

VIII. Memorials

A. Clergy

Daniel Alfred Bengston



Daniel was born in Michigan City, Indiana to Oscar and Hannah Lewis on January 16, 1922. After graduating from Elston High School in Michigan City, Ind., he served four years in the Army teaching radio and electronics. He earned his undergraduate and seminary degrees at Asbury College and Seminary. He married Jean Baker.

Daniel devoted his life to serving his Lord and Savior in The United Methodist Church in North Dakota and Indiana. He pursued furthering his education in Edinburgh, Scotland, while living in Steele, North Dakota. He enjoyed ham radio, astronomy (ever marveling at the vast heavens God created), classical music, and had an uncommon recall of Greek. He faithfully met with his friends at an interdenominational Bible study every week. He was a member (taught a class from the Bible) of the church of Jesus Christ of Methodist Persuasion in Richmond.

He was very loyal to his wife, Jean. Dan was loved by some that the majority could not find it within themselves to befriend. He was chaplain for the local chapter of WWII veterans for many years, and he received military honors.

Daniel died January 26, 2009, at Ray County Memorial Hospital. Services were held January 29, 2009, at Richmond United Methodist Church. Survivors include: wife, Jean Baker; her daughters, Cathy Habermehl, Ellen McDonald, and Laura Baker; one sister, Doris Combs; son, Philip Bengston; daughter, Lois Douglas; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Ralph W. Blodgett



Ralph Wesley Blodgett was born on March 20, 1903, to Charles and Parl Blodgett in Aaron, Ind. He went to Asbury College and Asbury Seminary, Divinity.

Rev. Blodgett proudly served in the Army during World War II. He left as a major to return to serve the local church.

He married Virginia June Ballard on Sept. 25, 1935, in Wilmore, Ky. They had three children: V. Sue Shields, Rebecca June Downing and Judith E. Purvis.

Rev. Blodgett died Dec. 5, 2007, in Noblesville, Ind. Services were held on May 17, 2008, in Wilkinson, Ind. Survivors include his daughters: V. Sue Shields, Rebecca June Downing and Judith E. Purvis; one brother, Clarence Blodgett of Bennington, Ind.; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

William "Bill" Butler



William "Bill" North Butler was born April 21, 1953, in Marion, Ind., to the late Bob Butler and Marjorie Butler Paullin. Bill was one of seven children, including his identical twin brother, Bob. On June 6, 1976, at Forest Avenue United Methodist Church in Brazil, Ind., he married Martha J. Foulke. Their union was blessed with two children, Sarah and Michael.

Bill graduated with a Bachelor's degree from Ball State University. He was a certified lay speaker and was attending License to Preach school. Before his appointment, he attended First United Methodist Church in Linton, Ind., where he was involved with various committees, the choir and the bell choir. He was also employed at Work One Linton where he worked for more than twenty years and was involved in many charities and non-profit organizations in the Linton and Greene county areas. While his time as a pastor was short, it was a love and a joy for him.

Bill passed away at his home February 26, 2009. The funeral was held at Linton First United Methodist Church on March 2, 2009. Burial was at Fairview Cemetery in Linton, Ind. He is survived by his wife, Martha; daughter, Sarah (Michael Bitler) Butler; son, Michael (Jen) Butler; granddaughter, Olivia Butler; mother, Marjorie Paullin; brothers, Bob, Jack and David; sisters, Mary & Leslie; step-brothers, Richard & Mark. He was preceded in death by his father, Bob, sister, Sally and step father, Jim Paullin.

Richard D. Dolby

Richard was born on March 1, 1929, in Huntington to Clarence and Tessie Dolby. Following graduation from Roanoke High School in 1946, he farmed and worked in several factories for about 15 years. Richard was an active member of Pleasant Chapel Church as a youth and adult. He married Carolyn Hite on September 17, 1951, in Pleasant Chapel Church. They had four children: Carol Dianne, Galen Richard, Cheryl Jean, and Steven Devon.

On March 1, 1961, Richard was called by the Lord to full-time ministry. He attended Huntington College for two years and then Manchester College, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1965. He received his Master of Divinity degree from United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio in 1968 and was ordained in the North Indiana Conference in 1968.



While serving in Elkhart County Churches, Richard became involved in being Chaplain at the Life House (an alcoholic rehab center), served as a member of Elkhart County Child Protection Team and several years as coordinator of Elkhart District Mission Work Camps. Also, he felt God's call to help start the Golden Rule Community Church in Goshen.

After retirement Richard and his sons restored the old John Deere tractor he used while farming. Quite a project, but beautiful now! During retirement, in spite of poor health, Richard and Carolyn enjoyed ten years at their lake cottage in the summer and wintered in Florida for fourteen years.

Reverend Richard Dolby of Warsaw, Indiana went home to be with his Lord and Savior on March 25, 2009 with his family at his side. Funeral services were held on March 31 at Trinity United Methodist Church in Warsaw with Reverence Andy Martin and Kokomo District Superintendent Dr. Frank Beard officiating. Burial was in Pleasant Chapel Cemetery, in Huntington County.

Richard is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Carolyn (Hite) Dolby; daughters, Carol (Glenn) Nusz, Cheryl (Robert) Roth; son, Steven (Sue) Dolby; daughter-in-law, Laura Dolby; 12 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Maxine Smith and Evelyn (Rolland) Wehr; and sister-in-law, Joann Dolby. Richard is preceded in death by a son, Galen Dolby, October 3, 2007; a brother Robert Dolby; and his parents.

