IX. MEMORIALS

WARREN K. ALNOR, SR

February 14, 1924 – December 29, 2009

Rev. Warren Kievit Alnor, Sr. was born the last child of four children to Harry Alnor, Sr. and. Jessie (Fletcher) Alnor on February 14, 1924 in Paterson, NJ. He departed this life Tuesday, December 29, 2009 at the Madonna Rehabilitation Center in Lincoln, Nebraska. He was 85 years old.

He attended grade school and high school in Paterson NJ where he graduated with the class of 1940. Warren accepted Christ as Savior when he was 17 at the Methodist Church in Paterson and at that time felt the call to ministry; by the time he was 18, he was pastoring a church. Following high school, Warren attended Taylor University, Upland, Indiana where he graduated in 1949. He entered the US Army on June 12, 1943 at Newark, NJ. He served with the 1987 Service Command Unit, which was with the Medical Corps, during World War II. He was honorably discharged on June 25, 1945.

Warren Kievit Alnor, Sr. was united in marriage to Jean Lucille Barkley at a Lutheran Church in Lavansville, PA on August 14, 1949 by Rev. Charles A. Shilke. To this union five children were born, Warren Kievit, Jr., Deborah Jean who passed away 14 days after birth, William Mark, Kay Frances, and Anna Lucile. The Alnors observed their 60th wedding anniversary in August 2009.

Warren attended Drew Theological School in Madison, NJ where he received a Bachelors of Divinity degree in 1952. He received his Master's of Theology degree from Pittsburg Theological Seminary in 1961. Warren served at the Methodist Church in Sandyston, NJ from 1949 until 1952. He served the Methodist Church in Macy, Indiana in 1953 and the Evangelical United Brethren Church at Shanksville and Central City, PA. The Alnors were called to be missionaries at the Red Bird Evangelical United Brethren Mission at Jack's Creek, KY in 1958 and 1959. He returned to the ministry and served at the Evangelical Brethren Church in Ligonier, PA from 1960 until 1964. He served the United Methodist Church at Somerset, PA from 1965 until 1972 and the United Methodist Church in Wharton, NJ from 1972 until 1974. They again served as missionaries in Blairstown, NJ from 1974 until 1978. He pastored the church in Spring Valley, NY from 1978 until 1984. He served the Simpson United Methodist Church in Perth Amboy, NJ and the Wesley United Methodist Church in South Plainfield, NJ from 1978 until 1982. He then retired in 1982. Warren helped his wife Jean, pastor the Boyd Knox County Parish in Boyd County, Nebraska, which included the churches at Niobrara, Verdel, Lynch, and Bristow from 1982 until 1987. They served the United Methodist Church in Spencer, NE from 1988 until 1991 and the Bancroft, NE United Methodist Church in 1991. The Alnors moved to Lyons, NE where they both pastored the United Methodist Church from 1991 until 1993. Warren again retired and moved to Brideburg, PA where they resided from 1993 until 1997. They resided in Somerset, PA from 1997 until 1999. They purchased their home and moved to Wilcox, KY in August 1999 where they served at Wilcox, Ragan, and Atlanta from 1999 until 2002. In 2002 they returned to Spencer, NE where they both pastored the United Methodist Church until 2007. In 2007 Warren retired again. He thoroughly enjoyed ministering, leading Bible studies and junior sermons for the young. He enjoyed life!

He was a former member of the Lions Club.

In addition to his infant daughter, he was preceded in death by his mother in 1953; his father in 1978; all his siblings, James Alnor and his wife Millie, Harry Alnor, Jr. and his wife Sally, and Agnes Martin and her husband James.

He leaves to mourn his passing his loving and devoted wife Rev. Jean Alnor at home in Wilcox; two sons, Warren Jr. and his wife Peggy of Rozel, KS, and William and his wife Jackie of Haywood, CA; two daughters,

Table of Contents

Rev. Kay Alnor of Imperial, NE, and Anna List and her husband Raymond of Clayton, NC; nine grandchildren; four great grandchildren; other relatives and a host of friends.

Submitted by: Rev. Jean B. Alnor

Interment: Somerset Co. Lavanville, Somerset, PA

NANCY STONE BELSKY
May 14, 1945 – February 4, 2010

Rev. Nancy Stone Belsky grew up as a member of UMC in Wayne NJ. After receiving her BA (1967) in music education, she taught school in Wayne for 4 years, while also assisting in the ministry of the Wayne church by providing leadership in music, youth, and small group opportunities for women. To be closer to their home in Parsippany, the family, including husband Stephen (married 1966) and daughters Laurel and Cynthia, began attending the Morristown UMC where Nancy participated in the music ministry, the Sunday School program, as a family coordinator, and later in Conference family ministries.

Nancy began her journey to ordained ministry at Drew Theological Seminary in 1975 and was first appointed as an assistant at Morristown UMC in 1980. After her ordination as an elder, she was appointed in 1983 to Belvidere UMC and in 1987 to Newfoundland UMC. She went to Roselle Park Community UMC in 1993 and then to Newton UMC in 1998 where she retired from active ministry in 2007.

Having obtained her theological education at Drew (MDiv) and Wesley Seminary (DMin), Nancy was very instrumental in encouraging others on their journey into ministry. She provided leadership in District and Conference Boards and served as Co-chair of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry (2000-2004).

Nancy deeply appreciated the leadership and support of her pastors, her family and all her sisters and brothers within the community of faith. She loved preaching, teaching and learning from others, especially in small group studies and missions. Even in retirement she continued her Christian teaching by leading Bible studies in her local congregation. She found spiritual and emotional nourishment in spending time with family: with her husband Stephen, her children Laurel Martone and Cynthia Stouffer, their husbands Mike and Steven, and her grandchildren Jason, Sean, Evan, and Mark. Life with grandchildren was the best part of retirement, and Nancy never missed an opportunity to share God's love with her grandsons.

