

## VIII. MEMOIRS

Please send corrections and praise for this section to Dale A. Reese, Memoir's Secretary,  
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## Our Honored Dead, Clergy

Records in this list are published only for the last five years. For preceding roll, please see earlier *Journals* or *Index to Memoirs* published by The Western PA Conference Commission on Archives & History 1996.

Name	Born	Died	Age	Year Comm Travel	Relation At Death
Ralph B. Kilburn	9/16/1922	7/4/2010	87	1950	Retired
Wayne B. Price	10/4/1918	7/13/2010	91	1946	Retired
Allen O. Grimm	5/4/1935	8/3/2010	75		Retired
Charles A. Renshaw	3/22/1930	8/12/2010	80	1971	Retired
Jacob Brumbaugh	5/8/1926	8/28/2010	84		Retired
Nelson E. Stants	4/21/1921	9/13/2010	89	1950	Retired
Gale W. Cook	8/21/1919	9/22/2010	91	1951	Retired
Russell Perry	12/22/1920	11/3/2010	89	1948	Retired
Robert Lee Peters	4/20/1926	11/4/2010	84	1970	Retired
William Jay Gill	10/18/1938	11/27/2010	72		Retired
Gilbert Hoffman	9/27/1922	12/9/2010	88	1954	Retired
Paul Thomas Pullen	11/3/1929	1/10/2011	81	1949	Retired
Leonard D. Adams	12/13/1925	1/22/2011	85	1959	Retired
Wesley Edward Blaha	6/3/1930	1/29/2011	80	1956	Retired
William Berninger	1/19/1918	2/24/2011	93		Retired
Ferd Brownlee Park	5/17/1930	3/7/2011	80	1961	Retired
Mary Catherine Burton	5/7/1932	3/9/2011	78	1975	Retired
Carol Richey Adcock	10/15/1925	3/22/2011	85	1975	Retired
John C. Cox	6/1/1922	4/9/2011	88	1950	Retired
G. Donald McAfoose	10/23/1928	5/7/2011	82	1975	Retired
John Harper Creeks	7/5/1924	5/11/2011	86	1969	Retired
William E. Fenstermaker	6/17/1923	5/12/2011	87	1951	Retired
J. Richard Hackenberry	6/23/1923	5/18/2011	87	1971	Retired
Hugh Dewey Crocker	10/30/1930	6/13/2011	80	1953	Retired
James William Kane	4/8/1928	6/24/2011	83	1964	Retired
Gerald Marion Lundeen	4/8/1929	6/28/2011	82	1950	Retired
J. Stephen Ziegler	12/5/1926	7/21/2011	84	1958	Withdrew
Henry Harrison Shissler	8/19/1918	8/1/2011	92	1945	Retired
Merle I. Potter	2/26/1932	8/1/2011	79	1964	Withdrew
James M. Du Bois	5/27/1929	9/9/2011	82	1982	Retired
Carol Edre Lynn	9/20/1936	9/28/2011	75	1986	Retired
Richard C. Baker	12/13/1936	10/1/2011	74	1969	Withdrew
Glea Leann Foster	5/18/1949	11/29/2011	62	1994	Active
Cloyd Martin Osborne	9/25/1923	12/8/2011	88	1951	Retired
Robert Callihan	3/2/1929	12/12/2011	82	1951	Retired
Winston C. Trever	5/28/1912	2/7/2012	99	1933	Retired
Peter Anthony Degerlando	8/26/1921	3/11/2012	90	1963	Retired
Jack David Fields	2/1/1922	4/16/2012	90	1956	Retired
Pat Edward Ellis	10/22/1949	4/25/2012	62	1993	Active
Jack Gail Ammon	1/7/1920	5/13/2012	92	1951	Retired
Charles D. DuPont	8/11/1932	5/19/2012	79	1967	Withdrew
Charles Straver Loney	7/14/1926	6/8/2012	85	1951	Retired
Molly Brown	7/24/1923	8/6/2012	89	1985	Retired
Mearle Leventry	1/12/1922	9/10/2012	90	1963	Retired
John Dobbs Patterson	10/29/1930	9/22/2012	81	1953	Retired
Fred Preuss Jr.	8/16/1942	10/12/2012	70	1965	Retired
Jean Cable	6/25/1920	10/28/2012	92		Retired

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Ivan Dewayne Johnson	3/10/1923	12/24/2012	89	1975	Retired
Donald T Rainey	4/8/1935	1/4/2013	77	1969	Retired
James Earl Davis	11/12/1929	1/9/2013	83	1977	Retired
Robert Spencer Fulton	7/16/1933	1/11/2013	87	1961	Location
Jacob Henry Breakiron	6/18/1920	1/28/2013	92	1948	Retired
Paul Meuschke	12/11/1927	3/15/2013	85	1951	Retired
Robert Gumbert	1/5/1929	3/23/2013	84	1952	Retired
Spurgeon Witherow	9/27/1925	3/24/2013	87	1952	Retired
Charles Moore	10/12/1929	3/31/2013	83	1979	Retired
Robert Foltz	12/27/1939	4/14/2013	73	1962	Retired
Conway Keibler	9/26/1927	4/27/2013	85	1955	Retired
Johnnie David Panther	2/18/1957	5/26/2013	56	1982	Active
James Preston Fogg Jr.	3/15/1950	6/11/2013	63	1973	Retired
Roger Cramer Sr.	2/17/1928	7/31/2013	85	1962	Retired
James Trusel	7/11/1927	9/11/2013	86	1969	Retired
Robert Higginbotham Jr.	12/8/1949	9/29/2013	63	1972	Active
Samuel Weible	7/14/1925	10/10/2013	88	1985	Retired
John Duvall	12/23/1922	11/6/2013	90	1971	Retired
Sylvan Jerry Berman	11/1/1934	11/24/2013	79	1969	Retired
Donald Brown	5/11/1928	1/15/2014	85	1958	Retired
Richard Eddinger	6/13/1936	1/24/2014	77	1970	Retired
Kenneth McGowan Jr.	8/12/1934	2/2/2014	79	1961	Retired
John Charles Garvin	4/16/1933	3/16/2014	80	1962	Retired
Henry Morris	12/11/1928	3/24/2014	85	1952	Retired
John Boor	1/4/1926	4/22/2014	88	1965	Retired
George Sturley Cook	6/23/1918	5/6/2014	95	1974	Retired
Jean L Haslett	10/10/1941	5/28/2014	72	1997	Retired
William George Griffith	12/16/1930	6/3/2014	83	1985	Retired
David Lee Ostrander	10/30/1920	6/9/2014	93	1948	Retired
Robert C Armstrong	10/15/1924	7/2/2014	89	1953	Retired
Lee Wayne Parker Jr.	6/14/1931	7/8/2014	83	1962	Retired
Howard Dale Reitz	7/21/1933	7/13/2014	80	1966	Retired
Roger Raymond Buzard	1/22/1945	7/23/2014	69	1971	Retired
Michelle Wobrak	11/1/1959	7/28/2014	54	2002	Active
Donald E Drake	4/22/1929	8/23/2014	85	1971	Retired
William C Beal Jr.	11/21/1926	9/14/2014	87	1944	Retired
Jack E Spencer	1/29/1927	10/15/2014	87	1950	Retired
John Basinger Jr.	3/23/1922	10/24/2014	92		Retired
Harold Pat Albright	9/8/1931	11/9/2014	83	1954	Retired
Russell L Babcock	4/6/1924	11/15/2014	90	1964	Retired
James L Reinard	10/1/1925	11/25/2014	89	1983	Retired
Gerald H Murphy	2/10/1927	12/3/2014	87	1954	Retired
Robert Dewayne Sayre	6/30/1926	12/3/2014	88		Retired
Hengust Robinson Jr.	11/24/1931	12/26/2014	83	1958	Retired
Harry Clayton Prince	8/23/1918	12/27/2014	96	1972	Retired
Charles L Elliott	10/13/1924	2/1/2015	90	1961	Retired
George E Himes	9/18/1933	2/2/2015	81	1968	Retired
Robert Lee Patton	9/27/1922	2/12/2015	92	1970	Retired
Gerald Wesley Michel	8/6/1933	2/24/2015	81	1969	Retired
Donald Lester Russell	2/12/1934	2/25/2015	81		Retired
Clyde Elmer Koah	7/29/1933	3/1/2015	81	1994	Retired
Thelma Mowrey	12/12/1924	3/2/2015	90	1966	Retired
John W Stevenson	8/21/1929	3/14/2015	85	1962	Retired
Milton M Rhodes	6/12/1921	3/24/2015	93	1958	Retired
Jaime Potter Alvarez	11/18/1949	4/29/2015	65	1972	Retired
Mary K Fleischman	10/24/1926	4/30/2015	88	1992	Retired
Edward S Hammett	8/2/1929	5/23/2015	85	1961	Retired
George E Kennedy	7/2/1931	6/3/2015	83	1963	Retired

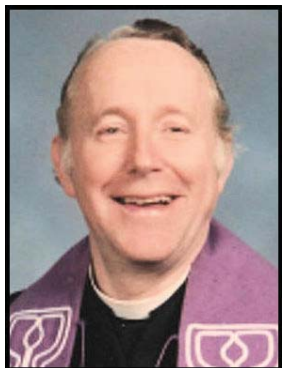
## 2015 Western Pennsylvania Conference

## Our Honored Dead, Clergy Spouses

Name	Born	Died	Age	Clergy's Name
Birdie Lou Edmonds (Horneman)	10/30/1931	2/1/2010	78	Robert
Astrid Amelia Kelly	2/13/1934	5/10/2010	76	Floyd
Nancy O. Hinderliter	3/15/1936	7/29/2010	74	Harold
Vivian S. Troutman	10/22/1922	10/6/2010	87	Perry
Howard Davis	11/8/1917	10/13/2010	92	Gladys
Charlotte Burns Zeigler	6/27/1914	10/28/2010	96	Harold Burns
Catherine O. Merz	7/16/1914	11/7/2010	75	Albert
Sara Ann Howes	8/20/1914	1/14/2011	96	Allan
Averill V. Gay	11/5/1920	1/24/2011	90	Richard
Glengail Stephens	4/28/1912	3/19/2011	98	Robert
Grace I. Shaffer	9/19/1925	4/9/2011	85	Jay
Genevieve M. Zimmerman	4/21/1931	4/17/2011	79	Robert
Marion A. Eckert	10/2/1908	4/28/2011	102	Ralph
Jenny N. Byrd	12/17/1921	4/30/2011	89	Stanley
Goldie LaVerne Browning	4/15/1929	4/5/2010	80	Scott
Dorothy Edmunds Cromer	4/13/1914	10/27/2010	96	William
Margeretta Wechsler Kutz	6/3/1938	5/12/2011	72	Charles
Marie V. Filer	4/16/1918	5/26/2011	93	William
Thelma I. Cousins	5/12/1918	6/3/2011	93	James
Marilyn Ethel Moon	12/10/1936	6/11/2011	74	Jack
Helena Wineberg	9/26/1919	7/14/2011	91	William
Anne Maple Swift	3/9/1931	9/5/2011	80	Meredith
Elinor Louise Gates	1/29/1923	9/13/2011	88	Nelson Morton
June Osgood Jolley	4/24/1916	10/10/2011	95	Delbert
Eileen F. Bell	7/3/1922	10/15/2011	89	Chalmers
Dorothy Ellen Reaugh	4/10/1926	10/18/2011	85	Jack, Sr
Marjorie Ellen Scruton	9/23/1923	11/1/2011	88	Paul
Renee' Jean Ellis	5/1/1954	11/15/2011	57	Pat
Betty Jo Loney	4/16/1928	12/2/2011	83	Charles
Hilda Eileen Jewell	3/12/1925	12/1/2011	86	Gale
Virginia Elizabeth Hammett	3/12/1931	12/17/2011	80	Edward
Gloria Jean Rhodes	8/22/1941	12/24/2011	70	Arnold
Dorie Louise Heckman	8/8/1945	12/24/2011	66	David
Janet Grace Young	5/18/1933	2/7/2012	78	Norman
Delores Ruth Colpetzer	4/12/1932	2/24/2012	79	John
Joy Elaine Friesner	1/30/1941	3/18/2012	71	James
Beverly B. Shaffer	7/20/1947	4/24/2012	64	Terry
Lois Marjorie Headley	8/21/1927	5/30/2012	84	William
Rita L. Groters	10/29/1919	6/13/2011	91	Claude
Bernadeane Picht	4/11/1922	5/21/2012	90	Charles
Michael Condon	10/25/1965	6/17/2012	46	Jackie
Josephine Cowder	3/10/1914	7/1/2012	98	Cecil Clyde
Edith Rickard	7/9/1921	7/28/2012	91	E Wayne
Mildred McEntire	7/13/1913	8/29/2012	99	Don
Dorothy Gray	5/14/1920	9/19/2012	92	James
Margery Winkie Morey	9/21/1916	10/12/2012	96	Roger
Constance Rowles	12/11/1942	10/22/2012	69	Forrest
Betty Gordon	8/29/1923	10/25/2012	89	Thomas
Esther Garner	10/24/1921	11/23/2012	91	Lawrence
Rosemary Basinger	9/21/1925	11/28/2012	87	John, Jr
Helen Mabel Lyman	2/22/1914	12/14/2012	98	Harold
Lucy Stewart	5/11/1921	12/15/2012	91	L Gene
Sally Rupert	8/24/1947	12/16/2012	65	Edward
Sarah Maher	12/12/1939	12/18/2012	73	William
Virginia Prisk	9/2/1913	12/22/2012	99	Charles
Amelia Haine	7/13/1911	12/30/2012	101	Cuthbert