Kenneth E. Foulke



Kenneth was born in Bippus, Ind., to Iva and Joseph Foulke on February 6, 1919. Kenneth was a 1940 Graduate of Taylor University and a 1943 Graduate of Evangelical Theological Seminary in Naperville, Illinois.

Kenneth married Eleanor Robinson of Swayzee, Ind., on August 31, 1941 in Swayzee. They retired in 1984 to their lake home in Syracuse, Ind. In 1992, they moved to Greencroft Retirement Community in Goshen where they resided until their deaths. They had two children, Sharon and Margaret.

Kenneth was known for his infectious smile, sense of humor and compassion. He lived his life to its fullest. He demonstrated his deep love for his life mate during her extended illness with Alzheimer's disease. Eleanor preceded him in death on August 22, 2006. He was known as the "Singing Parson" as he frequently burst forth in song, especially in the dining rooms and hallways at Greencroft. In his last year and half, he did find it more difficult to walk but with the aid of a cane was able to continue shorter daily walks in spite of "Mr. Arthur"- his reference to the arthritis in his knee! He volunteered daily to feed a resident in the Healthcare Unit at Greencroft Retirement Community as well as serving as a Caring Friend to visit with residents. Although he had stopped his yoga practice, he continued with other exercise classes four times each week! Obviously, Ken maintained a very active life as he approached his 90th birthday.

Following Ken's death, his children found a card in his wallet. A quote from John Wesley that summed up his life and beliefs, "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

Kenneth died November 21, 2008 in Goshen, Ind. Services were held November 24, 2008, at Calvary United Methodist Church in Syracuse, Ind.

Survivors include: two daughters and son-in-laws, four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and a sister.

George R Greathouse



George was born in Brown County, Ind., to Clifford and Nellie Shelton on June 9, 1938. George married Connie Hedger Greathouse on August 3, 1963, in Brown County. They had two children: Teresa Roland and Jill Renee.

George served as pastor of the Heltonville Methodist Church for ten years and had served previously as pastor of White's Chapel Church at Spraytown, Indiana for 22 years. He also had retired from Cummins Engine Company of Columbus. He served as a member of a Gospel quartet for several years and was a former president and vice president of the Tri County Camp at Ogilville, Ind. He enjoyed his family and many friends; enjoyed watching birds and wildlife near his home. He also enjoyed gardening and sharing with others.

George died on May 29, 2009 at Houston Community in Norman, Ind. Services were held on June 2, 2009 at Spurgeon Funeral Home in Brownstown, Ind. He was buried at Christiansburg Cemetery in Brown County.

Survivors include: two daughters, two grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Frederick Dinsmore Hill

Rev. Dr. Frederick D. Hill was born on a farm north of Covington, Ohio, in Miami County to J. Warren and Stella (Gustin) Hill on March 4, 1922. He died February 20, 2009 at Johnson Memorial Hospital in Franklin, Ind., and is buried in Greenlawn cemetery in Franklin. Fred and Vesta Mae Arnett were married at her home in Pleasant Hill, Ohio, on November 26, 1945. Their children are Theresa Lee Spencer of Ft. Thomas, KY and Judith Marie Rank of Stow, OH. He also is survived by 5 grandchildren and a brother.



He studied at Miami University prior to his WWII military service. Afterwards he enrolled at the Ohio State University where he received a BS in Ed. in 1948 and an MS in History in 1955. Around that time, following an altar call where he felt called to Christian ministry, he entered United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. There he earned his M. Div. and was ordained by the Ohio Southeast Conference of the EUB Church in 1958. After the merger in 1968 his ministerial credentials were transferred to the South Indiana Conference. He completed a Ph.D. in history at Indiana University in 1972.

During the theological training Fred discovered some of the duties required of ministers he was

uncomfortable doing and realized teaching in a Christian college would fit his personality better. He applied to Indiana Central College (now University of Indianapolis) as a history professor and taught there from 1958 until his retirement in 1988, serving as chairman of the department the last seven years. He also did some teaching in religion and in education.

He was a frequent guest preacher or speaker at churches, service clubs, and community forums. He chaired the Council of Campus Christian Life for the EUB Church in Indiana and was a long-time member of the Advisory Board of the Center for the EUB Heritage at UTS. In 1989, the year after he retired, he was named an honorary alumnus of UIndy and the next year was honored as a distinguished alumnus by United Theological Seminary.

In retirement, he and Vesta were members of NOMADS, the volunteer in mission organization of UMC working one or two projects each winter in the southern states for ten years. When not doing that mission work, Fred spent about 15 years volunteering at the university including organizing the university archives, which was later named in his honor. He researched and wrote a comprehensive history of the university, 'Downright Devotion to the Cause': A History of the University of Indianapolis and Its Legacy of Service, which was published in time for the centennial in 2002.

After his death, his family received many cards and letters attesting to his great success as a teacher, mentor, and friend. His Christian leadership and witness is evident in the many positions he held at Rosedale Hills United Methodist Church, the weddings he performed for his former students, and the fact that a Jewish student came to our home recently just to tell him that she had become a Christian. How much he was loved, respected, and admired was evident by the standing-room-only crowd at his memorial service. His life exemplified that he believed with Micah that what God wanted from us was to be just, kind, and humble. (Micah 6:8)

Woodrow Wilson Kennell



Woodrow Wilson Kennell was born on November 7, 1912, in Fayette County, Pennsylvania. He was the ninth of eleven children born to Simon and Jennie Kennell. Woodrow, nicknamed "Tom" at an early age attended a one room school house in a coal mining Pennsylvania community. When he was fifteen his family moved to Somerset, Pennsylvania, where he was the first member of his family to graduate from high school.

