
In Memoriam



2006



A Celebration of Ministry

California-Pacific Annual Conference

United Methodist Church

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In Memoriam

Howard William Brown

September 28, 1921 – September 4, 2005

BROWN, HOWARD W. (T.49; F.53) W.Va.; SCA 61(April) Scottsdale: Min. of Educ.; 62 Apache Junction; 68 So. Pas; 73 S.D.: Trinity; PSW 77; C-P 85; 86 Rialto; 88 R'd.; 92 (Aug. 1) (Winchester: Comm.)



Howard William Brown was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was the youngest of four children born to Mark and Ruth Derrick Brown. He graduated from Carrick High School in 1939. He attended Carnegie Tech until he joined the Army Air Corps and became a pilot in the 316th Squadron, serving in the Pacific Theatre during World War II. Believing that God guided him several times when he was lost in the air, he promised God he would serve Him when he got back home.

He attended West Virginia Wesleyan, where he met and married Mary Rose Hurst in 1949. While at Drew Theological Seminary in Madison, New Jersey, they had two daughters. Howard graduated in 1952, and was assigned to serve the Versailles Methodist Church in the Pittsburgh Conference. There their son was born. In 1958 he was assigned to the Uniontown Methodist Church.

In 1961, Howard had an opportunity to transfer to the California-Arizona Conference as an Associate at the Scottsdale, Arizona, Methodist Church. After one week, he started organizing the first of 37 hikes into the Grand Canyon. He also served Desert Chapel, in Apache Junction, Arizona. He was assigned to South Pasadena United Methodist Church in California in 1968 and served Trinity United Methodist Church in San Diego from 1973 to 1986. He retired from the Rialto United Methodist Church in 1988.

He and Mary moved to Sun City, California, and right away he found himself an Associate at the Sun City United Methodist Church. In 1992 the Bishop asked him to serve the Winchester United Methodist Church, which he did until 2004, when he retired for the second time.

Besides taking groups into the Grand Canyon for 37 years, he loved to portray Biblical characters in costume: David, Isaiah, Job, Paul, etc. Drawing upon his personal outdoor experiences, Howard also composed a musical entitled "Down The Road We Go" about a family camping trip to the National Parks, Beaches, etc. His book "When I Get To Heaven..." is as yet unpublished.

His wife of 55 years, Mary, and three children survive Howard: Kathryn Mayer (Alan), Laura Brown and Steve Brown (Karen) and four grandchildren, Brittany and Lindsay Mayer, Jacob and Matthew Brown. He is also survived by his three siblings Robert Brown, Bettie Evans and Dorothy Densmore.



C. Fred Clausen

August 18, 1923 – August 23, 2005

CLAUSEN, C. FRED (F) C-P 85; 86 Readmitted (¶457-459); R'd (¶ 453.2b)



C. Fred Clausen was born August 18, 1923, in Phoenix, Arizona to parents Maude and Christian Clausen. In 1938, he attained the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest honor in the Boy Scouts of America. Fred graduated from Phoenix Union High in 1941 and attended Phoenix Junior College where he was president of Sigma Kappa Phi fraternity and a member of the Engineers Club. In 1944, he received his Bachelor of Arts in Education from Arizona State College in Tempe.

During World War II, Fred served with the United States Army as a gunner's mate. He was employed by the United States Government Indian Services. He graduated from the USC School of Theology where he received his Master of Theology degree in 1957.

Fred was ordained a United Methodist minister and received his first ministerial appointment with the Carpinteria First United Methodist Church in 1956. He was then appointed to Moorpark United Methodist Church for three years, after which he was appointed to Agoura United Methodist Church. After his assignment in Agoura, he became assistant pastor for the Camarillo United Methodist Church.

Fred received his teaching credential from UCLA in the 1960's. For 19 years he shared his passionate love for history and English with seventh, eighth, and ninth-grade students at Sinaloa Junior High School in Simi, California.

Fred was a dedicated and loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He loved to camp, travel and explore the world. He had a deep respect for mankind and was a committed activist for world peace. Perhaps his most poignant saying regarding war was: "It doesn't take many brains to fight a war, but it takes a great deal of intelligence to solve global problems peacefully." Fred had a gentle nature and offered a heart-felt kindness coupled with a delightful sense of humor with all he met. He possessed a joyful soul.

After his retirement, Fred was a faithful and committed volunteer in his Camarillo community. He worked for the Red Cross, Hospice, and Catholic charities.

On August 23, 2005, Fred ended his "long good-bye" with Alzheimer's disease, entering his eternal resting place to be with our Lord. His compassionate light will continue to shine within everyone's heart he touched.

Fred is survived by his wife of eighteen years, Fran Clausen, his children Dan, Dave, and Diane; his grandchildren, Matthew, Zak, Andrew, Aaron, Ashley, Caroline, Sophie and Miranda; his great-granddaughter, Enza; his sister Dorothy Moreland; his step-children Frank, Vickie, Rick and Michele; and his step-grandchildren Kyle, Danielle, Kristi, Bryson and Blaine. Fred is predeceased by Norma Jo Clausen, his first wife of 39 years and his grandson Bill.

The Clausen Family requests prayers from the United Methodist membership for a cure for Alzheimer's disease. Amen!



Thomas H. Denman

July 3, 1913 – September 29, 2005

DENMAN, THOMAS H. (T.52; F.55) New York; SCA 50 (April 1) Calipatria; 53 (Oct 15) La Jolla; 60 V/L (¶374); PSW (80 Readmitted & R'd); C-P 85 R'd



Thomas H. Denman was born on July 3, 1913, in Neversink, New York. He joined the New York Conference in 1944 as a Probationary Member appointed to Woodstock, Connecticut, United Methodist Church. In 1946, he joined the armed forces as a Chaplain in the United States Navy.

After four years as Chaplain, Thomas became a full member of the California-Pacific Annual Conference. His was appointed in 1950 to Calipatria United Methodist Church. In 1954 he was appointed to San Diego La Jolla United Methodist Church where he served until 1960.

In 1980, he was recognized by the Pacific and Southwest Conference for his 17 years of faithful service as a minister of Jesus Christ.

Thomas and Patrice Denman were married on January 27, 1979, while on Honorable Location. Thomas passed away on September 29, 2005, in his hometown of Neversink, New York. He is survived by his wife, Patrice, daughters Joanna (Zadra), Mary (MacIrvine) and Sarah (Smythe); and sons Frank, William and John and six grandchildren.

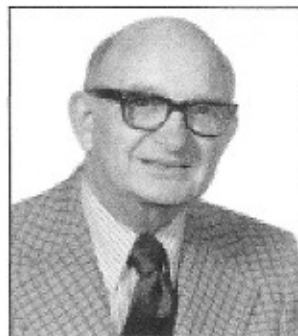
Hubert L. Duncan

May 20, 1909 – November 8, 2005

DUNCAN, HUBERT L. (T.37; F.39) Troy; SCA 44(Oct) Clarkdale-Jerome; 46 Avondale; 48 S.D., First, Min. of Ed.; 50 La Habra; 54 S.D.: Normal Hts.; 55 Chaplain, Cal. Inst. for Men. Chino; 74 R'd.; PSW 77 R'd.; C-P 85 R'd



Hubert Duncan was born in Flat Rock, Illinois, on May 20, 1909. He attended local schools in the area until 1928 when he entered Maryville College in Maryville, Tennessee. Upon graduation from Maryville he entered Boston University School of Theology, from which he was awarded a Master of Ministry degree. During summers he interned at Worcester State Hospital under the auspices of the Council for the Clinical Training of Theological Students.



