

**E. ROLL OF DECEASED CLERGY AND DIACONAL MINISTERS  
AND DECEASED SPOUSES OF CLERGY AND  
DIACONAL MINISTERS**

May 1, 2006– April 30, 2007

**Clergy and Diaconal Ministers**

John Fletcher Andrews .....	October 21, 2006
Joseph Russell Andrews .....	January 22, 2007
Mary Eleanor Bethea .....	March 10, 2007
Dorothy Jean Bowman .....	June 18, 2006
Clyde Wheeler Faulkner .....	December 19, 2006
Kerry Mitchell Fralic .....	September 6, 2006
Everett Reckard Freeman .....	January 19, 2007
John Robert Gottula .....	February 16, 2007
Roy Lee Grant .....	June 24, 2006
William Tupper Haselden .....	April 21, 2006
John William Hoyle III .....	May 18, 2006
Trevor Curtis Jones .....	March 2, 2007
Albert Lewis Joyner, Jr. ....	November 30, 2006
William Franklin Lee .....	August 7, 2006
Julius Clay Madison .....	January 7, 2007
Cecil Harvey Marcellus, Jr. ....	July 5, 2006
Robert Alan Mick .....	May 14, 2006
Mark Arnold Rouch .....	November 14, 2006
Ivan Akers Stephens .....	July 19, 2006
John Lemacks Stokes II .....	November 23, 2006
Furman Alexander Wright .....	September 16, 2006

(At the request of his family, Thomas Colon McLean, who passed from this life on April 10, 2007, will be included among those clergy members of the conference whose memory will be honored at the 2008 session of the conference.)

**Spouses of Clergy**

Minnie Sides Allen (James Albert Allen) .....	December 27, 2005
Myra McAllister Anderson (William Charles Anderson) .....	October 10, 2006
Helen Davis Beall (Thomas McKenzie Beall, Jr.) .....	June 8, 2006
Frances Goss Beeker (Melvin Mock Beeker) .....	December 15, 2006
Flossie Deal Brandon (Joseph Max Brandon, Jr.) .....	October 17, 2006
Mary Saroch Bush (Newell Campbell Bush) .....	March 28, 2007
Willa Cauble Cooke (Jack Homer Cooke) .....	January 7, 2007
Ruth Henderson Dennis (Carl William Dennis) .....	September 2, 2006
Eunice Arnold Faulkner (Arthur Mitchell Faulkner) .....	February 13, 2007
Lourene Walker Gantt (Ben Tyra Gantt, Jr.) .....	November 11, 2006
Vesona Bigelow Graves (Walter J. Cameron) .....	November 29, 2006
Agnes Bonkemeyer Greene (June Page Greene) .....	May 1, 2006
Mabel Yates Loflin (Foster Ree Loflin) .....	July 24, 2006
Helen Gates Maxwell (Asmond Leonard Maxwell, Jr.) .....	August 26, 2006
Anna Warner Portis (Marcus Steven Portis) .....	January 2, 2007
Rebecca Wright Pryor (Woodrow Wilson Pryor) .....	September 10, 2006
Thelma Hubbard Stamey (Robert Henry Stamey) .....	September 17, 2006
Carolyn Barner Taylor (Habakkuk Taylor) .....	March 4, 2007
Ruth Futrelle Thompson (Walter Rowe Thompson) .....	May 26, 2006

## F. MEMOIRS OF DECEASED CLERGY AND DIACONAL MINISTERS

### JOHN FLETCHER ANDREWS

March 3, 1945 – October 21, 2006



John Fletcher Andrews was born on March 3, 1945, at the Pensacola Naval Air Station to then-World War II U.S. Navy pilot and future ordained United Methodist minister Fletcher Lanier Andrews and Joan Whitener Andrews. He was the firstborn of five children in a family that, in short order, developed the familiar "Methodist preacher" itinerant lifestyle. Education was stressed early, as his mother was an educator with a variety of educational tools that complemented his father's education and experience. He loved sports and played basketball in elementary school. He also became proficient in flute and piccolo and, as a singer, welcomed just about any situation in which there was a group with which to sing. His childhood and lifelong hobby was collecting butterflies, as well as butterfly and shell paraphernalia. He graduated in 1962 from Davie County High School and was near the top of his class academically.

While attending Lenoir-Rhyne College, in Hickory, North Carolina, he sang with the A Cappella Choir. He received his license to preach in January of 1966 and began his ministry while at Lenoir-Rhyne, serving a student appointment on the New Hope Circuit, at Pilot Mountain, North Carolina. The circuit was made up of five rural churches, which he served with enthusiasm, passion, and grace. His first child, John Fletcher Lanier Andrews, was born while he served this appointment, on April 25, 1967. John graduated (B.A.)

from Lenoir-Rhyne in 1967.

He entered the Western North Carolina Conference as a probationary member in 1969 and was ordained deacon the same year. He then moved his young family to Bogart, Georgia, where he served the United Methodist church as a student while pursuing a master of divinity degree at Candler School of Theology, in Atlanta. He completed his M.Div. in 1973 and accepted an appointment back in his home conference as associate pastor at First Church, Asheboro. His second child, Heather Lynease Andrews Clark, was born that summer, on July 12, 1973, in Asheboro. After serving one year on the staff at Asheboro: First, he took an appointment at the 1974 conference as a mental-health counselor for Randolph County, North Carolina. In 1974, John was admitted in full connection and ordained elder in the Western North Carolina Conference. On January 1, 1975, he was appointed to Legend Park Church, Asheboro, which he served until 1981, while still maintaining his duties with Randolph County. He also served a six-year term on the Asheboro School Board. His third child, Jeffrey David Aaron Andrews, was born on December 9, 1979. John became full time again with Randolph County as a drug and family counselor in 1981 and served there in an appointment "beyond the local church" until the summer of 1986. In 1985, John joined the United States Army Chaplain Corps and served in a "reserve" capacity until he became full time in 1987. He served in the military, with primary responsibilities for the recruitment of ministers from all faiths and denominations for the U.S. Army chaplaincy, until 1996. He excelled at this work, recruiting a record number of chaplains to serve army personnel. He was presented a medal for meritorious service and the Valley Forge U.S. Army Essay Award while on active duty..

John then became a student again, pursuing a career as a hospital chaplain until October 1997, when he accepted the call of the church to serve the Jonesville-Maple Springs charge, in the North Wilkesboro District. In the summer of 2001, he was assigned to the Liberty-Concord charge, just outside of Mocksville, in the Lexington District, making the "full circle" back to the town in which he had graduated from high school in 1962.

John's zeal for education gave him impetus to apply to the doctor of ministry program at Union Theological Seminary, in Dayton, Ohio. This degree came through diligence, hard work, and a lot of travel, reaching its completion in 2002. The travel took him to the Fuqua School of Ministry at the Crystal Cathedral, in Garden Grove, California. Dr. Robert Schuller and the faculty at Crystal Cathedral had a profound impact on his ministry and the ultimate fulfilling of John's call.

He took the "retired" status at conference in 2005, due in large part to some health problems related to stroke and heart issues. He moved to Jonesboro, Georgia, and was active in the pursuit of ministry as "one of those retired preachers" who attended Jodeco Road Church, in the North Georgia Conference. It was at a youth retreat sponsored by the church that he suffered his most debilitating stroke. He passed from this life while sitting in his favorite recliner in his home on October 21, 2006.

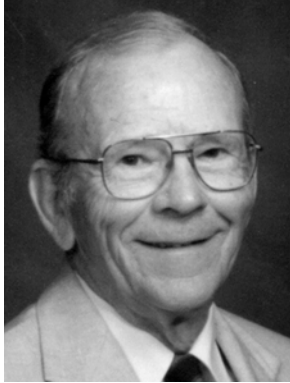
John; his father, Fletcher; and his uncles Bill and Russell (also a military chaplain) are just a small part of the legacy in ministry that have come before and served with distinction in the Western North Carolina Conference. Still serving are his brother, Harry; his first cousin, W. Mark Andrews; and a niece, Kathryn A. McElveen. Judy Andrews Starnes is also a first cousin with ties to the conference, having married another Candler graduate and now retired minister, T. Paul Starnes, Jr. Another niece, Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly, is attending seminary in Virginia to become an Episcopal priest, and her brother Charles is in Kuyper College, in Michigan, working on a degree in Bible translation.

Surviving John are his mother, Joan, of Maiden, North Carolina; two brothers, Jim and Harry; and two sisters, Angela and Marnie. His children all survive him, as does one grandchild, Mary Catherine Andrews.

John fought the good fight, persevered, and had the "blessed assurance" that comes with the knowledge of a servant who has been faithful. Well done!

Harry F. Andrews

**JOSEPH RUSSELL ANDREWS**  
**May 29, 1918 – January 22, 2007**



Retired chaplain (Colonel) Joseph Russell Andrews, of the Western North Carolina Conference and the United States Army, was an ordained minister of The United Methodist Church and a decorated army chaplain, having served in World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam. He remained connected to his Methodist colleagues throughout his military career, attending Western North Carolina Annual Conference at Lake Junaluska as his duty permitted.

Russell was born on May 29, 1918, in Landrum, South Carolina, and grew up in neighboring towns of North and South Carolina, including Lake Junaluska, where he joined Long's Chapel Methodist Church as a child. He shared happy memories of living on the lake, where his father was assigned as stationmaster for the Southern Railroad. He often spoke of delivering telegrams to bishops and being in awe of them.

Russell attended Brevard College (A.A. 1937), Wofford College (A.B. 1939), Duke University (B.D. 1942), and Columbia University (M.A. 1957). He met his "Betsy" (Frances Elizabeth Babb) at Duke University on Valentine's Day in 1941, and they were married at York Chapel on March 23, 1942.

He was admitted "on trial" in the Virginia Conference in 1942, ordained deacon in 1943, ordained elder in 1944, and admitted to full connection in 1948. On June 9, 1965, his membership was transferred to the Western North

Carolina Conference. He served in the United States Army for 34 years, retiring in 1978 to Lake Junaluska, where he was the director of operations for five years. His retirement from active ministry came in 1982.

He was commissioned into the army at Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia, on May 23, 1944. His tours of duty took him from the Chaplain School at Harvard University to Camp Gruber, Oklahoma; Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; World War II in Germany; Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Iwo Jima; Saipan; Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Korean War; Fort Sill, OK; Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico; Instructor, Chaplain School, Fort Slocum, New York; Fort Hood, Texas; Dean, Chaplain School, Fort Hamilton, New York; Fort Benning, Georgia; Heidelberg, Germany; Vietnam War; Fort McNair, Washington, D.C.; and Fort Lee, Virginia.

Russell was the first chaplain to receive the Four Chaplains Medal, usually reserved for commanders for outstanding support of the religious program of their command; Legion of Merit Award; and Bronze Star. His career as an army chaplain was distinguished by positions of high responsibility. One of these included post chaplain at Fort Benning, Georgia, where he supervised about 65 chaplains. He was in charge of all army retreat center activity in Europe for three years. Near the end of his career, he was the chaplain of the Military District of Washington, supervising all funerals at Arlington National Cemetery and responsible for religious services at the Pentagon. Finally, he retired as the last chaplain on active duty who had served in World War II.

In addition to his dedication as a chaplain and to his service to Lake Junaluska Assembly, Russell had many lifelong interests and hobbies. These included a love of nature and exploration of the varied natural surroundings wherever he lived. He played tennis, enjoyed classical music and opera, loved to garden, studied poetry and literature of all kinds, attended local sporting events, fished and sailed with his grandchildren, played endless board and card games, took films and photographs wherever he traveled, and had an unquenchable curiosity for life, in all its forms. Russell's energy, love for all God's creations, and an unconditional love for his family are the hallmarks of his spirit.

