Brothers and Sisters,

From the tomb the beloved whom we remember join the Apostle Paul in challenging death itself: “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” (I Corinthians 15:5) Can’t we just hear them! They were indeed faithful, confident disciples of Christ Jesus.

Paul dared to say these words because he knew the Risen Christ. In Christ who faced death but through the power of God within him escaped death’s grasp, we find our hope. Death shall not keep us from the everlasting life that Christ has claimed for us through his resurrection. While the death of those whom we love may yet cause us deep and anguishing pain, in faith we know they live, their souls present to us for all eternity.

We cannot deny that death still has power over us, the death of humanity all around us every day and night is a powerful reminder of this reality. We know that death is the result of human sin. Yet we dare to believe that Christ Jesus who was without sin conquers sin through his love and frees us from our fear of death. In faith we can see and experience the signs of life – the joyful memories of our loved ones that abide in our hearts filling us with love among them. In faith we find the confidence to believe that through the power of Christ Jesus within us, we can overcome our bent toward sin and day by day live rather than die.

As people of faith we know that Christ Jesus has conquered death, and we shall see the day when death will be no more, we will rejoice with those who have gone before us, and join them in proclaiming, “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death is your sting?”

As we wait, may the love of Christ Jesus comfort and sustain us.

Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño
Deceased Bishops

Bishop Jesse DeWitt
November 26, 2015

Bishop William Morris
January 14, 2016

Deceased Spouses

Mrs. Ernestine Dixon
June 24, 2015

Mrs. Edith B. Gamboa
August 19, 2015

Mrs. Mildred "Tuck" Jones
August 31, 2015

Mrs. Mary Lavelle Owen
October 4, 2015

Mrs. Martha Lawson
October 24, 2015

Mrs. Julia Wilke
February 25, 2016

Mrs. Eunice Mathews
February 27, 2016
John Richard Acosta (known to family and friends as Richard) was born in Los Angeles, California; he finished his course faithfully and went to be with the Lord at the age of 88.

Rev. Richard Acosta lived an extraordinary life. He was born the oldest of twelve siblings: seven sisters and five brothers.

He served as a youth pastor from 1956-1957 at Mission Community United Methodist Church (now known as the Rosemead United Methodist Church). This was only the beginning of a life of ordained ministry in the United Methodist Church. After attending Claremont School of Theology, Richard was appointed as a missionary and served in Puerto Rico (beginning in 1959), Hawaii (beginning in 1964), the Spanish American Institute in Gardena (beginning 1967), the Norwalk United Methodist Church (beginning in 1973), and the Rosemead United Methodist Church. And then God called Richard and Lena back overseas to an international congregation in Munich, Germany, until 1992.

Richard has always enjoyed singing with his operatic, deep booming voice. He loved art, flowers, and decorating altars with floral arrangements of his own. Richard loved to paint, make manger scenes, and work in his garden. And he was passionate about his family and friends, whom he loved dearly.

Richard is survived by his wife of 62 years, Magdalena; his children: Heidi and Markus; his grandchildren: Angelita, Gabrielle, Joshua and Matthew; his brother and four sisters; and numerous nieces and nephews.

-The Family
A Redlands, California, native, the Reverend James Grant Anderson passed away due to heart failure. He was 81. He was born in Redlands Community Hospital to Stell and Bertha Anderson. He had two older brothers, Stuart and Charles, and one younger sister, Betty. Raised in Redlands, he attended Redlands High School, San Bernardino Valley Union Junior College and the University of Redlands.

From 1955 - 1957 he served in the Navy in Hawaii, returning to Southern California to begin a teaching career. Brought into the Methodist church in Redlands as a youth by Reverend Frank Butterworth through the youth program at Grace Church (now University United Methodist Church), he would become one of a group of young men influenced by Butterworth who would eventually enter the ministry.

He would go on to serve four churches in Hawaii at Honolua, Lahaina, Aiea and Wesley churches for a period of 14 years. While in Hawaii, he welcomed many new clergy to the state and extended hospitality to many others. He embodied the “Aloha Spirit” that is often talked about. He served in many capacities beyond the local church for the larger church and for the community.

Returning to Southern California, he served congregations in Blythe, Glendale and San Gabriel. During this time he began a longstanding relationship with Habitat for Humanity.

Preceding his entry into the ministry he attended Claremont School of Theology where he married Margret Morton. They had one son, Eric. He retired from the ministry in 1999, remaining in Glendale for an additional 14 years. In 2013 he returned to reside in Redlands where he continued his teaching of Bible study classes at First United Methodist Church.

He is survived by his son, Eric, a number of greatly loved nieces, nephews, and cousins, and a host of friends from the various churches he served.

Memorial services were held at Glendale: First United Methodist and at Plymouth Village in Redlands.

-Online and R. Preston Price
Good friends, my lifelong friend, father to Larisa and three other adult children, Rod Barr left this world for the next on September 3, 2015. He enjoyed a long and celebrated life serving as a missionary, church executive in the "God Box" in New York City, pastor to gangs and youth on the street also in NYC, as well as several pastoral appointments.

In more recent years he served as a local pastor to the faithful at National City United Methodist, Rolando United Methodist, and San Diego: First UMC. Rod was known to be a popular preacher and teacher. An intellectual who had a massive reading habit, he enjoyed life and his calling. I recently teased him about continuing to study World War II endlessly for answers to the event!

Some years ago he travelled to Guam to help establish a local church there. Larisa was lucky enough to be in Guam recently on business and witnessed his work. Rod served his country in the US Army Air Corps during WWII. He held two bachelor's degrees in history and divinity and worked toward a doctor of philosophy in American history at UC San Diego. In the "God Box" days, he worked for Church World Service for disaster relief across the globe with the late Canon Robert C. S. Powell and later joined The Reverend Dr. Randy Nugent at the National Division of The Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church.

Rod received more visitations from clergy than anyone I know – wonderfully appropriate since he was known for visiting “the flock” in their homes. We are grateful for these and many other acts of kindness over many weeks prior to his passing. Weren't we lucky to know him! He lived his faith until the end of his life on earth; and I believe he is at peace and resting in the everlasting arms of our Lord in the House of Many Rooms. May God bless and keep us all.

-Susan L. Taylor
Robert “Bob” Brashares was born in Dayton, Ohio, to Julia Merrill and Charles Wesley Brashares, a Methodist minister. Bob grew up in Ohio and Michigan. At age 16, Bob preached his first sermon. After his father was elected Bishop in 1944, Bob attended the University of Iowa.

Throughout his life Bob was an advocate of peace and social justice. He believed in the power of non-violence and was a conscientious objector to war. In 1947, Bob participated in an Interracial Workshop - a training with FOR and CORE to attempt to integrate three facilities.

In 1948, Bob received his B.A. and entered Yale Divinity School. From 1950-1952, he served as pastor of the Methodist Church in Gaylordsville, Connecticut. In 1952, Bob married Lucinda Hoadley in May, and in June he graduated from Yale. The couple drove to Redlands, California. Bob was ordained and appointed to the West Van Nuys Methodist Church.

Bob was a dedicated United Methodist minister for over 40 years. He was an inspiring preacher, a caring pastor, an organized administrator, and an effective fundraiser. He was very good at encouraging people to work together. In 1976, he received a Doctorate from Claremont School of Theology.

Bob was an avid hiker and backpacker, renewing his spirit on family vacations in the Sierras. Bob led group tours of the Holy Land and traveled to Europe, Egypt, China, the Soviet Union, and Greece.

A sad time was the death of his daughter Betty in 1976 at age 21.

After retiring in 1992, Bob and Lucinda enjoyed seven years living in a motorhome touring the US and Canada. From 1999-2011 they lived in San Marcos, California, and were active in Escondido United Methodist Church. In 2011, they relocated to be closer to their children in Northern California and were soon attending the First United Methodist Church in Santa Rosa. After Bob developed dementia in 2014, he moved into the home of his daughter June and son-in-law Woody in Sebastopol, where Lucinda visited him often. Bob died peacefully at home.

Bob is survived by his wife, Lucinda; son, Bruce; daughters, Julia and June; grandson, Nathan; and great-grandchildren, Odessa and Ezra.

Benediction from Bob:

Thanks be for life, full of hope, offering us new opportunities for love and service every day. Go forth in God’s love, peace and joy!