Hubert and Ruth Fugate of Van Wert, Ohio, were married on Christmas Day, 1936. They subsequently served several churches in the Troy Conference, New York, before being appointed in 1943 to the Chaplaincy of the Medical Center for Federal Prisoners at Springfield, Missouri. In 1944 they transferred to the Southern-California Annual Conference. Churches served there included: Clarkdale – Jerome, Avondale, First Church, San Diego (Minister of Education) and La Habra. He closed his formal ministry after almost a score of years as Chaplain at the California Institute for Men in Chino, California.

Early on, Hubert decided that his ministry would be one of “Christianity with its sleeves rolled up.” It was in fulfillment of that commitment that he “visited the sick” and “went unto the ones who were in prison.” This was his witness.

Hubert is survived by his wife of 69 years, Ruth, two daughters, Denise Larrigan of Yuba City, California and Jo Nohre of Burbank, California and by four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Robert G. Forsyth

April 6, 1922 – January 2, 2006

FORSYTH, ROBERT G (T.55; F.57) SCA 55 LB: Atlantic Ave., Assoc.; 56 Magnolia; 60 (Feb 1) Wilmington; 63 (Sept) Chaplain, V. A. Cen. LA; 72 (April) Chaplain V.A. Domiciliary, White City, Oregon; PSW 77 Chaplain, V. A. Cen.; 78 Chaplain, V.A. Med. Cen., Batavia, N.Y.; 79 (Dec) Chaplain, V. A. Med. Cen., St. Cloud, Minn.; C-P 85 V.A Northport, N.Y; 88 R'd.



To his very core, Bob Forsyth lived his faith. He had a zest for life, and saw and believed in the innate goodness of people. He relished simple pleasures: working in the garden, viewing a beautiful sunset, walking along a beach or in the woods, collecting family photographs and scenic postcards, eating just about anything, and most especially, he enjoyed being with family and friends, anytime, anywhere. All of his blessings at table made mention of gratitude for “being together,” and his invocation of Grace was spontaneous, heartfelt and always eloquent. He was infused with spirit that simply flowed forth. Bob absolutely loved Christmas! He often said “Every day should be Christmas,” meaning to keep fresh and alive the celebration, the birth of Christ and the love, joy and hope it brings. And he firmly lived by Easter—his belief in Forgiveness, Surrender, Resurrection and Everlasting life in God were central to who he was.



Although born in Rhinelander, Wisconsin, he grew up primarily in New York City. He had the distinction of being an identical twin with a doting older sister. He received his Bachelor's Degree from Colgate University and served in the Army during World War II. He graduated from Garrett Seminary in Illinois and served as pastor in Long Beach, Brawley and Wilmington, California. In 1963, he joined the Veteran's Administration as a Chaplain first in Los Angeles, later in White City, Oregon; Batavia, New York; St. Cloud, Minnesota and Northport, New York before retiring in Northampton, Massachusetts, in 1988. Throughout his career, he was devoted to working with people with alcoholism and specialized in incorporating the spiritual aspects of the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. He was active in the life of the Christ United Methodist Church in Northampton, regularly assisting with ministerial duties, and also learning to sing in the choir, a lifelong dream! Bob was also an avid scholar with hundreds of books and courses to his name.

Bob was fortunate to have had two happy marriages: first with Ann Collins (d.1966) and then Mary Woods Connors in 1979. He was blessed with three children, three stepchildren, nine grandchildren, four great grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. Bob's life was full of people he loved and who loved him. We will always treasure the depth of his caring, the spark of his enthusiasm, and his enduring faith in God.

— Carolyn Forsyth Austen and
Mary Woods Forsyth

Sylvester Jesus Gallardo

December 31, 1909 – December 30, 2005

GALLARDO, SYLVESTER J. (T.47; F.50) Rio Grande; SCA 66 San Fernando; El Mesias; 69 LA: Latin Americans in East LA; PSW 77; 78 LA: Crescent Hts.; 82 R'd; C-P 85 R'd



Sylvester Jesus Gallardo died a day before his 96th birthday. He was still active as a preacher, singer, violinist, and speaker and was still driving freeways a few months before his death. Two years ago, he spoke at California State University, Northridge on the joys of aging.

Rev. Gallardo was a pioneer in health screenings at churches and a Boy Scout Leader. Many boys became Christians because of his leadership. Ten years before he died, he received an award from the Lord's Lighthouse for his ministry among the homeless in Hollywood.

He was born to Apollonio and Anastasia Gallardo in Bisbee, Arizona, on December 31, 1909, where he spent his early years with his parents and seven sisters. When he was eight years old, he was invited to La Plaza United Methodist Church in Los Angeles, where he gave his life to Jesus Christ. That same year his mother gave him his first violin. From then on, telling others about Jesus and playing the violin became his passions.

In 1937, he met a Texan beauty named Ana Maria Flores at an Epworth meeting at La Plaza UMC. They married on May 9, 1938, and she joined him in his ministry, starting kindergartens in all the churches they served.

Rev. Gallardo received a B.A. degree in English and a Master of Divinity from Southern Methodist University. After his ordination in the Rio Grande Conference, he served many churches in Texas.

In the late 1960's, he moved to California where he served three churches. He went back to school at the age of 64 to study for his Doctorate in Ministry. His dissertation was "John Wesley's Contribution to Evangelism." He believed no matter how old you were you should not stop learning.

After retiring, Bishop Tuell appointed him to Village UMC in North Hollywood. It was at this church he helped to start a Tongan ministry, which is now the Tongan Sun Valley UMC. He was so elated to have planted the seed for this ministry.

Sylvester was an active member in the Kiwanis Club for nearly 30 years and served as president of the East Hollywood-Los Feliz Club. In 1988 he and his wife received an award from United Way for their volunteer work in the community and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

He was delighted in 2000 when his only daughter, Leah Helen, the Cal-Pac Media Center Director, married Mr. Greg Switzer. He had been praying a long time for a son-in-law. It was with "great pleasure" that he gave her away.

One of the highlights for Sylvester was on Dec. 10, 2005, when over 250 friends and relatives gathered to celebrate his 96th birthday at Magnolia Park UMC. He received a standing ovation for his Christian walk, his courage and his zest for life.



Wilbur R. Johnson

September 28, 1920 – February 13, 2006

JOHNSON, WILBUR R. (T.49; F.51) New Eng.; Cal-Nev.; SCA 59 LA: Normandie Ave.; 61 Compton: Enterprise; 63 Tucson: Pueblo Garden; 66 V/L.; 67 Readmit. to S'y.; 73 Pas: Scott; PSW 77; 80 (Jan 1) D/L; C-P 85; 86 R'd.; (453.2c)



Rev. Wilbur Randolph “Padre” Johnson was a spiritual and social activist. Even as a teenager having had contracted polio, he was able to persevere through sickness, pain, and the loss of muscles in his legs. His parents, Lucius Johnson and Corinne Atterberry Johnson, were a source of encouragement and model examples of a diligent work ethic. Young Wilbur did not fully recover from his bout with polio, but it was during this traumatic time that Wilbur believed he was called to the ministry. He completed high school in Pasadena, California, and went on to graduate from Wilberforce University in Ohio. While in college he became a member of Alpha Phi Alpha, and was elected president of the campus chapter during his senior year. Wilbur continued his education at Boston University School of Theology. He graduated with a Master’s Degree and completed course work towards a Doctorate of Philosophy.



