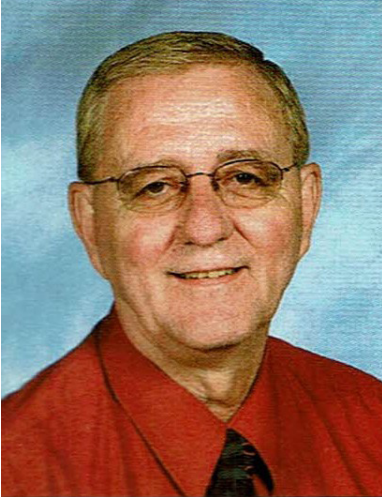


VIII. MEMOIRS

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 May 31, 2023. The Conference Secretary wishes to thank the families of these faithful servants for supplying photographs and supplemental materials for the memoirs.

CLERGY

Gary Ray Beale



Gary Ray Beale, a retired elder in the conference, died June 1, 2022. The son of the late Ray and Betty Ross Beale, Gary was born April 3, 1944 in Richwood. He is survived by his wife of nearly 40 years, Darlene Sinkarow Beale.

Gary was a 1962 graduate of Nicholas County High School in Summersville. He was a 1966 graduate of West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon, where he studied psychology and anthropology. In 1970, he received his M.Div. from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.

He was ordained a deacon, then elder by The United Methodist Church, and in 1970 he was appointed the associate director of The House of the Carpenter. Five years later, he became its executive director. For more than 40 years, until his retirement

in 2011, he ministered to Ohio Valley residents afflicted by poverty. He was awarded the West Virginia Wesleyan College Alumni Achievement Award in 2011.

Gary also served Craigsville United Methodist Church and the Laurel Mt. Pleasant Charge. He attended Christ United Methodist Church, Wheeling.

In addition to his parents, Gary was preceded in death by a sister, Lynda Taylor, and a niece, Jennifer Taylor.

In addition to his wife, who cared for him at home until his death, Gary is survived by their combined six children, David Beale, John Murray, Tracy Sisarcick, Stacy Peters, Teena Miller, and Laeken Beale, and their families, including 16 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He is also survived by sisters, Sandy Duffy and Pam Pack; a brother, Ken Beale; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Gary's life and ministry took place August 27, 2022, at Christ United Methodist Church in Wheeling. Gary donated his body to the WVU Human Gift Registry, supporting health sciences teaching and research missions, a choice he made at age 18, and a steadfast wish he maintained until death.

Memorial gifts were received by The Rev. Gary Beale Memorial Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships to low income, hard-working, community-minded high school seniors desiring to attend college.

Earl Benjamin Bible



Earl Benjamin Bible, a retired local pastor in the conference, died August 4, 2022. The son of the late Fred and Maggie Belle (Casto) Bible, he was born June 24, 1937, on Timber Ridge (Seneca Rocks). On March 31, 1956, he married his wife of 66 years, Doris Alice (Harper) Bible.

Earl was a 1956 graduate of Circleville High School and continued his education at Seminary College. He served the Allegheny Charge, consisting of North Dry Run, Circleville, Job, and Whitmer, for more than 40 years. He served as pastor of Circleville United Methodist Church and was a member of Seneca Rocks United Methodist Church.

Rev. Bible worked at Hanover Shoe Company for more than 30 years as a supervisor in the cutting department until it closed. He previously worked for DC Harper's in Seneca Rocks, drove a school bus, worked for the federal government in Washington, D.C. for two years, and enjoyed cattle and sheep farming. He also served with the United States National Guard.

In addition to his wife, Earl leaves behind a daughter, Amanda Darlene Heavner; two grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; a niece; and two great-nieces.

Earl was the last surviving member of his immediate family. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by an infant brother, Fred Bible, Jr., and a sister, Evelyn Betty Thompson.

A service took place August 8, 2022, in Franklin. He was laid to rest at the Bible Family Cemetery, Timber Ridge (Seneca Rocks).

Memorial gifts were received by Mountain Memories Assisted Living and Retirement Community.

Arthur Eugene Bourgeau

The Rev. Arthur Eugene "Gene" Bourgeau, a retired local pastor in the conference, died September 14, 2022. The son of the late Joseph and Agatha (Gilbert) Bourgeau, Gene was born November 22, 1934, in Florida. He married Lucille Hambric, who preceded him in death.

Gene served in the United States Navy before going into the retail food business. He then worked as a mechanic in the coal industry. He entered the ministry later in life after completing local pastor's license studies in 1983. He served the Braxton Charge

(1983-1986); the Camden-Cowen Charge (1986-1993); the Jane Lew Charge (1993-1995); and Kanawha-Putnam before retiring in 1997. He continued serving the conference in retirement, at North Sutton in 2002 and Ivydale from 2009-2011.

Gene loved watching football and fishing.

He leaves behind Lucille's daughters, Beverly Johnson, Judy Steorts, and Darlene White, and their families, including five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents and his wife, Gene was preceded in death by his brother, Joseph Lindsey Bourgeau.

Gene's life was celebrated September 25, 2022, in Gassaway.

Verlin Eugene Butcher



The Rev. Verlin Eugene Butcher, a retired associate member in the conference, died October 19, 2022. The son of the late Madge Marie Harris Butcher and Isaac Franklin Butcher, Verlin was born in Fairmont on January 4, 1934. He and Roberta Vincent Butcher had been married nearly 72 years when she passed away in June 2022.

Rev. Butcher was also the father of the Rev. Dr. Joy Butcher-Winfrey, a retired elder in the conference.

Verlin was baptized on November 11, 1956, and was called to ministry when he was 22 years old. He was licensed to preach in the Christ's Gospel Mission Church in 1958. He was ordained a deacon in 1962 and became an associate member in 1971.

Verlin served churches in the Fairmont Circuit (1959); Evansville (1960); Elkins Circuit (1963); Summersville Circuit (1965); Nicholas Circuit (1968); Williamsburg (1970); Leivasy (1977); Levelton (1980); Bellepoint (1989); and Smithburg Charge (1992). After he retired in 1996, Rev. Butcher served at Main Street-St. James (1998); Williamsburg (2000); and West Greenbrier (2007).

He attended Fairmont State and Davis and Elkins Colleges and served on several conference and district committees. In addition to his ministry, Verlin worked at Owens Illinois Glass Company, drove a school bus for 37 years, and was an accomplished brick and block layer.

He was active in the Ruritan International Clubs and served as the Lower West Virginia District Governor. He served as a board member of the Ritchie/Doddridge Habitat for Humanity and was a board member of the Doddridge Ecumenical Council. He was president of the Greenbrier County School Personnel Association for several years. When he wasn't working, Verlin enjoyed playing golf, fishing, and hunting. He also enjoyed historical travel with his children and grandchildren.

In addition to his parents and wife, Verlin was preceded in death by a great-grandson, Grayson Butcher; and siblings, Bernard Butcher, Robert Butcher, Beverly Butcher, and Beatrice Kisner.

Verlin was survived by his children, Verlin Butcher and wife Cheryl, Kenneth Butcher and wife Patricia, Richard Butcher and wife Barbara, Mark Butcher and wife Bobbi Jo, and Rev. Dr. Joy Butcher-Winfree; his son-in-law, Olen Winfree; 11 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren plus one on the way; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was remembered in a service on October 22, 2022, in Clintonville.

Memorial gifts were received by Helping Hands Ministries in Tallulah Falls, Georgia, in care of Sunrise Chapel UMC in Clintonville.

John Edwin Casto



The Rev. John Edwin Casto, a retired local pastor in the conference, died February 7, 2023. The son of the late William and Sylvia Greathouse Casto, John was born April 4, 1949, in Fairmont. He and his wife, Linda Casto, who survives him, had been married 25 years.

John was a graduate of South Charleston High School and received his B.S. degree from West Virginia State. He continued his education at Asbury Theological Seminary, where he received his M.Div. He also proudly served in the United States Army and achieved the rank of captain. After he left the military, he worked in medical sales and became a minister with The United Methodist Church.

John served North Jackson (2008) and Newburg from 2010 until he retired in 2016. He loved hunting and fishing, WVU athletics, and gardening, where he put his botany degree to work.

John was preceded in death by a brother, William Casto.

In addition to his wife, John was survived by two sons, John and Michael Casto; two stepsons, Drew and Trey Rottgen; 11 grandchildren; and a brother, David Casto.

Graveside services took place February 15, 2023 at Floral Hills Memorial Gardens, Quiet Dell.

Iris Joanne Clevenger



The Rev. I. Joanne Clevenger, a retired local pastor in the conference, died September 21, 2022. The daughter of the late William and Nettie Ann Vincent Reece, Joanne was born February 9, 1925, in Fairmont. She was 97.

Joanne was a retiree of Kaiser Aluminum, where she worked for 30 years. She served the conference as a part-time local pastor for the New Haven, Bachtel-Broad Run, and Bachtel-Graham Station charges.

She was also a Miss West Virginia Senior and member of the Order of the Eastern Star Chapter 17. Her hobbies included word search puzzles, scrapbooking, and reading her Bible.

Joanne was survived by her children, James Puccio and Sherry Poole and spouses; four grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and a great-great-granddaughter.

In addition to her parents, Joanne was preceded in death by her husbands, Melvin Horne and Elton Clevenger; a brother, William Reese; and a sister, Betty Lee Hayes.

Joanne was remembered in a service on September 25, 2022, in Ripley. She was laid to rest at Pine Hill Cemetery.

Earl W. Cochran



The Rev. Dr. Earl W. Cochran, a retired local pastor, died June 12, 2022. He and his wife, Carol Cochran (née Darby), who survives him, were married 52 years.

In 1967, Earl graduated from DuPont High School, where he was class president, competed in a variety of sports, and sang. He was a lifelong learner and an avid collector of books, certificates, and degrees, among them a M.Div. from Duke University in 1981.

