

SECTION VII
RECORD OF REMEMBRANCE

ACTIVE MINISTERS

DAVID FORREST BEST
July 29, 1952 – August 10, 2006

David Forrest Best, the eldest son of Janet Reynolds and Forrest Best, was born in Galivants Ferry, South Carolina, July 29, 1952. David's childhood afforded him many adventures of which stories are still told to this day. David graduated, with high honors, from Aynor High School in 1970. His senior year, his classmates voted him "Most Likely to Succeed" and there is no doubt he did just that! He attended Boy's State at The Citadel and then gained national recognition by being inducted into the Most Outstanding Teenagers of America along with Who's Who. However, surprisingly enough, David turned down a congressional appointment to attend the Naval Academy at Annapolis, because he was imprisoned....captured... by Love and Affection for Miss Katherine Gloria Rabon. The young couple were married on Monday, December 21, 1970. Great hope swelled up in them. Joycelyn Marie and David Forrest Jr. were both born in the Medical University at Charleston without complications. Fatherhood was a joy for David, coming home late from nights of work at Marion Industries and days of school at Coastal Carolina College (where he earned an Associate's Degree in Business) just to wake the kids to play with them. David and Katherine joined as members and christened both their children at Aynor United Methodist Church. David was a Sunday School Teacher for 23 years, Sunday School Superintendent for 5 years and led the United Methodist Youth program for 5 years. He was also an active member in the community by way of the Jaycees, Rescue Squad, and Boy Scouts, and community "watering hole" activities such as fishing, hunting, skiing, boating, and camping. While David's occupational life occasionally took him away from home, selling everything from cookware to security devices, the knowledge of God's calling for his pastoral service loomed over him. In 1987 the issue of Crohn's Disease began. That hardship left his family more grateful, more strong willed, and more compassionate than ever before.

In 1996, with the confirmation and support of his loving wife, he finally answered God's call to preach. His first ministerial charge was Mullins Circuit, where he pastored for five years. His next appointment was at Marlboro Circuit, where he pastored for almost 6 years before taking his final, eternal appointment. We praise God that he was there waiting at each of those appointments! After the second year of ministry, David joined Kairos (a prison ministry) and each church he pastored supported this work. He also began a Puppet Ministry, which his eldest grandson (Samuel Morgan Reynolds Best) animated and directed. David preached the word, using the written Word, various musical instruments, his speaking and singing voice, and his energy for life. "Give and it shall be given unto you"... He gave all he had. And now he's gone and yet he still gives. Through organ donation, he gave an 81 year old woman the eye she needed to stare into the smiling faces of her grandchildren. And in Tennessee, someone else waits for the hopes of the same.

David leaves behind an empty kitchen, unattended flower beds, dusty boats, and mourning hearts. He leaves behind a ministry of word and work. He leaves behind the legacy of intentional living. And when we look at all he left behind, this one thought only eases the pain...David Best is having the time of his life. Don't you doubt it for one second; because, according to his testimony, "to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord!"

JAMES WILLIAM McGILL, Sr.
August 20, 1949 – February 23, 2007

It gives me joy and sadness to share with you my husband, the late Reverend James William McGill, Sr. James was the most sincere, honest and compassionate person that you would ever want to meet. James was truly one of a kind and loved by many. James was born August 20, 1949 to the late William Ray and Vergie Mae McGill. He was the oldest of nine children. James and I were married thirty-four wonderful years. We have two children, Pamela

and James, Jr. (JW); and one granddaughter, Aerial DaKayla, who stole James' heart. James departed this life on February 23, 2007.

James fulfilled his dreams of having a wonderful and full life. He was educated in the public school system in Clover, SC and earned a BS degree in Business Administration from Limestone College in Gaffney, SC. In 1980, James enrolled at Gammon Theological Seminary and the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) in Atlanta, Georgia where he obtained a Master of Divinity degree in 1983. At the time of his death, James was a candidate for a Doctoral Degree from Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury, North Carolina.

James was a member of the Olive Branch Masonic Lodge in Clover, South Carolina.

Reverend James McGill was ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church in May 1985. He served the South Carolina Annual Conference as a parish pastor. Among his appointments were the Pacolot-Wellford Parish in Spartanburg, the Greer Circuit in Greer, Silver Hill UMC in Spartanburg, Mechanicsville UMC in Bishopville, the Cheraw Parish in Cheraw, and the York-St James Charge in York.

James was very active within the Annual Conference. He served on many committees including the Spartanburg District Building and Location Committee; the Spartanburg and Hartsville District Board of Ordained Ministry; the Greenville District Council On Ministries; the SC Chapter of Black Methodists for Church Renewal Executive Committee; the Board of Directors for the Spartanburg Pastoral Counseling Service, the Conference Board of Camps and Retreats, the Belin Memorial Board of Trust, and has served the Annual Conference as a Counseling Elder, and as a Supervising Pastor. He also served through the following community activities: the Board of Chaplain for the Spartanburg County Detention System, Spartanburg County School District Six Advisory Council for the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Project, and the Spartanburg County School District Six Comprehensive Health Education Advisory Committee.

Another large part of James' life was being an active member of the Army National Guard. His military career began May 5, 1969, when he enlisted in the United States Army. James served a tour of duty in Vietnam. In July 1974, he served in a Combat Support Unit. As a 2nd Lt., Chaplain McGill served as Battalion Chaplain for the 108th Signal Battalion, Camden; the 178th Field Artillery Battalion, Greer; and the 1-263rd Armor Battalion, Mullins. September 3, 2002, his unit was mobilized and attached to the 4th Training Support Brigade, Fort Stewart, Georgia. Chaplain McGill was assigned the duties of Brigade Chaplain until his release from Active Duty on September 4, 2003. Chaplain McGill's last assignment was Brigade Chaplain for the 228th Signal Brigade, Spartanburg, at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

James' military education includes the Officer Basic Course, Office Advance Course, and The Army Command General Staff College. James was awarded over twenty medals during his career from the military.

Rev. James McGill will truly be missed by all those who knew and loved him. May the work he did continue to speak for him.

– *Martha B. McGill*

JAMES RUSSELL “Jimmy” SMOAK
September 21, 1944 – September 1, 2006

Reverend James Russell “Jimmy” Smoak was born in Eutawville, South Carolina on September 21, 1944, a son of the late I.D. Smoak and the late Rosa Russell Smoak. He had two older brothers and a younger sister. He graduated from Holly Hill High School. He was also a graduate of the Ministerial Course of Study of the Candler School of Theology at Emory University.

Rev. Smoak served his country in the United States Navy from 1962 to 1965, including a tour of duty in Vietnam, aboard the USS Independence.

