

SECTION VIII
RECORD OF REMEMBRANCE

Retired Ministers

Ralph Alston Cannon
James Chadwick Davis
J. Claude Evans
Henry Franklin Flowers
Duncan Leroy Floyd
Willis Timothy Goodwin
John Thomas Hayes
David Wilton Holder
Denver Steedley Lee
Walter Edwin McDaniel
John Frederick Norwood
Buford Hayes Robertson, Sr.
Amos Nathaniel Rogers
William Fletcher Rogers, Jr.
Lewis Ramey Sherard
John David Williams

Spouses

Dorothy Inez Hemker Gamble
Eura Vernelle Stone Gavalas
James William Jenkins, Jr.
Audrey Novella Woodard McNeill
Dorothy Joree King Pittman
Roselyn Craig Pridgen
Martha Bayne Mallary Taylor

Surviving Spouses

Susie Frances Burns Bedenbaugh
Pauline Adams Boggs
Clara Burnette Bolt
Rosa Rumph Cunningham
Sara Clois Vickery Black Emory
Maxilla Everett Evans
Laura Elizabeth Heyward Gregg
Eliza Blake Nelson
Alberta Swinnie Parker
Grace Helen Nunn Poston
Patricia Ann Gullis Price
Violet F. Tyler

Others

Emeline Ruth Meadows

RETIRED MINISTERS

RALPH ALSTON CANNON

March 5, 1929 – February 25, 2008



Ralph Alston Cannon was born March 5, 1929, in Spartanburg, South Carolina, son of Eulalie Earle and John Burns Cannon. He was a 1950 graduate of Wofford College, having been elected to Phi Beta Kappa, the Senior Order of Gnomes, and Blue Key. In 1953 he received a B.D. degree from Yale Divinity School in New Haven, Connecticut and married his Yale classmate, Mildred (Mimi) Bowers from Hagerstown, Maryland. They took pride in their three children, Cynthia, Jeffrey, and Teresa.

In 1965, at the young age of 36, Wofford College awarded him the Doctor of Divinity degree for “an interest in scholarship that does not stop with graduation; a continuing academic growth; a keen conscience, both social and personal; and an ability to speak and act vigorously, clearly and tactfully in behalf of

Christian principles in twentieth century society.”

His appointments in the South Carolina Conference were Chesnee Circuit; St. James, Spartanburg; Bethel, Bethune; Hibben, Mt. Pleasant; Trinity, Darlington; Trinity, Sumter; St. John's, Rock Hill; Lyttleton Street, Camden; and St. Matthew, Greenville. The retirement years as a member of Bethel, Charleston, provided many opportunities to continue teaching and preaching.

Ralph said he would rather preach and prepare to preach than any other duty. In response to requests, transcripts of his sermons were offered to his congregations, and distributed on a subscription basis across the United States. A selection of them appeared in book form under the title *Faith of a Fiddler*. After his retirement, the 41-year complete collection of sermons was bequeathed to the Yale Divinity School Library.

He has written for Christian Century, Methodist curriculum resources, and the General Board of Temperance, receiving a special citation in 1958 from that board, “for a unique and scholarly analysis of sex exploitation on the newsstands of America.” He was widely known for timely and insightful messages which appeared each week on his church bulletins and were printed monthly in the South Carolina United Methodist Advocate under the title “Cannonaids.” To quote an Advocate editor, he made “the profound appear simple and the deeply theological a matter of common understanding.” A sampling of these columns was published as “Jots and Tittles.”

His wider ministry included Registrar of the Board of Ministry, Chairperson of the Board of Education, Board of Christian Social Concerns, S.C. Christian Action Council, S.C. Christian-Jewish Committee, and Claffin Campaign; and Trustee of the S.C. United Methodist Advocate and Spartanburg Methodist College. It was his privilege to serve on the merger committee as it began the work of uniting two conferences that had been racially divided. He was also President of Ministerial Associations and active with the South Carolina Mental Health Association and Rotary Club.

He was an instructor at pastors' schools and lay schools in the fields of youth ministry, leadership training, Christian education, social ethics, clergy training and qualifications, race relations, world peace, United Methodism, and theology.

Ralph served the South Carolina Conference in many beyond-the-parish ministries. He was elected six times by his clergy peers to represent them at the General and Jurisdictional Conferences from 1972 to 1992. A lifelong friend wrote “that he involved himself in everything important, everything creative and controversial”; that, “year after year, he was the choice of his colleagues to represent them, their livelihood, their passion and their destiny at the General Conference; that he did it all with what outwardly appeared to be a comfortableness and easiness; always prepared, always ready, thinking ahead.”

“The Lord equipped me by nature to be a scholar,” he once wrote, “to study, then tell what I have learned; to interpret, to help people understand-I was a rabbi, a scribe, but with a Christian credo.”

JAMES CHADWICK DAVIS
April 27, 1934 – October 1, 2007



The Reverend James Chadwick Davis was born in North Charleston, South Carolina, a son of Felix Charles Davis and Elizabeth Jackson Davis. In 1957 he married Faye Hughes of North Charleston. He is survived by two daughters, Amanda Faye Davis Barnes and husband Ben of Beaufort; Melissa Jane Davis Mandell and husband David of Beaufort; son James Chadwick Davis Jr. and wife Nancy Lewis Davis of Atlanta. He has six grandchildren.

He grew up in the Garco Village and graduated from North Charleston High School in 1952. He was a graduate of the College of Charleston (1956) and the Candler School of Theology (1959). While a student at the College of Charleston, he was organizing pastor of Dorchester Road UMC (now Cokesbury). After graduation, he served as pastor at Laurel Bay (1959-1963); Union UMC, Irmo (1963-1968); Aldersgate, Sumter (1968-1971) and Trinity UMC, Charleston (1971-1975). He was District Superintendent of the Columbia District from 1975-1981. Then he continued to serve as pastor at Bethel UMC, Spartanburg (1981-1989) and Central UMC, Florence (1989-1999).

He was one of the early heart transplant recipients at MUSC in August 1993. Following his successful transplant, he worked tirelessly as an advocate for organ donation and counselor for transplant recipients. His friend, Reverend Bob Howell, who claimed Chad was his mentor, said "After his transplant, Chad found renewed energy and renewed calling. He attacked the ministry with the abandon of a condemned inmate who had received a Governor's pardon. The best work he did in Florence was the work following the heart transplant. He knew better than any of us what it meant when the Bible said that a man died that we might live. He had experienced that first hand, and determined to make his life worthy of the sacrifice that the family of Jason Yandle made to give him a new heart. His renewed commitment was renewing for me as well."

Chad was instrumental in forming Lighthouse Ministries in Florence. He has also served as a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity and as a chaplain for Hospice of Charleston. He is credited with launching a master plan at Central UMC, Florence, where the Davis Christian Life Center is named for him and Faye. Rev Tom Pietila, his successor at Central, said "Chad was a real visionary for this church. He worked with leaders of the church to plan for the future. The work he did has really been fruitful and right on target. Chad was a pastoral kind of fellow who was sensitive to the needs of the congregation. He was a leader who knew how important the master plan would be down the road. He knew that expansion would be important. So, what we have here now is his initial vision." Ralph Porter, former Florence police chief said: "Chad was a fine fellow who gave hope to a lot of people."

His strength was in his humility, but also in his determination to take a stand for what was right.

Mention must be made of his love of sports. He had played golf, baseball, football, racquetball, and even half rubber. He also had a wonderful sense of humor. When someone told him he was looking good, often he would reply, with a twinkle in his eye, "Looks never was my problem!" He loved people and connected with the young and the old. He accepted people the way they were, enjoyed being with them, and loved them into being better. He touched the lives of countless people, as witnessed by the mountain of thank-you-notes he received and saved.

He could differ with people and still remain friends. His friend, Bill Kinnett said, "The time I spent with him on the Tullis Cabinet was rich. He was always a trusted colleague, and at times a worthy adversary. We would fight during a cabinet meeting and then go have lunch together." Talmage Skinner said: "Chad was the one who would always hear me out and tell me the truth as he saw it. He always saw the possibilities in people and situations rather than the weaknesses and problems. He called himself a Deep Water Methodist. I call him a Deep Faith Methodist who never got so holy that he lost his humanity."

His idea of keeping up with modern technology never went beyond using a calculator.

Chad continued his ministry well beyond his official retirement. He served temporarily at John Wesley UMC, Charleston. He also conducted finance campaigns for several churches. In 2005 and 2006 he was instrumental in forming a new congregation on Ladys Island near Beaufort which is now the Waters Edge UMC mission. He was pastor emeritus at Trinity UMC, Charleston, where he attended in retirement.

He continues even after death, to serve others through the donation of his body to medical science for research and education.

Words cannot express how deeply he will be missed by family and friends. They were blessed to have known him while he was alive and know that he has received his heavenly reward.

