

IN MEMORIAM

CLERGY

<i>Thomas "Tommie Troy Beck</i>	<i>March 29, 2016</i>
<i>Russell "Russ" Clinton Byard</i>	<i>October 24, 2015</i>
<i>William "Bill" Robert Fleming</i>	<i>April 24, 2016</i>
<i>James B. "J. B." Fowler</i>	<i>November 3, 2015</i>
<i>Robert "Bob" Plais Green</i>	<i>January 23, 2016</i>
<i>James "Jim" Alexander Hawthorne</i>	<i>August 6, 2015</i>
<i>Douglas "Doug" Ray Kirk</i>	<i>April 30, 2016</i>
<i>Gene Boyd Louder</i>	<i>March 29, 2016</i>
<i>Charles David Whittle</i>	<i>November 11, 2015</i>

SPOUSES

<i>Ella Mae Baker</i>	<i>September 30, 2015</i>
<i>Diane Alicia Burton</i>	<i>June 30, 2015</i>
<i>Emma Jeanne Crowder Butler</i>	<i>September 21, 2015</i>
<i>Margilee Cooley</i>	<i>January 15, 2016</i>
<i>Betty Garrett</i>	<i>February 16, 2016</i>
<i>Alexia "Lexie" Jo Keith</i>	<i>July 29, 2015</i>
<i>Peggy Whitson Lindley</i>	<i>May 6, 2015</i>
<i>Darryl James Nelson</i>	<i>March 20, 2016</i>
<i>Sarah Thompson Hardt Queen</i>	<i>April 14, 2015</i>
<i>Wynona Kathleen "Boots" Watson</i>	<i>May 14, 2015</i>
<i>Beuna V. Wolfe</i>	<i>November 6, 2015</i>
<i>Wilma L. Wyatt</i>	<i>April 11, 2016</i>

THOMAS “TOMMIE” TROY BECK



Tommie Troy Beck was born on February 24, 1930, in Vernon, Texas to Ira Dolphes Beck and Cora Lee Mayo Beck. Tommie and his twin brother Lonnie were the 10th and 11th children born to this union.

Tommie attended schools in Vernon and Childress, Texas as a child and attended Clarendon Jr. College and finished his degree at McMurry University in Abilene, Texas. Tommie was licensed to preach at the age of nineteen and he served part-time churches and filled in for preacher’s on Sundays while supporting his family as a brick mason. He was appointed his first full time church in 1953 and he served churches throughout the Northwest Texas Annual Conference for forty-six years before retiring in June of 1998.

He moved to Kingsland in the Hill Country of Texas at that time and as he always said, he flunked retirement and was so bored after several months that he took up substitute teaching in Marble Falls ISD. After a year and half of teaching, the Kingsland Community Church gave him new life as he was hired as their preacher and he served ten more years before retiring for a second time. He served a total of sixty years in the pulpit ministry with fifty-six of those years in the pastoral ministry. After his retirement from the Kingsland Community Church he was honored to be named their “Pastor Emeritus.”

Tommie married Colleen Wrinkle in 1947 in Tell, Texas and to this marriage two beautiful children were born: Debra Jean and Mark Wesley. The family spent many wonderful years serving churches until Colleen passed away in 1990. Mark passed away in 1991.

Tommie married Susan Beck in 1991 and they also spent many wonderful years together serving the church in Lockney, Texas and the Kingsland Community Church. After he retired for the second time, he spent time with Susan enjoying their home on Lake LBJ. He was often told that he needed a hobby to help him pass the time and he always told them that his hobby had always been people. Tommie was a member of many civic organizations and clubs but he treasured his membership in the Masonic Lodge of Texas, which he joined in 1956.

Tommie passed away in Kingsland, Texas, on March 29, 2016, at eighty-six years of age. He is preceded in death by his first wife, Colleen and his beloved son, Mark, his parents and all his brothers and sisters and their spouses. He is survived by his wife Susan of Kingsland; his precious daughter, Debra Hobbs and husband Lonnie of Tomball, Texas; one granddaughter, Allison Pettiet and husband Devin of Tomball, Texas; one grandson Tommie Hobbs and wife Ari of Austin, Texas; and four great-grandchildren: Isabella, Easton and Cullen Pettiet of Tomball and Lily Hobbs of Austin, Texas.

He is also survived by his extended family: sons - Jeff and Kortney Thompson of Plantersville, Texas and Lance and Tracey Hall of Navasota, Texas; one daughter, Angela and Rick Lucas of Llano, Texas and grandchildren: Allen, Lexi, Chloe and Hailey Lucas of Llano and Zane and Cailen Thompson of Plantersville, Texas. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews, and a host of other relatives and dear friends.

A memorial service was held Saturday, April 2, 2016 at the Kingsland Community Church. Tommie was cremated and the ashes will be buried at a later date.

Susan Beck

RUSSELL “RUSS” CLINTON BYARD

Russell was born on May 25, 1942, to George and Bessie (Case) Byard in Claude, Texas and graduated from Claude High School. He received his bachelor's degree from McMurray University and his Master's in Theology from SMU Perkins School of Theology.

On February 15, 1963, he married Patricia Ann Branum in Panhandle, Texas.

Russ served as a Methodist pastor in the North and Northwest Texas Conferences. Russ acquired numerous crosses over the years, many that he had made and many that were gifts. He had a new cross necklace to wear every Sunday.

Russ attended Wolfforth United Methodist Church, the Second Milers Group, the Llano Estacado Emmaus Community, the Lion's Club, and the Minor Chords Barbershop Quartet.

He loved to sing and enjoyed spending time with family and friends, and playing dominos was a favorite pastime. Russ spent many hours working on his family genealogy. He enjoyed woodworking and making treasures for his family. He is known for his pearl snap shirts, bolo ties, and Methodist jokes!

