VIII. MEMOIRS

Our memoirs, which honor and remember with gratitude those clergy, spouses, and surviving spouses of the conference family who have died in this conference year, include deaths through June 5, 2017. The Conference Secretary wishes to thank the families of these faithful servants for supplying photographs and supplemental materials for the memoirs.

CLERGY

Lander Lowell Beal

The Rev. Dr. Lander Lowell Beal, a retired elder in the conference, died June 6, 2016, at the age of 88. He was born October 26, 1927, in Catawba County, North Carolina, the son of Joe and Bertie Beal. He was married to Sue Beckwith Beal in 1956 and they had two daughters. Following his first wife’s early death, he married Cynthia Cunningham Beal and they were married for 53 years and had a daughter and a son.

Rev. Beal graduated from Gastonia High School in North Carolina, attended Duke University and received his bachelor’s degree from High Point College in 1951. He received his M.Div. from Candler School of Theology in 1954. He later received his D.Min. from Methodist Theological School in Ohio.

He began his ministry in North Carolina where he was ordained a deacon and elder and served at Clover Hill. He came to West Virginia in 1954 as Campus Pastor at Marshall University and transferred his membership to the conference in 1960. He later served as Minister of Education at Johnson Memorial in Huntington 1965-1969; as coordinator of Young Adult Ministries for the General Board of Education in Nashville, Tennessee; at the Community Mental Health Center of Huntington from 1972-1978; as Associate pastor at First, Huntington, 1978-1982; at Crossroads, Huntington, from 1982-1991 and then as chaplain at the Huntington VA Hospital until his retirement in 1997. He continued working in the alcohol treatment program at the VA Medical Center following retirement.

During his time at Marshall University, he was instrumental in coordinating the work of nine denominations in establishing the Campus Christian Center. He was active in
the Huntington community serving on the boards of CONTACT, Hospice, and Southwest Community Action and he served as president of the Kiwanis. He enjoyed gardening, fishing with friends, camping, telling ghost stories around the campfire, leading youth retreats, and organizing bus tours.

Throughout his ministry, Lander touched many lives and helped many people through difficult times. He will be remembered for his strength of character, his sense of humor and his ever-present smile.

In addition to his wife, Cynthia, Lander is survived by two daughters, Anne and her husband, Bob, and Sarah; one son, John and his wife, Alicia; two sisters-in-law, Jane Beckwith Montsinger and Louise Beal; nine grandchildren, Wesley Tebbetts and his wife Lisa, Ginnie Lovette and her husband Josh, Emily Martorelli and her husband Joe, Lauren Tebbets, and Catherine, Eli, John Adam and Nathaniel Beal; four great-grandchildren, Ethan and Ian Tebbetts, and Lillie and Izzie Lovette; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife, Sue, his daughter, Laura Lee Beal Tebbetts, and his six sisters, Mozelle Dubanks, Rose Brown, Aline Farris, Muriel Nanney, Joyce Long and Becky Mauney; and two brothers, Daniel and Earl.

A memorial service was held Tuesday, June 21, 2016, at the First United Methodist Church in Huntington with the Rev. Mark Conner and the Rev. Stephen Hensley officiating. Memorial donations were made to First United Methodist Church and the Campus Christian Center at Marshall University.

Glenn Bryan Blair

The Rev. G. Bryan Blair, a retired elder in the conference, died April 18, 2017, at the age of 87. Born in Vienna, West Virginia, on January 10, 1930, he was the son of Glenn Blair and Margaret “Maggie” Full Blair. He was married to Lois Eileen Brown Blair for 64 years and they had a daughter and two sons.

Rev. Blair was a 1948 graduate of Parkersburg High School. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Glenville State in 1955 and his M.Div. from Wesley Theological Seminary in 1965. He was ordained elder in 1956. He served in Gay in 1951; Troy 1952-1956; Mt. Lake Park (Maryland) 1956-1962; Burrsville (Maryland) 1962-1965; Weekley Memorial 1965-1972; Bellemead 1972-1988; and Fourth Avenue, Huntington, from 1988 until his retirement in 1993.
In addition, he was a pilot and chaplain in the Civil Air Patrol, chaplain for more than twenty years in Williamstown and Pt. Pleasant, and he served as a volunteer chaplain at Camden Clark Medical Center. One of his greatest joys was serving as president of UCAAP, the United Church Alcohol Action Program.

In retirement, he attended St. John’s United Methodist Church in Vienna, where he enjoyed singing in the choir. He also filled in pastoral duties at a variety of churches when needed.

His family was always a priority for Bryan, and he enjoyed going to family reunions and other family gatherings.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two grandchildren, Emily and Daniel Casey; one brother, Eddy Blair; and one infant sister.

He is survived by his wife Lois, daughter, Susan Casey and her husband Larry; sons, Douglas Blair and Rev. Gregory Blair, also an elder in the conference, and his wife Kathy; five grandchildren, Matthew, Lindsey and Jennifer Blair, Ashley Casey and Larry John “LJ” Casey, II, and his wife Vanessa; one great-grandchild, Hunter Casey; a sister, Naomi Enock, and a niece, Janice Enoch.

A funeral service was held April 22, 2017, at Leavitt Funeral Home in Parkersburg with the Rev. Rick DeQuasie and the Rev. John Lowther and the Rev. Norman Butler officiating. He was buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Memorial gifts were received by St. John’s United Methodist Church.

Gail W. Carson, Jr.

The Rev. Gail W. Carson, a retired elder in the conference, died July 11, 2016, at the age of 65. Born June 2, 1951, he was the son of Gail W. Carson, Sr., and Wilma Lee Jenkins Stout. On February 27, 1993, he married his wife Elizabeth Moore Carson and they were married for 23 years.

Rev. Carson graduated from Washington Irving High School in Clarksburg in 1969. He went to Marshall University on a football scholarship where a fractured hip kept him from being on the airplane that tragically crashed with the Marshall Football team in 1970. He completed his bachelor’s degree at Fairmont State in 1988. He earned his M.Div. from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, in 1991, and was

Gail will be remembered as a fun-loving man who loved to sing. He also enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, and spending time with his family. He brought joy to his pastoral ministry.

He was preceded in death by his parents. In addition to his wife, he was survived by his children, Scott Carson, and his wife Kathy, Jeremy Carson and his wife Cortney, Christy Carson and Philip Carson; his grandchildren, Daniel, Brianne Kierston and Hunter Carson, and Nicholas and Logan Carson; his siblings, Nathan Carson and his wife, Lyn, Timmy Carson, Melody Burch and her husband Bob, and Kendall Stout and his wife Suzie; his stepfather, Harry Stout and his mother-in-law, Jo Moore, as well as many nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held at the Pine Bluff United Methodist Church on July 16, 2016, with the Rev. Rick Sale officiating. He was buried at Pine Bluff Cemetery.

**Ray Merle Conrad**

The Rev. Ray Merle Conrad, a retired elder in the conference, died January 24, 2017, at the age of 78. He was born June 4, 1938, the son of George Glenn and Jessie Bonner Conrad. On November 9, 1957, he married Verlie Sarah Hevener and they had two daughters.

Rev. Conrad graduated from Tygart Valley High School in 1957, earned a B.A. in History from West Virginia Wesleyan College in 1972 and the M.Div. from United Theological Seminary in 1975. He was ordained an elder with full membership in 1976.

He was survived by his wife of 59 years, Verlie; his daughters, Patsy Lynn Tanner and her husband, Mike, and Janet Rhea Holcomb and her husband Tommy; six grandchildren, Randall Cox and his wife Jackie, Matthew Ashley and his wife Bridgett, Sara Dunkelburger and her husband Kevin, Kaycee Perkins and her husband Matt, Marissa Middleton and her husband Matthew, and Patrick Tanner; six great-grandchildren; a sister, Elaine Conrad Fimmel and her husband Jon, and a niece and nephew, Erin Fimmel and Sean Fimmel. He was preceded in death by his parents.

A funeral service was held on January 27, 2017, at the Cravens-Shires Funeral Home in Bluewell, West Virginia, with the Rev. Stephen Rector officiating. He was entombed at Roselawn Memorial Gardens Mausoleum. His grandchildren served as pallbearers.

Richard Leo Crickard

The Rev. Dr. Richard L. Crickard, a retired elder in the conference, died June 16, 2016, at the age of 87. A son of Jonas Leo and Clara Beulah Hannah Crickard, he was born December 31, 1928, in Valley Head, West Virginia. On Christmas Day, December 25, 1952, he married Darlene Lucelle Arbogast Crickard and they were married for 58 years before Darlene preceded him in death on January 27, 2011.

A graduate of Tygarts Valley High School in the class of 1946, he was granted the B.S. degree from Davis and Elkins College in 1950. His earned an M.Div. in Christian Ethics and Systematic Theology from Drew Theological Seminary in 1953; the S.T.M. in Pastoral Counseling and Psychology of Religion from Boston University School of Theology in 1956; and the Doctorate of Ministry (D.Min) from United Theological Seminary in 1978. He was ordained an elder by Bishop Lloyd C. Wicke in 1953 and he faithfully served the following charges: West Union 1953-1956; Key Street – Pisgah, Princeton 1956-1961; as United States Naval Chaplain 1961-1965; First, Richwood – Hinkle Mountain 1965-1969; Emmanuel, White Sulphur Springs 1969-1973; Broad Oaks, Clarksburg 1973-1983; First, Hinton 1983-1986; St. Mary’s 1986 until his retirement in 1990.

While a U.S. Naval Lieutenant and Chaplain, Rev. Crickard served on the USS John Paul Jones during the Cuban Missile Crisis. He was transported from ship to ship on
Sundays to conduct worship services for the Marines and sailors stationed on board. At Camp Lejeune, he ministered to Marines and sailors who were in the brig.

He is remembered as a kind, compassionate and generous man. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and hiking throughout his life and during his final four years of life, he enjoyed outings with the West Virginia Veterans Nursing Facility. He regularly went to the mall, movies, festivals, fairs, parades, and was active with the facility’s in-house recreational events.

Dr. Crickard was survived by two daughters, Marcia Manley, and Denise Ware and her husband Gerald; a son, Dr. Kevin Crickard and his wife Diana; grandchildren, Jason Manley and his wife Crisi, Lauren Hartley and her husband Charles, Chloe Ware and Patrick Ware, Madison Crickard, Brandon Lesher and Devon Kessell; and three great-grandchildren, Gabriel Michael Jannotta, Caleb Harley and Mason Kessell. He is also survived by his mother-in-law, Virgie Irene Ware Arbogast. In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by his parents.

A funeral service was held at the Tomblyn Funeral Home in Elkins on June 19, 2016, with the Rev. Billee Scott Mick officiating. He was buried at the Valley Head Cemetery.

Memorial gifts were given to the Veterans Benefit Fund.

**Donald L. Davis**

The Rev. Dr. Donald L. Davis, a retired elder in the conference, died June 1, 2016, at the age of 81. He was born November 22, 1934, in Middlebourne, West Virginia, a son of Lewis D. and Esta L. (Lowe) Davis. On July 15, 1954, he married Betty Jean Davis and they were married for 62 years. She survived him briefly but died on June 11, 2016.