While living and studying in Boston, Wilbur met a beautiful young woman, Ernestine “Tina” Range. Her father, Bishop Cornelius Range of the Church of God in Christ, would invite young pastors to the Range home for theological discussions. Tina’s parents got to know Wilbur and within a few years, the two were married on November 22, 1947. His first church assignment was in Worcester, Massachusetts. But his vision and energy were recognized early, and his second assignment was to build and grow Easter Hill Methodist Church in Richmond, California. That structure and its unique architectural design still stand more than 50 years later.

Rev. Johnson’s intellect, leadership, and spiritual charisma continued to be recognized by the United Methodist Church. He was asked to pastor a small church in Tucson, Arizona, and become the first African American pastor to lead an all-white congregation in the history of the Conference. His appointment was made before the 1964 Civil Rights Act, and made national headlines. Rev. Johnson was dedicated and worked diligently at making this historic move a success. As a pastor and social activist, he held many positions. He was an exchange minister with a church in Japan, Executive Director of the Tucson, Arizona, Urban League, Executive Director of the Arizona Civil Rights Commission, and active in the Ministerial Alliance in Tucson and Pasadena. In total he was the spiritual leader of six congregations coast to coast, with his final assignment at Scott United Methodist Church in Pasadena, California. He was the recipient of numerous awards and honors over his lifetime. Even after retirement, “Padre” continued to mentor young pastors. He had an avid love for vegetable gardening, exotic flowering plants, and fruit trees.

Through his life, “Padre” taught his two daughters, Dr. Gayle Harrison and Mrs. Karen Donelan, as well as all those who met and loved him, that there is no other duty than to serve God by serving mankind.

— *Gayle Harrison, Ph.D.; Karen Donelan and Minta Brown, Ed.D.*

Donald R. Locher

November 5, 1928 – February 20, 2006

LOCHER, DONALD R. (T.51; F.54) SCA 51 School; 54 West Covina; 61 LB: Los Altos; 65 Sup't., Phoenix Dist.; 71 Santa Barbara: First; PSW 77 Glendale: First; C-P 85; 86 Sup't. Santa Barbara Dist.; 92 Spec. Ass't to the President, School of Theology at Claremont, & Exec. Director, Pasadena Area Council of Churches, Pasadena; 92 (Sept. 1) R'd (¶451.2d) 96: Claremont School of Theology, Special Assistant to the President; 98 (Mar) (Temple City: First) 98 (Jul) R'd



Don Locher had a good life doing what he wanted, marked by a meaningful ministry as pastor and preacher.

He was born in Pekin, Illinois, to a loving mother and creative father. He learned carpentry at an early age from his uncles. His parents brought Don and sister, Mary, in a bold move to California, where he finished college at Occidental. After a serious calling to the ministry, while serving as president in the Conference Youth Program, he attended Boston University School of Theology.

Don married a nurse, Pat Rose, and they had four wonderful children: Deborah, Mark, Paul and John.

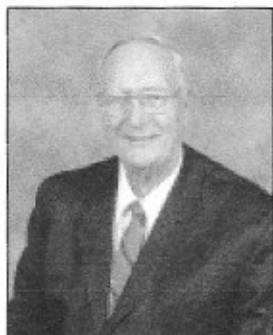
His journey of churches began at West Covina, where he was appointed to an orange grove and built the site into a successful church. Then he moved to Long Beach to build a beautiful sanctuary at the Los Altos church. His next appointment was to elegant Santa Barbara First before moving to his last local church, Glendale First.

Don was honored to be appointed as a district superintendent twice – in the Phoenix and Santa Barbara Districts. He said it was the best way of all to learn about the church. He gained the reputation of being a significant and well-listened-to preacher as his parishioners came to celebrate his ministry.

After he officially retired, he became the director of the Pasadena Ecumenical Council. He was then privileged to be the special assistant to President Bob Edgar at the Claremont School of Theology, where his unique “Ministry Sundays” helped raise over a million dollars for the school. There he also taught courses in homiletics and pastoring. Finally, he enjoyed being the special assistant to the new bishop, Mary Ann Swenson. His knowledge of the conference was always of significant help.

Don was blessed with another talent, being a skilled craftsman with wood. He designed and built some 20 large sanctuary crosses, hundreds of beautiful small ones and some creative chancel furniture. He was humbled knowing that his crosses are now in churches and with leaders around the world.

Don loved the ministry and had a deep wisdom about it. He made a significant journey with joy and thanksgiving through all of our lives. He will always be missed and greatly remembered.



Randall Clinger Phillips

December 3, 1924 – September 18, 2005

PHILLIPS, RANDALL C. (T.47; F.51) SCA 47 School; 49 Sherman Oaks; 55 Burbank, First; 59 LA: Wilshire; PSW 77; 78 V. P. for Comm. Relations, U.S. International Univ.; C-P 85; 90 R'd (451.2c)



Born on December 3, 1924, Dr. Randall Clinger Phillips, Honorary Consulate General of Japan in San Diego, beloved father, grandfather and friend to many, died peacefully in his sleep Sunday morning, September 18, 2005, in his daughter's home, surrounded by family, in San Diego, California.

Dr. Phillips was a native Californian who attended Hollywood High School, University of Southern California and Harvard Business School – Military Officer Corps. He also completed his Masters in Theology as well as receiving three Honorary Doctorate degrees.

Dr. Phillips was the founding Minister of the Sherman Oaks Methodist Church, Minister of Wilshire United Methodist Church for 19 years, Senior Vice President of the United States International University for 18 years, and the founding President of People to People International, San Diego Chapter. Most recently, Dr. Phillips was honored to hold the position of Honorary Consulate General of Japan in San Diego for the last 10 years.

He is survived by his three daughters and their families: Ruth and Scott McAercher of San Diego, California; Janet and Peter Kessler of Orlando Florida; and Melinda and David Moore of Mesa, Arizona; and by six grandchildren. He will be missed and honored by the thousands of lives he enriched during the course of his life.



Howard Lorne Reeder

April 14, 1930 – October 18, 2005

REEDER, HOWARD L. (P.80; F.85) PSW 81 Alhambra, First, Assoc.; 83 Trinity; C-P 85; 86 La Verne; 89 El Monte; 92 Newhall: Friendly Valley Comm.; 97 R'd (¶355.2c)



Howard Reeder was born in Brantford, Ontario, Canada to Lorne and Margaret Reeder who loved God and were hard-working vegetable growers and cattle raisers. His childhood was spent living and working on his family farm near Brantford. He never lost his feeling of care for animals, birds, and all living things. Most of his free time was spent at the local church where he learned and practiced Christian ways of living. As a teenager he was active in Youth For Christ and spoke at many gatherings in the area. After graduating from high school he attended teacher-training school and became a teacher of multiple grades in two and three room elementary schools in Ontario.



In 1954 he moved to California where he attended the Bible Institute of Los Angeles, California. He began teaching at the Bethany Baptist Church in West Covina, California, in 1956 where he met his wife, Lucile, also a teacher at that school. They were married in 1957 and have three sons. In addition to his wife, Lucile, he is survived by a son, James, his wife Karen and grandchildren John and Lauren of Thousand Oaks, California; a son Thomas and his wife Lila, and grandchildren Rachel, Joseph and Rebecca of Clayton, California; a son, Charles and his wife Julie and grandchildren Andrew, Andrea, Stuart and Jenna of Fallbrook, California; a brother Gordon and his wife Rhea; one sister, Linda Mills and her husband Jim; five nieces and two nephews who live in Canada.

