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, 2019. The Conference Secretary wishes to thank the families of these faithful servants for supplying photographs and supplemental materials for the memoirs.

CLERGY

Chalmer Abrams

The Rev. Chalmer Abrams, a retired local pastor, died June 4, 2019, at the age of 83. Born October 25, 1935, he was the son of Howard and Myrtle Webb Abrams. He was married to Joyce Walker Abrams for 60 years.

Chalmer served in the U.S. Army in the Rangers Division, serving two tours in Europe and in the United States. He was a mine foreman for Madison Coal Company and Kessler Coal for many years. Rev. Abrams took the Course of Study through Duke Divinity School. He served Hico; Claypool; Beaver-Blue Jay; and Oceana-Sun Hill before his retirement in 1998. He also served New Fayette Circuit 1998-2002 and Long Branch in 2009-2013.

He was survived by his wife, Joyce; sons, Carlos Abrams and his wife, Denise, Rodney Abrams and his wife, Tammy, and Dale Abrams and his wife, Kate; grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Jacob Abrams, Savannah Abrams Sears, Keeley, Haden, and Trenton Sears, Sawyer Abrams, Grayson Abrams, and Ashley Walker; one sister, Delores Williams and her husband, Allen; and several nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held on June 7, 2019, at Rose and Quesenberry Peace Chapel in Beckley, West Virginia.
M. Eugene Adkins

The Rev. Maurice Eugene Adkins, a retired elder in the conference, died July 17, 2018. He was 85 years old. The son of Maurice Eugene Adkins and Sylvia Oletta Bumgardner Adkins, he was born May 1, 1933, in St. Marys, West Virginia. He married Diane Adkins on March 23, 1973. They were married for 45 years and they had two children.

He graduated from St. Marys High School in the class of 1951. He earned a bachelor’s degree in English and Philosophy from Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas, and a Master of Theology from Perkins Theological Seminary in 1963.

He was licensed to preach in the Arkansas Conference in 1957 and ordained in full membership in the Arkansas Conference in 1963. He served Hickory Planes; Bauxite; Russellville; and Danville in Arkansas, as well as being the Annual Conference Youth Director for one year. He transferred to the West Virginia Conference in 1971 and he served Friendly Circuit 1971-1975; Glenville State Campus Minister 1975-1978; Gassaway 1978-1986; Cross Lanes 1986-1994; and St. Paul’s Parkersburg 1994 until his retirement in 1997. In retirement, he served Belmont and Friendly before moving to Virginia in 2017.

Gene was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, having served from 1953-1956 during the Korean War. He was stationed in Florida and Arkansas. He served on numerous boards and agencies in the conference including Conference Board of Global Ministries where he chaired the Division of Missions, Conference Board of Discipleship, and district Committees on Ministry. In 1983, he was named “Minister of the Year” for the West Virginia Conference.

Gene is survived by his wife, Diane; one son, Phillip and his wife, Jennifer; a daughter, Joy and her husband, Jason; and five grandchildren.

A funeral service was held August 18, 2018, at St. Marys United Methodist Church in St. Marys, West Virginia.
Helen Davis Bell

The Rev. Helen Davis Bell, a retired elder in the conference, died September 19, 2018, at the age of 74. She was born in Kanawha County on October 2, 1943, a daughter of the Rev. Homer H. Davis and Pearl Wilson Davis.

She went to Charleston public schools and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from West Virginia State University. She worked for the Department of Human Services Division of the State of West Virginia.

After accepting her call to ministry, she earned a Master of Divinity degree from Gammon Theological Seminary. She served as first vice-president of the Gammon Alumni Association.

Rev. Bell began her ministry in the Tennessee Conference by serving Seay Hubbard UMC in Nashville. She transferred to the West Virginia Conference in 2002 and was appointed as the Little Kanawha District Superintendent. She served there until her health required her to take Medical Leave in 2008. She retired in 2013.

Helen was preceded in death by her mother, Pearl Davis. She is survived by her father; two sons, John A. Brown, Jr., and his wife, Katie, and Robert H. Brown and his wife, Libby; three sisters, Claudette F. Patterson and her husband, Bobby, Linda C. Horn, and Mary M. Mason; seven grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held on September 29, 2018, at Simpson UMC, Charleston, with the Rev. Dr. Felica Wooten Williams officiating.
Conrad Keith Brown

The Rev. Conrad Keith Brown, a retired associate member of the conference, died February 27, 2019. He was 84. He was born June 8, 1934, in Chelyan, West Virginia, the son of Leonard and Raymah Carnifax Brown. He was married to Frances L. Casto Brown who was also an associate member of the conference. She preceded him in death in 2012.

Conrad served with honor and distinction in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Lynchburg College in 1972 and a Master of Arts from Lynchburg College in 1975. He transferred from the Virginia Conference in 1984.


He and Frances then moved to Wilmington, North Carolina. Conrad was survived by his son, Michael Keith Brown; grandchildren, Traci Ann Vanlew and Michael Keith Brown, Jr., and great-grandchildren, John Vanlew, VI, and Mollie Vanlew.

A service to celebrate Conrad’s life was held on March 4, 2019, at Wrightsboro United Methodist Church in Wilmington. Military Honors were rendered by the U.S. Air

Grace Lucille Estel

Ms. Grace Lucille Estel, a retired deaconess and missionary with The United Methodist Church affiliated with the West Virginia Conference, died October 6, 2018, at the age of 93. A daughter of Albert Ray and Nannie May Taylor Estel, she was born November 19, 1924, on a farm in Garrison, Pennsylvania. After her retirement, she lived at the Brooks-Howell Home for Deaconesses in Asheville, North Carolina, where she was a member of St. Paul’s United Methodist Church in Asheville.
Grace attended a one-room school in southwest Pennsylvania, which contained all eight grades. She graduated from Fairmont College and was employed by Jones Fur Company and Allegheny Power in Fairmont.

She was asked by her pastor to attend Temperance Youth Camp at Camp Caesar in West Virginia. After surviving a nearly fatal automobile accident on her way home, she was convinced that Jesus had saved her for a purpose. She pursued further education at Waynesburg College in Pennsylvania, National College, and West Virginia Wesleyan College.

She was commissioned as a Deaconess in The United Methodist Church on January 18, 1956, at Buck Hills Falls, Pennsylvania, by Bishop Arthur Moore, and was consecrated in May 1957 by Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam.

She was encouraged to pursue rural work and found her calling there. Her first assignment was with the 22-church Clearfield Group Ministry. Next she went to Jamestown, New York, as an educational assistant. She was also assigned to the one-church Chequamegon Parish on the Bad River Reservation in Washburn, Wisconsin. After Chequamegon, she was assigned to the Parish of the Headwaters in New Hampshire, then to Eastern Connecticut Cooperative Ministries in Moosup, where she was also president of Killingly Council of Churches. Her final assignment was at Tyrand Cooperative Ministries in Mill Creek, West Virginia. While there she started a Church Women United group and continued as president for some time. She was also president of the Wesleyan District United Methodist Women.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a brother, Kenneth Estel; a sister, Norma Jean Estel Wilson; and her brother-in-law, Aubrey B. Wilson. She was the last surviving member of her immediate family.

She is survived by one nephew, Allen Wilson and his wife, Debbie; one niece, Carol Jean Wilson and her husband, Alfred Mulzet; and three great-nieces, Laura Ross, Jennifer Wilson, and Sarah Jean Mulzet and their two children, Lilah and Ryan.

A celebration of her life was held at Brooks-Howell Home. Her cremated remains were interred in the rose garden at Brooks-Howell.

**John Emmett Ferrell**

The Rev. John Emmett “Jack” Ferrell, a retired elder in the conference, died March 3, 2019, at the age of 89. Born July 7, 1929, in Wheeling, West Virginia, he was the eldest child of John Emmett Ferrell and Mary Louise Plants. On January 1, 1956, he married Marie Victoria (Vicki) Taylor in Noxapater Mississippi. After 63 years of marriage, she preceded him in death by less than 2 weeks.