Rev. Davis was a graduate of Parkersburg High School. He was a member of 1092 Combat Engineer Battalion, where he reached the rank of Corporal. He worked for 18 years as a job foreman for a mechanical contractor and was a member of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 565 before receiving his call to ministry. He pursued his education, receiving his B.A. degree from Glenville College in 1978, his Master of Divinity degree from the Methodist Theological School in Ohio, in 1981, and his D.Min. from the Columbus
Cluster of Theological Schools in Columbus Ohio. He was ordained an elder and received in full membership in the conference in 1983. In the conference, he served Petroleum in 1974; Palestine 1975-1978; Edgelawn 1978-1986 and Mullens 1986 until his retirement in 1997. Following retirement, he returned to the Parkersburg area.

Donald was dedicated to his family, a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He enjoyed fishing, camping, reading, and building. As a second career pastor, he related well to the members of his congregation and felt particularly close to those who were experiencing life’s struggles.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, Hatzel Davis; and two sisters, Wilma Richmond and Eleanor Highley.

In addition to his wife, who survived him briefly, he was survived by two daughters, Monica Haines and her husband Paul, and Donna Waters and her husband David; three granddaughters, Jamie Deem and her husband Joe, Kelly Haines, and Andrea Slavin and her husband Jordan; two grandsons, Brian Haines and his wife Mary, and Jared Waters; four great-grandchildren, Blair and Quinn Haines and Isaac and Emrie Deem; and one sister, Imogene Cowan.

A celebration of life service was held at Stout Memorial UMC and memorial gifts were received by Stout Memorial UMC Building Fund and the Rev. Dr. Donald L. and Betty J. Davis Ministry Scholarship Trust held by the United Methodist Foundation.

**Daniel A. Deem**

The Rev. Daniel A. Deem, a retired elder in the conference, died September 16, 2016, in Parkersburg, West Virginia, at the age of 68. Born April 23, 1948, he was the son of Ray A. and Ruth L. Reese Deem. He married Judy Kay Utt Deem on May 25, 1974, and they had two daughters.

Rev. Deem was a 1966 graduate of Parkersburg High School and a 1970 graduate of Washington Bible College with a degree in Biblical Education. He received his Master of Divinity Degree in 1978 from the Methodist Theological School of Ohio. His conference appointments were Pullman Charge 1975-1977; Big Tygart Charge 1977-1981; Riverview 1981-1986; East Street-Stealey Street 1989-2000. In 2000, he was granted incapacity leave due to chronic illness, and he remained on leave until he retired in 2013, serving in part-time ministry as his health allowed.
During his ministry, he was known for being a good listener and study leader and having a genuine concern for those in his care. Other than serving the church, he also loved to garden, deer hunt and spend time on his family farm in Goose Creek. He was a devoted husband and father and loved spending time with his grandchildren.

Daniel was survived by Judy, his wife of 42 years; two daughters, Krista Erwin and her husband Wes, and Keri Straight and her husband Craig; his grandchildren, Aubrey Erwin and Noah and Lorelei Straight; a brother, David Deem and his wife Fran; sisters, Darlene Willis and her husband Gary, Carolyn Jacobsen and her husband Terry, Marilyn Wine and her husband, John, and Debra Fouse and her husband Charlie; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Dale Deem and Darrell “Hoppy” Deem.

A funeral service was held on September 19, 2016, at Lambert-Tatman Funeral Home in Parkersburg with Pastor Randy Dornon, Dr. Todd Hill and Pastor Rick Kapple officiating. He was buried at Big Tygart/Rockport Cemetery in Mineral Wells. Memorial gifts were made to The Gideons International and St. Jude’s Charleston Research Hospital.

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**Gerald E. Dotson**

The Rev. Gerald E. Dotson, a retired elder in the conference, died February 21, 2017, at the age of 69. Born August 30, 1947, in Richwood, West Virginia, he was the son of Dexter Gilden and Irene Bailes Dotson. He married Barbara Ann Dorsey on January 7, 1971, and they had two sons.

Rev. Dotson grew up on lower Glad Creek, Summersville, in Nicholas County. He graduated from Nicholas County High School in 1965. In 1969, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree from West Virginia Wesleyan College, majoring in sociology and minoring in psychology. He received his M.Div. from United Theological Seminary in 1974 and did additional studies at Asbury Seminary. In the conference he served Lerona Circuit 1971-1973; Belington Charge 1973-1977; Reynolds Memorial in Marmet 1977; Johnson Memorial Associate 1978; Rupert Charge 1979-1983; Memorial,

Having grown up in a heritage of faith and active church membership, during his early teens, Gerald sensed a “warm-heart” call to share with others the gospel that he had experienced for himself. Wherever he was appointed to ministry, Gerald enjoyed the role of pastor, visiting and counseling with persons during sorrowful and joyful moments of life. He also valued the role of preacher and leader of worship.

In the communities where he lived, Gerald participated in Rotary, Kiwanis (including serving as WV Lieutenant Governor) and as a Cub Master with the Cub Scouts. He also served as secretary of the WV Council of Churches.

Gerald was survived by his wife of 46 years, Barbara; two sons, Eric Bradley and his wife Michelle, and Matthew Bryan and his wife Julie; three grandchildren, Brenna Grace, Olivia Faith, and Ethan Matthew Dotson; a sister, Karen Dotson; sister-in-law, Wilma Dorsey Bury and her husband Don; nephew, Ross Bury; niece, Amanda Bury Brown and her husband Brian; and brother-in-law, Danny Dorsey.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by an infant brother, Dexter G. Dotson, Jr., and infant sister, Katherine Paulette Dotson.

A memorial service was held on March 4, 2017, at Memorial United Methodist Church in Summersville. Memorial gifts were received by Memorial UMC and the Nicholas County Historical and Genealogical Society.

**Charles Eaton, Jr.**

The Rev. Charles Eaton, Jr., an elder on honorable location, died January 13, 2017, at the age of 89. He was born September 3, 1927, in Wadesville to Charles Eaton, Sr. and Norma Ruble Eaton.

Charles left school after the 8th grade to help on the family farm. At age 18, he joined the Navy and served on the USS Independence. After the Navy, he held various jobs including working at the Parkersburg WV Viscose Plant.

He felt called to preach and became licensed in The United Methodist Church. He continued his education by obtaining a G.E.D. and completed a B.A. Degree from Fairmont State College in 1961. He was granted full membership in the conference in 1963. He served Belleville; Gihon; Bloomington,
Maryland; Watson; New Haven; Sheppard; Midland, Maryland; Mt. Pleasant; Summit Valley; and Parkersburg Circuit, before being placed on honorable location.

He was a licensed social worker and retired from the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services. He also worked at Parkersburg’s St. Joseph’s Hospital in the mental health unit. Later in life, he worked at Wal-Mart in the Lawn and Garden Department.

Charles loved the Lord, his family, the church, and his dog, Buffy. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and gardening. He loved to sing hymns and would take the opportunity to do so whenever it presented itself.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his first wife, Marian Pauline Florence Eaton, whom he married in 1947; brothers, Paul, Marvin, Clifford, and Gene; and sister, Zelma McCrady.

Surviving him were his wife, Loretta, her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren; his two sons, Dan and his wife Janie, and Mark and his wife Julie; five grandchildren, Mike Eaton, John Eaton and his wife Hope, Chrissy Latstetter and her husband Brian, Bethany Acker and her husband, Steven, and Eric Eaton; eight great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren; his brothers, Harold, Jerry, Ben and his wife Nancy; a sister, Betty Atkinson and her husband Duke.

A Celebration of his Life was held on January 18, 2017, at the Kimes Funeral Home in Parkersburg with Charles’s sons, Pastor Dan Eaton and Pastor Mark Eaton officiating. Burial was at the Sunset Memory Gardens.

Sylvester L. Green


Rev. Green began serving churches in the conference in 1963 when he was appointed to Wallback Circuit. In 1965, he moved to Elkins Circuit and
then to the Stonewall Circuit where he served until retirement in 1986. In retirement, he served Buckhannon South. He was ordained a deacon and approved as an associate member in 1971.

Prior to entering full-time ministry, Sylvester was a coal miner and lumberman. He was a faithful servant of Christ.

In addition to his parents and his wife of 52 years, Augustine, he was preceded in death by a son, Jimmie Lee Green; three sisters, Reeda M. Mosely, Mona B. Skidmore and Linda L. Green; two brothers, James L. and Paul M. Green.

He was survived by his wife, Marie; daughter-in-law, Cheri Green; two grandsons, Clint Green and his wife Aimee, and Jon Green and his wife Holly; two granddaughters, Mindi McGrew and her husband Jason, and Shelli Lantz and her husband Eric; seven great-grandsons, Jack, Mitch, and Rhett McGrew, and Jimmie and Julian Green, and Mason and Clayton Lantz; four great-granddaughters, Madison, Delaney, and Cheridyn Green, and Ava Lantz; two sisters, Helen L. Dixon, and Patty Brake and her husband John, and one brother, Daniel Green and his wife Ricki.

A funeral service was held at Poling-St. Clair Funeral Home in Buckhannon with the Rev. Dennis Estes officiating. He was buried in the Heavner Cemetery in Buckhannon.

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**Gerald A. Harshbarger**

The Rev. Gerald A. Harshbarger, a retired elder in the conference, died July 31, 2016, at the age of 85. The son of Carl Benton Harshbarger and Nettie McKeny Hazelett, he was born April 22, 1931. He married Nellie Belle Ray on October 2, 1954, and they were married for 61 years.

Gerald entered the U.S. Army before finishing high school, serving from 1948-1952. During that time, he earned his G.E.D. and then worked at Union Carbide for 16 years. After discerning his call to ministry, he began serving Lawrence-Bryan in 1962, while continuing his work at Union Carbide. He was appointed as a local pastor to Bethesda in 1968, and also served as the Small Church Coordinator for the Conference during this time. With the encouragement and financial support of Bethesda UMC, he went back to school and earned his bachelor’s
degree from Marshall University in 1972 and then his M.Div. in 1975 from Methodist Theological School in Ohio. When he completed his M.Div. degree, the president of the seminary came to Bethesda UMC to present him with his diploma with gratitude for the support the church gave him for his start in full-time ministry. He was ordained and received as a full member of the West Virginia Conference in 1976. He served Southside and then Z-Warner from 1977-1979; Stephenson Memorial in Parkersburg 1979-1985; and finally as chaplain at St. Joseph's Hospital from 1985 until his retirement in 1993.

In retirement, Gerald spent his time doing the things he enjoyed most: fishing, vacationing in Florida, gardening and spending time with his family.

In addition to his wife of 61 years, he is survived by a daughter in Germany, Barbara Hornberger and her husband Peter, daughter Mendy Adkins; sons, Doug Harbarger and his wife Rebecca, and Glen Harshbarger and his wife Lisa; 19 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; one brother, Carl Thomas Harbarger and his wife Debbie; and one sister, Nancy Hoffman and her husband John. He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Joyce Hensley.

