IX. MEMORIALS

GORDON W. BAUM
March 31, 1929 – March 31, 2013

Gordon was born on Easter Sunday March 31, 1929. He died 84 years later on March 31, 2013, also Easter Sunday. As his life was bracketed by this most joyous of holidays, so he lived his life. Gordon was born into a Methodist family and was raised in the church.

When his daughter Karen was in kindergarten, the teacher asked the children what their fathers did. Karen's answer was "He fixes things." He felt that, indeed, summed up his calling – to fix lives, churches, communities, and perhaps, even in a small way, the world.

Gordon faithfully served churches in Union City (NJ), Staten Island (NY), Rahway (NJ), Butler (NJ), and Hopatcong (NJ).

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Doris; daughter Karen Olson and husband Paul; son Jeffrey Baum and wife Carol; grandchildren Kristen Olson, Brendon Olson and wife Stacey, and Aaron Baum.

Submitted by: Doris Baum
Interment: York, PA

MARY MARGARET (BERNHARDT) BORSOS
July 19, 1941 – September 10, 2012

Mary Margaret Borsos (nee Bernhardt), 71, of Southampton Twp, Burlington County, died at home on September 10, 2012. Mary was born on July 19, 1941 in Newark NJ, to John C. Bernhardt, Sr. and his wife Margaret Anna (nee Kassay). She was the oldest of eight siblings and a 1959 graduate of Essex County Vocational and Technical High School (Girl's Vo).

Mary had a varied career: first as a secretary after high school graduation, at the former American Fore Insurance Group; as a legal secretary at the Newark firm of Toner, Crowley, Wolper and Vanderbilt; at Tunnel and Raysor law firm in Georgetown, DE; at Marshall, Murphy and Moss law firm and Young Industries in Lexington, KY; and lastly, at Allied Chemical in Florham Park, NJ.

She found her life's passion in two areas after a secretarial career of 12 years: first as a first-aid volunteer EMT and as a NJ Certified Paramedic (#208). She served with the Ladies Auxiliary of Roxbury Fire Company #3 (1970-1972), became an active EMT with Clinton First Aid Squad (1972-

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1975), the New Egypt First Aid Squad (1975-1981), and simultaneously with Monroe and Washington Twp. First Aid Squads in Gloucester County (1982-1989) while serving as a full-time shift supervisor and "staff medic" with Burlington County Memorial Hospital/Virtua Memorial (1978-2002). In 1983, she was the Assistant Supervisor in the start-up of the paramedic service at Southern Ocean County Hospital in Stafford Twp.

Mary's second life's passion, especially after retirement, was as a perennial flower gardener. The frequent phrase her paramedic colleagues heard her say was, "I'd rather be in my garden". She started a small business named "Perennial Patches", creating garden patches and growing and nurturing perennials in her back yard. For about 10 years she also did landscape gardening in Moorestown, and until recently was a vendor at the Burlington County Farmer's Market in Moorestown.

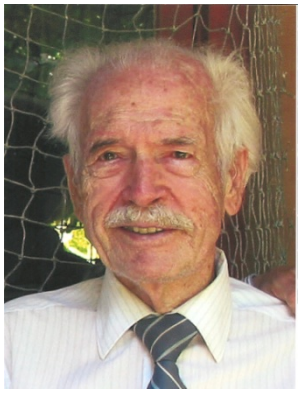
She also found time to be an accomplished seamstress, making her own clothing and quilts by machine, and she occasionally taught quilting classes in schools and churches. Proverbs 31: 10-31 describes her accurately.

Mary was the wife of the Rev Alex Borsos, Jr, for 50 years (a blind date that lasted); mother of Amanda Jean LaPorta and Holly Jinene Bell; grandmother of Charles Frank Romaine, III, Victoria Krystyne Romaine, McKenzie Jade LaPorta, and Jacob Alex Bell.

Submitted by: Rev Alex Borsos, Jr
Interment: Cremation

JULIUS LOGAN BRASHER

July 20, 1914 – May 11, 2012



The Rev. Julius Logan Brasher, 97, died at his home at Brasher Springs on Friday, May 11, 2012. He was born on July 20, 1914 on his father's birthday in the same house at Brasher Springs where his father was born. He attended Etowah High School, John Fletcher College in University Park, IA, Athens College in Athens, AL, Birmingham Southern College, and Asbury College where he graduated in 1937. Julius attended Garrett Biblical Institute in Evanston, IL and received his Divinity Degree from Drew Theological Seminary in 1941. He pursued further graduate study at Drew University for several years without seeking a further degree.

Julius served churches in the following towns in New Jersey: a Congregational Church in Chester (the oldest Congregational Church west of the Hudson River), and United Methodist churches in Blairstown, Walnut Valley, Denville, Rutherford, Westwood and Plainfield. He was District Superintendent of the Northern District of the Northern NJ Annual Conference. In his pastoral work, Julius was beloved by his parishioners for his faithful shepherding, and widely respected for his leadership in social justice issues in the larger community. During his pastoral career, he chaired many boards and commissions of the Northern NJ Annual Conference and other organizations in the region where he was pastor. Julius also enjoyed the opportunity to serve as a volunteer fireman. He was a thirty-second degree Mason.

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Gifted with a beautiful baritone voice, he was a soloist at a number of churches during his college and graduate school years. During his career, his singing was often accompanied on the piano and the organ by his wife.

Julius pursued many hobbies and interests including repairing and remodeling, cave exploring, archery, tennis, golf, softball, ping-pong, hiking, swimming, nature study, carpentry, and teaching.

In 1976, Julius retired to his ancestral home at Brasher Springs where he and his wife, Lois Watters Brasher, built a lovely retirement home. Since retiring, he served as pastor of the Walnut Grove United Methodist Church, and associate pastor of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden, where he taught the Julius Brasher Discussion Class for 25 years, through his 94th year.

Julius and his wife Lois celebrated 70 years of marriage in December, 2011. He is survived by his daughter, Ellen Marie Harris of Gallant, AL; son John Lawrence (Louise) Brasher of Birmingham, AL; grandchildren Jonah Harris of East Gadsden, AL, Anna Harris of Santiago, Chile, and Daniel Brasher of Durham, NC.

Submitted by: J. Lawrence Brasher
Interment: Brasher Cemetery, Gallant, AL

LOIS WATTERS BRASHER
March 22, 1914 – January 9, 2013

Lois Watters Brasher, 98, of Brasher Springs, Gallant, AL, died January 9, 2013 after a short illness. Born March 22, 1914, in Morristown, NJ, she was the only child of Bessie Swackhamer Clark Watters and Lawrence Dalrymple Watters. Raised on Center Avenue near her maternal grandparents, Harriet Skellenger Swackhamer Clark and Lewis Clark, she enjoyed playing with her cousins at her grandparents' home. As a child, she loved flowers and music and began studying piano at the age of 7. These two interests always graced her long life.

Graduating from the New Jersey College for Women (now Douglass College) in 1935 where she majored in music, she became a brilliant concert organist. She was the first organ student at the college to be invited by the faculty to give a public full recital in her junior year, an honor previously reserved only for seniors. In her recital, she played from memory major works by J.S. Bach, Cesar Franck and Charles Widor. Lois studied in a direct line of internationally acclaimed organist-composers. Her teacher at college was Raymond Rudy, who was a student of Marcel Dupre, who was a student of Alexandre Guilmant, Louis Vierne, and Charles-Marie Widor. After college, she studied organ with the renowned Dr. Clarence Dickinson at Union Theological School of Sacred Music (now Yale School of Sacred Music). Lois was the organist at Morristown Methodist Church from 1936 to1943, and substituted at most of the Morristown churches, including St. Peter's Episcopal Church where she was a member. She also played occasionally at Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City where Dr. Dickinson was organist. She gave recitals at all of these churches.

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In 1941, Lois married the Rev. Julius Logan Brasher, a graduate of Drew Theological Seminary, then pastor of the Congregational Church in Chester, NJ. He subsequently pastored six United Methodist churches in northern NJ, and in retirement in Alabama, he was pastor of Walnut Grove United Methodist Church and associate pastor at First United Methodist Church of Gadsden. Julius predeceased his wife in May, 2012. Throughout their remarkable 70 years of marriage, they formed a beautiful duo with his solo baritone voice and her piano accompaniment. Lois was always a vital part of Julius's ministry with his congregations, sometimes also serving as organist and choir director.

An avid and superior gardener, Lois delighted in her flower and vegetable gardens and her houseplants. She loved the beauty of nature and was always eager for the first signs of spring.

A devoted and loving mother, she is survived by her two children, Ellen Marie Harris of Gallant, AL, and John Lawrence Brasher (Louise) of Birmingham, AL; three grandchildren, Jonah Harris of Gadsden, Anna Harris of Santiago, Chile, and Daniel Brasher of Durham, NC.

Submitted by: J. Lawrence Brasher
Interment: Brasher Cemetery, Gallant, AL

DONALD HAZEN BROWN

April 19, 1934 – January 29, 2013

I want to start off by saying I do not think this should be a time of mourning, but rather a celebration of Donald Hazen Brown's time with us – until we meet him again.