While in high school, Tom felt the call to Christian ministry. This decision came as a surprise to his family as did his decision to travel from Pennsylvania to Naperville, IL, to further pursue his education at North Central College. Tom met Bernice Linge, a native of Topeka, Kansas, at North Central. They were married on June 1, 1939, in Topeka.

Following graduation from college in 1938, Tom began studies at Evangelical Theological Seminary now Garrett Evangelical Seminary in Evanston, IL. As a seminary student he pastored an Evangelical church in Edgerton, Ohio, leaving Naperville every Friday and returning every Monday. Bernice stayed in Edgerton during the week living in a parsonage with no plumbing on a salary of approximately \$500.00 a year supplemented with eggs, chickens, and home grown produce.

Tom graduated from seminary in 1941. However, his education did not stop there. Throughout his ministry his thirst for knowledge and how that knowledge could help him better serve the members of his congregations sent him to engage in continuing education programs at Yale University, Princeton Theological Seminary, The American Institute of Family Relations in California, and others.

During his ministry Tom always put his pastoral duties before everything else. He was passionate about his profession and never looked back or regretted his calling. He loved being a Pastor. He was very concerned about social issues and worked diligently for Civil Rights issues in the 1960's. In 1970, he was invited to assist in the planning of the White House Conference on Children and Youth. After retiring in 1981, Tom continued in ministry by volunteering at the Indianapolis Children's Museum, St. Vincent's Hospital, and North United Methodist Church in Indianapolis, IN.

As a result of his call to the ministry long ago, Tom Kennell worked and ministered tirelessly throughout his life time to serve God and God's people. He excelled as a preacher but more importantly he excelled as a loving and devoted pastor.

Woodrow Wilson "Tom" Kennell died on February 20, 2009. He is survived by his wife of nearly 70 years, Bernice, his daughters Ruth Ann (Richard) Gantz, and Susan Jane Kennell, and his granddaughter.

Richard E Kistler



Richard was born near Star City, IN to Cecil and Nellie Hiatt Kistler on March 18, 1926. Richard graduated from Fulton High School in 1944, Indiana Central College in 1951, and Bonebrake Theological Seminary (M. Div.) in 1954.

Richard married Mabel Morehead of North Webster, Indiana on August 24, 1947 in North Webster. They had six children: Cheryl, Lucinda, Lanny, Nina, Renny, and Les.

Richard died on November 25, 2008 at St. Vincent Heart Center in Indianapolis, Ind. Services were held on December 1, 2008 at St. Matthew United Methodist Church in Frankfort, Ind. He was buried in Salem Church Cemetery in Wilmot, Ind.

Survivors include: children- Cheryl Targgart, Lucinda Merrill, Lanny Kistler, Nina Peery, Renny Yeoman, and Les Kistler; ten grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Carl R Lott



Carl was born in Vienna, West Virginia to Carl and Lola Belle Lott on September 17, 1933. Carl became a deacon on May 25, 1972. On August 31, 1972 he received Bachelor of Arts, and on June 7, 1974 he received Master of Divinity. He became a Full Elder on June 1, 1975.

Carl married Phyllis Meyers of Fort Wayne, Indiana on September 14, 1974 in Fort Wayne. Phyllis passed away on March 29, 2001 at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Carl died on August 27, 2008 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Fort Wayne, Ind. Services were held on August 30, 2008 in Angola, Indiana at Angola United Methodist Church. He was buried in Greenlawn Cemetery in Orland, Ind.

Survivors include: sister, Betty; brother-in-law, James; nephews, Tom, Randy, and Brian; and niece,

Patricia.

Carl was a great big brother. We all miss him!

Robert Elmer Lougheed



Robert Elmer was born in Montpelier, Ohio to Clifford Lougheed and Mable Grace Humphrey Lougheed in 1918. Robert attended Central Bible College in Springfield, Missouri; Taylor University in Upland, Indiana; and Theology Classes Evanston in Chicago, Illinois.

Robert married Nelle Arlington Davis of Grasslake, Michigan in June 1939 at Pontiac Michigan. They had two children: Nancy Rebecca, and David Michael.

Robert pastored mostly country-rural churches and was famous for his pastoral visitation and gentle helpful ways. He was also a lifelong natural conservationist and was a "go green" long before it was popular. After returning from WWII as a Marine, Robert intended to return to China where he had helped liberate Chinese people and prisoners from Japanese. China was not very open to missionaries in those years, so Robert's dream of returning to China did not materialize. Instead he pastored stateside and helped many people in the rural areas of the Ohio and Indiana area.

Robert died on September 25, 2008 in Prescott Valley, Arizona. Services were held on November 22, 2008 in Bryon, Ohio at Grace Community Church. He was buried in Colombia Cemetery. Survivors include his two children: Nancy Zimmerman and David Lougheed; 5 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren.

Carlyle Mason



Carlyle was born in Howard County, Indiana to G.R. and Edith Mason on May 26, 1916. He was a graduate from Wabash College with a Bachelor Degree and Garrett College with a Bachelor of Divinity. He married Mildred Whitemack of Crawfordsville, Indiana on June 29, 1940 in Remington, Ind. They had three children; Jon David Mason, Marna Beth Andrew, and Marianne Mason.

