In Memoriam
2017

A Celebration of Ministry
California-Pacific Conference
The United Methodist Church
Dear Loving Members of our Cal-Pac Family:

I recently lost a beloved Uncle who was so kind and caring toward my family and me. He was always there for us, and was so generous and kind that words cannot express our loss of him.

So, too, I understand the depth of your loss, and words are so inadequate to convey these feelings of empathy. In so many ways, your beloved has been an important part of our own California-Pacific Conference family, and we share in your grief and loss.

But in the depths of my soul I truly believe the words we use in moments like these: “Absent from the body, Present with the Lord.” We will see each other again, and we will all be reunited when we pass through this thin veil of death to life eternal.

Blessings,

Bishop Grant
Deceased Bishops

Bishop Felton May
February 27, 2017

Bishop Moises Fernandes
April 6, 2017

Deceased Spouses

Mrs. Kathleen A. Thomas-Jano
July 6, 2016

Mrs. Ruth Thomas
January 17, 2017

Mrs. Gwen White
March 27, 2017

Mrs. Thelma H. Newman
May 3, 2017
Ordained and Diaconal Ministers
Harry Adams

December 12, 1926 - March 1, 2017

Upon graduation from Yale in 1951, Harry moved to California where he began his ministry. His profound sermons offered a glimpse into the inspiring thoughts of a gentle scholar. He had an incisive intellect, an engaging sense of humor, kindness and numerous strengths that have enriched the lives of his parishioners and the many he has touched.

It has been said that the real mark of a strong character is the capacity to risk unpopularity. In 1965, Harry assumed that risk with many southern California clergy when they joined with 30,000 others to march with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. from Selma to Montgomery. He said, "We walked past crowds gathered in empty cow pastures with the endless line of marchers, eight or ten abreast, and miles long marching through the black section of Montgomery into the downtown area. We were greeted with almost universal silence."

On his return to his parish, the risk of unpopularity was manifest when his conservative congregation disapproved, and he paid the price by being asked to consider serving another church. He said that "I never regretted it and the opportunity to demonstrably express a Christian support of civil rights. My remembrance of it was that it was an opportunity for a ministry of presence that had some real effects in the slow but steady upward march of humanity."

Less than five months later President Johnson would sign the Voting Rights Act.

We live in a world that has become so loud, so oblivious, so unappreciative of reflection and silence, it is hoped that his gentle, loving voice may stay alive in the memories of his congregants.

-Grace Adams
Paulino Alfaro-Guerra

May 26, 1923 - January 31, 2017

ALFARO-GUERRA, PAULINO (F.84) Iglesia Metodista del Peru; C-P 85 Hawthorne, Assoc; 87 Pico Rivera; 88 SA: El Getsemani; 90 R’d (¶451.2c)

Paulino Alfaro was born in Andahuaylas, a city located in the Peruvian Andean region of Apurimac. After finishing high school studies in his native town, Paulino went to work in Huancayo, located in the region of Junín. Four years later, he decided to serve the Lord and follow Jesus Christ’s steps. Paulino met his future wife, Georgina Fernández, in Huancayo, during a meeting of young Christians.

In 1948, Paulino traveled to Buenos Aires where he studied Theology. In 1950, he was appointed at the Annual Conference of the Methodist Church of Peru. His first job as a pastor was in Cerro de Pasco, a city located at a height of 4300 meters above sea level. In 1952, he came back to Huancayo where he worked as a pastor for one year. In 1954, Paulino was transferred to Chincha, a city located in the Peruvian coast where he served for two years. Then he was reassigned to Ica, another coastal city where he stayed for 11 years. From 1965 to 1983, he worked in Lima where he served different churches: Pedregal, Miramar, Maranga and Callao. After applying for a sabbatical year, he traveled to the United States where he studied and served churches. Paulino closed his formal ministry when he was 67 years old.

Paulino was always opening new churches and organizing social work projects, especially in the poorest neighborhoods. In Pasco, he organized the church in the mining settlements and in Huancayo he organized visits to patients in hospitals. As a young man he worked as a nursing assistant in hospitals and his wife was a nurse. In Ica, Paulino was Chaplain of the city penitentiary for four years. In Lima he was in charge of the Methodist Church social work programs conducted in the marginal neighborhood of Pedregal, a district located by the Rímac River.

Paulino Alfaro had four children: Paul, Abel, Ana Maria and David, the last three of whom migrated to the United States. The first became a doctor in medicine and had the privilege of having him as a patient during his last three years of life. Paulino had 11 grandchildren.

Paulino passed away in Lima, Peru, 10 years after losing his wife, at 93 years and eight months old.

Papa Paulino, you will always live in our hearts and thoughts.

-Paul Alfaro Fernández
J. Edward Burn

January 16, 1927 - March 22, 2017

BURN, JAMES EDWARD (T.64; F.66) SCA 63 Alhambra: First, Minister of Education; 67 Lancaster: Assoc.; 68 Nestor; 73 San Dimas; 82 Oceanside: S. Oceanside; C-P 85; 93 R’d

Our Father, The Shepherd
Our father, was like no other! He was a Renaissance man!

His father, from South Carolina, had our dad promise to raise sheep on his farm in Society Hill, South Carolina for three years. (This was a small fact he had forgotten to share with our mother before they were married.) Our dad lovingly shepherded the sheep, even once feeding a reluctant little lamb with a baby bottle. Through this experience of caring for the sheep, he discovered a nurturing side of himself that he wanted to express. One day, he realized he wanted to be shepherd of people. Thus began his career as a minister.

But our dad was like no other pastor. He was also your friend. In addition, he worked in the Civil Rights movement, marched with the United Farm Workers, and defended the rights of Native Americans. He raised us all to “speak truth to power.”

He preached powerful sermons with dramatic illustrations, tested of course on our mother, in the kitchen. She always provided helpful hints and pointers.

Our father, was like no other man! He was a historian, a student of Greek, a UCLA High Diver, football player, a jitter-bug dancer, a UFOologist, political activist, well-read, WWII Navy Radar Man, engineer, architect, funny, jovial, generous, honest, brilliant, romantic and true! He was truly one of a kind!

Dad, we will forever miss you!
We Love You,
Mom, Bonnie, Jim, Elaine & Amadito

Psalm 23
The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside still waters; He restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;
For you are with me;
Your rod and your staff—They comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.
Dale H. Conrad

July 6, 1926-March 25, 2017

CONRAD, DALE H. (T.52; F.55) SCA 52 School; 55 Hollywood: Crescent Hts.; 59 LA: Maynard Memorial; 65 Riverside: Wesley; 71 Yuma: First; 75 Hemet; PSW 77; C-P 85; 88 SD: St Mark’s; 94 R’d; 94 (La Mesa: First, Assoc.); 08 R’d

Dale was raised in Canton, Ohio, living there until he was called into the Navy in 1944. During his time in Canton, he attended First Methodist Church, becoming involved in the Epworth League (now the UMYF). At a church event the night before he left for his military service, the minister asked, “Have you ever thought about going into the ministry?” This “seed” eventually grew into a 60+ year career of service.

When he got out of the Navy, he moved to Mesa, Arizona, receiving a B.S. in Psychology from Arizona State University. He also met his future wife, Flo, even going so far as to join the choir so he could spend more time with her. They married June 1, 1951 and he entered Garrett Theological Seminary later that month.

While attending Garrett, he was a Supply Pastor for the Rock River Conference and an Assistant Pastor and Youth Director in Skokie, Illinois (with a high school youth group exceeding 200). He was ordained Deacon in June 1953 and Elder in June 1955, becoming a full member of the Conference that same year.

His first appointment was Senior Pastor at Crescent Heights in West Hollywood, California. While there, his announcements on the church display caught the eye of a nationally syndicated columnist, who spread that news across the country. Then, other appointments followed as Senior Pastor in Culver City, Riverside, Yuma (AZ), Hemet and San Diego. He “semi-retired” to become Associate Pastor in La Mesa: First and, upon his “official retirement,” moved to Montana – where he was interim full-time Pastor at four churches between 2009-2010 (so much for “retirement!”).

Through Conference sponsorship, he and Flo, took a work team to Costa Rica in 1965. Two years later, he and the whole family went back to Costa Rica where he did an exchange with a pastor in Limon for six weeks.

Dale was known for helping churches get back on their feet financially; the pinnacle of this ability being the construction of a new sanctuary and office complex in Hemet.

He and Flo traveled extensively leading tours to over 50 countries, including several Oberammergau Passion Play and Holy Land tours.

While he is no longer with us in body, his love of Christ and his leadership will live on in the lives of those he touched.

The Family
Melvin (Ken) Criswell

March 20, 1929 - June 10, 2016

CRISWELL, M. KENNETH (T.54; F.56) SCA 54 School; 55 Piru; 57 LB: Moore Memorial; 59 Arroyo Grande; 68 Riverside: Arlington; 74 Ventura: College; PSW 77; 82 Boulder City, NV: Grace; C-P 85 Yorba Linda; 92 Lakewood: First; 94 R'd

Melvin Kenneth (Ken) Criswell slipped quietly and peacefully into eternity at the age of 87. He is survived by his wife JoAnn of 58 years. Other survivors include son (Mark), daughter-in-law (June), daughter (Julie), son-in-law (Dan), grandchildren (Kevin, Kyle, Karson, Matt and Ashely), many nephews, nieces and grandnieces.