J. CLAUDE EVANS

February 5, 1917 – September 7, 2007



J. Claude Evans was born in Anderson, South Carolina, on February 5, 1917, a son of the late Joseph Manley and Mary Ligon Evans. He graduated from Wofford College in 1937 and Duke Divinity School in 1940 and received an honorary doctorate from Wofford College. A member of the South Carolina Methodist Conference, he served as associate pastor for Washington Street Methodist Church in Columbia, South Carolina, and pastor at McCormick Methodist Church before joining the Navy and serving as a chaplain in the South Pacific during World War II. After that he was the minister for Methodist churches in Walhalla (Saint Luke's) and Clemson, South Carolina, and then editor of the *South Carolina Methodist Advocate* from 1952-57, during which time he also served as interim pastor in the founding year of Trenholm Road UMC in Columbia. In 1957 he accepted a position as

Chaplain to the University at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas which he held until 1982. In 1975, he and his wife of 67 years, Maxilla, built a home in Waynesville, North Carolina, where they lived full time from 1982 until 2003 when they moved to Asheville. In Waynesville, Claude worked as a family counselor and a columnist for the Waynesville *Mountaineer*. He also starred in the Haywood Arts Regional Theater production of *Foxfire* in 1992. In addition to his wife, he is survived by four children: Sara, Claude Jr., Robert, and John, and two grandchildren.

Throughout his career, Claude Evans spoke out on the issue of racial inequality and in the latter years on issues of gender, economic injustice, reproductive choice, and gay rights as well. He was renowned for preaching a sermon at Washington Street Church in 1942 that challenged the biological idea of race and called on South Carolinians at war with fascism to live up to their own democratic ideals by abolishing the white primary. Banned from that pulpit, he and Maxilla were moved to McCormick, but the experience only confirmed his commitment to generate conversations about issues of social justice throughout his career. Many in the South Carolina Conference remember his prophetic role and relied on him for support, seeing him as "a pastor to pastors." Claude was the kind of person who could maintain close personal friendships despite deep disagreements because he listened deeply and respectfully. His own views were expressed with courage and conviction but without self-righteousness, always looking for the common ground. In the 1980s and 1990s, his columns were often very personal, including a series in 1999 in which he used the occasion of his diagnosis with dementia to explore this issue, its many causes, and its impact on someone whose verbal abilities and mental acuity had been central to his life. Many felt spoken for when he wrote, and he in turn found that breaking this silence opened the door to waves of loving support from both family and community. As he wrote in one of his last columns, "The God I know is the God who holds us in being. That's why dementia is not the terror it's supposed to be. I'm still held in existence by God.... Just as I was not prepared for life, yet found myself alive, my faith is I'll be surprised in death - and I'll like it."

The courage with which Claude Evans faced his final years and the gentle humor and sweetness that marked his presence at Givens Health Center in his last 2 years reflected decades of work to make the world a better place.

HENRY FRANKLIN FLOWERS
November 27, 1929 – February 22, 2008



Our family agrees that this is what Henry would say:

As I remember back to Spartanburg, South Carolina and my very meager beginnings, my mother, Lottie Sullivan, comes to mind; she loved me and my siblings but died at an early age of cancer. My dad, Vernon Flowers, was father to Buddy, Bill, and Jack, they were great brothers; I am with them now. My sister Dorothea Poindexter still lives in Vinton, Virginia; what a beautiful and genteel woman she is. "I love you, Dot". We didn't have much but we had each other. When mom died we all went our separate ways.

I took a job at a motel where I rented and cleaned rooms in exchange for a room. I was able to finish high school and was accepted at Young Harris Jr. College, Georgia. Maude Potts took me in; thank goodness! I joined the Marines while at school and then landed in the middle of the Korean Conflict. I was one of the elite "Frozen Chosin" where I somehow survived. I received a purple heart, 5 battle stars, many citations and was honorably discharged. I returned to college and later graduated. I was accepted to Birmingham Southern where Mr. and Mrs. Kent McWilliams took me in. Next, I attended Duke University Divinity School. I have a vivid memory of how the divinity intramural football team always beat the regular intramural team. I also remember the weeding out process; I never lost my faith!!!! My Duke endowment placed me in Cullowhee. I met Marie Roberts, courted her, and later married her. Marie had the most beautiful voice. We were a ready pair to do God's work. "Marie, I appreciate so much you making a home for our family wherever God sent us."

My Methodist journey: The following made me the circuit rider that I was. I feel I was gifted with humor and patience and I believe I was graced with the art of oratory.

In North Carolina:

Oxford – I was Chaplain at the Masonic Orphanage.

Central, Asheville – I was an associate pastor; how I loved the ritual of this big church.

Bethpage, Kannapolis – My first church. Kannapolis became my hometown. My daughter Julia Marie was born here. "Julie, I was proud to be your Dad." My family acquired life long family friends in Joe and Gladys Ervin.

Oakview, High Point - My son Hal Timothy was born here. "Hal, I was proud to be your Dad."

Skyland, Asheville - This is where I became a member of the freemasons.

Oxford - I was assistant superintendent (1971-1973) and then superintendent (1973-1974) of the Masonic Orphanage. I was a speaker and a fundraiser for this worthy cause.

French Broad, Asheville - I volunteered here for \$300.00 a month.

Haywood Street, Asheville - Back in the conference again.

Fair Grove, Thomasville - I became lost here hoping to be found.

Intermission - Florida and somewhere near Bennettsville, South Carolina - This is where I began writing my 3 books: *Discovery*, *Heartbursts* and *Stones by the River*.

Found!! Starting over in the South Carolina Conference !!!

Surfside - I was associate pastor.

St. Johns and Lebanon, Norway - Quintessential South Carolina

St. Pauls Waccamaw, Litchfield - My daughter was married here to Stacy Lewis, "Stacy, your open mind and heart meant so much to me". My grandson David was born while I was here. "David, I never tired of being called "Papa Flowers". I am so honored and humbled to have been part of building and leading this loving church for 9 years. Thanks for all the golf, fellas!!

Retirement - "Why did I retire?" I came back to Kannapolis and was diagnosed with Lupus. I presided over my son's second marriage to Susan, "Susan, thank you for loving my son." I married Helen Perdue of Thomasville, North Carolina. "Helen, you took the greatest care of me until my death. I was proud to be your husband."

DUNCAN LEROY FLOYD
February 10, 1923 – April 10, 2008



Duncan Leroy Floyd, the son of Jennings J. and Maude M. Floyd was born in Olanta, South Carolina, February 10, 1923. He graduated from Olanta High School and attended Claflin College and the Conference Course of Study.

There were two children from his first marriage: a son, David of Atlanta, Georgia and a daughter, Marie Bragg, of Springfield, Georgia. He married Peggy Granger of Greenville, South Carolina.

Duncan served the following appointments: Jamestown (1954), Dorchester (1956), Black Swamp (1958), Main Street Bamberg (1961), Union Charge (1965), Ashland-Hebron (1968), Marlboro Charge (1970), Greeleyville (1974), Rowensville (1976), Pinewood (1980), Lockhart-Wesley Chapel (1984), Hartsville-Tillman (1988), and Dunean (1990). He retired in 1991.

Duncan is survived by his wife, Peggy, his two children and a sister, Mary Nell Brown of Bishopville, South Carolina. We are grateful for the ministry of this servant of God.

WILLIS TIMOTHY GOODWIN
September 2, 1935 – December 10, 2007



The Reverend Willis Timothy Goodwin was born in Charleston County on September 2, 1935 and departed this life on December 10, 2007 in the Medical University Hospital, Charleston, South Carolina after a brief illness.

In 1961, Rev. Goodwin graduated from Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Georgia after receiving his undergraduate degree from Claflin University, Orangeburg, South Carolina. He received an Honorary Doctorate from Teamer School of Religion.

Rev. Goodwin's zeal for the ministry has served him as pastor in the following locations within the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church: Midway Charge-Bamberg; Minus Chapel-Greenville; Easley Charge-Easley; The Johns Island Parish-Johns Island; Emmanuel-Sumter; New Francis Brown & Washington-North Charleston.

In 2001, Rev. Goodwin retired after serving 47 years in active ministry. At the time of his demise, he was pastoring as a retired supply at Centenary UMC in Moncks Corner.

Ever cognizant of the plight of the less fortunate, Rev. Goodwin made it a point to take the ministry from behind the pulpit into the communities, and did not limit his ministry to places in which he served but his work extended around the world. Rev. Goodwin's participation and contributions in church and civic life includes: testifying before the United States Senate Subcommittee on the health and plight of the Migrant and Seasonal farm workers, preaching at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC during the bi-centennial, conducting leadership training in West Africa. He has toured Central America, The Philippines, Appalachia, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Belize, Caribbean Islands, and The Dominican Republic. At the time of his illness, he was planning to visit Harper City, Liberia as special guest of The Liberian Annual Conference of the UMC.

Rev. Goodwin was the founder of the following institutions that continue to exist today: Rural Missions Inc. the Sea Island Comprehensive Health Care Corp. Island Oaks residential living center (formerly Hermenia Traeye Nursing Home), The Small Farmers Cooperation, The Phoebe Taylor Health Center, The Wadmalaw Island Community Center, Wadmalaw Island. While serving Emmanuel UMC in Sumter he constructed the W.T. Goodwin Family Life Center. His most recent accomplishments were:

- The Twin City Outreach Mission located in North Charleston to serve the needs of the city and surrounding areas
 - Serving as Senior Advisor at the South Carolina World Trade Center in Charleston
 - Appointment by Gov. Mark Sanford to the Commission Board of Human Affairs
- Rev. Goodwin loved people. He had a great sense of humor and enjoyed laughing with others while making them feel comfortable and contented. He had the ability to inspire affection and admiration in everyone he met.