While serving as director of operations at Lake Junaluska Assembly, he gained the respect and friendship of many. He enjoyed working with young people, and his dedicated work ethic and love for the lake community was infectious. His summer helpers called him "Colonel" or "Mr. Chaplain," but most knew him as "Russ." After his "second retirement" from the assembly and conference, he could be seen golfing, gardening, sailing his small boat on the lake, walking in the Cornielle Bryant Native Garden and along the Rose Walk, and volunteering in the community.

Death came to Russell Andrews at the age of 88, on January 22, 2007. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Betsy; daughters Julia Andrews Vlasak (born on March 8, 1943), of Lakewood, Washington, Jo Dye Keskin (born on October 22, 1945), of Hilton Head, South Carolina, and Nancy Elizabeth Hall (born on August 10, 1949), of Lake Oswego, Oregon; grandchildren Marc Andrew Vlasak, David Christian Dye, Brian Daniel Dye, Tanya Vlasak Movsessian, Jennifer Lorraine Hall, and Scott Andrew Hall; three great-granddaughters; and a brother, Ed Meaders Andrews, of Orono, Maine. Russell was preceded in death by his brothers, also clergy members of the Western North Carolina Conference, Fletcher Lanier Andrews and William Ed Andrews, as well as one other brother and three sisters.

A graveside service was held on January 24, 2007, at Garrett-Hillcrest Memorial Park, in Waynesville, North Carolina.

*Day is done, gone the sun,  
 From the lake, from the hills, from the sky;  
 All is well, safely rest; God is nigh.*

Andrews Family

**MARY ELEANOR BETHEA**  
**June 15, 1916 – March 10, 2007**



We thank thee, Lord, thy paths of service lead  
 To blazoned heights and down the slopes of need;  
 They reach thy throne, encompass land and sea,  
 And he who journeys in them walks with thee.

(Calvin W. Laufer)

This hymn epitomizes the life of service that Mary Eleanor Bethea lived. Mary was born in Wilmington, North Carolina, June 15, 1916, the oldest of three children of Charles and Carlotta Fleet Bethea. Following graduation from high school, Mary was employed in the office of the City Engineer of Wilmington. Her church and her employment made it possible for her to attend Louisburg Junior College (A.A. 1939) and then to graduate from Greensboro College in 1945 with a B.A. degree and from Scarritt College in 1946 with the degree of master's of arts. She also took special courses at American University, Washington, D.C., and the University of Michigan. She was given the honorary degree of doctor of divinity by Pfeiffer College (now University) in 1979. She was also a licensed nursing home administrator through the state of North Carolina.

Mary's years of service included the position of director of Christian education, Grace United Methodist Church, Greensboro, North Carolina; teacher of religion and dean of women, Louisburg College; assistant professor of religion and assistant dean of women, Wesleyan College, Macon, Georgia; associate professor of religion and dean of students, Greensboro College; and administrator of Brooks-Howell Home.

After nine years as the administrator of Brooks-Howell Home, Mary retired in 1982. That retirement, however, did not last too long, as she became an associate director of Givens Estates United Methodist Retirement Community. She retired from Givens Estates in 1992.

As Mary often said, she joined the "long line of splendor" when she was commissioned a deaconess at Buck Hill Falls, Pennsylvania, on January 27, 1958. She held this relationship as a sacred trust from God of an inner commitment. In 1977, she was consecrated a diaconal minister in the Western North Carolina Conference.

Mary's activities were wide and varied. She held local, district, and conference offices within the United Methodist Women. She also served as counselor for a youth caravan within the United States, as well as counselor for two caravans to Austria and Germany following World War II. After the Hungarian Revolution, Mary worked with the United Methodist Committee on Overseas Relief in Austria. Other offices were held in the Scarritt College Alumni Association and the National Committee on Deaconess and Home Missionary Service. A distinction came when Mary was elected as the first woman to serve as chairperson of the administrative board of Central United Methodist Church, Asheville. She also served as the chairperson of the Foundation Fund Committee of Central Church.

There is a hymn of which the first line is, "O Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end," and Mary did. On March 10, 2007, she died at Brooks-Howell Home, Asheville, where she had lived as a resident since 1991. Her interment was on March 14, at the Oakdale Cemetery, Wilmington. A memorial service was held at the Brooks-Howell Home Chapel on May 6, 2007.

M. Susan Carmichael

**DOROTHY JEAN BOWMAN**  
**March 14, 1934 – June 18, 2006**



Dorothy Jean Bowman was born on March 14, 1934, at Brown Summit, North Carolina, to the late James Talmadge Bowman, Sr., and Bessie Electra McCormick Bowman. She received her B.S. degree in nutrition from what is now the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 1956 and an M.C.E. degree from Candler School of Theology, Emory University, in 1959.

After working in the field of nutrition for two years, Jean embarked upon a career in Christian education and served in Georgia at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Atlanta, and St. Luke United Methodist Church, Columbus. In 1969, she returned to North Carolina and began what would be a 30-year ministry at Wesley Memorial Church, High Point. Her title at first was "Director of Christian Education." Then, in 1977, she was consecrated a diaconal minister in the Western North Carolina Conference, and her title at Wesley Memorial was changed to "Director of Children's Ministries." She was responsible for all ministries to and for children, including the Sunday School programs at the church, as well as through-the-week activities and summer "Fun Days."

As Wesley Memorial grew, and emphases in educational ministry evolved, Jean's appointment was changed to "Director of Early Childhood Education" in 1991, and she was given responsibility for the through-the-week school ministry of the church. She continued in that role until her

retirement in 1999.

Jean's ministry, while focused at Wesley Memorial, was not limited to her local church. She was a leader in Christian education throughout the Western North Carolina Conference, serving on the Board of Diaconal Ministry

and on design teams for children's ministry events. A number of people struggling with a call to Christian ministry turned to Jean for spiritual guidance and advice. She was an encourager of children at any age or stage in life. She was a former member of Gethsemane United Methodist Church and helped with that church's vision of a library to honor the heritage of that church and her family.

Following retirement, Jean returned to her family and friends at Brown Summit. She operated the family business, Brown Summit Grocery, until 2002. The circle of her love encompassed her sister and brothers, her niece and nephews and their children, and also the families she worked with in every church she served. The pictures of those whose lives she touched wallpapered her doors as long as she lived. The *whole* family of God was represented in the butterflies she treasured.

Jean passed from this life on June 18, 2006, at Moses Cone Extended Care, Greensboro. A memorial service was held on June 23 at Wesley Memorial Church, High Point, with Charles W. Wilson II, A. C. Brock, Jr., and Kathie Clontz Sherrill officiating. Jean is survived by her brother, James Talmadge Bowman, Jr., and his wife, Nancy, of Ayden; her sister-in-law, Kathleen Chrismon Bowman, of Brown Summit; a niece, Cynthia Bowman Martin, and her husband, Jim, of Raleigh; two nephews, Darwin Bowman, and his wife, Kay, of Bothell, Washington, and Jason Busick, and his wife, Angela, of Randleman; and great-nieces and nephews Emma Caroline Busick, Kailyn Talmadge Bowman, Nathaniel Christian Bowman, and John Bowman Martin.

Harriet Mattes, Peggy Arthur Finch, and Kathie Clontz Sherrill

**CLYDE WHEELER FAULKNER**  
**June 28, 1912 – December 19, 2006**



Clyde Wheeler Faulkner was born on June 28, 1912, in Vance County, North Carolina. He was the son of the late Omegia V. and Martha Ann Vaughn Faulkner. Gillburg Methodist Church, near Henderson, in Vance County, was his home church.

Clyde was a product of the farm, and his approach to every aspect of life bore the imprint of his early years. He loved to rise early and work long until the job was completed. Throughout his life, he took pride in showing up early for appointments, hospital visits, church services, and annual conference. His custom was to sit near the front of the annual conference sessions. When asked, "Why?" he replied, "To respect and support my bishop!"

High Point College was his choice for the beginning of his post-high school academic training. There he earned the A.B. degree in 1948. In 1964, he earned the M.Div. degree from Candler School of Theology of Emory University. He was admitted on trial in the Western North Carolina Conference on October 1, 1948. In 1950, he was ordained deacon and admitted to full connection, and he was ordained elder in 1952.

Clyde and Hazelyn Wall were married on November 11, 1935. This union lasted 51 years before Hazelyn's death on December 1, 1996. Her ashes were scattered on top of a hill where they lived, near Hickory Stand United Methodist Church, which Clyde once served as pastor. Their only son, Clyde

Wheeler Faulkner, Jr. (born on August 29, 1936), like his father, responded to the call to ordained Christian ministry and is a retired elder related to the Western North Carolina Annual Conference. Lynne Faulkner Smith, Clyde's granddaughter, was commissioned a probationary deacon in the North Georgia Conference on June 13, 2006, a third-generation clergy. Clyde and Hazelyn had two grandchildren, Michael L. Faulkner and Lynne Faulkner Smith; a step-granddaughter, Donna A. Brat; and five great-grandchildren.

Clyde's long and fruitful ministry reached from Manteo to Murphy. His first appointment was to the Hatteras Church, and one of his last appointments was to the Murphy Circuit. His appointments in the Western North Carolina Conference included Kernersville Circuit, 1948-52; Mount Airy: Franklin Heights, 1952-55; Walkertown: Morris Chapel, 1955-59; Winston-Salem: New Hope, 1959-61; Hayesville Circuit, 1961-67; Mt. Pleasant Circuit (Greensboro District), 1967-75; and Kimesville: Mt. Pleasant, 1975-80. Following his 1980 retirement, he was appointed to Hayesville Circuit and Parish Associate, 1985-86; Murphy Circuit Associate, 1986-87; Murphy Circuit II, 1987-2002; Murphy Circuit, 2002-03; Martin's Creek-Peachtree, 2003-06; and Martin's Creek, 2006 until his death.

Clyde never lost his love for the soil and the joy of watching things grow. During the last 20 years of his life, he planted two acres of garden and, on Saturday, went regularly to sell his produce at the Hayesville town square. Hunting and fishing were also areas of interest. In 1991, he caught a large 36-pound, 8-ounce king mackerel, for which he received a North Carolina Saltwater Fishing Citation. In gratitude for his enthusiastic support of the Hayesville High School basketball program, he was given a reserved seat in the gym, which bears a plaque inscribed with his name, to honor him for his dedicated attendance.

Clyde was dean of United Methodist ministers in the Waynesville District. By his commitment, he set a high standard for his peers to emulate. The records show that, every year of his ministry, without fail, the churches he served paid their apportionments in full. He always supported the district and conference programs with his attendance and participation. After Jim Trollinger's appointment to the Waynesville District, he attended his first district meeting in typical casual attire. He greeted Clyde, who had arrived early, as was his custom, with the comment, "Clyde, you certainly look dapper today!" Clyde looked Jim over from head to toe and responded, "You could, too, if you tried." Clyde always dressed appropriately for every occasion. Clyde's health was very good for 94 years, but began to decline rapidly. His last outing in the community was to attend the local high school basketball game.

Death came on December 19, 2006, in Brasstown, at the residence of his son. A service of celebration of Clyde's life and ministry was held in the chapel of Ivie Funeral Home, Murphy, on December 23. Participating in the service were J. Alexander Ward, Jr., Jacob C. Kyler, and Dallas Crowder. Interment was in the Hickory Stand United Methodist Church cemetery.

