Ralph was born August 30, 1921 in Brooklyn, N.Y. to Ralph and Mabel Bainbridge. During World War II he served in the United States Army Air Corp. in the European Theatre in Italy.

After the war he married Jean D. Martyn on November 15, 1947. They were blessed with one daughter, Wendy Jean, who is married and has made them proud grandparents of Brooke Elizabeth Easler.

Ralph felt a call from the Lord to serve as a Shepherd. He enjoyed being a Dean at Camp Quinipet on Shelter Island, N.Y., serving on committees; but thoroughly enjoyed relating to folks on a one-to-one basis.

He received a Bachelor Degree in Chemical Engineering from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, and a Master’s Degree of Divinity from Drew University School of Theology, Madison, N.J. He was ordained a Deacon in 1962 and an Elder in 1964 in the New York (East) Annual Conference.

As a student he served the Springdale Church in Stamford, CT, Dover, N.J., and Myrtle Beach Community in Milford, CT. In 1966 he was appointed to Elmhurst, N.Y. During those years Ralph earned four quarters of Clinical Pastoral Education and became Chairperson of the Department of Spiritual Care in the City Hospital in Elmhurst. He then served at Greenwich: First, Rowayton (Norwalk), and Ansonia, CT.

In June 1986 he took retirement, and they moved to South Carolina, where he served as Pastor of the Salem United Methodist Church. Ralph also served as Chaplain to a Nursing Home in Seneca, S.C., as well as a volunteer chaplain for the Hospice of the Foothills in Seneca.

He was active in community work with the American Cancer Society, tutoring children as well as adults and reading the newspaper - via the radio - to those who are visually impaired (R.A.I.S.E.). He also served as a volunteer chaplain for the Veteran’s Administration Medical Center in Ashville, N.C.

After he and Jean moved to Atlanta, Georgia, he became a volunteer at Egleston Children’s Hospital, as well as being active at Wesley Woods Tower, a Methodist-related retirement community.
Ralph’s Memorial Service was held on May 27, 2006, at Wesley Woods Towers, with five retired clergy neighbors participating. His ashes were interred at Decatur First United Methodist Memory Garden, Decatur, GA. Well done, good and faithful Shepherd.

His daughter, Wendy J. Rhody
Jean M. Bainbridge

LAY MEMBER
Howard Hutching Darling
May 21, 1918 - October 22, 2006

Howard Darling was born on May 21, 1918 in Sheboygan, Wisconsin to Earl Darling and Olive Hutchins, the eldest of three sons. He grew up in the First Methodist Episcopal Church in Sheboygan from baptism to Sunday school to Confirmation class to youth fellowships. Graduating from high school there in 1935, he went to Lawrence University in Appleton, WI. A Bachelor of Arts degree Cum Laude was granted in 1940, majoring in Economics, minor in music, he was a member of the Sinfonia Fraternity, and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

He served in the U.S. Army in 1940-45; honorably discharged as a Technical Sergeant. Howard married Helen Louise Kruse from Groton, MA in 1945, and worked for the International Silver Co. in Meriden, CT for twelve years, as a cost accountant. Leaving the corporate world, he sought a position in a college or non-profit agency. The Rev. Arthur Tedcastle, of the New Haven District, encouraged him to apply to the New York Conference, and in 1958 he was elected Conference Treasurer/Business Manager, with his office in Newburgh, N.Y. With the merging of the conferences in 1964, he continued until retirement in 1986, working at Rye, N.Y. He was made an honorary member in the “Retired Ministers and Spouses Fellowship”. He was active in the United Methodist Church until his death.

“For many years on the Conference staff, the office was on a 27-acre estate overlooking Long Island Sound. The Bishop and program staffs were in the ‘big house’, the former home of Chief Justice John Jay, and the Treasurer’s office was in the renovated ‘Carriage House’ down the road. With his devoted staff, Howard was responsible for millions of dollars of Conference funds. Some of us used to kid him about being a tightwad and pinching pennies when it came to spend money on Conference programs. If we tried to get him to cut a few corners or be more flexible with the budget, he would listen patiently, give his enigmatic Mona Lisa smile and say something like, ‘Well, we can’t just spend money because we think it is a good idea.’ We didn’t always agree, but we always knew where Howard stood.