Among Rev. Goodwin's many survivors is his wife of 46 years, Eartha Dowling Goodwin, two sons: Irvin M. Goodwin of Chester, South Carolina and Quentin W. Goodwin of Charlotte, North Carolina; two daughter-in-laws, two granddaughters, one brother, two sisters, and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his oldest son, John Wesley Timothy, in 2005.

"Servant of God, Well Done!"

JOHN THOMAS HAYES
May 11, 1928 – August 18, 2007



The Reverend John Thomas Hayes, the son of the late Samuel Whitaker and Willie Sarah Hayes, was born in Anderson, South Carolina, May 11, 1928. He died peacefully on Saturday, August 18, 2007. His life spanned over seventy-nine years, forty-seven as a minister in the South Carolina Conference. John married Sarah Margaret Dickerson on August 3, 1951. They had three children: John Thomas (Tom), born March 10, 1953, David Dennis, born July 29, 1956, and Paul Durham, born June 29, 1960. John and Sarah's faith and commitment to Christ lives on in their children and everyone they touched in the ministry together.

In 1949, at the age of twenty-one, John began his ministry at Hopewell (Walhalla), Chicopee-Zion (Walhalla), Latimer Memorial (Belton), Traveler's Rest-Renfrew, Unity-Sardis (Union), St. Luke (Hartsville), Laurens Road (Greenville), St. James (Spartanburg), St. Mark (Greenville). In 1976, John was appointed to the Alston Wilkes Society where he served for three years. In 1979, he became a Director of the Pre-Trial Intervention Program for Spartanburg and Cherokee counties. John continued to work for Christ, touching lives by his genuine love and his warm expressions. His concern for people and his sacrificial nature brightened the lives of all. On June 3, 1992, John retired from the South Carolina Conference, but he never retired from being a minister.

In his retirement, he served Faith (Greer), Cherokee Springs (Spartanburg), Salem (Cowpens), St. Andrews (Clifton), and Loree (Wellford). John's charge conference was held at Lyman United Methodist Church where he faithfully attended with his lifelong partner in ministry, Sarah.

John and Sarah touched the lives of people every day by sharing the love of Christ. Their presence filled us with genuine love. John's contagious laughter and smile will live on forever in each of us. He was faithful to the ministry for 47 years. John was always there to bring the sense of God's presence when needed. His faith and commitment to Christ was remarkable. John's favorite hymn was "Blessed Assurance"; he was constantly assured of the saving grace of God. John embraced and was embraced by God on Saturday, August 18, 2007, and he is assured of eternal salvation. We can truly say of John Hayes, "Well done good and faithful servant."

Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood. This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior, all the day long; this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long. (Fanny Crosby)

– Jay Hatchell

DAVID WILTON HOLDER
February 6, 1928 – October 25, 2007



The Reverend David Wilton Holder was born on February 6, 1928 in Spartanburg, South Carolina, a son of James Herbert Holder and Frances Elizabeth Wilkins Holder. He attended Spartanburg City Schools, Spartanburg Methodist College, University of South Carolina, Emory University Course of Study and Advanced Course of Study.

On July 30, 1948, he married Madora Bonner Holder of Spartanburg, South Carolina. Children are: David Len Holder, born May 24, 1950 and Denise Elaine Holder Jones, born June 23, 1954. He served in the United States Army in the Philippines and worked with the United States Postal Service before entering the Ministry.

The Reverend David Wilton Holder was Licensed to Preach on February 24, 1958; Ordained Deacon on June 22, 1960; Ordained Elder on June 14, 1962; Received in Full Connection in 1966.

Appointments Served: Cherokee Roads (Sardis and Gethsemane) Gaffney-Spartanburg District, 1958; Asbury-Fairmont 1959-Spartanburg District; Asbury 1960; Walnut Grove 1960-Spartanburg District; Rehoboth 1964-Columbia District; Lynwood-Trinity-Rock Hill District 1968; Inman-Spartanburg District, 1971; Dunean-Greenville District, 1975; On Disability Leave, 1976-1978; Drayton-Spartanburg District, 1978-1981; Disability Leave, 1981. He retired in 1993 to Spartanburg, South Carolina.

David loved life and shared the Love of God with those that he came in contact with in the Churches and community and he continued this until October 20, 2007 when he sustained a left hip fracture and underwent the surgery to correct it. He then passed away on October 25, 2007, in the hospital.

The Service of Christian Worship for David Wilton Holder was held at J.F. Floyd's Greenlawn Mortuary in Spartanburg, South Carolina on October 28, 2007 with an overflowing attendance of family and friends. The Reverend Jones Brewer, The Reverend David Ervin and The Reverend Dennis Lee participated in the Service.

– Madora Bonner Holder, Wife

DENVER STEEDLEY LEE
October 6, 1918 – May 2, 2008



Denver Steedley Lee, the son of Elijah and Lessie Holder Lee, was born in Pacolet, South Carolina, October 6, 1918. He died peacefully and entered the Church Triumphant on Friday, May 2, 2008.

Our father married Marie Hodge on July 1, 1939. The two of them were devoted partners in marriage for almost 69 years. They had three children: Wedrell Wayne, Dennis Ray, and Joyce Marie.

Dad was a graduate of Spartanburg Methodist College and Wofford College. He also attended Emory University. He was licensed to preach in 1940 and was ordained deacon in 1945 and elder in 1947. He served the Cross Anchor Charge, Galloway Memorial-Panola (Greenwood), Bethel (Rock Hill), Edgefield-Trenton-McKendree, St. John (Batesburg), Francis Asbury (Greenville), Brookland (West Columbia), Mount Dearborn-Bethesda (Great Falls), Kings Mountain Chapel-St. Paul (York), and (after retiring) Bethlehem-Foster's Chapel (Jonesville).

Dad served on various conference boards and committees. They included the World Peace Committee, Board of Evangelism, Conference Relations Board, Board of Pensions, Board of Insurance, and Ministerial Affairs Executive Committee. The Credit Union had special meaning to him. He was a charter member and served on the Board of Directors from 1962-2000. He greatly enjoyed the relationship he had with fellow directors and the credit union staff.

Our father was active in civic and community clubs and organizations. He received the Lions International Service Award, the Batesburg Chamber of Commerce Service Award, and the White House Conference Special Award. After retiring, he and our mother were dedicated volunteers for Mobile Meals of Spartanburg County, delivering meals to people in Pacolet.

Daddy lived a full life. He was a man of zest, zeal and emotion. He was outgoing and made friends easily. He was witty and enjoyed sharing a laugh.

Daddy's favorite hobby was gardening. He once said that had he not felt called to ordained ministry, he would probably have been a farmer. He was well known for producing delicious vegetables and took great pleasure in sharing them with others. Over the years many neighbors, colleagues and friends received the fruits of his labors.

Our father was a churchman in the finest sense of the word. He loved God, loved God's church, and loved God's people. His ministry was one marked by great commitment and integrity. He was a faithful and effective preacher, administrator and spiritual leader. And he was particularly strong as a pastor to persons who were sick, grieving or in need.

To his family he was a loving son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He went to great lengths to host family gatherings and to nurture family relationships. Every member of the family was important to him.

He is missed. But he has left many of us with memories, experiences and examples of love, which if considered, can provide encouragement and direction for our own faith journey as we seek more and more to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

– *The Lee Children*

WALTER EDWIN MCDANIEL
April 25, 1921 – January 31, 2008



The Reverend Walter Edwin McDaniel was born April 25, 1921 in Anderson County, South Carolina. He was the son of Walter E. McDaniel, Sr. and Zelpha Hudgens McDaniel. He graduated from Pelzer High School. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree from Furman University and did postgraduate work at Emory University.

Walter married Mary Ellen Upton and had two sons: Walter E. "Dan" McDaniel, III of Greenville, South Carolina; Joseph "David" McDaniel of New Market, Alabama; and two grandsons, Walter E. IV and Joseph McDaniel.

Reverend McDaniel was a United States Army Ranger veteran and served during World War II. He received three purple hearts during combat and was a prisoner of war for fifteen months before making his escape.

Reverend McDaniel served many United Methodist churches, including Ebenezer, Greenville, Liberty, Gowansville; Bethel, Simpsonville; Buncombe Street, Greenville; Piedmont United Methodist, Piedmont; Montgomery Memorial, Pacolet Mills; Grace, Greer; Appalache; Appalache; St. Pauls, Ridgeland; and Zion in Lancaster.

Reverend McDaniel was active in the Ruritans and enjoyed: fishing and golfing. He was always interested in improving church properties: where he served. He did the actual work of carpentry and remodeling in several churches he served. Reverend McDaniel went to be with the Lord January 31, 2008.

During his thirty-two years in the ministry, Reverend McDaniel always put the church and his God First.

JOHN FREDERICK NORWOOD
November 4, 1926 – December 7, 2007



Having completed his earthly mission, the Reverend John Frederick Norwood, Sr., entered eternal rest on December 7, 2007. He was born on November 4, 1927 in Darlington, South Carolina, to the union of John Ruben Norwood, a Methodist minister, and Benzena McCurry Norwood, a public school teacher.