Rev. Smoak was certified as a Lay Speaker in the Orangeburg District of the United Methodist Church in the early 1980s. He was appointed as a part time local pastor in the South Carolina Annual Conference in 1999 and then as a full time local pastor in 2001 serving the Rowesville Charge which includes New Hope, Bethel and Cattle Creek United Methodist Churches.

He was employed for 33 years with Lance, Inc, as a Branch Sales Manager. He took early retirement to serve full time in the United Methodist Ministry. Rev. Smoak was gifted and

talented in many ways - one of them being in wood carving. Two of his most prized carvings were a circuit rider and a crucifix. The circuit rider was carved especially for a fellow United Methodist minister who mentored him on his journey into ministry. The crucifix represented his vision of the Passion of his Lord and Savior and will be a precious family heirloom.

He was married to Dorothy Smith Smoak on April 27, 1965. They have two children, James Russell Smoak, Jr. and Greta Smoak Gue'. They also have four grandchildren, Laken Michelle Smoak, Eston Russell Smoak, David Daniel Gue' and Seth Troy Gue' who will all remember him as "Poppa". He cherished his family and always looked forward to spending time with each and every one of them.

Rev. Smoak will be remembered as a loving husband, father and grandfather. He never encountered a stranger and was a friend to all those he met and served the Lord faithfully in his call to the ministry.

A Service of Death and Resurrection in Celebration of his Life was held at New Hope United Methodist Church in Rowesville on September 5, 2006. Interment was in the Eutawville Cemetery, Eutawville, South Carolina where he was laid to his final rest .

"I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do" John. 17:4 (NRSV)

RETIRED MINISTERS

JOHN RISHER BRABHAM April 10, 1938 – August 15, 2006

John Risher Brabham was born April 10, 1938 in Florence, SC, a son of Vance Lyn and Cynthia Waters Brabham. He graduated from McClenaghan High School in 1956, received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Wofford College in 1960 and a Masters of Divinity from Duke University in 1964. He was a member of the South Carolina United Methodist Conference and served churches in Bennettsville, Clio and Laurens. In 1973 he was appointed Director of the Wesley Foundation at Winthrop University and served there until his retirement in 2000.

Risher's life was devoted to working for human rights, social justice and peace in our hemisphere and around the world. He believed that being a Christian meant a commitment to equality and the well-being of others. He believed that this was Jesus' message and the model he called us to emulate. Risher sought to move beyond the definitions of others provided by governments and culture and to connect with people on a human level.

Risher's involvement and activism were widespread and varied. He served on the SC Conference Board of Church and Society, Council on Ministries, Hunger Committee, Commission on Worship and Board of Christian Social Concerns. On the local level, he coordinated the York County CROP Walk and the Alyce T. Guettler Hunger Run and served on the Board of Directors of the York County Council of Drug and Alcohol Abuse and the YMCA. Perhaps most meaningful to Risher was his work in Central and South America. He participated in and led Witness for Peace groups to Nicaragua, Guatemala, and El Salvador. He was instrumental in introducing students and church members to the Center for Development in Central America where a dental clinic has been dedicated in his name.

Risher is survived by his wife of nearly 44 years, Katherine Greiner Brabham and three children; John Risher Brabham, Jr., Jan Mouzon Brabham, Vance Lyn Brabham and nine grandchildren.

WILLIAM DIXON "Bill" DAVIS, Sr. May 13, 1915 – January 5, 2007

Rev. William Dixon "Bill" Davis, Sr. left to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ from his home on Georgia Street in Columbia on Friday, January 5, 2007 at 3:08 PM.

Love in the form of his daughters; Joanna Davis and Robin Cronshaw; his wife, Billie Davis; and his former minister, Rev. Matthews, surrounded him at the time and he had just received a call from his son Dixon Davis, Jr. and daughter-in-law Aleksandra Davis of California. He was quoting the 23rd Psalm and Proverbs 3:5-6.

He passed as he lived his life, singing God's praise, thinking of family, and thanking the

staff from Lutheran Hospice and Right At Home for all of their wonderful care and prayers.

Rev. Davis was born in Mullins, SC on May 13, 1915. He was the son of the late Charlie Wylie Davis and Leila Walker Mayers Davis and was one of 11 children.

He attended the University of South Carolina at which time he worked with the youth group at Greene Street UMC. He was a graduate of the Lutheran Seminary, and Duke Divinity School of Duke University.

He married Beulah Maye "Billie" Davis, an ordained minister from Ohio, on November 11, 1950. They had three grandchildren.

Rev. Davis was a minister with the South Carolina conference of the United Methodist Church. He was licensed to preach in September 1938. His ministry included the following appointments: Floydale, Summerville Circuit, Pinopolis, Monks Corner-Ebenezer, Lake View, West Kershaw, McBee, Woodside-Berea (Greenville), Lockhart, Lancaster-Hopewell, Aynor Circuit, North-Limestone, Bells, and Summerton. He conducted services at Epworth Children's Home and Christopher Towers in Columbia.

He combined his favorite things as he walked 2-5 miles each day. He would stop and talk, tell a joke, quote a scripture, and/or pray with the neighbors and church members that he met along the route. Fuzzy or Prissy Pooh, his beloved dogs, always accompanied him on his walks after retirement. He was an avid fisherman of fish who obeyed when God called him to be a fisher of souls.

ROBERT NEWSOME DUBOSE **September 4, 1914 – October 8, 2006**

"Bob" DuBose was born September 4, 1914, in Hartsville, S.C. He was the son of John Boyd and Belle Newsome DuBose. He lived a full life as a minister, husband, father, and friend. Most of all, he loved his Lord, his churches, his family, his Boston Terriers, and the game of golf.

Dr. DuBose received his BA Degree from Wofford College as well as a Masters of Theology from Duke University, and did graduate work at the University of North Carolina and Union Theological Seminary at Columbia University. He received an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Salem College.

He met his beloved wife "Ree" with whom he spent sixty-nine years of marriage. They both entered the South Carolina Methodist Church in 1937 in the Jamestown area of South Carolina, serving five small churches in that area. Interrupted by World War II, he became a chaplain in the United States Army, serving in the South Pacific Area. Upon returning from the war, Bob completed his Masters degree at Duke University where he was named Director of Religious Activities. His first daughter, Mary Virginia was born at Duke University Hospital. The family then moved to Washington, DC, where he was named the Executive Director of the Commission of Higher Education for American Colleges across the nation. A second daughter, Barbara Ann, was born in Washington.

Because Bob wished to spend more time with family, he decided to return to his home state of South Carolina. His first pastorate was as pastor of Whitmire Methodist Church. He next served as senior pastor of Shandon Methodist Church in Columbia. In 1959 he became the Superintendent of the Spartanburg District. In 1965 he was appointed senior pastor of Buncombe Street Methodist Church in Greenville. He moved in 1971 to serve his final parish at the First United Methodist Church in Myrtle Beach, from which he retired as Pastor Emeritus. Bob and Ree then moved to their home at Litchfield Country Club, where they spent many happy years. Bob remained active in his ministry, often preaching at the Pawleys Island Chapel.