Don lived a full life. He was a minister for 42 years, a father of four, a grandfather to twelve and we had a wonderful marriage that lasted over 50 years. Up until very recently, he was in excellent health. After he became ill, the end to his life on earth came quick, his mind was intact, and he did not suffer.

In 1934 Meta and Harold Brown lived in Allendale, in an apartment on Main Street. Donald Hazen was born in that apartment on April 19, 1934. He lived there with his two older brothers, Harold and Robert, and younger sister, Meta until he was 14 when the family moved to 58 Woodland Avenue, also in Allendale, to a house which he had helped build with his father and brothers.

Don graduated from Ramsey High School – a regional high school for this area at the time. He received his bachelor's degree from Emory and Henry College in Virginia and received two master's degrees from Drew University. During his time at Drew Seminary he met Gail, a nursing student, and they married in 1959. They were blessed with Mark, Kathleen, Paul and Peter and became a family of six.

He served as pastor at five churches which meant we moved five times: Clifton, Maplewood, Spring Valley, Franklin Lakes, and New City. Don also served as District Superintendent on the Hudson District which meant a sixth move to Harrington Park. His life and witness made a profound impact

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on many people over the years. After retiring from the ministry, Gail and Don moved back to Allendale, into his boyhood home on Woodland Avenue.

Don was an active member of Archer United Methodist Church throughout his teenage years and became active again at Archer after his retirement. He made a big difference in many people's lives, more than most of us will ever know. He had strong convictions and championed many of the hot button social issues of the day. He was an active member of the Order of Saint Luke, a liturgical organization, and put together his service of Death and Resurrection for his funeral.

He kept busy in his retirement working with CUMAC as a member of the board. He taught watercolor art classes and had several exhibitions. He also was a great reader in many subjects. During the summer months he commuted between Allendale and Ocean City, helping Gail run the Oceanaire guest home.

Don is survived by his wife Gail; sons Mark, Paul and Peter; daughter Kathleen Griffiths; 12 grandchildren; brothers Harold and Robert; and sister Meta.

Submitted by: Gail A. Brown
Interment: Cremation

CHARLES M. BURTON, SR.
July 15, 1937 – August 16, 2012

The Rev. Charles M. Burton, Sr., of West Berlin, NJ served in the army during the Korean War and retired from the Air Force Reserves. His next stop was the Philadelphia Police department. He served in the 7th District, 15th District, and the Police Academy. His last assignment was to the Firearms Training Unit, retiring after twenty five years of service. He began employment with the Family Service Association and after 22 years of service entered the ministry, serving as pastor for six years at Memorial United Methodist Church in Pine Hill and serving for two years at Ewan United Methodist Church.

Rev. Burton went home to be with the Lord on August 16, 2012 at the age of 75. He will be missed by all who loved and knew him.

He is survived by his loving wife, Dawn B. Burton; beloved sons Dennis, Isaac, and Charles, Jr.; beloved daughters Bernadette Clune and Jeanette Smith; 17 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Submitted by: Dawn B. Burton
Interment: Cross Keys UMC Cemetery, Williamstown, NJ

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ELLA MAE CANNON

January 16, 1928 – August 27, 2012

Ella Mae Miller Cannon passed on to her heavenly reward on August 27, 2012 at the Riverside Nursing Home in Parksley, VA. Ella was born on January 16, 1928 to the late Reverend William Jerome Miller and Reverend Marguerite Miller in Onancock, VA. She was one of eight children.

On May 9, 1946, Ella Mae was united in Holy Matrimony to Charles William Cannon of Horntown, VA. This union was blessed with one daughter, Loretta C. Cannon.

Ella Mae accepted Christ and was baptized at an early age at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Horntown under the pastorate of her late father. Ella received her formal education in the Accomack County public schools and earned a business degree in stenography at the LaSalla College in Chicago, IL.

Ella was a faithful member at Dea's Chapel United Methodist Church where she sang in the choir in the early years. She enjoyed praising the Lord and waving her hands glorifying God. She was always in attendance until her health began to fail.

Ella Mae was a loyal and dedicated wife and mother. She loved her family very much. She was a true servant of God, and was right by her husband's side in his pastorates. Whatever she found her hands could do, she did it.

Left to cherish precious memories are her devoted husband of 66 years, Reverend Charles W. Cannon; daughter, Loretta C. Cannon; three sisters-in-law, Annie Townsend, Harriet Cannon, and Beatrice Miller; one brother-in-law, John Cannon; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Ella Mae was preceded in death by her seven siblings, Virginia, William, Bernice, Gladys, John, Phyllis, and Amos. His eye is on the sparrow and I know He is watching you.

Submitted by: Her husband and daughter
Interment: Dea's Chapel Cemetery, Horntown, VA

EDWARD JOHN CASEY

August 7, 1953 – October 20, 2012

Reverend Edward John Casey, 59, died suddenly on Saturday, October 20, 2012 at Good Samaritan Hospital in Suffern, NY. Born in Dover, NJ he was the son of the late Edward G. and Eve (Reule) Casey. He had been a resident of Hamburg for the past five years and prior to that had resided in Stockholm, and had maintained a residence in Fort Meyers, FL.

Pastor Casey had started his career path in life as an electrical engineer, receiving his Bachelor of Engineering degree, and later received his Master of Engineering degree, both from Stevens Institute

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of Technology. He went to work as an electronic engineer for the U.S. Army at Picatinny Arsenal in Dover.

During that career, he heard the Lord's call to pastoral ministry which became clear as he heard the words of John 15:16 read aloud, "You did not choose me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father in My Name, He may give to you" (ESV). Hearing those words, he chose to make that call his life's vocation, trusting God in all things, times and places and walking with the congregation through sunny places and the valleys of the shadow of death.

From that point on, Pastor Ed had a long and distinguished vocation as a pastor. He received his Master of Divinity degree in 1988 from Drew University Theological School in Madison. Over his many years in ministry, Pastor Ed served in several capacities. He was the youth minister at the Bernardsville United Methodist Church in Bernardsville, a student pastor at Barryville and Eldred United Methodist Churches in Sullivan County, NY, and the pastor of First United Methodist Church in Stony Point, NY. He also served as a visiting chaplain at Nyack Hospital in Nyack NY. In 1991, he returned to Sussex County and served as the pastor at Stockholm United Methodist Church in Stockholm. He retired from full-time ministry in June 2009. Pastor Ed was quoted to say after retirement, "I'm not retired from pastoral ministry. I'm convinced that God has given me the desire and gifts to continue to serve him fruitfully as a pastor and chaplain.'

In his retirement, Pastor Ed was the visiting pastor at Andover Sub-Acute Care and Rehabilitation Center in Andover, and Bristol Glen United Methodist Home in Newton. He also served as chaplain of the Hardyston Township Fire Department and First Aid Squad. He led Crisis Management (Critical Incident Stress) debriefing for Northwest NJ Emergency Services personnel as a member of the Apollo Crisis Response Team. Pastor Ed enjoyed the time he spent with his family, especially his grandchildren. In his spare time he enjoyed gardening, electronics, amateur radio and computers.

He is survived by his loving and caring wife, Penny (Schweizer) Casey, of Hamburg; a son, Ernie Christensen Jr. and his wife JanMarie, of Hamburg; a daughter, Kimberley Ann Rogers and her husband Thomas, of Sunrise, FL; grandchildren, Crystal and Thomas Rogers, and Michael and Daniel Christensen; and sisters Eve and Phyllis Casey, both of Dover.

Submitted by: Penny Ann Casey
Interment: North Hardyston Cemetery, Hardyston, NJ

PAULETTE N. CHRISTIE

December 24, 1944 – July 25, 2012

Paulette (Paula) N. Christie (nee Nagle) of Wharton, NJ passed away on July 25, 2012 surrounded by her immediate family.

Paula was born on Christmas Eve 1944, to Frank and Dorothy Nagle in New Brunswick, NJ.

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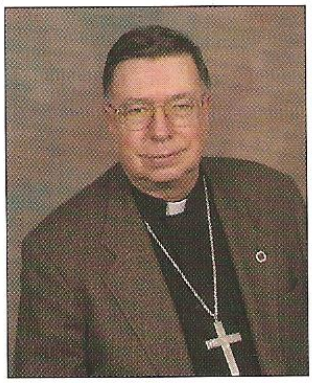
She is survived by her husband of 46 years, Reverend Thomas R. Christie; son Stephen, his wife JoAnn, and their children: Ryan, Brendan and Meghan; daughter Allison Tater and her husband, Richard.

Paula is also survived by her mother Dorothy Nagle and her brother Frank Nagle, Jr. and his wife Stacy. She leaves behind many extended family members, and a host of friends and colleagues who all played important roles in her life.

Submitted by: Thomas R Christie
Interment: Locust Hill Cemetery, Dover, NJ

LEO B. COLLINS, III
November 4, 1941 - November 23, 2012



The Rev. Dr. Leo B. Collins, 71, of Valrico, FL passed away on November 23, 2012. He was a Retired Full Elder of the Greater New Jersey Conference. He devoted his life to his calling as a minister, serving churches in Jersey City, Port Jervis (NY), Sparrowbush (NY), Westwood and Hackensack.