Earl followed his grandfather, the Rev. Earl G. Hissom, Sr., into ministry. As a local pastor, Earl served Fisher Valley and Pleasant View in the Midland South District. He had a gift for discernment and led

others in the Kanawha Valley to follow a call to ministry. Earl served as chair of the board at Hissom Intercity Mission, feeding the hungry and organizing food transportation and service.

In addition to Earl's wife, left to cherish his memory were children Peteria Routt and Erika Courtney and their families; a sister, Judy Clark; a brother, Allen Cochran; a granddaughter, Emma Routt; and several nieces, nephews, and extended family members.

Family and friends celebrated his life with a service on June 17, 2022, at Christ Church United Methodist in Charleston. Burial followed at Floral Hills Garden of Memories in Sissonville.

Memorial donations were made to the Hissom Tabernacle Church of the Nazarene Memorial Fund.

Michael Vincent Coleman



The Rev. Michael Vincent Coleman, a retired local pastor in the conference, passed away March 3, 2023. The son of the late Oscar B. "Sid" Coleman, Jr., and Lois J. Eby Coleman, he was born November 22, 1958. He married Keri Jo Kittle Coleman, who survives him.

Michael was employed by the West Virginia Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation with a career spanning 37 years. He began his tenure in 1984 as a correctional officer and advanced through the ranks to the position of Director of Administrative Services for the West Virginia Department of Homeland Security. He was a member of the WVP Shooters Association and coordinated the Mock Prison Riot training program for correctional officers.

As a part-time local pastor, "Pastor Mike" served Malden United Methodist Church, Diamond United Methodist Church, and St. John United Methodist Church. He had a passion for mission work and made several trips to Uganda, Africa. He also worked with UMCOR in Biloxi, Mississippi, and with Habitat for Humanity in West Virginia. He was involved with Emmaus, Kairos, and 4 HIM in Africa ministries.

In addition to his wife, Mike was survived by his sister and brother-in-law, Teri L. Coleman Naples and David J. Naples; cousins; nieces; nephews; and great-nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life Memorial Service took place March 10, 2023, in Malden. Memorial gifts were made to 4 HIM in Africa Ministries, Inc.

Jay Paul Cook



The Rev. Dr. Jay Paul Cook, a retired elder in the Western Pennsylvania Conference, died December 19, 2022. The son of the late George Sturley and Virginia May (Cupples) Cook, Jay was born April 22, 1952, in Pittsburgh. He met his wife, Mary Beth (Seibert) Cook, who survives him, at West Virginia Wesleyan College. They were married 46 years.

“Dr. Jay,” as friends called him, was a 1970 graduate of Munhall High School in Pittsburgh. He was awarded a B.A. in 1974 from West Virginia Wesleyan College. He enjoyed many years of coaching high school boys’ basketball, community baseball, and girls’ softball teams.

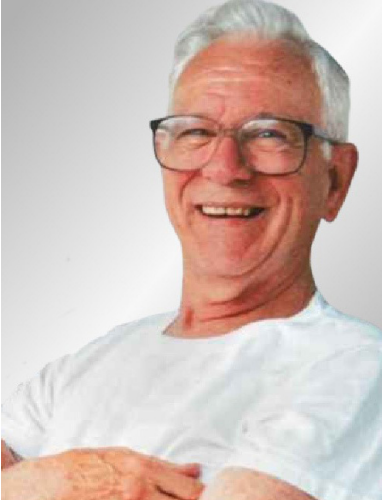
He was also a member of the Western Pennsylvania First Spiritual Responders and received the Scouting Order of the Arrow - Vigil Honor.

Jay was ordained in 1979 and faithfully and compassionately served The United Methodist Church for 46 years. He retired from the Western Pennsylvania Conference, moved to Summersville in 2010, and from 2010 to 2021 he served under retirement status in the West Virginia Conference, appointed to Richwood Faith and Macedonia.

In addition to his wife, he was survived by a son, Joshua Paul Cook, a daughter, Miriam Beth (Cook) Keenan, and their families; four grandchildren; a brother, James Sturley Cook; sisters- and brothers-in-law; eight nieces and nephews; and one great-grandniece.

A Celebration of Life Service took place January 14, 2023, at Memorial United Methodist Church, Summersville. Interment followed at Walker Memorial Cemetery.

Herbert Reece Coston



The Rev. Dr. Herbert Reece Coston, a retired elder in the conference, died October 19, 2022. He was 97. The son of the late Reece and Eva Grey Coston, Herbert was born September 23, 1925, in St. Petersburg, Florida. In June of 1954, he married the Rev. Phyllis Coston, a retired deacon in the conference, who preceded him in death in 2018. They were married 64 years.

Dr. Coston was a long-time faculty member in history and international studies at West Virginia Wesleyan College. He joined the conference in 1963 when he first came to West Virginia Wesleyan, and he continued teaching part-time following his retirement in 1992, teaching at Wesleyan a total of 50 years.

Dr. Coston received a B.A. from the University of Florida, a B.D. from Garrett Theological Seminary, and became an ordained elder in The United Methodist Church. He also held an M.A. and a Ph.D. from Northwestern University.

In 1948 Dr. Coston was a J3 missionary in war-torn Japan, where he taught English. In 1952 he testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee of the U.S. concerning the proposed Peace Treaty with Japan.

He served as the director of the interdepartmental international studies major beginning in the 1972-73 academic year and was the faculty advisor to international studies majors.

Herbert is survived by a daughter, Susie Coston; and a sister, Frances Marie Coston-Wideman.

In addition to his wife and parents, he was preceded in death by a son, Robert Coston.

A service took place October 25, 2022, at First United Methodist Church in Buckhannon. Burial followed at Buckhannon Memorial Park.

Memorial gifts were made to the Phyllis Kohl Coston and Herbert Reece Coston scholarship at West Virginia Wesleyan College.

James Everette Daily



The Rev. James Everette (Jim) Daily, a retired associate member in the conference, died June 5, 2022. The son of Paul Daily and Lola Johnson, Jim was born December 22, 1938. He and his wife, Sylvia, who preceded him in death, were married 61 years.

Jim grew up in Hines and graduated from Rupert High School. In his youth, he grew up in the Hines Gospel Tabernacle, then attended Rupert United Methodist Church.

He studied at Duke University School of Divinity and served Hominy Falls (1990); Webster Springs (1997); and Mt. Nebo in the Greenbrier District from 2002 until his retirement in 2009. After retiring to Alabama with Sylvia, he continued to be

active in the Crawford United Methodist Church by leading Bible studies and preaching when the opportunity arose.

A member of the Rupert Rotary Club, Jim is remembered for the kindness and love he showed to everyone he met.

Left to cherish his memory are his brother, Mike Daily; children, Tim Daily, Danielle Powell, and Crystal Jones; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

A service took place at the Wallace Memorial Cemetery Mausoleum in Clintonville on June 25, 2022.

Sandra Kay Firth



The Rev. Sandra Kay Firth, a retired elder in the conference, died June 14, 2022. A daughter of the late Hale Sherman and Kathlyn Ruth Singleton Campbell, Sandra was born September 23, 1946, in Sutton.

Sandra served her country in The United States Army and was ordained in the United Brethren in Christ denomination. She later transferred to the United Methodist Church and the West Virginia Conference in 2000. She served at Arnettville in the MonValley District from 1997 until her retirement in 2008.

After her retirement, Sandra served as chaplain at the Louis A. Johnson VA Hospital from 2010-2016.

Left to cherish her memory are a son, John Christopher Firth; a sister, Brenda Gray; an aunt, Imogene Marston; a brother-in-law, Stanley Firth; and six grandchildren.

A memorial service took place July 21, 2022, at Quiet Dell United Methodist Church.

Danny Gerald Fleming



The Rev. Danny Gerald Fleming, a retired local pastor, died March 17, 2023. He was 74. The son of the late William “Gerald” and Geraldine Louise Brannon Fleming, he was born January 24, 1949, in Clarksburg. On July 2, 1970, he married Glenda “Joyce” McCune Fleming, who survives him. They were married 52 years.

Rev. Fleming was also the uncle of the Rev. Dustin McCune, a provisional elder in the conference. Danny graduated from Bristol High School, Class of 1967. He served in the United States Navy as a machinist mate from April 1968 - August 1971 and was on the U.S.S. Franklin D. Roosevelt (CCVA-42) and the U.S.S. Arneb (LKA-56) during the Vietnam War. He joined the United States Army Reserves in 1980 and served until 1996 when he retired as a Chief Warrant Officer 3 with more than 20 years of service. He served with the 459th ENGR Co (Clarksburg) and Co D, 463 ENBN (New Martinsville) along with 2093 RD USAR School and 80th Training Division (DIT).

Danny worked as a Detroit Diesel Mechanic for several years. In 1981, he started working for the Department of the Army as a mechanic in the area maintenance support activity #102(G) (AMSA) located in Clarksburg. This shop’s mission included preparing equipment for Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield in 1990. In September of 1996, he was promoted to activity supervisor at AMSA #107(G) in Charleston. In March he was promoted to activity supervisor at AMSA #102(G) and returned home to Salem. He served at this location until his retirement on January 31, 2009. Danny’s total civil service exceeded 30 years.

Danny was a member of the Bristol United Methodist Church and felt inspired to become a pastor in 2006. He served the Jarvisville Charge, consisting of Big Isaac, Meadow Valley, Lynda Chapel, Pleasant Valley, and Mount Olive United Methodist Churches. He retired in 2016.

In addition to his wife, Danny is survived by three daughters, Annetta Payne, Melissa Teter, Alesha Bell, and their families, including seven grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Danny was preceded in death by one son, Douglas Brian Fleming; and one sister, Connie Darlene Fleming Robertson.

Family celebrated his life on March 21, 2023, at Salem. Interment followed at Floral Hills Memorial Gardens with full military honors accorded by the Harrison County Honor Guard and the U.S. Army Honor Guard.