“During his time as Treasurer, the Conference underwent a financial crisis. Several millions of pension funds were lost due to negligence and bad investments. This
shook the confidence of the churches and pastors whose pensions were in jeopardy. These funds were not in Howard’s care, and the scandal did not touch him; but it fell on him and Bishop W. Ralph Ward to restore confidence in the management of Conference funds. During those years, when charges of mismanagement and negligence were in the air, Howard’s conservatism and bedrock integrity, along with calm leadership by Bishop Ward, guided the Conference through to recovery. The Conference owes him a debt of gratitude.

“Well done, thou good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things; I will make you ruler over many. Enter into the joy of your master.” (John Collins)

Howard was an accomplished organist and choir director, serving at Grace Methodist, Newburgh; Summerfield in Port Chester; and Ridgeview United Church of Christ, White Plains. Summers he was substitute organist and director at New Harbor and Round Pond, ME. He was a member and Treasurer for 14 years of the Westchester County Chapter of American Guild of Organists. After retiring he served Meals on Wheels as Treasurer.

He was an affiliate member at White Plains; Memorial, and Port Chester: Summerfield where he was a trustee.

Death came suddenly while he was enjoying an organ concert in Rye, having been troubled with a heart condition for several years. A service celebrating his life was held at Memorial UMC on October 26, with nine clergy participating.

His remains are interred in the columbarium at Memorial, but 26 skin grafts were saved by the New England Organ Transplant Bank.

Howard is survived by his wife of 60 years, Helen, their daughter Elaine and husband Vincent. May he rest in peace.

Helen K. Darling
The Rev. John Collins

Rev. Kenneth H. Davis
January 13, 1934 - February 28, 2007

Beloved son of Chester Davis and Isabell King, Kenneth Davis was born on January 15, 1934 in Callicoon, New York; he was one of six children that graced their home. Ken graduated from Liberty High School in 1952, and from New Paltz State University; later attending Boston University. He served in the U.S. Army from 1955-55 as a military policeman in Arizona, and then in the Korean conflict.

Licensed as a lay preacher in 1957, he was assigned to East Branch, Fish’s Eddy, and Harvard; to which was added French Woods in 1964. Two years later Ken was assigned to Milton and Marlboro, and in 1969 with ordination as a Deacon in the New York Conference,
that became an appointment as an Associate Member. After twelve years there, he was moved to Downsville for another dozen years, and in 1990 to Southold, L.I. until his retirement in 2001.

As a single person, Ken invested his life in service as a counselor at Kingswood Camp, a Boy Scout Troop, Chaplain in the Downsville Fire Department, 12 years in the Lions Club, 29 years in the American Legion, ten years as President of the Delaware County Council of Churches, Chaplain at the Delhi Jail, the American Heart Association, and the Grange. His hobbies were gardening and reading.

Ken cherished the people in his churches, which is evident by the many scrap books he kept, filled with photos, cards, mementos and newspaper clippings of births, baptisms, weddings, funerals, and other events in churches and communities, and the many organizations to which he belonged. A family statement reads, “As busy as Ken always kept himself, he was always there when any of us needed him. He was a great Brother and Uncle and a friend to all he came in contact with. We will all miss him dearly.”

After becoming disabled, Ken stayed busy by being on the Board of the Roscoe Community Nursing Home. While a resident there he filled in as a volunteer clergyperson, consulting with any who needed him and the Lord’s comfort.

Ken passed away as a result of natural causes on February 28, 2007. He spent his last evening resting comfortably, with his family by his side. Interment of his remains was on March 17th at the Evergreen Cemetery, Bethel, N.Y. The Rev. Kenneth Rodgers officiated, and Full Military honors were given. He was a faithful pastor, an enthusiastic and gifted leader of worship, Bible study and prayer groups even into his retirement years. He now rests from his labors in God’s gracious care. His loving family survives him.

Rev. Richard Lee Elder  
**July 11, 1942 - July 20, 2004**

Richard Lee Elder was born on July 11, 1942, the eldest of five children, born to Mary Zubrod and Wilbur Elder in Chicago, Illinois. The family moved to Wisconsin to live on a dairy farm. They attended the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, where Sunday school, church picnics and ice cream socials were enjoyed. Dick fondly remembered his Sunday School teacher, and first found the Lord in those early years.

Elementary education was in a “One Room School” called Elder Ridge. He graduated from Webb High School in Reedsburg, Wisc., in June 1960, where he met his future wife, Carolyn Gasser. He was known for playing football. He attended the University
of Wisconsin School of Engineering. Marriage came on March 24, 1962, and Carolyn worked so Dick could continue his studies.