Leo is survived by his loving family, son Bruce; daughter Lee; sister Patricia Phillips; grandsons Craig and Christopher; great-granddaughters Hannah and Emma; and many loving family members and friends.

Interment: Serenity Meadows Memorial Park, Riverview, FL

WILLIAM A. DAVIS
December 1, 1922 – May 16, 2012

Rev. William A. Davis was an Elder of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference. He died on Wednesday, May 16, 2012 in Stuart, Florida.

Rev. Davis served the following churches: Blackwood, Carneys Point and Deepwater, Bridgeport and Centre Square, Bridgeton (Trinity), Quinton, Long Branch (Simpson), Pennsauken, Gibbsboro, Somers Point (Bethany), Clarksboro (Evangelical). He retired in 1976.

Interment: Eglington Cemetery, Clarksboro, NJ

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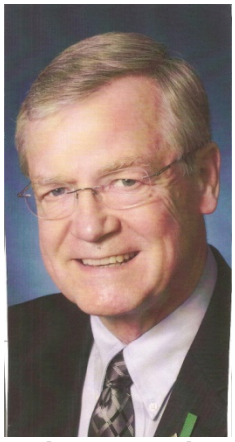
ROBERT W. EDGAR
May 29, 1943 – April 23, 2013



Bob Edgar was born May 29, 1943 in Philadelphia, PA, the son of Leroy and Marion Edgar. He was raised in Springfield, Delaware County, PA. He graduated in 1965 from Lycoming College in Williamsport, PA and three years later received a Master of Divinity degree from Drew University in Madison, NJ. He also holds five honorary doctorate degrees.

As an ordained United Methodist minister, Bob served the East Falls UMC and was the protestant chaplain at Drexel University, both in Philadelphia, PA. In 1974, he was elected to the US House of Representatives from Pennsylvania's 7th district and served six terms. From 1990-2000, Bob was the President of Claremont School of Theology in California. Returning to the East Coast in 2000, Bob was the General Secretary of the National Council of Churches, based in New York City. In 2007 Bob took on the role of President and CEO of Common Cause, a nonpartisan public interest organization in Washington that advocates tighter regulation of campaign finance and other reforms. All of his life's work gave Bob the ability to live his Christian faith, while serving the community.

Bob is survived by his wife of 48 years, Merle Deaver Edgar of Burke; three sons, Robert Edgar, Jr. and his wife Barbara of Fort Payne, AL, David Edgar and his wife Karen of Moon Township, PA, and Andrew Edgar of Herndon, VA and his partner Jules Sherred of British Columbia; his mother, Marion Edgar of Villas, NJ; two brothers, Ralph Edgar of Grand Detour, IL and Richard Edgar of Mechanicsville, MD. Bob has eight grandchildren, Benjamin, Daniel Ray, Leah, Ashley, Courtney, Samantha, Tracy, and Owen (and one on the way in October) and four step-grandchildren, Cameron, Kyle, Lane and Erin.

Submitted by: Merle Edgar
Interment: Body donated to Uniformed Services, Bethesda, MD

GAIL ANN EISENLOHR
March 26, 1944 – April 15, 2013

Gail Ann Eisenlohr, 69, of Pitman, went home to be with the Lord on April 15, 2013. Born in Philadelphia, she lived in Brooklawn before moving to Pitman in 1964. She was a graduate of Gloucester City High School, class of 1962, attended Asbury College and graduated from Glassboro State College in 1970 with Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Social Studies Education where her thesis was on the Camp Meeting Movement in South Jersey. She did post graduate work at Rutgers University in New Brunswick. She also attended Philadelphia College of Bible from 1973-1977. She had many honors in the educational field. Her numerous memberships included the National Council for the Social Studies, Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, and NJ Principals and Supervisors Association. She had served for many years on the Board of Directors at West Jersey

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Grove Association (Malaga Camp), as well as Fellowship House in Camden, and Handi*Vangelism Ministries International.

Gail was a school teacher for 39 years before retiring in 2004 from the Williamstown School District where she was once awarded Williamstown High School Teacher of The Year. She was the Social Studies Department Chair from 1970-2001 and Supervisor of Social Studies for grades 6-12. She was a long time member of Brooklawn United Methodist Church, where she chaired the mission committee for 40 years and taught adult Sunday school for 30 years. She was a gifted Bible teacher and was committed to bringing people to know Jesus and making them solid disciples. Early in her life, she caught a vision to reach the world for Christ, and missions was her passion until the day she died. Under her leadership, Brooklawn's Mission budget increased to $62,000—25% of the church's total budget.

In the GNJ Annual Conference, she served as an At-Large Member since 1992, but she had attended Annual Conference for years before that, often taking vacation days from school to accompany her mother, Elizabeth Eisenlohr who was Brooklawn's Lay Member. She was elected in 1996 as a Reserve Delegate to the Northeast Jurisdictional Conference. She was a Life Member of the SNJ Conference Historical Society. When she would rise to speak on the floor of Annual Conference, she was an articulate and reasoned evangelical voice. People appreciated her point of view, even if they did not agree with her, because it was thoughtful and intelligently expressed. She will be missed.

Gail is survived by her church family at Brooklawn UMC and missionary family around the world.

Submitted by: Rev. Daniel J. Amey
Interment: Hillcrest Memorial Park, Hurffville, NJ

MARIO L. FERNANDEZ
January 19, 1929 – July 14, 2012

Mario L. Fernandez, Retired Local Pastor, died on July 14, 2012 in Plantation, Florida. He served the Iglesia Presbiteriana Metodista Unida in West New York, NJ from 1975 to 1990.

CURTIS W. GARRETT
December 5, 1930 – June 26, 2012

Curt was born in Manlius, NY to Howard and Mildred Garrett. He was the second oldest in a family of six children living on an asparagus farm. He attended the one and only public school in Manlius, grades K-12 until he was 16, when his parents moved the family to Bartow, FL because his sister had health problems exacerbated by the cold winters.

Curt attended Pfeiffer Junior College, a work/study school in Misenheimer, NC. He then went to Iowa Wesleyan College in Mt. Pleasant, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree, to Drew University Theological Seminary for his Bachelor of Divinity degree, then on to Rutgers University, for a Master of Arts in English Literature. Finally, Curt went back to Drew for his Doctor of Ministry degree..

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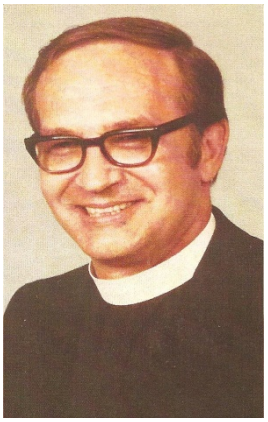
In 1956, Curt became the Director of Religious Education at the Cranford Methodist Church. It was there that he met his future wife, Julie. However, prior to their marriage and unbeknownst to the bride, Curt asked the District Superintendent for a church. The D.S. asked if he had a wife. Curt said no and the D.S. said, "Well when you do, give me a call". Six months later he had a wife followed by an appointment, followed by two sons, followed by six grandchildren.

Curt corresponded with more people than I knew until I found stacks of letters he choose to keep for one reason or another. He pretty much kept up with his friends and family by writing and calling. He read all the time. I found notes he kept on the books he had read going back to 1985. Now when I take a book from a shelf, I find his comments written in the margins or on the inside cover or a slip of paper. It is a gift to find him in so many places.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Julia M. Garrett; son Mark W. Garrett (wife Llyn K. Kawasaki); son Ben M. Garrett (wife Lisa D. Garrett); six grandchildren; and sister, Laurie Benton.

Submitted by: Julia Garrett
Interment: Leonia UMC Memorial Garden, Leonia, NJ

ROBERT J. GENTILE
June 16, 1925 – April 8, 2013



The Rev. Dr. Robert J. "Bob" Gentile, was born on June 16, 1925 in Buffalo, NY, and died peacefully at Hospice on April 8, 2013.

Bob served in WWII as a forward observer with Patton's 3rd Army, participated in the liberation of the Ohrdruf concentration camp, and ran the Austrian Railway, repatriating displaced persons during the Occupation. This led him to choose a life of service. He earned a Bachelor of Arts, Master of Divinity and a Doctorate at Drew University and a Master of Arts in Psychology at Fairleigh Dickinson University. Serving briefly as a Navy Chaplain, he still holds the Atlantic and Pacific record for highline ship-to-ship transfers, in order to have services on every ship in the squadron, every Sunday).

He pastored churches in the Greater NJ United Methodist Conference for 35 years and was President of the Conference Board of Trustees from 1961-1973. Bob had the ability to recognize needs and marshal the people and resources to meet those needs. He used this talent to organize local housing authorities enabling them to pool resources to provide needed services. He was instrumental in founding the first Hospice on the East Coast and founded The American Institute of Human Relations to provide low cost family therapy.