Irene Powell Ford



The Rev. Irene Powell Ford, a retired associate member in the conference, died August 20, 2022. The daughter of the late Clurel C. Powell and Lillian Violet Gaskins Powell Wallace, Irene was born October 6, 1927. She is preceded in death by her husband of 52 years, Claudius A. Ford.

Irene attended Doddridge County High School and spent her fourth year at Central High School in Akron, Ohio. She graduated high school in 1945. After her marriage in 1946, Irene took courses at West Virginia Northern Community College.

As a mother, she became involved in the Trinity United Methodist Church in New Cumberland and served in many elected positions. She also became involved in the Parent Teacher Association, serving offices in PTA at the local, county, and state levels. She served as State PTA president from 1975-1977. From 1979-1984, she served on the Hancock County Board of Education.

Irene also served four years each as vice president and president of the Wheeling District United Methodist Women.

In 1984, she was appointed to serve as pastor of United Methodist churches while continuing her college education at West Virginia Wesleyan College and five summer studies at Duke University. She was ordained a deacon and associate member of the West Virginia Conference in 1992.

From 1984-1989, Irene pastored the Bristol Charge, which consisted of four churches: Bristol, Grass Run, Wolf Summit, and Coplin. In 1989-1994, she served the Christ Owings Charge, which consisted of Christ, Owings, and Saltwell in Shinnston. In 1994-1996, she served Washington Lands & Graysville Calvary, near Moundsville. After

her retirement, she served Nessly Chapel United Methodist Church in New Cumberland from 1997-2007.

Surviving are two sons, Richard F. and Michael L. Ford and their spouses. Also surviving are her grandchildren, Stephanie Jones, Michael Ford II, Jamie Haines, and Jennifer Wherry Ford. She is also survived by three beloved great-grandsons and numerous nieces and nephews; as well as a “stepsister,” Beverly Swisher; a half-sister, Elizabeth Powell; and a half-brother, Robert Powell.

In addition to her husband and parents, Irene was preceded in death by her granddaughter, Erin Ford; grandson, Alex Ford; her stepfather, Chester Wallace; two sisters, Lorene Sesco and Marcelene Nicholson; and three brothers, Alvin Powell, Howard Powell, and Sherman Powell. She was the last surviving member of her family.

Loved ones celebrated her life at Trinity United Methodist Church and at Copeland Cemetery on August 27, 2022.

L. Frank Tex Frye



The Rev. Dr. L. Frank Tex Frye, a retired elder in the conference, died July 3, 2022. A son of the late Floyd Baxter Frye and Mae Edmunds Frye, Tex was born December 13, 1951, in Fort Worth, Texas. His wife of 48 years, Devona Davis Frye of Winfield, survives him.

Tex was a 1969 graduate of Barboursville High School, 1979 graduate of Marshall University, and 1981 graduate of Emory University, where he received his M.Div. He earned his doctor of ministry degree at Trinity Theological Seminary from United Seminary School in 1993.

Tex worked as a radio personality in Kansas City, Missouri, for a year and then for WGNT in Huntington. He was also one of 10 people first trained to work as a CSO/EMT/paramedic in West Virginia and served in that position in Huntington for five years. It was while working as a paramedic that he felt called to ministry.

For the next 40 years Tex served as a minister. Beginning in 1976, he served Sunrise/Mt. Salem; then Lavalette Circuit (1977); North Covington (1979); Kermit (1981);

St. Pauls, Pt. Pleasant (1986); St. John's, Scott Depot (1989); Trinity, Pt. Pleasant (1999); and Madison (2003). He retired in 2014 from Madison United Methodist Church.

Tex was credentialed to teach classes through the Theological Seminary In-Context Program and traveled throughout the northeastern United States teaching at this level. He was an avid outdoorsman who adored his grandchildren and children. A good listener, he never met a stranger.

In addition to his wife, Tex is survived by a daughter, Leslie McNeil; a son, Eric Frye; and two grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life Service took place July 7, 2022, at St. John United Methodist Church in Scott Depot. Memorial donations were received by UMCOR and Hospice Care of Charleston.

Allen Ernest Johnson



The Rev. Allen Ernest Johnson, a retired elder in the conference, died June 12, 2022. A son of the late Ernest and Helen Hedderick Johnson, Allen was born January 3, 1945, in Erie, Pennsylvania. He married Linda Johnson, who survives him.

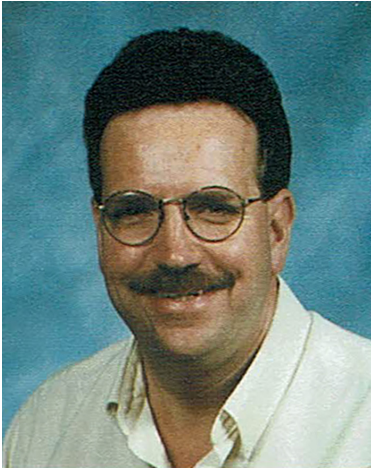
Allen served many churches throughout West Virginia during his ministry with the West Virginia United Methodist Conference, including the North Jackson Charge (1985); Steelton (1988); Oak Grove/Ebenezer (1990); Aldersgate/Hope (1992); Beaver/Bluejay (1996); Rainelle (2001); Parkview (Parkersburg) (2007); Union (2009); and First Williamson/Memorial (2012) before his retirement in 2015. In retirement he served as the assistant at the Northern Pocahontas Charge (2015-2017).

After he retired, Allen also continued to serve the community through a nursing home ministry at Fresh Harvest Church, Morgantown. In his spare time, Allen was a Civil War enthusiast and enjoyed traveling to different battle sites throughout the United States.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a son, Michael Johnson, and his family, including three grandchildren.

A memorial service took place at Fresh Harvest Church, Morgantown, on June 17, 2022.

Kenneth Kendall



The Rev. Kenneth "Kenny" Kendall, a retired local pastor in the conference, died March 11, 2023. The son of the late Charles Rimer and Beverla Bennett Kendall, Kenny was born May 24, 1956, in Grantsville. He and his wife, Beverly, who survives him, were married on July 14, 1979.

Kenny was a beloved United Methodist minister for 44 years, having served charges at Leroy (1980); Waldeck (1981); Nestorville (1988); North View (1994); and Freemansburg (2019) in the Little Kanawha District.

In addition to his wife, Kenny is survived by the couple's daughter, Casey Jean Bryant, her husband Thomas Bryant, and Casey and Thomas' daughter, Makenzie Rae Bryant. Also left to cherish his memory are sisters, Conna Jones, Debbie Huff, Diane Jerden, and Donna Adams, and their families; a brother-in-law, Stephen Eaton and family; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Kenny was preceded in death by his brother, Roger, and his niece, Tammy Harris.

He will be remembered for serving the Lord by humbly serving God's people with love, kindness, concern, and patience.

Family and friends celebrated his life on March 15, 2023, at Nutter Fort. Interment followed at Collins Cemetery in Stumptown.

Nancy Sue Killingsworth



The Rev. Nancy Sue Killingsworth, a retired local pastor, died July 31, 2022. A daughter of the late John and Jessie Irene Aley Capicola, Nancy was born November 14, 1942, in Clarksburg. On August 3, 1963, she married Don Bernard Killingsworth, who preceded her in death on July 3, 2021.

Nancy was a graduate of Fairmont State College and spent 35 years teaching, 15 in Harrison County and 20 at the Buckhannon-Upshur Intermediate School, retiring in 2000.

As a pastor, she served the Tallmansville Charge, including Mt. Carmel, Mt. Olive, Reed Chapel, Harmony, Queens, and Ten Mile United Methodist churches; and the Adrian Charge, including French Creek and Laurel Fork United Methodist Churches. She retired in 2019 and was living in Arlington, Texas.

In addition to her parents and husband, Nancy was preceded in death by a brother, Samuel Ray Capicola.

She is survived by a daughter, Diana “Dee” Killingsworth; a son, Don “Kevin” Killingsworth; two granddaughters; one sister, Wilma Genevieve Pulice; and their families.

Nancy’s life was celebrated August 5, 2022 in Buckhannon. Interment followed in the Rocky Ford Cemetery.

Mary Virginia Lowther



The Rev. Mary Virginia “Ginnie” Settle Lowther, a retired deacon in the conference, died September 4, 2022. The daughter of Samuel Brittan Settle and LaVantia Pearl Elliott Settle, Ginnie was born March 3, 1935, in Parkersburg. For nearly 69 years, Ginnie was married to Rev. Dewayne Rymer Lowther, a retired elder in the conference, who survives her.

A 1953 graduate of Parkersburg High School, where she was a member of the A Cappella Choir and school newspaper staff, Ginnie began her undergraduate studies at West Virginia Wesleyan College in the fall of 1953 before eloping to Oakland, Maryland, that October with Dewayne Lowther, her high school sweetheart. They had met in the fall of

1949 and, on New Year’s Day in 1950, began making plans to spend their lives together as a team in church-related service.

Ginnie put her college plans on hold and worked several jobs, including Wesleyan’s admissions office and at James & Law Book Store for E. W. James, composer of “My Home Among the Hills.” She served as an enthusiastic partner in ministry with Dewayne as he took on the role of student pastor during college and seminary. She organized and directed choirs, served as organist, gave piano lessons, led church youth groups, and was involved in many other church activities. When they returned to West Virginia following seminary, their partnership continued across the years and in many communities.

Ginnie and Dewayne lived in Donovan and Westfield, Illinois, and Buckhannon, Charleston, Chelyan, Clarksburg, Keyser, Morgantown/Westover, New Martinsville, West Liberty, Wilsonburg, and Williamstown.

Ginnie was a key partner and co-editor in publishing 30 editions of *West Virginia Annual Conference Journals* and learned to use word processing equipment to help make it possible to send camera ready *Journal* pages to the printer, avoiding the expense and time required for the printer to use old linotype machines.

She resumed her college studies in 1962, taking courses at institutions of higher learning in communities where they lived, including Morris Harvey College (now University of Charleston), West Virginia University, West Liberty State College, and West Virginia Northern Community College. In the summer of 1968, she was able to transfer credits from those schools to West Virginia Wesleyan, where she completed required classes to graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in home economics.