A Celebration of Life was held on August 6, 2016, at Stephenson United Methodist Church in Parkersburg, West Virginia, with the Rev. Kent Lowther, Rev. John Hoffman, and Rev. Rick DeQuaisie officiating. Memorial contributions were received by Stephenson UMC and Housecalls Hospice in Parkersburg.

Joel Robert “Bob” Harshberger

The Rev. Joel Robert “Bob” Harshberger, a retired elder in the conference, died October 9, 2016, at the age of 89. He was born November 1, 1926, in Barbour County and was the son of Isaac and Orpha Bolyard Harshberger. He married June Etta Pershing on September 7, 1958, and they had four children.

Rev. Harshberger graduated from Kasson High School in 1948 and went to college and seminary at Asbury College, finishing his M.Div. in 1958. He also earned an M.A. in Religion from Emory University in 1961. He was ordained and received into full membership in the West Virginia Conference in 1961. He served Green Bank 1961-1963; Oceana 1963-1965; Mineral Circuit 1965-1967; Pine Grove

Before entering ministry full-time, Bob served in the U.S. Army – Air Corps as a radio mechanic.

Following retirement, Bob served as a volunteer chaplain for over 19 years at Preston Memorial Hospital in Kingwood, West Virginia. He was also an active participant at Wesley UMC in Kingwood, where he assisted in worship, led classes and sang in the choir. He was a man who was truly devoted to God and gave of his time, joyfully providing visitation and clergy services to local retirement homes, hospitals and members of the community. In addition, he was a member of the Valley District Lions Club and was a Boy Scout Leader when his children were young.

Bob enjoyed gardening, picking berries, walking and being outdoors, and visiting with people. He had an affinity for note-taking, documenting weather conditions, collecting wheat pennies, noting the rolling-up of automobile odometers, books of all kinds, and eagles. He enjoyed hard ice cream, oatmeal cookies and was particularly fond of June’s cooking. He was generous and friendly to everyone he met and was always cheerful. His smile was as big as his heart and was an indication of his love for the people he served. This love sustained him through the difficult days at the end of his life when he was cared for in Mapleshire Nursing Home and hospice.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, June Etta Harshberger; three daughters, Cheryl Tennant and her husband Alan, Nancy Woolverton and her husband Chris, Karen Shrout and her husband Dan; one son, Kevin and his wife Melissa; 12 grandchildren, Kyle, Jessica, and Micah Tennant, Lyssa Rickard and her husband Ken, Sammi Antoine and her husband Andre, and Abbey Woolverton, Casey, Cameron, and Caleb Shrout, and Izaac Jacob and his wife Jenn, and Will Harshberger; five great-grandchildren, Joel Hope and Zoe Rickard, Elise Antoine and Emrick Harshberger; and seven nephews and nieces.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by three brothers, Russell, Paul and his twin brother, Mearl.

A funeral service was held at Wesley UMC, Kingwood, on October 14, 2016, with the Rev. Paul G. Rebello officiating. He was buried at Maplewood Cemetery with full military honors accorded by the Honor Details from the WV ANG, Preston County VFWs and Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 977. Memorial gifts were made to Wesley UMC and to Amedisys Hospice.
Jonas Johnson, Jr.


Jonas “JR” was a veteran of the United States Army, serving in the 11th Armored Calvary, Regensburg, Germany, for two years and continuing to serve in the Army Reserves for four additional years. He was employed at Schuttig Electronics in Washington, DC, as an Electronic Assembler and was employed as a Production Control Dispatcher for Thompson Products in Cleveland, Ohio, for several years. He was a Plant Manager for Thomas-Davis Manufacturing in Thomas, WV, for many years. He was owner-operator of JR’s Woodworking at Thomas and was an ordained Elder at Thomas Presbyterian Church for several years.

JR became a local pastor in the West Virginia Conference in 1974. He attended Fairmont State College and West Virginia Wesleyan College and completed his five-year Course of Study at Duke Divinity School. He served Cross in 1974 and 1976; St. John’s, Parsons in 1975; Leadmine Charge 1977-1982; Albright 1982-1988; and North Elkins from 1988 until his retirement in 1998. In retirement, he served as an associate at First Elkins for several years before his health began to decline.

In addition to his wife and parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Helen Johnson Davis, and a brother, Ronald Lee Johnson. He is survived by several nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held on December 22, 2016, at the Tomblyn Funeral Home in Elkins, with the Rev. Dr. Basil A. Hensley and Rev. Dallas Forren officiating. Memorial contributions were made to First United Methodist, Elkins, and Mountain Hospice, Elkins.
Robert Paul Johnson


As long as he was able, Bob gave his energy to ministry. He worked with the shut-ins at Christ United Methodist Church, supported The House of the Carpenter on Wheeling Island, and was the chairperson of the Wheeling Soup Kitchen. He worked with youth in the Youth Service System and was a volunteer for Amedisys Hospice Care in Wheeling.

He was a five-time delegate to the World Methodist Conference. In 1991, Robert received the Harry Denman Award, which is given for excellence in Evangelism by the Foundation for Evangelism. It was the first time the award was given in the West Virginia Conference. He was a 60-year member and Paul Harris Fellow with Rotary International, becoming involved with clubs wherever he lived. While part of the Wheeling Rotary Club, he received the Milt Gutman Award recognizing his service to the club. Robert was an avid West Virginia University fan, being president of the WV Clubs of Grafton and Wheeling.

Robert’s love for his church and community was only exceeded by his love for his family and friends. He was a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather.
He is survived by Alma, his wife of 63 years; children, Paul, Kent and his wife Barbara; Julie Orr, Berta Leone and her husband Stephen, Larna Haddix and her husband David, and Charlie and his wife Lori; his grandchildren, Aaron, and his wife Khelsea, Carrie Matthys, Rachel Johnson, twins Meghan and Morgan, Kristin and Michael Haddix; and great-grandchildren, Maddox, Maverick, Memphis, MacKoy, Caleb, Mason and Parker.

A funeral service was held on February 26, 2017, at Christ United Methodist, Wheeling, with the Rev. Jacob Steele officiating. He was buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Wheeling. Memorial gifts were given to The House of the Carpenter and the Wheeling Soup Kitchen.

**Millard “Gene” Kerby**

The Rev. Millard “Gene” Kerby, a retired associate member of the conference, died January 17, 2017, at the age of 84. He was born August 26, 1932, in Calhoun County, the son of Orval and Velma B. Carpenter Kerby. He married Martha “Marie” Kerby on March 24, 1961 and they had three children. She preceded him in death on August 22, 1996.


Gene was a veteran both of the United States Army and the United States Air Force, having served during the Korean Conflict. He was a member of the American Legion Post in West Virginia and the Harmony Lodge #59 F&AM in Pennsboro, West Virginia.

His passion was to serve the Lord. He loved the opportunities to be in ministry and care for people. He enjoyed spending time with his family, particularly his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
In addition to his wife of 35 years and his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Donald, and a sister, Helen. He is survived by his children, son, Randall Kerby; twin daughters, Sharlene, and her husband Dan, and Darlene Phillips; family friend, Fran Wilson; seven grandchildren, DJ Archer and her husband Tim, Kristy Speciale and her husband David, Darrick Phillips, Travis Bailey and his wife Josey, Troy Bailey, Rebecca Bailey and Trevor Bailey; three great-grandchildren, Kylee and Bentley Archer and Clark Speciale; a sister, Mildred Hall and her husband Harold; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A funeral service was held on Sunday, January 22, 2017, at Hur Community Church in Hur, West Virginia, with the Rev. Harold Duskey officiating. He was buried in the Hur Cemetery. Memorial gifts were given to the Building Fund at Wayside United Methodist Church, in Vienna, West Virginia.

Milan Klipa

The Rev. Milan Klipa, a retired local pastor in the conference, died May 22, 1916, at the age of 80. Born August 31, 1935, at Kistler, WV, he was the son of Pete and Julia Murin Klipa. He was married to Barbara Harrison Klipa for 60 years.

A 1954 graduate of Man High School, Milan was a veteran of the United States Army, serving in Korea. He served as a part-time local pastor at the Accoville Charge in the Midland South District from 1990 until his retirement in 2001.

Milan also served as a long time postal worker in Man, West Virginia.

His love for his family made him a devoted father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He also loved golfing, chocolate ice cream and the West Virginia University Mountaineers.

In addition to his wife, Barbara, he was survived by a son, Milan and his wife Beth; two daughters, Pamela Klipa and Ludena Klipa; one brother, Donald and his wife Susie; two sisters, Margaret Chandler and her husband Bill, and Elizabeth Suarez; five grandchildren, Onna Withrow and her husband James, Jason Stacy and his wife Dawn, Tyler Klipa and his wife Heather, Matthew and Annie Klipa; four great-grandchildren, Emily, Rachel, and Garrett Stacy, and Sydney Withrow; many nephews and nieces and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and two brothers, George and Pete Klipa.
A funeral service was held May 27, 2016, at Forest Lawn Cemetery Mausoleum in Logan, WV, with the Rev. Wayne Nutter officiating. He was buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery with full military rites conducted by VFW Post 6153 and American Legion Post 103 and DAV Post 39. Memorial gifts were received by the Alzheimer's Association and the AseraCare Hospice in recognition of the excellent care he received during his final illness.

Eddie Brooks Kyle

The Rev. Eddie B. Kyle, a retired associate member of the conference, died September 22, 2016, at the age of 79. The son of Glen and Blanche Gear Kyle, he was born October 3, 1936, in Beverly, West Virginia. He was married to Barbara Ann Daniels Kyle on November 26, 1955, and they had two children.

He attended Tygarts Valley High School and received his G.E.D. He also attended Glenville College and Concord College, and he completed the Course of Study at Duke Divinity School.

He was Licensed to Preach by the West Virginia Conference in 1962. He was granted associate membership in the conference in 1976. He served Weston East Circuit 1962; Glenville Circuit 1963-1968; Alvon Circuit 1968-1979; Pocahontas Circuit 1979-1982. He was granted a Leave of Absence from 1982-1984 then served less than full-time at Newlon and Mingo until his retirement in 1998. He was a member of Mill Creek United Methodist Church after his retirement.

Eddie was also employed by Huttonsville Correctional Center for 20 years. He was a member of Randolph Lodge No. 55, AF & AM, and Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of West Virginia.

He was survived by his wife of 60 years, Barbara; a son, Terry Kyle and his wife Gatha; a daughter, Lisha Bell and her husband Bob; three grandchildren, Robert “Bobby” Bell, Jr., Zachary Kyle, and Danielle Tenney; four great-grandchildren, Chase Andrew and Macy Bell, Khloe and Emma Tenney; one brother, Robert “Bobby” Kyle; and one sister, Patricia Ware. He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Glen “Benny” Kyle, Jr.
A funeral service was held September 26, 2016, with the Rev. Robert McClintic, Buck Caldwell and the Rev. Pam Ritchie officiating. He was buried in Mill Creek Cemetery with Masonic Rites provided by Randolph Lodge. Huttonsville Correctional Center provided a gravesite honor guard. Memorial gifts were given to the Mill Creek United Methodist Church.

