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 6, 2018. The Conference Secretary wishes to thank the families of these faithful servants for supplying photographs and supplemental materials for the memoirs.

CLERGY

Dallas B. Bailey, Jr.

The Rev. Dallas B. Bailey, Jr., a retired deacon in the conference, died January 21, 2018. He was 80 years old. Born February 16, 1937, in Salem, West Virginia, he was a son of Dallas B. and Pearl Ritter Bailey. He was married to Lotta A. (Ann) Bailey for fifty-five years and they had two sons.

A graduate of the former Salem College in Salem, West Virginia, he earned a Master’s degree in Sociology and a Ph.D. in Education and Counseling from Kent State University. He completed post-doctoral studies at West Virginia University, Illinois State University, Methodist Theological School in Ohio, and Perkins School of Theology (SMU) in Dallas, Texas.

Most of his career was in higher education administration and teaching at Illinois State University, Salem College, where he served as president, and West Virginia Wesleyan College, where he was Vice President for Student Affairs and later Dean of the Chapel. In 1988, he was consecrated a Diaconal Minister in the West Virginia Conference. In 1997, he was in the first class of Permanent Deacons ordained in the West Virginia Conference. He battled ALS (Lou Gehrig’s Disease) which limited him physically in his later years, but he was always supportive of and interested in what was happening in the Order of Deacons.

Beginning in 1993, he served as Director of Pastoral Care and Bereavement Services of People’s Hospice in Clarksburg, West Virginia, and later was named Interim Director. He was Director of the Governor’s Cabinet on Children and Families, in Charleston, in 1997. He served as Minister of Visitation and Community Relations and later as Associate Pastor at First UMC, Clarksburg. He retired in 2002 and moved to Lexington, VA. He continued to be active in professional and community service organizations, including Trinity UMC, Lexington, the YMCA Board of Directors, and volunteering at the Habitat for Humanity Restore.
He was survived by his wife, Ann; two sons, Kenneth B. Bailey and his wife, Miriam, and Jeffrey K. Bailey and his wife, Valerie Johnson; four grandchildren, Madeline, Faith, Nathan, and Wesley Bailey; and one sister, Nell C. Bailey.

A memorial service was held at First UMC, Clarksburg, on February 17, 2018. He donated his body to the West Virginia Human Gift Registry in honor of his nephew, Dr. David Maxson.

Memorial gifts were given to the Dallas and Ann Bailey Memorial Trust to benefit West Virginia Wesleyan College through the United Methodist Foundation and to Salem University Foundation.

**Gregory Lee Blair**

The Rev. Gregory Lee Blair, an elder in the conference serving Wayside in Vienna, died December 22, 2017. He was 61 years old. Born May 26, 1956, he was the son of G. Bryan Blair and Lois E. Brown Blair. His father, who was a retired elder in the conference, died in the spring of 2017. Rev. Blair was married to Kathy Naggie Blair for 26 years.


Throughout his ministry, Greg was known for his warmth and genuine concern for his congregation.

In addition to his mother and his wife, Kathy, he is survived by one sister, Susan Casey and her husband, Larry, and one brother, Doug Blair. He was preceded in death by his father and a son, Daniel Preston Blair.

A funeral service was held on December 28 at Wayside UMC in Vienna with the Rev. Brad Davis and the Rev. Ted Osgood officiating. He was buried at Roselawn Cemetery in Princeton, West Virginia.
Borden T. Brady

The Rev. Borden Thane Brady, a retired associate member in the conference, died November 24, 2017. He was 86 years old. The son of Bert and Josephine Brady, he was born February 17, 1931, in Shock, West Virginia. He married Frances Josephine Minney on October 7, 1954, and they had six children. Frances preceded him in death in November 1998.

Borden graduated from Normantown High School in 1949. He attended one year at Davis & Elkins College and also attended West Virginia State. He was ordained a deacon in the former Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1965 and became an associate member of The United Methodist Church after the merger of 1968. He served the Elkins Circuit (1960-1963); Tanner Circuit (1963); Nitro (1964-1967); Z-Warner (1967-1970); Mathias Circuit (1970-1975); Keystone-Northfork (1975-1984); Broad Street, Weston (1984); Trinity-Star City (1985-1989); and Reynolds Memorial (1989-1991) before taking Disability Leave in 1991. He retired in 1996.

He took pleasure in conducting revivals throughout the conference and making lifetime friends who enjoyed serving God.

Borden was an avid hunter, gardener, and sports enthusiast. He enjoyed all college and professional sports, but had a special love for the Northfork High School basketball team. He supported the team and the coaches by providing transportation for team members and cheerleaders to attend games.

In his later years, he had lived in Fort Worth, Texas, with his daughter, Cindy and her family.

In addition to his parents and Frances, his wife of 44 years, he was preceded in death by all his siblings: Blaine, Bernard, Blair, Brock, Beaulah and Barbara. He was also preceded in death by a granddaughter, Mary Katherine Graham.

He was survived by his children, Sherry Brown, Kimberly Wilkins and her husband, Sam, Cindy Oster and her husband, Timothy, Dawn Graham and her husband, James, Randy Brady and Tracy Robinson; 15 grandchildren, Sharon Skates, Samuel Wilkins, Jr., Kelly Wilkins, Joseph Wilkins, Katherine Jones, Jeremy Brown, Daniel Oster, Jessica Cogsdil, Sarah Graham, Jazmine Brady, Jordan Robinson, Rick Robinson, Nathan Brady, Ethan Brady, and Lincoln Brady; and 14 great-grandchildren, Jaden Skates, Gabrielle Skates, Corinn Skates, Matthew Wilkins, Levi Wilkins, Deandrea Wilkins, Bryan Coyle, Brady Jones, Kyan Jones, Kaden Jones, Emma Oster, Heath Oster, and Olive and Noland Cogsdil.

A funeral service was held on November 30, 2017, at the Stump Funeral Home in Arnoldsburg, West Virginia.
Ronald R. Brooks

The Rev. Ronald R. Brooks, a retired elder in the conference, died July 1, 2017. He was 79 years old. Born August 13, 1937, he was the son of Ray and Athleen Altizer Brooks. On June 9, 1961, he married Edna Virginia Miller and they were married for 56 years and had four children.

A graduate of Man High School in 1954, Ron received his B.A. degree from West Virginia Wesleyan College in 1958 and his M.Div. from Wesley Theological Seminary in 1961. He pastored Johnsville-Middleburg in Maryland while he was in seminary. In the conference he served Kermit (1961-65); Wayne (1965-1969); Romney (1969-1976); Epworth, Ripley (1976-1985); First, Huntington (1985-1992); and First, Ravenswood (1999-2000). He also served on Bishop Ives’ cabinet in the former Wheeling District which became the Northern District during his tenure. He served on a number of boards and agencies within the conference.

In retirement in Huntington, he was honored by First United Methodist Church in Huntington as “Pastor Emeritus,” in recognition of his long service.

An avid golfer, his hole-in-one at Twin Silos in 2008 brought him great pleasure. He was also extremely devoted to his family, valuing each relationship with a special care.

In addition to his wife, Edna, he was survived by children, Jay Brooks, Ronald Brooks, Jr., Maribeth Anderson and her husband, Scott, and Jennifer Brooks; five grandchildren, Cameron and Tyler Brooks, Sophia Pajevic, and Brooks and Tess Anderson; three brothers, Robert Brooks and his wife, Lea, Jim Brooks and his wife, Ellen, and Scott Brooks and his wife, Anita; two sisters, Patty Roach and her husband, Jim, and Gena Ryan and her husband, Don; and a number of nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held on July 5, 2017, at First UMC, Huntington. Memorial gifts were given to the Ronald R. Brooks endowment for seminary scholarships at the UM Foundation of West Virginia, and also to First United Methodist Church, Huntington.
The Rev. Carl Emzie Burrows, a retired elder in the conference, died November 24, 2017. He was 95 years old. A son of Emzie M. “Red” and Nora Marie Nibert Burrows, he was born November 24, 1922, in Huntington, West Virginia. On August 17, 1957, he married Dayle Marie Morton and they had two daughters. Dayle preceded him in death.

A graduate of Pt. Pleasant High School in 1941, he received a bachelor’s degree from West Virginia Institute of Technology in 1959, and a Masters of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary in 1962. He also completed the Conference Course of Study in 1955 after he was licensed to preach. He was ordained a deacon in 1954 and an elder in 1956, becoming a full member of the conference in 1962. He served Lizemores (1954-1959); Fort Ashby (1959-1962); Sharon-Dawes (1962-1967); Union (1967-1971); Otterbein, Huntington (1971-1974); Mt. Hope (1974-1979); and Bluewell from 1979 until his retirement in 1988. He also served Lizemores again in retirement from 1989-2001.

He was survived by his daughters, Becky Wilson and her husband, Rick, and Barbara Boyd, and her husband, William; five grandchildren and four great grandchildren; two brothers, Charles Burrows and Leotis Burrows.

A funeral service was held on January 14, 2018, at Kilsyth Freewill Baptist Church in Mount Hope with Pastor Davey Duncan officiating. Rev. Dr. Joe Kenaston, Southern District Superintendent, presented the Circuit Rider Medallion. He was buried at Blue Ridge Memorial Gardens in Prosperity.
The Rev. George Dewey Clay, a retired elder in the conference, died February 4, 2018. He was 89 years old. Born July 30, 1928, in Williamson, West Virginia, he was the son of Dewey D. and Gladys Mae Jackson Clay.


George’s ministry was characterized by his love for people. He always had a smile and a kind word for everyone. He enjoyed traveling, especially to Myrtle Beach, and reading. He was a fan of Mountaineer football and basketball.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Betty Clay. He is survived by his children, Dottie Fidler and her husband, Frank, and David Clay; a sister, Dorothy Copley; a brother, David Clay; as well as many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and stepchildren and grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on March 10, 2018 at the Forrest Burdette Memorial UMC in Hurricane, with the Rev. Ellis Conley officiating.
Phyllis Coston

The Rev. Phyllis Coston, a retired deacon in full connection in the conference, died March 25, 2018. She was 87 years old. She was born February 7, 1931, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, a daughter of Howard and Mary Kann Kohl. On June 19, 1954, she married Rev. Herbert Coston, and they were married for 63 years.

Phyllis received her bachelor’s degree from West Virginia Wesleyan College in 1953 and her M.A. from Garrett Theological Seminary and Northwestern University in 1958. She taught in public school in Illinois for eight years before returning to West Virginia and her alma mater.