In 1980 Ginnie completed work for her Master of Science degree in home economics education at West Virginia University. Next, she attended graduate classes at several seminaries, including Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Drew Theological School, and Methodist Theological School in Ohio before being consecrated as a Diaconal Minister in 1994. She was ordained a deacon in 1997, and then received as a clergy member of the West Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

She was appointed to serve as administrative assistant for the West Virginia United Methodist Conference Council on Ministries where she served for 18 years, in addition to being appointed to serve on the staff of Christ Church United Methodist in Charleston.

Prior to her ordination, Ginnie had been employed as a teacher by boards of education in Harrison, Kanawha, Mineral, and Wetzel Counties and as a 4-H agent in Harrison County for the West Virginia University Cooperative Extension Service. She was a 48-year member of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences and served as newsletter editor and president of the West Virginia chapter of that association.

Ginnie was chair of the West Virginia United Methodist Conference Commission on Archives and History for eight years, a member of the Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, and an elected lay delegate to the 1996 Northeastern Jurisdictional United Methodist Conference. She also served as president of the West Virginia Conference Minister's Wives Association.

Following their retirements in 2002, Ginnie and Dewayne began a self-assigned and self-funded Ministry of Memory by using photographic journaling to document and affirm persons involved in ministries of the church, visual and performing arts, and not-for-profit organizations. Using an online publishing company, they printed 30 photo essay books to help collect, organize, preserve, and share those memories.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sister, June Elise Edwards, and by her mother-in-law and father-in-law, Catherine and Russell Lowther.

Ginnie is survived by her three daughters, Paula Vantia McGrew, Sarah Virginia Hensley, and Mary Catherine Perkins, and their families; seven grandchildren; a sister, Carol Ruth Thompson; and several beloved nieces, nephews, and extended family.

Family and friends celebrated Ginnie's life on September 24, 2022, at First United Methodist Church in Williamstown.

Memorial gifts were made to Friends of WWC Archives and History, Annie Merner Pfeiffer Library, and West Virginia Wesleyan College.

Robert Lee Mann



The Rev. Robert Lee Mann, a retired local pastor, died March 19, 2023. He was 82. The son of the late William Woodrow and Marjorie Rebecca Roby Mann, Robert was born January 19, 1941, at Indian Draft. On December 22, 1962, he married Jacoba “Toby” Friel Mann, who survives him after 60 years of marriage.

A United States Army veteran, William honorably served in C Co. 504th MP Battalion stationed at Fort Gordon, Georgia. During his tour of duty at the end of the Korean Conflict, he proudly served as an Honor Guard for President Dwight Eisenhower.

Robert graduated from the WVU School of Banking and Duke University Divinity School. He retired from the Bank of Marlinton/First Citizens Bank and Trust Company after 40 years of service. He retired from the West Virginia United Methodist Church Conference after 14 years of service.

He was a member of Marlinton United Methodist Church and served as pastor of the Edray Charge (2000); Marlinton/Edray Charge (2008); and the Upper Pocahontas Charge before retiring in 2011.

Robert also served as a volunteer chaplain for Mountain Hospice and Pocahontas Memorial Hospital for many years. He worked with the Pocahontas Cooperative Parish as parish coordinator and with its food pantry.

He was a 50-year member and Past Master of Marlinton Masonic Lodge #127 A.F. & A.M. and a member of the 32nd Degree Scottish Rite. He was a 50-year member and past Worthy Patron of Marlinton Chapter #97 Order of the Eastern Star, a member of American Legion Post #50, and past president and member of the Marlinton Rotary Club. In earlier years, Robert was a member of the Marlinton Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad, March of Dimes, Lions Club, Jaycees, and he worked for many years with Boy Scouts of America and many other civic and charitable organizations. An avid reader, Robert enjoyed woodworking and riding his Harley motorcycle.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Kenneth Marvin Mann; and sister, Betty Jean Mann Holden; and brother-in-law, Dennis Holden.

In addition to his wife, who was his devoted caregiver through cancer, Robert is survived by a sister, Beverly McPaters, and a brother, William Wayne Mann, and their spouses; and several nieces and nephews.

Services took place March 23, 2023, at Marlinton United Methodist Church. Interment followed at Mountain View Cemetery with Military Honors and Masonic Rites. Memorial gifts were made to Marlinton United Methodist Church.

Betty Helen McBee



The Rev. Betty Helen McBee, a retired associate member in the conference, died June 28, 2022 at the age of 94. A daughter of the late Roy and Dona Harris Wilson, Betty was born October 16, 1927, in Bingamon Junction. She married Paul L. McBee, who preceded her in death.

Betty worked as a school teacher at Suncrest and Evansdale Elementary Schools. She later worked as a guidance counselor at Second Ward and Waitman Barbe Elementary Schools, where she enjoyed impacting the lives of students over the years. Her service to the community continued through her devotion to officiating many weddings and funerals.

Betty served the Flemington Charge from 1979-1984 and the Booth/Union Charge from 1984 until her retirement in 1991. After retirement, she served Pitcher United Methodist Church from 1999-2002. She also served as a chaplain at Mon General Hospital.

She was a coordinator of the Lay Witness Missions and a member of the Pleasant Creek Women's Club.

Betty is survived by her daughters, Patricia Shaffer, Linda Pierce, and Roberta Pratt, and their spouses; a son, Paul LeRoy McBee; a special daughter, Lois DelBueno; six grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and two sisters-in-law.

In addition to her parents and husband, Betty was preceded in death by a son, Kenneth L. McBee, and her 10 siblings.

A service took place July 3, 2022, in Morgantown. Burial followed in Mary's Chapel Cemetery in Philippi.

Carroll L. McCauley



The Rev. Carroll L. McCauley, a retired associate member of the conference, died September 6, 2022. The son of the late John and Genevieve Cutright McCauley, Carroll was born October 4, 1937, in Mill Creek. He and Dorothy Pierson McCauley, who survives him, had celebrated 65 years of marriage.

Two of Carroll's brothers were local pastors in the conference. The Rev. Roger McCauley currently serves the Madison Circuit Charge, and the Rev. Don McCauley preceded Carroll in death on March 26, 2018.

Carroll grew up in Mill Creek and graduated from Tygarts Valley High School in 1956. He worked in Canton, Ohio, at Macomber Steel for five years, then received a call into the ministry in 1961. For his ministerial education, he attended Alderson Broaddus College, West Virginia Wesleyan College, and Duke University.

He served charges and churches in Nestorville (1961); Pleasant Hill (1964); Beverly (1978); South Parkersburg (1983); and Bellemeade (1992), until he retired in 2000 and moved back to Granville. He served as pastor at Spruce Hollow Community Church until his passing. Under his leadership, 17 men and women entered the ministry.

He also served on the board of directors for the Calhoun Committee on Aging and coached Little League baseball and basketball. He was a chaplain in several hospitals and coordinator of the Calhoun County United Methodist Parish. Carroll was the first executive director for the creation of Calhoun Homes, a 4-H Leader of the Year in 1976, and was recognized by the West Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District as Conservation Minister of the Year in the Little Kanawha District.

Carroll was an avid WVU, Duke, and Pittsburgh Steelers fan. He loved watching Western movies and was an avid deer hunter.

In addition to his wife, Carroll is survived by children, Anita Baum, Cheryl Jarvis, Pam Davis, and Criss McCauley, and their spouses; nine grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; siblings, Roger McCauley, Janice Ball, Connie James, and Debbie Hoover, and their spouses; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by an infant sister, Lavonda; a sister, Faye Mills; and a brother, Don McCauley.

A service took place September 10, 2022 in Arnoldsburg.

Dallas Peyton, Sr.

The Rev. Dallas Peyton, Sr., a retired elder in the conference, died December 22, 2022. Born August 31, 1948, in Beeson, he was the son of the late Maynard Peyton and Dorothy Vaught Peyton. His wife, Linda Gail Marrs Peyton, survives him.

Dallas served churches and charges for the West Virginia Conference beginning in 1994, including Friendship Charge (1994); Ceredo (1999); Kermit (2003); Lerona (2005); and East Greenbrier (2007). After his retirement in 2013, he served Thorpe (2013); Boyd's Chapel-Jenkinjones (2013); and Matoaka from 2015 until 2018.

He received a Regent's B.A. from West Liberty State in 1999 and a M.Div from Asbury Theological Seminary in 2002. He was ordained a deacon in 2001, and became an ordained elder in 2004.

His hobbies included playing musical instruments, hunting, and fishing.

In addition to his wife, Dallas is survived by children, Dallas Peyton, Jr., Heather Mullins, and John Peyton, and their spouses; six grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; siblings, Delvie Peyton, Carol Thompson, Earl Peyton, Merrell Peyton, and Brent Peyton, and their families; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Bonnie Ann White; and an infant brother.

A memorial service took place December 29, 2022, at Cook's Chapel Baptist Church in Pipestem. Burial followed at a later date at the Peyton Family Cemetery.

Kelly Leigh Simmons



The Rev. Kelly Leigh Simmons, a local pastor, died January 14, 2023. She was 59. A daughter of Henry Asher “Pete” Simmons and Barbara Smith Simmons, Kelly was born June 14, 1963, in Elkins.

Kelly was a graduate of Elkins High School. She had worked at Davis Medical, Nella’s Nursing Home, and for Dr. David Currence before becoming a minister in 2009.

Kelly served Queens Chapel at Tallmansville (2009); Israel-Coffman Chapel (2010); Mathias (2013); and Otterbein, Elkins (2016-2019). Kelly was on medical leave at the time of her death.

She was a member of Wayside United Methodist Church and a member of United Women in Faith.

Left to cherish her memory are two sisters, Lisa K. Runner and Amy Joy Harris, and their spouses; one niece, Rebekah Ellen Harris; and one nephew, Joseph Randall Harris.

A memorial service took place January 27, 2023, at Wayside United Methodist Church. Memorial gifts were made to Wayside United Methodist Church.