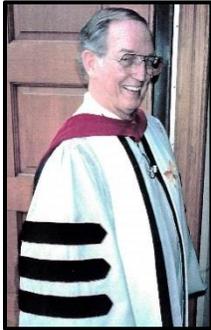
Russ passed away Saturday, October 24, 2015. A Celebration Service of his life of seventy-three years was held Friday, October 30, 2015, at Wolfforth United Methodist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and two brothers, Royse and Ray Byard. Russ is survived by his loving wife of fifty-two years, Pat; two daughters, Rhonda (Gene) Smith of Spearman, and Katherine (Kenton) Aiken of Battleground, Washington; five grandchildren, Jennifer (Jace) Cline, Brandon Vincent, Koree Smith, Jake Boggs, and Savannah Aiken; a brother, Ronald (Zonell) Byard of Princeton, Texas; and a sister, Janie (Lawrence) Jaramillo of Washburn, Texas.



Family

WILLIAM “BILL” ROBERT FLEMING



Bill was born September 23, 1926, in Dallas, Texas, to J. Neil and Clara Rose (Wilson) Fleming. He graduated from Lubbock High School in 1943; in 1946 he graduated from Texas Tech University with his Bachelor Degree. In the early 50's he received his Master of Theology from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He received an Honorary Doctor of Divinity at McMurry University in Abilene.

He married Idalou Owens on July 1, 1947 in Ft. Worth.

Dr. Fleming preached his first sermon at the age of fourteen at St. John's Methodist Church in Lubbock. He continued in the ministry of the Southwest Texas and Northwest Texas conferences of The United Methodist Church. He was in the ministry for sixty-one years serving twenty-one appointments, two terms in the Lubbock District of The Methodist Church, and two churches following his retirement.

Bill served on the board of Covenant Hospital in Lubbock, Texas; Board of Directors of McMurry University; the Methodist Children's Home board; and numerous other boards. His first retirement was in 1990 and the second time in 2005 at age eighty. He was a Thirty-Second Degree Mason.

Dr. William Robert Fleming of Lubbock passed away in the loving arms of his Lord and was surrounded by his loving family on Sunday, April 24, 2016, at the age of eighty-nine. He always said I am a Methodist born, Methodist bred, and when I die I'll be a Methodist dead.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife, Idalou; three daughters, Linda Haenisch and husband, Barry of Round Rock, Deborah Wells of Carrollton, and Terri Louder and husband, Lance of Dimmitt; six grandchildren; and ten great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Betty Lou Fife; niece, Hope Lynn Fife; and his favorite dog, Skeeter.

Services were held Wednesday, April 27, 2016 at First United Methodist Church with Rev. Robert Lee Schmeltekopf officiating. Interment was held at Kyle Cemetery in Kyle, Texas on Thursday, April 28, 2016.

Family

JAMES B. “J. B.” FOWLER, JR.

J.B. was born in Post, Texas on November 14, 1933, to James Buchanan Fowler and Julia May Rogers. He was the oldest of nine children, and later became the family patriarch. He married Patricia Counts in 1952, and they had two children, James Douglas “Doug” and Rebecca Ann “Becky.”

J.B. was a graduate of McMurry University, Abilene, Texas, and the January 1958 class of Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.

He completed the Clinical Pastoral Education course at High Plains Baptist Hospital in Amarillo, Texas and continued his education throughout his life participating in special seminars on personal growth, parenting, marriage seminars and specialized counseling techniques such as counseling terminal patients, drug addiction and other mental health conditions.

Rev. Fowler was an interim instructor in New Testament at McMurry University in Abilene, Texas. In addition, he received special training and served as a field instructor for Perkins School of Theology training interns for ministry.

J.B.’s pastoral experience began as a student pastor in small rural churches. Subsequent pastoral assignments in the Northwest Texas Conference included churches in rural West Texas, First United Methodist churches in Pampa and Perryton in the Texas Panhandle, and St. Stephen United Methodist, a rapidly growing church in suburban Amarillo. His pastoral ministry was a record of building and church growth, pastoral care, and successful ministry.

In 1984, Rev. Fowler made a career change from a pastoral ministry to the special ministry of assisting churches of all denominations throughout the United States in stewardship, financial development, and growth. His expertise in church and institutional development, resulted in a multitude of successful capital fund programs.

Rev. Fowler entered semi-retirement in 2007 and began using his skills as a pastoral counselor/volunteer, working with non-profit organizations, most notably as an on-call pastor for East Texas Medical Center in Tyler, Texas.

J.B. Fowler passed away November 3, 2015, from complications of Parkinson’s Disease. He is survived by his wife of twenty-four years, Jacqueline, and his children Douglas (Susan) Fowler and Becky (Corey) Ford with his first wife, Patricia (deceased 1989). He is also survived by five grandchildren: Bethany, Patrick and Daniel Ford, and Claire and Dillon Fowler. Besides his wife, Jacque, he is remembered by stepdaughters Robyn (Steve) Burchfiel and daughters Adeline and Savannah, and Bethany (Bryce) Lester and son Mason.

Rev. Fowler’s memorial was held on what would have been his eighty-second birthday, November 14, 2015. The joyous service was held at Lane’s Chapel United Methodist Church in Tyler, Texas, with Rev. Bob Green officiating, with many family members actively participating with music, videos, readings and eulogies. He was cremated and the family has kept his ashes.

He left a legacy of dedication to the tenets of The United Methodist Church and service to God and those needing comfort and compassion. The family will have “J.B. stories” and “Grandad stories” to tell for years to come.



Jacque Fowler

ROBERT “BOB” PLAIS GREEN



Bob was born August 27, 1937, in Floydada, Texas. He graduated Floydada High School in 1955. He earned a BS degree in Industrial Arts from West Texas State University and an MDiv from Perkins School of Theology at SMU.

