

XIV. MEMORIALS

IN MEMORIAM

MINISTERS

Kathleen Baskin-Ball
Russell E. Noland
John Kermit Van Zant
De Forrest Wiksten

MINISTERS □ SPOUSES

Barbara Beights
Amelita G. Cajiuat
Florence Campbell
Mary Stell Chappell
Ruth Cooper
True Dianne Finnin
Thelma Goodrich
Barbara Hares
Nancy Oliphint
Sibyl Penn
Elvesta Staats
Clara Reese Topper

Kathleen Baskin-Ball

Following a two-year battle with cancer, Rev. Kathleen Baskin-Ball died on December 2, 2008 encircled by family and friends. Just two days earlier, she lovingly cupped water in her hands as she baptized three-dozen persons. In her last days, she opened her home to over a thousand persons who came to her home to share hugs, tears, laughter, and abundant love.



Kathleen's early positions in ministry included serving as an Associate Pastor at Holy Covenant UMC in Carrollton, First UMC in Wichita Falls, and First UMC in Denton. In these settings, she worked extensively with youth and their families. Kathleen was appointed as the founding Pastor of a new Hispanic ministry in West Dallas in 1989. She took an intensive 5-week Spanish course in Cuernavaca, Mexico and moved into the neighborhood to offer sincere, generous, and transforming love. A predominately Hispanic and African-American community of faith formed in this lower income and inner-city neighborhood. They grew to a membership of 130 and were constituted as Nueva Esperanza (New Hope) United Methodist Church in April of 2004. Kathleen was Senior Pastor at Greenland Hills United Methodist Church from 1994 to 2001. She led the church through a remarkable transformation. It was a faithful aging congregation with considerable membership loss due to death and only 3 persons joining in a year by profession of faith. During her final year at the church, more than 40 person joined by profession of faith. Worship attendance and membership increased dramatically, children and youth ministries flourished, and the church became very active in hands-on mission work.

Kathleen was appointed Senior Pastor of Suncreek UMC in 2001, a church with 469 adult/youth members. The church grew to over 1600 members with weekly worship attendance of about 650 during her tenure. Kathleen was a truly dynamic preacher and worship leader. Faithful energy flowed from her every Sunday morning. In her final years, she became a nationally known preacher for youth, preaching at many major conference and jurisdictional events. She preached with extraordinary power and passion on the final evening of Youth 07, a national United Methodist youth event attended by about 7,500 persons.

Despite never being appointed to a large church and having her life cut short, she achieved growth in profession of faith relative to worship attendance and membership that reached the highest levels ever recorded in the United Methodist Church for a woman serving as senior pastor. At the conclusion of 2004, she became the first woman serving as Senior Pastor of a Christian Church in the Dallas area to reach the 500 person average annual worship attendance mark.

Kathleen was a vital leader at all levels of the church, including serving on and chairing many North Texas Conference committees. There was no one more passionate about mentoring clergy through the ordination process. She recently served as Chairperson of the North Texas Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. Her election in June 2003 as a clergy delegate to General Conference marked the first time a woman serving a local church appointment was elected by the North Texas Conference. She led the Conference's Clergy delegation to 2008 General Conference in Ft. Worth where she was selected to chair the Ministry and Higher Education Legislative Committee. It was a weighty year for this vital committee as they dealt with volumes of legislation that led to significant changes in the ordained ministry process.

She held many youth ministry leadership positions including District Youth Coordinator, Conference Youth Coordinator, and Co-Director and Camp Pastor for SEEK Camp. She was also a founder, teacher, and worship leader for the Annual Perkins School of Youth Ministry. Kathleen's

mission activities included leading many mission trips in the U.S. and around the world. She participated in continuing education seminars and mission activities in Mexico, El Salvador, South Africa, and Czech and Slovak Republics. She led many mission teams to Mexico where she was a key early supporter of the home construction ministries of Proyecto Abrigo.

Kathleen was married to Bill D. Ball, Jr. They celebrated the birth of their son, Skyler, in 2003. In her final year, she made a point of asking two things. She requested that all who love her take care of her young son, Skyler. She intensely grieved that there would be a day soon when she would not be there to hold him, giggle with him, and share with him the beauty of life and discovery. She also shared with others that cancer had cut short her dream of seeking commitments of prayers, presence, and financial resources to fund the reestablishment of a church serving impoverished persons in West Dallas.

Kathleen was an extraordinary woman and person of faith. Her preaching moved our minds and hearts. She had an infectious loving spirit that permeated the church. Her wisdom and attentive listening offered comfort during times of pain and loss. Her strong faith helped move us to take bold action to live out our faith in the world. GLORY BE!