Samuel Emerson Starling, Jr.



The Rev. Samuel Emerson Starling, Jr., a retired elder in the conference, died March 30, 2023. The son of the late Emerson and Mary Carder Starling, he was born in Parkersburg on May 6, 1940. He married Loretta West Starling, who preceded him in death.

He graduated from Parkersburg High School, West Virginia Wesleyan College, and Boston School of Theology. Samuel pastored churches across West Virginia for 43 years before his retirement and 15 years after.

Beginning in 1959, those churches included Johnstown (1959); Adrian (1960); First Congregational (Mass.) (1963); Central,

Buckhannon (1968); North Street-Fulton (1969); Forrest Burdette Memorial (1974); Simpson, Moundsville (1976); Ravenswood, First (1985); First, New Martinsville (1990); and First, Keyser from 1997 until retirement in 2002. He served Masontown-Bethlehem (2010-2015) and Pruntytown-Fetterman (2016-2019) in retirement.

Sam served on various boards and committees of the West Virginia Conference, most notably for him as a member and vice chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry. He also felt honored to serve his state as a member of the Judicial Investigation Commission. For all his adult life he did what he was called to do: feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, and visiting the prisoners. And Sam loved to preach.

He loved his family and was an unwavering WVU Mountaineer, who attended home football games and both men's and women's basketball games as long as he was able.

Sam leaves his two sons, Douglas and Gregory Starling, and their spouses; three stepchildren, Brett Bailey, Brian Bailey, and Jeri Jo Alley, and their families; his sister, Sue Starling Tenenbaum; former wife, Barbara S. Starling; nine grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces and nephews.

In addition to his first wife and parents, Sam was preceded in death by a sister, Lois Starling Gallagher.

A memorial service was planned for a later date.

Conrad Junior Tenney



The Rev. Conrad Junior Tenney, a retired associate member in the conference, died April 8, 2023, at the age of 92. The son of the late Floyd B. “Dave” and Nora Mae Daniels Tenney, he was born in Hemlock on August 27, 1930. On July 22, 1954, he married Celia L. Perry Tenney, who survives.

Conrad was a graduate of Glenville State College and Duke Divinity School. He was a member of the French Creek DAV, the Webster Springs VFW, the I.O.O.F. of Elkins and Hacker Valley Rebekah Lodge, the Rock Cave Lodge #81 A.F.&A.M., the Valley of Clarksburg Scottish Rite, and the Osiris Shriners of Wheeling.

Rev. Tenney was a pastor and deacon in the West Virginia United Methodist Conference for more than 30 years, serving Hacker Valley (1976); Weston (1983); and Newlon Charges (1994-2008). He was a farmer, worked in timber, and worked at Corhart before entering the ministry. He served three years in the United States Army during the

Korean Conflict, attaining the rank of corporal, and served as the chaplain's assistant in Austria. He was also briefly employed by the City of Buckhannon as a police officer.

In addition to his wife of 68 years, also surviving are three sons, Conrad C. Tenney, Joseph C. Tenney, and Jack Rexroad, and their spouses; four daughters, Sheila Richardson, Sandra Tenney, Sharon Bise, and Mary Price, and spouses; 12 grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; 6 step-great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; one brother, David Tenney; three sisters, Emma Whitacre, Rosalea Jeffers, and Helen Tenney; and many in-laws, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends that he loved dearly.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one grandson, Isaac Bise; one granddaughter, Tressie Tenney; daughter-in-law, Lynn Tenney; four sisters, Zelma, Verla, Leatha, and Lora; and four brothers, Denver, Arnold, Dewey, and Doyle. Conrad's family celebrated his life at Waterloo United Methodist Church on April 13, 2023. Interment followed in the Waterloo Cemetery, where military and Masonic rites were conducted.

Memorial donations were received by the Upshur Parish House and Crosslines, both in Buckhannon.

Larry Allen Walker



The Rev. Larry Allen Walker, a retired local pastor in the conference, died July 2, 2022. He was 74. The son of the late Maycle Steele Atkins, Larry was born December 3, 1947.

Beginning in 1993, Larry served North Sutton, Kanawha-Putnam, Wallback, Davy-Hemphill, and Smoot until his retirement in 2011. After retirement, he served the East Jackson Charge from 2011-2013; Ellenboro from 2013-2017; and Jarvisville from 2017-2020.

Left to cherish his memory are his daughter, Linda Sprouse; a son, Larry Walker II; a sister, Carol Withers; a sister-in-law, Anita White; an aunt, Thelma Steele; several cousins; three grandchildren;

a great-grandson; and a niece.

In addition to his mother, Larry was preceded in death by a brother, Chuck White; grandparents, Elias and Madgie Steele; and uncles, Earl and Lee Steele.

Services took place July 15, 2022 in Belle. Interment followed in Witcher Cemetery, Belle. Memorial gifts were made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Nancy Hager White



The Rev. Nancy Hager White, a retired associate member in the conference, died May 5, 2023, in Charleston. She was 90 and the only remaining child of Rufus and Addie Hager, who celebrated her birth on September 21, 1932.

Nancy was a retired public school teacher and piano teacher. In later years, as a pastor, she served at Spurlock Memorial (1993) and Grace, Bluefield United Methodist Churches (1994). After she retired in 2003, she served at West Hamlin until 2007.

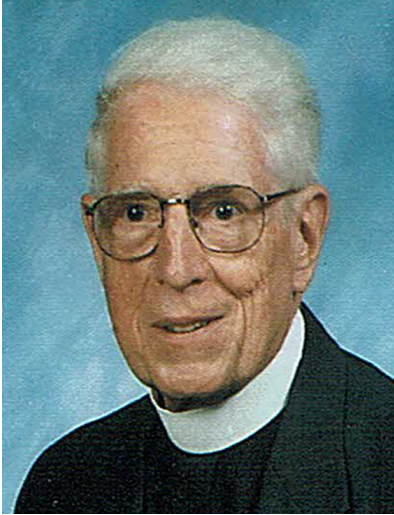
Her educational background includes Brevard, Appalachian State, Marshall University, and Duke University, where she completed her advanced course of study. She became an ordained deacon

and associate member in 1998.

A private burial took place at Concord United Methodist Church Cemetery, Bessemer City, North Carolina.

Memorials were made to the Concord United Methodist Church Cemetery Fund in Bessemer City, North Carolina and to The Nancy Hager White Performing Arts Center and Museum of Appalachian Art in Hamlin. “The Nancy” is a living memorial to honor her, established by one of her students.

BillyReed Wickline



The Rev. BillyReed Wickline, the longest serving pastor in the West Virginia Conference and a retired elder, died March 21, 2023, at the age of 98. The son of the late Czernie and Goldie Reed Wickline, he was born December 31, 1924, in Lewisburg. He married Phyllis Jean Hillman Wickline, who preceded him in death.

Beginning in 1947, Rev. Wickline served Bellepoint-Pisgah; Gauley Bridge (1952); as an Associate at St. Marks (1957); First, Terra Alta (1961); Fayetteville (1964); Fayetteville-Doggett (1968). After 48 years of service, he retired in 1995.

Left to cherish his memory are two daughters and sons-in-law, Lisa and Ed Wildman, and Karen and Tim Stevens; four grandchildren; and two great-

granddaughters.

Those closest to BillyReed say he will be remembered as “one of a kind, cut from a cloth that no longer exists today.” He touched countless lives with his love, kindness, care, and compassion.

In addition to his wife and parents, BillyReed was preceded in death by a brother, Eugene Wickline.

Visitation was held on March 24, 2023 at Chapman’s Mortuary in Huntington. Funeral services, including visitation, were conducted March 25, 2023 at Lewisburg United Methodist Church. Burial followed at Carmel Cemetery in Gap Mills, Monroe County.

John Edwin Wildman

The Rev. Dr. John Edwin Wildman, a retired elder in the conference, died March 14, 2023. He was 84. The son of the late Claude Ray and Mae Jones Wildman, he was born November 22, 1938, in Ravenswood. He was united in marriage on November 22, 1958, to MaDora Lou Baylor Wildman, who survives.

John served 37 years as a United Methodist minister in the West Virginia Conference. He was very active as a 20-year volunteer for the Burlington United Methodist Family Services. He also served as a project manager for Habitat for Humanity. He attended First United Methodist Church in Buckhannon.

Rev. Dr. Wildman served United Methodist Churches at Harrisville (1965); West Union (1967); Smithburg (1969); New Hope (Ohio) (1971); as an Associate at Spruce Street (1974); Mason (1978); Christ, Clarksburg (1981); First, Weirton (1994); Highlawn (1994); Fayetteville-Doggett (1995); and Main Street, Petersburg (1998). He retired in 2002.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by one son, Ed, and wife, Lisa Wildman; one granddaughter, Cardyn Elizabeth Wildman; three sisters, Sarah Sayre, Alice Icenhower, and Barbara Lockhart; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one brother and one sister.

Graveside services and interment took place March 16, 2023, at the Ravenswood Cemetery in Ravenswood. Memorial donations were welcomed by Burlington United Methodist Family Services.

SPOUSES

Donna J. Allen



Donna J. Allen, wife of the Rev. John E. Allen, a retired elder in the conference, died May 11, 2023. The daughter of Thomas and Betty (Stump) Hickok, she was born January 24, 1949, in Charleston.

Donna, a devoted United Methodist clergy spouse, served alongside her husband for 54 years. She is remembered for her direction of numerous children's Christmas musicals and for singing southern gospel music. Donna was a member of the Gospel Heirs gospel group and a graduate of Sutton High School, Class of 1966.

In addition to her husband, Donna is survived by a brother, David, and his spouse Pam, of Reedsville. She is also survived by her three children, John Wesley, Aaron Eugene, and Christina Kicki of Sweden; and seven grandchildren, Lucas Daniel, Levi Samuel, Sarah Elizabeth, Kylie Sheree, Hunter, Julia, and Elin, all of Sweden.