Although called into ordained ministry in the 1950s, she was discouraged from pursuing ordination because she was a woman. She became a professor of Education and Christian Education at West Virginia Wesleyan where she taught for 46 years. She established the Learning Center at Wesleyan in 1955 and was its director until 1998. In the Center, she established a special program for students with dyslexia. She was a pioneer in higher education programs for learning disabled students, receiving national recognition and many honors for her leadership in the field. West Virginia Wesleyan granted her an honorary doctoral degree for her many accomplishments.

In 1982, she was consecrated a Diaconal Minister, and in 1997 she finally fulfilled her calling to ordained ministry when she was in the first class of Permanent Deacons ordained in the West Virginia Conference. Through her work at the college, through the many positions she held within the Church, the Order of Deacons, and her work with the residency program, Phyllis touched many lives. Although short in stature, she will be remembered as a giant for the impact she had on so many young people that she nurtured along the way.

She retired in 2001, but continued to teach on a part-time basis and expanded her work within the conference.

In addition to her husband, Herb, she was survived by a son, Robert Coston; a daughter, Susie Coston; and many extended family members. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sister, Eileen Oliver.

A funeral service was held on April 2, 2018, at the First United Methodist Church, Buckhannon, with the Rev. Steven Meadows officiating. She was buried in the Buckhannon Memorial Park.
William C. Eskew, Jr.

The Rev. William C. Eskew, Jr., an associate member of the conference, died June 29, 2017. He lived for just a few days after his 83rd birthday. Born June 24, 1934, in Newlonton, West Virginia, he was the son of Clark W. and Grace Geyer Eskew. He married Lena Compton Eskew in June of 1954 and they had two sons.

Bill attended Buckhannon Upshur High School and received his GED. He completed the Course of Study at Duke Theological Seminary in 1967. He was licensed to preach in 1964 and became an associate member of the conference in 1972. He served Mansfield (1964-1968); West Buckhannon (1968-1975); Tennerton (1975-1990); Johnson Chapel (1990-1996); and retired in 1996. After retirement, he served South Buckhannon from 1999 – 2002 on a part-time basis.

His life and ministry were characterized by a strong faith, love of God, and devotion to his family. He was blessed to spend most of his ministry near where he grew up and later retired.

In addition to his wife of 63 years, Lena, he was survived by their two sons, Mark Eskew and his wife, Melanie, and Kirby Eskew and his wife, Glenda; three granddaughters, Amanda Snyder and her husband, Bryan, Brenda Everett, and Breanna Crede and her husband, Billy; one great-granddaughter, Taegen Everett; one brother, Franklin Eskew and his wife, Charlotte; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and his sister, Anne Pringle and her husband, Charles.

A funeral service was held on July 2, 2017, in Buckhannon, with his son, Mark Eskew officiating. He was buried in the Pleasant Dale Cemetery at Selbyville.
F. Mark Fisher

The Rev. F. Mark Fisher, a retired elder in the conference, died January 31, 2018. He was 66 years old. He was born October 16, 1951, the son of Frank Mark Fisher, Jr. and Mildred Jean Hamburg Fisher Hess.

Mark attended North Allegheny High School in Pittsburgh, PA. He earned a bachelor’s degree in music from West Virginia Wesleyan College in 1973 and a master’s degree in education in 1982 from West Virginia University. He also attended the University of Iowa. He completed a M.Div. degree at Candler School of Theology in 1987. He served New Fayette Circuit (1987-1989); Meadowdale (1989-1993); Highland Avenue (1993-1999); Co-pastor at St. Marks, Charleston (1999-2003); and Bethesda from 2003 until his health required him to take Medical Leave in 2011. He retired in 2014 and lived in Florida.

In the conference, he served on the Board of Discipleship and chair of the section on Stewardship; was a district Family Life Coordinator and Disaster Relief Coordinator, District Committee on Clergy Support, and as a music director for summer district camps.

He is survived by his wife, Peggy; two children, Terry Fisher-Ari and Jeremy Fisher.

A memorial service was held on April 14, 2018, at St. Marks UMC, with the

Julia Ann Halstead

The Rev. Julia Ann Halstead, an elder in the conference serving at Raleigh Shared Ministries, died April 8, 2018. She was 63 years old. A daughter of Lee Roy Hay and Norma Hay, she was born October 20, 1954, in Dayton, Ohio. Her mother survives her.

Born into a military family, she lived in a variety of places growing up, her favorite places being Germany and Virginia. Julie graduated with a B.A. in journalism from West Virginia University in 1976 and her M.Div. from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in 1995. She was ordained a deacon in 1995 and an elder in 1997 in the North Texas Conference. She transferred to the West Virginia Conference in 2015.
Before coming to West Virginia, Julie served as associate pastor at First Richardson in 1995; Lakeway, Pottboro, 1996; Pastor of Adult Christian Education and Pastoral Care at First, Sulphur Springs in 2001; at West End UMC in Nashville, Tennessee, in 2008. She came to Christ Church, Charleston, on loan from the North Texas Conference in 2013. She transferred to the West Virginia Conference in 2015 and served at Lavalette (2015-2017) and then was Lead Pastor at Raleigh Shared Ministries in the Southern District in July 2017 where she was serving at the time of her death.

Julie considered her ministry a central and pivotal theme in her life, conveying love and acceptance for all she impacted. She had a passion for social justice which was affirmed by her call to ministry and a vital part of each pastorate she served. The fact that she was a lifelong learner was reflected in her extensive library.

In addition to her mother, Julie was survived by three children, Daniel Halstead and his wife, Leah, Benjamin Halstead and his wife, Amity, and Erin Kingsbury and her husband, Chad; four grandchildren, Carson, Charlotte, and Ivy Halstead, and Miles Kingsbury; several nieces and nephews; and her beloved dog, Bella.

She was preceded in death by her father; brother, Michael Lee Hay; and a son, Christopher Allen Halstead.

A memorial service was held on April 12, 2018, at Christ Church UM in Charleston, WV, with the Rev. Dr. Joseph Kenaston officiating. Bishop Steiner Ball presented the family with the Circuit Rider Medallion. Memorial gifts were made to Heifer Project International.

Charles Ed Hood

The Rev. Charles Ed Hood, a retired local pastor, died June 2, 2018. He was born April 3, 1929, in Piedmont, West Virginia, a son of Charles Percy and Mary Ellen Harrison Hood. He was married to Dorothy Lee Hood, who preceded him in death.

Ed graduated from Piedmont High School in 1949. A U.S. Army veteran, he served in the Korean Conflict. He worked as a supervisor with C&P Telephone Company.


One of Ed’s gifts was to care for personal and community disasters, being prepared and offering a calm presence.
He was survived by a son, Charles W. Hood; six grandchildren, James Edward Hood, Richard William Hood, Aaron Lee Hood, Charlie Lynn Hood, Susan Jade Hood, and Maranda Neshell Hood; two great-grandchildren, Makayla Lynn Hood and Garette Lee Hood.

A funeral service was held on June 6, 2018, at Chapman’s Mortuary in Huntington, WV, with the Rev. Dale Waters officiating. He was buried in Maryland. Memorial gifts were received by Fourth Avenue UMC in Huntington.

Howard N. Keener, Jr.

The Rev. Howard “J.R.” N. Keener, Jr., a retired elder in the conference, died February 22, 2018. He was 80 years old. Born July 2, 1937, in Brush, Colorado, he was a son of Howard N. and Angie Keener. He was married to Beverly Keener and they lived in Gassaway.

J.R. grew up in Colorado and graduated from Colorado University in 1960. He earned the M.Div. degree from Boston University School of Theology in 1964. He had a three-year residency from the Institutes of Religion and Health in New York City. He had another residency at Blanton Peale Clinic in New York. Originally a member of the former Southern California / Arizona Conference, he transferred to the West Virginia Conference in 1973 and began working at the Kanawha Pastoral Counseling Center in Charleston where he was the Senior Staff Therapist for 18 years. He retired from the conference in 1999. He continued in private practice in individual and marriage counseling. J.R. was also part of the Contemplative Outreach staff of St. Benedict’s Monastery, in Snowmass, Colorado for 18 months.

His focus on mental and spiritual wholeness was a hallmark of his ministry. J.R. was survived by his wife, Beverly; a daughter, Christin Cintron and her husband, Ruben; a son, Thad Keener and his wife, Amy; a nephew, Andrew Thorne and his wife, Amy; grandsons, Cameron and Devin Cintron and Benjamin Keener; and grandnephews, Owen Thorne and Joe Thorne. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Joey and Jayme Keener.

The family held a private memorial service. Memorial gifts were received by Bread for the World.
William G. Kniceley

The Rev. William G. Kniceley, a retired elder in the conference, died January 8, 2018. He was 73 years old. The son of Delbert H. and Sara Moss Kniceley, he was born on July 6, 1944, in Clarksburg, West Virginia. On August 17, 1967, he married Ruth Ann Stout Kniceley and they had three daughters.

Bill was a graduate of Bridgeport High School and earned a bachelor of arts in education from Salem College. He taught English and Social Studies for two years at South Harrison High School before responding to a call to ministry and attending the Methodist Theological School in Ohio, where he received his M.Div. in 1971. During seminary he served as a student pastor at the Cheshire-Berkshire United Methodist Churches in Ohio. He was ordained a deacon in 1969 and an elder in 1972 in the West Virginia Conference.


He served on the Annual Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry and the Board of Ordained Ministry and was a trustee for the United Methodist Foundation of WV. In addition, he served on many district committees, including the Committee on Ordained Ministry, Church Building and Location, and Council of Ministries. He was a parish coordinator, was on the Beckley Child Care Center Board (now part of Burlington), was an active part of ministerial associations in the communities where he lived, and also served as a mentor for persons new to ministry.

A graduate of the United States Army Chaplain School, both Basic and Advanced Courses, at Fort Hamilton, NY, he also completed training at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Monmouth, NJ, and retired as a Chaplain Colonel. His overseas Army service included training in Germany and Honduras. He served for 30 years in the WV Army National Guard (WVANG). He was first attached to the 1092nd Engineers Battalion in Parkersburg and to the 111th Engineers Group at St. Albans. For 22 years he served as the Senior State Chaplain on the Staff of the WV State Adjutant General of WVANG, and the WVANG State Headquarters, in Charleston.
One of his greatest joys in life was being “Papaw” to his five granddaughters. In addition to his wife of 50 years, Ruth Ann, he was survived by three daughters and their families, Rebecca Kniceley-See and her husband, William, and daughter, Emma Sophia; Jennifer Kniceley Sprouse and her husband, Bart, and their daughters, Sara and Morgan; and Christy Kniceley Nichols and her husband, Brian, and their daughters, Caroline and Katie Beth; a brother, Don Kniceley and his wife, Carole; and several nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held on January 12, 2018, at the Bridgeport UMC with the Rev. Dr. Ken Ramsey officiating and Rev. Dr. Dan Kimble, Rev. Steve Engle, and Chaplain (COL, Ret.) Bruce Reed participating. He was buried in the WV National Cemetery. Memorial gifts were made to the United Methodist Foundation of WV.