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Lois Jean Scott	11/22/1929	1/16/2013	83	John W.
Luella Moffat	6/2/1915	1/29/2013	97	Arthur T., Sr
Lois Hollenbeck	6/10/1928	2/9/2013	84	LeRoy
Geraldine Nunemaker	12/21/1927	2/13/2013	85	Harold
Betty Dubois	6/6/1933	3/11/2013	79	James
Betty Shaffer	2/20/1921	4/4/2013	92	Clarence
Ednah Shultz	10/12/1919	4/8/2013	93	Howard
Kelly Stranford-Wasser	4/25/1960	4/14/2013	52	Rex
Irene Lucille Meuschke	5/17/1933	6/8/2013	80	Paul
Myron Gramling	1/8/1941	7/9/2013	72	Phyllis
Marcia Smith	1/5/1929	7/11/2013	84	Ronald
David Peary, Sr.	3/18/1927	7/26/2013	86	Margaret
Marietta Woomer	3/13/1917	8/6/2013	96	James
Faye (Walker) Wion Pollock	11/4/1924	8/14/2013	88	Cyrus & HB
Eileen M. Stoupe	12/12/1916	9/1/2013	96	Hugh
Carol Kalp	12/14/1936	9/3/2013	76	Larry
Mary B. Smith	2/9/1924	9/27/2013	89	J Howard
Doris Juanita Romine	1/28/1933	10/1/2013	80	Ralph
Barbara J Reed	1/20/1918	10/1/2013	95	Allen
Sarah Rummel	6/15/1916	10/24/2013	97	Charles
Harriet Porter	4/11/1928	11/7/2013	85	William
Dora Cox	3/17/1925	11/10/2013	88	Jack
Dolores Croyle	12/26/1932	11/24/2013	80	Rodney
Dorothy Blank	9/17/1929	12/18/2013	84	Robert
Lucille Dunkle	1/2/1932	12/25/2013	81	Norman
Dorothy Boyd	6/19/1926	12/31/2013	87	Howard
Jean Lash	12/13/1935	12/31/2013	78	Robert
Lois Heiser	12/12/1925	1/24/2014	88	John
Elsie McCollough	12/2/1913	2/8/2014	100	Edward
Margaret Hodges	11/2/1923	2/28/2014	90	James
Grace Roberts	11/13/1917	3/9/2014	96	Emery
Loretta Taylor	5/2/1948	4/14/2014	65	Paul
Harry Applegate	8/12/1927	5/13/2014	86	Julie
Evelyn June Perry	3/24/1919	5/20/2014	95	Russell
Sylvia A Chamberlin	1/15/1927	8/16/2014	87	William
Debra Snyder	6/16/1951	8/29/2014	63	John
Agnes Dunning	10/24/1930	9/23/2014	83	Samuel
Lois E Hayes	1/6/1923	10/3/2014	91	John Balliet
Hilda Stewart	1/25/1924	10/5/2014	90	Alexander
Elaine Ostrander	6/1/1923	10/17/2014	91	David
Vera Woodcock	12/28/1919	10/29/2014	94	Everett
Karen Utz	4/4/1943	12/2/2014	71	Gary
Erma Shindledecker	7/5/1918	12/27/2014	96	Ormel
Wilma Jean Burns	8/17/1929	12/31/2014	85	Richard
Scharma Sphar Schaeffer	3/16/1931	1/6/2015	83	Carl Sphar
Ardith P Johnson	5/26/1925	1/13/2015	89	DeWayne
Faye Beck	9/21/1921	1/27/2015	93	Bill
Thada Robb	5/27/1926	2/23/2015	88	James
Zelma Mellors Stants	5/13/1922	2/28/2015	92	Nelson
Kathleen Reinard	8/15/1925	5/1/2015	89	James
Nan B Pennington	11/9/1929	5/4/2015	85	Herbert
Emmarie Lutton Spofford	11/9/1921	5/20/2015	93	Thomas
Lola Moore	12/31/1919	5/20/2015	95	Russell
Joan Rose Patton	1/25/1942	5/31/2015	73	Robert

**Harold Patrick “Pat” Albright****September 8, 1931****November 9, 2014**

The Rev. Dr. Harold “Pat” Albright died peacefully at age 83 on November 9, 2014. Beloved and devoted husband for 61 years of Betty Lou Albright, Pat was born in Bluefield, WV on September 8, 1931. After graduating from Bluefield High School, Pat attended Asbury College, returning to West Virginia to serve three small churches and to complete his college education at Marshall University. He received his Masters of Divinity Degree from Boston University School of Theology with honors and did further study at Harvard, Oxford and the University of Salamanca in Spain. He was awarded his Doctor of Divinity by Allegheny College.

Pat heard the call to ministry as a teenager, preaching his first sermon at 15. Ordained in West Virginia in 1956, he served three Methodist churches over his 38 years of active ministry: Wesley in New Castle, First Church: Erie and Mt. Lebanon. During his eight years in New Castle, the church doubled in size, adding an education building. As an active civic leader there, he received the Jaycees’ Young Man of the Year Award. During 14 years in Erie, the church established an inner-city nursery school and day care, built a 14-story apartment building for seniors and installed a new organ dedicated in his honor. He served on the Board of the Erie Foundation and was active in Rotary. Pat served Mt. Lebanon from 1978-1994, during which time the church prospered, adding a new parking lot and establishing Weekday Ministries for children. He achieved notoriety through his costumed portrayals of historic personalities such as St. Paul, Martin Luther, J. S. Bach, Christopher Columbus, John Wesley, Francis Asbury and his favorite, Thomas Jefferson.

Pat served on the Board at West Virginia Wesleyan College and chaired the Board of Ordained Ministry of the Western Pennsylvania Conference. Not content with retirement, he continued to serve churches in the area until his health failed several months before his death. He preached his last sermon at Masonic Village on August 3, 2014. He was interim pastor at the Chippewa and Natrona Heights UMCs and Westminster Presbyterian in Upper St. Clair. He provided pastoral care for several years at Southminster Presbyterian in Mt. Lebanon. He was much in demand as a guest preacher and was asked to officiate at many weddings at Heinz Chapel and Old St. Luke’s. While preacher-of-the-week at Chautauqua, he spoke to a congregation of 5000. He served as Adjunct Professor of Homiletics at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, where the Albright-Deering Lecture was established in his honor 13 years ago. Always a scholar, Pat endeavored to support education for others and was instrumental in establishing scholarships at West Virginia Wesleyan in his and Betty Lou’s names and one in honor of Bishop George and Carolyn Bashore at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH.

As world travelers, he and Betty Lou traveled to 75 countries, mostly on study tours. Pat’s ministry was one of total dedication not only to scholarship and exemplary preaching, but also one of serving his congregations through his presence with them for all of their needs. He loved people and was deeply loved in return, but most of all he

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loved Betty Lou, his wife of 61 years, with a love that knew no end. “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.”

Submitted by the family

**October 15, 1924**



**Robert “Bob” Calvin Armstrong**

**July 2, 2014**

Rev. Robert C. Armstrong passed away on July 2, 2014 in Heritage Valley Hospital, Beaver. He was born October 15, 1924 in Searsboro, Iowa, the son of the late Emmett and Alice Bingham Armstrong. On September 18, 1947 he married Maudie M. Hargis from Tracy City, TN, who passed away on September 27, 2007.

He proudly served his country with the United States Navy during World War II. Rev. Armstrong was a seminary graduate and a retired Methodist minister. He was a member of the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, having served in a number of Western Pennsylvania charges. Robert and his late wife were founding board members of the Washington County

Habitat for Humanity.

Bob served the following churches: Northwest Indiana Conference: Sand Hill *November 11, 1951-January 31, 1952*; Door Village/Salem Chapel *February 1, 1952-1954*; Idaville 1954-1956; Richland Center/Burton/Gilead 1956-1957; Director: YMCA 1957-1958; Western PA: Noblestown/Federal 1958-1960; New Florence/Cramer 1960-*September 30, 1963*; Pittsburgh: Lawrenceville Community *October 1, 1963-1967*; Springdale 1967-1968; Executive Director: John Munhall Neighborhood House 1968-*December 31, 1972*; Director: Methodist Union of Social Agencies (MUSA) *January 1, 1973-January 1, 1989*; Retired *January 1, 1989*; Bethel Park: First Associate *September 1, 1994-1995*.

Surviving are his beloved children, Gerald R. (Anna) Armstrong of Clinton and Diane (Larry) Brosius of Beaver; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by his son, Bruce Armstrong; his daughter, Lorinda Armstrong; his infant son, Roger Armstrong; and his siblings, Paul, David, Harry and Elmira.

Submitted by the family

**Russell “Russ” Leroy Babcock**

**April 6, 1924**

**November 15, 2014**

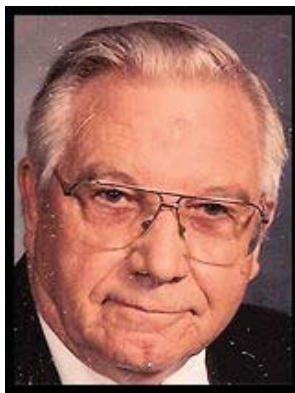
The Rev. Russell L. Babcock passed away in the Grove City Medical Center on November 15, 2014, following a two-year illness. Russell was born in Grove City on April 6, 1924, to the late Frank E. and Emma McDougall Babcock. He married Jeanne L. Patterson on September 7, 1946. Russell was a graduate of Grove City High School, Class of 1942. Following high school, he served in the United States Navy for four years during World War II. He was aboard a landing craft on Omaha Beach on D-Day. Returning home after the war, he was educated and graduated from Grove City College in 1949.

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Russell began his career in business at the First National Bank of Fredonia, PA. After a year of working for the bank, he was recruited by R. D. Werner Company of Greenville and became the credit manager for the corporation. Feeling called of God, Russell was licensed as a minister in 1953 and became fully ordained as a Methodist pastor following graduation from Oberlin Graduate School of Theology in Oberlin, Ohio in 1967. Russell served churches in Jamestown, Hermitage, West Middlesex, Erie and retired in 1989 after serving Slippery Rock UMC. Returning to Grove City with his wife to live, Russell served the Deer Creek and Mt. Hope UMCs in retirement.

Survivors include his wife, Jeanne, at home; three children, Pamela Patton and husband, Douglas, Sugar Land, Texas; Ed Babcock and wife, Deb, Woodbine, MD; and Dave Babcock and wife, Cheryl, West Middlesex, PA; a foster daughter, Donna Skakalski and husband, Stanley, Jamestown; a foster son, Kenneth Maxwell and wife, Barb, Grove City; 10 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren. Russell was preceded in death by his parents; one grandson, Jason Patton; his sister Alyce Dunn; and brother Harold Babcock.

**John R. Basinger, Jr.****March 23, 1922****October 24, 2014**

Rev. John Basinger, Jr., recently of Normalville, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on October 24, 2014, while surrounded by his loving family.

John was born March 23, 1922, in Normalville, the first son of the late John and Lottie Whipkey Basinger. He was an avid reader all of his life. He believed you were never too young or too old to learn. He would ride on the mail truck to high school and walk to the Carnegie Free Library after school and read until it was time to catch the mail truck back up the mountain. In high school, he was known as the walking dictionary. One of his high school teachers, Miss Sonafelt (Mrs. Wandel) would have her students read around the room, and if a student came to a difficult word, she would stop the

reader and say, "Tell the class what that word means, John." He graduated from Connellsville High School in 1941.

Since John's father had been gassed in World War I and was unable to work, the family received public assistance. John had to go to work to repay the money they received. John answered the call to serve his country when drafted on November 10, 1942. John was inducted into the United States Army and served his basic training with the 90th Division at Camp Barkley, Texas. He then became a part of the Cadre, which was to become the 36th Cavalry Recon Squadron. The 44th joined them at Yuma, Arizona to form the 11th Cavalry Group. The 11th departed at New York on September

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29, 1944 and arrived at Glasgow, Scotland 11 days later. After moving down to England and sent over the Channel to Le Havre, France, they moved up through France and Belgium to Holland, where they engaged the enemy. The 11th Cavalry Group served under General Montgomery and General Simpson. They advanced across the Rhineland and Central Europe with Berlin as their goal. The 36th Recon squadron lost more than 60 percent of their men, killed or wounded. John was wounded two weeks before the war was over. He, along with many others, were flown back to Nancy, France, where he spent the next two months recovering from his wounds. John returned to the USA and was honorably discharged on February 24, 1946.

On returning from the service, John married the former Rosemary Brooks on June 2, 1946. John was a charter member of the Valley Veterans Post 12019 in Normalville. He was elected state chaplain at the 81<sup>st</sup> annual convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, held at the Radisson Motel in Green Tree, Pittsburgh, on July 13, 2000.

Also, after being discharged from the Army, John became active in the local Methodist Church at Normalville. He felt called to the ministry and was licensed to preach in 1961. He engaged in the course of study and attended the Wesley Theological Seminary at Washington, D.C. He was ordained deacon in 1964 by Bishop Middleton and elder by Bishop Newell in 1966. He was a member of the Western PA Conference of The United Methodist Church.

John retired from the Johnstown District in 1988 but continued to serve where needed into his mid-80s. He was part-time pastor at Union in 1970 and full-time in 1987. He was pastor in Middleton in 1964. He was at Chalk Hill in 1962 to 1963; Chalk Hill-Evans Manor 1963 to 1965; Evans Manor Charge 1965 to 1967; Stahlstown 1967 to 1971; Chalk Hill-Sampson Chapel 1971 to 1976; White Rock 1976 to 1980; Coolspring 1980 to 1984; Belsano 1984 to 1988 and retired in 1988.

John also worked at Anchor Hocking and in construction. He was employed by U.S. Steel, Edgar Thompson Works as a class carpenter from November 1952 until his retirement in April 1983. He was known as John 3:16 at work and had written John 3:16 on his hardhat.

John patiently taught his children and grandchildren to share his love of fishing and hunting. He liked gardening and woodworking and made family members and friends numerous items over the years. He raised beagles for many years and enjoyed running his dogs in the fields and trails.

John is survived by his children, Gregory Basinger and wife, Bonnie, of Mill Run; Douglas Basinger and wife, Kathy, of Indian Head; and Marcia Miller and husband, Kevin, of Normalville; his grandchildren, Chad Basinger and wife Kristen; Cary Basinger and wife, Rachel; Carissa Basinger; Rebecca Ritenour and husband, Ed; Melanie Yothers; and Lindsay Moore and husband, Caleb; his great-grandchildren, Mason, Gwen, Taney, Tagen and Camden Basinger, Alyssa Ritenour, Kylee Yothers and Amelia and Maverick Moore; his brother, Melvin Basinger; and numerous nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his wife, Rosemary Brooks Basinger; a son, Terry Basinger; and brothers, Carl and Vernon Basinger.

