

IN MEMORIAM

CLERGY

<i>Anita Carol Crumpton</i>	<i>May 18, 2008</i>
<i>Walter Ladell Driver</i>	<i>November 18, 2008</i>
<i>Vernon Neely Henderson</i>	<i>March 24, 2009</i>
<i>James Perry Patterson</i>	<i>May 15, 2008</i>
<i>James V. Patterson</i>	<i>October 6, 2008</i>
<i>William Edward Perkins</i>	<i>November 2, 2008</i>
<i>James Edward Price</i>	<i>May 20, 2008</i>
<i>John Allen Rakestraw</i>	<i>August 22, 2008</i>
<i>James Ervin Tidwell</i>	<i>June 28, 2008</i>
<i>Fred Witta, Jr.</i>	<i>September 25, 2008</i>

SPOUSES

<i>Alene Hope Livengood Adcock</i>	<i>April 25, 2009</i>
<i>Tommy Lynn Edwards</i>	<i>March 12, 2009</i>
<i>Helen Joy Davis Egger</i>	<i>August 4, 2008</i>
<i>Annie Lyles</i>	<i>August 30, 2008</i>
<i>Marcella Patterson</i>	<i>July 16, 2008</i>
<i>Ruth Inez Tucker</i>	<i>April 15, 2009</i>
<i>Juana Clifford Turner Williams</i>	<i>April 22, 2009</i>

ANITA CAROL CRUMPTON



Anita Carol Crumpton was born February 3, 1939, in Burkburnett, Texas to Bernice David and Mary Compton Evans. Known to friends and family as Carol, she was called home to be with her Lord on May 18, 2008

She grew up around the Wichita Falls area participating in rodeos and playing basketball in high school. She graduated from Valley View High School near Kamay, Texas. There she met her future husband Larry. They married on October 14, 1956, and shared over 51 joyful years together.

Carol was a loving wife, mother, and beloved grandmother. She had an unshakeable faith in the Lord and a passion to serve others. She was deeply involved in the “Walk to Emmaus” ministry in the United Methodist Church. She served on innumerable walks as a team member, Lay Director, and later as Spiritual Director. She served multiple terms in various roles on the Boards of the Emmaus Community and the National Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors.

Carol frequently said she felt the call to preach at the age of 12. That call was answered in 1989. She was first a Lay Minister and Local Pastor and then graduated from Perkins School of Theology Course of Study in 1996. Carol was ordained as a minister in the United Methodist Church in 1994.

She served churches in Hermleigh, Rule, Sagerton, Munday, and Goree, as well as joint pastorships with her husband Larry in Claude and Amarillo, Texas. She was also a certified counselor. Her most recent call to service was a 2007 mission trip to Nairobi, Kenya, building homes and working with families affected by AIDS. Carol touched many, many lives all over the world.

She is survived by her husband, Larry; three children; Cheryl Brown of Sugar Land, Texas, Evan Crumpton of Odessa, Texas, Glenn Crumpton of San Antonio; 7 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. Three sisters; Judy Crumpton and husband Michael of Iowa Park, Texas, Mary Lou Steed of Weatherford, Texas, and Jo Venable of Jacksboro, Texas; a brother BD Evans of Agnes.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a baby daughter, a brother Walt, sister Jerry, nephew Todd and niece Teresa.

Funeral Services were held at St. Luke’s United Methodist Church. Burial was in the Serenity Memorial Gardens.

Richard W. Edwards

WALTER LADELL DRIVER

Walter Ladell Driver was born October 13, 1915, in Kaufman County and married Betty Blassingame August 30, 1975, in Howard County.

He was the son of the late T.W. and Ella Irene Driver and grew up in the Lakeview-Petersburg area. He finished school at Petersburg and received his college work at McMurry College in Abilene.

Walter became a Methodist minister in his early years and served numerous churches; among those are Stinnett, Longworth and Blair circuit, McCloud, Okla., Rochester, Ackerly, Kress, Knox City, Roscoe, Plains, Earth, Crowell, Pleasant Valley at Amarillo, Draw and O'Donnell. He retired in 1979 from the O'Donnell church, but returned to minister the Ackerly church. He built the parsonage at Knox City and while in Roscoe he built the sanctuary. He did repair and remodeling in other churches.

Walter belonged to the Lions Club, Rotary and the Masonic Lodge.

He loved his Lord, church, family, friends, gardening and teaching Bible studies.

Walter died November 17, 2008 at his residence. Memorial services were held at the First United Methodist Church in Big Spring with the Rev. Jim Wright and the Rev. Augustin Ypina officiating. Additional services were held at the Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church in Amarillo. Interment was at Llano Cemetery in Amarillo.