Ken was born in Patricia, Texas. He was the middle child between two sisters (Nina Newland and Rosemary Osmon). As a teenager, his family moved to National City, California, where he entered and graduated from Sweetwater High School. He attended San Diego State University. After his decision to enter the ministry, he attended Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky. He graduated from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, with a Master's Degree in Divinity. He spent 40 years as a pastor serving in the California-Pacific Conference of the United Methodist Church. Ken's first appointment was Piru Methodist Church where he sometimes liked to worship after he retired.

Ken and JoAnn met in Long Beach where he was serving Moore Memorial Methodist Church and JoAnn was teaching kindergarten. They were married in 1958 in JoAnn's hometown, Springfield, Missouri. After serving in Long Beach, Ken was appointed to Arroyo Grande United Methodist Church. There he presided over the building of a fellowship hall (named in his honor), a church school unit, and sanctuary with 10,000 hours of volunteer labor. Ken was then assigned to Riverside to serve Arlington United Methodist Church. His next appointment was College United Methodist Church in Ventura, where his children grew up. Next on the list was Boulder City, NV (Grace Community Church) then Yorba Linda United Methodist Church, where Mark was married.

Finally, in 1994, Ken retired after serving Lakewood United Methodist Church in California. Ken and JoAnn moved back to Ventura to begin retirement adventures, including Julie's wedding, travel, substitute preaching, and welcoming of their grandchildren (their greatest joys).

Ken will be remembered for his loyal caring spirit, his ready wit and sense of humor, his charming blue eyed smile, his devotion to his calling as a pastor, and most of all for his love and devotion to his family. He was a loving and compassionate husband and father and will be forever missed.

-JoAnn Criswell
James Decker-Mahin

August 31, 1948-February 1, 2017

DECKER-MAHIN, JAMES R. (P.72; F.75) SCA 72 School; 73 Fullerton; Orangethorpe, Assoc.; 75 Capistrano Beach; PSW 77 Capistrano Beach: Palisades; C-P 85; 86 La Mesa: Foothills; 94 Camarillo; 13 R’d

Dr. James R. Mahin (or Dr. Jim Decker-Mahin), known as “Dr. Jim,” was born in Santa Monica. By age 14, Dr. Jim knew he wanted a career in Christian ministry. After graduating from UCLA with a degree in psychology, he studied to become a Methodist minister, completing a Doctorate in Ministry from the Claremont School of Theology. He spent a year at New College, University of Edinburgh, where his theology was broadened and his Scottish brogue developed.

Dr. Jim touched thousands of lives as a pastor, community leader, father, grandfather, husband, and friend. His career in ministry was notable for many reasons, including his ability to grow congregations (for which he won several awards). Over his 41-year career, Dr. Jim served only three churches. He was perhaps best known for his “Sermons in Word and Song” which used Broadway musicals as modern-day parables, attracting audiences of all faiths and backgrounds. At each church, he was proud of the building projects and facility improvements he implemented. At each church, he made it a point to greet everyone arriving for events: worship services, community classes, and children’s events, where each day he greeted the children wearing a silly hat.

In 1994, Dr. Jim came to Camarillo and met his second wife and soul-mate, Dr. Lynn Decker-Mahin. “Dr. Lynn” became Director of Music Ministries at Camarillo UMC and together they shared 21 years of marriage. They realized this was a unique opportunity to work as a team in music and ministry and they loved every minute of those years – bringing love, laughter and theological challenges. Dr. Jim encouraged church members to be active in the community and practicing what he preached, he served the community as a Director on the board of the Camarillo Health Care District, and (more importantly) as Santa at the Adolfo Camarillo Ranch House.

Dr. Jim passed away after a short fight with stomach cancer. He is survived by his wife, Lynn, and his three children, Michael, Mark, and Michelle and their spouses, Kristie, Verena, and Ron. He loved his six grandchildren and his extended Decker Ohana. At his memorial service, the sanctuary was full of color as these attending honored his request to wear tie-dyes or Hawaiian attire.

-Lynn Decker-Mahin
James E. Dinkel
April 7, 1921 - October 19, 2016

DINKEL, JAMES E. (T.45; F.49) SCA 45 Burbank: Magnolia Park, Minister of Youth; 48 Blythe; 51 SA: Richland Ave.; 57 La Habra: Assoc.; 61 San Fernando: First, Assoc.; 63 Bardsdale; 66 Santa Maria: St. Andrews; 69 Casa Grande; 74 LA: St. Luke's; PSW 77 Barstow: First; C-P 85; 86 R'd; 88 (Victorville: Silver Lakes, Assoc.); 90 (Victorville: Assoc.); 95 (Mar) R'd

James E. Dinkel went to Occidental College and then USC preparing for Methodist ministry. He married Lois Kline. They raised three children together, Steven, Paul, and Ruth, while serving churches together until her death in 1977.

Jim had two great loves in ministry: youth and camping. He grew the congregation at Richland Avenue by building a great youth ministry. He then accepted associate positions so he could focus on youth ministry. When he returned to the senior pastorate, he continued to love youth work, although he confessed he might be growing up a little: he was starting to identify with high school youth more than junior highs.

Jim deaned many Conference camps, and led each of his churches on work teams to Conference site camps: Lazy W, Colby, Sturtevant, Cisquito, and Mingus Mountain. He then branched out to trail camps, with inner city groups and deaning the first several Conference High Sierra trail camps.

He always sang in the choir and in some of his churches he was the choir director. He was a lover of the hymns of the church but could be persuaded to sing contemporary Christian songs if they weren't too repetitive.

In 1981, he married Eve Hill and they served together at Barstow and then in their years of "retirement." Jim would sometimes say he enjoyed ministry more in retirement because he could just do the parts he loved and leave the rest to the senior pastor. For Jim and Eve, that was mostly evangelistic calling and small group studies. They ministered at the United Methodist churches in California and in Gold Canyon, Arizona, where they started and led the early morning contemporary worship service. Then they became part of the core of a new church start in Gilbert, Arizona, until Eve's death in 2015.

-Rev. Paul G. Dinkel
HOGAN, M. MYRA (DM.78; FD.97) PSW 78 SD: First, Director of Children’s Ministry; C-P 85 SD: First, Director of Children’s Ministry; 91 L/A; 92 Consultant in Christian Education; 97 Consultant in Christian Education; 99 R’d

Mary Myra Hogan, the only child of Claudia and Robert C. B. Parker, was born in Philadelphia and grew up in New Jersey.

Myra graduated from Oberlin College in 1951 with a B.A. in math and a minor in education. Myra’s first career aspiration was to be a high school math teacher who could motivate students. Myra looked for a position after graduating Oberlin, but found few math teaching opportunities for young women in post-WWII high schools. Myra moved to New York City to enroll in Columbia University for a master’s degree in elementary education. After an interesting year in New York, Myra taught elementary school for seven years, first in Summit, New Jersey, then in San Diego.

Shortly after moving to San Diego in 1955, Myra became an active member of San Diego First UMC and the young adult fellowship. It was there that Myra met her future husband, Hurst Hogan. They were married in 1957 and over the next five years welcomed a son and a daughter into the world.

Two kids at home gave way to Myra being a stay at home mom, who also volunteered at San Diego First as the nursery coordinator, then as the children’s coordinator. In 1970, Myra was asked to serve as Director of Children’s Ministry. Myra’s faith continued to deepen and she recognized that her call to a ministry of service which she had first perceived to be as a math teacher was being realized through Christian education. In the mid-1970’s Myra continued her studies at Claremont School of Theology, which strengthened her sense of calling.

Highlights of her 30 years of ministry include the development of a daycare and preschool program, vitalizing and growing summer day camps, and designing and leading teacher training workshops. Myra was active in Christian education in Southern California. She served on the Conference Children’s Committee, was a member of the Conference Board of Christian Education, and chaired and served on the board of the San Diego School of Christian Studies.

In retirement, Myra continued as a Christian education consultant and enjoyed traveling extensively with her husband. Myra moved to Santa Barbara in 2005, after her husband passed away, to be close to her only grandchild.

Myra is survived by her son Robert, daughter Martha (Don Adams), and granddaughter Siena. We give thanks to God for the joy and meaning that Myra’s life brought to the world.

- The Hogan Family
Dennis Holway

March 26, 1945-August 6, 2016

HOLWAY, DENNIS B. (P.68; F.74) SCA 68 School; 70 Glendale: First, Minister of Youth; 75 Costa Mesa: Mesa Verde, Assoc.; PSW 77 Soldotna: Miss'y to Alaska; 82 Anchorage: First, Assoc., Miss'y to Alaska; C-P 85; 87 Miss'y to Alaska, Mission Assoc. Director of CCOM; 90 Anchorage: Turnagain, Miss'y to Alaska; 99 Conference Superintendent & Pastor, Miss'y to Alaska Missionary Conference; 2000 Alaska Missionary Conference (¶337.1); 05 (Jun 30) R'd; 08 (Alaska) (¶346.1); 09 R'd

Dennis Holway was born in Glendale and grew up in the Glendale: First UMC down the street from his boyhood home. Dennis went to Glendale College, received his B.A. from California Western University in San Diego, then his Masters of Divinity from Boston University School of Theology.