Phyllis A. Cox McVay


Before answering her call to ministry, Phyllis was a correctional officer for Denmar Correctional Center in Hillsboro. In her spare time, she enjoyed ceramics, reading, gardening, walking, and swimming.

She is survived by two children, Pamela Beth Cox and Jennifer Cox.

Joseph Glenn Rodrigues

Gary 1996-2000; East Elkins 2000-2002; Pruntytown-Fetterman 2002-2004; and Hodgesville from 2004 until he was forced to take Incapacity Leave in 2006. He retired in 2012.

He was survived by his wife of 12 years, Regina; a step-daughter, Jennifer Cassidy and her son, Michael who lived with Rev. Rodrigues and Regina; three step-sons, James, John, and Jesse Cassidy; four other grandchildren and one great-granddaughter; a sister, Jan Smith; a nephew, Scott Smith, and a niece, Lori Smith Linn and her husband Tim; ten brothers-in-law and nine sisters-in-law. He was preceded in death by his parents.

A funeral service was held on April 25, 2017, at the Cornerstone Community Church with Pastor John Darnall and Pastor Mark Anderson officiating. Memorial gifts were given to Hospice Promise Foundation, Buckhannon.

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E. Glenn Rowe, Jr.

The Rev. E. Glenn Rowe, Jr., a retired local pastor in the conference, died April 12, 2017. Born October 30, 1940, he was a son of Elmer G. Rowe, Sr., and Irene Adkins Rowe Duff. He was married to Linda Fay Wolfe Rowe for 22 years.

Glenn grew up in Lewis County. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and worked for the Uranium Enrichment Plant in Piketon, Ohio.

In 2009, he was received by the West Virginia Conference as a local pastor from the Free Methodist Church of North America. He served the Clifton Circuit in the Western District from 2009 until the time of his death. He was recognized as a retired local pastor in 2016.

In addition to his wife, Linda, he is survived by a daughter Rochelle Rowe Holton and her husband Tony; grandsons, Justin Frederick, Caleb Lyons, and Ethan Holton; his step-son, Joe Cook and his wife, Lisa; a sister, Joyce Kamer and her husband Leslie; two brothers, Roger Rowe and his wife, Geneva, and Ronnie Rowe and his wife, Donna.

A private service was held for the family.
Robert (Bob) Stanley, Jr.

The Rev. Robert Stanley, Jr., a retired associate member of the conference, died February 14, 2017, at the age of 80. Born on Fudge’s Creek near Ona, West Virginia, on June 22, 1936, he was a son of Raymond Robert and Annie Louise McFee Stanley. He married his high school sweetheart, Alice Faye Morgan, on August 17, 1958.

He grew up in the Two Ripple community of Wirt County and graduated from Wirt County High School in 1955. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and served in the linguistics unit based in Alaska and Omaha, Nebraska. In 1990, he completed both a Bachelor of Arts degree from Glenville State College and the Course of Study at Duke Divinity School. He was ordained deacon and elected to associate membership in 1991. He served Rosemar, Vienna, as a student local pastor and local pastor from 1982-1985; he later served Bethesda from 1991 until his retirement in 1999. In retirement, he served Pisgah from 1999-2010, and also served as a staff clergy and singer at Busch Funeral Home in Elizabeth, West Virginia.

For more than 50 years, he was a well-known gospel singer as a soloist and as a member of several gospel quartets until his health declined in later years. He performed at hundreds of weddings, funerals, and gospel singing events throughout his life. He was the choir director at Seventh Street United Methodist Church in Parkersburg and then at Elizabeth Baptist Church. It was during this time that he received his call to ministry.

He was an avid reader and embraced the Appalachian culture. He especially looked forward to making apple butter each year. He enjoyed gardening, pets, and managing the small family farm. In the community, he was elected to the Wirt County Board of Education. In addition to his music performances, he volunteered at the HOPE (Helping Other People Everywhere) Shop, Beauchamp Newman Museum, Wirt County Emergency Services, Wirt County Fair and the Wirt County High School Band Boosters.

In addition to his wife of 58 years, Alice, he was survived by two sons, Bruce Stanley and his wife Teresa Dulin, and the Rev. James Stanley and his wife Tammy; three daughters, Rebecca Richards, whose husband James is an elder in the West Virginia Conference, Ruth Anne Full and her husband Michael, and Mary Beth Busch and her husband Gregory; fourteen grandchildren, Eric Stanley and his wife Erin, Patrick Richards and his wife Amen, Morgan Richards, Laura Full and her husband Florian Reuter, Nicholas Busch and his wife...
Mary, William “Bill” Richards and his wife Lindsay, Kelsey Full, Emily Grace Busch and her husband Alex Faukner, Margaret “Maggie” Full, Benjamin Richards, Robert “Bobby” Stanley, Andrew Stanley, Allison Stanley, and Vincent Richards; two step-grandchildren, Jonathan Lawrence and his wife Alyssa, and Sara Lawrence; six great-grandchildren, Emma Stanley, Max Busch, Harper Busch, Archer Settle, Henry Richards and Levi Richards; and a step-great-granddaughter, Evangeline Lawrence.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Ruth Hubbard.

A celebration of his life was held at the Elizabeth United Methodist Church with his son-in-law, the Rev. James O. Richards, and son, the Rev. James M Stanley, and the Rev. Dr. Lee Williams officiating. He was buried with military honors at the Knights of Pythias Cemetery, Elizabeth, West Virginia.

The family encouraged memorial donations to local churches and the National Alzheimer’s Association.

**John H. Taylor**

The Rev. John H. Taylor, a retired elder in the conference, died July 18, 2016, at the age of 89. He was born October 11, 1926. He was preceded in death by his first wife Eleanor Folkerts Taylor. He was survived by his wife, Marilyn Farnham Taylor, but she died February 26, 2016.

Rev. Taylor received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Cornell College in Iowa in 1949 and his Master of Divinity degree from Yale Divinity School in 1953. He was ordained in the former Northern Illinois Conference and transferred to the West Virginia Conference in 1982. He served as Associate Pastor at Christ Church United Methodist in Charleston from 1982-1984 and in Matewan from 1984 until his retirement in 1992. Following retirement, he returned to Illinois.

John was a wonderful storyteller and singer. His quiet humor and compassion were unmatched. His life was marked by his faith walk which he expressed daily in quiet ways. He was kind and generous to all he met. He supported retired pastors in Liberia and overcame many obstacles to make sure that his support reached those in need.

In retirement, he enjoyed traveling and singing in the church choir. After the loss of his first wife to cancer, he was fortunate to reconnect with an old college friend, and he
and Marilyn brought much joy to each other and their joint families.

In addition to Marilyn, his wife of nearly 10 years, he was survived by his children, Janet Byers and her husband Ivan, Mark Taylor, Tim Taylor and his wife Sharon Ludwig; and step-children, Anne Calkins and her husband Wesley, and Leonard Farnham and his wife Lisa; nine grandchildren; and a sister, Betty Barnes and her husband Frank.

A funeral service was held at Wesley Chapel at Twin Towers, Cincinnati, Ohio, on July 30, 2016. He was buried in the Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati. Memorial donations were given to Parkinson’s Wellness Chapter in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Nathaniel Lenard Turner-Lacy

The Rev. Nathaniel L. Turner-Lacy, a retired elder in the conference, died July 13, 2016, at the age of 81. Born June 23, 1935, in Franklin, Louisiana, he was the son of Nathaniel L. Lacy, Sr., and Rebecca Lillie Davis Lacy. He was married to Dorothy Turner-Lacy.

Rev. Turner-Lacy received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Tufts College in 1957 and his M.Div. From Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in 1960. He was a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Texas, looking at Urban Studies from 1975-77. He began his ministry in California, serving at Pacoima UMC in Pasadena and Aliso Village/All Nations UMC in Los Angeles. He served as the Urban Coordinator of the Board of Missions. He was in the U.S. Naval Reserve as a Chaplain in the Eleventh Naval District in California from 1962-1967. In 1970, he transferred to the North Texas Conference. He was an Assistant Professor of Practical Theology at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University and pursued a doctorate in Urban Affairs from 1975-1977 at the University of Texas, Arlington. From 1977-1980, he worked as Associate Director of Continuing Education at Scarritt College, Nashville, Tennessee. From 1980-82, he was a Local Church Consultant/Senior Research Director at the Center for Parish Development located in Nashville and Naperville, Illinois, and serving church groups interested in revitalization in the southeastern states.
He transferred to the West Virginia Conference in 1982 and became pastor of Simpson UMC in Charleston. He served there until 1990 when he went to Stephenson UMC in Parkersburg. This cross-racial appointment was still unusual in the West Virginia Conference at that time. From 1994-1996, he was District Superintendent of the former Beckley District and then of the newly formed Western District from 1996-2000, serving in Bishop Ives’ cabinet. He was one of the first few African American clergy to be appointed to the Cabinet in West Virginia. He retired in 2000 and served as an interim pastor at Cross Lanes and West Side in Charleston; Central UMC in Huntington; Fort Gay UMC and Mount Union UMC in Wayne County and the First Congregational Church in Ceredo. He also served as part-time Chaplain at the Huntington City Mission and the Pastoral Care Department at Cabell Huntington Hospital.

Throughout his ministry, Nat was devoted to serving the poor and those living on the margins of society. He felt the call to represent Christ to people who yearned for bread enough to eat and share. He was an advocate for peace and justice, and worked in every community in which he lived to make a more just and loving place for all people. He organized a day care program at Aliso Village, worked for fair housing and human rights in Pacoima, created a school library in Pacoima; chaired the Board of Education in Los Angeles; sat on the school improvement council in Parkersburg and helped to start an after-school program using parent volunteers; and formed an affordable housing group in Charleston. Through the Board of Global Ministries, he served as consultant/trainer and Regional Field Coordinator of the Community Developers Program of the National Division from 1968-1982, training lay clergy in civic engagement and community redevelopment strategies. He was Co-Coordinator of the WV Coalition Against Apartheid which successfully prompted West Virginia to divest its holdings in South Africa.

Nat often said he was inspired by Martin Luther King, Jr.’s work. However, he was also influenced by his father who was an early NAACP organizer in southern Louisiana, a role that caused threats to the family’s safety and required them to relocate from Franklin to Baton Rouge when Nat was nine years old. Nat became accustomed to being the first Black or the only Black to work among White counterparts in the church and in the community, a role he performed with grace.

An excellent musicologist, Nat had an extensive knowledge of European and African American musical traditions, including spirituals, gospel, jazz, and rhythm and blues. He wrote grants to help communities celebrate the black heritage in music and the arts in California, Tennessee, and West Virginia. He loved singing, earning the affectionate nickname “The Bird” in college.

Nat was a gentle, passionate and compassionate saint who loved God and his neighbor. He was survived by his wife, Dorothy Turner-Lacy; a son, Nathaniel Lenard Lacy, III; a brother, Leslie Alexander Lacy; a sister, Beatrice Davis; a niece, Amy Davis Bradley; and a nephew, Anthony Davis.
A funeral service was held July 20, 2016, at Johnson Memorial United Methodist Church in Huntington with the Rev. Terry Deane officiating. He was buried in the Spring Hill Cemetery in Huntington.