A funeral service was held in Connellsville with the Rev. Mark Sholtis and the Rev. Ed Mikkelsen officiating. A committal service and interment followed in the Normalville Cemetery with military rites conducted by the Valley VFW Honor Guard.



**William “Bill” Clark Beal, Jr.****November 21, 1926****September 14, 2014**

“Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so.” William “Bill” Clark Beal, Jr., my Dad, believed this with all his heart and lived it with all his life. Through his preaching, teaching, and pastoral care he kept congregations at their “growing edge.” He preached grace and taught me and many others how to “grow in grace.” Dad died peacefully at home in Bridgewater, NJ on Sunday, September 14, 2014 at the age of 87.

His earthly life began by the grace of God in Mount Pleasant, PA on November 21, 1926. He arrived several weeks early and weighed less than two pounds. The medical staff thought he was dead. His mother’s sister, Etta, went to look at him, saw him move, and alerted the nurse that this baby was indeed alive! His parents were

William C. and Gladys Beal, Sr. (William, Sr. also served as clergy in the Western Pennsylvania Conference.) Bill, Jr., graduated from Albright College, Reading, PA in 1947 and received his Master of Sacred Theology degree in 1971 from United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio. He served churches in Western Pennsylvania until 1974 when he became the Archivist/Records Administrator for the General Commission on Archives and History of The United Methodist Church. He served the UMC in that position at Lake Junaluska, NC and Drew University, Madison, NJ until his retirement in 1993. Following retirement he enjoyed spending time with his family and collecting, recording, and listening to music.

Predeceased by his parents, William C. Beal, Sr. and Gladys Spaugy Beal Burleson, he is survived by his wife of 58 years, Gladys Leight; two daughters, Joyce Horn and husband Houston; JoAnn Pun and husband Tony; and four grandchildren—Franklin and Mary Horn, and Elizabeth and Arlene Pun.

A memorial service was held at First United Methodist Church, Somerville, PA. His ashes are buried at Heiland View Cemetery at Chapel Church, Red Lion, PA, the town where he met and married his beloved wife, Gladys.

Submitted by the family

**Faye Irene Myers Beck****September 21, 1921****January 27, 2015**

Faye I. Beck died on January 27, 2015, at Jefferson Manor, Brookville. She was the surviving spouse of the Rev. Wilbert G. Beck, who died in October 2003.

Born September 21, 1921, in Sligo, she was a daughter of the late Orville Myers and Ida Burns Myers. She was married to Wilbert G. Beck on September 23, 1944, in Sligo. Faye worked as a crew leader for Owens-Illinois in Clarion for 35 years. She was a member of the Asbury United Methodist Church.

Survivors include a daughter, Bonnie J. Sherman of Brookville; a son, Thomas G. Beck of Lawson, MO; a younger sister, Althea Cropp of Oil City; four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by

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a daughter, Doretha F. Beck; two sisters, Bula Willison and Alma Hall; and two brothers, William Myers and Miller Myers.

A funeral service was held on Friday, January 30, 2015, at the McKinney Funeral Home in Brookville with the Rev. Nancy Zahn officiating. Burial was in Cedarview Memorial Park, Strattanville.

### Wilma “Jean” Curstead Burns

**August 17, 1929**



**December 31, 2014**

Wilma “Jean” Curstead Burns of Johnstown went to be with her Savior on December 31, 2014 at her residence. Jean was born August 17, 1929 in Bowood, Fayette County, PA, a daughter of the late Wilbur J. and Leanna G. Forbes Curstead. She graduated from Georges Township High School, Fairchance, PA in 1947, then attended Asbury College in Wilmore, KY.

Jean held many part time jobs, caring for the elderly in the various towns in which they lived, all the while maintaining her home and family. She assisted her husband, Rev. Richard Burns, as a United Methodist pastor's wife, holding many offices and roles in the six churches they served, and cared for many arrangements in their ministry of evangelism. She ministered to countless

pastors' spouses as they sought her out for support and wisdom. Wilma Jean had a great love of the written word and vocabulary; she especially enjoyed poetry, putting many verses to memory. She enjoyed God's beauty and lavish love all around her, and she lived the example of "Do everything with Love." Her home and heart were open to all who crossed her path, making God's love available to them.

Jean was preceded in death by husband, Rev. Richard M. Burns, whom she married August 19, 1951 in Dubois, PA; her son, Richard M. Burns, Jr. in 1975; and her brother, Bill Curstead.

In her final arrangements, Jean left these words to her survivors: "God's enfolding love has been with me each day of my earthly life and I am sure He will enfold and comfort those who loved me." She is survived by three daughters: Sharon A. Thomas (David) of Hollsopple, PA; Christine R. Zimmerman (Rev. John A.) of Corry, PA; Bonnie H. Edder (Daniel) of Girard; a son, Rev. Douglas E. Burns (Judy) of Irwin, PA; daughters-by-choice Finney J. Burns and Sandra Burns, both of Dennison, TX; a sister, Leanna "Ruth" Bonney of Owensville, IN; fifteen grandchildren; three great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Her final words of spiritual wisdom to her grandchildren and family came as we celebrated Christmas on December 26, 2014, just four days before her entrance into the glory of Heaven on the final day of the year. From a folded piece of paper she had in her jacket, she read the verse of an old hymn she had sung recently, "The Least that I Can Do is Give All that I Know of Me to All that I Know of YOU (The Lord Jesus)" – a New Year's resolution for 2015 – a life resolution till we are reunited.

Submitted by the family

**Rodger Raymond Buzard, Sr.****January 22, 1945****July 23, 2014**

LTC Rodger R. Buzard, Sr., PNG retired, and a retired United Methodist minister recently of Bellefonte, formerly of St. Petersburg, died on July 23, 2014, at the Mt. Nittany Medical Center in State College, PA.

Rodger was born in Rimersburg, PA on January 22, 1945, the son of the late Clyde D. and Betty P. Thomas Buzard. LTC Buzard served in the United States Army National Guard of Pennsylvania and retired following 30 years of service.

Rodger was ordained as a United Methodist elder in 1975 and served churches and agencies in the Western Pennsylvania Conference and the former Central Pennsylvania Conference through 1999. In the Western Pennsylvania Conference, he began pastoral ministry as a

supply pastor at the Fertigs Charge in 1967. He later served the Edinburg/Hillside Charge, Eau Claire/Argentine Charge, Lawrenceville Community and Hilltop UMCs in Pittsburgh; Emlenton/Foxburg/St. Petersburg Charge, Valley Charge, and First UMC in New Brighton. He had also served in various extension and counseling ministries, including Goodwill Industries, chaplain at Polk Center, the I-80 Truck Stop Ministry, and administrator of Potter County Human Services in the former Central PA Conference.

Rodger, who enjoyed hunting, fishing, and spending time with his family, is survived by two sons, Michael Buzard and his wife, Lorie, of Bellefonte, and Ronald C. Buzard of Knox. Also surviving are 10 grandchildren, several great-grandchildren, a brother Gerald D. Buzard of Columbus, OH, and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Patricia A. Buzard on October 27, 1982, and a son, Rodger R. Buzard, Jr., on October 22, 1988.

A funeral service was held with the Rev. Jonathan R. Bell, Pennsylvania National Guard Chaplain, officiating. Interment with military honors followed at the St. Petersburg Cemetery.

**Sylvia Agnes Davis Chamberlin****January 15, 1927****August 16, 2014**

Sylvia was born January 15, 1927 in Detroit, MI, the daughter of the late Chesleigh L. and Vesta R. Lowry Davis, the youngest of three children. She graduated from Brookville High School where she met her husband, the late Rev. William Lee Chamberlin. They married on December 31, 1947 in Hazen, PA. Together they bought and operated the family dairy farms in Munderf.

In 1969 Bill began full-time ministry with The United Methodist Church, with Sylvia being his faithful support in ministry. They served the Luthersburg Charge, Coalport Charge, Clymer Charge, Meade Chapel and Port Barnett Churches, and Clarion River Charge until 2001. Sylvia became a member of the Emerickville United Methodist Church after Bill's death in 2002.

She was compassionate and caring, assisting Bill in operating an after-school ministry for many years, helping to establish the local library in Coalport, and

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volunteering with the Salvation Army in Clymer. Sylvia prayed daily for her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She enjoyed reading, puzzles, afternoon tea and being on her porch swing. She was rarely seen in public without one of her trademark hats.



She is survived by her five children: V. Lucinda “Cindy” Norman of Boynton Beach, FL; W. Jay Chamberlin (Linda) of Brookville, PA; Kenneth L. Chamberlin (Ellen) of Brockway, PA; Nancy C. Sprowls (Robert) of Manheim, PA; and Gary B. Chamberlin (Anita) of Basel, Switzerland; 17 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

A celebration of Sylvia’s life was held at the Emerickville UM Church, with Rev. Robert Zilhaver officiating. Burial was in the Richardsville Baptist Cemetery in Warsaw Township, Jefferson County, PA. Sylvia is rejoicing and praising the Lord in heaven, along with Bill and the saints gone on before.

Submitted by the family

### Donald Eugene Drake

**April 22, 1929**



**August 23, 2014**

The Rev. Donald E. Drake went home to the Lord on August 23, 2014 at the DuBois Nursing Home. Born April 22, 1929 in Lock Haven, he was the son of the late Robert B. and Lola (Wolfe) Drake. On June 8, 1949, he married Jeanne (Barner) Drake. She preceded him in death on May 5, 1987.

Donald resided in Hyner and graduated from the Bucktail Area High School. He was a member of the Army National Guard, serving as a staff sergeant at Fort Campbell, KY. Later he was employed by the Pennsylvania Forestry Service and by Hammermill Paper in Lock Haven. He then entered the ministry in 1964, serving in The United Methodist Church in the Central Pennsylvania Conference, appointed to the Halfmoon Charge at Stormstown. He ministered within the Western Pennsylvania Conference at the Grampian United

Methodist Charge, the DuBois Trinity United Methodist Church and the Penfield United Methodist Church. He retired in 1994, spoke at several other churches during his retirement, and filled the pulpit of the Anita Lutheran Church for the past 14 years.

Donald was a member of the Grampian Lions Club and the Hyner Sportsmen’s Club. He volunteered in the Pastoral Care Department of the DuBois Regional Medical Center for several years. He performed gospel magic and ventriloquism in his ministry and as a guest speaker at area churches.

He is survived by his daughter, Viki Bell and her husband, Boyd of Clearfield; by his son, Kenton Drake and his wife, Judy of DuBois; and by five grandchildren, Robin Bell Brown and her husband, Erik; and Nathan Bell, all of Clearfield; Brent Bell of Philadelphia; Corry Drake and his wife, Dana of Pittsburgh; and Dylan Drake and his,

wife Ami of Jacksonville, NC. He is also survived by four great-grandchildren, Andrew and Evan Brown and Levi and Waylen Drake. He was preceded in death by his infant daughter, Linda Kay Drake; his infant brother, Robert Drake; and his sister, Grace Drake Lunger and her husband, Howard.

Funeral services were held in Grampian with his friend, Pastor David Nagele officiating. Burial followed in Friends Cemetery, Grampian, PA.

### Agnes "Holly" Agnello Brosnahan Dunning

October 24, 1930

September 23, 2014



Agnes Agnello Brosnahan Dunning played many roles in her life. A small town girl born of Italian immigrants, she understood family priorities of education, active faith, responsibility to family and community, and self-discipline. She was a talented musician, playing in the high school band as well as playing piano and organ. She attended Carnegie Mellon University (then Carnegie Tech) and studied home economics.

Agnes married Richard Brosnahan, had two children, Cindy and Richard, and made her home in Emlenton, PA. While she was a homemaker, she served the local Methodist Church as organist for decades. She held part-time jobs, such as hospital dietician, organ teacher, and office administrative assistant. She became a full time office assistant when her husband made a career-plan change to become a full time college student. Her work enabled him to complete both a Bachelor and Master's degree, culminating in his becoming an educator. Sadly, her husband Richard, died from cancer at the age of 52.

Agnes married Rev. Sam Dunning years later, and adjusted to life married to a part-time United Methodist pastor. She and Sam moved to Bel Air, MD, then to Fredericksburg, VA, where they were active in the local United Methodist Churches. It was Sam who gave Agnes her nickname "Holly."

Both Katherine and Nate, Holly's only grandchildren, spent significant time with "Gram" and Sam, whether at their home or on vacation. They were encouraged to develop their musicianship, performing simply for the family audience or at church and school. Gram taught both of them lessons in music, cooking (especially pie making), dominoes, cards, Christian hospitality, and grace. She loved seeing them grow as young adults, and was incredibly proud of them. She connected to others through meals, fellowship, and meaningful friendship.

Holly was a trouper until the very end. She loved God, desiring to remain strong, willing, and able to serve, share, and love those around her. Agnes Agnello Brosnahan Dunning passed away September 23, 2014.

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**Charles Lynn Elliott****October 13, 1924****February 1, 2015**

The Rev. Charles L. Elliott, recently of Fairborn, Ohio, passed away February 1, 2015. He was born October 13, 1924 in Johnstown, Pennsylvania to James Lynn and Florence Johnstone Elliott. Charles served the New Alexandria/Luxor Methodist churches before attending seminary. He was ordained on June 4, 1964, as a member of the Western Pennsylvania Conference. After serving two years at East Brady UMC, he became a hospital chaplain, retiring in 1990. A participant of Summit Station United Methodist Church (Ohio), he attended Enon UMC (Ohio), where a memorial service was held February 7, 2015. Inurnment was at the Dayton National Cemetery.

He was a WWII Army Air Corps Veteran.

Charles was survived by his wife, Donna Lee Elliott (who passed away a few weeks later on March 25, 2015); daughter Diane (Jim) McNamara of Reynoldsburg, Ohio; two sons, James Clare (Lillian) Elliott of Enon and Philip David Elliott of Germantown, Maryland; two grandchildren, James A. Elliott and Katherine Elliott; two great-grandchildren, Presley and Harper Elliott; siblings Selene (Robert) Butters, Wilson Harold (June) Elliott, and Florence Dewey; and several nieces and nephews.