He graduated from Tridelphia High School in Wheeling in 1947 and West Virginia Wesleyan College in 1951. He received a Master of Divinity degree in 1955 from Candler School of Theology of Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

Throughout his ministry, John was active in community and service organizations, including the Masons and the Lions Clubs International. He was an Eagle Scout.

In addition to Vicki, his wife of 63 years, he was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters, Barbara Louise Holley and Esther Jane Seadeek. He was survived by one daughter, Jane Louise Barnett and her spouse, Jeni; and one son, John Emmett Ferrell, III, and his spouse, Jay; four grandchildren, Cynthia Chambers, Christina Ferrell, Julie Ferrell, and John E. Ferrell, IV; and two great-grandchildren.

A funeral service was held on March 6, 2019, at Washington United Methodist Church in Washington, West Virginia. He was buried at Rockland Cemetery in Belpre, Ohio.

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**Deborah Ann Friend**

The Rev. Deborah Ann Friend, a local pastor in the conference, died November 7, 2018, at the age of 66. She was born August 8, 1952, in Monroe, Michigan. She was the daughter of Robert Smith and Mildred Smith Matievich. She was married to Richard “Rick” A. Friend for 30 years.

Deborah worked for the West Virginia Library Commission, IBM, and many other companies. After following a call to ministry, she served Aurora Charge in the Potomac Highlands District from 2005-2008.

Debbie took a keen interest in other people. She had a delightful sense of humor and never met a stranger. She touched many lives through her work and her ministry.

She is survived by her husband, Rick, and her dogs, Jake and Julie. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Exemplifying her spirit of giving, Debbie was an organ donor and donated her body to Anatomy Gifts to be used for education.
Richard S. Gibson

The Rev. Richard S. Gibson, a retired elder in the conference, died December 20, 2018, at the age of 95. He was born August 31, 1923, in Rock Cave, West Virginia, a son of the late Cline and Aleta Lane Gibson. He was married for 68 years to Gertrude Louise Judy Gibson before her death on April 17, 2015.

Following high school, Richard joined the Civilian Conservation Corps and from there was employed as a steel factory worker until being called into ministry. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from West Virginia Wesleyan College in 1953 and a Master of Divinity from Temple in 1956.

He served Crichton; Norton-Mabie; and Galestown in Maryland; Federica and Marrington in Delaware; and Ocean City, Millington, and Hurlock in Maryland. While serving in Ocean City, he oversaw the construction of the new Atlantic United Methodist Church. In the West Virginia Conference, he served Woodford Memorial 1968-1978; King’s Way 1978-1979; and Kee Street 1979 until his retirement in 1985. He then served as an associate at First, Elkins for a year before moving to Mill Gap, Virginia, where he served the Blue Grass Charge of the Virginia Conference for 11 years in retirement.

Richard loved to hunt, especially turkey, and he was a master gardener. He enjoyed gospel music and playing his guitar with the “Mill Gap Ramblers.” He devoted himself to serving others, both those in his congregations and his wife, children, and grandchildren.

In addition to his wife and parents, he was preceded in death by one grandson, Richard William “Willie” Brown, and two sisters, Lilly “Polly” Westfall and Betty Lewis. He is survived by one son, John Charles Gibson and his wife, Penny; one daughter, Katherine Gibson; one brother, Robert Gibson; and two sisters, Helen Riffle and Mildred Lewis.

A service was held December 23, 2018, at Obaugh Funeral Home in McDowell. He was buried in Green Hill Cemetery.

Memorial gifts were given to the Green Hill Cemetery in Mill Gap, Virginia.
George H. Gray

The Rev. Dr. George H. Gray, a retired elder in the conference, died July 6, 2018. He was 86. Born March 10, 1932, in Boomer, Virginia, he was the son of Andrew Luther and Rozetta Ellen Starr Gray. He married Lucy June Cox on July 23, 1954, and they were married for 61 years before her death in June 2015.

George grew up near Oak Hill, West Virginia. He joined the Army before finishing high school in an effort to escape the coal fields. After serving for nearly four years, he finished high school and attended Morris Harvey College (now, University of Charleston) on the G.I. bill. He then enrolled at Wesley School of Theology where he completed his Master of Divinity degree in 1960. He also earned an M.A. from Presbyterian School in Richmond, Virginia, and a Doctor of Ministry from Vanderbilt in 1980.

He served Vandalia in South Charleston while in college and Smithburg (in the Baltimore Conference) while completing his degree at Wesley. He was ordained an elder in full connection in 1960. He returned to the Army as a Chaplain and served with distinction from 1960 – 1990, retiring from the Army as a Colonel. During his time as Chaplain, his awards included the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Army Occupational Medal (Europe), Vietnamese Campaign Medal, and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Korea).

In 1990 he returned to pastoral ministry, serving the Franklin Charge in the Northern District until his retirement from the conference in 1997. Following retirement, he moved to Alabama where he served Bemiston UMC in Talladega; First UMC of Saks, Anniston; and Craig UMC in Eastaboga. After contracting Parkinson’s Disease, he remained active at First UMC of Saks and served on the Board of Directors in the Anniston Branch of the Military Officers Association of America.

George was preceded in death by his parents and his wife, June. He is survived by his two sons, Larry and David Gray.

A funeral service was held on July 14, 2018, at Saks United Methodist Church with the Rev. Bob Owens officiating. He was buried in Anniston Memorial Gardens.
Nancy J. Hamm

The Rev. Nancy J. Hamm, a retired associate member of the conference, died May 24, 2019. She was born January 5, 1929, in Hinton, West Virginia, the eldest child of Howard and Jo Patrick Hayes. She was married to Robert D. Hamm for over 70 years before his death in January 2018.

Nancy attended Marshall University and graduated Cum Laude from West Virginia State. She served one year in the University Year for Action, a branch of the Peace Corps. She also worked for the Red Cross and helped her husband in their store, “Heights Market.” She worked at Lakin State Hospital as a Psychiatric Social Worker and directed the Volunteer Services.

Nancy answered a call to the ministry and completed the Course of Study at Duke Divinity School. She was ordained a deacon in associate membership in 1992. She served Henderson Circuit 1988-1992; Beech Hill-Vaught Memorial-Henderson 1992-1994; and Wesley, Vienna 1994 until her retirement in 1996. Following her retirement, she supplied pulpits where there was a need because she loved to preach the Gospel.

She was a member of the Mason County Ministerial Association, Junior Women’s Club of Point Pleasant, Jolly Doze, and Heights United Methodist Church.

In addition to her parents and husband, Nancy was preceded in death by two sons, William Hamm and his wife, Karen, and J. Robert Hamm and his wife, Paula; two brothers, Leroy and Buddy; and one sister, Nedra. She was survived by one brother, Bill Hayes; five grandchildren, Bryan, Gretchen, Ben, Jeremy, and Billie; and 10 great-grandchildren.

A funeral service was held on May 29, 2019, at Wilcoxen Funeral Home in Point Pleasant with the Rev. Richard DeQuasie and the Rev. Charles Marker officiating. She was buried at Kirkland Memorial Gardens in Point Pleasant.
Melva Humphrey

The Rev. Melva Humphrey, a retired deaconess and part-time local pastor, died May 12, 2019. Born November 6, 1920, she was 98 years old.

Melva was consecrated as a deaconess and served as the Director of the Scotts Run Settlement House in Morgantown from 1983-1985. She moved to Wadestown where she was approved as a part-time local pastor and served the Wadestown Charge from 1985-1993. The charge included Wadestown; Oak Forest; Valley Chapel; and Mt. Tabor United Methodist Churches.

She was also a member of the Clay-Battelle Senior Citizens.

Melva was the last surviving member of her family. When she moved to Wadestown she became close friends with the Shaver family, including her longtime friend, Betty Shaver.

