2016
Book of Remembrance

“The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.”
Psalm 112:6

“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of the saints.”
Psalm 116:15

South Georgia Conference
The United Methodist Church
Memoirs of Clergy who served in the South Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church and died between April 1, 2015, and March 31, 2016
You are our refuge and strength
a very present help
in trouble
You are our hiding place.
You shall preserve us
from trouble
Grant us Your peace
in our sorrows
Dear Lord

When we cannot see the road ahead

Help us remember what you have said

That you are with us all the way

By our side you will always stay
Those We Remember
(Order in which they died)

Clergy

Leonard Martin Wildes 2/15/33 - 4/21/15
Ina “Pinky” Steiner Wildes

Walter Guy Parrish, Jr. 7/30/28 - 4/23/15
Billie Cole Parrish

Alice Mizell Chancey 5/16/24 - 4/25/15
*Marvin Chancey

Samuel Q. E. Ghartey 4/25/36 - 4/30/15
Mary Parker Ghartey

Charles Edwin Zimmerman, Jr. 9/19/46 - 5/17/15
Robin B. Zimmerman

Charles Edison Rooks 3/12/27 - 5/24/15
Joyce Rooks

James Pinson Hughes 4/15/33 - 7/4/15
Jo Wright Hughes

Judy Varnadoe White 4/1/21 - 7/15/15
*Harry White

Julian Lester Tucker 5/16/33 - 8/11/15
Martha D. Tucker
Those We Remember
(Order in which they died)
Clergy

Joel Paul Barrett, Jr.  6/6/43 - 8/20/15
Patricia Hurst Barrett

Jonathan Scott Gates  6/3/71 - 10/4/15
Brooke Chambers Gates

Edward Cecil Felts  9/24/36 - 11/18/15
Barbara Ann Felts

John Berrien Minter, Sr.  1/29/27 - 12/20/15
Elizabeth S. Minter

William Ether McTier, Jr.  8/21/34 - 12/24/15
Marian E. McTier

Emory Carter Gilbert  7/21/26 - 1/1/16
Betty Gilbert

Donald James Welch  4/9/31 - 1/22/16
Mary Nancy Welch

Douglas Cecil Maloney  1/16/32 - 1/27/16
Barbara E. Maloney

* denotes spouse is deceased
Leonard Martin Wildes was born on February 15, 1933, to Spencer Martin and Essie Ruth Barber Wildes. His paternal grandparents were James Leonard and Martha Malissa Dixon Wildes; there was also a step-grandmother, Maggie Tatum Wildes. His maternal grandparents were Mose and Amanda Jane Stanfield Barber. He was also a direct descendant of John Wildes, a survivor of the Wildes Massacre of 1838, and Sarah Jane Nunez Wildes; they were great-grandparents. There were also two sisters, Dorothy Jane (James B.) Roland, Martha Ruth Taylor, and Florris Wildes Taylor, who survives him.

He married Ina “Pinky” Ruth Steiner Wildes who lives in Waycross at the Satilla Care Center. There were four children: David (Odalie) Martin Wildes of Norman, Oklahoma; Susan Inez (Randy) Ray of Freeport, Florida; Cynthia Gail Wildes of Becida, Minnesota; and John Daniel Wildes of San Antonio, Texas. There were also two step-children: Raelene (Brian) Nobels of Flower Mound, Texas; and Allen Steiner of Clayton, North Carolina. His rather large family included five granddaughters, one step-grandson, three great-grandsons, six great-granddaughters, three nieces (Penny (Sherman) Justice of Jacksonville, Florida, and Harriet Emily (Clint) Bowman and Nora Marie Willis of Waycross, Georgia), one nephew (William Spencer Willis of McDonough, Georgia), and numerous great-nieces, great-nephews, and other relatives.

He joined the U.S. Air Force in 1949 at the age of 16, and only in 1955 was his date of birth corrected. He started his military career as a rifleman private in the 221st Infantry Division and retired from the Air Force in 1969 as an aircraft reciprocating engine mechanic with the rank of tech sergeant.
He was stationed at many bases at home and abroad, including Guam, Okinawa, England, Illinois, Texas, Hawaii, New Hampshire and California. He served during both the Korean and Vietnam conflicts and was awarded the Korean Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. He also served in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

After his military retirement, he lived in Texas and Minnesota before returning to his native Waycross. He became a minister in the Methodist church and pastored at several churches, managed a food bank, and ministered to shut-ins. He loved airplanes and was a licensed pilot for many years. He also worked as an election poll supervisor for Ware County.

During January of 2000, he was appointed to the Gilchrist Park UMC and moved to the Waresboro-Roxie Mae UMC in July of 2000. He retired in 2003 and was appointed to the Sweetwater UMC.

He had a beautiful bass voice and loved music and singing. He had a deep compassion for the needs of others including a love for animals. At the time of his death, he had four cats, three of which were rescued cats, and a dog. He also had a great sense of humor and loved to share stories of his life, and there was no topic that he didn’t have a story about!

Leonard Martin Wildes died at home on a Tuesday morning, April 21, 2015, after a lengthy illness. Toni Brown was his beloved companion and devoted caregiver, and her daughter, Nadine Borrelli, was a dear friend. He was a devout Christian and a member of New Hope Fellowship in Waycross. Funeral services were held Sunday, April 26, 2015, at New Hope Fellowship, 522 Miles Still Road, Waycross. His body was given to science and cremated. Rather than being remembered with flowers and/or food, the family requested that donations be made to the Okefenokee Humane Society or New Hope Fellowship.

Submitted by Rev. Charles Whatley, a member of the Committee on Memoirs
The Reverend Walter “Guy” Parrish, Jr., was born in Cordele (Crisp County), Georgia, on July 30, 1928, to Mr. and Mrs. (Wilma Little) Walter Guy Parrish, Sr. He graduated from the Dublin, Georgia, High School, Middle Georgia College and Georgia Southern University, having attained his B.S. Degree. He then attended The Candler School of Theology at Emory University where he earned his Master of Divinity Degree.

On April 16, 1949, he married Billie Joyce Cole, and they were blessed with two wonderful boys, James Walter Parrish (Nancy) and Bill G. Parrish (Pam). Reverend Parrish had two grandsons, James W. Parrish, Jr., and William Cole Parrish; one great grandson, Alexander Morgan Parrish; and two brothers, Jack Parrish and Robert Parrish.

Reverend Parrish became an “Approved Supply Pastor” in The United Methodist Church in 1948. He was admitted into the Conference “On Trial” in 1951, and he came into the Conference in “Full Connection” in 1953. He retired in June 1989 after having served effectively 41 years. He chose Macon, Georgia, to be his home in his retirement years, and he went to his heavenly home on April 23, 2015, at the age of 86.

His Memorial Service was held at the Martha Bowman United Methodist Church in Macon, Georgia, on Saturday, May 2, 2015. The Reverends Tim Steffen and John B. Carroll officiated. Hart’s Mortuary was in charge of arrangements. It was a great service, and we all thanked God for the life and
ministry of this good man. He was then cremated, and of this date, there has been no interment.

His pastorates include the following: Nichols, Early County Circuit, Oliver, Guyton, Richland, East Dublin, Mt. Vernon, Quitman, Bloomfield, Dawson, Avalon, Cherokee Heights, Vidalia, and Laurel Branch.

He served on numerous Boards and Agencies with the Church. Perhaps the one he enjoyed most was serving as “Registrar, for the Board of Ordained Ministry.” In this role, he was mentor to ministerial candidates seeking ordination.

There is no way for us to know how many people were influenced to accept Christ by the words and life of this good man. God in Heaven knows, and we are confident that Guy’s works will follow him. Servant of God, well done!

Submitted by Rev. John B. Carroll at the request of the Committee on Memoirs
Alice Mizell Chancey was born in Waycross, Georgia, to James Jeffery Mizell and Laura Lillian Harris Mizell on May 16, 1924. She married Marvin J. Chancey and was the mother of two children, Marvin and JoAnn. Alice was a homemaker, owned a dry cleaning service, and was a pastor. She retired in 2000 after being the pastor of several United Methodist churches in the Southeast Georgia area.

Alice was known for her enthusiasm and her passion for sharing the gospel of Jesus with others. She had a sense of joy about her, and her joy was contagious. Her joy came from a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ, and she was committed to others coming to know Jesus as well. She loved her churches and did everything possible to keep her churches going. She also loved the people of her churches, and she was there for them in good times or bad. She had time for everyone, children and elderly alike. Everyone was important to her. She was never too busy for anyone. She did this all while being a loyal wife, devoted mother and a loving grandmother and great-grandmother. After her dedication to the Lord and his work, her family came first. She loved her family dearly.

Alice had strong convictions and the courage to stand up for her convictions. She never wavered from those convictions. She was determined to always do what was right in the sight of God and never worried about the demands of the world. She was a dedicated servant of Jesus, and when she decided to
follow him, she went all the way. She set her mind and heart on the things of God and never looked back. The best description of Alice Chancey is a “servant of God” and “a dear Christian woman.” What a way to be remembered.

Alice Chancey lived a long and fruitful life. She lived to be 90, but she was still full of passion and love for Jesus. She passed away April 25, 2015, at her daughter’s home in Athens, Georgia, following a lengthy illness. A Service of Death and Resurrection was held on Saturday, May 2, at the Folkston United Methodist Church with Rev. Jack Varnell and Rev. Eddie Raul officiating. Her body was laid to rest at Sardis Cemetery outside of Folkston, Georgia. The service was an exclamation point placed at the end of a life well lived.

Submitted by Rev. Jack Varnell at the request of the Committee on Memoirs
Samuel Q E Ghartey was born April 25, 1936, in Tarkwa, Ghana, son of King Ghartey V and Georgiana Ghartey. His father, a Methodist pastor, continued to preach regularly after becoming Chief of the Town of Winneba. Samuel was educated in various Methodist schools in Ghana and graduated from Achimota Secondary School, Accra, in 1956. He began a career in radio communications. Samuel married Mary Parker, also of Winneba, on August 28, 1965. While living in Liberia, Samuel answered the call to ministry.


Through the help of Rev. Richard Looney, later the Bishop of South Georgia, Samuel came to the Holston Conference in 1982. While serving as Mission Interpreter and then as Full-Time Local Pastor at Pruitt Hill-Tate Chapel, Greenville, TN, and Wesley, Bristol, VA, Samuel attended Emmanuel School of Religion in Johnson City, TN, receiving the Master of Divinity in 1985 and a Master in Church Growth and Administration in 1986.

In 1991 he transferred to South Georgia and was received into Full Membership in 1993. Samuel served at Howard Chapel, Dublin, and Speedwell, Savannah, and enjoyed visits with Bishop Looney when in Macon. Dr. David Haygood, his Superintendent in Savannah, remembers
him as a well-organized and dedicated pastor. In 1995 he also completed a Doctorate in Ministry from United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio.

In 1997 he was appointed Missionary to the Caribbean, serving the Turks and Caicos Islands and as Director of the Wesley Foundation. Returning to the U.S. and retiring in 2001, he served pastorates at Ebenezer UMC, Columbus, Ohio, and Ghana UMC, Bronx, New York.

As a pastor, Samuel worked with zeal. He was gifted and convincing in witnessing and soul-winning. He also inspired others to consider God’s call. In every pastorate, someone entered the ministry. Personally, he enjoyed reading and swimming, but his main interest was serving the Lord.

In 2002 Samuel and Mary returned to Winneba, Ghana. Desiring to elevate the level of poverty in his homeland, he organized, and for seven years led, the Gyatekuma Servant-Leader Project, an NGO which supplies books and equipment to schools and hospitals. A newspaper article reported one shipment worth $104,000! After a battle with dementia, this “faithful servant” died on April 30, 2015.

His funeral was held on August 7, 2015, at Ebenezer Methodist Cathedral, Winneba. Most Rev. Prof. Emmanuel K. Asante and Rt. Rev. Dr. Kwaku Asamoah-Okyere, Presiding and Administrative Bishops of Ghana, officiated, assisted by a number of colleagues and younger pastors Samuel influenced. Samuel is buried at King Ghartey’s Royal Private Cemetery, Winneba. Arrangements were handled by Sackey Funeral Home.

Samuel is survived by his beloved wife, Mary; his four children, Awo Ghartey, Ebow Ghartey, Sarah Orgen, and Mary Sekyi-Appiah; and a number of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nephews, cousins and close family members.

Submitted by Rev. James Duke, Jr., a member of the Committee on Memoirs
Dr. Charles Edwin “Chuck” Zimmerman, Jr., died on May 17, 2015, after a courageous battle with cancer. He was the son of the late Dr. Charles and Miriam Zimmerman of Tifton, Georgia. On May 6, 1972, Chuck married Robin Brown. They have two children, Christopher of Westerville, Ohio, and Melissa of Johnstown, Ohio, and one granddaughter, Madison.

Chuck earned a B.A. from Emory University, a M.Div. from Candler School of Theology, and a Ph.D. from Emory University. He served as associate pastor at Thomasville First from 1971-73. He was pastor at Irwinton from 1981-85 and Cuthbert from 1985-86, and then was chaplain and assistant professor of religion at Brevard College from 1986-91.

In 1991 Chuck joined the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Otterbein University, where he served until his death. He became a full professor in 2005 and chaired the department from 2002-07. Chuck received numerous awards for his scholarship including the Faculty Access Award for accommodating students with learning disabilities, the Otterbein Master Teacher of the Year, and the Exemplary Teaching Award from The United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

Many members of our Annual Conference got to know Chuck and his zeal for church history through his teaching in the Course of Study School. He taught every summer in the school at Candler School of Theology from
1986-2009 and at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio from 1997-2013. Others got to know him through events like a “Sunday School Week” in a local church. Hearing Chuck brought history into a living and lively conversation, engaging his class members’ perspective on faith and our church.

It was a joy to be with Chuck. He was a scintillating storyteller with a profound and penetrating sense of humor. His generous spirit enabled him to laugh at his own foibles, making those around him comfortable with theirs. In Chuck we found a compassionate companion.

A service of celebration of Chuck’s life was held May 30, 2015, in Riley Auditorium at Otterbein University.

Submitted by Rev. David Seyle at the request of the Committee on Memoirs
Charles Edison Rooks
March 12, 1927 - May 24, 2015

Lt. Col. (Ret) Charles Edison Rooks was born March 12, 1927, in Heard County, Georgia, one of five children born to Thomas Jefferson and Mary Ophenia Phillips Rooks. The family moved to College Park, Atlanta, where he received his elementary and secondary education, graduating from College Park High. He served for two years in the U.S. Army.

Charles’ family were active members of Second Baptist Church, College Park. His mother was called the “Church Mother;” his father was very mission minded. Charles enrolled in Mercer University, Macon, in pre-law, but heard God’s call into ministry. He was ordained by his home church on September 16, 1956. He received his theological education at Southwestern in Fort Worth, Texas, and Southeastern in Wake Forest, N.C. In 1959 he joined the Air Force as a Chaplain, on active duty until 1963 and then in the Ready Reserves, retiring as a Lt. Col. As a Chaplain he participated in three Air War College experiences.

On April 28, 1963, he married Joyce Cook, whom he met through the Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta. Over the years after ordination, Charles pastored Baptist churches in Maryland, Arkansas, Texas, Florida, Georgia and Oregon. In Florida Charles became friends with another Mercer Graduate, Dr. Jesse Waller, a member of the Florida Conference who later retired to Macon. Jesse played a special role in attracting Charles to Methodism.
Charles was admitted to the South Georgia Annual Conference in 1970 as a Full Member. His appointments included: Lakeside, Brunswick; Broxton; Jeffersonville; Glenwood Hills, Macon; Park Memorial, Macon; Asbury, Columbus; Palmyra Road, Albany; and Willacoochee-Beulah. He retired in 1993 but continued to serve Kirkland-Springhead for seven years and Leila for two. He and Joyce made Tifton their retirement home; Tifton First became their church home.

In his ministry, Charles served as chaplain for hospitals, the Drug Force, Alcoholics Anonymous, a half-way house, and the Lions Club. As a pastor his goals were to be a good shepherd of his flock and help his people grow in wisdom, unity, outreach and numbers. He was evangelistic in his preaching, a pastor who visited every day.

His personal interests included all sports, especially those played by Georgia Tech! He coached Little League Baseball and saw his teams win three championships. He enjoyed traveling. He also loved reading and study; he acquired a large library which brought him much pleasure.

He died on May 24, 2015, after a brief illness. Services were held on May 28, 2015, at McCullough Funeral Home Chapel in Warner Robins and at Georgia Veteran’s Cemetery, Milledgeville, with Air Force Chaplains officiating at both. He received full military honors with Taps and a twenty-one gun salute.

Charles is survived by his wife, Joyce, who counts him as a “Very Special Gift from God,” both as a minister and a husband. He is also survived by beloved siblings: James Rooks, Sr., of Riverdale; Shirley Rooks Mahurin of Crestwood, KY; and a sister-in-law, Elinor Rooks, of Atlanta.

Submitted by Rev. James Duke, Jr., a member of the Committee on Memoirs
James Pinson Hughes

April 15, 1933 – July 4, 2015

“Faith is the mightiest force that man has at his command. It impels human beings to greatness in thought and word and deed.” -Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1954

James Pinson Hughes answered faith’s call to courage and strength—a courage and strength that seemed to fill his life from almost the moment of birth. Born in a home on the edge of the Mercer University campus in Macon, Georgia, James and his identical twin, John, were immediately immersed in the educational and athletic atmosphere of the college. Quickly becoming accomplished and noted athletes, James and John excelled at Lanier High School and—not surprisingly—continued their court, field, and track accomplishments at their Mercer University “home.”

Birthed in their ROTC training and service, the military’s call would grow in the brothers’ hearts—inspiring them to enlist beyond their college obligations. For James, the United States Army would become occupation and passion for twenty-six years. He would not go alone. Along with his faith, James was accompanied by his heart’s love: a cheerleader named Jo Wright. From Albany, Georgia, Jo met James at Mercer, and they married on April 15, 1956, after a year-long courtship.

The beginning of their fifty-nine years together would be marked by the birth and immediate death of their firstborn son, James Pinson Hughes, Jr. Living only three days, little James nonetheless captured his parents’ hearts and still remains loved by the family he never knew. James Jr. would also later have four brothers: Jay (now an Elder in the North Georgia Conference), Jerry, Joel, and Jeff, who traveled with their parents to Germany and in further military adventures.

James’ education, athletic talent, and dedication lent itself to officer’s school and service in Army aviation as a helicopter gunship pilot. The Vietnam War and subsequent service brought James over six thousand hours of flying time—and over two thousand in combat. Despite being shot down four times, James never lost a crewmember. Upon retirement, Major James Pinson Hughes proudly wore a Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and over forty other medals.
The last years of James’ military service found him training future helicopter instructors at Fort Rucker, Alabama. While on a midnight training flight, James heard the voice of our Lord calling him to trade the battlefield for the pulpit. Answering in faith, James responded through the South Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church. Enrolling in Course of Study at Candler School of Theology, James began ministerial service as an Associate Pastor at Albany’s First United Methodist Church. Together, they would continue to serve at churches in Perkins, Baxley, and Arlington—along the way their congregations received four “Church of the Year” awards.

The couple—with James in his ever-present cowboy hat—would sometimes visit parishioners and even ride to church on horseback, just like the circuit-riders before them. Many a visitor was drawn inside the church by the presence of a horse tied outside! Their faithful dog, Beauty, would leave the parsonage early Sunday morning to walk the ten miles to church—and be waiting for James and Jo on the church steps. Beauty never minded playing the lamb in the living Nativity scenes.

Pastoral care was at the heart of James’ ministry, and this led to many different expressions of that love. Nursing homes, area hospitals, the Boys and Girls Club, and even Calhoun State Prison received care and compassion grown from his powerful faith. A trip to the Holy Land helped James and Jo discover the living history of the Bible as they walked in the footsteps of Christ.

James’ renowned athleticism lasted for decades. Horseback riding and parasailing were among their regular outdoor activities. Jo was with him for every adventure. Playing golf with his sons was a favorite activity. Family was, and always would be, central to the active living of James’ faith.

On July 4, 2015, God called home this Hero of Church and Country. On July 8, with the assistance of The Rev. Dr. Robin Lindsey, James’ four sons presided over his memorial service at Dalton First United Methodist Church. Granddaughter Madeline sang the old spiritual “Give Me Jesus.” His full and final earthly honors were received as James was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery on December 3, 2015. Above his casket was the flag of the nation he loved. Within, to rest eternally together, his firstborn son.

Submitted by Rev. Chris Shoemaker, a member of the Committee on Memoirs
The Rev. Judy White, of Tifton, died July 15, 2015. The Rev. V. L. Daughtery conducted the celebration of her life. She was preceded in death by her husband of 57 years, Mr. Harry White. She received her Associate degree from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and attended Emory University.

Rev. White loved the Lord, her people, her family, and her friends. She gave of her time unsparingly and was always there when needed. She was a role model and had the courage and discipline to open opportunities for other women. She worked tirelessly to make certain that her parishioners had what they needed – physically, emotionally, and spiritually. She took her role as spiritual leader seriously and never withdrew from her calling.

She had compassion for everything and everyone. She believed everyone was equal no matter who they are, what they did, or how much they had or didn’t have. With compassion comes love – love for God’s creation. She had compassion for the less fortunate. She would often quote “To whom much is given, much is required” and “only by the Grace of God go I.” Her compassion for everyone was sparked by her humility. No matter what happens, God is the source of all good things.

Judy White was never ashamed of being a Christian. Since Christ died for her, she proclaimed the Gospel of Christ to all those with whom she came in contact. Many years ago, a news reporter wanted to write an article about
her, since having a woman minister was a new concept in South Georgia. After repeated requests and repeated rejections, the reporter asked her why she wouldn’t consent to the article. Her comment was “I came to lift Jesus’ name, not Judy White’s.”

She believed in reaching for whatever goal a person wanted to achieve. No matter how impossible the goals may be, nothing is impossible with God. She believed in education because, as she stated many times, no one can take a person’s education and knowledge away from him/her. People can accomplish anything they set their mind to, as long as they are keeping Christ first in their lives and following what HE wants them to do. She said many times, “You can’t help where you start life, but you can help where you finish it.”

She taught people not to be afraid to venture out in unfamiliar territory. She opened the doors for women who would come after her. People have said numerous times that Judy White was a woman ahead of her time, a pioneer for women. To this, her only comment was, “I’m doing what I feel God wants me to do.”

Above all other things, Judy White taught those who would listen to value spirituality over materialism. One of her favorite chapters in Holy Scripture was I Corinthians 13, the Love Chapter. It was through love and compassion that she lived her life. She proved her love for God by loving humanity. She served God by serving humanity.

Submitted by Rev. Kenneth Smith at the request of the Committee on Memoirs
Julian Lester Tucker

May 16, 1933 - August 11, 2015

“Nobody got anywhere in the world by simply being content.” -Louis L’Amour

Julian Lester Tucker refused to be content with a world that did not know the love and saving grace of Christ. Born in Duval County, Florida—and moving to Fitzgerald, Georgia, as a boy—Julian would quickly learn to love the beauty of God’s world. His inquisitive mind and outdoor experience led to an amazing early honor: Julian was the first boy from Georgia to become the National Winner in the 4-H Forestry program. His groundbreaking discovery of chemically stimulating pine trees to increase pitch yield is still used today.

College was a natural choice for the young man from Fitzgerald High’s Class of 1950. Julian began his studies at Tifton’s Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and then transferred to Young Harris College—graduating with both an Associate Degree and the hand of Martha Dean Wright in marriage. Georgia Teacher’s College (today Georgia Southern University) was their next destination. While at the Teacher’s College, Julian worked at Statesboro First Methodist Church under the tutelage of venerable pastor Frederick Wilson. Under the guidance of Rev. Wilson, Julian grew in strength and clarity of calling. The fire of evangelism warmed his heart—and preaching the Gospel came naturally. Julian’s musical talent also evolved. He regularly sang duets in worship with the wife of then-College President Zach Henderson.

Upon graduation from college with a BA in History, Julian accepted a student appointment at the Willacoochee Methodist Church while commuting over 200 miles, one way, to Candler School of Theology. This was the beginning of a fifty-five year career of service to our Lord through the South Georgia Conference. Through our Bishop and Cabinet, God would call the Tuckers to Morningside (Albany); McRae; Brooks (Waycross); Centenary (Macon); Epworth (Savannah);
Jesup First; Americus First; Liberty (Macon); Bainbridge First; and returning to Liberty. Julian retired from Liberty but then continued to serve in Retired Supply at Surrency/Bethel (Appling County); again at Jesup First; and finally at Akin Memorial in rural Wayne County. As ministry increased, so did God’s blessing of family. Julie, Joy, Julian Jr., (who would precede his father in Glory), and Charles were added in turn to the Tuckers’ life.

Along this path of ministry, God would use Julian to speak to the hearts of two young men and call both to ministry in the South Georgia Conference: Dr. Edwin “Buddy” Cooper, today Superintendent of the Northwest District; and Steve Patton, Senior Pastor of Wesley at Frederica on St. Simons Island. Dr. Cooper was called during a revival at his home charge of Powersville/Wesley Chapel. Julian was the guest revival preacher, and his message of evangelism took hold in young Edwin’s life. Dr. Cooper clearly remembers—and shares—Julian’s formative belief that “Every life would be better if it was given to Jesus.”

As a native of Jesup, Georgia, Rev. Patton had the honor of calling Julian his pastor. Steve remembers his pastor’s smile, the twinkle in his eye, and the way he would sing “There’s Something About That Name” with his love for Christ and His Church shining through with every word. Indeed, Julian’s passion for the Church—the Bride of Christ—and her place in God’s world would influence Rev. Patton’s character and practice of ministry. One of Julian’s favorite sayings, “God is your Heavenly Father, but the Church is your Mama,” still echoes in his own teaching and preaching.

Julian’s love for the out-of-doors never faded. He loved to fish, play golf, and hunt quail whenever he could. He was never without one of life’s great treasures: a good bird dog.

On August 11, 2015, Julian Lester Tucker saw the fruits of his labors through his Father’s eyes. His family and friends gathered at Jesup First United Methodist Church to celebrate and remember. The Revs. Willie Beasley, Tucker Lewis, and Byron Scott presided. Julian’s mortal remains were laid to rest in the Jesup City Cemetery. His soul rests with our Lord, content in the Father’s arms.

Submitted by Rev. Chris Shoemaker, a member of the Committee on Memoirs
Joel Paul Barrett, Jr., was born in Bainbridge, Georgia, to United Methodist Minister Paul and Clara Barrett, and they lived in Brinson, Stapleton, Norman Park, Pearson, and Homerville. He graduated from Atkinson County High School in Pearson where he lettered in football, basketball, and baseball. He attended South Georgia Junior College in Douglas, Georgia, and graduated from Valdosta College in Valdosta, Georgia, with a degree in accounting. For several years, he worked for businesses as an accountant until he finally surrendered to the Lord’s call to enter the ministry. Joel graduated from Asbury Seminary in 1989 and began pursuing a second career as a United Methodist Minister. From 1989 to 1997, he served in six appointments in the South Georgia Conference: Ludowici/Middleton Memorial UM Churches, Ludowici, Georgia; Sparks UMC, Sparks, GA; and Twin City/New Beulah UM Churches in Twin City, GA. In 1997, he transferred to the New Mexico Annual Conference and served three additional appointments: Iraan First UM Church, Iraan, TX; Grace UM Church, El Paso, TX; and Fort Stockton First UM Church, Fort Stockton, TX. He retired in 2010.

You’ve heard people say, “It’s in his blood.” His father J. Paul Barrett, Sr., both of his grandfathers, his paternal great-grandfather and his late uncle, Tom Barrett, were ministers. His two brothers, John and Mira, and two of his first cousins, Alan Barrett and Vance B. Mathis, are United Methodist ministers.

Joel loved to cook, and his kitchen was never closed; he played guitar and loved to sing along with his wife, Pat; his brothers, John and Mira; and his
sisters, Ginger and Susan. He loved to travel; he and Pat traveled thousands of miles together across the length and breadth of the United States, never tiring of its endless splendor. Joel and Pat moved to Reno, Nevada, in 2011 where they faithfully followed Sparks High School football, basketball, and track events where their son Adam teaches and coaches. Joel will always be remembered as a loving husband, father, son, brother, grandfather, and great-grandfather but most of all as a devoted pastor and servant of God. His greatest passion was preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Joel was a quiet man with a big heart, and he loved life. Having read all of Louis L’Amour’s novels, he especially loved living in the West. After his death, his wife discovered this poem which she believes Joel would have agreed was his creed to live by: “Code of the West, Live each day with courage, Take pride in your work, Always finish what you start, Do what has to be done, Be tough but fair, When you make a promise, keep it, Ride for the brand, Talk less and say more, Remember that some things aren’t for sale, Know where to draw the line.”

Joel Paul Barrett, Jr., passed with peace and grace on August 20, 2015, with some of his loved ones at his side. Joel is survived by his wife Pat of Reno, NV; son Joel Barrett III of El Paso, TX; daughter Amy Barrett of Miami, FL; daughter Jennifer Davis of Panama City Beach, FL; son Bradley E. Barrett (Amy) of LaFayette, GA; and son Adam Z. Barrett of Reno, NV; grandchildren: Lyla Marie Bazin (Nat), Lindsey Kiskinis, Caroline Kiskinis, Michael M. Vitulli (Britney), Kendall B. Barrett, Kaylee S. Barrett, Logan Fairbanks and Baylee Fairbanks; great-grandson Levi Bazin; siblings: Mira L. Barrett (Donnie) of Portal, GA; Virginia R. Jarvis of Madison, FL; Susan J. Dunn (William, Jr.) of Columbus, GA, John M. Barrett (Juleann) of Tucumcari, NM. He was predeceased by his loving parents, Rev. J. Paul Barrett, Sr., and Clara Lewis Sheffield Barrett of Madison, Florida. Well done good and faithful servant, Joel Paul Barrett, Jr.

Submitted by Rev. Charles Whatley, a member of the Committee on Memoirs
Jonathan Scott Gates was born on June 3, 1971, in Ft. Hood, Texas, to Pat and Dan Gates, 59 minutes before his twin brother, Alan. Jonathan spent most of his formative years in Waycross, Georgia, where his father served as pastor of Brooks United Methodist Church. It was during these years that he met Brooke Chambers, the woman who would become his wife.

Jonathan and Brooke were married on October 9, 1993. They had two children during the course of their marriage: a daughter, Anna Catherine (born October 14, 1998) and a son, Brandon (born May 25, 2002).

Jonathan worked for the IBM Corporation as an Intel Team Lead, but in September of 2011 he received an appointment from the District Superintendent as a bi-vocational pastor to the Asbury United Methodist Church in Columbus, Georgia.

This seemed a natural progression for Jonathan, who had served as Lay Leader of East Highland United Methodist Church for many years. During his time as Lay Leader, Jonathan developed a number of effective ministries such as the “e-prayer team” – an online prayer ministry that connected people in prayer all over the world; and “Thank You Soldier” – a ministry of gratitude and encouragement in which care packages were sent to soldiers serving primarily in Afghanistan and Iraq. It was for this ministry that
Jonathan was awarded the Servant Leadership Award at the 2011 South Georgia Annual Conference in Tifton.

Jonathan brought an enthusiasm to his pastoral role that was contagious. At the time of his appointment, the Asbury church was in decline. But Jonathan believed – and preached – that through prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit working in and through the congregation, they would not only survive, but thrive as a place of life and hope in an area that desperately needed Jesus.

The people of Asbury were inspired and responded with increased attendance, joyful worship, and a hope-filled attitude.

Jonathan was also a devoted family man who spent countless hours supporting, coaching, and encouraging his children in all that of the activities in which they were involved. In addition to these things, he would often include them in his ministry to others, taking them with him as he visited with the sick and shut-ins of the congregation, providing an example of pastoral ministry for them to see.

Jonathan passed away at his home on October 4, 2015. His funeral was held at the St. Mark United Methodist Church in Columbus with Reverends Norman Dunlap and Mark Sasser officiating. He is buried in Parkhill Cemetery in Columbus next to his father, Rev. Dan V. Gates, who preceded him in death five years earlier.

Jonathan touched many lives during his time on earth. Those who knew him loved him – and miss him to this day. May he rest in peace in the Presence of the Living God.

Submitted by Rev. Mark Sasser at the request of the Committee on Memoirs
Edward Cecil Felts, Sr.
September 24, 1936 - November 18, 2015

Rev. Edward Cecil Felts, Sr., died after a prolonged illness on November 18, 2015. He was at home surrounded by the family he loved very dearly.

Cecil, the son of Edward Lee and Arrie Elizabeth Powell Felts, was born September 24, 1936, in Ellenton, Georgia. He humbly lived a life of loving service to God, family, country and local community. This began with Cecil’s service as a U.S. Air Force military policeman during the Korean Conflict. Service continued in later years as a city councilman and mayor of Omega, Georgia. Through the years, he owned several businesses including Felts Garage, Omega Auto Parts and Omega Greenhouses.

Felts served as lay leader at Omega United Methodist Church before entering the ministry. Rev. Felts began the course-of-study program through Emory University in 1996. At that time, he was appointed to pastor Omega United Methodist Church where he served for four years. His second appointment was to Tyson Memorial Methodist Church in Moultrie for a period of nine years. Retirement began for Cecil in 2010, although he continued to preach as long as he was physically able.

Cecil Felts was accompanied on his life’s journey of service by Barbara Ann Marchant Felts whom he married on March 2, 1956. They had three daughters and two sons. At the time of his death, Cecil was survived by his wife; three daughters and sons-in-law: Elizabeth Ann and Charles Randall
Edge; Valencia Jane and Lonnie David Scarbor; and Barbara Denise and Matthew Blake Robinson, all of Omega; along with two sons and one daughter-in-law: Edward Cecil, Jr. and Gail Rowland Felts of Tifton and Samuel Lee Felts of Tifton. He is also survived by grandchildren Jody Edge, Jennifer Edge, Melissa Hope and Matt Wall, Justin E. Felts, Michael Scarbor, Wayne “Boogie” Scarbor, Christopher and Heather Scarbor, Rebecca Felts, Austin Felts, Mathew and Haley Robinson, Daniel and Rachel Robinson and Mikayla Robinson as well as great-grandchildren Desirae Edge, Destiny Edge, William Henry Scarbor, Shae Scarbor, Dustin Scarbor and Matthew Wall; and one great-great-grandchild, Wyatt Williams. Although Rev. Felts enjoyed hobbies of reading, fishing, and growing flowers, his greatest delight was in spending time with this loving, caring extended family.

The funeral for Edward Cecil Felts, Sr., was conducted on Saturday, November 21, 2015, at 11:00 A.M. at the Omega United Methodist Church; the interment followed at Omega City Cemetery. Officiants for these services were family friends: Rev. Gary Griffin, pastor of Omega United Methodist Church; Rev. Danita Poston Knowles, pastor of Trinity (Tifton) United Methodist Church; and Rev. Walter Powell. Albritton Funeral Directors of Tifton, Georgia, arranged the services.

Submitted by Rev. Danita Poston Knowles at the request of the Committee on Memoirs
John Berrien Minter was born on January 29, 1927, to O. B. and Charlynn Minter who were waiting for him in heaven when he arrived. He attended and graduated from Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky, where he met and married the love of his life Elizabeth S. Minter. They were married for 65 years, and she survives him.

There were two children, a daughter, Alice (married to Ron who served at John’s Street UMC in New York City, the oldest Methodist Church in America) Minter-Sauer, and a son, John B. (Virginia) Minter; three grandchildren, Bruce C. (Janice) Minter, Melissa M. (Ken) Baerg, and Rachel S. (Tom) Beck; five great-grandchildren; two “Kitty Boys”; and lots of other relatives and friends.

John later attended and graduated from Emory’s Chandler Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia. He served in the South Georgia Conference until his retirement on disability in 1963 and moved to Kentucky where he worked for the Schulmerich Carillon Company selling handbells and church bells in Kentucky and Indiana.

He was appointed in 1950 to the Pavo UMC and in 1952 moved as an associate to the Albany First UMC. He was then appointed in 1956 to the Ashburn UMC, in 1958 to the Cokesbury UMC, and in 1960 to the Wrightsville UMC. After a disability retirement in 1963, he was fully retired in 1982.
He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, and a faithful pastor and servant of his Lord Jesus Christ.

John Berrien Minter died on Sunday, December 20, 2015; he was 88 years old. He left behind a loving wife, Elizabeth; a daughter, Alice; a son-in-law, Ron; a son, John; a daughter-in-law, Virginia; three grandchildren, Bruce and his wife Janice, Melissa and her husband Ken, and Rachel and her husband Tom; five great-grandchildren; those two “Kitty Boys”; and lots of other relatives, friends, and grateful former members.

The family held a memorial service on Sunday, February 7, 2016, at the St. Paul United Methodist Church in Louisville, Kentucky, followed by a reception in the McAdam’s Room of their fellowship hall. John asked that any donations or memorials be given to the Salvation Army or Dare-to-Care.

Submitted by Rev. Charles Whatley, a member of the Committee on Memoirs
In Matthew 8:20 & 22 Jesus responds to two who would follow Him. “Foxes have holes and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” Secondly, His response to one who was about to bury his father, “Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”

These scriptures reveal that there is nothing more important than following and serving Jesus. “Bill” McTier was thus compelled to serve His Lord and Savior. Many challenges greeted him in life, and the decisions he made each day affected his life and the lives of his loved ones. Bill kept his focus upon Christ, sacrificing personal family time on many occasions.

Rev McTier was born on August 21, 1934, in Columbus, GA, to William E. McTier, Sr., and Susie Alsobrook McTier. He had a brother, Robert McTier, and a sister, Susie McTier.

He is survived by his wife, Marian McTier, Nashville, GA; children, Alan and Mary Ann McTier, Lawrenceville, GA, Scott and Laura McTier, Grayson, GA, and Susan and Steve Crain, Jasper, GA.; stepchildren, Alan and Jamie Roberts Moore of SC, David and Debbie Roberts, and Maria and Joe Crow, all of Valdosta, GA, and Michael Roberts of Jennings, FL; five grandchildren; nine step-grandchildren; a sister and brother in law: Susie and Jack Rowe of Cary, NC, and a sister-in-law, Dianne McTier of Dataw Island, SC. Rev. McTier was preceded in death by his parents, William E. McTier, Sr., and Susie Alsobrook McTier, and a brother, Robert McTier.
Rev. McTier received B.A. and B.D. degrees from Emory University. He was licensed to preach in the Methodist Church in 1951, ordained a Deacon in 1959, and ordained an Elder in 1961.


He was involved in several Civic and community activities, and enjoyed jogging, walking, sailing, fishing, hunting, and gardening.

Interment was in the Oakland Cemetery, 2410 Alice Street, Waycross, GA.

Submitted by Rev. Wayne Mitchell at the request of the Committee on Memoirs
The Reverend Emory Carter Gilbert, Sr., was born in Kite, Georgia, on July 21, 1926. His parents were Rev. Forrest Julian Gilbert and Mrs. Anna Gertrude Bennett Gilbert. He died in Columbus, GA on Friday January 1, 2016. His funeral was held at St. Luke UMC on Tuesday, January 5, 2016, with Rev. Robert Beckum, Dr. Steve Rumford, Rev. Dick Reese, Rev. Mike McAfee, and Rev. Mark Sasser officiating. A private burial was held in Parkhill Cemetery in Columbus, Georgia.

Since his father was a pastor, Emory Gilbert attended school in several towns throughout South Georgia. He graduated from L. G. Harris Academy and Young Harris College. He was also a graduate of Florida Southern College and The Candler School of Theology at Emory University. On June 8, 1952, he and Betty Frances Hagan from Savannah, Georgia, were married. By his own admission, he knew that it was “a very special day” when Betty agreed to marry him. Their marriage covered a period of 63 years.

Rev. Gilbert is survived by his wife, Betty Hagan Gilbert; his son, Emory Carter Gilbert, Jr. (Cheryl), and daughter, Debra Gilbert Comeaux (Kenny); five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Rev. Gilbert was ordained an Elder in the South Georgia Conference on June 12, 1953, in First Methodist Church, Albany, Georgia. He served the following appointments: Wildwood Silk Hope; Leslie, Leesburg, DeSoto;
Tennille; Louisville; Montezuma; East Highland; and as Director of Development for the Methodist Home for Children and Youth in Macon, Georgia. His appointment to the Methodist Home covered the years 1976 until 1989 when he retired. After retiring to St. Luke UMC in 1989, he served as Minister of Outreach until 1996.

While traveling across South Georgia to raise funds for the Methodist Home, Emory Gilbert was able to photograph 713 church buildings in the Conference. Those pictures were included in a book entitled The History Of The South Georgia Conference, published in 1984. He served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Relief Association of the South Georgia Conference from 1962 until 1984. He has written a book: History Of The Relief Association Of The South Georgia Conference. For his work with the Methodist Home, Rev. Gilbert received the 1989 National Public Relations/Development/Marketing Director of the Year Award, presented by the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries.

Rev. Gilbert’s hobbies were woodworking and photography. Perhaps his favorite hobby was making pastoral appointments for the Conference. While he never served in the Bishop’s cabinet, he was known far and wide as the “Dean of the Kitchen Cabinet.” More often than not, his list of appointments, made earlier than the Bishop’s appointments, coincided with the official list. It was amazing to watch!

WE REMEMBER EMORY GILBERT AND GIVE THANKS!

Submitted by Rev. C. Dick Reese at the request of the Committee on Memoirs
Donald James Welch was born on April 9, 1931, in Ashland, Kentucky, to John and Mary Welch, the sixth of their eight children. He was educated in the public schools of Ashland and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Union College in Barbourville, Kentucky. Following his graduation from Duke University in 1954 with a Master of Divinity degree, he returned to Kentucky and was ordained as a Methodist minister. He later received an Honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from McMurray College.

Don’s career in ministry was primarily in college administration and teaching. Beginning in 1954 he served on the faculty at Union College and Berea College and was also appointed to the Methodist churches in Williamsburg, KY, and Berea, KY. In 1964 he became the Assistant Dean at Duke Divinity School in Durham, NC. In 1969 he became the Dean of Students at Wofford College and also served as Chaplain. Don became president of the Scarritt Graduate School in Nashville, TN, in 1979 and remained there until he was named Vice-President of Wesleyan College in Macon, GA, in 1989. In 1990 while serving at Wesleyan, Don was appointed part time to the Park Memorial United Methodist Church in Macon. After retiring from Wesleyan, he served the church full time until his retirement in 1999.

Don and his wife Nancy moved to a retirement community in Pinehurst, NC. The desire to serve found him becoming the founding pastor of the MacDonald’s Chapel Presbyterian Church and later the resident pastor at
Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines. In 2014 they moved to Spartanburg, SC, to be near their daughter.

Don was known and loved for his warm personality, trained mind, and good humor. Bible teaching was his love, and he never turned down an opportunity. He is also fondly remembered for his tenor voice that he joyfully shared in church and community choirs.

Don is survived by his wife of 61 years, the former Nancy Wilder of Corbin, KY; daughters, Sarah Welch Gunn (Billy) of Spartanburg, SC, and Margaret Ann Welch of Wellington FL; a son, James Vincent Welch of Greensboro, NC; five grandchildren; and a brother, David O. Welch of Ashland, KY.

Don Welch died on January 22, 2016, in Spartanburg, SC. A Memorial Service was conducted on January 29 at Central United Methodist Church, Spartanburg, SC.

Submitted by Rev. Donald M. Kea at the request of the Committee on Memoirs
Douglas Cecil Maloney
January 16, 1932-January 27, 2016

Douglas Cecil Maloney never intended to walk with God. Born in Tampa, Florida, and moving to the Atlanta, Georgia, area as a child, young Douglas didn’t grow up as a Christian. What would he have left behind living on his own? We’ll never know, because God had a purpose for Douglas Cecil Maloney.

First, God would provide him a companion. One Friday night, while cheering on his Russell High School football team, a young lady and her sister sat next to Douglas in the bleachers. The sister started up a conversation, but Douglas’ attention quickly turned to the young lady, Barbara Sinyard. They would be married about a year later. Through the next sixty-four years, Barbara would accompany Douglas through all the changes and adventures God had in store. But he needed to believe in God first.

After high school, Douglas attended the Georgia State College of Business Administration (today Georgia State University). In 1957, a persistent friend kept inviting Douglas to the Christian Businessman’s Breakfast in Atlanta. Giving in one day, Douglas attended the breakfast—and encountered the Lord’s gift of salvation. His life was immediately transformed. Once rather quiet and withdrawn, Douglas couldn’t keep silent about the wondrous love he had discovered. Almost as quickly, God called Douglas to the ministry. The Maloneys would begin attending church together at a Southern Baptist congregation, and Douglas transferred to the denomination’s flagship Mercer University.

Graduating from Mercer in 1960, Douglas began his graduate theological training at Southwestern Theological Seminary in Texas. After completion of his master’s degree, God would call him home to the Atlanta area. The Maloneys would plant a new Southern Baptist congregation—Cherokee Forest—in Doraville. He would simultaneously earn his Doctor of Ministry at Luther Rice College and Seminary, the young school having just moved to Atlanta from Jacksonville, Florida. His dissertation
project was a book entitled “Brooms, Stars, and Crystal Balls,” exposing the evil and danger inherent in the occult. Douglas would later be awarded an Honorary Doctorate for his work teaching in an Atlanta-area Bible college.

The Maloney family would grow with the addition of four daughters: Deborah, Cindy, Rebekah, and Mandy. A tragic illness would carry little Rebekah into the arms of Jesus far before her father.

The Maloney’s Southern Baptist service would continue to the Dug Gap church in Dalton, as the Associate Pastor of Tampa, Florida’s Idlewild Baptist Church, as Senior Pastor of Port Tampa Baptist Church, and finally to Glenn Forest in Mableton, Georgia.

During his twenty-five years as a Southern Baptist, Douglas encountered Elisabeth Elliot’s powerful memoir “The End of the Spear.” The Elliot’s story awakened missionary zeal in the once-shy former business student—and Douglas responded with a mission trip to Colombia and two to Guyana.

God hadn’t run out of new opportunities for the Malneys. While serving the Glenn Forest church, Douglas received a call from then-Valdosta District Superintendent Ned Steele. Rev. Steele’s offer came as quite a surprise: leave the Southern Baptist Church and serve God in southern Georgia as a United Methodist. After much prayer and discussion, Douglas and Barbara agreed.

The Maloney’s United Methodist service would take them to the Calvary/Bethel Charge in Cairo, Pearson, Aldersgate in Columbus, the East Dublin Charge (Gethsemane/ Evergreen), and Vienna/Shiloh in Dooly County. After retirement in 1997, Douglas would serve churches in Florida (White Springs) and North Georgia (Lowell).

Douglas kept both body and mind exercised with tennis and his personal library of over 1000 books—including many by his favorite author, Louis L’Amour. Much like his literary hero, God kept Douglas ever moving in adventurous new directions.

On January 27, 2016, Douglas embarked on his final adventure. His family was present to send him off on his greatest journey—to meet The Creator of All Things. A memorial service was held on February 7, 2016, at Villa Rica United Methodist Church. His mortal remains were cremated, and his family will scatter his ashes in the Tennessee Mountains near Gatlinburg in a later, private ceremony.

Submitted by Rev. Chris Shoemaker, a member of the Committee on Memoirs
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Memoirs of Spouses who served beside Clergy in the South Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church and died between April 1, 2015, and March 31, 2016
Faith is the victory that overcomes the world
Faith is to believe what we do not see
Faith’s reward is to see and enjoy what we believe
May we ever trust in You and never lean on our own Understanding
The reward for believing is great
Your kingdom is everlasting and Your dominion endures throughout all generations
Those We Remember
(Order in which they died)
Spouses

Bobbie Vaughn Brown 3/27/32 - 7/17/15
Sanford V. Brown

June Lindly Hill 6/10/22 - 7/20/15
*D. Merle Hill

Ruthanne Shockley Key 3/5/26 - 8/25/15
Thomas M. “Jack” Key

Eunice Partin Smith 6/24/11 - 9/22/15
*William Park Smith

Amy Parnell Griffin 6/27/28 - 12/11/15
Clarence Griffin

Ruth Whiting Culbreth 6/24/31 - 12/17/15
*Charles A. Culbreth, Jr.
Those We Remember
(Order in which they died)
Spouses

Mabel Burns Harris  12/26/30 - 12/29/15
* Frank Henry Harris, Jr.

Janis Roberson Kenney  9/16/38 - 1/4/16
* James Calvin Kenney, Sr.

Allene Walker Maddox  12/3/25 - 1/27/16
* Eugene Matthew Maddox

Glennis Lee Powers  12/1/53 - 1/30/16
* Donald Roger Powers

Ferrell “Faye” Smith McCall  4/5/38 - 2/25/16
* Jackie Stanton McCall

* denotes spouse is deceased
Bobbie Hilda Vaughan Brown

March 27, 1932 – July 17, 2015

Bobbie Hilda Vaughan Brown was born on March 27, 1932, in Mt. Vernon, Georgia, to Robert and Hilda Powell Vaughan. She spent her childhood in Metter, Georgia, where she graduated from high school. She went on to earn degrees in Early Childhood Education from Georgia Southern University and from Armstrong State University, then teaching for 21 years before retiring in 1994. However, as a committed follower of Jesus Christ, her heartfelt calling was that of a pastor’s wife.

Bobbie and the Reverend Sanford V. Brown were married for 63 years. For more than 40 of these years they served churches across South Georgia as a team. Their children described them as a tortoise and a hare. Bobbie was the stabilizer and steady one, always in the background encouraging and supporting. She made it possible for Sanford to be fully engaged in the church he was serving and to do additional evangelistic work preaching revivals, camp meetings and missions. Their motto was “Each for the other and both for God.”

In retirement, Bobbie was an active member of Wilmington Island United Methodist Church singing in the choir and also in the musical group “Belles and Beaus.” She was a faithful member of the Seekers Sunday School Class.

Her family was always her first priority. Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren called her “Nana,” and they describe her as a kind, sweet
nurturing, humble and selfless person who always had a smile for them. Her hobbies included singing, playing the piano, ballroom dancing, and sewing.

Bobbie was a true southern lady, always correct, proper and gracious. Her sweet, caring nature made her an ideal pastor’s wife. Whatever it was like when they arrived, she made each parsonage a warm, tidy and orderly home for her family. I Corinthians 13 was the life she lived as she enjoyed an intimate walk with Jesus. She lived and expressed that kind of love to everyone whether it was her family, her students, friends, congregation members or strangers.

Bobbie is survived by her husband, Sanford V. Brown; daughter, Debra B. Johnson of Columbus, GA; daughter, Barbara B. Greer of Savannah, GA; son, Sanford V. Brown, Jr. of Brooks, GA; sister, Martha V. Yarbrough of Clayton, GA; half-sister, Carol V. Donaldson of Metter, GA; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life Service was held at 12 noon on Wednesday, July 22, 2015, at Wilmington Island United Methodist Church. The Rev. Jim Rush officiated with several other family members and friends sharing memories. Her body was laid to rest at Forest Lawn Memory Garden. The directors of Fairhaven Funeral Home were in charge of the arrangements.

Submitted by Rev. Jim Rush, a member of the Committee on Memoirs
V. June Hill was born in Marion County, Iowa, on June 10, 1922, to Wayne and Margaret Lindly, who had three children. She grew up with a brother and a sister, finished school and went on to the University of Iowa, graduating in 1958. After college, she taught school for a number of years.

She married D. Merle Hill, also from Iowa, on December 7, 1940, and they had three children. The oldest was Donald, and six years later God blessed them with twin girls, Ramona Irene Raymond, who lives in Wilmore, Kentucky, and Margaret Jerene “Jere,” who lives in Issaquah, Washington.

After serving a number of charges in Iowa, they were happy to be able to move to Georgia in the 70s. They loved everything about Georgia, made many good friends and enjoyed their life and ministry in South Georgia until Pastor Hill died in 1998. After his death, June moved to Washington in 2000 to be close to Jerene. She lived with her daughter and son-in-law for over 10 years until she died on July 20, 2015, at the age of 93, of congestive heart failure.

Submitted by Rev. Charles Whatley, a member of the Committee on Memoirs
Mrs. Ruthanne Shockley Key was born on March 5, 1926, in Indiana. She passed from this life on August 25, 2015, in Dublin, Georgia. She is survived by her husband of 67 years, Rev. Jack Key. She is also survived by her three children: Evangeline Key Walmsley, Stanley M. Key, and Christina Key Whitworth. From her three children she leaves behind 12 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

Ruthanne served alongside Jack in full time ministry for 41 years. Together they served Hillcrest UMC, Nashville UMC, Cordele FUMC, Porterfield UMC, Vineville UMC, Wynnton UMC, and Dublin FUMC. After retirement, she taught conversational English in China for a year. She and Jack also pastored the only English-speaking Protestant Church in Ecuador for a year. During that time, she judged the English Olympics in Outer Mongolia and taught Sunday School. After China, Jack and Ruthanne returned to Dublin, Ga., where Jack pastored the Evergreen United Methodist Church for 14 years. Ultimately, Jack and Ruthanne landed back at Dublin First United Methodist Church where they had served for five years from 1983-1988.

Rarely was Jack seen without Ruthanne. She accompanied him everywhere that he went, and she was as much a part of the visitation team as he. She enjoyed making needlepoint Kleenex boxes and leaving them with everyone whom she visited. She also took great interest in the families of those whom she visited, becoming a mother figure to countless people across the South.
Georgia Annual Conference. Ruthanne will always be remembered for being a sweet, caring, and vivacious disciple of Jesus Christ.

Mrs. Key was not one to draw attention to herself. Instead, she always wanted people to see Jesus first and foremost. Therefore, she elected to have her funeral service carried out in a non-traditional way. Instead of the family processing from the church to the graveside, the family gathered at the grave ahead of time for a time of private sharing and prayer. Mrs. Key’s body was committed to the ground at Evergreen Cemetery in Dublin, Ga. Then the family made their way to Dublin First United Methodist Church for a service of celebration and remembrance of her life, but her body was not there. It was a very uplifting service of worship beginning with the congregation singing, “All Hail the Power of Jesus Name” and ending with Handel’s “Hallelujah Chorus” on the organ.

The service was led by the Rev. Thad Haygood, senior pastor of Dublin FUMC, and the Rev. Dr. Bob Williams, associate pastor of Dublin FUMC. Several of Mrs. Key’s family members also spoke during the service of celebration. There was laughter and tears, and just as she wanted, there was great worship! Praise God for the life of Ruthanne Shockley Key.

Submitted by Rev. Thad Haygood at the request of the Committee on Memoirs
Eunice Partin Smith was born on June 24, 1911, in Stillmore, Georgia, to Pastor George R. and Carolyn Rustin Partin. She attended and graduated from Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia. She worked as a social worker and teacher before marrying W. Park Smith on June 16, 1936. Being a United Methodist pastor, George asked Park’s District Superintendent, Pastor J. P. Dell, “What is your estimate of the young preacher, Park Smith?” Pastor Dell said, “He is going to make us a very useful man.”

Eunice and George had two daughters, Mrs. Jacquelyn Smith Lineberger of Bowie, Maryland, Mrs. Jerdith “Jere” Smith Bartley of Myrtle Creek, Oregon; four grandchildren, Sandra Lineberger Wolk, Anne Lineberger Campbell, David Bartley, and Brian Bartley; and six great-grandchildren, Ben Wolk, Alex Wolk, Sara Beth Campbell, Melissa Campbell, Ryan Campbell, and Gavin Bartley.

Park came into the South Georgia Conference in 1931 after serving as a supply preacher on the Talbot County Circuit (1931-1933) in the Columbus District. After being admitted to the Conference, he served Rocky Ford (1934-1937) in the Savannah District where he met the lovely Eunice Partin. They were married and together served Rocky Ford, Ludowici (1938-1940) in the Waycross District, and Doerun (1941) in the Valdosta District. Mrs. Smith was active in choirs and women’s societies and taught adult Sunday School classes in the churches Park served.

In 1959, they moved to Thomasville, Georgia; Houston, Texas; and Fayetteville, North Carolina, where Park served U. S. Government Veterans’ Administration hospitals as a chaplain. They retired in 1973 and moved to Waycross where they joined Trinity UMC. Park substituted in many of the area churches, and they participated in many of the community’s projects until Park’s death September 9, 1982.

After Park died, Eunice lived in Waycross, Georgia; in Americus, Georgia, at Magnolia Manor; in Bowie, Maryland; and in Roseburg, Oregon. She died on September 22, 2015, in Roseburg, Oregon.

Submitted by Rev. Charles Whatley, a member of the Committee on Memoirs
Amy Earle
Parnell Griffin

June 27, 1928 – December 11, 2015

“I said to the Lord, I’m going to hold steady on to you, and I know you will see me through.” -Harriet Tubman

Amy Earle Parnell Griffin knew the joy that came from holding steady to God. Born near Girard in rural Burke County, Georgia, Amy grew up with her sister, Willie Hazel, and brothers, Albert, Phendell, and Drexel. She learned to know and love our Lord—and the happiness He brings—at the Smith Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Girard.

One day, Amy met a Waynesboro man named Clarence Griffin. Clarence, a successful farmer and smokehouse owner, was a highly-respected member of the community and widely sought for his delicious and expertly-cured meats. The “Ham Man,” as others respectfully called him, quickly fell in love with Amy, and they were soon married. Clarence was a member at the Asbury Methodist Church, so Amy transferred her membership so the Griffins could worship together.

Soon, their family would grow. Sons Clarence Jr, Kenneth Wayne, and John Fredrick (who preceded his mother to Glory) would fill the Griffin home. As time drew past, Amy taught her children manners, faith, and what it meant to truly rely on the Lord.

As her family continued to mature in age and faith, Amy sensed something different about her beloved husband. He seemed to be quietly struggling with something both deeply powerful and personal. Realizing that Clarence, Sr., was quite possibly being called to the ministry, Amy began to pray for...
clarity and a revealing of God’s will in their lives. Shortly after, Clarence indeed brought forth that God had been calling him to the pulpit. Amy rejoiced, and they began a new adventure of faith, trust, and service together.

God was far from finished with the Griffin family. Later, the mantle of calling would fall upon Kenneth, and he would continue the work of both his Earthly and Heavenly Fathers—even once having the rare and sacred opportunity to pastor one of his dad’s former churches. Today, Kenneth proclaims the truth and joy of the Gospel at Statesboro’s Brannen Chapel United Methodist Church.

Amy’s joyous spirit and never-ending smile attracted all around. Never at a loss for friends, those near her quickly grew to love her. Her presence—and Christ shining through her—even transformed the assisted-living facility where she spent her final earthly years, the still and reflective days suddenly filled with laughter, smiles, and a glimpse of the eternal joy of our Savior.

Amy Earle Parnell Griffin claimed her Heavenly inheritance on December 11, 2015. She left an earthly legacy of love, humor, and lightheartedness that only comes from a complete trust in God in every situation—what John Wesley called “Christian Perfection.” On December 19, 2015, Amy’s final worship service at Asbury United Methodist Church was presided over by the Rev. Perry Medley. The eulogy—delivered by her son, Kenneth—was based on St. Mark 4:35. The title was “Getting Late in the Evening, Time to Go Home.” With her soul now free in perfect joy, her body was laid in the Asbury church cemetery.

Our Lord, indeed, saw her through.

Submitted by Rev. Chris Shoemaker, a member of the Committee on Memoirs
Ruth Whiting Culbreth
June 24, 1931 - December 17, 2015

Ruth Whiting Culbreth was born in Camilla, Georgia, on June 24, 1931; she was one of nine children born to Julian Deming and Helen Kathleen Acree Whiting. She was the valedictorian at Camilla High School and went on to earn a BS in French from Agnes Scott College in 1952. But she did more than study at Agnes Scott; she was a member of their May Court for three of her four years there and chair of the Lecture Association. As the chair, she sat at the head table with such notables as Robert Frost and Pearl S. Buck. During the summers, she lived with her sister, Rebecca, in Baltimore, Maryland, and worked for the Hecht Company, earning money for her education.

Her life changed once more when she met and married Pastor Charles “Brother Charlie” Augustus Culbreth, Jr., who died March 3, 2012. Her brother, Pastor Tom Whiting, married them, and she spent the rest of her life moving from church to church with Brother Charlie, supporting him, raising their two sons, and ministering to the people she met in her own quiet way.

If you’d asked her, she’d have said her greatest ministry was at home as a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Her family was her life and her joy, and she was a model of faith and love of God for all of them. And now she’s in heaven with her parents, Brother Charlie, three sisters (Gladys
W. Glenn, Rebecca W. Jones, and Julianne W. Fish) and three brothers (Pastor Tom Whiting, George Leyton Whiting, and Julian Deming Whiting).


Ruth Whiting Culbreth died at Archbold Memorial Hospital in Thomasville, Georgia, on December 17, 2015, and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Cairo, Georgia, on December 19, 2015.

Submitted by Rev. Whit Byram at the request of the Committee on Memoirs
Mrs. Harris was born on December 26, 1930, in Malvern, Ohio, to the late Berlin and Mabel Velma Cunningham Burns. Her parents prayed for her daily, setting the example that their daughter took to heart. She accepted Christ as a young girl, and it made all the difference in her life.

One of the prayers Mabel’s parents routinely prayed was for the man their beloved daughter would eventually marry. Mabel met Frank H. Harris, Jr., while he was singing in a traveling quartet from Indiana Wesleyan. She was playing the piano for the youth services at Hollow Rock Camp Meeting. God was in their relationship, which was blessed with four children and 62 years of marriage.

Mabel graduated from Asbury College and received her master’s from Columbus State. She enjoyed a career as a teacher, retiring from the Emanuel County School System. Mabel faithfully and skillfully led congregations in worship by playing the piano at several churches where Frank served as a minister. She was a beloved member of Forest Hills United Methodist Church.

Friends and family remember her warm smile and warmer heart. Every morning when she rose from slumber, she sat down with a cup of coffee and her Bible. She would study God’s Word, allowing it to penetrate her heart and form her character. Then she would pray, connecting with her God, seeking guidance and empowerment, soaking in his love.
Her favorite verse was Joshua 1:9, “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” She had a plaque with this Scripture in her hospital room. She shared her faith with doctors and nurses who worked with her through her pain, inviting them to her church, inviting them to experience God’s love.

She went to be with her Lord on December 29, 2015, and is buried at Macon Memorial Park. She is survived by her husband, Rev. Frank H. Harris, Jr., of Macon and their four children.

Submitted by Rev. Baxter Hurley at the request of the Committee on Memoirs
Janis Celeste Roberson Kenney was born in Appling County, Georgia, on September 16, 1938, to Louis Edwin and Mildred Johns Roberson. Janis grew up in Glynn County and graduated with honors from Glynn Academy High School. She received a Bachelor of Science from the University of Georgia, Master of Christian Education from Candler School of Theology Emory University and a Master of Education from Valdosta State College. She met her husband, James Calvin Kenney, Sr., while attending Emory University, and they were married July 29, 1962. They had four children, James Calvin Kenney, Jr., Celeste Marie Kenney, Carole Kenney (Lee), and Christopher Edwin Kenney, who preceded her in death.

While attending Candler School of Theology, Janis served as Director of Christian Education and Financial Secretary of St. James United Methodist Church in Atlanta and enjoyed a 30-year career as a high school mathematics teacher. She received special training in work with gifted students. She retired from teaching in 1995. Her students have wonderful memories of their algebra teacher as an outstanding teacher who let her light shine in the classroom.

Janis loved music, worship and designing worship centers. She truly had a love for Missions that was boosted in the summer of 1959 when she went on a Mission Trip to the province of Camaguey in Cuba. This trip was sponsored by The University of Georgia Wesley Foundation.
Janis and her husband, Jim, a United Methodist minister, served in seven of the then nine districts of the South Georgia Conference United Methodist Church and was a member of the Jekyll Island United Methodist Church. As a partner with her husband, Jim, across South Georgia, her ministry included serving as Chairperson of the South Georgia Conference Board of Missions and as a member of other Conference Committees. She loved United Methodist Women and served as local, district and conference officers. She was the South Georgia Conference United Methodist Women Spiritual Growth Coordinator, Dean of the South Georgia Conference School of Christian Mission, President of the Waycross District United Methodist Women and President of the South Georgia Conference Ministers’ Spouses. Janis also attended the World Methodist Conference in England in 2001.

Janis passed away on January 4, 2016, in Brunswick, Georgia. She lived with grace despite living with pain for many years. Her life was celebrated in a memorial service at the Brunswick First United Methodist Church with Dr. Jim McIlrath, Dr. Wayne Moseley, and Rev. William Reincheld officiating. Also sharing memoirs were her cousin, Anna Jo Roberson Mattson, Dr. Willis Moore, and her daughter, Celeste Kenney. Special music was provided by Mr. Stan Greene, and her grandson, Andrew Kenney, read the scripture. Janis is survived by her husband of 53 years and by three of her four children: son, James Calvin Kenney, Jr., of Brunswick, Georgia; two daughters, Celeste Marie Kenney of Brunswick, Georgia, and Carole Kenney Lee (Tom) of Willow Springs, Illinois; daughter-in-love, Janet Mabry Kenney Jacobs (David) of Opelika, Alabama; grandson, Andrew James Kenney of Birmingham, Alabama; and granddaughter, Caitlyn Kristina Lee of Willow Springs, Illinois.

Submitted by Mrs. Gloria Morgan at the request of the Committee on Memoirs
Allene Walker Maddox was born on December 3, 1925, in Tift County, Ga., one of six children born to Sidney and Myrtle Selph Walker. In her childhood the family moved to Crisp County, where she graduated from East Crisp High. After attending Berry College at Rome, she returned home and found a job at Cordele Uniform, from which she later retired. Then and later she was an active member of Hatley Baptist Church.

On May 14, 1953, she married Eugene Maddox, who grew up with Allene; their families lived about a mile apart. In 1977 Gene answered the call to ministry. Since Gene came from a strong Methodist background, he served appointments in the South Georgia Conference, including Parrott, White Oak Circuit, Rhine, Lumber City, and Mt. Olivet; Allene supported his call. Her special gift for ministry was food. She was an excellent cook and gladly made her contribution in times of illness and bereavement, as well as church gatherings.

In 1993 Gene retired, and they made their home in Cordele. Gene died in 1995. In his Memoir in the 1996 Journal, Gene’s youngest brother, Rev. Fred Maddox, also a member of the South Georgia Conference, paid tribute to his sister-in-law: “The last four years of (Gene’s) life were severely restricted by illness. His wife was constantly by his side during a long, exhausting illness, giving herself totally in a ministry of loving care.”
Allene was dedicated to her family. She freely shared her love with her children, grandchildren, and all her family circle. She had strong opinions and convictions, which she also freely shared. At the same time, she was always ready to help anybody for any purpose out of her great, loving heart! Her family treasured the strength of her convictions and her love!

Allene died on January 27, 2016, at Cordele Health and Rehabilitation. Her funeral was held on January 30, 2016, at Rainey Family Funeral Services Chapel in Cordele. She was buried with her husband in the Maddox Family plot at Arabi Cemetery. Her brothers-in-law, Rev. Fred Maddox and Rev. Royce Freeman, officiated, assisted by Rev. James Spires, her pastor.

Allene is survived by her daughters, Janice Self (Winn) of Warm Springs and Donna Rogers (Mark) of Cordele; two sons, Randy Maddox (Monique) of Cumming and Sandy Maddox (Martha) of Cleveland, TN; eight grandchildren, three sisters, a sister-in-law, and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by a brother and a sister.

Submitted by Rev. James Duke, Jr., a member of the Committee on Memoirs
Glennis Virginia Lee Powers was born in Statesboro on December 1, 1953, to Hubert and Virginia Hendry Lee. She graduated from Bryan County High School in 1971 and, after graduation, met and married Donald R. Powers from Savannah, Georgia. They had one son, Donald Stephen Powers, in 1991, and she became a loving and devoted mother.

Wanting to complete her education, she attended and graduated from Valdosta State University with honors and taught elementary school where she had a profound impact on many young lives. And her ministry continued in the churches she and Donald served over twenty years in the South Georgia Conference. It has been said that the best move any pastor can make is to marry a woman who plays the piano, and she did, playing in many of the churches where they served together.

She loved her family, her friends, her students, and the congregations she and Donald served over the years. She loved writing, both stories and poetry, and had a number of things published. She also loved traveling when her health permitted it.

Glennis was 62 years old when she died on Saturday, January 30, 2016, at home after a serious illness. Both her father and her husband of 36 years were waiting in heaven when she arrived, and she’s waiting there for her son, Donald Stephen Powers; her mother, Virginia Hendry Lee; her brother,
Anthony (Betty) Lee; her sister, Iris (Dale) Sims; two brothers-in-law, Bill (Kay) Powers and Randy Waldron; and lots of nieces and nephews.

The family spent time with friends at a visitation on Monday, February 1, 2016, and joined them again for a funeral service on Tuesday, February 2, 2016, at Flanders Morrison Funeral Home in Pembroke, Georgia. Pastors Andy Brownley and Joe Leatherwood led the service in the chapel and later the interment at the Ellabel United Methodist Church Cemetery.

Submitted by Rev. Charles Whatley, a member of the Committee on Memoirs
Ferrell “Faye” Smith McCall was born April 5, 1938, in Bickley, Ga., one of 17 children born to Robert Lee and Allie Herndon Smith. She graduated from Waresboro School and resided in Waycross most of her life. She was married to Aldree Hardrick; they were blessed with three children.

After Aldree’s death, Faye met Jackie Stanton McCall through her church. Jackie was a native of Jesup, the son of A.C. and Margie McCall. He had served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. He was a Methodist Lay Pastor, serving appointments as a Local Pastor in North Georgia and during the 1980s at Manor Circuit; Remerton, Valdosta; and Fairview-Ebenezer, Thomasville, in South Georgia. He and Faye married on June 15, 1976, and enjoyed almost 37 years of partnership in family and faith. He died on January 24, 2013, and was buried in Telmore Church of God Cemetery. At the time of his death, he was a member of First United Methodist, Waycross.

Faye, a former deli manager for Winn Dixie in Waycross, was committed to the Christian faith. She read her Bible daily. She was a member of the Church of God on Hicks Street. While not able to attend in recent years, she was faithful to TV ministries. She wanted everyone to know the Lord!

Faye’s great joy in life was her family, to whom she was very close. She loved having coffee with her sisters. She enjoyed family get-togethers and the annual Reunion, which is held each year near the birthday of her mother,
who died in 2000 at the age of 94. Faye endeared herself to all generations of her family with her wonderful sense of humor, her kind personality, and her desire to help everybody. After Jackie’s death, she made her home with her granddaughter, Susan Mason, who was ill; they gladly looked after each other until Susan’s death in 2015. Her ready willingness to help was her way of expressing her love and the love of Christ!

Faye died on February 25, 2016, at Mayo Clinic Health System in Waycross after a brief illness. Her funeral was held at Music Funeral Home Chapel on February 28, 2016. Burial followed in Telmore Cemetery. Rev. Donnie Tuten of Haywood Baptist Church officiated.

Faye was predeceased by her husband; son, Robbie Hardrick; a grandson; and a granddaughter. She is survived by a son, Al Hardrick, and a daughter, Debbie Mason (Ron), both of Waycross; two grandchildren; six brothers and sisters; and numerous nephews and nieces.

Submitted by Rev. James Duke, Jr., a member of the Committee on Memoirs
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