



2017 Journal

**Texas Annual Conference
of the United Methodist Church**

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SECTION K

Memoirs

Deceased 2016 - 2017

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Billy Ray Garrett, *spouse of Rev. K. Yvonne Garrett*
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Brenda J. Jax, *spouse of Rev. Thomas A. Jax*
Selena F. Johnson, *spouse of Rev. James Ray Johnson*
Walter Ray Jones, *spouse of Dr. Karen Kay Jones*
Doris G. Knight, *spouse of Rev. Louis Knight*
Geraldine Condrey Leggett, *spouse of Rev. Lee Roy Condrey*
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Manie Lee Opell, *spouse of Rev. Donald Nicholas Opell*
Nancy J. Rainwater, *spouse of Rev. John William Rainwater Sr.*
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Memoirs

Bette Jo Smale, *spouse of Rev. William Raymond Smale*
Benny R. Smith, *spouse of Rev. J. Aldous Smith*
Merle M. Sparling, *spouse of Rev. Jack Perry Sparling*
David M. Strauss, *spouse of Rev. Barbara Ellen Burgess Strauss*
Irma J. Waddleton, *spouse of Dr. Donald R. Waddleton*
Myrna G. Woody, *spouse of Rev. John G. Woody*

Clergy

Ned Vernon Alexander



Ned was born on May 12, 1935. Those who knew Ned well during his lifetime would tell you he loved to live life to its fullest. His life story affirms that this he did. Eighty-one years later on December 25th, Ned died while surrounded by the love of those he lived for and laughed with.

Ned's enduring faith, love of people and outgoing spirit allowed him to wear many hats. Having served for years as laity in the Church, his quest for deeper commitment was answered when he became a second-career pastor. His service in the Texas Annual Conference included pastorates in Durkee, Rose Garden, Shepherd and Goodrich churches. He retired from active ministry in 1997.

He will be greatly missed, but his legacy continues in the hearts and souls of his loving daughter, Donna; grandchildren Tianna and husband Matthew Hitchens; James Brandon Hall; Christina Rose Hall; great grandchildren, Alexander Edward and Evelyn Rose Hitchens.

Even in death, Ned continues to give. He gave his grieving family peace in one of his favorite scriptures, John 14:27. We find peace in our gratitude that God let us be loved by such a man for 81 years. We find joy in the memories of him and knowledge that by his example and God's promise, we will see him once again.

Submitted by Donna Alexander, daughter

Bernard Beaman, Jr.



Bernard Beaman Jr., passed away March 2, 2017, after a long illness. He is survived by his wife Ruth Beaman, his daughter and her husband, Marceile Kay and Johnny Barker, his son John Slivinski and grandchildren Jacob, Andrew, Alexandra and other extended family.

Bernard was born at home in Dime Box, Texas on May 1, 1931. He served in the Marine Corps during the Korean Conflict and received a Purple Heart. He returned to Texas and received his Bachelor of Arts Degree at Baylor University. He then entered Southwestern Seminary earning a Masters of Theology. Later, he became an Elder in the United Methodist Church and served churches in the Texas Conference.

Bernard's strength was in his drive to relate to his diverse church congregations and their often-opposing views on life and current issues. He made no judgments, and had the ability to minister to many by "walking in their shoes." His journey through life was to strive for perfection through Jesus' teachings, spread God's word by the way he lived his life to all with whom he interacted, to be positive in the face of serious conflict, and to hope for the best and accept what happened.

Bernard was an avid sports fan and loved the Houston Astros, Texas Aggies, and all Houston sports teams. He played baseball in his youth, and as a member of the Senior Softball Association participated in national senior softball tournaments throughout the country for more than 30 years.

Bernard loved God, his family, his country, people of all races, nationalities and genders and he truly loved lemon meringue pie. Bernard was buried in the Beaman High Prairie Cemetery near Dime Box, Texas.

Submitted by Ruth Beaman, wife

James “Jim” Eddie Bowie



Longview - Mr. James E. Bowie, “Jim,” passed away on December 15th after a prolonged illness. He was born August 1, 1946 in Bogota, Texas to Flora and James Bowie. He earned his Bachelor of Science from Sam Houston State University in 1968 before going on to complete both a Master of Education in Counseling and Master of Education in Administration from Sam Houston State University in 1973.

After years serving as a certified United Methodist Lay Minister, Mr. Bowie became a Local Pastor in the United Methodist Church. He first served as pastor at the Wesley United Methodist Church in Marshall and later at McCary’s Chapel in Liberty City.

This was Mr. Bowie’s fiftieth year in public education. He began his career as a teacher at Smiley High School in Houston. He then became a counselor, and later principal, at Hargrave High School in Huffman. From there, Mr. Bowie left the Houston area and first came to East Texas as the superintendent of Central ISD in Pollock, Texas. This was followed by seven years as the principal of Lufkin High School. In all, Mr. Bowie was the superintendent of four school districts in Texas and New Mexico - Central ISD, Hempstead ISD, Goldthwaite ISD, and Maxwell in New Mexico. He was also a graduate professor of education at Prairie View A&M University, where he taught courses in school law.

Mr. Bowie is survived by his wife, Marilyn Bowie; his daughter, Ashley-Meggan Bowie; and his niece, Kim Walker and husband, Mark. He is also survived by his sisters, Brenda Storey and husband, Don, and Cindy Conn and husband, Derwood; his brother, Joe Bowie and wife, Shirley; and many nieces, nephews, grand-nieces, and grand-nephews.

Elvis Clark Davis Jr.



Elvis Clark Davis Jr., of Beaumont, died Monday, April 3, 2017 at Christus Hospital – St. Elizabeth, Beaumont. He was born on June 22nd, 1929, to Pearl Williams Davis and Elvis Clark Davis, in Butler, Missouri.

He was a United States Army veteran of the Korean War. He earned a BBA from Lamar University and an MBA from the University of Arkansas. Elvis taught in the business school at Lamar University for 35 years and was a Certified Public Accountant for over 50 years.

Though he had grown up in the Methodist Church, it wasn’t until he met Brother Ben Bering, a retired Elder, that he renewed his faith and became a serious student of the Bible. He became a Local Pastor after spending several summers at Perkins School of Theology completing the course of study.

He served at Memorial Beaumont, Big Sandy, Deweyville, Asbury Beaumont and was still serving at Wesley Beaumont at the time of his death. As a member of the Golden Triangle Emmaus Community, he was the Spiritual Director for many retreats. Though teaching had been an important career for Elvis, it was in his work at the church that he always seemed happiest.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Lena Davis; daughters, Liz Cole of Fort Worth and Katy Crawford and her husband, Jay, of Richmond, California; son, Clark Davis and his wife, Hillary, of Denver, Colorado; grandsons, Troy Cole and his wife, Susan; Matt Cole, Sam Cole, Will Crawford, Grant Crawford and Ethan Davis; and three great-grandchildren.