-Lucinda Brashares
The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me… -Psalm 23
Pete Falbo was born in Phoenix, Arizona. He was raised in the Phoenix area and graduated from Arizona State University before attending Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky. Pete returned to Arizona and served churches in the Phoenix area before an appointment in the San Carlos area of San Diego.

Pete stepped away from the parish ministry for several years and worked for Junior Achievement and Campfire. He soon realized that his true passion was to serve the Lord and he returned to the ministry with renewed dedication and zeal. Interesting and challenging appointments followed in the High Sierra area and Toluca Lake. He then served 17 years at Valencia United Methodist Church where he put some of his innovative ideas to work. The church grew and a new church building was built. At the dedication of the new sanctuary Pete said, “We’ve done a beautiful thing here, but let’s not be a mile wide and just an inch deep,” and he worked to deepen the spiritual and service components in the congregation. He closed his ministry at Yorba Linda United Methodist Church.

After retirement and moving to Virginia, Pete continued to work part-time with churches that needed interim pastoral leadership. In his years of ministry, he enjoyed being up to date in contemporary New Testament and Jesus scholarship.

Pete is survived by his wife, Susan; daughter, Catherine Falbo; son, Brian Falbo; step-son, Brian Morris; step-daughter, Sarah Morris; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

-Susan Falbo
José Moreno Fernández was born in the small smelter town of Hayden, Arizona, to Yrineo and Francisca Fernández. After his father’s conversion from Catholicism, the entire family was involved in the Hispanic Methodist Church. Eventually Don Yrineo became the lay pastor and José was his willing assistant, to such an extent that he was known by many as “El Ministrito.”

When he suffered a serious injury at age nine, his father dedicated him to God and His ministry. After high school he studied at Arizona State University, tried several jobs, but always felt in his heart and mind that he was resisting the call to ministry.

During a trip as a salesman to Douglas, Arizona, he dropped in on a midweek Bible study at El Shiloh Presbyterian Church. Among the people there was a certain young lady, Yolanda Diaz. They were married in that church six months later. They moved to San Fernando, California, where he was employed and studying for his license to preach. Among their many activities at the Hispanic Methodist Church, was leading the youth group, which was always to be an important part of his ministry.

Upon being licensed to preach he was appointed to Douglas, where he worked tirelessly to revive the church—visiting and literally uncovering boarded-up windows and cleaning the basement so neighborhood kids could skate and play basketball. This set a pattern for his ministry, working with children and youth and doing physical labor when necessary.

His next two appointments involved studying and building projects: two sanctuaries, educational wings, etc. He also led work teams in building two churches in Baja.

Upon receiving a B.A. from Cal State, Los Angeles, he enrolled at School of Theology, Claremont. Completing his course work and dissertation in his fourth year, he earned a Doctorate in Religion and was awarded the First Annual Irwin Pastoral Care Award.

José served seven United Methodist Churches and, while at STC, one Presbyterian church. He was a dynamic preacher in Spanish, English, or bilingually.

About José we can confidently say, “he fought the good fight, he has finished the race, he kept the faith.” He answered the Lord’s call the night of the super moon.

Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Yolanda; daughters, Deborah, Ester, Martha, Elizabeth; twelve grandchildren, six great-grandchildren; brother, John; sisters Frances Fernández and Naomi (Rev. Ladislao) Flores.

-Yolanda Fernández
Harald Andreas Christian Frey was born near Stuttgart, Germany, the ninth of 13 children of Gottlob Frey, a Methodist minister, and his wife, Maria.

As a teenager in Germany during World War II, Harald endured hardships including bombings and food shortages, as well as a separation from his family when school-aged city children were evacuated to rural areas for their safety. After the war, at age 16, Harald experienced a religious epiphany at a church camp, which led to his dedication to life in Christian service.

In 1950, Harald traveled to America, hosted by “foster parents” Robert and Grace Dawson of Pasadena: First United Methodist Church. He attended Pasadena College for a year; then, with financial support from the church, enrolled at the Boston University School of Theology in 1952. In 1956, he married Nancy Whyte, a Boston native.

After serving churches in Portland, Maine, and Warren, Rhode Island, Harald, Nancy and their two young children (Peter and Heidi) moved back to California to “found” a new church (The Church of the Good Shepherd) in Westminster, California. Their son Andrew was born there in 1962.

Harald served as senior pastor of the 1200-member-strong Tempe: First United Methodist Church (Arizona) for eleven years. He considered this the most productive assignment of his ministry and enjoyed the many associations afforded by the church’s proximity to Arizona State University. In 1976, Harald was assigned to the Whittier: First United Methodist Church; then in 1980, with the children all off to college, he and Nancy moved to the Tucson area to serve the Green Valley Community Church.

In 1985, Harald and Nancy returned to California, to the Rolling Hills United Methodist Church. Then in 1988, Harald was appointed to his final church: as head pastor of the Estero Bay United Methodist Church in Morro Bay. He happily retired there in 1993. In 2009, just before Harald’s 80th birthday, he and Nancy moved to Venice, California, to be closer to their children. He lived out his final years surrounded by family, music, good food, and ocean breezes.

Harald is survived by his wife of almost 60 years, Nancy; by children Peter, Heidi and Andrew; by grandchildren Noah Greenwald, Kayla Frey, Maya Greenwald and Logan Frey; and by siblings Artur Frey, Gretel Reinhardt, Marta Frey, Marie-Else Sartor-Frey, Erich Frey and Dieter Frey.

-Heidi Frey Greenwald
Reverend Alan Paige Gorsline was born in Lancaster California. He died peacefully amongst family at Saint John’s Regional Medical Center in Oxnard, California.

Alan is survived by Sandra Gorsline, his loving wife of 31 years, and her two children, David Watson and Laura Parisi. Alan’s two sons, David Alan Gorsline and Kenneth Mark Gorsline, remember him with immense love and admiration. Eight grandchildren enriched Alan’s life and were cherished in return.

Alan Gorsline’s journey to ordained ministry in the United Methodist Church passed through the United States Navy, California Western University at Point Loma, and Emory University’s School of Theology. He served the United Methodist Church in the California-Pacific Annual Conference for 39 years, retiring as Senior Pastor of Saint Paul’s United Methodist Church and transitioning to Pastor Emeritus.

Reverend Gorsline continued to preach, minister, work for cross-faith cooperation on social justice initiatives, and care for people until the moment of his passing.

-The Family
Reverend Dr. William M. Hill, a husband, father, grandfather, leader, mentor, servant, a man of God.

William was born February 27, 1938, in Little Rock, Arkansas. He was the youngest of five children. Graduated from Horace Mann High School, he received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts Degrees from Prairie View A&M University. There he met and married the love of his life, Laneta "Joyce" Mitchell, and from this union daughter LeVetta was born. He earned a doctoral degree from Perkins Theological Seminary and received an honorary doctoral degree from St. Stephens Bible College.

In 1963, Dallas, Texas, the Hill family ministerial journey began. After moving to California in 1968, William served 14 years as an associate pastor. He later served as a Special Assistant to the Bishop and the Administrative Assistant to the Presiding Elder. In 1988, William began his affiliation with the United Methodist Church serving as the pastor of Epworth United Methodist Church in Los Angeles from 1989 -1993. He was the pastor of First United Methodist Church of Inglewood from 1993 -2008; and pastor of Wesley United Methodist Church of Los Angeles from 2008 - 2010.

William served compassionately in many capacities within the California-Pacific Annual Conference and Los Angeles District as a member of the Committee on Investigation, the chairperson for Pan-Methodists in Southern California, president of the Ebony Prophets, District Committee on Ministry, Board of Discipleship, District Council of Ministry, Board of UMLAD; Supervising Pastor for the Claremont School of Theology Field Study Program; and Mentor Pastor to Candidates of Ordained Ministry.

With a longtime commitment to bettering the lives of children, William and Joyce founded South Bay Bright Future, Inc., a nonprofit organization to help abused and neglected children.

Throughout William's life, he received numerous honors and awards for his outstanding service, leadership, and dedication to the church and community. The educational wing of First United Methodist Church of Inglewood was dedicated and named in his honor. He was inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame at Prairie View A&M University.