Soon a job took them to Minnesota, and later to New York State, and they found the Pine Plains United Methodist Church. It was here that Dick felt the call to ministry, as a touch of the Spirit led him, under the pastorate of Rev. Albert Liberatore. With his encouragement Dick became a Certified Lay Speaker, and later was granted a License to Preach in June 1977. That October he was appointed to the Van Cortlandtville Church in Peekskill. The Course of Study at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. followed, and with that he was ordained a Deacon in the N.Y. Conference in June 1980, completing the Course in 1982.

Dick also served the Seymour: Great Hill church in Conn., Hobart and Township, and Bloomville in New York. In his years of ministry he had many adventures, giving up smoking, and taking up guitar, as Christian music became an important part of ministry. He rode a motorcycle, and was known as the Pastor on the Bike. He loved camping and would spend a week each summer at Church Camp. He was active in community and ecumenical events. For several years Dick served on the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference on Evangelism planning committee, and taking others along would attend their conferences. He was trained to lead Vision Quest, and Jail Ministry was dear to his heart. Serving on many Tres Dias weekends was also important to him.

Dick loved God, and His Savior Jesus, study of and preaching the Word, his family, grandchildren, hiking, traveling, going to Ocean Grove, N.J., tubing the Apple River. Laughing and joking was just part of him.

A second Heart attack on July 20, 2004 took Dick to Glory. A Memorial Service was held on July 26th at Hobart, with his daughter, Kimberly doing a beautiful liturgical dance to the song “If You Could See Me Now” by Kim Noblett to open the service. Officiating were Bishop Ernest S. Lyght, Rev. Mark Chatterton, and Rev. Elliott R. Oakes. The singing was heavenly.

We miss Dick’s sense of humor, the bear hugs, his big smile, the “God Bless You’s”, and the faith that he shared with everyone. His remains were cremated and is waiting an appropriate placement. Dick spent 31 years in the Midwest in business, and 31 years in the Northeast, with 27 years in ministry. God’s leading is full of surprises. Dick is survived by Carolyn, their three children: Danial, Kimberly, and Michael; and thirteen grandchildren, all who he loved.

Carolyn Elder
Reverend Ruth B. Harrod was born in Baltimore, MD. on September 10, 1934; and died on May 30, 2006 after a sudden heart ailment, at 71 years of age. Her early education was received in the Baltimore Public School system, and she graduated from high school in Halifax, VA. She earned a Bachelors degree in English from Howard University, a Masters in Early Elementary Education and a second Masters in School Administration and Supervision from NYU. Retiring from the New York City School System after thirty years of service, she had served as a teacher, staff developer, in service instructor, Assistant Principal, and Principal.

Rev. Harrod met her late husband, Robert Harrod, at Howard University, and after graduation they married on September 6, 1958, and were married for 46 years. Moving to New York City, she began her family and teaching career, living in Queens ever since. Ruth and Robert joined Brooks Memorial United Methodist in 1960, and were active members until their deaths.

After retiring from education, she completed her theological studies at Drew University School of Theology. Additional course; were taken at Union Theological Seminary, Garrett Evangelical in Evanston, IL, and Wesley in Washington, D.C. The New York Conference granted her certification as a Lay Pastor in 1994, and she was ordained a Deacon in 1997 as a Full Member. Her appointment was as Ministerial Assistant at Brooks Memorial until her death.

Rev. Harrod was active in professional, church, and voluntary service for almost 60 years. At Brooks, she was active as a member, church school teacher, church school secretary, co-chair and chair of the Commission on Education, the Nominating Committee, a member and president of the Chancel Choir, an advisor to the Rites of Passage program for young men and the Barbara Jordan Rites of Passage for young women, and many other community activities. She was Assistant Pastor at Brooks Memorial for more than ten years.

Rev. Harrod served in numerous community organizations, offering educational counseling and tutoring to needy children and families. She was a mentor for two years for Project Hope, a Board of Education program for young mothers transitioning from shelters back to the mainstream. In the New York Conference and the Long Island West District she offered spiritual counseling and conducted workshops. Rev. Harrod was certified as a HIP Pastoral Care Associate. She was an active lifetime Charter Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Pi Phi Omega Chapter. She received numerous educational and community service awards.