Clayton E. Whetsel

The Rev. Clayton E. Whetsel, a retired elder in the conference, died January 29, 2017, at the age of 89. He was born December 12, 1927, in Brownsville, Pennsylvania, a son of Oliver and Idella Mae McMasters Whetsel. On June 11, 1955, he married Sarah Isabell Whetsel and they were married for 59 years before her death on September 3, 2014.


Clayton served from 1945-46 as a U.S. Merchant Marine. He also served in various leadership capacities in the conference, including the Commission on Equitable Compensation and as Secretary of Missions. He was faithful to his calling to follow Christ in service with the Church.

In addition to his wife and parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Gladys Diggs, and a brother, Thomas Whetsel.

He was survived by his daughter, Beatrice Kay Whetsel, and a son, Brian Whetsel and his wife Mary; two grandchildren, Trapper Whetsel and his wife Allisun, and Brittney Miller and her husband James; and four great grandchildren; three sisters, Annabelle Knight, Doris Ascione and Beverly Mullins; and a brother Oliver Whetsel.

A funeral service was held on February 1, 2017, at the Wallace Funeral Home in Milton with the Rev. Ellis Conley officiating. He was buried in Tyler Mountain Memorial Gardens.
The Rev. F. Emerson Wood, a retired elder in the conference, died July 25, 2016, at the age of 88. Born May 6, 1928, in Herndon, West Virginia, he was the sixth of seven children of V. Lacy and Ada McKinney Wood. On January 5, 1949, he married B.J. Meadows Wood and they had four children.

Rev. Wood graduated from West Virginia Wesleyan College in 1955 and received a Master of Divinity degree from Boston University School of Theology in 1958. He served Adrian Circuit while in college; Epping in New Hampshire while in seminary; McMechen 1958-1962; Wayside, Vienna 1962-1967; Christ, Wheeling 1967-1973; as District Superintendent of the former Huntington District from 1973-1978, and then for 18 years as senior pastor of Johnson Memorial in Huntington. He retired in 1996, and he and B.J. settled in Huntington.

Following retirement, he accepted the challenge from his close friend, Governor Cecil Underwood, to found and serve as executive director of Mission West Virginia, Inc. This non-profit organization was tasked with working with community and faith-based organizations to reach West Virginians who were falling through the social safety net. This position fit well with his life-long calling to work for social justice. He continued to lead Mission West Virginia until 2002.

In serving faith communities across the conference, Emerson was active in community and civic organizations. His ministry was modeled by his concern for the disadvantaged and disenfranchised. After meeting the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. during his time at Boston University, Emerson marched with him and other civil rights advocates in Selma, Alabama, in 1965, while receiving threats against his family back at home for doing so. He organized and served as president of the Human Rights Commission in Wheeling. He served on the General Commission on Religion and Race for The United Methodist Church, and, as a member of that Commission, chaired the Annual Conference Review Committee as it concerned racial inclusiveness. He was a member of West Virginia’s Martin Luther King, Jr. State Holiday Commission for four years. He was awarded the Governor’s Martin Luther King, Jr. “Living the Dream” Advocate of Peace Award in 2003. The nomination for
the award stated, “The common theme of Dr. Wood’s ministry has been … the recognition that every person is made in God’s image, and thus deserves the respect, dignity, and equality that relationship with God demands.”

Emerson served in the U.S. Navy from 1945-1947 and again from 1950-1953, serving in both World War II and the Korean Conflict. He served on the Board of Trustees of West Virginia Wesleyan College from 1969-1991. He was awarded the honorary Doctor of Divinity degree by WVWC. He also served on the Board of Trustees for the Methodist Theological School in Ohio from 1975-1984. He was a longtime member of the Rotary Club, serving as president of the Huntington Club, and he was a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow.

He served in many leadership capacities within the Annual Conference, as well as valuing the work of connecting the church to the community. In 2013, he was named to the Greater Huntington Wall of Fame for his lifetime of service.

In addition to his wife of 59 years, B.J., he is survived by four children, Rev. Jerry Wood, who is an elder in the conference, Mark and his wife Grey, Cheryl Myers and her husband Michael, and Rev. Chris Wood, an affiliate member of the conference, and his wife Lisa.

A memorial service was held on July 30, 2016, at Beverly Hills UMC in Huntington, with the Rev. Terry Deane and the Rev. Jack Lipphardt officiating. The Circuit Rider plaque was presented by Rev. Dr. Joseph Kenaston on behalf of the bishop. Memorial gifts were received for the Johnson Memorial Backpack Ministry and Hospice House of Huntington.

**Kerry Dean Workman**

The Rev. Kerry Dean Workman, a local pastor in the conference, died May 3, 2017, at the age of 40. Born November 18, 1976, in Summersville, she was the daughter of Lloyd Dean and Jewell Neff Skaggs.

She was a 1995 graduate of Nicholas County High School. She received an associate’s degree from New River Community and Technical College and was nearing completion of her bachelor’s degree in Social Work. She completed Pastoral Ministry Licensing School and was approved as a local pastor in the conference in 2009. She served Levelton from 2009-2012 and was serving Smoot at the time of her illness and death.
Kerry followed her call to pastoral ministry with faith and dedication. She had a kind and warm heart that was reflected in her friendly demeanor. She never met a stranger and had a particular gift of caring for elderly people and those in need.

She was preceded in death by her father, her maternal grandparents, Owen and Julia Neff and her paternal grandparents, Herbert and Ruby Skaggs. She was survived by her mother, Jewell; her children Deana, Josh, and Ressa; their father and her former husband, Lance Workman; a sister, Tina Lucas and her husband Greg; and brother, James Skaggs and his wife Heidi, and Zack Skaggs and his wife Miranda; nieces and nephews, Jesse, Madi, Sydney, Jakob, Nathaniel, McKenzie, Aubrey and Jeremiah; aunt and uncle, Blondie and Chris Neff and cousin, Jeff Neff; best friend, Robin Ellison and other aunts, uncles and cousins.

A funeral service was held on May 6, 2017, at Bethel United Methodist Church in Poe with the Rev. Mark Flynn officiating.
Jennifer Suzette Beckette


Jennifer enjoyed life and that joy was centered on the church, the Lord Jesus Christ, and in helping others. She was an active member of the Nighbert Memorial UMC and a servant at heart. She dedicated her life to spreading the good news of salvation through ministries of the Church. She was involved in the food pantry and soup kitchen ministries, vacation bible school, and lay ministry. She enjoyed visiting church members in their homes, in the hospital, and in nursing homes. She regularly provided meals for shut-ins and the less fortunate.

Jennifer was active in the church serving on various teams and committees such as the United Methodist Women circles, lay member to Annual Conference, teaching Sunday School, and sharing Children Moments during worship. She was a member of New Fellowship Sunday school class, worked at the Facing Hunger Food bank, drove the church van, served as the resident clown, and participated in a Conference Lead Team. When the Lord called, Jennifer said “Yes, Lord; Send Me!”

Her passion was being part of the Emmaus Community where she served on numerous teams and worked relentlessly behind the scenes. Emmaus sparked her interest in “clowning” and she ended up going to Clown College where she became a certified clown for the Lord. She proudly called herself, “Purples.” Her life was filled with joy and that joy overflowed into all her relationships.

In addition to her husband, Tom, she was survived by three sons, Charles Jordan Edwards, III, and his wife Mary, Philip Maxwell Edwards and his wife Bethany, and David Warren Edwards and his wife Haley; a daughter, Staci Leigh Edwards and her husband.
Jason Basalay; one daughter-in-law, Geri Beckette, two step-daughters, Nicole Catherine Sovers, Jessica Lynn Beckett and her husband Scott Campbell; and one step-son, Thomas Lee Beckette and his wife Shelley; thirteen grandchildren, Caleb, Joel and Cami Edwards, Lindsay Edwards, Jay Canterberry and Penny Bell Edwards, Liam Dunaway, Sarah and Emily Sovers, Lilliana, Ava and Sophie Ramirez and Jacob Beckette; two brothers, Max Green and his wife Bobbi, and William H. McGraw, III, and his wife Debbie; and two sisters, Phyllis A. Shawl and Bonnie Taraczkozy.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a brother, Roy C. Greene; brothers-in-law, Bob Shawl and Bobby Taraczkozy; and a step-son, George William Beckette.

A Celebration of Life service was held on April 1, 2017, at Nighbert Memorial United Methodist Church in Logan with the Rev. Edward Grant officiating. Memorial gifts were given to the Nighbert Memorial UMC Food Pantry.

**Patricia A. James**

Patricia “Patty” A. James, wife of the Rev. D. Vaughn James, a retired local pastor, died November 2, 2016, in Lost Creek, WV, at the age of 75. A daughter of Vaughn and Sylvia Cowger, she was born March 10, 1941, on Middle Run in Braxton County. She married Vaughn on February 7, 1959, and they were married for 57 years. Rev. James served the Flatwoods-Heaters Charge in the Wesleyan District.

After graduating from Seville High School in Seville, Ohio, she obtained her beautician’s license. She was the manager of Braxton Manor for many years and she owned and operated a cabinet and upholstery business with her husband while raising three children. She was active in the community and volunteered as a homeroom mother to many children of the Davis Elementary School. She taught Sunday School and assisted with various events at the Gassaway United Methodist Church. Patty eagerly attended and graciously helped with the Girl Scout meetings and functions. She enjoyed making and painting crafts with Vaughn, and had a deep passion for genealogy.
In addition to her husband of 57 years, she is survived by three children, Mark James, an elder in the Conference, and his wife, Sonnie, Dale James and his wife, Bronwyn McClure-James, and Sonya A. James and her husband, Alan Cunningham; a great-granddaughter, Baiyanah McCraw-Jones; a sister, Barbara Runyen and her husband, Mike; a sister-in-law, Betty Cowger Wild; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and one brother, Sam Cowger.

A private service was held on November 5, 2016. She was buried at Gassaway Cemetery. The family requested that memorial gifts be given in her memory to the donor’s favorite organization.

Janis Fout Johnson

Janis Fout Johnson, wife of the Rev. Jonas Johnson, a retired local pastor, died July 27, 2016, in Elkins, at the age of 82. Born May 5, 1934, in Elkins, she was the daughter of Richard L. Fout, Sr., and Jessie Dowling Fout. She married Jonas (JR) on July 23, 1956, and they were married for 60 years. Rev. Johnson survived her briefly but died December 18, 2016.

Janis was a graduate of Thomas High School in Thomas, West Virginia, in the class of 1952. She was employed by the National Bank of Davis, the Thomas-Davis Manufacturing Company and JR’s Woodworking of Thomas.

She supported her husband’s ministry as he served Cross; St. John’s, Parsons; Leadmine Charge; Albright; and North Elkins before his retirement in 1998. Following his retirement, she was an active member of First United Methodist Church, Elkins. She was a good friend and neighbor, who always had a smile.