Bill D. Ball, Jr., husband
Skyler Ball, son

Russell Eugene Noland

Russell E. Noland was born April 19, 1955 and died August 15, 2008. He was an elder in the North Texas Conference rendering twelve years of service in the ministry.



A tribute to the life of a servant of God:

*God gives us each a gift of life
To cherish from our birth
He gives us friends and those we love
To share our days on earth,
He watches us with loving care
And takes us by the hand.
He blesses us with countless joys
And guides the lives we've planned.
Then, when our work on Earth is done
He calls us to his side,
To live with him in happiness
Where peace and love abide.*

The Noland Family

John Kermit Van Zant

Rev. John Kermit Van Zant of Garland passed away May 1, 2009 in Dallas, TX. The middle of nine children, he was born to John Lee and Essie Trueblood Van Zant on November 5, 1915, on the family farm near Everton, Arkansas.

He graduated from Hendrix College in 1942 and from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in 1945.

He was preceded in death by Mary Mildred Simpson Van Zant, his wife of 61 years, his parents, two sisters and five brothers. He is survived by his son Jim Van Zant and his wife Debbie, their children Kerry and Emily Van Zant, and by his daughter Sue Cox, her husband Ralph, their son David Cox and his wife Jennifer. Also surviving him are his sister Merle Phillips, sister-in-law Emeline Thaxton and a large extended family.

Funeral services were held May 11, 2009 at Restland's Wildwood Chapel. Dr. Don Benton officiated.

Jim Van Zant, son



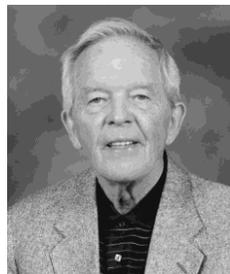
De Forrest Wiksten

DeForrest Wiksten died on April 16, 2009 from complications of Alzheimer's disease. He was born on October 24, 1929 in Topeka, KS to Carl Jay and Ethel Wiksten. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Janet Hines Wiksten, whose love story began in junior high school in St. Joseph, MO when they were both 14 years old.

Rev. Wiksten attended Kirksville State Teacher's College and received a Master's Degree of Social Work from the University of Missouri in Columbia. He served as a lieutenant in the United States Air Force in San Antonio, TX and later attended Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX where he received a Master's Degree of Divinity, and he served as the first minister of counseling at Lover's Lane United Methodist Church. He served as senior pastor of Melrose United Methodist Church in Kansas City, MO and was the founding director of the Pastoral Counseling Ministry of the Dallas/Ft. Worth area of the UMC. He later served as senior pastor of Northaven UMC in Dallas, TX, First UMC in Wichita Falls, TX and Plymouth Park UMC in Irving, TX. He was also Director of Admissions for Perkins School of Theology prior to his retirement.

He was active in Rotary Club in Wichita Falls and was honored by being chosen as a Paul Harris Fellow. He and his wife were trained as Marriage Communication Workshop leaders and led several couples' workshops in Texas and Missouri during a five year period. He was compassionate, caring, and had a profound sense of humor. In addition to being a loving son, brother, husband, father, and grandfather, he was a dedicated church man who was always ready to serve others. He strove to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.

Additional survivors include daughters Debra Lewis, Julie Hendin, and Jamie Wiksten, sons-in-law Craig Lewis and Carl Hendin, and grandchildren Bryan Wiksten Lewis, Carl FeForrest Hendin,



Nathan Craig Lewis, Caleb Deaton Lewis, and Alexia Margaret Linnea Lewis, brother and sister-in-law Grauman and Georgis Wiksten of Johnson City, TN, nieces Janet and Juli Balding, and nephew David Balding, all of Northern CA and numerous cousins.

Services to commemorate his life were held at Northaven United Methodist Church on April 20, 2009.

Janet H. Wiksten, wife

Barbara Joyce Dodson Beights

Barbara Joyce Dodson Beights of Amarillo died June 1, 2008. She was born on August 8, 1932 in Quail, Texas to Ollie and Anna Ruth Dodson. She graduated from Quail High School. She was a member of Polk Street United Methodist Church and a member of the United Methodist Women for 50 years.



Barbara married the Rev. Cletus Beights on June 3, 1977, in Wichita Falls. She was a wonderful minister's wife, working alongside her husband seeking to help meet the needs of the people in the churches where he served. She was also the consummate career woman. Her career included sales, insurance, school administration, theater management and banking.

She took great pride in having been gainfully employed for 46 years. She retired in 1995. Most of her career was in the banking industry, where she worked for 26 years. She was a people person and loved her association with them. She loved nature, blue skies, white clouds, thunderstorms and the changing seasons. She loved flowers, especially roses.

She and Cletus had the opportunity to travel. They had been in fourteen countries, two tropical islands and thirty-five of the fifty states. Barbara was a loving person and will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one infant brother, James Hamilton Dodson, and one sister, Bennyie Brisben.