Dennis was appointed as Minister of Youth at his home church in Glendale. He married Susie in 1974 and, while serving as associate pastor at Mesa Verde UMC, they led a Cal-Pac Work Team to Anchorage. They loved Alaska and the following summer in 1977 they were commissioned as home missionaries and headed to Soldotna, Alaska. Todd was born three months later, followed by Blake in ’79.

The Holways moved to Anchorage in 1982 where Dennis served as pastor of churches and then on a Superintending Team for the Conference until retirement in 2009. They were both very active; their social life with their many Alaskan friends centered around hiking, biking, and running. They enjoyed traveling to run marathons, hut-to-hut hiking in the Alps, and biking on barge trips.

After Susie’s early retirement as an administrator in the Anchorage School District in 2010, they moved back to California to be near family as their boys had settled in Seattle and north Lake Tahoe. Dennis was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s, and he and Susie were committed to maintaining their active lifestyle to help combat the disease and continue to enjoy life.

Dennis enjoyed spending time with his family, his friends, and his church right until his final days.

Dennis always had a love of the outdoors. He introduced the Sierras to many youth, friends, and family. His love of the outdoors led him to his ministry in Alaska, and his life-long commitment to church camps. Dennis’ ashes will be spread at Psalm Lake on June 17 with his family and Alaskan friends present to celebrate his life.

-Susan Holway
Marilynn Huntington
March 16, 1934-May 31, 2017

HUNTINGTON, MARILYNN M. (P.81; F.84) PSW 81 School; 82 Monterey Park: Bella Vista; C-P 85; 86 Tujunga; 89 Santa Ana District Superintendent; 95 CCOM: Council Director; 2001 EM: Cal-Pac Conference Connectional Ministries Team, Executive Director; 04 R’d

Rev. Dr. Marilynn Mabee Huntington served the churches and this Annual Conference for over 40 years.

She was born in Wichita, Kansas, and graduated from Colorado College with a degree in music. She was a member of Oxnard: St. Paul’s UMC where she was Choir Director and Director of the “Many Shades of Joy.” St. Paul’s also recommended her for the Ordained Ministry. She got her M.Div. and D.Min from Claremont School of Theology where she met Mark in the fall of 1979. They were married in August of 1981 at the Ontario: First UMC where Marilynn served as Choir Director before her ordination.

She served on the Board of Directors of Plaza Community Center, the North Valley Caring Center, the Claremont School of Theology Board of Trustees, and then as part-time Alumni Relations Director at CST after her retirement. She was the Conference Song Leader for several years, the first president of the Conference UMW, pastor of Monterey Park: Bella Vista UMC and Tujunga UMC. She was the second woman appointed to the Cabinet (Santa Ana District) (by Bishop Tuell) and was the Dean of the Cabinet (Bishop Sano) before she was appointed to serve as the Conference Council on Ministries Director. She then served as the Director of Connectional Ministries (Bishop Swenson) until she retired in 2004.

She was elected to three (maybe 4) General Conferences as either a lay or clergy delegate. She served on the General Board of Discipleship, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, and the General Council on Ministry. She also served on the Connectional Process Team re-shaping the General Conference for the 21st Century. She was also a Member of the World Methodist Conference five times (Dublin, Nairobi, Singapore, Rio de Janeiro, and Brighton, England), and also served on the World Methodist Council.

Marilynn is survived by husband of 35 years, the Rev. Mark Huntington; son Rob Mabee (Merrilee) of Phoenix, Arizona; daughter Cindy Kleinrock of Nashville; stepson Aaron Huntington of Seattle; stepdaughter Elysha Huntington (John Sanful) of New York, New York; by seven grandchildren: Ryan (Samantha), Kristi, Jacob, Jennifer, Justin, Barbie and Maya; and one great-granddaughter, Payton.

She was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s Disease in 2009 but retained her positive, loving, outgoing, caring personality until she passed away suddenly from pneumonia on May 31, 2017, at the age of 83.

Her hugs will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

-Mark Huntington
Yong Jeon
April 2, 1930 - July 27, 2016

JEON, YONG HAN (P.83; F.86) PSW 83 No Appointment; 84 (Jan) Van Nuys; 88 Riviera; C-P 91 Cal-Nevada (¶426.1); 92 Eastern Pennsylvania (¶426.1); 93 New York (¶426.1); 97 Eastern Pennsylvania (¶337.1); 8 (Oct) Western New York (¶337.1); 2000 R’d

A Time for All Events in Life

For everything there is an appointed time,
And an appropriate time for every activity on earth:

A time to be born and a time to die;
A time to plant, and a time to uproot what was planted;
A time to kill and a time to heal;
A time to break down and a time to build up;
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
A time to mourn and a time to dance.
A time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones;
A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
A time to search, and a time to give something up as lost;
A time to keep, and a time to throw away;
A time to rip, and a time to sew;
A time to keep silent and a time to speak.
A time to love, and a time to hate; A time for war, and a time for peace.

He is survived by his wife, Jeong Hi, and his children, Jason, Sungpyo, Hyunsook, Insook and Sinsook.
Marshall M. Ketchum

January 12, 1925 - April 9, 2017

KETCHUM, MARSHALL M. (T.47; F.49) SCA 47 School; 48 (Illinois: Stockland); 49 Fallbrook; 54 (Nov) SD: Normal Hts.; 59 No. Hollywood: Toluca Lake; 62 Yuma: Trinity; 67 LA: Maynard Memorial; 70 Tujunga; PSW 77 Temple City: First; 81 Santa Maria: St. Andrews; 83 Los Altos: Assoc.; C-P 85; 87 R’d; 90 (Jan) (Chino, Assoc, AR); 91 Retired

Marshall Maitland Ketchum was born in Los Angeles and grew up in South Pasadena, California. He was active in the South Pasadena United Methodist Church where he met and married the love of his life, Judith Monroe, in 1947.

His call to ministry came during World War II, as friends gave their lives “to make men free.” Unable to serve in the military, he committed himself “to live to make men holy.” He graduated from USC and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, and was ordained Elder in 1949. During the 1970s, he deepened his study of the Old Testament’s impact on contemporary life, earning his D.Min. from Claremont School of Theology in 1978.

He served 10 churches in 40 years. In 1965 he was a short-term missionary, and he attended the Conference of the Methodist Church in Mexico City in 1970. His inspired preaching and compassionate pastoral care reached many with a message of faith and hope.

Following the 1968 General Conference that joined the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren denominations, Marshall and Dick Burdine formed the Culver-Palms UMC out of their Methodist and EUB congregations. They drove nonstop to Dallas in Dick’s station wagon to attend that Conference. As co-pastors, they wouldn’t tell anyone who was to preach, ensuring that the whole congregation would show up each Sunday.

In addition to his weekly sermons, his publications include “Beyond the Call of Duty” (1951), a sermon given during the Fallbrook water controversy which was published in the Saturday Evening Post and the Congressional Record; Pastoral Training of Church School Teachers (1978); his paper on “The Bible and Homosexuality” (1997); and “A Life in Rhyme” (2013).

He loved the Church and only retired when his health required it. Marshall and Judy moved to Baker Homes in Rowland Heights, California, and he continued to preach and teach Bible classes. He loved sailing, photography, painting, and the mountains. He also loved languages, cultures, new ideas, and travel. He and Judith sailed, taught art classes, and together produced over 100 oil paintings. In retirement, they visited many countries together, having led three Holy Land tours.

He is survived by his wife Judy of nearly 70 years, their children Anne Marie (de la Vega), Bill, and Ruth, son-in-law Aurelio de la Vega, sister-in-law Anne Jennings, and many nieces and nephews. He is remembered for his joyful sense of humor, and for his kindness, curiosity, openness, and intellect.

-The Family
Tong Ho Kim
April 5, 1933- April 26, 2017

KIM, TONG HO (DM.93; FD.97) C-P 93 Los Angeles Korean Counseling Center; 97 Korean American Family Services, Counselor; 2003 R’d

Isaiah 12

In that day you will say:
“I will praise you, Lord.
Although you were angry with me,
your anger has turned away
and you have comforted me.
Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust and not be afraid.
The Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength and my defense;
he has become my salvation.”
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.
In that day you will say:
“Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name;
make known among the nations what he has done,
and proclaim that his name is exalted.
Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things;
let this be known to all the world.
Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion,
for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.”

She is survived by her husband, Jaycee and their sons: David and Peter.
Allen was named after his two grandfathers, whom he liked to call the "heretic" and the "preacher." He inherited the free-thinking of one and the preaching enthusiasm of the other. During college, Allen served as pastor and, as "The Little Preacher," preached revivals across central Texas. He completed an M.A. in sociology at Baylor University and a B.D. at Perkins School of Theology.