Bob served as a teacher at Stinnett High School from 1960-1974. Beginning in 1975 until his passing he gave his life over to the service of the Lord in ministry. The communities of Mobeetie, Collinsville, Tioga, Gunter, Dalhart, Abilene, Post, Snyder and Ovilla were blessed to have experienced him as pastor or in other ministerial service. At the time of his passing he was serving as Associate Pastor of Ovilla UMC in Ovilla, Texas.

Bob thrived in his marriage for fifty-seven years to Barbara Sue Howerton whom he wed on August 30, 1958.

Bob’s passion was woodworking. He used this passion in service to the Lord, making various types of crosses for his church as well as horseshoe nail pocket crosses which have traveled all over the world. His home church gave him the honorary title of Carpenter Extraordinaire.

Bob died peacefully at his home in Red Oak, Texas, on January 23, 2016, at the age of seventy-eight. He was surrounded by his loving family – wife Barbara, son Jim Bob and his wife Lori, daughter Shari Thompson and her husband Russell, and five beautiful granddaughters.

Services were conducted January 30, 2016, at Ovilla United Methodist Church in Ovilla, Texas, by Rev. Joel Robbins. Family and friends celebrated Bob’s life with heart-felt remembrances and commendations. Interment was in Ovilla Cemetery in Ovilla.

To quote his many friends, good job Green!

Barbara Green

JAMES “JIM” ALEXANDER HAWTHORNE

Jim was born December 21, 1929 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and grew up in the inner city. He made his exit from there by entering the US Air Force which eventually brought his family to Amarillo, Texas.

From Forest Hill UMC, in 1969, Jim entered the ministry as a local pastor, later becoming an associate member in 1989. He was pastor at Wildorado, Cotton Center/Spade, Roby and Sudan, retiring in 1994 after twenty-seven years of service in The United Methodist Church.

After retirement, Jim made his home in Tulia where he served for some time as interim pastor of First Presbyterian Church and also worked at Kenneth Wyatt Art Gallery.

Jim was a unique individual. He walked with his Lord with deep faith, a dry sense of humor, and a solid commitment. He was known as a man of his word who finished whatever he started and gave it his best. If he liked something, he embraced it; if he did not, he might just walk out without looking back. His work was not for the pleasure of others but it was for his Lord and the benefit of the people he served and he let the chips lay where they fell.

Jim married the love of his life and his helpmate in ministry, Caroline Witt, in 1958. She preceded him in death in 2001

Jim passed from this life August 6, 2015 in San Antonio, Texas, at the age of eighty-five, joining his beloved Caroline in the Church Triumphant. He was surrounded by his loving family - son Eddie Hawthorne and wife Lisa, son Greg Hawthorne, and his daughter Sandy Ethridge and husband Darrell, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by a daughter Lenora Smith in 1994.

Services were conducted August 13, 2015 in First United Methodist Church, Tulia, Texas by Rev. Ernest McGaughey and Pastor Karan Young.

Family and friends celebrated Jim’s life with fond remembrances and commendations, punctuated by rousing strains of “Onward Christian Soldiers.” Interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery in Tulia. A life well lived for Christ and His Kingdom!

Ernie McGaughey



DOUGLAS “DOUG” RAY KIRK



Douglas “Doug” Ray Kirk was born October 24, 1957, in Lubbock, Texas to William and Edna (Crowley) Kirk. Doug graduated from Idalou High School in 1976 and later married his high school sweetheart, Susan Sperry, on August 19, 1978. He worked as the regional manager for Pilot Travel Center until becoming a full time minister in 2007.

He pastored as Associate Pastor at the Wolfforth United Methodist Church until adding Lorenzo United Methodist Church as a dual appointment.

He was a member of the Mission Lubbock and Lorenzo Ministerial Alliance.

Doug passed away on Saturday, April 30, 2016 at the age of fifty-eight. Those left to cherish his memory are his wife, Susan; children, Matthew Kirk and wife, Jessica and daughter, Abigail of Hagerman, New Mexico, Sarah Kirk and son, Jensen of Idalou, Texas, and Lindsey Sill and husband, Adam and son, Bronson of Meade, Kansas; siblings, Gloria and Wayne Krisp, Norma and Mel Jackson, Robert and Carolyn Hass, and Dennis and Margaret Kirk; sisters-in-law, Donna Hass and Lea Eta Hass; brother-in-law, Carl White; as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Doug was preceded in death by his parents and three siblings, Charles Hass, Dianne White, and Randy Hass.

Family

GENE BOYD LOUDER

Gene Boyd Louder was born on February 12, 1927, in Roscoe, Texas, to Earl and Juanita Louder of Lubbock.

He spent his early years in Roscoe and in Snyder before graduating from Sundeen High School in Corpus Christi, Texas. He entered McMurry College and, a year later, answered his call to preach. His education at McMurry was interrupted when he was assigned to his first pastorate at Allison and Briscoe in 1951. He returned to McMurry in 1952 to continue his education and served as a pastor without interruption for the next forty years. While a student at McMurry, Gene acquired the nickname “Bishop,” due to his knowledge and interest in everything ‘Methodist’.



While serving at Vera UMC in 1958, Gene met the love of his life, a young school teacher at Knox City. He and Mary LaGrange were married and served the Lord and His church, side by side, for fifty-six years with faithfulness and passion. A son, Monte Gene, was added to this union to complete the happy family.

Gene completed his seminary education at Perkins School of Theology and was received as a full member of the NWTX Conference in 1962. He gave his life to the calling he relished and gave his all until his retirement in 1992.