A Memorial Service was held May 18, 2019, at the Owens-Neely Funeral Home in Blacksville, West Virginia, with the Rev. Rose Saunders officiating. Melva’s cremated remains were buried in the Wadestown Cemetery.

Memorial gifts were made to the Clay-Battelle Senior Center in Blacksville.

Loren Dale “Burr” Metzner

The Rev. Loren Dale “Burr” Metzner, a part-time local pastor in the conference, died July 12, 2018, at the age of 61. Born April 12, 1957, in Clarksburg, West Virginia, he was the son of Lawrence Arnold Metzner and Bernice Louise Crites Metzner. He married Susan Virginia Bilby on August 1, 1976, and they were married for nearly 42 years. Susan is also a part-time local pastor and they were serving together at the time of his death.

Burr was a 1975 graduate of Roosevelt High School in Clarksburg. He worked as an insurance agent and diesel mechanic, but felt a strong call to ministry. He taught Sunday School at St. Paul’s United Methodist and was involved with the Kairos prison ministry and
NCWV-Emmaus Community. He was licensed as a local pastor and served Elk Garden 1999-2001; Gormania 2001-2006; and was appointed to Hambleton Charge at the time of his death. Hambleton UMC and Hendricks UMC made up the Hambleton Charge.

His passions were hunting, fishing, gardening, and being outside. He spent much of his time as a young man raising beagles and hunting rabbits. He also enjoyed brook trout fishing in the mountains of Tucker County and camping on Shavers Fork. His favorite place to be was his garden. He raised Heirloom tomatoes from earlier generations and that filled him with purpose and supplied everyone who visited with plenty of tomatoes.

He lived for 20 years with Parkinson’s Disease, sustained by his faith in Christ and his love of serving. His last six months were a battle with cancer, which he faced with the same strength that had sustained him throughout his life.

Burr was survived by his wife, Susan; his father; one son, Loren Michael Metzner and his wife, Erica Lynn; one daughter, Michalla Daige Metzner and her companion, Chad Wells; one brother, Larry Allen Metzner and his wife, Eleanor Terrell, and their three children, Chris, Craig, and Tim; one sister, Ladonna Marie Tucker and her husband, Gary, and their three children, Jeremy, Jamie, and Yancy; two brothers-in-law, Charles Bilby, Michael Bilby and his wife, Sue, and their four children, Michelle, Michalla, Tina, and Crystal; one sister-in-law, Janet Mullenax and her husband, Mark and their son, Philip; and many great-nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his mother and one infant son.

A funeral service was held on July 18, 2018, at the Hambleton United Methodist Church, with the Rev. Neil Parsons, lifetime friend and spiritual brother, officiating. He was buried at the McNeely Cemetery in Hendricks, West Virginia.

**Vaughn Jefferson Michael, Jr.**

The Rev. Dr. Vaughn Jefferson Michael, Jr., a retired elder in the conference, died September 19, 2018, at the age of 84. He was born December 10, 1933, in Morgantown, West Virginia, the son of Sarah Louise Swindler and Vaughn Jefferson Michael, Sr. On October 25, 1957, he married Elizabeth Ann Rehn, and they were married for 58 years prior to her death in 2014.

He graduated from Morgantown High School, started college at West Virginia University, and then transferred to West Virginia Wesleyan College where he graduated with a
bachelor’s degree in psychology and religion. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. He earned a M.Th. degree from University of Dubuque in 1971 and a D.Min. from Columbia University in 1993.

He was appointed as Associate Pastor at First United Methodist in Clarksburg. While serving his appointment, he founded and directed one of the first pastoral counseling centers in West Virginia. He continued his clinical training and served as an Assistant Supervisor of Clinical Pastoral Education at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

Throughout his years of ministry, Vaughn served on numerous National Disaster Response Teams. He was also one of the first Clinical Pastor Educators in West Virginia. Throughout his career, he served many people as either a pastor or Director of Pastoral Care at the following hospitals: Union Protestant Hospital in Clarksburg, Weston State Hospital in Weston, Cabell Huntington Hospital in Huntington, St. Joseph Hospital in Parkersburg, and finally at West Virginia University Hospital / Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown. He retired in 1999.

Upon retirement, he became a ski instructor at Timberline in Canaan Valley, West Virginia, and an avid golfer, twice sinking a hole-in-one. Throughout his career and retirement, he was active in The United Methodist Church and Church World Service, serving on and chairing committees for disaster response training, health and wellness education, and clinical pastoral education.

Vaughn loved to read, write, take walks, garden, and play golf. Vaughn was a lifelong WVU football and basketball fan. He will be remembered as a caring soul with a gift of wisdom and counsel, a quick sense of humor, and a compassionate heart. Above all, Vaughn is remembered for his enduring faith in God’s love and salvation and his gift of sharing this hope with others, which served as the source of his compassion.

In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by his parents, his uncle, Harold Swindler, and his aunt, Genevieve Swindler. He is survived by his three daughters, Miki Waring and her husband, Chuck, Monica Warden, and her husband, Doug, and Miriam Beyer and her husband, Art; four sisters, Suzie Davis and her husband, Oris, Terry Lash and her husband, Chuck, Tommy McClintic and her husband, Wayne, and Linda Fletcher and her husband, Paul; seven grandchildren, Ryan and Alec Waring, Michael, Leia, Elissa, and Lindsey Warden, and Kira Hicks; and many nieces and nephews.

His last fulfilled request was to have his body donated to the West Virginia University School of Medicine. He jokingly said, “It’s the only way I’m going to get into medical school!”

A memorial celebration was held September 23, 2018, at Suncrest United Methodist Church in Morgantown with the Rev. Junius Lewis officiating. District Superintendent Amy Shanholzer presented the Circuit Rider Medallion.
The Rev. Patricia “Trish” Gail Wedig Neely, a part-time local pastor in the conference, died May 19, 2019. She was 72. Born October 21, 1946, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, she was the daughter of Frank Albert Wedig and Katherine Adams Wedig. She was preceded in death by two husbands, Raymond Pealer, Jr., and Ernest J. Mangan. On October 9, 2000, she married Roger Neely in Perry County, Pennsylvania. Roger is also a local pastor in the conference, and they were serving together on the Mingo Charge at the time of her death.

Trish graduated from Central Dauphin Honors High School and earned her bachelor’s degree in business administration from Penn State University with a marketing major and elementary education minor.

Trish had a strong foundation in values, including religion, family, education, work, and civic responsibility. Being a member of a sizable family taught her responsibility and interdependence. She received encouragement from significant mentors throughout her life. This foundation prepared her for leadership.

Her passion was love of God and all God’s provisions, including simple natural surroundings, people, and small animals. Her gifts were unchained creative writings, Gospel music, cooking and preserving food and the sharing it with others. She never expected reciprocation. Throughout all the roles of her life: daughter, sister, wife, friend, grandmother, employee, employer, and then pastor, she demonstrated her discipleship of Jesus Christ. She was inquisitive, inspired, and determined. She faithfully showed no mountain was insurmountable. Her work as a local pastor was a natural progression of her discipleship.

She is survived by her husband of 18 years, Roger Neely; four children, Sandra Pealer, Raymond Pealer, III, and his wife, Monica, Jarrod Coates, and Raelyn King; seven grandchildren, Harlan, Gabriele, Elias, Tatiana, Sasha, Rico, and Avalon; five siblings, Kay Kuebler, Shirley Rehkugler, Frank Wedig and his wife, Donna, Christopher Wedig and his wife, Thelma, and Mary Jones and her husband, Barry.

In addition to her first two husbands and her parents, she was preceded in death by one sister, Sharon Wedig, and one grandson, Anson Pealer.