Submitted by Katy Crawford, daughter

Ferdinand “Ferd” Dawson III



Ferdinand “Ferd” Dawson III passed away at his beloved cabin in the woods on April 17, 2017 at the age of 80. Ferd is survived by his loving wife, Alice A. Dawson, of 39 years. They eloped on October 12, 1977, presided over by his father, Rev. Ferdinand (Bampy) Davis Dawson Jr. witnessed by Von Dawson in Marshall, TX. This occurred after dating less than 5 weeks and not bothering to inform their perfect children.

He was born in Crockett (Houston County), TX on August 26, 1936 to Rev. Ferdinand Davis Dawson Jr. and Dorothy (Banny) Durham Dawson. He graduated with an AA from Lon Morris College and a BA in Psychology from Duke University. He also completed a Master of Theology from SMU Seminary and a PhD/ABD from CA Institute of Theology.

Ferd is lovingly remembered by his children Dolly Dawson Thomas and husband Jeff, Dave Dawson and wife Donna, and Susan Haskin and husband Emmitt. Grandchildren: Ally Smith and husband Brian, Conner Dawson, Whitney Haskin, Sophie Thomas, Tilley Dawson, Stella Dawson, Bridgy Dawson. Great Grandchildren Emma Sinquefield and Jaxson Singuefield. His brothers, the Rev.

Howdy Dawson and wife Joyce, the Rev. Von Dawson and wife Marty. His sister, Dee Manly and husband Jim., and numerous nieces and nephews and a host of friends.

Ferd is a 5th generation Methodist Minister and served as Pastor for 43 years in United Methodist Churches in the Texas Annual Conference, with charges in: Spurger, Freeport, Missouri City, Port Arthur, Anahuac, Texas City, Houston, Pasadena, Dickinson, Kilgore, and finally retiring from Liberty.

John W. Edgar



LTC. CH John W. Edgar, US Army, ret., age 86, passed away on Sunday, October 23, 2016. Born in Chicago, IL on June 14, 1930, he was the son of William R. and Estella Holly Edgar.

John had been a resident of Boerne for over 20 years and was a member of the First United Methodist Church and Kendall Lodge #897 A. F. & A.M. and a Past Grand Master and Past Grand Chaplain in the Grand Lodge of Alaska. An Ordained United Methodist Church Minister, he had served as Chaplain in the U. S. Army for 21 years.

In addition to his parents, John was preceded in death by his first wife, LaRue Edgar. He is survived by his wife, Deannie Edgar; daughter, Vanessa Edgar; step-daughters, Susan Odom, Judy Odom, and Lynn Odom; step-sons, Matthew Odom and Daniel Odom; several grandchildren and several great grandchildren.

Thomas P. Edwards

Reverend Thomas Philip Edwards, age 91, passed away Sat., June 18, 2016. Thomas was born October 9, 1924. He served at churches for ten years prior to his Retirement in 1991.

Wineva Kathryn Hankamer



Reverend Wineva Kathryn Hankamer, 71, of Alvin, TX passed away on Thursday, April 27, 2017 in Webster, TX. She was born January 7, 1946 to Jess Hankamer and Olivia Madera Hankamer in Alvin, TX.

After many years serving at various churches in the Houston and Beaumont area, she retired from the United Methodist Church in 2014. She was an ordained Deacon and a Certified Director of Christian Education. She was selfless and patient and enjoyed helping others.

She worked with many ministries and mission groups including the UM Army, Deaf Ministry, Mission U, Partners-In-Mission and SIFAT (Service In Faith And Technology) and participated in mission trips to Ecuador, Honduras, Costa Rica and Haiti.

Wineva was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her four brothers, Jorge Hankamer, Noel Hankamer, Nathan (Ted) Hankamer and Orville Hankamer; many nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews; countless cousins and many adopted family members.

Velosia Ann Kibe



On December 6, 2016 Pastor Velosia “Preaching Machine” Kibe made her transition from earth to heaven. She served The Windsor Village Church Family as an Associate Pastor from June of 1997 until her death. Velosia was born December 21, 1950 and was an alumnus of the University of Texas at Austin where she studied Music and Classical Voice. She held a double major in Psychology and sociology from the University of Houston. Pastor Kibe completed her theological Education at Southern Methodist University – Perkins School of Theology where she earned a Master of Divinity degree. While there, she was the recipient of the Weatherford Award for outstanding student preaching.

For more than three decades, Pastor Kibe served in the Texas Annual Conference, blessing six churches as a Pastor and applying her grace-filled gifts of preaching and teaching to a host of organizations within the church and beyond. While at Windsor Village, Pastor Kibe led the Veterans’ Ministry and the Missions Ministry. Under her leadership, local and global mission projects were implemented in the Caribbean, the Czech Republic, Mexico, Nigeria, Ghana, and Houston’s Third Ward.

People in need held a special place in Pastor Kibe’s heart, especially children. In the last decade, the true joy of her ministry has been the Kingdom Builders’ Center – Kenya project. Along with her husband, Daniel, and a host of Kingdom-minded volunteers, Pastor Kibe oversaw the development and construction of a home and safe haven for orphans. Located in Dundori, Kenya, the project includes a residential children’s facility, library, sanctuary, and medical facility.

Velosia’s richly unique legacy will live on through her husband, Daniel; her sons, Evan and Michael Ledet; her daughters, Nicole and Celia Ledet; and her grandchildren, Evan Jr. and Jason Ledet, as they continue her commitment to the communities she served.

Submitted by Daniel Kibe Munderu, husband

John William Rainwater Sr.

John William (Bill) Rainwater was born on September 8, 1942. He served in the Texas Annual Conference from 1981 until his Retirement in 2004. He passed away on August 25, 2016 in Conroe, Texas, shortly after the passing of his wife, Nancy.

Suzanne Cox Reedstrom



The Rev. Dr. Suzanne Cox Reedstrom (Suzy), 62, passed away Thursday, January 5, 2017 after a long battle with ovarian cancer. Suzy was preceded in death by her father: George Cox, and stepfather, Bill McClure. She leaves her beloved husband of 34 years, Charles Dan (Chuck) Reedstrom, and her two adored sons, Richard Ashley George Reedstrom and Kirk Alexander Reedstrom and wife Sarah. She is survived by her mother, Betty P. House, stepfather, Marcus House, and loving sister, Melissa Cox Macklin and other close family members.

A native-born Houstonian, Suzy graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in 1973 as one of the top five graduating seniors. She was active in Christian Youth Fellowship at First Christian Church of Houston and served as one of five State Executives of Texas. She also served as Youth Representative to the Consultation on Church Union.

Suzy earned multiple degrees: Bachelor of Business Administration from Texas Christian University (Cum Laude), Master of Accountancy (with Honors) from the University of Houston, Master of Divinity from Southern Methodist University (Summa Cum Laude), and Doctor of Ministry from Drew University.