He and Mary made their home in Kress where they were faithful members of Kress UMC. They were active in the community and were involved in all its activities until failing health interrupted - but never lost interest in the life of the church and community. In the weeks prior to his passing, he kept up with news of pastoral appointments in the conference.

Gene passed away Tuesday, March 29, 2016, in Plainview at the age of eighty-nine. Survivors include his wife of fifty-six years, Mary of Kress; one son, Monte Louder of Kress; grandson, James Louder; his stepmother, Maxine Louder of Arizona; and several cousins.

Gene’s favorite scripture verse was 2 Timothy 4:7,8. He leaves it as his passing testimony: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day.”

Gene claimed that promise. Final services were conducted as a celebration of a life of faithful service to his Lord on April 1, 2016 at Kress UMC with internment at Kress Cemetery. Pastor Donna Lindley and friends, Rev. Weldon Rives and Rev. Ernie McGaughey, officiated. He is survived by his wife, Mary LaGrange Louder; their son, Monte Gene; grandson, James; step-mother, Maxine, and several cousins.

Gene will be remembered for his sense of humor, his love and passion for his Lord and the people he served. He loved the youth and often taught Bible at the high school. His love and commitment left a legacy of lives touched and directed in the journey of faith.

Although short in stature, Gene stands tall in our memory for his devotion to Christ and His church.

Donna Lindley and Ernie McGaughey

CHARLES DAVID WHITTLE



Charles David Whittle was born in Greenville, Texas on March 18, 1927 to William Ray and Edna Whittle. He grew up in a Christian home and The Methodist Church with an older brother William Wade and sister Rosemary, and served in the US Navy from 1945-1946. He married Joan Summers on October 24, 1945. They were blessed with one son, Charles Christian (Chris), and one daughter, Keri Louise, and one grandson, Paul Christian Dawkins.

Charles graduated from Texas Wesleyan College and Perkins School of Theology and served as pastor of the Mineral Wells Circuit October 1948 - June 1949, Graford, June 1949 to July 1, 1951, Diamond Hill (Fort Worth) August 1, 1951 to June 1, 1954, Morningside, June 1954 to June 1960, Wichita Avenue, June 1960-1961. General Boards of Evangelism/Discipleship, June 1961 to February 1, 1975. Abilene FUMC, February 1, 1975 to June 1, 1990, Superintendent Big Spring District June 1, 1990 to June 1, 1996, Executive for the National Association of United Methodist Evangelists January, 1996 to January 1, 2010.

In addition to pastoral responsibilities, he conducted a weekly radio program for two years, served as District Secretary of Evangelism, Chairman Conference Television and Radio Commission, Conference Secretary of Evangelism, guest preacher for revivals, retreats, District and Annual Conferences, and teacher in various enterprises.

Charles was a member of the Board of Directors of the Fort Worth General Ministers' Association and Area Council of Churches, President of the United Methodist Council of Evangelism, Chairman of the Texas/New Mexico Stateswide Committee on Evangelism, Chairman of the NWT Conference Work Area on Evangelism, Chairman of the Board of Directors of *METHODIST HOUR INTERNATIONAL*, Advisory Trustee for the *Foundation for Evangelism*, member General Board of Discipleship (1984-1992) board member United Christian Ashram, and numerous evangelistic associations and boards.

Charles received outstanding Rural Pastor of the Year Award in 1949, the 'Philip Award for Evangelism' in 1974, Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degrees from Texas Wesleyan College and Asbury Theological Seminary.

He wrote for Tidings, Discipleship Resources, The Upper Room, The Upper Room Disciplines, Forward, Transformation, The Church School, The Christian Home, The Methodist Story, Interpreter, Challenge, books, booklets, tracts, and other materials.

Charles directed evangelistic missions in Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Bolivia, Peru, Brazil and Korea. Participated in the 1974 International Congress on World Evangelization in Lausanne, Switzerland, and AMSTERDAM2000. Participated in the Israeli Prime Minister's Conference in 1981, taught doctrinal studies courses in Worship and Preaching for Drew Theological Seminary (1979). Delegate to General Conference (1984, 1988, 1996) and Jurisdictional Conferences (1980, 1984, 1988, 1992 and 1996).

Charles expired Wednesday, November 11, 2015. Services were conducted on Friday evening, November 13, 2015 at Handley United Methodist Church in Fort Worth, Texas and on Saturday, November 14, 2015 at First United Methodist Church in Abilene, Texas.

He was preceded in death by his son, Charles Christian Whittle in 1983, and daughter Keri Whittle Dawkins in 2010. Charles is survived by his wife, Joan, grandson Paul Dawkins and wife Stephanie, sister and brother-in-law Rosemary and George Mitchell, adoptive daughter and son-in-law, Margaret and Joe Smart-Nalli, granddaughter Yeamie, and numerous nephews and nieces.

Family

ELLA MAE BAKER



Ella Mae was born November 17, 1917, in Kingston, Oklahoma to Walter T. and Ollie (Keaton) Hill.

She was a dedicated wife of sixty one years to Luther Baker, mother, and member of the Idalou United Methodist Church.

Being a minister's wife, she made an enormous impact on many families throughout her years of service to the Lord. Luther and Ella Mae served Vigo Park, Sparenberg, Lefors, Sundown, Halfway, Lakeview, Becton, Whiteface, Matador, Roby, and McAdoo, to name a few.

Ella Mae is cherished by her family and the congregation of Idalou United Methodist Church. Many of the churches that Luther and Ella Mae served have faded into history, but her legacy of Godly living and loving encouragement continue to make an impact upon her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

She loved the Wheel of Fortune, quilting, attending family reunions, gardening, the Idalou United Methodist Church, reading, and she is famous for her special potato rolls, desserts, and her apricot jelly.