In 1948, Reverend Norwood answered the call to ministry. He graduated from Claflin College in Orangeburg and joined the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church.

In 1950, he was appointed to Rock Spring United Methodist Church in Chester County.

In 1954 he was appointed to Wesley United Methodist Church in Aiken, South Carolina. During this tenure he graduated from Gammon Theological Seminary. He met and married Zanthia Bush Norwood. Three children, John Jr., Iris, and Lydia were born to this union.

Reverend Norwood also served in the Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church. He was appointed pastor of Bowen United Methodist Church; Tuskegee, Alabama, and later, Superintendent of the Huntsville District of the United Methodist Church.

Upon completing these two assignments, he served briefly as interim president on Gammon Theological Seminary; Atlanta, Georgia (1968), prior to his appointment as Secretary of Finance of the United Methodist Church.

Throughout a ministry spanning fifty-two years, Reverend Norwood served church and community with a depth of commitment and compassion for people that endeared him to many. He was a pastor, leader, mentor and friend, generous with his time and resources.

He received local and national commendations, but his greatest joy came from helping people and leading them to Christ. Giving and serving was his mission; it is his legacy.

Though formally retired, he continued tirelessly in civic, community and ministerial involvement. He accepted pastordship of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Evanston, Illinois, where he worked over twenty years, and where, by his request, his funeral was held. Reverend Taurus Scurlock delivered the eulogy.

Reverend Norwood is survived by a son - John Frederick Norwood, Jr. (Linda), two daughters - Iris Williams (Lonnie), and Lydia Norwood. There are two surviving brothers - James D. Norwood (Bernice) and Nathaniel Norwood (Dorothy). Mildred Owens (Alton) is the only surviving sister. His five grandchildren are John Michael, Joshua, and Nichel Norwood; and Rachel and Leah Williams.

He was predeceased by his parents, Reverend and Mrs. John Ruben Norwood; four sisters; Juanita Rory, Geneva Norwood, Gertrude Lloyd, Lonzena Brown; and one brother, Charles Norwood.

– The Norwood Family

BUFORD HAYES ROBERTSON, Sr.
August 6, 1929 – September 30, 2007



Reverend Buford Hayes Robertson was the ninth child born to Elijah and Sophie Robertson in Pickens County, Alabama. He graduated from high school at age 16.

He became affiliated with the Macedonia CME Church at an early age. While there, he served as Church School Superintendent, junior steward and was licensed to preach at age 17. In addition to his father being a minister, he was one of three ordained ministers in his family. He then served as local pastor of that church and Summerville CME Church until he entered college for a year. Upon leaving college, he moved to Chicago, Illinois. It was while residing there that he enlisted in the United

States Marine Corps. He served in two wars--the Korean War and Vietnam War. He remained in the Marine Corps for 21½ years until retirement as Administrative First Sergeant in 1970. He also served as a Barber at Parris Island USMC for 15 years after retirement. He was a member of the first platoon of Black recruits trained at Parris Island, which is currently noted in a display at the Parris Island Museum.

He became a member of Hiram Lodge #469 in Beaufort, South Carolina. He received the 32° in Masonry at Ezra Consistory in Savannah, Georgia, and the 33° and final degree in Masonry in 1975 at the Supreme Council in Dallas, Texas. He was the only 339 Mason in Beaufort County. He then served as Worshipful Master of Hiram Lodge, President of the Shrine Club and District Deputy, Grand Masters of Masons, all over a period that spanned ten years.

He became a member of Wesley United Methodist Church in Beaufort, South Carolina in 1972. Soon after, he re-entered the ministry. Upon completion of United Methodist ministerial candidacy school he received his first appointment in 1986 to serve as pastor of the Fishers Chapel UMC church in Hardeeville, South Carolina and St. Stephens UMC in Ridgeland, South Carolina. He was ordained in the United Methodist Church in 1993. In 1995, he completed the course of study of the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. In 1996, he became pastor at Wesley United Methodist Church in Beaufort, South Carolina and Broomfield United Methodist Church, serving for three years. At the time of his death he was Pastor Emeritus at Wesley United Methodist Church. He was recently involved in on going efforts to preserve the heritage and history of Wesley United Methodist Church.

His community affiliations were numerous and included being a member of Beaufort County Zoning Committee; Beaufort County Voter Registration Commission; Beaufort County Tax Equalization Board. He also served as a Delegate to the State of South Carolina Democratic Convention; Beaufort City Council and Beaufort County Council as requested in religious capacity. He was Cluster Leader for the Walterboro District UMC, and willingly worked to aide organizations in the church including United Methodist Men, Administrative Board, Board of Trustees, and United Methodist Women. He was with Operation Good Neighbor from its beginning. He assisted the Chaplain at the United States Naval Hospital in Beaufort, South Carolina.

His legacy of love will be cherished by his loving and devoted wife of forty years, Alvesta Robertson; two daughters, Gail Robertson-Pinto (Jerry) of Newburgh, New York, Deborah Robertson-Ward (William) of Vidalia, Georgia; two sons, Jeffery Robertson of Athens, Georgia, Buford Robertson, Jr. of Dallas, Texas; three brothers, Robert Robertson (Mattie), Fay Robertson (Ruth), and Osie Robertson, two sisters, Vera Wright and Clovita Hill (Richard) all of Chicago, Illinois; three grandchildren, Rebecca and Danielle Pinto of Newburgh, New York and Shanece Terrell of Rock Hill, South Carolina; a total of 23 nieces and nephews as well as several cousins and a host of friends throughout the United States.

AMOS NATHANIEL ROGERS **June 6, 1931 – April 30, 2008**



Amos Nathaniel Rogers, was born June 6, 1931, in Cross, South Carolina, the second son of the late Reverend Samuel W. Rogers and the late Edna Smith Rogers.

Reverend Rogers received his early education in Berkeley County. He later attended Morris College in Sumter, South Carolina where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. While working on his undergraduate degree at Morris College, he worked transporting the College President and students. He obtained an Associate Degree in Theology from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. Due to his desire to learn and to be kept abreast of current events, he pursued additional courses of studies and attended numerous workshops to include the Bishop's School of Ministry, E.M.L.C. Pastor's School, Mason's

Shoe Company, Amway, Crisis Ministry, and the Board of the Ordained Ministry.

Reverend Rogers attended Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church which merged with Bethel United Methodist Church. He was an active member who heard and yielded to a voice that said,

"Go out into all the world and preach the gospel." He served as a leader as well as a pastor layman, Sunday School Superintendent, and Education Committee Member. As a minister, he served as pastor of Silas United Methodist Church in Eutawville from 1981 to 2001. Under his leadership, the congregation grew, the church was renovated, and many new auxiliaries were organized. He was involved in programs in the local churches where members discussed objectives and worked strategies to achieve these objectives. For example, goals were established for bringing more young people into the church via games, suppers, carnivals, creative expressions, etc. as well as religious programs.

Reverend Rogers was the owner of Rogers Auto Sales, a retired teacher of Berkeley County School District, a retired employee of South Carolina Department of Transportation, a retired instructor of Bonneau Vocational Center, and the Coordinator for Concentration Employment Program. He was an active community leader in the National Education Association, South Carolina Education Association, Jehovah Lodge #351, F.A.&M., American Legion, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Berkeley County Progressive League, and the Citizens of Berkeley County. He was a 32nd Degree Mason. He received recognition and awards for volunteer service with the Berkeley County Progressive League, the Citizens of Berkeley County, Cross Community Center, Berkeley County School System, Cross High School Advisory Council, Cross Community Center and other community organizations. Also, he was instrumental in lobbying with US Congressmen in naming the new community high school, Cross High School. Moreover, Rev. Rogers served his country through a tour of military duty in the United States Army.

Reverend Rogers served the community from his heart, so it was fitting and proper to forever recognize the accomplishments of this son of South Carolina. In September 2006, the Department of Transportation named the bridge in Berkeley County that forms the boundary between Lake Marion and Lake Moultrie along South Carolina Highway 45 "The Amos Nathaniel Rogers Bridge" in his honor.

Reverend Rogers was united in holy matrimony to the late Clara Jones Rogers. This union was blessed with four children. One child, Adelaide Rogers, preceded him to the grave.

He leaves to cherish his memories five children: Maryann Toone of Jersey City, NJ, Robert Gadsden (Loleatha) of Philadelphia, PA, Alphonso Rogers (Yvonne) of Cross, SC, Gwenevere Cynthia Elerby (Johnny) of Cross, SC and Nathalina Tolbert, Ed. D. (Barrett) of North Charleston, SC; one sister-in-law, Wilhelmina J. Rogers of Eadytown, SC; one brother-in-law, John E. Jones (Ella) of Montgomery, AL; one aunt, Ermine B. Rogers of Maryland; nine grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and other relatives and friends.

WILLIAM FLETCHER ROGERS, JR.
March 12, 1912 – January 30, 2008



Nicknamed "Ducky" by his family, Will was the sixth of seven children. He graduated from The Citadel, where he was the recipient of the prestigious John O. Wilson ring. (Later, he was to receive an Honorary Doctorate from his alma mater). Instead of the medical path he had anticipated, Will answered his call to the ministry. He graduated from The Candler School of Theology and started his mission service in Macon City, Georgia helping underprivileged children.