He was happily married for over 55 years and is survived by his loving wife, Joyce, who supported and encouraged him throughout their journey together. Also in the family is daughter LeVetta (Hill) Holloway, son-in-law Glover Holloway, granddaughter Hope Laneta Jenkins.

William brightened so many lives along his journey and his generous heart will truly be missed.

-The Family
Richard Vern (Dick) Kendall was born in Los Angeles. He grew up in Pasadena where his father sold Edison Electric Automobiles. By the 4th grade, his parents’ marriage was troubled and Dick moved with his mother across the street from the Pasadena YMCA. The “Y” became a place to escape the stresses of his parents’ divorce. Dick’s first experience at camp on Catalina Island came when he was only nine years old and his tent leader was R. Hylton Sanders – oldest brother of Sue Sanders (who later became Dick’s wife).

Dick and Sue began dating in junior college and were engaged by the time Dick graduated cum laude from Occidental College. Though he struggled with the decision, Dick chose to pursue the ministry which he later wrote “could open special doors for relating to people at the crucial times and circumstances of their lives.” A week after their wedding in 1943, Dick and Sue boarded a train for New York and began three years of graduate education at Union Theological Seminary. He studied with brilliant theologians and experienced his earliest ministries in the Adirondacks. It was here that Dick truly found his voice, writing that he “learned to appreciate the kind of simple ‘rural’ teaching which Jesus did.”

The first of their five children was born during their last year in New York. The others came over the next 10 years as Dick served Conference churches. In 1978, Dick was called to serve as Superintendent for the Pasadena District until his retirement in June of 1984. Dick and Sue settled in Escondido for the next 16 years. But even in retirement Dick wasn’t finished with his work, serving a year at the Hollywood: First, then consulting for about eight months at Glendale: First. He was editor of the Conference Journal with a volunteer staff of over twelve. Finally, he helped start the new San Luis Rey Valley Church.

In 2000, Dick and Sue made their final move to the Town & Country Manor retirement community in Santa Ana where they spent the last of their nearly 72 years together. On March 15, 2015, Sue gave up her struggle with Parkinson’s and departed this world. And eight months later Dick and Sue were finally together again.

You were the heart and soul of our family and we miss you.

- Nancy Kendall
Bill was born in Princeton, Indiana, the eldest son of Bill and Gladys Kintner. Due to a job opportunity for Bill, Sr., the family moved to North Hollywood, California, in July 1959.

Bill graduated from Poly High School, California, Western University for his B.A., and Claremont School of Theology for his Masters of Theology and Doctor of Divinity degrees.

Bill has been a United Methodist Minister for 43 years. He has served as the senior pastor at churches in Woodland Hills, La Canada/Flintridge, Sierra Madre, Artesia/Cerritos, La Mirada, Placentia, and Redlands First.

Bill had a daughter, Kristina, with his first wife, Marilyn. Kristy, unfortunately had a rare genetic disease, metachromatic leukodystrophy. This illness took her life at the age of almost 23 after being told she would not live past 7. Her illness caused Bill to pursue a medical education in genetics and pastoral care at Johns Hopkins and the Jackson Lab at Bar Harbor, Maine.

Bill has a son, Kristopher, with his second wife, Colleen. Kristopher has been a source of pride and joy for Bill and Colleen. Kris has his MBA in International Business and is completing service in the Peace Corps.

Bill has been involved in many professional and community activities. He was a licensed Marriage/Family Therapist, a clinical hypnotherapist, the Vice-President of the United Leukodystrophy Foundation for 27 years with his wife, Colleen, and President of this organization for two years. He was a member of the Board of Ordained Ministry, of the Order of Saint Luke, Kiwanis, and the Fortnightly Club.

Bill loved being a minister. He loved serving God and preaching the gospel. He loved the liturgy of the church and was honored to be serving in worship ceremonies: communion, baptisms, marriages, and funerals. Great music and liturgy was essential for Bill. He loved attending Annual Conference each year.

Bill loved to travel and see new places and experience new things. He also was a collector of old cars possibly because when younger he loved to repair them with friends.

Bill is survived by his wife, Colleen; son, Kristopher; sister, Mary; brothers Keith and Tom; four nephews, one niece, and many other relatives, friends and colleagues. He is loved and will be missed by many!

-Colleen and Kris Kintner
He was born in Barlow, Mississippi. His family relocated to New Orleans. As a 5-year old, he had his parents drop him off at Rayne Memorial Methodist Church. Delton agreed he'd been raised by the Church probably more so than he'd been raised by his parents.

In 1960, one year out of Yale and already the Associate Pastor at Mulholland Memorial, Del would take turns driving his friend's daughter to and from one of the newly integrated schools. He earned the label of "card carrying member of the Communist Party," and the next year he took a "temporary" job at LSU as Campus Minister. But he loved his work and the students, and he stayed for the entire decade.

At the beginning of the 70's he found himself flying to Paris for meetings with all of the parties to the Paris Peace Talks. On that flight he and Judy Collins began singing her celestial version of Amazing Grace. He somehow made time to chat with Elvis at a stoplight in Memphis.

After the AIDS epidemic hit the US in the 1980's, he became passionately involved in ministry with persons living with the disease in Baltimore.

In 1988, he held the position of Director of the Council on Ministries of the Cal-Pac Conference.

In 1995, he accepted a pastorate where he found himself nervous about penning weekly sermons rewarded by applause. After an eight-year stay, he retired in 1967 and continued to stay active in several organizations, especially Scarritt-Bennett Center.

Del was a dandy, positive, polite chap. He never seemed to speak out of turn but just in time.

He was earthy in his beliefs, and spiritual in his practices. It was apparent and evident who his Master was. Perhaps he'd say he was simply a methodical Methodist. The madder he got the thicker his Southern accent thickened. Del saw conversion as a lifelong transformative event. People were not "lost" or "saved," but rather "in progress" and "developing." God was both a question and an answer.

Close to him was Michael Simmons who experienced 47 of those years. Others whom he adored included George Williams, Beverly Shamana, Ben and Anni Lizardi, and Judy Pickering.

Here we light the inner candle of Hope and send him to his freedom upon the waves as he used to sing "...Hallelujah, by and by, I'll fly away. I'll fly away, Oh glory. I'll fly away..."

-Len Joseph Moreno, son
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1:3-5
Cornish R. Rogers was born in New York City and attended elementary and secondary schools in Harlem and the Bronx. He matriculated at Drew University; his theological education was completed at Boston University School of Theology.

In 1955 he married Elsie Daniels. They had one son, David, a Clinical Geneticist.

Since 1954, Cornish served churches in Boston, New York City, and Los Angeles. In 1970 he became News Editor at the “Christian Century” magazine. During his four years with the “Century,” he traveled around the world twice and visited every continent except Antarctica.

He taught Black History courses in the Los Angeles City School; was a guest lecturer at UCLA Extension; visiting professor at Garrett Theological Seminary; adjunct professor at the Union Graduate School; and adjunct professor for San Francisco Seminary.

Cornish was a frequent contributor to many magazines and newspapers. He has written for the Los Angeles Times and The Chicago-Sun Times. For 10 years he served on the editorial board of the Quarterly Review.

He spent two weeks in Russia as a guest of the Russian Orthodox Church; two weeks surveying the Sahelian famine, and two weeks in Nairobi reporting the 5th Assembly of the World Council of Churches. He also led student seminars to various countries including Bolivia, Costa Rica, Jamaica, and Nicaragua.

With his wife, Elsie, he co-authored a 26-week ethnic church school curriculum for 4th, 5th and 6th graders: “Children, We Are All Free” and “Jesus, the Liberator”; and narrated a videotape series on the book of Hebrews, both produced by the United Methodist Publishing House. He co-edited a book entitled Preaching Through the Apocalypse, and contributed a chapter in a book, How Shall We Die?

In July 1980 he was appointed an Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology at the School of Theology at Claremont and in 1984 was promoted to full professor. He was the founding Director of STC’s Urban Ministries Study program. In 1993 he was installed as the E. Stanley Jones Professor of Evangelism, Ecumenics, and Mission.

Cornish has been chairperson of many boards and was a delegate to the World Council of Churches’ Assembly both in Vancouver and Canberra, Australia.

Cornish was founder/advisor of Aspires West, a program of tutoring/mentorship of inner city youth, and a member of the Board of Directors of Rakestraw Community Center.