Howard received a Master of Arts Degree in Education from California State University at Los Angeles in 1967 and taught elementary grades in Azusa, California, public schools until 1976. Our family joined the West Covina United Methodist Church, where he attended a weekly men's Bible study and worked with the youth. He had felt the call to ministry since childhood and entered the Claremont School of Theology, where he received a Doctor of Ministries Degree in 1985 and began his ministry as an Elder in the United Methodist Church in San Bernardino and Los Angeles counties. He was a compassionate servant of God. He enjoyed being with people and had a "knack" for understanding how persons were feeling and provided truly helpful pastoral care. Throughout his ministry, he nurtured a special interest in the Jewish faith, and started many inter-faith services with nearby synagogues.

After two careers, 23 years as a teacher and 17 years in the ministry, he retired in 1997 and moved to Fallbrook, California. Since that time he had been Minister of Visitation at Fallbrook United Methodist Church. Those who knew him agree that he was "A Compassionate Minister."

— Lucile Reeder

Bernard (Ben) Loren Rice

October 24, 1915 – July 10, 2005

RICE, BERNARD LOREN (T.51; F.53) Cal-Nev. 50-75; PSW 75-77 LB: Evangelical; 77 Newhall: Friendly Valley; 83 R'd; C-P 85 R'd



Bernard Loren Rice was born in Salem, Massachusetts, to Walter and Marion Rice. His dad, a contractor and carpenter by trade, instilled in him an incredibly strong work ethic that served him well his entire life. He learned great skills working with his hands and even greater skills working with his mind. He attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) for one year but transferred to the University of Alabama as it was less money to live on campus than living at home going to MIT. He transferred to the University of Southern California (USC) to receive his degree in Civil Engineering, as his grandparents moved to Southern California and would help him finish at USC. He spent 10 years in engineering working with the County of San Bernardino, but his call to the ministry took him back to the USC School of Religion where he graduated in June, 1949. He had met Betty Jane Gehm in 1948 and they were married May 28, 1949.



Because of his keen interest in Christian education, he accepted a position as Associate Pastor and Minister of Education at First Congregational Church in Sacramento, California, where he did an astounding job in revitalizing their entire educational system. Dillon Throckmorton, District Superintendent, influenced him to take his first church in Lincoln, California.

Ben and Betty adopted two brothers, seven and eight years old, Bob and Bill. Sadly Bob succumbed to cancer at age 49. Bill tells of his dad teaching by example and giving them a stability which they had never known, and of finding their dad to be a patient, loving father, a devoted husband and a devout pastor. It was said of him that his quiet determination to face each problem squarely and answer it with a Christian solution in the churches he served was an inspiration to all. He used his skills in engineering to remodel church facilities, and rebuilt congregations by strengthening their faith.

In his last church, the Friendly Valley United Methodist Church in Newhall, California, he built a social hall on a “pay as you go system,” doing much of the work along with devoted members. The completed social hall was named Rice Hall in tribute to him.

Dad and Mother loved to travel in the States and overseas, with Dad practicing his hobby of taking pictures and doing travel programs. With Mother’s effervescent personality, they were a fine team who loved their years in the ministry.

— Bill and Betty Rice

Oscar Raymond Slifer

June 5, 1921 – November 7, 2005

SLIFER, OSCAR R. (T.; F.52) trans from Church of the Brethren; Idaho; SCA 53 SB: St. Paul's, Min. of Ed.; 54 Trona; 60 La Puente; 63 Needles & Davis Dam; 67 South Gate; 71 S/L; 72 S'y; 75 R'd; PSW 77; C-P 85 R'd



Oscar Raymond Slifer was born in Massachusetts on June 5, 1921, to Oscar R. Slifer and Lucy Stoughton. He graduated from high school there before his parents moved to Iowa and the family farm. He was a graduate of McPherson College in Kansas, Bethany Theological Seminary in Illinois, and received his Doctor of Theology degree from the Illiff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado. He also studied at the University of Chicago, Denver University and the University of Southern California.



After teaching at the University of LaVerne, California, for two years, he served the churches in Nampa and Hansen, Idaho, before returning to California to minister churches in San Bernardino, Trona, LaPuente, Needles and South Gate.

He taught elementary school in South El Monte, California, for 12 years before retiring. After his retirement he was pastor at the United Methodist Church in Duncan, Arizona, from 1991 until 1993.

He served as a tour director for the Methodist Heritage Tours for 17 years and was able to lead five tour groups to the Holy Land and the Middle East. He had also been active in the Boy Scouts.

He had two children during his first marriage: Karl and Suzanne; two grandsons Christopher and Scott and one granddaughter Jackie. Oscar is survived by his wife Josefina G. Slifer, his sister Mary Green and nephews and nieces.

—Josefina G. Slifer

Delwin Thigpen, Jr.

January 31, 1924 – October 18, 2005

THIGPEN, JR., DELWIN (T.49; F.51) So. New Eng.; Miss.; SCA 54 (Feb 1) Tucson: Catalina, Assoc.; 59 SA: Spurgeon Mem.; 65 Temple City; 70 Ontario, First; PSW 77; 79 Alhambra, First; C-P 85; 87 R'd



Reverend Delwin Thigpen, Jr., a longtime United Methodist pastor, died on October 18, 2005. He was known for his loving and compassionate spirit.

Delwin was born in Lake Charles, Louisiana, and moved to Meridian, Mississippi, at a very early age. He was the son of Delwin Thigpen and Fanny Holyfield Thigpen.

He was married in 1946 to Robbie Aden of Paris, Tennessee, whom he met while stationed at Vanderbilt University during World War II.

Delwin was called into the ministry while serving in the military on the small island of Ie Shima in the South Pacific Ocean. As he read a devotional in the Upper Room, he felt God's call upon his life.

Upon his discharge from the Air Force, he returned to college and graduated from Millsaps College. While a student there, he pastored a small church in Canton, Mississippi.

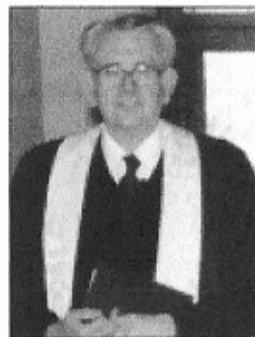
He attended theology school at Boston University and served a church in Rhode Island during his time there. Because of health problems in his family, he went back south and graduated from Candler School of Theology at Emory University.

Upon graduation, he was appointed to Van Cleave, Mississippi, and served there until his daughter's lung problems forced them to move to Arizona. He became a youth minister at Catalina United Methodist Church in Tucson, Arizona. He later served pastorates in Ontario, Alhambra, Temple City and Santa Ana, California.

He retired in 1987 and moved to San Bernardino.

His survivors include his son, Richard Delwin and his wife Ana, Betty Brown and her husband Orlo, one grandchild and two great grandchildren. He is also survived by one sister Rosemary McIntosh of Jackson, Mississippi, and one brother, Morris Lee Thigpen of Germantown, Maryland.

Delwin Thigpen touched many lives for the Lord and his caring heart was his trademark.



David Tinoco

February 3, 1932 – August 12, 2005

TINOCO, SR., DAVID A. (T.; F.78) PSW 78 Florence Avenue(Co-Pastor); 78 Maywood, Hispanic; 83 El Segundo; C-P 85; 94 Sup't Riverside Dist; 2001 Retired; 2001 (San Bernardino: St. Pauls (LFT))



David Tinoco passed away Friday, August 12, 2005, after a long battle with leukemia at his home in Moreno Valley, California. Pastor Tinoco was born, raised and educated in Michoacan, Mexico. He earned his initial theological degrees at Union Theological Seminary in Mexico City. He earned his master's and doctoral degrees from Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, California after a year of postgraduate work in religious education at Hartford Seminary Foundation.