He is survived by his wife, Betty; two sons, Bobby and Ladell both of Lubbock; three grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; one brother, Warren Driver of Sherman; one sister, Doris Booth of Hobbs, N.M.; and one brother-in-law, Norman "Smokey" Stover of Oklahoma City, Okla.



Agustin Ypina

VERNON NEELY HENDERSON



Vernon Neely Henderson was born September 20, 1902 in Granger, Texas. He was the son of George M. and Dora T. Henderson. George Henderson died in December 1904. In 1905, Dora and Vernon and his sister, Georgia, moved to Crowell, Texas. The family then moved to Chillicothe, Texas, in 1914 and Vernon graduated from high school in 1923. He attended a national meeting of youth in Memphis, Tennessee in 1925. It was during this meeting that Vernon felt the call to ministry.

In April of 1926, given a Local Preacher's License, he entered McMurry College (now University) in Abilene, Texas. He graduated with a B.A. in 1929. After his graduation he enrolled in Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University and graduated with a Bachelor of Divinity.

On September 20, 1931, Vernon married his college sweetheart, Viola Martin of Westover. This began a 75 year love affair that ended with Viola's death in 2003. On November 12, 1931 Vernon was accepted as a clergy member of the Northwest Texas Annual Conference. He was assigned to a three-point circuit. He served 38 years in the active ministry. During this time Vernon served as District Superintendent for eleven years, four years in the conference office in Lubbock as Executive Secretary for Adult Education in Sunday School. Vernon also served as a Navy chaplain from 1943 until the end of the war.

While in the active ministry, Vernon was twice elected as a delegate to Jurisdictional Conference and twice as a delegate to General Conference. He also served as Trustee to McMurry University, Methodist Hospital in Lubbock, Ceta Canyon and Butman Camps. While he was the District Superintendent of the Amarillo District, he gave strong support to Dr. Don Davidson in the founding of the first facilities of Health and Retirement in the annual conference.

Perhaps his life can best be summed up by quoting from the 1929 Totem of McMurry which said: "Scholar — Gentleman — Christian — That is Henderson."

He is survived by his daughter, Mrs. Vernola Loranc; son, Travis Gene Henderson and wife Nell; grandchildren, Vernon E. Bartley, Shirley MacNeill and husband Robert MacNeill Jr., Charles Bartley, Jr. and wife Lisa, Elizabeth Turvin and husband Rick, Kelly Ives and husband Terry; great grandchildren, Charles Alan Hughes and wife Michelle, Heather MacNeill and husband Dominic, Robert McNeill III, Matthew and Kayla Suarez, and Rachel and Kevin Ives; and great, great grandsons, Ashton and Landon Hughes; and a large number of nieces and nephews; and a host of very close friends.

Vernon died on March 21, 2009. He was 106 years of age. There were two memorial services held for Vernon. The first was at St. Paul UMC in Abilene on March 24 with Rev. Greg Kennedy, Rev. Bob Ford and Bishop Dan Solomon as worship leaders. The second was held in First UMC in Lubbock on March 25 with Dr. Weldon McCormick, Dr. Jarrell Sharp and Bishop Dan Solomon as worship leaders. Vernon was buried in Resthaven Cemetery in Lubbock, Texas.

Bob Ford

JAMES PERRY PATTERSON

The Reverend James P. Patterson died May 16, 2008 in Abilene, Texas, and was buried in Knox City Cemetery on May 18, 2008. Reverend Patterson had been ill for the past several months and was residing in the Care Inn of Abilene.

James was born in Haskell County on August 9, 1915 to Gustovas E. Patterson and Opal M. Holt Patterson. On August 26, 1979, James married Charlotte Husband Griffith in Knox City, Texas where James was pastor.

James' first appointment was as a Full Time Lay Pastor to the Benjamin United Methodist Church in 1944. He served as a Full-Time Lay Pastor until he was admitted into Probationary Membership in 1950. In 1953 he was ordained an Elder and admitted into Full Membership in the Northwest Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church. Following his retirement in 1981, because of his love of preaching and caring for the people of Christ's church, he continued to pastor churches in the Abilene District. James served the Weinert United Methodist Church for nineteen years and the Rochester United Methodist Church for fourteen years.

Brother James was known as a pastor, the shepherd of his flock. Visiting the hospitals, care homes and shut-ins endeared him to the people of his congregations. His interest and affection for youth involved him in the Boy Scouts and youth activities in his churches and communities.