Upon graduating from TCU, Suzy entered the work force as an accountant working for Arthur Andersen where she obtained her Certified Public Accountant (CPA) credentials. In 2000 Suzy decided to change careers and entered the ministry working in various positions at Memorial Drive United Methodist Church. She served as Lead Associate Minister for the last 2 years of her ministry.

She spent many happy years as an associate minister at Memorial Drive United Methodist Church, serving as Lead Associate Minister teaching Bible studies, leading Wednesday night worship service, and served on several Methodist Church committees. She was a talented and gifted preacher and conducted beautiful and meaningful wedding and memorial services.

Rev. Frank M. Richardson, Jr.



Rev. Frank M. Richardson, Jr. passed away on Friday, January 27, 2017, in Longview, Texas after an extended illness. He was 90 years of age. Frank was born in Paris, Texas on December 1, 1926. His parents were the Rev. Dr. Frank M. Richardson and Vera Fulton Richardson.

He attended Southern Methodist University in Dallas from 1944-1952. He received a B.S. in Education, a B.A. in Sociology, and an M.A. from the Perkins School of Theology.

Rev. Richardson married Frances Ann (Fran) McCasland of McKinney, Texas in 1959. They had three children, Susanne, Kathleen, and Mackey. Mrs. Richardson was an energetic partner to Frank in his ministry and served in many lay positions in the churches he pastored, as well as being a member of many civic organizations in the communities in which they served.

During his many years in the active ministry in the Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church, Rev. Richardson pastored churches in Houston, Elkhart, Naples, Van, Atlanta, Kilgore, Baytown, and Nacogdoches. He also served as District Superintendent of the Tyler District of the United Methodist. After Frank's retirement

from the active ministry in 1993, he and Fran retired to Longview, Texas. They were very active members of First United Methodist Church of Longview.

Rev. Richardson was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Fran; and sisters Mary Margaret Sutton and Vera Belle Warren. Survivors include a sister, Eloise Franklin; son, Mackey Richardson; daughter, Susanne Richardson Callender and husband Jay Callender; daughter, Kathleen Richardson Mullins and husband Dennis Mullins; grandchildren Ryan, Caitlynn, and Erin Mullins and Douglas, Mary, and Anna Callender; and Mallory Richardson.

Robert Hamlin Robinson

Mr. Robinson was born December 27, 1930 in Port Arthur, Texas to parents, Elsie E. Robinson and Elsie Eunice (Hamlin) Robinson, and passed away January 30, 2017 in Livingston, Texas. He is preceded in death by his parents; and sisters, Hazel Woods and Annie Phillips.

Robert served at churches in the Texas Annual Conference from 1955 until his Retirement in 1997.

He is survived by his wife, Edith Robinson of Livingston, Texas; daughters, Katherine Barr of Halton City, Texas, and Deborah Lynn Wilford and husband, Dan of Neches, Texas; son, Mark Robinson of Ace, Texas; 3 grandchildren; along with numerous great-grandchildren, other relatives and friends.

Herbert R. Rohloff, Jr.



Reverend Herbert R Rohloff Jr. passed away at his home on January 13, 2017, at the age of 85. Herb was born in Memphis, Tennessee on April 7, 1931. He moved to Houston with his family as a child, and attended Lamar HS. He enlisted in the Army in 1951 and served 3 years, stationed primarily in Germany. Upon returning, Herb attended SMU in Dallas, graduating with a Masters in Divinity, and becoming an ordained minister in the Methodist church.

In 1955, he married Pat Luckie, and they had two sons, Herb and Greg. As a pastor, Herb and Pat moved often, living in Dallas, Tyler, Willis, Houston, Texarkana, Beaumont, and 2 years in the Derbyshire district of England, before they retired in the Champions area. Where ever they lived, Herb was quick to make lasting friends. Herb's passion was the church; especially John Wesley UMC, which he helped establish in 1971. He enjoyed golf, travel, fishing, and people.

Herb is preceded by his wife of almost 60 years, Pat; his parents Herb and Bernice Rohloff; and his sisters Esther Herschler and Cecil Tarver. He is survived by his son Herb and his wife Karen; son Greg and his wife Amanda; grandson Chris and wife Maria, grandson Colton and wife Diane, granddaughter Katelyn, grandson Calaway, granddaughter Kathryn, granddaughter Nicole and her husband Matt; great-granddaughter Ava; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Melvin Sidney Rowland



Melvin Rowland was born May 1, 1931 to Dee and Nora Rowland. He grew up in the Spring Hill Community and graduated from Spring Hill High School in 1949. He was one of the star football players. At an early age, he entered the ministry. He graduated from Bethel College in McKenzie, Tennessee and Memphis Theological Seminary.

In 1954, he married Doris Simpson of Fairfield, Illinois. He served Cumberland Presbyterian Churches in Arkansas, Tennessee, and Missouri. In 1967 he moved his family to Texas, He served United Methodist Churches in the East Texas area, including Blossom Hill, Pine Hill, Betty, Hopewell, Harmony, Union Ridge,

Grange Hall, Alexander, Wesley, Trinidad, Cedar Creek, Maud, Hemphill, Groveton, Waskom, Daisetta/Devers, LaGrone Chapel and Smyrna.

Melvin developed a talent for woodworking while in high school. His projects included making a solid walnut dining table, buffet and china cabinet, which are still in use today. Regardless of where he lived his woodworking continued. After retirement in 1996, he began selling his crafted items at local craft sales. He loved to take pictures. If he met you, he probably has your picture. He had a love of Square Dancing. He performed three weddings at dances and often was asked to give the invocation for a dance.

Melvin took his last breath June 9, 2016, leaving behind his family and many friends. He is survived by his wife, Doris; daughters, DeAnn Haynes, (Jack), Linda Bischoff, (Parry); six grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren; several brothers and sister-in-law, nieces and nephews.

His motto was: HAPPINESS IS A HEALTHY MENTAL ATTITUDE, A GRATEFUL SPIRIT, AND A HEART FULL OF LOVE.

Submitted by Doris Rowland, wife

Carmine August Stahl

Carmine August Stahl (12/19/27 - 8/14/16) was born in Paris, Arkansas to Doctor Carmine Stahl and Gretchen Bartch Stahl, the oldest of 4 boys. He learned the medical use of plants from his father and about nature from both of his parents.

He served in the weather division of the US Army Air Force and was stationed in the Philippines as a wartime meteorologist, adding to his knowledge and love of nature. While in college, he married Mary Lou Strong Brinker. After graduation, he had a variety of jobs, including teaching, but then felt a call and decided to enter the ministry and graduated from the Perkins School of Theology at SMU. As a pastor, he worked all over East Texas, from Shelbyville to Orange and for a time was a “circuit rider” serving 8 churches. He later served as the Director of the Youth Ministries Department for the United Methodist Conference. Service to God also included working with many social service agencies and inner city youth.