Family celebrated her life on May 19, 2023, at Christ United Methodist Church in Sutton. The church also received memorial donations in her name.

George W. Bennett



George W. Bennett, husband of the Rev. Rebecca (Becky) Bennett, who serves the Bayard/Mt. Storm Charge in the Potomac Highlands District, died September 15, 2022. The son of the late Robbie Dean Martin and Fred Bennett, George was born March 21, 1947, in Elkins, and raised by his grandmother, Edie Catherine Bennett.

George married Rebecca Louise Lambert in 1967, the same year he graduated from Circleville High School. He was a former employee of SCM Allied Egry where he served as a press operator for 26 years, VEPCO for three years, and Allegheny Wood Products for 17 years as a dry kiln operator until his retirement in 2015. Co-workers fondly nicknamed him “Ralphie.”

He was a member of Seneca United Methodist Church but attended Bayard and Mt. Storm United Methodist Churches, where his wife serves as pastor.

In addition to his wife, George is survived by a son, Terry Wayne Bennett and wife, Lora; three granddaughters and their families, all of Petersburg; one brother, L. Ricky Bennett of Bear, Delaware; one sister, Loretta Humphrey of Clermont, Florida; several nieces and nephews; and many friends.

George was preceded in death by his stepmother, Mildred Bennett; a brother, John Bennett; and an infant grandson, Miles Eli Bennett.

The family remembered George with a service on September 19, 2022, in the chapel of Schaeffer Funeral Home in Petersburg. He was laid to rest at North Fork Memorial Cemetery in Riverton. Memorial contributions to charities were encouraged.

Roberta Lee Butcher

Roberta Lee Butcher, wife of the Rev. Verlin Butcher, a retired associate member of the conference, died June 14, 2022, at the age of 88. The couple would have celebrated their 72nd wedding anniversary on June 24, 2022. Rev. Butcher passed away on October 19, 2022.

Roberta was also the mother of the Rev. Joy Butcher-Winfree, a retired elder, and the mother-in-law of the Rev. Olen Winfree, a recently retired elder.

Roberta was born in Fairmont on November 14, 1933, to Maxine Harrington Vincent and Reuben Moran Vincent. Because her parents worked in Philadelphia, Roberta was raised by her grandmother, Anna Harrington, in Fairmont, where

she met and married Verlin at age 16.

She served alongside her husband at churches in Marion, Preston, Randolph, Nicholas, Greenbrier, Summers, and Doddridge Counties. In addition to leading youth classes at her churches, Roberta was an active leader in Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, 4-H, and square dancing for youth.

An avid reader and devoted homemaker, Roberta also participated in the life of Sunrise Chapel United Methodist Church in Clintonville as treasurer, administrative board member, trustees member, and adult Sunday School teacher.

Roberta was preceded in death by her parents and grandparents; a cousin/sister, Anna Lee Baker of Fairmont; and a great-grandson, Grayson Butcher of Morgantown.

She was survived by her husband; sons, Verlin M., Kenneth, Richard, and Mark, and their families; daughter, Rev. Dr. Joy Butcher-Winfree; 11 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and several cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Roberta's life was celebrated at Sunrise Chapel United Methodist Church in Clintonville on June 17, 2022. Burial followed in the church cemetery. Memorial contributions were received by the Shepherd's Fund at Sunrise Chapel.

James C. Finegan



James Clyde Finegan, husband of the Rev. Mary Ellen Finegan, a retired elder in the conference, died April 21, 2023. The son of the late Blaine and Eula Reed Finegan, Jim was born October 24, 1947, in Clarksburg.

Devoted to the care of others, Jim was a registered nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital in Buckhannon and a member of First United Methodist Church in Buckhannon, where he and Mary Ellen both served on the board of Upshur Parish House and Mary Ellen served as Wesleyan District Superintendent before retirement.

In addition to his wife, Jim is survived by three sons, Jennings, Harold, and Michael Cunningham, and their families; four granddaughters; two

grandsons; two brothers; and two sisters.

Family celebrated Jim's life on April 25, 2023, at First United Methodist Church, Buckhannon. Burial followed in the Post Chapel Cemetery in Crawford.

Linda Fleming Glotfelty



Linda Lee (Teets) Fleming Glotfelty, wife of the Rev. Melvin Ross Glotfelty, retired local pastor, died November 15, 2022. She was 79. They had been married 18 years.

Linda was also the mother of the Rev. Lucinda Davis, pastor of Ebenezer-Springfield Charge in the Potomac Highlands District, and mother-in-law of the Rev. Steve Davis, pastor of the Northeast Garrett Charge, also in the Potomac Highlands District.

The daughter of the late Orval and Mareva Teets, Linda was also preceded in death by her first husband, Albert John Fleming.

Throughout her life, Linda served as an educational and Christian leader. She worked as a

teacher and administrator from 1975 to 2003 and served at church in ministries including pastoral, worship and song, missionary work, teaching, and youth and children's ministries. Linda founded Camp Agape and Camp Serenity, which impacted hundreds for Christ. She was a life-time member of Girl Scouts of America and was named Woman of the Year of Garrett County.

She is survived by her husband, who served the Elk Garden Charge from 2009-2011 and Faith, Cranesville from 2011-2014, both in the Potomac Highlands District. She is also survived by four children, Lucinda Davis, Lawre Virts, Lisa Bush, and Albert John Fleming II, and their families; two brothers-in-law; eight grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and many other loved ones.

Family celebrated Linda's life on November 18, 2022, at Swanton Otterbein United Methodist Church in Swanton, Maryland. Interment followed at Swanton Otterbein Cemetery. Memorial gifts were welcomed by Hospice of Garrett County, Red Bird Mission, Camp Agape, and Church of the Brethren, Salisbury, Pennsylvania.

Paula Jo Dundas Hamrick



Paula Jo Dundas Hamrick, wife of the Rev. Steve Hamrick, pastor of Calvary United Methodist Church in Ripley, in the Little Kanawha District, died December 13, 2022. She was 61.

Born August 7, 1961, Paula was the youngest daughter of the late Paul and Betty Dundas.

Paula is remembered for her love of people, music, and horses. She graduated from Marshall University with a B.A. degree in sociology and criminal justice. She was employed by the VA Regional Office in Huntington from 1979 to 2016, when she retired. Working with and serving West Virginia veterans was a highlight of her life, as well as being choir

director for Southside and Faith United Methodist Churches and Community of Grace United Methodist Church.

In addition to her husband, Paula is survived by her daughter, April Christine Kellie Morales; sisters, Valerie Fry and Jane Bowen, and their families; four nephews and nieces; and several great-nephews and great-nieces.

Paula's life was celebrated on December 17, 2022, at Waybright Funeral Home in Ripley. Memorial donations were made to Hearts of Phoenix Equine Rescue.

Betty Sue Heavner



Betty Sue Heavner, wife of the Rev. Robert F. Heavner, a retired local pastor, died January 30, 2023. She was 81. A daughter of the late Loyal Creed and Maureen Delta Snyder Reger, she was born October 5, 1941, in Alexander.

She married the Rev. Robert F. Heavner on October 2, 1959, and attended the many churches he pastored over the years. She was a member of French Creek United Methodist Church.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by a son, Dr. Randy Heavner; two daughters, Michelle Linger and Debbie Cutright, and their families; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; one brother, Neil; a sister, Rosalea McKisic; and several nieces and nephews. A great-grandson, Riley D.

Heavner, preceded her in death.

Betty worked as a bank teller and later in the loan department of Adrian-Buckhannon Bank. She retired from the loan department of United National Bank in Weston in 1998 and began helping her daughter and son-in-law at Heavner & Cutright Funeral Chapel.

Family will remember her excellent cooking and her competitive spirit on the golf course, around the family card table, and at sporting events. She made her first hole-in-one in her 70s, and loved cheering for WVU at Mountaineer football and basketball games.

Betty considered Myrtle Beach a second home, loved shopping, and grew beautiful flowers and vegetables in her garden.

Family celebrated her life privately and laid her to rest in the Rocky Ford Cemetery. Memorial contributions were welcomed by the Upshur Cooperative Parish House in Buckhannon and the Buckhannon Christian Academy.

Eugenie Malick



Eugenie “Jeanie” Malick, wife of the Rev. James Malick, a retired elder currently serving Duff Street United Methodist Church in Clarksburg, died July 2, 2022. She was 72. The daughter of Raymond Salyer and C. Margie Jordan, she was born February 12, 1950, in Springfield, Missouri.

Jeanie was active in the conference, serving as chair of the Health and Wellness Committee and on Covenant Council. She was also active in United Women in Faith, the Conference Ministry Spouses, and the Conference Connectional Table.

Jeanie graduated from Central High School, in Springfield, Missouri, in 1968 and was a bass drummer in the renown, all-female Kilties Drum and Bugle Corps. In 1991, she graduated from Lincoln University School of Nursing, Jefferson City, Missouri, and she worked as an EMT, a

surgery room nurse, and a Hospice nurse.

In Versailles, she also founded the Matthew 25 Ministry free health clinic, originated the Versailles Apple Festival that began in 1980, and was appointed as the Associate Pastor of First United Methodist Church of Versailles, Missouri, after graduating from the UMC Course of Study.

She met James Malick in Atlanta, Georgia, in 2000 at the United Methodist Church Missionary Training Center at Candler Seminary. They married on February 13, 2005, at West Milford United Methodist Church, in West Milford.

She was active in United Women in Faith on conference and church levels and accompanied her husband at Memorial, Peterstown, Gassaway Charge, and Duff Street United Methodist Churches.

Jeanie put her nursing skills to work in West Virginia by volunteering at the Susan Dewhoff Memorial Clinic in West Milford and serving as a parish nurse after graduating from West Virginia University.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by her five children, Tom Leeper, James Robert Leeper, Tim Leeper, Rebecca Malick Butler, and Jeffrey Malick, and their families, including nine grandchildren.