As a pastor, Allen was known as a "builder," building congregations and physical structures in Texas towns of Mooreville, Rosenthal, Kennedale, and Moody. He soon became a leader with young adults, both in Texas and for the Methodist Board of Education. He helped create innovative programs including apartment ministries, travel seminars, workshops on values and sexuality, and ecumenical networks. They produced "Faces," a film that focused on the public and private faces of young adults.

Allen earned a Ph.D. in Boston University, writing one of the first dissertations in the United States on practical theology. During the Boston years, he served a church and did clinical work at Boston Psychopathic Hospital.

Upon graduation, Allen began his 31-year career at Claremont School of Theology. He redesigned the program in religious education and pioneered new courses in practical theology, communications, and human sexuality. He published two books and more than 100 book chapters and journal articles. In the next years, Allen's focused on family life, sexuality, homosexuality, and gay rights. In his last 20 years, he focused on Christianity and popular culture; the social context of theology; liberation approaches to education; and the relationship between practical theology and religious education. During this period, he edited "Religious Education as Social Transformation" and a widely-read essay on liberative religious education.

Allen was also an administrator in Claremont School of Theology, serving periods as Associate Dean of Students and Dean of Summer Studies. He was Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs in his last eight years. He was also a leader in professional guilds, co-founding the Association of Seminary Professors in the Practical Fields (forerunner of Association of Practical Theology), which he served as first President, and the predecessor body to the Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education.

Allen is survived by his spouse, Mary Elizabeth Moore, and by his five children: Glenda Kittinger, Nanette and Mike Fox, Joyce Janette Cable, Clifford Laurence and Sheryl Mathews, and Rebecca Mathews. He is also survived by eight beautiful grandchildren and their families.

-Mary Elizabeth Moore
During his 90 years Rev. Mardoquío “Mardy” Lopez Olivas wove his deep love of God into his life and the lives of all those he touched. He was the 13th of 14 children born to Antonino and Felicitas Olivas. Mardy’s father converted from Catholicism to Methodism and began preaching in Mexico. However, due to religious intolerance, his life was threatened and he and his family immigrated to the United States in October, 1925. Mardy was born two months later in Tempe, Arizona.

At the age of 16, Mardy felt the call to the ministry during a sermon preached by Rev. Doroteo Venegas in El Paso, Texas. He attended Lydia Patterson Institute, a boarding High School in El Paso, where students had the opportunity to be trained to become Methodist pastors. He earned his bachelor’s degree from Arizona State University.

While serving as Youth Pastor at La Primera Iglesia Metodista in Phoenix, he met the secretary of the youth group; the most beautiful and vibrant girl he had ever seen, Helen Dominguez. They married in 1945. Helen was the love of his life, wife for seventy years, mother of his four children and partner in ministry.

Mardy was a true disciple of Christ and found a way to show his love of God in every conversation he had with strangers or acquaintances. Every time, he would either invite them to church or ask them if they needed a Bible. He never let someone walk away without the word of God.

As a child of the depression era, and a dark-skinned Latino, he faced many challenges, racial bigotry, and injustices. He channeled his energy into treating everyone fairly, with warmth and Christian love. At every church that he pastored, he preached about God’s love, mercy, compassion and justice. He also became a voice for marginalized groups and for people of color.

In the early 1950’s, Mardy was one of the youngest clergy delegates sent to General Conference. He served on the board of Ordained Ministers, COHAM, Methodist Ministers Federal Credit Union, the Board of Trustees of Fuller Seminary and other other organizations and committees.

Mardy is survived by his four children: Priscilla, Mardy, Nancy, Katherine, their spouses, five grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

-The Family
Wonwha Lee Ryu
June 16, 1927 - February 12, 2017

RYU, WON WHA LEE (P.87; F.91) C-P 87 North Hollywood: First, Assoc. (LFT); 89 LA: First Korean; 97 R'd

Wonwha was born during the Japanese colonial occupation of Korea in a mountain village near Gapyeong to a slash-and-burn farming family. At a time when girls were not encouraged to receive education, she went to Ehwa Woman's University in Seoul, because her Christian parents insisted that their ten children, both boys and girls, all receive a college education.

She received her BA in Christian Social Work in 1950 as the Korean War broke out and, herself a war refugee, became a residential teacher at The Orphans Home of Korea in Jeju Island. Upon returning to Seoul, she became the Y-Teen Program Director at Seoul YWCA. In 1954, she was selected to participate in the International YWCA Leadership Project in New York. This nine-month sojourn in the USA opened her global horizon.

She got married to Ji Shik Ryu in 1955, back in Korea, and gave up her full-time position at the Y to raise their four children. She continued to volunteer at Seoul YWCA, serving in many key committees, later becoming a board member and Vice-President.

She received a certificate in counseling at Seoul National University in 1971, translated Psychology of Middle School Students by Hadana Isoko from Japanese to Korean (1972), and wrote The 50 Year History of YWCA in Korea (1975).

In 1977, at the age of 50, she immigrated to the USA with her husband and four children, became a member of Glendale: First UMC, and began her immigrant life as a day-care center aid and an operator of a dry-cleaning drop-off shop.

At the age of 55, she finally responded to her call and enrolled at Boston University School of Theology, receiving an M.Div. in 1985. She was ordained at the age of 60 (along with her second son, Charles). She served as Associate Pastor at North Hollywood UMC (two years), and as the Pastor of the First Korean UMC of Los Angeles (eight years). She was the first woman pastor-in-charge appointed to a Korean congregation. She retired in 1997, continuing to support and encourage younger women pastors.

Throughout her long life's faith-journey, she traversed great socio-economic-geographical-cultural distances and overcame many limiting situations imposed on women. She is survived by her husband of 62 years, four children and four grandchildren with her first great grandchild expected.

--Rev. Charles Ryu (New York Annual Conference)
Miyeko Uriu

April 20, 1924-June 16, 2016

URIU, MIYEKO (P.76; F.84) Troy; PSW 81 Oxnard: St. Paul's, Assoc.; 82 School; 83 SA: Nozomi; C-P 85; 89 R'd

Miyeko ("Micki") was born the second child of four, to Ichita and Kawneko Kawata. Micki said that her parents became Christians while they were on the ship from Japan to the US, through the influence of Moravian missionaries. They worked very hard in their new land and were finally able to build a house and a farm. Micki loved music from her childhood and often told how she would practice piano on a keyboard drawn on cardboard. She was very shy but was in the Debate Club in high school.

Just before the relocation of Japanese-Americans during World War II, Micki was seriously injured in a car accident and was told she would never walk again. Through the influence of her hospital roommate, the faith which she already possessed became even more alive. She rode in a paneled truck with a mattress in it, from the hospital to the camp in Poston, Arizona, where her family had been forced to relocate.

After camp, Micki attended colleges in the Midwest, and later received her degree in Music Composition and Organ from USC. She worked as an elementary school teacher and as a church organist.

As a young person, she had been pen pals with Masashi Uriu; they later got reacquainted and married. They were blessed with six children: Karen, Mark, Ronnie, Candice, Marcia and Kevin. Sadly, Ronnie died at age two from congenital heart disease. This experience gave Micki a compassion for grieving people which remained with her throughout her life.

She had the guts and strength to take her five children on automobile trips, as the sole driver, all across the US and Canada, so that they could visit historical sites and gain new experiences.

Following her divorce, she chose to follow her calling into vocational ministry. She received her Masters of Divinity from Boston University School of Theology. She became the first Japanese-American woman to be ordained into the United Methodist Church, and served for many years at churches in Oxnard, Santa Ana and Chinatown. Parishioners from Chinese United Methodist Church became lifelong friends. After retirement, she was blessed by the women in her Ohana group. She is now rejoicing in heaven with God and with her loved ones who preceded her.

-The Family
Helen Waterson

October 24, 1934 - December 3, 2016

WATERS, HELEN (DM.91) C-P 91 Tustin: Aldersgate, Diaconal Minister of Christian Education; 95 Christian Education, Care & Nurture Ministry, Tustin: Consultant: Aldersgate; 2000 R'd

Helen Waterson was born in Palmyra, New Jersey. She left this life for the next on December 3, 2016. She was 82 years old. She grew up in New Jersey and did not leave that state until she went away to Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky. It was at Asbury that she met a hot-headed young Scottish-American lad who, frustrated by the reality that at 5'6", he was never going to play basketball in the NBA, had accepted God’s calling to ministry.

Helen and Al Waterson dated, fell in love, and then decided one night to run off to Indiana and get married. (They both actually had dates with other people the night before they wed). They returned to school the next day and lived in their separate dorms for the first couple of weeks of their marriage. For their act of love, they were suspended from school because they had not sought the school’s permission. They got the last laugh, having been married for over 52 years until Al died in 2008.

After Asbury, Helen settled into life as a preacher’s wife.

Between 1956 and 1964, she and Al had four children, Laurie, Todd, Jon, and Colin. In 1969, the family moved from Ohio to California when Al joined the US Navy as a chaplain. Helen got a job teaching elementary school. She taught at several schools in the Saddleback Valley Unified School District – Cordillera, Montevideo, and La Madera. She was voted the Teacher of the Year for the District the year she retired from teaching. After she left teaching, she worked at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Tustin as Director of Christian Education. She and Al worked together until their retirement in 2000.