After retiring from the ministry, he indulged his love of birding by starting a second career as Executive Director of the Houston Audubon society. He then began working as the Head Forester for the Harris County Parks and Recreation Department, and later spent his time serving as Program Coordinator for the Mercer Arboretum and Botanic Gardens and as a naturalist for the Jesse H. Jones Park.

A kind and respected man with many interests and gifts, he was preceded in death by his parents, his brothers Quentin, Tim and Tom; and his wife of 57 years, Mary Lou. He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law Ralph Stahl and Summer and his daughter and son-in-law Merry Carol Hapi and Dale; 8 grandchildren; great grandchildren, nieces, nephews and many friends from all his many activities and interests.

Jimmy Leslie Steele



Jimmy Leslie Steele was born on July 17, 1935 in Brownsville, Texas. He passed away on November 13, 2016. His parents were Guy Leland Steele and Lora Christelle Morgan Steele. He attended the University of Texas in Austin and received his Bachelor's degree. He attended Stephen F. Austin University and received his Master's degree. He attended Perkins School of Theology at SMU to become an Associate Member of the Methodist Church.

Jimmy was a Methodist minister for 23 years both part-time in Center, Texas and later full-time in Trinidad, Texas. He was a CPA for 43 years in Brownsville, Texas and Center, Texas. He also had a small cattle operation and taught at the local junior college in Center, Texas. He was a member of Lions Club International and was a life-time member with over 50 years of service, serving in almost all offices including District Governor of Texas District 2-A3. He was a charter member of The Gateway Texas Chapter #49 Sons of the Republic in Shelby County, Texas and a Charter member of The James George Chapter #59 of the Sons of the Republic of Texas in Athens, Texas. He was a descendent of the Battle of San Jacinto, being the gr-gr-grandson of the last surviving member of that battle.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Guy and Christelle Steele, his brother, Donald Steele and his brother-in-law Calvin Schaefer.

He is survived by his wife, Toni Steele, sons, Anthony Steele and wife Becky of Kerens, Texas, Andrew Steele and wife Tricia of Rowlett, Texas, grandchildren, Jack, Jenna, Jason and Jessie of Rowlett, Texas, sister, Dolores Schaefer of Silsbee, Texas, sister-in-law, Doris Steele of Trinity, Alabama, sister-in-law, Bobbie Wheeler of Kaufman, Texas, brother-in-law Mike Carter and wife Donnie of Hillsboro, Tennessee, and a large number of nephews and nieces.

Submitted by Toni Steele, wife

D. Orval Strong



D. Orval Strong was born on June 25, 1927 in Abilene, Texas. He was the fifth of five children and was lovingly referred to by his parents as their "baby." He died in Austin, Texas on the morning of February 15, 2017.

Orval attended and graduated from Abilene High School, Texas Tech University with a Bachelor of Arts in English, SMU Perkins School of Theology with a Master of Divinity, and received an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Texas Wesleyan University.

Orval's professional ministry took him to appointments in many places across Texas: Lubbock, McKinney, Petty and Whiterock, Big Spring, Follett, Stephenville, Dallas, Houston, Van, Tyler, League City, and back to Houston. He served these churches from 1948 until his retirement in 1989.

Orval and Betty (Stephens) Strong married on September 10, 1948 at St. John's Methodist in Lubbock. Orval was preceded in death by Betty, his parents- D.M. ("Com") and Nora Strong, his siblings- Verda Strong, R.D. Strong, Weldon Strong; he is survived by his sister, Myrle Raley of Abilene, his children- David Roland Strong of Austin and Ann Elizabeth Strong Hoge of Houston, Ann's husband Daniel Arthur Hoge, and their daughter Lisa Nicole Hoge.

Orval was known for his sense of humor and being well-organized, straight-forward, and honest. He enjoyed his work with the Democratic Party and was devoted to Betty, his family, and his church. Above all else, he was a Christian who fulfilled his calling to the ministry with conviction.

Submitted by David Strong and Ann Hoge, children

Clergy Spouses

Annette Bennett Anderson



Annette Bennett Anderson was born January 25, 1942 to Mabel Turner Bennett and John Richmond Bennett. She died suddenly November 26, 2016 at the young age of 74. Annette grew up in Trinity County with her 5 sisters and 1 brother. She had a happy childhood and according to the stories, was usually the most mischievous of the group. After graduating salutatorian from Centerville High School and then graduating nursing school, Annette married James Willard Anderson on May 19, 1961 and settled down in Lufkin. Together they raised 3 children. She was totally devoted to her family and treasured them all especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was a very talented cook, seamstress, quilter, cake decorator, and crafter. She also took pride in teaching these skills to her children, grands, and great-grands.

Annette is survived by her loving husband Willard Anderson, daughters and their husbands: Sharon and Gary Lawrence and Melanie and Johnny Charanza.

Grandchildren and their spouses: Nikki and Will Ross, Cara and Terry Pilkington, Dustin Anderson, Megan and Tim Mathews, Randy and Kayleen Laird, and Jacob and Macy Charanza. Great-grandchildren: Madalyn Bunton, Cole Pilkington, Scott Pilkington, Amber Ross, Luke Ross, Shona Ross, Emmarie Laird, Van Laird, Noah Mathews and Scarlett Mathews. Sisters: Billie Jean Scogin, Linda Stephens, Carolyn Whisenant, and Doris Loeffler and Brother: Carl Bennett. She was preceded in death by her son Gary Anderson and her sister Betty Barrett.

Submitted by Melanie Charanza, daughter

Jeffrey Lee Bergfield



Jeffrey “Jeff” Lee Bergfield was born on February 15, 1957, in Houston, Texas. While earning his B.S.M.E. at The University of Texas, he went on a blind date that worked and met his beloved wife, Patty. He enjoyed a 34-year career in professional sales before retiring early and seizing the opportunity to begin a second career in travel, which he loved. Foremost, Jeff was a dedicated family man; he was a proud father to three children and recently became a grandfather. He was thrilled to be traveling and making memories with his wife, Rev. Patricia Bergfield, and family. Jeff passed away on March 23, 2017.

Ada Omelia Chandler



Omelia Chandler was born December 21, 1924 in Thomaston, GA to Major B. and Ada Pearl Miller. She died February 11, 2017.

She was a member of the First Methodist Church in Jacksonville. She had also served as President of the Minister's Wives Association for Southwest Texas Conference, San Antonio, Texas District and had worked as receptionist for 23 years at Beall's General Office in Jacksonville before retiring.