James served the Benjamin UMC, 1944-1948; Dumont-Delwin UMC, 1948-1949; Trinity City Ministry of Abilene, 1949-1950; McAdoo UMC, 1950-1953; Meadow UMC, 1953-1956; Silverton UMC, 1956-1959; Cotton Center UMC, 1959-1961; Pioneer Memorial UMC, 1961-1965; Amherst UMC, 1965-1967; Kress UMC, 1967-1972; Roscoe UMC, 1972-1975; Knox City-Benjamin UMC, 1975-1981.

James is survived by his wife Charlotte and two step-daughters, Virginia Anne McNelly and Julia Estelle Griffith who gave the eulogy for her step-dad.

The Reverends Tim Trimble, pastor of Knox City United Methodist Church, and Jarrell H. Sharp, retired pastor of Denton, Texas, officiated. The service of celebration of the life of the Reverend James P. Patterson was held at Knox City United Methodist Church.

Jarrell Sharp

JAMES V. PATTERSON

Reverend James V. Patterson was born on January 17, 1917 in Mexia, Texas, to the late John Perry and Lela Isabel (Riddle) Patterson. He was a life long minister of the First United Methodist Church and the Northwest Texas Conference. He was the Camp Manager of Ceta Canyon from 1972 to 1982.

J.V. was always involved in his community. He was an active member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church; volunteered for ten years at CISC, participated in the Lion's Club, Masonic Lodge, and Senior Citizens Center where he enjoyed singing and playing the mandolin. J.V. loved people and gave his life to service.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife of 51 years, Vada Melissa (Taylor) Patterson; seven brothers and sisters; and great-grandson, Matthew Hailey.

Mr. Patterson is survived by his wife of 11 years, Dorothy Freeman Patterson of Lufkin; two daughters, Melissa Abeldt and husband Buford of Lufkin, and Gloria Caton and husband Lynn of Boerne; two stepdaughters, Darla Hood and husband Richard of Lufkin, and Dana Freeze and husband David of Houston; stepson, Duane Freeman and wife Sherri of Lufkin; 12 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends.

James passed away Monday, October 6, 2008. Funeral services were held at Avoca United Methodist Church in Avoca with Rev. Dennis Huffaker officiating. Interment followed in Spring Creek Cemetery. A memorial service was held at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Lufkin with Revs. Dan Norman and Robert Faulk officiating.



WILLIAM EDWARD PERKINS



Rev. William Edward “Bill” Perkins was born on May 20, 1930, in Des Moines, Iowa, to Erlon Cleve Perkins, and Edna Brammer Perkins. He attended school in Des Moines and received his GED while serving in the military.

In 1948 he enlisted in the US Navy. During this time he met and married Amie Davis on July 31, 1954 in Port Deposit, Maryland. After ten years in the Navy he re-enlisted in the US Air Force in 1958 where he remained for an additional ten years and retired as a Staff Sergeant.

Following his military career Bill entered the ministry as well as attending and graduating in 1971 from McMurry College in Abilene, Texas. In 1973 he graduated from the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, and continued his ministry until his retirement in 1995. Bill served many Methodist churches in the north and western parts of Texas, including Fargo, Wildcat, Blackwell, Jayton, Vernon, Baird, Abilene, Knox City, Seagraves, Sweetwater and Tye. Following his retirement, he and Amie moved to Clyde where they were members of the First United Methodist Church of Clyde. Bill was a Mason and a member of the Baird Masonic Lodge #522 where he had been honored with his 50 year pin in 2006.

Survivors include his wife of fifty-four years, Amie Perkins of Clyde, TX; 3 daughters, Lucile Taylor of Blackwell, TX, Billie Perkins of Clyde, TX; and Nita Hale and husband Bobby of Santa Anna, TX; one son, Marion Perkins and wife Candy of Clyde, TX., 8 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren.

Preceding him in death were his parents; 3 brothers, Marion Perkins, Jean Perkins, and Bud Perkins; his daughter Jean Charlene Perkins; and a great-grandson, James York, Jr.

Bill passed away November 2, 2008, in an Abilene hospital. Services were at the First United Methodist Church of Clyde, Texas, with Rev. Charles Casey officiating. Interment was in Elmwood Memorial Park in Abilene, Texas.

JAMES EDWARD PRICE

James Price, ordained in the Northwest Texas Annual Conference in 1951, was a quiet man whose sense of humor lay just below the surface of his determined integrity and commitment to his calling. Born 2 September 1921 near Frost, Texas, the family moved to Tahoka in 1924 where James completed high school. He completed three years at Texas Tech before joining the Army Air Corps to do his duty during WWII.