A funeral service was held at the Randolph Funeral Home in Valley Bend, West Virginia, with the Rev. Ann Fretwell officiating. She was buried in Valley Head Cemetery. Memorial gifts were given to Mountain Hospice in Elkins.
Robert E. Nichols

The Rev. Robert E. Nichols, a retired local pastor in the conference, died November 8, 2018, at the age of 89. A son of Max Elijah Nichols and Bertha Estell Gabriel Nichols, he was born March 12, 1929. He was married to Barbara Frush.

Bob graduated from Unidis High School in West Milford in 1947. He was a graduate of the Baltimore Institute of Photography and served in the United States Army as a photography instructor during the Korean conflict between 1951 and 1953. After his military service, he was employed as a photographer by Ideal Studio in Clarksburg and Paul Jack Studio in Parkersburg before purchasing The Bell Studio in Bridgeport, West Virginia, in 1959, which he and his wife owned and operated until 2002. An active member of the Professional Photographers Association of West Virginia, he served twice as the organization’s president. He earned the Certified Professional Photographer Degree and was awarded many honors for his work on the state and national level.

He was often called “Mr. Bell” as he photographed countless high school events, weddings, portraits, and other businesses during his 43 years of recording the people and places of West Virginia.

Although he had a talent and deep love for photography, he also heard a call of God on his life. As a result, he served for 10 years as a part-time local pastor appointed to the Tygart River Charge in the MonValley District. After retiring, he moved to Birmingham, Alabama. His ministry continued in Birmingham through the Highlands United Methodist Church where he worked with the Community Ministries to help the poor and homeless.

Both as a photographer and a pastor, he shared faith through conversations with many people. His kindness, humor, and faith will stand as his legacy to his family and friends who knew him best.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara; two daughters, Roberta Nolte and her husband, Dan, and Rebecca Nichols; three sons, Roger Alan and his wife, Erika, Kenneth and his wife, Lori, and Joseph; two grandsons, Ian Nolte and his wife, Amy, and Max Nolte; three granddaughters, Harper, Zoe, and Bella Nichols; and one great-granddaughter, Eva Louise. He was preceded in death by his parents.

A memorial service was held at Highlands United Methodist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. Memorial donations were made to the Community Ministries Fund of Highlands UMC to help provide for people in need in the Birmingham area.
Ralph D. Reedy

The Rev. Ralph D. “Pops” Reedy, a retired local pastor in the conference, died December 4, 2018, at the age of 87. Born July 15, 1931, at Swords Creek, Virginia, he was the son of J. Edward and Ada Brown Reedy. He was married for 37 years to Doris Wells Curry Reedy.


Ralph was survived by his wife, Doris, who was by his side throughout his extended illness; his daughter, Pleasant Hinchman; one stepson, Jim Curry and his wife, Judy; one sister, Ella Ruth Reedy Cook; one stepson-in-law, Bill Weese, Sr.; eight grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and many other relatives, friends, and church family.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Earl Reedy; and one stepdaughter, Lynn Weese.

A celebration of Ralph’s life was held on December 8, 2018, at Claypool United Methodist Church in Davin. He was buried in Cook Cemetery at Cyclone.

Steven Webster Runnion

The Rev. Steven W. Runnion, a retired elder in the conference, died April 30, 2019, at the age of 69. He was born August 25, 1949, the son of Harry and Edith Runnion of Roane County. He was married to Patty Runnion for 27 years. Patty is a retired local pastor in the conference.

Steven graduated from Spencer High School and began his career in Washington, D.C., with the F.B.I. He then went into construction until his call to ministry in 1976. He completed the Course of Study in 1981 at Duke Divinity School. He then completed a regents bachelor’s degree at Fairmont State in 1982 and the M.Div. at Methodist Theological School in Ohio in
1987. He was ordained an elder in full membership in 1990.


Steven’s ministry was characterized by his compassion and the love he showed to his congregations. Active in the communities where he lived, he was a member of Monroe Lodge #77 in Union where he served as Grand Master.

Steven was preceded in death by his parents. He was survived by his wife, the Rev. Patty Runnion; four children, Matthew Runnion, Mark Runnion and his wife, Heather, Tracy Runnion, Amy Jo Sutton and her husband, DJ; five grandchildren, Luke, Jacob, Steven, Caitlyn, and Kayla; one brother, Brad Runnion and his wife, Frankie; several cousins, nieces, nephews, and other family.

A service celebrating his life was held May 6, 2019, at Roselawn Funeral Home in Princeton, West Virginia, with the Rev. Mark Flynn and the Rev. Betty Shields officiating. District Superintendent Joseph Kenaston presented the Circuit Rider plaque at the service. He was buried in the Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Princeton.

**Randy Stewart**

The Rev. Randy Stewart, a part-time local pastor in the conference, died June 27, 2018, at the age of 69. Born July 26, 1948, in St. Marys, West Virginia, he was the son of George and Geraldine Stewart. He was married to Barbara Buskirk Stewart.

A veteran of the U.S. Army, Randy served in Vietnam 1969-1970 as part of the 458th PBR USARV on river patrol boats. He worked for more than 35 years at American Cyanamid/Cytec. Called by God to ministry, he completed the Course of Study through Duke Divinity School and served as a part-time local pastor. He served Greenwood United Methodist Church in the Little Kanawha District for 28 years.

Randy was devoted to Christ, to his family, and to the community. He viewed ministering to shut-ins, those who were hurting, and everyone he met as a great privilege and used every encounter to share the saving grace of God.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara; four children, Susan Baker and her husband, Donzil, Bradley, Sarah, and Emily; one brother, George Stewart; and one aunt, Goldie Lamp. He was preceded in death by his parents; his first wife, Barbara Sue “Bobbie” Malone; one brother, Chris; and two sisters, Carol and Judy Stewart.

A funeral service was held on July 2, 2018, at Ingram Funeral Home with the Rev. Brad Davis officiating. Burial was at the I.O.O.F. Cemetery.
Jeffrey Neil Winter

The Rev. Jeffrey Neil Winter, a retired elder in the conference, died December 17, 2018. He was 66. The son of Charles O. Winter and Betty Miller Winter, he was born December 9, 1952, in Beckley, West Virginia. On August 5, 1995, he married Leona Sue Ferguson Winter and they were married for 23 years.


He was an avid reader of history, particularly Civil War books. He enjoyed working puzzles, watching Star Trek movies, and particularly enjoyed traveling every year to Amish Country in Ohio with his wife.

Jeff was survived by his wife, Sue; two stepchildren, Lisa Rice and David Rice and his wife, April; two grandchildren, Abigail Rice and Annalise Shaw; one sister, Sandy Kessel; one brother, Charles Winter; one nephew, Brian Kessell; two aunts and uncles, JoAnn and Dan Beiling and Bernice and Harold Miller; several cousins and in-laws. He was preceded in death by his parents.

A funeral service was held on December 21, 2018, at Burnside Funeral Home in Bridgeport, West Virginia, with the Rev. Ken Ramsey and the Rev. Dan Kimble officiating. He was buried in Floral Hills Memorial Gardens in Quiet Dell.

Memorial gifts were given to the Humane Society of Harrison County and the Lord’s Pantry in Shinnston.
Charlotte Ann Wood

The Rev. Charlotte Ann Wood, a retired local pastor in the conference, died December 1, 2018, at the age of 71. She was born February 19, 1947, in Takoma Park, Maryland, the daughter of Charles N. Perdue and Vivian L. Poliquin Perdue. She married Ronald K. Wood, Sr., on November 29, 1975, and they were married for 43 years.

Charlotte went to school in Maryland. As a child, she took 10 years of dance lessons and taught ballet, tap, and baton. She moved to Virginia in 1975 where she met her husband. They moved to West Virginia in 1997. She worked for IBM, Boise Cascade, Larwin, and was the Assistant to the Director of Manassas Christian School.

She attended First UMC, Romney, and it was there that she felt the call to ministry. She attended the Course of Study at Duke Divinity School and served the Augusta Charge from 2004 until her retirement in 2013. She loved the opportunity to serve God through pastoral ministry.

Her faith sustained her through two bouts of breast cancer in 1974 and 2007.