-Elsie D. Rogers
Rev. Howard Rosine, (M.Div., 1949), was a minister, teacher, loving patriarch. He died at home, surrounded by friends and family. He was born in the South; was drafted into the military in World War II. He attended Occidental College in Eagle Rock and Asbury Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky, where he obtained a Bachelor of Divinity degree and met his wife Alice. The couple was married in 1948 and had three children, Art, Julia, and Norman. He received a master’s degree from the Claremont School of Theology.

After moving to Claremont, he became a chemistry instructor, teaching at El Monte, Rosemead and Mountain View high schools. He later taught electronics courses at Rio Hondo College. Howard had great empathy for people who were financially disadvantaged. He owned properties in Claremont and often housed struggling families and helped them find employment. During his retirement, he spent much of his time working on projects for Habitat for Humanity. He was also a founding member of the “Rusty Nails” group at his church.

Howard, who began each morning with Bible study before eating breakfast, remained extremely active at Claremont United Methodist Church. He was head of the Church’s board of trustees for many years and visited the sick and the elderly bringing them communion. He participated in study groups staying intellectually active in his old-age. He also served as a beacon, standing in front of the church on Sunday mornings to greet people with an umbrella shading him from the sun. Howard remained dedicated to his post, welcoming the congregation from his wheelchair until shortly before his death.

His family and friends painted the cardboard cremation casket, decorating it with photographs of Howard and messages to him. “It was a very sweet, very healing thing, and the ministers were fine with it. It was like sending out little prayer flags,” his daughter-in-law Marsha said. Howard was preceded in death by wife, Alice, who died in 2008 two months short of their 60th wedding anniversary. He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Art and Marsha Rosine; his daughter Julia Lawson; his son Norman “Yehuda” Rosine; and by his honorary daughter Maria Alfonso. He also leaves grandchildren Jennifer, Andrew, Sharon, Sophie, Chava, Chayar, Avraham, Saraz, Tirza, Devora, Shaina, Aharon, Elisheva, and Schlomo, as well as 24 great-grandchildren.

-On Line and Rev. Preston Price
Born to a poor Wisconsin woodcutter family in Hatley, Wisconsin, Les graduated from Shawano High School in 1935 as their senior class president. Upon acceptance to the University of Michigan, he hitchhiked to Ann Arbor from the Upper Peninsula to attend there, graduating with a degree in Psychology in 1940. A year later, he joined the U.S. Navy, attending line officer training at Abbot Hall. Following Pearl Harbor, he served in the Pacific theatre aboard USS Breton (CVE-23) as assistant gunnery officer. In 1944-45, he commanded USS LST-1096, seeing action in the Battle of Okinawa. His many awards include the American Theatre, Asiatic Pacific (2 stars), American Defense, and the Philippine Liberation medals. He was discharged from active service in 1946.

Following a pastoral stint in Denver, he was recalled to duty to command the USS Proton (AKS-28) during the Korean War receiving a 2nd discharge from active service in 1952. He pastored another Methodist church in Denver and then moved his family to the Los Angeles area to take a position with United Way in the mid '60s. In the '70s, he became a real-estate broker and, along with his real-estate broker wife Louise, they formed the Golden Rule Realty Company. All the while, Les stayed in the active reserves and retired as a Navy Captain (O-6).

At 98 years old, he passed away peacefully in Palos Verdes Estates, California on 23 February 2016.

-Bill Sperberg, eldest son
David Marion Walker was born in Long Beach, California to Gustavus and Cassieta Walker. His siblings were Dick, Beverly, Ken and twin brother Don.

He graduated from Poly High School in Long Beach, and went on to graduate from USC with his Bachelor of Science in Finance. He then served in the military from September 2, 1954 to July 26, 1956. Dave attended Fuller Theological Seminary and graduated with a Masters of Divinity. He then studied a year at Claremont School of Theology before going into full time ministry with the United Methodist church.

He married Janice Bon on June 27, 1959. They had three children, ten grandchildren, and one great-grandchild: Paul and Leslie, children Amy and Matthew; Laurene and David Peña, children Danielle, Jonathan and Rachel; Julie children Natalie and Jake Pierson; Desirae and son Dean, Jeremiah, Ja'Neice and Jaclyn.

Dave took a year sabbatical with his family in 1971 to Australia to ranch with his brother, Dick. He returned to minister at North Clairemont in 1972. He took a sabbatical in 1984. Retired in 1995, he served San Diego: Christ in 1999 and retired again in 1999. Although retired, he continued to lead numerous Bible studies and write devotions.

He was involved in Walk to Emmaus, Christian Ashram, and was one of the founders of the Prayer and Healing Conference. He also co-led several trips to the Holy Lands and went on work teams to Appalachia and South Africa.

Some of his interests included painting, woodworking, and enameling. He enjoyed various sports including tennis, gymnastics, volleyball, skiing, handball, and racquetball.

Through all of these activities the primary focus of his life was deepening his walk with Jesus and sharing Jesus with others.

-The Family
Spouses
Mary met her Savior face to face on Wednesday, September 16, 2015.

Mary Ellen (Fine) Arnold was born on a farm in Bedford, Iowa. She was the last of four children, her siblings being an older brother and two sisters. She was blessed to be raised in a Christian home. Her father and mother were both strong spiritual leaders and they passed that gift down to their children.

Mary's father, an Iowa farmer, and the family resided in Bedford all their lives and that is where Mary attended school. In her teen years (the 1930's), she enjoyed acting and was very active in the Chautauqua plays often in a leading role.

It was there she met a young minister, Charles Arnold, who was appointed to a pastorate in her town. Their friendship took the form of a committed relationship and they were subsequently married on September 20, 1936. A very young bride and an instant minister's wife all in one.

The family grew by two when James and then Joyce came into the world. Several enjoyable years were spent in Iowa before coming to California in 1948 where Charles served churches in both Moorpark and Monterey Park.

After moving to Monterey Park and with the encouragement of Charles, Mary attended East Los Angeles Junior College for two years and then began working as a secretary for the California Teachers Association for 19 years. She retired in 1979.

After 34 years of marriage, her beloved husband, Charles, passed away on May 24, 1971. After being a widow for 16 years, Mary formed a wonderful bond with a very talented gentleman at church, Earl Mallory, and they celebrated 11 years of marriage.

In addition to raising a family of two children, Mary was involved in the church all of her life. She played the piano in all of the churches; taught Sunday School; thoroughly enjoyed United Methodist Women activities; and, especially while being a minister's wife, hosted many, many dinners and gatherings. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Alhambra for over 50 years.

Well, that's a brief glimpse into Mary's life. She was not perfect, but a genuine, consistent Christian with this promise from our Savior to all believers: "We'll see you again, Mary, this is not the end - it is but the grand beginning!"

-Joyce (Arnold) Rohrs & Jim Arnold
Patricia Marie “Trish” Black was born at Hoffman Hospital, San Diego, California, and was died while living in Lemon Grove, California.

Trish was born to Enoch and Martha Anderson of La Mesa, California. She lived with her sister, Mary, and her parents above the Erickson Anderson Mortuary where her father was the funeral director. Trish is the second generation of Swedish emigrants.

Trish attended La Mesa Elementary School from kindergarten thru eighth grade. It was then on to Grossmont High School for two years until Helix High School was started. She graduated in the second class of Helix in 1953. Trish was involved in the music program at Helix. She completed a couple of years at San Diego State University.

On August 20, 1955 she married William Black and moved to Denver while her husband completed his seminary education.

Trish then became a parsonage wife until her husband retired in 1988. During this time she taught Sunday School and became involved with United Methodist Women.

She then branched out as a welfare worker in the Welfare Departments in San Luis Obispo and San Bernardino and finally with the San Diego County District Attorney’s office in Child Support Enforcement for 21 years. She was given the Title of Senior Field Investigator.

Trish and her husband enjoyed many years of travel. A high point was six weeks traveling around Europe.

Life was not always easy. For 64 years she struggled with Type 1 Diabetes and beat the odds by out living many Type 1 patients.

Trish leaves her husband William Black of Chula Vista, daughter Diane Black of Chula Vista; sister, Mary Hodge of La Mesa; a granddaughter of Willits, California; a great grandson, Mason (1 year old), of Willits; niece Linda Williams; nephew David Hodge; and a grandnephew Wyatt Williams. She was predeceased by her parents, daughter Karen, and son Paul.