After the war, he completed a degree in Agriculture at Texas Tech College in January 1947, provided counsel on farming issues, especially for young farmers, and taught agriculture at Ropesville High School for one year.

He married Willa Mae Stacy on December 19, 1946. Together they went to Perkins School of Theology at SMU, where James graduated in 1951 to serve churches in the Northwest Texas Annual Conference until his retirement in 1986.

Always the servant, James directed and worked as counselor at Ceta Canyon and Camp Butman camps for children and youth. His steady composure and dependable work made him an ideal leader trusted by colleagues and appreciated by children and youth who found him approachable and ready to attend to the needs and the awakenings so often a part of camp life. The laity he served in the local churches felt secure in his solid leadership. The churches made good use of his openness and his attendance to detail.

Clergy colleagues admired James’ ready wit—always couched in quiet, shy, ways—and his studies. Once seated alone in his study to await the worship hour, I looked through his twelve volumes of the Interpreter’s Bible to discover he had read and underlined the entire set.

True to the Methodist tradition that does not consider a calling ended by retirement, he and Willa Mae served as needed at First United Methodist Church in Lubbock – and they were often needed in the educational ministry of the Church. They also made their home a place of beauty and service – flowers and vegetables. They grew the finest zucchini squash available anywhere, and, as expected, shared with neighbors and friends.

Their sharing included rich news about their children—Susan and David Halla of Alexandria, Virginia; Keith and Nancy and their children Robert and Kathryn of Los Angeles, California – news soaked in unobtrusive pride in children and grandchildren who contribute to the common good of the communities in which they live: a proper and fitting memorial to James and Willa Mae.

The Service of Death and Resurrection was celebrated at First United Methodist Church with Keith Wiseman and Ted Dotts presiding. James was buried at Resthaven Memorial Park in Lubbock, Texas.



Ted Dotts

JOHN ALLEN RAKESTRAW



John Allen Rakestraw was born in Houston on July 28, 1926 to Robert W Rakestraw and Lois (Frost) Rakestraw.

John's ministry began in 1947 in the Texas Conference where he was pastor of the Methodist Church in Arcadia while he attended the University of Houston. In 1949 he enrolled in Texas Tech and began serving the Plainview Circuit. Following graduation from Texas Tech John studied at Perkins School of Theology, serving several churches in the North Texas Conference while in seminary. After graduating from Perkins, he continued membership in Northwest Texas Conference and was pastor at Turkey, Plainview Trinity, Spur, Borger Wesley, and Amarillo Pleasant Valley.

In 1965 John volunteered to return to military service as an Army Chaplain. His children recall a family meeting around the kitchen table in which he told them he felt called to enter the service, even though this virtually guaranteed at least one tour in Viet Nam. He served at Ft Bliss, Texas, two tours in Viet Nam, and three years at Mark Twain Village Chapel in Heidelberg, Germany.

During three years on faculty at the U.S. Army Chaplains School in New York he received the Doctor of Ministry Degree. After three years in Panama, John was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas until he retired as a highly decorated Colonel after 20 years of service.

Following his retirement in 1984 John continued ministry as Interim Pastor of thirteen churches including five summers and one full year in Idaho. As a minister, in settings ranging from West Texas towns to small Vietnamese villages, he was driven not only to serve, but also to challenge those around him to find their own ways to work to make the world a better place.

After 60 years of ministry John Rakestraw passed from this life at his home in Temple, Texas on August 22, 2008. His wife, Johnnie Margaret, preceded him in death in 2001. He is survived by his second wife, Linda Rogers Rakestraw, and three children, Jo Anna Smith of Sumner, Washington, John Rakestraw of Arlington, Virginia, and Charles Rakestraw of Longview, Washington. Five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren also survive.

John was buried in a Military Cemetery at Fort Sam Houston, in San Antonio, Texas.

John Rakestraw and Linda Rakestraw

JAMES ERVIN TIDWELL

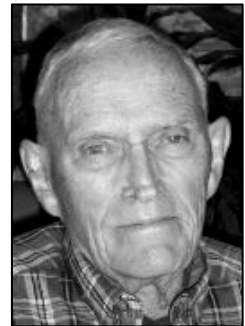
The Rev. James E. "Jimmy" Tidwell was born January 28, 1918 to Jackson Thomas Tidwell and Madeline Maloney Tidwell McBride. In 1946, he married Cornelia "Connie" Farren Tidwell. In 1994, he married Jimmie Jean Baldwin Ryan in Lampasas.