Rev. Harrod leaves behind two sons, Timothy Llewellyn and Keith Winthrop; a granddaughter, Jordan Beckwourth; her sister, Frances Ginyard and brother, David.
Elijah; and one devoted and caring aide, Clover Fraser; and other relatives and friends. Her daughter, Valerie Annetta died shortly after Rev. Harrod’s passing.

Services for Rev. Harrod were held on June 6, 2006 at her beloved Brooks Memorial UMC in Jamaica, NY with Rev. John Carrington leading. She was interred at Maple Grove Cemetery Kew Gardens. Memorial contributions were made to the Brooks United Methodist Building Development Fund. She was dedicated to her service as assistant pastor and to the parishioners of Brooks.

Timothy L. Harrod

Rev. Dr. Laton E. Holmgren
February 20, 1915 - January 18, 2004

Laton Earle Holmgren was a native of Minneapolis, Minnesota, born on February 20, 1915. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree cum laude from Asbury College, Wilmore, Kentucky in 1936, and the Master of Divinity degree summa cum laude from the Theological School of Drew University, Madison, New Jersey, in 1941. Postgraduate work in 1947 was at New College, Edinburgh University in Scotland. Honorary Doctor of Divinity degrees were awarded by Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington in 1956, and by Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Kentucky in 1972.

Laton was ordained deacon in 1940, and elder in 1941, in the former Newark Annual Conference by Bishop Francis J. McConnell. His initial appointments were a year each at Rockaway Valley and as associate pastor of Calvary Church in East Orange. He transferred to the New York Conference in 1943, becoming associate at Christ Church in Manhattan. He then went to Japan as a missionary in Tokyo for three years, where he played a prominent role in rebuilding of Tokyo Union Church, the oldest English-language Protestant church in the Far East. It had been severely bombed in World War II. Returning in January 1952, he was named as Associate Secretary of the American Bible Society, where he served in successively significant positions until retirement in 1985 as Resident Consultant.

That in itself would be impressive, but during the time he served ABS it grew from serving in scripture translation in 40 countries, distribution was in a budget of $2.5 million and an annual circulation of 13 million copies. At his retirement the budget had grown to approximately $50 million, with an annual circulation was more than 300 million copies in 180 countries and territories, and in nearly 500 languages.

During his term in Japan, Dr. Holmgren was a visiting professor in the international departments of Hitosubashi and Keio Universities in Tokyo; and served for one year as an advisor to a corps of young diplomats in the Japanese Foreign Office,
many of whom now serve as ambassadors or members of the Japanese parliament. Laton twice visited the Korean War zone at the behest of General Douglas MacArthur’s staff to conduct spiritual retreats for military personnel.

His devotion to the Bible cause earned him exceptional honors. In 1975 he received the Gutenberg Award in Chicago, “in recognition of his distinguished contribution to the study and dissemination of the Bible”; and in 1982 the Baron von Canstein Award in Stuttgart, Germany, for his “immense influence in furthering the distribution of Scriptures throughout the world.” In 1990, Laton received the Distinguished Service Award of the United Bible Societies, a worldwide organization of Bible Societies.

He made 25 trips around the world and met or conferred with scores of religious and political leaders; among them. Pope Paul VI, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Ecumenical Patriarch in Istanbul, Queen Elizabeth II, and Madame Chiang Kai Shek. He presented Bibles to Presidents Nixon and Carter, both in the Oval Office. He spoke about the Bible cause to small congregations in the African bush and Indian villages, and to mass meetings of thousands in Europe and America.

Laton served as consultant to the “Reader’s Digest” in the publication of “The Reader’s Digest Bible”, “Great People of the Bible”, and “The Reader’s Digest Atlas of the Bible”. He also contributed to the “Companion to the Bible” published by Oxford University Press in 1993. He is listed in “Who’s Who in America”.

In retirement Laton was a resident of Rancho Mirage, California, where he died on January 18, 2004 at the age of 88. An acquaintance at Christ Church, Manhattan wrote of him, “he was unfailingly courteous and modest about his considerable achievements. He was a kind man”.

From Dr. Holmgren’s notes and personal correspondence to the Editor.

Rev. Jacob Marco Hunsberger
December 19, 1915 - January 30, 2007

Jacob Marco Hunsberger began life on December 19, 1915 as son to Arthur Ruth Hunsberger and Emma Moyer, at Perkasie, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Tamaqua High School and Albright College in 1937, then a part of the Evangelical Church. His father was a member of that denomination also, and it became a part of the Evangelical United Brethren later - and in 1968 it merged with the Methodist Church to become the UMC.