Survivors include her husband; her beloved daughter, Vikki Saunders Moore and husband, Steve; and a dearly loved granddaughter, Chelsea Ann Moore; two sisters, Billye Owens of Lewisville and Beth Sherrod and husband Wayne of Wellington; a brother, Walter "Buddy" Dodson of Richardson. Her marriage to Cletus brought her four bonus children, Gaylon Beights and wife Linda of Crozet, Va.; Marilyn Pace and husband John of Charlottesville, Va.; Carolyn Garrett and husband Randy and Sherilyn Setz and husband Mark, all of Dallas. There are 14 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on June 4, 2008 at the Polk Street United Methodist Church, Amarillo, Texas with the Rev. Marty Hamrick, associate pastor, and the Rev. Kevin Deckard, associate pastor, officiating. Burial followed on June 5, 2008 at Restland Memorial Park in Dallas, Texas.

Rev. Cletus Beights, husband,

Amelita “Amy” Gonzalez Cajiuaat

*If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you. **Romans 8:11***

Amelita Gonzalez Cajiuaat, born on May 12, 1930 in Bulacan, Philippines, was the youngest of nine children. She passed away on April 18, 2009. She graduated from Harris Memorial School with an associate degree. She received her BS in Social Work (magna cum laude) and M.S. in Social Work, both from Philippines Women’s University.



As a deaconess student, Amy’s (as she was fondly known to many) gift for conducting bloomed, forming choirs and traveling to other churches to perform concerts. Choir members of her church choirs have gone on to conduct their own church choirs due to her tutelage.

In 1954, she married Rev. Eduardo Cajiuaat. Together, they served Methodist churches in the Philippines and the United States until 1998. She served in the capacity of choir director and/or Christian Education minister while holding full-time positions in social work. She also translated the Upper Room to Tagalog language. Her gift of translation led her to translate the Easter portion of Handel’s “Messiah” to Tagalog for her choir in Taytay to sing.

Amelita was Dean of the College of Social Work of Philippines Christian University from 1974 until they moved to Dallas, TX. in 1983. It was a high point in her life; shaping a new College and having all Social Work graduates pass the board exams and finish at the top of the list. She was involved in the International Association of Social Work as an officer. She was a nephrology social worker in Texas until she retired in 1998. She received the Sue Jaskula Memorial Award from the National Council of Nephrology Social Workers in 1996.

She held leadership roles in the United Methodist Women in both countries. In the Philippines, she was president of the local, district, conference and national level of what was then the WSCS of the United Methodist Church. In Texas, she chaired the North Texas Conference Religion and Race, working passionately on religion and race and social justice issues of the UMC. She was active with the Church Women United, receiving Woman of the Year recently in recognition of her tireless work.

Amelita is survived by her husband, Eduardo and five children: Rev. John Mark (Jocelyn), Margie (Jeff) Brueggeman, Susannah, Betsy (Bruce) Lundgren, and Rev. Grace (Chris) Cajiuaat-Herigstad; grand children Julie Ann, Stefan John, Jo Pauline, John Edward and Dylan Brueggeman, Sabina and Natalie Lundgren.

Rev. Eduardo Cajiuaat, husband and Family

Florence Catherine Campbell

Mrs. Campbell passed away September 4, 2008 in Denison, Texas at the age of 94. She was born in the oil fields of Shamrock, Oklahoma on January 6, 1914 to Virgil and Della Morgan. She was a member of Key Memorial United Methodist Church in Sherman, TX.



Florence Catherine was a graduate of Shamrock High School and a survivor of polio, while many classmates died from the disease. After the great Depression, she moved to Denison, Texas and worked for Newberry's Variety Store. It was there she met A.D. Campbell and they were married on September 1, 1940. Later, she worked at Lilley's Department Store in the children's department until the store closed. She then worked at Dillard's and retired from there in 1997.

Mrs. Campbell was a strong individual and devoted mother. She will be greatly missed by her family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, brothers, Douglas Morgan and Jack Morgan and her husband, Rev. A.D. Campbell, Jr.

Mrs. Campbell is survived by sons Ronald D. Campbell of Denison and Gary Campbell and wife Carolyn of Sherman, and daughter Cathy Blanks and husband Randy of Lufkin, Texas. She is also survived by five grandchildren; Matthew D. Campbell, James K. Durbin, Ryan Campbell, Rachael Campbell and Holly Shadden. There are three great-grandchildren, Echo Durbin, Thatcher Shadden and MacKinzey Campbell.

Funeral services were held September 8, 2008 at American Funeral Services Chapel in Denison, Texas. Rev. Louella Williams conducted the services. Interment followed at Cedarlawn Memorial Park, Sherman, Texas.