For thirty years, from 1946 to 1976, he served God through his appointments within the Northwest Texas Conference of The United Method Church in Channing, Friona, Paducah, Brownfield, Andrews, Snyder, Perryton and Floydada.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Cornelia, in 1993; and his twin brother, Jack M. Tidwell.

Jimmy died June 28, 2008. Survivors include his wife, Jimmie; four children, Paul Tidwell and wife Phyllis of Dallas, Jaclyn "Jackie" Pearson and husband Bob of Spearman, Marilyn Calliham and husband Sam of Bastrop and Sarah Susan Supulski Wocieszyn and husband John of Smithville; six stepchildren, Julie Ryan of Grapevine, Stuart Ryan and John Ryan and wife Tami, all of Austin, Suzanne Ryan McCotter and husband Larry of Montgomery, Claudia Ryan Wills and husband Butch of Mt. Pleasant and James Ryan and wife Tiffany of Arlington; a sister, Mary Frances Mims McCubbin and husband retired Adm. John McCubbin of Steilacoom; 25 grandchildren, which include Ginger Pearson Nelson of Amarillo and Laura Pearson Whitson and Carrie Pearson Clark, both of Houston; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were held at First United Methodist Church of Lampasas. Graveside services were held at the Ochiltree Cemetery near Perryton.



REVEREND/LIEUTENANT COLONEL (USAR - RET.) FRED WITTA, JR.



Fred Witta, Jr. was born May 2, 1915 to Fred Witta, Sr. and Anna (Dollie) Witta in Wharton, TX. His parents operated a laundry business and later worked for the Ft. Bliss Laundry during WWI. After the war his family moved to San Antonio where his mother ran a grocery store and Fred graduated from Brackenridge High School in 1932. From 1932 to 1938 he attended a diesel mechanics school in California, then taught diesel mechanics in several Texas locations and also worked as a salesman for a beauty supply company.

The military was his pride and joy as he joined the Texas National Guard in 1931 at the age of 16, studied to become an officer and rose to the rank of SFC. In 1938 he was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in the U.S. Army Reserves and was activated into the Military Service in 1939 with the 36th Military Police Company at Camp Brownwood, TX. He married Mary-Belle Seibel on January 1, 1939 and became an instant father for her son, Ronald J. Roddan.

With the United States entry into World War II, Fred's unit was sent to the West Coast (Seattle and Portland) area to guard the coast line for fear of further invasion from Japan. From there his unit went to Australia to begin the recapture of islands from the Japanese where Fred was awarded The Bronze Star for his military actions. After WWII, Fred and his family moved to California where he worked for the Amador County Chamber of Commerce in Jackson. In 1949, he planned and coordinated the successful county-wide centennial celebration of the 1849 gold rush in Sutter Creek, CA.

When the United States entered into the Korean Conflict in 1950, Fred re-entered military service and continued his military career as a Military Police officer—serving in Korea and Japan and then with the U.S. Army Disciplinary Barracks and the Military Police Officer's School at Ft. Gordon, GA. He later served as Provost Marshall in Hanau, Germany and as a staff operations officer with the 4th Army Headquarters Command at Ft. Sam Houston, TX where he retired from active service in February, 1965.

Upon Fred's return from Japan in 1956, he made the decision that his family would become active in the Methodist Church in Aiken, SC. Shortly thereafter, they moved back to Augusta, GA (Ft. Gordon) and became active in Mann Memorial Methodist Church – a church that had a big impact on the family's life. Fred began teaching the Adult Bible class and continued to have a part in the Protestant Chapel programs throughout his military career. Returning to San Antonio in 1962, the family joined St. Mark's United Methodist Church where Fred received much encouragement from Rev. Merle Waters to continue his studies toward becoming a Deacon. In 1965-66, Fred received his Local Preacher's License and served as pastor for the Sutherland Springs United Methodist Church in LaVernia, TX.

He took time off to travel around the United States to see the beautiful countryside while staying in State Parks and getting in as much fishing as time would permit. In 1969, he became an associate pastor for St. Paul United Methodist Church in Bryan, TX and in 1971 Fred became pastor of the Valley Spring United Methodist Church in Jasper, AR. In 1973, Fred served as an associate pastor in Eureka Springs, AR.

After he and his wife, Mary-Belle, divorced in 1973, Fred received an assignment with the Northwest Texas Conference serving Kentwood UMC ('73-'74) and the Garden City UMC ('73 - '76). He recommended the Kentwood church be closed and the facility be turned over to the City of Big Spring for a senior citizen center, which became a very popular meeting place for the senior citizens of the community. While serving in this area, he married Adeline and she became a great supporter of Fred and his ministry. In 1976, they went to the First United Methodist Church of Loraine, TX and had a great ministry in the community. While here, Fred was instrumental in getting federal funds to build a Senior Citizen Community Center that served many local organizations. It was packed by church and community members for their retirement reception in 1980. After retirement, Fred and Adeline settled in Benton Harbor, MI and enjoyed many years of traveling and fishing. They also became "snowbirds" for several years with a winter home in Alamo, Texas where Fred served as the park chaplain until age kept them from traveling any longer.