In 1961, he married Miss Glafira Avila. Their marriage was blessed with four children, David, Glafira, Teresa and Omar. The family includes five granddaughters, Glafira, Julia, Paloma, Clarissa, Chelsea and grandson David III. The family also added three wonderful in-laws: William Carr, Sean Clark and Eileen Davidson.



Pastor Tinoco served the Methodist Church of Mexico for 21 years before he came to Southern California in 1976. Altogether he served God and his people for 50 years. In Mexico, his ministry included five pastorates while also serving six years as Executive Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministries. He worked closely with similar agencies throughout Latin America and visited churches and educational institutions in Venezuela, Bolivia, Colombia and Ecuador. He visited, and did extensive ministries, in many cities in Texas. During that same period he also visited Prince Edward Island, in eastern Canada to preach to rallies of youth, men, women and clergy.

In Southern California Pastor Tinoco served five churches. He was involved in camping programs and children's ministries. His involvement in boards and agencies within the church took him to Florida, Georgia, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, Illinois and North Carolina and many other locations. He also represented the Annual Conference in General and Jurisdictional Conferences in Denver, Colorado; Seattle, Washington; Cincinnati, Ohio and Casper, Wyoming. He was part of the delegation to the World Methodist Council in Singapore and, while in the cabinet of the Annual Conference as District Superintendent of the Riverside District, he traveled to Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, Korea and Hong Kong. Pastor Tinoco and his wife, Glafira, were also able to lead a group to the Holy Land. His last parish was St. Paul's United Methodist Church in San Bernardino, California. It was there that he completed 50 years as a preacher of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Dr. Reverend David Tinoco will be greatly missed by his family and all of those whom he touched during his ministry.

— Glafira A. Tinoco

John Cecil Trever

November 26, 1915 – April 29, 2006

TREVER, JOHN C. (T.37; F.43) SCA School; 42 Santa Monica, Asst.; 44 (Sept) Prof., Drake Univ., Iowa; 47 School; 48 Exec. Dir., Dept. of Eng. Bible, Div. of Christian Ed., NCC; 53(Aug) Prof., Morris Harvey Col., Charleston, W. Va.; 59 Prof., Baldwin-Wallace Col., Berea, Ohio; 75 S'y(358); 75 (Sept 15) Dir., Dead Sea Scrolls Project & Consultant in Lay Ed., School of Theology at Claremont; PSW 77; 80 R'd.; C-P 85 R'd



John Cecil Trever was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He is best known as the first American scholar to identify and photograph the famed Dead Sea Scrolls in 1948.

Dr. Trever graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Southern California in 1937. He graduated from Yale Divinity School (B.D.) in 1940 and from Yale Graduate School in 1943 with a PhD in Old Testament. His emphasis on ancient Semitic languages, paleography, and a dissertation on Isaiah made him uniquely qualified to recognize the Isaiah "A" scroll and its significance when he was Acting Director of the American School of Oriental Research, Jerusalem in February, 1948, while on a graduate fellowship. As an expert in photography, he was able to photograph the first three scrolls discovered in their best state of preservation, thus preserving them for all future research.



Following his 1942 ordination to the ministry in this conference, he served as associate minister at the Santa Monica First Methodist Church until 1944. Beginning that year, his career as a professor of biblical studies included Drake University (Iowa), Morris Harvey College (West Virginia), Baldwin-Wallace College (Ohio), and the Claremont School of Theology (California), where he served as the Director of the Dead Sea Scrolls Project and Consultant in Lay Education.

Dr. Trever served as the Executive Director of the Department of English Bible of the National Council of Churches from 1948-1953, helping to build public awareness and understanding of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

In addition to numerous articles in professional and religious journals, including one hundred articles on biblical flora for the Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible and articles in the Interpreter's One-Volume Commentary on the Bible, Dr. Trever published the following books: Cradle of Our Faith, The Untold Story of Qumran, Scrolls from Qumran Cave I, The Dead Sea Scrolls: A Personal Account, and The Dead Sea Scrolls in Perspective.

John C. Trever is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, to whom he was married for 68 years; sons John Paul and James Edgar; six grandchildren and eight great grandchildren; and his brother, Winston Trever.

Dr. Trever led a life, by example, dedicated to personal conviction, scholarship, peace, love, service and truth.

Milton Otto Winkler

July 6, 1921 – January 10, 2006

WINKLER, MILTON O. (T.50; F.52) SCA 50 Mesa, Assoc.; 51 Williams; 53 Glendale: Central Ave.; 55 Eastmont; 59 Chaplain, L.A. Gen. Hosp.; 68, Chaplain, Fred Nellis School; PSW 77; C-P 85; 88 R'd.



Milt was born in Texas to parents who grew up in German immigrant communities. He spoke German until he started elementary school. His family and relatives were members of the German Lutheran Church and then his parents joined the German Methodist Church in Moody, Texas. There were six sons in his immediate family. Milt was the eldest and his youngest brother, Lawrence is the only surviving sibling.

Milt went to high school in Temple, Texas, and attended Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas. He received his Master of Theology degree from Illiff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado. He worked different jobs throughout his schooling and in college was a butler to an insurance mogul.



Milt was married to Carolyn Schmidt while in seminary. They have three children Daphne, Timothy, and Mark who were born in parishes where Milt was pastor. He took pride in having helped send his three children through college. He was divorced from Carolyn in 1973. He has two grandsons, Justin and Jordan, from Mark and Laurie.

He was married to Divina Himaya for over 30 years. They lived in Claremont, California, and spent their summers traveling all over the globe. He has three stepchildren: Doditha, Paul, Connie and a granddaughter Allison from Paul and Teri.

Milt served pastorates in Washington, Arizona and Southern California under the United Methodist Church. His longest ministry was as a Clinical Pastoral Chaplain at Los Angeles County Hospital for eight years and at Nelles School for Boys in Whittier, California for twenty-three years. He was an accredited Chaplain Supervisor at Nelles and as such, trained pastors, priests and nuns for chaplaincy. As Chaplain Supervisor for seminary students, he was also Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Counseling at the Claremont School of Theology. His clinical students held him in high esteem.

Milt was active in the peace movement of the 1980s and 1990s. He was national treasurer of the North American Christian Peace Conference and was co-chair with Divina of the Southern California Christian Peace Conference. He attended international meetings in Europe representing the United States and Canada. He was a student of Fritz Perls and with Divina, conducted workshops in Southern California, and in the Philippines, using Gestalt Therapy. He was a certified instructor for Japanese Therapies from ToDo Institute in Los Angeles, California.

Before he moved to Sunrise of Claremont due to Alzheimer's disease, he told neighbors that life was good and it was time for him to retire. He lived at Sunrise for over two years and was a model resident. Milt, rest in peace!

Clergy Spouses

Josie Bain

October 3, 1910 – March 17, 2005

BAIN, JOHN C. – TN 29 Springhill; 30 Springfield; 33 Lebanon; 35 Morfreesboro; IA 38 Des Moines Burns; MO-East 43 Chpln US Army; MO-West 44 Chpln US Army; KS-West 44 Chpln US Army; NEB 45 Chpln US Army; RM Chpln US Army; KS-East 45 Chpln US Army; HLSTN 46 Chpln US Army; MO-West 46 Springfield; CAL-PAC 47 Los Angeles Bowen; 61 Los Angeles Vermont Sq; 75 R'd; 99 Deceased.



Josie Gray Bain was born October 23, 1910, in Atlanta, Georgia, to Reverend and Mrs. David Gray. She attended South Atlanta Elementary School, and graduated from Knowles High School. Shortly after graduation, she met and married John C. Bain of Los Angeles, California, who was attending Gammon Theological Seminary. In the fall of 1930, they relocated to Spring Hill, Tennessee, where John began his first ministerial appointment. Their son John David was born there just after the parsonage was rebuilt.