Our family and Nancy's family; mother Kathryn Stone, brothers Bob, Don, and Bill Stone and their families remain focused on keeping Nancy's spirit alive in all of us.

Submitted by: Stephen Belsky

Interment: Memorial Garden at Wayne UMC

ALMA LEE BIPS
December 7, 1924 – February 5, 2010

Our Mom's memoir, "The Way It Was" begins with her birth to a poor family on a farm in Rich Creek, VA. Her parents, Rachel and William Wilson had thirteen children. When our Mom was four years old, her older brother moved the entire family to Nutley, NJ. She was the only one in her family to graduate from high school.

Table of Contents

Prior to her graduation, she married Herman Bips, who joined the United States Army and had to leave the next day. Approximately ten years after Dad returned home, when daughter Linda was six years old, the family started to attend the Methodist Church in Bloomingdale, NJ. It wasn't too long before Mom and Dad became actively involved. She writes: "After much soul searching, we decided to answer "the Call to the Ministry" to serve God and the people".

Both our parents attended Drew Theological Seminary and received a weekend appointment to a small Methodist Church in Mount Freedom. Upon Dad's graduation, they were appointed to Saddle River, and two years later to Bergenfield. In addition to caring for Dad and the three of us, Mom attended Montclair University where she earned a degree in early childhood education. After practice teaching in Teaneck and Wyckoff, she started her own pre-school in Bergenfield. When Dad was assigned to a church in Edison, she again set up a pre-school. Both schools were highly successful and are still thriving.

Upon retirement, our parents moved back to Madison, NJ and then to the Shell Point Retirement Community in Ft. Myers, FL, where Mom died on February 5, 2010. Dad doesn't do much writing anymore, but tries to keep in touch with us, his six grand and three great grandchildren. He lives in Kings Crown Assisted Living in Ft. Myers, FL.

Submitted by Linda, Herman III, and William Bips

Interment: Cremation

MARJORIE ANNE BRYANT
December 23, 1935 – March 31, 2010

Marjorie Anne (nee McLaughlin) Bryant, wife of Rev. Robert Olyn Bryant, passed to her reward with God on March 31, 2010 in Whiting, NJ. Born in Morristown, NJ Mrs. Bryant lived in United Methodist parsonages in northern NJ. When her husband retired in 1993, she moved to the Vineland, NJ area and then to the Crestwood Village I section of Whiting in 2002.

Marjorie was a Registered Nurse in New Jersey since 1957, receiving her diploma from the Muhlenberg Hospital School of Nursing in Plainfield, NJ. She worked in Morristown Memorial Hospital and Overlook Hospital in Summit, NJ before finishing her career as a substitute school nurse for many school districts near Vineland.

Marjorie was active in all the churches that her husband served. She was a Sunday School teacher, sang in the choir, served on the Scout Committee, and with the United Methodist Women, where, on one occasion, she served as President. On the Conference level, she was a Certified Lay Speaker.

Her husband has said of her, "She has stood with me through the good and wonderful times of ministry. She has been wife and helpmate through storms and sunny times. She has been homemaker and parent, raising Bob and Jim in Methodist parsonages while working in hospitals, doctor's offices, the Green Hill Residence for Women, and, in later years, as a substitute school nurse. In my tribute to Margie, I must say that when we have heard music together, it was more than music, and when we have eaten bread together, it was more than bread."

Marjorie is survived by her husband of 49 years, Rev. Robert Olyn Bryant; two sons, Robert Olyn Bryant III and his wife Paula of Dacula, GA, and James Bryant and his wife Pamela of West Caldwell, NJ; a brother, Frederick McLaughlin and his wife Lorna; two nephews; one niece; and four grandchildren, Rachael, Eva, Laria, and Justin.

Table of Contents

Submitted by: Rev. Robert Olyn Bryant

Interment: Whiting Memorial Park, Whiting, NJ

JEAN H. CAMPBELL
June 8, 1931 – October 22, 2009

Jean was a life-long Methodist who devoted her energy and love to serving her Lord. She married her high school sweetheart believing she would be the wife of a Wall Street banker. But God had other plans, as she felt called to become a pastor's wife two weeks before her husband Eldrich was called to the ordained ministry. At the time, the family was attending St. John's Methodist Church in Keyport, NJ. Jean learned with Eldrich how to serve a congregation and to grow in her faith and their ministry with many congregations in the former Southern New Jersey Conference and later, in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

She was very active with the Northeast District United Methodist Women and served for several years on the Francis Nelson Scholarship Committee. Though Jean assumed many leadership roles, she most enjoyed working in the background. She worked with children in the Church School, VBS, and by giving the children's sermon on Sunday mornings. She was one who believed faith without action was empty words. Returning to nursing school in mid-life, she continued to serve her Lord by helping those who were ill and aging. Jean's activities in church kitchens, participating in Bible studies, visiting the sick, attending quilt guild meetings, and spending time with their grown children and grandchildren, were opportunities for her to share God's love and light. As her health deteriorated, she continued to share Jesus' words of love, encouragement, faith, and hope with those she met.

Jean is survived by her husband, Eldrich C. Campbell, of Weatherly, PA, who retired from the former Southern New Jersey Conference, four children, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

A memorial service celebrating her life and love of our Lord Jesus Christ was held on All Saints Sunday 2009 at Centenary United Methodist Church, Weatherly, PA.

Submitted by: daughter, Sue Ann C. Jatko

Interment: St. John's United Methodist Church, Hazlet, NJ

WILLIAM "BEN" EPPINGER
January 17, 1932 – November 14, 2009

Ben, at the age of 77, was diagnosed with cancer on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 and on Saturday, November 14, 2009 went to be with the Lord. Thursday of that week, he told his wife Tracy that he prayed, "Please God, make it quick." God does answer prayer.