Bob was a Chaplain in the Order of St. Luke the Physician, a healing ministry. He was active in civil rights and in preserving the environment. He was a gifted sculptor and a prolific writer, the author of

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three books, innumerable sermons, articles, and self-help pamphlets. And yet, he took a month off each summer to spend time with his family on a lake in the northern NJ woods.

He is survived by Alice, his wife of 63 years; his children, Kathi Aultman, Elizabeth Ruffle, Carol Gentile, Dorothy Adair, and David Gentile; 12 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Submitted by: Alice Gentile
Interment: Cremation

CARL W. HALVORSEN
August 15, 1925 – January 26, 2013

Dad was born in Colonial Manor, NJ in a house his parents later lost in foreclosure during the Depression. His father, Carl Walter, though born in Philadelphia, was orphaned early and grew up in Denmark. After returning to the US and putting himself through night school, he spent his working career as a machinist in various Navy shipyards, married Myrtle Viola Cardwell, who kept the home for his father, sister Grace, brother Roy (who died at 6 months of age), Dad, and sister Mildred.

Dad graduated from Haddon Heights High School and worked as a butcher's assistant. Following induction into the US Navy, he spent WWII as a Neuropsychiatric Technologist, Pharmacist Mate III, serving in several different East Coast hospitals. After the war, he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Asbury College in Wilmore, KY, where he met my mother, Marcella Leone Dillon. They were married by Mom's mother, the Rev. Charlotte Briggs Dillon in Ponca, NE. (Grandmother Dillon was quite possibly the first ordained female Methodist minister.)

Upon graduation with a Master of Divinity from Drew University, Dad was ordained as a Methodist minister in the Southern NJ Annual Conference. He served parishes throughout Southern NJ, spent 6 years as a District Superintendent, and retired as Senior Pastor of First UMC in Moorestown. Mom and Dad had five children. Mom died in the summer of 2009, and Dad grieved her loss until the moment his disease (Alzheimer's) completely consumed him.

These are the facts; but they are more a table of contents than a real story. Dad's REAL story is the story of other people – marrying them, baptizing them, burying them, counseling them, preaching to them, living with them, and always, loving them. Dad's real story is not told of simple facts, but rather told of the complexity of relationships, service, commitment, and dedication. Dad loved his family, his church, his country, and his God.

Repeatedly, Dad was elected by his denominational peers to represent them in regional and national forums; concurrently he openly served on the Board of Directors of a dissenting, loyal opposition, renewal and reform movement. He loved his church, but that loyalty was never at the price of his integrity or beliefs.

Over the past years, Dad's disease progressed, his confusion intensified, his cognition clouded, his memory faded, his speech and step stumbled, and his certainty as to where he was wavered and

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waned. But his certainty as to where he was going remained firm and steadfast. Dad never doubted that he was going home, and he never doubted as to who would greet him upon his arrival. That is Dad's real story, he has gone home.

Carl is survived by his 5 children, Rev. Douglas C. Halvorsen, Dr. Philip R. Halvorsen, Kimberleigh Bergen, Mark T. Halvorsen, and Roderick D. Halvorsen; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Submitted by: Douglas C. Halvorsen
Interment: Oakland Cemetery, Philadelphia, PA

SAMUEL HERDMAN
May 6, 1924 – December 3, 2012

Samuel Herdman, 88, of Millville, went home to the Lord on Monday, December 3, 2012. Born May 6, 1924 he was the last surviving child of Samuel and Sophia Herdman who immigrated to America through Ellis Island in 1914. He worked as a freight conductor for the Pennsylvania Railroad and its corporate successors. He also had a home television and radio repair business. He enjoyed traveling on the railroad and by van with Eleanor and friends.

He was an active member of West Side United Methodist Church serving as a Lay Member to Annual Conference, Lay Leader, Church Council Chair and many other positions of service to the Kingdom. In addition to being a teacher of Sunday School, he was also a Certified Lay Speaker. Service to those in need was a large part of Sam's life and he was a long-time lead volunteer for the Food Closet run by Help and Hope Ministries of the Millville Ministerium.

He is survived by his loving wife of 68 years, Eleanor. He is also survived by their children, Diane Herdman Pogue (husband Thomas) of Estell Manor, NJ and Samuel Herdman (wife Vicki) also of Millville. Grandchildren are Creed Pogue (wife Rebecca) of Estell Manor, Eli Pogue (wife Carrie) of Estell Manor, Lea Herdman Flanagan (husband Kevin) of King of Prussia, PA and Samuel Herdman (wife Keri) of Millville. He is also survived by his great-grandchildren: Eli and Mae Pogue; Kaitlyn, Kieran and Brian Flanagan; and Grace and Samuel Herdman. Sam is also survived by sisters-in-law: Ann Herdman, Annette Herdman, Emily Herdman, Edith Burns of Millville, Audrey Johnson of Florida, Louise Sherman of Millville as well as many nieces and nephews. He was pre-deceased by his brothers and sisters: Mildred, John, Joseph, Peter, Walter, Steven, Kathryn and Charles.

Submitted by: Creed Pogue
Interment: Millville, NJ

EDNA McKINLEY HOUTAIN
April 18, 1918 – August 26, 2012

Edna McKinley Houtain, 94, of Yardville, NJ and formerly of Keene, NH, passed away peacefully on Sunday, August 26, 2012, at Arcadia Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Little Egg Harbor, NJ. She was born in Burlington, NJ, on April 18, 1918, to the late Ralph and Mable Major McKinley.

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Over the years, Edna was employed by an optometrist, as a housekeeper, a clerk for Sears, Roebuck and Co., and as a manager of the Church Supply and Book Store in Trenton. She was a loving wife and mother, and a generous and kind friend who enjoyed baking her famous homemade bread. Her greatest satisfaction and pride came from serving by her husband's side in his 50 year ministry at different churches throughout New York, New Jersey, Vermont and New Hampshire. She was a Sunday school teacher and children's choir director throughout the years, belonging to many church groups, and was a 50 year member of the Order of the Eastern Star. She was also a member of Pearson Memorial United Methodist Church. While residing in New Hampshire, she was a senior volunteer teacher's reading aide, where she received the volunteer of the year award for Monadnock county. She was also a ROBIN in Sunnybrae School in Yardville.

Edna was predeceased by her loving husband, Rev. Julian Swain Houtain; son Jay Swain Houtain; daughter Cynthia "Cyd" Conkling; brothers Howard C. McKinley, Sr., George V. McKinley, John C. McKinley, and Harold S. McKinley.

She is survived by her daughter Jan S. Eggers of Florida, many McKinley nieces and nephews and especially Patricia McKinley Madison, Pamela McKinley Bell and Howard C. McKinley, Jr.

Obituary from the *Trenton Times* on September 4, 2012
Interment: Chews UMC Cemetery, Glendora, NJ

CHERITH HOPE JOHANSON

January 26, 1947 – June 19, 2012

Cherith Hope (Hansen) Johanson, the wife of GNJ ministerial member Greg Johanson, was born in Portland, OR, January 26, 1947 to the Rev. Arthur L. and Emma Jane Hansen. She graduated from Jefferson High School where she was the student body secretary, and went on to earn a BA from Georgia State University, a M. Ed in Counseling from Lewis and Clark University, and a MSC from the New Seminary in NYC.

She and Greg were married May 20, 1967. Hope gave birth to her beloved son, Leif Nathan, on June 10, 1981, and was proud to see him grow to serve the blind and visually impaired with the Veterans Administration. During her own career she worked in banks and retail, with emotionally disturbed children, as an administrator in dental offices and for the psychotherapy training business, Hakomi Educational Resources. At the same time, she fully embraced her role as wife and mother, homemaker, friend, and supporter of her husband serving churches in Oregon and New Jersey. Her interests included nature, art, reading, massage, holistic healing, hiking, cooking, teaching world religions, and the Walk to Emmaus program.

Hope came to New Jersey in 1987 with Greg as he undertook a Ph.D. at Drew and a post-doctorate at Princeton University. They served the Delaware Valley UMC for 4 years, and the Frankford Plains UMC for 14, with Greg transferring his membership from the OR-ID Conference to the GNJ Conference. During the sabbatical of Rev. Jeff Edwards, Hope served as the interim minister at the

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Parsippany UMC. After retiring with 35 years of service in 2005, they moved to Chicago for 5 years and back to their native Oregon and family in 2010.

As her obituary notes, her friends described her as: *"unfailingly authentic;" "warm, generous, and welcoming;" "expressive, engaging, open and gracious;" "touched and warmed in her presence;" "a light, so generous, smart, and committed to people;" "dedicated to healing with a passion for transformation;" "the conduit that God used in my life."* Hope died on June 19, 2012. Her loss is mourned, as the influence of her spirit continues in all who knew her.

Submitted by: Greg Johanson

ROBERT L. KING
December 1, 2012

Rev. Robert L. King, age 88, died on December 1, 2012 at his residence in the Pitman Manor. Born in Camden, he was a 1942 graduate of Pitman High School and lived most of his life in Pitman. He was a veteran of the US Army, serving in WWII and was awarded a Bronze Star in the Battle of the Bulge. He was employed by Mobil Research and Development in Paulsboro from 1942 to 1983. He was a graduate of Wesley Theological Seminary in 1972 and was ordained in 1973 in the United Methodist Conference. Rev. King served the Deerfield UMC, Auburn UMC, and Pitman UMC as the Visitation Minister.