He is survived by his wife Marie King DuBose, two daughters, Mary Virginia DuBose of Litchfield Beach and Barbara Ann Terry and her husband Mike of Greenville, SC. He has three grandchildren, Ashley DuBose Derrick of Atlanta, Michael Terry and wife Shirley, and Melissa Blackwell and her husband Chris and their children of Greenville.

Dr. "Bob" DuBose will always be remembered for his unconditional love, his open-minded views, his love for family, and his belief in his Lord Jesus Christ. He died surrounded by his family and in the peace and knowledge of his faith. We celebrate his life of faith and love for others. He fulfilled his mission in leaving this world a better place for those who knew him.

– Mary Virginia DuBose

ANDERSON MCDOWELL "Andy" GRAY
October 30, 1913 – December 15, 2006

Rev. Andy Gray was a man with a great love for God and His creation. Who was Rev. Gray? We would know him by many titles: son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, uncle, pastor, teacher, and a man who blessed God's world through his care. To define who he was each of us would have to put our stories together for a complete picture. Each piece of the puzzle comes together to allow us to see the Andy we love. In each piece lies a treasure we can hold dear to our hearts and minds.

Andy grew up near Williamston, South Carolina on his father's dairy farm. He was the son of D'Arch Paul Gray and Bertha Anderson Gray. His mother was an artist and Andy inherited his mother's gift and enjoyed painting most of his life and often gave his art to family members as a gift.

Andy attended North Carolina State University received a degree in Forestry Management, and then attended Utah State University to further his studies in Land Management. When World War II broke out Andy joined the Navy and became a pharmacist's mate. After the war, he returned to Texas where he resumed his work in forestry until the early fifties when he felt the call to the ministry. He returned to South Carolina where he attended Erskine College and Seminary. He graduated from Seminary on June 1, 1953 with a Bachelor of Divinity degree. He became a member of the South Carolina Annual Conference. He was set apart for the office of Deacon on the 27th day of August, 1955 and an Elder on the 17th day of August, 1957. He served faithfully until his retirement in 1981. He continued to serve at Townville, South Carolina for a time and filled other pulpits when needed in the District.

Rev. Gray served his appointments with his wife Sara of 55 years, and his three sons. He always had a deep love for God's creation. He shared his compassion with his family and his parishioners. He lived his life as an example to the world. After retirement, Andy and Sara moved to their home on Seneca Lake, which they called Gray's Wood. He was still the great nature lover, and enjoyed many happy years until the death of Sara in 1995. He always remembered Sara. He continued his painting and enjoyed walking the trails around his home. In time he would leave Seneca Lake and move to The Methodist Oaks in Orangeburg, SC and then to Bon Secours in Chester, Virginia.

He is survived by his brother, Curtis Abercrombie Gray and his wife Jeannette of Charlotte, NC; three sons, James McDowell Gray and his wife Barbara of Treasure Island, FL, Edward Rutledge Gray and his wife Nancy of New Bern, NC and Paul Netherland Gray and his wife Shirley of Hardeeville, SC; eight grandchildren and a number of great grandchildren.

On December 15, 2006 at Bon Secours his Lord called him home. Then on December 20, 2006 at 11:00 AM in the Williamston City Cemetery Rev. Gray's body was laid to rest under the spreading Oak tree with family members present at the Graveside.

"Come unto me and I will give you rest - " Matthew 11:28

– *Kermit O. Shrawder, Jr.*

LEVI GREEN, Sr.
August 22, 1920 – October 2, 2006

Rev. Levi Green, Sr. was born August 22, 1920, to the Late James and Ida Gary Green in Sutton, SC (Williamsburg County). He made his Heavenly transition on Monday, October 2, 2006. He was one of eight children; five siblings preceded him in death.

Rev. Green received his early education in the Williamsburg County Public Schools. He received a Bachelor's Degree from South Carolina State College and a Master's of Divinity Degree from Duke University. He also held a South Carolina State Master Barber License.

Rev. Green served as Pastor of Silas U.M. Church and Greater St. Paul U.M. Church. He faithfully served the Greater St. Paul Charge for 19 years before retiring from the United Methodist Church.

Rev. Green was a retired school teacher. For many years he taught the students of the Berkeley County School District the craft of Brick Masonry.

Rev. Green was an entrepreneur. He once owned Green's Bus Line and operated

barbershops in Charleston and Moncks Corner. He was the proprietor of People's Barber Shop at the time of his death.

He was a 50 year member of Ancient Square Masonic Lodge #174 (Goose Creek).

Rev. Green was the husband of Ida Lee Jones Green; father of Levi Green Jr. (deceased), George and John (Leila) Green; grandfather of Carolyn, LaVerne, Le'Shelle, and Juan; great-grandfather of William, Anthony, Melissa, and Tyler; brother of Earline G. (Abraham) Walker and Sarah G. McGhee; brother-in-law of Elizabeth J. Funderburk and Henry McGhee; and father-in-law of Florette A. Green. He was also the uncle, granduncle, cousin, friend, and mentor to many others.

HAROLD ROLAND JOHNSON
November 1, 1924 - April 17, 2007

It is a great honor for me, as I transcribe the life of my father Reverend Harold Roland Johnson. My father was my rock of Gibraltar, my friend, my mentor, *"My Dad"*.

Born November 1, 1924 in Pickens, South Carolina, he married the former Fannie M. Dease. Harold Johnson attended the Pickens County Schools system, matriculated at South Carolina State College, and Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta Georgia.

He pastored tirelessly for 27 years proclaiming the word at Minus Chapel-Wesley Charge, 1964, Anderson Circuit, 1966, York-St. James, 1968, Cheraw Parish, 1972, Thompson Centennial-New Harmony, 1978, St. Stephen Parish, 1981, Centenary-Kingsville Charge 1984.

I Miss You Daddy.

– Rev. Harold D. Johnson

RICHARD HILTON JOHNSON
March 19, 1939 – February 20, 2007

Richard Hilton Johnson, the son of Richard Henry and Louise Pruitt Johnson, was born in Fairmont, South Carolina on March 19, 1939. He graduated from Byrnes High School and attended Young Harris Junior College. On June 25, 1961, he married Nancy Smith. They had one daughter, Courtney.