Later, at Scarritt College, Will met Agnes Dawsey. They were married in Brazil on August 22, 1940. They stayed and served as missionaries in Quarai, Carazinho, Santo Angelo, Cruz Alta, Natal, and Belem for the next 23 years. During this time, they built churches and parsonages, spread the Gospel on horseback and by car, and had five sons -- Bill, Paul, Cy, Sammy, and Johnny.

In 1963, Will and Agnes were appointed to Buffalo United Methodist Church, where they served until 1971 when they returned to Brazil. Three years later, Will and Agnes returned to

the United States to serve Gilbert and Rehoboth United Methodist Churches. In 1977, Will officially retired.

However, in 1982, he and Agnes traveled to the island of St. Vincent, which is in the West Indies, to serve as missionaries with their son Paul and his family.

In 1984, Will retired once again. Yet, in 1992, Will and Agnes accepted an appointment to Dunean UMC in Greenville. Finally, Will and Agnes retired for good in 1995. In 2000, they made a move to the Brooks Howell Home for Missionaries in Asheville, North Carolina, where Will eventually passed away. He spent a mere 95 years on this earth spreading the Good News. He was the first recipient of the Harry Denman Award for Evangelism.

Will is loved for his stories and his sense of humor. He is described as a humble man, but when he stood in the pulpit, he was a giant. He is survived by a brother, his wife, four of his five sons, five daughters-in-law, ten grandchildren, six grandchildren-in-law, and thirteen great-grandchildren, all of whom miss him dearly.

“Peace is going at a gallop in the midst of storms.”

– William F. Rogers, jr

“Yes, I have dreamed many dreams and God in His loving way has answered all of them in His own special way, making me much more joyful than I ever could have dreamed of being.”

– William F. Rogers, jr (1971)

LEWIS RAMEY SHERARD
March 29, 1930 – September 4, 2007



The Reverend Lewis Ramey Sherard was born March 29, 1930, in Abbeville County, South Carolina, a son of Samuel Wiley and Sallie Sue Ramey Sherard. His educational journey began on the family farm, nurtured by family, surrounded by learning experiences in farm life and historically rich Abbeville. Higher education began at nearby Erskine College in 1949, continuing at Wofford College with graduation in 1953. In Fall 1953, he received his License to Preach and entered The Divinity School, Duke University.

Graduating from Duke in 1956, Lewis began a forty year itinerancy that took him from South Carolina's Low Country to the Foothills. His first appointment was to Lodge Circuit, four Churches in Walterboro District. Arriving at Lodge he likely recalled continents

of Dr. Charles Allen during a Wofford “Religious Emphasis Week.” Recounting his experience with Methodist appointments, Dr. Allen said his first appointment was a five Church Circuit in Georgia: “Just about the time I figured out how to manage them, the Bishop took them away and gave me one Church. I do believe we have this system set up backwards!” After four years at Lodge, Lewis moved to Travelers Rest, a Station Church! He later served St. Paul, Spartanburg; Holly Hill; Herbert Memorial/Sampit, Georgetown; Trinity/Berea, Clio; St. Paul, Ninety Six; Epworth, Rock Hill; Lyman; and Mathews, Greenwood.

While serving Lodge, Lewis married Georgia Williams Britt, of McCormick County on June 15, 1958. At Annual Conference, August 1958, Lewis was ordained Elder and received into Full Membership. Throughout nearly a half century of marriage, the Churches they served benefited from this couple's united service to God, Church and Community. Three children -- Rebecca, Susan and Samuel -- enriched family life and ministry from Appointment to Appointment.

Service Lewis rendered beyond the Local Church testifies to his range of interests and leadership: Conference Board of Education; Commission on Archives and History (four years as Chairman); Board of Health and Welfare Ministries; and World Methodist Conferences as a Delegate in 1966, 1971 and 1981. Energetic and enterprising contributions to communities he served always resulted in leaving them better than when found. Ministry Lewis Sherard provided was steady, authentic, solid.

Lewis had scholarly interests but did not wear them “on his sleeve.” He was on a District Education Committee when a second printing of a facsimile issue of John Wesley's “A Collection of Psalms and Hymns” was released in 1977 by the Dalcho Historical Society of

Charleston. The original was printed in 1737 at Charleston by Lewis Timothy, colleague of Benjamin Franklin. John Wesley prepared the text, journeyed to Charleston and commissioned printing to support his work in Savannah. Lewis Sherard knew two copies of the original printing had been found (one now preserved in New York's Public Library, the other in the British Museum, London). Other copies might never be found, but Lewis Sherard was intrigued with the idea that Lewis Timothy's "Colonial Printing Office" -- or at least its former location -- could be found. On January 10, 2004, after years of research and continuing effort by the Conference Commission on Archives and History and Conference Historical Society, a marker was unveiled on Charleston's King Street (between Broad and Tradd) to identify the area where the "Printing Office" once stood. Lewis delighted in the achievement; a fragment of history had been uncovered; John Wesley's footsteps in Charleston had been recovered!

Lewis Sherard retired from Itinerant Ministry in 1995, not from ministry. To the day of his death, he was Minister of Visitation for Greenwood's Main Street United Methodist Church. Daughter Rebecca Sherard Winans wrote in a tribute to her father that quizzing him in the hospital about his favorite color, his response was "light." She later realized the significance of his response: he had not singled out a portion of the spectrum; he had named the sum of all colors. His physical life was near end, light of Heaven was already shining, a new life was dawning and Christ whom *he had* served faithfully approached to escort him to a new home. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never mastered it" (John 1: 5). Lewis Sherard preached that Gospel; he lived that Faith.

— Ted R. Morton, Jr.

JOHN DAVID WILLIAMS
July 4, 1924 – February 12, 2008



The Reverend John David Williams, husband of Alice Eulee Moseley Williams, died Tuesday, February 12, 2008. Born in Aynor, South Carolina, he was a son of the late Reverend Thomas Walker Williams and Sarah Lowrimore Williams. He was a United States Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, graduating from pilot training at Frederick, Oklahoma and serving in the Southwest Pacific area, including the occupation of Japan. Rev. Williams was a 1950 graduate of Watford College, receiving his A.B. degree. He attended Candler School of Theology and finished the Conference Course of Study. He was licensed to preach in 1947, became an ordained deacon in 1952, and an ordained elder in 1954. He was received into full membership of the South Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church in 1952, serving the following appointments: Kingstree Circuit, 1947; Camp Croft, 1947-48; Chesnee, 1949-50;

Associate, St. Paul, Orangeburg, 1950-51; Norway, 1951-55; Mullins Circuit, 1955-59; First Methodist, Latta, 1959-63; Wayne, Georgetown, 1963-67; Duncan Memorial, Spartanburg, 1967-73; St. Mark, Charleston, 1973-77; Epworth, Joanna, 1977-79; Grace, Lancaster, 1979-84 and First, Harleyville, 1984-88. He retired in June of 1988. He served on numerous committees including the Ministerial Qualifications Committee, Health and Welfare Ministries, 1956-64; Trustee, Belin Property, 1962-68, and the Columbia College Presidential Advisory Committee, 1982-84. Rev. Williams was active in community work, scouting, Rotary and Ruritan Clubs and others. He was a member of Main Street United Methodist Church, Greenwood and the Hut Sunday School Class. He was the last surviving member of his immediate family, which consisted of eight children. Surviving is his wife of the home; three sons: John David Williams, Jr. and his wife, Joy, of Columbia, Benjamin Moseley Williams and his wife, Irina, of Gaffney and Stephen Arthur Williams and his wife, Melissa, of Spartanburg; six grandchildren and one great grandchild.

His first sermon was on Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." He never forgot that and it meant much to him. He had recently received his license to preach and was filling in for his father, who was in failing health.

John usually began and ended his ministry at each church with Genesis 5:18-24 about

Enoch walking with God. His life was a steady day by day walk with God - not a meandering but a steady walk.

He loved working with people, especially children and the elderly. He was a loving pastor as well as an evangelistic preacher.

He loved his family with a never-ending love. He was always there for any one of them when they had a disappointment or problem.

His wife of 60 years as well as his children will miss him very much but feel so thankful to have had him with them for many years.

John was a man we would all benefit from emulating. By the grace of the Holy Spirit, he was able to serve God the Father and his Saviour Jesus Christ without neglecting the needs of either his family or friends.

SPOUSES

DOROTHY INEZ HEMKER GAMBLE **July 29, 1927 – January 1, 2008**



Born in Newberry, South Carolina, Dorothy was the daughter of Byron Jerome Hemker and Johnie Inez Cordle Hemker. A graduate of Newberry College, she earned a degree in elementary education. She taught grades 1-7 in public schools for 26 years. She loved teaching, and always enjoyed meeting former students later in life. She was a member of the South Carolina Education Association and the National Education Association.

In 1950 Dorothy married Lamar Gamble, a minister in the Methodist Church. Although Dorothy and Lamar could not have children, they decided to adopt a "wide eyed boy". By coincidence, their son's birthday was September 2, the same date they were married 15 years earlier.

After retiring she joined Trinity UMC in Anderson, where she was a member of the Wesley Sunday School Class and the

Julia Camps Circle.