Ronald D. Campbell, son and Family

Mary Frances Stell Chappell

Mary Frances Stell known to her friends as Stell, died March 28, 2009, after an eight-month battle with lung cancer. Stell was born and reared in Port Arthur, TX, a late child of the second marriage of both of her parents, W.D. and Lillian Myers Stell. With six adult half-siblings, she grew up cherished, loved and doted-on. She was a loyal Methodist and a special child in affection and nurture.



After Port Arthur schools and sports, which she loved, she graduated from Lon Morris College in Jacksonville, TX, where she also worked as secretary to the President. She also attended SMU and was the Education Department secretary. She moved on to rearing four sons and filling the role of pastor's wife.

Growing up, she was active in Methodist Youth Activities and was president of the Texas Conference Youth Assembly, representing that body in National Youth Conferences. At one of those conferences in 1944, she met a young Rice Engineer, Wallace Chappell. A year later, they married and left Union Carbide for seminary at SMU. Over the next 60 years, they served seven churches in Dallas, Ft. Worth and Georgetown, as well as two six-year stints in national and statewide administrative posts for the Methodists. Stell was always accepting, charming, attractive, cheerful and resourceful. She was effective in group leadership, teaching, mentoring and volunteering. She was universally loved and respected. One veteran pastor recently said to Stell's husband, "Chappell, marrying Stell was the best day's work you ever did." And all agreed.

Stell is survived by her husband, four sons, Douglas Wilson and wife Jerre of Wimberly, TX, Lee Paul and his wife Glenda of Salado, TX, Donald Edwin and his wife Allison of San Marcos, TX, and Lloyd James of Dallas; eight grandchildren, Jason Wallace and his wife Meaghan of Baytown, TX, Nicholas of Buda, TX, and Ethan of San Marcos, Allison Denise Hernandez of Temple, TX, Nathan, serving in the US Army in Iraq, Cybill Wood and her husband Andy of Wimberly, Rachel of College Station, TX, and Dylan of San Marcos; and four great-grand-children, Mikalah, Lee, Draven and Alyse. And the "woods are full" of cousins, in-laws, ex-in-laws, with scores of friends and admirers.

Stell Chappell was a shining example of mother, 63-year pastor's wife, mentor, friend, Methodist and cancer volunteer. She was a 35-year survivor of breast cancer and a 25-year volunteer in the Reach to Recovery breast cancer unit of American Cancer Society. She had led groups of walkers in the Komen Walk each year at NorthPark and was recognized by many for her volunteer service and as a trainer of volunteers. A few years ago, she completed the Master Gardener Course under the Texas Agriculture Department. She loved her plants and flowers. Stell and Wally, after retirement, have been active members of FUMC Dallas for more than 20 years.

Memorial services celebrating her life were held on Sat., April 4, at First United Methodist Church, Dallas, with Dr. John Fiedler presiding.

Ruth Smith Cooper

Ruth S. Cooper, devoted and beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, peacefully passed away from this world, and went home to be with the Lord on Friday, December 5, 2008. She was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. A. Lamar Cooper.

Ruth was born on November 30, 1918, in Macon, Georgia, and graduated from Mercer University in Macon in 1940. She married the late Reverend Doctor Allen Lamar Cooper on November 3, 1946. Ruth was the epitome of a genteel, loving, southern lady throughout her entire life. She was a gracious hostess always opening her home to family and friends. Ruth served as a wonderful example to all, constantly serving God, Church, family and friends. She was an active member of University Park United Methodist Church for almost 60 years. She always made time for her children and grandchildren and served as an ever constant counselor and advocate. She loved her grandchildren dearly and had a unique ability to meet each on their own level. She was a faithful teacher at the UPUMC weekday school guiding, teaching and loving children for more than twenty years. She was a loving and supportive wife, always present at "Coop's" many engagements. She loved God's creation, especially birds, flowers and the ocean.



Mrs. Cooper is survived by her children, Sharon C. Huffman and her husband, Joe and Charles A. Cooper and his wife, Jo. She was the proud "Mere" to four adoring grandchildren, Amy Cooper, Natalie Slaton and her husband, Benjie, Alyson Averitt and her husband, Graham, and Melissa Rowling and her husband, Robert. She was additionally blessed with four great-grandchildren, Elise, Sam and Andrew Slaton, and Charlie Averitt. She is also survived by her sister and brother-in-law, Frances and Gilbert Ramsey of Columbus, Georgia.

A memorial service was held on December 8, 2008 at University Park United Methodist Church with the Rev. Leighton Bearden and Rev. Larry Ravert, officiating.