Hilton always attended church and gave his heart to God at an early age. He was reluctant to heed the call to the ministry, but in 1962 he surrendered his life to God's plan. He returned to school graduating from Spartanburg Junior College, Wofford College and attending Duke University and Erskine Seminary. His first appointment was Valley Falls-Fingerville in 1964. Appointments to Hopewell-Siloam (1966), Bath-Clearwater (1968), O'Neal Street, Newberry (1972), Lowell Street, Greenwood (1978), Barnwell-Siloam (1986), Grace, Pickens (1997), Wesley-Bethlehem, and Chester (1999) followed.

Hilton was blessed with a wonderful sense of humor. He loved people and had a smile for everyone he met. He especially enjoyed working with the children in the church.

Hilton worked in every aspect of ministry: In 1976, while he was serving O'Neal Street UMC, the congregation paid off a \$76,000 indebtedness on the sanctuary in one year. He was also instrumental in starting a chaplaincy program at Newberry Hospital. During his ministry at Barnwell UMC, he supported Dr. Henry Gibson's work in establishing a medical clinic in Honduras. Due to his health, Hilton visited the clinic only once. He also served on the Board of Trustees of The Methodist Manor of the Pee Dee and the Commission of Ecumenical and Interreligious Concerns.

Hilton loved to travel and was privileged to visit the Holy Land on a tour led by Bishop Edward Tullis. Attending the Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany was a highlight of his life. He was also a member of the Rotary Club.

He never lost his smile and his desire to preach the Word even after Parkinson's Disease took away so many of his abilities. On February 20, 2007, surrounded by his family, God called Hilton home. His wife of 45 years, Nancy S. Johnson, survives him. His daughter and son-in-law, Courtney and Neal Foster, and his sister, Ruby Bailey also survive him. His brothers, Robert and Fred A. Johnson, preceded him in death.

Though we miss him, knowing that he is at peace in God's presence sustains us. "Well done, thy good and faithful servant." *Matthew 25:21*

– Nancy S. Johnson

SAMUEL HAYWOOD POSTON
April 22, 1931 – December 21, 2006

The son of Pearl Baker Poston Stewart and Larry Jeremiah Poston was born in Cades, S.C., April 22, 1931. He was also the stepson of Abram W. Stewart. He died on December 21, 2006. He graduated from Kingstree High School, Spartanburg Methodist College, and Wofford College. He received his BD degree from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in 1956.

He married Bobbie Gillis of Philadelphia, Mississippi on December 20, 1955. They have three children Joy Poston Sanders, Jan Poston Richards, and Kay Poston Nelson. His faith continues in the lives of their daughters. Jan is a member of Central UMC in Spartanburg. Kay is a member of Grace UMC in Columbia. Joy is a member of Southside Baptist Church in Spartanburg. They have six grandchildren

At the age of twenty-four Samuel began his ministry organizing St. Mark United Methodist Church in Charleston. Other churches he served were Pisgah, Pine Grove, Dalzell, Skylyn, Epworth-Rock Hill, Duncan Memorial, Central-Spartanburg Associate, St. Mark-Sumter, Latimer Memorial, Startex, and Lowell Street.

In 1950 he attended the World Methodist Conference in Hawaii. In 1986 he participated in a Methodist Exchange Program in Buckley, North Wales. In 1988 he traveled in Israel.

Throughout his ministry Sam's priority was "membership care" for children, youth, and adults. This included both visiting and program planning. During his retirement he promoted a "young at heart" YAH YAH Day annually in the Spartanburg District.

– Bobbie Poston

JERRY MAX PRICE
April 10, 1934 – September 12, 2006

Rev. Jerry Max Price served the Conference as a Local Pastor from 1989 until his retirement in 1996. He was the pastor of Caper's Chapel - New Hope Charge and the McLellanville Charge. He is survived by his daughters, Jane (Craig) Duensing of Columbia, Tammy (Craig) Heigler of Jenkinsville, and Eve (Bryan) Chassereau of Elgin.

EDWIN WILLIAM "Bill" ROGERS
June 13, 1922 – February 15, 2007

Edwin W. (Bill) Rogers was born in Sumter, South Carolina on June 13, 1922. Dr. Rogers was a son of the late Azilee and William Lenoir Rogers. Upon his mother's death, he and his brother were adopted by his grandmother, Mrs. Hattie Hurst of Sumter. A graduate of the University of South Carolina, he received a Masters Degree in Christian Education from Emory University. He then served 5 years as Associate Director of the YMCA at State College, Raleigh, North Carolina. Dr. Rogers then answered a much earlier call to the ministry and returned to his studies at Duke University and was ordained into the ministry of the United Methodist Church. He later earned his doctoral degree from McCormick Seminary of the University of Chicago.

Dr. Rogers served his country in World War II aboard the light cruiser USS Mobile, remaining in the South Pacific until the end of the war, having fought in every major battle in the Pacific Theatre. He remained in the United States Navy reserve as a chaplain until 1991, when he retired with the rank of Captain.

Dr. Rogers served a circuit of 3 churches at Garner, North Carolina. Upon joining the South Carolina Conference he served as first minister in the founding of Aldersgate United Methodist Church in his hometown of Sumter. Subsequently, he ministered to the following churches: Barnwell UMC (Barnwell) Broadstreet UMC (Clinton) where the old sanctuary was torn down and a new one built, St. Matthew UMC (Greenville), Central UMC (Spartanburg) John Wesley UMC (Charleston), and Main St. UMC (Columbia). He was called out of retirement

to serve St. James UMC (Columbia) and then joined the staff of Shandon UMC as a visiting minister. He served as President of the Ministerial Association while in Columbia. As he was very community oriented, he joined civic organizations in each place where he was appointed as minister.

After retiring from the ministry Dr. Rogers continued his teaching ministry in The Shepherd Centers. In addition to teaching at the Trenholm Road center for 16 years, he started a branch in Northeast Columbia. He also taught courses at many churches including programs on Biblical archeology as well as the influence of ancient religious manuscripts on sacred texts.

Dr. Rogers was a long-term member of the chancel Choir at Shandon UMC and enjoyed teaching the Goodwill Sunday School Class there.

Surviving are his beloved wife of 64 years, Margaret Davis Rogers and their four children, Reverend Margaret (Mickey) dePrater (husband, Rev. William), Edwin (Ed) W. Rogers, Jr., M.D., MBA (wife, Teresa), David L. Rogers, MSW (wife, Madolyn) and Christiana (Chris) Chumakov, MSW (husband, George) and grandchildren, Elizabeth dePrater, Margaret dePrater, Katherine dePrater, Edwin Lee Rogers, Edwin Lloyd Rogers, Natalie Chumakov, Caroline Chumakov, David Ruiz Rogers and Lucian Rogers and brother, Lee Rogers (wife, Marian) of El Paso, Texas.

He was faithful in ministry for over 40 years and passed away peacefully February 15, 2007.