Millie was working on the switchboard at Southwestern Bell Telephone Company when Pearl Harbor was bombed by the Japanese Dec. 7, 1941. She was cited by the Telephone Company and the Military for a "Job Well Done." She was promoted to Chief Operator in the telephone office on Robbin's Field in 1942 and remained in that position until Hank returned from combat in 1946. She and Hank were married March 16, 1946. Millie was a humble and proud lady. She loved everyone in a very quiet, but lasting way. She was a wonderful Methodist Minister's wife and a

devoted mother.

Millie is survived by her husband, Henry Carl "Hank" Chandler, one son and daughter-in-law, Dr. Laurence and Laura Chandler of Fort Collins, Co., one sister, Betty Manning of Macon, GA, two grandsons, Chris Chandler of Seattle, WA and Dr. Jeff Chandler of Fort Collins, CO.

Frankey Lee Waggoner Commer



Frankey Commer loved every earthly day of her life, which ended November 6, 2016. She and her five siblings were raised by loving parents on a small working farm in Amity, Arkansas. After leaving home, she completed Nursing School and earned the highest certification scores in her State.

In her final semester, she was immunized for tuberculosis and contracted the disease. She spent the better part of her next two years in the State Tuberculin Sanatorium; these were also her first two years as a Nurse and as a Methodist Minister's wife. Dedicated to her nursing career, she served doctors and hospitals for more than 30 years before spending a decade as an inner-city school nurse working with teenagers.

She grieved the passing of her life partner and husband, William J. Commer, in March of 1998 after 45 years of marriage. In the years following her husband's death, she faced and survived several of her own health-related "bumps in the road."

She loved and celebrated her children, her daughters-in-law, and the families and extended families that grew—Frankey experienced a deep fulfillment in her own life through each of theirs. Her five grandchildren were the frosting on life's cake and her great-granddaughter, Harper, has been the cherry on top for Frankey's final two years.

Dorothy Gillian Dugger



Mrs. Dorothy Gillian (Harriss) Dugger, 86 of Navasota, passed away Monday, May 15th at her home.

Mrs. Dugger was born December 2, 1930 in Loraine, Texas to William Franklin and Gillian (Gee) Harriss. Dorothy grew up in Ft. Worth and graduated from Amon G. Carter Riverside High School.

She married William (Bill) Elmer Dugger, Jr. on June 6, 1948 at Riverside United Methodist Church in Ft. Worth and together they had four children. Dorothy and Bill were active in many Methodist churches across Texas. She dedicated her life, with her generosity and caring for others, to the service of the churches that Bill pastored, as well as to friends and neighbors.

She is survived by daughters and son-in-law Marsha Sue and Norman Lamb and Teresa Beth Donaldson and son Harriss Clark Dugger. Mrs. Dugger was preceded in death by her parents; husband William Elmer Dugger, Jr., and son William "Billy" Elmer Dugger, III.

Submitted by Marsha D. Lamb, daughter

Paula Hally Flarity

Paula Flarity was born Sept. 5, 1930 to Guy Raymond and Ruth (Burgess) Tillman. She was the surviving spouse of Rev. Hollis Vernon Flarity. Paula passed away on Nov. 16, 2016.

Billy Ray Garrett



Billy Ray Garrett was born October 23, 1931 in Cushing, Oklahoma, to Ralph and Ethel Garrett the second of six children. He died on October 31, 2016 in Nacogdoches, Texas.

After the Texas City explosion in 1947 the Garrett family moved to Texas City to help an uncle with a tire business with tire repairs during the rebuilding. Billy had spent part of almost every year in Oklahoma in the hospital with pneumonia. After the move to Texas he did not have further hospitalizations for pneumonia. He met Yvonne French when they were in high school. She heard him singing on the school bus and asked for an introduction. The next month they began dating, and there was never anyone else for either of them. They dated for five years and were married on May 24, 1953.

Billy was highly intelligent. He had the highest average of any male in his high school graduation class at Texas City High School. He worked at Monsanto Chemical for 35 years, retiring at 54. Billy and Yvonne raised four children – two boys and two girls. They now live in Missouri, San Marcos, Texas, Sweden and Nacogdoches. Since the children were young they have all been active in church. Billy and Yvonne were choir members in high school and were in church choirs for about sixty years. Both daughters have been public school music teachers, church choir members and one has been a church organist. The boys have been church choir members, organist, and a pastor. Billy & Yvonne worked with church youth. When their children put the notice of his death on the internet the family received notes from numerous people who almost always referred to Billy's sweet smile and great voice. He was still singing in a choir for elderly folks who sang at nursing homes. When Yvonne told him that she had heard a voice that told her she needed to be a Methodist local pastor when she was almost sixty, he said, "If you did that, what would I do?" She said, "Come with me and sing!" And he did, and was much loved.

Billy was preceded in death by his parents, Ralph and Ethel Garrett; his step mother, Laura Garrett; and his siblings, Bobbie Keeton, Paul Garrett, and Patsy Medley. He is survived by his wife, Yvonne Garrett; his children, Steven Garrett, Kathy Turner, Forrest Garrett, and Alison Ishmael; and his sons and daughters in law,

Leslie Turner, Eva Garrett, and Scott Ishmael. He was also blessed with 13 grandchildren and numerous great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

We all love him and will miss him greatly but look forward to being with him again when we sing with him together before the Lord!

Submitted by Rev. Yvonne F. Garrett, wife

Elizabeth Nelson Hassler



On December 11, 2016, surrounded by the loving arms of her children, Eloise completed the earthly quest God asked of her. Born in Little Rock, AR, to Cyrus and Mildred Tipton Nelson, she served God her entire life. She graduated from Little Rock High School and Hendrix College. While caravanning across the U.S. for the Methodist Church, she met Rev. John Warner Hassler and they were married over 54 years. In 1952, she graduated from SMU Perkins School of Theology and began their lifelong vocation in church ministry. While her life overflowed with faith, grace, and love of God and family, there was ALWAYS room at the table or a place to sleep for a friend (or even a friend of a friend).

The Methodist Church appointed John & Eloise to serve in Beaumont, Magnolia, AR, Little Rock, Lake Charles, Shreveport, Houston, Galveston, Marshall, Houston (again), West University, Beaumont (again), Missouri City and finally the Seaman's Center at the Port of Houston. During these years, Eloise worked in the church as well as Texas Department of Public Safety, Gulf Oil, McKesson Chemical, Sysco, and retired from Methodist Hospital.

Many years the family camped for two weeks in their Tipi on the Buffalo River National Park. After retirement, Eloise and John loved to cruise with family and friends to Hawaii, Portugal, Alaska, Israel, Jordan and Canada.

Eloise is preceded in death by her parents and husband. She is survived by her children: Jane and husband Harold Pate of Austin, Carol Hassler Howard, Dave and wife Lisa DeBerardino Hassler, and Sheri Hassler Hightower, all of Conroe. Grandchildren: Jason Radican, Jennifer Hassler Darnell, Jonathan Taylor Howard, Caitlin Hassler Davis, Jewels Howard and Nico Birdwell; and 7 great-grandchildren; and her brother, Dick Nelson and family from Little Rock, AR.