Robert was predeceased by his wife of 52 years, Phyllis M. (McClain) King. He is survived by his children Rodger Lee (Ethel) King, and Randee L.(James) Scholz; 5 grandsons, and 5 great-granddaughters.

Obituary from the *South Jersey Times* on December 3, 2012
Interment: Deerfield United Methodist Church Cemetery, Deerfield, NJ

DONNA J. KULINSKI
June 17, 1954 – July 2, 2012

This is written in loving memory of Donna J. Kulinski, who was so dear to her family at home, and her spiritual family in the church. She was deeply involved in the Community UMC of Roselle Park in too many ways to list. Donna was also the Cranford UMC Office Manager, as well as a Lay Member to Annual Conference.

Rev. Bill Noll sensed "her warmth, her caring, and her goodness" after only two days as the new pastor in Cranford. "Donna's faith was strong and sure."

Rev. Ed Hann, who worked closely with Donna for nine years, knew that

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"She had ministered to us in so many ways...not just as secretary…but as colleague and caregiver. She loved both the local church and the Church of Jesus Christ. She was a true caring friend, especially to those with the greatest needs. What she was doing was for the sake of her Lord Jesus."

Even after her accident, Donna always believed in the power of prayer. She said, "God is listening…so many people and pastors are praying for me…making me feel so loved. And my family has been so awesome. How lucky can one church secretary get?!"

To quote Carol Hann, "Donna meant so much to so many people, and it's still so difficult to even comprehend that her smiling face or friendly phone greeting will no longer be the face and heart of Cranford UMC. She has a heart of gold. More importantly, she had Christ's heart that touched those who had contact with Cranford UMC. Well done, good and faithful servant. Thanks for sharing God's Love with me."

As her beloved family, we still can't come to grips with our loss of her. In our hearts we know how much Donna gave in so many ways to so many people. She HAS moved on to a better place. For those of you who had the grace to personally know her, you know how we feel. We also know how she has earned her place of honor to family, friends, community, and spiritually. The finest way to honor Donna is to 'spread the faith' and keep her memory alive.

Submitted by: Jan Kulinski

LORRAINE LARSEN

November 28, 1946 – May 14, 2012

Lorraine "Laurie" Larsen, 65, of Union Beach, passed away peacefully on Monday, May 14, 2012 at Bayshore Community Hospital in Holmdel. She was born Lorraine May on November 28, 1946 in Long Branch and was raised in Keansburg.

She lived in Union Beach with her loving husband, Doug, for the past 17 years. Laurie enjoyed bowling, hiking and taking trips. She was the heart and soul of her family and she cherished her children, grandchildren and great-granddaughter. Laurie was the Lay Member to Annual Conference for the United Methodist Church of Atlantic Highlands and Navesink. She donated her time and service to Care One Center for the elderly, where she would offer services once a month. She was also the secretary/treasurer of the Grace Scaduto Memorial Bowling League and was employed by Food Circus Supermarkets for about 12 years.

She was predeceased by her parents, Frank and Edna May, and her brother, John "Jack" May.
Laurie is survived by her beloved and devoted husband of 47 years, Douglas "Doug" Larsen Sr.; her loving children, Carla Ann Larsen of Neptune, Douglas Larsen Jr. and his wife Laura of Union Beach; James Larsen and his wife Jennifer of Delaware; and Victoria Jean Byers of Delaware; her sister Judith Sanns and her husband Barry of Pennsylvania; her brother Vernon May and his wife June of West Keansburg; her cherished grandchildren, David, Nicole and Isaiah "Scott" Larson,

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Bryan and Stephen Byers, Stevie and Jarrett Lane, Jamie Swift and Jacob Larsen, along with her adored great-granddaughter Mikayla Larsen. Laurie will be sadly missed, but not forgotten.

Obituary from the *Asbury Park Press* of May 16, 2012
Interment: Cremation

WARREN D. LIGHT
February 22, 1934 – October 8, 2012

Warren was born in Jonestown, Pennsylvania. He was a graduate of Lebanon High School in Lebanon PA, Rutgers University in Camden NJ, and Garrett Theological Seminary on the Northwestern University Campus in IL.

Warren was a United Methodist pastor of many churches including Kemble Memorial, Colonial Manor, West Chester (PA), Moorestown, Mt. Ephraim, Pitman, and North Wildwood. He specialized as Minister of Education, dedicating his life to the ministry of children and youth, and also serving as Pastor of Visitation.

He served as Chaplin of various fire companies and ambulance squads and he was the State Chaplin of the NJ State Exempt Fireman's Association; upon retirement, he served as Chaplin Emeritus until his death. Warren also served as Chaplin for Tranquility Hospice.

Warren was an accomplished musician who sang baritone and played trumpet, trombone, and upright bass. He enjoyed singing in the choir. He was an avid Eagles, Phillies and Penn State fan. Warren leaves this life a far better place for his ministry, his care of family, and his service.

He is survived by his son, Warren Wesley Light and his wife Caroline; son David Allison Light and his wife Rose; daughter Susan Marie Martorano and her husband Richard; and 6 grandchildren, Allison, Brenden, Rianna, Nicholas, Julia, and Vanessa.

Submitted by: Susan Martorano
Interment: Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Jonestown, PA

ROBERT RICHWOOD MARSHALL
February 5, 1940 – June 9, 2012

Bob was born in Camden, NJ, to G. Richwood and Beatrice Marshall. The first of four children, he was followed by Virginia, Joanne and Bruce. He was raised in Pitman, NJ in the Mount Vernon Avenue home where his mother still resides. Bob's parents, being faithful church attendees and leaders in their congregation, raised him to be actively involved in the life of the Church.

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As a young man, Bob became a ham radio operator, mastering Morse code and constructing his own radio. He was industrious and gainfully self-employed in retail sales while still a child. He was creative, often inventing useful contraptions. He played piano by ear.

Bob graduated from Pitman High School in 1958 as class valedictorian. He received a scholarship and matriculated at the University of Delaware where he began his studies as a physics major. During his junior year, he was called to the ministry and changed his major to sociology. Upon graduation he entered the Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary from where he proceeded to his ministry in the United Methodist Church.

To each of his pastoral appointments Bob brought an optimistic vision of the future. He lovingly and enthusiastically guided his congregations to fulfill their potential, knowing that the Lord is glorified as the church responds to His call. Bob was deeply compassionate and easily approachable as a pastor. He was quick to smile and ready to laugh, while being empathetic and sensitive to a person's emotional needs of the moment. Young people were drawn to his love of fun, adventure and music. A keen grasp of finances and skill at mobilizing church members for fund-raising were an asset and in some cases preserved the viability of the church altogether. Major renovations to the infrastructure and furnishings of church properties were common under his leadership.

In 1988, Bob retired from the ministry and began a second career in financial planning in which he excelled, repeatedly being top producer for a multistate life insurance agency. Bob and Carol were charmed by the quiet, close-knit community of Fortescue, and chose to settle there in 2000. Bob became a welcome contributor in community affairs. He became accustomed to a life of tranquility in the home by the bay.

Bob is survived by his wife, Carol F. Marshall; son Robert R. Marshall, Jr.; son Paul W. Marshall; daughter Suzanne E. M. Benson; and son J. Peter Marshall.

Submitted by: Carol Marshall
Interment: Richwood UMC Cemetery, Richwood, NJ

MARY GRACE S. Mc ELROY

February 6, 1914 – April 3, 2013

Mary Grace Shorter Mc Elroy passed away April 3, 2013 at Cornwall Manor, a United Methodist retirement community in Cornwall, PA. She was a loving wife to the late Rev. Dr. John A. Mc Elroy, married to him for 66 years. As a pastor's wife, she was much loved by the congregations they served. Her loving spirit and sense of humor endeared her to those who knew her.

Born on February 6, 1914 in Philadelphia, PA, Grace was the daughter of Clyde Gardener and Laura Brush Shorter. She was a graduate of Woodbury High School in NJ, and a registered nurse having

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graduated from the Protestant Episcopal School of Nursing in Philadelphia. She was specially certified in obstetrical nursing by the Pennsylvania Lying-In Hospital in Philadelphia.

Grace was a wonderful mother to three daughters, grandmother to eight, and great-grandmother to twelve. She was a caring and compassionate nurse to her patients during her working years. She worked as an obstetrical nurse after raising her children and, in later years, as a staff nurse and charge nurse at two nursing homes in NJ. She loved the nursing profession. Grace was a fifty-year plus member of PEO, a national philanthropic educational organization of women, holding offices in several different chapters.