Carlyle and Mildred had just celebrated their 68th Wedding Anniversary and felt truly blessed.

Carlyle died on September 2, 2008. Services were held on September 4, 2008 at St. Mark's United Methodist Church. He was buried in Bloomington, Ind. Survivors include: wife, Mildred; children, Jon, Marna, and Marianne; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Robert H. Miller

Robert H. Miller, 85, of Indianapolis, graduated to be with Lord on May 30, 2009. Born October 28, 1923, to Dora (Pfaffenberger) Miller and Edward Miller in Seymour, Ind.

Bob, a minister serving in the South Conference of The United Methodist Church from 1950 to 1987, graduated from Seymour High School, Evansville College and Boston University School of Theology.

His years of service included: West Newton 1950-1953, Whiteland 1953-1955, Evansville 1955-1957, Oakland City 1957-1961, Scottsburg 1961-1963, Aurora 1963-1967, New Albany 1967-1969, Covington 1969-1985, Lawrenceburg 1985-1987.



Bob had a passion for classic cars and people. In the early years the family enjoyed touring in the 1934 Packard with the Classic Car Club of America. Bob loved people and wanted all to know they were loved by God. After retirement Bob and Marjorie lived in Covington, IN 1987-2003, Boyne Falls, MI 2003-2008 and at Crestwood Village West in Indianapolis.

Married on November 8, 1953, he is survived by his loving wife, Marjorie Anna (Haynes) Miller, who served alongside Bob in his years of ministry. Son, David E. Miller (Wife Angela) of Brownsburg and Daughter Dorothy E. (Dot) Miller Ward (Husband Jim) of Indianapolis. Grandsons: Justin (Wife Holly), Ben, and Nolan Miller. Josh (Wife Anne), Nathaniel, and Chris Ward.

His siblings who preceded him in death were: Cornelia (Miller) Huber, George Miller, Dena (Miller) Huber, George Miller, Dena (Miller) Klein, all who lived their lives in Seymour.

Memorial services were held at Covington United Methodist Church on June 20th, 2009.

Larry A. Schwartz



Larry R. Schwartz, a United Methodist Pastor for thirty-nine years, died at his home in Indianapolis on Christmas Eve 2008. Though his death was sudden, he had battled diabetes and heart disease for over thirty-

five years. Larry's memorial service was December 28 at Castleton United Methodist Church with burial at Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis.

Larry was born September 1, 1937, in Berne, Adams County, Ind., the first son of C.W. R. and Arveda Schwartz, becoming the twelfth child of their combined families. He married Mary Lee Huddleston, April 25, 1975, at High Street United Methodist Church in Muncie, Ind. Mary Lee, together with his two daughters, Marie (Paul) and Melissa (Richard), one son, Harold (Marcia), and one stepson, Dan (Susan) Crook, and six grandchildren: Kristine (Richard) Low, Philip, and Melinda Kirkeiner, John, Hannah and Zach Klaassen and two step-grandsons, Matthew and Michael Crook, survive him. Three half sisters, Gertie, Annie, and Colleen, along with many nieces and nephews also survive.

He was a graduate of Adams Central High School in Monroe, Ind., Grand Canyon College, Tucson, Arizona, and Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Delaware, Ohio.. He served on the Metro Ministries Board and the Annual Conference Board of Ministries. Larry had a heart for camping in the 70's and 80's and encouraged and supported youth mission trips and the use of The Night Crawler. In the 70's he participated in the building of a new parsonage in Texas and later served and supported Metro Ministries in Indianapolis. He took pleasure in hearing of the successes of the women and men who had passed through the Board of Ministries when he had served.

He was dedicated to fighting racism and many other social justice issues as far back as the 60's and kept current with a myriad of faith perspectives so that he might understand his world better. Larry was a compassionate man and it was his belief that God desires life, dignity and hope for all of his children.

At the time of his death he wore a long, white beard which he had vowed not to cut until all of our troops come home from Iraq and Afghanistan. Larry's call had come when he was delivering milk in Arizona. He had moved there in the fifties in order to get away from hay, grass and pollen allergies, giving up his dream to have the best dairy farm in Adams County Indiana and to instead earn a law degree. Home delivery service meant many personal interactions and some families even requested that the milk man come into the house and leave their order in the refrigerator if no one was at home. It was on his home delivery route that Larry became more and more aware of the difference Jesus Christ could make in his customer's lives.

Larry was much more comfortable teaching than behind a pulpit and he was a gifted teacher who almost always taught a Sunday school class as well as a Disciple Class during the week. He had always enjoyed studying and researching his sermons and so even after his early retirement at 62 because of declining health, he began taking college classes in subjects that had always interested him such as American Literature, Spanish, Computer, and World Geography.

In his 65th year he began to document his life by journaling. Each day he would dialogue with God and record his reactions to scripture, comic strips, news articles, books, greeting cards, and notes from his wife, the weather, our children and grandchildren or the behavior of our dog and the two cats who allowed us to live with them. Later he would choose a theme for the year such as Streams in the Desert, a devotional book his mother had loved, and most recently the book of Psalms. At that time our son was with the Indiana National Guard in Iraq, so each day he was deployed, Larry wrote a prayer for Harold that was related to the psalm he was studying and the situation over there. He presented it to Harold when he returned safely home.