**Mary Keturah Fleischman****October 24, 1926****April 30, 2015**

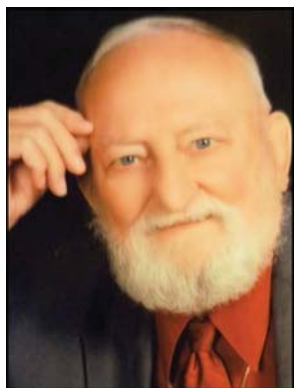
Mary K. Fleischman, lastly of Jamestown, PA, who served as a pastor and was ordained a deacon in the Western PA Conference, passed away on April 30, 2015, at her residence. She was born October 24, 1926, in Brooklyn, NY, to Harold E. and Keturah (Byer) Browne. She married Rev. John F. Fleischman, Sr., who survives, on September 1, 1951.

Licensed to preach in 1986, she served as an associate pastor for churches in the New Hope Parish along with her husband, served three years in the West Ohio Conference, then returned to served Geneva: Faith UMC. She retired in 1994. She enjoyed singing and was a member of many church choirs and the organist at various churches throughout her life.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by four sons: John F. Fleischman, Jr., of Saxonburg; Daniel L. Fleischman and his fiancé Marie Queen of Butler; Marc E. Fleischman and his wife Robyn, of Sarver; and Philip A. Fleischman and his wife Mary, of Waxhaw, NC; two daughters, Sarah E. Clark and her husband Jeff of Wisconsin; and Rebekah L. Dietrich and her husband Daniel A., of Stoneboro; 11 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a brother, Harold E. Browne, Jr.

**William "Bill" George Griffith, Sr.****December 16, 1930****June 3, 2014**

The Rev. William "Bill" George Griffith, Sr., entered into God's eternal care June 3, 2014. Born December 16, 1930, in Johnstown, Bill was the son of the late John



James Griffith and Grace Fidelis (Hammers) Griffith. He was preceded in death by siblings, John Francis Griffith, Robert Wesley Griffith, Richard Lawrence Griffith, Katherine Elizabeth Fuller, Phyllis Virginia Reese Fuller and Betty Grace Lamison. He is survived by his loving wife Thelma Lou (Dunn) Griffith of Upper Yoder Township, to whom he was married for 61 years; children, the Rev. William, Jr., married to Debra (Fidler) Griffith; Cynthia (Griffith) Stahl, married to John Stahl; Susan (Griffith) Babik, married to Gregory Babik, all of Johnstown; and the Rev. Mark, married to the Rev. Doreen (Sterling) Griffith of Manns Choice; beloved grandchildren, Julie (Stahl) and husband, Brian Nagle; Adam, and wife, Jacqueline (Fabry) Stahl; David Griffith;

Elizabeth (Griffith) Schlegel, and husband, Jonathan; Matthew Lindsey; Luke Lindsey; and Allison Griffith; great-grandchildren Zoe, Brody and Izaak Nagle; brother Donald Edward Griffith and wife Colleen of Butte, Montana.

Bill was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather and will be sadly missed by all, including his beloved dog, Samson. He was an avid traveler and enjoyed his numerous visits to Israel as a tour guide. Bill was a United States Army veteran of the Korean War, having been stationed in Germany.

As a retired United Methodist minister, Bill served many charges in the Western Pennsylvania Conference. Beginning as a part-time local pastor in 1977 at Mount Olive UMC in Johnstown, he also served with Human Services of Johnstown until 1983. He served charges in the Johnstown area until 1996, when he retired from Purchase Line UMC. In retirement, he began serving the Wilmore/Lilly charge, then moved to the United for God Charge, serving until 2011.

A funeral service was held June 6, 2014 with Johnstown District Superintendent, Alyce Weaver Dunn, officiating. Interment was in Grandview Cemetery.

### Edward Shirley Hammett

August 2, 1929

May 23, 2015



The Rev. Edward S. Hammett, age 85, passed away on Saturday, May 23, 2015, in Somerset, PA after a long illness. In his final days, he was uplifted by the many members of the Somerset community who came to visit him, some even bringing him his famous "Grandpa" candy which he had so readily handed out for years wherever he went.

Born on August 2, 1929, in Pittsburgh, PA, he was the son of Dr. James M. and Mary Hunter Hammett. On August 30, 1952, he married Virginia Bashforth, a blessed union of nearly 60 years until her passing in December, 2011.

Ed was a graduate of Washington and Jefferson College, Washington, PA. After serving in the United

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States Army during the Korean War, he was employed in the business office of Bethlehem Steel Company until he was called to the Lord's service as a minister with The United Methodist Church. A graduate of the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, he held a Master of Divinity degree. He was licensed to preach in 1960 and fully ordained in 1964. Ed began his ministry as a pastor at churches in Coulter and Lowber. After his ordination, he served United Methodist Churches in McKeesport, Harrison City, Uniontown, Fairview, McMurray, Charleroi, and Davidson/Scenery Hill. After retiring, he served as visiting pastor for the Trinity Lutheran Church, Somerset, PA. He and Virginia cherished the friendships made in each of the churches he served.

Surviving are his four children and their spouses, Karen and Rev. David Dempsey, Mount Lebanon, PA; Edward and Dorothy Hammett, Granby, CT; Kimberly and Robert Farrell, Lee Center, NY; and Elizabeth and Harold Elkins, Huntsville, AL; his brother, Dr. James (Ruth) Hammett; 13 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Services were held May 30, 2015 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Somerset, PA. Interment followed at Round Hill Cemetery, Elizabeth, PA.

Submitted by the family

**Jean Lorraine Haslett**

**October 10, 1941**

**May 28, 2014**



Jean Lorraine Haslett was a retired elder who served as a hospital chaplain in Pittsburgh for several years, and died on May 28, 2014. Born October 10, 1941, in Johnstown, daughter of the late William and Florence (Campbell) Haslett, she was a music teacher and received a local pastor's license in 1995. Ordained a full elder in 2001, in addition to serving as a chaplain at West Penn Hospital, she served three years as pastor at the Muhlemann Memorial and Harmarville UMCs. She is survived by her brother William and Louise Haslett, nieces, nephews and cousins.

A memorial service was held on May 31, 2014, at Calvary United Methodist Church in Johnstown, PA. Private interment was at Grandview Cemetery.

**Lois Elizabeth Mosley Balliet Hayes**

**January 6, 1923**

**October 3, 2014**

Lois E. Hayes, widow of the Rev. John Balliet, a Methodist pastor, and the Rev. Parker Hayes, an Assembly of God pastor, went to her eternal reward on October 3, 2014 in Carney's Point, New Jersey. She died at home under the loving care of her beloved niece, Donna McNee, family and Hospice.

Born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, on January 6, 1923 to Thomas John Mosley and Anna Williams, after graduation from Central High School, Lois married Rev. John Balliet, an Assembly of God pastor in Dunmore and Coraopolis, PA. In 1955 John became a Methodist minister. Together, Lois and John ministered to congregations in (Nixon) South Butler, Morningside, Wilkinsburg, Greenock and Mount Pleasant.



Following John's death, Lois married Rev. Parker Hayes, an Assembly of God minister. They were involved in church planting and ministry in Pennsylvania and Delaware until 1982, when they moved to Inverness, Florida. They continued to be active in church work in Florida at the First Assembly of God in Inverness and the First Assembly of God in Ocala and in the establishment of Christian Life Assembly in Ocala.



Following Parker's death, Lois moved back to Carney's Point, NJ to be near family. She was a member of First Assembly of God in Carney's Point.

Lois was preceded in death by her parents; brother Thomas Mosley; sisters Vivian Carew and Marion McNee; and daughter Dorothea Adams. She is survived by one brother, William (Bill) Mosely of Pennsville, NJ and one sister, Katherine McAllister of Dallas, Texas; sons Thomas Balliet (Alice) of Kane, PA; David Balliet (Sherry) of

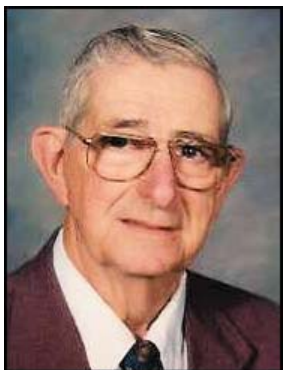
Greeley, CO; John Balliet of DuBois, PA; Charles Hayes (Carolyn) of Inverness, Florida; Timothy Hayes (Joan) of Saylorsburg, PA; David Hayes of Rio Rico, AZ; Douglas Hayes (Carol) of Saylorsburg, PA; and one daughter, Beverly Fisher (Gary) of Thomasville, NC; numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

The service celebrating her life was held at the First Assembly of God in Carney's Point, NJ. Interment was at Fero Gardens in Beverly Hills, Florida.

### George Edward Himes

September 18, 1933

February 2, 2015



George E. Himes of Kennerdell, Pennsylvania went to be with the Lord Monday morning, February 2, 2015 at the UPMC Hamot Medical Center in Erie. George was born in Brockport on September 18, 1933, the son of the Rev. B. C. Himes and his wife Alice Walton Himes. George came from a large family of six brothers and two sisters, with two brothers serving as ministers and the sisters serving on the mission field in foreign countries.

George enjoyed hunting, going to yard sales, and collecting baseball cards. He was a 1951 graduate of Rockland High School. He worked as a machinist in the Oil City/Franklin area until answering the call to serve the Lord in 1964. George received his B.S. Degree in History and Social Studies from Clarion University in 1967 and graduated from the United Methodist Theological Seminary in Delaware, Ohio in 1970 with a Master of Divinity Degree. He was ordained by the Western Pennsylvania United Methodist Conference as a Deacon in 1969 and as an Elder in 1970.

George served the United Methodist Conference of Western Pennsylvania for close to 50 years at the Hazen, Noblestown, Falls Creek, Brookville, Corey, Carmichaels, Conneaut Lake, and Beaver Falls charges. Upon his retirement George and Frances returned to Rockland UMC, where they attended church before his passing.

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George is survived by his wife Frances Marshall Himes, whom he married in 1953; a son Ronald E. Himes and wife Deborah J. of Kennerdell; and a daughter Fay Ann Billock and husband Kevin of Brockport. Also surviving are eight grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. George was preceded in death by a son Raymond D. Himes; by his parents, B. C. and Alice Himes; and by brothers Thomas, Robert, Alvin, Raymond, and Charles Himes.

Friends were received at the Hile-Best Funeral Home in Seneca, Pennsylvania, with the funeral being held at the Rockland United Methodist Church. The Reverend James Kimmel officiated with the funeral service and interment, followed by a luncheon at the church for family and friends. George was laid to rest in the Rockland Cemetery.

Submitted by the family

**Ardith Pauline Trumbell Johnson**

**May 26, 1925**

**January 13, 2015**



Ardith P. Johnson was born on May 26, 1925, in Brandy Camp, PA. She died on January 13, 2015, with the place of burial being in Brandy Camp, PA.

Ardith was married to the late Rev. Ivan “Dewayne” Johnson on May 20, 1951, and together they raised four sons. She is survived by three sons: Kenneth, wife Carol, of Hazen, PA; Craig, wife Jennifer, of State College PA; Rev. Douglas Johnson of Mt. Pleasant, PA; a daughter-in-law Cathy Johnson Cohen of College Station, TX; 11 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. She was also preceded in death by an infant daughter; a son, Bryan; and a daughter-in-law, Lisa.

Ardith truly enjoyed her role as a pastor’s wife, which eventually took her and Dewayne and the family across the Western Pennsylvania Conference, where they ministered as a team in ministry, serving at the Hazen Charge, Summerville Charge, Rockwood Charge, Tarrs Charge, and lastly the Mahaffey Charge, before retirement in 1988.

Ardith was a strong leader as she served proudly in the United Methodist Women and took charge of local ministries and missions. She was known for her beautiful knitting and many handmade crafts.

Through all the trials and glories of her life, Ardith found strength and guidance in her lifelong devotion in faith to God and The United Methodist Church.

Submitted by the family

**Clyde Elmer Koah**

**July 29, 1933**

**March 1, 2015**

Clyde Elmer Koah went to his new home in heaven on March 1, 2015, at Suncoast Hospice Care Center Mid-Pinellas in Pinellas Park, Florida, following a short illness.

Clyde, a longtime resident of New Port Richey, Florida, and formerly of Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, was born in New Brighton, Pennsylvania in 1933. The youngest of

the four children of the late Omar Clyde Koah and Ella (Waddington) Koah, he was active in sports and other activities during his school years.

Clyde was married to his devoted wife Kathryn A. (Brickner) Koah for 55 years.



They enjoyed traveling, volunteering, and raising many beautiful Shelties during their years together while serving the Lord. He was known for his great sense of humor and his willingness to help anyone and everyone. He also loved Penn State Football, the Pittsburgh Steelers, Pittsburgh Pirates, and, after moving to Florida, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

He served in the United States Army in active duty from June 1953 until June 1955, rising to the rank of Sergeant in May 1955. He then served in the reserves until August 1961, and he was promoted to Sergeant First Class in January 1960. He was called into active duty during the Berlin Crisis in August 1961 and served actively for one more year until August 1962, during

which time he was decorated as an expert in the carbine.

Before entering the ministry, Clyde worked for Townsends in New Brighton, PA and St. Joe Zinc in Monaca, PA. In 1983 he was called by His Lord into His service, where he served as pastor or associate pastor in multiple places in Pennsylvania and Florida over the next 30 years.

Clyde leaves behind his wife, Kathryn; three sons, Timothy and wife Lynn; Thomas and his wife Carla; and Kevin and his wife Debbie; six grandchildren: Joseph Birch, Daniel Koah, Nicole Koah, Joshua Koah, Brian Koah, and Jessica Koah McConahy; three great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; three sisters, Betty Nesbitt, Dorothy Tronzo, and Mary Lou Schwartz and husband James; brother-in-law Richard Brickner and wife Jo Ann; many nieces and nephews and many, many, dear and treasured friends. Clyde was pre-deceased by two brother-in-laws, Roy J. "Pete" Nesbitt and Joseph "Joe" Tronzo.

A memorial service was held at Holiday Community Fellowship Church, Holiday, FL.