As her pastor, my wife and I deeply cherish and appreciate her friendship, and I cannot fully express how much I appreciate her kind words and continual support toward Kristin. Her dedication to Idalou United Methodist Church is a testament to her faith in Christ, and her willingness to come to church well past her nineties in rain, snow, and wind storms that should have shamed many 'fair weather' church-goers. In her final years, she continued to 'work out' with the ladies in the exercise group and attend the Idalou Civic and Culture Club of which she was member since 2004.

Ella Mae passed away on Wednesday, September 30, 2015, at the Library of Legacy Assisted Living. Services were held Monday, October 5, 2015, at Idalou United Methodist Church with interment following in Idalou Cemetery.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Luther; sons, Curtis and Richard; four brothers; and two sisters. Those left to cherish her memory are her sons, Kenneth (Linda), Lonnie (Terri); sisters, Margie Massey and Wanda Beaty; ten grandchildren; twelve great-grandchildren; and eleven great-great-grandchildren; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family members and friends.

Family and Rev. Brooks Morton

DIANE ALICIA BURTON

Diane Alicia was born on May 1, 1953 in Fort Worth, Texas to her parents Wayne and Jean Hagood. She grew up in Fort Worth and graduated from Southwest High School in 1971. She then pursued her passion and filled her heart's desire to become a nurse by attending and graduating from TCU, Harris College of Nursing in 1975.

She married Larry Burton on November 23, 1974, and it was all “down-hill” from there! Just kidding! They began their life together living in Fort Worth before moving to Little Rock, Arkansas where she worked at University Hospital, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in the surgery department from 1975 to 1980.

At the end of 1980 they moved to Cleburne, Texas where she was an RN in Labor and Delivery and spent time doing what she did best, caring for babies in the nursery for nine years before moving to Abilene, Texas.

While in Abilene she stepped away from nursing for two years to care for her children. During this time she was able to explore and got to teach children her other love, music. She was a wonderful talent on the piano and blessed many with notes that lifted hearts and spirits.

In 1991 Diane and Larry moved their family back to Cleburne, where she resumed her career in nursing. She expanded her experience at Walls Regional Hospital working in Surgery and PACU and obtained her CNOR for post OR as well.

After four years, Larry finally got it together (LOL), and was appointed as the preacher of First United Methodist Church in Spur, Texas. So while Larry had one job, Diane was Mom to her own and every other kid in Spur, church pianist, church secretary, and in her spare time she cared for the elderly as an RN Field Nurse for Crosbyton Clinic Hospital, Home Health for five years before her next five year positions as Assistant Director of Nursing and Director of Nursing at the Spur Nursing Home. She finished her career as the Assistant Director of Nursing at The Plaza at Lubbock from 2008 to 2013 when she retired.

Over the last few years she continued dedicating her time and love to those around her, whether it was her grandchildren, children, family, friends, and even Larry after all those years.

Diane, “MIMI or NINI,” left this world unexpectedly in the early hours of Sunday, June 28, 2015 at the age of sixty-two.

From the words of many who knew her, Diane was known for being wonderful, caring, supporting, welcoming, accepting, confident, spirited, and without a doubt, LOVING Christian. Though she left us far earlier than we expected, it will still be said that her purpose here was served time and time again. We should all hope to inspire and affect those we get to experience life with, to the most incredible extent that she did. She left us with an everlasting light that will be carried by each person she blessed with her presence.

Diane is survived by her husband, Larry Burton; her mother, Jean Hagood; her sons, Mathew and Paul Burton; her daughter Alicia Burton; her godson and goddaughter Anthony and Valaree Segura; her beloved grandchildren Dillon, Jeremy, and Keegan, Kimberly, and Khloee.

A Service of Remembrance was held on June 30 at the FUMC of Spur. Six of her friends conducted the Service: Cindy Taylor, Debbi Ball, Stacy Campbell, Ann Phillips, Donna Drennan, and Dana Tilton. Diane was cremated.

Larry Burton



EMMA JEANNE CROWDER BUTLER



Our mother, Emma Jeanne Crowder Butler, was born August 7, 1923 to parents Jewell Odessa Airhart Crowder and Alec Belcher Crowder. Jeanne grew up in Sweetwater, Texas and graduated from McMurry College in 1943 but eloped to Roswell, New Mexico to marry our father, Joseph Weldon Butler on June 3, 1942, as he had enlisted in the Army Air Corps during World War II and was initially stationed there.

Mother taught elementary school in Rising Star, Texas and also in Dallas, Texas, while Weldon attended Perkins School of Theology at SMU post-war. She earned her Master's Degree at West Texas State University after moving to Canyon, Texas, where Weldon served as Director of the Wesley Foundation at West Texas State.

Throughout her life, Mother served The United Methodist Church as our father's devoted better half and partner in Canyon, Wildorado, Follett, Amarillo, Lubbock, Borger, Midland, Plainview, Big Spring, Hereford, and Roswell, New Mexico. During these happy times, Mother raised five children and taught elementary school in many cities where dad was assigned pastorates.

After retiring in 1986, Mother and Dad travelled to Hawaii many times, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Europe, and the Philippines, as well as to visit children and grandchildren in various states. They also volunteered as English tutors for ESL adults (associated with Texas Tech University), local Methodist churches, and senior programs.

Our mother was loved deeply by her children and grandchildren and was tireless in her creativity, support, sense of humor, and love. Mother lived to serve God, her husband, her children, and her church. We remember her tenacious energy, her fondness for Coca Cola, her belief in education, her ability to make something out of nothing, and her refusal to complain in adversity or discomfort. In recent years, she enjoyed her life at The Craig Retirement Community in Amarillo.

She died September 21, 2015, at the age of ninety-two, surrounded by her loving family. A celebration of her long and happy life was held Friday, September 25, at St. Paul United Methodist Church, Amarillo with Rev. H. E. (Steve) Stephens, officiating. Burial and graveside services followed at the Lubbock City Cemetery.