Janis was the last surviving member of her immediate family, having been preceded in death by her parents; two sisters, Virginia Fout Helmick and Louise Fout Carrico, and two brothers, Delton Fout and Richard L. Fout, Jr.

A Memorial Service was held August 2, 2016, at Tomblyn Funeral Home in Elkins, with the Rev. Dallas Forren officiating. Janis’s cremated remains were interred at the Rose Hill Cemetery at Thomas, West Virginia. Memorial gifts were given to the First United Methodist Church of Elkins.
Betty Lou LaParl

Betty Lou LaParl, wife of the Rev. Harold A. LaParl, a retired elder in the conference, died April 2, 2017, at the age of 89. She was born June 10, 1927, the daughter of Christopher Everett Dean and Stella Blanche Cavender Dean. On October 11, 1947, she married Rev. LaParl and they had three children.

After their marriage, they began a long journey of ministry. Rev. LaParl served Greenlee Chapel, Fairview-Baber-Agee, Fort Gay, Pt. Pleasant Circuit, Bradshaw-English, Montcalm, Hereford Circuit in the Baltimore Conference, Kermit, and Riverview. Rev. LaParl’s ministry included being a director of Pastoral Education in Huntington and Wheeling, and as director and then interim director of the West Virginia Council of Churches. Betty was his support throughout his ministry. After retirement, they lived in Waverly, Ohio.

In addition to her husband of nearly 70 years, she is survived by three children, Sherrie Ann Childers and her husband Daniel, Terrie Kirwan and her husband Thomas, and Gary LaParl and Craig Collemer; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Martha Sue Ball Mounts

Martha Sue Ball Mounts, wife of the Rev. Emory F. Mounts, a retired local pastor, died February 25, 2017, in Hinton, West Virginia, at the age of 77. The daughter of John T. and Dora Pauline Ball, she was born October 10, 1939, at Madams Creek, outside of Hinton. She and Emory “Tommy” Mounts were married for 59 years.

Martha worked for several years as a teacher’s aide and for Super Aid Pharmacy in Rich Creek, Virginia. She was a devoted pastor’s wife as her husband served Hominy Falls, Lindside, and Painter-James. She enjoyed attending church services, revivals, camp meetings, and singing for radio broadcasts. She also loved to travel and shop, was an outstanding cook, loving wife, mother and grandmother. She approached all she did with class and was loved by many.
She is survived by her husband, Tommy; four sons, Rodney and his wife Tammy, Greg and his wife Kim, Steve and his wife Debbie, and Todd and his wife Pam; eight grandchildren, Adam and his wife Tiffany, Emily Cozort and her husband Jamie, Megan Morgan and her husband Casey, Tyler and his wife Stephanie, Ethan, Hunter, Christopher and Nickolas Mounts; seven great-grandchildren, Haleigh, Ellie Grace, and Brady Cozort, Keyley, Corbin, Lucas and MaKenzie Mounts; one sister, Margaret Willey and her husband Alvin; a brother, Sammy Ball and his wife Shirley; two sisters-in-law, Eleanor Allgood and Nadine Morris; two nieces, and one nephew and their children. She was preceded in death by her parents.

A funeral service was held on February 28, 2017, at the Ronald Meadows Funeral Parlor in Hinton, with Pastors Robbie Merritt and Terrie Utterback and officiating.

**Lydia “Danyell” Straley**

Lydia “Danyell” Straley, wife of the Rev. Martin Straley, a local pastor, died December 12, 2016, at the age of 29. She was born in Welch on May 29, 1987, to Dora Ann Lester, who survives her.

Rev. Straley began serving as an assigned lay person but had begun serving Mathias in the Potomac Highlands District as a local pastor shortly before her death.

Danyell loved spending time with family and friends. In addition to her husband and mother, she is survived by a brother, Clifford “Sammy” Webb; two sisters, Kristen Riffe and Hope Hatfield; three aunts, Charlotte Wykle, Lisa Hatfield and her husband, David, and Vicie Kolfee; two uncles, Roscoe Lester and his wife, Susie, and Ebby Lester; and many cousins. She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Roscoe and Lydia Lester; and a cousin, Randy Dale Wykle, Jr.

A service was held on December 16, 2016, at Mounts Funeral Home in Gilbert, West Virginia, with the Rev. David Hatfield and the Rev. Clifford Rawls officiating. She was buried at North Springs Church Cemetery in North Springs, WV.
Freda Jewell Britton Auvil, surviving spouse of the Rev. Kermit Auvil, died November 25, 2016, at the age of 87. She was born December 24, 1928, the daughter of Owen and Vercie Leeson Britton. She married Rev. Auvil on February 11, 1949, and they were married for almost 63 years before his death on December 7, 2011.

She graduated from Doddridge County High School in 1947 and worked for Monongahela Power Company.

She was a faithful and active member of the Quiet Dell United Methodist Church, where her husband served as a licensed local pastor from 1992-2002. She served as treasurer for 25 years, assisted with Sunday School and Bible School, sang in the choir, played the piano, and was a member of the United Methodist Women. Part of her ministry was visiting with those church members who were homebound, in nursing homes and in the hospital. As an auxiliary member of Gideon International, she served in various capacities on the local, district, and state level. She was generous with her time and talents in all aspects of life.

In addition to her parents and husband, Jewell was preceded in death by two sisters, Margaret Reeder McWilliams and Wilma Doris Hall, making her the last surviving member of her immediate family. She was also preceded in death by her only son-in-law, Stephen Douglas, in May of 2016.

She is survived by four children, sons Gary Auvil and his wife Ellen, Lyndon Auvil and his wife Lonna, Randy Auvil and his wife Phyllis; a daughter, Sandra Douglas; ten grandchildren, Christopher Auvil and his wife Heather, Kery Auvil, Joshua Aaron Auvil and his wife Mary Ann, Ashley Douglas, Clark Douglas, Logan Auvil, Lennon Jewell Auvil, Heather Fisher and her husband Jonah, and Amber Ward and her husband Brian; four great-grandchildren, KayLee Auvil, Riley and Reese Fisher, and Leo Ward.

A service was held November 29, 2016, at Quiet Dell United Methodist Church with the family providing the eulogy, assisted by Rev. Bobby King. Memorial gifts were made to three important missions of her life: Quiet Dell UMC, Clarksburg Mission and The Gideons International.
Lila Lee Wilkinson Blankenship

Lila Lee Wilkinson Blankenship, surviving spouse of the Rev. J. Robert “Bob” Blankenship, died October 22, 2016, in Wheeling, WV, at the age of 89. Born March 27, 1927, in Wheeling, she was the daughter of James and Mary Dailer Wilkinson. She married Rev. Blankenship on August 31, 1946, and they were married for 59 years before his death in November 2005.

Lila was a graduate of Wheeling High School in the class of 1946. She retired from the special education department of the Ohio County Schools, where she was a teacher’s aide from 1973 to 1989. She served as Community Service Regional Chairperson for Ohio County Schools, and she was a member of the Ohio County School Employee Association.

Throughout her life, she served as a youth director and Sunday School teacher at various United Methodist Churches where her husband served both in Pennsylvania and West Virginia, including Christ (Wheeling), and Ruble after retirement in 1990. She was a member of Ruble United Methodist Church and a member and former officer of the United Methodist Women.

Lila was involved with the Girl Scouts for over thirty years. She enjoyed keeping in touch on Facebook, attending all of her grandchildren’s sporting, academic, and artistic events. She was a wholehearted supporter of the Pirates, Steelers, Penguins, West Virginia University, Penn State, Pitt, Ohio State, Georgia, Point Park University, Wheeling Park High School and her alma mater, Wheeling High School.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by three brothers, Harold “Craig,” John, and Ralph Wilkinson.

She is survived by two daughters, Beth Sands and her husband Scott, and Lori Mathieu and her husband Mike; two sons, Craig Blankenship, an elder in the conference, and his wife Carol, and Dwight Blankenship and his wife Allison; grandchildren, Jennifer, Abby, and Amy Mathieu, Jonathan Mathieu and his wife Ashley, Jeremiah Blankenship and his wife Dorielle, and Simeon Blankenship and his wife Laurie, Rebecca Pamer and her husband Mike, and their mother, Darlene Ary, Josh Blankenship, Ezra, Jubal and Lillyah Blankenship; two step grandchildren, Erin Leonard and Bob Pearson; six great-grandchildren, Lila Caraline, Jude, and Margaret Pamer, Adalyn and Josephine Blankenship; two brothers, Sonny Wilkinson and his wife Leona, and Jimmy Wilkinson and his wife Fran; and two sisters, Betty Lou Leech and Suzanne Quinn.
A funeral service was held October 26, 2016, at the Grisell Funeral Home Wheeling, with her son, Rev. Craig Blankenship, officiating. She was buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Wheeling. Memorial gifts were given to Ruble United Methodist Church.

**G. Viola Burrough**

Gorda Viola Burrough, surviving spouse of the Rev. Austin R. Burrough, died December 25, 2016, in Fairmont, WV, at the age of 86. Born December 9, 1930, in Morgantown, West Virginia, she was the daughter of Charles Spring and Pearl Howell Spring. She married Rev. Burrough on August 28, 1947, and they were married for nearly 67 years before his death in 2014.

Viola worked for the Harrison County School Board for over twenty years. She loved gardening, cooking and serving Christ through the church alongside her husband. She was a partner with her husband in ministry in numerous churches that he served, mostly in the former Fairmont District. She was a member of Christ Church United Methodist in Shinnston. After retirement, she helped area churches with projects such as making chocolate covered Easter Eggs to fund a bell tower for the church at Owings, West Virginia. She was frugal and worked hard at every task. She sometimes spent her vacations preparing the catch for a church fellowship fish fry to be held when the family returned home. Her energy and enthusiasm for her Lord, the church, and her family never wavered, and she gave life to the scripture “Who can find a virtuous woman? Her price is far above rubies” (Proverbs 31).

In addition to her parents and her husband, she was preceded in death by her brother, George. She is survived by her sons, Rev. David R. Burrough and his wife, Carolyn, and Rev. William F. Burrough and his wife, Janette; grandchildren, Matthew Burrough, Amanda Stapleton, Monica Ashcraft and Michael Burrough; great-grandchildren, Chelsie Larkin, Cody Larkin, Erika Johnson, McKayle Marie and Abagail Louise Stapleton, Steven Ashcraft, Dean Stapleton, Seth Cabera, and Leilani Cabera; and great-great-grandchild, Rochelle Larkin.

A funeral service was held on December 28, 2016, at the Harner Funeral Home in Shinnston, WV, with her sons, the Rev. David R. Burrough and the Rev. William F. Burrough officiating. She was buried at the Enterprise I.O.O.F. Cemetery.
**Betty Jean Davis**

Betty Jean Davis, surviving spouse of the Rev. Donald Davis, died June 11, 2016, just ten days after the death of her husband. Born July 23, 1936, in Calhoun County, she was the daughter of Edward L. Lona Cain Wright. She and Rev. Davis were married on July 15, 1954.