Kenneth Lee London

The Rev Kenneth Lee London, a retired elder in the conference, died May 25, 2018. He was 73 years old. Born October 5, 1944, in Humbolt, Tennessee, he was the son of Kenneth and Clarice Whipkey London.

Ken graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1967, received a M.Ed. from Memphis State University, an M.Div. from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1986, an M.S. from West Virginia University in 1989, and a D.Min. from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1995.

Originally ordained in the American Baptist Church, Ken transferred to the West Virginia Conference and was ordained a deacon in 2001. His ordination orders were accepted and he was recognized as an elder in The United Methodist Church in 2005. In the conference, he served Gassaway Charge (2001); Monongalia (2002-2009); and Upper Shortline (2009-2011). He retired in 2011. He was serving Friendly UMC in the Northern District in a retired capacity at the time of his death in a farming accident on his farm at Hickman Run.

For ten years, Ken was an agent for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. He also held a black belt in karate.

Ken always took a keen interest in others and touched hundreds of people’s lives, both through his ministry and his day-to-day life. He never met a stranger and he had a sense of humor that brightened people’s days. His life was characterized by a sense of giving. In his death, he continued giving as an organ donor.
**Donald D. Ludolph**

The Rev. Donald D. Ludolph, a part-time local pastor serving at Belmont-Nine Mile, died March 23, 2018. He was 66 years old. The son of Frank Leroy and Norma Jean Hutchinson Ludolph, he was born on December 26, 1951, in Marietta, Ohio. He was married to Brenda Hall Ludolph for 37 years.

A 1969 graduate of River High School in Marietta, he received his bachelor’s degree from The Ohio State University. He worked for the Quaker State Oil Refinery and Ormet and was a member of the New Matamoras Lodge 374 AF&AM. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army where was a retired First Sergeant.

He had a passion for serving the Lord, and was grateful to answer the call to ministry, serving Belmont and Nine Mile United Methodist Churches as a local pastor since 2016.

In his spare time, Don enjoyed sports, hunting, and trapping.

In addition to his wife, Brenda, he was survived by three sons, Donald Lewis Ludolph, Dustin Duane Ludolph, and Derek “Deek” Robert Ludolph; two brothers, Rick Ludolph and his wife, Marcia, and Greg Ludolph and his wife, Brenda. He was preceded in death by his parents and his in-laws, Robert and Phyllis Hall.

A celebration of life service was held on March 27, 2018, at Ingram Funeral Home with the Rev. Cindy Eakle officiating and Mr. Tom Woods and Mrs. Patsy Flensborg participating.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife, Sandy Radcliff London, and a brother, Jerry Wayne London.

He was survived by his wife, Naomi; three sons, Brad, Kent, and Matthew London; stepchildren, Daniel and David Vest; grandchildren, Kari and Graham London, Breanna London, Brent Ross, Ember Vest, and Courtney, Kyle, and Haley Rolland; great-grandchildren, Lily and Carter.

A memorial service was held on June 2, 2018, at Friendly United Methodist Church.
**Jack D. Mayes**

The Rev. Jack D. Mayes, a retired local pastor, died July 6, 2017. He was 82 years old. Born December 21, 1934, in Salisbury, Ohio, he was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Mayes. He was married to Nancy Stewart Mayes, a retired provisional member, who survives him.

A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, Jack served in the Korean Conflict. He was an instructor in the auto-diesel field throughout the Southeastern United States. He had many interests, including music and photography. He was co-owner of Main Street Photography in Pt. Pleasant and served as a church marketing representative with Olan Mills Studio. He was also a professional bluegrass musician.

He was called to preach and fulfilled that call in the West Virginia Conference as a local pastor. He served six churches in Mason County, and was the appointed pastor of Beech Hill UMC, and also served the Salem Community Church.

In addition to his wife, Nancy, Jack was survived by his children, Roy and Kelly Mayes, Teresa and Brian Lee, and Jack Mayes, Jr.; grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and brother, Walter Mayes; and sisters, Betty Hopper and Virginia Hooper.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three children, Paul Lee, Patricia Hurst, and Debra Hummer; and three siblings.

A funeral service was held on July 11, 2017, at the First Church of God Ministry Center in Point Pleasant, with his friend Pastor Bob Patterson officiating. He was buried.

**Donald W. McCauley, Sr.**

The Rev. Donald W. McCauley, Sr., a retired local pastor, died March 22, 2018. He was 83 years old. Born March 12, 1935, in Randolph County, West Virginia, he was the son of John and Genevieve McCauley. He was married to Helen Hedrick McCauley who survives him.

Donald was a welder at the former Caterpillar, Inc., in Mentor, Ohio, for 28 years. He was a United States Army veteran having served in the Korean Conflict.

2000). He retired in 2000, but continued to serve at West Buckhannon for two more years. After living in West Virginia for many years during his retirement, he returned to Ohio for his final years of life, living in Mentor-on-the-Lake.

In addition to his wife of 62 years, Helen, Donald is survived by children, Rev. Donald W. McCauley, Jr., and his wife, Gail, Mary Belle Mullens, Rose Marie Cummins and her husband, Carl, and Rev. John H. McCauley and his wife, Melinda; grandchildren, Michael Mahoney, Joyce Marie Cline, Randall Mullens, Jr., Carl Cummins, III, Jeromey Wayne Cummins, Jonathan Wayne Mullens, Ana Blair, and Isaiah Blair; six great-grandchildren; sisters, Janice Ball and her husband, Charles, Connie James and her husband, Dean, Deborah Hoover and her husband, Randy; brothers, Rev. Carroll McCauley and his wife, Dorothy, and Rev. Roger McCauley and his wife, Diana; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters; and a son-in-law, Randall Mullens, Sr.

A funeral service was held at East Heisley Church of God in Mentor, Ohio, on March 26, 2018.

**Roy R. Mick, Jr.**

The Rev. Roy R. Mick, Jr., a retired local pastor, died March 17, 2018. He was 66 years old. Born January 12, 1952, he was the son of Roy Royce Mick, Sr., and Mary M. Gains Mick. He was married to Paulette (Pat) F. Lanum Mick and they had one daughter.

Roy was in the Class of 1970 at Washington Irving High School in Clarksburg. He served in the U.S. Navy for four years, stationed in NAS Miramar, San Diego, California. He received the national Defense Service Medal and First Good Conduct Medal for his service. He then transferred to the 459th Army Reserve, where he retired as a First Sergeant with 16 years of service. In the Reserves he received numerous awards, including Army Reserve Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Defense Superior Service Ribbon, Overseas Training Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Army N.C.O. Professional Development Ribbon, and Armed Forces Reserve Medal. While in the Navy, he received an associate of arts degree from Chapman College in Orange County, California.

He was employed for 32 years by Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center in Clarksburg.
In 1999, Roy’s call to ministry led him back to school after many years and he completed his bachelor of arts degree from West Virginia Wesleyan College in 2003. He then completed the Course of Study at Duke Divinity School. His service for the Conference included Ten Mile (Tallmansville Blended Ministry) from 2001-2004; and Rowlesburg from 2004 until his retirement in 2012. He began working at Upshur Parish House in Buckhannon in 2013, and was still appointed there at the time of his death.

Throughout the battle with the cancer that took his life, Roy remained devoted to the ministry of the Upshur Parish House. His strong faith and concern for those in need made him a valuable part of the ministry.

Roy was an avid hunter and fisherman throughout his life. He enjoyed spending time with his family and particularly treasured the time spent with his three grandchildren and his many friends.

In addition to Pat, his wife of 42 years, Roy is survived by a daughter, Heidi Mick Leaseburge and her husband, David; three grandchildren, Gavin, Isabella, and Bentley Leaseburge; a brother, Jerry F. Mick and his wife, Diane; three nieces; four great-nieces; and three great-nephews. He was also survived by his best friend of 50 years, Rickey Brown, and his faithful companion, Jimbo.

A funeral service was held on March 20, 2018, at the Burnside Funeral Home in Bridgeport with the Rev. George Bramble officiating. He was buried in the Monroe Chapel Cemetery in Romines Mills.

**Thomas W. Shepherd**

The Rev. Thomas W. Shepherd, an elder serving Meadowdale Charge, died April 24, 2018. Born July 15, 1968, in Glen Dale, West Virginia, he was the son of William R. and Martha L. McColloch Shepherd. He was married to Billie Anne Garrett Shepherd.

Tom received an associate of applied science degree from Belmont Tech before receiving a bachelor’s degree from West Liberty in 1990 and an M.Div. degree from Ashland Seminary in 1999. He was ordained a deacon in 1999 and an elder in 2001. He had served Wheeling Charge (1990-1999); Masontown (1999-2000); and Meadowdale since 2000.

Tom’s life and ministry were characterized by kindness and compassion. He always took an interest
in the communities that he served, giving leadership in many areas. He was a member of
the A.F. & A. Masons, Fairmont Lodge, #9.

He was very involved with the DHHR foster parenting system. He and Billie Anne
were blessed to adopt some of the children that they fostered. He was a loving father and
learned to balance work and family, a balance that was put to the test with his battle with
cancer. He helped pass on his love of cooking, music, and the arts to his growing family.

He was survived by his wife of 26 years, Billie Anne; his children, Stephen Cody
Shepherd, Phillip Logan Shepherd, Christine Anne Shepherd, and Ophelia Jane Shepherd;
his mother; his father and his wife, Janet Shepherd; his brother, Matthew Shepherd; his in-
laws, William and Margaret Anne Garrett; and a sister-in-law, Robin Mayhugh.

A funeral service was held April 28, 2018, with District Superintendent Rev. Rick
Sale officiating. He was buried at Mt. Zion Cemetery in Fairmont, WV.