She is preceded in death by our father, J. Weldon Butler; our beloved brother, Charles Richard (Rick) Butler; her parents; her beloved aunt Leona Airhart; and her brother Alex B. Crowder II. She is survived by Don Butler and wife Kathy, of Brighton, Colorado; daughter Patty Butler of Castle Rock, Colorado; Tim Butler and wife Michelle of Amarillo, Texas; daughter Janice Holmes and husband Dave, of Littleton Colorado; daughter-in-law Teri Butler of Garland, Texas; grandchildren, Drew Deaton, Julie Fletcher, Rachel Butler, Emma Phelps, Nicholas Phelps, Katie Butler, Brett Butler, Nathan Butler, and four great-grandchildren.

Family

MARGILEE RYAN COOLEY

Margilee (Ryan) Cooley was born the fourth of six children on September 21, 1924 in Haskell County, Texas, to Henry Clifton Ryan and Carrie Bell (Rea) Ryan.

She met her husband, Alvin, while attending McMurry College. She and Alvin were married January 24, 1944. For sixty-nine years she was by his side and helped him as he pastored Methodist churches.

Margilee died on January 15, 2016. She was preceded in death by her husband of sixty-nine years, her parents, both of her brothers, Wysong Stanley Ryan and Melford Conrad Ryan and one sister, Earleen Fay (Ryan) Kendrick.

She is survived by two daughters, Nada Ruth Phillips and husband, Dennis Phillips, and Reba Jo Hilgers; seven grandchildren and spouses, Craig and Amanda Phillips, Eric and Krystal Phillips, Daron and Christy Phillips, Derek and Kelly Phillips, Dane and Lindsey Phillips, Matthew and Heather Hilgers, and Blakely and Aaron Scott; ten great-grandchildren, two sisters, Katherine Marian Stewart and Madra Jean Marrs, along with many nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life Service was held on Tuesday, January 19, at the First United Methodist Church in San Marcos, Texas, with the Rev. Jarrell Sharp officiating. Interment followed at Memory Lawn Memorial Park in Martindale, Texas.



ALEXIA “LEXIE” JO KEITH



Alexia Jo Keith, known to her friends and loved ones as Lexie, was born September 13, 1954. She died at her home in Lamesa, Texas, on July 29, 2015, surrounded by her family and loved ones. She was preceded in death by her father, Bill Beaty. Lexie is survived by her husband of forty years, Rev. Roy Cleve Keith; her “Mama” Betty Johnson, “Mom;” Ann Beaty, her children Christopher Keith, Amanda Knight, and Katrina Keith-Hillhouse; and by her brother Perry Beaty. Lexie and Roy have three grandchildren, Joshua Knight, Emily Knight, and Phoenix Hillhouse. Lexie also leaves many more loving extended family members and friends.

Lexie passed away after battling an extremely rare and aggressive form of uterine cancer for over three years. In order to advance research efforts and increase the possibility of finding a cure for this devastating illness, Lexie generously donated her body to scientific research through Medcure. Interment will be at a later date.

A Memorial Service was held for Lexie on August 4, 2015 at First United Methodist Church in Lamesa, to accommodate the large crowd attending the service. Roy is the pastor of Northridge UMC in Lamesa, where Lexie was a member. Church members from several other congregations where Roy and Lexie have served attended the Memorial Service, along with clergy members from around the Annual Conference. Rev. Derrell Patterson officiated at the service. Scriptures read included Psalm 91: 2-4; Proverbs 31: 23-31; Matthew 18: 2-4; and I Corinthians 15: 35-38, 42-44, 50-57. Lexie was curious, loyal, creative, resourceful, and a very strong person. She loved her family, especially her “little ducks” (grandchildren); she also loved butterflies, horses, and she loved to sing. When she was a little girl, she was told she could be whatever she wanted to be. She said she wanted to be a horse. When she found out she couldn’t be a horse, she felt cheated! She adjusted very well, however, becoming a wonderful wife, mother, and Nanna!

In December of 2013 Lexie was a cast member of the Lamesa Community Players production of the comedy, “Dixie Swim Club.” The play was about five college friends who were on the competitive swim team of their university. They remained friends throughout their lives; the acts of the play followed their joys and heartaches through the years, and the support they gave one another. Lexie became very close friends with the other four members of the cast and with the crew. Those friends were a great support to Lexie throughout her illness. It is a case of asking: Does art imitate life, or does life imitate art?

The family put together a wonderful slide show with pictures of Lexie’s life, which was shown during the Memorial Service.

In place of a committal at a cemetery, Lexie had the idea of having a butterfly release. So at the end of the Memorial Service, the congregation followed the family out to the front yard of the church. The three grandchildren sat down on the grass to open the box of butterflies. When the butterflies emerged, they flew around the children, landing on their hands, clothes, and hair. The butterflies lingered for a while, and that put smiles on the grandchildren’s faces. A beautiful tribute to a beautiful lady!

Derrell Patterson

BETTY BENTLEY GARRETT

Betty Bentley Garrett was born in Monroe, LA, on April 25, 1935. During her childhood, she lived in various towns in Louisiana, where her father, the Rev. Robert Mack Bentley, also served as a Methodist minister.

Betty completed her B.A. in Speech and Drama in 1957 at Centenary College, Shreveport, Louisiana and her Masters of Religious Education in 1959 at the Perkins School of Theology at SMU, Dallas, Texas after receiving the prestigious John Schissler Scholarship.

She later worked as youth director at Lovers Lane Methodist Church, Dallas, until 1960, when she married James Garrett. They went on to serve in various churches in Texas, where her husband was pastor, including University Park United Methodist Church in Dallas and Polk Street United Methodist Church in Amarillo.