In 1933, they were transferred to Des Moines, Iowa, where John was Pastor of Burns Church, a part of the Central West Conference. Both John and Josie enrolled in Drake University to further their education.

Josie received her Bachelor's of Science degree with honors and continued to do graduate work there.

Josie moved with her husband and son to Los Angeles, California, in 1942 and after completing graduate work at California State University – Los Angeles, she received a Master of Science degree in Elementary Education. She completed additional graduate work at the University of Southern California and Immaculate Heart College in Los Angeles, California. In 1973, she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Drake University.

Joining the Los Angeles County Unified School District in 1948, Josie began as a teacher at Marianna Avenue Elementary School. After teaching several years, she was promoted to the positions of Assistant Principal, Principal, Administrative Coordinator, Area Superintendent and ended her career as Associate Superintendent of Instruction. In addition to her career with the Los Angeles Unified School District, she was a professor of urban education at Occidental College, a Senior Research Associate for the Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards and Student testing (CRESST), UCLA Graduate School of Education, and a trustee of the UCLA Foundation Board.

Josie was an active member of several professional and civic organizations including Delta Kappa Gamma (Education Sorority); Delta Sigma Theta (Education Sorority); National Council on Negro Women, National Council of Administrative Women in Education, Urban League, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and United Methodist Women. She founded and served as president of the Interchange for Community Action (ICA), which provided college scholarships for many disadvantaged minorities.

Jose was a brilliant woman who was a dedicated wife, mother and professional educator. She devoted her life to her family, to God and to her church, and lived her life with style, grace, integrity and vitality. Her dedication to helping children was recognized by all those whom she touched. Her accomplishments were evidenced by the numerous awards and honors that were bestowed upon her throughout her life.

Josie leaves to mourn her death and celebrate her life her devoted son, John David Bain, III; sisters Lillian Mayes and Priscilla Rankin; nieces Beatrice Layne, Jermain Backen, Marjorie Gunning, Carolyn Shields; nephews Herbert Bain, Thomas Bain and a host of other relatives and friends.

————— *Irene Swanson Butterworth* —————

May 2, 1914 – September 11, 2005

BUTTERWORTH, FRANK E. (T.39; F.41) SCA 39 School; 41 San Gabriel; 42(Nov) Redlands: Univ. (Grace); 49(Sept) Anaheim: First; 55(Sept) Hon.: First; 61 Pas.: First; 63 Sup't., Hawaii Mission.; 67 Sup't., Hawaii Dist.: 73 Phoenix: Crossroads: PSW 77 R'd; C-P 85 R'd



Irene was the youngest of three children born to Swedish immigrants who migrated to America as teenagers and settled in Montclair, New Jersey. When she was nine they moved west to California, first living in Pasadena and then Los Angeles. While attending Los Angeles High School and UCLA she joined First Methodist Church, where she met Frank Butterworth. Beginning a togetherness that lasted 73 years, they were leaders in the large high school youth program until she went to El Centro in the Imperial Valley to teach American history and give leadership to a YWCA girls club. Frank and Irene married in Pomona and honeymooned in Hawaii, little dreaming then that they would spend 44 of their 66 married years in the ministry in Hawaii. They would become the first Superintendent and first lady of the Hawaii district.

Always active in youth work, Irene also became a gifted teacher of adult groups and rose to top leadership in every group in which she served: United Methodist Women, American Association of University Women, and Pan-Pacific and Southeast Asian Women's Association. She was a delegate to international conferences, traveled to 91 countries, and became a prominent community leader in Honolulu.

Although never blessed with children of their own, Irene and Frank became "hanai" parents (adoptive without legal status) to 13 wonderful boys who called her "Mom". Most of them entered her life as teenagers, but some were Pacific Islander students at Hawaii Loa and then Hawaii Pacific University, where Frank was a trustee.

An avid reader, Irene was world-minded, and always became active in community life. She seemed to many to be an ideal minister's wife, and loved every parish they served.

Hospitable, caring, outgoing, and totally dedicated, Irene was a beloved person. Appropriately, the last words pronounced over her body were those of the Tongan Choir singing the Hallelujah chorus.

—Frank E. Butterworth

Kenneth J. Deere

June 8, 1936 – June 23, 2005

MESSENGER, JONI (P.82; F.87) PSW 82 School; 83 Mission Viejo: Shepherd of the Hills, Assoc. C-P 89 Garden Grove, Assoc.; 93 LB: Belmont Heights; 2002 La Jolla



Kenneth J. Deere was born on June 8, 1936, in Holdenville, Oklahoma, a member of the Muskogee-Creek Nation. At 17, he joined the Marine Corps. After completing his time in the military, he became an ordained elder for the United Methodist Church and spent 43 years serving the Church.

For 16 of those years, he worked in the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, including time as a District Superintendent. In 1976, he began his work as Associate General Secretary for the United Methodist Commission on Religion and Race in Washington, D.C. He served there 27 years, until his retirement in 2003.

Kenneth Deere was a well-known activist against racism and injustice. In his career, he combined his faith with his experience and a love for his Native American culture.

“He fought for the dignity of all ethnic people, especially Native Americans,” said Rev. Alvin Deer, a friend and Executive Director of the Native American International Caucus, a United Methodist advocacy organization. “He wanted to get people to understand and undo hundreds of years of stereotyping and misunderstanding of different ethnic groups. He was always fighting for equality and dignity.”

One of Kenneth Deere’s biggest battles was against the use of Indian names as sports mascots. He was instrumental in drafting church legislation regarding this issue.

Bishop Woodie W. White, Bishop-In-Residence at Candler School of Theology, and the first General Secretary of the Commission on Religion and Race wrote, “Ken was one of the earliest and most frequent lone Native American voices in many contexts. He advocated for Native American participation and inclusion. The funding of many Native American ministries and social, economic and political causes and projects across the country are a result of Ken’s personal advocacy and persuasiveness. Too frequently he received neither credit nor acknowledgement. Not once did I ever hear him mention this oversight. Ken’s form and height towered over men, but he was as gentle as he was strong. He laughed easily and had an even-temper. From him I would gain a sense of steadiness and calm. While Columbus Day was an official holiday, he was the only staff person who on principle would not take the day off! And what a sense of humor! We found ourselves in many tense situations with the Commission [on Religion and Race]. Racism, prejudice and ethnocentricity have such ridiculous dimensions that one must find a way to laugh! Ken was good at it! He was committed to the cause of racial justice for all. His friendships knew no racial, ethnic or tribal boundaries. We are a better Church because of the witness and ministry of Kenneth Deere. I know for certain that I am a better person because he touched my life in profound ways.”

Ken is survived by his wife: Joni Messenger; mother: Melissa; children: Lyle, Lisa and Johnna; grandchildren: Tenetke, Kosa, Paskova, Melinda, Maria and Sukey.



Lois Belle Gray

June 7, 1912 – January 20, 2006

GRAY, FRANK M. (T.46; F.48) Phil.; SCA 47 Glendale, First, Asst.; 49 LA: Westchester ; 57 No. Glendale; 64 Assoc. Gen Secy., Coor. Council; 67 Asst. Exec. Dir., Goodwill Industries, L.A.; 72 Exec. Dir. Goodwill Industries, Honolulu; 74(Oct 21) Goodwill Industries, SA, CA.; 75 S'y(358); PSW 77 Anaheim: United, Assoc; 81 D/L; C-P 85; 88 R'd. 03 Deceased.