Helen Loretta Hogg



Mrs. Hogg was born December 8, 1919 in Blooming Grove, Texas to parents, James Oscar Higginbotham and Emma Mae (Calhoun) Higginbotham, and passed away March 25, 2017 in Bryan, Texas. Helen married Rev. W.H. "Bill" Hogg on May 20, 1936. She is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Rev. W.H. "Bill" Hogg; son, James and wife, Wanda Hogg; 5 brothers, 1 sister; and 3 half-sisters.

She is survived by her daughter, B. Loretta Davis of Pleasant Shade, Tennessee; daughter and son-in-law, Kathie and Ernest Daniels of Lyon, Texas; daughter and son-in-law, Belinda and Jimmy Harris Jr. of Livingston, Texas; half-brother, Weldon Higginbotham and wife, Betty of Whitney, Texas; half-sister, Barbara Grice and husband, Fred of Corsicana, Texas; half-brother, William Higginbotham and wife, Virginia of Gilmer, Texas; 12 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; and 11 great-great grandchildren; along with numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Brenda Joyce Jax



Brenda Joyce Jax of Columbus, Texas, passed from this world surrounded by her family on Sunday, February 26, 2017, after a 2-year battle with leukemia. Born in Houston, Texas, on August 4, 1940, to Vesta and Al G. Kuhlmann, Brenda was their only child. She attended public school in Houston and graduated from Stephen F. Austin High School before attending business school. She had a long and gratifying career in accounting working for Pearland State Bank and White & White where she was employed for over 35 years.

Brenda's life as a young woman was devoted to raising her children, Mona and Alan. Her later adult life was spent in volunteer work with the Columbus Christian Women's Club, serving as its president for one year and chairing the military box committee for several years. Brenda was a lifelong Methodist who was active in the Emmaus community. She served on various church committees throughout her life.

In 1999, Brenda married Thomas Allen Jax of Houston to whom she was uncommonly devoted. Following their marriage, she and Tommy set about creating a veritable garden paradise at their home in Columbus that featured hammocks, swings, fountains, geometric planting beds, waterways, islands, koi ponds, adult-sized tree houses, and a stocked pond with paddle boats and fishing docks. In addition to gardening, she loved to cook. In the summer and on school holidays, she was usually outside with her grandchildren or on field trips.

Brenda was preceded in death by her parents, Al and Vesta Kuhlmann. She is survived by her daughter Mona Lynn Smith and husband Jeff and their children Sumner and Sloane; Alan Ray McKeon and his children Abby and Adam; step-daughter Cathy Jax Nickel and husband Mike and his children Mike, Jr. and Tammy; and step-daughter Janet Jax Lorenz.

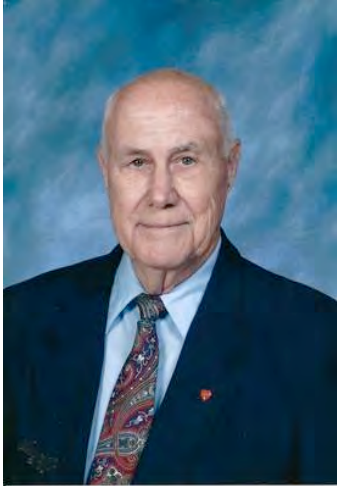
Selena F. Johnson



Selena F. Johnson was born February 19, 1938 in Broxton, Georgia to John Henry and Thelma Kirkland Raper. She was a homemaker. Selena died at a Palestine Nursing Home on January 15, 2017.

Selena was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Rev. James Ray Johnson and daughter, Diane Johnson.

Walter Ray Jones



Walter Ray Jones, 95 of Tyler, passed away on Saturday, June 18, 2016 in Tyler. He was born on February 15, 1925 in Jacksonville, TX to Walter Graves Jones and Beulah Mae Stegall Jones. He was the third born of four children.

At a very early age, Ray knew he wanted to be a Marine and a day after he was legally able to enter the Marine Corp, Ray did and traveled and lived all over the world during his 30 year career in the Marine Corp. Walter participated in three wars, World War II, Korea and Vietnam; he could also tell you from memory all the dates and places he was deployed to; places like, Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Mariana Islands, Kwajalein, Guam, Frankford, Okinawa, Kwang Tree, Cherry Point and Washington, D.C., retiring as a 1st Sergeant, Ray served as a Marine Corp Legal Specialist when not in combat. After retirement Ray joined the teaching staff of University of North Carolina, establishing their first Sea Grant Program and maintaining that program for 8 years before retiring again to move back to Texas to be near family.

Ray's hobbies included fishing and gardening. Even in the later stages of illness, Ray kept a tomato garden and enjoyed the science of growing the biggest, sweetest tomatoes in Tyler.

Preceding him in death are his parents, his older brother, Billy, his younger sister, Wanda Cox. His sister Grace Willis survives him. Also, preceding him in death was his first wife Olie and their daughter Raeanna of New Bern, North Carolina.

Ray and his wife, Rev. Dr. Karen Jones want to thank church members and friends for their help during his extended illness.

Doris Gaddy Knight



Doris Gaddy Knight, 85, formerly of Bellville, Texas, passed away Wednesday, October 26, 2016, in Bryan, Texas. She was born July 10, 1931, in Dallas, the daughter of L.T. and Oletha (Mayes) Gaddy. After her mother's death, she was brought up by her aunt and uncle, Spurgeon and Edna Gaddy. Doris attended schools in Jacksonville, Texas and graduated from Jacksonville High School in 1947.

She attended Tyler Business School and had a lengthy career as a school secretary and a secretary to a Bellville public accountant. Doris was united in marriage to Reverend Louis Knight in Jacksonville, Texas, on July 7, 1950. She enjoyed spending time with her family and friends, studying the Bible, and serving at her church. She was warm and friendly to all and had a servant's heart.

Doris is survived by her daughter: Letha Solether and her husband, Gregory, of College Station; son: Roy Knight and his wife, Janet, of Lufkin; grandchildren: Jared Solether and his wife, Stacy, of Sasebo, Japan, Katherine White and her husband, Jonathan, of The Hague, Netherlands, Matthew Knight and his wife, Brandie, of Lufkin, and Erin Hubert and her husband, Matt, of Lufkin; great grandchildren: Cooper Knight, Avery Knight, Landry Knight, Laney Grace Hubert, Lexi Cate Hubert, Owen Solether, Paige Solether, Kyle Solether, and Emerson White.

Doris was preceded in death by her husband, Reverend Louis Knight, parents, L.T. and Oletha Gaddy, Spurgeon and Edna Gaddy and son, Rodney Knight.