Sharon C. Huffman & Family, daughter

Charles A. Cooper & Family, son

True Dianne (Bimala) Faust-Finnin

Born September 7, 1946 to Lynn and Gerald Faust of Pascagoula, Mississippi, True Dianne (Bimala) Faust-Finnin passed from this life into the arms of God at Haven Hospice in Lake City, Florida on Tuesday, August 12, 2008, after a brief battle with breast cancer. She was attended in her journey through prayer, scripture, and chant by her loving husband, Will, and three of her closest god-sisters. A quintessential southern gentlewoman, accomplished artist, jeweler, seamstress, and stained glass artisan, she gave her life to the discipline of artistic expression as loving and devotional service to God. A book designer with more than fifty texts to her personal published design-credit, she served as production manager for Gita Nagari Press at the time of her passing and of major religious publications earlier in her career.



Mother to two loving sons, Ishvar Puri and Pandava Bosworth and two stepsons, Ryan Patrick and Aaron Ladd Finnin, she wed William M. Finnin, Jr., her eighth grade sweetheart, in December, 2003. Together they founded The Marshpiper Press in 2005. A graphic artist and novelist, creator of short stories and beautiful memories for all she met, True Dianne lived to serve her Lord and to create works of beauty that delighted both heart and mind. An English major graduate of Perkison Methodist College (Mississippi) and Oklahoma Baptist University, she taught international students at the University of Mississippi and crafted intricate liturgical tapestries for worship centers across the nation. Since her passing her poetry and artistic reproductions have been published by The Marshpiper Press of Dallas, Texas, Alachua and Live Oak, Florida with a forthcoming short story, *"The Priest and the Honky-tonk Angel"* to be published by the Southeast Missouri University Press' Big Muddy: The Literary Journal of the Mississippi Valley.

She is survived by her beloved husband, lover, literary partner, and best friend, William M. Finnin, Jr., two sons, granddaughter, Kinnara Valkyrie Romeo Bosworth, two stepsons; step-grandson Adrian Finnin, her mother Lynn Faust, two younger sisters and one younger brother.

Rev. William M. Finnin, Jr., Th. D., husband

Thelma Quillian Goodrich

Thelma Q. Goodrich was born March 30, 1917 in Sandersville, Georgia. She died in her home in Dallas on December 20, 2008. She was an extremely gifted painter, musician, composer, writer, and lover of the arts. She was the devoted wife of Robert. E. Goodrich, Jr., former pastor of First United Methodist Church in Dallas from 1946 to 1972 and Bishop of the Missouri East and West Conferences from 1972 until he retired in 1980.



She is survived by two daughters, Thelma Jean Goodrich, Ph.D. of Houston, TX. and Lucy Papillon, Ph.D of California, and by two sons, Robert E. Goodrich, III of Canton, Georgia and Paul Q. Goodrich of Wichita Falls, TX. In addition, she is survived by eleven grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on January 24, 2009 at First United Methodist Church of Dallas.

Rev. Paul Q. Goodrich, son

Barbara Hares

Barbara was born August 23, 1909 and died May 11, 2009. She was raised in Wisner, La. She was an active member of the Methodist Church, where she met and married Leon C. Scott.

Barbara loved working in the Noel UMC Food Pantry and with the group of ladies who put together the church newsletter. She also loved her Sunday School class and volunteering for the Red River Revel each year.



She was preceded in death by her first husband, Rev. Leon C. Scott and by her second husband, Rev. James Hares. She is survived by her children Larry Scott, Cynthia Scott Davis and her husband, Sid and Carol Scott Elliott and her husband, Ron; her grandchildren Anna and Emily Elliott, and Taylor and his wife Liz, Meredith, and Peyton Davis and by numerous nieces and nephews. She is also survived by four step-children, four step-grandchildren, and 1 step-great grandchild.

There was a memorial service held on May 19, 2009 at Noel Memorial United Methodist Church. Rev. Jack Gibson and Tom Christian officiated with the eulogy being delivered by Rev. Ray Branton. Interment was at Centuries Memorial in Shreveport, La.

Carol Elliott, daughter

Nancy Brooke Kelley Oliphint

Nancy Brooke Kelley Oliphint was born January 3, 1927 in Alexandria, Louisiana and died of natural causes February 18, 2009 in Dallas, Texas.

A graduate Bolton High School, Alexandria, she attended Ward-Belmont College in Nashville. She graduated from Louisiana State University, where she was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma. A resident of Houston since 1984, she was a member of PEO, Chapter BB.



As a life-long United Methodist and member of the United Methodist Women, she served alongside her husband, Ben Oliphint, at United Methodist churches in Monroe, Alexandria and

Baton Rouge, Louisiana and at First United Methodist Church, Dallas. Upon his being elected a bishop in 1980, they together served the Kansas and Houston areas.