She is survived by her three daughters: Barbara M. Patterson of Lititz PA, Ruth M. Fehn (husband Curt) of Lawrenceville GA, and Alexandra M. Bouman (husband John) of Pittsford NY; 8 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Submitted by: Barbara Patterson
Interment: Arlington Cemetery, Drexel Hill, PA

HOWARD R. MINNICHBACH
March 28, 1959 – October 13, 2012

Howard was a member of Calvary UMC in Atlantic City, NJ, until their merger with Northfield UMC, forming Good Shepherd UMC in Northfield, NJ. Howard served Good Shepherd as a Certified Lay Speaker, Trustee, Lay Member to Annual Conference, and was passionate about his service to missions. He was the driving force behind the covenant agreement Good Shepherd made with Mission Central and formed the Good Shepherd Hub for Disaster Relief, serving New Jersey.

In his personal life, Howard was an Amateur Extra Class radio operator and served Atlantic County as the Emergency Communications Team Leader.

Howard is survived by his wife, Rosemarie Minnichbach; daughters Rebecca Eisele, and Michelle Hodac; grandsons Dylan Eisele, Alexander Hodac, and Charles Hodac (born after Howard's dealth).

Submitted by: Rosemarie Minnichbach
Interment: Atlantic Ocean and Mission Central, Mechanicsburg, PA

DOROTHY L. OLIVER
September 23, 1935 – November 6, 2012

Dorothy L. Oliver passed away on Election Day, Tuesday, November 6, 2012, in Lexington, MA. Mrs. Oliver gave over 30 years of service to the League of Women Voters, serving on the Board of

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Directors in Philadelphia, PA and Sparta, NJ before her election as the first African-American president of the LWV of Montclair, NJ in the National League's 75th Anniversary Year. She also served as treasurer and chief financial officer of the New Jersey League of Women Voters, as State Director from 1997 to 1999, and as statewide membership chair. Mrs. Oliver was also chairperson of the Montclair voter registration project that won the "Special Project Award 2003-2005 Making Democracy Work", from the LWV-New Jersey.

Dorothy grew up in Springfield, MA. She held a B.S. in Accounting from Hampton University (Class of 59'), an MBA from Fairleigh Dickinson University Graduate School of Business and a certificate for post-graduate work at The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. As a career accountant with the US Treasury Department, New Jersey District, she conducted on-site income tax examinations with Fortune 500 corporations. Mrs. Oliver also worked as an adjunct college professor for Gibbs College and Corporate College Services in addition to serving as a tax consultant.

She was a Trustee for the Greater New Jersey Conference of the United Methodist Church in 1999 and an active member of the First UMC, Montclair. Dorothy also served on the Conference Council on Finance and Administration. As a member of the Board of Directors of the Montclair North Essex YWCA from 1970, she served terms as vice president and treasurer.

Dorothy is survived by her former husband, Dr. Henry Oliver Jr.; daughter Sherryl D. Taylor and her husband Michael Taylor; sons Stephen D. Oliver, and David Oliver and his wife Chiranit Prateepasen Oliver, and three grandchildren, Joshua Taylor, Jessica Taylor, and Nyles Oliver.

Submitted by: Paula Blackman
Interment: Oak Grove Cemetery, Springfield, MA

DONALD F. O'ROURKE

December 20, 1935 – November 15, 2012

Donald F. O'Rourke was born Dec. 20, 1935 in Jersey City, NJ and passed away Nov. 15, 2012 in Dade City, FL.

Don attended Seton Hall and Georgian Court Universities. Retiring from his position as Director of Public Information of Ocean County, NJ after 27 years of service, he earned a Masters in Divinity, Cum Laude from Drew University and continued on with Doctoral studies at Drew, focusing on Domestic Violence. Once he embarked on his career as a Methodist pastor, he served United Methodist churches in Cedar Grove, Sea Bright, Atlantic Highlands, High Bridge, Kinnelon, Tranquility and Johnsonburg. Known for his ability to revive struggling churches, Don usually faced significant hurdles due to the various churches state of repair, such as the buckling slate roof at Sea Bright and its flooding issues. Don was always able to rebuild a

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stronger church physically and spiritually by coming up with creative solutions and plenty of press coverage.

Don loved walking his dog Irish and spent many years on the water sailing *Irish Eyes* as a member of the Toms River Yacht Club. Always looking to learn a new skill, Don learned to sail in his 40's, ski and ride motorcycles in his 50's, and golf in his late 60's. An amazing dancer, and a tenor with a beautiful voice, Don loved to sing and dance and was known for his Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin renditions.

He was predeceased by his parents William and Edna, and his brother, William Jr. Don is survived by his daughter Matty O'Rourke of Miami, FL and his son Brian O'Rourke of Island Heights, NJ.

Submitted by: Matty O'Rourke

JOSEPH A. PALUMBO, SR.
June 5, 1952 – December 17, 2012

Rev. Joseph A. Palumbo, Sr., age 60, of Galloway, NJ, went home to be with the Lord on December 17, 2012.

Rev. Palumbo served in many Methodist churches in the South Jersey area including Malaga, Dennisville and South Dennis (Trinity), Paulsboro (St. Paul's), and Absecon.

He was the beloved husband of Donna (Sparks) Palumbo; father of Joseph Palumbo Jr., Jeremy Palumbo (Danielle), Jennifer Wood (John), and the late Joshua Palumbo. He was brother of James Liscio (Jeanmarie) and John Cook; loving grandfather of Spencer, Kiera, Ciara, Gavin, Dakota, Rashelle and Alexandria; and son-in-law of Elizabeth Sparks.

Obituary from the *South Jersey Times* on December 19, 2012

ANACLETO PEREZ-TORRES
July 14, 1933 – April 11, 2013

Anacleto Perez-Torres of Mays Landing, NJ passed away at the AtlanticCare Regional Medical Center with his family by his side on April 11, 2013. Nito, born in Humacao, Puerto Rico on July 14, 1933, was the son of late Juana Torres and Severo Pérez. He grew up in the *Barrio de Collores* with his two sisters and five brothers. He graduated from the Central High School of Santurce in 1955. Upon graduation he moved to San Juan, where he attended courses and certifications in business in the University of Puerto Rico. On January 2, 1960, he married Noemí Ríos-Seijo, his lifelong companion of 53 years.

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For over thirty years, he worked for the government of Puerto Rico, as an executive staff member of the Aqueduct and Sewer Authority. In 1985, at the age of 50, he retired from his work and moved to the state of New Jersey. In 1990, he settled in the Atlantic City area to support his wife in the development of a Spanish-speaking congregation, Oasis United Methodist Church. He loved to play the guitar, the piano and the trombone. He enjoyed all sports, especially boxing, baseball and basketball. He worked as referee in several sports. He would always run the second mile to help his family, friends and people in need. He lived his last years in Mays Landing, New Jersey.

His children and his grandchildren meant the world to him. Nito is predeceased by his parents and his sister Elvira Pérez. He is survived by his loving wife, Noemí, his children, Lyssette, Obed and Adhan. He will be missed by his adoring grandchildren, Lyneris Kelly, Evan, Isabela and Emilia.

Submitted by: Lyssette N. Perez
Interment: Cremation

JAMES W. ROBINSON
March 31, 1921 – January 24, 2013

Rev. James W. Robinson Sr., 91, of Sea Girt, died January 24, 2013. Jim was born in the Summerfield section of Neptune Township and grew up in Wall Township. He graduated from Manasquan High School in 1939. He was a Navy Seabee, serving in the Aleutian Islands and on Okinawa during WWII. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Secondary Education at Temple University in Philadelphia and his Master of Divinity Degree at Crozar Seminary in Pennsylvania. He was ordained as a Deacon in the NJ Conference of the Methodist Church in 1958 and an Elder in 1961. For 4 years he served as full time Director of Evangelism for the entire Southern NJ Conference. He served churches in Camden, Somers Point, Wenonah, Highland Park, and Old Bridge, followed by part-time positions as Minister of Visitation in Hamilton Square, Princeton and Manasquan.

In retirement, he loved walking the boardwalk and relaxing with his sons Robert, James Jr. and his daughter-in-law Sharon and grandson Jacob. He was especially grateful for other family members and friends whose hearts and hands helped keep hope alive and spirits high during some very trying times. He was inspired by the love and friendship of Pastor Regina “Reggie” Albert of the Manasquan United Methodist Church. Pastor Robinson, affectionately called “Rev” by youth and adult church members, was the author of several books.

James was predeceased by his parents, Charles and Elizabeth, his wife Ruth (the wind beneath his wings), his son Michael (a casualty of the war in Vietnam), brother Mahlon and sister Marjorie.

He is survived by 2 sons, Robert of Howell, and James Jr. and his wife Sharon of Somerset; brother Charles of Neptune; sisters Catherine Saxion of Sea Girt, Charlotte of Wall Twp.; and beloved grandson Jacob. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

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Obituary from *obits.dignitymemorial.com* from January 2013
Interment: Wenonah Cemetery, Wenonah, NJ

SHERMAN S. ROBINSON
January 16, 1917 – September 22, 2012

Sherman was born is Tuckahoe, NJ to the late Edwin and Abigail Robinson. He was a graduate of Ocean City High School and Temple University School of Theology.

As a Full Elder in the Greater NJ Conference, Sherman served churches in Camden, Auburn and Deepwater, North Wildwood and Burleigh, Millville, Florence, Long Branch (Simpson Memorial), Neptune (Hamilton), Pleasantville, and Long Branch (St. Luke's) where he retired in 1982.

