valley in 2002.

Mr. Palmer served in the Navy during WWII from 1944-1946 on the Transport Ship the USS Audubon in the Pacific. He worked as a Systems Analyst for Nabisco in East Hanover for 36 years before retiring in 1984. After retiring he assisted his wife at The Dogwood School in Chester as the Financial Administrator. "Every day a New Adventure" was the lived-out theme of the Pre-School.

Malcolm was very active in several Methodist churches over the years and was active in the church choir. He was very family centered and was always supportive of his children's activities and his wife's activities.

He is survived by his wife, Rev. Edythe Joan Palmer of Long Valley, three sons; Malcolm Jeffrey of Sicklerville, NJ, Gregory Darrell of Layton, NJ and Karl Robert of Long Valley, three daughters Mary Lou Falber of Casper, WY, Rebecca Joan Palmer of Long Valley and Elizabeth Joy Palmer of Long Valley, and two sister Elaine Gillberg of Denver, CO and Flodella Stanley of Ormond Beach, FL. He is also survived by 12 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, daughters and sons-in-law and many friends.

Interment: Somerset Hills Memorial Park, Basking Ridge, New Jersey

Edith Seidel Propert

August 25, 1913 – June 6, 2015



Edith Seidel, like others of her generation, was delivered at home in Philadelphia with the help of a doctor on August 25, 1913.

As she grew she spent a lot of time with her grandparents. Their farm was a pig farm on land which is now Philadelphia International Airport. She recalled that her parents were really nice and spoiled me, "I never wanted for anything". Siblings included a sister, 3 years younger and a brother, 15 years younger.

The Seidel family moved to a farm in Woodbury area when Edith was about 15 years old. Although Mrs. Seidel took children into Philadelphia 2 times per year to get new coats, they were accomplished sewers, making their own garments including dresses. Edith later used this talent to assist with sewing at Pitman Manor. Edith Seidel met George Propert, the Sunday school registrar at Bethel Church in Hurfville. After a period of courtship, George's mother and father took them to a preacher's home in Elkton, Maryland on October 4, 1932 to be married.

MEMOIRS

Edith's husband George was to pastor 13 charges (the first one with no plumbing). During the years 1962 – 1968, he was District Superintendent of the Trenton District which had 81 churches. As a pastor's wife, she immersed herself in church school, choir, bible study and woman's society. Her interests included sewing quilting, embroidery, reading, cooking and baking.

Edith strongly felt the most joyous part of her life was having children whom she loved. Over the years, she and George parented 4 children, Ruth, Bill, Tom and Jim. They in turn, gave her 4 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

George passed in July 1980. They were residing at the farm of her parents at that time. She later moved to Pitman Manor in 2000 where George's mother, brother and sister in law had called home. She was well liked and cared for during her stay at the Manor. In 2013, she celebrated her 100th birthday and went home to be with her Lord in June 2015 at 101 years of age.

Interment: Bethel Church, Hurfville, Pennsylvania

Elizabeth V. "Betty" Ricards

July 5, 1923 - February 2, 2016



Elizabeth V. "Betty" Ricards (nee Potter), 92, of Hopewell Twp. died peacefully at Inspira Medical Center in Vineland on Tuesday February 2, 2016, while surrounded by her family and her pastor.

Betty was born in Pleasantville, New Jersey to the late Clarence R. Potter and the late Sara V. (nee Thomas) Potter. She attended Linwood Grammar School and Pleasantville High School. She played basketball and tennis. After graduating from high school in 1940, she worked at Atlantic Cadillac Agency.

She met Bruce W. Ricards while she was roller skating at the Playland Roller Skating Rink in Ocean City, NJ. They fell in love and were married in August, 1946. They had been married 58 years when Bruce died.

She worked as a secretary at the Bridgeton YMCA and was promoted to Administrative Assistant while working there. Until her death, she lived in the house that she and her husband and their family built in 1950.

Betty believed in serving her church and community. A member of the First United Methodist Church, Bridgeton, she served as a Sunday School Teacher, as a member of the choir, and as a trustee. She became involved with the United Methodist Women, serving as local president. She became the President of the Southwest District United Methodist Women and served on the Conference Level as the Conference President and Supportive Community Chairman. She was secretary of the core planning committee. She attended the annual Southern New Jersey United Methodist Church Conferences annually for many years. Betty was elected to attend the General Conference of the United Methodist Church four times and the Northeastern Jurisdictional Meeting five times. Betty was elected as the Secretary of the Northeastern Jurisdiction United Methodist Women. She currently was Vice President of the United Methodist Women of the First United Methodist Church. She served as the Director of Lay Speaking for the Southern New Jersey Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Betty served as the local president of the Hopewell Township School PTA, Bridgeton High School PTA, and Cumberland County PTA. She served as the Character and Spiritual Chairman on the State PTA. While president of the Cumberland County PTA, Betty participated in the planning of the building of Cumberland County College. For a while, she and her husband, Bruce, delivered Meals-on-Wheels to those who were confined to their homes. She and her daughter worked together to publish two cookbooks as fundraisers for First United Methodist Church and South Seaville Camp Meeting Women's Auxiliary. Betty gathered and organized the recipes from members of the church and the auxiliary.