Many people settle down in retirement. Helen became busier than ever. She loved being a full-time grandma, a traveling companion with Al, a part-time social activist (Helen was not afraid to get into trouble if it meant being faithful to the call of Christ on her life), and a full-time woman of faith. She taught classes at church, and continued to love and mentor people who came into her orbit. She is survived by a boatload of people too numerous to be named here. Our mom lived a good life.

-Rev. Jon Waterson
Earl Wood

February 11, 1923–August 13, 2016

WOOD, EARL K. (P.; F.) PSW C-P 81 LA Area Fund Development Officer; 83 R’d; CP 85 R’d

Earl Wood, known better as Woody, was born in Rochester, New York. He is survived by his daughter Constance, his grandchildren Chris, Donna, Will, and Jessica, and his great grandchildren Abby and Parker. Earl's wife Betty and son Donald passed before him.

Earl enjoyed being a local pastor for seventeen years, moving from church to church, taking with him fond memories of the parishioners and friends he left behind. He assisted two bishops in the area of public relations and finance. He served as Vice President and Acting President for the Iliff School of Theology in Denver. He was a writer and editor for United Methodist Communications for ten years during which time he traveled the world to report on the church's missionary programs. He was also a contributor to the World Book Encyclopedia entry on the United Methodist Church.

After retirement, Earl formed a church related advertising company and served as vice-president of Church Fund Raising Services. He contributed to annual conference financial studies across America and conducted numerous fund drives raising over $125,000,000 for United Methodist causes.

Earl and Betty, affectionately called Pop and Lady by their family, were married for 67 years. Earl's career led him and his family to live in New York, California, Colorado, Illinois, and Oregon, moving frequently yet maintaining close ties to relatives. Earl's travels and experiences with the church contributed to his immense talents for entertaining and teaching.

-Anne (Constance) Clements
Life Companions
Magdalena Acosta

July 7, 1925 - April 1, 2017

ACOSTA, J. RICHARD (T.50; F.59) SCA 50 School; 52 Artesia; 53 School; 56 Chapel of Friendship, Spanish Am. Inst., Assoc.; 57 School; (Sep 1) Rosemead: Director of Youth & Puerto Rico: Puerto Rico Msn.; 64 Honokaa; 67 Spanish Am. Inst., Director; 73 Norwalk: First; PSW 77; 80 Rosemead; C-P 85; Munich, W. Germany: Friedenskierche UMC; 92 R'd

Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come,
Why should my heart be lonely, and long for heaven and home,
When Jesus is my portion - My constant friend is He:
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,
For His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me.
"Let not your heart be troubled," His tender word I hear,
And resting on His goodness,
I lose my doubts and fears;
Though by the path He leadeth, but one step I may see;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.
I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,
For His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He watches me.
Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,
When songs give place to sighing, when hope within me dies,
I draw the closer to Him, from care He sets me free;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.
I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,
For His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He watches me.

She is survived by her children, Heidi and Markus;
and grandchildren.
Patsy Barrett

January 30, 1929 - February 17, 2017

BARRETT, TRUMAN A. (T.60; F.63) SCA 60 LA: Imperial Hts.; 68 Altadena; 71 L.Bch.: Belmont Hts.; BARRETT, TRUMAN A. (T.60; F.63) SCA 60 LA: Imperial Hts.; 68 Altadena; 71 LB: Belmont Hts.; 75 Torrance: First; PSW 77; 84 Pomona: Trinity; C-P 85; 86 Covina; 88 Retired; 95-97 (GBGM, Missionary to Botswana); 98 Retired

Patsy was born in Chickasha, Oklahoma. In 1941, she moved to San Bernardino. Patsy graduated from high school and went to Accounting School. But she met a young man whom she eventually would like, fall in love with and marry: Truman A. Barrett. When they first met, Truman had one strike against him because he was a doctor. Patsy vowed never to marry a doctor or a minister. Besides, she thought he was a stuffed shirt. Eventually they were married on October 7, 1949, in the Southern Baptist Church. Several years later, two bundles of joy came along: Elizabeth Lorraine and Robert “Guy” Murry. Later, Truman felt people needed more than physical healing and asked Patsy if she would consider being a minister’s wife (second strike). Over a year later she said “yes,” they were dedicated, Truman closed his office and went to USC School of Religion. Truman and Patsy came to the Methodist Church for their ministry.

Patsy loved to entertain, and she loved to cook, sew, tat, quilt, crochet, knit, needlepoint, paint and play canasta with family and friends. She held many positions in the WSCS and UMW on the local, district and conference level. She also held many positions within the church on the local, district and conference level. In her early years, Patsy would not speak up in meetings and other places. Truman convinced her that her thoughts and ideas were important. She became a voice for those who couldn’t speak out. It came to the point that Patsy would say, “If Truman ever lost his credentials, it will be because of my mouth.”

All of Truman and Patsy’s ministry was in ethnically changing communities. Therefore, they incorporated into the life of the family the traditions, customs, and foods of others. When traveling, they stayed at the local YMCAs and hotels and traveled by themselves to see the parts of countries most people don’t see. They came out of retirement to go to Maun, Botswana, as missionaries for two years.

Patsy said many times before she passed away, “If I live a million years, I couldn’t thank God enough for all the experiences, joys, sorrows, difficulties and wonders that I have experienced because of the life we experienced by saying ‘yes’ to God’s leading.” Patsy quietly passed away at her home surrounded by family in San Bernardino.

-Elizabeth Roark
Rilla A. Carlson

June 2, 1928 - August 16, 2016

Rilla Carlson was born and raised in Upland, California. She had a big brother, Bill, and little sister, Ruth. She loved living in the country: roller skating, flying kites, dolls, bicycling, playing board games, drawing, and piano lessons.

She was a talented artist and did art pieces for her high school yearbook, numerous pastors, and other organizations. She graduated from the University of Redlands, where she met me. She taught second grade in the Ontario school district until we were married on September 4th, 1954. We have celebrated almost 62 years of marriage together. After our 46th anniversary, in a letter to Jesus, she wrote: “You chose a wonderful husband for me who loved me for who I am and supported me all these 46 plus years. You have blessed me with two great children and four beautiful grandchildren. Oh, how You have blessed me! I am sealed by the wonderful Holy Spirit and wait for the day of my redemption. I give you my love. Rilla Carlson.”

Every church I served, she was very involved in ministry, especially the United Methodist Women’s Choir, playing the piano and organ as requested. At two churches, she directed the choir for a short time. She also led home prayer groups in the churches and was involved in the United Methodist Women’s annual leadership conference and was president for a period. Upon our retirement, she was involved at the local United Methodist Women at Hemet United Methodist Church.

Rilla loved the Lord and served Him faithfully for many years. I can imagine that when she saw Jesus and bowed down to Him in praise and adoration, she heard the Lord say to her: “Well done, good and faithful servant... your faithful service is an offering to God.” – Mathew 25:21 and Philippians 2:17.

-Pastor Johnny Carlson
Flo grew up on the family farm just outside Belmont, Wisconsin, until the family moved to Mesa, Arizona, in 1944. While there, she attended Arizona State Teachers College (now A.S.U.), and more significantly, was introduced to Dale Conrad (himsself a mid-west transplant). That introduction eventually culminated in their marriage on June 1, 1951; and, only days later, the two of them headed off to Garrett Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois.

She was a tireless and dynamic assistant to Dale and his ministry, doing whatever was needed at the time. He often said she was the real reason for his success. Always available to help, whether as Music Director, "social hostess," or any of the other myriad unnamed roles inherent in being a minister’s spouse at the time, she was truly the “other half” of a lifelong love affair and partnership spreading the love and joy of Christ.

Her talent for music was evident at an early age, winning medals at local and state competitions starting in elementary school. Her love and commitment to music was a continuing theme throughout her life, providing too many opportunities to count. Some of the highlights were singing in the Los Angeles Master Chorale, playing in four different symphonies (1st Chair flute in three), founding the Handbell Choir program at Hemet United Methodist Church, and being one of 50 ringers invited from across the country to travel to the Netherlands to perform for the 200th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between the U.S. and Netherlands. She also recorded a CD with the Pacific Beach Presbyterian Church Handbell Choir, and directed several combined San Diego Symphony/Handbell Choir performances (becoming the first female guest conductor of the Symphony in the process).

Somehow, she also found time to become a very successful real estate agent for over 25 years. As one always open to doing something different and unusual, she was even involved in the sale of a drive-in movie theater in Hemet, California.

She was a loving and caring mother to her two sons, Ronald and David – the stories of her going “above and beyond” to help them, their families, and friends over the years would take a small book to list and wouldn’t begin to describe their impact.