As a pastor’s wife, she dedicated her life to the service of others. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Betty and Don were married for many years before he went to seminary. She supported his decision to follow his calling. She was a partner with him in ministry.

In addition to her parents and husband of 62 years, she was preceded in death by her brothers, Kenneth, Elbert, Alfred, and James; and her sister, Delores Mitchell.

She was survived by two daughters, Monica Haines and her husband Paul, and Donna Waters and her husband David; three granddaughters, Jamie Deem and her husband Joe, Kelly Haines and Andrea Waters; two grandsons, Brian Haines and his wife, Mary, and Jared Waters; four great-grandchildren, Blair and Quinn Haines and Isaac and Emrie Deem; a sister, Eldean McDonald; and a brother, Robert Wright.

A celebration of her life was held at Stout Memorial United Methodist Church in Parkersburg with the Rev. Rick DeQuasie and the Rev. Paul Russell officiating. She was buried at Parkersburg Memorial Gardens. Memorial gifts were given to the Rev. Dr. Donald L. and Betty J. Davis Ministry Scholarship Trust at the United Methodist Foundation.

**Nellie Melba Gainer**

Nellie Melba Gainer, surviving spouse of the Rev. William Vance Gainer, died February 10, 2017. Born September 10, 1919, she was 97 years old. She married Vance on June 20, 1941, and they were married for 59 years before his death in November 2000.

Nellie was a graduate of Richwood High School and earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from West Virginia Wesleyan College and Fairmont State College and a Master of Arts Degree from West Virginia University.

Her husband served Pea Ridge; Wesley, Charleston; Romney; Shinnston; West Liberty; Perry Memorial, Shady
Spring; and Lumberport before retiring in 1985. They retired to Shinnston, where he served as an associate at First United Methodist until shortly before his death.

A memorial service was held on March 11, 2017, at First United Methodist, Shinnston. Her ashes were inurned at Shinnston Memorial Cemetery. Memorial gifts were made to First United Methodist Church, Shinnston.

Ruby Scarff Harris

Ruby Lee Scarff Harris, surviving spouse of the Rev. Dewitt Harris, died July 17, 2016. She was 103 years old. Born September 24, 1912, in Gilmer County, she was the daughter of Willie H. Smith and Nellie M. King Smith. She was preceded in death by two husbands, Virgil Scarff and Rev. Harris, whom she married on July 11, 1964. He died February 27, 1984, after nearly 20 years of marriage.

Ruby worked as a glassworker at Colonial Glass Factory of Weston. Her hobby was working with crafts and especially dolls. Her greatest joy was spending time with her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and many friends. Following her marriage to Rev. Harris, he served Bomont Circuit; Hartland; Leroy and Gandeeville Circuit before his retirement in 1974.

Ruby is survived by four children, Edna Helmick, Brenda Joyce Smith and her husband Donald, Sandra Jean Crook and her husband Billy, and Melanie Kay Chapman; several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren, as well as nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents and both of her husbands, she was preceded in death by a daughter, Lila June Shoulder; a son, Larry Marshal Scarff; five brothers, Carlton Lynn, Harry, Argyle, Waynard, and Junior Smith; and six sisters, Faye Shaffer, Chloe Jones, Merle Butcher, Wava Britton, Snow Smith, and Louise Britton.

A funeral service was held on July 21, 2016, at Hardman-Paletti Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Clifford West officiating. She was buried in the Weston Masonic Cemetery.
Dorothy Lee Litton Hatcher

Dorothy Lee Litton Hatcher, surviving spouse of the Rev. Oval B. “Joe” Hatcher, died October 16, 2016, in Vienna, West Virginia, at the age of 84. Born November 22, 1931, in Jackson County, she was the daughter of Margaret McQueen Litton and C.B. Litton. She married Joe Hatcher on August 15, 1951, and he preceded her in death on June 4, 2014, after nearly 63 years of marriage.

Dorothy graduated from Ripley High School in 1951. After Joe was called into the ministry, she assisted him as they served churches in Ripley; Smithville; Clifton; Belleville; Glenville; Ellenboro; and Swanton, in Garrett County, Maryland. After his retirement, they moved to Vienna where they were part of St. Paul’s UMC, Parkersburg, and Wayside UMC, Vienna.

In addition to her husband and parents, Dorothy was preceded in death by a son, Mark Allen Hatcher; a daughter, Carrie Lea Reed; three sisters, Bea Iva, and Eloise; and one brother, Willis. She was survived by her son, Joey B. Hatcher and his wife, Jodi Perras; a grandson, Joseph M. Hatcher; a son-in-law, Jeffrey Reed; and a granddaughter, Jennifer Reed.

A funeral service was held on October 21, 2016, at Wayside United Methodist Church with the Rev. Greg Markins officiating. She was buied at Jackson Memorial Gardens in Cottageville. Memorial gifts were given to Wayside UMC General Ministry Fund and Burlington United Methodist Family Services.
Dorothy Justine Lockart


During their ministry, Rev. Lockhart served in Elkins, Flat Rock, Petersburg, and Ripley. After retirement, they settled in Elkins, where Dorothy was a member of Otterbein United Methodist Church. She was active in many ministries there. She was a 60-year member of the United Methodist Women and served as treasurer of Church Women United. She loved to sing and sang in church choirs and in the Melody Chorus. She also taught Sunday School and Bible studies. She was a member of the Elkins Women’s Club, Farm Women’s Club, the Homemakers, and participated in the Randolph County Senior Center.

Dorothy was the last surviving member of her immediate family, having been preceded in death by two brothers, Kermit and Wilbert Long, and a sister, Hazel Lenox. She is survived by three sons, Stephen Lockhart and his wife Ginny, Robert Lockhart and his wife Peggy, and Daniel Lockhart and his wife Kathy; one daughter, Sharon Lockart and her husband Ed; and four grandchildren, Travis, Maggie and her husband Derek, Sara and Amy.

A funeral service was held on September 9, 2016, at the Otterbein United Methodist Church in Elkins with the Rev. Leon Hevener and the Rev. Kelly Simmons officiating. She was buried in the Mountain State Memorial Gardens near Gilman. Memorial gifts were given to the Otterbein United Methodist Church.

Bonnie Lou Mick

Bonnie Lou Overfield Bradley Mick, surviving spouse of the Rev. Clell O. Mick, died August 31, 2016, in Morgantown, West Virginia, at the age of 84. Born April 8, 1932, in Reedsville, WV, she was a daughter of William Gay Overfield and Jessie Lee Watkins Overfield. She and Rev. Mick were married December 18, 1981, and he preceded her in death on November 21, 1995. She was also preceded in death by her first husband, Willis E. Bradley.
Polly Mae Miller

Polly Mae Miller, surviving spouse of the Rev. Marvin G. Miller, died July 15, 2016, at the age of 78. She was born June 26, 1938, in Lashmeet, West Virginia, a daughter of Abney M. and Ella Mae Gates Hurst.

Polly was a graduate of Matoaka High School and Concord State College, with a degree in Home Economics and Education. She taught school in Jackson and Ritchie counties, retiring from Jackson County Schools in 1998, after 30 years of teaching. She was a member of the Eastern Star and Community United Methodist Church near Grafton.

During their marriage, Rev. Miller served various charges within the conference including Wick (8 churches) in Tyler County, Grant Town (2 churches) in Marion County, Cottageville (6 churches) in Jackson County, Cairo (7 churches) in Ritchie County, and Sandyville (5 churches) in Jackson County. On July 5, 1973, Rev. Miller died at the age of 68, while serving the Sandyville Charge, leaving Polly with three children ages 13, 12, and 6. The family remained at Sandyville UMC where she served as the youth leader for several years and in various positions with the United Methodist Women as well as many other church and charge capacities.

Bonnie graduated from Arthurdale High School in the Class of 1950. She graduated from Fairmont State University and received her Master’s Degree from West Virginia University. She worked for the Preston County Board of Education as a teacher with the gifted program and also in the learning disability program for twenty years. She was a member of the Eastern Star and Community United Methodist Church near Grafton.

She is survived by one son, Parke Bradley; three sisters, Sandy White and her husband Bob, Shirley Renbert, and Judy Bryant and her husband Ernest; one brother, Clifford Overfield and his wife Ruth; and one granddaughter, Laura Bradley. In addition to her husbands and parents, she was preceded in death by a son, Milton Dean Bradley; and one grandson, Jesse Willis Bradley.

A funeral service was held September 6, 2016, at the Donald G. Ford Funeral Home in Grafton, with the Rev. Judy Flynn officiating. She was buried at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery.
Polly viewed ministry as a team effort with her husband, always together in their devotion to Jesus Christ and to God’s children. She particularly enjoyed attending Annual Conference and renewing friendships there. An earthly example of unconditional love, her personal ministry in the latter years was that of selfless service to others.

In addition to her parents and her husband, she was preceded in death by a brother, Larry M. Hurst, and a sister, Ella Christine Shutt. Polly is survived by her children, Marvin G. Miller, III, and his wife, Robin, James A. Miller, and Virginia Mae McDonald and her husband, Rodney; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and two brothers, Edward Hurst and Mickey Hurst.

A funeral service was held Monday, July 18, 2016, at Sandyville United Methodist Church with the Rev. Jarrod Caltrider officiating. She was buried at Resthaven Memorial Park in Princeton, West Virginia. Memorial gifts were given to the Sandyville United Methodist Church.

Velma Lea Riegel

Velma Lea Riegel, surviving spouse of the Rev. Paul Revere Riegel, died October 14, 2016, in Bridgeport, West Virginia, at the age of 89. She was born November 22, 1926, in Cassidy, WV, the eldest daughter of Wilson and Bessie Rader Chewning. On November 18, 1946, she was married to Rev. Riegel by the Rev. Charles Pugh at the Methodist parsonage in Mill Creek, WV. They were married for more than 62 years before he preceded her in death in February 2009.

Velma attended public schools in Randolph County. She accompanied her husband with his full-time ministry beginning in 1958 through ten ministerial appointments. He retired in 1991. She served the church in a variety of capacities, always with a loving heart and joyful presence.

She resided in Harrison County more than 43 years of her life, having lived in Liberty Addition and Enterprise before retiring to Quiet Dell. All seven of her children graduated from Shinnston High School. She had a variety of interests and hobbies, which
included flowers, sewing, crossword puzzles, and games on the iPad. She enjoyed RFDTV and was an avid fan and collector of bluegrass and classic country music. At the time of her death, she was a member of the Jerusalem United Methodist Church.

Velma is survived by three sons, Dwight Riegel and his wife Linda, Darris Riegel and his wife Mary Ann, and Darrell Riegel; three daughters, Doris Riegel and her friend, Joanne Feldman, Denene Carder and her husband Jeff, and Marlene Riegel; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; two brothers, Dale and his wife Geraldine, and Rya and his wife Patricia; and other relatives, Margie Chewning, Shirley Riegel and Elden and Lois Riegel.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by her eldest son, Darcy, Riegel; two infant children; one sister, Pansy Taylor; and one brother, Delano Chewning.

A funeral service was held October 19, 2016, at the Jerusalem United Methodist Church with the Rev. Dr. Basil Hensley officiating. Memorial gifts were received by the Jerusalem UMC.