A memorial service took place July 12, 2022, at Duff Street United Methodist Church in Clarksburg. Per her wishes, her cremated remains were to be spread across the couple’s property in North Carolina to fulfill the plans she and her husband had of retiring together at the beach.

Memorial donations were welcomed by West Virginia Conference United Methodist Church Hunger Ministries.

Merdith Aldine Marker



Merdith Aldine Marker, wife of the Rev. Charles Marker, who serves Heights United Methodist Church in Point Pleasant, died February 26, 2023. The couple had been married nearly 64 years.

Born October 8, 1940, in Hurricane, to Mack and Annie Searls, Merdith was a graduate of Hurricane High School, Class of 1958. She retired from Feldman Production with 20 years of service in human resources.

Merdith and Charles served churches together for 61 years. They led two different churches in Point Pleasant, First Church of the Nazarene and Heights United Methodist.

In addition to her husband, Merdith is survived by two sons, Charles and John, and their families; two daughters, Stephanie Dixon and Vanessa Jewell, and their families; 16 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; a brother, Randy Searls; two sisters, Phyllis Canterbury and Linda Adkins; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a grandson; five brothers, Mack Jr., Leslie, Melvin, Danny, and Robert Searls; and her sister, Kathleen Sisson.

Merdith's family held a service March 2, 2023, at Heights United Methodist Church in Point Pleasant. Burial followed at Kirkland Memorial Gardens in Point Pleasant.

Nancy Carolyn Merrifield



Nancy Carolyn Roberts Perkins Merrifield, wife of the Rev. Stanley Merrifield, a retired elder serving the Rivesville Charge in the MonValley District, died July 2, 2022. The couple had been married 53 years when she passed at 72. The daughter of the late Lona O. and Loma C. Spencer Perkins, Nancy was born August 4, 1949, in Parkersburg.

Nancy was a 1967 graduate of Shinnston High School and a 1968 graduate of Fairmont Business College. She retired from West Virginia University in 2014 with more than 32 years as a program assistant with the OLLIE lifelong learners program.

She was a member of Rivesville United Methodist Church, where her husband served as minister for 18 years, and Nancy was involved in the life of the church. She was the founder of its Shepherd's Love Food Pantry.

In addition to her husband, Nancy is survived by her children, Marci Tapping, Todd S. Merrifield, and Buffi Evans, and their families; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and her sister-in-law, Sally H. Roberts.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her birth parents, Elmer and Louise Roberts; and her brother, Homer James Roberts.

A Celebration of Life Service took place at Rivesville United Methodist Church on August 7, 2022. Memorial donations were made to the Shepherd's Love Food Pantry, in care of Rivesville United Methodist Church.

Beverly June Warner



Beverly June Warner, wife of the Rev. William Walton Warner, Jr., a retired local pastor in the conference, died August 28, 2022. The daughter of the late John Raymond and Mary Neuman Ton, she was born in Inglewood, California.

Beverly and William married on February 18, 2006, a year after he retired. The couple resided in Ravenna, Ohio. A secretary, Beverly enjoyed knitting, playing the accordion, and was a ventriloquist.

In addition to her husband, Beverly is survived by three daughters, Christie Dowling, Nancy Ayers, and Vivian Loraine Warner-Kloak, and their families; two sons, Michael and Stephen Gannon, and their families; 11 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

A funeral service took place at the Poling-St. Clair Funeral Home in Buckhannon. Burial followed in the Latham Cemetery in Queens, West Virginia.

Debra Lynn Wilson



Debra Lynn Wilson, wife of the Rev. Teddy Wilson, who serves the Hominy Falls Charge in the Greenbrier Wesleyan District in retirement, died July 25, 2022. She was 64. The daughter of the late Cecil and Helen Baughman Mullens, Debra was born April 18, 1958, in Richwood.

Debra retired as a supervisor for Bright of America in Summersville, where she worked for 22 years. She will be remembered for her devotion to the United Methodist ministry, for her superior organizational skills, her kindness, her love of the beach, and her love of sports.

In addition to her husband, Debra is survived by her children, Jason and Amy Kesterson, Kimberly Benson, and Walter Juskowiak; five grandchildren; siblings, Cindy and Kevin Morgan, Sandy and Walter Mullens, and John and Cathy Mullens; sisters-in-law, Helen Dorsey, Wanda Moore, and Carol Exline; and a special niece, Mary Brooks.

Family and friends remembered Debra in a service on July 29, 2022, at the Simons-Coleman Funeral Home in Richwood. Interment followed in Russell Cemetery, Craigsville.

SURVIVING SPOUSES

Helen Shafer Boone



Helen "Petie" Shafer Boone, surviving spouse of Hugh C. Boone, an associate member of the conference who died in 2005, died April 30, 2023. She was 99.

Born September 10, 1923, in Cassville, Helen was a daughter of the late Charles R. Cordray and Emma B. Morris.

She worked at Monongahela Power Co. in Morgantown, and was a member of South Parkersburg United Methodist Church. She was also active in Gihon CEOS Club, 4-H, United Methodist Women, and the Eastern Star.

Helen will be remembered for her dedication to church, beautiful quilting, fondness for flowers, Hershey's chocolate with almonds, and love for her grandchildren.

She is survived by a daughter, Susan J. Morrison; a stepdaughter, Laura Sandy; a son, Douglas E. Shafer; two stepsons, Terry and Michael Boone; three grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; several step-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and her husband, Hugh, Helen was preceded in death by her first husband, Clyde Earl Shafer; three sisters; and three brothers.

Her life was celebrated in a service on May 4, 2023, in South Parkersburg. She was laid to rest at Beverly Hills Cemetery in Morgantown.

Memorial donations were made to South Parkersburg United Methodist Church.

Verlie Sarah Conrad



Verlie Sarah Conrad, surviving spouse of the Rev. Ray Merle Conrad, died April 12, 2023.

Verlie served by Ray's side for 30 years of United Methodist ministry in the conference before he died on January 24, 2017. He had retired in 2000, and the couple relocated to Knoxville, Tennessee, that same year.

A daughter of the late Talbert and Ada Hevener, Verlie was born October 21, 1939, in Monterville. Family will remember Verlie as a devoted wife, mother, and servant.

Left to cherish her memory are daughters, Patsy Tanner and Janet Conrad, and their families; six grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; sisters, Shirley Hite and Eula Gibson; and several nieces and nephews.

Family and friends celebrated Verlie's life on April 18, 2023. She was laid to rest at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Princeton.

Anna Faye Edgell



Anna Faye Edgell, surviving spouse of the Rev. Romie J. Edgell, died March 25, 2023, in Ripley. A daughter of the late George Washington and Vesta Amma Cottrell Bowen, she was born September 23, 1928, at Looneyville. Her husband had served the conference until his death on December 17, 1992.

Anna was a Spencer High School graduate in the Class of 1947 and a homemaker.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by sons, Charles Edward Edgell, John Wesley Edgell, and Timothy Wayne Edgell; brothers, Ray Bowen and the Rev. Charles Bowen; sisters, Ernestine Carpenter and Marie Hively.

Grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews are left to cherish her memory. They celebrated her life on March 30, 2023, in Spencer. Burial followed at Clover Cemetery, Clover.

Nellie Blanche Fowler



Nellie Blanche Fowler, surviving spouse of Rev. Girard Marshall Fowler, died December 31, 2021. She was 100. A daughter of Albert and Blanche Fellhauer, she was born October 15, 1921, in Fowler, Colorado. Nellie and Rev. Fowler celebrated 65 years of marriage before his death on June 19, 2011.

Nellie was a graduate of business college in Pueblo, Colorado, and a switchboard operator for the Mountains State Telephone and Telegraph Company. After her marriage to Rev. Fowler — a WWII veteran, electrician, and active layperson before he was approved as a local pastor in 1974 — the couple served Lindside (1974) and Sabra Highland (1980). Rev. Fowler retired in 1987, in Monroe County, where Nellie continued to reside.

Nellie was known for her active involvement in her church, Rock Camp United Methodist Church, and community organizations. She was an active member of United Methodist Women and a 75-year member of the CEOS, where she served as the Monroe County Belle in 1984. She was also supportive of 4-H and established a memorial scholarship in memory of the couple's son, Girard Stephen.

Nellie was survived by two daughters, Marsha Jan Crikard and Alisa Pence; and one son, Forest Fowler, and their families, including seven great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren. She also left two sisters and a brother to cherish her memory.

In addition to her parents and husband, Nellie was preceded in death by a son, Girard Stephen; five brothers; and a sister.

Her family honored Nellie's wishes with cremation and a private memorial service.

Gifts in her memory were received by the Community Foundation of Jackson County for the Jackson County 4-H Fund established in memory of her son.

Pattie Jewell Helmick

Pattie Jewell Helmick, surviving spouse of the Rev. Billie B. Helmick, died October 14, 2022, at the age of 87. Her husband was an elder in the conference who died November 4, 1974.

Pattie is also the mother of the Rev. Paul Helmick, pastor of First United Methodist Church, South Charleston, in the Nine Rivers District.

Beginning in 1957, Pattie served with her husband at Troy Charge, then Burnsville Station, Church Creek Charge in Maryland, Harmony Grove in Maryland, Stonecoal, Millersville, Valley Chapel, and Durbin in 1973 and 1974.

She was a member of Valley Chapel United Methodist Church, Pleasant Valley, where she was a long-time member of the choir.

Pattie retired from the Marion County Board of Education, where she was employed as a cook.

In addition to her son, Rev. Paul Helmick, Pattie is survived by sons, Mark and John Helmick, and their families, including nine grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Valley Chapel hosted a celebration of her life on November 19, 2022, and First United Methodist Church of South Charleston held a service on November 20, 2022. Both churches welcomed memorial donations.

Katherine Jean Hughes

Katherine Jean Hughes, surviving spouse of the Rev. Dean E. Hughes, who served the Kanes Creek-Mt. Vernon Charge in the MonValley District from 1997 to 2006 on loan from the Western Pennsylvania Conference, died August 10, 2021, at the age of 89. They were married for 64 years.