THOMAS HENRY ROSS
June 8, 1924 - September 12, 2006

Thomas Henry Ross loved God through service to the church and community throughout his life. He was a faithful and diligent church member and leader at St. Daniel and then Morris Chapel churches. He continued that faithfulness in the Conference when he entered the ministry in 1985. Always translating his commitment to God into community service, Thomas offered comfort, encouragement, and material support to those facing economic and emotional challenges in his community, and led civil rights activities in his local area (by supporting voter registration and becoming one of the first black precinct officers in the town of Dorchester during the early 1960s).

Thomas Henry Ross was born June 8, 1924, in Dorchester, South Carolina. Son of the late Washie Ross and the late Rosalie White Ross, Thomas accepted Christ at an early age and joined St. Daniel Methodist Episcopal, now United Methodist, Church in Harleyville. The oldest of eleven surviving children, Thomas worked to help his family pull through the Depression and, in 1945 at age twenty-one, entered the United States Army. He was honorably discharged from his World War II service as Private First Class. Thomas married Bertha Lee Thomas (d. 1994) of Dorchester in 1946 and joined her congregation, Morris Chapel Church. They served together in church, in community, and in ministry. Thomas and Bertha reared eleven children. The couple determined early and worked consistently to give their children Christianity as a moral center and integrated prayer and Bible study into the family's daily routine. Two of their children, Rosetta and Thomas Alexander, succeed Thomas in the South Carolina Annual Conference's United Methodist ministry.

After retiring from Gulf Oil Corporation in 1981, Thomas completed the Walterboro District lay speakers program and then the denominational Course of Study at Candler School of Theology. He served two appointments on the Walterboro District, Ruffin-Mt. Pleasant, 1985-1988, and Toby-Mt. Nebo, 1988-1992. He retired from the United Methodist ministry in 1992.

Thomas enjoyed singing. Many particularly remember him leading this song:

Holy, Holy, Holy, somebody touched me.

Holy, Holy, Holy, somebody touched me.

Holy, Holy, Holy, somebody touched me.

And it must have been the hand of the Lord.

At home, at church, and in community, Thomas is remembered for his love of singing, his hard work, his dependability and commitment, and his soft-spoken but stern disposition. Thomas went home to be with his savior on Tuesday, September 12, 2006. Family, church, and community members continue to celebrate and express gratitude for his life of faithfulness and service.

ZOEL GARLAND TAYLOR, Sr.
November 5, 1915 – December 2, 2006

Zoel Garland Taylor, Sr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia, November 5, 1915, to the late James W. Taylor and Gertrude Jones Taylor. He was called to his Heavenly Home Saturday, December 2, 2006. Zoel was preceded in death by both his first wife, Maggie Lenhardt Taylor, and his son, Zoel Garland Taylor, Jr. It was through his father, an ordained deacon since 1915 and a minister with almost 50 years of experience, that Zoel found added strength for his spiritual journey. Later he married Jennye Ellis Cureton with whom he continued the spiritual journey for almost 26 years.

The last 2 1/2 years of his long and fruitful life found Zoel in church school and church services every Sunday. Dependence on a wheelchair and his wife's assistance for mobility never daunted his spirit. Additionally, he enjoyed attending the District Meetings held by the District Superintendent and was present for as many of them as circumstances allowed. Zoel's more than 40 years as a minister and over 30 years as an educator had ended, but not his love for the Church and what it meant to him.

After college graduation Zoel followed his father's lead by preparing for the ministry. He earned the B.D. Degree from Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Georgia, and later the M.S. Degree from Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana. As a minister he served the following South Carolina Charges from 1939-1989: Chesnee, Cowpens, Bethel in Greer, Rockmill, Denton Chapel, Gaffney-Blacksburg, South Greenville, East Greenville, and Thompson Centennial as a retired supply minister. During the period of his ministry Zoel served on various Boards and Committees at the Conference level. He was a member of the Board of Hospitals and Homes, the Board of Ordained Ministry, and the Board of Evangelism. He felt that such services enriched his knowledge and understanding of his role as a United Methodist Minister.

The call to the ministry became a counterpart to Zoel's decision to become an educator. It was his opportunity to further help children and youth develop morally, mentally, socially, spiritually, and physically. As an educator he served as a teacher (10 years) and a principal (28 years) in the Greenville County School System until his retirement in 1980.

Zoel viewed affiliation with civic and professional organizations an important part of his life's journey. He served as Chairman of the Greenville Chapter of the American Red Cross; Vice Chairman of the South Carolina State Committee of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; Board of Directors of Greenville County Cancer Society; on the Advisory Board of the Salvation Army, Family and Children Services; and the Phillis Wheatley Board. He was an active member of the Phi Alpha Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, a Public Service Organization.

Mrs. Clelia Hendrix, a faithful church worker and educator, best characterized the real Zoel in a comforting message to me when she wrote: *"Zoel was a fine person – a good educator and a churchman – and I enjoyed working with him in both arenas. I don't think I ever saw him frustrated, but even in adverse circumstances, he was calm and serene."*

– Jennye E. Taylor

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN WEBB
May 29, 1939 – February 12, 2007

Rev. Webb used his life in service to God and fellow human kind. His motivation and drive was matched by an internal strength and faith to God that characterized his life. He remained true to the values and principles learned at the knees of his parents, the late William C. Webb and Mary L. Webb. He was preceded in death by a brother, William J. Webb.

Rev. Webb was born on May 29, 1939 in Anderson County, South Carolina. He passed into his eternal reward at AnMed Medical Center in Anderson, South Carolina on Monday, February 12, 2007. He died into the care and keeping of a loving and merciful God following a long battle against a debilitating illness.

Rev. Webb was an itinerate Pastor and member of the United Methodist Church, South Carolina Conference. He has held a life long membership in the church of his youth, Bethel

United Methodist. He served faithfully as a Pastor and spiritual leader until a decline in his health. As Pastor, he served the North Greenville Charge and the Ehrhardt Circuit. He retired from the Good Home Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church in 2004.

Rev. Webb is survived by a faithful and loving wife of the home, Mrs. Katie R. Webb. He leaves to mourn three daughters: Mildred J. Webb, Pendleton, SC; Deborah L. (David) Blackman, Charleston; Katie E. Webb, Dallas, Texas; and one son, Benjamin F. (Tasha) Webb II, of the United States Marines, stationed at West Memphis, Arkansas. Surviving siblings include one sister, Elaine Johnson of Seneca, and a brother Johnny D. Webb, of Zellwood, Florida. In addition, there are six surviving grandchildren and six great grandchildren. His mother-in-law is Mrs. Lula B. Scott of Pendleton.

Rev. Benjamin Franklin Webb is now resting. His journey on earth has ended. He is now with the Lord. We give thanks for the wonderful example provided by him and for all he did in service to others. Amen.