She is survived by three children, Bruce B. Ricards (Lynda) of Pittsgrove, Sara "Sally" Andersen (Scott) of Seaford, Delaware and Andrew "Andy" Ricards of Linwood, five grandchildren, Janet Waterhouse (Christopher), Mary Catherine Ricards, Elizabeth Andersen Greenwell (Jamie), Capt. Geoffrey Andersen, USAF (Jamie) and Dustin Andersen. She was deeply loved by her great grandchildren Kingston Khemlani, Wolfgang Waterhouse, Loki Waterhouse, Johnathan Greenwell, Brendyn Greenwell, Jaedyn Greenwell, Mia Apostolos, Giosue Greenwell, Quinn Greenwell, and Kathryn Andersen. Being the matriarch of the family, she became grandmom to her nieces and nephews, William Ricards (Hollie), Miriam Rock, Peter Ricards (Charlene), Alexander Ricards (Kim) and Julie Brickner (David) and their children and grandchildren.

Interment: Fernwood Memorial Park, Hopewell Township, New Jersey

MEMOIRS

George and Maxine Schlesinger

September 14, 1923 – August 4, 2015

February 8, 1929 – August 4, 2015



Rev. George and Maxine Schlesinger entered into eternal life on August 4, 2015; within nine hours of each other. An extraordinary couple whose love for each other, their family, and serving God, was evident in everything they did. George served his country in the United States Marine Corp during World War II, and after being discharged, one fateful night while at a local roller skating rink; he convinced Maxine to allow him to drive her home. This was the beginning of their incredible relationship...

When George and Maxine answered their “calling” to enter into full time Christian Service, George was working at Piper Aircraft Assembly Plant in Loch Haven, Pennsylvania. He was quoted in the local newspaper stating “God called me off the assembly line”. He began his studies at Lycoming College, completing his four year degree in three years, while serving a three point charge at Oval, Oriole and Antes Forte, Pennsylvania along with raising a family. Upon graduation and being ordained a Deacon in the Methodist Church; he transferred to the Northern New Jersey Conference serving Park Church, Elizabeth while attending Drew University Theological Seminary; where Maxine earned her PTH, Putting Husband Through degree. Upon graduation, George was ordained an Elder in the Methodist Church.

They went to serve the following appointments; Mifflinburg, Pennsylvania, Edison, Westfield and Springfield, New Jersey and retiring from Pearson Memorial United Methodist Church, Hamilton, New Jersey.

George always had a deep and abiding interest in Evangelism, having served as District Secretary of Evangelism as well as on Health and Welfare Conference Committees. His chief interest in the Christian Ministry was of a pastoral nature, believing it to be the chief work of a good shepherd. He was also active in the Habitat for Humanity Organization. Upon retirement, they traveled through the country with the WBCCI, and Airstream Travel Club, enjoying the company of their grandsons on their summer excursions.

Survived by, Ivy (Robert) Kirn daughter; Christopher (Anastasia) Lytle, Jason (Lisa) Lytle, Nicholas (Valentina) Lytle, grandsons; Milana Lytle, Jake, Luke, Alexis Lytle, great grandchildren. Guy (Gayle) Schlesinger, son; Abigail (Christopher) Vandergrift, Courtney Baccile, granddaughters, Whittaker Vandergrift, Anna, Julia Baccile, Sadie Schlesinger, great grandchildren.

Submitted by: Ivy Kirn

Interment: Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery

Ruth P. Shannon

September 24, 1919 – March 3, 2016



She was born in Beemerville, NJ on September 24, 1919, the daughter of John and Edna (Beemer) Post. She was raised in the family community surrounding Sussex, NJ. She graduated from Rider College with a degree in Business Education and taught at Revere, PA and Franklin, NJ. On June 25, 1945, she married the Rev. Frank C. Shannon. As the wife of a Methodist minister, she provided countless hours of support to their congregations in New Jersey (Mt. Herman, Clinton, Roseland, Belleville, Haledon), and Port Jervis, NY. She energized a "School of Missions" in each church. While in Port Jervis, she pioneered the Annual Plant Sale and the "Lord's" Auction as fundraisers for the church.