Born in Camden, NJ, Ben grew up playing baseball, attended Woodrow Wilson High School, where in the 11th grade he met his bride to be, Tracy. They were voted Class Couple and were married for 58 years, 4 months shy of 59.

Ben served nine churches in the Southern New Jersey Conference from 1959 – 1994. Some activities he delighted in were a little snow skiing in the winter,

Table of Contents

camping and sailing, going on vacation in August, at the 1000 Islands. He also had a garden in Thorofare and South Vineland that supplied quite a few people and it gave him much pleasure. In retirement windsurfing, tennis and cooking took over, plus he enjoyed the sunshine.

One sad event, happening a year before Ben passed, that was very meaningful to him, was the death of his beloved dog "Sweetie".

"The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. Blessed be the name of the Lord." Amen.

Submitted by: D. Tracy Eppinger

Interment: Sebastian, FL

CARL EMMETT ERRICKSON
October 9, 1937 – March 16, 2010

Carl Errickson was born in Trenton NJ, raised in Hopewell NJ, and was a long time resident of Hamilton, NJ before moving to Ocean City, NJ. He was a US Air Force veteran, and retired after 35 years with Public Service Electric & Gas Company. Carl was an avid gardener, wood worker, and handyman. He was active in the United Methodist Church for many years.

Carl and wife Beverly celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on March 12, 2010.

He is survived by wife Rev. Beverly Errickson; daughters Jennifer Bonelli and Cynthia Errickson; grandchildren Christopher and Nicole Bonelli; son-in-law Nicholas Bonelli; sisters Bernice Hilton and Carol Errickson.

Memorial Services were held at The Shores at Wesley Manor in Ocean City and St. Mark United Methodist Church in Hamilton Square.

Submitted by: Rev. Beverly Errickson

HAROLD E. FACEY
July 19, 1922 – August 21, 2009

Harold Facey, retired Local Pastor, died on August 21, 2009. He served churches in Pine Hill (1968-1970), Jacobstown Circuit (1970-1975), Millville: Fourth (1975-1978), West Belmar (1978-1981) and Lakehurst (1981-1987). He retired in 1987.

Interment: Colonial Memorial Park, Hamilton Twp., NJ

JOHN F. GARRAHAN
September 8, 1920 – December 20, 2009

The Rev. Dr. John F. Garrahan, 89, of Palermo, died December 20, 2009 at his home.

He was a pastor for 60 years, having served United Methodist churches in Tuckahoe, Petersburg, Swainton, Port Elizabeth, Delmont, and Leesburg. He taught for more than 30 years both in high schools and on the college

Table of Contents

levels. He retired from Glassboro State College in 1980 after which he began a career as a private marriage and family counselor.
John is survived by his wife Caroline; daughters Kathleen Bogushefsky and Ruth Megargee; stepdaughters Carol Ferguson and Jane Whiting; brother James Garrahan; 13 grandchildren and two great-grandsons.

Submitted by Caroline W. Garrahan

Interment: Head-of-the-River Cemetery, Estell Manor, NJ

DAVE GIBBONS
July 25, 1930 – September 19, 2009

Dave Gibbons was a graduate of Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio and Yale Divinity School. He had a variety of careers, including college dean and professor at Denison University in Granville, Ohio. Dave was the Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity in Trenton. In retirement, he led a chapter of Habitat for Humanity in Long Branch and volunteered with the county Food Bank in Neptune.

Dave was active in the DeBows United Methodist Church. He was a Trustee, served on the Administrative Council, was Missions chairperson and sang in the choir. Dave was also a member of the Church Health Team and went on the Youth Mission trips and Adult Mission trips.

Dave enjoyed running, hiking, camping and mountain climbing. He was an avid reader.

Dave is survived by his wife of 56 years, Betty and four children: Laura, Ken, Phil and Alan. He had six grandchildren.

Submitted by: Betty Gibbons

Interment: Cremated

MARCELLA HALVORSEN
June 23, 2009

Marcella Halvorsen, wife of retired elder the Rev. Carl W. Halvorsen, died on June 23, 2009 in Moorestown, NJ.

JOAN R. HOFFMAN
January 12, 2010

Joan R. Hoffman, wife of retired elder the Rev. Frederick Hoffman, died on January 12, 2010 in Keene, NH.

Table of Contents

BETTILOU HOLLAND

September 29, 1923 – March 5, 2010

Bettilou Holland, 86, wife of the Rev. E.T. Holland, died Friday, March 5, 2010 in their apartment at Bristol Glen in Newton, NJ. The Hollands celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary on February 21, 2010.

Born September 29, 1923, in Owensboro, KY, Bettilou was the daughter of Thomas Hendrick Biedenkopf and Rachel Gore Biedenkopf. A 1941 graduate of Owensboro High School, Bettilou was also a 1947 graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio.

Bettilou was a former director of Christian Education in the United Methodist Church. She was an active leader and often a featured speaker for church and community groups. She taught numerous conferences and jurisdictional schools of Christian Mission and also conducted seminars and workshops for Sunday School teachers and local leaders of United Methodist Women.

For several years, Bettilou served on the governing board of the United Methodist Homes of New Jersey and was chairperson of its Strategic Planning Committee at the time when consideration began for the building of a home for the elderly in the Newton area. Through the work of many persons, this dream became Bristol Glen.

Bettilou was known for her artistry and creativity and for her commitment to helping others develop their talents and use their resources for worthy purposes. Over many years she was asked by public school music teachers to provide voice training and instruction for students auditioning for regional choral competitions.

She objected to congregation church histories which were chiefly the account of the improvement and succession of church buildings with little or no attention being given to the vision, witness and service revealed in the faith stories of the congregation. She even made a series of tapestries which portray the story of Methodism in Newton. The idea came from a cathedral in France which she and E.T. visited on one of their many European trips.