RETIRED DIACONAL MINISTERS

HAZEL MYERS MELIA

April 15, 1916 – March 19, 2007

Hazel Myers Melia of Summerville, South Carolina, widow of Patrick Joseph Melia, died at the Presbyterian Home of South Carolina in Summerville. She was the daughter of the late Nettie and Allen Myers.

Hazel graduated from Summerville High School and Columbia College. Her music career of over forty-five years began at Bethany United Methodist Church in Summerville. In 1957, she was consecrated by the South Carolina Methodist Conference as a Minister of Music. Twenty years later in 1977, she was consecrated as one of the first female Diaconal Ministers of Music in South Carolina. She continued in this music ministry at Bethany until her retirement in 1986. Having served Bethany for forty-six years, she was named Minister of Music Emeritus. In 2007, the congregation honored her by naming the suite of choir rooms for her.

Columbia College honored Hazel for her dedication to music with the Career Achievement Award in 1987. She was also presented the Order of the Palmetto by Governor Carroll Campbell.

On March 21, 2007, Hazel was laid to rest in Summerville, having served her God with dedication and love.

– Annette Meachum (Mrs. J. E.)

SPOUSES

LILLIE MAE “Bill” STAMEY ADAMS

May 10, 1920 – October 14, 2006

After many years of faithful service, Lillie Mae “Bill” Stamey Adams went home to be with the Lord on October 14, 2006. She lived in Wesley Commons Healthcare Center, Greenwood, South Carolina.

“Bill,” daughter of the late Tillman Forest and Callie Balding Stamey, grew up in Joe, North Carolina. She was the last surviving child of 20 children. She was a devoted wife to her husband, Reverend Louis M. Adams, for 59 years and a loving mother of a son, the late Joseph Boyce Adams, who was killed in action during the Vietnam War in 1968.

She loved the Lord and served Him faithfully until the very end. She was so good with children and older people and was known by her beautiful smile and her ability to make others smile. She was always ready to serve in whatever capacity needed, whether it be teaching Sunday School, coordinating the VBS program, working with children in the Star Gospel Mission on Sullivan’s Island, listening to the heart-breaking stories of the many foster children who lived in their home over the years or rocking the babies of the migrant workers

in the upper part of the state. Whatever she did, she gave her all and always gave the glory to the Lord. She was indeed one of the rare angels that walked this earth.

She is survived by her husband, Louis Adams, of Greenwood, South Carolina and many nieces and nephews.

– *Melanie R. Brandon*

PATRICIA ANN DAVIS
July 3, 1949 – October 5, 2006

Pat was born in Bedford, Ohio and shortly thereafter moved to Ashtabula, Ohio where she grew up as an only child. She graduated from Harbor High School in 1967 and became an x-ray technician for several years. She was an active member of Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church.

Pat married Jerry Davis in 1970 and her vocation changed to that of a full time mother. She loved her new position and her family became her life. In 1974, she and her husband answered an altar call and received Jesus as their Savior and Lord. In 1976 her husband received the call to ministry and Pat graciously followed that call for the rest of her life serving in the United Methodist Church. Pat was a devoted wife and dedicated Mother. Her husband and five children were her priorities.

Pat was a lady with a zeal for living! She had a “bubbly” personality and a love for righteousness. She loved all of God’s animals. When she went home to be with the Lord, she left not only her family, but 10 dogs and 4 cats! Pat was a certified EMT and served in several counties. She was also a certified Beauty Consultant for Dillards. All that she did, she did well!

She left a great legacy for her family and many good memories. She will be greatly missed by her husband, Jerry, and her children, Jodi, Jason, Joshua, Julianna, and Jordan, and all of her animals. Thank God for salvation!

PATRICIA WILLIAMS SHAW
September 17, 1956 – December 24, 2006
“Love lives on forever in our heart”

The fight for this “Bold Soldier” ended on Sunday, December 24, 2006 at her residence in Sumter, South Carolina.

Patricia Shaw was affectionately called “Ann”. The daughter of the late Woodrow Williams and Doretha Thompson Williams, she touched the lives of many people. Her replica smile and soft keen voice will remain a part of us. Patricia was a people-oriented person and was at ease making conversation regardless of the topics and always lending a helping hand in your time of need.

She attended the public schools of Marion, South Carolina and was a 1975 graduate of Marion High School. She furthered her education and was a 1998 graduate of Clafin University in Orangeburg, South Carolina. She was employed at Jackson and McGill Funeral Services for about twenty years as a secretary. Following her employment there, she was employed by Marion School District #1 and also Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Florence, South Carolina.

At an early age, she joined the Greater Highway Church of Christ in Marion, South Carolina where she remained until her marriage. She became affiliated with Springville United Methodist Church and worked in several capacities in the United Methodist Churches. She was a God-fearing woman; a dedicated wife and mother. She supported her husband’s ministry whole-heartedly.

She leaves to cherish fond and loving memories: a devoted husband, Reverend Bobby Shaw; a loving son, Frederic Antwan Shaw; a dedicated mother and siblings.

SURVIVING SPOUSES

FRANCES C. BROOME August 6, 1917 – October 31, 2006

Frances Broome was born in Spartanburg, SC. She was educated in the public schools; graduating high school with highest honors earning a full scholarship to Converse College where she also graduated with highest honors.

Frances married Allan Broome, a South Carolina Methodist minister who became the Director of Epworth Children's Home and Secretary of the South Carolina Methodist Conference. Frances was involved with many aspects of the Epworth life from teaching Sunday school to campus photographer.

Frances was a talented amateur naturalist. As an avid young gardener she worked with her father on hybridizing Irises. Frances studied the natural world and became very knowledgeable about butterflies, moths, birds, seashells and growing vegetables as well as flowers. She also gave a home to many cats and a few dogs.

Frances loved travel and was able to indulge this with Alan and then after his death with her children. She was able to make several trips to Europe, experience much of the Caribbean Islands, see Hong Kong and Hawaii and record this with many slides and wonderful photo albums documenting her trips. Her love of reading showed in her extensive library with books on all of her many wide interests.

Frances kept an avid interest in the world and events by participating in a current events discussion group.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Allan, and her son, Buddy. Frances is survived by her daughters; Betsy of Columbia, and Harriet and her husband Ed, in Fort Payne, Alabama.

– Harriet B. Turner

LUCINDA CONYERS April 7, 1910 – April 18, 2007

Lucinda Conyers was the surviving spouse of the Rev. William M. Conyers. Together they served Floydale, Rock Hill, St. James, Greeleyville, North, Branchville, St. Phillip, Wateree-Blaney and North Camden until his untimely death in 1964. In recent years until the time of her death she had been living in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She leaves behind cousins, nephews, nieces, and many friends.