Her final church home was the Sussex United Methodist Church. Ruth was a life-long proponent of education, always encouraging her children to read, and explore their intellectual and artistic interests. Playing the piano, flower arranging, photography and cake decorating were some of her favorite activities. For many years following retirement, Ruth and Frank spent the cold months in Florida and the warm months in northern New Jersey. Family times at Lake Pohang were especially cherished.

MEMOIRS

She was preceded in death by her husband, and is survived by her children, Lyle (Terrie), Carl (Chris), and Ruth Ann Shannon, a grandson, Ben Shannon, and her twin brothers, John and Ted Post.

She is survived by, Lyle (Terrie) Shannon son; Carl (Christine) Shannon son; Ruth Ann Shannon daughter; Ben Shannon Grandson; John and Ted Post twin brothers

The family thanks many people: the staff at The United Methodist Home (Bristol Glen Community) and the Compassionate Care Hospice for their loving care of Ruth. Also, Pastor Dan Gepford, friends and relatives who provided tremendous encouragement and support

Internment: Beemerville Cemetery, Beemerville, New Jersey

Robert Drew Simpson

October 16, 1924 – August 6, 1915



The Reverend Dr. Robert Drew Simpson was appointed Senior Pastor to the Chatham Methodist Church in 1965. Prior to his ministry in Chatham he was the Senior Pastor to the Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church from 1946-1960 where he started after he graduated, summa cum laude, with a B.A. in religion from Drew University, where he led the congregation in constructing their first church building.

As a devoted scholar, Bob received his Bachelor of Divinity from Drew Theological Seminary, magna cum laude and continued graduate studies at Union Theological Seminary and Columbia University. He returned to Drew University to complete a Ph.D. degree in Christian History in 1954. In 1960 he moved to Nutley, New Jersey, and again led his congregation in church building at the Vincent United Methodist Church. In 1965, he began his 25 year ministry at the Chatham United Methodist Church. His Chatham congregation named him Pastor Emeritus upon his retirement in 1990, and named their Christian building for Bob and his wife Megan. Members of the congregation created two scholarships at Drew Theological School to honor the Simpsons: the Robert Drew Simpson Scholarship, and the Dr. Robert Drew Simpson and Dr. Megan Demarest Simpson Scholarship.

Members of the congregation created two scholarships at Drew Theological School to honor the Simpsons: the Robert Drew Simpson Scholarship, and the Dr. Robert Drew Simpson and Dr. Megan Demarest Simpson Scholarship.

Bob who was born in Port Jervis, New York to Edna Drake and Edward Simpson, attended Drew University where he met and later married Megan Demarest Simpson in June of 1946. Bob did not initially favor Drew's admission of women in the '40's. He spoke out against coeducation, only to meet and fall in love with Megan Demarest (C'46) the next semester, as a new college coed. They were married for 68 years and have three children, six grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren, leaving a legacy of love and devotion. Bob's joy and love for his family, his grandchildren, and his great grandchildren were still very evident as he and his family celebrated his 90th birthday a year ago.

As a descendant of Daniel Drew, the founder of Drew University, Bob served there as Trustee from 1977-1997, where he was chair and vice chair of the Student, Campus Life and Honorary Degree committees. He was an Adjunct Professor at Drew Seminary in the area of Pastoral Ministry. He also served on the Advancement and Executive Committees of the Theological School Alumni Association and remained an honorary member of the Executive Board. In 1994 he was the recipient of the Drew Theological School Alumni Distinguished Service Award. After his retirement he was an archivist in the Methodist Archives at Drew for fourteen years.

Dr. Simpson's published works from Freeborn Garrettson, American Methodist Pioneer (1954); The Life and Journals of the Reverend Freeborn Garrettson (1984); Camp Tabor (1995); The Civil War Letters of John Zephaniah Drake (1997); If Saddlebags Could Talk (1998); which he co-authored with Dr. Fred Maser; and Minding God's Business: The Stories of Women in Mission in the United Methodist Church (2003) which he co-authored with Dr. Megan Demarest Simpson. Dr. Simpson is the author of numerous articles on Methodist History. He was also the president of the Archival and Historical Society of the Northern New Jersey Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Bob's re-enactment programs of early church preachers, "Circuit Riders", brought him and his audience's great pleasure. Dressed in original preacher's attire, including sword and saddle bags, he enjoyed educating congregations about the history of the early Methodist church pioneers. Bob's hobby and passion for researching family history has left a complete account for his own future

MEMOIRS

generations. During the holiday season Bob enjoyed presenting his program on “Santa Claus” depicted by the political cartoonist, Thomas Nast, using his personal collection.