William D. Slates

The Rev. William Dean Slates, a retired
elder, died April 5, 2018. He was 90 years old. The
son of Harry and Marie Easlick Slates, he was born
December 13, 1927, in Weirton, West Virginia. He
married Dorthea Lucille McGinnis Slates on August
20, 1950, and they were married for 62 years before
she died in December 2012. They had three children.

Bill graduated from Weir High School in 1945
and West Virginia University in 1949. He worked for 12
years for Metropolitan Life Insurance before answering
God’s call to ministry. He received his M.Div. from
Wesley Theological Seminary in 1964. He served Fort
Ashby (1962-1966); Brushfork (1966-1967); Grace,
Bluefield (1967-1971); Oak Hill (1971-1976); Forrest
Burdette (1976-1979); Lewisburg (1979-1985); and
Wesley, Morgantown, from 1985 until he retired in
1990. In retirement he moved back to Oak Hill where he was appointed for two years as
associate pastor at Oak Hill UMC. He continued following God’s call by filling in when
needed for Presbyterian and United Methodist churches in southern West Virginia.

He loved the community of Oak Hill and he often said one of the smartest decisions
he ever made was to sell his home and move with Lucille to the Oak Hill Place in 2012.
The staff there became his friends.
Bill was a talented woodworker and furniture maker. He had a passion for traveling and he and Lucille made that a priority in their married life. He loved singing and was a member of the Oak Hill Chancel Choir for many years. He enjoyed watching sports and his favorite teams were the Pittsburgh Pirates and Steelers, West Virginia University football and basketball, and any sport his grandsons were playing. Bill also valued the companionship of his cat, Molly.

Rev. Slates was survived by his daughter, Janet Slates Bowland and her husband, Gregory; sons, John William Slates and Philip Dean Slates and his wife, Debra; four grandsons, Adam Bowland and his wife, Brigid, and Alex, Ben, and Matthew Slates; one great-grandson, Luke Gregory Bowland; a sister, Eileen Rees; and several nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life service was held on April 21, 2018, at the Oak Hill United Methodist Church with Rev. Dr. John Savage, Rev. Dr. Sharon Miller, and Rev. Dr. Charles Miller officiating. His body was gifted to the Human Gift Registry for the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine. Memorial gifts were made to the Oak Hill Food Pantry.

**Paul M. Stadelman**

The Rev. Paul M. Stadelman, a retired elder, died October 24, 2017. He was 74 years old. Born July 30, 1943, in Olean, New York, he was the son of L.P. “Dutch” and Evelyn Marsh Stadelman. He was married to the Rev. Helen Oates, also an elder in the conference, for 32 years.

Paul came to West Virginia to attend West Virginia Wesleyan College and graduated with a history degree in the Class of 1966. He received his M.Div. from Drew Theological Seminary in 1970. Having been licensed to preach in 1964 in the former Western New York Conference, Paul sought ordination as a deacon (1967) and an elder (1970) in the West Virginia Conference. He served Trinity in Nutter Fort and Canaan while he was at Wesleyan. After seminary he served as Bridgeport Associate (1970-1975); Colliers (1975-1980); Calvary, Moundsville (1980-1984); Christ Church, Charleston, Associate (1984-1987); Central, Fairmont (1987-1997); and St. Paul’s Parkersburg 1997-2005, with Bethany added in 2001. In 2005, he retired but continued to serve churches in retirement, including Beaver-
BlueJay (2008-2013); and Waldeck and Heaston, which he was serving at the time of his death.

Paul’s greatest joys in life were proclaiming the Gospel and spending time with his family, celebrating the many accomplishments of his children and grandchildren. He also had many interests and enjoyed fishing, reading, bird watching, and planting flowers. He was always happy to share his opinion and enter into debate, but mostly he reminded others of their place as beloved children in God’s kingdom. He mentored young pastors and left a lasting impact on the ministry of other clergy.

In addition to his wife, Helen, he was survived by four sons, Christopher Paul Stadelman and his wife, Kelly, Paul Matthew Stadelman and his wife, Lisa, Jonathan Scott Stademan and his wife, Alyssa, and Philip Marsh Stadelman; one daughter, Rachel Marie Stadelman Joyner and her husband, Michael; three grandsons, Matthew Alexander Stadelman and his wife, Stephanie, Julian Sirod Stadelman, and Braylin Lamar Joyner; one granddaughter, Aria Grace Stadelman; one sister, Louise Spahn and her husband, Michael; and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Ruth Murray. His son, Christopher, who survived him, died a few months after Paul’s death.

A Celebration of Life service was held on October 29, 2017, at Chapel Hill United Methodist Church in Buckhannon, with longtime friends Rev. Loretta Isaiah and Rev. Ravi Isaiah officiating.

One of Paul’s passions was filling an ark for Heifer Project International and memorial gifts were given to complete that goal.

Freda Mae Steele

The Rev. Freda Mae Steele, a retired associate member of the conference, died January 23, 2018. She was 94 years old. Born August 12, 1923, in Lewis County, West Virginia, she was the daughter of James Albert “Bruce” Hayes and Ruby Hitt Hayes. She was married to Ervin Steele, who preceded her in death.

After graduating from Fairmont State in 1948, she taught school in a one-room school in rural Lewis County, and in several Clarksburg elementary schools. During her years in Clarksburg, she responded to a call to ministry, becoming involved in the Church of Our Savior where she taught and preached when the opportunity was given to her. She also was instrumental in starting a local Youth for Christ ministry.
Freda followed her brother to Kansas where she once again taught in a one-room school before marrying her husband. She interrupted her career by taking a break to start a family, but happily resumed teaching elementary school where it was her joy to instill the love of reading and writing in the children in her classes.

After 30 years of teaching, she answered the call to ministry by becoming a United Methodist minister in rural Kansas. She loved sharing Christ with all in word and music, but found she missed her extended family, as well as the mountains of West Virginia. She transferred to the West Virginia Conference in 1987 as an associate member. She served the Apple Grove Circuit in the former Huntington District, before retiring in 1988. Following retirement, she would serve churches wherever she lived as long as her health allowed.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by two sisters, Lorene Wood and her husband, Richard, and Rachel Hall Hines and her husband, Sam; and a nephew.

She was survived by a daughter, Mary Lou Steele; two sons, James I. Steele and his wife, Rhonda, and Scott Steele; five grandchildren, Chad Steele, Stephanie Steel Avery, Morgan Steele, Katie Steele, and Cooper Steele; and one brother, Robert Hayes.

A memorial service was held on January 27, 2018, at Brooks and White Chapel in Roxboro, North Carolina, with the Rev. Richard Long officiating. Memorial gifts were received by United Methodist Red Bird Mission in Kentucky.

**Roy Kenneth Stevenson**

The Rev. Roy Kenneth Stevenson, a retired local pastor, died September 28, 2018. Born March 25, 1932, he was 86 years old. On May 18, 1956, he married Judy Annette Stevenson, and they were married for 56 years before her death in March of 2013. Judy was also a local pastor in the conference.


Kenny is survived by four sons, Arnold Stevenson, Ronnie Stevenson, Keith Stevenson, and Steve Stevenson; two daughters, Kenlyn Kerr and Elizabeth Stevenson; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
D. Homer Stewart

The Rev. D. Homer Stewart, a retired elder, died November 5, 2017. He was 91 years old. The son of Curtis and Merlie Cook Stewart, he was born August 25, 1926, in Jesse, Wyoming County, West Virginia. He was married to Zelma Ruth Stewart for 67 years before her death in February 2016.

Homer attended Oceana High School and, following military service, earned his GED in 1954. He served in the Army for two years and spent 13 months with the occupation forces in Japan at the end of World War II. He then worked in the coal mines for nine years. However, he had a strong and certain call to the pastoral ministry and he accepted his first appointment in November 1955 as a student pastor serving Nestorville for two years and then Lorentz for three years while he completed his B.A. degree at West Virginia Wesleyan College in 1960. He earned his M.Div. at Wesley Theological Seminary in 1964, while appointed to Scaggsville in Maryland as a student pastor. He was ordained a deacon in 1961 and an elder in 1964. He served Sophia (1964); Trinity, Pennsboro (1965); Bluewell (1966-1971), adding Montcalm in 1970; Grace-Thompson’s Chapel (1971-1976); First Beckley (1976-1985); and Lewisburg from 1985 until his retirement in 1991. In retirement he served Montcalm, Sophia-Mabscott, Mt. Horeb, Bluewell, and Grace, Bluefield.

He served in several positions in the Annual Conference, including Equitable Compensation, Episcopacy, and the Conference Council on Ministries. For eight years he was chairperson of the Division of Evangelism, Stewardship, and Worship for the Board of Discipleship. He was active in the New Life Mission Preaching/Teaching program under the leadership of the General Board of Discipleship in Nashville. He led several of the missions, preaching and teaching in 10 states. He also spent a month in Australia, under the leadership of the national board, helping develop their ministries of Evangelism. In addition, he served on the Committee on Ordained Ministry in several districts, and participated in Ministerial Associations in Bluefield, Beckley, and Lewisburg as member and president.

Homer was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He will be remembered for his storytelling, his sense of humor, and his love for God. He enjoyed bowling on church bowling leagues in Bluefield and Beckley and playing golf with friends. He was a member of the XYZ Senior Group at Bluewell UMC.

In addition to his parents and his wife, Zelda, he was preceded in death by a stepmother, Sadie Stewart; sisters, Lala Graham, Hallie “Bet” Phillips, Virginia “Gin”

He was survived by three daughters, Carolyn Stewart, Marilyn McKinney and her husband, David, Pam Broderick and her husband, Richard; eight grandchildren, Kara Smith and her husband, Edmond, Brandon McKinney, Amanda Sweet and her husband, Kyle, Andrea Woods and her husband, Justice, and Chad, Mitchell, Adam, and Melanie Broderick; five great-grandchildren, Karis, Eian, and Anniston Smith, and Evelynne and Area Sweet; brothers, Jimmie Stewart and Rodger Stewart; and a sister, Edith “Sis” Stewart.

A funeral service was held on November 9, 2017, at Bluewell United Methodist Church with Rev. Melissa White, District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Joe Kenaston, and Rev. Jay VanReenen officiating. Rev. Kenaston presented the Circuit Rider Medallion. He was buried at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Princeton, WV. Memorial gifts were given to Bluewell United Methodist Church.

Perry Lee Stewart

The Rev. Perry Lee Stewart, a retired associate member, died February 2, 2018. Born September 2, 1925, in Newport, Ohio, he was a son of Perry and Julia Ann Stewart Stewart. On June 20, 1947, he married Doris R. Stewart and they were married for 63 years before her death in November 2010.