A daughter of the late Philip George and Catherine Mae (Young) Thomas, Katherine was born May 31, 1932, in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

She was a graduate of Johnstown High School, a member of Wesley United Methodist Church in Kingwood, Kane's Creek United Methodist Women, and the Rowlesburg Chapter No. 127 O.E.S.

Left to cherish her memory are two daughters, Charlene Strahin and Cindy Klara, and their families; a sister-in-law, Beverly Thomas; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents and husband, Katherine was preceded in death by her three sisters and four brothers.

A service was held August 13, 2021 and entombment followed at Sunset Memorial Gardens Mausoleum. Memorial gifts were given to Wesley United Methodist Church in Kingwood and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Mavis Inez Lolley Martin

Mavis Inez Lolley Martin, surviving spouse of the Rev. Owen Clyde Martin, died September 19, 2022, in Morgantown. She was 97. The couple had been married 22 years when Owen passed away April 26, 1981.

A daughter of the late Leon L. and Lillie Mae Wooten Lolley of Samson, Alabama, Mavis was born March 1, 1925.

She worked for many years as a secretary for Farmer Merchant Bank in Birmingham, Alabama, and was an active member of CEOS and Cross Roads United Methodist Church in Tacy, West Virginia.

Mavis and Owen were married June 10, 1959, in Memphis, Tennessee. In addition to her husband, Mavis was preceded in death by a stepson, Owen Martin; stepdaughter, Donna Jean MacKay; three grandsons; and brothers, Howard, Harold, and Charles Lolley.

Mavis is survived by stepchildren, Robert Martin, William Martin, and Christine Bleigh, and their families; 12 grandchildren; 31 great-grandchildren; 17 great-great-grandchildren; and many nephews, nieces, and cousins.

Family and friends were received at Cross Roads United Methodist Church (Tacy/Moatsville) on September 23, 2022. Graveside services took place September 27, 2022, at Asbury United Methodist Church Cemetery in Enterprise, Alabama.

Dorothy M. Morrison

Dorothy M. Morrison, surviving spouse of the Rev. James W. Morrison, an associate member of the conference, died July 4, 2022. She was 87. The middle child of 13 children born to Ernest and Rosa (Strickland) Lahrmer, Dorothy was born in Oak Hill, Ohio, on February 3, 1935.

She graduated from Holzer School of Nursing in 1959 and began her 30+ year career as a registered nurse. Dorothy was also a quilter and an avid reader who enjoyed days on the farm and time with family.

From 1963 until 1990, Dorothy served alongside her husband at United Methodist Churches in Blue Sulphur, Clifton, Fort Gay, River Hill/Fairview, Crossroads/Waverly, Marmet, Mt. Pleasant, Susannah Wesley Charge, and Lauckport, where James was serving at the time of his death on June 8, 1990.

Family and friends will recall her fondness for writing letters and helpful advice, as well as her Christian faith. She was an active member of Good Shepherd United Methodist Church and the Friendship Circle Quilters.

A funeral service took place July 9, 2022, at Good Shepherd United Methodist Church. Burial followed in the Morrison Family Cemetery.

Molly Pauley



Molly Pauley, surviving spouse of the Rev. Leo Dale Pauley, died September 21, 2022. She was 89. A daughter of the late Vernon and Vertle Epling, Molly was born in Jeffery on October 14, 1932.

Rev. Pauley served Enterprise in the former Buckhannon District from 1983 until his death on June 26, 1992.

Molly had lived in Hurricane for many years and was a member of Forrest Burdette Memorial United Methodist Church. She loved her church family dearly and will be remembered for her delicious rolls.

In addition to her husband and parents, Molly was preceded in death by a sister, Nancy Powers; and a brother, Jerry Epling.

Left to cherish her memory are her children, Dan Pauley, Rick Pauley, Cindy High, and Jennifer Bublitz, and their families; nine grandchildren; four great-grandchildren and two on the way; a sister, Janet Jarrell; and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral service took place September 26, 2022, at Forrest Burdette Memorial United Methodist Church. Burial followed at the IOOF Cemetery in Enterprise.

Genesta Perry



Genesta Perry, surviving spouse of the Rev. Dr. Frederick Perry, died February 14, 2023. The couple had celebrated 50 years together before Rev. Perry's death on September 17, 2011.

Beginning in 1982, Rev. Perry and Genesta served churches in the former Greenbrier, Little Kanawha, and Potomac Highlands Districts and also in the Western North Carolina Conference. They relocated to High Point, North Carolina in 2007, when ill health forced Rev. Perry to take incapacity leave.

The couple had five children, Frederick W. Perry, Genesta Perry, Mary Perry, Angela Perry, and Estella Perry-Neal. At the time of Rev. Perry's death, the couple had 10 grandchildren

and five great-grandchildren.

Family hosted a homecoming celebration for Genesta on February 25, 2023, at Bethel United Methodist Church in Archdale, North Carolina. She was laid to rest at Carolina Biblical Garden Cemetery in Jamestown, North Carolina.

When Genesta's family announced her death, they thanked church members at Bethel United Methodist Church and Zion Hill United Methodist Church, both in North Carolina.

Merle Evelyn Lipscomb Shaffer-Havens



Merle Evelyn Lipscomb Shaffer-Havens, surviving spouse of the Rev. J.D. Shaffer, died August 28, 2022, in Vienna. She was 92.

Merle is also the mother of Rich Shaffer, lay leader of the West Virginia Conference from 2012-2020.

A daughter of Daniel Stephen and Rosa Wiles Lipscomb, Merle was born June 1, 1930, in Lead Mine. She grew up in the St. George area of West Virginia and married J.D. Shaffer on her 17th birthday.

Merle completed her college degree from Glenville State College in special education. For 23 years, she lovingly taught and cared for students who needed extra attention and love.

She became an active partner in ministry with her husband while raising four children, Dennis, Rich, Patti Butcher, and Robb, who survive her. She also remained active as chair of Ruth Fellowship and United Methodist Women at Wayside United Methodist Church in Vienna, where she was an active member.

Merle served with Rev. Shaffer at Friendsville; Pennsboro; St. John, Parsons; Beaver/Blue Jay; First, Romney; First, Richwood; Wesley, Vienna; and Lauckport. J.D. also served as a retired Associate at Wayside, Vienna, from 1985-1989, and Eureka-St. Paul's from 1989-1992.

When she retired, Merle and J.D. found joy in traveling the world and adding souvenir bells to Merle's vast collection.

After J.D.'s death on February 2, 2013, Merle later married a long-time family friend, the Rev. Jeff Havens, who survives, as do his children, Rev. Calvin Havens and Winnette Leonard, and their families, all of Alabama. Merle is also survived by three grandchildren.

In addition to her parents and first husband, Merle was preceded in death by her siblings, Vittie, Elmer, Odes, Velva, Lena, and Verla.

Family and friends celebrated her life on September 2, 2022, at Wayside United Methodist Church. Memorial gifts were made to the church's building fund.

Dorothy Turner-Lacy



Dorothy Turner-Lacy, surviving spouse of the Rev. Nathaniel Lenard Turner-Lacy, Jr., died August 14, 2022. A daughter of Robert and Alice Briggs Turner of Jamaica, New York, Dorothy was born on Christmas Day, 1943.

Dorothy was a devoted servant at Johnson Memorial United Methodist Church, regularly attending worship, small group Bible study, and fellowship events. She served as a trustee of the church and as a source of knowledge for ADA guidelines during her church's renovation.

Her background includes a formal education in Queens, New York, and a bachelor's degree from the City University of New York. She was only six hours short of a master's degree from New York University. She loved interior and architectural design and will be remembered as a strong, caring,

ethical, and civic-minded individual who was not afraid to speak her mind on any topic.

She was known for her intelligence, wit, and privacy, as well as for advocating for individual housing rights and fairness in business matters.

Dorothy was an integral part of the Huntington business and clergy community, but her career began in New York, where she worked as president and owner of Kaydee Maintenance Company in Queens. At one time, she owned a kennel raising and selling Doberman Pinschers. She also directed a staffing center in Brooklyn, New York, and she served as a housing authority developer assistant in Huntington, where she worked with community development projects.

She and the Rev. Turner-Lacy served churches throughout the United States. He transferred to the West Virginia Conference in 1982 and served Simpson, Charleston and Stephenson, Parkersburg. He also served as a District Superintendent from 1994-2000, in the Southern and Western Districts. After his retirement in 2000, he served as interim pastor at Cross Lanes and West Side in Charleston, Central in Huntington, Fort Gay and Mount Union in the Western District, and First Congregational Church in Huntington.

In addition to her parents and husband, Dorothy was preceded in death by her grandparents, Deacon Cornelius and Deaconess Dorothy Graves Briggs of Petersburg, Virginia.

She is survived by an uncle, Carroll C. Briggs; a stepson, Nathaniel Lenard Lacy, III; a sister-in-law, Bea Davis; and a niece, cousins, and many friends.

A memorial service took place August 29, 2022, at Johnson Memorial United Methodist Church, Huntington.

Betty Jean Wood



Betty Jean “B.J.” Wood, surviving spouse of Dr. F. Emerson Wood, died December 23, 2022, in Florida. She was 90. The couple had been married 67 years before his death in 2016.

B.J. is the mother of Gerald (Jerry) Wood, a retired elder, and Chris Wood, an affiliate member and president of Davis and Elkins College.

A daughter of Ray and Vera (McClagherty) Meadows, B.J. was born on June 5, 1932, in McAlpine.

She and Emerson had four children, Jerry Wood, Mark Wood, Cheryl Myers, and Chris Wood. They and their families, including B.J.’s six grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren, are left to cherish her memory.

B.J. and Emerson served The United Methodist Church throughout their lives, including Johnson Memorial United Methodist Church in Huntington, where they remained active for more than 35 years.

Family members celebrated B.J.’s life with a private service and requested donations to Johnson Memorial United Methodist Church.