Lois Butler was born in St. Louis, Missouri, to Howard and Inez Butler. The family moved to several places, settling in Oakland, California. Lois graduated from the Oakland School System where she was a scholar student. She attended the University of California, Berkeley at the age of 16.

Her father was very active in the Methodist Church both locally and within the Northern California Conference. She was active in district and conference youth groups and developed a strong conviction for people living a Christian life. When she was 11 she decided to let the president of the San Francisco Longshoremen's Union know that he was not leading the members down a Christian walk. She made her way alone across San Francisco Bay by ferry, and found the office of the union's president. She marched in and announced that she wanted an audience with the president, and was not leaving until she met with him. After a few minutes she was lead into the president's office where she proceeded to speak her mind regarding how terrible she felt it was that the union and its leaders were corrupt and how God would condemn them. When she told him that she had come from Oakland all by herself his only words were "Oh my God." He had two of his biggest body guards escort her back to the front door of her house.



On August 21, 1954, Lois married Rev. Frank M. Gray. At that time she was the secretary of the Westchester Methodist Church where Rev. Gray was the senior minister, and the late Rev. Miles Acker was the associate minister. Three years later Rev. Gray was assigned as senior minister of the North Glendale Methodist Church. Several years later Rev. Gray was appointed as Secretary for the Southern California-Arizona Conference under the late Bishop Gerald Kennedy. Lois took on the job of publishing the Conference Journal. This was before computers, and she would spend several months each year working with Rosemary Davis to ensure its accuracy. Lois was meticulous, and her insistence for accuracy and complete data earned her the reputation of editing and publishing the best Journal on record.

Lois enjoyed the simple things in life like a trip to the mall just to window shop or drive in the desert to see the spring flowers. She and Frank loved the Hawaiian Islands and took many vacations there. They lived there for a short time. She had a great sense of humor, and until her last day she kept her mind active by reading and working the hardest crossword puzzles. At age 93 she was known, at the retirement community where she lived, for her sharp mind and her dynamic ability to communicate with those half her age.

Lois is survived by her son Kerry; his wife, Cheryl; grandson Brian; her brother Kermit and his wife Ruth of Florence, Oregon and nieces Kim and Shawn. She is also survived by her sister-in-law, her niece and nephew, life long friends Helen and Elizabeth and a half a dozen close friends in the area where she lived.

Erlinda Martinez Jose

November 9, 1936 – January 5, 2006

JOSE, LUTHER T. (P '63 Minnesota, F '65 Maine) Minnesota: '62 Waterville: Lakeside; N. Hampshire: '64 Center Ossipee-Tuftonboro; Maine: '65 Cape Porpoise: The Church on the Cape-Youth Director, Maine Ann. Conf.; Wisconsin: '66 DeSoto, Redmound, Retreat; '67 Brooklyn; '72 Beloit: First; '78 Milwaukee: The Church of the Good Hope; Cal-Pac: '80 Honolulu HI: Aldersgate; '84 Holtville, CA; '86 Montebello; '94 Monterey Park: Sage; '96 Alhambra: Sage Granada Park; 2000 Retired.



Linda was the doll of her big family, being the youngest in a village in northern Philippines. Her family always provided leadership, to both church and community, where her future husband, Luther's, father was once a Methodist minister. In high school when they began their friendship, Linda was 13 and Luther was 15. She studied at Philippine Christian College and completed her nursing course at Ortanez Hospital. While in nursing school, Luther had to leave her behind as he was given full scholarship to Boston University for graduate school in philosophy. She wrote a postcard that she was on her way to Houston Methodist Hospital.



Luther helped her to transfer to the Mayo Clinic's Methodist Hospital in Minnesota. Married in 1963, a child was born and they named her Melinda. They moved to New England to serve at Cape Porpoise, Maine, where Luther was pastor and also youth director of the Maine Annual Conference. A second daughter, Emilie, was born. With Linda pursuing her career as a nurse and Luther his passion for philosophy, they moved to Wisconsin. Linda worked at Madison's Methodist Hospital. They traveled, exploring the lakes and scenic areas, and camping at national parks. And their son Jesse was born. Summers in Wisconsin were spent with Luther directing canoe wilderness camps at the Minnesota-Canada boundary waters. Linda helped with family camps with their specialty in parenting and effective relationship skills.

The family loved the snow but Linda wished for a warmer climate. Moving on to Honolulu, residing near Diamond Head, they leisurely identified with the tourists, relaxing at the beach, enjoying hotel entertainment, and evening walks in Waikiki. At a hotel wedding reception, Linda said to Luther, "I wish you could dance!" Luther responded anxiously, enrolling without her knowledge at the Waikiki Arthur Murray Dance Studio. They became involved with dancing, even winning a prize at the annual masquerade ball of the Hawaii Ballroom Association. Moving on to California, they added to their family son-in-law Dr. Albert Alvarez and grandsons, Taruc and Temujin. Linda's passion for travel led them to tour the United States, Europe, and the Middle East. They cruised fifty six days, from the snowy slopes of Alaska to the tropical beaches of the Caribbean. Linda loved her work as nurse supervisor at Downey Community Health Center for seventeen years. With her joy and love for family, the beauty of cultures and places, and sharing Luther's passion with ideas and truth, a proper family epitaph would be "They lived in the awe and wonder of it all."

Nellie Alma Kenney

March 16, 1910 – July 3, 2005

KENNEY, DON E – PNW 39 Elberton Colfax; 41 Elberton; 42 YEL 42 Beach Trotters; 44 Beach; 47 Sierra Leone, Africa; CAL-NEV 51 Riverdale; 58 Sacramento Hope; CAL-PAC 64 Torrence; 84 R'd; 85 Deceased



Mrs. Nellie Alma Kenney was born in Bloomington, Oklahoma, on March 16, 1910. She went on to be with the Lord July 3, 2005. She was one of thirteen children. She is survived by her son, Richard, four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She was a beloved wife to Reverend Don E. Kenney, whom she married during the Great Depression.

They moved to California to pursue the call of God. They both graduated from Biola University. Nellie was Ordained as a Deaconess. She served as a pastor's wife, mother and friend. She served with her husband from 1939 to 1968, nearly 30 years of ministry, which she loved to do. Beginning in 1947, for three years she was a missionary in Sierra Leone, Africa. She was also Conference Youth Director, and Conference Secretary. She held many offices in the church and served on various committees and boards such as UMW. Just before retiring she worked at a Retirement Home in Glendale. She and her husband retired to Baker Homes in 1968. They attended Bell Memorial Church in Rowland Heights, California, where she went on to teach children's chapel at Bell Preschool for 18 more years.

Nellie loved the Lord, her family, lost souls and children. She feared the Lord and learned to laugh at the days to come, and she lived Proverbs 31. Her favorite song was "Lord Lay Some Soul Upon my Heart and Love that Soul through Me." She served the Lord and His people since she was 13 years old. She won many to the Lord. I can imagine that when she saw Jesus, she cast her crown filled with jewels at His feet, only to hear Him say, "Enter into thy rest, well done thy good and faithful servant."



Edna Violet Leland

January 20, 1913 – July 27, 2004

LELAND, HARRY V – WP 32 Bakerston; 33 Cookport CT; 34 Morrisville; B-M37 Marley; WP 38 Fairchance CT; 41 Mt. Morris; 43 Midland CT; 45 Midland; 47 Colliers CT; 48 Dayton; 49 Wurtumburg; 51 Addison CT; CAL-PAC 51 Fillmore; 53 Highgrove; 55 Temple City S. Paul; 60 Huntingtn Winter; DSW 62 Tucson Dist Duncn; CAL-PAC 65 San Diego Julian; 66 Disability; 81 R'd; 85 Deceased



Edna Violet Leland was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on January 20, 1913. Her parents William and Eva Leshner, raised a family in Pittsburgh where Edna attended the public schools and graduated from Westinghouse High School. Edna was proud that the school recommended her to the president of a prominent Pittsburgh business where she was employed as his secretary upon graduation from high school.