Bettilou gave her own observations and reflections on life and the events of the day in more than 90 poems, all of which show her perceptions, sensitivities, concerns and dreams.

Bettilou was a four-time delegate to the Quadrennial General Conference. She served two terms on the General Board of Church and Society. She was a United Methodist representative to the Governing Board of the National Council of Churches. She was the first woman elected to serve as chairperson of the Northeastern Jurisdiction Committee on the Episcopacy, which has responsibility for the quadrennial assignment of bishops.

Bettilou is survived by her husband, Rev. E.T. Holland of Bristol Glen, Newton, NJ, two sons, Dr. E. Thomas Holland of Madison, NJ and Mark D. Holland of Hackettstown, NJ, one daughter, Marilou Tshudy of Belvidere, NJ, and six grandchildren.

Submitted by: Rev. E.T. Holland

Interment: Arlington National Cemetery

ROBERT LIGGETT JENKS

November 4, 2009

The Reverend Robert Jenks,. retired elder, served churches in Millville, Hightstown, and Haddonfield. He retired in 1981.

Table of Contents

THOMAS E. JOHNSON
March 26, 1940 – May 6, 2009

Tom Johnson was married to Maureen Johnson for 43 years. He is survived by Maureen; 3 children, Michael Johnson, Peggy Newton and Sharon Johnson; and 3 grandchildren. He retired to Snellville, GA where he lived out his final days.

Tommy was loved by all who knew him. His love for Christ was shown in the life that he lived and in how he battled cancer for 3 years. Tommy was the pastor of Delaware Valley United Methodist Church for 9 years. Before that he was a faithful member of First United Methodist Church in Newton ,NJ where he was active in many of its ministries including UMM, Lay Leader and the Chancel Choir. When not preaching, Tommy could be found riding his Honda Gold Wing or enjoying nature in his travel trailer. His many hobbies included stamp collecting, reading, playing the accordion or guitar, singing, telling jokes, canoeing, hiking, wood-working and spending time with his family. Tommy was known for his giving nature. He would help out wherever he was needed. His zest for life was contagious. You couldn't help but enjoy spending time with him. Life with Tommy was a constant laugh as he loved to tell jokes and his nickname was "story teller". He was known to tell many a joke from the pulpit.

Submitted by: Maureen Johnson

Interment: Snellville, GA

CONRAD BRUCE KAUFFMAN
August 30, 1946 – July 8, 2009

Conrad Bruce Kauffman was a loving husband, father, friend and ever willing servant of God. He graduated from the Drexel Institute of Technology in 1969 as an Electrical Engineer and was a member of the Eta Kappa Nu fraternity. He was on the cutting edge of computer programming and worked at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard for over 20 years, most recently at the Naval Human Resource Center in downtown Philadelphia.

Conrad was an active member of the First United Methodist Church of Haddon Heights for over 50 years. He was Financial Secretary for 13 years, sang in the choir and was an active member of the Jacob's Ladder Sunday School class.

Conrad met his first wife, Diana (Burger) Kauffman through a young adult group at the church and they were married on April 9, 1979. They raised two daughters, Elizabeth and Sara Joy in the church. Diana died on November 6, 2006, thirteen days after a cerebral vascular accident. Conrad's strong faith in Christ sustained him and gave him the hope that God was at work even through this tragedy to bring healing.

On September 15, 2007, Conrad and Deborah Steelman were united in marriage by the Revs. Kimberly and Robert Wecht at the First United Methodist Church of Haddon Heights surrounded by family, church friends and colleagues.

In September 2008, Conrad was hospitalized with a low blood count and in October, diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia. After aggressive treatment at the Fox Chase Cancer Center, the leukemia was in remission. The opportunity for a bone marrow transplant was made available at the Temple Bone Marrow Transplant Unit at Jeane's Hospital in Philadelphia.

Table of Contents

Conrad's transplant, "new birthday", was on May 20, 2009. Unfortunately a severe reaction to the medication used to treat the graft vs. host caused an irreversible allergic condition. After a valiant attempt to overcome the reaction, Conrad succumbed to the disease as the day was dawning on July 8, 2009.

A service of Death and Resurrection was held in celebration of his life on July 11, 2009 and interment was in the church Memorial Garden.

Conrad is survived by his wife Deborah A. Kauffman; daughter Elizabeth Kauffman Mitten and husband Michael; daughter Sara Joy Kauffman Kuhlen and husband Matthew; sister Marion Pedrick; stepdaughter the Rev. Kimberly Wecht and husband Rev. Robert Wecht; stepson Paul Steelman, stepdaughter Jelyn Steelman Cook and husband Rich; stepdaughter Kristin Steelman Blasko and husband Christopher; and five step-grandchildren: Elena, Sarah, Hannah, Joshua and Josiah Wecht.

Submitted by: Deborah Steelman Kauffman and Sara Joy Kauffman Kuhlen

Interment: The Memorial Garden at Haddon Heights United Methodist Church, Haddon Heights NJ

A. KEYES LAYTON

March 2, 1931 – April 12, 2010

The Reverend A. Keyes Layton, retired elder, died on April 12, 2010 in Oil Springs KY. He served churches in Bayville, Adelphia, Harmony, Camden Tabernacle, Paulsboro, Gloucester, Berlin and Salem. He was the Dean of Students at Union College from 1980 to 1983. Rev. Layton retired in 1987.

ARTHUR W. LODER

December 16, 1919 – July 8, 2009

Art loved going to Annual Conference. He loved the interaction, the music, and visiting with old friends. He also made his thoughts known and knew for what he was voting.

After a stroke six years ago, we worried about him, but he made out fine on his own and enjoyed everything.

Art volunteered in the Army in 1939 and served in the Army Corps of Engineers in England and France for three years. He was previously employed by Curtis Publishing Co and Philadelphia's The Bulletin as a machinist.