Sherman enjoyed his family, his retirement home in Neptune, HO trains, woodworking, and frequent trips with Edna in their motor home.

He was predeceased by his son Richard S. Robinson; 2 brothers, and 3 sisters. He is survived by his wife of 69 years Edna Robinson; daughter Donna Privette and her husband James; daughter-in-law Kathleen Robinson; 3 grandchildren, James, Stephen, and Alicia Robinson; and 3 great-grandchildren.

Submitted by: Donna Privette
Interment: Hamilton Cemetery, Neptune, NJ

HELEN RUTH SMITH
September 15, 1924 – May 16, 2012

Helen Ruth Morgan Smith, 87, of Milford, PA passed away May 16, 2012 at her home. She was born on September 15, 1924 in Paterson, NJ, the daughter of the late Roy and Sophia Marks Morgan.

Helen married Rev. Newell J. Smith, who predeceased her on February 25, 2003. She was a member of the Frankford Plains UMC in Augusta, NJ, and the Wickham Methodist Church in Port Jervis, NY.

Helen is survived by her son David Newell Smith and his wife Adriana of Hallendale, FL; two grandchildren Michael Smith and his wife Victoria, and Lauren Smith; four great-grandchildren, Aiden, Logan, Emily, Colin, and one nephew. She was predeceased by her brother, Roy Morgan, Jr.

Obituary from *recordonline.com* from May 17, 2012
Interment: Frankford Plains Cemetery, Augusta, NJ

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RUTH E. WHEATLEY SMITH
June 19, 1913 – March 7, 2013

Born in Burrsville, MD, Ruth was nurtured in Methodist parsonages in Maryland, Pennsylvania and Delaware since her father Melvin E. Wheatley was a Methodist pastor. In 1933, Ruth received an Associate's Degree in teaching with a minor in Bible from the Lucy Webb Hayes National Training School in Washington, DC. At the age of 51, she earned her Bachelor's degree from William Paterson University. Mrs. Smith taught kindergarten for many decades, first at Number 5 School in Garfield and then at Number 8 School in Passaic.

Ruth married Rev. Alden T. Smith in 1939. Together they served parishes in Gladstone-Peapack, Union, Little Falls, Passaic, and Bloomfield, NJ until Rev. Smith's retirement in 1977, when they moved to their home at Sparta Lake, NJ.

Ruth was active in the Women's Society, on local, district and conference-wide levels. She also served on the review board for the Methodist Board of Missions Committee in New York City, interviewing prospective missionaries in the 1960's.

For 92 years Ruth played the piano and organ for worship services. Her music graced fundraisers in the 1940's to help build a Methodist Home in Ocean Grove, NJ. In the 21st century she organized a singing group of Collingswood Manor residents that met weekly and called themselves "The Dreamers".

During their marriage, Ruth and Alden championed the causes of both civil rights and ecumenicalism. Their home frequently welcomed guests from diverse backgrounds and ethnicities. Ruth's motto was that "All are children of God" and all were welcome at her table. She was a self-proclaimed "People Person". Her energy, love of life and genuine concern for those whose lives touched hers, inspired all who knew her, right up until the day she died.

Ruth is survived by her children, Alden T. Smith, Virginia M. Egbert, and Bonnie L. Harley.

Submitted by: Virginia Egbert
Interment: Rosedale Cemetery, Orange, NJ

BEVERLY ANN SWANSON
July 28, 1935 – January 17, 2013

Born in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan where her father was pastoring a Swedish Methodist congregation, Beverly Swanson was the youngest daughter of the Rev. Clifford and Hazelle Lindberg. All four of her grandparents were emigrants from Sweden, her paternal grandfather also a Swedish Methodist pastor in Sweden, Texas, Michigan, and Minnesota.

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According to Beverly, she had a happy, if not idyllic childhood. She loved the church from her very first memories and loved being a PK. Frequent moves were not resented but welcome. She lived with her family in Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, and Massachusetts. Her final move, while still with her family, was to Slayton, MN where she graduated high school in 1953.

She attended Morningside College in Sioux City, where she met her future husband, Roger Swanson. She also lost her parents in a tragic auto accident at age 19. Beverly's first calling was to be a missionary but soon her call was to be the life partner in marriage and ministry with Roger.

Upon Roger's graduation they moved to New Jersey for Roger's theological education. Their first parsonage was in Newfoundland, NJ where daughter Rachel was born. Beverly made a home for her family in Branchville where Philip was born, Linden, Hackettstown, Union Village, and Bridgewater. Along the way she finished her Bachelor's degree while also earning a Master's degree, both at Kean College. She began her teaching career in Hackettstown, then moved on to teach 8th grade Language Arts in the Warren Middle School. She retired in 1986.

All who knew Beverly knew of her gifts for leadership. She enjoyed the Minister's Wives Association and Chorale, as well as being President of Parsonage Partners. She pioneered Disciple Bible Studies. She also introduced drama ministries, directing as well as performing monologues of famous women. Her favorite was Susannah Wesley which she presented throughout the conference. She also enjoyed UMW evening circles. All the while she was an enthusiastic encourager of her husband's ministry and of her children's development into the serious and competent musicians they are today.

When the family moved to Nashville, Beverly and Roger enjoyed home ownership and serving in their local church as a lay couple. Again she taught Disciple Bible Studies as well as organized a Chancel Drama group. She loved Nashville, owning her own home and having a bit more freedom in the church than being the pastor's wife always allowed.

On Roger's retirement in 1999, they moved to Lakeland, FL where Roger was employed by the Florida Conference. She and Roger, on his second retirement, moved to Ormond Beach, FL. She was content, most of the time, to keep house and serve as a genial host to many visitors from the north, as well as overseas.

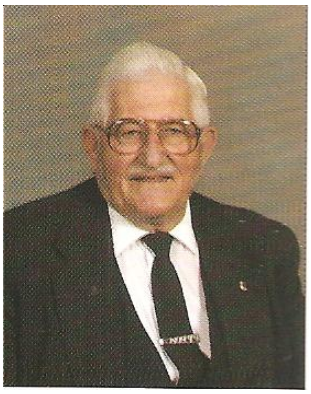
Her final move was with Roger to Newton, IA near to where daughter Rachel lived. Typical of her Methodist roots, the couple became residents of Wesleylife's Park Centre, where they had an independent living apartment. It is ironic that their last move was back to Iowa, where they had met some 58 years before.

Beverly Swanson was a much loved and effective servant of her Lord. She loved her Lord, her family, her church family, her Swedish heritage, the United Methodist Church, and the Democratic Party.

She is survived by her husband Roger Swanson; daughter Rachel Faidley and her husband Terry; son Philip Swanson and his wife Kim; and 5 grandchildren.

Submitted by: Roger Swanson
Interment: Cremation

NORMAN H. THOMAS
December 10, 1920 – November 22, 2012



Rev. Norman H. Thomas Sr., went home to be with his Lord on Thanksgiving Day, November 22, 2012. Born December 10, 1920 in Conovertown, NJ, he enjoyed a childhood of fishing and sailing on Absecon Bay.

Norman served his country proudly during WWII in the US Army 30th Division where he was a highly decorated soldier receiving many medals; among them were the Silver Star and Purple Heart for his actions under enemy fire during the Battle of the Bulge, one of five battles in which he fought. After an honorable discharge, Norman went to work for the PR Railroad where he worked for many years. He pastored the Conovertown UMC and Bethany St. John's UMC, serving for over 38 years.

Norman always listened to people, never leaving anyone out and had a passion for serving his community. This translated into years of volunteer service for many veterans groups and organizations. He also served as Chaplain for the State of New Jersey American Legion, honorary member of the Jewish War Veterans, President of the Atlantic Co. Humane Society, and President of the Van Kouwenover-Conover Family Association.

Norman was predeceased by his beloved wife of 66 years, Dorothy "Dottie"; his daughter Susie; his brothers Larry, Leon, and Clayton; his sisters Eva Mae and Doris; and his grandson Tad. He is survived by his sons, Norman Jr. (Marcia) and Stephen (Flora); grandchildren Aschley, Marla, and Bonnie Lee; great-grandchildren Derek, Allie, Maia, and Eva; extended family Cho Gallagher (Paul), Christine Laskin (Mark), Sarah and Jared; and many cousins and nephews.

Obituary from *The Press of* Atlantic City from November 26, 2012
Interment: Greenwood Cemetery, Pleasantville, NJ

JAMES E. THOMPSON
August 5, 1918 – July 4, 2012

Rev. James E. Thompson, Associate Member of the Greater NJ Conference, died on July 4, 2012. He retired in 1980 after pastoring 11 churches in the Southern NJ Conference, including English Creek and Bethel, Barnsboro Circuit, Leesburg and Dorchester, West Creek and Warren Grove, West Belmar, Atco and Tansboro, Millville: Broad Street, Camden: Asbury, and St. George-Wesley, Manahawkin, and Wildwood.