Larry D. Wilkinson

**KERRY MITCHELL FRALIC**  
**May 11, 1951 – September 6, 2006**



Kerry Mitchell Fralic was born on May 11, 1951. Although he was born in Toledo, Ohio, he spent the first 17 years of his life in Wellston, Michigan. Kerry was the first child born to the late Dale W. and Jan Hoover Fralic. The family expanded with the addition of another son, Rusty, and two girls, Jody and Tomi.

After graduation from high school, Kerry attended Michigan State University. It was during his college days that he came home with a brand-new attitude. It was more than an attitude adjustment; it was a complete change of life that followed his encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ. It was this noticeable change that created a hunger in his sister which persuaded her to accept Jesus Christ as her Savior.

Kerry graduated from Michigan State in 1973, with a B.S. degree in microbiology and public health, but the call of God led him to give his life to work on the spiritual side of humankind, not just the physical. Responding to that call, he entered Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, near Boston, Massachusetts. In 1976, he graduated with an M.A. degree in religious education, with a specialty in youth ministry. After serving on staff with Young Life, in Weaverville, North Carolina, he returned to school at Asbury Theological Seminary, in Wilmore, Kentucky.

In 1980, he was ordained as a deacon and became a probationary member of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference. In 1981, he graduated with a master of divinity degree.

During his time of preparing for ministry, he had another life-changing experience: He met Katherine Sutton. After a storybook courtship, they were married on July 26, 1975. Katie was the love of Kerry's life. He was everything, and more, that a husband could be. For over 31 years, they were an inseparable team in a shared ministry. Along the way, two very precious gifts were given to Kerry and Katie: Jeremiah William, born on September 10, 1976, and Jessica Christiana, born on November 26, 1979.

Upon Kerry's graduation from Asbury, he was appointed to Nesbitt's Chapel, in the Asheville District, where he served for seven years, 1981-88. During this time, he was ordained an elder and admitted to full connection at annual conference in 1983. In 1988, he was appointed to the Edneyville-Fruitland charge. Then, in 1991, he was appointed to Abernethy Memorial, in Rutherford College. First Church, Conover, became his next appointment, in 1997. Kerry was accepted into the doctor of ministry degree program at Asbury Seminary in early 1998. In that program, was able to visit many of the dynamic churches across America and learn from their experience. He had finished all the course work and was working on his dissertation. In 2003, the itinerant system took him to Central Church, Denton, where he was able to serve for only one year.

In Denton, some health problems began to catch up with him. After he had dealt with diabetes and sleep apnea for many years, we began to see some major changes in his memory skills. After a men's retreat to the coast, Katie went with him to see his doctor. When asked how he was doing, he said, "Fine" (in perfect Kerry style), but then Katie stepped in and said, "Not so, doctor." After a series of tests, he was diagnosed with vascular dementia and a series of mini-strokes.

In 2004, Kerry took incapacity leave. His new appointment was to serve by Katie's side. She was serving as our conference youth coordinator, and his job was to go with her and help where he could. He helped her at the conference office and at youth events like SpiritUs and Choose 2 Share Christ. He did what he could, for as long as he could. Then things began to change drastically in his health. In September 2005, Kerry was placed in the Valley Nursing Center, in Taylorsville, North Carolina. While there, he was still a minister. He continued to pray, to show off his friendly smile, and to love those around him.

The connection between the Auten and Fralic families began, like many lifelong friendships, during annual conference at Lake Junaluska. Our kids met first on the playground at Camp Adventure. Then we discovered we had many other things in common. Kerry Fralic was a brother to me. In good times and bad, he was there. There are some things you might not know about Kerry. He was an avid outdoorsman. As a state of North Carolina Master Beekeeper, he kept his friends and church members in honey. He also provided a great service to his parishioners in Edneyville, providing bees for pollination in their apple orchards. While at seminary, and while serving at Nesbitt's Chapel and Edneyville, Kerry served with the volunteer fire departments as a fireman, first responder, and E.M.T. During the fall season, you could find Kerry following his passion for deer hunting. In the spring and summer, he would fish Hatteras for tuna, dolphin, and marlin. A special recognition was given to him from the state of North Carolina, for catch and release of a 350-pound blue marlin on board the *Desperado*. He really enjoyed life.

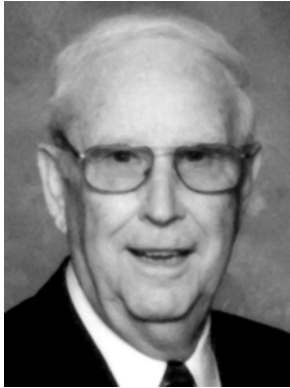
Kerry was a wonderful minister and loved by those he served. He had a pastor's heart and would put others ahead of himself. Kerry led numerous mission building teams to the Caribbean. I had the privilege to go with him twice to Panama and once to Puerto Rico. He was a great goodwill ambassador and messenger of the Good News of Jesus Christ. His faith was evident and strong, even in the worst of situations.

Unexpectedly, on September 6, 2006, the Lord called Kerry home. Jeremiah and his wife, Olivia, were only days away from giving birth to the first Fralic grandchild. They had recently moved to California, and Olivia was unable to travel. On September 17, she gave birth to Judah William Fralic. Due to this, the memorial service for Kerry was held on October 7, 2006, at First Church, Conover. The service was led by Michael W. Moree and C. James Church. It was a time of celebration and praise. The family life center at First Church was filled with colleagues, friends, and family. When it came time for others to share how Kerry had touched their lives, person after person stood up to share. In his quiet, humble way, he had been a powerful witness to love of God in Christ Jesus. His ashes were then placed in the church columbarium.

My friend showed many traits of a Christ-like life. At the top of the list were patience and gentleness. In 22 years of being around him, I never once saw him harm his witness. I believe Jesus had Kerry and others like him in mind when he gave these words: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

Richard D. Auten

**EVERETT RECKARD FREEMAN**  
**June 5, 1925 – January 19, 2007**



Everett Freeman was born in Lincoln County, North Carolina, on June 5, 1925, to Marvin and Lucy Abernethy Freeman. During World War II, he served in the United States Army (1943-1946). After basic training, on May 6, 1944, while on a weekend pass, he married the lady who would be his lifelong sweetheart, Nancy Lediza Senter. To them were born four children: Emily Ann (Sheffield), on July 28, 1949; Darrell Edwin, on November 9, 1950; Linda Kay (Stafford), on December 1, 1951; and Billie Joy (Buff), on October 22, 1953. Everett was blessed with six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Family was of utmost importance to him, and many of his last words included declarations of love and appreciation for them.

In the months following his return from the war, Everett became increasingly aware that God was calling him into the ministry. After discovering the steps required to honor God's call, he realized that difficulties lay ahead, because he had not completed high school. His trust in God never wavered, and he began his journey of preparation.

Everett was licensed to preach in 1948. He earned an A.A. degree from Brevard College in 1950 and an A.B. degree from High Point College (now University) in 1952. During those college years, he held two student appointments: Etowah, 1948-50, and then, from 1950 to 1952, the Richland Charge, at Asheboro, which consisted of five churches. He was admitted on

trial to the Western North Carolina Conference on September 28, 1952; admitted to full connection and ordained deacon in 1954; and ordained elder in 1956.

Honoring his commitment to go where God wanted him to go, Everett served the following appointments: Candler (two churches), in the Asheville District, 1952-56; Davidson (four churches), in the Thomasville District, 1956-58; Salisbury: Milford Hills, 1958-62; Yadkinville-Center, 1962-67; Charlotte: Christ, 1967-71; Greensboro: St. John's, 1971-76; Tryon, 1976-81; Asheville: Oakley, 1981-86; and Spruce Pine, 1986-89. Throughout his very effective ministry, Everett fulfilled his promise to be a faithful minister of the Good News. In his quiet, unassuming manner, he ministered to the needs of those to whom he was sent to serve. Everett retired in June of 1989 and returned to Lincolnton.

Always a humble man, Everett would never speak of his many talents, but those who knew him counted among them his ability to communicate with others and the warmth and compassion of his pastoral care. He especially enjoyed working with children and youth. Although he delivered hundreds of fine sermons, his children do not remember him as a "preacher." To them, he was a man who showed others how to live a Christian life day by day. He was small in stature, but a giant when it came to loving and being loved by others.

Everett was also known for his generosity. Early in their marriage, while in school, Everett and Nancy experienced financial difficulties, due to family illness and a car accident. At prayer meeting that week, a man in the congregation told of a family in the community that was experiencing great difficulties and needed help. Having such a loving and generous spirit, Everett contributed the last two dollars he owned to an offering for this needy family. The following day, Everett was shocked to learn that the offering had been collected for him and his family.

That is the way Everett lived his life, trusting that God would take care of our needs. In his final years, Everett suffered many illnesses. Just as one seemed to improve, another was discovered. Never complaining, he continued to be a witness to family, doctors, nurses, nursing-home staff, and all those with whom he came in contact. His patience, grace, and dignity won the hearts of all who knew him, no matter how briefly.

Nancy once asked Everett if he ever questioned why so many health problems seemed to afflict him. He answered, "It is not important that we understand all that happens to us in life. It is only important that we trust God." And so he did, until his last breath, on January 19, 2007.

A service of thanksgiving and celebration for the life of Everett Freeman was held at Asbury Church, Lincolnton, on January 21. He is buried near his parents, in Asbury Cemetery. We give thanks for his life and living testimony.  
 Nancy and His Loving Children

**JOHN ROBERT GOTTULA**  
**January 10, 1951 – February 16, 2007**

John Robert Gottula was born on January 10, 1951, in Nebraska City, Nebraska. His parents were Elmer Jess and Mary Kellum Gottula. He graduated from Beatrice (NE) High School in 1969 and from Kansas State University in 1974, with a B.S. degree in classical language. He graduated from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary with a master of divinity in 1977 and from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro with a master of science degree in child development and family relations in 1984.

John was originally admitted as a probationary member and ordained deacon in 1974 in the Nebraska Conference. In 1985, he was readmitted to that conference and transferred to the Western North Carolina Conference, where he was admitted to full connection and ordained elder in 1988.

John served Mt. Shepherd and West Chapel, in Randolph County, from 1985-1987; Cid, Clarksbury, and Fairview, in Davidson County, from 1987 to 1989; Old Union and Worthville, in Randolph County, from 1989 to 1991; Johnsonstown, in Thomasville, from 1991 to 1995; Rockwell, in Rowan County, from 1995 to 2000; Reeds, in Davidson County, from 2000 to 2001; and—following a family leave from 2002 until 2003—Hebron, Centennial, and

Pisgah, in Rutherford County, from 2003 to 2006. He was a chaplain in the Civil Air Patrol in Randolph County and was serving most recently in Lincolnton at Rhyne Heights, where he had been appointed in 2006.



Some people dance to the beat of their own drummer. John Gottula was one of those people. It was his gift. He cared about people, but he did not care about what people thought of him. He was a dedicated minister, but he was not concerned with fitting into anyone else's mold of a minister. A colleague once advised John that he should wear ties more often and play golf, so that he would be able to "fit in" and "advance his career." John said that he thought about the advice briefly and decided he did not like ties or golf, so he would continue being himself. John always knew who he was: unconventional, humble, and genuine. The rural and small-town churches he served appreciated these qualities.

John was a faithful participant in ministerial lectionary groups. He would show up ready to discuss the next Sunday's scripture lessons, armed with his *Lectionary Homiletics* magazine and a bottle of Dr. Pepper. He would always contribute helpful insights and interesting ideas.