Nancy's kitchen was legendary. Countless persons have been served scrumptious meals and affirmed by her gracious hospitality. Hundreds have been comforted in time of need by her loaves of hot homemade bread. Multitudes have ecstatically discovered a "foretaste of glory divine" in her magnificent desserts. When her family gathered around her table, it was as close to heaven on earth as possible. Nancy set a Eucharistic table of graciousness and welcome. Her Christ-like compassion and genuine concern for others will warm and inspire us always.

She was preceded in death by her parents John and Mary Kelley, brother John Pegues Kelley, husband Bishop Ben Oliphint, and son Kelley Oliphint. She is survived by daughter Mary Brooke Casad and husband, Victor of Carrollton; son Stuart Oliphint and wife, Cassandra of Fort Worth; son Clayton Oliphint and wife Lori of Dallas; daughter-in-law Priscilla Oliphint of La Grange, and grandchildren McCrae and wife, Melissa, and Carter Casad; Alex Coats and Irene and Lillian Oliphint; Erin, Katy and Grant Oliphint; Ben Oliphint, and great-grandsons Revol and Patrick Casad, and many other beloved family members.

Graveside services were held February 23, 2009 at Greenwood Cemetery in Pineville, Louisiana. A Memorial Service was held February 24, 2009 at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Houston, TX.

"Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband too, and he praises her: Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all." **Proverbs 31: 28-29**

Mary Brooke Casad, daughter,

Sybil Penn



In Tribute to the life of Sybil Penn

11-30-1914 to 4-7-2009

*In our end is our beginning,
In our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing
In our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
At the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season,
Something God alone can see.*

Elvesta Staats

Elvesta Staats, 90, of Terrell, TX, passed away July 30, 2008. Elvesta was born in Woodward, Ok. to the late Erwin and Pearl Simmons. She was also preceded in death by her beloved husband, Rev. Harold Staats, Sr., a retired Methodist minister.

Elvesta was a longtime member of the Methodist faith and was a tireless supporter of her husband in each of his church assignments. After Rev. Staats' retirement, they moved to Terrell and became active members of the First United Methodist Church in Terrell. Elvesta is survived by her sons, Harold Staats, Jr. and his wife, Judy and Erwin Staats and his wife, Shirley; eight (8) grandchildren: Harold Staats, III, Suzie Nicholls, Julie Bowling, Colby Staats, Sharon Davis, Jimmy Staats, Carol Ann DeLaRosa, and Tony Staats; 26 great grandchildren, 11 great-great grandchildren as well as nieces, nephews, extended family and friends who will miss her dearly.

Funeral services were held August 2, 2008 at Anderson Clayton Bros. Funeral Chapel with Rev. David Rucker officiating. Interment followed at Campground Cemetery, Terrell, TX.

Harold (Jr.) & Judy Staats, son & Family
Erwin & Shirley Staats, son & Family



Clara Reese Topper

Clara Reese Topper was born April 15, 1923 to Thomas E. and Clara Swadley Reese in Wichita Falls, Texas. She passed away June 7, 2008 at the age of 85. She graduated from Wichita Falls High School in 1941. She married George Topper on November 30, 1946 in Wichita Falls.

When her husband became a United Methodist minister they moved to Lone Oak, Texas and she attended E.T.S.U. (now Texas A & M University at Commerce) where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education in 1964. She also earned Master's Degree in 1976. She taught in several school districts including Richardson, Whitewright, Greenville, Sulphur Springs, Iowa Park, and Henrietta, retiring in 1988. In the churches they served, she was active in the United Methodist Women and Texas Retired Teachers.

She is survived by George, her husband of 61 years; daughter, Jo Lynn Ellzey and husband, John; two granddaughters, Stacy Clark and husband, Richard; Kellie Hunter and husband, Larry; five great-grandchildren, Trevor Petty, Chelsea Petty, Dylan Clark, Willow Hunter and Ian Hunter. She is also survived by sister-in-law, Peggy Liles and husband, Johnny; sister-in-law, Opal Topper, brother-in-law Byron Topper; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held June 9, 2008 at First United Methodist Church of Garland with Interment following at Restland Memorial Park, Dallas, TX.



XV. OUR BELOVED DEAD

ROLL OF DECEASED MINISTERIAL MEMBERS

(Note: The complete rosters of all deceased ministerial members of the North Texas Conference and its antecedents are found in: (1) the 1967 Official Record of the Oklahoma-Texas Conference of the Evangelical and United Brethren Church, (2) the 1967 Journal of the West Texas Conference of The Methodist Church, and (3) the 1978 and 1994 Journals of the North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church.)