Larry had been trying to hold on until he got home; painful neuropathy in his legs, feet, arms and hands, angina, countless insulin injections blood sugar testing, and overwhelming fatigue defined his day. Larry always felt his best in the morning and was a regular at our neighborhood Steak and Shake Restaurant, (remember Cheers), where he became a listener and encourager for more than sixteen years. He would then go home to his desk and faithfully proceed with his Bible study, prayers, dialogue and journaling every day for the rest of his life. At age 14 Larry lost his father to heart disease and it became his responsibility to operate the family farm! He did this, milking in the early morning then taking the school bus to school, still keeping his grades up, singing in a barbershop quartet, playing in the 4-H band, becoming the first "State Farmer" from Adams County and participating on a Champion Crop Judging Team. All this including plowing, planting, harvesting, etc had to be done if there was to be income. Larry was successful because of the help and support of his farm neighbors, his 4-H leader and his FFA leader.

Larry approached the rest of his life with that same discipline, tenacity and sense of responsibility but most of all he listened to God. His life had consisted of quietly giving to his family and congregations. Larry did what God had asked of him. Year after year, Sunday after Sunday he had done what was most difficult for him—standing in front of a large group of people, being used by God in ways he had never imagined.

Darrel Ford Taggart



Darrel Ford was born in Audubon County, Iowa to Giles and Katherine Taggart on July 14, 1918. Darrel received a Bachelor of Religion at Taylor University in 1946 and a Bachelor of Divinity at Butler University in 1953.

Darrel married Pauline Farwell of Panors, Iowa on January 16, 1942. They had three children: John, James, and Dean.

He was involved in many district and conference programs during his active years. In retirement he found fulfillment and joy as Pastor of visitation to the home bound for First Wayne Street United Methodist Church in Fort Wayne. He was a people person and also during these years, he participated in many mission projects sponsored by First Wayne Street United Methodist Church. Some of Darrel's favorite activities were involved with Epworth Forest and the youth.

Darrel died on September 20, 2008 in Heritage Park Fort Wayne, Ind. Services were held at First Wayne Street United Methodist Church in Fort Wayne on September 30, 2008. He was buried in Morrisburg Cemetery in Stuart, Iowa. Survivors include: his wife, Pauline; sons: John, James, and Dean; five grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; sister, Edna; and brother, Billie.

B. Spouses

Jane Elizabeth (Barber) Bill



Jane Elizabeth was born in Springfield, Massachusetts in 1916 to Harry C and Laurette Job Barber. She was educated at Howard Seminary and Jackson College (Tufts University) . She also attended Fay Secretarial School. She married Lester Henry Bill on June 1, 1940. Lester and Jane had four children: Carolyn, Anita, Eileen, and Douglas.

They served together as pastor and wife in four churches in Iowa and five churches in Indiana over nearly fifty years. Jane was a talented artist, working mostly in pastels, and became a skilled photographer. Her deep commitment to social action and equity issues led Jane to become active in the Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA) , the United Nations Association, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Witnesses for Peace, P.E.O. International, and Promoting Enduring Peace. In 1985, with her husband, she received the John Adams Award for social justice and peace in the world.

Jane died on March 13, 2009 in Frankfort, Ind. Services were held on March 28, 2009 in the Amanda Reid Memorial Chapel at Wesley Manor in Frankfort, Ind. Her body was donated to Indiana University Medical Research Center. Survivors include her husband, Lester; four children, Carolyn Bullock, Anita Sherkinah, Eileen Bill, and Douglas Bill; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Jane was a quiet, gentle woman who never sought the limelight but worked effectively with great dedication to further the goals so dear to her heart. Lester and Jane traveled all over the world, which through it all, she stood by his side, championing their shared causes, lovingly mothering her children, and exemplifying the fulfillment of their human potential.

Frances S Copeland



Frances was born in Lexington, Kentucky to William and Nancy Marquis on July 27, 1929. Frances was a graduate from Greensboro College in North Carolina. She married A. Glenn Copeland of Evanston, Illinois on September 6, 1952 in Greensboro, North Carolina. They had three children: Paul, Mark, and Nancy.

Frances died on May 9, 2009 in Angola, Ind. Services were held on May 14, 2009. She was buried in Angola, Ind. Survivors include: husband, A. Glenn Copeland; children, Paul, Mark, and Nancy.

Marjorie M. Fritz

Marjorie was born in Wayne County, Indiana on November 13, 1925 to Harry and Nola Ellis. She graduated from Hagerstown High School in 1943. She worked at the former Perfect Circle Piston Ring factory in Hagerstown. While living in Galveston, she worked in the cafeteria at the elementary school. She married Jim Fritz on November 16, 1947 in Hagerstown. They had two children, Nola and Ken.



She was a member of the Delphi United Methodist Church, where she was active in Choir. The wife of a Methodist minister, she was extremely active at all of the churches she and her husband pastored. She also volunteered at the Tipton Hospital for over ten years. They traveled extensively throughout the US and other countries, going on several mission trips to Africa, Haiti, and Jamaica. She enjoyed sewing, playing the organ and music.

Marjorie died on August 20, 2008 in Delphi, Ind. Services were held on August 22 at Abbott Funeral Home in Delphi. Survivors include: husband, Jim, daughter, son, three grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Jeanette B. Hulbert



Jeanette was born in Oxford, Indiana on August 25, 1923 to Leslie and Florence Nichols. She was educated at Oxford High School and then preceded to Purdue University for two years and then Lafayette Business College. She married Glen F Hulbert of Lafayette, Indiana on April 1, 1956 at Lafayette Trinity United Methodist Church. They adopted two children: Timothy and Karla Rose.