John had a dry and somewhat odd sense of humor. He was quiet at times, but he could tell a story or a joke with the best of them. His daughter, Jessica, said about him:

Dad and I always traded funny stories when I was in college. I got kind of lonely in college, so I would make up stories and e-mail them

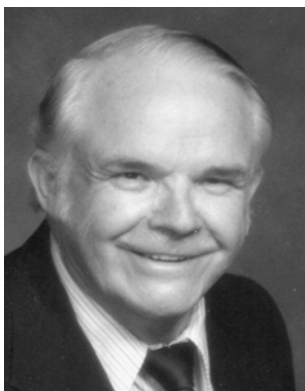
to Dad. He always enjoyed getting those from me. He always told me I had a good imagination and sense of humor. He did, as well. He could always think of funny things out of the blue.

John had many hobbies. He enjoyed traveling to craft fairs, he loved computers and other technology, and, recently, he had taken up photography. Taking pictures of his grandson, Wyatt, brought him great joy.

John died on February 16, 2007, at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, in Winston-Salem. He will be missed by all who knew him. He is survived by his parents; his daughter, Jessica Gottula Schenk (born on February 13, 1982), and her husband, Brendan, of Salisbury; his grandson, Wyatt Schenk, of Salisbury; and his sister, Carol Townsend, and her husband, Perry, of Lansdale, Pennsylvania. A memorial service was held on February 19 at Rhyne Heights Church, Lincolnton, conducted by Keys S. Pendleton and Duane J. Flynn.

J. Thomas Stinson-Wesley  
S. Amelia Stinson-Wesley

**ROY LEE GRANT**  
**December 29, 1923 – June 24, 2006**



On June 24, 2006, at Westchester Manor, in High Point, Roy Lee Grant, a retired United Methodist minister, received his final appointment and entered the Church Triumphant for his immortal life with those who had gone before him: His parents, wife, daughter-in-law, and a brother.

On a September Saturday morning in High Point in 1953, at Wesley Memorial Church, High Point, Bishop Coston J. Harrell received Roy into the clergy membership of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference, and Roy began a long and effective ministry in Methodism. He had been ordained in the Pilgrim Church, and he was recognized as a deacon in The Methodist Church at that 1953 conference. He would later be admitted to full connection in 1954 and ordained elder in 1956.

Roy began his ministry in this conference in 1953 at Pelham-Hickory Grove (1953-56), followed by High Point: Mitchell's Grove (1956-58), where he led the congregation in the building of a new sanctuary. He was next appointed to Lexington: Trinity (1958-62), where a new education building was built. In 1962, he was appointed to Gastonia: Trinity, and then, in 1965, to Pine Grove, in the Winston-Salem District, where he led the congregation in building a new sanctuary and education building. In 1969, Roy and his wife, Dot, moved to Washington, D.C., where he served as chaplain at Sibley Memorial Hospital. In 1972, he became the chaplain

at High Point Regional Hospital, where, for the next 10 and a half years, he was the spiritual advisor to the staff and patients. In February of 1982, he was appointed to Charlotte: Spencer Memorial, until October, 1982, when he became the pastor of the Midway charge, in the Northeast District. In 1987, he became the minister at Palmyra-Hickory Ridge, where he served for two years, until his retirement in 1989. From 1993 to 1997, Roy was appointed as minister of visitation at High Point: First. In retirement, he was always ministering to all who were in his presence.

Roy grew up in the Highland Mill village of High Point and had devout and loving parents, who put him and four other siblings through high school and on to college. His parents were strong and godly Christians, with a lot of concern and caring love for all their children. At the age of nine, Roy knelt at the altar of Highland Methodist Church and accepted Christ's gift of salvation. It was during Roy's service in the United States Navy during World War II that he felt called to Christian service. He prepared for Christian ministry at Owosso College, Owosso, Michigan; McNeese State College, Lake Charles, Louisiana; Catawba College, Salisbury; High Point College (now University); and the divinity school of Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, Indiana. Roy took the scriptures seriously in his teaching and preaching and saw many individual lives changed during the years of his ministry.

Roy's spouse, Dorothy Culler Grant, of High Point, whom he married on June 19, 1943, was a source of love and caring in Roy's ministry for the 49 years of their life together. Dot preceded Roy in death on July 31, 1992. Roy is survived by their two children, Stewart Warren Grant, born on August 13, 1945, and now a teacher of English in

China, and Marla Faith (Nelson), born on June 26, 1949, and her spouse, David, of Roswell, Georgia; four grandchildren, Missy Grant Leedy, Bryan Grant, Jennifer Allen Hirschberg, and Stacy Allen; five great-grandchildren, Taylor, Morgan, Bailey, Maren, and Kaylyn; two brothers, Marse and Truett Grant; and a sister, Carolyn Delapp.

Funeral services were conducted at Highland Church, High Point, on June 29, 2006, by Roy's pastor, David C. Noyes, who ministered to Roy and his family in such a caring way; G. Howard Allred; and M. Kenneth Lyon. A graveside service was held at Oakwood Memorial Park Cemetery, High Point, by this writer.

Roy's daughter, Marla, said, "Dad gave himself to God, his congregations, and his family, and we are grateful." Roy was loved by all who knew him. He was a simple, humble man who served God faithfully in his ministry. He will be remembered as a father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend (especially to the Wednesday Morning Group).

Well done, thou good and faithful servant.

J. Dwight Cartner

**WILLIAM TUPPER HASELDEN**  
**April 25, 1922 – April 21, 2006**



William Tupper Haselden was born in Florence, South Carolina, on April 25, 1922, to Alonzo Tupper and Ida Heape Haselden. He was preceded in death by a brother, Alonzo Heape Haselden. William graduated from Florence High School and later attended Texas Wesleyan College, Mercer University, and Georgia Southern College. He received a diploma in theology from Southwestern Baptist Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, in 1957. He completed the four-year Course of Study School in 1967.

In 1958, William accepted the call to preach in the Free Methodist Church and served as a pastor in that church, primarily in the Murphy and Andrews, North Carolina, area, until his first appointment in the South Georgia Conference of The Methodist Church in 1961. He served Sparks (two churches), 1961; Macon: Swift Creek, 1961-63; Shiloh-Harmony (four churches), Reidsville, 1963-64; Portal, 1964-65; Garfield (three churches), 1965-67; and Savannah Beach: Trinity, 1967-68, before transferring into the Western North Carolina Conference in 1968. He was ordained deacon in 1964 and admitted on trial in the South Georgia Conference in 1967. He was ordained elder and received into full connection in 1969 in the Western North Carolina Conference. In this conference, he served the following appointments: West Macon Circuit, 1968-73; Sylva Circuit, 1973-76; Whittier Circuit, 1976-78; Hot Springs-Marshall, 1978-81; Rocky Springs, 1981-85;

and Oteen-Azalea, 1985-87. He entered the retired relationship in 1987. In all, he served his Lord as a pastor for 48 years.

On November 21, 1953, William married Lillian Anna Tesar at West Lawn Free Methodist Church, the church in which he had met her, in Chicago, Illinois. Lillian became a lifelong partner in ministry. God blessed them with a son, William Randolph Haselden.

He loved nature and especially the mountains of western North Carolina. William enjoyed mountain climbing, hiking, music, and model trains. In the 1970s, he served as president of the Nantahala Hiking Club, which maintains a section of the Appalachian Trail in the Franklin area. William also served as a field director for the Bartram Trail Society.

Leading persons to a relationship with Jesus Christ was a central focus of his ministry. While serving as a pastor in the Western North Carolina Conference, William led 109 persons to make professions of faith. He was gifted with the ability to pray with ease and an eloquence that reflected the majesty of his Lord. William's mother gave him the inspiration to excel in conversation with God. William felt his calling was to serve small-membership churches in rural communities. In retirement, he continued his faith journey with the Wesleyan Class at Franklin: First and through worshipping with Lillian at First Alliance Church, in Franklin.

William joined the Church Triumphant on April 21, 2006, at Franklin. A memorial service was held at First Alliance Church, Franklin. Burial was in the cemetery of Patton Church, one of the churches William had served on the West Macon Circuit.

C. Wayne Allen

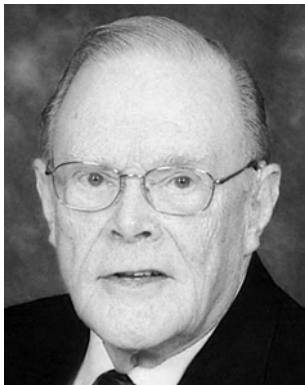
**JOHN WILLIAM HOYLE III**  
**June 23, 1927 – May 18, 2006**

John William (Bill) Hoyle III was born on June 23, 1927, in Guilford County, North Carolina. His father, The Reverend John William Hoyle, Jr., was a Methodist pastor, as was his grandfather, The Reverend John William Hoyle. Bill also had an uncle, Marvin, and a nephew, Will, who were Methodist pastors. His mother, Lucille Womble Hoyle, was a teacher and also served as president of the Methodist Women for the annual conference. Bill was the only child in his family.

After graduating from college at High Point University, Bill attended law school at Duke University for three years before enrolling at Candler School of Theology at Emory University, where he earned his bachelor (master) of divinity degree. Bill was admitted on trial in the Western North Carolina Conference and ordained deacon in 1951 and admitted to full connection and ordained elder in 1953.

Bill served at the Hildebran-Mt. Harmony charge, from 1951 to 1953; at Hickory: Westview, from 1952 to 1955; and at Farmington, in the Thomasville District, from 1955 to 1956. He was appointed as a student in 1956 for a year

before serving the Pine Woods-Fairfield charge, in the Thomasville District, for three years (1957-60). In 1960, he became pastor at Granite Quarry: Shiloh, where he served as pastor for two and a half years.



Although Bill took voluntary location in January 1963 to work at Cannon Mills, he could never really leave the church. He remained an active and supportive participant at Shiloh all the years he worked at Cannon Mills. He always supported the pastor of Shiloh and would occasionally fill in when asked to do so. Bill's love of the church and love of preaching never faded. He picked up this mantle once again in 1990, when he became pastor at Concord: Ann Street-Boger's Chapel. He was readmitted to full connection in 1991 and continued to serve Ann Street and Boger's Chapel until 1992, at which time he was granted retirement, and he and his wife, Norma, returned to active participation in the life of Shiloh, in Granite Quarry. In 2001, another opportunity for Bill to re-enter the pulpit came up, and, once again, Bill answered the call. The pastor at Shiloh had to go on medical leave, and another pastor would not be appointed until June of 2002. Bill graciously stepped forward to lead the congregation as interim pastor until the new pastor arrived. During his year as interim pastor, Bill's deep friendship with the congregation, his enthusiastic leadership, his winsome personality, and his optimistic commitment helped the church to receive the Church of Excellence award from the annual conference. Bill's continuing support of the congregation was instrumental in helping the church to build a new fellowship hall, the construction of which was completed shortly after his

death.

Bill is remembered by family and church members as a dedicated servant of Christ, a loyal and trustworthy friend, and a dynamic preacher, whose booming voice brought the good news of the gospel to all who would hear it. He always had time to help someone with a problem, to share a meal with a friend or a stranger, and to enjoy a good game of golf on a relaxing summer's day.

Bill died of cancer at Hospice & Palliative Care of Cabarrus County, Concord, on May 18, 2006, the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his marriage to Norma Williams Shaver Hoyle. Other survivors included six daughters—Lucy Ann Sency, of Salisbury; Margaret McKenzie, and her husband, Ken; Cynthia Yost, of Granite Quarry; Betty Rudo, and her husband, Kenny, of Chapel Hill; Karen Whicker, and her husband, Charles, of Thomasville; and Gina Tucker, of Vale, Colorado—16 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Moments before his death, Bill took in a deep breath and smiled radiantly.