She will be missed, but never forgotten.
Aletha Cook

February 24, 1931 - January 26, 2017

COOK, FREDERICK W. (T.53; F.56) N.NY; SCA 64 Hollywood: First, Assoc.; 70 Blythe; 73 S. Pasadena; PSW 77; C-P 85; 89 LA: Westchester; 94 R’d; 97 (Covina: Assoc.); 03 R’d; 04 (West Covina); 05 Retired

The morning star shone a little less bright when Aletha Beverly Brown Cook left her family and friends. A native of Madrid, New York, Aletha was the daughter of Robert and Margaret Jenner Brown, but was raised by her grandparents, John and Viola Brown after her mother died at childbirth. She was trained as a dietician at Canton Agriculture and Technical Institute. Until she began her family, she worked at the Clifton-Fine Hospital and at Potsdam Hospital. She established a branch of the American Dietetic Association for the northern part of New York state.

She stood with her husband as together they ministered to Methodist and United Methodist Churches in the then Northern New York Annual Conference and to churches in the California-Pacific Conference. With her family grown, she began a 32-year career at Cokesbury Bookstore in Pasadena where she served ministers and laity, creating deep friendships and mentoring younger staff. She took great pride in her work, even learning to operate an espresso machine after the store became affiliated with Fuller Seminary and served a younger clientele; however, she drew the line at using a computer mouse.

Aletha lived a life devoted to and defined by faith and family. She never met a stranger and loved to entertain. Her Christmas Open Houses were memorable, and her pies and rolls legendary. A strong woman of great character, she was generous, caring, and supportive. She was her sons’ biggest fan and reveled in their successes.

Aletha is survived by her husband of almost 65 years, her sons Alan (Jane) of Stockton and Frederick of Stevenson Ranch, grandchildren Katherine Cook Donaghy (Kevin) and David Cook, and great-grandchildren Michael, Finnegans, Sawyer, and Seamus Donaghy. She will be deeply missed by those who knew her and loved her.

-Jane Dyer Cook
-Frederick W. Cook
Patrice Denman

May 31, 1925 - January 20, 2016

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

Patrice, a native San Diegan, was married to the late Rev. Dr. Thomas H. Denman in 1979. The couple henceforth made their home in the La Jolla Seville.

Patrice, a talented pianist, gave her first solo public recital at the age of eight, and, when still in her teens, won a four-year Fellowship at the prestigious Juilliard School of Music in New York City, for study with the internationally renowned pianist and teacher Mme. Rosina Lhevinne.

Upon her return to San Diego, Patrice played occasionally in chamber music recitals and taught both privately and at San Diego State University. In association with the La Jolla Chamber Music Society, Dr. and Mrs. Denman presented the first San Diego performance of "Quartet for the End of Time" by Olivier Messiaen, and, on another occasion, "Bachianas Brasileiras No.5" by Heitor Villa-Lobos.

For many years, Patrice rotated on and off the Board of Directors of the San Diego Opera Guild holding various and varied offices. Patrice was a member of the National Society of Magna Charta Dames, her circa 1215 CE English ancestors having been Sir Richard de Clare and Sir Gilbert de Clare; also a lineal descendant of King Robert the Bruce of Scotland, and of the House of Mar in Scotland. She was also a member of The Society of Mayflower Descendants in California, her Mayflower ancestor having been Henry Samson and, thereby, a cousin of former First Lady Barbara Bush and past President George W. Bush.

It was Patrice's wish that no funeral or memorial service be offered at her death.

-On line
Clella Mae Edgar

July 9, 1926 - March 6, 2017


Clella Mae Swinney Edgar was born in China to parents Richard and Irene Swinney who left Missouri to serve as missionaries. Soon after Clella Mae was born, the family was forced to flee China and was relocated to Korea. Clella Mae’s first language was Korean and she lived in Korea with her family until she was fourteen years old.

At a Methodist Church Youth Camp, Clella Mae Swinney met Richard Edgar when he took her hand and escorted her to communion. Richard and Clella Mae were married September 12, 1948, at Trinity Methodist Church in Pomona, and celebrated sixty years of marriage together before Richard’s passing in 2008.

During her life, Clella Mae earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from College of the Pacific in 1947; a California Credential, Children’s Center Permit in 1973; and a Master’s degree in Child Development from Pepperdine University in 1977. In addition to being a pastor’s wife and mother to three children, Clella Mae also served professionally in the social services and child care fields.

Clella Mae was active and supportive in the churches, particularly during her twenty-eight years of living in Leisure World. She then moved to Long Beach and attended Long Beach: Cal Heights United Methodist Church for several years.

Clella Mae loved her family and many others very much. Her life was filled with helping those in need and offering encouragement. She lived life as a model of how to be kind and loving, appreciative of others, nurturing, and a sweet messenger of God’s word. She passed away peacefully with family present.

Clella Mae is survived by her son Kirk Edgar, daughter Paula Edgar, daughter Susan Edgar Natividad, their spouses, and seven loving grandchildren. Clella Mae is also survived by her brother Jim Swinney of Spokane, Washington.

-The Family
Marcella Gouker
March 29, 1934-January 26, 2017

TEASDALE, DONALD PAUL Maine: Supply 58-63; Wisconsin: Supply 65-70; 72 Oregon, Assoc., Wisconsin: 73-75 Plsnt Valley; 76-78 Shullsburge; Pac. & SW 78 Long Beach, Grace (Assoc.) Died Feb. 23, 1979

Marcella M. Gouker, 82, of Baraboo, Wisconsin passed away at Maplewood Village. Marcella, the daughter of Charles Hubb and Etta (Lisk) Rogers, was born in Illinois.

She graduated from the University of Dubuque with a teaching certificate. She was a special education assistant in the Baraboo School District for many years. She also enjoyed her time as a Sunday school teacher at Emmanuel United Methodist Church, was an all-around good cook and lifelong book reader.

Survivors include her children, Carol (Tim) Thomas, David (Carmie) Teasdale and Paul Teasdale; grandchildren Joshua Thomas, Jessica (Sam) Thomas, Aaron Thomas, Tanner Teasdale, Cahrone Teasdale; great grandson, Cayden; brother, Boyd (Deloris) Hubb; sister, Shirley Yenney; as well as other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents and husbands, Rev. Don Teasdale, Ross Miller, and Everett Gouker.

She was a loving and wonderful person and will be greatly missed by all.

-On Line
Nancy Heflin

May 2, 1935 - January 8, 2017

HEFLIN, KENNETH L. (T.55; F.58) S. Iowa; 55 School; Oregon; 57 Veneta: Valley; 61 Anchorage: Missionary to Alaska; 65 Hon: First, Assoc. & Missionary to Hawaii; SCA 67 (Jun 1) Hon: First, Assoc.; 69 Kailua; PSW 77; 79 (Jan) Lancaster; C-P 85; 86 Glendale: First; 93 Redlands: First; 97 R’d (¶355.2c); 97 (Nov 30) (Temple City: First); 98 (Mar) R’d; 99 (Mar) (Lancaster); 99 R’d; 02 (Pasadena: Holliston-75%); 03 R’d; 11 (Jan 1-Jan 31) La Canada, Interim Pastor; 11 (Feb 1) R’d

Devoted wife, mother and grandmother, Nancy was born in Iowa, during the Great Depression. Due to family circumstances, Nancy was placed in foster care. In 1939, Nancy was adopted by Ernest and Maxine Mortensen, a farm couple near Moorhead, Iowa.

Nancy graduated valedictorian and attended what is now University of Northern Iowa. There she met Ken Heflin. They were married on August 14, 1955, and began married life at 17 Yarmouth Street in Boston. Ken was a student at the School of Theology and Nancy taught at Charles River School.

They moved to Oregon, establishing a new Methodist Church. In 1961 they were commissioned missionaries. In Anchorage, she taught Sunday School and directed the children’s choir. During the great Alaska earthquake, she gathered her children “under her wing.” In Hawaii, Nancy taught preschool and, for eight years, was Media Assistant at Castle High School in Kaneohe. She loved hosting church groups in the parsonage. She established a young adult group at Kailua UMC called “Nancy’s Thursday’s Children.”

At Lancaster UMC the Heflins started organizing tour groups, leading over 30 tours. At Glendale: First, Nancy served as UMW Vice-President and President, and made her only pulpit appearance on a UMW Sunday at Redlands: First.

Nancy believed the best about people, and her love knew no bounds. But her greatest joy was being with her family.

On December 29, 2016, tests revealed stage 4 cancer. Because of her deep faith and trust in God’s goodness, Nancy made the decision to request Hospice care. Ten days later she died peacefully at home with family members surrounding her.

Nancy is survived by her husband of 61½ years; one daughter, Elizabeth Snider (Ron); three sons: Travis Heflin (Anne); Mark Heflin (Sherry); and Gregory Heflin; plus seven grandchildren: Sara (Michael), Ryan, Josh, Aaron, James, Kelsey, and Brandt.

-Rev. Ken Heflin and family
Vida (Anderson) McKinley

December 7, 1927 - September 15, 2016

ANDERSEN, WARREN LANE (T.53; F.56) Illinois, 53 Chestnut; 54 School; N.W. Indiana, 56 Stidham; 57 Terre Hacte; Trinity; 60 Dyer; 63 School; Cal.-Nevada, 65 Bakersfield, Trinity Assoc.; 66 Supernumerary; So. Cal.-Ariz., 67 Fullerton, First, Assoc.; 68 R'd (1617.4)

Vida McKinley, 88, (nee Vida Sailor) passed away peacefully in her sleep in Chico, California. Born to Rev. Dwight and Dolly Sailor in McLain, Illinois, she was the fifth of seven children.