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**Gerald Wesley Michel**

February 24, 2015

Rev. Gerald W. Michel went to his glorious heavenly home early on February 24, 2015. Born on August 6, 1933 in Niagara Falls, New York, he was the son of the late Herbert L. and Elizabeth (Trotter) Michel.

Gerald was a retired clergy member of the Western Pennsylvania United Methodist Conference, and had served the Greensboro/Mapletown/Bobtown and Dunbar/Fairview/ Franklin: Memorial Charges as well as the Cranberry: Rockland UMC. He is survived by his wife Barbara D. (Dovenspike) Michel; a daughter, Loni Lynn Atts and her husband James; a son, Christopher Paul Michel and his wife Keli; four grandchildren: Tiffany Atts, Trisha Atts, Elizabeth Paige Michel and Jonathan Michel, and one great-grandson Leighton Jon Michel.

Gerald is also survived by his brother Charles Michel and his wife Jessie; two nephews, James Michel and wife Anne; and Charles Michel and wife Kathy; a grandniece, Jessie E. Jesson and husband Jeff and son Andrew. He is also survived by brother-in-law, Rev. Keith Dovenspike and wife Kathy, their two sons, Eric and Hans and his wife Patricia and their two children Aaron and Emma.

The funeral service was held at the Hawthorn Calvary United Methodist Church with Pastor Keith Dovenspike officiating. Interment was in the Hawthorn Cemetery.

December 31, 1919

**Lola Marie Spang Moore**

May 20, 2015

Lola Marie Spang Moore, recently of Knoxville, TN, went home to be with the Lord on May 20, 2015. Lola was born in her family home in Manor Township, Armstrong County, PA. Her parents were Harry and Dora (Schreckengost) Spang. She was preceded in death by her husband, Rev. Russell C. Moore and daughter, Linda Pulliam. She is survived by her daughter, Janice Lieb and husband Robert, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Lola enjoyed singing in the church choir and assisting her husband with work in the various churches they served. She was never vocal about her faith but carried a confidence and foundation with her that spoke volumes to others. She knew her Lord and knew this was

not her final home. She also enjoyed camping, fishing, quilting and spending time with her family.

Her husband, Russell, was a pastor in the Western Pennsylvania United Methodist Conference for over 35 years.

Lola's ashes will be interred with her husband's at the Memorial Gardens in Hawthorne, Leesburg, FL.

Submitted by the family

**December 12, 1924****Thelma Nelson Mowrey****March 2, 2015**

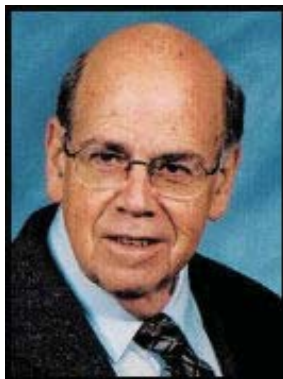
Rev. Dr. Thelma N. Mowrey of Johnstown passed away on March 2, 2015 at Arbutus Park Manor. She and her husband of 59 years, the Rev. Dr. James Mowrey, who survives, are believed to be the first clergy couple in the Western PA Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Born December 12, 1924, in Canton, Ohio, daughter of John Peter and Clara (Osborne) Nelson, she was preceded in death by her parents and by her sister, Mary Agnes. She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Rev. Dr. James Mowrey; children, Philip, married to the former Pamela Simmons, South Riding, VA; Paul, married to the former Nancy Calhoun, Slippery Rock, PA; and Rebecca Mowrey, Lancaster; grandchildren, Stefanie

Mowrey; Janie, wife of Keith Golde; Laurie, wife of Shawn Hanna; Christina, wife of Stephen Brown; and Carrie, wife of Benjamin Morton; five great-grandchildren; and numerous cousins. She will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Thelma earned a bachelor's degree in music from the College of Wooster and was a music instructor at Maryville College, Tennessee. She attended McCormick Theological Seminary and graduated from United Theological Seminary. Thelma was ordained deacon and elder in The United Methodist Church in 1972. She received her doctorate of ministry from United Theological Seminary in 1982. She served at Beulah United Methodist Church, in Johnstown and First United Methodist Church in Bradford. Upon retirement, she stayed an active member at Beulah United Methodist Church and Haines City United Methodist Church, Florida.

Submitted by the family

**February 10, 1927****Gerald "Jerry" Hartley Murphy****December 3, 2014**

The Rev. Gerald H. Murphy died on December 3, 2014, surrounded by his family at the Marquette Hospice House in Meadville.

Gerald was born February 10, 1927, in Newport, RI, a son of Michael Martin and Alice Helen Raftery Murphy, Sr. He married Mathilda Ruth Cunningham in the Baldwin-Wallace Chapel, Berea, OH, on June 21, 1956, and she survives.

Gerald grew up in Newport, graduating from its Rogers High School in 1945. He received his bachelor of science degree in business administration in 1949, his bachelor of sacred theology in 1955, and his master's of sacred theology and social ethics in 1956, all from Boston

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University. He was ordained into The United Methodist Church in 1956 and served at the North Saugus Union Church, Saugus, MA, from 1954 to 1956; the Third Street Methodist Church, Williamsport, from 1956 to 1963; Beaver Methodist Church from 1963 to 1966; Harmony-Zelienople United Methodist Church from 1966 to 1972; Fox Chapel United Methodist Church, Pittsburgh, from 1972 to 1985; and Wesbury United Methodist Community (as chaplain) from 1985 until his retirement in 1995.

Gerald served on many committees of the Western Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church and pioneered a workshop for persons experiencing separation and divorce through the Center for Human Development in Pittsburgh. He designed and conducted a workshop on ministering to older adults and a workshop on the spiritual dimensions of aging while at Wesbury United Methodist Community. He was a Pastoral Care volunteer at Meadville Medical Center, a member of the Meadville Round Table, the Tuesday Morning Music Group and the Wesleyan Covenant Group of Stone United Methodist Church.

In his youth, Gerald enjoyed spending summers at the family cottage on the shores of Narragansett Bay in Middletown, RI, and more recently at the family home in the Chautauqua Institution. He built the family sailboat, JAMMR, in 1971. He also enjoyed the trip to Israel, Paris and Brussels, a gift from the congregation of Fox Chapel United Methodist Church in 1986 and his 50th wedding anniversary trip to England, Wales and Ireland in 2006. Gerald enjoyed jogging (and more recently walking), music, reading, crocheting and singing in the Stone United Methodist Church choir.

Survivors, in addition to his wife, Mathilda Ruth, of 58 years, include a daughter, Aimee M. Doershuk and her husband, David, of Streetsboro, OH; a son, Michael H. Murphy and his wife, Anne Marie, of Wilmette, IL; six grandchildren, Nicholas, Jennifer and Kyle Doershuk and Devin, Bryce and Teagan Murphy; and nieces, nephews and cousins. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Ellen M. Grauer; a brother, Michael M. Murphy, Jr.; and a nephew, Robert M. Grauer.

A funeral service was held at Stone United Methodist Church, Meadville, with Rev. Sarah Roncolato, L. Kent Parkhill, and Rev. Lisa M. McCauley officiating. Interment was in Chautauqua Cemetery, Chautauqua, N.Y.

### David Lee Ostrander

**October 30, 1920**

**June 9, 2014**

The Rev. David Lee Ostrander, 93, who served churches in the Erie Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren, died at his daughter Joy's home in Sugarloaf Key, FL on June 9, 2014. David was born in Ostrander Hollow on October 30, 1920 at the home of his paternal grandparents in Port Allegany, PA. He graduated from Fort Allegheny High School in 1937, and worked for several years before enrolling in Houghton College in New York. From there, he went to Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, KY. He graduated in 1948 with a master of divinity degree and, in that same year, married Elaine Ann Wehrli, in Flint, MI.

David began his ministry with the Erie Conference of the EUB Church. During his ministry, he served four churches: Grand Valley (now United Methodist); Williston in New York; Stillwater in New York; and Pleasantville in Western PA. In 1968, the Rev. Ostrander took an early retirement from the ministry and worked at Whirley Industries in

Warren, retiring in 1985. He and Elaine then traveled all over the United States, enjoying the beauty of the natural world and focusing on his wildlife photography.

The couple moved to Florida to be with their daughter Joy Clark in Sugarloaf Key. A memorial service was held on July 19, 2014, at Big Pine United Methodist Church, in Big Pine Key, FL. The couple also had two sons, Steven and Robert.

#### Elaine Annie Wehrli Ostrander

**June 1, 1923**

**October 17, 2014**



Elaine Annie Wehrli Ostrander, the widow of the Rev. David Lee Ostrander, passed away on October 17, 2014 in Florida.

Born in Flint, Michigan, on June 1, 1923 to Godfrey and Louise Wehrli, Elaine grew up in a United Methodist home. She graduated from Flint Northern High School, went to college at Asbury College, and even completed 1½ years of seminary there. While at seminary, she met her husband David, and they married on August 7, 1948.

Before the merger of the Conferences, Elaine served the Erie Conference as its Children's Director. She was an avid crafter during her lifetime, with specialties of photography, calligraphy, needlework, and flower arranging. Elaine is survived by two sons, Steven and Robert, and a daughter Joy.

#### Lee Wayne Parker, Jr.

**June 14, 1931**

**July 8, 2014**



The Rev. Lee W. Parker, Jr., died July 8, 2014, at the Diamond Ridge Rehabilitation Center in Lecanto, FL, at 83 years of age. He had faithfully served God in United Methodist churches for 40 years. Everyone who knew Lee appreciated his youthful zest for life; his interest in people, and his good humor and wit. He also was a warm counselor who made a difference in peoples' lives, especially those dealing with illness, stress, and death.

Lee was born in Sharon, Pennsylvania on June 14, 1931 to Lee Wayne Parker, Sr. and Marie Chantrey Parker. He was a graduate of Sharpsville High School, where he was senior class president, played basketball and baseball, and participated in band, chorus, and student council. After graduation, Lee enrolled at Allegheny College, where he majored in American History. He joined Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, played basketball, sang tenor in the Allegheny Singers, and earned his B.A. degree. Following graduation, Lee taught American History to Junior High School students in the Mercer School District and assisted the basketball coach (1953-1954).

On August 21, 1954, Lee married his college sweetheart, Averyl Faye Smock, at First Methodist Church in Sharon, Pennsylvania with Rev. Macklyn E. Lindstrom

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officiating. Shortly thereafter, Lee volunteered for the United States Army and was an information and education instructor while stationed at Fort Knox. Their first child, Linda, was born in 1955 at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

After Lee's Army discharge, he worked in his father's lumber company as assistant manager during the day and attended classes at Westminster College at night. Lee earned his M.S. degree from Westminster in 1958. The same year, the couple welcomed their second child, Donald, who was born in Sharon, Pennsylvania.

While living in Hermitage, Pennsylvania, Lee and Faye were active in the Hickory Methodist Church. They were influenced by Rev. Newt Swanson, Hickory's first pastor, and Lee's desire to serve God was rekindled. Lee decided to go to seminary to become a pastor, and after choosing Drew University for theological training, the family moved to Madison, New Jersey and settled into campus life at Drew in 1962. Their third child, Christopher, was born in Morristown, New Jersey in 1963. After three years of apartment-living on campus, the family moved to Everittstown, New Jersey, where Lee served as a student pastor at the Pattenburg and Everittstown Methodist Churches. Their fourth child, Melanie, was born in 1964 in Flemington, New Jersey. Lee earned his M.Div. degree from Drew University and was ordained an Elder by Bishop Vernon Middleton in Grove City, PA on June 13, 1965. Following Lee's ordination, he served the Linesville and Harmonsburg UMC churches for five years, Edinboro UMC for 11 years, and West View UMC for 13 years. Following Lee's retirement from West View UMC, the family moved into their new home at Treasure Lake in DuBois, Pennsylvania. However, after one year of retirement, Lee felt that he had more to offer. He spoke with District Superintendent, Rev. Richard Sanford, about the possibility of filling in for a pastor on leave, and this request was answered with a full-time position at Mt. Zion UMC.

Another blessing followed during the next five years when granddaughter, Heather, spent summers at Treasure Lake and delighted the family with her energy, enthusiasm, and joy. Heather loved the woods, lakes, and pools. She also participated in church activities, such as *Young at Heart*, tolling the church bell, camping with children at church camp and scout camp, and singing with the Parkers in church services.

The children's *Brown Bag Time* was enjoyed by children and adults alike. Lee would place a safari hat on his head and announce: *I'm Safari Pastor, searcher of God's truth in the jungles of life*. Then he would pull out an object from his brown grocery bag and relate his sermon to the item. He enjoyed all that this active church had to offer, often referring to his last years at Mt. Zion as *the icing on the cake*.

Lee also had fun with his own children as they were growing up. He gave them dedicated attention as the family traveled across the United States and Canada, pulling a camper behind the car, staying in campgrounds, and visiting Faye's sisters in Indiana, Colorado, Arizona, and Washington. Along these journeys, the family learned about the country's beautiful sites and historic locations.

After Lee's final retirement in 2003, Faye, Lee, and Chris moved into their home in Citrus Springs, FL. They spent fall, winter, and spring in Florida but returned to Treasure Lake each summer to visit relatives, and for Lee to golf with friends. Daughter Linda and Tom moved to Treasure Lake from Indianapolis in 2012 and lived just five minutes away from Lee and Faye's townhouse. They also helped Lee with his hobby of buying and selling collectibles. Lee led a full, rich life with family, church, and friends.



He and Faye also enjoyed travel to Hawaii, Alaska, the Holy Land, Egypt, and European countries, as well as sailing into the Caribbean with friends and family, including two cruises sponsored by Melanie.

Lee is survived by his wife, Faye Smock Parker, and their children: Linda, and husband, Tom Reel, of DuBois, PA; Donald of Pensacola, FL; Christopher of Citrus Springs, FL; Melanie of Orange Park, FL; and granddaughter, Heather, of Pensacola, FL; his sister, Florence Parker Alexander, and nieces and nephews: Cynthia, Jeffery, Rodney, and Laurel Alexander. Lee was preceded in death by his parents, Lee and Marie Parker, Dean Alexander, and a niece, Jennifer Alexander.