-Rev. William Black
Dot grew up in Southern California and Arizona and lived in Hawaii since 1967. She received her B.A in Psychology from Lawrence University, Appleton, Wisconsin, in 1951, a Master of Social Work from the University of Southern California in 1955, and a Master of Education from University of Hawaii in 1977.

Professionally, she had three major careers: Social Work, Education, and Financial Services. Prior to moving to Hawaii in 1967, she had positions with the YWCA and HeadStart. Positions in Hawaii included Associate Executive of the YWCA of Oahu; Branch Director of the Kokokahi YWCA; Field Instructor, UH School of Social Work; Senior Social Worker and Social Services Coordinator of Head Start for the Honolulu Community Action Program; Director of the Career Information Center of the Office of the State Director of Vocational Education; Director of Educational Information Centers, Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of Hawaii; Lecturer in Human Development at UHM; Lecturer in Human Services Honolulu Community College and Leeward Community College; Coordinator of Community Information and Resources Career Kokua, Office of Research and Statistics, Hawaii State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

Changing careers at age 51, she worked for Metropolitan Life for 13 years, first as a Sales Representative and then as a Marketing Specialist, and at retirement became an independent agent. She was a member of the National Association of Life Underwriters and was awarded The National Sales Achievement Award, the National Quality Award, member of Leaders' Conference and the Million Dollar Round Table. She was registered with the National Association of Security Dealers.

She received special recognition by the Hawaii District of the United Methodist Church in 2002.

She had three children, ten grandchildren (including twins). She liked to kayak, read, and travel (42 countries) when not being at the legislature & organizing as an advocate opposed to legalized gambling in Hawaii. She was organizer and first State President of the Hawai'i Coalition Against Legalized Gambling. She assisted her husband in much of his research and travels.

Her motto: "If you live long enough you can do a lot of things."

-Family
Patricia Arlene Brewster (always known as Arlene) was my girlfriend at 16 years of age, she was my fiancée at 20 years of age, and she was my wife at 21 years of age, and she was my best friend for 60+ years.

Arlene was born on June 1, 1935, in Oakland, California. Her mother was Ruth Seymour, who later married her adoptive father Matthew R. Lakin; but she was raised for the first 12 years of her life by her grandmother and grandfather, Gertrude and Francis Seymour in Sparks, Nevada. After her mother’s marriage to Matthew, she moved to Long Beach where she grew up and attended school.

She married me in 1956 in San Jose. We later moved to Southern California. She was the mother of James Matthew, who lives in Fullerton and owns his own business; and Julie Brewster Elkins who is the pastor of United Methodist Chapel of the Valley in El Cajon. She was the grandmother of Clark Brewster of Huntington Beach; Jenee Elkins Harlow of Tipton, Indiana; Paul Elkins, of El Cajon; Blake Brewster, of Buena Park; and Katy Elkins of Costa Mesa. She also is great-grandmother to Zooey and Marley Harlow of Tipton.

Arlene worked for 30 years for Rockwell Inc. (later becoming Boeing Corp.). After retiring, she attended the Course of Study at Claremont School of Theology in preparation for being appointed a local pastor in charge of Honolua United Methodist Church in Maui, Hawaii. She kept this appointment for 4½ years. Arlene was a lifelong United Methodist and, even after retirement, she worked at the Conference Office for several years in several different capacities.

She lived with me at Baker Home for Retired Ministers in Rowland Heights from 1999 until her death in 2015. She was a very happy person and managed to make friends wherever she went. She was a very healthy woman until she was diagnosed with uterine cancer in February 2015.

At her memorial service held December 27, 2015, and which was attended by over 240 people and led by Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, Rev. Rex Britt, and Rev. Steve Poteete-Marshall, her life was wonderfully celebrated. Giving the eulogy were her children Matt and Julie. People were treated to a heartfelt and sometimes comedic look into her life.

Arlene was a very special person and will long be remembered.

-James K. Brewster with help from Matt Brewster and Julie Brewster Elkins.
Jean Olmstead Loftin grew up in Newnan, Georgia. She met her future husband, John B. Cobb, Jr., there at Sunday school at the age of six, when the Cobbs were on furlough from their work as missionaries in Japan. Their mothers had been childhood friends. She studied at LaGrange College (in Georgia) where she also served as student body president. She was proud to be included in The Official Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges, 1945-1946.

She married John in 1947. At her death they had four sons, five grandchildren, and, shortly before she died, she held her third great-grandchild in her arms. Ted, the oldest of her children, was born in Chicago, where John was studying. The others, all boys, were born in Atlanta after the couple returned there.

In 1958 the family moved to Claremont, California, where John taught at the School of Theology, and the couple retired to Pilgrim Place in 1990. Jean was a charter member of the Claremont United Methodist Church and served for some time as office manager there with the founding pastor, Pierce Johnson. Her ashes are next to his in the columbarium at the church.

Her career plan had been to be a librarian, and before marriage, she had started working on a graduate program at Emory University. Later, when the family spent a year in Honolulu, she was able to complete a master or arts degree in library science at the University of Hawaii. On return to Claremont in 1973, she served on the library staff at the School of Theology, first as catalogue and then as reference librarian, until her retirement.

She enjoyed travel and adapted easily to life in Germany and Japan as well as Honolulu and other parts of the United States. Of her many hobbies perhaps the recorder was the one she enjoyed the most for the longest period of time. Even more, she enjoyed opportunities to help students and others both in the library and in meeting the problems of life.

Memory problems became noticeable in the early eighties and gradually reduced her facilities so that she moved to the dementia unit at the Health Services Center at Pilgrim Place. But she enjoyed singing, especially old hymns, until the end.

-John B. Cobb Jr.
Dorothy Mary Medeiros was born on August 9, 1937 in West Warwick, Rhode Island to Portuguese immigrant parents Antonio Medeiros and Maria Rosario Lima. A home health care provider, she married Reverend Donald L. Diegelman on December 16, 1989, following the death of Rev. Diegelman’s first wife.

During the marriage, Mrs. Diegelman continued to work as a home health care provider and was always active in the local churches that her husband served.

Dorothy was an avid hands-on kind of person and worked willingly in whatever area needed to be done in each congregation that she and her husband were a part of. In their retirement years, Dorothy was most active in Bible study groups and homeless food and meal ministry of the local congregation.

Dorothy’s favorite loves were people, the old traditional hymns, and western gospel music.

Dorothy is survived by her husband, Donald, of Vista, California, and her sons, Conrad Brindamour and Donald Salisbury both of Kettering, Ohio.

-Donald L. Diegleman
I. Yvonne “Eve” (Waddell) Dinkel was born in Enid, Oklahoma. She graduated from Southwest Missouri State Teachers College, married, and had two daughters, Marla and Janna Vanderpool. When that marriage ended she returned to teaching and taught music and mathematics until 1981. Having moved to Casa Grande, Arizona, and having remarried, she served as the Choir Director for the Casa Grande United Methodist Church while Rev. James E. Dinkel was appointed there as pastor from 1969-74.

Rev. Dinkel moved on to St. Luke’s UMC in Highland Park, California, where his first wife, Lois Marie (Kline) Dinkel died in 1977. In 1981 he attended a church anniversary celebration at the Casa Grande church where he ran into Eve. She was widowed, too; romance bloomed; and they were married on May 31, 1981.

Eve adopted the role of minister’s wife with enthusiasm, with a special emphasis on evangelism. She helped keep meticulous records and made follow-up calls on visitors at their appointments in Barstow and Victorville, and then as volunteers at the Gold Canyon United Methodist Church near their new retirement home in Gold Canyon, Arizona.

Jim and Eve taught Bible studies at Gold Canyon, including several sessions of the “Homes Of Honor” series, and started the 7:00 am Sunday praise service, with Eve leading music on the piano. When the Desert Southwest Conference started a new church in Gilbert, Arizona, called Living Waters Fellowship, Jim and Eve became founding members of the new congregation and served as pastoral ministry volunteers.