Perry grew up on Grape Island until the flood of March 1936 forced the family to move, eventually to St. Marys, WV, where he completed school. He was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, serving in the South Pacific on Pavuvuu Island during World War II. After his military service he came home and was in the carpenter’s union for over 10 years.

Feeling a call to serve God through pastoral ministry, Perry attended West Liberty and was ordained a deacon in 1958. He was admitted as an associate member to the West Virginia Conference in 1970. He served Pleasant Valley (1956); Marshall Circuit (1956-1961); Colliers (1961-1972); Emmanuel, West Union (1972-1980); Riverhill (1980); Wesley, Vienna (1981-1985); South Vienna Charge (1985-1987); and Summit Valley (1987-1990). He retired in 1990 and became the retired associate pastor at Christ, Parkersburg, until 2002. He remained active and taught Sunday School at Christ UMC for many years. His ministry was characterized by a love for people and his desire to bring them closer to the love of God.
As a hobby, he enjoyed working on watches and clocks and was proud to display his handiwork in his home.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Doris; a granddaughter, Billie Jo Stewart-Buckley; and 12 brothers and sisters. He was survived by four children, Danny Ray Stewart and his wife, Sharon, Gerald Lee Stewart and his wife, Sharon, Sandra Sue Wilson and her husband, James, and Christine Marie Polan; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on February 17, 2018, at Christ UMC, Parkersburg, with District Superintendent Rev. Joe Hill and Rev. Jonathan Nettles officiating. By his request, his body was donated to the West Virginia University Medical Center. Memorial gifts were given to the Food Pantry at Christ UMC.

**Bernard Vandergrift**

The Rev. Bernard Vandergrift, a retired local pastor, died April 10, 2018. A son of Harrison and Edith Chidester Vandergrift, he was born May 3, 1934, in Parkersburg, West Virginia. He married Mable P. Vandergrift and they were married for 63 years.

He completed the Course of Study in 1986 and served Leroy (1986-1988); Stirrat-Omar (1988-1992); and Oak Grove-Ebenezer (1992-1997). He retired from the conference in 1997, but continued to serve when the opportunity presented itself. He had a deep love for the Lord and for his congregations.

He was survived by his wife, Mable; two daughters, Carmella Cole and Alice Reynolds and her husband, Roy; a son, Matthew Vandergrift and his wife, Cathy; a son-in-law, John Moore; six grandchildren, David, Robert, Benjamin, Holly, Amber, and Joshua; 20 great-grandchildren; and a half-brother, Harold Vandergrift. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by sons-in-law, Robert “Bob” Phares and Roger Cole.

A funeral service was held on April 14, 2018, at Leavitt Funeral Home in Parkersburg, WV, with Pastor Jim Yoak officiating. He was buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery.
Clifford N. West

The Rev. Clifford N. West, a retired elder, died August 25, 2017. Born October 25, 1940, in Spencer, West Virginia, he was the son of Warden R. West and Viola Rogers West. On July 13, 1974, he married Lenora Trimble West and they had three children.


Clifford lived his life to the glory of God in all that he did. He believed in serving Christ by serving others. He served others through various organizations such as Lions Club, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and prison ministry at the Federal Corrections Institution in Gilmer County. He was part of the Lewis County Ministerial Association, the Evangelical Association of the WV UMC, Our Neighbor Ministry, Lewis County Parish, Board of Ordained Ministry, Mountaineer Christian Ashram, chaplaincy programs at various hospitals, and district youth ministry programs.

Many were blessed to hear him and he enjoyed entertaining by telling jokes. He loved those he served and prayed for them by name. He rejoiced in those who heard the Gospel message. He served faithfully until the race was finished and he would dwell in the presence of the Lord.

He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Lenora; three children, Cherri West, Andrea Heath and her husband, Scott, and Patrick West and his wife, Melody; five grandchildren, Trenton and Adisson Heath, Mason Watkins-Boss, Evan Sisk, and Lilly West; one sister, Dolores Boggs and her husband, Wayne; one sister-in-law, Mabel West; and several nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one brother, Earl Wayne West.

A funeral service was held August 30, 2017, at the Hardman-Paletti Funeral Home in Weston, WV. He was buried in the Broad Run Cemetery of Jane Lew, WV. Memorial gifts were received by the Mountaineer Christian Ashram Scholarship Fund.
Thomas Woodson

The Rev. Thomas Woodson died February 26, 2018. He was born August 23, 1939.

Thomas graduated from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and transferred to the West Virginia Conference from the Baptist Church in 1993. He retired as a probationary member in 2007 and lived in Salem, WV.

He served Belington from 1997-2000.

A funeral service was held on March 2, 2018, with Pastor Sonny Palmer officiating. He was buried at the Enterprise I.O.O.F. Cemetery.

SPOUSES

Marilee M. Backus

Marilee Miller Backus, wife of the Rev. Arthur Backus, died May 24, 2018. Born January 13, 1928, in West Virginia, she was the daughter of John and Bertha Miller. She married Rev. Backus on August 1, 1946, and they were married for nearly 72 years.

Marilee was devoted to her faith. She dedicated her life to her family and supporting her husband’s ministry. Everyone who knew her loved her quiet, soft-spoken, and cheerful manner. She was a good and caring friend.

During their marriage, Rev. Backus served in a variety of settings, including Lorentz Circuit, a
charge in the Peninsula Conference while in seminary; Cedar Grove; Morris Memorial in Charleston; Simpson, Moundsville; Spruce Street, Morgantown; as District Superintendent in Beckley; with United Methodist Charities; at First, Clarksburg; and First, Parkersburg, before his retirement in 1989. After retirement, they lived in Clarksburg and eventually moved to Delaware. In each place they lived, Marilee found ways to express her ministry through her work in the church.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by four children, twin sons, Howard and Harold, son Steven, and daughter Janice and her husband, David Erenrich, who is also an elder in the conference; ten grandchildren, thirteen great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

A funeral service was held on May 31, 2018, at Zoar United Methodist Church in Millsboro, Delaware. She was buried at the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

Memorial gifts were made to Zoar United Methodist Church.

**Helena “Jane” Conrad**

Helena “Jane” Conrad, spouse of the Rev. Johnny Conrad, died May 2, 2018. She was 63 years old. The daughter of Victor B. and Lizzie K. Doddrill Shingler, she was born July 2, 1954.

Jane worked at Braxton County Memorial Hospital. Her greatest joy was being with her family and she did that as much as she could. She enjoyed connecting with friends and family through Facebook.

She was a faithful companion to her husband, Johnny, as he served Strange Creek and Frametown as a part-time local pastor.

In addition to her husband, Jane was survived by sons, Alex Hardway and Anthony Hardway; 10 grandchildren; brothers, Vic Shingler, David Shingler, Bim Shingler, and Andy Shingler; and several nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held on May 6, 2018, at Richard M. Roach Funeral Home, Gassaway, with her brother, Pastor Vic Shingler, officiating. She was buried at Dawson Farm Cemetery on Horse Ridge in Clay County.
Charles E. Dorsey, Sr., husband of the Rev. Ella A. Dorsey, a local pastor serving Fairfield Community Ministries, died Wednesday, August 9, 2017. He was 80 years old. The son of Williebell “Belle” Tanner and Warren Dorsey, he was born June 14, 1937, in Natchez, Mississippi. He was raised by his aunt, Lily Tanner.

Charles was educated in Catholic school. He had a passion for the Word of God, and faithfully attended worship services as long as he was able. He was a charter member at Calvary Evangelical Baptist Church in Portsmouth, Virginia, when he lived there. He was supportive of his wife’s ministry that took her from Lewisburg to Huntington, West Virginia. His favorite scripture was Galatians 2:20: “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless, I live yet not I but Christ liveth in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (KJV).

He viewed his 22 years of service in the U.S. Navy as his greatest achievement. He earned three good conduct medals. He served for many years as a security officer at the National Gallery of Art and the Smithsonian Institution Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. He retired in 1999.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his aunt, two brothers, Dawson Barze and Preston Barze, Jr., and a great-grandson, Carter James Silver.

In addition to his wife of 35 years, Rev. Ella A. Dorsey, he was survived by a sister, Carolyn Tanner, and nine children, Charles, Jr., and his wife, Elsie, Camala and Carol Dorsey, Sabrina Watson, Valerie Garret-Reyes and her husband, Teo, Melanie Garrett and her husband, Don, Racheal Dorsey, and Laura Dorsey and her husband, Brian; 18 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and many in-laws and nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held on August 17, 2017, at Hall Funeral Home and Crematory, Proctorville, Ohio. He was buried in the Donel C. Kinnard Memorial State Veterans Cemetery in Dunbar.
Virginia Rose Ellwood

Virginia Rose Halterman Ellwood, wife of the Rev. Charles A. Ellwood, a retired elder, died April 18, 2018. She was 84 years old. She was born June 18, 1933, in Century, West Virginia. She was raised by her grandparents, Arthur and Ona Halterman. She married Rev. Ellwood on August 12, 1953, and they were married for 64 years.

Virginia was a graduate of Buckhannon Upshur High School in Buckhannon, WV. After their marriage, she and Charles moved to Raymond, New Hampshire, where he attended Boston University School of Theology and served as pastor of the Raymond Methodist Church. During this time, she worked in a tannery. They moved to Salisbury, Massachusetts, where their two children were born. After returning to West Virginia in 1962, they lived in Wheeling. Virginia worked at the West Liberty State College for many years until her retirement. Charles served as the campus minister at West Liberty State College.

She was known for her conversation, coffee, and cooking. She was always willing to fill the kitchen table with family and friends. She was part of the campus ministry by providing soup, salad, and sandwiches for the weekly “Speakeasy” meals and fellowship. Her recipes filled the West Liberty State College Interfaith Chapel Cook Book, which was dedicated to her years of “Speakeasy” luncheons.

Virginia was a member of Christ United Methodist Church in Wheeling where she sang in the choir for many years.

In addition to her grandparents, she was preceded in death by her daughter, Dawn Banal, and a sister, Anne Perry.

She was survived by her husband, Charles; her son, David and his wife, Dixie; three grandchildren, Steven Banal, Ben Ellwood and his wife, Danielle, and Emily Crosten and her husband, Justin; two great-granddaughters, Addilyn and Allie Ellwood; a brother, Don Evick and his wife, Pam; and a sister, Patricia Bovankovich and her husband, Paul.