A service of Celebration was held at Crystal River UMC, Crystal River, FL, with Pastor David Rauls officiating. A second service was held at Mt. Zion UMC, DuBois, PA, with Pastor Kelley Schanley officiating. Pastor Dave Evans of Hickory UMC conducted an interment service at Hillcrest Memorial Cemetery, Hermitage, PA.

#### Joan Rose Ewing Wetzel Patton

**January 25, 1942**

**May 31, 2015**

Joan Rose Patton was born on January 25, 1942 and passed away on May 31, 2015. Joan was a resident of Knox, Pennsylvania at the time of her passing. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Lee Patton.



Joan and Robert were married on June 26, 1993. For both it was a second marriage that was a blessing for each. Joan had served faithfully for many years in church life at Knox United Methodist as a Sunday School teacher, Staff Parish Committee member, and the Caring Hearts ministry. She had an avid interest in playing the piano, reading and traveling.

A Funeral service was held at the Mt. Joy United Methodist Church with the Reverend Randy Evans, Clarion-Forest VNA Hospice Chaplain, and Reverend Gale Books, a longtime friend of the family, officiating.

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**Robert Lee Patton****September 27, 1922****February 12, 2015**

Robert L. Patton, Sr., went to be with the Lord on February 12, 2015 at the DuBois Nursing Home. Born September 27, 1922 in Knox, he was a son of the late Ralph Patton and Nora Cope Patton.

Bob was a graduate of Knox High School, attended Clarion and Edinboro State Teachers Colleges and was a United States Army veteran who served during World War II.

Bob was an ordained elder in the Western PA Conference of The United Methodist Church, serving in churches in Luthersburg, Shippenville, Little Corners (Saegertown), Johnstown, Grampian, retiring in 1988 to the Knox Charge.

Bob married Martha E. Switzer, who preceded him in death on April 29, 1992. He then married the former Joan Rose Ewing Wetzel on June 26, 1993 and she survives. Also surviving are his five children: Darlene Sue Walker and her husband, Thomas, of Westminster, SC; Patty Lou Patrick and her husband, Jerry, of Grampian; Robert Lee Patton, Jr. and his wife, Sharon, of Grampian; Valerie Flynn and her husband, Ed, of Fairfield; and Gregory Patton of Grampian; eight grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Bob is also survived by three step-daughters: Lisa Lieberum and her husband, John, of Biglerville; Melissa Johnson of Knox; and Betsy Allmendinger and her husband, David, also of Knox; and 14 step grandchildren. In addition to his parents and first wife, Bob was preceded in death by two sisters, Dorothy and Martha; brother, Henry; twins, Paul and Pauline; and a beloved grandson, Steven Patton.

Burial took place in the Rimersburg Cemetery.

**Nan Bare Pennington****November 9, 1929****May 4, 2015**

Nan Bare Pennington, recently of Brookville, PA, spouse of the late Reverend Dr. Herbert M. Pennington, Jr., passed away peacefully on May 4, 2015, at Brookside Senior Living in Brookville. Nan was born November 9, 1929 in Organ Cave, WV. After graduation in 1947 from Greenbrier High School in Ronceverte, WV, she attended Davis & Elkins College in Elkins, WV. On December 23, 1948, she married Rev. Pennington, who preceded her in death in 2006. Interment was at the Brookville Cemetery.

Nan lived her life for her family and her church. She was a homemaker, who devoted herself to raising her four sons. All the while, she assisted her husband, a Methodist minister, while he served churches in

Massachusetts, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. Indeed, as the “Preacher’s Wife,” she played an important role in her husband’s ministries.

Surviving are her children: Herbert Pennington, III (and his wife Rebecca), Charles Pennington, John Pennington, and James Pennington. Also surviving are six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Submitted by the family

**November 18, 1949**



**Jaime Lynn Potter-Alvarez**

**April 29, 2015**

Jaime Potter-Alvarez passed away suddenly Wednesday, April 29, 2015, surrounded by her family and friends. Jaime was born in Johnstown, PA. She was called to the ministry when she was a junior in high school and was a faithful servant of God her whole life. She was the wife of Ricardo Alvarez, Sr., mother of Janna Miller Dowds and Jordan Miller; and stepmother to Lynnette Alvarez Lopresti, Ricardo Alvarez, Jr., Robin Alvarez Plack, and Brandy Alvarez. She was blessed with ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, all of whom were very dear to her.

Jaime graduated from Ferndale High School in 1967. She attended Albright College, where she was president of her sorority, Chi Lambda Rho, and graduated with her Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1971. She then went on to attend United Theological Seminary and graduated in 1975. She also received her doctorate of ministry from United Theological Seminary and, later in her career, she received an award for effective ministry. She became an elder in the Western Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church in 1976. She served the following appointments: a student appointment (in the West Ohio Conference); Sidman/Saint Michael; Galloway/Nicklin; Dormont; Chaplain-Asbury Heights; Lower Burrell: Bethel. She was named Superintendent of the Johnstown District (1995-2002), and then served Baldwin Community UMC. She retired in June, 2014.

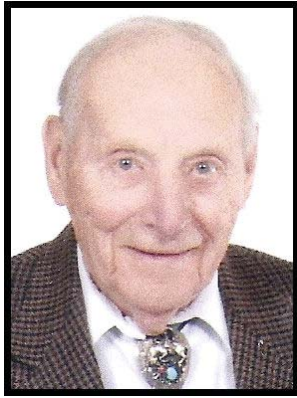
Some of Jaime's interests included traveling with her beloved husband, Chico, spending vacations with her children and grandchildren, singing, reading, watching her favorite television shows, shopping with her granddaughters, attending Pittsburgh Pirate and New York Yankee baseball games – and especially, she loved music!

Jaime’s most appreciated spiritual gift was, in fact, preaching. Oh, how she loved to preach the Word of our Lord! She was loved by many congregations where she was appointed, and even people who were not church members came to hear Jaime preach. She was so appreciated and loved by so many people!

Submitted by the family

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August 23, 1918



Harry Clayton Prince

December 27, 2014

Harry Clayton Prince died peacefully with family at his side on December 27, 2014 at the Kobacker House, a Hospice facility in Columbus, Ohio. He was born on August 23, 1918 in Kewanee, Illinois to Marcia (Martin) Prince and Leroy Prince. He was the first in his family to graduate from college, at the University of Illinois in Champaign. He met Edna Durrant at a freshman “rushing” party at the Triangle fraternity in Champaign and immediately decided that he was going to marry her, which he did on June 7, 1941. Edna predeceased him on April 28, 2004, after almost 63 years of marriage. He is survived by four children: Charles Gregory and his wife Joan; Mary Louise Prince Walsh and husband Peter; Arthur Thomas and wife Bev Infante;

and Susan Kay Prince Nelson and husband Larry. He is also survived by 11 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren.

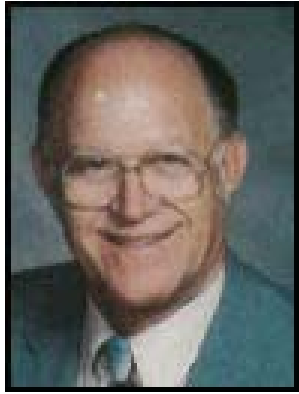
Immediately following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Harry enlisted in the Army, in the 25<sup>th</sup> Armored Engineering Battalion of the 6<sup>th</sup> Armor Division, and was the Captain of a bridge-building company of 120 men who bridged the Rhine three times. They were close to enemy lines at all times and sometimes the enemy even crossed over their bridges in retreat. He survived the Battle of the Bulge, and was discharged with the rank of major on December 26, 1945. Of all his adventures during the war years, the thing that he was most proud of was the number of “boys” that he was able to bring through it safely, including the German boys who either surrendered to his unit or were able to retreat to their homes over bridges that Harry’s unit had built. He was also proud of the work he did in the post-war military government, when his responsibilities included caring for the German population.

Harry worked for the American Bridge Division of U.S. Steel for thirty years and was instrumental in the design of many large projects including the Carquinez Strait Bridge in California, the Verrazano Narrows Bridge in New York, the Orinoco Bridge in Venezuela, and the Unisphere in New York City, built for the World’s Fair in 1964.

Henry never played baseball, but was a very successful Little League coach who prepared his team to play and be competitive. When he was getting ready to coach his first team, he spent hours reading and preparing, and at least one of the players went on to play professional baseball.

After retiring from U.S. Steel, Harry attended the Methodist Theological School in Ohio and became a minister as a full member of the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference. He and Edna served numerous parishes in Western Pennsylvania and then in Illinois, after moving back to Kewanee in 1979. He continued to preach well into his 80’s and volunteered for many years as a baseball coach, foster parent, member of the Golden K at the Kewanee Senior Center, and in other ways.

Submitted by the family

**October 1, 1925****James Lloyd Reinard****November 25, 2014**

The Rev. James L. Reinard went to be with the Lord on November 25, 2014. Born October 1, 1925, in Eldred Township, Jim was the son of the late John Franklin Reinard and Twila Elva Shaffer. He lived in Sigel until the age of seven, when his family moved to Heath Pump Station (Cross Station). It was there that he met his best friend and soul mate, Kathleen May McKendree, the girl next door. After the end of World War II, Jim and Kathleen wed on Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 1947. They celebrated 67 years of marriage on Thanksgiving of 2014.

Following graduation from Sigel High School in 1943, Jim enlisted in the United States Navy. He attended Officer Training School at Penn State University, received additional training at the Great Lakes Naval Base, and was later assigned the command of a Navy gunboat PGM15 in the Pacific Theater. At the time of his honorable discharge in 1946, Jim had attained the rank of Lt. J.G.

Returning home after the war, Jim was employed in the engineering department of United Natural Gas Company. He went from there to Williams Brothers Construction Company as a job superintendent, building pipelines and pump/compression stations in the United States and in South America. By 1955, Jim started his own construction company and operated it until 1971.

It was then that his life changed. Jim attended Seminary in Washington, D.C., and became an ordained minister with The United Methodist Church. Jim served churches in the Coolspring area, Johnstown and in Van until his retirement in the late 1980s. He continued to serve as needed in various churches throughout the area. Jim and his wife Katie spent their fall and winters in Florida for more than 25 years, returning to their home in Sigel every May.

Kathleen survives along with their children: Candice K. (Maxx) Hunter; James R. (Vicki) Reinard; and Thomas E. (Barb) Reinard; six grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. His youngest brother, Robert R. (wife Dolores) survives. He was also preceded in death by seven brothers; Baby Boy (1913), John Kenneth, Gerald Franklin, Paul Richard, Dale Eugene, Baby Boy (1923), and Ralph Dean.

A funeral service was held in Brookville, with the Rev. Henry Scoff officiating.

**Kathleen "Katie" Mae McKendree Reinard****August 15, 1925****May 1, 2015**

Kathleen M. Reinard went to her heavenly home on May 1, 2015, where she will join her husband, parents and siblings and many good friends who loved the Lord for the grand reunion she anticipated.

Katie was born August 15, 1925, in Heath Township, Jefferson County, the youngest child of seven born to the late Oren Butterfield McKendree and Alma Rose Hiding. Katie attended the one-room school above Heath Station and then graduated from Brookville High School in 1943. After the end of World War II, she wed the boy

## VIII Memoirs

next door, whom she had met at the age of seven. She married her best friend and soul mate, James L. Reinard on Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 1947. Jim preceded her in death on November 25, 2014. They were married 67 years.



Katie is survived by three children, Candice K. (Maxx) Hunter; James R. (Vicki) Reinard; and Thomas E. (Barb) Reinard; six grandchildren and soon-to-be 14 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by six siblings: Gladys McKendree, David McKendree (infant), Evelyn Painter, Twila McKendree, Merton McKendree and Clair McKendree.

Katie was first a wonderful mother, grandmother and homemaker. She loved the Lord and guided her children accordingly. In the early 1970s, her husband became a Methodist minister, and she in turn became a pastor's wife. She always commented on how greatly she enjoyed being in that role of support to his ministry, and she treasured her involvement with the many church family members she came to know and love and the church activities with which she assisted. Although her vision was failing her, she continued to read her Bible and devotionals daily. After retirement, Katie and Jim spent their fall and winter in Virginia, and then finally in Florida for many years, making new close friends wherever they settled. They returned to Pennsylvania to stay in the spring of 2014. She is dearly remembered by her family and friends. A funeral service was held on May 5 in Brookville, with the Rev. Henry Scoff officiating.

Submitted by the family

## Howard "Dale" Reitz

July 21, 1933



July 13, 2014

Rev. Howard "Dale" Reitz was born on July 21, 1933 in Heathville, PA. He was one of six children born to the late Walter and Elva Myers Reitz. He accepted his calling to the ministry in 1960 and was ordained Elder on June 21, 1968 by Bishop Frederick Newell. He served 42 years in various districts within the Western Pennsylvania Conference, and was a longtime member of the Order of St. Luke. He retired in 2002 and moved to the Warren area.

Dale Reitz is survived by his wife, Donna Seigworth Reitz, whom he married November 26, 1960; two daughters, Tammy (Scott) Emberg of Warren and Lisa (John) Swartz of Tidioute; six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Dale passed away on July 13, 2014, and was laid to rest in Oakland Cemetery in Warren, PA.

Dale Reitz took his calling very seriously, changing the lives of many individuals throughout his 42 years of serving the Lord. He was loved by everyone who knew him, and made many friends during his years of ministry. His hobbies were

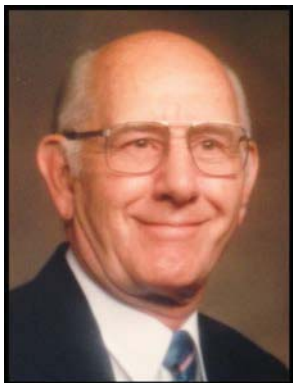
ceramics, bird watching, planting flowers, and playing the organ and piano. He also enjoyed jigsaw puzzles on the computer.

Submitted by the family

### Milton "Milt" Myron Rhodes

June 12, 1921

March 24, 2015



Milton M. Rhodes peacefully passed away at Angela Hospice in Livonia, Michigan on March 24, 2015. He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 71 years, Romayne; his daughters Marlea Pfeil (Richard), Lynnette Rhodes, and Nancy Rhodes; five grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. "Milt" was born in Johnson City, New York.