Edna's family were active members of the Rock Bend Methodist Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The pastor, Jacob Sala Leland, had officiated at her parent's wedding. Edna married the pastor's son, Harry Valentine Leland, on August 31, 1931. Harry graduated from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and was ordained by the Methodist Protestant Church in 1933. Edna enjoyed her role as minister's wife and took on the responsibilities with pride. The same year, 1933, Edna and Harry started their own family.



The churches that Harry and Edna Leland served were blessed with a minister's wife who functioned as church secretary and wedding coordinator, played piano when needed, taught Sunday School, organized the Women's Society, graciously entertained numerous guests, and loved to socialize after Sunday services. Pre-dawn Sunday mornings found Edna in the kitchen preparing a special Sunday dinner for her husband, seven children and any guests who might get last minute invitations to enjoy dinner after church activities were completed. This was Sunday, the day of rest.

Edna was known for her humor, always coming with a smile to make others laugh. She encouraged and supported her family and friends in a positive manner without ever complaining or being negative. Edna became aware that she was mentally slipping away and asked for help to let the people she loved know how important they were to her life. Others were always her concern. Happy to blend in with family activities, Edna spent her later years peacefully with family members. July 27, 2004, without any fanfare, Edna went HOME.

Gwendolyn Bernice Nichols

December 27, 1924 – December 16, 2005

NICHOLS, JOE R. (T.58; F.60) So. Cal.-Ariz., 58 North Covina; 61 Azusa, Edgewood (North Covina); 63 R'd. (1617:4); 64 Read'ed, La Mesa, First, Assoc.; 66 (Jan. 1) R'd. (1617.4 and 1651a); 66 (Sept.) (Borrego Springs); 68 S'y.



Gwendolyn Bernice Martin Nichols was the adored only child of Edward and Frances Martin, born during a South Dakota blizzard. She grew up in San Bernardino, California. Gwen graduated from the University of Redlands, California, as class valedictorian, with a major in social work and a minor in music. While at the University, she met a handsome young Texan, Joe R. Nichols.



They married just after graduation and he immediately left for Guadalcanal as a Navy medic. Gwen became a social worker. Upon Joe's return, they lived at Colgate Rochester Divinity School, where Joe studied to become a minister. Gwen loved living in the married students shared housing; it was one of her favorite times.

Joe started three churches "from the ground up." Gwen worked diligently at his side as church secretary and pianist. She used her gift of hospitality for the endless meetings held in their home. The churches were started near Rochester, New York, Denver, Colorado, and Azusa, California.

Joe passed away suddenly of a heart attack in 1969. Gwen returned to college and got a master's degree in social work at San Diego State University. She then worked as a counselor for Community Mental Health Services in San Diego, California, until her retirement 15 years later.

Gwen loved traveling and was able to do quite a bit of it, until she was slowed down by a degenerative muscle disease. Although she spent the last two years of her life in a power wheel chair, she always maintained her zest for living life fully and joyfully. She made many contributions at her assisted living facility in San Diego to increase the quality of life for all who lived there, and was well loved and respected by residents and staff alike. Gwen is survived by her loving children: Paul Nichols of Descanso, California and Gail Lehman of Spokane, Washington and her grandchildren: Matthew McComas of Bozeman, Montana and Megan McComas of Spokane, Washington.

Gwen will be missed by all who were blessed to know her.

Alpha Marie Nienas

October 12, 1916 – December 16, 2005

NIENAS, HAROLD G (T.49; F.50) N.Dak.; SCA 62 Whittier, First, Min. of Ed.; 66 SB: St. Mark; 67 Whittier: First, Min. of Ed.; 72 Hacienda Hts.: Hillgrove; 76 S/L(356); PSW 77 Whittier: Trinity.; 80 R'd;C-P 85 R'd



Alpha Marie Heskin Nienas was the youngest child of eight children born to Nils and Bertina Heskin. She grew up in Golden Lake Township, Steele County, North Dakota. Her early education was in a rural school and the Lutheran Church. Alpha graduated from Hatton High School with a distinguished academic record. From high school she enrolled at Mayville State University where, as a junior student, she met Harold Nienas. Both were enrolled in preparation for teaching in public education. While at the university she worked in the school library. Later, she worked as a Librarian at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois.



Over many years Alpha contributed to the church and community organizations. She volunteered for church secretarial tasks and participated in the women's groups. She taught elementary education in South Whittier public schools. Her last contribution was as a consultant to the Superintendent of Public Education for Los Angeles County Schools.

She is preceded in passing by her father and mother, Nils and Bertina Heskin, five brothers and one sister. Alpha's surviving sister, Rudha Sanderson, is a resident of Cooperstown, North Dakota. She has many nieces and nephews living throughout the country. Her husband, Harold Nienas, lives in Alta Loma, California, and her son, David, lives in Claremont.

The book of Proverbs has many tributes to a renowned woman. In a summary of all her fine deeds the author writes: "many daughters have done virtuously, but though excelled them all." Proverbs 31:29

— Harold Nienas

Marian Louise Wilhelm

August 18, 1915 – May 3, 2006

WILHELM, E. LEE (T.48; F.51) Kansas; SCA 56 Anaheim: White Temple, Min. of Ed.; 58 Anaheim, First, Min. of Ed.; Mo. 59; SCA 62 Phoenix: Central, Assoc.; 64 Fullerton: Orangethorpe, Assoc.; 68 Orange: First, Assoc.; 75 Fullerton: First, Assoc.; PSW Fullerton: First, Assoc.; 78 Laguna Hills, Assoc.; 83 R'd.; C-P 85 R'd.



Marian is survived by her husband, E. Lee Wilhelm; her two sons, Mark Wilhelm and Don Wilhelm; their wives Gayle and Ruth; six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her two sisters, Dorine Sanders, and Helen Musgrave. Her parents were Albert and Luella Hessell. Marian was born in Kearney, Missouri.

Marian's family moved to Kansas City, Kansas, when she was seven years old. She started taking piano lessons when she was quite young. She attended grade school, high school and junior college in Kansas City, Kansas. Marian worked for Swift Packing Company in Kansas City for several years and during that time started taking organ lessons. She enrolled at Scarrit College for Christian Workers in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1944 and graduated in 1946 with a Bachelor's Degree in Christian Education and Organ. She was then accepted as Director of Christian Education and Church Organist in Beloit, Washington.

Marian married Lee Wilhelm in the Washington Avenue Methodist Church in Kansas City, Kansas on September 11, 1949. During the next 35 years they served in a number of United Methodist Churches until Lee retired in July, 1982. During these years, Marian served many times as substitute organist and as a children's music teacher in Sunday Schools. After their retirement they relocated to Escondido, California, where they lived for 18 wonderful years in Citrus Gardens, a manufactured home park for active retirees. They remained very active in the local United Methodist Church in Escondido.

It was during that time that Marian began to slowly have memory loss symptoms. In 2000, they moved to Town and Country Manor in Santa Ana, California. After eight months, Marian was moved from their apartment to the hospital. She was soon moved to St. Edna's Convalescent Hospital, also in Santa Ana, on June 1, 2001, where she stayed until her death.

Marian was a life member of Sigma Alpha Iota, an international music fraternity, P.E.O., and United Methodist Women.