Eve passed away in her home, surrounded by her family, having recently suffered a brain aneurism. Eve is survived by her husband of 35 years, the Rev. James Dinkel; her daughters, Marla Wootan and Janna Vanderpool; Jim’s children, Steve Dinkel, Paul Dinkel and Ruth Kanarian; and their spouses, children, and grandchildren.

Eve always had a heart for mission, and at her passing, requested that she be remembered by giving through The Advance to the Mulunguishi Seminary Scholarship Program.

-Paul Dinkel
Devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother “Dottie” passed away at Villa Alamar. She was three months shy of her 90th birthday.

Dottie was born to Jacob & Floy Rush in Jackson, Tennessee. She was one of four siblings.

Dottie will be remembered for her devotion to family, friends and the church. The following are words that describe this wonderful woman: Beautiful, kind and a classy lady. She was supportive, honest, strong, gracious, loyal, wise, selfless, and above all, she loved unconditionally.

She is survived by her three children: Susan Dachenhaus and husband John of Santa Barbara; Philip Ervin and his wife Denise Leff of Portland, Oregon; and Lisa Williams and husband Peter of Torrance, California. She had six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Clyde, her late husband, was the love of her life. They began their life together in 1941. She was 16 and he was 18 years old. They celebrated 71 years of marriage. She stood by his side through 40 years of ministry in the United Methodist Church. She loved the Lord and being a pastor’s wife.

She also loved being a homemaker. Her grandchildren say, “She knew how to make a house look like a home.” Her gift of hospitality was very special to her family and friends. Because of her, all the women in the family have received the same gift of making people feel welcome. She was an excellent baker. There were always great smells coming from the kitchen. A favorite of all her family were her homemade rolls. She loved working in dress shops. She was always dressed to the nines. But most of all she loved her family. Her grandchildren called her “Granny” and great-grandchildren called her “G.G.”

-Lisa Williams and Susan Dachenhaus
Carrie Jean Brimberry was born in rural Palestine, Illinois. Her family struggled during the “Depression Era” but there was always love in her home. Carrie worked for a dentist in high school dreaming of becoming a nurse. That dream was cut short when her dad died unexpectedly during her senior year.

In 1946 she met Frank Finkbiner at an MYF meeting. They were married October 15, 1948. Frank entered McKendree College in Lebanon, Illinois, to pursue a career in ministry. Following his graduation and the birth of their daughter Lynn, they received their first church appointment in Richland, Texas, while Frank also attended Perkins Seminary. After receiving his degree, they moved to Orange County, California, and were given an appointment at Orangethorpe United Methodist Church in Fullerton where their first son Ron was born. Carrie was active as a mother and pastor’s wife assisting Frank in developing churches by hosting membership meetings and calling on parishioners. She had a well-known knack for retaining people’s names thus assisting Frank as people exited following services. They were a true ministry team. Carrie loved to bake, sharing her baked goods at circle meetings and other functions.

Itinerant ministry took them to Reseda: First UMC just prior to the “Church Merger.” While there, they purchased a small cabin in Idyllwild which became their “get-a-way” place for the next 20 years. Carrie loved the mountains, the birds, and gray squirrels. She made new friends wherever she went because she always took an honest interest in others. Their last 10-year appointment in Arcadia, California at Church of the Good Shepherd culminated more than 40 years of service in the United Methodist Church.

Carrie and Frank retired in 1988 moving back to their place of origin in Crawford County, Illinois. There they built their dream house on 20 acres and lived happily until Frank’s passing in 1998. Carrie continued to minister to people for many years as a retired clergy widow at the First United Methodist Church in Robinson, Illinois. She is survived by 3 children, 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Discovered at the close of her own 2 page handwritten autobiography, Carrie wrote, “I like Jimmy Stewart’s movie each year and as the title states, ‘It’s a Wonderful Life’ and I can say the same of mine.”

-Ron Finkbiner
Gladys Caroline Felzien was born in St. Frances, Kansas. She was the second oldest of a family of six siblings (2 girls, 4 boys). Gladys attended elementary and high school in the same school building in St. Frances. After high school she attended college and received a degree in education. She commenced her professional career thereafter as an elementary school teacher.

She met Eugene Goláy, they eventually married, and she followed him in his ministry with The United Methodist Church. They traveled extensively wherever Gene was called for service within the denomination. He was well known and respected in the churches he pastored. She was the ideal pastor's wife. She entertained many guests in their home. An avid cook, she also loved to bake pies and, her specialty, chocolate chip cookies. The last 20 years of church service they eventually settled in Glendale, California. They were also active in their local community. They sponsored the community concert series held every month at Glendale High School. They had three children, Gary, Judy and Keith. Gary and Judy preceded them in death.

In May 31, 2007, at the age of 97 years old, Eugene passed away. Coincidentally Eugene passed away on their 75th wedding anniversary and his birthday. In 2013, Gladys' last surviving child pre-deceased her.

She leaves behind numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, nephews and nieces. She was an energetic, opinionated, and a strong willed woman who loved caring for people and her church. She loved serving the Lord through church work. She loved music. She played the piano and organ for the church when she was able. She wanted to be remembered as the person who thought of others first. We miss her lively and engaging personality. Good bye for now my dear. We will see you in that great gettin' up morning. Until then!

- Joc Anderson
Marjorie T. Knouse was born in Portland, Oregon. Marjorie and her family moved to Azusa, California, in the mid 1930’s. Marge, as she preferred to be called, met her future husband, Frank, when he was interning at the Methodist church in Glendora during his theology studies at USC. Frank and Marge were married on December 1, 1944. In 1947, on completing his theological studies, Frank was ordained and he and Marge were assigned his first church in Fallbrook, California.

For the next 40 years, Frank and Marge served churches of the Conference in California and Arizona. During that time Marge was a homemaker to a growing brood of five children. In her spare time she enjoyed baking, flower arranging, knitting, crocheting, and making yarn wall hangings.

When Frank retired from the active ministry, she and Frank moved to the Baker Homes retirement community in Rowland Heights. Soon after their arrival, Marge began volunteering as classroom help in a kindergarten class at the Shelyn Elementary School. During this time, Frank and Marge founded the 4th Grade Achievement Awards to present a $50 savings bond to the most improved 4th grade student for the school year.

Marge was preceded in death by her husband, Frank, and their oldest daughter, Virginia. She is survived by her children Robert, Sylvia, Jill, and Roger; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

She will be remembered as a nurturing mother who allowed her children to grow into independent adults, a great teacher to anyone who needed help, and a great folk art enthusiast.

-Robert Knouse
Mary Laird  
June 28, 1928 - September 24, 2015

LAIRD, ROBERT E. (T.49; F.53) SCA 49 School; 52 Eastmont; 54 Arroyo Grande; 59 Descanso; 61 SBdino.: Muscoy; 63 (Nov) Pomona: Trinity; 69 San Jacinto; 74 Norwalk: Evangelical: PSW 77 SBdino.: Trinity; 82 R’d. (447.2c); C-P 85 R’d.; 92 (Feb. 5) SBdino; St. Paul's: Assoc.; 2000 Retired

Safely Home
by Author Unknown

I am home in heaven, dear ones;  
Oh, so happy and so bright.  
There is a perfect joy and beauty  
in this everlasting light.

All the pain and grief is over,  
every restless tossing passed;  
I am now at peace forever,  
safely home in heaven at last.

Did you wonder I so calmly  
Trod the valley of the shade?  
Oh, but Jesus’ love illuminated  
Every dark and fearful glade.

And He came Himself to meet me  
in the way so hard to tread;  
And with Jesus’ arm to lean on  
could I have one doubt or dread?  
Then you must not grieve so sorely,  
for I love you dearly still.

Try to look beyond death’s shadows;  
Pray to trust our Father’s will.  
There is work still waiting for you,  
so you must not idly stand.