He is survived by Gary and David, sons; Gwen, daughter; 6 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

Submitted by: David Simpson
Interment: Newton, New Jersey

Ruth Louise Strang

January 21, 2016

R. Louise Strang, 91, of Ewing, New Jersey, died on Thursday January 21, 2016, at Capital Health’s Hopewell Campus.

Born in Millville, New Jersey, Louise was christened Ruth Louise Ewan. She was the devoted wife of the late Rev. Roland G. Strang. Dedicated to her family and her husband’s church ministry, Louise worked closely with their church families in Methodist congregations throughout New Jersey including Millville, Camden, National Park, Island Heights, Neptune City, Titusville, and Lambertville. She served on committees, taught Sunday school and always raised her voice in the choir. Louise was also active with the Island Heights and Neptune City Rescue Squads.

Louise was predeceased by her husband of 61 years, the Rev. Roland G. Strang; her great granddaughter Amber Diziki; her brother Irvin Ewan; her sister Hannah Roe; and her parents George and Mary H. Beakley Ewan.

She is survived by her daughters and son in law Mary Louise Martineau of Sellersville, Pennsylvania and Kathleen M. and Donald L. Ertel of Ewing, New Jersey; her grandchildren and their spouses Amy and Chris Diziki of Dillsburg, Pennsylvania, John Martineau, James Martineau, both of Sellersville, Todd and Amy Ertel of Howell, New Jersey, Steven and Marieke Ertel of Clifton, Virginia; her great grandchildren Ian, Hannah, Raina Diziki, Morgan and Aidan Martineau, Eleni, Maya, Kasen, Reese, Haley and Claire Ertel. Interment: Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Millville, New Jersey

E. Douglas Strickland

January 30, 1928 – January 28, 2016

Reverend Earl Douglas Strickland passed away in New Orleans, LA on January 28, 2016 after a brief illness.

Born in Humboldt, Tennessee, Doug was a World War II veteran who believed that “Once a Marine, Always a Marine”. During the 1960s, he was instrumental in developing the Lay Witness Mission program through the Board of Evangelism of the United Methodist Church. This experience led him to join the staff of the Haddonfield United Methodist Church in 1973 and, later, to become an ordained minister. He was also a respected real estate broker for Fox and Lazo Realtors for many years.

As a Methodist minister, he devotedly served churches in Pemberton, New Jersey, Malaga, New Jersey, Pedricktown, New Jersey and Penns Grove, New Jersey

At the time of his death, Doug was a resident of Hutto, Texas where he was a Retired Minister in Residence at the First United Methodist Church of Round Rock, Texas.

Doug was predeceased by his beloved wife of 65 years, June Jones Strickland and his brother Neil Franklin Strickland. He is survived by his three loving children, Janice Mohrfeld (Richard) of Pilesgrove, New Jersey, Alan Strickland (Patricia) of Georgetown, Texas and Holly Kirk of New Orleans, Louisiana. He is also survived by 6 grandchildren, Kate Mohrfeld, Christopher Mohrfeld, Michelle Strickland, Samantha Kirk, Sean Strickland and Shannon Kirk as well as a brother, David Strickland (Anita) and sister, Sharon Strickland of Louisville, Kentucky.

MEMOIRS

Mezzie Thielking

May 31, 1940 – June 12, 2015

Mezzie Ann Thielking (nee Lascarides) passed away peacefully Friday, June 12, 2015.

Born in Millville on May 31, 1940, Mezzie was a graduate of Millville High School and Rowan (Glassboro) State College. She was an elementary school teacher with the Washington Township Public Schools with over 25 years of service.

Mezzie was married for over 50 years to the late Rev. William B. Thielking. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Millville, the United Methodist Women Circle, and the South Seaville Camp Association. Mezzie was a loving mother, mom-mom, sister, aunt and great aunt.

She will be sadly missed by her daughters, Holly Conaway (Glenn) of Mullica Hill, and Kymberly Viden (Wayne) of Glassboro; five grandchildren, Timothy (Emily), Bethany (Freddie), Cole, Elise and Katie; her brother Meihale "Mike" S. Lascarides; and several nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews. She was predeceased by her parents, Charles and DuVilla (Boyce) Lascarides; and one sister Dorothy Pogue.

Submitted by: The Daily Journal, June 15, 2015

Interment: Mt. Pleasant, Millville, New Jersey

Donna L. Tintle

June 4, 1958 – February 5, 2016

Loved by family and church.