The funeral for Bill was conducted on May 21 at Shiloh Church, Granite Quarry, by this writer. It is said that when Jesus called Simon Peter, the nets could not contain the number of fish that he brought in (Luke 5:6). At Bill's funeral, the pews could not contain the number of people who wanted to attend. With Bill, as with Jesus, the power of love and faith evoked a level of response that overwhelms our ability to measure.

Jonathan D. Marlowe

#### **TREVOR CURTIS JONES** **August 12, 1918 – March 2, 2007**



Trevor Curtis Jones was born to the Reverend and Mrs. John Wesley Jones in a Methodist parsonage in Winston County, Mississippi, on August 12, 1918. He decided early in life to follow in his father's footsteps into Christian ministry. Following completion of his high-school work, he entered Jackson State College and later transferred to Rust College, where he received his B.S. degree, in elementary and secondary education, in 1950. In 1956, he received the M.Div. degree from Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta.

On April 2, 1940, Trevor married Annie Belle Murray, and for the entirety of his active ministry and until her death on December 31, 2002, she was his devoted helpmate. To this union were born two daughters, Gardine and Ena.

Prior to his completion of seminary work, Trevor served had been serving in the Upper Mississippi Conference, where he was admitted to probationary membership and ordained deacon in 1943. He was then admitted to full connection in 1945 and ordained elder, by Bishop R. N. Brooks, in 1947. His service in Upper Mississippi included the following charges: West Point Circuit, 1943-45; Smithville, 1945-47; Holly Springs Circuit, 1947-49; Okolona, 1949-51; Europa, 1951-52; and Belzoni, 1952-53. While serving these pastorates, he also pursued a career as a teacher and principal in the Mississippi public-school system.

After his appointment as a student to Gammon (1953-56), he transferred to the Delaware Conference and served at Preston, Maryland, 1956-59; Easton, Maryland, 1959-60; Philadelphia: Tindley Temple Associate, 1960-62; and Jersey City: Clair Memorial, 1962-64. In 1964, he was transferred to the Northern New Jersey Conference via merger of conferences and continued to serve at Clair Memorial until 1970, leading the congregation in an extensive renovation and refurbishing of the facility.

In 1970, Trevor's membership was transferred to the Western North Carolina Conference, where he first served in High Point at Brooks Memorial (1970-72). Then, in 1972, he was appointed to the new Metropolitan Church, in Greensboro (1972-77), which was formed by a merger of Mt. Carmel, Warren Street, and Browning Chapel churches. While the congregation worshiped in a storefront, Trevor organized a capital-funds campaign which enabled the church to move in 1976 into a \$300,000 structure, with only \$80,000 having been borrowed to build it. From 1977 to

1979, Trevor served Brooks Temple and St. Stephens churches, Lexington, where he led in retirement of the debt on a newly built parsonage.

Because of visual impairment, he took a disability leave in 1979, and he was granted retirement in 1984, having served faithfully for 41 years, 36 of them in active ministry. In 1983, Metropolitan Church conferred on him the title "pastor emeritus," in recognition of his creative administration, sincere concern, and dedicated service.

In addition to his pastoral duties, Trevor served on numerous district and conference committees, including the Board of Ordained Ministry, Greensboro United Methodist Housing Board of Directors, Greensboro District Board of Church Location and Building, and conference Board of Church and Society.

Death came to Trevor Jones on March 2, 2007, in Greensboro. Funeral services were conducted on March 9 at Metropolitan Church, Greensboro. He was preceded in death by his wife; four sisters, Hazel Moss, Vasati Hayes, Thelma Reese, and Ruby Ayner; and two brothers, John W. Jones, Jr., and Penn Jones. He is survived by his daughters, Gardine Pearson, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Ena Jones, of Winston-Salem; four sisters, Josephine Massingale, of Dallas, Texas, Ellsie Wilson, of Los Angeles, California, Hilda Wilson, of Birmingham, Alabama, and Ora Stephen, of Chicago, Illinois; a brother, Robert E. Jones, of St. Louis, Missouri; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

Trevor Jones will always be remembered as a loving husband, a devoted father, and a dedicated pastor, church builder, administrator, teacher, and friend.

Composed from published obituary and conference records.

**ALBERT LEWIS JOYNER, JR.**  
**September 3, 1946 – November 30, 2006**



Albert Lewis Joyner, Jr., son of Albert and Linda Joyner, was born on September 3, 1946, in Lexington, North Carolina. Al married Gaynelle Garwood, of Lexington, on April 27, 1969. Celebrating 37 years of marriage, Al and Gaynelle shared a special friendship, partnership, couple-love that was a blessing to observe. There were special trips to Charleston and Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, for simply being in love, and always with Al and Gaynelle holding hands, wherever you were. They enjoyed two children: Christi Joyner-Butt (born on August 1, 1970), and her husband, Bryan, of Greensboro, and Chad Joyner (born on October 16, 1972), and his wife, Nichole, of Harrisburg, North Carolina. Al and Gaynelle celebrated in their role as grandparents of six grandchildren and two step-grandchildren.

In the Lexington Senior High School annual, there is listed this phrase under Al's picture: "A great man is he who does not lose his child's heart." If you inquire of Gaynelle, Christi, Chad, a member of his staff, a member of one of his churches, or a ministerial colleague, it is clear that Al never missed an opportunity for playful joyfulness. He retained a child's heart, and it was a heart dedicated to the love of Christ in action. Al playfully enjoyed God's creation, as he helped persons to experience the child of God that is within each of us.

Al was not about pretense. He was about genuineness and authenticity. At the foundation, there was a large measure of courage, for going on in spite of obstacles. In examining the details of his life, some might suggest that Al did not get many breaks. Al did not see it that way. In every aspect of life that was put before him, Al explored how God was working through the situation for God's purposes.

Al was licensed to preach in The United Methodist Church in 1981. He was admitted as a probationary member of the Western North Carolina Conference and ordained deacon in 1985 and admitted to full connection and ordained elder in 1989. He graduated with a B.A. degree from Pfeiffer University in 1983, with an M.Div. degree from Duke University in 1987, and with a D.Min. degree from Drew University in 1990. He affirmed the pursuit of education for himself and others, and he was appreciative for how each of his educational opportunities and the institutions he attended helped to shape him.

Al loved serving in the role as pastor to those to whom he was assigned to serve. Over the span of his career, he served the following churches: Center Grove-St. Paul, Salisbury District, 1981-83; Franklinville, 1983-86; Asheboro: Brower's Chapel, 1986-89; Greensboro: Proximity, 1989-91; Kannapolis: Jackson Park, 1991-96; Statesville: Wesley Memorial, 1996-1997; Wadesboro: First, 1999-2004; Elkin: First, 2004-06; and Mt. Pleasant, Greensboro District, from moving day in 2006 until his death. He was a chaplain with the Order of St. John's Hospitaller.

Al did enjoy life to the fullest measure of faithful living. He found ways to incorporate the ordinary, enjoyable aspects of living into his professional life activities, as well as his personal life events. One expression of this was his ability to utilize good food and good music to bring persons into wholesome fellowship. Amidst that joyful, celebrative attitude toward life, he always sought to look after the poor in body or in spirit. Looking after the poor was a priority of his pastoral role.

Al's son, Chad, clearly articulated some of Al's stronger character traits: To put God first in your life, to have a work ethic, to have respect for all persons, to have a plan to raise your children, and never to ask anyone to do something you were not willing to do yourself. Chad described his dad as "a man you wanted to get to know."

Al's lifelong influence on his daughter is reflected in a gift of a charm bracelet still worn by Christi, bearing the inscription, "Daddy's little girl." There were father/daughter weekends spent together, with special moments of laughter amidst life's challenges, such as teaching a dad to properly care for a daughter's long hair, and walks on the beach, when a dad reminds his daughter how special her mother is and how vital and life-transforming is the marital covenant of love.

Al's illness and death came quickly, and he departed this life on November 30, 2006, at Duke University Hospital, Durham. He faced it with courage and hope and modeled for his family and friends the sharing of faith in God and God's goodness, even in the sadness of death. As he called his loved ones around him on his death bed, they became even closer as he continued to share the good news of Christ's love and forgiveness. A beautiful service was held at Mt. Pleasant Church, Greensboro, on December 3. The mourning community was nurtured with music, food, and the love and transforming power of the body of Christ.

Lee S. Dukes III

**WILLIAM FRANKLIN LEE**  
**December 15, 1921 – August 7, 2006**



On December 15, 1921, in Cleveland County, North Carolina, a son was born to Thomas and Amanda Lee. They named this son William Franklin Lee. Later, a brother, Thomas Lee, and a sister, Edna Lee (Earl), was born to this family.

Bill, as he was affectionately known, was an army veteran, having served in World War II in Europe during the Normandy landing. He was a paratrooper with the 101<sup>st</sup> Battalion and was dropped behind enemy lines, where he was found by a French family. He then was reunited with his unit. He spoke proudly of his service years and was quick to tell how God spared his life many times. Bill was awarded numerous medals, including the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, American Defense Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, and a Silver Star.

Bill married Naomi Jones, of Lawndale, North Carolina, on March 13, 1949, and they became the parents of a daughter, Lisa Marie, on February 19, 1962.

Bill was licensed to preach in The Methodist Church on December 2, 1962, and became an ordained deacon in 1966. He was admitted to the Western North Carolina Conference as an associate member in 1969. Bill was educated at Gardner-Webb College (now University), Duke University Pastors' School, and Fruitland Bible Institute.

During his active ministry, Bill served the following appointments: Mt. Hebron (Marion District), 1964-68; Woodleaf, 1968-70; Woodleaf-South River, 1970-73; and Fairview (High Point District), 1973-74. Following a year on disability leave, he served for two years as chaplain at Green Nursing Home, at Rutherfordton, 1975-77. He was granted a leave of absence in 1977 and retirement in 1987. From 1988 to 1994, he served in retirement as pastor at Pine Grove Church, in Cleveland County.

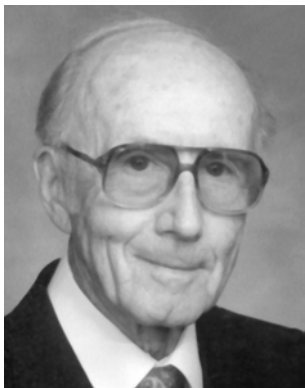
Bill ended his service at Pine Grove Church in 1994, but he remained active, serving his Lord in many capacities. His friendliness and love for God's people drew many into the fold of Christ's ministry. His infectious laugh and manner are remembered by all who knew him.

After deteriorating health over several months, Bill died at the Veterans Administration Hospital, Oteen, North Carolina, on August 7, 2006. The funeral was conducted at Stamey Funeral Home, with burial at Rose Hill Cemetery. He is survived by his daughter, Lisa Dedmon, and her husband, Andy, and Bill's granddaughter, Victoria Dedmon.

Bill is missed by all who knew him.

Lisa Lee Dedmon and Jackie Greene

**JULIUS CLAY MADISON**  
**December 24, 1908 – January 7, 2007**



Julius Clay Madison was born on a farm in the Union Grove are of Iredell County, North Carolina, on Christmas Eve, December 24, 1908, to Thomas Jefferson and Minnie Whit Madison. He was the youngest of seven brothers and sisters.