MARIE KING DUBOSE December 13, 1917 – April 10, 2007

"Ree" DuBose, long time resident of Litchfield Country Club and the Lakes at Litchfield, died at The Lakes at Litchfield on April 10, 2007.

Born December 13, 1917, in Shelby, North Carolina, she was the daughter of William Thomas and Evelyn Lineberger King.

Mrs. DuBose graduated salutatorian from Shelby High School and attended North Carolina State Women's College in Greensboro where she studied business and accounting.

She served faithfully as a Methodist minister's wife to the late Robert Newsome DuBose and enjoyed her role as mother, grandmother, and homemaker. She loved her family, her friends, and their many Boston Terriers.

She is survived by her two daughters, Mary Virginia DuBose of Litchfield Beach and Barbara DuBose Terry and her husband Mike of Greenville, SC. She has three grandchildren - Ashley DuBose Derrick of Atlanta, Michael Terry and his wife Shirley, and Melissa DuBose Blackwell and her husband Chris, all from Greenville, SC. She also has two great grandchildren, Lori and Lane of Greenville.

ANNA RUTH GREGORY
August 23, 1903 – October 30, 2006

Anna Ruth Gregory was born August 23, 1903 in Fountain Inn, South Carolina to Nora Crosby and Joseph Crosby. She passed away in Greenwood, South Carolina on October 30, 2006 at the age of 103.

In 1932 she married Rev. Jesse T. Gregory (who passed away in 1967) and her whole life was devoted to him and his work. He was in college and after he was assigned churches during his ministry, she was very active in each church they served. She held various positions such as Sunday School teacher, youth worker for many years, President of United Methodist Women, President of Senior Citizens Groups and many other positions. She often made childrens' costumes for Christmas plays and other functions. She had many hobbies such as sewing, knitting, crocheting and working in her yard.

After her husband retired, they joined Lowell Street United Methodist Church in Greenwood and after his death in 1967 she stayed very active, still attending regularly at 100 years old.

Ruth loved having fun and at Lowell Street Church she organized a little band of about 10 ladies. They played all kinds of fun instruments and performed all over the state. She had a few skits of her own she did, her favorite being Minnie Pearl (hat and all) which she was popular with.

She and her husband raised three children and is survived by a daughter Myra Ballard and son-in-law Jim Ballard of Greenwood, a daughter-in-law Grace O'Sullivan of New York, and several grand and great grand children. She was pre-deceased in death by a son, James W. O'Sullivan.

– Myra G. Ballard, Daughter

ALMA WILLIAMS JENKINS
August 12, 1912 – November 27, 2006

Mrs. Alma Williams Jenkins, 94, quietly and peacefully made her transition from time to Eternity on November 27, 2006 in Atlanta, Georgia. Born to the late Robert Betterson Williams and Theodocia Elizabeth Wright Williams in Allendale County, South Carolina on August 12, 1912, and originally from Orangeburg, South Carolina, Alma recently moved to Decatur, Georgia with her family.

The third of eleven children, Alma was baptized at the age of two. While her family lived in Allendale and Bamberg, she attended public schools in both cities and graduated from Marlboro Training School in Bennettsville, South Carolina. After earning a teaching certificate from Voorhees Junior College, Alma immediately began to pursue her life's work as an educator. She later completed her education, earning a B.S Degree in Education from Claflin College and a Masters Degree from South Carolina State University.

For fifty-nine years, Alma shared a happy and prosperous marriage with the late Rev. Warren Marion Jenkins, a pastor and district superintendent in the United Methodist Church. While her husband served the church as a clergyperson, Alma served the community as a public school educator. During their ministry in Evanston, Illinois, Alma found Special Education as her passion. After six years in Illinois they returned to South Carolina. Alma continued teaching Special Education in the public school system and also at South Carolina State University until 1984, and retired after forty-one years of service.

Alma and Warren are the parents of one daughter, Patricia Elaine Jenkins Dalton (Patrick) of Macon, Georgia; two grandchildren- Alma E. Walton (Eric) and Sherman Jones; eight great grandchildren- Shaanel, James Edward, Tia, Jaquenten, Javon, Isis, William Sherman III, and Harken; one sister - Ernestine W. Robinson (Rev. J.W.) of Orangeburg, South Carolina who now resides in Decatur, Georgia; and two sisters-in-laws -Ruth C. Williams, Washington, D. C. and Lena P. Williams, Lynchburg, Virginia. She leaves many nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends to cherish her memory.

EUNICE BAKER KEMMERLIN
December 13, 1912 – June 20, 2006

Eunice Baker Kemmerlin from the little town of Harleyville met Thomas Kemmerlin from Bowman in a French class at the University of South Carolina. It was love at first sight but she refused to date him because he was, she later said, always drunk. She was a devout Methodist and he was only arguably a Christian, but she kept reforming him and he became a Christian with all the fervor of a convert and became a Methodist Minister. Over the years they had four children: Thomas, Jr., Anne, Bee and Jean. Thomas and Eunice became partners with a major aim toward seeing all four children through college, which they accomplished by her teaching school most of the years he preached. They bought a home at Murrell's Inlet where they enjoyed a long life together, celebrating their sixty-fifth wedding anniversary with both of them still in good health. Eunice was also the partner of Thomas in his church work. She played piano and pump organ at many of his small churches and was always active in the work of the women of the church. She ran an open house and there was always a cake or pie for winter church meetings which were usually at the parsonage. Hers was a simple faith; she never doubted that she would see in Heaven her mother and her husband. The last two years of her life when she was not always aware of who she was, she would sing hymns throughout the day and she knew all verses including the fifth one!

– Thomas Kemmerlin, Jr.

ANNIE SUE HOPKINS KIRKLEY
February 28, 1924 – October 9, 2006

Annie Sue Hopkins Kirkley, widow of Reverend Charles Kirkley, passed from this world on October 9, 2006. After a long battle with Alzheimer's disease, Sue was set free to receive her reward in heaven with those she loved who have gone before.

Born and reared in Hartsville, South Carolina, Sue was the youngest of Zora and James Hopkins' five children. As a youth, Sue had a strong love for Jesus Christ and was a faithful member of Twitty United Methodist Church in Hartsville. Later, she fell in love and married Charles Kirkley who had been called into the ministry after serving in World War II.

Sue was honored to be called the "Preacher's wife" and dedicated her life to being the best in her supportive role. Her life epitomized a servant ministry. She played the piano and organ, sang in and assisted with choirs, helped organize and teach in Vacation Bible schools and youth groups. She willingly assisted in whatever capacity she was needed. During their forty-seven years in the ministry, she delighted in opening her home to the church membership and opening her arms to share in life's experiences of the church family. Moving from place to place, establishing a new home with each move, and meeting new people seemed to renew her spirit and provide more opportunity for service. She lived her role not for praise or recognition but for her Lord, her husband and the ministry that they shared.