Jeanette courageously battled ovarian cancer for three years, mainly to continue parenting grandson Anthony who came to live with them since he was ten months old (he is now ten years old) .

Jeanette died on May 19, 2009 in Lafayette, Ind. Services were held on May 22, 2009 at Congress Street United Methodist Church. She was buried at Tippecanoe Memory Gardens in West Lafayette, Ind.

Survivors include her husband, Glen; Children, Timothy and Karla; and four grandchildren, Tim, Edward, Kira, and Anthony.

Bernice Miller



Bernice was born May 15, 1911 to Art and Mary Phipps in Ortonville, Michigan. Clifford and Bernice were married on December 24, 1930 and this began her life's journey as a wife, mother and grandmother. They raised 5 children together during the great depression of the 30's.

Clifford, also know to everyone as Cliff, did not graduate from High School and in early 1940's obtained his GED and continued his education by attending Hanover College from 1944-1947, obtaining a bachelor's degree in theology. He also began his career in the ministry as deacon of the Methodist Church while attending Hanover College. Clifford went on to Butler University and in 1949 received a master's degree in theology.

Bernice worked outside of the home during this period in order to help support their family. During their life together in the ministry, Bernice played an active role in the church. She had a strong devotion to God and participated in various women's groups, prayer groups and Bible lessons over the years, making many lifelong friends along the way.

Sharing in fellowship was a big part of both Clifford and Bernice's life. She would be best described as the good, old "Preacher's Wife". They both served in the South Indiana Conference from 1942 until 1974 when Clifford passed away.

Bernice lived most of her retirement years in Western Kentucky, living close to her family and remaining active in the church. During this time, Bernice met a widower at church, Will Morris. They wed in 1987 and were happily married for 7 years. In 1997, Bernice moved to Florida to be close to her son Everett, who looked after her the remaining years of her life. She quietly passed away on November 24, 2008 at the age of 97.

Bernice is survived by 3 daughters: Marie Clark, Gladys Gifford and husband John, Elsie Christian and husband Rev. Silas Christian; and 2 sons, Everett Miller and wife Sylvia and John Miller and wife Gudrun along with 14 grandchildren, 26 great grandchildren and 10 great-great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband Rev. Clifford L. Miller, parents Art and Mary Phipps, her brother Ross Edwin Phipps and 3 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. Clifford and Bernice are both laid to rest in Rolling Hill cemetery in Eddyville, Ky.

Having received many letters over the years from my grandmother, she would always sign off with "Shalom." The New King James version of the Bible Shalom translates to: Completeness, wholeness, health, peace, welfare, safety, soundness, tranquility, prosperity, perfectness, fullness, rest, harmony, and the absences of agitation or discord. I believe this is the legacy she would have liked to leave behind for everyone, not only to remember her by, but also to live each and every day by until we all meet again in Heaven one day. Shalom.

Gary Anthony Werner



Gary Anthony was born in Mishawaka, Indiana on November 29, 1950 to Paul and Kathryn Werner. Gary received a High School Diploma. Gary married JoAn Schaeztle on August 22, 1992 in South Bend, Ind. Gary was a Vietnam Veteran, received a Purple Heart, and bronze and silver stars.

Gary died on August 26, 2008 in Gary and JoAn's Home. Services were held on August 29, 2008 in Mishawaka, Ind. He was buried in St. Joseph Valley Memorial Park Granger, Ind. Survivors include: JoAn, two daughters, four step children, twelve grandchildren, and mother.

Gary loved children. He was a gentleman who loved his family, especially his grandchildren.

C. Spouses of Deceased Clergy

Martha Louise Carlton



Martha Louise Carlton was born on August 11, 1921 to William and Ada Miller. She graduated from McLeansboro High School in Illinois, with the class of 1940. Martha married Samuel E Carlton of Bloomington, Indiana and Macedonia, Illinois, on September 4, 1943 in Evansville, Ind. Her husband was a United Methodist Clergy of North Indiana Conference. They had three children: James Carlton, Jan Anderson, and Joan Zimmerman.

She loved the Lord, the church, her husband and family, poetry, and was a sweet kind lady to all. She worked for Farm Bureau Insurance in Indianapolis and later as a Bank Teller in Warsaw and Elkhart. She was a member of Brazil First United Methodist Church, the Homebuilders Sunday School Class, United Methodist Women, sang in the church choir, and was responsible for church administrative duties.

Martha died on April 3, 2009 in Bloomington, Ind. Services were held on April 7, 2009 at the First United Methodist Church in Brazil, Ind. She was buried in Clearview Cemetery Brazil, Ind. Survivors include her three children: James Carlton, Jan Anderson, and Joan Zimmerman; eight grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Phyllis L Dicken



Phyllis was born in Muncie, Indiana on August 6, 1930 to Claude and Ruth Riggan. She was educated at Geneva High School and then enrolled at Ball State Teachers College where she met John Dicken, her husband. They had four children: Mark, Kent, Debra, and Jill.

Phyllis' degree in home economics and her ability to make and mend clothing came in very handy in stretching her husband's exceedingly modest preacher's pay. She convinced her children that it was perfectly normal to wear hand-me-down clothing that was loudly recognized by the children of donor families in the church. She protected her brood when racist members and weak leaders at a church made life exceedingly difficult for her husband because he had the audacity to personally believe and publicly preach that Jesus loves all the little children of the world. She also convinced her daughters that it was perfectly normal for a group of older men called trustees at another church to take months to decide whether their bedroom walls could be painted purple. She soothed and comforted her husband when he was a district superintendent receiving anonymous or ridiculous complaints from people about their pastor or from pastors about their people. She knew the church. Her glasses here were not rose-colored.