Dora Faye Calvert Smith

Dora Faye Calvert Smith, surviving spouse of the Rev. Paul H. Smith, died March 10, 2017, at the age of 78. She was born January 2, 1939, in Charleston, WV, the daughter of Earl and Grace Calvert. She married on June 10, 1960, and they were married for nearly 35 years before his death in May 1995.

Dora Faye graduated from DuPont High School and West Virginia University Institute of Technology with a Home Economics degree. She viewed her ministry as one of hospitality and was a gracious homemaker and hostess. She was a beautiful seamstress and artist. During his ministry, Rev. Smith served Betheseda-Sunrise and Riverview in the Huntington area; Hammond-Anmoore-Trinity in the Buckhannon area; Elizabeth Memorial, Charleston; Drummond Chapel in Morgantown; as Superintendent in the Parkersburg District and St. Andrew in St. Albans. In each city where they lived, she developed friendships that lasted a lifetime. Strangers became friends and were loved as family. She had an unforgettable smile and a delightful sense of humor.

After her children were grown, she acquired a teacher’s certificate and taught mentally challenged children at Anne Bailey, Taft and Andrew Heights Elementary schools in Kanawha County.
Rev. Smith died while serving his final appointment at St. Andrew UMC. Dora Faye remained a member there for the rest of her life. She organized and was the leader of The Peace Makers, making Quilts of Valor for military veterans and Prayer Pillows for those in need of spiritual inspiration. She was a member of the Phyllis Asher Fellowship, Worship Committee, and the Altar Guild. She had been part of the St. Albans Garden Club and established the St. Alban’s Red Hat Society Classy Lassies.

In addition to her parents and Rev. Smith, she was preceded in death by a son, Mark Wesley Smith. She is survived by a daughter, Deborah Susannah Smith; her sister, Barbara Calvert St. John; sister-in-law, Nancy Smith Frederick and her husband, Trevy; and a niece, Nissa Taylor, and nephew, Brenton St. John.

A funeral service was held on March 16, 2017, at St. Andrew United Methodist Church in St. Albans, with the Rev. Ed Grant officiating. She was buried at Graceland Memorial Park, South Charleston. Memorial gifts were given to St. Andrew United Methodist Quilting Ministry.

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**Betty E. Starkey**

Betty Ellen Starkey, surviving spouse of the Rev. Charles Starkey, died January 9, 2017, at the age of 87. Born May 24, 1929, in Rachel, she was the daughter of John S. and Opal Ayers. She married Rev. Starkey on July 3, 1969, and they were married nearly 30 years before his death September 11, 1999.

Betty retired from the CNG payroll department with 25 years of service. She was a lifetime member and volunteer at the Harrison County Senior Citizens. She also was a volunteer for People’s Hospice. A member of United Methodist Temple in Clarksburg, she participated in the Freda Payne Circle of the United Methodist Women and the Prayer Shawl Ministry. She was a 50-year member of the Queen Esther #11 Order of the Eastern Star and a supporter of the Heritage Craft in Quiet Dell.

She was survived by her daughter, Teresa “Terry” Fazio and her husband John; a son, John R. Snider; stepsons, Charles Starkey, and Harold J. Starkey and his wife Shirley;
grandchildren, Kara Sherrell and her husband Marc, Christopher Fazio, Christy Jones and her husband Chad, and Rebecca Snider Thoroughman and her husband Cam; step-grandchildren, Richard Starkey and his wife Jennifer, Amanda Vasquez and her husband Jesse, Andrew Starkey and his wife Shannon, Dawn Starkey and Brian Starkey; five great-grandchildren, Sebastian John Grilli, Sophia Grace Sherrell, Connor Jones, Caiden Jones and Gavin Thoroughman.

A memorial service was held on January 21, at the United Methodist Temple, Clarksburg, with the Rev. James Riggs officiating. In keeping with her generous nature, Mrs. Starkey donated her body to West Virginia University. Memorial gifts were made to the United Methodist Temple, People’s Hospice, and Amedysis Hospice.

Marilyn L. Pfeiffer Farnham Taylor

Marilyn L. Pfeiffer Farnham Taylor, surviving spouse of the Rev. John Taylor, died February 26, 2017. Rev. Taylor preceded her in death on July 18, 2016. They were married for just under 10 years at the time of his death. Mrs. Taylor was born March 29, 1928, in Chicago, Illinois. She and her identical twin sister, Aileen, were daughters of Otto and Helen Pfeiffer.

Marilyn graduated from Taft High School in Chicago and from Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa, with a degree in Biology. She married Wallace Farnham and they lived for many years in Champaign, Illinois. They had two children. Marilyn loved her family dearly, including her own and that of her twin sister. The families spent holidays and summers at her beloved Wyoming cabin, indulging her love of nature, geology and birds.

Following a divorce from her husband, she lived in Champaign, where she was a faithful member of Emmanuel Memorial Episcopal Church, singing in the choir and serving on the Altar Guild. In 2006, Marilyn married Rev. Taylor, a long-time friend and fellow Cornell College alumni. Following his death, she moved to Thornton, Colorado, to be near her daughter.

She was survived by her children, Anne Calkins and her husband, Wesley, and Leonard Farnham and his wife, Lisa; grandchildren, Justin, Katie, and Stacy Schuchard and Jake and Allison Farnham; and stepchildren, Janet Byers and her husband, Ivan, Mark
Taylor, and Tim Taylor and his wife, Sharon Ludwig. In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by her twin sister, Aileen.

Marilyn was laid to rest alongside her sister in the Harlington Cemetery in Waverly, Iowa, on June 24, 2017. Memorials were given to the Emmanuel Memorial Episcopal Church Choir in Champaign, Illinois.

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**Marilyn Ware**

Marilyn Ware, surviving spouse of the Rev. Virgil H. Ware, died August 8, 2016, at the age of 93. Born July 4, 1923, she was the daughter of William H. and Nella Dale Satterfield Linn. She married Rev. Ware on July 24, 1943, and they were married for more than 60 years before his death on March 19, 2004.

Rev. Ware served churches in Lebanon, Tennessee, and in Summersville, Huntington, Charleston, Clarksburg, and Williamstown in West Virginia. From 1972 until his retirement in 1988, he served as Conference Treasurer and Executive Secretary of Pensions Fund and they lived in Charleston where Martha was a member of Christ Church United Methodist. They remained in Charleston upon their retirement. After her husband’s death, she eventually moved to Bridgeport, WV, where she was living at the time of her death.

Martha Jane was active in each church where they served and at Christ Church. She was a member of the United Methodist Women and served as president of the Conference Minister Wives Association. She was an encourager of other ministers’ wives and showed an interest in their lives and families. In retirement, she enjoyed reading and going on daily walks.

She is survived by her four children, David and his wife, Trudy, Janice Sundstrom, Joyce Ware, and Gayle Jayne and her husband, Peter; eight grandchildren, John Warder, Samuel Ware, Tim Harsha, Debbie Birckhead, Kristen Eakle, Katie Staley, Rebecca Jayne, and Brian Jayne; eight great-grandchildren, Georgia Warder, Ava Birckhead, Jack Birckhead, Bobby Eakle, Nathan Eakle, Audrey Staley, Emma Staley, and Max Deifel.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by four brothers, Robert, Ralph, Hugh, and Clavin Linn; and four sisters, Evelyn Harris, Ruth Morrison, Doris McDougal, and Madeline Stebbins.

A funeral service was held at Domico Funeral Home in Fairmont with the Rev. Dr. Ken Ramsey officiating. She was buried in the Clermont Cemetery in Fairmont.
**Beulah P. Winfrey**

Beulah Pearl Farley Winfrey, surviving spouse of the Rev. Dwight Dickerson, died August 20, 2016, at the age of 87. She was born February 13, 1929, in Dunns, WV, the daughter of Joseph Sanford Farley and Goldie Fern Lilly McGuire. She was preceded in death by three husbands, Fred Russell, Rev. Dickerson, and Howard Winfrey.

Beulah was the manager for the G.C. Murphy Company in Princeton. She was a member of the First Church of the Nazarene in Princeton.

She is survived by two sisters, Sadie Adkins and her husband, Ray, and Frances Sykes; one brother, Jessie Farley and his wife, Betty; and several nieces and nephews. In addition to her husbands and parents, she was preceded in death by five brothers and one sister.

A funeral service was held on August 24, 2016, at the Seaver Funeral Home in Princeton, with Pastor Roger Yates officiating. She was buried in Blue Ridge Memorial Gardens in Beckley, WV.

**Barbara Spruce Woods**

Barbara Spruce Woods, surviving spouse of the Rev. William A. Woods, died July 30, 2016, at the age of 96. Born September 10, 1919, in Charleston, WV, she was the daughter of William A. and Ella Mae Holswade Spruce. She married Rev. Woods on April 30, 1939. They were married nearly 50 years prior to his death on February 27, 1990.

Barbara graduated first in her class from Charleston High School in 1937, attended Hollins University in Roanoke, Virginia, for two years and then returned to college twenty-five years later and graduated Summa Cum Laude with a perfect grade point average and a degree in Business and Accounting from Marshall University. She attended Marshall while her husband was District Superintendent in Huntington and while he served at Beverly Hills UMC in Huntington. Because of her career choice, she was a pioneer for women in her field. She
was the only women and the only older student in a male-dominated major. She was barred from the male-only accounting club on campus and so she joined the American Society of Women Accountants in Huntington. After graduation, she began working for Kenneth Smart, CPA, one of her former teachers who had just started an accounting practice. When Rev. Woods was appointed to First UMC in Weirton, she was hired as an accountant by William C. Dumbaugh, CPA, and worked there for 25 years, retiring at the age of 81.

She was the first woman to be elected to the Annual Conference Board of Pensions and served as vice president for four years. She was the first female member of the newly formed Estate Planning Council while she was living in Huntington.

She was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Weirton where she served for many years as a member of the Finance Committee. She served as chair of the audit committee and treasurer of the United Methodist Women. She was also a member of the Weirton Women’s Club and the Art Department and was a former member of the Three Score Seniors and AARP.

She was survived by a son, Dr. William A. Woods, Jr., and his wife Selina; two daughters, Pamela Ford and Linaka Groller and her husband Kurt; five grandsons, Paul Tadlock, John Tadlock, Jeffrey Ford and his wife Leigh Anne, Matthew Woods and his wife Tricia, and Alexander Woods and his wife Tamara; eleven great-grandchildren; and two nieces, Gretchen Rutherford and Susan Kortick. In addition to Rev. Woods and her parents, she was preceded in death by a sister and brother-in-law, Bob and Dorothy Mae Schick; brother-in-law, Robert C. Woods; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Mildred and Riley Bennett and a close companion, O.J. Cameron.

A funeral service was held on August 8, 2016, at First UMC, Weirton, with the Rev. Carol McKay and the Rev. Gary Shepard officiating. She was buried at Sunset Memorial Park in South Charleston, WV. Memorial gifts were made to First UMC, Weirton, and Valley Hospice Care Center in Steubenville, Ohio.