As a long time member of the Magnolia United Methodist Church, he served on many committees. He was Lay Leader, Lay Member and Church Treasurer until his death. His family and his church were his life.

He was an avid gardener and shared with friends and neighbors. We are trying to keep up what he started.

Art is survived by his wife Mary Jane Loder; sons Arthur, Jr. and Thomas; daughter Carol Kroeger; grandchildren Jennifer Loewen, Pauline Gelber, Dorothea and Maria Cavalli, Gretchen and Russell Kroeger, Fletcher & Thomas Loder; and great-grandchildren Patrick Wells and Hannah Loewen. A daughter, Susan, preceded him in death.

Submitted by: Mary Jane Loder

Interment: Woodruff Cemetery, Woodruff, NJ

Table of Contents

CHARLES A. McFARREN
October 2, 1009

The Reverend Charles A. McFarren, retired elder, died on October 2, 2009 in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Charles began his ministry in the Minnesota Conference in 1950 and in 1952 went to Bolivia as a missionary, professor, and chaplain for 23 years. He returned to the United States in 1975 as Missionary in Residence in New York City. In 1978 he worked at the Meta Center for Personal and Organizational Change, and from 1979-1985 as Chaplain of Pastoral Care at Bergen Pines County Hospital. He was Director of Pastoral Care at Bergen County Hospital from 1985 until his retirement in 1987.

VIRGINIA JOHNSON MERRIAM
September 12, 1916 – December 16, 2009

Virginia ("Ginnie") was born in Boston, Massachusetts and moved to New Jersey as a young girl. She graduated from Millburn High School in 1936.

She married R. Douglas Merriam in 1937 in Newton, NJ. Following his graduation from Drew Seminary and his ordination in 1948, they served churches in nine of New Jersey's twenty-one counties. Virginia supported his ministry effectively and graciously, buoyed by her strong Christian faith.

After Doug's death in 1981, Virginia moved to Saginaw, Michigan to be close to family. She volunteered over 3,800 hours at Covenant Health Care in Saginaw and found meaningful service in its chaplaincy program.

She was an active member of First United Methodist Church, Saginaw, where a memorial service was held on December 19, 2009.

She is survived by sons Allen Hayes Merriam and wife Kay of Joplin, Missouri; and Guy Douglas Merriam and wife Janice of Saginaw, Michigan; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Submitted by: Allen and Guy Merriam

Interment: Virginia donated her body to science through the medical school at Michigan State University.

BARBARA MILLER
April 2, 1938 – October 13, 2009

Born to a family distinguished in law and the arts in 1938, Barbara was brought up in Chevy Chase, MD, graduating from American University in 1956 as a biologist. Her work experience extended from being a research assistant at the National Institutes of Health during the early years of her career, to serving as a librarian at Monmouth University prior to retirement.

Barbara married Rev. C. Ronald Miller in 1964, at which time they settled in the Blackwood parsonage where she was much beloved by her husband and parishioners. This was the motif of her main life's work as a pastor's wife. Baptized into the Christian faith as an adult, her beliefs and moral convictions were well founded on the Bible and in consistent practice throughout her faithful life. She never sought leadership positions as a church member but supported the laity in their work and her husband in ministry with Christian love and tolerance. When I lost perspective in dealing with people and threatened retaliation, Barbara insisted on reconciliation. I always

Table of Contents

entertained with pride and pleasure remarks mentioning that she was my greatest asset. Our years of working together in UM Marriage Encounter highlighted our mutual support and love, characteristic of the 45-year marriage we enjoyed. In 1974 we were enriched by the birth of Kimberly Virginia.

The happenings surrounding our sorrowful loss on October 13th left me with the greatest faith confirmation of my life. It all seemed orchestrated from heaven, bringing together with me our daughter and son-in-law for a service of farewell within minutes of death. The inspiring clerical support every step of the way, the Holy Spirit-filled service of praise for God and tribute to Barbara's memory at All Saint' Church in Chevy Chase, MD with family and her many friends, were uplifting. Following, a Committal Service took place overlooking the large bed of Opuntia cactus where Barbara's ashes were laid in view of the glass-enclosed living room of our new house, both overlooking the Catoctin Mountains in Thurmont, MD. It all concluded when, that evening, I became conscious of feelings not earthly and then a dawning sense of a privilege being granted as I felt that I was visited by someone looking in on me for the last time before going to the chosen place where God calls his redeemed.

Knowing how Barbara never missed a chance to sing in choirs, I can guess where in the heavenly host she would choose to serve. I like to believe it is her final choice, so typical an act of someone who had survived breast cancer for 22 years without losing her basic happiness, optimistic attitude or her love for others. The loss of hair was accepted with courage and the gradual loss of energy did not slow her down until she walked into the hospital to begin the last week of her earthly life. Thank God for the life and testimony of Barbara Miller.

Barbara is survived by her husband Rev. C. Ronald Miller, PhD; daughter Kimberly V. Clancy and husband Daniel of NYC; cousin Tanya Van Bergh; and brother-in-law Russell M. Miller of Pleasantville, NJ.

Submitted by: Rev. C. Ronald Miller

Interment: Barbrons Long View Gardens, Thurmont, Maryland

ABRAHAM DAVID PURUSHOTHAMAN
September 30, 1932 – March 22, 2010

Rev. Dr. Abraham David Purushothaman was born in Ranipet, India to Rev. Andrew Abraham and Jeevamani Pattammal. His father, a prominent Christian leader in Tamil Nadu encouraged him to go into ministry.

At a young age, Rev. Purushothaman distinguished himself as a student, went on to work as a teacher in Kolar Gold Fields, and at the Christian Literature Society (CLS) to support his family. When he was called to the ministry, he attended Vyarsarpadi seminary. 1963 was a special year in his life – he was ordained by the Church of South India (CSI) and he married Rukmashanthy.