NAME	BORN	DIED	NAME	BORN	DIED
Smith, Bill Morgan	1911	1977	Young, Leland H.	1914	1987
Shipp, Thomas	1918	1977	Gorham, Jack D.	1934	1987
Cates, R.L.	1892	1977	Minga, T.Herbert	1903	1987
Evans, Bayless	1887	1978	Montgomery, Roy E.	1902	1988
Arnold, Virgil	1884	1978	Penn, William Wesley	1913	1988
Oliver, Nicholas W.	1886	1978	Randolph, George C.	1902	1987
Armstrong, Alden	1918	1979	Simpson, James M.Jr.	1913	1987
Arnold, Cecil	1911	1979	Smothermon, William C.	1929	1988
Carroll, Robert	1927	1980	Sparkman, Edwin K.	1908	1987
Garrett, Charles	1891	1980	Ackenbom, Arthur O.	1913	1988
Neeley, Lloyd	1905	1979	Broyles, Fred P.	1892	1988
Norton, Ferris	1927	1980	Hyde, John L.	1917	1988
Peirce, Arthur	1894	1979	Keightley, Carl E.	1915	1988
Pollard, Aston	1909	1980	Stowe, Bishop W. McFerrin	1913	1988
Proctor, Lonnie	1907	1978	Talbot, Fitzhugh M.	1901	1988
Rice, John S.	1895	1980	Tomlinson, Leonard W.	1931	1988
Smith, McLain	1918	1979	Walker, James H.	1928	1989
Bennett, Harold W.	1893	1979	Westbrook, James H.	1897	1989
Williams, C.B.		1980	Casad, Gordon D.	1922	1989
Seymour, Leslie W.	1896	1981	Pope, Bishop W. Kenneth	1901	1989
Tucker, Albert F.	1906	1980	Outler, Albert C.	1908	1989
Quattlebaum, J.O.	1886	1981	Wright, Theo	1912	1990
Stephenson, Paul	1893	1981	Noblin, James Sr.	1910	1990
Trice, William E.	1912	1981	Barcus, V. Cyrus	1903	1990
Cox, W. Arthur	1904	1982	Polk, John Wesley	1904	1990
Echols, Timothy B.	1894	1983	Clore, Gerald L.	1904	1990
Grounds, Hargrove	1893	1983	Connatser, James E.	1924	1990
Hite, Wesley V.	1896	1982	Rogers, Omer B.	1900	1990
Wilcoxson, George	1906	1982	Towner, Walter L.	1895	1991
House, Grover C.	1889	1983	Dunnam, Spurgeon M.	1943	1991
Click, Albert F.	1898	1983	Flaherty, Raymond G.	1910	1991
Reynolds, Carl D.	1901	1984	Cade, W. V.	1911	1991
Edgar, Fred R.,Sr.	1911	1984	Sharp, J. B.	1925	1992
Martin, Bishop W.C.	1893	1984	Quillian, Joseph D.,Jr.	1917	1992
Ortmayer, Roger E.	1916	1984	Espie, Charles O.	1909	1992
Loud, I.B.	1910	1984	Delleney, Jerry	1932	1992
Collie, B.E.	1905	1986	Mood, G. Henry	1906	1992
Goodrich, Bishop Rbt E., Jr.	1909	1985	Davis, David B.	1935	1992
Neustifter, R.A.	1929	1986	Vernon, Walter N.	1907	1993
Bevan, Roy W.	1912	1987	Jones, G. William	1931	1993
Boone, T.Bolton	1900	1986	Thompson, George A.	1917	1993
Caldwell, Homer H.	1914	1986	Cardwell, Paul O.	1903	1993
Hayes, Edwin T.	1905	1987	Weaver, Thomas P.	1904	1993
Howell, William E.	1911	1986	Staats, Harold	1913	1994
Mann, J.C.	1885	1986	Jones, Lloyd	1906	1994