A funeral service was held on April 23, 2018, at Christ United Methodist Church, Wheeling, with the Rev. Jake Steele, the Rev. James Norton, and the Rev. Margie Carr officiating. She was buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Wheeling.

Memorial gifts were given to the Soup Kitchen of Greater Wheeling, Christ UMC, and The House of the Carpenter in Wheeling.
Robert D. Hamm

Robert D. Hamm, husband of the Rev. Nancy Hamm, retired associate member of the conference, died January 11, 2018. He was 92 years old. Born June 26, 1925, in Summers County, he was a son of William Luther Hamm and Mattie Jane (Lilly) Hamm. On March 18, 1947, he married Rev. Hamm. They were married for 70 years and had two sons.

Bob joined the United States Navy and served during WWII. He served in the American, Atlantic, and Pacific theaters. He served on three different Merchant Marine ships, the S.S. Eloy Alfado, S.S. Thomas Johnson, and S.S. Joseph Parker from 1943 to 1946. One of the ships he was on hit an iceberg and was badly damaged. He served in Canada, Iceland, Scotland, England, Northern and Southern France, Sicily, Italy, Africa, Panama, Philippines, Chile, and Eniwetak Atoll.

After WWII ended, Bob returned to Hinton in 1946 and purchased a restaurant known as “The Kitchen” where he was owner and chief cook. In 1949, Bob sold his restaurant and went back to work for the Kroger Co. and was transferred to Point Pleasant in January of 1951, where he served as meat manager. In 1957, Bob left the Kroger Co. and went into business for himself. He owned and operated Heights Market on North Main Street, which was mostly a meat market, but also sold groceries and deli items which Bob made. His specialties included ham salad, cheese spread, BBQ, hotdog sauce, soups, spaghetti sauce and baked ham.

Bob gave his life to Christ at a revival meeting in Quinwood, WV, in 1950, and was baptized in Point Pleasant in February of 1952. He and Nancy joined Heights United Methodist Church on February 3, 1953. Bob was an active member of the church having taught the high school class and served as a trustee, along with serving on the Administrative Board, Pastor-Parish Relations committee and as a Lay Member to the District Conference. When Nancy was called into ministry, he embraced her call as a partnership. They worked closely together as Nancy pastored churches. Bob was active in the churches and a faithful visitor to those in need, especially to the sick and shut-ins. They served Henderson Circuit, Beech Hill-Vaught Memorial–Henderson and Wesley, Vienna, before she retired in 1996.

Bob was a great gardener and avid reader. He was also a 60-year member of the Minturn Lodge #19 A.F. & A.M. in Point Pleasant.
Janis Irene Hensley

Janis Irene Hensley, wife of the Rev. Basil Hensley, a retired elder, died February 15, 2018. She was 85 years old. Born September 16, 1932, she was the daughter of Howard L. Woodall and Marie Hanshaw Woodall. She married Rev. Hensley on December 22, 1951, and they had five children.

Janis attended Clay High School and graduated from Spencer High School in 1950. She was in the top five percent of her class and a member of the National Honor Society. She attended Glenville State Teachers College and completed her Teaching Certification at Morris Harvey College (now the University of Charleston). She taught in a one-room schoolhouse, grades one through eight with an average enrollment of 42 students. She was a member of the West Virginia Educators Association.

Janis was a compassionate wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She loved children’s ministries and coordinated them in the many congregations where her husband was pastor. She was a Cub Scout Den Mother.

She was an active member at First UMC, Elkins, where her husband served from 1978 until his retirement in 2001 and where they remained in retirement. She served in the We Care Ministries, United Methodist Women Circle 5, and the Quilt Ministry. She was a lifetime member of the Elkins Rehabilitation and Care Center Auxiliary.

Janis will be remembered for her positive life full of grace, kindness, and sincerity. She lived out the Sermon on the Mount: feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, and clothing those in need. She affirmed each person as a child of God.

In addition to his wife and best friend, Nancy, he was survived by two sons, William Howard “Bill” Hamm and his wife, Karen, and James Robert “Bob” Hamm and his wife, Paula; five grandchildren, Gretchen, Ben and his wife, Whitney, Jeremy and his wife Stephanie, and Billie Jean and her husband, James; three step grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren; one brother and four sisters.

A funeral service was held on Monday, January 15, 2018, at Wilcoxen Funeral Home in Point Pleasant, with the Rev. Charles Marker and the Rev. James Lewis officiating. He was buried at Kirkland Memorial Gardens in Point Pleasant. Military graveside honors were given by the United States Navy Honor Guard.
Over 50 years of ministry, they lived in eight different parsonages, including Newton Circuit; Clendenin Circuit; Bomont Circuit; Roland Avenue (in the Baltimore Conference); Wayne; Epworth, Ripley; Weston District; and at First, Elkins. She considered the conference connection as a blessing. She was thankful for the opportunity to renew her baptism in the Jordan River in 1975.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a sister, Phyllis Woodall Jarvis.

She was survived by her husband of 66 years, three daughters, Sylvia Marie Seay and her husband, Kurt, Diana Kay Patella and her husband, Chris, and Teresa Elaine Collier and her husband, Clifford; two sons, Aaron Wesley Hensley and his wife, Marsha, and David Lee Hensley; eight grandchildren, Rachel Pearl and her husband, Stephen, Nicholas Patella and his wife, Ann Marie, Emily Bennett and her husband, Ty, Austin and Alexander Collier, and Amelya, Andrew, and Haley Hensley; four great-grandsons, Joshua, Ryan, N.J., and Noah; and one niece, Belinda Jarvis Baisden.

A memorial service was held on February 19, 2018, at the First United Methodist Church in Elkins, with the Rev. Brian Seder, the Rev. Dr. Dale Waters, and the Rev. Dr. Ken Ramsey officiating. She was buried in the D.C. Hensley Cemetery in Newton, WV.

Memorial gifts were given to the We Care Group at First UMC, Elkins.

Timothy Earl Meek

Timothy Earl “Hippy” Meek, husband of the Rev. Kimberley Poland, a local pastor serving Emoryville in the Potomac Highlands District, died Monday, April 16, 2018. He was 55 years old. Born January 16, 1963, in Arlington, Virginia, he was the son of the late Roy Earl and Margaret Mayhew Meek.

“Hippy” was a carpenter and enjoyed creating from wood. He also loved fishing and was particularly fond of his pets. He was a solid support for his wife, who was his best friend.

In addition to his parents and his wife, he was survived by stepchildren, Zac Corbin and his wife, Christy, and Shaena Corbin and her fiancée, Jeff Davis; a sister, Cynthia L. Meek; a brother, Dale E. Meek; and three grandchildren, Melodee, Megan, and Conner Corbin.

A celebration of his life service was held on Saturday, April 21, 2018, at Ebenezer United Methodist Church in Romney, with the Rev. Kenneth Caplinger officiating.
Judith Staub

Judith Staub, wife of the Rev. Robert K. Staub, a retired elder, died January 25, 2018. She was 69 years old. The daughter of Charles E. Anderson, Sr., and Waneida Miller Anderson, she was born January 6, 1949, in Wheeling, West Virginia. She married Rev. Staub on August 16, 1969, and they had three children.

Judy graduated from Wheeling High School in 1967 and started her studies at the Ohio Valley Hospital School of Radiology. Several years later she graduated as the West Virginia LPN of the Year from Clarksburg’s United Career Center School of Practical Nursing. She worked as both an X-ray technician and an LPN. She was a devoted mother and grandmother. Cooking, baking, and sewing were second nature to her. She was an avid cake decorator and photographer.

She shared her witness in the church through service in the United Methodist Women, where she served in several offices, including president. She taught every age level of Church School classes, Vacation Bible School, Confirmation Class, and Disciple Bible Studies. She was a loving and supportive presence in the churches where her husband was appointed, including Steelton in New Martinsville; Triadelphia; First, Shinnston; Calvary, Moundsville; Warwood; and New Cumberland. When he retired in 2013, they lived in New Cumberland.

In addition to her husband of 48 years, she is survived by a daughter, Wendy Zinn; two sons, David and Michael; four grandchildren, Alex, Elizabeth, and Cassandra Staub and Lylea Hyde; and three sisters, Mary Ellen Fry and her husband, Robert, Barbara Rogers and her husband, Bobbie, and Peggy Sue Godfrey and her husband, Danny. She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Marine Lance Corporal Charles E. (Andy) Anderson, Jr.

A celebration of her life was held on January 29, 2018, at Trinity United Methodist Church in New Cumberland, WV, with the Rev. Michael Rowe and the Rev. Billy Ray Carpenter officiating.

Memorial gifts were made to Trinity United Methodist Church.

Memorial gifts were made to Trinity United Methodist Church.
Leanna R. Wright

Leanna R. Staley Wright, wife of the Rev. Richard L. Wright, a retired elder, died December 20, 2017. She was 86 years old. A daughter of Emily Ruth Brown and Donald R. Staley, she was born January 17, 1931, in Bowling Green, Indiana. She married Rev. Wright on September 16, 1953.

She graduated from Bowling Green High School. She worked as a secretary in various places, including a law office, insurance company, several churches and district offices, and she retired as a secretary in the WV University Honors Program.

She was a gracious, loving, and faithful servant of the Lord, well known for her strong faith. She had the gift of hospitality and was an amazing baker. She lived to entertain and feed people and earned the nickname “the Energizer Bunny.” She was a talented seamstress and loved to crochet, cross stitch, and do crafts. Music was also an important part of her life. She played the piano and was in the church hand bell choirs. She was an active member of all of the churches her husband served and she was a faithful member of the United Methodist Women.

During their many years in the ministry after their marriage, they served Clifton-Mason; Mason; Rainelle; Church of the Good Shepherd in Grafton; Bridgeport; and Wesley, Morgantown. Rev. Wright was also the Director of the Conference Council on Ministries and a District Superintendent. Leanna’s gifts were an asset to every ministry setting in which she found herself.

In addition to her husband of 64 years, she was survived by her children, Lanell Y. Johnson and her husband, Lonnie, Douglas K. Wright, Lanita B. Myers and her husband, David, and Darren S. Wright and his wife, Connie; grandchildren, Kristin N. Wright, Leland W. Johnson, Landon C. Johnson, Lauren E. Myers, Drew R. Myers, Emma L. Wright, and Keaton J. Wright; and a brother, Donald Staley.

A memorial service celebrating her life was held on December 28, 2017, at Bridgeport United Methodist Church with the Rev. Dr. Ken Ramsey officiating. She was buried in the Bridgeport Cemetery.