Milt became a Master Technical Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps and led a radar team in early landings on Saipan in World War II, allowing the U.S. to launch its fighter planes before enemy planes could attack our fleet. He was later sent to Okinawa to over-see the final radar installation there.

Milt received his Master of Divinity degree from Gordon Theological Seminary. He was ordained in the Primitive Methodist Church and ministered to congregations in Massachusetts and later to United Methodist churches in Western Pennsylvania at Somerset/Wesley Chapel, Cabot/Ekastown, St. Marys, and Beechview. During and after his career in the ministry, Rhodes served as a Chaplain at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Butler and was later appointed by the conference as a Chaplain to the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Pittsburgh.

In his retirement, Milt enjoyed building friendships, whittling, studying history, kayaking, writing poetry, and contemplating the universe. His poetry is published at Amazon as "A Poet's View of the Universe." He was unable to complete the final poem, which was intended to summarize the Greek concept of "logos" and include the words to Handel's "Holy Art Thou" from Xeres. This is the music he most often listened to during his last years and shared with those close to him.

Submitted by the family

### Thada Elizabeth Null Robb

May 27, 1926

February 23, 2015

Thada E. Null Robb passed away on February 23, 2015 at the age of 89 and was buried in Montour Cemetery, Oakdale, PA. Thada was the first wife of Rev. Dr. James David Robb, who died in January 2003. Dr. Robb and Thada served churches in McKeesport: West Side/Port Vue (1948-1952); Whitaker (1952-1954); Uniontown: Christ (1954-1956); Turtle Creek: Electric Heights (1956-December 1963); Rochester (December 1963-1979); Sharon: First (1979-February 14, 1985).

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**Hengust Robinson, Jr.****November 24, 1931****December 26, 2014**

Hengust Robinson, Jr., was born on November 24, 1931 in Glassport, PA to Hengust and Florence Robinson, the youngest of five children. He graduated from Glassport High School in 1950 and went on to attend the University of Pittsburgh, graduating in 1957 with his A.B. degree. His college years were interrupted when he was drafted into the United States Army, serving two years during the Korean Conflict. He went on to attend Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, receiving his Master of Divinity in 1962. He was ordained an Elder in the Western Pennsylvania Conference in 1962. Hengust served churches at Coulter-Lowber (1956-1958), Webster (1958-1962), Indiana: *Grace Associate* (1962-1963), Donora (1963-1971), Mount Lebanon

*Associate* (1971-1978), Wexford: Salem (1978-1981), and Beaver Falls: College Hill (1981-1997). Following his retirement, he was named Pastor Emeritus of the College Hill UMC, and Hengust continued to serve at churches throughout the conference – New Castle: Croton, Economy, and Beaver Falls: Chippewa, the latter as Pastor of Visitation.

While serving Coulter-Lowber, Hengust met the love of his life, his “Jeannie.” They were married at the Webster UMC. Hengust continued to be surrounded by women, as their family grew to include five daughters. He has been blessed with the addition of three sons-in-law, three grandsons, three granddaughters, two great-grandsons, and five great-granddaughters. In addition to sharing his faith and love of the church, he taught his family the importance of spending time together by saving time to vacation at the beach every summer. He was an avid sports fan, cheering on his Pitt Panther Football and Basketball teams, the Beaver Falls Tigers, the Steelers and the Pirates. He also enjoyed reading and gardening.

Hengust was active with Rotary International, as a Paul Harris Fellow, Past President, and Secretary. He served on the Board of Ordained Ministry, the Jumonville Board, Salvation Army Board, and was a former member of the American Red Cross of Beaver County, Christians United, and the Free Masons Lodge 765.

Surrounded by his family, Hengust passed away on December 26, 2014. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sisters and brother-in-laws: Helen Robinson, Thelma (Cloyd) Mountain, Alvin Kemmerer, and Lillian Robinson; a granddaughter Katlyn-Marie Hocanson; his in-laws, Norris and Eva Marie Copeland; sister-in-laws and spouses Sara (Martin) Nystrand, Grace (Frank) Freeman, Norma (Robert) Wardrop, and Vera Copeland.

He is survived by his wife, Jean Copeland Robinson, his daughters and their spouses: Lindaly & Winfield Stewart, Susan Robinson, Kimberly & Craig Hocanson, Dana Robinson & fiance Tony Snow, Jane and Victor Bovalino; his grandchildren: Winfield (Crystal) Stewart, Robert Stewart, Justin Stewart, Jeanna (Michael) Anderson, Alexis and Victoria Bovalino; his great-grandchildren: Kayliegh, Ava, and Gracie Stewart, Capri Stewart, Justin Matthew Stewart, and Michael and Mickaylin Anderson;



his sister, Jean Kemmerer; a special nephew Charles (Cheryl) Mountain; and numerous nephews and nieces.

A funeral service was held at Chippewa United Methodist Church on December 30, 2014 with Rev. Rodney Smith, Rev. Charles Fowler (his first son in ministry), Rev. Elmer Reamer (nephew), and Rev. Larry Rietz officiating. An interment service was held at the West Newton Cemetery on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

At the close of a service, when Hengust said the Benediction, he challenged the congregation to go out and “Move your world a little.” We, his family, think he did just that throughout his life.

Submitted by the family

### Donald Lester Russell

February 12, 1934



February 25, 2015

The Rev. Donald L. Russell was born on February 12, 1934, in Cokeburg, PA to the late Elmer and Lillian Matthews Russell. He was a graduate of Ellsworth High School, class of 1952. He was deeply interested in tool and die and worked for many years at McGraw Edison in Canonsburg, PA. On February 1, 1958 he married Joan Crowe at Liberty Methodist Church.

Before becoming a pastor, he spent over 25 years as the head of the machine shop at Cytemp Specialty Steel Corporation in Titusville, PA. Cytemp was a major employer in the Titusville area, and this is where Donald met members of the Pleasantville United Methodist Church. After an accident at work, where

Donald broke his hip in a fall, it was members of this church that came to help with chores, including getting wood delivered, cut, and stacked for winter. After Donald healed, he started attending the Pleasantville United Methodist Church. As Donald told his son Scott (also told at his funeral by Reverend Lee Baker), Rev. Russell wanted to “see what type of people would do this for someone they didn’t really know.” Donald became involved in the church and, as Christ worked through him, he decided to pursue pastoral studies and went through the United Methodist course of study. Completing the studies he gained his licensing as a United Methodist pastor. After finishing seminary, Donald first became an associate pastor for the Titusville United Methodist Church, and then began pastoring at the Mt. Hope, Pine Grove and Enterprise churches. Donald ended his career as the pastor of Pleasantville United Methodist Church where his journey had begun.

For many years Donald was an active member of the Titusville Lions Club. His true passion was for the Second Harvest Mobile Food Pantry, and he worked diligently to help those in need and spread the word of the Gospel through this program. Donald was also a lifelong Pittsburgh Pirates fan and enjoyed vacationing in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Donald is survived by his wife, Joan Russell and four children: Debbi Passaglia and husband, Michael, of Chicago; Donald L. Russell, Jr. and wife, Patricia, of Phenix City, Alabama; Kathy J. Russell Dolan, of Lead, SD; and Scott E. Russell and wife,

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Annabelle, of Erie. Donald took great pride in his grandchildren: Jeremy Yasek, Heather Maloney, Mandy Jenkins, and Kaitlyn, Lillian, and Lochlan Russell. He was preceded in death by his sister, Lois Lojek; a grandson Jonathan Yasek; and an unnamed son who died at birth.

Donald L. Russell, Sr., went home to be with his Savior on February 25, 2015, at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh and is buried at Kiser Hill Cemetery in Meadville, PA.

Submitted by the family

**June 30, 1926**



**Robert DeWayne Sayre**

**December 3, 2014**

On December 3, 2014, the world lost a wonderful man. Robert D. Sayre was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. Bob, as he was known to those who were not family, was born in Beaver, PA, and worked 30 years as a millwright at J & L Steel in Aliquippa, PA. In 1974, he became a United Methodist Minister and served many churches throughout Western Pennsylvania before retiring to Port Richey, FL in 1987. While living in Pasco County, he continued his ministry by serving and assisting at several churches in the area. He also worked as a chaplain's assistant at Regional Medical Center of Bayonet Point for several years.

Bob was a proud Army veteran of WWII and landed at Omaha Beach in Normandy, France on D-day+3. He was awarded the Bronze Star for his part in recovering his fallen brothers. He also served during the Korean War. He became a Master Mason in 1982 with the Eldred Lodge No. 560 in Eldred, PA.

Bob is survived by his wife, Eleanor of 45 years in Port Richey; son, Dennis Sayre and wife Laura, Silver Spring, MD; daughter, Roberta (Bobbi) Lambert; and son, Robert E. Sayre and wife Lindsay, Hudson; two step-sons, Russell Fauver and wife Debbie, Hartsville, SC; and W. Randy Fauver, CA. He will be missed by his six grandchildren: Justin, Christina, John, Jeffrey, Darrin and Becca; and three great-grandchildren.

A funeral service was held in Hudson, FL.

**Erma Jennie Matthews Shindledecker****July 5, 1918****December 27, 2014**

Erma (Matthews) Shindledecker, most recently of Golden Living Center, Camp Hill, PA, entered the Kingdom of Heaven on December 27, 2014. She was born on July 5, 1918, a daughter of H. Clair and Ella (McConnell) Matthews of New Castle, PA, and a graduate of New Castle High School.

Erma married the Rev. O. G. Shindledecker, who was a pastor in The United Methodist Church. Together they served 35 years in full time ministry, all of it in Pennsylvania and New York. Their retirement years were spent in New Castle, Pennsylvania. After his death, Erma moved to Oil City to be near her daughter. Later she moved to the Camp Hill, PA, area to be near her youngest daughter.

Erma is survived by son, James D. Shindledecker of Corry, PA, and his wife Cary; daughter Nancy Nuhfer of Venus, PA; and daughter Shirley Hall and husband Joe of York Haven, PA; seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

A service was held in New Castle, PA, with burial at Kings Chapel in New Castle, PA.

**Freda Alice Thacher Shutters****March 20, 1937****June 1, 2014**

Freda Alice (Thacher) Shutters, a Certified Lay Minister, died on June 1, 2014. Known as Alice to most, she was born on March 20, 1937 to the late Freida and John Thacher in Millstone Township, Elk County, in Pennsylvania. She graduated from Ridgway High School and wed Alvin Shutters, Sr., on September 12, 1959. She worked at Stackpole Corporation for many years and later for BiLo grocery store. Her interests included visiting her children and grandchildren, eating out, watching elk, and attending church.

Alice was an officer of Mt. Zion Cemetery Association nearly all her adult life. She also served on the board of Mt. Zion Church Association until its dissolution. Alice was a member of the Weedville UMC

for over 50 years and has served as a Certified Lay Minister to the five congregations of the Benezette Charge and as leader of the "New Beginnings" group.

Alice is survived by two children, Karen Launer (Chris) of Eagle River, Alaska, and Marvin Shutters (Linda) of Dayton, Washington; a daughter-in-law Carrie (Aul) Shutters of Weedville; a sister-in-law, Elaine Yetzer of St. Marys; six grandchildren, Kenneth Shutters (Irene), Amanda (Shutters) Lattin (Eric), Jenna Launer, Bradley Launer (Sarah), Matthew Launer, and Sarah Shutters; siblings William Thacher (Gail), Charles Thacher (Hazel), and Lydia Green; numerous nieces and nephews; and her "buddy"

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Donald Grolemond. In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a son, Alvin Shutters, Jr.; a brother-in-law, Jim Green; and a granddaughter, Aileen Launer.

A funeral service was held Monday with Reverend Timothy Rogers presiding. Burial was at the Mt. Zion Cemetery, Weedville.

### Debra “Debbie” Lynn Howell Snyder

**June 16, 1951**

**August 29, 2014**



Debra L. (Howell) Snyder, the wife of the Rev. John H. Snyder, went to her Heavenly Father on August 29, 2014, at Windber Hospice.

Born June 16, 1951, in Meadville, daughter of John F. and Shirley M. (Roche) Howell, Debra was preceded in death by her father and her brother, Robert C. Howell. She is survived by her loving husband of 41 years, the Rev. John H. Snyder of Windber; sons, James R. Snyder of Nanty Glo and Jeremy E. Snyder, and wife, Erin, of Port Matilda; granddaughter Jada; grandson Avry; and granddaughters, Maya, Zoey and Reis. Debra also is survived by her mother, Shirley M. Howell; brother, the Rev. Daniel J. Howell and wife Linda of Guys Mills; and several nieces, nephews and cousins

Debra was a loving wife, mother and grandmother who loved doing crafts and drawing pictures.

She was a member of Calvary United Methodist Church, Windber, where a memorial service was held with the Rev. Alyce Weaver Dunn, Johnstown District Superintendent, officiating.

**January 29, 1927**



**Jack Emerson Spencer**

**October 15, 2014**

The Rev. Jack E. Spencer died on October 15, 2014, at Wesbury United Methodist Community, Meadville, PA. He was born on January 29, 1927, in DuBois, son of Furman Burdell and Izetta Anderson Spencer. He married Mildred (Millie) Littell on March 21, 1953. Jack was a 1944 graduate of DuBois High School, and a veteran of World War II, serving in the United States Navy in the South Pacific on the USS Currituck (a seaplane tender). He graduated from Mount Union College and Drew University School of Theology. He was ordained into The United Methodist Church, serving as an associate pastor at Stone United Methodist Church in Meadville; Christ United Methodist Church, Erie; First United Methodist, Titusville; First United Methodist Church, Warren, PA; Franklin District Superintendent; and Lakewood United Methodist Church, Erie.

Although known for his distinctive and infectious laugh, Jack was known first and foremost for his love of people. Highlights of his ministry include: Building the rustic camping area of Wesley Woods, Grand Valley, PA; Camp Dean of Algonquin Park Canoe Trips to Ontario, Canada; Mission trips to Bolivia and Liberia; pilgrimages to Israel; board member of Mount Union College; election as delegate to General Conference, twice; service as chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry; acquisition and development of Olmsted Manor Retreat Facility, Kane, PA; establishment of a caring ministry to the Warren County Jail; The creation and building of "Faith Inn" in Warren, a short term housing facility for families in transition.