Yet throughout all of her adult life, Phyllis loved the church. She treasured her relationships with other parsonage couples with the unique United Methodist connection. She enjoyed going to annual conference in West Lafayette after retirement so she could see some of her friends again. She enjoyed preparing for and delivering various presentations for the United Methodist Women and other groups at Wesley Manor and St. Matthew on topics ranging from her travels to every continent to the history of shoes and hats. Phyllis never lost faith in the church because she understood it is going on to perfection, even when it seems to have longer to go than we might hope it has. Her greatest legacy she leaves us is to never give up on the church even when it disappoints, frustrates, or even hurts because it is the body of Christ.

Phyllis died on March 1, 2009 at Wesley Manor in Frankfort, Ind. Survivors include children: Reverend Mark Dicken, Kent Dicken, Debra Wadman, and Jill Curtis.



Elma L. Heady

Elma was born on May 1, 1924. She died on April 22, 2009. Services were held on April 25, 2009 at Aldersgate United Methodist Church. She was buried at Alexander Memorial Park in Evansville, Ind. She was preceded in death by her husband, the Rev. James Heady.



Minnie L. Jones

Minnie was born on March 15, 1913 in Fort White, Florida to John and Mary Sikes. She married Dr. Gerald H. Jones. They had four children: David, John, Timothy, and Deborah.

Minnie was a member of First Wayne Street United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women, and P.E.O. Association. She was preceded in death by: husband, parents, son- Dennis Jones, and six brothers and sisters.

Minnie died on February 14, 2009 at Lutheran Hospital. Services were held at First Wayne Street United Methodist Church on February 20, 2009. She was buried at Green Lawn Memorial Park Cemetery. Survivors include: sons; David Jones, John Jones, Timothy Jones; daughter, Deborah; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.



Roberta Craig Lundy

Roberta Craig was born on December 14, 1918 in Youngstown, Ohio to John Wesley and Theda (Williams) Craig. Roberta completed High School at Toccoa Falls Institute in Toccoa Falls, Georgia in Christian Studies.

She married Robert Lundy of Norfolk, Virginia on December 15, 1941 at South Mills, North Carolina. They had two children: Jean Eileen and Robert Craig.

Roberta wrote curriculum for children's Sunday school material for the United Methodist Churches for more than 20 years. She worked for Christ Mission in Youngstown, Ohio, for three years as a secretary and with the children. She was director of Franklin Community House and was a minister's wife.

Roberta died on September 15, 2009 at Wesley Manor in Frankfort, Ind. Services were held on September 19, 2009 in the Amanda Reid Memorial Chapel at Wesley Manor in Frankfort, Ind. She was buried at Green Lawn Cemetery in Frankfort, Ind. Survivors include: daughter, Jean Eileen Mount; son, Robert Craig Lundy; and three grandchildren.



Martha L. McGee

Martha was born on March 12, 1920 in Frankfort, Ind. She married Reverend Dee McGee. They had three children: Donna, Mark, and Matt.

Martha was a homemaker and also worked at North Indiana United Methodist Conference Office in Marion. She lived in Marion most of her life, moving to Alexandria eighteen years ago.

Martha died on July 8, 2008 at Community Hospital in Anderson, Ind. Services were held July 13, 2008 at Robert Loose Funeral Homes and Crematory in Alexandria. Survivors include: children; Donna (Steve) Guyre, Mark McGee, and Matt (Beverly) McGee; half brother Don (Ann) Wainscott; step sister Gladys Moyer; eight grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Opal L. Mills

Opal was born on May 29, 1918 to Fred and Mary Hartleroad in Peru, Ind. Opal was a graduate of Peru High School and Manchester College where she was an Assistant Dean of Women.

She has been blessed with three marriages, all of whom preceded her death; Reverend Robert Wilson, Herbert Lathrop, and Reverend Ray Mills. They had four children; Doris, Dorothy, Beckie, and Mark.

Opal was a member of First United Methodist Church in Winamac. She had been involved in Friendship Club, past member of Garden Club, Toastmistress Club, and ISTA. She was a board member of the Indiana United Methodist Church Children's Home in Lebanon. She loved to read, travel, sing, and play the piano.

Although Opal never physically had any children, she loved them all so completely and seamlessly, that there was never any doubt that she was a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great grandmother. She loved them all, even when they did not love themselves. She was the bravest woman they ever knew. She suffered so many times, but her faith never wavered. She never gave up. She loved God with her entire being up to the very end.

Opal died on November 16, 2008 at Wesley Manor in Frankfort, Ind. Services were held on November 20, 2008 in the Amanda Reid Memorial Chapel at Wesley Manor. She was buried at Winamac Cemetery. Survivors include: Daughters, Doris Winans, Dorothy May, Beckie Clawson; Son, Mark Mills; one brother, Robert Hartleroad; and numerous grandchildren of several generations.

Monna D. Nevil

Monna Dee was born on January 12, 1937 in Hartford City, Indiana to Ina and Mont McDermitt. She graduated from Hartford City High School in 1954. She married Vernon Nevil of Geneva, Indiana on January 2, 1955 and traveled the world with him as he served in the U.S. Army for 20 years. They had six children: William Norris, Roy Nevil, Kay Neuenschwander, Dee Atkins, Lea Mays, and Jessica Harvey.