Rev. Purushothaman faithfully and tirelessly served the Lord as a CSI pastor in Nagari, Chinglepet, and later in Chennai. As a man of great compassion, he was deeply involved in ministry to lepers while he was in Chinglepet.

In 1977, Pastor Purushothaman migrated to the United States and began his wonderful ministry in this country. He provided great leadership and pastoral care as he served through the Tamil Christian Congregation, the Presbyterian Church, and the United Methodist Church. Wherever he served, he set an example as the most endearing, loving, and caring leader. By his most compassionate service through C.A.U.S.E. Center in Jersey City, Rev. Purushothaman touched the lives of thousands of poor and unfortunate people.

His continued concern and care for the poor in India did not diminish in any way. He provided intense help and assistance for establishing ministries in India through Habitat for Humanity, Pillar of Fire Mission, and FOCI

Table of Contents

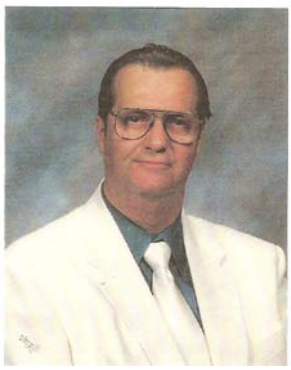
(Friends of Christ India). Rev. Purushothaman traveled to India several times with missionaries for this purpose and was working towards building his own mission outreach. His philosophy was always to give freely and did not believe in leaving any one out. He felt all were needy and could not place a number on how many could be helped based on the budget, but always looked to add more to the already long list.

Rev. Purushothaman's motto was "HUMBLENESS" and that God will take care of all our needs, wants and wishes but you must have faith as a mustard seed.

He is survived by his wife, Rukmashanthy; daughters, Jessie, Jeba, and Christina; and grandchildren, Kevin, Kristopher, Kelley, and Kimberly.

Submitted by: Christina Purushothaman

FRANK ALFRED ROBINSON
August 13, 1939 – June 9, 2009



Frank was a dedicated, godly man. He loved the Lord, his God, with all his heart, soul, and mind. Frank was born and raised in Camden, NJ. He was the proud son of Frank P. and Mabel Ida Robinson. It was at an evening service at First Methodist Church in Camden that he made his decision for the ministry.

Frank was a godly, family man. Frank met his wife, Joan, on a blind date. They were introduced by the late Rev. Jack Hamilton. Frank and Joan were married on July 13, 1963, and, at the time of his death, had been married for 45 years. They have one daughter, Kimberly Ann Robinson, who was born on December 6, 1974. Frank and his family were inseparable.

Frank was a 1957 graduate of Camden High School. He graduated from Lindsey Wilson College with an Associate's Degree in May 1961, from Union College, Kentucky, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in August 1964, and from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity in May 1975.

Frank was ordained a deacon in June 1966 and an elder in June 1976, both by Bishop Prince Taylor, Jr. He received honorary membership into the Chapel of Four Chaplains in March 1983. He served the following churches: Rancocas in Masonville (1964-1967), Leesburg in Dorchester (1967-1969), Assistant at First in Moorestown (1969-1970), Colonial Manor in Verga (1970-1977), West Grove in Neptune (1977-1981), Almonesson (1981-1986), Long Branch (1986-1991), Pemberton (1991-1994), and First in National Park (2000-2009).

One strong trait Frank had, he was always known for his smile. Frank's smile lit up a room and you could always count on him wearing one. Frank also enjoyed wearing his special ties, such as the American Flag and his Mickey Mouse tie.

Frank always ministered to everyone. Part of a prayer that he prayed daily was, a prayer of pastors:
"O Lord, as I kneel before you with a humble heart, I pray for your understanding and that I work for You each day….. Lord, build your humble servant, help me be what you would have me be for I heard your great commission and I answered, 'Lord, send me'." This is what Frank started his day with and it helped him to totally love all of his congregations.

As a colleague, you couldn't ask for a better brother in the Lord. If we hadn't seen or talked to one another in a while, Frank would call and make sure that everything was fine between me and my family and the Lord.

Frank will be forever loved and deeply missed!

Table of Contents

He is survived by his wife, Joan G. Robinson; daughter, Kimberly Ann Robinson; sister, Arlene Ellis and husband Charles. He was an uncle and cousin to many; shepherd and dear friend to a faithful church family.

Submitted by: Pastor Gary Brennan

Interment: Woodbury Memorial Park, West Deptford, NJ

EROINA ROMERO
October 25, 1912 – March 30, 2010

My wife, Eroina Romero, was a wonderful companion as a wife, and in the Christian ministry. Always with complete sincerity, she was willing and sacrificing of herself so that the word of God would be understood and applied to our daily lives.

She was a wonderful Sunday School teacher, and her voice was always present in the church choir, as she was an excellent soprano.

I give praise to God that she permitted me to be part of her life.

She is survived by her husband, Rev. Perfecto Romero; daughter, Orpha Roug; sister, Marina Garcia; and nephew Enoch M. Garcia.

Submitted by: Rev. Perfecto Romero

Interment: Miami Memorial Park, Miami FL

ARTHUR DAVID SEELAND
October 31, 1931 – October 23, 2009

Arthur David Seeland, 77, of Barnegat died at home on Friday, October 23 after a long battle with pulmonary fibrosis. Born and raised in Jersey City, he graduated from Houghton College in New York and Temple University School of Theology, Philadelphia, PA. He was ordained a Methodist minister and served Tansboro, New Brooklyn, Groveville, Barnegat, Brookville and Eatontown churches, all in New Jersey.