Her calendar read like a journal, full of notes about family and friends, birthdays and anniversaries, phone calls and visits. Although not able to travel much, part of Dorothy's ministry was simply keeping in touch with others, by calling or sending cards and letters of remembrance on holidays and anniversaries. Her gift was remembering things most people forget. Those she remembered included childhood friends, colleagues, people from her husband's ministry, to her last entry which was the birthday of their newest pastor, which he was surprised to discover she knew.

When she was nine, Dorothy had polio and lost the use of her left hand. She handled her difficulty so well that few people ever recognized it. Her granddaughter, however, noticed almost immediately. When praying, Laurel would make everyone at the table hold their hands cupped the same way as her grandmother. Laurel is as observant and caring as her grandmother.

Dorothy is survived by her husband, Rev. Lamar Gamble; son, Mark Gamble, daughter-in-law, Stephanie LeBlanc Gamble; and granddaughter, Laurel Yvette Gamble.

– Lamar, Mark & Stephanie Gamble

EURA VERNELLE STONE GAVALAS
July 28, 1938 - January 21, 2008



"Nelle Gavalas was a saint and didn't know it!" So spoke her pastor, the Rev. Gary Byrd, at her Service of Death and Resurrection held on January 23, 2008 at Grace United Methodist Church, Union, South Carolina. All whom Nelle touched and loved knew Rev. Byrd was right. Nelle died on January 21, 2008 after a long and courageous illness. Like her Lord, in her suffering and death she gave witness to the gospel truth that in life and in death, God is with us...what more can we ask! She was laid to rest in the Grace Church cemetery.

Nelle was born July 28, 1938 in Effingham, South Carolina, a daughter of the late Wilbur C. and Marie Farrell Stone. She graduated from Winthrop College in 1960, and taught art in the Aiken and Charleston County School systems. She married Anthony N. Gavalas on February 14, 1970 and assumed the role of a pastor's wife. Together they raised four children. During their pastorates, Nelle sang in the choir, often

taught Sunday school and was active in the United Methodist Women. She served as a UMWIM to Mexico in 1987.

Surviving in addition to her husband are four children: Vikena Yutz of Dallas, Georgia, Christa Godwin of Lake City, South Carolina, Frances Carswell of Travelers Rest, South Carolina, and George Gavalas of Athens, Georgia; a stepson, Nick Gavalas of Graniteville, South Carolina, eight grand-children, and two sisters, Ruth Hill of Lexington, South Carolina and Linda Baxley of North Augusta, South Carolina. "May your memory be eternal, Sweet Nelle, for you are worthy of blessedness and everlasting memory."

– Anthony N. Gavlaas

JAMES WILLIAM JENKINS, JR.
April 27, 1947 – October 16, 2007

James (Jay) Jenkins, spouse of Reverend Linda T. Jenkins, was born in Rock Hill, South Carolina. He had seven brothers and sisters. Jay and Linda were married thirty-nine years and have two children, Angela J. Constantine and Dr. William Jenkins. They have three grandchildren: Andrew, Alex, and Ayden.

When Linda went into the ministry, Jay was wonderfully supportive. He always worshipped with her, even when she began a two church charge. He considered himself the public relations person and loved the congregations. His sense of humor and his charm contributed to the love the people of the churches they served had for him. Jay was a man of strong faith; but the fellowship times and church dinners were his favorite times because at those times, he was able to enjoy the company of his brothers and sisters in Christ.

Jay had retired because of disability from Caroustar, Inc. where he had worked since he was a teenager. He served in the Army and was stationed in Vietnam during the war from 1968-1969. While he was in Vietnam, he earned a bronze star award. He was proud of his service, and that period of his life affected him in many ways throughout the years.

Jay loved his children and grandchildren, his family, his church, his friends, and his Lord. His legacy will continue in the lives of those he touched.

– Linda T. Jenkins

AUDREY NOVELLA WOODARD MCNEILL
December 20, 1927 – April 13, 2008



The true compassion that Novella had was rooted in her strong Christian values. She was a caring, giving, person to all of God's creation. She was a dedicated teacher and counselor, inside and outside of the classroom. Her stories were etched out with such detail that one could picture everything perfectly as she spoke. She was a dedicated wife of over 60 years to Rev. William W. McNeill. Together they served Harris UMC-Greenwood, Hibben UMC-Mt. Pleasant, St. Andrew's UMC-Orangeburg, St. Matthew's UMC-Greenville, Trinity UMC-Anderson, Duncan Acres UMC-Union, North Charleston UMC-Charleston, and the Orangeburg District. While maintaining her position as pastor's wife she taught as the director of the Verner Springs Mission in Greenville, South Carolina; in Anderson with the child development program that was the forerunner of the Kindergarten for South Carolina; and as the Director of the Senior Citizens Council, Anderson-Oconee-Pickens.

As a mother and grandmother, she took great pride in teaching her children: Lynne McNeill Swafford, Elizabeth McNeill Marks and William Whitfield McNeill, Jr., and her grandchildren: Rob Swafford, Whit Swafford, Ben Swafford, Elissa Marks, Caleb McNeill and Joe McNeill about faith and the need to take firm, but loving stances, all rooted in the scriptures. She was a beautiful example of how to live a Christian life to us all.

DOROTHY JOREE KING PITTMAN
February 25, 1933 - April 19, 2008

Dorothy Joree King Pittman, 75, of 420 Lakeside Circle, Greenville, South Carolina, went to be with her Lord on April 19, 2008. She was the daughter of the late E.C. and Elsie Shook King. She was a homemaker and a loving wife to her husband, Dr. Clarence O. Pittman, who survives her. She attended the Gray Court and Trinity United Methodist Churches where her husband serves as pastor.

Funeral services were held at the Wood Mortuary in Greer, South Carolina conducted by the Rev. Don McKinney and the Rev. Dr. Charles Johnson. Entombment followed in the Graceland East Cemetery. Memorials were made to the Gray Court and Trinity United Methodist Churches.

For over fifty years she had served as a faithful pastor's wife, assisting her husband and participating in the various activities of the churches in which they served. She was universally loved by the members of their various congregations. With her loving spirit and her faithful service she added greatly to the ministry of the churches.

Dorothy had two consuming hobbies. She was a lover of house plants. She had collected numerous books on house plants and usually always succeeded in making them beautiful. She also loved needle work, making anything from afghans to beautiful pictures that now hang on the walls.

She served the Lord all her life and she has now received her eternal reward. Her love among us will always remain.

ROSELYN CRAIG PRIDGEN
May 16, 1926 – February 10, 2008

"Safe am I! Safe am I, in the hollow of His hands." This song and many others remind me of my mother. My mother loved to sing and would sing all day as she went about her work caring for her home, husband, and five children.

Roselyn Craig Pridgen was a gracious lady who taught her children how to live as

Christians. She taught them to be generous by showing generosity. She taught them to care for each other and to be kind to others. She taught them to pray and to trust in God. Through her example, her children learned to sing and “make a joyful noise.”

She always took the time to do things right...the ironing had to be just so; grammar needed to be perfect; gravy must be smooth as silk. If any job was worth doing it was worth doing well.

Roselyn was a medical expert, an advisor, a nutritionist, a cake decorator, a flower arranger, a master gardener, and a superb seamstress. She was all of those things as a mother. Visitors were always welcome in Roselyn’s home and at her table. This included exchange students or people far from home on a holiday. Being a minister’s wife presented many challenges but she took them in stride and kept on singing.

Over the years, Roselyn served the church as Sunday School teacher, Vacation Bible School teacher, choir member, circle member, missionary, and church hostess...always doing her best with a gracious attitude and a song in her heart.

– Lynne Chandler, daughter

MARTHA BAYNE MALLARY TAYLOR

June 2, 1924 – November 4, 2007



“She is clothed with strength and dignity, she laughs at the days to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and kindly counsel is on her tongue.” (Proverbs 31: 25-26) Martha was a gentle pioneer, a passionate educator, and the foundation of her family. She was among the first women to earn a Masters of Divinity degree from Duke University, where she also met her beloved Eben to whom she was married for 56 years. She was the mother of four boys -- Eben III, Mark, Charles, and Stephen - and doting grandmother of Sarah, Ben, Mallery, and Wesley. Martha exhibited unwavering support for racial and economic justice throughout her life, including being on the front lines during the time of school desegregation as a guidance counselor in the public schools. Later, students at a high school dedicated a yearbook to Martha, reflecting her influence as a tough English

teacher and dedicated guidance counselor over the course of twenty years. She was known among congregations and communities for her gracious hospitality and for her willingness to do whatever she could to support local churches, from teaching Sunday School to relearning to play the piano so that there would be musical accompaniment for hymns at a small church served by Eben in his retirement. Martha embodied that which she so often aspired to be in offering her favorite prayer. She was an instrument of peace, sowing love, pardon and faith.

– Mark, Charles, and Stephen Taylor

SURVIVING SPOUSES

SUSIE FRANCES BURNS BEDENBAUGH

December 19, 1916 – April 5, 2008

Susie Frances Burns Bedenbaugh, wife of the Rev. Kenneth Wilson Bedenbaugh, died peacefully in her sleep April 5, 2008, at Oakmont Nursing Home. She was born December 19, 1916, in Peachland, North Carolina, the daughter of the late James Atlas and Dora Jane Birmingham Burns. She was the last surviving member of her immediate family. She was an asset to her husband, a loving and sacrificial Mother, and gave true meaning to the “Grand” in Grandmother.