Memorial gifts were made to the Alzheimer’s Association.
SURVIVING SPOUSES

Nola Virginia “Joann” Anderson

Nola Virginia “Joann” Anderson, surviving spouse of the Rev. William Anderson, died June 20, 2017. She was 84 years old. She was born December 28, 1932, the daughter of Clyde Mersing and Dorothy Johnson Mersing. She married Rev. Anderson on October 24, 1954, and they were married for 49 years before his death in December 2003.

Joann grew up in the depression era as a coal miner’s daughter. She loved her big family and valued the family reunions throughout her life. She was a great cook and enjoyed sewing and working in her vegetable and flower gardens. God blessed her with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren and she cherished each as a beloved child of God. She was always happy to have a baby on her lap.

In the first part of their marriage, she was a military wife, as Rev. Anderson served in the U.S. Navy and U.S. Army, a veteran of both the Korean and Vietnam wars. While she loved his service to country, she believed that she was a true partner in his service to the church and felt their partnership allowed her to be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. He served Gormania (1975-1989) and Trinity, Terra Alta from 1989 until his retirement in 1998.

She was survived by two sons, William and his wife, Lois, and Larry; two daughters and their spouses, Karen and Steve Nordeck and Linda and Jody Boatman; fifteen grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; three brothers and their spouses, Don and Leanna Mersing, Charlie and Janice Mersing, and Stanley and Irene Mersing; three sisters, Clara Lockhart, Carolyn Gibson and her husband, Hansel, and Kay Royce and her husband, Cecil.

In addition to her husband and her parents, she was preceded in death by a son, Jeffrey L. Anderson; three brothers, Clyde (Dwayne), Ervin, and John Mersing; and one sister, Peggy Kelley.

A funeral service was held on June 24, 2017, at the Arthur H. Wright Funeral Home in Terra Alta, WV, with her son Rev. Larry Anderson officiating.

Memorial gifts were made to WV Caring.
Michele Marie Zona Clark

Michele Marie Zona Clark, surviving spouse of the Rev. Thomas Clark, died March 17, 2018. She was 70 years old. The daughter of Albert “Bucky” and Ruth Zona, she was born in Irwin, Pennsylvania, on May 3, 1947. She and Rev. Clark were high school sweethearts and they were married for 47 years before his death in March 2014.

Michele graduated from Norwin High School in Pennsylvania. After her marriage to Tom, she became a companion in ministry as he served in the West Virginia Conference for 42 years prior to retirement. While he served churches in a variety of places in the conference including Lavalette, Pleasant Valley, Temple Clarksburg, Perry Memorial, Johnson Memorial in Huntington and Summersville Memorial, his true passion was for missions. He developed the Volunteers-In-Mission program in the conference and Michele travelled extensively with him. She visited Russia more than 25 times as she and Tom hosted Christmas parties for children in the many orphanages in and around Moscow. She formed lasting friendships with those she met in Hungary, Wales, Ireland, Scotland, Zimbabwe, Tonga, New Zealand, Denmark, Jamaica, Mexico, St. Thomas, St. Martin, Cuba, and throughout the United States.

In addition to her husband and parents, Michele was preceded in death by an infant brother, Scott Zona; a sister, Susan Ritson; and a granddaughter, Avarae Lin Gusky.

She was survived by her son, Bill Clark and his wife, Jana; daughters, Susan Mullens and her husband, Bill, and Amy Clark and her husband, Ron Gusky; eight grandchildren, Tyler Clark, Katelynne and Emalee Ferreebee, Chase and Emily Mullens, Mason Gauldin, Dalana and Aven Gusky; her twin brother, Michael Zona and his wife, Geri Sullivan; and several nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held on March 21, 2018, at Waters Funeral Chapel in Summersville, with Rev. Barry Moll, Rev. Brent Brown and Rev. Harry Jenkins officiating. Memorial gifts were made to Bowers Hospice House of Southern West Virginia.
Betty Holler Jackson

Betty Holler Jackson, surviving spouse of the Rev. Don L. Jackson, died December 26, 2017. She was 90 years old. Born May 21, 1927 in Oakland, Maryland, she was the daughter of Burlin Columbus and Elsie Hinebaugh Holler. She married Rev. Jackson on June 7, 1953, and they were married for 32 years before his death in October 1985.

Betty retired from an extensive career as a Medical Office Manager, first at the Garret County Health Department and later for an ophthalmologist office in Clarksburg, WV. She was an active participant in the many churches served by her husband throughout his ministry. She sang in the choir, participated in UMW circles, and taught children's Sunday School. She held many offices in the former WSCS and in the United Methodist Women, including president at both the local and district levels. In addition to church choirs, she sang with the Harrison County Chorus, played the piano and sang in many trios and other ensembles.

After her husband's death she was an active member of First United Methodist Church in Clarksburg. She was also active in the Clarksburg Business Professional Women’s organization and volunteered at United Hospital Center.

Betty was a perfectionist in every aspect of her life. She strived constantly to offer her best and instilled that value in her children. Her husband credited her for helping him complete his seminary education and supporting him in all aspects of his ministry, including typing numerous papers and church bulletins. She took special pride in baking, including years of exquisite cake decorating and countless other culinary creations.

Her greatest joy was her family and she enjoyed spoiling her grandchildren when she had the chance. She selflessly gave to all she encountered and never expected anything in return.

Marie Barger Green

Marie Barger Green, surviving spouse of the Rev. Sylvester Green, died September 6, 2017.

Marie married Rev. Green after the death of his first wife in 2003. Rev. Green was an associate member of the conference and he died May 23, 2017.
In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Clifford Holler, and her sister, Peggy DiSimone.

She was survived by three sons, Jerry L. Jackson and his wife, Lori, Rev. Jay K. Jackson, and his wife, LeAnn, and Dr. Jeffrey B. Jackson and his wife, Barbie; grandchildren, Joshua Jackson, Colin Jackson, Zachary Jackson, Kari Dixon, Garret Jackson, Becky Jackson and Jonathan Jackson; great-grandchildren, Jay Dixon, Madison Jackson, and Jude Dixon; a sister, Rita Sweitzer; a brother, Larry Holler and his wife, Jill; her brother-in-law, Joe DiSimone and sister-in-law, Naomi Holler; and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held December 30, 2017, at the Davis-Weaver Funeral Home in Clarksburg. She was buried in Garrett County Memorial Gardens in Oakland, Maryland.

Memorial gifts were given to First United Methodist Church, Clarksburg.

Delma Ruth Jobson

Delma Ruth Jobson, surviving spouse of the Rev. William Lee Jobson, died August 20, 2017. She was 103 years old. Born May 18, 1914, in Charleston, West Virginia, she was the daughter of Vernon Clyde Cutright and Malinda Jane Howard Cutright. She married Rev. Jobson on January 1, 1947, and they were married for 51 years before his death in May 1998.

Ruth attended high school in Boston before moving to West Virginia and graduating from Moundsville High School. She earned a bachelor’s degree in music with a minor in English from West Virginia Wesleyan College. She enjoyed many careers including as a bank teller, a homemaker, teacher, and military chaplain’s wife. She was a member of the Ft. Bragg Officer Wives Club, the Fayetteville (NC) Art Society, and the Highland Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville. She enjoyed art, was an artist herself, and also an accomplished singer. She had many friends and family in the Fayetteville, NC, area, and with their help was able to live independently most of her life. She eventually lived near her daughter, Malinda, in Oklahoma.

Rev. Jobson served at Stephenson Memorial, Parkersburg, from 1957 – 1960. The rest of his service was as a military chaplain and in direct services for mental health and substance abuse disorders.

The Jobsons were strong supporters of adoption and were delighted to adopt their son and daughter.
Their children, Malinda Frangione and her husband, Ron, and Vernon Jobson and his wife, Chris, survived her. Also surviving are five grandchildren, Jason Jobson and his wife, Christina, Corey Jobson, Blake Jobson and his wife, Jennifer, Michael Frangione and Marie Frangione; eight great-grandchildren: Khalil, Will, Kiandra, Maddox, Ava, Addison, Gavin, and Scarlett.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by one brother and two sisters.

A funeral service was held in Oklahoma. She was buried at Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery in Spring Lake, North Carolina.

Mary Kathleen “Katie” Kidd

Mary Kathleen “Katie” Francisco Kidd, surviving spouse of the Rev. H. Randolph Kidd, died March 30, 2018. She was 81 years old. The daughter of George Eldridge and Virginia Evelyn Blake Francisco, she was born February 2, 1937, in Bradshaw, West Virginia. She married Rev. Kidd on August 7, 1965, and they were married for nearly 45 years before his death in July 2010.

Katie graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in Beckley and Berea College in Berea, Kentucky, with a degree in elementary education. She taught in Indianapolis public schools for four years, then returned to Beckley, WV, to serve as the Education Director at Beckley Methodist Temple. During this time, she met and married Randy and they had two sons.

His ministry appointments during their marriage took them to Coalwood, Charlton Heights, Rainelle, Princeton, Man, Ronceverte and Clendenin. He served Westmoreland in Huntington until his retirement in 1997. She taught in McDowell, Greenbrier, Mercer, Logan, and Kanawha counties during this time. Upon retirement, she volunteered in the Cabell County Literacy Council, the Barboursville Library, and as a WV Read Aloud representative at Martha Elementary School.

She was active in Cross Roads United Methodist Church in Huntington and the United Methodist Women.

She is survived by her sons and their wives, Kevin and Jenifer Hammon Kidd and Brian Kidd and Jennifer Piercy; three grandsons, Maxwell Kidd and Jackson and Carter Igo.

A funeral service was held on April 2, 2018, at Cross Roads UMC in Huntington with the Rev. John Ward, Jr., officiating. She was buried in Monte Vista Park Cemetery in Princeton, WV. Memorial gifts were given to Cross Roads UMC and the Cabell County Public Library.
Eleanor N. Leaman

Eleanor N. Leaman, surviving spouse of the Rev. Jacob Leaman, died June 15, 2017. She was 94 years old. Born April 28, 1923, in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, she was the daughter of Richard and Nellie Davis Palin. On March 18, 1946, she married Jacob R. “Dick” Leaman and they were married for 68 years before his death in August 2014.