Vida was an accomplished musician who won a state competition on her B flat clarinet at a young age. While a student at Kendall College, she worked as an accompanist on the piano and also toured with her college orchestra as concert harpist. It was there that she met and married Warren Andersen, who became a United Methodist pastor.

As a pastor's wife, she was sometimes church organist, sometimes secretary, but always capable in all of her roles. She especially enjoyed her role as dedicated mother of five children: Randy, Cheryl, Beth, Robert and Kristina. In 1968, leukemia took the life of her husband Warren while in Fullerton, California. Still, she courageously continued to raise and guide her children with love, strength, faith, and humor. Also while in Fullerton, she worked for a nonprofit (F.I.S.H.) and accompanied the Alex Sharpe Chorale on piano.

In 1980, Vida married Dr. Victor McKinley, building a new life with him in Chico, California, until his death in 2008. Vida is survived by four of her five children, four step-children, 13 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

-On Line
Camille Oei

July 29, 1944 - May 6, 2017

OEI, SWIE GWAN (T.61; F.64) Nebraska; SCA 72 (Sep 15) LA: First, Director of Service Bureau; 74 Gardena: Christ; PSW 77 LA: St. Luke's; 79 LB: Atlantic Ave.; 81 Carson: Dominguez; 84 Keolumana; C-P 85; 88 Norwalk: Christ; 90 Alhambra: Asbury; 95 Rowland Hts.: Bell Memorial (LFT); 96 R’d (¶452.2b)

Camille was born in Roanoke, Virginia, and grew up there. Her father, Edward Williams was a pastor in Roanoke. The family came to Los Angeles on the invitation of a good friend, Dr. L.L. White, Pastor of Holman Methodist Church. The family was happy in Los Angeles, and they were very active in the church activities.

Following her graduation from Los Angeles High School, Camille continued her college education at California Western University, San Diego. While at Cal Western, she was active at the Wesley Student Center and was also teaching Children's Sunday School at a local church. She was awarded a scholarship by the Western Japanese Women's Group for her active involvement and participation in Christian Education. Family and friends were very happy and proud of her achievement. She met Swie at the church meeting where she was awarded the scholarship. Their friendship and relationship blossomed and enriched until she graduated from Cal Western. They were, then married on July 16, 1966, at Holman Methodist Church by Bishop Gerald Kennedy.

Their dream of going to Indonesia to continue their ministry did not materialize as planned. So, they went to Nebraska where Swie was graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan University. As a grateful gesture and experience of serving local churches, they spent six years in Nebraska until they returned to Southern California.

Camille was determined to pursue her education for her teaching credential at California State University - Dominguez. But, alas, the road of life was long as we traveled through the years in our ministry. Our hearts were broken and our eyes brimmed full of tears. In our weariness, God came down to give us strength and lifted us up in peace and love.

Despite her illness and long suffering, Camille had managed to receive an honorary certificate for her writing of children's stories.

Camille died at the age of 73. She is survived by Swie, husband of nearly 51 years; their children Paul, Sonja and David; five grandchildren, David Jr., Patricia, Davis, Sawyer, Priscilla; and a host of relatives and friends. She is remembered for her quiet mannerism, sweet kindness, intelligence and her beauty.

-Rev. Swie Oei
On the morning of August 8, 2016, Annette Parker passed away peacefully while visiting with her daughter Deb Kramer's family at the Mexico Medical Mission in Chihuahua, Mexico.

Born in Los Angeles, Annette was married 47 years to A. Morgan Parker, Jr., a Navy Chaplain and pastor, who passed away in April 2004. They met as students at UCLA where she studied nursing. Annette was very active in the United Methodist Church and helped to co-found the San Luis Rey Valley United Methodist Church with Morgan. In addition to being an avid reader and kayaker, Annette's joys were singing in choir, fellowship with the United Methodist Women, teaching Sunday school, and helping in any way she could with other church activities. Most recently she was a member for 16 years of Coronado: St. Paul's United Methodist Church.

Annette raised four children while Morgan served multiple tours during the Vietnam conflict. Annette supported her family working as a nurse at Sharp Memorial Hospital (OBGYN), and as a substitute teacher at various high schools near bases where they were stationed over the years. Her love of mathematics and teaching lead her to enroll in numerous colleges across multiple states, culminating in her Masters in Statistics from UC Riverside. Shortly thereafter, while living in Oceanside, she joined the faculties at Palomar College and Cal State San Marcos teaching calculus and statistics. During her retirement, she volunteered at the Monarch School Project in San Diego teaching mathematics to homeless children.

During her last year, Annette will be remembered for being extremely cheerful and positive in the face of her Alzheimer's disease. She enjoyed being surrounded by her dog Pupsadoodle, friends, and family. She is survived by four children, David, Deborah, Philip, and James, thirteen grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

- Philip and David Parker
Jeanne Magee Robb died in Newberg, Oregon. She was the younger sister of Robert and the daughter of Louis and Lillian Magee. Born in Scotts Mills, Oregon she lived in a house her paternal grandparents built in 1897. She grew up in a family whose values were hard work, mutual support, love, and gratitude. Her father installed a soda fountain in the general store he owned and Jeanne and her brother ran it and shared the profit.

In 1944, she was named “Healthiest Girl in Oregon” at the State Fair and excelled in youth leadership at the district level of her church.

In 1947, she married Clark Robb. They shared a love of music and service to others. They composed and performed sacred music. She was a partner in ministry in Grand Rapids, Spokane, Portland, San Francisco, Phoenix, El Cajon, and Anaheim. She communicated her deep love of family through words of affirmation, quality time, acts of service, and generous, warm affection.

Jeanne and Clark modeled a love of music, creativity, leadership, and service to God and others. Jeanne understood the value of community and expanded the circle of family. There was always room for guests. She embodied the saying that a stranger was just a friend she hadn’t yet met.

After 30 years of teaching, mentoring, parenting, leading and inspiring others, Jeanne returned to school to earn an M.Ed. in Counseling and Guidance from the University of Arizona and licensure in California. She completed her professional life in private practice in Salem, Oregon.

She is survived by daughter Rebecca (Robert) and sons Phillip (Pam), Paul (Laura), Peter (Genevieve) and daughter-in-law Maria; and by ten grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Her parents, brother, husband, and son, John, preceded her in death.

-The Family
Gladys Robinson

October 6, 1914 - July 24, 2016

ROBINSON, JOHN D. (T.36; F.38) N. Car.; SCA; 51 (Feb) Warren, Az; Fillmore; 58 Calipatria; 60 Phoenix, Garfield; 67 Anahiem East; 71 South Gate; 73 No. Long Beach; 74 R’d, PSW 77 R’d; C-P 85 R’d

Gladys Luetta Heffner Robinson, age 101, passed away peacefully at her home in Claremont, California. Gladys was born in Maiden, North Carolina, to parents James C. Heffner and Carrie Heffner. She had four brothers and four sisters. Her childhood focused around family and church. She loved music, and at a young age became pianist at the First Methodist Church in Maiden.

Her Christian faith called her to full time Christian service, so she worked and saved to attend Greensboro College and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Education in 1942. Gladys met and married the Reverend John D. Robinson in 1943. Together they served various Methodist and United Methodist churches in North Carolina, Arizona, and California. At John's death; they had been married nearly 48 years.

Gladys was a true partner in ministry. She was a person of many talents. Besides playing the piano, she loved to paint, was active in P.E.O. as well as Church Women United and the United Methodist Women.

Gladys had the heart of a loving servant to all her friends and family.

She is survived by her brother, J.C. Heffner, Jr. of Maiden, North Carolina; daughter Ann C. Bainter (Don) of Cheyenne, Wyoming; and daughter Margaret Joy May (Michael) of Chino, California. She has four grandchildren: Melanie (Jake); Ace (Kristi); David; and Meredith (Alvaro); and two great-grandchildren, Ellie and Madigan.

- Joy May
Dora May Sim
March 24, 1919- June 6, 2016

SIM, LESLIE W. (T.41; F.46) SCA 41 School; 45 Blythe; 46 Anaheim: Wesley; 48 (April) Lone Pine; 50 San Pedro: Grand View; 52 S/L; 53 Field Representative, Alcohol Ed. Ass'n; C-P 83 R'd; 85 (Brea, Assoc.); 90 (Fullerton: Orangethorpe, Assoc.); 91 R'd

Dora May Sim, wife of Pastor Leslie Wyman Sim, passed away peacefully, at the age of 97 in her beloved town of Fullerton, California. Dora May was born in Redlands, California, on March 24, 1919, and grew up, she often joked, as “just a farm girl” surrounded by California navel orange groves in beautiful East Highlands, California. She graduated as a professional librarian from the Carnegie Library Riverside Library Service School. While working at the University of Redlands Library, she met student Leslie Wyman Sim and they were married in 1940 at the Methodist country church where Leslie was the Student Minister in Winchester, California.