Susie was working in Lancaster, South Carolina, for her brother, CW Burns, when Kenneth Bedenbaugh went in to buy a car. He ended up with a bride. They were married June 8, 1942,



by the Rev. W.T. Bedenbaugh, the father of the groom. They were married for 65 years. They had four children: Suzanne, Sylvia, Ken, Jr., and Sandra. Over the years, as she gave love and Christian guidance, along with doses of discipline, these children grew up, married, became productive members of society, and what began as a loving couple became a crowd of ten grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. One of the joys in the lives of both Kenneth and Susie was the family Christmas party with everyone in attendance as they looked with love and pride and awe at what they had produced.

After her husband retired, they traveled all over the country with family members. Susie found a love of reading, something that she never had time to do as a minister's wife and the mother of four children. Her life was a blessing to all who knew her.

PAULINE ADAMS BOGGS

November 21, 2007

Pauline Adams Boggs, 91, widow of the Rev. William Troy Boggs, died Wednesday, November 21, 2007. She was survived by her son, William C. Boggs, MD; grandchildren Mary Ann Betenbaugh, Allison Boggs, Elizabeth Boggs, and Creighton Boggs, all of Columbia; William C. Boggs, Jr., of Ackworth, Georgia; Brian and Scott Boggs of Melbourne, Florida; Sheryl McAhren of Flower Mound, Texas; and five great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by a son, Wallace H. Boggs.

A private graveside service was conducted at St. Luke United Methodist Church in Lancaster, South Carolina.

CLARA BURNETTE BOLT

March 26, 2008



Clara Burnett Bolt, beloved wife of the late Reverend Lloyd D. Bolt, died March 26, 2008, at Covenant Place in Sumter, South Carolina, and was laid to rest at Mountain View Cemetery in Greer.

She was born in Greer, South Carolina, a daughter of the late John Oliver Burnett and Carrie Maude Bishop Burnett. Clara loved life – her family, her friends, her church – and especially her home at Lake Junaluska. She was a talented musician and music was one of her great joys. She loved and appreciated “All things bright and beautiful” and inspired others to do the same. While a resident at Covenant Place she spent many hours working in the Covenant Place library, cataloging books and magazines. She was a devoted member of Trinity United Methodist Church. Clara endured the problems of advanced age with determination, grace, dignity and humor, frequently quoting her favorite motto:

“If at first you strike a thorn or rose,
Keep a’going, just keep a’going”.

And so she did, leaving us better for it.

– Judy B. Moorman, daughter

ROSA RUMPH CUNNINGHAM
March 3, 1911 – November 30, 2007

Rosa Rumph Cunningham, surviving spouse of Rev. Robert H. Cunningham (deceased Full Member of the South Carolina Conference) died November 20, 2007, at The Oaks in Orangeburg. Funeral services were held on Saturday, November 24, at St. Mark United Methodist Church in North.

Born on March 3, 1911 in North, South Carolina, she was a daughter of Elijah "Sweedie" Rumph and Annie Cornelia Rumph. She joined Canaan Methodist Church, now St. Mark United Methodist Church, at an early age. She graduated from Claflin University and was a dedicated educator in the public schools of Orangeburg and Calhoun Counties, finally retiring from North Elementary School after teaching for more than thirty-five years. In later years she joined Trinity United Methodist Church, where she served in many capacities, including work in the United Methodist Women.

Survivors include one sister, Mrs. Blondell R. McKay, and a host of loving nieces, nephews, grand nieces, nephews, cousins, sister-in-law, caregivers and friends.

SARA CLOIS VICKERY BLACK EMORY
November 13, 1922 – February 8, 2008



Mother had six children: Stanley Black, Richard Black, Johnny Black, Harold Black and Carol Black Varn, and the little girl she lost, Lona Jean. Her grandchildren are: Greg Black, Tommy Black and Kimberly Black Jussley.

Mother helped raise R.C. Emory's two sweet boys, Jimmy and Chris Emory. Mother had two sisters, Ruth Burdette and Nell Clark, and one brother, Bernice Vickery.

Mother lived for her children. She grew up with us. She raised us all under God's Laws. She raised us by herself, till she and us kids were blessed with R.C. Emory, which we miss so much. He was the dad we never had.

Mother lived her faith always, and loved her family and friends and the shut-ins. She would bake cakes for them. She loved to cook and have friends and family over all the time. She missed that a lot.

Mother loved God and witnessed to everyone when she had a chance. She prayed and wanted to go to church always. She talked about her faith and Bible until she got to go to Heaven to be with God. She wanted to kiss Jesus, and her Mother, and her family that went before her – people that she greatly missed here.

Mother is and was my Mother, best friend, and sister. I miss her terribly.

Mother had the most beautiful blue eyes and smile.

All of us miss her so much.

One of the greatest gifts God has given all us kids is that we'll see her again, and the rest of our precious family that has gone before!

– Carol Black Varn , Harold and Stanley Black

MAXILLA EVERETT EVANS
April 13, 1917 – December 25, 2007

Maxilla Everett Evans died on December 25, 2007, in Asheville, North Carolina. She was born on April 13, 1917, on a farm in Palmyra, North Carolina, the daughter of Benjamin Bryan Everett and Sallie Baker Everett. She graduated from N.C. State in 1940 with a degree in Landscape Architecture. Her marriage to J. Claude Evans that same summer lasted 67 years.

Maxilla's life was characterized by a passion for the natural world. Born into a generation in which few women were encouraged to pursue science, she taught herself ornithology and

botany. While shouldering the responsibilities of a Methodist minister's wife in South Carolina she became an avid bird-watcher and gardener. In Dallas, Texas, where Claude served as chaplain to SMU (1957-1982) she became an active environmentalist. In retirement in Waynesville, North Carolina, she raised prize-winning canaries as well as Gouldian finches, mandarin ducks, cockatiels, and peacocks. She also amassed a unique collection of rare native Appalachian wildflowers and shrubs and was the driving energy and vision behind the creation of the Corneille Bryan Native Garden at Lake Junaluska. Under her direction the garden became a showcase of native Appalachian wildflowers and shrubs with more than 500 different species. In 2005 she received the Thomas Dodd, Jr. Award of Excellence from the Annual Cullowhee Conference on Native Plants in the Landscape

A celebration of her life was held at Lake Junaluska Memorial Chapel on December 29, 2007. She is survived by her four children (Sara, Claude Jr., Robert, and John) and two grandchildren.

LAURA ELIZABETH HEYWARD GREGG
January 23, 1916 – January 23, 2008



Mrs. Laura Elizabeth Heyward Gregg, the fourth of six children, was born on January 23, 1916 to Hamilton Theodore Heyward and Madeline Holmes in Charleston, South Carolina. She passed away on January 23, 2008.

Laura committed her life to Christ at an early age, and became a member of Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston. She received her early education at Avery Institute in Charleston, her Bachelor of Arts degree from Talladega College, and a Master's degree in Education from Boston University. She pursued additional studies at The Citadel College and Howard University,

Following her graduation from college, she taught in the Charleston public high schools for many years. She also taught at Claflin University and was the chairperson of the Department of Social Studies and the Division of Social Sciences until her retirement in 1975. She was formerly

married to the late Reverend Dr. Wilbur R. Gregg.

Mrs. Gregg was listed in the Outstanding Educators of America, 1971 edition, and was "Teacher of the Year" in 1974. She was affiliated with many educational, community, and religious organizations, including Pi Gamma Mu National Honor Society of Social Science, Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, Orangeburg Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Avery Institute Research Center, and a member of the Trinity United Methodist Church where she served in many areas. In 1988 she received a special "Mission Recognition Certificate" from the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries. She was named "United Methodist Women's Woman of the Year" for 2001.

Laura was a quiet, kind, and generous person who held high standards and high expectations. She loved people and was always willing to do something for someone else.

Mrs. Gregg leaves to cherish beautiful memories: a brother, John E. Heyward (Mildred), Chicago, Illinois; nieces and nephews, grand nieces and nephews, and a host of other relatives and friends.

ELIZA BLAKE NELSON
August 31, 1926 – April 24, 2008



Eliza Blake Nelson, daughter of the late Frank Blake Sr. and Willie Mae Montgomery Blake, was born on August 31, 1926 in Marion, South Carolina. She was the second oldest of four children. Two brothers (Mr. Frank Blake, Jr. and Dr. James A. Blake, Sr.) preceded her in death. Eliza died peacefully on April 24, 2008 at McLeod Regional Hospital, Florence, South Carolina.

Eliza was educated in the public school system in Marion County, South Carolina and graduated from the Marion County Training School. She received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Home Economics and a Masters of Education Degree with a minor in Home Economics from South Carolina State College in Orangeburg, South Carolina.

Eliza's professional career began with her employment as an instructor of Home Economics at the following schools:

Johnson High School in Sumter County, South Carolina, Palmetto High School in Mullins, South Carolina, and Marion High School in Marion, South Carolina. She was the Marion High School Teacher of the Year and the Marion School District One Teacher of the Year (winning both titles) in 1986. Eliza was a member of the National Education Association, the South Carolina Education Association, and the Marion County Education Association.