After Vernon retired from the military in 1974, he eventually answered a call into ministry. Monna was active in the ministries to women and was Vernon's proofreader for all of his seminary classes. During their years at Morris Chapel United Methodist church, Vernon and Monna were foster parents to several young women, bringing Monna a real sense of satisfaction as she nurtured them. During Vernon and Monna's 43 years of marriage they enjoyed fishing, traveling, great friends, and a deep love for one another.

After Vernon's death in 1998, Monna met Lionel La Vergne of Spring, Texas. She spent the last years of her life with Lionel and spoke of her deep love for him often. She was blessed to have two men love her as deeply as she loved them.

Monna died on February 8, 2009 in Conroe, Texas. Services were held on February 21, 2009 at Poneto United Methodist Church. She was buried at Marion National Cemetery. Survivors include; Children- William, Roy, Dee, Lea, and Jessica; 15 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren.

Janet Soldner Nussbaum

Janet Soldner was born on November 7, 1918 in Adams County, IN to Clinton D and Gertrude Soldner. Janet graduated from Bethel Deaconess Hospital as a registered nurse in Newton, Kansas in 1942.

Janet married Reverend Tillman L Nussbaum on February 14, 1976 at Mennonite Church in Berne, Ind.

Janet was a life-long member of First Mennonite Church. Thirty years of her life were spent as a missionary under the G.C. Mennonite Church, serving in Colombia, South America, and later in Mexico.

Janet died on April 9, 2009 at her residence in Warren, Ind. Services were held on April 13, 2009 at Heritage Pointe, Ind. She was buried at Spring Hill Cemetery in Warren, Ind.

Jewell E. Rittenhouse



Jewell was born on February 21, 1907 in Morehead, Kentucky to Sandford and Laura Belle Caudill. She married Ellsworth Rittenhouse of Franklin on January 21, 1996.

She served the First EUB Church in Anderson for 30 years with her first husband, Dr. Reverend H.L. Lanahan and was active in the music department and with the youth of the church. She was also a staff organist with Rozelle-Johnson Funeral Service for many years and served as a pianist with many area churches. She was a longtime member of the United Methodist Church, a member of the Grace United Methodist Church in Franklin, and had been active with the Lady Lions Club.

Jewell died on August 2, 2008 at Franklin United Methodist Home in Franklin after an extended illness. Services were held August 6, 2008 at Rozelle-Johnson Funeral Service. She was buried at East Maplewood Cemetery.

Survivors include: husband Ellsworth Rittenhouse; stepchildren Tom Rittenhouse and Joyce Benham; several step grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Jessie Alice Burtner Skinner



Jessie Alice Burtner Skinner, 91, of Warren, Ind., died Thursday, March 26, 2009, at Heritage Pointe in Warren. She was born August 3, 1917, near Butler, Pennsylvania, one of sixteen children born to

Forrest H. and Mary Lena Giles Burtner. She married Rev. W. Lavern Skinner on February 5, 1942. She earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from Taylor University, Upland, Ind., and an elementary teaching degree from Goshen College, Goshen, Ind.

Jessie and her husband served in United Methodist pastorates in Indiana for more than 39 years at Fort Wayne Circuit, Maples, Arcola, Richland Chapel, McCordsville-Mt. Comfort, Shipshewana-Scott, Leesburg-Clunette, Richmond Trinity, Clay City First & Eighth Street, Liberty, and Georgetown. Jessie was always active in the ministry in a variety of ways including regularly visiting the homebound and nursing homes, managing a church food pantry, participating in missions, encouraging youth, assisting in the development of the Lord's Acre Fall Festival at McCordsville UMC which has continued for over fifty years, and more. She was a member of the United Methodist Women, served in leadership positions, and received a Special Mission Recognition Award from the General Board of Global Ministries in 1996. Jessie was also a school teacher. She cared deeply about people and would always help anyone she could. Jessie's deep faith in Christ, her commitment to her family and her love for people set a wonderful example for others and had a significant impact on the lives of many people.

Jessie's husband preceded her in death in 1981. At that time she moved to Pendleton, Indiana where she was active in the Pendleton UMC until her move to the United Methodist Home at Warren, Indiana (now Heritage Pointe) .

Survivors include three sons, Loran (Becky) Skinner, of Anderson; Glenn (Carmen) Skinner, of Montville, CT; and Merrill (Barbara) Skinner, of Dassell, MN; three sisters; six brothers; four grandchildren, Jolie (Neil) McCartney, Lindy Browning, Glenn (Tiffany) Skinner Jr. and Anthony Skinner; and seven great-grandchildren.

Josephine L Thomas



Josephine was born on April 3, 1926 to Lloyd and Minerva Warner Wampler in Cherryvale, Kansas. She graduated from Cherryvale High School and attended Asbury College for two years and Richmond College in Kentucky for one year. She married Reverend Oliver Thomas on August 12, 1945 in Cherryvale, Kansas. They had one daughter, Betty Jo.

Josephine retired from Delco Electronics in 1991 as an inspector with twenty years of service. Memberships include U.A.W. Local #292, Main Street United Methodist Church where she sang in the choir and member of the Womens Society of Christian Service. She was also a member of the Doral Park West Homeowners Association and enjoyed sewing.

Josephine died on August 30, 2008 at St. Joseph Hospital. Services were held on September 5, 2008 at Ellers Mortuary Webster Street Chapel in Kokomo, Ind. Survivors include: Daughter, Betty Jo (Charles) Chilcott, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren.