

In Memoriam

A Celebration of Ministry

California-Pacific Annual Conference

United Methodist Church

2005

In Memoriam

Robert T. Bobilin

BOBILIN, ROBERT T. (T.54; F.56) SCA 54 Los Angeles: Century City Parish; 55 Los Angeles: Aliso Village; 58 Chaplain & Instructor, Whittier Col.; 60 Chaplain & Asst. Prof., Hamline Univ.; 65 Assoc Prof., Univ. of Kansas; 67 Assoc. Prof., Univ. of Hawaii; **PSW** 77; 78 Prof., Univ. of Hawaii; **C-P** 85; 91 Retired.

Scholar, church-activist, and champion of non-violence, Dr.
Robert T. Bobilin of Honolulu, died at home on December 22, 2004.
He was eighty years old.

Dr. Bobilin was a founding co-director of the Institute for Peace at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He was Chair of the UH Department of Religion for nine years. During this time, he helped to institute a graduate program and a series of conferences and publications on Christianity and Buddhism in Southeast Asia. Dr. Bobilin served as an advisor to the Hawaii Association of International Buddhists and was a visiting professor at Kansai Gakuen in Nishinomiya, Japan, and in Bangkok, Thailand.

During the last years of the Vietnam War, he was the chairman of the American Friends Service Committee in Honolulu. Dr. Bobilin was on the board of the Hawaii Institute for Theological Studies and was very active in continuing education for clergy and laymen. Dr. Bobilin's early call to ministry began when he organized laborers in Philadelphia and the Brooklyn waterfront, and there saw his calling as a chaplain to laborers. It was through the influence of the late Harvey Seifert, a Methodist minister and later professor of Ethics at Claremont School of Theology, he attended Adrian College, a Methodist institution and later seminary at USC where Seifert taught at the time. He graduated with a Master's of Theology and a Doctorate of Philosophy. While wanting to work with laborers, he was convinced by the faculty to pursue his PhD. in religion. He married Dorothy Williams in 1954. Ironically, she too was the child of a United Methodist minister.

Dr. Bobilin had several appointments to colleges and universities, but his first pastoral appointment was to Aliso Village, East Los Angeles, organizing a "storefront church" in an abandoned ceramics factory, and helping residents of the impoverished community with access to government agencies and coping with public housing and social issues. Those

were difficult years. His wife, Dorothy, then a social worker said, "When we were sent to East Los Angeles to work with those living in public housing, we almost qualified for public housing ourselves." There they had a ministry to the residents in that housing development. In pursuing an academic career, Dr. Bobilin's interest was in World Religion with an emphasis on Eastern Religion. His postdoctoral studies in this area took him to Harvard, Japan and the Orient. In 1967 he joined the Religion Department faculty at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. While he taught and studied, he also had an active role in the life of the church serving on the board of the Institute for Theological Studies and on the United Methodist Church Division on Higher Education and Church & Society and was active with Kilohana United Methodist Church.

Dr. Bobilin is survived by his wife of 50 years; two daughters, Cynthia Easley of Gig Harbor, Washington, and Noel "Zaff" Bobilin Furer of Honolulu; and his son, Steven Bobilin of Honolulu. He is also survived by 10 grandchildren and his brother, Theodore C. Bobilin of South Carolina.

June 19, 1924 - December 22, 2004

Howard Clinebell died peacefully on April 13, 2005. He was born in Springfield, Illinois in 1922, graduated from DePauw University in Indiana, Garrett Seminary in Illinois, and earned a doctorate from Columbia University in New York. He met Charlotte while both were in school; they were married in 1945.

Howard was a Methodist minister for churches in Indiana, Illinois, New York and California. He then taught pastoral psychology and counseling for three decades at the School of Theology in Claremont, California. He was the Co-Director of the Pastoral Counseling and Training Center, now The Clinebell Institute. His former students, many of whom he worked and kept in touch with, are all over the United States and the world. He and Charlotte retired to Santa Barbara.

Howard wrote, co-authored or edited over 20 books on various subjects in his field, and traveled to every state in the United States and to more than 60 countries of the world, teaching and speaking (as well as hiking and climbing mountains) throughout his professional life. He was a founding member, the first president, and a guiding light of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors, and founder of the International Pastoral Care Network for Social Responsibility. He spoke out constantly and consistently on issues of justice, peace, and protection of the environment.

Howard is survived by Charlotte, his spouse of nearly 60 years; his children John, Donald and Susan; their spouses Jomarie, Stephanie, and Reanon; grandchildren Jamie, Andrew, Brennan, Tessa, and Nevan; great granddaughter Madisyn; his sister Miriam Clinebell, and his brother Paul Clinebell.

Howard lived a long life of learning, teaching, traveling, speaking and writing. His impact on former students the world over, friends, and most of all his family, will last forever.

Howard J. Clinebell, Jr.

CLINEBELL, JR., HOWARD J. (T.45; F.47) Ill.; **NY East, SCA** 57 Pasadena: First, Min. of Membership; 59 Assoc. Prof., So. CA Sch. of Theology; **PSW** 77 Prof., School of Theology at Claremont; **C-P** 85; 88 Retired.

June 3, 1922 - April 13, 2005

Odis Fentry was born in Rixie, Arkansas. He was the youngest of five children and at four years of age, his father died. As a consequence, he was raised by his mother in Little Rock, Arkansas. He was a graduate of Scipio A. Jones High School and attended Paul Lawrence Dunbar Junior College and subsequently Philander Smith College, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in history in 1950. Odis joined the U.S. Marine Corps and for over three years served as a radio operator during the Korean War. During his senior year in college, Odis met and worked with Ruby Lee Moore, a high school sophomore at the Lafayette Hotel. On returning from Korea, they were married on December 7, 1953; a love affair of fifty-one years.

The Fentrys relocated to California. Odis considered obtaining a teaching credential to pursue teaching history, but his compassion led him to exploring other vocational options.

He worked as an ambulance driver with Los Angeles County.

In 1956, Ruby and Odis established their membership and spiritual roots at Phillips Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, South Los Angeles. It was there that he answered the call to ministry. Odis attended Claremont School of Theology. In June 1970, he completed a dissertation, "Symbolism in the Fourth Gospel and the Black Power Movement" and was awarded a Doctor in Religion degree.

Odis served the United Methodist Church faithfully as teacher, preacher and spiritual guide for thirty-nine years, beginning at St. John's United Methodist Church in Los Angeles. He was Director of the Wesley Social Service Center, a summer youth program and Executive Director of the Urban Metropolitan Mission. He periodically taught a twelve-week course in Spiritual Formation and supervised the federally funded Head Start Preschool Program. He excelled in all his appointments as one committed to spiritual growth, increasing membership, outreach and justice ministries to the community. He served as a Spiritual Formation Leader at Mercy Mission, Burlingame and at San Antonio, Texas. This was one of his passions. In 1977, he was appointed by Bishop Roy Sano as Superintendent of the Los Angeles District. He served in this position for three and a half years until retirement in June 2002.

His interests were many, including tennis, football, sacred music and jazz. He was an avid Laker fan. He traveled extensively to Hawaii, the Caribbean, Europe, Egypt, Israel, Jordan and England. Odis was the pedestrian pastor with the superb gift of the "golden voice." This he shared with the faith communities to which he was appointed. At Christmas, there will always be the precious memory of the Christmas concert, "Odis Fentry and Friends." Odis is survived by his dear wife, Ruby; brother, Johnny; godchildren Aliya Stephens, Chandra Castello-Chase and Fabio Antonia Stevens; many nephews, nieces, cousins and friends.

Odis Fentry

FENTRY, ODIS (P.68; F.71) SCA 68 School; 70 LA: St. John's; 72 Exec. Dir., Wesley Service Ctr., LA; 74 LA: Crenshaw; **PSW** 76 (Oct 1) Urban Coord., MUM, LA; 80 Compton, First; **C-P** 85 Gardena: Hollypark; 88 LA: Hamilton; 97 (Jan) Sup't LA Dist.; 2000 Retired; 2000 (Compton: First).

May 11, 1930 - February 7, 2005

Charles Morris Fisher was born in Dallas, Texas on April 7, 1928. As infants, he and his twin sister were adopted by Emmett and Kate Fisher. The family soon moved to Southern California.

Morris, as he was known to everyone, attended the Methodist Church in Downey, where he met his wife, Thelma.

After service in the United States Navy, he returned to Texas to attend McMurray College in Abilene, but came back to Downey after only one year to marry Thelma. Morris earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Whittier College, and went on to receive a Master's degree in Theology from the School of Religion at the University of Southern California.

Morris' first appointment was to Holliston United Methodist Church in Pasadena, as Minister of Youth. At the end of a full career in the church, his last appointment was as Senior Pastor to Holliston.

When the Fishers were serving in Arizona, they adopted their children, Suzann and David, part of his living family who will miss him.

During his work as Director of the Department of Finance and Field Service of the California-Pacific Annual Conference, he enjoyed working with many ministers and church members, making lasting friendships.

While serving in Pasadena and after retiring, Morris was active in community affairs and in city politics. He served on the Board of Directors for the City of Pasadena, and was recognized as one who always stood up for the underdog. In Pasadena, he was a member of the Tournament of Roses Association, the University Club, and the Crown City Kiwanis Club. The memorial service celebrating his life was held at Holliston United Methodist Church.

Morris leaves behind many friends and colleagues, as well as several young men and women who think of him as a surrogate dad. His surviving family members include his wife of 55 years, Thelma; his daughter, Suzann Pruitt; his son, David Fisher; his sister, Merele Adams; and seven grandchildren.

— *Thelma Fisher*

C. Morris Fisher

FISHER, C. MORRIS (T.52; F.56) SCA 52 Pas; Holliston Ave., Min. of Youth; 53 Pomona: Philadelphia St.; 57 Avondale; 59 Dept. of Finance & Field Svc.; 61 Dir., Field Service & Finance, Conf. Bd. of Missions; 71 Admissions Admin., Pacific Homes Corp.; 72 Financial Counselor, SCA 75 Pas; Holliston; **PSW** 77; 82(Jan) L/A; **C-P** 85; 87 Retired.

April 7, 1928 - April 11, 2005

Omar Lee Hartzler was born to missionary parents in the Belgian Congo at Elizabethville (now Lubumbashi), and lived until he was 16 in very rural areas, perhaps 75 to 160 miles away from the closest shopping center. Their closest neighbors were Luba Africans. He was mostly home-schooled by his mother. He came to the United States to complete his last year in high school in Norwalk, California. He was always a scholar and an eager learner with degrees from the University of Southern California, B.A., summa cum laude in 1939; Boston University School of Theology, S.T.B., cum laude in 1942; Kennedy School of Missions, M.A. in 1945; and Yale University, Ph.D. in 1959. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, a fellow of the American Anthropological Association, and a member of the Religious Education Association.

In 1939 he married Eva Coates who shared his commitment to Christian Mission. They adopted two children, Noel, a son, in 1950 and Linda, a daughter, in 1952. While Eva studied French, which he already knew, Omar cared for their two-year-old son and began his longtime enjoyment of knitting. His family was very dear to him and it was a great sorrow when Noel was murdered in Nashville in 1986.

Omar and Eva retired to Pilgrim Place in Claremont, California, but Omar still had things to do. He was Mission Interpreter for Alaska. He and Eva worked at Habitat for Humanity for four months before going back to Africa for sixteen months to help establish a new Methodist Teachers' College in Kamina in 1986. He edited the French translation of the new Book of Discipline for the African Central Conference and wrote a 700 page book of memoirs of his parents' lives. In Africa, Omar was widely known by the name 'Mupendakazi' which means 'man who loves to work.' A former colleague said, "It can also mean 'man who puts others to work.'"

In Claremont, Omar was a founding member of the Pomona Valley Human Relations Council. He was an active member of the Southern California United Nations Association, organizing the selling of UNICEF Christmas cards each year. He sang in the Pilgrim Place Chorale, acted as librarian for the music, chaired the Knitting Booth and acted in the drama at the annual Festival. He was an active and contributing member of the Claremont UMC.

After his wife Eva died in 1993, he married Dorothy Jones, also from a missionary family and a missionary herself in Taiwan and Hong Kong. Their many travels included trips to Asia where she had grown up and worked, and to South Africa and DR of Congo to visit Omar's old haunts. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; his daughter and son-in-law, Linda and Richard Mott of Whittier; two granddaughters, Monika Oess and Marsha Mott; and his brother and sister-in-law, Lynn P. and Alyce Hartzler.

Omar Lee Hartzler

HARTZLER, OMAR L. (T.39; F.42) SCA 39 School; 42 Inst., Andrew Col., Cuthbert, GA; 43 School; 44 Gen. Bd. of Msns.; 45 (Sup't. Malange Dist. Angola) **Angola** 46 Sup't. Malange Dist.; 47 Sup't. Quessua Dist. & Dean, Wm. Taylor Bible Sch; **So. Angola** 50 School; 51 (Derby, Cn); 52 School; Southern Congo, 53 Inst., Springer Institute, Mulungwishi; 57 Principal, Springer Inst., Mulungwishi; 58 School; 59 Conf. Sec. for Christian Ed.; 61(Jan) Coor., Congo Polytechnic Institute, Kinshasa; 62 Inst., Springer Institute, Mulungwishi; 63 Miss'y in Residence, Scarritt Col.; 64 Bibliographer of Africana, Scarritt Col.; 65 Academic Dean, Scarritt Col.; 68 **No. Shaba** (Zaire) Prof. Scarritt Col.; SCA 73 La Puente: First; **PSW**; 79 Exec. Sec. Africa Team, World Div., BGM; 82 Retired; **C-P** 85 Retired.

August 17, 1917 - May 4, 2005

Donald Robert Jessup was born in Covina, California. He attended Pasadena City College and College of the Pacific for his undergraduate degree in math and science. He was married to Marilyn in 1953 and went on to get his Master of Divinity at Drew University.

He opened a new church in Ojai, while raising David, Susan and Mark. In each of his eight churches he engaged the congregation in

his concerns for justice and reconciliation. In Phoenix, he realized that ethnic minorities were excluded from the private kindergartens, so his church opened an integrated kindergarten with all-volunteer teachers. Also in Phoenix, he started the Annual Festival of Arts with expressions from every ethnic group. Other ministries were the Annual Frazee Walk for Hunger in San Bernardino, integration of the Pasadena schools, the merger of an Afro-American/White congregation in Pasadena, and the merger of two Korean-English Speaking congregations.

After Don's retirement, he moved to Baker Homes where his expertise in "church merging" was sought out by the Conference. With the help of Mickey, whom he married in 1979, he drafted a plan for other churches with the Conference. His spirit of ecumenicity made it a natural move for him to accept an assistant ministry in a small UCC Church in Diamond Bar. Don was a gentle, kind, humble man who treasured his family time. He and his oldest son, David, accepted many speaking engagements together to audiences about the concerns of gays and lesbians in our churches. He worked for many years raising the consciousness of the need for ministry to those with AIDS. In 1999, Don and Mickey received the Lyle Loder Outstanding Service Award for their contributions while serving on the Conference AIDS Ministry Committee.

Don loved teaching Bible classes, traveling and gardening. Even after his stroke in 2002, when he could no longer garden, he supervised friends and family in planting and tending his vegetables, trees and flowers.

Don is survived by his three children with Marilyn, two stepdaughters from his marriage to Mickey, two grandchildren, one step-grandchild, three sons-in-law and his son's partner, a brother, and two sisters.

— *Frances Jessup*

Donald R. Jessup

JESSUP, DONALD R. (T.54; F.57) SCA 54 School; 57 Ojai; 63 Phoenix: Grace; 69 Pasadena: Grace; **PSW** 77 Glendora: First; 78 L/A; 79 Colton; 84 Riverside: Arlington; **C-P** 85; 87 LA: LaTijera; 91 Pomona: Covenant; 95 Retired.

October 8, 1931 - March 25, 2005

Shiro Edward Kato was born on March 11, 1934, in Tokyo, Japan to Seiichi and Etsu Kato. He was the fourth son born into a Christian family in a country that was predominantly Buddhist.

In 1948, he attended To-ogijuku Mission School, founded by Reverend M. Yamaka (grandfather of Methodist minister Wesley Yamaka). Later, he studied at Nazarene Christian College where he participated in hosting, preaching and playing his trumpet at tent revivals. He graduated in 1957 and came to the United States to attend Idaho Nazarene College.

In 1960, Shiro taught Japanese at the US Naval base in San Diego, California. While there, he continued his Christian ministries at San Diego Holiness Church. Two years later, he married Haruko Yamashiroya. They had twin boys, Andrew and Peter (named after the apostles) and two girls, Julie and Joyce. The family made their home in Los Angeles, where Shiro attended dental technician school (following in the footsteps of his father, who had been a dentist) while being Associate Minister and eventually Minister for Japanese congregations at various Southern California churches.

Shiro was a busy man - a dental technician during the workweek, a Japanese Language schoolteacher and principal on Saturdays, and Minister on Sundays. His assignment at Sage was a particularly joyful one because he ministered side-by-side with his cousin, Reverend Wesley Yamaka. There were many years where Sunday afternoons were spent driving to Lancaster and Oxnard churches to preach. In 1987, Shiro helped to establish Kodomo-no-Ie, a center to help the families and children of local Japanese immigrants. Ministering at Centenary Church was a homecoming of sorts because his uncle, Yuzuru Yamaka, had ministered there for over 30 years.

The year 1996 brought a huge challenge to the Kato family: at the age of 62, Shiro was called to be at three churches in Hawaii. He did not falter in his decision and departed for the islands with all of his fishing gear in tow. Sadly, his busy schedule prevented him from enjoying his favorite hobby and he eventually returned to the mainland with his gear untouched.

Four years later, he was called back to the church in Oxnard. That December, Shiro suffered the first of a string of illnesses and was forced to retire due to failing health. In his retirement, he enjoyed his grandchildren immensely. Shiro is survived by his wife Haruko, his four children, eight grandchildren, one son-in-law and two daughters-in-law.

— *The Kato Family*

Shiro Kato

KATO, SHIRO (FTLP. 91) C-P 91 Los Angeles: Centenary; 96 Hawaii: Harris; 2000 Retired.

March 11, 1934 - February 11, 2005

Robert Edwards Laird was born on March 28, 1917, in Attica Kansas. Bob was the middle child of five children: his older brother Willard (now deceased), sister Ruth (now deceased), younger sister Nellie of North Carolina, and brother Ben of Cape Cod. He lived most of his younger years in Newton, Kansas and graduated from Newton High School in 1935. After high school, he attended Bethel College, delivered newspapers and took flying lessons. He joined the Army Air Corps in about 1940 and served 4-1/2 years during WWII. Following his discharge in 1945, he made his home in San Bernardino, California, where his family had moved during the war. While in San Bernardino he attended Valley College and Redlands University.

He also attended St Paul's Methodist Church where he met his wife Mary A. Bagwell. They were married on February 13, 1949. Shortly after the wedding, he and his wife traveled to Boston, Massachusetts, where he attended Boston University School of Theology for three years. While in Boston, their first child, Janice, was born. Their second daughter, Joyce, was born while at their East Los Angeles assignment.

During his retirement he pursued a second career as a gardener and pastor of visitation. He was well liked by all he met and always made people feel welcome at church or at home. Robert and Mary were married for 57 years, and Mary was his full time caretaker for the last 5 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother Willard, his sister Ruth, and his daughter Joyce Laird. He is survived by his wife Mary Laird, daughter Janice M Capps, granddaughter Kamren Capps, sister Nellie Waltner, brother Ben Laird and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Sincerely, *The Laird and Capps family*

Robert E. Laird

LAIRD, ROBERT E. (T.49; F.53) SCA 49 School; 52 Eastmont; 54 Arroyo Grande; 59 Descanso; 61 SBdino: Muscoy; 63 (Nov) Pomona: Trinity; 69 San Jacinto; 74 Norwalk: Evangelical: **PSW** 77 SBdino: Trinity; 82 Retired.; C-P 85 Retired; 92 (Feb. 5) (SBdino; St. Paul's: Assoc.); 2000 Retired.

March 28, 1917 - August 6, 2004

John Sung Yop Lee

LEE, SUNG YOP, (T.; F.) Seoul; C-P 91 SBdino: Korean; 92 (Jan.1) West Covina; 94 (Nov) Miss'y to Alaska; GBGM; 98 Oxnard: Korean; 2004 D/L.

November 14, 1947 - February 23, 2005

Reverend John Sung Lee was born on November 14, 1947 in Seoul, Korea. During his freshman year of college, his mother passed away at an early age. Affected by his mother's early passing, my father always used to tell his beautiful wife, Young, and two daughters, Gloria and Grace, that he would live to be over 100. As a young adult he deeply felt the hardships of losing a loved one as close as his mother. He felt lost without his mother's guidance and the support that would have been given if his mother had still been alive. My father was called by God to come home on February 23, 2005. I know that the years on this earth for my father were shorter than

others, but it was just as fulfilled with life, meaning, joy and happiness as someone who lived to be over 100.

We are so proud of my father's biggest accomplishment which was receiving his Ph.D. in Theology. My father used to always tell us, **"Life with no meaning or purpose is a life without breath."** At times it was very difficult for all of us, it seemed as though the spotlight was always shining bright on us. But through it all, my father humbly served the Lord. I thank God and my father for believing in us and giving us the strength, wisdom and knowledge that we now have ingrained in us. My father was the greatest man. To our family, he was the kindest, most warm-hearted man alive. He was a leader and left imprints of his leadership on us. My father was the rock in our family.

For those of you that don't know, my mother is deaf. So my father had to take up the role of being mom sometimes. We liked to call him "Mr. Mom." Even though he has left so many great things behind and he is in heaven, it is a daily struggle. We miss him so much, words cannot even explain it. Sometimes it all seems unreal. The memories are unforgettable.

We are going on with our lives as my father would have wanted us to do. We live life to the fullest every day and try not to ever let the negative things in life bring us down. My father never did, he would always get back up, brush it off and move on. As believers in our Heavenly Father above, it brings us great peace to know that one day we will all be united again. God Bless!

Love in Christ,

Young, Gloria and Grace Lee

Mila Maefau

MAEFAU, MILA (P.74; F.78) 74 School; 76 (Jan) Torrance: Fetu Ao; **PSW** 77; **C-P** 85; 95 Retired; 95 (Samoa); 2000 Retired.

April 2, 1930 - January 23, 2005

Mila Maefau was born to Tauta and Lauitiiti Maefau, in Alofau, American Samoa. He attended Poyer School and Samoana High School in American Samoa, the Methodist George Brown Boys High School in Western Samoa. He received a Teacher's Diploma from the Teacher's Training College in Western Samoa. Mila taught in the government schools in Western Samoa for two years. In 1957 he gained a Certificate from Methodist Church Piula Theological College, Western Samoa. He received a diploma in Christian Education from Leigh Theological College, Sydney Australia in 1959. Mila received an AA degree from Los Angeles Community College in 1972. In 1977 he gained a degree of Doctor of Ministry from the Claremont School of Theology.

At the age of 23, Mila married Sieni Foisaga and they had one son, Mila Jr.; two daughters, Salilo and Talavou; and one adopted son, Moega. Mila was the first Director of Christian Education for the Youth of the Methodist Church in Western Samoa, a position he held from 1959 to 1969. He was an ordained minister of the Methodist Church Conference of Western Samoa.

In 1969, the California-Pacific Conference, under the leadership of Bishop Kennedy, needed a Samoan pastor for the Fetu Ao Church in Los Angeles. Rev. Irwin Trotter went to Samoa, where Mila was chosen for the mission by Samoan church officials. The whole Maefau family moved to California. Mila and Sieni worked hard to build up the UMC Fetu Ao Church where it grew from a small congregation into a large one.

Following Sieni's death in 1988, Mila married Tiaituau Asi in 1989 and they continued to serve at the UMC Fetu Ao Church in Torrance. Mila retired in 1994. He and his wife Tiaituau moved to Pago Pago, American Samoa, where he continued to serve the Lord through the Methodist Church Conference of Samoa. Mila was appointed as pastor of the Tafuna Methodist Church, and he was also the Chairman of the American Samoa District Synod of the Methodist Church Conference. He held those positions until his retirement in the year 2000. Mila and Tiaituau moved from Pago Pago to Apia, Western Samoa where he continued to help in their local parish.

Mila served both the UMC Cal-Pac Conference and the Methodist Conference of Samoa on many committees and boards. He was also Chairman of the Pacific Islands Commission of the Cal-Pac Conference for many years. He was nominated by the Governor of American Samoa to serve on the Board of Higher Education of American Samoa until he retired from

the ministry. He made a valuable contribution to both Conferences and to his country. Mila is survived by his wife, Tiaituau Maefau, son Mila Jr, daughters Salilo and Talavou, adopted son Moega, and stepson Pene from his marriage to Tiaituau, twelve grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Love and peace, *Tiaituau Maefau*

With a sparkle in his eye, Oscar always claimed that he was born during the Blizzard of '88 and that he remembered sitting on his father's knee, when he was just hours old, having an earnest discussion of what his name should be. It was this delightful bent toward outrageous storytelling (always accomplished with a totally believable demeanor) that endeared Oscar to so many.

Rev. Oscar McMullan Newby, much loved and respected by family and friends, passed away August 2, 2004, at age 95. Born May 15, 1909, Oscar was the oldest of six children of Oscar and Mary Newby.

Oscar grew up in Glendale, California; graduated from Caltech; earned a Divinity Degree from Yale University; and was ordained by the United Methodist California-Pacific Conference in 1935.

He served many churches in Southern California, as well as in Las Vegas, Phoenix, Hawaii, and Japan. Always intensely interested in the social well-being of others, he oversaw construction of Wesley Terrace at Wesley Church; and he directed Neighborhood House in Calexico: improving health, housing, and working conditions for low income people. In 1935, Oscar married Katherine Russ of Hartford, Connecticut. Together they raised four children who benefited from Oscar's model of living a life of service to others, making the most of every single day, treating each person with dignity, and loving the simple joys of family and nature. He had a huge capacity to love others and endeared himself widely because of his sense of humor, storytelling ability, kindness, and wisdom.

Oscar led a long and productive life. Among his proudest accomplishments were two trips he took to deliver heifers and goats to needy families in Europe and Asia after WWII. Following retirement in 1974, Oscar volunteered for San Diego's Interfaith Housing Foundation and helped create low-income housing projects including Horton House, Redwood Villa, and others.

Oscar retired to Wesley Palms in San Diego. During almost 30 years there, he made many friends, was active on committees, served his church, and became a radio ham. At the age of 80, Oscar married Lois Johnson of San Diego and lovingly united both families. He and Lois shared 10 wonderful years, often traveling more than staying home.

Surviving Oscar are his siblings, Frank Newby and Betsy Eberhardt; children, Ken Newby, Mary Ramsey, and Beth Robinson; stepchildren, Beverly Fellows, Dr. R. Bruce Johnson, and Wendell Johnson; daughters-in-law Barbara and Rosaleen Newby and Cheryl and Joanne Johnson; son-in-law, Jack Ramsey; 14 grandchildren; and 9 great grandchildren.

Oscar M. Newby

NEWBY, OSCAR (T.35; F.37) **SC** 35 Miss'y to Hawaii; 37 (Mar 1) Seal Beach; 38 LA: Chesterfield Square; **SCA** 39; 40 LA: Echo Park; 43 Tujunga; 49 Santa Maria; 54 Las Vegas: Griffith; 56 (Nov 1) Monrovia; 60 Phoenix: Bethel; 65 SD: Wesley; 69 Dir., Neighborhood House, Calexico; 74 Retired; **PSW** 77 Retired; **C-P** 85 Retired.

May 15, 1909 - August 2, 2004

Robert G. O'Kane

O'KANE, ROBERT G. (P.73; F.75) **SCA** 73 Joshua Tree: San Jacinto; 82 Temple City: First; 84 Banning; **C-P** 85; 86 Whittier: Evangelical; 88 Paramount; 95 San Dimas; 96 Retired.

June 23, 1933 - April 26, 2005

Robert Garland O'Kane was born on June 23, 1933 to parents Harvey Rue and Iva O'Kane in West Ridge, Arkansas. Robert was a graduate of Wathena High School in 1952. After high school, he joined the Air Force at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. He served as both a drill sergeant and a guidance system missile mechanic. When his daughter was baptized at the age of two, Bob accepted the job of nurturing his children in Christ's holy church, teaching by example, that they may be guided to accept God's grace for

themselves, to profess their faith openly, and to lead a Christian life. Before long, Bob answered the call to ministry before he left the service, and began his career in the ministry.

He received his license to preach the Gospel as he had opportunity by the East Denver Baptist Church on the 12th day of April 1959 and was ordained by West Bay Baptist Church on March 27, 1960. He graduated from William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri and received his Master of Divinity at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary on May 8, 1971. He received his Elders orders in the Southern California-Arizona Annual Conference June 17, 1975.

While serving in Joshua Tree United Methodist Church, he served in the Office of the Aging in San Bernardino County, California. He was recognized for his service to the county and to the community as a member of the Community Development Block Grant Program Citizen Participation Advisory Committee for Morongo Basin. From this work, Joshua Tree now has a Senior Citizen complex.

At the Paramount UMC he had a very successful food distribution program. Bob's ministry took him to many churches in two denominations. In each church, his presence was known by his work in serving God.

While still in the service, Bob married Margaret O'Kane and they have a daughter, Sheila. After Margaret went home to be with the Lord in 1993, he married Virginia in 1994. Bob is survived by his wife, Virginia O'Kane; daughter, Sheila O'Kane; stepchildren, Wendy Brooks, Susan Blackburn, David Adams, and Tina Buss; ten grandchildren; and four great grandchildren.

Blessings to you, *Virginia O'Kane*

Lawrence Ernst Peel was born in Whittier, California to Ira and Edna Peel. He attended Little Lake Elementary School, Whittier High School, and graduated from El Monte High School. On graduation day, he was making his way across the Pacific to serve in Korea with the US Army. When he returned, he worked for his family business, Chevonshire Farms Goat Dairy, and attended Cal Poly Pomona, where he received his Baccalaureate Degree in Animal Husbandry.

In 1950 he married Jeanette Swift and worked for Bank of America as a teller and later as a loan officer for Agricultural Loans.

Their first three children, Catherine, Lori, and John were born in 1952, '54, and '56. In 1962 Larry answered the call to ordained ministry. The family home was sold to finance his Master of Divinity at Claremont School of Theology, and he became a student pastor at Arcadia Church of the Good Shepherd. In 1963, their fourth child, Ellen was born.

Larry's life lessons in farming, finance, and faith were packaged into a special assignment in 1978 when he joined Heifer Project International as the Southwest Regional Director. Preaching to secure the financing of shipments of animals, mainly goats, around the world, was the ultimate in Larry's ministry to "love his neighbor."

In his retirement, Larry attended as many grandchild sporting events as his ailing body would allow. The long-term effects of a nearly fatal auto accident, congestive heart condition, diabetes, and cancer also had a very significant impact on his golf game. He regularly downplayed the impact of all the health issues by jesting that, "The only problem with my golf is that I stand too close to the ball...after I hit it." He was also afforded the great opportunity to travel with his youngest daughter, Ellen, to England.

The last three years of Larry's life, he lived in Whittier, one block from the church. His connection with Hospice allowed him to stay in his apartment surrounded by his friends and his family. Though his marriage with Jeanette ended in 1979, her visit and kind words on August 22, the day before he died, brought him peace for the journey home. His memorial service was held at the same church where he was baptized, Whittier First UMC.

Larry is survived by his four children and their spouses, 14 grandchildren, one great granddaughter, his sister Barbara Johnston, and his brother Richard Peel.

— *The Peel Family*

Lawrence E. Peel

PEEL, LAWRENCE E. (T.65; F.69) SCA 65 Arcadia, Ass't.; 67 Northridge: Porter Ranch; 70 Whittier: First, Assoc.; 75(Jan) La Palma; **PSW** 77; 78 S.W. Reg Dir, Heifer Project Int'l; **C-P** 85; 92 Retired.

February 7, 1927 - August 23, 2004

R. Hylton Sanders

SANDERS, R. HYLTON (T.36; F.40) SC 36 School; 37 School; SCA 39; 40 Temple City; 43 (Apr. 15) Chaplain, U.S.N.; 45 (Dec 15) Coronado; 48 El Centro; 50 Redondo Beach: First; 54 Pas: St. James, Assoc.; 56 Pas: St. James; 61 San Fernando: First; 66 Van Nuys: First; 68 La Mirada; **PSW** 77; 80 Retired; **C-P** 85 Retired.

April 2, 1913 - January 4, 2005

R. Hylton Sanders was born in Golden, British Columbia to parents L. Ernest and Floy Z. Sanders. When he was nine, the family moved to Pasadena, California, where Hylton became active in First Methodist Church, Boy Scouts and the YMCA. He graduated from Pasadena City College before entering the University of Southern California where he graduated cum laude in 1936.

The next four years he attended the Theological School of Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. In June 1937, he returned to Southern California to make Dorothy Ann Ross his bride, and they returned to a five-point circuit in the mountains of Pennsylvania. After graduation in 1940, ordination, and membership in the Southern California Conference, he was assigned to the church in Temple City. During World War II, he proudly served his country as a Navy Chaplain stationed in the Pacific Area and attached to Marine Air Group 12.

Hylton and Dorothy had three children: Carol Ann, R. Hylton, Jr., and Bruce Lynn. They and their spouses survive him, as do three grandchildren and one great grandson.

Hylton was a student and continued his studies all his life. He was a teacher, lecturer, preacher, counselor and friend to all of his congregations.

Hylt was also a gardener and planted nearly 100 trees at the parsonages in which we lived. He had a beautiful voice and preached and sang on two radio programs in Newburgh, New York and in El Centro, California.

He is also survived by his wife Dorothy, his sister Susanna, and Susanna's husband Rev. Richard Kendall.

Thanks be to God for his life and ministry.

— *Dorothy Sanders and family*

This is a bit of early history that you may not have known:

JK was born Kuranosuke Sasaki on February 5, 1912, in Abashiri, Hokkaido, Japan, the second of three children and the only son. His father, Dr. Ichitaro Sasaki chose to practice medicine in Abashiri, one of the most remote and beautiful areas of Northern Japan. He wanted to make a difference, eventually building a hospital and raising a family. He inspired JK's sense of service and dedication.

His mother, Yoneko Minagaki, came from Yokohama, where her father, Minagaki Shugo, was one of the first Japanese Protestant ministers of a church in Japan. His mother's gentleness and strength of faith was to become a source of his strength and a guide to his future.

JK left Abashiri and went to study at Aoyama Gakuin College in Tokyo, graduating in 1936 with a major in English Literature. While he was there, he was given a scholarship to Ohio Wesleyan University.

He discovered his calling and lifelong friends while at Ohio Wesleyan, and in 1938 he received a B.A. in Journalism. He also started forming his world views, writing articles critical of Japanese Imperialism and getting himself into trouble with the Japanese government. Luckily, the President of the University, Edmund Soper, took an interest in JK, shielding him from serious trouble, but it would be difficult to go back to Japan.

He was ordained by Bishop James C. Baker in 1941 and given his first appointments in the Pacific Japanese Provisional Conference, in Maryville and Florin, California. For his ordination, he adopted his American name of James, in honor of Bishop Baker.

He was proud of where he came from and what he had learned and experienced in life.

His Faith was absolute and his heart was full of the love he gave and received throughout the years. His gentleness and good humor was always used to make life easier for those around him, and possibly to inspire someone to think. A life of service was what he was brought up

to believe in, a life rich in faith and generosity of spirit is how he lived.

Two of the experiences that he was most proud of were the ten years that he was Conference Secretary, pre-computer I might add, and the ten years he was able to give back to Japan and Aoyama Gakuin specifically, as their Head Chaplain and professor.

— *Diane Sasaki*

P.S. His memorial will be on July 16th at Westwood UMC, because I knew he would never forgive me if we had interrupted Annual Conference!

James Kuranosuke Sasaki

SASAKI, JAMES K. (T.41; F.61) **Pac. Japanese Prov;** SCA 64 West LA; 66 LA: Centenary; 70 Monterey Park: First; 74 Honolulu: Harris Memorial; **PSW** 77 Chaplain, Aoyama Gakuin School, Tokyo, Japan; 82 Retired; **C-P** 85 Retired

February 5, 1912 - May 10, 2005

Mildred Stewart

STEWART, MILDRED L. (DM.77) **PSW** 77 Program Assistant; 78 Retired; **C-P** 85 Retired.

July 9, 1913 - December 28, 2004

Mildred Lorbeer Stewart was born July 9, 1913 in her family's home in Santa Monica, California. She died on December 28, 2004 at Morro Bay, California. Memorial Services were held at First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica on January 14, 2005, with the Reverend Patricia Farris presiding.

She was a graduate of Santa Monica High School and Pomona College, where she was a music major and a champion tennis player. She received her M.A. in Education from UCLA in 1935 and became a public school teacher, teaching Junior High Math and Music in Monterey Park.

She married Donald Standish Stewart on July 17, 1937 at Westwood Community Methodist Church in Los Angeles. They were married for more than 57 years until his death in September 1994. She was a lifelong resident of Santa Monica before moving to Los Osos, California in 1998.

After serving in the church for many years as a Certified Director of Christian Education, in 1977 she was part of the first group in this Conference to be consecrated as Diaconal Ministers. One year later, in 1978, she became the first Diaconal Minister to retire in what was then the Pacific and Southwest Annual Conference.

She served as Director of Christian Education at the First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica for a total of nearly twenty years, first from 1953-1965, and then again from 1971 to 1978. In the years between she was a counselor on the staff of Santa Monica College, and for three years was Annual Conference Director of Children's Work. As part of the Conference Staff, and as a member of the Christian Educators' Fellowship, she shared her passion for children, and for the care and training and support of those who worked with them.

She is survived by two children, Barbara Hoff of Los Osos and Jim Lockwood-Stewart of Berkeley. She also is survived by six of her seven grandchildren, by five great grandchildren, and by more than one generation who as youth, young adults, or Christian educators counted her as mentor, guide, and friend.

—*Barbara Hoff and Jim Lockwood-Stewart*

Joan Ashla Swenson

SWENSON, JOAN (DM.95) **C-P** 95 Ontario: First, Dir. Christian Educ.; 96 San Bernardino: St. Paul's, Dir. of Christian Educ.; 97 (Oct 15) L/A; 99 Retired.

November 26, 1934 - October 20, 2004

Joan died at home in Prescott, Arizona on October 20, 2004.

She was born November 26, 1934, in Portland, Oregon to Margaret and A.M. "Ike" Ashla. Raised in Portland, she moved to Sacramento, California for her last two years of high school. Joan graduated from the University of Redlands. While at

Redlands, Joan pre-enrolled at Berkeley Baptist Divinity School with the hopes of becoming a Director of Christian Education. It was also at the University of Redlands where she met Jim, who had returned to school from the Army. They were married on September 8, 1956.

Shortly thereafter, Joan and Jim moved to Evanston, Illinois, where both sons, Peter and Mark, were born and Jim attended Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary. After serving the Big Bear Lake United Methodist Church from 1962 to 1964, Joan and Jim were commissioned as missionaries to Hawaii.

During their 26 years in Hawaii, Joan was busy as a pastor's wife in the three local churches they served: Aldersgate UMC, Kilohana UMC, and Wahiawa UMC, as well as supporting Jim while he served as the Hawaii District Superintendent. Joan also was a public school teacher at Hahaione, Likelike, and Makakilo Elementary Schools; a legislative assistant in the Hawaii House of Representatives; and she owned and operated her own piano studio in Mililani.

After leaving Hawaii, Joan and Jim moved to Southern California where she fulfilled her life-long goal of becoming a Diaconal Minister. In 1993 she graduated with a Master's degree in Religious Education from the Claremont School of Theology. She was consecrated as a Diaconal Minister in 1995. Joan served on the staff of La Habra UMC, First UMC of Ontario, and St. Paul UMC in San Bernardino. While at Claremont, Joan also developed a passion for quilting.

Upon retirement in 1999, Joan and Jim moved to Prescott, Arizona, and became active in the Prescott UMC where Joan enjoyed singing in the choir. She was active in the Thumb Butte Quilters Guild and the Yavapai Hills Quilt Group. She also served in the Open Door Ministry at the church, as a docent at the Smoki Museum, and on the executive committee of the Democratic Women of the Prescott Area. Joan also enjoyed traveling and was able to take several international trips with Jim during the past five years while living with cancer. Joan is survived by her spouse Jim, sons Peter and Mark, daughters-in law, and five grandchildren.

Peace & Love, *James L. Swenson*

Earl A. Thompson, Jr.

THOMPSON, EARL (P. ; F.) **African Methodist Episcopal Church** 1998 (Los Angeles: Wilshire (Assoc.); C-P 2000 Los Angeles: Wilshire, Assoc.

August 1, 1954 - September 6, 2004

Earl Arthur Thompson, Jr. was born on August 1, 1954 to Erma Dugas and Earl Arthur Thompson, Sr., in Los Angeles, California. At the age of nine, expressing a love of Christ, Earl joined the Praises of Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles, California. He became licensed to preach at the age of 19, and was ordained a Deacon of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Shreveport, Louisiana in 1977, ordained an Elder of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in 1978, and transferred to the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1979. In 1990, Earl transferred to the United Methodist Church.

Earl earned a Bachelor of Arts in Theology from King's College in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania in 1983; a Master of Divinity from Payne Theological Seminary in Wilburforce, Ohio in 1986; and a Master of Social Service Administration from the Mandel School of Applied Social Science at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio in 1998. He also received an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Monrovia College, Monrovia, Liberia, Africa in 1987, and a Commendation from the City of Los Angeles in 2000.

Earl met his wife, Janet, while he was the Assistant Pastor at Scott United Methodist Church in Pasadena, California, where they married in 1993. The same year, they settled in Cleveland, Ohio, where he attended Case Western Reserve University and completed his Masters in Social Service Administration. The family returned to Los Angeles in 1998 to accept the church appointment at Wilshire United Methodist Church.

The true loves of Earl's life were his sons, Errol, Ian and Jule Thompson, all of Los Angeles, California, and his dog, David. He was preceded in death by his mother and father. Earl is survived by his Uncle, Donald Baker of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; his Aunt, Dorothy Dugas of Lafayette, Louisiana; brothers, Jarone Alexander and Donald Wright, both of Los

Angeles; and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.
— *The Thompson Family*

Ariel Zambrano

ZAMBRANO, ARIEL (P.70; F.72) SCA 69 Pico Rivera; 73 (Aug 1) Tucson: Menlo Park; **PSW** 77 Santa Paula: El Buen Pastor; C-P 85; 89 Retired.

September 27, 1923 - February 9, 2005

Ariel Zambrano, who died on Ash Wednesday, February 9, 2005, was born in Guadalajara, Mexico on September 27, 1923 to Apolinar Zambrano and his wife, Hermelinda Medina de Zambrano; both were ordained Congregational ministers. Ariel answered Jesus' call to ministry at age 18 and entered Union Evangelical Seminary in Mexico City.

Fresh out of seminary in 1948, Ariel eagerly awaited his first full-time pastorate, which turned out to be not in Mexico, but in Pomona, California, where he served for two years before being called back to Mexico to work in the Evangelical Council of Churches in Mexico City. (Evangelical is used interchangeably with "Protestant" in Mexico.) Ariel was president of ULAJE (Latin American Union of Evangelical Youth) and had the privilege of being a part of the UCYM (United Christian Movement Youth). He garnered a network of friends throughout the hemisphere and the world, traveling to most of the countries of South and Central America, and in 1958, he attended an ecumenical event in Japan for six weeks. He was a founding member of the Association of Hispanic Theological Educators. Ariel succeeded his father as the Congregational Representative on the faculty of Union Seminary, later serving as Academic Dean. He did a year of post-graduate study at Hartford Seminary in Connecticut, earned an M.A. degree in Bible at Scarritt College, and the M.Div. from Vanderbilt, both in Nashville, Tennessee, and later earned the Doctor in Ministry from Claremont School of Theology, graduating when he was 63.

In 1961 Ariel married Mary Fitzpatrick, a Methodist missionary serving in Mexico since 1950, and in 1964 they experienced instant parenthood when they adopted their three children, John Joseph, Lucila Hermelinda and Mario Ariel.

In 1969 Ariel went out, like Abraham, not knowing where he was going, taking the young family west. During his first 11 years in the West, in addition to pastoring, he served as longdistance editor of "Lecciones Cristianas" produced by the UM Publishing House in Nashville.

He served on the Conference Board of Discipleship, the Conference Council on Hispanic Ministries and as teacher of Hispanic students taking the Conference Course of Study at Claremont School of Theology.

In 1989 he retired to Pilgrim Place in Claremont where he produced two books published by Upper Room Books in Nashville: *Alzare Mis Ojos* (On the Psalms) and *Me Ha Tocado* (On the Miracles of Jesus), and took up painting in oils and watercolors. He loved to study, to preach, and to teach. He was a great storyteller, and was not reticent to share his emotions. "Publishing the glad tidings" of God's redemptive love was his passion.

Ariel is survived by his wife Mary; his daughter-in-law, JoAnn; son-in-law, Greg Tokeshi; and a sister and five brothers in Mexico. Memorial services were held February 12th at Claremont UMC and on April 2nd at El Buen Pastor UMC in Santa Paula, California.

— *Mary F. Zambrano*

Clergy Spouses

Mary B. Archer

ARCHER, O. FRANKLIN (T.27; F.29) CO 27 Louisville; 30 S'y; 31 Evans; 32 Central City-Idaho Springs-Silver Plume; 34 Central-Idaho Springs; 35 Miss'y Utah Mission; **WY** 36 Lovell-Deaver, Fannie; **CO** 41 Eagle-Gypsum; 44 Ft Lupton; 49 Ft Morgan; 54; Denver, Wheat Ridge; **SCA** 58 Santa Barbara, Assoc; 66 Bardsdale; 68 Retired; **PSW** 77 Retired; 78 Deceased.

October 10, 1913 - January 8, 2005

Mary B. Archer was born in Coats, Kansas on October 10, 1913. In the 1920's the family moved to Canon City, Colorado. Her father taught school and her mother had a dress shop. After graduating from high school, she went to work as a bookkeeper in a retail store.

In 1934 she met and married Franklin Archer, a Methodist minister. Soon after, they were sent to a church in Salt Lake City, where son Lewis was born. They then went to Lovell, Wyoming, where sons Lowell and Lloyd were born. Thereafter, the church sent them to a series of Colorado towns: Eagle, Ft. Lupton, Ft. Morgan and Wheatridge.

During these years, Mary raised her sons and was active in the church, particularly the choirs, frequently singing duets and solos. She also worked at times in the offices of the Great Western Sugar Company. The family enjoyed frequent trips to their mountain cabin near Denver.

In 1958, their sons grown, they transferred to Santa Barbara, where Rev. Archer was Associate Pastor at the First Methodist Church. Mary continued her church activities and clubs, and went to work for Security Title Insurance Company as Head Bookkeeper. They bought their first home there, having always lived in parsonages before.

In 1965, Rev. Archer was assigned to the Bardsdale, California church near Fillmore. They enjoyed serving this country church in the orange groves and getting to know the friendly people there.

In 1967, Rev. Archer retired and they returned to their hillside home in Santa Barbara. Mary again worked for Security Title. After a few years, she retired so that they could enjoy traveling and other leisure activities. Her husband, Franklin, died in 1978.

Mary went back to work as a temporary bookkeeper at various offices, including the Sambo's headquarters. During these years, she continued her church activities, including United Methodist Women. She traveled east to visit friends in Charlottesville, Virginia and historic Williamsburg. She also visited family in Colorado and took a wonderful trip to Europe, led by Rev. Bob Weirbach and his wife, that included the Passion Play at Oberammergau.

After heart bypass surgery in 1993, Mary moved to the Valle Verde Retirement Home in Santa Barbara, where she enjoyed many years of good care and companionship. She is survived by her three sons, six grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Florence McKay Bain

BAIN, M. STANLEY (T.60; F.62) **VA**; **SCA** 76 Lihue-East Kauai; **PSW** 77; **C-P** 85; 86 Honolulu: Harris; 95 Kailua: Keolumana; 2001 Retired.

March 30, 1933 - December 27, 2004

Florence Bain was born and grew up in Sharon, Pennsylvania. Her love of music was nurtured in the McKay household, in Sharon First Methodist Church choir, and in Hickory High School chorus and band. After earning a bachelor's degree in Music Education from Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania, Florence went to the Belgian Congo as an A-3 missionary with the Methodist Board of Missions. She served at Mulungwishi and Elizabethville (now Lubumbashi).

After marriage, her husband Stan Bain enrolled at Drew Theological School in Madison, New Jersey while she supported the family by teaching music in Lake Hopatcong public schools. Following seminary they went as missionaries to Sarawak, Malaysia for ten years. Her adventurous spirit enabled them to live and work among frontier villagers in the interior of Borneo. After a brief sojourn in the Virginia Conference, they transferred to Lihue United Church on Kaua'i.

While on Kaua'i, Florence served as Executive Director of the American Cancer Society, Kaua'i Unit. Later in Honolulu she worked as Executive Director of Hawai'i Literacy, Inc., Program- Coordinator for the YWCA, and Public Education Associate for the Hawai'i-Pacific Division of the American Cancer Society.

In addition to brief stints in public school music education, Florence's music career

included directing church choirs in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania; Kuching, Sarawak; and Kilohana and Keolumana churches on O'ahu. Her greatest joy was singing with the Kaua'i Chorale, Na Leo Lani (Sweet Adelines), and the Honolulu Symphony Chorus. During retirement she taught herself to play the saw, much to the amusement of friends and family and the annoyance of condominium neighbors.

Yet, family always came first. They include husband Stan; daughter Belinda Dragoo (Don); son Jonathan (Mona Ashiya); granddaughter Jenna Dragoo; brothers Ellis (deceased), Donald and David McKay; and sister Margaret Hileman.

Florence regaled colleagues and acquaintances and shocked the unaware with her keen insight, her quick wit and her spontaneous humor. She had all the common virtues but was also a distinct maverick. To paraphrase Robert Fulgham...Laughter is the only cure for grief, but love is stronger than death!

Miryung Ok Cha

CHA, HYUN HOE (T.; F.) **IL**; **C-P** 84 Granada Hills: Valley Korean; 98 Retired.

February 9, 1931 - September 24, 2004

Miryung Ok Cha was born in Korea. She met her husband at his church in Korea. With her husband, she served various Methodist churches in Korea until the family immigrated to the US in 1969.

From April 1969 to June 1987, she served God and His church at the First Korean United Methodist Church of Chicago. From July 1987 until retirement in Calabasas, she served at the Valley Korean United Methodist Church in Granada Hills.

For nearly 50 years she faithfully served as a pastor's wife and spiritual mother to many, many people in the Korean immigrant church. Her greatest interest outside of the church was nurturing her three sons to be attorneys, which they all are, here in California.

She went to be with the Lord on September 24, 2004. She left behind her husband, the Rev. Hyun Hoe Cha; three sons; and seven grandchildren.

— *Jason Cha*

Kathryn A. Courtney

COURTNEY, W. STANLEY (T.33; F.36) **VA** 33 School; 34 Corinth; 36 Chesterfield; 38 Henderson; 41 Luray; 42 Falls Ch: Dublin Chpl; 44 Waynesboro Basic; 45 Epworth; 47 Madison Hgts; **DSW** 48 Phoenix: Garfield; **C-P** 51 San Diego: Normal Hgts; 54 La Habra; 56 Pasadena: Holliston, Assoc.; 59 Joined the Los Angeles Presbytery; 77 Retired; 83 Deceased.

April 16, 1910 - June 28, 2004

Kathryn Bowie Archer Courtney (better known as Kitty) was born April 16, 1910 in Richmond, VA and went to be with the Lord on June 28, 2004. She was the youngest of six girls and went six months without a name. One sister died as an infant and one later died at the age of 19. In 1925 her parents moved to Tampa, FL where Kitty graduated from high school. Gradually all of the family moved back to Richmond. When the depression hit, Kitty went to work (instead of college) to help the family. She secured a position as church secretary at Centenary Methodist Church in Richmond, VA, a position she held for eight years.

Between Christmas and New Years of 1935, Kitty was a delegate from Centenary to the Southern Young People's Methodist Conference in Memphis, TN. While there, she met Stanley Courtney, a candidate for the ministry. They were married August 8, 1936 and two years later Stanley received his degree from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond. They served churches in Virginia until July 1948, when they transferred to Phoenix, AZ.

For 11 years they served Methodist churches in the Desert Southwest and California-Pacific Conferences, and then in 1959, they transferred to the Presbyterian denomination, serving 23 years until Stanley's retirement in 1982. After they joined the Presbyterian denomination, Kitty served four years as Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in San Marino, CA. She always felt that when the Lord closed the door to go to college, He opened another door to serve in churches.

In 1978 Stanley and Kitty moved to Woodburn, Oregon to be close to family. In 1982 they moved to King City, OR. She and Stanley joined the Valley Community Presbyterian

Church in 1983, just before Stanley went home to be with the Lord on Easter Sunday, April 3, 1983. They had been married 46 years. Kitty remained active in Valley Church until the fall of 2003 when her health began to make it difficult to get to church. It was the one thing she missed in her last months. She was active in the women's circle group, the couples KonTiki group and many other organizations. In 1971 she had become a member of the International organization of PEO. Chapter EI was her local chapter. She was an active member of The Century Club and also the D.A.R.

Kitty is preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Stanley; and five sisters. She is survived by a son, William A. Courtney of Wilsonville; a daughter, Kay Hollo of Vancouver, WA; one grandson, Tod Maxwell of Union, OR; three granddaughters, Christine Armstrong of Warwick, RI, Sandra Farnsworth of Healdsburg, CA and Pamela Hawkins of Cornelius, OR; and nine great grandchildren.

Geneveive Gress

GRESS, MARK WESLEY (T.33; F.36) **ND** 33 Forest River & Ardoch; 36 Crystal & Hopple; 37 Crystal-Hopple-Hensel; 41 Chaplain, US Army Air Corps; 46 Neche-Cavalier; 47 Neche-Concrete; 48 School; 51 Chaplain US Air force; **SCA** 66 (June 1); Lakewood Comm, Assoc; 67 Downey, Assoc; 71 Laguna Hills Leisure World, Assoc; 75 Retired; **PSW** 77 Retired; **C-P** 85 Retired; 89 Deceased.

March 22, 1909 - February 20, 2005

Genevieve Anna Lester was born in Forest River, North Dakota, the youngest of six children to Stephen and Elizabeth Lester. She attended school in Forest River and went on to attend and graduate with a degree from the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks. Genevieve taught elementary school in numerous school districts in North Dakota and South Dakota during her early teaching career. She went on to teaching assignments in the Seattle, Washington public schools. She received an advanced degree from the University of Washington during that time.

She and Reverend Mark Wesley Gress were married in 1955 and spent the years 1955 – 1958 with the USAF Missile Development Center, at Holloman AFB, NM. Mark Gress was Chaplain AUS, Colonel. They served at Patrick AFB, FL, Homestead AFB, FL and then Headquarters Space Systems Division, Los Angeles in 1964. Mark was Visitation Minister at the Community Methodist Church of Lakewood, California.

Genevieve and Mark moved to Rossmoor Leisure World at Laguna Hills where Mark ministered at the Laguna Hills Methodist Church.

Genevieve was an accomplished musician playing piano and organ. She played at many church functions and Vesper services. She was involved in numerous church and community functions at both Leisure Worlds when they moved to Fredericka Manor after retirement. Genevieve is survived by a stepson, John L. Gress; step-daughters, Barbara and Beverly; nephews, Don Flaten, Paul Fossum and Lester Hellekson; great nephews, Terry Trish, Steven Trish; and great niece Nancy Trish Calderon.

Genevieve will be cherished in memory and hearts by family and many friends.

— *Don Flaten*

On February 11, 1921, a premature three-pound baby was born to Ethel and Jerdie Hogan on a farm near Bethany, Missouri. Hurst Hogan's adult size hid his precarious beginning.

Prior to WWII, Hurst enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve.

By March 1942, he was headed for the South Pacific, island hopping for thirty-four months. In 1946 he enrolled in Northwest Missouri State College, graduating with a degree in physics and mathematics. He continued in the Marine Corps Reserve and particularly enjoyed one summer duty station on the truce team when Israel became a nation in 1948.

In 1950 Hurst was recalled to active duty and served in the bitter cold of the Chosen Reservoir in Korea, quite different from the steaming heat of the WWII jungle. After Korea, Hurst moved to San Diego to work for Convair, but was again recalled by the Marines in 1953 to teach at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot and later to return to peacetime Japan.

First United Methodist Church of San Diego was Hurst's favorite place of worship in San Diego. It was there that he met his future wife, Myra Parker, when he was released from

the Marines in November 1955. They were married in 1957 in the church's chapel and have maintained their First Church contacts for the past fifty years. For twenty-five years Hurst sang in the church's choir during all three of the Sunday morning services while Myra was busy with the children's Sunday school.

In Hurst's teen years, a Methodist Presiding Elder urged him to consider the ministry. He often referred to this when Myra was consecrated as a Diaconal Minister. He encouraged her service and helped haul workshop material as she led teacher training across the Conference. Also during his teen years, Hurst resolved to read a thought from the Bible every day, a resolution that was never broken, with Myra reading to him during his final illness. Various aerospace companies employed Hurst as an electronics engineer or training specialist in San Diego, Tulsa and Los Angeles. In 1988, when the weekly commute to Burbank became increasingly tiresome, he retired and the Hogans started seeing the world, visiting all fifty states and sixteen countries. In August 2004, they toured the Lapland area of Finland and the western coast of Norway, enjoying the trip immensely, not realizing that he had a large malignant brain tumor. It was surgically removed in September, but he did not recover sufficiently to resume normal activities. Hurst died very peacefully on Christmas Eve. Myra rejoiced that he had joined the heavenly choir singing "Glory to God in the Highest."

Hurst is survived by his wife, son Robert, daughter Martha, granddaughter Siena, and son-in-law Don Adams.

— *The Hogan Family*

Hurst Hogan

HOGAN, M. MYRA (DM.78 FD.97) **PSW** 78 San Diego: First, Dir. Children's Min; **C-P** 85 San Diego: First, Dir. Children's Min; 91 L/A; 92 Consultant in Christian Educ; 97 Consultant in Christian Educ; 99 Retired.

February 11, 1921 - December 24, 2004

Alice Mignonette (Richmond) Insko was born December 3, 1916, in Downey, California. She died peacefully on January 28, 2005, with family at her side.

Mrs. Insko graduated from Holtville High School in California as valedictorian, and then attended Occidental College prior to receiving a Bachelor of Education from UCLA. She taught school one year before marrying Myron C. Insko in 1940. In 1944, Myron accepted a commission as a Navy Chaplain and for the next twenty-nine years, she accompanied him whenever possible. They lived on Attu, Alaska, and at Pago Pago, American Samoa, in addition to various Navy assignments within the United States.

The Inskos started coming to Amador County, California, in 1946 as they helped Alice's parents, Dean and Mignonette Richmond. Then, following Chaplain Insko's retirement from the Navy and the California-Pacific Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, they moved to Pine Grove, California in 1977.

Alice Insko was a charter member of the Sierra Madre Garden Club, past president of Ursula Chapter #1 of the Native Daughters of the Golden West, and also belonged to the Jackson Women's Club, El Toyon Garden Club, Mary-Martha Society, United Methodist Women, Eastern Star, Pacific Coast Archeological Society, and the Airstream and Masonic RV clubs. In all of her activities she was well known for her ready smile and willingness to help. She loved her family of seven, while at the same time enjoying the RV lifestyle in visiting Alaska, Canada, and the southwest canyon lands, and making five caravans into Mexico, in addition to attending many trailer rallies.

Alice Insko was preceded in death by her husband, Chaplain Myron Cassius Insko and her son, Richard Brian Insko. She is survived by six children: Marcia Luan (Eddie) Sallee of Monroe, Utah; Myron Dean (Carole) Insko of San Diego, California; Allan Bruce (Susan) Insko, of Bonita, California; Nancy Lynn Poe of Sacramento, California; Susan Amanda Mignonette (Jon) Holtan of Lake Elsinore, California; and Eric Dale Richmond Insko of New York City. She is also survived by fourteen grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren. A Celebration of Life Service was held at the Jackson UMC on February 5th, with the Reverends Alex Cambre and Sandra Exelby officiating. Her remains were interred in her family's plot in the old Santa Ana Cemetery in California.

— *Myron Dean Insko*

Alice Insko

INSKO, MYRON C. (T.41; F.44) **SCA** 41 School; 45 Chaplain, U.S.N.; 74 Bardsdale; **PSW** 77 L/A; 79 Retired.; **C-P** 85 Retired.

December 3, 1916 - January 28, 2005

May K. Johnson

JOHNSON, MARVIN A. (T.37; F.42) **SC** 37 School; **SCA** 39; 40 Alhambra: First, Assoc; 42 Lone Pine; 43 Independence & Lone Pine; 44 (June) Los Angeles: Florence Hgts; 48 El Segundo; 55 Lakewood: First; 62 Monterey Park: First; 64 El Monte: First; 69 SD:Point Loma; 71 San Pedro: First; 75 LB: Belmont Hgts; **PSW** 77; 78 Retired; **C-P** 85 Retired; 2001 Deceased.

April 19, 1914 - November 25, 2004

May Johnson was a loving wife and mother. She was a woman of tenderness, humor, strength and great faith. She was a Registered Nurse.

She loved her husband, Marvin. They were married in 1936 and it was a true partnership. While some people in today's "liberated" world might view my mother's role as too old-fashioned, they would miss the essence of her love for her husband. Mama perceived that one of her main roles was to take care of Daddy. And she did, through out their 65 years of marriage.

She also was his partner in their ministry. In every church to which Daddy was appointed, Mama participated in the ministry emanating from the parsonage. The plaque in El Segundo honors the ministry of Marvin & May Johnson. She was active in the Women's Society. She taught church school and summer vacation bible school. She added her alto voice to the choir. Her Christmas Open Houses at the parsonage were legendary. All of the members of the church were invited to stop by for cookies, punch, coffee and tea. She must have had 25 recipes and would bake literally a thousand cookies.

She loved her family. Each of her three children chided the others that Mama loved them best, but we knew that her love was all encompassing. She was gentle in her ways but showed that a mother, a woman, could be strong, too. She shared in our joys and suffered when we were going through difficult times. She loved her eight grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, her two brothers and her sister, and all of their spouses.

She was a strong woman, a woman of great faith. When my father had his first stroke in 1979, it was shortly before he was to retire. As it became clear he would not be able speak to the Conference retirement session, Daddy suggested his brother, Harold, do it, but Mama said, "No, I'll do it." When the day arrived and after some comments by Harold, who stood by her side before the 1,000 members of the Annual Conference, Mama leaned around Harold and said to the Bishop, "What Harold said didn't count as part of my three minutes. My time starts now." And then she read, in a clear and strong voice, Daddy's words.

She was the accountant in their partnership and "kept the books." Their faithful stewardship and a desire to make a final tithe from their estate to the Claremont School of Theology has resulted in the creation of the Marvin & May Johnson Endowed Scholarship Fund, the income from which will be used to educate tomorrow's ministers.

The churches they served together and the family she loves were all blessed by and richer for her presence among us.

— *David, Kathy and Stephen*

Betty Kernahan

KERNAHAN, EARL (T.37; F.40) **Baltimore**; **SCA** 41(Mar 4) Williams; 42 Avondale and Liberty; 44 Avondale; 46 Rosemead; 49 Honolulu: First; 55 Anaheim: First; 61 Chula Vista: First; 68 Garden Grove; 73 Sup't, Hawaii Dist.; **PSW** 77; 78 Admin. Asst. to the Bishop; 80 (Jan 1) Leisure World Community, Seal Beach; 83 Retired; 83 (Honokaa) **C-P** 85 (Honokaa); 87 Retired; 91 (Sept-Dec) (Honolua); 94 (Lihue); 95 Retired.

October 1, 1917 - March 25, 2005

Betty Kernahan was born Elizabeth Carleton Safford in Aberdeen,

South Dakota, in 1917. She grew up in Wheaton, Illinois, where her father, Harold Safford, was program director for radio station WLS out of Chicago. She worked as a lifeguard at the community pool before graduating from Wheaton Community High School, and then attended Northern Arizona State University in Flagstaff. She graduated from Illinois State Normal University in 1939, and then taught elementary school in both Illinois and in Prescott, Arizona. Earl Kernahan spied Betty across a crowded room at a church singles group, took her to a Jewish Sabbath Service on their first date, courted her and they were married in the old Central Methodist Church in downtown Phoenix, Arizona, in 1943. Together they served and built churches in Arizona, California and Hawaii.

Betty was not only an indispensable pastoral helpmate. Along with Earl, she led a Conference Study Team of college students to South America. She was a substitute public school teacher. She participated in the League of Women Voters, the National Association for Family and Community Education and UMW. Her vigor and enthusiasm extended to Quilters, hula, country line dance and volunteering at the Children's Justice Center in Kailua-Kona on the Big Island during the last two decades of her life.

Betty believed in learning, laughing and loving. She thought that God, her husband, her children and her church were her top priorities.

Husband Earl; daughters Karen, Carol, Candy and Colleen; brother Bill; sisters Kathie Lou and Genevieve; four grandchildren; a great grandson; beloved nieces and nephews and in-laws; and others are lucky to have been enriched by her life.

— *The Kernahan Family*

Connie Jung Eun Kim

KIM, WHAN KI (P.; F.) C-P 90 (Alhambra: First, Assoc. Korean Min.) 93 Alhambra: First, Assoc. Korean Min.; 97 (Nov) D/L.

April 13, 1942 - August 22, 2004

Connie Jung-Eun Kim was born on June 7, 1942, in Taegu, Korea. She majored in social work at Ewha Women's University and came to the United States. She met Rev. Whan Ki Kim in Los Angeles and married him in 1975. She supported Rev. Kim while he was attending Claremont School of Theology and throughout his years of ministry. She worked as an administrator for Dongguk Royal University Oriental Medical Center between 1996 and 2002. Following Rev. Kim's first stroke in 1992, Connie cared for her husband until she died of breast cancer on August 22, 2004.

Connie was a very warm, caring person with compassion and patience. She endured the long years of caring for her disabled husband with love. She was a wise woman who knew exactly how to deal with difficult situations. Her family and friends miss her very much since she filled our lives with joy and thanksgiving. We thank God for her in our lives.

Mildred L. McGee

McGEE, CARL HENRY (T.34; F.36) **Louisville; PNW** 55; **SCA** 67 (Nov 15) Glendale: First, Min Ed.; 68 Deceased.

November 18, 1918 - March 2, 2005

Mildred grew up in many different places in the United States since her Dad moved the family around for work. However, she spent most of her youth in Louisville, Kentucky. She married Carl McGee when she was thirty-six; he was a Methodist pastor. Her only child, Lloyd, was born in 1956.

Being married to a Methodist pastor meant that Mildred continued to move to many different places because of work.

The family lived in Seattle serving a church near the Space Needle from 1962 to 1968. In 1968 the family moved to Glendale, California. After only eight months of service in Glendale, Carl died as a result of a heart attack.

Mildred continued living in Glendale and worked as a bookkeeper until her retirement in 1982. She moved to northern Idaho to be closer to her son and his family. Mildred continued her habit of moving with family by moving to Kettle Falls, Washington when her son moved there in 1993.

She was very active in the Kettle Falls Community Church. Her company was enjoyed by many in the church, especially by members of the Women's Ministry. They enjoyed her regular wrestling with whether to have dessert since her TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meeting was later the same day. (She always chose dessert – especially if it was chocolate!) Church members remember her as “lady-like” – in the best meaning of the term. She was concerned about others' feelings and brought warmth and hospitality to any gathering. Her surviving family includes her son, two grandsons, a granddaughter, and two greatgreat grandsons, two step-daughters, and a brother.

Taken from an obituary in the Colville Statesman-Examiner and from interviews.

Compiled by R. Preston Price

Lorinne M. Reinoehl, who spent more than 40 years in missionary work in Malaysia, died December 31, 2004 at Pilgrim Place Health Services Center, Claremont, California. Mrs. Reinoehl, who was a 31-year resident of Pilgrim Place, was 101 years of age.

The child of Methodist missionary parents, Mrs. Reinoehl was born on February 25, 1903, in Manila, Philippines. She spent her girlhood years in Southeast Asia. Upon the untimely death of her mother, at the age of eighteen, she helped to raise her three younger brothers.

After graduating from Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa, with a teaching specialty in English and Spanish, she then

Miss McLaughlin was commissioned as a Methodist missionary to Malaysia. This gave her father great delight to see his only daughter returning to the mission field. She first taught English in mission schools in Singapore before becoming a principal at the Anglo Chinese Boys School there. It was there that she met, and in 1933, married Waldo Reinoehl, also a missionary. After their marriage in the Singapore Wesley Methodist Church, they were assigned to Seremban, Malaysia. Their daughters were born during their first two terms there.

The family escaped from Malaysia under stressful conditions at the time of the Japanese invasion. After weeks at sea, they arrived in New York City in time to see the “Singapore Falls” headline displayed on the Times Square marquis. The Reinoehls spent the war years in Chicago where their son, David, was born, and in California, before returning to Malaysia. More than 40 years of missionary work later, the Reinoehls retired to Pilgrim Place in Claremont, California. Their church involvement continued at Trinity United Methodist Church in nearby Pomona. Throughout her life, Lorinne's deep love of people, her care and concern for others, her love of music and the arts, and her deep, quiet, unwavering faith have been the pillars of her character. Her family and friends will always remember her generous expressions of her love for others.

Mrs. Reinoehl was predeceased by her husband in 1987 and by her son in 1997. She is survived by her daughters and sons-in-law, Ann and Charles Bradford of Southwest Harbor, Maine, and Carolyn and Stuart Baker of Stratford, Connecticut; and by six grandchildren and seven great grandchildren; along with her extended family at Pilgrim Place and friends around the world.

Lorinne M. Reinoehl

February 25, 1903 - December 31, 2004

REINOEHL, WALDO S. (T.27; F.30) SCA 27 Los Angeles: Union Ave; 28 (Oct) LA: St Luke's; 29 Paso Robles; 32 Miss'y to Malaya; **Malaya Mes** 34 Anglo-Chinese School; 39 Negri Sembilan; 40 Seremban-Sepang; **SCA** 43 Euclid Hgts; 44 Los Angeles: Asbury; 46 Foreign Missions; **Malaya Mes** 47 Miss'y to Malaya; **SCA** 72 (April 1) No. Hollywood: First, Assoc; 72 Retired; **PSW** 77 Retired; **C-P** 85 Retired; 87 Deceased.

Guenther, as he later was called, was born on December 4, 1925 in Dortmund, Germany to Karl and Marie Rimbach. Shortly thereafter, his parents had him christened as “Karl-Guenther,” and always called him by his double name.

At age 17, he was unwillingly drafted into the army, serving “on the wrong side,” as he later used to say. After the war, he escaped

from a Russian prison camp and walked hundreds of hazardous miles to return home. Then he completed high school and continued his studies at the University of Cologne.

In 1952, he immigrated to the U.S.A. and resided with his uncle and aunt in Baltimore, Maryland. There he studied and received his Ph.D. in German Literature at Johns Hopkins University.

During this time, he also met his future wife, Isabelle, while they were serving as counselors at a camp sponsored by the New York City Mission Society for children from that city's slums.

They were married on May 18, 1957, and two months later moved to Riverside, California. Guenther had accepted a teaching position at Riverside's University of California campus. He served there for 32 years, retiring in 1989 as an Emeritus Professor of German and Comparative Literature.

Guenther read widely and was knowledgeable in many fields, including literature, science, current events, and history. His colleagues and students remember him as an outstanding teacher, and as an ardent defender of language study. His special interest was in 17th and 20th century literature. His publications included articles on the Baroque and on Expressionism. He enjoyed camping, especially at Lake Tahoe, as well as growing roses and tomatoes, watching baseball, dabbling in gourmet cooking, and listening to classical music.

Guenther was very supportive of Isabelle's ministry, and was an active member at each of the churches she served before her retirement in 1996. Most recently, he was a member of Wesley UMC, Riverside, and it was there that his memorial service has held on January 8, 2005.

His passing is especially mourned by his wife of 47 years, Isabelle; by his daughters, Christa and Karen, of Moreno Valley; and by his son, Karl, daughter-in-law, Virginia, and grandson, Niklas Karl, of Crockett, California. At the same time, they give thanks to God for the wonderful gift that Guenther was to each of them!

— *The Rimbach Family*

Karl-Guenther Rimbach

RIMBACH, ISABELLE T.(P.81; F.83) **PSW** 81 Upland: First; 84 Murrieta; **C-P** 85.; 92 Moreno Valley; 96 Retired.

December 4, 1925 - December 31, 2004

Cecil M. Robison was born in 1919 in St. Louis, Missouri to Ben and Anna Taylor. She had one sister, Arline. She graduated from secretarial school following high school.

In 1938 she met soon to be Revered Paul L. Robison and they were married in August 1940. Paul had answered the call to ministry and following his graduation, they moved to Rockford, Illinois for their first country church. It was a real adjustment, coming from the city to the country, but they really enjoyed their time there. The first of four children, Anne, was born there. Then they moved to Michigan for two years and their first son, Paul, was born. From there they moved on west to Utah and had an interesting time building a church and had two more sons, Ken and James.

Cecil's husband loved the water and they soon accepted a church in the newly developing area of San Diego. Houses and a new church had just been built, and they spent the remaining years in San Diego. Cecil stayed home with the children for a number of years and supported her husband in the work of the church. She then began working for the school district for 27 years before retiring at the age of 67. She loved being with people and always had a smile for friends and strangers alike...she was a beautiful person and is dearly missed! Cecil had a wonderful life of 84 years and now rests at the side of her beloved husband, Paul.

Survivors include her four children, Anne, Paul, Ken, and James; their spouses; and six grandchildren.

Cecil M. Robison

ROBISON, PAUL (P.41; F.43) **W. Mich.** 40 Banfield; 41 School; 45 Berrien Spgs; **Rocky Mtn** 48 Salt Lake City; Centenary; **SCA** 51 San Diego: Pac Bch; 59 Pac Homes, Casa de Manana, Supt.; 69 S/L; 70 S'y; **PSW** V/L; 79 Retired; **C-P** 85 Retired; 90 Deceased.

March 22, 1919 - August 23, 2004

Leанore M. Swineford was born in Altoona, Pennsylvania in 1906. She was the youngest of three children, with two brothers, Joe and Edward. Leанore grew up in Pennsylvania, eventually moving to Scranton where her father worked as a pattern maker in a foundry. After graduation from high school, she worked at the International Institute for Women in Scranton.

Leанore met her future husband at a gathering at Asbury UMC in Scranton.

John E.L. Swineford and Leанore Plageman were married in 1934. Leанore worked as a librarian at Drew University while her husband finished his seminary studies.

Leанore supported her husband's ministries in Nevada, including the three years that he served as Chaplain in the Nevada State Assembly, and California. She enjoyed painting, especially scenes of the Lake Tahoe area. She was a member of the Rebecca Lodge.

John and Leанore retired in 1974 and soon returned to Pennsylvania to live next door to John's brother and his wife. They enjoyed traveling together. After John's passing in 2000, she continued her membership in the David Sunday School and at the time of her passing was the oldest living member of East Stroudsburg UMC.

Leанore is survived by her husband's brother Jack and his wife Betty, their children Jack and Patricia, and their grandchildren John and Beth.

Leанore M. Swineford

SWINEFORD, JOHN E.L. (T.34; F.36) **WY**; **CA-NV** 46 Yerington; 48 Carson City; **SoCA-AZ** 55 Riverside: First, Assoc; 66 Cucamonga; 71 Desert Hot Springs; 74 Retired; **PSW** 77 Retired; **C-P** 85 Retired; 2000 Deceased.

February 14, 1906 - March 25, 2005

Ruth N. Taylor

TAYLOR, JOHN L (T.38; F.41) **Kansas**; **SCA** 44 San Bernardino: Emmanuel; 50 La Verne; 52 Torrance: First; 59 Montebello; 63 San Bernardino; Del Rosa; 66 Encinitas; 68 El Centro; 73 South Gate; **PSW** 77; 79 Rowland Heights: Bell Memorial; **PSW** 82 Retired; **C-P** 85 Retired.

May 20, 1918 - September 22, 2004

Ruth Margaret Norvell Taylor was the daughter and wife of Methodist clergy who served in the California-Pacific Conference. She was born in Craig, Colorado, the second of four children of Amy Reeve and Philip Norvell.

After graduating from high school in Topeka, Kansas, Ruth attended Emporia Teachers College. She married John L. Taylor in Garnett, Kansas on June 6, 1940. They lived in Boston for a year while John finished seminary, then returned to Kansas while they served a circuit of rural churches around Goff, Kansas.

In 1943, they moved to San Bernardino, to begin their ministry in California, serving eight churches throughout Southern California until John's retirement in 1984.

They spent their retirement in Downey, California, enjoying many years of traveling and watching their family grow. In 1998 John and Ruth moved to Bixby Towers in Long Beach where they lived until John's death in 1999, and where Ruth lived until her death in September 2004.

Ruth is survived by three daughters, five grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

Louise J. Walters

WALTERS, W. THEODORE **SCA** 75 Los Angeles: Wesley, Assoc; **PSW** 77 Retired; **C-P** 85 Retired; 86 Deceased.

November 20, 1905 - September 12, 2004

Louise Jeanne Rund Walters was the 11th child born to William and Katherine Rund on November 20, 1905. She had the distinction of being the first baby girl born in rural McClusky, North Dakota, and was raised on the family farm with her 12 siblings.

Louise was an avid student, graduating from high school a year early in 1923 at the top of her class at age 17. That fall she took her first teaching position as a high school English teacher. She later returned to school and earned a bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies and a teaching certificate.

Louise married Charles Putnam in 1934 and bore two sons, Charles William (Bill) and Wendell James. The marriage ended in divorce. In the early 1940s she met Rev. William Theodore Walters, a native of Little Rock, Arkansas, and they later married. In 1943, the family moved to Seattle, Washington, with their newest addition, William Theodore, Jr. There, Louise began her second career as a Property Management Specialist for the Federal Aviation Administration. During this time, she was blessed with two daughters, Catherine Louise and Frances Ruth. In 1953, the family moved to Los Angeles, California. Before her retirement from the FAA in 1968, Louise received several awards from the federal government for her faithful service.

In addition to her work and family life, Louise faithfully tended to the needs of the congregations that her husband ministered to in the Los Angeles area. In 1955, she joined Wesley United Methodist Church and actively participated in the life of the church, including the United Methodist Women, the Chancel Choir, and the Wesleyan Service Guild, over which she presided for six years.

Her life of faith began at the age of 14 and continued to be a driving force until she was "resting in the arms of Jesus." She impacted many through her strong faith, even in the face of difficult times, including cancer, the deaths of her husband and all of her siblings, a debilitating disease, the loss of one leg, and family tragedies. Her faith fueled her dynamic personality, as she was always ready to share an encouraging word or humorous story, keeping listeners spellbound for hours.

Louise is survived by sons, Rev. Bill Putnam, Wendell Putnam and Ted Walters, Jr.; daughters, Cathy Gourdine and Frances Page; stepson, Grant Putnam; stepdaughter, Doris Walters; 17 grandchildren; 19 great grandchildren; seven great-great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

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