Eliza trained not only her students but also her nieces and other family members early in the area of cooking and sewing. She delighted her family and friends with her delicious fruitcakes, turkey and dressing, and pecan caramel icing cakes.

Eliza's spiritual life was even more profound than her professional life. She joined Saint John African Methodist Episcopal Church at an early age serving as a Junior Trustee, Class Leader, Member and Treasurer of the Senior Choir, Member of Stewardess Board Number Four, Chairperson for the High School Graduation Committee and Program for the church, member of the Deaconess Board, Vacation Bible School Teacher and Tutor for the church Tutorial Program.

Eliza's community affiliations were the following: Member of Beta Epsilon Chapter of Alpha Pi Chi Sorority (serving as Treasurer), Lily of the Valley Chapter # 264, Order of the Eastern Star (serving as Secretary).

Eliza later met and married the Reverend Otis Jerome Nelson, Sr. from Sumter, South Carolina. She then moved to Sumter and from this union was introduced to a host of new family members and friends. She joined the Mount Zion United Methodist Church in Sumter, South Carolina where she was a member of the Choir and the Sumter Interdenominational Ministers' Wives Alliance. Eliza's husband preceded her in death.

Eliza leaves to cherish her precious memories, her sister Mrs. Louise Blake Conner, of Marion, South Carolina, step mother-in-law Mrs. Lillie B. Nelson of Sumter, South Carolina, sisters-in-law Mrs. Rita Bridgewater Blake, of Marion, South Carolina, Mrs. Mary Baker Blake of Vaux Hall, New Jersey, and Mrs. Johnalee Nelson of Orangeburg, South Carolina, nieces Karen E. Blake, of Marion, South Carolina, Brenda Drakes (Alva), Doris Wilson and Cheryl Taylor of Vaux Hall, New Jersey, nephews Al Blake, William Blake (Diane), and Kevin Blake of Marion, South Carolina, and James A. Blake, Jr. (Gail) of Rock Hill, South Carolina, great-nephews, Frank Jeffrey Blake of Raleigh, North Carolina, James A. Blake, III, Preston Tyler Blake, Vernon Sebastian Drakes, and Malcolm McGregor Drake, great-nieces Shakyra Wortham, Verna Latrece Wilson, Dawn Mary Wilson, special adopted children Enola and James of Sumter, South Carolina, special friends Carrie Mae, Frances, and Louise of Sumter, South Carolina, and a host of other relatives and friends.

ALBERTA SWINNIE PARKER
August 28, 1914 – November 1, 2007



Alberta Parker died on All Saints Day on November 1, 2007. She served faithfully as a Methodist minister's wife to the late Carl L. Parker. They were a devoted couple. She enjoyed her role as wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. As a Methodist minister's wife she lived in many small towns in South Carolina and gave herself to making a home in each one. She loved her family, her friends and always the church. She delighted in opening her home to each new church family and always looked for ways to serve. She was indeed a sweet, gentle spirit.

A service of Death and Resurrection in Celebration of her life was held at Mt. Hebron United Methodist Church in West Columbia on November 4, 2007, All Saints Sunday. Officiating in the service were her son-in-law Bishop William H. Willimon and her granddaughter's husband, a UMC minister, the Reverend Craig Langston.

She is survived by her three sons, Carl Parker, Jr., Fred W. Parker, Donald E. Parker and one daughter, Patricia Parker Willimon. She had 7 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

"For all the Saints, from whom their labors rest". We give you thanks.

– Patsy Willimon

GRACE HELEN NUNN POSTON
June 25, 1919 – July 07, 2007



A dear and precious person, Grace Helen Nunn Poston, was promoted home on July 7, 2007, in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Grace, daughter of William Jeff Nunn and Martha Sue Wagnon Nunn, was born in Tyler, Texas. She lost her beloved mother at age twelve and spent the remainder of her teenage years living with various relatives. She felt that God became her companion and guardian, who helped her through these difficult times. While she naturally was gifted with a wonderful sense of humor, the hard years gave her a greater appreciation of life and the ability to cope with adversity. She remembered so many wonderful stories and events and often delighted her family with tales of her youth and young adulthood.

Grace met her husband, the late Daltrum Holmes Poston, Sr. in New York City. They married and moved to Texas, where Daltrum took a position with Greyhound Bus as a mechanic. God continued to guide this young couple as he led Daltrum to become a minister. Grace stood steadfastly beside Daltrum as he began his schooling for the ministry and offered encouragement and advice during this long process.

As a minister's wife, Grace fulfilled numerous roles within the church, but her most important one was being a wonderful mother and wife and a role model to her children and family.

Grace is survived by her daughters Karry Lynn, Lynda Huseman, and Jo Poston and her son, Dal Poston, Jr.

PATRICIA ANN GULLIS PRICE
January 29, 2008

Patricia G. Price, the surviving spouse of Reverend William H. (Bill) Price (a deceased Full Member of the South Carolina Conference), died on January 29, 2008. Services were held at Trinity United Methodist Church in West Columbia, South Carolina.

Born in Bluefield, West Virginia, she was the oldest daughter of Grace Duncan Guills and the late Jesse O'Dell Guills. She graduated from West Virginia Wesleyan College where she earned a B.S. in Education. She later completed graduate work at the University of Virginia and the University of South Carolina. She was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church, where she served at different times as Chairperson of the Administrative Board, and as a member of the Board of Trustees, the Parsonage Committee, and the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee. She taught in public schools for twenty-eight years, beginning in Dunkirk, New York, and teaching at various schools in West Virginia and South Carolina. She retired from Crayton Middle School in 2003. She enjoyed her book club, friendships, current events, traveling, and sports. She was a loving wife, mother and grandmother, devoted teacher and friend, and will be deeply missed.

VIOLET F. TYLER
March 15, 1921 – July 29, 2007



As Jesus said to His disciples, "I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." Being true to His word, with open arms, Jesus received unto Himself Violet F. Tyler on July 29, 2007. Waiting in the Heavenly portals also with open arms, was her beloved husband, Rev. Royce B. Tyler, and their eldest son Tommy Royce Tyler.

She was born on March 15, 1921 and at the tender age of 17, she and the man she would stand beside for the next 61 years (prior to his death in 1999), eloped and were married in Georgetown, South Carolina on May 18, 1938. From this marriage came three sons: Tommy Royce (deceased), Rodney Nolan, and Burnan Creig. Mother would often say, "God didn't bless your daddy and me with daughters of our own, but he gave us, through you boys the best daughters any parents could have ever wished for." Those daughters were: Elaine (Briscoe) Tyler, Barbara (Livingston) Tyler, and Gilda (Reynolds) Tyler.

She loved being married to a Methodist Minister, even though at times, it was not the easiest "row to hoe", and she didn't mind being under the scrutiny that ministers and their wives are often under. She loved the churches that her husband served, but she especially loved the Lamar United Methodist Church in Lamar, South Carolina. She loved it partly because this is where they spent the last 24 years of his active ministry, and she loved its people.

A service to commemorate her death and resurrection was celebrated on August 1, 2007 at the Lamar United Methodist Church, Lamar, South Carolina conducted by her pastor, Rev. Melvin Flail, with graveside services also in Lamar. She is survived by her two sons and their wives, a daughter-in-law, eight grandchildren, and ten great grandchildren.

– Rodney N. Tyler

OTHERS

EMELINE RUTH MEADOWS September 23, 2007 – November 12, 2007



On Sunday afternoon, after fourteen hours of labor, Emeline Ruth finally met us face to face. There she was, 8 lbs 7oz, 23 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches long. I couldn't believe how big and beautiful she was when the doctor pulled her out. Christy was exhausted and Emeline's lungs were strong as she announced to the world she had arrived. She was the first grandchild on both sides of the family and instantly beloved by everyone.

For the next seven weeks, Emeline was the joy of our life. We began to learn how to take care of this little bundle of joy. The days were challenging, the

nights were long, the sleep was sparse... and we would never change one single second of it. Her deep blue eyes, beautiful nose, mouth, cheeks, and ears were something you would never tire of gushing over. The final week she was with us she was starting to form smiles in response to our voices. Emeline never got worn-out of attention from her parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and just about anybody who could get their hands on her. She instantly gained dozens of adopted grandparents the first time she met our congregation. In her short life, she changed all our lives forever.

On Wednesday, the second week of November, Emeline got sick. After several visits to the hospital and pediatrician we were told she had a virus, but was getting better. That Sunday night we realized she had taken a sharp turn for the worse, and we rushed her to the hospital. She passed away moments after we arrived at half past three a.m.

The pain and loss we have experienced is something that Christy and I cannot express in words. Yet, we know we are not the only people who have lost in this way. Through it all, we still hurt and weep, we still miss her so much. But God is still God, He is still good, and He has sustained us thus far. In the words of King David, "Can I bring (her) back again? I will go to (her), but (she) will not return to me." Until that day, we hold on to the time that God gave us with her, realizing He also knows what it is like to lose a child, and she is in His arms until we can be with her again.

– Aaron and Christy Meadows
Emeline's parents