Eleanor was a medical surgical technician in the Women’s Army Corp during World War II. Her husband worked for Grumman Aircraft Corporation for many years. After his retirement from Grumman, he entered the pastoral ministry. Eleanor embraced his call, assisting him in his preparation and serving by his side as he pastored churches in Palestine, Glenville, Gassaway, and Anstead. Her support enhanced the ministry of each of the churches they served.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Paul Schaffer. She was survived by three sons and their spouses, David R. and Ann Leaman, Franklin P. and Karen Leaman, and Joseph R. and Kristin Leaman; two daughters, Ellen R. Bauman and her husband, John, and Nancy V. Charlton; grandchildren, Christopher Butler, Justin Butler, Lorien Fay, Heidi Leaman, Hannah Leaman, Lauren Leaman, Jacqualin Leaman, Rebecca Cornell, John Charlton, Catherine Charlton, and Caryn Woofter; eleven great-grandchildren; and a brother, Richard McCabe and his wife, Marsha.

A funeral service was held on June 18, 2017, at Sunset Memorial Funeral Home in Parkersburg, WV, with the Rev. Flo Ann Crawford officiating.

Memorial contributions were made to the Children’s Miracle Network Foundation.
Gertrude “Trudy” Moxley

Gertrude “Trudy” Moxley, surviving spouse of the Rev. G.R. “Bob” Moxley, died January 25, 2018. She was 95 years old. Born October 30, 1922, in New Holland, Georgia, she was the daughter of Joe Whelchel and Maggie Sosebee Whelchel. On December 21, 1947, she married Rev. Moxley and they were married for 63 years before his death in March 2010.

After their marriage, she joined him in Atlanta where he was in seminary. He served Caretta, Bradshaw-English, Frankford, Crichton, Iaeger, Maybeury, Grantsville, Kermit, and Amherstdale. Constant physical pain required him to take a leave of absence from active ministry in 1973. She was his help-mate and care-giver for many years.

They both lived in Lexington, Kentucky. She was a member of Centenary United Methodist Church and was an active part of United Methodist Women.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by a son, Ronald Moxley, and several brothers and sisters. She was survived by two daughters and their spouses, Beverly and David Schill, and Joan and Wayne Johnson; seven grandchildren, Christopher Schill and his wife, Heather, Robert Moxley and his wife, Bethany, April Joy Booth and her husband, Eric, Thomas Bookout, Steven Moxley, Gregory Bookout and his wife, Tabatha, and Cathleen Burns and her husband, Jeremy; seven great-children; a sister, Josephine Buice and her husband, Leland; a brother, Albert Whelchel a daughter-in-law, Jackie Moxley; and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held on January 30, 2018, at Kerr Brothers Funeral Home in Lexington, Kentucky. Memorial gifts were made to the Centenary UMC in Lexington and Welsey Village Senior Living Center in Lexington.

Beverly Jean Parsons

Beverly Jean Parsons, surviving spouse of the Rev. Roger Lee Parsons, died February 15, 2018. She was 61 years old. Born November 26, 1956, she was the daughter of Mary Smith Moore. She and Roger had three children. He preceded her in death in January 2015.
Beverly worked for G.C. Murphy Company in sales and also worked for Specialized Family Care. She was devoted to her family and delighted to live near her grandchildren. She also enjoyed shopping and being with friends.

Her husband answered a call to ministry after a long career with Dupont. He served as a part-time local pastor in the Little Kanawha District for nearly 25 years, beginning in 1990. During this time, she offered support and encouragement for his ministry, embracing the congregations he served.

She was a member of Chesterville United Methodist Church.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by a daughter, Amy Parsons. She was survived by a son, Benjamin Parsons; one daughter, Megan Taylor and her husband, David; three grandchildren, Gabriel, Amelia, and Samuel; two brothers and their spouses, Doug and Doreen Moore and Junior and Linda Moore; and several nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held on February 20, 2018, at Kimes Funeral Home with Pastor Troy Derenberger officiating. She was buried at Pond Creek Baptist Church Cemetery. Memorial gifts were received for a College Fund for her grandchildren.

Mary Louise Mullens Phillips

Mary Louise Mullens Phillips, surviving spouse of the Rev. Glenn Ray Phillips, died July 20, 2017. She was 93 years old. A daughter of John and Elsie Mae Douglas Mullens, she was born September 1, 1923, in Van Lear, Kentucky. On September 28, 1941, she married Rev. Phillips, and they were married for 56 years prior to his death in February 1998.

Mary was a graduate of Buckhannon-Upshur High School in the Class of 1941. She was a 50-year member of Beverly United Methodist Church, where she was a member of the United Methodist Women, including being a past president. She also sang in the choir, and taught Bible School. Mary had many interests and particularly enjoyed sewing, knitting, camping, hiking and being in nature. She loved spending time with her grandchildren.

Her husband served Big Otter Charge, Ellamore, and the Beverly Charge. He had been retired since 1981 and they remained part of Beverly UMC after his retirement.
In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by her brother and two sisters, twins, Gertrude Paula Green and William Paul Mullens and Juanita Miller. She was survived by three sons and their wives, Rev. Gary Ray and Dottie Phillips, John David and Joyce Phillips, Mark Allen and Donna Phillips; two daughters, Joyce Ann Morelli and Lida Louis Strahin and her husband, Jim; seventeen grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. She also had a special friend, Doris Riggleman, who survived her.

A funeral service was held July 23, 2017, with the Rev. T. David Thompson officiating. She was buried at the Beverly Cemetery in Beverly, WV.

Mary Lee Potts

Mary Lee Potts, surviving spouse of the Rev. Charles E. Potts, died March 13, 2018. She was 91 years old. Born July 23, 1926, in Wyoming County, West Virginia, she was the daughter of Walter Henry and Estaline Houston. She married Rev. Potts on November 22, 1945 and they were married for 58 years prior to his death in January 2004.

Mary was a partner to her husband in all his ministry. Chuck went to college when their children were young and the family went with him to Chicago where he attended seminary. He served in a number of different communities within the conference and also in Illinois. After he retired, they settled in Parkersburg and she was a member of South Parkersburg United Methodist Church. After his death she lived at Wyngate Senior Living Center. She was an avid gardener. She also enjoyed making crafts of all sorts and writing poetry.

She was survived by her daughter, Rev. Janet S. Jenkins and her husband, Doug; sons, Charles E. Potts, Jr., James E. Potts and his wife, Lillye, David L. Potts and his wife, Cynthia; grandchildren, Matthew, Ted, Christina, Crystal, Monica, Marsha, Sarah, and Brian; and several great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by ten brothers and sisters and a daughter-in-law, Sue.

A private funeral service was held on Friday, March 16, 2018. She was buried in Sunset Gardens, Parkersburg, WV. Memorial gifts were given to the Children’s Feeding Program at South Parkersburg UMC.
Lorna Mae Hyre Pringle

Lorna Mae Hyre Pringle, surviving spouse of the Rev. Donald L. Pringle, died November 8, 2017. She was 88 years old. A daughter of Raymond and Clarice Cutright Hyre, she was born August 14, 1929, in Buckhannon, West Virginia. She married Rev. Pringle on May 16, 1948, and they were married for nearly 47 years prior to his death in February 1995.

During the time her husband was in ministry, she devoted much of her time to working in the church. He continued to serve for several years even after his retirement in 1992. After his death, she was a member of Calvary United Methodist Church.

Lorna Mae enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and working puzzle books.

She was survived by five children, Phillip “Lonnie” Pringle and his wife, Shirley, Michael R. Pringle and his wife, Margaret, Charlotte K. Harvey and her husband, Bob, Raymond “Brent” Pringle and his wife, Raye Ann, and Suzetta Lynn Waters; 11 grandchildren, Scott, Tim, Dana, Bill and Andy Pringle, Robert Harvey, Jennifer Kinney, Mindy Wilson, Kreisty Spreng, and Bill and Andy Pringle; 27 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; three sisters, Veva Smith, Gaylene Hildreth and her husband, Roy, and Rosella Ware and her husband, Melvin; and several nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held on November 11, 2017, at Calvary United Methodist Church with the Rev. Etheldean Yanero officiating. She was buried in Rocky Ford United Methodist Church Cemetery in Buckhannon, WV.

Nancy Harless Wells

Nancy Harless Wells, surviving spouse of the Rev. Travis E. Wells, Jr., died September 29, 2017. She was 81 years old. Born May 25, 1936, in Huntington, West Virginia, she was the daughter of Cephis Woodrow and Nancy Virginia Thomas Harless. She married Rev. Wells on July 12, 1957, and they were married for nearly 26 years prior to his death in June 1983.

Nancy worked as a Finance Clerk for the Corps of Engineers. During their marriage, her
husband served churches in a variety of places around the conference including Cox Landing, Dillon Chapel, and Bethesda in the Huntington area. He also served Seneca-Pocahontas and as an associate at Christ Church, Charleston. He was serving First UMC, Barboursville, when he died of cancer. Nancy remained a member of First UMC Barboursville for the remainder of her life.

In addition to her husband and her parents, Nancy was preceded in death by a brother, Fred Harless, and a granddaughter, Katy. She was survived by three children, Travis Wells, III, Tim Wells, and Kimberly Ross; grandchildren, Derek, Amanda, Zach and Eli; seven great-grandchildren; a sister, Brenda Wamsley and her husband, Jim; and a brother, Donald Harless and his wife, Betty.

A funeral service was held on October 3, 2017, at Henson and Kitchen Mortuary in Huntington. She was buried in Oaklawn Memorial Park in Huntington, WV.

**Eleanor Joy Wilson**

Eleanor Joy Wilson, surviving spouse of the Rev. Elmer S. Wilson, died February 7, 2018. She was 95 years old. Born July 21, 1922, in Lima, Ohio, she was the daughter of Feador and Lydia Kattner. She married Rev. Wilson on August 23, 1948. They were married for 51 years prior to his death in February 2000.

Joy was the youngest of three children in her family. She attended college in Greeley, Colorado, where she also earned a Master’s Degree in Education. She taught elementary school at Hart Mountain Japanese Internment Camp in Wyoming during World War II. She came to West Virginia to teach and met and married Rev. Wilson who was a widower with three sons.

During their marriage, Rev. Wilson served Highland Ave, Fairmont; Stout Memorial, Parkersburg; Summersville; South Side, Huntington; First, Beckley; Clendenin; and First, Welch. After he retired from the conference in 1969, they moved to Florida and eventually settled in Port Charlotte, where she lived the remainder of her life.

She was survived by a son, Tim; her three stepsons, Robert, James and Gary; eight grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by two brothers, Wilbur and Loren.

A memorial service was held on February 27, 2018, at Southport Square in Port Charlotte, Florida. Memorial gifts were made to Habitat for Humanity.