In 1964 he entered the US Navy as a Chaplain. Early, he served with the 3/3 Marines in Vietnam. He was Naval Hospital Chaplain in St. Albans, NY, Philadelphia, PA and at the National Medical Center in Bethesda, MD. Other tours of duty were as Force Chaplain, US Middle East Force, headquartered on Bahrain Island; US Naval Station Rota Spain; and 1st Marine Air Wing, Iwakuni, Japan. He also served as Force Chaplain, Submarine Force, US Atlantic Fleet at Norfolk, VA; and as Base Chaplain, US Naval Station, Indian Head, MD. He graduated with Highest Distinction from Naval War College, Newport, RI. Along the way, he received a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry from McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL. He retired as Commander in 1987, settling in his long-time home in Barnegat, NJ.

Later, he was ordained Deacon, Priest, and consecrated Bishop in the Anglican Catholic Church. His duties took him to PA, CA, NV, AZ. He retired in 2008 due to illness.

Table of Contents

Earlier, in civilian life, he volunteered at St. Francis Hospital, Trenton, NJ, was a member and chaplain of volunteer Fire Companies and a volunteer 1st Air Squad which he helped organize. He coached Little League and was busy in Boy Scouts and church camping programs. In mid-life, he was very active in the Masons as a 32nd degree member of Mt. Moriah Lodge, Bordentown, NJ and was a past Grand Chaplain of NJ, and of the French National Grand Lodge. In the 1970's he was active on the Alumni Board of Houghton College. Within and outside of his careers, he remained very generous and helpful to many people he met along the way.

Predeceased by his father, T. Arthur Seeland; two brothers, John C. of Montana and Robert M. of California. He is survived by his mother, Dorothea Thomas Seeland of Barnegat; his wife Mary Ann (Hove) of Barnegat; four children: John of Stuart, FL,; Eric of Chesapeake, VA; Tellef of Barnegat, NJ; Karen Zacca of Sellersville, PA; and four grandchildren.

This is a loving tribute from the Seeland family, and the people and clergy of the Holy Catholic Church, Anglican Rite.

Submitted by: Mary Ann Seeland

Interment: Barnegat, NJ

FRANCIS E. SWEETEN
November 30, 1919 – January 24, 2010

The Reverend Francis E. Sweeten, retired elder, died on January 24, 2010. He served churches in Rapaupo, Collingswood, Clarksboro, Tuckerton, Salem, Matawan, Cliffwood, Camden, Pleasantville, Wenonah and Delanco. He also served as a missionary in India between 1949 and 1952. He retired in 1985.

F. NAOMI TAYLOR
January 8, 1919 – November 12, 2009

F. Naomi Taylor (nee Douglass) passed away peacefully on November 12, 2009. Mrs. Taylor was the senior principal of two family-owned businesses, Douglass Industries in Egg Harbor City and Absecon Mills in Cologne, NJ. Founded with her husband Howard (who predeceased her in 1991), the Taylor family grew the business into an internationally recognized design leader, manufacturer and distributor of textiles. Mrs. Taylor remained active in business until her short hospitalization and was a driving inspiration to all who knew her and worked with her.

Naomi was an active member of the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church in Northfield NJ, and spent many years raising her beautiful voice in praise and worship in various local choirs, including the Orpheus Choral Group. She was a talented pianist and a music lover who used her gifts to bring joy to others as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the South Jersey Regional Theater. Among her many community activities were the Ladies Charity League and Crescent Club. She was a member of the board of the AtlantiCare Foundation, served as Chairperson for the Atlantic County Advisory Commission on Women, was a member of the National Republican Congressional Committee Business Advisory Council, and the Zonta Club. Mrs. Taylor was Atlantic County's Business Woman of the Year in 2001, was inducted into the Atlantic County Women's Hall of Fame in 2002, and received the Eisenhower Commission for the Republican National Committee in 2009.

Well-loved by all who knew her, Mrs. Taylor was an inspiration to her family, her friends, her community and her employees. Many will remember the annual Easter Egg hunts, church picnics, Thanksgiving dinners and

Table of Contents

socials she hosted at her home in Pleasantville. Generous of spirit, she was always prepared to lend a helping hand to those in need.

Naomi is survived by her sons, Randolph S. and Douglas A. Taylor; grandchildren, Megan Taylor, Ethan Taylor, Amy Rose Rickli, Christopher H. Taylor; and 7 great grandchildren.

Submitted by: Randolph Taylor

Interment: Laurel Memorial Cemetery, NJ

CLAIRE M. TURK
August 31, 1924 – April 20, 2010

Claire Turk was born in Blackwood, NJ on August 31, 1924. She grew up in Gloucester County and graduated from Glassboro High School in 1941. She married Harold Turk in 1945; they were married for almost 65 years.

Claire enjoyed the supportive role of a pastor's wife as well as homemaker and mother. She sang in the Sisterhood Chorus of the Southern New Jersey Conference of the United Methodist Church, was a member of the Women's Society of Christian Service and the United Methodist Women. She taught Sunday School, Bible School and assisted with youth groups of the churches her husband served. She sang in the church choirs and often performed solos.

She worked in day care centers in Browns Mills and Bridgeton.

Claire enjoyed spending time with her family as well as gardening, reading, singing, traveling, and baking.

Having resided in many communities throughout South Jersey, she lived in her home in Richwood for the past 15 years.

Claire is survived by her husband, Rev. Harold Turk; her children, Rev. Gary (Linda), Gordon, Gayla, and Gloria Turk; grandchildren, Heather (Charles) Wilson, Cheryl Turk, Gary Jr. (Holly), Sophia Cianfrano; and 3 great grandchildren: Caitlin Wilson, Madison and Aidan Turk. She is also survived by four sisters and one brother. She is predeceased by her granddaughter Rebecca Lynn Turk.