Educated in the Iredell County schools, Clay then received his A.B. degree from High Point College (now University) in 1932, with the goal of becoming an English teacher. But while serving as a part-time minister at Lebanon Church, High Point (1931-33), he discerned that his goals should be changed, and he entered the ministry of the Methodist Protestant Church. In 1932-33, he did theological study at the University of Chicago, and he also spent several semesters at Duke Divinity School. He would also serve as a chaplain in the United States Army for one year, and he worked with young men in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) during the Great Depression.

At the 1930 session of the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, Clay was admitted to probationary membership. He was admitted to full membership and ordained elder in 1934. Following his army chaplaincy, he was appointed in 1934 to First Church, High Point, where he served until 1941. During those years, while in the hospital in 1934, he met Alma Martin, who was the registered nurse assigned to care

for him. On August 18, 1936, they were married, and Alma shared fully and supportively in his life and ministry. They would become the parents of two children, David and Florence.

Alma was the quintessential clergyman's wife. An excellent cook, she could entertain virtually any number of guests at a moment's notice. In some ways, she was ahead of her time, speaking her mind when she felt it necessary, and letting her husband understand when what he was saying was just plain wrong! But, she was also so very proud of him. And so this wise former nurse played no small part in Clay's becoming a truly great minister.

While Clay was at High Point: First, the 1939 Unification that formed The Methodist Church occurred, and he became a member of the Western North Carolina Conference. Further appointments were Waynesville: First, 1941-45; Hickory: First, 1945-49; Concord: Central, 1949-53; Morganton: First, 1953-57; Greensboro District

Superintendent, 1957-63; Charlotte: Myers Park, 1963-67; Greensboro: West Market Street, 1967-69; Director, Conference Program Council, 1969-72; Asheville District Superintendent, 1972-75; and Director of Development, Conference Board of Pensions, 1975-78. Following his retirement in 1978, he was appointed for three years (1981-84) as Director of Development, Givens Estates United Methodist Retirement Community.

During his ministry, Clay also served as president of the conference Board of Evangelism, president of the conference Board of Missions, delegate to various General and Jurisdictional conferences, delegate to the World Methodist Conference, and delegate to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Methodism in China (1947). He served High Point University as a trustee for more than 50 years and was a life member of that board at the time of his death. In 1953, High Point awarded him the honorary degree of doctor of divinity.

As a gifted pastor and church leader, Clay could have been described as “the conscience of the church.” He was admired as a preacher and as a counselor to his congregants. As a man of principle and the highest moral character, he was never hesitant to speak to issues of significance to the church and the larger community. And when others disagreed with him, he never wavered from his principles.

In retirement, Clay and Alma lived at Lake Junaluska, until moving to Givens Estates, of which he had been a driving force in the years it was created and developed. Clay was particularly proud of his work in establishing the Supplemental Assistance Fund at Givens, which enables those less financially able to enjoy that retirement community.

It was my privilege to be Clay and Alma’s son-in-law for 35 years, and we had great affection for each other. While my religion—I am Jewish—could have created some unnecessary issues over the years, that did not happen. All of us in their family held great respect for each other and the beliefs we hold dear, and we found common ground when others might say that this could not have been done. All of us drew great acceptance and respect in our embracing of diversity. Clay and Alma truly loved their two grandchildren, Ashley, 32, and Amy, 30, and the feeling was mutual. Times they spent at Lake Junaluska are still remembered with smiles.

I was always impressed with Clay’s balanced life. Having grown up on a farm, he knew how to grow a vegetable garden. He knew that the exercise he received was good for him. To keep his heart healthy, he ate right and, to test it, watched Duke basketball games with extreme enthusiasm. And golf. Oh, how he loved to play the game with his friends. The fellowship and competition kept him playing until three months prior to his death. In his final round, he made a par on the first hole. Playing golf with him was great fun and helped me to learn the importance of balancing work and play.

On January 7, 2007, Clay departed this life at Givens Estates, having lived for 98 years, over 76 of them as a Methodist minister. Funeral services were conducted on January 10 at First Church, Waynesville, with interment at Garrett Hillcrest Cemetery there. Clay was predeceased by his parents; a son, David Madison (in 1977); five siblings; and a niece. He is survived by his wife, Alma; their daughter, Florence Widis, and her husband, Larry, of Charlotte; two grandchildren, Leslie L. Widis and Amy R. Widis, of Charlotte; and a brother, Graham Madison, age 102, of Winston-Salem.

Clay’s family misses him greatly, as do so many others in the church. One may not have always agreed with Clay, but I doubt if there were many who did not respect and admire him.

Larry Widis

**CECIL HARVEY MARCELLUS, JR.**  
**February 26, 1922 – July 5, 2006**



Cecil Harvey Marcellus, Jr., was born on February 26, 1922, the third of four children of Cecil Harvey Marcellus, Sr., and Julia Phillips Marcellus, in Nashville, Tennessee. After graduating from Pearl High School in that city, he completed a tour of duty in the United States Army during World War II. He returned to Tennessee A & I University, where he earned a bachelor of science degree in industrial arts education in 1949, majoring in building construction engineering.

After 20 years in general contracting, he answered the call to Christian ministry. His theological training was done at Vanderbilt Divinity School and Garrett Biblical Institute, where he received a bachelor of divinity degree in 1960. After his ordination as a deacon in The Methodist Church and admission on trial in the Tennessee Conference of the Central Jurisdiction in 1956, he served as pastor of churches in middle Tennessee. He was admitted in full connection and ordained elder in 1962. In 1965, he was transferred to the former North Carolina-Virginia Conference, where he served the St. Paul and Wesley Chapel churches, at Reidsville.

In 1968, he was the first Afro-American to be elected to the Reidsville City Council. During his tenure, he served as mayor pro-tem. While in Reidsville, he was active in several civic and religious groups, including the Ministerial Fellowship, the Ministerial Brotherhood, Chamber of Commerce Housing Committee, Rockingham Community Campus Ministry Committee, and Human Relations Committee. He received many awards and commendations for his work on behalf of the citizens of Reidsville: The Community Service Award, Ministerial Fellowship and Lone Star Lodge #33 F & A M; Appreciation Award from the Business and Professional Woman’s Club, Inc., and the Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Service Award, Prince Hall Grand Lodge F & A M of North Carolina Citizenship Award, and the Boy Scouts of America.

In 1974, he was appointed superintendent of the Northeast District of The United Methodist Church. While serving as chairperson of the conference Board of Missions, he traveled to South America, Africa, Europe, and Puerto Rico in the interest of the work of the mission board.

When he was appointed in 1979 to serve as the associate director of the conference Council on Ministries, his duties included: Member of the board of directors of the Triad Home and Methodist Home, Inc.; trustee of

Greensboro College; conference missionary secretary; and secretary for Black Church Development and Church Extension.

In 1984, he was appointed as superintendent of the Thomasville District. During this administration, he relocated the district office and parsonage to Lexington, and the district was renamed. While in Thomasville, he was a member of the Thomasville Rotary International Club.

After his retirement in 1989, he served as consultant for ethnic-minority concerns, as well as in pastoral appointments on the Madison Circuit and at New Goshen, Greensboro: Metropolitan, and Collins Grove churches. He was also a member of the Sigma Chi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi fraternity and the Ministerial Alliance of Reidsville and Vicinity.

He entered into the Church Triumphant on July 5, 2006, at Annie Penn Hospital, Reidsville. Funeral services were conducted on July 8 at St. Paul Church, Reidsville, with Preston C. Jones, Sr., officiating and Arnetta E. Beverly as eulogist. Interment was at Greenview Cemetery.

Preceding him in death were his wife, Josephine T. Marcellus, whom he married on February 26, 1946, and who died on November 1, 1976; and a daughter, Judith M. Peoples (born on December 19, 1946). Survivors include his wife of 29 years, Etta Woodfork Marcellus, whom he married on November 24, 1977; a daughter, Nettie M. James (born on April 11, 1945), and her husband, Albert, of Antioch, Tennessee; three sons, Cecil H. Marcellus III (born on March 21, 1948), and his wife, Betty, of Reidsville, Reverend Clarence A. L. Marcellus (born on January 10, 1952), and his wife, Johnetta, of Hermitage, Tennessee, and Marcus A. Marcellus (born on November 21, 1962), of High Point; a sister, Julia M. Austin, of Nashville, Tennessee; a brother, James H. Marcellus, and his wife, Marjorie, of Dayton, Ohio; 14 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; one great-great grandchild; a stepdaughter, Larae B. McLean, of Greensboro; a stepson, Wentor L. Burton, and his wife, Sheila, of Asheboro; a foster son, Wayne Garrett, of Reidsville; and a foster daughter, Mary Hall, of Greensboro.

Etta W. Marcellus

**ROBERT ALAN MICK**  
January 9, 1948 – May 14, 2006



Robert Alan Mick was a man of many passions. He was passionate about his Seminoles. Born in Miami, Florida, on January 9, 1948, Bob grew up knowing he had two choices: the Gators or the Seminoles. Early on, he chose the Seminoles and confirmed it when he went to Florida State for both his undergraduate (B.A. 1970) and law-school (J.D. 1973) education. He grew to love the city of Tallahassee, and he was a leader in Kiwanis, Springtime Tallahassee, and the Special Olympics.

He was passionate about his vocation as a lawyer. He practiced law in Tallahassee for 22 years as part of the firm of Henry, Buchanan, Mick, and English, and he retained his membership in the Florida Bar until his death. He enjoyed the intricacies of the law and understood his special ability and power to help opposing parties come to agreement and to assist those with few resources to have access to the law. Bob won the Tobias Simon Pro Bono Service Award in 1995.

He was passionate about his family. Born to John (Jack) and Doris Bowker Mick, who survive him, Bob grew up surrounded by an extended family of grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

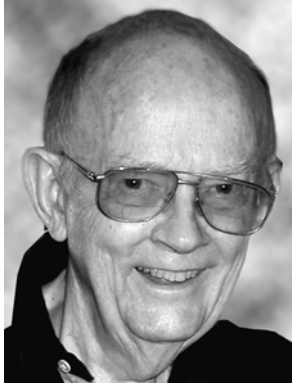
Bob married Valerie Beth Rosenquist on December 2, 2001, and they cherished the years they had as husband and wife. Bob had two sons: Terrence Robert, born on July 5, 1975, and Russell Curtis, born on December 13, 1976. He loved being a father and constantly tried to learn to do it better, even well into his sons' adult years. Early on, he became a soccer coach and a Boy Scout leader, and then friend and mentor to Terry and Russ. He had the privilege of marrying both of them and enjoyed getting to know, love, and appreciate their spouses, Amy Clough and Meghan Cox. He loved being "GrandBob" to Terry and Amy's son, Brady, who is now three years old, and he cherished being able to be present with Russ and Meghan on Valentine's Day of 2006, when their son, Kasey, was born. He would have so thoroughly enjoyed the birth of a third grandchild, Kiley, this past February!

Bob was passionate about his church. Baptized, confirmed, and formed at Allapattah Methodist Church in Miami, Bob became a youth leader. As an adult, he was active in Killearn United Methodist Church, in Tallahassee, where he held many positions of leadership and discovered his love and skill of teaching in a small-group setting. His Bible study group that met weekly for years helped shape him theologically and helped confirm in him his call to ordained ministry, a call he had experienced as a teenager but had repeatedly ignored. In 1996, he answered the call, resigned from his law firm, and moved to Durham, North Carolina, to enter Duke Divinity School, where he graduated in 1998. He was admitted as a probationary member of the Florida Conference in 1998, and, on January 1, 1999, his membership was transferred to the Western North Carolina Conference. He was admitted to full connection and ordained elder in 2001. He served as associate pastor at Jamestown Church from 1998 to 2002, and then as senior pastor of Mount Mourne: Fair View from 2002 until his death.