Sue is survived by two daughters, Suzette Kirkley (Wayne) Catoe of Florence and Beverly Kirkley (Jack) Campbell of Hartsville, three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

– Suzette Kirkley Catoe

MARY NITA BERRY LEE
March 13, 1916 – March 24, 2007

God spoke to Joshua, "I will never leave you, nor forsake you." Jesus said these words of assurance to his disciples, "Because I live, you too shall live." As a child of God and a believer in God's Son, Jesus, as her Savior, Mary Nita Berry Lee trusted that these words were meant also for her. This enabled her to say to her children, "I am not afraid to die," but in honesty, acknowledged, "I dread going through the dying process." This dear valiant lady passed from death into life eternal eleven days after her ninety-first birthday.

Nita was born in Pacolet, S.C., the daughter of Heber Wylie and Ollie Kirby Berry. She spent her childhood years in Pacolet and attended elementary school there. In her early teens,

she moved with her family to Union, S.C., where she attended the high school and met Michael Boyd Lee whom she married on June 19, 1937.

Mike and Nita were members of Bethel Methodist Church when Mike felt the call of God to ministry. Nita eagerly committed herself to serving along side him as a helpmate and became a dedicated pastor's wife. She enhanced Mike's work and welcomed people of all ages to the parsonage. The Rev. Dr. Jim Hunter said at Nita's funeral, "She was blessed with the gift of hospitality and well-known as a wonderful cook." Nita served the people of the church and community to which they were assigned in any way that she could.

A Service of Death and Resurrection to celebrate Nita's life was held at Mike's home church, Bogansville United Methodist on March 27, 2007 conducted by Rev. Gary Peterson, Rev. David Nichols, Rev. Dr. James Hunter, and Rev. Dr. John Stapleton. Nita was the Mother of seven children: Mary Frances Cantrell, Michael Lee, Sidney Williams, Lewis Lee, Harriett Rucker, Mason Lee, and Dr. Franklin Lee. She also was survived by numerous in-laws, grand and great grandchildren, and one brother, Milan Berry. Those who loved her dearly will miss her physical presence but will always have wonderful memories of her in their hearts.

– Mary Frances Lee Cantrell

DAISY EVANGELINE SEWELL MIMS April 30, 1915 – March 18, 2007

Mrs. Daisy Evangeline Sewell Mims answered the call of her heavenly Father, completing her earthly journey on Sunday, March 18, 2007. Born April 30, 1915, in Greenville, SC, she was the youngest daughter and the last surviving family member of the late William R. and Lila Lomax Sewell.

A graduate of Sterling High School, Mrs. Mims received the Bachelor of Science Degree from South Carolina State University, Orangeburg, SC. She also completed further studies at North Carolina Central and South Carolina State Universities. Mrs. Mims was an educator and taught in the public schools of Greenville County for many years. Her many contributions in time, talent, personality and hard work cannot be measured except as they live on in the lives of those whom she taught so well. She retired June 4, 1974. Mr. Mims held affiliations with the National Education Association, the South Carolina Education Association, and the Greenville County Education Association, Retired.

Mrs. Mims lived a very full and meaningful life in support of her beloved husband, the late Reverend Harold O. Mims, Sr., as a homemaker for her family, and through her work in the community as a pastor's wife to many churches. After her husband's retirement from the South Carolina United Methodist Conference, Mrs. Mims was re-affiliated with John United Methodist Church where she served faithfully in the church school, the United Methodist Women and the WEL Club.

A sweet and gentle spirit, Mrs. Mims leaves to cherish her life through tender and fond memories, one beloved son, Harold O. Mims, Jr., daughter in-law Dorothy Barksdale Mims, grandchildren Meredith Mims Fleming (Antoine) and Allison Michelle Mims; great-grandsons John Harold Fleming and Spencer Maurice Fleming; sisters-in-law Areatha M. Andrews, Helen Turner, Hattie Jackson, and Vernelle Alston (J.O.), as well as nieces, nephews, and dear friends.

OPAL PENDLETON 1912 – June 12, 2006

Opal Pendleton was a long time member of Bethel United Methodist Church in Spartanburg. She was the loving mother of Lanie and Bill, and the supporting wife of the late Reverend William Wesley Pendleton. Opal felt a "calling" in being the wife of an Army Chaplain. She understood the nature of ministry and its calling better than most people. Opal's love of the Bible was evident.

Opal smiled every time she spoke of her family. Her family brought a wellspring of joy. Although Opal's health was not the best in recent years, I never heard her complain beyond reason about it. She understood what was happening but her faith in God was resolute.

Opal was a beloved member of Bethel Church. The Senior Adult Council, under the

leadership of Reverend and Mrs. Robert Strother, dedicated itself faithfully to visit Opal. Members frequently would ask, "How is Opal?" She is now well with her everlasting God. She had valued friendships with so many people.

Opal often asked me to read from the Holy Bible since she had lost her eyesight some years ago. Opal found God in the hearing of the Word. Hearing the words of the Bible brought her real joy and peace. Everything about Opal was a living breathing testament to that truth.

We have our memories of "Mama." Opal was a fine Christian lady. We celebrate Opal's new life in Christ in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection.

– David B. Smith

BILLIE ADAIR ROBINSON
September 5, 1932 – December 25, 2006

Mrs. Billie Adair Robinson was the widow of Rev. Robert H. Robinson. Billie was born in Gastonia, North Carolina on September 5, 1932 to the parents of Theodore and Margie Weaver Adair. She died in Easley, South Carolina on December 25, 2006. Billie was the mother of Robert H. Robinson, Jr. and J. Scott Robinson. She was the grandmother of Erica, Trey, Paige, and Brittany.

Billie Robinson lived life "practicing what she preached." Billie's daily motto was "to take one day at a time." This saying served her well as a daughter, sister, friend, minister's wife, working-mother, caregiver, and two-time survivor of cancer.

Billie was a constant supporter of her husband's ministry. Her testimony to others was, "You can't out-give God." No guest departed from her home with empty hands. She offered the visitors unexpected gifts of grace. As a mother, she was a source of comfort and care. During difficult times, she'd say "misery loves company." Like Christ, she lessened the pain by sharing in the sorrow.

"One half of the world doesn't realize how the other half lives." Billie used these words to raise awareness to our neighbor's struggles, and to encourage us to take time to "count our blessings."

"No one knows what goes on behind the other person's closed door." These words were Billie's invitation to examine one's own personal life, rather than standing in judgment of others. Her daily prayer was, "God protect me from my own ignorance."

Billie Robinson lived life "practicing what she preached."

– Scott Robinson