Betty was a devoted wife and mother, and was active in all the Methodist churches in which her husband, Dr. James Ernest Garrett, served as pastor.

Betty passed away peacefully on February 16, 2016. She is survived by her husband, sons James Ernest Garrett, Jr. of Tempe, Arizona, and Bentley Todd Garrett, of Dallas, Texas; and a brother, Robert Mack Bentley, Jr., of Longview, Texas.

A memorial service was held, March 8, 2016 in the sanctuary of University Park United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas. Rev Mike Nichols brought the message.



Family

PEGGY WHITSON LINDLEY



Peggy Whitson Lindley was born February 5, 1932, in Midland, Texas to Richard and Mary Othell Whitson. She attended McMurry University and was a member of Delta Beta Epsilon. She was elected Reservation Princess her senior year and graduated receiving a Bachelor's Degree in English.

Peggy married Albert Lindley on August 8, 1953. They were married for sixty-two years. She was a teacher who loved teaching and taught for twenty-five years.

In every appointment in which Rev. Lindley served, Peggy was a constant help and support. In addition to teaching in most every community in which they served, Peggy was by Albert's side as they served churches in New Deal, Ackerly, Aspermont, Lubbock, Earth, Petersburg, Friona, Vernon, Spearman, and Perryton. Peggy was also the District Secretary when Albert served as Superintendent of the Pampa and Amarillo Districts.

In their years of retirement at The Craig Retirement Community in Amarillo Peggy was constantly serving. She would often leave Albert at the dinner table saying, "I'll be right back; there's someone I want to talk to." Peggy was an organizer and loved sports. Peggy was known as a graciously strong person to her family and friends.

On May 6, 2015, with her family by her side, Peggy passed away from complications following surgery. On Monday May 11, 2015 Peggy Lindley was interred at Memorial Park Cemetery, Amarillo, Texas and then family and friends gathered at Polk Street United Methodist Church for a Service of Death and Resurrection celebrating Peggy's life. Dr. Burt Palmer, Sr., Pastor of Polk Street, officiated the service. The hymns for the service were "Amazing Grace" and "Hymn of Promise." The scriptures were Psalm 100 and 2 Timothy 4:7-8. Peggy's grandson Connor Newcomb offered memories of his grandmother on behalf of the family.

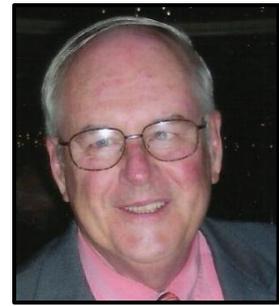
Peggy was preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Richard A. Whitson, Jr. and sister-in-law, Meta Rust. Survivors include her husband, Rev. Dr. Albert F. Lindley, of Amarillo; two daughters, Pamela Pauling and husband Bruce, of Hereford, Texas and Phyllis Newcomb and husband, Phillip, and one grandson, Connor Newcomb, of Amarillo; a son, Paul Lindley and wife, Amy, of Katy, Texas; two sisters, Barbara Ratfliff, of Hideaway, Texas and Mae Spencer and husband, Tom, of Midland, Texas; and a sister-in-law, Lou Whitson of Waco, Texas. She is also survived by Bill and Gail Lindley, T. Foster Lindley, many nieces and nephews.

Romans 10:15 declares "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" Everywhere Albert and Peggy Lindley's feet took them, they brought good news, and every church was better because of their faithful service.

Burt Palmer

DARRYL JAMES NELSON

Darryl James Nelson was born June 14, 1941 in Chicago, Illinois to Leroy and Ruth Ammeson Nelson. The family later moved to Rock Falls, Illinois, where Darryl attended elementary and high school; he graduated in 1959. While living in Rock Falls, Darryl attended the Methodist Church and was confirmed in 1955. Although his parents did not attend church, Darryl attended faithfully and became involved with the youth group. This began a life-long commitment to God and the church.



After high school, Darryl moved to Tucson, Arizona to live with an aunt while attending the University of Arizona. He left after his first year and returned to his family, who by this time had moved back to the Chicago area. Darryl then began working in a factory and attended Elmhurst College part-time. As the war in Vietnam was heating up, Darryl enlisted in the Air Force in September, 1962. While in the service, Darryl spent time in Abilene, Texas and attended McMurry College. After his discharge from the Air Force in 1966, Darryl took a job with Continental National Bank in Chicago and attended Northwestern University, where he received a Bachelor's degree in Accounting. Finding he still had GI benefits available, Darryl continued his education and received a Master's in Business Administration. He also sat for and passed the CPA exam.

For most of Darryl's working life he was involved with business computing systems. In addition to Continental National Bank, Darryl also worked for El Paso Natural Gas, Porter Oil, and various government contractors with the Department of the Army, Army Research Lab. Darryl retired in 2011, just before his seventh birthday.

Darryl married Donna Lee Nelson in August, 1994. When Donna responded to her call to ministry in 2003, Darryl provided both financial and emotional support for her while she attended seminary. His desire was to be her helpmate as she ministered to churches in both the Baltimore-Washington and the Northwest Texas Conferences. He would often introduce himself as "the pastor's wife" and then become active in the choir and serving on committees.

Darryl died on March 20, 2016, Palm Sunday, after an almost four-year battle with peritoneal cancer. He was cremated and his ashes will be scattered at a later date. A memorial service was held at Liberty Grove United Methodist Church in Burtonsville, Maryland on April 16, 2016. A second memorial service will be held at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Las Cruces, New Mexico on June 25, 2016.

Darryl was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Virginia Edwards. He is survived by his wife, Donna; four daughters: Sharon Nelson-Hammersmith, Elizabeth Crockett, Barbara Nelson, and Catherine McDonald; and four step-children: Jeffrey Husom, Eric Husom, Barbara Garcia, and Dennis Husom, as well as two nephews and one niece.