NAME	BORN	DIED	NAME	BORN	DIED
May, Bob C.	1911	1994	Lewis, Clayton M.	1919	2002
Peterson, W. E.	1903	1994	Cook, Herman	1924	2003
McLean, John G.	1926	1994	Gray, Jr., Jack A.	1931	2003
Kindel, Felix	1911	1994	Bledsoe, Marvin C.	1921	2003
Hoggard, Earl R.	1912	1995	Culbertson, Donley E.	1907	2003
Milner, Leon F.	1909	1995	Kifer, Earl Edward	1917	2003
Youngblood, Donald S.	1916	1995	Kittrell, David L. Jr.	1921	2003
Yates, Frank E.	1924	1995	Renfro, Arthur F.	1925	2003
Bohmfolk, Erwin F.	1900	1995	Hill, Luther A.	1911	2003
Monts, Susan B.	1953	1995	Regan, Russell	1916	2003
Walker, Philip W.	1899	1995	Corrigan, W. Raymond	1911	2003
Cuninggim, Merrimon	1911	1995	Atkinson, Loy Terry	1923	2003
Redus, Morgan Ward	1909	1995	Richardson, Betty	1925	2004
Ridley, Robert H.	1911	1996	Perry, Richard T.	1911	2004
Logan, A. H.	1908	1996	Leffel, Robert E. Jr.	1918	2004
Bryant, S. Baxton	1919	1996	Farrell, Leighton Kirk	1930	2004
Swafford, James N.	1917	1996	Thornton, Kenneth Monroe	1923	2004
Reed, Erwin	1912	1996	Hares, James C.	1923	2005
Franklin, Velma	1910	1996	McGee, Fred	1917	2005
Judy, Marvin T.	1911	1996	Harvey, Jr., Earl	1922	2005
Son, Myong Gul	1928	1997	Turnipseed, Robert S.	1927	2005
Elliott, Robert E.	1921	1997	Jones Sr., Glendell A.	1917	2005
Calvert, Robert Clark	1909	1997	Howard, Virgil P.	1936	2005
Turner, James Leon	1910	1997	Allen, Robert L.	1946	2006
Cole, Elden H.	1910	1997	Corse, Wilma Roberts	1919	2006
Johnson, Marion	1924	1997	Yarbrough, Jimmie Wray	1934	2006
Leander, Daniel V.	1925	1998	Edwards, Kerby H.	1929	2006
Nunley, Roscoe	1920	1998	James, Conrad Randal	1943	2006
Siekman, Barbara	1932	1998	Dancer, Thomas Dudley	1936	2006
Thomas, Julian D.	1920	1998	Wheeler, George Howard	1913	2006
Mooring, James D.	1916	1998	Bailey, Wilfred M.	1924	2006
Washington, Sr. Wm. Joseph	1931	1998	Moncure, Bishop Rhymes H. Jr	1945	2006
Philbrook, Leroy	1927	1999	Lavender, Garland T.	1905	2006
Trompler, Raymond	1916	1999	Reaves, James E.	1911	2006
Smith, Thomas J.	1911	1999	Roberson, Linwood John	1933	2006
Morgan, James William	1914	2000	Rentfro, John Moore	1931	2007
Smith, Lawrence E.	1909	2000	Fielder, Jackson W.	1921	2007
Stauffer, Paul A.	1921	2000	Thompson, Ira M.	1932	2007
Hensley, John Poe	1911	2000	Newkirk, Randy G.	1942	2007
Pearson, Freeman H.	1908	2000	Miller, Edward Loren	1928	2007
Morell, Paul LeSueur	1928	2000	Gilmore, Martha Louise	1936	2007
Murray, Billy Wayne	1934	2000	McGee, John W.	1919	2007
Nelson, M. L.		2000	Stephenson, William Thomas	1922	2007
Smith, Claude Bourdon	1924	2000	Oliphint, Bishop Benjamin	1924	2007
Adams, Fred F.	1908	2000	Cook, Charles William	1932	2007
Vaughan, Richard Alton	1903	2000	Swift, William D.	1922	2007
Cutter, Addison Wesley	1907	2001	Welborn, Gene Cloise	1940	2007
Patterson, Floyd M.	1912	2001	Standifer, Charles, H.	1917	2007
Cooper, A. Lamar	1911	2001	Davis, Myrtis Nanette	1943	2007
Butts, Raymond F.	1932	2001	del Rosario, Philip Baron	1928	2008
Dunson, Wayne B.	1917	2001	Caraway, Hansel V.	1917	2008
Hawkins, John M.	1915	2002	Shuler, John M.	1916	2008
Copeland, Carrol D.	1916	2002	Crouch, William C.	1932	2008
Shelley, Woodrow Wilson	1916	2002	Hodge, Marshall E.	1929	2008
Robertson, Sr., Robert L.	1931	2002	Morphis, John W.	1912	2008

NAME	BORN	DIED
Noland, Russell E.	1955	2008
Baskin-Ball, Kathleen	1958	2008
Wiksten, De Forrest	1929	2009
Van Zant, John Kermit	1915	2009
Edens, Raymond Maurice	1923	2009

CERTIFICATION

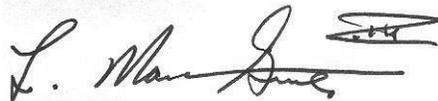
THIS CERTIFIES: that the foregoing pages constitute the Official Journal of the North Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church held at First United Methodist Church, Plano, St. Andrew United Methodist Church, Plano, First United Methodist Church, Richardson, Custer Road United Methodist Church, Plano and the Plano Convention Centre, Plano on June 7-9, 2009, including the officers, personnel, conference agencies and their representatives that acted during the Conference or were elected by it; proceedings of business sessions; communications and other matters ordered printed by the North Texas Conference in its meeting of the One Hundred Forty-third Session.



Presiding Bishop



Secretary



Editor