Do it now, while life remaineth;  
you shall rest in Jesus’ land.  
When that work is all completed,  
He will gently call you home;  
Oh, the rapture of that meeting;  
Oh, the joy to see you come!
Finally Home
by Jamie Zahradnik-Williams

A beautiful mind that first thought of me
A womb that kept me safe
A smile that exploded
The first time she saw my face
Loving arms that cradled me
Gentle hands that brushed my hair
A contagious, vibrant laugh
That still lingers in the air
Two lips that kissed my banged up knees
And wiped away my tears
A tongue that prayed continuously
Through all my childhood years
Approving eyes that watched me dance
That never missed a show
Ears that listened to all my hurts
Advice that helped me grow
A faith that helped me spread my wings
Her spirit made me strong
Encouragement that made me brave
That helped me write my song
The greatest mom, my truest friend
I wish I could see your smile
Still, today my heart leaps with joy
Because I had you for a while
A life that briefly touched my own
A smile on her Savior’s face
A soul that’s finally home
Patricia Miller was born in Roswell, New Mexico in 1946 (of alien descent!). Her father served in the Air Force in World War II and subsequently was hired at NASA. Pat was acquainted with all of the first seven astronauts since her father helped train them. Pat worked for NASA during the summer between her first and second year at Texas Technical University. She fulfilled her dream of being a flight attendant when American Airlines hired her in 1966. She flew domestic flights but loved to travel and took advantage of the job benefits by visiting seven continents and 30 countries over her 31 years with American. She retired in 1997.

She married Fran Oswald in 1980, who became Regional Manager of Sales for all of the west coast for Eastman Kodak. Fran took an early retirement at 54 years old and worked three days a week for Norista whose major customer was Sigfried & Roy in Las Vegas. He even got to have breakfast with the tigers!

After 20 year of marriage, Fran died from Guillian-Barré Syndrome after a 4 year struggle of paralysis from the neck down. Following his painful death, she lost both parents and her best girlfriend.

Following her retirement, Pat started a successful pet-care business and sold it with onset of Fran's illness. After his death she volunteered on the City of Orange Police Force for 2 years, then served as a volunteer for the "Make A Wish Foundation." She dated for seven years until she met Rev. Glenn Miller, a United Methodist minister (now retired) and married him March 12, 2005. Pat died of a bleeding stroke on October 10, 2015.

-Rev. Glen Miller
Elsa Kendall Reese was born in Pasadena, California, to Scandinavian immigrants Bertha and Aron Hallstrom. In 1942, William A. Kendall, a USC theological student, was appointed to her church (Trinity Swedish Methodist) as the first English-speaking pastor. A couple of years later they were engaged, during which time Elsa worked as a secretary for a rocket scientist at Cal Tech while William completed his Master’s Degree. They were married in 1944 and a year later appointed as missionaries to the Methodist Church in Hilo, Hawaii. Because of the war, they had to take a freighter to cross the Pacific with just a mine sweeper as their only protection.

During Bill and Elsa’s marriage, they served several churches and Elsa proved to be an ideal partner-in-ministry. In addition to being a devoted and loving mother, she took an active role in church activities, such as serving as United Methodist Women president, Sunday School teacher, and events coordinator. Artistic in her own right, she also prepared beautiful floral arrangements for the altar/table. Elsa’s keen interest in the nature of Christian symbolism in art prompted her to sculpt a bronze “Crown of Thorns” that Bill incorporated into Easter worship. (This piece was recently displayed at Vista United Methodist Church for Good Friday services.)

Upon Bill’s death in an car accident in 1967, Elsa’s life changed dramatically but her faith sustained her along with the love and support of the Kendall family (Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Charles Kendall; Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Travis Kendall; Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Richard Soulen; and Dr. and Mrs. Phillip Kendall.)

With four girls to support, she enrolled at California State Los Angeles earning a B.A. in Early Child Development. She subsequently taught at Holliston United Methodist Church preschool for 25 years. This was where she met and later married Clarke Reese whose love and devotion further enriched her life.

Elsa was stalwart in a very gentle and engaging way making those around her feel comfortable, valued, and appreciated. Her faith supported her through life’s difficulties and hardships and her loving and kind nature set an example for all to emulate.

She is survived by her daughters Heidi Kendall, Leilani Kendall, Martie Fearn, and Wendy Kendall; grandchildren Chris Harris, Loni Harris Smith, William Peron, Elsa Peron, Joe Peron Devin Fearn, Kendall Fearn, great-grandchildren Ava Peron, Amara Peron, and Wyatt Smith.

- Heidi Kendall
Roselorraine Strathdee, the daughter of Hungarian immigrants, was born in Bellflower, California. She joined the heavenly choirs on June 16, 2015. She was the spouse and partner in ministry with Rev. Frederick H. Strathdee. They met and were married in San Francisco where Fred was teaching at the Salvation Army Training College there.

Both officers in the Salvation Army, their early married years were spent serving in inner-city hospitality centers and prison and music ministries, including a weekly musical radio program.

Fred became a Methodist pastor in the 50’s and they served in several congregations throughout Southern California. The last ten years of their working lives were spent traveling throughout the States for the United Methodist Church’s Board of Global Ministries, helping local churches and conferences crystallize their mission and raise funds for their ministries. Roselorraine was a music lover and gifted singer. Her singing lifted the spirits of all who had the privilege to hear her. She and Fred often sang duets – both sacred and comically not sacred.

Roselorraine suffered a profound stroke in 2001 and, with courage and patience, survived a debilitating convalescence for these last 15 years, singing until the end.

Her loving husband died in 2002. She is survived by son and spouse, Jim & Jean; daughter and spouse, Laurie Anne & Chris; granddaughter and spouse, Rachel & Brian; granddaughter and partner, Julie & JD; and great-grandchildren, Savanah and Sam.

We miss her loving presence, but her song lives on in all of us. We are comforted by the knowledge that she is beautiful and whole in God’s heart and, of course, has rejoined her life’s singing partner, Fred.

-Family
I'm Free
by Shannon Lee Moseley

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free.
I'm following the path God has chosen for me.
I took His hand when I heard Him call;
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day,
to laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way;
I've found now peace at the end of the day.

If my parting has left a void,
then fill it with remembered joys.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss;
Oh yes, these things, I too will I miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
look for the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life’s been full, I savored much;
good friends, good times, a loved ones touch.

Perhaps my time seems all too brief;
don't lengthen your time with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and peace to thee,
God wanted me now – He set me free.
Delores M. (Nuby) Ulmer was born in Panama, Illinois and passed away on June 24, 2015 in Redlands, California at the age of 91. She was the youngest of eight children. She met her husband, Rev. Harry R. Ulmer, at her father’s roller skating rink in Pocahontas, Illinois. Harry and Delores were married for 63 years. Delores is also survived by her three children: Bethany Ulmer of San Bernardino, Mark Ulmer of Yorba Linda, and Lisa Ulmer of Long Beach; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Delores graduated from Greenville (Illinois) College with a Bachelor of Arts in English. After moving to Maryland and San Diego where Harry was assigned to several churches, they settled in San Bernardino. She worked as a first-grade and math lab teacher in Illinois and the San Bernardino City Unified School District for 29 years. In retirement she worked tirelessly as a volunteer for RVers in Mission, Crossroaders, St. Bernardine’s hospice program (San Bernardino), and for 25 years with Heifer International. Delores was an active and prominent member of Del Rosa United Methodist Church since 1966.

Delores and Harry traveled hundreds of thousands of miles in their motor home throughout North America to visit friends and family and to perform volunteer work. Delores loved the adventure of travel (especially New York City and Europe) and the beauty of nature (fall foliage trips). She was a voracious reader. Delores was a proficient musician and could harmonize every hymn. Her children are grateful for this musical gift.

Delores was a kind, generous, and outgoing soul – a true people-person. Her children’s friends thought she “was the greatest mom” because of her interest in them, her non-judgmental ways, and her cooking. The love of God and the teachings of Jesus were revealed through Delores and shone in her good works.

-Beth Ulmer
Mildred Oechsli Watson died peacefully at her residence at Dominican Oaks in Santa Cruz surrounded in a circle of love made by twelve members of her large extended family. The third daughter of Dr. Leonard and Loula Boicourt Oechsli she was born in Singapore during the six years that her parents served in Medan, Sumatra as Methodist missionaries.

She graduated from Los Angeles High School and attended Radcliffe College before graduating from the University of Southern California. It was at Pacific School of Religion that she met and then married her husband James Bernard “Bernie” Watson in 1942. Together they raised three sons Phil, Steve and Craig.

Over their 58 years together, while Bernie preached and ministered to his congregations, Mildred sang in the choir and was active in the women’s service groups of the church. Bernie and Mildred also served at the Spanish-American Institute in Gardena and the David and Margaret Home in La Verne.