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He was predeceased by his wife Vera (Brown) Thompson. James was survived by his children, son Kenneth (Mariemma) Thompson and daughter Nancy (Howard) Bringhurst; sister Elizabeth Pompper; 4 grandchildren, Richard (Sharon) Bringhurst, Mark (Amy) Bringhurst, Lawrence Thompson, and Cynthia (Rob) Bird; and 9 great-grandchildren, Mackenzie, Charis, Kaylee, Brian, Jessica, Jarret, Brandon, Abigail, and Justin.

Obituary from the *Courier-Post* from July 6, 2012
Interment: New Freedom Cemetery, Berlin, NJ

JAMES STILL TILLER
June 17, 1927 – January 4, 2013

James S. Tiller, a native of Hartselle, AL and a resident of Baldwin County, AL since 1985, died January 4, 2013 at Westminster Village, Spanish Fort, AL. He was born on June 17, 1927 in Montgomery, AL, and graduated from City High School in Chattanooga, TN in 1943. He received a B.S. Degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Alabama in 1948 after serving in the US Navy from 1945-1946.

At the University of Alabama he was a member of Kappa Alpha Social fraternity, serving as treasurer and house manager, and was elected to Phi Eta Sigma, the freshman honorary scholastic society and later to Tau Beta Pi, the national engineering scholastic organization.

After working for the then Humble Oil Company at its Baytown, TX refinery, James enrolled in the Perkins School of Theology, S.M.U. and earned a Master of Divinity degree with highest honors in 1954. He was ordained an elder in the United Methodist Church and, while taking graduate courses at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, he was appointed pastor of a New Jersey church. His 33 years in the ministry included Eastside Terrace in Paterson, Kenilworth UMC, Demarest UMC, and Madison UMC. During his 11 years of pastorate in Madison, he was President of the Madison Rotary Club and a member of the Drew University Board of Trustees.

In retirement in Bon Secour, Al, he served as president of the Baldwin County Habitat for Humanity, the Gulf Shores Tennis Club, and the Board of Directors of the Hugger Landing/ Bon Secour Volunteer Fire Department. James received the 5,000 hours pin as a volunteer at South Baldwin Regional Medical Center, and he regarded as his highest achievement teaching the 85 member Questors Sunday School Class at the Foley UMC for 25 years. Jim was also noted for speaking meaningful words of remembrance at the funerals of his fellow class and church members.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Nellie Howard Tiller; 3 children: Susan Dreyer (David) of Ridgefield, CT, James Tiller Jr (Nancy) of Sodus, MI, and Stephen Mark Tiller (Barbara) of Wrentham, MA; and 10 grandchildren.

Submitted by: Nellie Howard Tiller
Interment: Body donated to University of South Alabama

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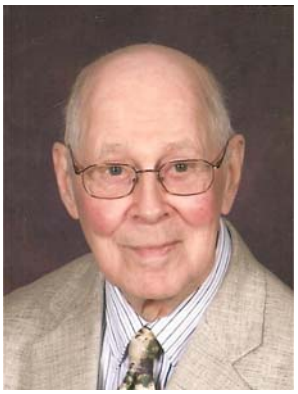
NORMAN W. WALZ

May 15, 1919 – March 10, 2013



The Rev. Norman Weber Walz of Newton, NJ died on Sunday, March 10, 2012, following a stroke. Born on May 15, 1919 in Nutley, NJ, he attended Nutley High School and received a B.A. from Yale University in 1941 and a B.D. from Drew Theological Seminary in 1944. He was ordained into the Methodist Church in 1945, and served churches in Union Village, Mendham, Park Ridge, Wharton, Summit (Oakes Memorial), Morristown, and Vienna, NJ.

Rev. Walz served the Northern NJ Conference of the United Methodist Church on the Board of Discipleship and as registrar of the Board of Ordained Ministry. In retirement, he continued to mentor and guide younger pastors in their ministry.

A dedicated volunteer, he was past president of Morris Habitat for Humanity and volunteered at Habitat's international headquarters in Americus, GA. In the last decade of his life, he served on boards and committees in the First UMC of Newton and Bristol Glen, the retirement home in which he lived.

An avid camper and hiker, he and his wife climbed all forty-six 4,000 foot peaks of New Hampshire's White Mountains, summiting the final peak at age 65 to become a member of the Appalachian Mountain Club's Four Thousand Footer Club. He continued to walk 3 miles a day up until the time of his stroke.

He is survived by his wife Janet Sharp Walz; sisters Virginia Macklin of Oak Ridge, TN, and Elizabeth Dalhoff of Yantis, TX; sons Richard and his wife Sarah of Northampton, MA, William and his wife Viria of Ambler, PA, John and his wife Kathleen of Mt. Tabor, NJ; granddaughters Jennifer and Caroline; and great-granddaughter Chloe.

Submitted by: John S. Walz
Interment: Body donated to New Jersey Medical School

JOHN DIXON WATT

January 3, 1927 – December 1, 2012

John Dixon Watt, or as he preferred, Dick Watt, was a child of a middle-class family from East Orange of Newark, NJ. Here was the Calvary Methodist Church, his spiritual home and nurturing center for his Christian faith. A major concern of Dick in his teen years was world peace. His tour of duty in the Army during WWII heightened that interest. How to best participate in working for peace led him to enroll at Upsala College, and following college, he entered Drew Seminary in Madison, NJ to become a circuit rider in the tradition of John Wesley and the people called Methodists. He was ordained an Elder in 1956, and served churches in Vernon, Jersey City (St. John's and Summit

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Avenue), Newark (Roseville), Arcola, Hasbrouck Heights, and First UMC in Somerville. Dick retired in 1991.

Dick was always the embodiment of the classic gentleman. He was ever the kind, considerate, gracious, caring, unassuming personality. In our seminary days, my roommate and I would commiserate about how Dick was always doing something for somebody. Time informed us he was simply following the way of the One who said, "Do unto others as you would have them do to you". It wasn't a showy or forced way of practicing his faith, but an earnest respect and caring for others that motivated this gentleman.

Another aspect to the character of this kindly "tall man from New Jersey" and the swells of "ole Cape Cod" was his rejection of the injustices perpetuated against people because of race, religion, national or cultural background. It was a difficult transition for one who grew up in the insular world of the early 1900's. Dick made the transition, not as a firebrand, but for this seeker of Peace, a steady, glowing light exposing the indifference of his companions, who wished to walk the way of Jesus Christ. He sought to enable people to see themselves as they were and could become, and then allow others to be who they were and who they could become.

The final observation is often passed over by the statement, "It goes without saying". The integrity of this gentleman needs to be affirmed. Dick's actions matched what he said and believed. His commitment to his wife, June (married 57 years) and family exemplifies integrity of the highest quality. He held fast to the vows of his ordination and lived out, within the constraint of our common humanity, the call of our God to unconditionally "love one another even as I have loved you". It was a privilege and a joy to have been a companion of John Dixon Watt in our journey through Gods' abundant "vineyard".

Dick is survived by his wife, June; son Kenneth and his wife Tanya and their twins Jack Dixon and Stella Maxine; daughter Susan and son Justin Watt.

Submitted by: Rev. John D. O'Neill
Interment: Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, East Hanover, PA

HELEN MAE WESTLEY

November 12, 1922 – November 19, 2012

Exactly one week after her 90th birthday, Helen Mae Westley went home to be with her Savior, to whom she dedicated her life as a missionary and nurse. She was born in Coneville, PA and was buried in a cemetery there, alongside her beloved husband, Eugene Westley.

After graduating from nursing school in Elmira, NY, she worked as a nurse in Buffalo, NY. She met her future husband at Camp Findlay in Findlay Lake, NY while serving as camp nurse and counselor in the summer of 1950. They married in Buffalo in June, 1951, worked that summer at Camp Findlay, and then went together to Dayton, OH, where Gene attended school at Bonebrake

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Theological Seminary. Gene was ordained in August of 1954 at Camp Findlay, shortly after which they left for Nigeria in West Africa, as evangelist and nurse missionaries.

For 17 years, Helen served on the Nigerian mission field and deputation while raising three children. Upon returning to the U.S., she continued to work as a nurse as well as a pastor's and camp director's wife at Camp Findley and also in New York, Illinois, Red Bird, Kentucky and Mt. Misery, NJ. During this time, she filled in as nurse for 6 months at Hillcrest, a boarding school for missionary children in Jos, Nigeria, while the school nurse was home on furlough.

Helen and Gene retired to Lemon Springs, NC, where she continued to work for a time as a nurse at the local hospital. After Gene passed in 2005, she moved to Seattle to live with her daughter Becky. She then moved to a small assisted living facility.

One of her life-long passions was reading. After she could no longer drive or get around very well, daughters Kathy and Becky made regular trips to the library for books. One day, a friend from church was visiting and showed her a Kindle. When Becky got home from work, Helen told her that she knew what she wanted for Christmas, a "Facebook"! So she got her Kindle and read it along with the newspaper (cover to cover) every day.

Helen is survived by daughters Rebekah Westley and Kathleen Westley Ringer (David), son Terry Westley (Margaret); and 2 grandsons Mark and Matthew Westley.

Submitted by: Terry Westley
Interment: Bonebrake Cemetery, Coneville, PA

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