Bob was passionate about his God. He understood himself as a child of God, loved and forgiven and always under God's constant care. He knew that God was working in him and through him and enjoyed that ever-growing and deepening relationship. When Bob learned that he had leukemia, in March of 2006, he did not fear the outcome; he trusted that God was with him through the illness. Bob died on May 14, 2006, at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, Winston-Salem. Bob Tindale, from Killearn United Methodist Church, presided over the memorial service held at Fair View. Bob requested that his ashes be scattered on his favorite mountain, John Rock Bald.

Valerie B. Rosenquist

**MARK ARNOLD ROUCH**

**February 17, 1925 – November 14, 2006**

Mark Rouch was born in and grew up in Guthrie, Oklahoma. His parents, Mark Arnold Rouch and Winnie Barnard Rouch, were Methodists, and he was nurtured in the Guthrie Methodist Church. Upon graduating from high school, Mark declared himself to be a conscientious objector and spent the years 1943-1945 doing alternative service in the forests of Oregon. He then entered Baker University, in Kansas, and graduated with a B.A. degree in 1949. He then entered Boston University, where he received his S.T.B. degree in 1952 and his Ph.D. in New Testament in 1962.

On July 5, 1948, he married Phyllis Hoover, and together they had two children: Catherine Alethia, born on February 26, 1955, and Jordan Foster, born on June 16, 1958. Catherine is now married to Billy Wilson, of Nashville. Jordan died in an accident as a teenager. Mark and Phyllis had been married 58 years at the time of Mark's death.

Mark entered the ministry in the Oklahoma Conference of The Methodist Church and was ordained deacon in 1951. Almost immediately that same year, he transferred to the Kansas East Conference. He served a Quaker congregation while a student in Boston, until being appointed to First Methodist Church, in Baxter Springs, Kansas, in 1954. He served there until 1957, the year in which he was admitted to full connection, ordained elder, and appointed to First Church, Baldwin, Kansas. He served there until 1964,

when he was appointed to be the campus minister at Cornell College, in Iowa, where he served for one year before being appointed to the Continuing Education Office of the denominational Board of Education, in Nashville, in 1965. There he remained until 1975. He then moved to Lake Junaluska to work with Carlyle Marney as co-director of the Interpreter's House. At that time, he transferred his conference membership to the Western North Carolina Conference. In 1977, he founded the Intentional Growth Center at Lake Junaluska and served as its director until his retirement in 1988.

Following his retirement, he went to New Zealand for a year, 1988-89, and served three small churches on the Bay of Islands. Soon after his return to the States, he formed a group of several colleagues to offer courses in continuing education, working closely with the Intentional Growth Center in that effort. He continued to be a vital part of that group, called "Oasis," even after seminars were no longer being offered.

Mark had two life-long concerns in his life. One was peace. He began as a teenager when he became a conscientious objector. He was also fascinated with Gandhi and became something of a Gandhi scholar, teaching Gandhi and living by Gandhi's principles of non-violence. At one point in his retirement, he traveled to India and spent several weeks in a serious study of Gandhian principles. He was active in various groups which worked for peace, most notably the Peace Group of Haywood County in North Carolina. In his work and in his personality, he incarnated his devotion to peace.

His second great passion was continuing education. In his book, *Competent Ministry*, he wrote: "Life-long learning is that quality of life characterized by openness to oneself, to others, and to the world" (p. 23). That sentence characterized Mark's life. He was always learning, always growing, and always open to a new insight or a new experience. In addition, he was a genius when leading a group in personal growth. Many ministers testify to the life-changing experience of being in a seminar led by Mark Rouch. His legacy lives on in the lives of many.

Mark and Phyllis were very active in retirement. They traveled broadly and were active in community affairs at Junaluska in many ways. They were also active members of the Long's Chapel United Methodist Church. In 2005, they moved to Nashville again, to live in a United Methodist retirement community. Phyllis continues to live there, in close proximity with her daughter, Cathy.

Death came to Mark on November 14, 2006, at Summit Hospital, Nashville. His memorial service was held at Long's Chapel Church, Lake Junaluska, on December 2. His ashes were interred at Green Hill Cemetery, in Waynesville, alongside his son, Jordan.

Richard F. Elliott

**IVAN AKERS STEPHENS**  
**October 28, 1923 – July 19, 2006**

Ivan Akers Stephens was born near Lawsonville, in Stokes County, North Carolina, on October 28, 1923, the fifth son of seven children born to William and Trudy Lawson Stephens. He is survived by his wife of almost 62 years, Marie Moore Stephens, whom he married on August 27, 1944. They were blessed with two children: David Ivan, born on August 27, 1948 (married Dixie F. Collins), and Pamela Sue, born on July 16, 1953 (married J. Herbert Burns). Seven grandchildren also survive: Katherine S. Boyer; John D., Jeremy F., and Jacob W. Stephens; and M. Christopher, Joshua D., and Kerby M. Burns. At the time of his death, there were two great-grandchildren: E. Phoenix and Aidan M. Burns.

Ivan's and Marie's parents were friends, living on opposite sides of the mountain, just outside Lawsonville. Ivan and Marie attended Lawsonville schools through graduation. In high school, Ivan's favorite activities were playing baseball and basketball. With both sets of parents approving, Ivan and Marie started dating and attending weekly prayer meetings in homes and churches. Often, they were asked to sing gospel duets, with Marie accompanying on the guitar, and to be in gospel quartets. The Reverend and Mrs. T. G. Williams, of the local Snow Hill Methodist Church, encouraged Ivan and Marie in their faith, and Marie in her decision to go to Asbury College. In 1940, Reverend Williams invited Ivan's brother Ernest to preach revival services that resulted in Ivan's accepting Christ into his life and joining that church. Then, Reverend Williams gave Ivan opportunities to testify and preach, officiated at Ivan and Marie's wedding, attended their college graduation, and baptized their children, as he had baptized Ivan and Marie earlier.



Ivan entered Asbury College, Wilmore, Kentucky, in 1941 after high school graduation, and Marie enrolled the next quarter. Both graduated in 1945 with B.A. degrees. As undergraduates, they started their ministry together when Ivan accepted a pastorate at Mt. Zion Methodist Church, where Marie played the piano. Ivan received his B.D. degree from Asbury Theological Seminary in 1947.

After graduation, Ivan joined his brothers, Ernest and Ray Stephens, in the Western North Carolina Conference, being admitted to probationary membership and ordained a deacon in 1947 and admitted in full connection and ordained an elder in 1949. He served as pastor in the following appointments: Danbury (four churches), 1947-49; Dobson-Mountain Park, 1949-53 (and White Rock some of that time); Gastonia: Bethesda-West Cramerton, 1953-58; Charlotte: Kilgo, 1958-63; Archdale, 1963-67; Greensboro: Muir's Chapel, 1967-71; Charlotte: St. Paul, 1971-75; Greensboro: Glenwood, 1975-81; Kings Mountain: Central, 1981-84; Charlotte: Central 1984-85; and Winston-Salem: Konnoak Hills, 1985-86. After retirement in 1986, he and Marie bought a home in Charlotte and became part of the worshipping community of Plaza United Methodist Church, for a little over a year, and then Kilgo United Methodist Church, where he had

led the congregation in building the sanctuary.

Ivan's major ministry concern was to preach Jesus and to win others to Christ. He was a student of the Bible whose personal relationship with the Lord allowed him to preach the gospel with conviction. Evidence of this is the number of persons who accepted Christ as their Savior as a result of Ivan's witness. He encouraged persons to pray and to attend Bible studies, evangelistic services, and spiritual retreats, such as the United Christian Ashrams, founded by E. Stanley Jones, where Ivan himself served some years as leader and Bible teacher. As a result of his desire for his own spiritual growth, Ivan developed friendships with E. Stanley Jones, Dennis Kinlaw, J. T. and David Seamons, Bob Lyon, Sam Kamelason, Mary Webster, and other well-known evangelists and Bible teachers who welcomed the invitation to preach where Ivan served, thus enriching the lives of Ivan's "flock." In 1962 in Charlotte, Ivan was chairman of the committee representing 20 churches that offered the city a week-long spiritual life mission, featuring E. Stanley Jones.

He was a thoughtful, loving husband and father who reserved Friday nights especially for family activities. Annual conferences at Lake Junaluska, yearly trips to the Bridgewater Ashram, and trailer camping were family excursions and opportunities for spiritual growth. Both of his children, David and Pam, continue to be faithful followers of the Lord.

Ivan had a keen sense of humor and, even during his last hospitalization, rarely complained. He went to be with the Lord after a heart attack at home on July 19, 2006. A celebration-of-life service was held at Kilgo Church, Charlotte, on July 22. Interment followed at Sharon Memorial Park Cemetery, Charlotte.

Ivan imparted his faith in sermons; teaching; conversations; care of his congregations; daily living; weekly newsletter articles, sharing his spiritual insights, entitled, "From My Heart to Yours"; his tombstone inscription, "God is Faithful"; and in faith-based poetry. The last lines of a poem he wrote in the 1990's are just as meaningful now as they were then:

His assurance is abiding and now I am free,  
Knowing that Jesus is living in me.

Frances Sharpe Ritch

#### JOHN LEMACKS STOKES II August 23, 1908 – November 23, 2006

John Lemacks Stokes II was born into the missionary home of Marion Boyd Stokes and Pauline Davis Stokes, in Songdo, Korea. He was the first of four sons whose lives, along with that of their father's, were woven into the Western North Carolina Annual Conference. Two of his brothers, James Carlisle and Charles Davis, predeceased him.

Lem was educated first by his mother, an experienced teacher, who chose to use the texts of the New York system. He graduated from Seoul Foreign High School in 1926, from Asbury College in 1930, and from Duke Divinity School in 1932. He continued his studies by entering the Graduate School of Yale University for courses leading to a Ph.D. degree, which he received in 1936.

According to the record, Lem joined the Western North Carolina Conference "on trial" at Asheville on November 15, 1931. He was admitted to full connection and ordained deacon in 1937 and ordained elder in 1939.

While still in his studies at Yale, he married Alda Beaman, of Troy, North Carolina, on June 20, 1933. When Lem and Alda returned to North Carolina, he began preparation for his appointment in the Western North Carolina Conference by going to see his district superintendent, Dr. C.C. Weaver. Late in the summer of 1936, he received a call from Dr. Weaver, informing him that he was to be appointed to Randleman. Four years later, they were sent westward in the state to Franklin. After serving there for nearly four years (1940-44), on February 8, 1944, they were transferred to Elkin, North Carolina. During 1945, Lem transferred to the Upper South Carolina Annual Conference, where he was appointed pastor of St. Johns Methodist Church, in Rock Hill.

During his fifth year at St. Johns, Dr. John O. Gross, executive secretary of our Board of Higher Education, in Nashville, sought Lem's services for a new position he was creating on the board, namely, that of secretary of religion in higher education. A major factor in his coming to see my brother was that he had the Ph.D. degree. Lem accepted the offer, and this began three years of relationships with the over 100 Methodist-related colleges and universities in the United States. During those years, he visited over 80 of those institutions and talked with hundreds of campus ministers, chaplains, and teachers of religion. He ended his work with the board by writing a handbook on religion in Methodist colleges and universities.



At a meeting of the American Association of Colleges and Universities in Los Angeles, he was informed that the trustees of Pfeiffer Junior College, in Misenheimer, North Carolina, were looking for a president. He began work there on July 1, 1953. On September 18 of that year, he rejoined the Western North Carolina Annual Conference. Within three years, Lem led Pfeiffer through the complex procedures to become a four-year college, offering the B.A. degree. After serving as president for 15 years, he was expecting to return to the pastorate.