After their marriage, Leslie graduated from Seminary at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey, where Dora May worked as a Librarian at the University Library. They returned to California where Leslie and Dora May served the congregations in the cities of Anaheim, Lone Pine/Bishop and San Pedro. After their only child, Maureen, was born they moved to Fullerton, California, where Leslie earned his teaching credential to allow him to work with young people full time as a teacher while also serving as guest pastor at many United Methodist Churches and leading youth groups of Christian organizations.

During their years in Fullerton, they were active members of the Fullerton: First United Methodist Church and, after Leslie’s death in 2006, Dora May continued her involvement with the church’s United Methodist Women assisting members of the church and community.

But it was the children of Fullerton that she loved and dedicated her life to and her passing was a heartfelt loss for the community. She is not only remembered for her abilities and caring ways, but as the author of the history of Fullerton book, Ostrich Eggs for Breakfast, that she wrote for the children of Fullerton and is now a school text book and available worldwide on the Internet.

While not an “official” member of the clergy, Dora May was always truly a living example of the goodness of the Christian faith, and is remembered by family, friends and members of the community as one of kindest and most caring people they were blessed to have known.

Dora May is survived by her daughter, Maureen File and husband Richard of Kingsland, Texas, two grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren.

-Maureen File
Billie Jo Stimmel

December 6, 1945 - December 9, 2016

STIMMEL, J. ROBERT (p.69; f.74) SCA 69 School; 72 Fillmore: Bardsdale; 74 Safford; PSW 77 Highland: First; 78 Palmdale: First; 81 Riverside: Grace; C-P 85 Moreno Valley, Min.; 86 Asst. Conference Treasurer; 90 Pasadena: St. James; 93 Lancaster; 99 (Mar) School; 99 S/L; 2000 Downey; 04 R’d

While serving on the Conference staff, I was worshipping in a church shepherded by a friend. There I met Billie Jo, and almost two years later we exchanged wedding vows in San Gabriel UMC. Billie Jo was life-changing!

Born in Fort Worth, Billie Jo was the second child of Gene and Leta Black. Her name chosen to be suitable, depending on spelling, for either a girl-child or a boy-child.

When I met her, she was the mother of two teenage daughters (Alicia and Kristy) who fit together with my children (Eric and Amy). It was always a team effort integrating the styles and traditions of families with differing backgrounds.

Billie Jo graduated from the University of Utah with a degree in Accounting. She went to work for Price Waterhouse and then took a job with Baskin-Robbins. Soon she became Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer, the position she held when we were married. After changes in the ownership of Baskin-Robbins, Billie Jo would provide financial leadership for other companies and a public accounting firm.

Together, we would serve on the Conference Staff and at St. James in Pasadena, Lancaster, and Downey. She was a constant encouragement (to me and to others). After retiring and moving to Cayucos, Billie Jo purchased a UPS Store franchise. She successfully increased that business until the onset of her first illness. Needing to reduce stress, she sold that business and began working with me in our tax preparation and representation practice, until her third illness forced her to retire completely.

Billie Jo’s life was marked by what she gave us: a gracious invitation to share what is vital; a team spirit of building, doing, and living; a competitive drive to win when it was a game to be won; a hospitality that was welcoming and affirming.

On a certain evening, after celebrating her life, Billie Jo’s family gathered at Cayucos Pier to scatter yellow rose petals in the sea. The winds were fiercely blowing, perhaps strongly enough to take those petals to where Billie Jo is. Likely not; but that wind was able to take our love as far as it needed to go to remember that Billie Jo is still close in our hearts. She loving us more than ever before – and we likewise loving her as much as is humanly possible.

Billie Jo was life-changing! For all that was, and all that still is: Alleluia!

-J. Robert Stimmel
Sione Tu’itupou Tu’ifua

December 13, 1965 - December 11, 2016

TU’IFUA, KALESITA MOANA ‘ULU’AVE (P.02; F.07) C-P 2002 Holtville; 05 Sun Valley & Arleta: Trinity; 09 Granada Hills: Knollwood (50%) & Sun Valley (50%); 13 Granada Hills: Knollwood

Mr. Sione Tu’itupou Tu’ifua was born in the Kingdom of Tonga. Sione was the oldest of eight children. He was the beloved husband to Rev. Dr. Kalesita ‘Ulu’ave Tu’ifua, a loving father to his sons: Metuisela and ‘Ofa-Hikifo’ou, and daughters: Meleakolotu, Mele Halamehi, Kalesita-Tupou, Linita Lupehaamoa and Fangailupe Noelani Tu’ifua. Upon graduating from Brigham Young University, Hawaii, he married Rev. Kalesita in 1999 at their home church of Kahuku UMC.

Sione dedicated his life to support his family and care for their children. This is what let his wife serve in a two point charge for 13 years, raise six children, become ordained and complete her Doctor of Ministry. Sione was also actively participating in leadership roles the churches attended until he was called to eternity. However, Sione fulfilled his dream earning a Master of Science in Criminal Justice in 2014.

Sione is known among his family and friends as a faithful husband, loving father, humble, church leader, loving, and a caring person. He was a hardworking man raising his children in a very disciplined and Christian way to know God and love Jesus, be humble and respect others. Sione lived and modeled his life according to his favorite passage, “Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken” (Psalm 62:1-2).

Sione is survived by his loving wife of almost 18 years, Rev. Dr. Kalesita ‘Ulu’ave Tu’ifua and their seven children. His sacrificial love, hard work and big heart for God and His people will be missed. I can only imagine Sione’s smiling face when Jesus welcomed him into heaven with the words, “Well done, good and faithful servant! Now you may rest in my love.”

-Kalesita ‘Ulu’ave Tu’ifua
Mary Jane Wissmann
November 23, 1927 - November 2, 2016

WISSMANN, H. ELWOOD (T.47; F.51) SCA 47 School; 50 Globe, AZ; 53 (Nov 10) Encinitas; 60 (Oct) Fullerton: Orangethorpe; 67 Ontario: First; 70 Pacific Homes Corp.: Vice President of Public Relations; PSW 77 Artesia-Cerritos; 80 Sierra Madre; C-P 85; 88 R'd

Mary Jane passed away at the age of 88 at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital with family members at her side. Mary Jane was born in Los Angeles and was educated at Occidental College and the University of Southern California where she received a bachelor’s degree and became a licensed physical therapist.

During her college years, she met her future husband, Elwood Wissmann, who was starting his graduate education at Garrett Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. They were married on June 19, 1949 (performed by Mary Jane’s father, a Methodist pastor and member of this Conference) and moved to Evanston. Between 1949 and 1988, with Elwood serving as pastor to several Methodist congregations in Southern California and Arizona, she raised four children, volunteered in countless ways, and worked as a physical therapist in a variety of children’s service agencies. She also had the gift of leadership serving as head of the Women’s Auxiliary for the Claremont School of Theology. In 1988, Mary Jane and Elwood retired, first to Dana Beach, California and eventually to Santa Barbara.

She is survived by her husband of 67 years, Elwood and her four children, David (Jeanne) Wissmann of Lenexa, Kansas; Bob (Karen) Wissmann of Huntington Beach, California; Kathy (John) Hull of Austin, Texas; and Paul (Amy) Wissmann of Thousand Oaks, CA. She is also survived by nine grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and her sister, Betty (Bill) Neitmann of Flagstaff, Arizona. She was preceded in death by her parents, Russell and Dorothy Clay, her brother, Jim Clay and great granddaughter, Brooklyn Hull.

Elwood described Mary Jane as a “loving wife and great mother.”

- Bob Wissmann
Elsie Ellen McLaughlin Witman passed away peacefully in the early hours of July 29, 2016, with family and caregivers nearby. Elsie was born in Santa Monica, raised in San Fernando and Santa Monica, and earned a Bachelor's degree and her teaching credential at UCLA.

In 1953, Elsie married Frank M. Witman, at Santa Monica: First United Methodist Church. He was drafted into the army and stationed at Fort Ord. She soon contracted tuberculosis and endured an experimental lung surgery and months of antibiotics to clear the disease. For the rest of her life she dealt with the lung-imparing after-effects of the disease and treatment.

Her first career was teaching K-3 elementary school at John Muir Elementary in Santa Monica, and as a substitute at many schools in Rialto and Simi Valley. She supported her husband through his studies to become a United Methodist pastor, and enjoyed 40+ years as the pastor's wife, 28 of those in Simi Valley. She carried her educational passion into working with the church, co-editing short papers on world hunger with her husband, and supporting his writing for his educational activities.

She was a proud wife, mother, mother-in-law, aunt, and grandmother, and enjoyed all aspects of each of those roles. She especially enjoyed spending time with her extended family here in Simi Valley, where she's lived since 1969. She was active with PEO and volunteered at Simi Valley Hospital, and enjoyed her service with the United Methodist Women and the church choir.

Elsie's last words were "I'm free now" - prophetic and powerful words of her belief in the life beyond, and in freedom from the constraints of her earthly body. She is survived by sons Mark and Paul, daughters-in-law Luene and Barbara, and grandchildren Lauren and Peter, and by many friends and other family.

-Paul D. Witman