Preceding LTC Witta in death were his parents and his first wife, Mary-Belle. He is survived by his wife, Adeline; his brother, Louis Witta; sister, Katherine Hamilton; his sons, CWO4 (USN-Ret.) Ronald J. Roddan and wife Joan, MAJ (USAR-Ret.) Fred L. Witta and wife Pat, and George T. Witta and wife Lea; his daughter, Mary Katherine (Mary K) Nelson-Funari and husband Bobby; his step-sons, Gerald George Stokes and wife Insee and Steve Stokes and wife Connie; and numerous grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

LTC Witta died September 25, 2008. His memorial graveside service was held at the Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery on December 11, 2008 with full military honors. Chaplain (LTC-USA-Ret.) Douglas Pond officiated. His gravestone reads: "He served God and Country."

Fred L. Witta

A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO ALENE HOPE LIVENGOOD ADCOCK

How Does God Spell Hope?

In the Old Testament God spells hope E X O D U S. God's chosen people are enslaved to Pharaoh in Egypt with no hopes, no dreams, and no leadership. Into this gloomy picture of hopelessness God and Moses led His people to the Promised Land - flowing with milk and honey.

In the New Testament God spells hope E A S T E R. Jesus' life was under threat the day he was born. God's people were enslaved in a dark, hopeless world of Roman leaders, laws, and taxes. Jesus, their expected Savior, was crucified, dead, and buried at age thirty-three. Into this dark hopeless world God told them they had been "born again to a brand new Hope - through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

Ninety-one years ago God spelled hope H O P E L I V E N G O O D - a name filled with hope. Born the youngest of five children on April 16, 1918, in Haskell-Paint Creek. On June 27, 1936 Hope married a fellow Paint Creek student - Grady Adcock. After attending McMurry College, Hope and Grady would serve various Methodist appointments including two years with the Board of Pensions. Sixty-five years of a loving and caring marriage gave birth to two daughters: Linda Andersen of Lubbock and Judy Grimmet of Snyder and one son: Stan Adcock of Lubbock; five grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. Hope was a sweet, amazing, generous "Mom" who loved her family, loved the special education students she taught, loved her church, her Lord, and her Bible that she had read through many times.



Hope was a beautiful, gracious Southern Lady. Being a great cook her pecan pies were to die for. She had the problem solving skills of Miriam (who advanced the cause of Christ), the wisdom of Deborah (one of the Judges), and the compassion of Mary. It was her nature to nurture.

As a person, as a pastor's wife, as a grand mom and a great grand-mom, as a teacher, as a Christian she accomplished many things and influenced many people with her loving, gentle demeanor and serene spirit. She did indeed light up lives with the light of Christ through her faith, hope, and love of the gospel.

After Grady's retirement Grady and Hope became faithful members of First United Methodist Church, Lubbock and the Friendship Sunday School Class. She was active in UMW and the Friendly Reviewers Study Club. She was active in the class game day two times a month, usually meeting in Hope's home. Her dear friend Charlene usually sat on the pew in the basement with her waiting for their families. She loved to quilt and belonged to a quilting club. She was a past member of the Eastern Star and Retired Teachers Association.

After being a compassionate care-giver for Grady for years, she fought her own battle with bone cancer to the End. She fought a good fight, finished the course, and kept the faith!

How does God spell hope in you?

Hope died on April 25, 2009. Her memorial service was conducted by Dr. Keith Wiseman and Dr. Jay Horton in First United Methodist Church, Bowman Chapel, Lubbock, Texas. She is buried in Resthaven Memorial Park in Lubbock.

Keith Wiseman

TOMMY LYNN EDWARDS



On June 1949 the world was changed when RA “Eddie” and Wiletta Posey Edwards of Silverton Texas were blessed with a son that was given the name of Tommy Lynn Edwards. He graduated from Silverton High School and attended South Plains College. There he met the love of his life and on August 31, 1968 Tommy gave Janet Bishop his last name in Holy Matrimony.