Donna Nelson

SARAH THOMPSON HARDT QUEEN



Sara was born January 12, 1923 at Rentz, Georgia to Cullen and Eugena Lowery. She married Samuel Bernard Thompson in 1942. They moved to Abilene, Texas in 1950 when her husband joined Mc Murray College. She taught school in the Abilene Independent School System for several years, sold real estate, and was a dorm mother at McMurry College.

Sara was a charter member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church where she taught the Renewers Sunday School Class for twenty-eight years. The Sara Circle at the church was named for her.

Sara Queen, age ninety-two, died Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at a local hospital. She was preceded by her parents, three brothers and two sisters, a son, Stephen Thompson, husbands, Samuel B. Thompson, Earl Hardt, and Lowell Queen. She was also preceded by a granddaughter, Michele Lee Thompson Larimer.

Funeral services were held Monday, April 20, at Aldersgate United Methodist Church with Rev. Amy Feltz officiating. Burial followed at Elmwood Memorial Park

Survivors include a son, Lowery (Barbara) Thompson of Monroe, Louisiana., a daughter Norma Thompson Harper of Abilene, a stepson, Samuel B. Thompson, Jr. (Peggy) of North Carolina, grandchildren Amy Thompson, Laura Mickail, Jason Springer, Tana Springer, Bryan Thompson, and Lisa Caudill. Great-grandchildren Avri Herndandez, Amelia Springer, Caroline Mickail, Nate Larimer, Laura Thompson, and Ashley Thompson.

Family

WYNONA KATHLEEN “BOOTS” WATSON

Wynona was born May 24, 1929, in Lubbock. She married Rev. William Henry Bill Watson on April 11, 1948. She and Bill served United Methodist Churches throughout the Northwest Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church. Their last appointment before his retirement was First Methodist Church of Lorenzo, Texas.

Wynona died Thursday, May 14, 2015 after a brief illness at the age of eighty-five. She was a resident of Horizon Bay Assisted Living in Grand Prairie, Texas.

She is preceded in death by her husband who died in 1993 and her parents, Early and Vada Daniel of the Canyon Community. She is survived by her two brothers, James Daniel of Roosevelt, Texas, and Henry Daniel of Lubbock, Texas; and her four sons and daughter-in-laws, Larry and Judy Watson, Grand Prairie, Texas; Roy and Carla Watson, Prosper, Texas; Bruce and Gerry Watson, Garland, Texas; and Phil Watson, Charlotte, North Carolina. She also leaves three granddaughters, three grandsons, and ten great-grandchildren.

Services were held Monday, May 18, in Lubbock Canyon United Methodist Church with the Rev. Susan Jean Felty, Pastor, officiating. Graveside services for the extended family were in the City of Lubbock Cemetery.



Family

BEUNA V. WOLFE



Beuna V. Wolfe was born January 8, 1924, to Clarence and Nancy Carpenter Cox in Stonewood, West Virginia. In 1943 she married Raymond P. Wolfe who served in the US Coast Guard during World War II. He then completed his theological training at Nyack College in Nyack, New York and together they began a pastoral career that spanned several decades.

She served alongside Raymond in churches in Bartlesville and Tulsa, Oklahoma, Van Buren, Arkansas, Harlingen, Fort Worth, Happy, and Amarillo, Texas. She was actively involved in the music and Sunday school programs of the churches they pastored and for many years was the district director of the Ladies' Missionary Prayer Fellowship, overseeing the ministry for all of Texas and surrounding states. Later Beuna supported Raymond's ministries as Chaplain at Covenant Hospital and Carillon Life Care community in Lubbock where he served for over twenty years.

Beuna passed away Friday, November 6, 2015. A celebration her life of ninety-one years was held on Tuesday, November 10, 2015, St. Luke's United Methodist Church with Rev. Ann akin officiating.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Raymond; a son, Rick; an infant child, Nancy Paulette; and three siblings. She is survived by her children, Nodji Riley and Ron (Brenda) Wolfe all of Lubbock, and Tim (Judy) Wolfe of Hackleburg, Alabama.; a daughter-in-law, Kaye Wolfe of Lubbock; nine grandchildren; sixteen great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and a brother, Bill (Barbara) Cox of Lost Creek, West Virginia.

Family

WILMA LORAY WYATT

Wilma was born June 28, 1923 to Edgar and Vera Lester in Wheeler, Texas. She married Ralph Sims in 1938 and he preceded her in death in July of 1964 in Amarillo. She was associated with the Amarillo public school system for many years.

Wilma married Elton Wyatt on January 7, 1968, in McLean, Texas. She was a wonderful helpmate to her husband and his church work. She was very active teaching in the children's department and the women's work in the church. She was Elton's helper for forty-four years as he served at McLean, Hale Center, Olton, and Associate Pastor at Lubbock's First and St. Luke's United Methodist Churches.

She was a very kind and gentle person and always saw the good side of every person. She loved everybody and everybody loved her. She was truly dedicated to her family and her church.

Wilma passed away on April 11, 2016 at the age of ninety-two. Graveside services were held at the Mobeetie Cemetery on Thursday, April 14, 2016.

She was preceded in death by Elton on December 25, 2012. She is also preceded in death by three brothers, Harold, Jerald, and Doye Lynn Lester. Wilma is survived by one son, Lynn Sims of Mobeetie, Texas; two daughters, Wileta McKibben of Ransom Canyon, and Kathaleen Evers, of Amarillo; son, Jerry Lynn Wyatt of Allen, Texas; and daughter, Patricia Ann Groves of Snyder, Texas; along with thirteen grandchildren; twenty great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.



Family