In retirement Jack was instrumental in developing a woodshop for residents at Wesbury. Affectionately referred to as "woodchucks," the group, led by Jack, completed several woodworking projects for Wesbury. Jack also enjoyed teaching woodworking skills to elementary children in Meadville. He enjoyed singing barbershop music with the Meadville chapter of SPEBSQSA.

He was preceded in death by his parents and son-in-law, Russell Lenahan. Survivors, include his wife of 61 years, Millie; son, Rev. Greg Spencer and his wife, Christine; daughter, Dr. Kimberly Lenahan; five grandchildren: Benjamin Spencer, Jackson Spencer, Russell Lenahan, Paul Lenahan and David Lenahan; a sister, DeAnn, and her husband Rev. Mearl Henley of Greenville; and nieces and nephews. His earthly remains are interred in the cremation garden of First United Methodist Church, Warren, PA.

Submitted by the family

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**Scharma Jean Soles Sphar-Schaeffer****March 16, 1931****January 6, 2015**

Scharma Sphar-Schaeffer lived a life of dedication to Christ and the Christian faith in every manner imaginable. Her life was not often easy, but was full and rewarding, both for her and for those whose lives she touched along the way. Scharma's first marriage was to Rev. Carl Spahr who died at a young age, and later she married Robert Schaeffer, a police officer for Speers Borough. Despite the brevity of time spent as a pastor's wife, Scharma had deep insight into the challenges and struggles of ministry, not only for pastors, but for spouses as well. She was an encouragement and counselor to all of the ministers and their families who had the privilege of serving the Speers/Dunlevy Charge over the years. She would encourage in the midst of discouragement and

provide insight in times of uncertainty. Scharma was a source of calm and reason in times of turmoil. She loved the church and was loved by those who made up the church.

Scharma was frequently a delegate and participant in the annual gathering of the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference, as well as in Washington District ministries and programs. While she held an interest and served effectively in these areas of service beyond the local congregation, her true passion was for the local church and surrounding community of Speers, and particularly for the ministerial families within the church.

As it says in the concluding verses of Proverbs, "Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates. (31:30-31)" Scharma was most certainly one who feared the Lord in the sense of offering her full love, respect and awe toward God and Christ, and the fruits she provided were received and honored by all who knew her, especially among the clergy she always respected, supported, encouraged, loved and guided.

Submitted at request of family by Dennis M. Henley  
(who served the Speers/Dunlevy Charge from 1978-1983)

**Emmarie "Marie" Egbert Lutton Spofford****November 9, 1921****May 20, 2015**

Emmarie Spofford, wife of the Reverend Thomas E. Spofford, passed away on May 20, 2015 in Arlington, Virginia, where she had been residing with her daughter's family since 2003. She is survived by her daughter, Nancy Spofford Roddy; son-in-law, Frank Roddy; and three grandchildren, Christine, Adam and David Roddy.

Mrs. Spofford was active as a preacher's wife for many years in the Western Pennsylvania Conference. She was also a public school teacher in a variety of disciplines in both Pennsylvania and Florida. She was a graduate of Grove City College and traveled widely throughout her lifetime. In 1970 she and Rev. Spofford moved to Florida, where they served a small Methodist church in Lake Como, FL until they fully retired in the mid-1980's. Marie was the

manager of the Crescent City Thrift Shop for 17 years and provided much assistance to the community. She enjoyed mystery novels, crossword puzzles and reading about current events. While residing in the D.C. metropolitan area, she went to productions at the Kennedy Center with her daughter and granddaughter. She will be missed by her family, but is now free of pain and reunited with the love of her life, Thomas Spofford.

Submitted by the family

**Zelma Marie Mellors Stants****May 13, 1922****February 28, 2015**

Zelma Marie (Mellors) Stants passed away on February 28, 2015, at her home. She was the daughter of Joseph and Eva McCurry Mellors, born May 13, 1922, in Latrobe. Zelma was a member of the Christ United Methodist Church in Youngwood, where she was a member of the choir and the United Methodist Women, a Sunday School teacher and a youth leader. Zelma also served as treasurer for the Greensburg District and was a member of the Hempfield Garden Club, where she also served as treasurer.

Zelma was the manager of Mellors Variety 5 & 10 Store in Youngwood for 24 years, and worked as a bookkeeper/receptionist at Woodward Foundries for two years. She also served as a director of gift

processing for the Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church in New York City, where she retired after 20 years.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, the Rev. Nelson E. Stants; and three brothers and sisters-in-law, Harrold and wife, Catherine; George and wife, Mildred; and Joseph and wife, Waldreen Mellors. Zelma is survived by a stepson, Nelson L. "Skip" Stants and wife, Rebekah, of Mt. Pleasant; grandson, Daniel Stants, of Altoona; granddaughter, Heather Stants, of San Diego, California;

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stepdaughter, Sharon Stants Eisele and husband, Duane, of Irwin; granddaughters, Jessica Johnston and husband, Tony, of Levelgreen, and Kaitlin Eisele, of Irwin; nine nieces and nephews as well as great-nieces and nephews.

Services were held at Christ United Methodist Church in Youngwood, with the Rev. John Seth officiating.

**John “Jack” William Stevenson****August 21, 1929****March 14, 2015**

Rev. John “Jack” W. Stevenson, of Hermitage, passed away on Saturday, March 14, 2015 at Nugent Convalescent Home in Hermitage from infirmities. He was 85.

John was born on August 21, 1929, to John and Helen (Wise) Stevenson in Blacktown. On August 14, 1948, he married his wife, Helen N. Patton, who survives at home.

A graduate of Hickory High School in Hermitage, Thiel College and Union Theological Seminary, John was a pastor for 41 years until his retirement in 1993. John served churches in Sheakleyville, Centerville, Washington, Sharpsville, and Oil City. He was an avid hunter and enjoyed

woodworking.

In addition to his wife, John is survived by three daughters: Norene Stevenson of Hermitage; Esther (John) Fleet of Mercer; Marie (Rick) Schreyer of Williamsburg, VA; two sons, Hugh M. (Arleen) Stevenson of Hermitage and John W. Stevenson of Columbus, Ohio; two sisters, Adeline (Robert) Hibshman of New Wilmington and Evelyn Lingner of Raleigh, NC; five grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Emma Lockovich, and a brother, Edward Stevenson.

Funeral services were held in Sharpsville, with co-officiants being his grandson Pastor Benjamin Fleet, his son Pastor Hugh Stevenson, and Pastor Jim Erb. Burial was in the Hillcrest Cemetery, Hermitage, PA.

**Hilda Hill Stewart****January 25, 1924****October 5, 2014**

Hilda Hill Stewart, wife of retired Rev. Alexander Stewart, Jr., died on October 5, 2014 at home in Northfield, Massachusetts. Hilda was born January 25, 1924 in Ellison Ridge, Mississippi and was a graduate of Mississippi State College for Women. She studied at Colgate-Rochester Divinity School and held an advanced degree from Boston University School of Education. She married Rev. Alexander Stewart, Jr., in Louisville, MS on October 20, 1946. Together Hilda and Alex spent 68 years in shared ministries of service. Hilda gave active leadership in churches and communities in Massachusetts, New York, and Pennsylvania, including at Crafton UMC from 1964-September 1969.

Her career included both teaching and social work. She was a lifelong activist in the peace movement, civil rights, and women's issues, and actively supported



environmental concerns, animal welfare and wildlife projects. The family summer home in Northfield, MA remained her place of refuge and spiritual renewal, the site of memorable gatherings and celebrations with family and friends. It was to Northfield that Hilda and Alex retired to enjoy the world of nature, the mountain views, bird life, fields and flowers and seasonal changes along the Connecticut River. She continued to have an active mind and was an avid reader.



Hilda is survived by her husband Alexander, Jr., her son Alexander III and his wife Yin Mei of Burlington, VT; her son Robert David and his wife Wendy Gold of Durham, NH. She was predeceased by their daughter, Marci Jane in 1972. Hilda proudly adored four grandchildren: Chandra Stewart Weintz of

New York City, Parker Andrew Stewart of Durham, NH, John Alexander Stewart and Zora Jane Stewart of Burlington, VT; and two great-grandchildren, Abigail and Ruth Weintz of New York City.

A celebration of her life was held at the First Parish of Northfield, MA.

#### **Karen Marie Young Utz**

**April 4, 1943**



**December 2, 2014**

Karen Marie Utz, who was the wife of retired pastor, Rev. Gary Utz, of Hiddenite, NC, passed away after an extended illness on December 2, 2014 at the Gordon Hospice House, in Statesville, NC.

Born April 4, 1943, in Denver, Colorado, to the late Paul B. Young and Shirley L. Young. Mrs. Utz was a homemaker, former registered nurse and pastor in The United Methodist Church, most recently affiliated with South River United Methodist Church. She was a member of the Eastern Star and Job's Daughters.

Karen is survived by her husband of 49 years, Gary E. Utz; a son Victor E. Utz of PA; a daughter Elizabeth Korte (husband Kent) of Hiddenite; six grandchildren: Brenna Uncles, Nichols Uncles, KaLee

Willis, KaDee Korte, Harley Korte and Jade Utz; four great-grandchildren: Seth Willis, Alex Seamon, RyLee Willis and Oliver Korte.

A memorial service was held at South River United Methodist Church. Rev. Gary Utz, Rev. Larry Scott and Rev. Selena Scott officiated.

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**Michelle Lee Stewart Wobrak****November 1, 1959****July 28, 2014**

Michelle Lee Wobrak was born on November 1, 1959 in McKeesport Hospital, daughter of the late Elmer and Marjorie (Hadley) Stewart. She graduated from Mercy Hospital School of Nursing and worked at a number of healthcare facilities. In 1980, she married Stephen (Steve) Wobrak. Two children Craig (1982) and Ellen (1984) are a highlight of her life.

As the children grew, the family was a part of the First United Methodist Church of Irwin. Michelle earned a B.S. in Education at Seton Hill College, while also spending time in teaching and leadership positions at Irwin church. She worked for three years as a teacher in the Norwin School District. Even as she taught, she would discuss her yearning to do more in the church. As a result

of talking with Senior Pastor David Lutz, Michelle committed to earning a Masters Degree in Divinity from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Jumonville Camp was a big part of the family's life. Couples camp and many years of Creative Arts Thing camp are highlights. Michelle would often teach a sewing or fabric class. Preaching and teaching were some of her gifts.

When she had free time, Michelle loved to sew and read. Michelle always had sewing projects going on and enjoyed spending time with Ellen and teaching her how to sew. She loved trying different crafts.

While in school, Michelle worked as assistant to the pastor at Christ United Methodist of Youngwood and later as a student pastor at Gethsemane United Methodist in Jeannette. Following graduation, Michelle was appointed to the Brush Valley circuit in Indiana County; New Virginia UMC in Mercer County; and Christ UMC of Erie. Michelle also was active in conference leadership positions, including the Believe Again effort.

Michelle continued working despite a diagnosis of breast cancer in February 2012. Due to the illness, she was forced to go on disability in November 2013. Michelle died on July 28, 2014.

Submitted by the family

**Vera Madeline Decker Woodcock****December 28, 1919****October 29, 2014**

Vera Woodcock, 94 years of age, passed from this life into the presence of her Savior on October 29, 2014 at the Methodist Brooks-Howell Home in Asheville, NC. She was born on December 28, 1919 in the farm home of Chester and Mary Decker near Harrisonville, PA. In 1942 she earned her B. S. in education degree from Shippensburg State College. She taught for two years in the Needmore Elementary School near her home. Then, with a scholarship from the Methodist Board of Missions, she attended summer school at Scarritt College in Nashville, TN for courses in mission studies.

On August 29, 1944, in her home church, the Sideling Hill Christian Church, Vera married Everett Woodcock, clergy member of the Western PA Annual Conference. The Board of Missions arranged for a term-of-mission study at Hartford Seminary, Hartford, CT. They prepared to respond to the call of the Southern Congo Annual Conference for teachers and ministers. Following the Commissioning of Missionaries in June, there was no immediate travel available to Africa. Vera and Everett participated in Conference Youth Institutes during the summer in the Central PA and Western PA Conferences. Still waiting for available travel, they learned that the Meadville District Superintendent was asking for a supply pastor for the Espyville Parish. With the understanding that they could leave any day that travel called, Vera and Everett went to Espyville on the first of October. The call came December fourth from the Board of Missions. Pan Am had a cancelation with two seats available the next day. Everett's brother driving, they arrived the next morning in New York City before the Board office opened. That afternoon, December 5th, they boarded the Pan American Clipper, destination Monrovia via Brazil. With arrival December 20, 1945 in Lubumbashi, Congo, they were ready for the conference appointment to the Sandoa Mission Station – Vera, principal of the elementary school, and Everett superintendent of the district. Begin, now, learning the local Uruund language!!

Always a farm girl at heart, Vera adapted well to the challenges of living in Africa. After a home assignment of a year in the States, the next term appointment of five years was to the Kapanga hospital station. Vera talked with Bishop Newell Booth about priorities with now five children at home. Bishop responded that she served well her conference appointments, teaching women and girls, and he recognized that her most significant witness was from her Christian home. In her home she engaged school girls for help in house-keeping and care of the children. For Everett the appointment was to station maintenance and district superintendent.

On home assignments Vera and Everett enjoyed the people and churches who were supporting the ministries of the church in Africa. There were many different kinds of challenges in the growing church through the continuing years. Retirement came in 1987.

A love for the people of Africa was deeply etched in her heart, enabling Vera to continue ministering to internationals here in America. Retiring to Waynesville, NC, she

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enjoyed building relationships with their grandchildren and being an active part of the community. In 2006 she and Everett relocated to Brooks-Howell Retirement Community in Asheville, NC.

She was preceded in death by her parents, five sisters, three brothers and son Arnold. She is survived by her husband of 70 years, Everett Woodcock, and children Ray (Sue) Woodcock, Waynesville, NC; Mary Woodcock, Pink Hill, NC; Elaine (Gary) Smythe, Springfield, MO; Nancy (Joe) Riley, Attica, IN; seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

A memorial service and interment were held at Sideling Hill Christian Church in Pennsylvania, north of Hancock, Maryland.