Tommy and Janet moved to Friona where he farmed and ranched until he made the decision to go into the insurance business. This turned out to be a good decision for the Edwards family. In his insurance business Tommy received his LUTCF certification the highest level he, a life insurance salesman, could attain. Through his big smile, a gift of gab, and integrity his business did well which qualified him for many Allstar and Round Table trips through his life sales. Tommy lived in Dalhart for many years. While there he and Janet became very active in Central United Methodist Church where Janet was in charge of the youth program and Tommy taught senior high Sunday school for 10 years and helped with the youth group for 16 years. He also served as an XIT director. While living in Dalhart, Tommy was diagnosed with a brain tumor and became unable to work the schedule he was accustomed to. It was at that time that God called Janet into the ministry and Tommy Edward stood proud beside her and supported her in their ministry.

As Janet progressed in the process of her call, the time came for Tommy and Janet to make a move to Claude, Texas where they received the appointment at the First United Methodist Church. Ironically enough, it was in this town that while visiting, Tommy had his first signs of the brain cancer that would take his life on March 12, 2009.

Tommy was a member of First United Methodist Church in Claude, where he sang in the choir and was active in all areas of ministry. Tommy also was a member of the Claude Masonic Lodge No. 719 AF&AM. He had a great love for cutting horses and lived the cowboy life. His deep faith in God helped him through his long battle with cancer. Through all of his struggles with his health it was only at the end of his journey in life that he missed attending Worship Service on Sunday Morning.

Tommy used his struggle with cancer to help many people and through his experimental treatments, his prayer was that new treatments could be found. Upon his death his cancerous brain was donated upon Tommy’s request to further the research on brain cancer. Tommy loved life and never met a stranger, and often looked out of place at the pastor spouse events. Yet he never stopped smiling and faithfully supported his wife and pastor through their ministry and marriage. Tommy was a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ and he will be greatly missed.

The celebration of life worship service was held March 15, 2009 in Claude Texas at the First United Methodist Church with Reverend Mindy McLanahan and Reverend Tom Stribling officiating. The service was a festival of fiddle and guitar music and testimonies of Tommy Lynn Edwards’ life and a display of God’s grace. Burial was in the Claude Community Cemetery.

Tom Stribling

HELEN JOY DAVIS EGGER

Helen was born on November 11, 1919 one year after the signing of the armistice that ended WWI. She was born in Okmulgee, OK and her parents were Elmer and Olive Davis. Helen died on Monday, August 4, 2008 at 88 years of age.

Helen met Darris Egger at a Methodist Epworth League youth assembly at Mt. Sequoyah, AR. They fell in love and were engaged May 28, 1942 and were married on October 25, 1942 at Okmulgee, OK.

Helen and Darris served many churches and positions in the Northwest Annual Conference, including being District Superintendent of the Abilene District two times. His first appointment was Wylie and his last being Sweetwater, having served that church two times, and Helen served faithfully with him in all the appointments.



Two sons were born to the Eggers, Darris, Jr. and Charles. Darris and Charles preceded her in death as well as two brothers, Charles and Mace. She is survived by one son, Darris, Jr and his wife Cheryl of Huntington Beach, CA; daughter-in-law Melody Egger of Abilene, Texas; one granddaughter, Amy Yoder and her husband Mike of Navarre, Florida; three step grandchildren, Russell Buccola and wife Lori, Kevin Buccola, Ryan Buccola and wife Andrea; two great grandsons, Brenden and Derick Yoder; one great granddaughter Paige Buccola; and one sister, Mary Geer of Grand Junction, Co.

After Helen had raised her family and when Darris was on his second stint with the Abilene District, she went back to college and in 1973 she graduated from McMurry University with a Bachelor's degree. Then she attended Hardin Simmons and graduated at sixty years of age.

In retirement Helen was active in reestablishing the library at St. Paul UMC as well as establishing a branch library at Sears Methodist Center in Abilene. Subsequently both have been named after her The Helen Egger Library.

Helen had a wry and subtle sense of humor which constantly surprised and delighted her family and friends. She loved her family and friends. She, as Darris, Jr. said one time was, ". . . full of unconditional love," especially to him who needed a lot of it. We can all say that we, too, have been recipients of that unconditional love.

The memorial service for Helen was held at St. Paul UMC in Abilene, TX on August 7, 2008 and the burial was at Elliott-Hamil Garden of Memories in Abilene, TX. The service was conducted by Rev. Greg Kennedy, Dr. Robert Monk, and Rev. Bob Ford.

Bob Ford

ANNIE RUTH KEITH LYLES

Annie Lyles was born January 1, 1922. She married Cloy H. Lyles on November 20, 1940. She served faithfully at his side from 1944 until 1958. Rev. Lyles died in 1983.

Annie died August 30, 2008. Graveside services were held in Abilene.