Charlotte is survived by her husband, Ronald; one daughter, Roxanna Leigh Crosbie and her husband, Mike; one son, Ronald Kelly Wood, Jr., and his wife, Holly; and three grandchildren, Scott Kelly Nicholson, Connor Eugene Wood, and Landon Richard Wood. She was preceded in death by her parents.

A funeral service was held December 8, 2018, at Augusta United Methodist Church with the Rev. Dr. Roy Knight officiating. Memorial gifts were made to Hospice of the Panhandle in Kearneysville.
Richard L. Wright

The Rev. Richard L. Wright, a retired elder in the conference, died December 4, 2018, at the age of 88. Born April 19, 1930, in Moundsville, West Virginia, he was the son of Chalmer H. and Mildred Maupin Wright. On September 16, 1953, he married Leanna Rosalie Staley. They were married 64 years before her death in December 2017.

Richard was a graduate of Moundsville High School. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Asbury College in 1952 and earned the Master of Theology from the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in 1956. In 1983, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity from West Virginia Wesleyan College.


Richard was elected five times as a delegate to General Conference, and once as a reserve and six times as a delegate to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference. He served for eight years on the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. He served several offices in the WV Annual Conference, including being Chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry. He was a Trustee Emeritus of West Virginia Wesleyan College and Pastor Emeritus of Wesley United Methodist Church. He was a member of the Advisory Committee for Ruby Memorial Hospital, Volunteer Chaplain at Monongahela General Hospital, Vice-Chair for Glenwood Park Retirement Foundation in Bluefield, West Virginia, and past board member of United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia, Inc.

He was past president of the Grafton Lion’s Club and a member of the Morgantown Rotary Club.

Richard was a loving and devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He will be remembered for his sense of humor and, sometimes, endless storytelling. He had a passion for reading and could be called a “history buff.” He enjoyed the beautiful rolling hills of West Virginia with his family and traveling with his wife. He was known as a faithful counselor and disciple of Christ and a dedicated minister to his parishioners.
In addition to his parents and his wife, Leanna, he was preceded in death by his stepmother, Gladys L. Wright; one sister, Nathalie Wright Ruggles; two brothers, Rev. Karl E. Wright and Paul H. Wright; and one daughter-in-law, Kimberly J. Wright.

He was survived by his four children, Lanell Y. Johnson and her husband, Lonnie, Douglas K. Wright, Lanita B. Myers and her husband, Dave, Dr. Darren S. Wright and his wife, Connie; one half-brother, John R. Wright and his wife, Faye; one half-sister, Mary Wright Miller and her husband, John; and seven grandchildren, Kristin N. Wright, Leland W. Johnson, Landon C. Johnson, Lauren E. Myers, Drew R. Myers, Emma L. Wright, and Keaton J. Wright.

A funeral service was held at Bridgeport United Methodist in Bridgeport, West Virginia, with the Rev. Dr. Ken Ramsey officiating. Memorial gifts were made to the churches where Richard had served during his ministry.

Elizabeth Shaver Smith Wycoff

The Rev. Elizabeth “Betty” Shaver Smith Wycoff, a retired associate member in the conference, died June 26, 2018, at the age of 86. Born March 20, 1932, in Watson, West Virginia, she was the daughter of Emmett Ray and Delma White Cotton Shaver. She was married to Rev. Edwin Albert Smith, an elder in the conference until his death June 1, 1994. She married Rev. Ralph Wycoff, associate member of the conference, in 2012.

She attended Monongah High School and attended West Virginia Wesleyan College with a major in Christian Education.

Called to ministry as a teenager, she was licensed to preach in 1960, approved as a Supply Pastor in 1961, and granted associate membership in 1974. She was a trailblazer for women in the West Virginia Conference. When applying for licensing, she faced fierce opposition and was originally turned down by the district committee. The following year she applied again; this time prepared for the grilling she would receive about being a woman. She told the committee, “Look, there are two things I can’t help: one, God made me a woman; two, God called me into the ministry.” The committee relented and gave her a license.

Betty faced opposition from male pastors, both male and female laypeople, and from people inside and outside the church. Her manner and strong sense of call allowed her to win over many of those who doubted her.

She was on medical leave from 1988 until her retirement in 1997. She was later named Pastor Emeritus of Valley Chapel UMC, where she continued to serve for many years.

While she had no biological children, scores of children in parishes where she served considered her as their “spiritual mom.”

In addition to her husband, she is survived by her two stepdaughters, Freda Albright and her husband, Rev. Larry Albright, and Rose Wolf; one stepson, Ralph Wycoff, Jr.; two brothers, Otis Shaver and James Shaver and his wife, Florencia; four grandchildren, Amy Grillo and her husband, Lou, Alan Albright, Edwin G. Smith and Darrell Smith; as well as great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; her first husband; one son, Dallas Smith and his wife, Mildred; and one sister-in-law, Peggy Shaver.

A service was held on June 29, 2018, at the Valley Chapel United Methodist Church in Fairmont with the Rev. David Hall and the Rev. Andrew Tennant officiating. She was buried at the Shaver Family Farm Cemetery in Fairmont.

**SPOUSES**

**Jane Ellen Brown**

Jane Ellen Brown, wife of the Rev. J. Montgomery Brown, died June 11, 2018. She was the daughter of Jack and Erma Wentz. She and Rev. Brown married in May 1974. They were married for 44 years and had two children.

A graduate of Parkersburg High School, Jane earned two master’s degrees, one from Marshall University and one from West Virginia University. She served for 38 years as a public school teacher. In the conference, she was a member of the Conference Council on Children’s Ministry.

She was an active leader in the church, a gifted singer and pianist, a lover of children, and a passionate reader. She was also an extraordinary hostess and decorator, card and scrapbook creator, avid shopper, trip and party organizer, and seamstress. She loved to travel and made Disney World a favorite destination with 23 trips there. She also joined her husband in his passion for the Pittsburgh Steelers and Pirates, as well as a shared devotion for their dog, Rooney.
Jane embraced her life as a clergy spouse, carrying her gifts of hospitality to the churches of North Preston Charge; Booth-Union; Fairview; First, Barboursville; and St. Marks, Charleston. She was a non-judgmental presence to all around her.

She was survived by her husband, Monty; son, Josh Brown and his wife, Cindy; daughter, Bethany Rinn and her husband, Eric; five grandchildren, Sydney, Morgan, Elizabeth, Sarah, and Katie; three sisters, Cathy Conrad and her husband, Chuck, Trudy Altman and her husband, John, and Amy Roberts and her husband, Tim; sister-in-law, Penelope Allen and her husband, Michael; brother-in-law, Dave Brown and his wife, Debbie; and her mother-in-law, Betsy Brown, who lived with them; eight nieces and nephews; and 23 great-nieces and great-nephews. In addition to her parents, Jane was preceded in death by a brother, Steve Wentz.

A Celebration of Life, Death, and Resurrection was held on June 15, 2018, at St. Marks UMC in Charleston with the Rev. Janet Harman and the Rev. Rick Waller officiating.

Juanita Faye Burke

Juanita Faye “Murky” Burke, wife of the Rev. Paul Burke, died July 6, 2018, at the age of 81. She was born December 31, 1936. She and Rev. Burke were married November 13, 1953, and had five children.

She was a graduate of Dupont High School in the Kanawha Valley. The Burkes moved to North Carolina where her husband attended seminary as a second career student. Juanita was a faithful companion in ministry. Beginning with service in the North Carolina Conference, they returned to West Virginia in 1990 and Rev. Burke served Wesley Chapel; St. John’s, Vienna; and St. Mary’s, Beckley before retiring in 1998. They lived in Salisbury, North Carolina, in retirement.