Volunteered many hours weekly to church after her retirement. She accomplished much in her fifty six years on earth.

She was a very loving person.

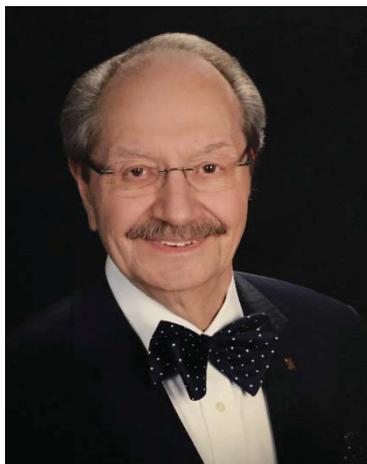
She is survived by her father Donald Tintle; brother Cary Tintle and sister, Lori Shepard.

Submitted by: Donald Tintle

Interment: Sanders Cemetery, Butler, New Jersey

James R. West

November 4, 1940 – May 6, 2015



On November 4, 1940 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a fragile baby boy was born 10 weeks premature to John & Betty West. With a lot of nurturing and love, James Ronald West not only survived, but he began to thrive.

When his father returned from the war, their family settled in Camden, New Jersey where Jim spent much of his childhood. Growing up, Jim excelled in school and in all he did, and was active in his church. In fact, he and Shirley were members of the same congregation though it would be several years before they began dating. On October 14, 1967 they were married.

During the ensuing years, they were blessed with two wonderful sons and his career as an analytical chemist with Rohm & Haas began to flourish. Jim and his young family moved to Delran in December 1978 – the same town where his parents and siblings relocated to after leaving Camden years before.

Jim and Shirley began attending Delran United Methodist Church in 1981 where the family is still active today. As with most things in his life, Jim quickly became fully immersed in the church where he sang in the choir, played the hand bells, served on many committees, and represented the church as a lay leader at Conference for three consecutive four-year terms.

His one last wish was to return to church and worship one final time. Unfortunately, he isn't here in body but surely is in spirit.

MEMOIRS

He was a wonderful, caring son to John and Betty; brother to Carol and Roger; husband to Shirley; father to Duane and Todd; father-in-law to Stacey; and most recently Grandpop to little Arthur.

He is survived by, Shirley West, wife; Roger West, brother; Carol Bacon, sister; Duane West, son; Todd West, son; Stacey Bach, daughter in law; Arthur West, grandson.

We miss him dearly however are relieved that his suffering is gone. We are comforted to know that he is looking down on everyone right now, ringing hand bells and joining a heavenly choir to sing "How Great Thou Art."

Submitted by: Shirley West

Doris L. Williams

November 5, 1949 – June 6, 2015



Doris Williams' journey toward ministry began with the seed of faith planted by in her by her mother and grandmother and by her childhood years at the Jerusalem Holiness Church in Reidsville, N.C. Her spiritual growth was nurtured by the abundant experiences of God's grace and healing in her life and the lives of those around her. Her inspiration for sharing the gospel was cultivated by her time at Howard University School of Divinity in Washington D.C. where she earned a Master's degree in religious education.

Doris Williams went on to serve as Dean of Women at Bennett College in Greensboro, N.C. and subsequently as Dean of Women at Paine College in Augusta, Ga. where she met her future husband, the late Dr. Vernon Williams. After marrying, Doris and Vernon Williams moved to New York City, where Doris served as Director of Christian Education at St Mark's UMC in New York. They eventually moved to Newark, N.J. and became active members of Trinity United Methodist Church in Newark, N.J., where over the course of more than 25 years, Doris served as liturgist, lay leader, Sunday school teacher and youth leader. In addition, Doris Williams held several professional positions where she had opportunity to minister to others and serve the greater

Newark, N.J. community.

In her sixties, Doris felt the call to ordained ministry. She attended Drew University, earned her Masters of Divinity and was ordained an elder in the Northern N.J. Conference of the United Methodist Church. Rev. Doris L. Williams served as pastor of the Dunellen United Methodist Church, Fairmont UMC Church, Gladstone UMC and East Millstone UMC. After her retirement from full time ministry, she served as an assistant pastor at the Bridgewater United Methodist Church and as a chaplain at Somerset Medical Center and the Hagedorn Psychiatric hospital.

Throughout her ministry, Rev. Doris L. Williams felt particularly called to pray for and minister to the sick. She is fondly remembered by so many, whose lives she touched during her lifetime on earth.

She is survived by daughters Landrea Miriti, Beverly Williams

Submitted by: Landrea Miriti