Geraldine Condrey Leggett



Geraldine Condrey Leggett was the daughter of Oma Hester Snider and Charlie Pinkston. She was born January 29, 1921 in Tenaha, TX, a small town in Shelby County. She spent her high school years with her beloved Aunt Beulah and Elmer Stroud and graduated from Waskom High School in 1938 as salutatorian of her class. During her senior year, she met a young Methodist minister, Lee Roy Condrey at Waskom Methodist Church and was married later that year. The couple served as pastorates in the Texas Conference for over 37 years. In each pastorate, Miss Geri made many lifelong friends and loved serving coffee and hot tea to enjoy the fellowship. Miss Geri tried to live as Jesus taught - to share whatever she was blessed with, and felt that her gift was serving others.

After Reverend Condrey's death in 1975, Geri married Thomas E. Leggett from Dublin, Mississippi. After Thomas' death, she came back to her beloved home in Brookshire, Texas.

Geri leaves behind: her children: son, Lee Roy, Jr., and daughter, Jayne Strickland (Tommy Wayne); her grandchildren Shelley Strickland and spouse, Chrissy Wollard, DeeDee Strickland Stonestreet and husband, David Stonestreet, Clay Condrey and wife, Elizabeth, and Kyle Condrey and wife, Jessica and great grandchildren completed the joy in her life: Marilyn Stonestreet, daughter of DeeDee and David, Cash Condrey, son of Clay and Elizabeth, Easton Condrey, son of Kyle and Jessica.

Beulah Derr Lenox



Beulah Derr Lenox was born in Quitman, TX to John and Letha Derr on May 21, 1926 and joined the Church Triumphant on April 21, 2017. Beulah always felt close to God and accepted Christ at an early age. She felt called to become the wife of a minister and in 1948 married the Reverend Asbury Lenox, a graduate of both Southwestern University and SMU Divinity School.

Beulah loved life and her gracious, caring manner always brought out the best in others. She always maintained a cheerful heart and a forgiving spirit. She consistently saw the goodness in everyone she met and inspired them through her own faith in God and the kind of life she led.

Beulah was a distinguished alumna of Lon Morris College and a graduate of Southwestern University where she was a soloist in the college choir. Later, she was a faithful member of the Blue Bird Circle, an organization created to strengthen the pediatric neurology units at Houston Methodist Hospital and Texas Children's Hospital. She spent many years volunteering time at both hospitals.

She enjoyed singing in the church choirs and teaching a children's Sunday School class at each church where she and Asbury served. Beulah was a true and loving servant of the Lord and always brought great joy to others. She and Dr. Lenox were loving parents to Hannah Lenox, and George Lenox, both of Baytown, Texas.

Submitted by Hannah Lenox, daughter, and George Lenox, son

Eleanor Pauline Magouyk

Eleanor Pauline Magouyk was born on June 3, 1932 and passed away on March 6, 2017. Eleanor was preceded in death by her husband, Rev. Walter E. Magouyk.

Hazel Grace Mayes

Hazel Grace Mayes, 93, of Fairfield passed away Monday, March 13, 2017 at the Fairview Manor Nursing Home in Fairfield. Hazel was born on April 23, 1923. She was married to the Rev. Amos Mayes who preceded her in death.

Maurine McDaniel



Maurine “MiMi” McDaniel, age 80, passed away to her heavenly home, on October 7, 2016 in Nacogdoches Texas. She was born on November 4, 1935 to Peter Minx Rhodes and Mary Estelle Reed Rhodes. She is preceded in death by her parents; two sisters, Elizabeth Acker and Teresa Tapley; Four brothers, Joseph Rhodes, Pete Rhodes, Dan Rhodes, and James Rhodes.

Survivors include her husband of 65 years, Rev. Edwin McDaniel; two sons, William Edwin, Jr. and wife Janice of Crosby, Texas, Phillip Wayne and wife Wendy of Nacogdoches, Texas ; also survived by her three grandchildren Dana W. McDaniel Britton and husband Dana of Garrison, Texas, Nicholas McDaniel and wife Erika of Crosby, Texas, Sarah McDaniel of Crosby, Texas; three Great Grandsons Aidan and Sean Britton, Oliver McDaniel and three special great nieces, Chloe, Callie, and Chelsea.

She was a faithful minister’s wife for 45 years. She loved music and sharing her faith through singing and playing the piano and organ. She never had any training in music, but sang and played by ear, a true Gift from the Lord. She was a wonderful homemaker and was lovingly devoted to her two sons and husband. Maurine lived a life that was a true reflection of Christ.

Special thanks to all those who cared for her, including the staffs at Accolade Hospice, Care Partners, and Magnolia Court Memory Care.

Submitted by the family

Coy Mae McQueen



Coy Mae McQueen, 79, of Robinson went to be with the Lord September 1, 2016, surrounded by family and friends. Coy Mae was born August 28, 1937 to Coy Ennis and Eula Mae (Cook) Cliburn in Palestine, Texas. She grew up in Slocum, Texas. Coy Mae married Marshall Earl McQueen on October 1, 1954 in Jacksonville, Texas. She was a graduate of Jacksonville High School and attended Jacksonville Baptist College. Coy Mae spent over 40 years as a minister’s wife, serving in numerous capacities in their churches in the Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. They served many churches including the following: Kennard/Center Hill, Goodrich/Big Sandy, Roberts Avenue in Beaumont, Wesley in Marshall, First UMC in Marlin, First UMC in Carthage, St. John’s in Richmond and First UMC in Katy. For the past sixteen years, she was very active in Robinson Drive United Methodist Church in Robinson, Texas.

Coy Mae enjoyed taking care of her rose bushes and dogs, as well as doing ceramics. She loved to travel and visit new places. Those who knew her knew she was a kind-hearted, encouraging, joyful Christian woman, a grandmother to all and was always dressed to impress. She was loved by many and will be missed by all. She is preceded in death by her parents, Coy Ennis and Eula Mae, and her husband of 48 years, Marshall Earl McQueen.

Coy Mae is survived by her daughters, Teresa McQueen Arndt and husband, Billy, Belinda McQueen Cutrone and husband, Samuel Jr; Grandchildren, Rebecca Arndt Key and husband, Kermit, Melissa Arndt Krieg and husband, Jeffery, Traci Arndt Loa and husband, Elesio, Ethan Cutrone and wife, Christy, Jason Cutrone; great-

grandchildren, Abbygail Mae Krieg, Alexys Mae Key; special friend, Sue Tillman-Woody; one aunt, several cousins, and numerous friends.

Submitted by Belinda McQueen Cutrone and Teresa McQueen Arndt, daughters

Manie Lee Opell

Manie Lee Opell passed away December 7, 2016. Manie was born June 13, 1941 and was the wife of Donald Nicholas Opell who preceded her in death.

Nancy J. Rainwater

Nancy Rainwater was born on February 10, 1946. She was married to John William (Bill) Rainwater. Nancy passed away on July 8, 2016 in Conroe, Texas.