In addition to her husband of 64 years, she was survived by five children, Pam McGilton and her husband, Gene, Anthony Burke and his wife, Linda, David Burke and his wife, Beth, Paulette Burke Green, and Deanna Spinella and her husband, Michael; 10 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

A funeral was held on July 9, 2018, at the Linn – Honeycutt Funeral Home in China Grove, North Carolina. She was buried in West Lawn Cemetery in China Grove.
Marie Victoria Ferrell

Marie Victoria Ferrell, wife of the Rev. J.E. “Jack” Ferrell, died February 20, 2019. Born January 28, 1933, in New Orleans, Louisiana, she was the daughter of Homer Moody Taylor and Mary Sue Webb Taylor. She and Rev. Ferrell were married January 1, 1956.

Vicki grew up in Noxapater, Mississippi, where she graduated as Valedictorian of Noxapater High School in 1950. She was a 1953 graduate of Millsaps College. She trained as a Medical Technologist at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia. She enjoyed a long career as a medical technologist, serving in the labs of many hospitals throughout West Virginia, including Webster Memorial in Webster Springs, Stevens Clinic in Welch, and WVU Hospital in Morgantown. She was night supervisor at CAMC, Memorial Division and Women and Children’s Division in Charleston, and she was lab chief at Jackson General Hospital in Ripley. She also worked at the Ohio Valley Hospital in Steubenville, Ohio.

She met Jack while he was a student at Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, and they were married for 63 years. He died two weeks after she did.

Her life was dedicated to helping others as she served alongside her husband in his ministry. She belonged to and led many women’s groups, Sunday School classes and service groups. She played the piano for services, served dinners, and because she worked in the hospital, she was able to offer comfort to parishioners who were sick and under medical care. She loved baking for church functions and was known for preparing plates of cookies at Christmas time. One year in Kingwood, she baked enough cookies to send out 75 plates of cookies to town residents.

In addition to being briefly survived by her husband, Jack, she was survived by her daughter, Jane and her spouse, Jeni; son John and his spouse, Jay; four grandchildren, Cynthia Chambers, Christina Ferrell, Julie Ferrell, and John E. Ferrell, IV; and two great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

A funeral service was held February 25, 2019, at Washington UMC in Washington, WV. She was buried in Rockland Cemetery in Belpre, Ohio.
Mary Ann Griffin

Mary Ann Griffin, wife of the Rev. Mitchell Griffin, III, died February 5, 2019. A daughter of Alva Warrick and Icy Lenora Heavner Malcolm, she was born April 13, 1931, in Frenchton. She and Rev. Mitchell were married October 15, 1973.

Mary Ann was an expert baker and cake decorator and a member of the International Cake Exploration Society. She loved animals, especially horses.

She was an active member of Mt. Olive UMC where her husband was serving in retirement. She was also a member of the Red Hatters, the Rock Cave CEOs, and the Adrian VFD.

In addition to her husband of 45 years, Mary Ann was survived by a son, Mark Griffin, and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; two sisters, Zola Malcolm Karickhoff and Velva C. Malcolm Austin; and two brothers, Olin G. Malcomb and Franklin Noel Malcolm.

A service was held February 11, 2019, at the Heavner and Cutright Funeral Chapel with her husband, the Rev. Mitchell Griffin, III, officiating.

Memorial gifts were made to Mt. Olive United Methodist Church.

Beverly Marie Hines-Brown


Beverly graduated from Weston High School in the Class of 1961. She completed Clarksburg School of Practical Nursing in 1972 and was Vice President of her graduating class. Going back to school, she earned a bachelor’s degree from Glenville State College in 1981 and then she completed her Master of Arts degree in
Counseling at West Virginia University. As a Licensed Professional Counselor, she founded and operated The Professional Counseling Center in Weston for over 20 years and touched many lives through her work.

She was a lifetime member of St. Matthew UMC in Weston. As a young person, she was a member of Girl Scouts of America, 4-H, and Y-Teens. Later in life, she served the community in various volunteer roles, such as President of the Lewis County Heart Association and a member of the Lewis County Chamber of Commerce. She was named to Who’s Who of American Women in 1983 and honored in 1997 as an Exemplary Graduate of Glenville State College by Gov. Cecil Underwood and the West Virginia Board of Regents. She was a member of the West Virginia Addictions Counselors Association and the National Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors.

Beverly was known for her limitless affection for wayward souls, stray cats and orphaned dogs. She allowed people to open up to her and she would learn their life stories within 15 minutes of meeting them. She was gracious and polite. She enjoyed spending time at her brother’s winery, being with friends, and meeting new people. She lived life to the fullest, had few regrets, and earned her position as the matriarch of the family.

In addition to her husband, Ronald, whom she regarded as her soulmate, she was survived by four children, Edward Michael Hines, Jr., and his wife, Arria, James Laco Hines and his fiancée, Ellenora, Melanie Jarrett and her husband, Scott, and Denise Miller and her husband, Rob; a brother, James B. Lambert and his wife, Debbie; one sister, Sara Beth Huntz and her husband, John; six grandchildren, Bo Hendershot, Victoria Jarrett, Hunter Kephart, Paige Jarrett, Adison Jarrett, and Katherine Hines; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and two sisters, Laquita Breen and Carol Jeffries; and two special nieces, Brenda Van Horn and Anne Kenney.

A funeral service was held at St. Matthew United Methodist Church in Weston on June 5, 2019, with the Rev. Roger Waybright officiating. She was buried at the West Virginia National Cemetery in Grafton.
Parnell Formbly Kelly-Easley

Parnell Formbly Kelly-Easley, wife of the Rev. Paul H. Easley, died February 1, 2019. Born June 11, 1931, in Gabbettesville, Georgia, she was the daughter of Eddie B. and Sally Lynch Formbly. She was preceded in death by her first husband, James W. Kelly. She married Rev. Easley in September 1991.

Parnell grew up in LaGrange, Georgia, and attended East Depot High School before moving to Detroit, Michigan, where she graduated from Pershing High School and then The Detroit Barber College. While Mr. Kelly was in the Army, they lived throughout the United States and in Korea and Germany. They spent considerable time in Kansas and eventually settled in Alaska in 1974. While in Anchorage, she worked at the Fort Richardson Army Base and later for Nordstrom Department Store for over 19 years. She and her husband owned Parridor, Inc., an adult residential facility that served the mentally ill.

She was active in the community and a longtime member of New Hope Baptist Church in Anchorage where she is remembered for starting a Bible study in her home where many, including her late husband, accepted Christ.

After marrying Rev. Easley, Parnell relocated to Fayetteville, Georgia. She worked at Mansours Department Store in LaGrange and eventually opened T&M Antique Shop in Fayetteville. She enjoyed meeting new people through these ventures.

Parnell is remembered for her warm and caring spirit and her commitment to Christ.

In addition to her parents and first husband, she was preceded in death by one daughter; four brothers; and two sisters.

She was survived by Rev. Easley; her daughter, RaNelle Arlene Kelly; a sister, Eddie Mae Amos; stepdaughter, Verita Green and her husband, Joshua; two stepsons, Paul H. Easley, Jr., and David Easley and his wife, Megan; six grandchildren, Marsha Taylor and her husband, Stacey, Telesha Weaver, Michelle Horne, Michael Horne, James Kimbro, and Luksisa Horne; eight great-grandchildren, Marlisha, Thomas, James, Justin, Elijah, Joshua, Aaliyah, and Trey; one great-great-grandchild, Carly; and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held February 9, 2019, at St. James Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in LaGrange, Georgia, with the Rev. Paul Brewer, Sr., officiating. She was interred at Meadoway Gardens in LaGrange.
**Bonnie L. Patrick**

Bonnie L. Patrick, wife of the Rev. Clyde Patrick, died October 6, 2018. Born August 15, 1944, in Matheny, she was the daughter of Ira Paris and Mabel Lavoy Walker Stewart. She married Rev. Patrick on November 4, 1967.

Bonnie was a member of Matheny United Methodist Church. Rev. Patrick served as a local pastor in the Southern District, his last appointment was to the Wyoming Charge which included Bonnie’s home church of Matheny. She was glad to be a part of his ministry there.