Bishop Earl G. Hunt, Jr., knowing of Lem's resignation, and knowing also that in April 1968 the General Conference had set up a quadrennial program to focus intensively on the poor and needy, lifted up Lem's name to lead that program. He was approved and served as director of the quadrennial program for one year, at which time the Board of Higher Education of the state of North Carolina invited him to serve as its associate director. Lem turned it down a second time, but Governor Robert Scott invited him to Raleigh and made an offer he did not feel he could turn down. It included the possibility of working many more years than did the quadrennial program. The fact was that he wanted to get back into higher education.

Eventually, Lem was chosen to be associate vice-president of academic affairs of the University of North Carolina. President William Friday gave him oversight of the university's contractual relationships with Meharry Medical College and with many other out-of-state colleges in the north and south. The program of contracts with the various colleges and universities was to provide minority students degrees in medicine, dentistry, optometry, and veterinary practice. After finally retiring, Lem served in that work half-time until December 31, 1993, his 85<sup>th</sup> year.

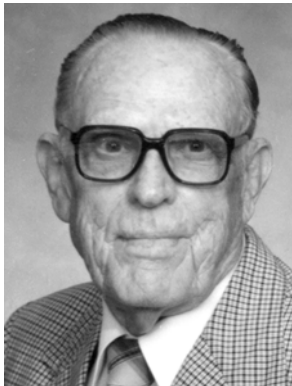
As I review Lem's career, the following thoughts recur: His passion for the best, his passion for Wesleyan orthodoxy, and his passion for souls. His passion for the best is seen in his willingness to prepare himself for the ministry by going for the Ph.D. degree, by his early decision to write out all of his sermons and deliver them from memory, and in his careful nurturing of his flock, young and old. His passion for Wesleyan orthodoxy is seen in his emphasis on the New Birth, the empowerment of the Holy Spirit from on high, and in his desire for quality in higher education. His passion for souls is seen in his desire to labor tirelessly for the advancement of opportunities for African American students. Lem was one of the finest and most gifted leaders in Methodism that I have ever had the privilege of knowing.

He leaves behind all those who contributed wonderfully to his ministry: His wife of 73 years, Alda; their son, Dr. John Lemacks Stokes III, and his wife, MaLou; their daughter, Anne, and her husband, Donald Seamon, who predeceased him; five granddaughters; and 18 great-grandchildren. He also leaves two sisters-in-law, Marilyn, widow of Charles Davis Stokes, and their two daughters, Carol, and her husband, Dan Fullbright, and Jeannie, and her husband, Mark Wittig, and their son, David, and his wife, Elizabeth; and Genevieve, the widow of James Carlisle Stokes, and their sons, James, and his wife, Diane, and Boyd, and his wife, Jane; and Lem's only living brother, Mack B. Stokes, and his wife, Rose, and their two sons, Marion, and his wife Emily, and Arch, and his wife, Maggie.

Lem died in Wilmington on November 23, 2006, at Hospice LifeCare Center. The funeral was held at Wesley United Methodist Church, Wilmington, on November 27. The eulogy was delivered by his dear friend of the faculty of Meharry Medical School, Dr. Henry Moses.

Mack B. Stokes

#### **FURMAN ALEXANDER WRIGHT** **April 5, 1909 – September 16, 2006**



Furman Alexander Wright was born on April 5, 1909, the oldest of nine children born to the late William Albert and Dellie Willis Wright. He was born in rural Catawba County, but at the age of three, the family moved to rural Cleveland County. That was where Furman enjoyed life to the fullest as he grew from childhood to manhood. As he grew older, he participated in all sports, but his favorite game was basketball. It has been said of him that he was above average in this sport. Later in life, he began playing golf and continued until the age of 91.

Furman graduated from Fallston High School in 1929 and completed a barber's course that same year. His skill as a barber helped to finance his education for the next eight years. He took a four-year conference Course of Study from Emory University. After graduation from High Point College in 1937 with an A.B. degree, he attended Westminster Theological Seminary. On December 28, 1938, Furman married Margaret Mittie Baxter. She remained his faithful wife and played an important role in a 33-year ministry. Her bout with health problems and severe arthritis and rheumatism led to their decision to retire in 1974, when Furman was 65.

After retirement, he and Margaret attended her home church, Bess Chapel United Methodist, for the remainder of her life. Their 55 years of married life came to an end when she died on March 13, 1993, at the age of 82. Furman continued to attend Bess Chapel, and his strong, clear tenor voice could be heard in the church choir until he was 91 years old.

His home church was Friendship United Methodist, located at Fallston, North Carolina, in Cleveland County. That is where he was baptized and joined at age 12. He was admitted to the Western North Carolina Annual Conference "on trial" on October 24, 1941; brought into full membership and ordained deacon in 1943; and ordained elder in

1945. His obedience to God's calling on his life at a very young age led him to 10 charges and 34 churches. These were mostly rural, and he sometimes preached as many as four sermons each Sunday. These charges and churches were as follows: Mocksville Circuit, 1941-43; Hudson, 1943-46; St. Paul (Winston-Salem District), 1946-49; Hiddenite, 1949-53; Drexel, 1953-57; Concord-Sharon, 1957-60; Pine Woods-Fairview, 1960-64; Grace Chapel, 1964-68; Balfour-Moore's Grove, 1968-71; and Northbrook (Reep's Grove and Macedonia), 1971-74. He never refused to go anywhere or do anything his conference asked of him, always endeavoring to improve upon and leaving things in a better condition than when he came. He believed in old-time revivals and stated that all preachers must believe the Bible, live by it, and preach it. He never doubted his calling, never grew tired of being a minister, and was saddened when he had to retire.

Furman was most proud of his record of the 557 who joined these churches by profession of faith. He was equally proud of the six young men who felt the call and entered the ministry. With the help of the Holy Spirit and Reverend Furman, they followed through on their decision. He always felt that they were preaching and winning souls to Christ for him, as well as themselves.

Even though he and Margaret had no children of their own, they really had hundreds, because every child that they met was very special to them. After Margaret's death, Furman remained in their home in Cherryville, doing his own household chores and yard work until the age of 91. The year that he fell and broke his hip, he remained in high spirits and gave Christian love and encouragement to many, even though he was bedfast.

Furman died on September 16, 2006, at Crawley Memorial Hospital, Shelby, at the age of 97. The funeral service, a true celebration of his life, was at Bess Chapel Church, with interment in the church cemetery, where he was laid to rest beside his beloved wife, Margaret.

Furman, your life will live on within the hearts of the many thousands who believed in you and the true gospel you shared with them, especially me, your younger brother.

John H. Wright

## G. CHRONOLOGICAL ROLL OF DECEASED CLERGY AND DIACONAL MINISTERS

Note: The complete rolls of deceased clergy of the Blue Ridge-Atlantic Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, and the Western North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, prior to Unification in 1939, are to be found in the 1939 journal of the Western North Carolina Conference of The Methodist Church, pages 114, 153, and 252.

The complete rolls of deceased clergy of the North Carolina-Virginia Conference of The Methodist Church for the period 1964-1967 are to be found in the 1967 journal of that conference, page 55.

The complete rolls of deceased clergy of the Western North Carolina Conference of The Methodist Church for the period between Unification in 1939 and the formation of The United Methodist Church in 1968, including the deceased clergy of the North Carolina-Virginia Conference for the 1967-1968 conference year, are to be found in the 1968 journal of the Western North Carolina Conference, pages 363-366.

The journals referred to herein may be found in the Archives Room of the Conference Memorial Center, 3400 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte.

*Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; yea, saith the spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them. — Revelation 14:13*

### 1. FULL CONNECTION

NO.	NAME	BIRTH (Place and Date)	ADMITTED INTO TRAVELING MINISTRY	DIED (Place and Date)
1	N.C. Williams, Sr.	Moore Co., April 23, 1888	WNC, 1915	Winston-Salem, May 8, 1968
2	E.K. McLarty, Jr.	Buncombe Co., Aug. 5, 1908	WNC, 1936	Brevard, May 23, 1968
3	E.V. Williams	Mecklenburg Co., Sept. 29, 1936	WNC, 1961	Cullowhee, May 31, 1968
4	M.B. Stokes	Columbia, SC, Dec. 12, 1882	WNC, 1907	Charlotte, July 4, 1968
5	G.B. Ferree	Randolph Co., Jan. 8, 1888	WNC, 1931	Asheboro, July 28, 1968
6	R.C. Sharpe	Guilford Co., July 27, 1892	NC, 1933	Baltimore, MD, Nov. 4, 1968
7	T.B. Huneycutt	Stanly Co., Feb. 12, 1886	WNC, 1928	Rutherfordton, Nov. 15, 1968
8	C.M. White	Bedford Co., TN, Nov. 25, 1879	BR-A, 1914	Statesville, Dec. 31, 1968
9	I.L. Roberts	Cleveland Co., Sept. 22, 1898	WNC, 1926	Leesburg, FL, Jan. 22, 1969
10	L.D. Thompson	Gaston Co., Sept. 14, 1880	WTexas, 1907	Charlotte, March 19, 1969
11	R.F. McCallum	Robeson Co., Aug. 5, 1889	NCME	Winston-Salem, April 15, 1969
12	R.M. Varner	Randolph Co., Dec. 1, 1900	WNC, 1932	Fort Mill, SC, May 6, 1969
13	J.M. Green	Ashe Co., Aug. 11, 1884	WNC, 1920	Yadkinville, May 13, 1969
14	O.J. Jones	Gaston Co., May 21, 1879	WNC, 1909	Charlotte, May 23, 1969
15	G.H. Caldwell	Guilford Co., Oct. 10, 1888	NCME, 1912	Greensboro, May 31, 1969
16	W.B. Royals	Randolph Co., Feb. 1, 1919	WNC, 1944	High Point, June 14, 1969
17	E.M. Avett	Anson Co., Oct. 20, 1879	WNC, 1906	Mocksville, July 1, 1969
18	A.L. Latham	Ashe Co., Dec. 4, 1878	BR-A, 1906	Charlotte, Nov. 3, 1969
19	I.J. Terrell	Stokes Co., May 15, 1892	WNC, 1943	Denton, April 1, 1970
20	J.W. Groce	Greenville, SC, Aug. 15, 1888	WNC, 1924	Waynesville, April 15, 1970
21	D.H. Rhinehart	Haywood Co., June 12, 1888	WNC, 1912	Springfield, VA, June 1, 1970
22	R.P. Jones	Ashe Co., Aug. 4, 1881	BR-A, 1919	Jefferson, June 11, 1970
23	E.A. Lamb	Randolph Co., May 6, 1905	NCMP, 1933	Winston-Salem, Aug. 18, 1970
24	O.W. Burwick	Orangeburg, SC, June 21, 1905	NC-C, 1939	Newton, Oct. 23, 1970
25	A.W. Thompson	Randolph Co., Nov. 6, 1893	BR-A, 1926	Candler, Feb. 22, 1971
26	W.J. Miller	Forsyth Co., May 11, 1901	WNC, 1921	Waynesville, July 15, 1971
27	J. M. Barber	York Co., SC, Aug. 1, 1890	WNC, 1918	Morganton, Aug. 3, 1971
28	D.T. Huss	Catawba Co., March 21, 1894	NCMP, 1933	Iredell Co., Aug. 13, 1971
29	R.M. Laughlin	Mexico City, Mexico, Mar. 10, 1909	WNC, 1933	Greensboro, Sept. 17, 1971