Upon Rev. Watson’s retirement in 1979 they joined the Eagle Rock United Methodist Church where he negotiated the sale of the church for one dollar to the Los Angeles Filipino-American United Church of Christ which they then joined to then serve twenty-one years there before Bernie’s passing in the year 2000. While living at the long-time Oechsli “manse” at Oaklawn Avenue in South Pasadena, Mildred pursued her passion for gardening, treating her grandchildren and family visitors with views of the many exotic flowers she nurtured from seed to planting in her garden.

As a minister’s wife she may have missed her calling as a botanist but in later years she found great satisfaction as a well-regarded volunteer in the seedling department of the world renowned Huntington Gardens. Late in her life she moved from Southern California to Santa Cruz taking up residence at the Dominican Oaks Retirement Community where she enjoyed delightful visits from her six great-grandchildren and tended two beautiful community garden plots. Mildred was beautiful both inside and out and created beauty all around her with a seeming effortlessness.

She was predeceased by husband and her parents, her sisters and brother, and other family. She is survived by her three sons, Philip (Meg) Watson, Stephen (Irene) McGinty, and Craig (Carolyn) Watson; and her five grandchildren, Bonnie, Matthew, Katie, Alexandra, and Zachary; and her great-grandchildren Nicholas, Eliza, Owen, Josephine, Sofia, and Lucia.

-Watson Family
On September 4th, 2015, Nancy Weirbach was welcomed into eternal life by her beloved late husband, Robert B. Weirbach and her two sons, Wesley and Blaine Weirbach. Left behind on earth to share her memory are her three remaining children, Lynn Hudson (Howard), Bob Weirbach (Una), and Nancy Linford (Gary). Nancy also left behind seven wonderful grandchildren: Andrew Hudson (Dayna), Edward Hudson (Tara), Melissa Weirbach (Shane Allred), Wes Weirbach, Lisa Linford, Janelle Linford, and Nate Linford; and three great grandchildren: Parker and Bennett Hudson and Jake Allred.

Nancy was born May 3, 1921, in Stanford, Kentucky to Ambrose Wesley and Mary Elizabeth Holtzclaw. She grew up on a farm the youngest of four children: Elizabeth, Robert and Hugh Sam predeceased her. She graduated from West Virginia institute of Technology in 1943 with degrees in math and library science. She moved to Arizona to teach. It was there she met her husband of 67 years, Rev. Robert B. Weirbach. At that time she was teaching middle school math in Tucson. Since her teaching contract did not allow her to marry, she waited until the school year finished. After a June 10, 1945, wedding, she and Bob enjoyed a wonderful life, raising five children and living in a half dozen different cities in Arizona and California, ultimately retiring in Santa Barbara where Bob had served as Senior Pastor of First United Methodist Church there.

In early years Nancy was active with the church choir and with United Methodist Women. She was also very active with PEO, a philanthropic women’s organization. However, her focus had always been to support her husband and care for her family, which she did with great resolve and for which she will be fondly remembered.

-Nancy Linford and Lynn Hudson, her daughters
Asako Sakai Yamashita died at the age of 98 in Santa Cruz. Born in San Francisco, she was the fifth daughter in a family of nine children. Her Japanese immigrant parents, Tei and Kitaichi Sakai, opened the Uoki Sakai Fish Market, operated by the family for 103 years in Japantown/Nihonmachi, San Francisco. Asako graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1941 with a degree in psychology. The following year, wartime Executive Order 9066 forced the incarceration of 110,000 Japanese Americans in concentration camps, and Asako and her family were imprisoned in one of ten camps -- Topaz, in Delta, Utah.

Returning to San Francisco at the end of the war, she met and married the Reverend H. John Yamashita in 1948 and supported his work at the Oakland West Tenth Methodist Church. In 1952, she moved with her husband and baby daughter to Los Angeles, continuing to support John's work at the Centenary Methodist Church and raising two daughters. In the 1960s, she returned to school and received her teaching certificate from the University of Southern California. She taught elementary school in the Los Angeles Unified School District for 19 years.

After John's retirement from the ministry, the couple traveled together through Japan, Europe, and South America. Asako also traveled with her sisters and close friends to over fifty countries across the world. And she took her grandchildren on many trips, from the Galapagos to Rome.

In 2003, she moved from Gardena, California, to Santa Cruz to live with her daughter, Karen Tei Yamashita, professor of literature and creative writing at UCSC. Over the next 12 years, Asako tended her garden of orchids, continued to be an avid reader, and attended classes and lectures, enjoying the company of UCSC colleagues and students.

Asako was predeceased by her husband, Rev. H. John Yamashita; and is survived by daughters, Karen Tei Yamashita and Jane Tomi Boltz; their spouses, Ronaldo Lopes de Oliveira and Howard "Pat" Boltz; grandchildren, Jane Tei and Jon Oliveira, Mary Jane and Lucy Boltz; greatgrandchildren, Milton, Andrew and Andrea Oliveira, and Javon Oliveira Chavez; sister, Iku Hopes of Evanston, Illinois; brother, Dr. Hisaji Sakai of Walnut Creek, California; and many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

-Daughters, Karen and Jane
Conference Officer
Leanne Misao Nakanishi passed away peacefully surrounded by her beloved family on April 11, 2016. Leanne had been struggling with serious health challenges. Nevertheless, she was active until her final moments as First Elected Lay Delegate to General Conference, as Secretary of the Western Jurisdiction, as Conference Secretary, as well as a member of Westwood United Methodist Church.

Leanne was the epitome of strength and fortitude. She was always on the move, helping others, organizing events, taking care of her family. Her persistence, charisma and eloquence will never be forgotten.

Leanne was a major influence and mentor to both her sisters, immediate family, to her extended family and friends. Her passion for learning and discovering new ideas and places empowered her for great success and accomplishments. The dedication to her craft inspires others to do more in their lives.

She is survived by her devoted fiancé, Gary Lieberman; father, Alvin Nakanishi; loving sisters, Lisa (Chris) Aparicio, and Laura (David) Nakanishi; uncle, Calvin (Joanne) Leong; aunt, Susie Sasaki; aunt, Susan Yamamoto, and relatives.

- Family
Laity
Rebecca Garza Carcaño was born on October 9, 1929. She ended her earthly life on
December 20, 2015 in the Christian season of Advent, a time of waiting for the Christ Child.
She indeed waited upon her Lord all of her life with an expectant heart. She was a woman of
deep Christian faith who instilled in her children the importance of faith, family and serving
God by serving others. She had boundless energy in her care for others, never losing an
opportunity to extend a smile, a pat on the back and a word of encouragement to those who
needed it. Her strength was extraordinary; a strength she claimed came from her Lord who
strengthened her. She loved others deeply and unconditionally. Her heart seemed always filled
by an abiding joy that overflowed to those around her. Even in hard times and through a
long-extended illness she never lost faith or hope. She died as she lived, listening to the words
of the Psalmist and trusting her Lord.

Rebecca was preceded in death by her parents, Rafael Garza Sr. and Sofia Cantu Garza,
hers brothers, Rodolfo Garza Sr. (Ofelia †), Daniel Garza (Minerva), Samuel Garza Sr. (Elma
†), and Rafael Garza Jr. (Irma), her husband Juan Pablo Carcaño, and son Juan Pablo Carcaño
Jr. She is survived by brothers Raul Garza (Elida †), Ramiro Garza (Lucila), Moises Garza
(Magdalena), Rogelio Garza (Rosario), daughters, Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño (Thomas
Spaniolo), Elizabeth C. Saldivar (Jose Luis Sr.), Diana Carcaño, sons, Joel Carcaño Sr. (Julie
Carcaño Palacios), Javier Carcaño (Tobie), and Jorge Carcaño (Mary), grandchildren, Jose Luis
Saldivar Jr. (Melissa), Monica Soto (Mike), Joel Carcaño Jr. (Valarie), Christopher Kenrick
(Jean), Christine Carcaño, John Carcaño,Sofia Spaniolo-Carcaño, Sarah Carcaño, Rebecca
Carcaño, Ariana Carcaño, Timothy Ellington, and Victoria Carcaño and great grandchildren,
Joel Carcaño III, Mackenzie Carcaño, Jaxon Carcaño, and Maya Carcaño, and many beloved
nieces and nephews, and friends.

-The Family