After his retirement, they moved to Quaker City, Ohio, to live near one of their sons.

In addition to her husband of nearly 51 years, she was survived by two sons, Gary Stewart and his wife, Lisa, and Toby Patrick and his wife, Devonee; eight grandchildren, Skipper Stewart and his wife, Candice, Patrick Stewart, MaKayla and Bylee Patrick, Zakary and Kylan Biancarelli, Bryanna and Brayden Stewart; five great-grandchildren, Ayriannah, Avery, Riley, Tyrus, and Bryant; two sisters, Ethel Profit and Annis Cook Matheny and her husband, Glenn; one brother, Leonard Stewart and his wife, Theresa; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, Truman Walker and Davis Stewart; and one sister, Naomi Dishmon.

A family memorial was planned. Her body was cremated.

**Jan H. Sauvage**

Jan H. Sauvage, wife of the Rev. Dr. John R. Sauvage, died November 27, 2018, at the age of 65. She was born November 13, 1953, in Gallipolis, Ohio, the daughter of Carl and Mary Lynch. She and Rev. Sauvage were married for 46 years.

Jan was a 1971 graduate of Point Pleasant High School. She also attended West Virginia Wesleyan College and Marshall University. In her professional life she worked for Monroe County Schools, as well as multiple United Methodist churches in the conference.
During their marriage, she worked alongside John as he served Fort Gay; Good Samaritan; Z.Warner; Beaver-Blue Jay; Peterstown; Highlawn, Huntington; Oak Hill; and Steele Memorial, Barboursville before his retirement in 2015. They retired near Peterstown where she was a member of Peterstown UMC at the time of her death. Jan loved being a mother and grandmother and treasured her family.

She is survived by her husband; three children, Tami Brown and her husband, Jeremy, Matthew Sauvage and his wife, Joanna, and Carla Snell and her husband, Jeff; grandchildren, Alex Carter and Emma Brown; Shad and Euodia Sauvage, and Kyleigh, Caydance and Crews Snell; her mother, Mary Lynch Morrison; sister, Suzanne Dickens and her husband, David; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her father; one brother, Carl E. Lynch, III; and a daughter-in-law, Lois Perkins Sauvage.

A funeral service was held December 1, 2018, at Peterstown UMC. Memorial gifts were given to the Jan Sauvage Memorial Fund at the church which was established in her memory.

Harlow “Jr.” Stover

Harlow “Jr.” Stover, husband of the Rev. Arolette Stover, died January 1, 2019. He was the son of Harlow and Florence Stover. He and Rev. Stover were married for 61 years.

Jr. was a lineman for 42 years. An avid outdoorsman, he was devoted to his wife and family.

Rev. Stover had served Kincaid; Workman’s Creek; and Fairview and continued to serve at Workman’s Creek after her retirement in 2014.

In addition to his wife, he was survived by five children, Renee Jack and her partner, Gary Buckland, Ronald Jeffrey and his wife, Angie, Stephen and his wife, Angel, HJ and his wife, Angela, and Rosetta Honaker; four additional children, Rocky Scarbro, Ruby Hurd and her husband, Larry, Mona Smith and her husband, Rich, and Danette Runion and her husband, Timothy; 17 grandchildren, including Christina Jack, who cared for both Jr. and Arolette; 21 great-grandchildren; and a lifetime best friend, Lynn Maynor.

A funeral service was held January 4, 2019, at Workman’s Creek UMC with the Rev. Gary Maynor and the Rev. Dwayne Williams officiating. Burial was at the Fulton Family Cemetery.
SURVIVING SPOUSES

Betty Rae Dippolito DeFelice

Betty Rae Dippolito DeFelice, surviving spouse of the Rev. Paul J. Dippolito, died January 13, 2019, at the age of 91. She was born October 30, 1927. She married the Rev. Paul Dippolito on March 31, 1946, and they were married for 38 years before his death on November 23, 1984. She later married Anthony DeFelice, who also preceded her in death.

Betty was a faithful servant of God’s church in many capacities during her life. She was a tireless volunteer. She was active in the United Methodist Women, serving as district president in Huntington and as a conference officer for eight years. She had a love of books and reading, working for a time at a Christian bookstore in Huntington. She served as head of the Adult Literacy Program in Huntington, West Virginia. She also worked for the church as Single Point Ministries Coordinator.

She was a warm and welcoming person, enhancing the ministry of her husband as he served in the West Virginia Conference at Chester; Highland Avenue (Fairmont); Seventh Avenue (Huntington); Bland Street (Bluefield); and as campus pastor at Marshall University. He also served in Kentucky and Pennsylvania while in seminary. After his death, Betty eventually settled in Michigan where she was an active member of Newburg United Methodist Church in Livonia, Michigan.

She was preceded in death by her parents; both of her husbands; and a twin brother, Robert Bradford. She was survived by her children, Rayette Layman and her husband, Garry, Paul Dippolito and his wife, Sonia, and Dean Dippolito and his wife, Catherine; stepchildren, Tony DeFelice and his wife, Linda, Dennis DeFelice and his wife, Lisa, and Mitchell DeFelice and his wife, Christine; grandchildren, Garrett, Amy, Autumn, Andrea, Paul Edward, Scotty, Desiree, Deidre, Delaney, Antonio, Dominic, and Julia Grace; and great-grandchildren, Anthony Paul, Anika, Mabree Mae, Daxton Dean, Lila, and Mia.

A memorial service was held at the Newburg United Methodist Church with the Rev. Lynn Snider officiating. Her ashes were interred in the Memorial Garden of the church. Memorial gifts were given to Newburg UMC Memorial Fund.
Dorothy E. Steinkraus DuBois

Dorothy E. Steinkraus DuBois, surviving spouse of the Rev. E. David DuBois, died December 17, 2018. She was 90 years old. She was born September 3, 1928, the daughter of Ernest F. and Forence E. Steinkraus. She married Rev. DuBois on September 7, 1951, and they were married for 63 years before his death on May 2, 2014.

As a minister’s spouse, Dot enjoyed the variety of places in which they lived, and always became deeply involved in volunteer activities. Some of her many activities were feeding the hungry; resettling refugee families; establishing Meals on Wheels, Kindergarten and Head Start programs, and providing volunteer services in numerous hospitals. She loved music and supported community and church music throughout her life. She always had a ready laugh and an optimistic outlook on life. She offered love and support to her family, friends, church members, and everyone in which she came in contact.

She had the opportunity to live throughout the conference while David served appointments in Bellepoint; West Liberty; Glen Dale; St. Paul’s, Parkersburg; Wesley, Morgantown; Johnson Memorial, Huntington; as Wheeling District Superintendent; and at Christ Church, Charleston until his retirement in 1991. After retirement, she and David lived and served in Hilton Head, South Carolina, before moving to Rochester, New York, to be near their son, Peter, and his family.

In addition to her husband, David, she was preceded in death by her parents and one brother, Dr. Robert Steinkraus.

She was survived by two sons, Mark and Peter and his wife, Mary, and two grandchildren, Alice DuBois and David DuBois and his wife, Bonnie.

A funeral service was held on December 28, 2018, at Third Presbyterian Church in Rochester, New York. A memorial service was held on June 28, 2019, at Christ Church United Methodist in Charleston, WV. Her ashes were placed in the Christ Church Columbarium.

Memorial gifts were given to the West Virginia Wesleyan College Advancement Office and Third Presbyterian Church Hunger Ministries.
Elneda Catherine Miller

Elneda Catherine Miller, surviving spouse of the Rev. Clairmont “June” Miller, died September 11, 2018. She was 97 years old. She was born Elneda Catherine Rumbaugh on November 17, 1920. She married Rev. Miller on December 23, 1945, and they were married for nearly 62 years before his death December 8, 2007.