Beverly Ann Moore Robinson



Beverly Ann Moore Robinson passed away on Friday, March 3, 2017. Born in Houston, Texas on September 2, 1933 to Thomas P. Moore and Anna E. Williams, she was preceded in death by her parents, her husband of 61 years, Rev J. Dean Robinson; her brothers Robert and Tommy “Babe” Moore; her niece Sandra; and nephews Danny and Mike. She is survived by her sons Phillip and Steven and his wife Jessie; grandchildren John, Laura, Jolie, Remy, Emmy, Nickolas and Willem; her great grandchildren Cesily and Rorin; sister-in-law Diana Robinson Elder and her husband Jay; her namesake niece Beverly Toerner; special cousin Rene’ Phillips; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Bette Jo Smale



Bette Jo passed away on Tuesday, November 29, 2016 in Tyler. Bette was born on October 12, 1932 in Chicago, Illinois to the late Otha T. Lewis and Grace Belle Rhoads.

She was a District Secretary for 11 years in the Texas Conference of United Methodist Church (UMC) and served as United Methodist Women (UMW) President. She also enjoyed tatting, cross stitching, knitting and crocheting.

She is survived by her husband, Rev. William R. Smale; daughter, Kimberly S. Arriola and husband, Robert; 10 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by brother, Kenneth Lewis; sister, Doris Lewis Reilly; sons: William R. Smale, Jr, Gregg W. Smale and Ronald L. Smale and daughter, Laura J. Eisele.

Benny R. Smith

Mrs. Smith died Sunday, Dec. 16, 2016, in San Augustine, Texas. She was born Jan. 25, 1927, in San Augustine. Benny was the wife of Rev. Aldous Smith.

Merle McLeod Sparling



Merle McLeod Sparling, 92, of Queen City, Texas, died Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2017, at her home. Mrs. Sparling was born April 21, 1924, in Caddo Parish, La. She was a retired LVN and a member of Laws Chapel United Methodist Church. She was preceded in death by her husbands, including the Rev. Jack Sparling. Survivors include one daughter, Margaret E. Thomas of Queen City; one son, Phillip Thomas of Atlanta; three brothers and one sister-in-law, Gerald McLeod and James McLeod of Fort Worth, Texas, and Jon B. and Bonnie McLeod of McLeod; three sisters and one brother-in-law, Linda and John Crosby of Newton, Mass., Judith Williams of Linden-Kildare, Texas, and Meredith Dunton of McLeod; and many other relatives.

David Marshall Strauss



David Marshall Strauss, 59, of Wiergate, Texas passed away peacefully in his home on Saturday, July 30, 2016. He was born in Shreveport, Louisiana on February 26, 1957. David grew up in Corpus Christi, Texas where he graduated from King High School. He worked for Jordan Labs, Inc. in Corpus Christi for 22 years.

David loved God and his family. His church music ministry started in 1993 singing in First United Methodist Church in Portland Texas and grew to assisting with sound systems in Nokomis and Sarasota, Florida and then playing keyboard, guitar, banjo, mandolin and singing for God as music leader at Burkeville United Methodist Church. He also loved animals and enjoyed the outdoors. He was a proud member of the Newton Lodge 136 and Burkeville United Methodist Church.

He is survived by his wife Rev. Barbie Strauss, pastor of Burkeville UMC; sons Clinton Olson of Hutto and Eric Gwatney & wife Natasha of Largo, Florida; daughter Erica Strauss of Corpus Christi; brothers Michael Strauss & husband Bryan of Lockhart and Andries "Buddy" Strauss & wife Peggy of Corpus Christi; sisters Leslie Strauss of Corpus Christi and Laura Walker & husband Jon of Newnan, Georgia; brother-in-law Roger Burgess & wife Claire of Sulphur, Louisiana; mother-in-law Elayne Glover of Wiergate; numerous nieces and nephews as well as eight grandchildren and five great grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents Andries Menzo Strauss and Janet Bowen Harmon and a niece Courtney Swift. David is buried at Toledo Cemetery in Burkeville, Texas.

Submitted by Rev. Barbie Strauss, wife

Irma J. Waddleton



Irma Jeanne Morrow Waddleton was a child born to Ruben and Eartha Morrow in Heidelberg, Mississippi, March 7, 1947. The family moved to New Orleans, Louisiana when Irma started school and then moved to Sandusky, Ohio when Irma was in second grade. Irma graduated from East High School in Cleveland, Ohio in 1965. She attended Jane Addams School of Ohio for one year before joining the United States Women's Army Corp in 1966, serving 2½ years and gaining the level of E5.

She met Donald R. Waddleton in San Antonio, TX and they quickly became a twosome. They were married April 8, 1967. Soon they were transferred to Augusta, GA where their son David was born in December of 1968. After they were discharged from the army they moved to Dallas, TX. They lived in Dallas for two years and then moved to Quitman, Texas where they helped on his parent's dairy farm. Irma attended Texas Eastern School of Nursing until graduating in 1977.

Don felt the calling to ministry and started his education at Perkins. He got an assignment of a three-church circuit. This was a three hour trip from Quitman one way and so began their trips from church to church. During Donald's calling, Irma joined the United Methodist Church. Irma worked in the church doing whatever was needed: singing in the choirs, teaching Sunday school, baby sitting in the nursery, and working with the youth groups. She joined Jones Memorial United Methodist Church after they retired from the ministry. She served as chairperson of missions, was part of the mass choir and sanctuary choir, and part of the Society of Saint Stephens. Wherever and whatever she was a part of, she put her heart into all the people she encountered.

Preceding her death: her sister Dorothy Jean ("Dot" Jean); and her brothers Jack Morrow and Stanley Morrow.

She leaves to cherish her memory: her husband Donald Waddleton; her son David Waddleton (wife: Victoria); and her grandchildren Ashley Waddleton, Bethany Waddleton, and Samuel Waddleton. Surviving her are three sisters, Josie Moncrief, Juanita Dobbins, and Sarah White; her sisters-in-laws Beverly Johnson and Mary Morrow; and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins.

Myrna Gay Woody



Myrna Gay Woody of Magnolia, Texas died Wednesday, August 3rd, 2016 at the age of 76 following a long illness. She died peacefully while at home surrounded by family. She is survived by her husband of 45 years, Rev. John G. Woody, four children: Rev. Steve Woody & spouse Pamela of Livingston, Texas; Phillip Woody & spouse Janet of Keller, Texas; Pamela Thompson & spouse Roy of Winona, Texas; and Norman Woody & spouse Melanie of Houston, Texas. She was a proud grandmother of 13, along with several great-grandchildren.

The Woody's spent their entire marriage serving churches in the United Methodist Church across Texas. Myrna was a tremendous pastor's spouse who was loved by all. She spent her adult life serving Christ and winning people to Him. She will be greatly missed.