Submitted by: Gary Turk

Interment: Richwood NJ

JANET WADAS
September 17, 1948 – April 11, 2010

Janet was a wife, mother, and ministry partner. She became a United Methodist at the Mt. Ephraim UMC and was known as one of Rev. Collin's Kids in the youth group. She graduated from Audubon High School in 1967 and worked at the Philadelphia National Bank, where she met her future husband Tom. They were married in 1970 and their first daughter Lisa was born in 1974; a year later daughter Beth was born.

She was always active in the local church as a Sunday School teacher, VBS director, and a member of many committees. Janet joined with Tom in full-time ministry in 1994 and together they served the Atco, Tansboro, Blue Anchor, Westmont, and Vincentown churches. During this time she received her certificate for Medical Unit Secretary Coordinator and worked at Virtua Hospital in Voorhees, NJ.

Table of Contents

Janet never let her diabetes and its complications keep her down. After two bypasses to her right leg, two heart attacks, and five bypasses to her heart, she prayed and asked God what he had for her to do. His answer was Interim Parent for Bethany Christian Services and she cared for 13 babies until her medical condition deteriorated. In June of 2009 her left leg was amputated, but her strong faith kept her going. After a long period of rehabilitation with her prosthetic leg, she was once again praying for God to show her where to go next. She was called home suddenly on the morning of April 11, 2010.

Janet is survived by her husband, Rev. Thomas Wadas, and daughters Lisa Anne Wadas and Beth Anne Wadas.

Submitted by: Rev. Thomas Wadas

Interment: Cremated remains scattered at sea

ALICE M. WHITE
August 23, 1921 – December 2, 2009

Alice H. White of West Caldwell passed on December 2, 2009. She was the beloved wife of the late Rev. Burke White. Alice is survived by two stepdaughters, Mary Lou Vogt and Martha W. Vogt.

Alice worked in the communication department of the National Headquarters of the Salvation Army. She was very active in the Caldwell Methodist Church, serving on the Pastor/Parish and Outreach Committees. She was also involved in the early days of the Task Force on the Feeding of the Hungry. She established the Interwoven-Dorcas Circle craft workshops and arranged church trips.

Alice also served as editor of the newsletter for retired clergy in the Northern NJ Conference and was on the Board of Directors at the Canfield Home and then on the Board of Directors at the Job Haines Home in Bloomfield.

Our eternal gratitude will always be with Alice for her presence in our dear father's life. Our mother had been hospitalized for many years. We know he was very lonely, especially when his daughters married and lived out of state. Alice stepped into his life after our mother's passing and filled it with love, devotion and companionship.

As Alice used to say at the end of her many letters that she wrote to us, "Love and Blessings", and so we say back to you, dear Alice, Love and Blessings. Thank you for the wonderful life you gave our father and may you rest in peace.

Submitted by: Martha W. Vogt

Interment: Hackensack, NJ

Table of Contents

COMPTON WILLIAMS
July 13, 1942 – June 14, 2009

Rev. Dr. Compton Williams was born in Georgetown, Guyana, South America on July 13, 1942 to the late Lionel and Evelyn Williams. As a youngster, he and his siblings attended all the Sunday schools in his community – Buxton Village, Guyana – where he grew up.

At 14 years old, he made a commitment to Christ and the Church and was baptized at the, then well-known, Church of God in Buxton, Guyana. This commenced his journey into Christian Ministry. He became the Youth Leader and attended all the youth camps and rallies sponsored by the church. This was in addition to his participation in the Boys Scouts, apart from his daily chores at home.

At 18 years old, he was a Lay Preacher of the church. At 19, even though he was known as the businessman of the family, running his father's printing establishment and attending business school, he felt God was calling him to a different vocation. To the amazement of his parents, he announced that he was leaving home to embark on a four year theological training at the West Indies Theological College in Trinidad.

After his graduation, he was offered a pastoral position in the Cayman Islands where he served for two years. He then moved to Jamaica, West Indies where he attended another theological school for two years and became affiliated with the Presbyterian Church. In Kingston, Jamaica he met Beverley and in 1974 was married to her. In 1978, along with his daughters, Joy and Judith, he and Beverley migrated to the United States. Here he enhanced his education earning a Masters' Degree at Princeton Theological Seminary and his Doctorate at Drew University.

Compton has served as Chairperson of Evangelism for the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church for two years; Youth Pastor of Central Presbyterian Church, Paterson, NJ for four years; Assistant Chaplain of Eger Nursing Home in Staten Island, NY for two years; and Pastor of First United Methodist Church of Trenton, NJ, now known as Turning Point United Methodist Church, from July 1989 until June 2005. From June 2005 to June 2007, he served as Pastor of Broad Street United Methodist Church, Burlington, NJ. He was then transferred to pastor two congregations - - Avon and Wayside United Methodist Churches. His service was short-lived as he became ill.

In addition to his pastoral duties with the Methodist congregations, he was a member of the Caribbean Ministers' Fellowship. Compton also kept up his connections with Guyana by participating in the annual Worship Service and Fellowship held in celebration of Guyana's Republic Day.

Compton was a loving husband, father, grandfather and brother. He was dedicated to family and church. One of the highlights of his ministry throughout the years was visiting the shut-ins. His visits were not limited to members only. He reached out to other patients and prayed with them. It is not a wonder that one of his favorite hymns was "Walls Mark Our Boundaries". In telling about the foundation of his ministry, Compton stated, "I love the Lord and I love people".

Compton is survived by his wife Beverley; daughters Joy Ons and Judith Lippincott; sons-in-law Benjamin Ons and Scott Lippincott; grandchildren Alysia and Ariel Ons, Gabrielle, Christina and Matthew Lippincott; Aunt Sheila Solomon; siblings Rev. Gordon Williams, Yvonnette Rutherford, Jennifer, Wilfred, Anthony and Martin Williams; several cousins, nephews and nieces.

Submitted by: Beverley Williams

Interment: Colonial Park Cemetery, NJ

Table of Contents