She began playing the organ at age 12 and was the organist at St. Paul United Methodist Church in South Charleston for 80 years. She enjoyed traveling, shopping, and reading. She had many friends.

Her husband was on the faculty of Morris Harvey College. He retired from the college in 1979, served two churches in South Charleston and then retired from the conference in 1985. They remained in South Charleston.

She was survived by nephews, John Groscup and his wife, Terrie, Dale Groscup and his wife, Della, and David Groscup, as well as numerous great-nieces and great-nephews.

A celebration of her life was held on September 13, 2018, at the Snodgrass Funeral Home with the Rev. Stephen White and Thomas Coll officiating. She was buried with her husband in Tyler Mountain Memory Gardens, Cross Lanes.

Juanita Moats

Juanita Moats, surviving spouse of the Rev. Burl Gene Moats, died October 23, 2018, at the age of 75. She was born June 13, 1943, the daughter of Bradford Ray and Goldie Beulah Glendenning Smith. She married Rev. Moats on August 12, 1966, and they were married for nearly 38 years before his death June 15, 2004.

Her husband served appointments in Springfield; Peora; and Junior Circuit before his retirement in 2001. She worked hard to provide a comfortable home and great support for her husband’s ministry.

After his death, she lived in Flemington and Philippi, West Virginia. She was living with her daughter in West Union at the time of her death.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by one grandson, Robert Freeman; three sisters, Phyllis Ann Scott, Emma Jean Davis, and Grace Andrews;
Juanita Pearl Perkins, surviving spouse of the Rev. Russell Earl Perkins, died March 20, 2019, at the age of 94. A daughter of John and Nila Newland Smith, she was born June 25, 1924, in Bull Creek, Pleasants County, West Virginia. She married Rev. Perkins on November 27, 1948, and they were married for 63 years before his death March 31, 2012.

With her husband, Juanita was part of the ministry in Cottageville; Rivesville; Pt. Pleasant Good Shepherd; Hickory Chapel; East Vienna; Enterprise; Crossroads; and Waverly. After Earl’s retirement in 1991, she was a member of Wayside United Methodist, Vienna.

Juanita enjoyed walking at the mall and spending time with her family. She particularly enjoyed watching her great-nephew, Deron Williams, play NBA basketball.

In addition to her parents and her husband, she was preceded in death by one sister, Ardea Rogers, and four brothers, Jennings, James, Eustace “Mac,” and Delford “Dep” Smith. She is survived by two daughters, Carol Ann Chichester and her husband, Steven Nichols, and Betty Jean Perkins and her husband, Paul Greynolds; one granddaughter, Brooke Balog and her husband, Greg; and four great-grandchildren, Jordan, Connor, Trinity, and Kingston Balog.

A funeral service was held March 24, 2019, at the Lambert-Tatman Funeral Home in Vienna, with the Rev. Sara Facemyer Lamb officiating. Interment was at the Bethel Presbyterian Church Cemetery with her husband.
Daliah Faye Mattox Pullins

Daliah Faye Mattox Pullins, surviving spouse of the Rev. Loris Pullins, died August 16, 2018, at the age of 89. Born July 26, 1979, near Point Pleasant, WV, she was the daughter of Tobias Otmer Mattox and Ewart Roxie Burgess Mattox. She married Rev. Pullins on December 29, 1945, and they were married for 57 years before his death January 1, 2003. They had three sons.

Faye was known for her laugh, her wit, and sometimes her sarcasm, her many hats, bread making, flowers, and her penchant for moving furniture. She volunteered for many years at Tender Mercies Food Bank where she was a board member for over 10 years.

Rev. Pullins served a number of charges in the conference, including Gay; Independent; Silverton; Van; and Lindside before his retirement in 1991. He and Faye settled in Princeton where she was a member of First United Methodist Church, Princeton. At First UMC, she was a director of the visitation ministry. She was the author of two books, "There Were Always Three" and "Mostly Twigs."

In addition to her parents and her husband, she was preceded in death by one son, Loris Ray Pullins on January 25, 1987, and one granddaughter, Angel Christina Pullins. She was the last surviving member of her immediate family having been preceded in death by three brothers, William Mattox and his wife, Bessie, Earl Mattox and his wife, Goldie, and James Douglas Mattox; and her sister, Ruth Maxine Mattox Stephens.

Faye was survived by two sons, Rev. Dr. Chuck Pullins, an elder in the conference, and his wife, Vickie, and Dr. Dennis Pullins and his wife, Mary; eight grandchildren, Scott Pullins, Lisa Pullins-Graham, Rev. Chad Pullins and his wife, Amanda, Adrienne Wilson, David Pullins, Mark Pullins, Jack Pullins, and Allison Richardson and her husband, Neil; 13 great-grandchildren, Savanah, Kayla, Layla, Jordan, Cami, Lexi, Grayson, Alaina, Marcus, Trinity, Xaviar, James, and Naomi; five great-great-grandchildren, Jaden, Leo, Calliope, Connor, and Cameron; and a best friend, Margaret Mitchell.

A funeral service was held August 19, 2018, at First United Methodist, Princeton, with the Rev. Scott Sears officiating. She was buried at the Creston Cemetery in Ripley, West Virginia.

Memorial gifts were given to Tender Mercies Food Bank in Princeton.
Edith Regina Spring

Edith Regina Spring, surviving spouse of the Rev. Arthur Joseph Spring, died May 2, 2019, at the age of 79. She was born April 9, 1940, in Calhoun County, West Virginia, a daughter of the late Shirley and Idella Radabaugh Richards. She married Rev. Spring on November 29, 1958, and they were married for 44 years before his death February 16, 2003.

She felt a strong calling to ministry as she served alongside her husband in such places as Orlando; Newton; Doddridge; Smithville; Peora; Eastern McDowell; and Newburg charges. For a few years she served as a part-time local pastor in the Southern District and Potomac Highlands District. After the death of her husband, she discontinued as a local pastor, but continued to offer herself as a lay assigned supply in the MonValley District for several years.

Mrs. Spring was always an encourager. She requested that those who wished to honor her memory with a kind gesture do so by planting a tree or a flower in her memory.

She is survived by three children, Arthur Spring, Reva Roberts and her husband, Gordie, and Richard Spring and his wife, Tammy; six grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and two brothers, Mac Richards and his wife, Jeanette, and Milford Richards and his wife, Jean.

In addition to her parents and her husband, she was preceded in death by two brothers, Charlie and Jim Richards; and one sister Greeta Ball.

A service was held to honor her life and legacy at the Bethel Church in Thornton, West Virginia, with Pastor Kevin Leadbetter officiating. She was buried next to her husband at the Bethel Cemetery.
Winoma Marguerite Spurgeon


Winoma graduated from Glenville State College and received a master’s degree in music education from Marshall University. She taught for 35 years at various schools including Tygarts Valley High School; Pickens; Coalton; Parkersburg Catholic; and Romney School for the Blind. She taught music and was band director. She also taught private violin and piano lessons. She was a lifetime member of the American Association of Women Band Directors.

Her life was devoted to the church and to teaching music. She was a longtime member of the Pleasant Valley Church of the Brethren. In the 1950s, she served as a volunteer with the church in Germany and Austria, helping the countries to recover from World War II. In Parkersburg, she attended church at the Salvation Army where she played trumpet and piano for their services. She provided instruments for any child who needed one and loved sharing the joy of music with all she met.

She was survived by one brother, Robert Spurgeon and his wife, Eileen; one niece, Teresa Harrison and her husband, Larry; two nephews, Randy Spurgeon and his wife, Debbie, and Daniel Spurgeon and his wife, Tammy; seven great-nieces and great-nephews, Jonathan, Sarah and Amy Harrison and Joseph, David, Joshua and Luke Spurgeon; and 12 great-great-nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held on August 18, 2017, at Leavitt Funeral Home in Parkersburg, WV, with the Rev. Randy Spurgeon officiating. She was buried at the Spurgeon Cemetery on Bear Fork.