CAROLINE MARCELLA PATTERSON

The daughter of Cynthia (Yancy) and Jarrett Scott Pinckley, Marcella, was born on September 23, 1913 in Denton County, Texas. She graduated from McMurry University, and on May 27, 1934 in Spur, Texas, married Roy Patterson, a Methodist minister in the Northwest Texas Conference for over 38 years. She was a retired school teacher, having taught in various schools where her husband served. Since 1991, she had been a resident of Abilene, where she was a member of Elmwood West United Methodist Church.

Marcella was preceded in death by her husband, Roy Patterson, in 1988; granddaughter, Sarah Hawkins; and grandson, Foster Patterson; parents; brother, Jarrett Pinckley, Jr.; and four sisters, Fay Reeve, Ruth Pinckley, Marie Castle, and Pauline Collins.

Marcella died, July 16, 2008 in Abilene, Texas. The funeral service was held at Elmwood West United Methodist Church in Abilene. A graveside service was held at Resthaven Memorial Park in Lubbock, Texas.

Survivors include sons, Charles Patterson and Tony Patterson and wife, Seneca, all of Abilene; daughters, Tonya Cambridge of Billings, Montana, Teila Aubuchon of Abilene, and Teresa Patterson and Wayne Sweeney of Matador; sister, Sue Morgan of Perryton; eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

RUTH INEZ TUCKER



Ruth Inez Tucker was born on September 14, 1919 to Harrison and Myrtle Cline of Lorena, Texas. After spending the first years of her life in Waco, Texas, she met and married Luther Weldon Tucker in 1938.

They celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary on January 29th of 2009. Together, they spent 40 years in ministry with The United Methodist Church.

Inez was preceded in death by her parents and by an infant daughter, Ruth Ellen Tucker, and five brothers.

She passed away April 15, 2009 in Abilene. Her funeral service was held at the Southwest Drive United Methodist Church with burial following in Elmwood Memorial

Park.

She is survived by her husband. She has two sons, Wayne and his wife Hazel of Keller, Texas and Wendell and his wife Sarah of Quanah, Texas; one daughter, Carol Burson and her husband Marc of Tuscola, Texas. There are twelve grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren who were the delights of her life.

Inez was a member of the Southwest Drive United Methodist Church. She was an active member of the United Methodist Women's Organization. Her vocation in life was minister's wife and homemaker. She spent a lifetime loving and serving her Lord, her church and her family.

Billy Libby

JUANA CLIFFORD TURNER WILLIAMS

Born Sept. 20, 1918, to Earl Turner and Emma Bramlett Turner, Juana Clifford Turner was raised and attended school in Roaring Springs. Due to the distance of her family farm from town, she spent her high school years as a boarder in the home of her high school principal, Ms. Medlin. It was during this time she met the man who would be the love of her life for the next 70 years. She and Johnnie Williams were married on Dec. 30, 1934, in Roaring Springs.

They were involved in farming for 20 years until Johnnie answered the call of the Lord. Johnnie earned his Bachelor's Degree with the help of Juana writing his papers. Her family always teased her that she really should have received the diploma.

Their ministry was a true partnership as each church had a bonus preacher because she always stepped in to fill his pulpit when he had to be absent. A District and Conference officer for the United Methodist Women was a role she filled for many years. She taught various Sunday school classes throughout her life as a dedicated Christian. Her church membership was St. Luke's United Methodist Church and the Homebuilders Sunday School Class.

One of her many talents, which she lavished upon her family and a few lucky friends, was her gift of quilting as evidenced by the beautiful cross quilt which adorned her casket.

Juana went home to meet her Heavenly Father on April 22, 2009. A graveside service was held at Resthaven Memorial Park in Lubbock with a memorial service following at St. Luke's United Methodist Church. Larry Mitchell, cousin of Juana, officiated.

She was preceded in death by a son, Artie Earl; her husband, Rev. Johnnie Williams; and a grandson, Kregg Wellman. She is survived by her two daughters and their husbands, Glenda and Jim Briggs of San Antonio, and Marlene and Harvey Wellman of Lubbock; a grandson and his wife, Johnnie Brent and Bobbi Briggs of Puerto Rico; two granddaughters, Jana Stowe of Austin, and Karen Rothwell and husband Stephen of Childress; three great-granddaughters, Maggie Stowe of Conway, Ark., Donnie Stowe of Austin, and Callie Wynn of Lubbock; two great-grandsons, Colton Wynn of Childress, and David Briggs and wife Chrissy of San Antonio; and one great-great-grandson, Jayden Heiss of Austin