In 1938 as a young person, he was appointed to the charge at Middle Creek, Saylorsburg, and Ackermanville in the Eastern Penna. Conf. of the Evangelical Church. Ordination as a
Deacon was in 1943, and the next year he was sent to Hellertown, Ironville, and Springtown. In those years appointments might be a surprise as they were read by the Bishop.

In 1940 he married Naomi Ellen Zuber, and they had a son, J Marco, who followed his father into ministry. Ordination as an Elder was conferred in 1946. During the interval, the German-language denominations became the Evangelical United Brethren, so the 1960 appointment to St. John’s Ridgewood on Long Island was under that Church, in the Eastern Conference. With a pastorate of 22 years, in 1969 the appointment then became part of the New York Conf. of the United Methodist Church.

In his earliest years if he didn’t get to services, bad weather, etc., he didn’t receive his pay of $5! He was dedicated to the ministry, and his wife was willing to make the sacrifices necessary for his work, and was noted for her hospitality. Jacob liked band music and the hymns of the church, and also enjoyed sports, being a fan of the Philadelphia A’s and later the New York Mets. He always made sure to be at most of Marco’s baseball games.

When Marco married in August 1966, his wife, Beverly, became the daughter they never had. Their four sons and their spouses provided four more ‘daughters’, and seven great-grandchildren. His family was vital to Jacob’s life. He also greatly valued his own family, and nephews and nieces.

After retirement in 1982, Jacob and ‘Red’ as she was known, moved to Emmaus, Penna. With her failing heart he didn’t get to see his grandchildren as much as he would have liked. Naomi died in 1985, and with that he moved to Sarasota, Florida in order to live next door to his sisters, Naomi and Anne. In June 2006 he had two hip operations and moved Marco in Penna. Death came on January 30, 2007.

He had a distinguished ministry at St. John’s, and kept a keen interest in his family, knowing our shortcomings, but it never kept him from welcoming and loving everyone.

His son, J Marco Hunsberger

**Rev. Duncan Mac Kenzie**

**November 25, 1924 - April 8, 2006**

Duncan Mac Kenzie and his twin, Samuel, were born on November 25, 1924 in Pawtucket, Rhode Island to Duncan and Catherine (Fitzsimmons) Mac Kenzie. He was raised in Greenville, South Carolina and Middlesboro, Kentucky, and graduated from Middlesboro High School. During World War II, Dunc served as a Radioman in the United States Navy, and was stationed in the Admiralty Islands in the South Pacific Ocean.

After the war he returned to his home in Kentucky and on December 16, 1950 married his lifelong love and friend, Margaret Ann Hall. He completed his
undergraduate education at Union College in Barbourville, Kentucky; and then graduated with a Master’s Degree in Theology from Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

He served as student Assistant at Corbin, KY; and as an Associate Pastor at Mount Vernon, N.Y. and at Wilton, CT after ordination as a Deacon in the New York East Conference. He served a year at Hampton Bays, N.Y. before returning to Kentucky in 1963 to serve at Carrollton. He was ordained an Elder in the Kentucky Conference in 1963. He returned to the New York Conference in 1965 to serve at Greenville and Norton Hill; then to Massapequa, Patchogue, and Amityville: First on Long Island. After a leave of absence he retired in 1987.

During his years in the ministry Duncan worked tirelessly to promote justice and equality for all people. Those who loved him remember his pleasure in games and sports, his sense of humor, his straight-forwardness, his vivid story-telling, and most importantly his dedication to his family.

Duncan died after a brief illness on April 8, 2006 at St. Peter’s Hospital, Albany, N.Y., in the loving care of the Community Hospice, surrounded by his family. A Memorial Service was held at the Greenville-Norton Hill United Methodist Church, led by the Rev. Thomas Carney and the Rev. James (K) Karpen. “K” was confirmed by Dunc at the Community United Methodist Church of Massapequa. He credited Dunc as being a strong influence on his spiritual life, and remembered him as someone who let others know “they mattered”. John McAneny, Duncan’s son-in-law, also spoke lovingly of his appreciation for his talents as a father and friend.

Duncan is survived by his wife of 55 years, Margie and their children, Kathy McAneny, Wesley, and Peggy Pensack. He was also blessed with six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Lovingly, Peggy Pensack

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**Rev. Judith A. Mills**  
**August 2, 1944 - September 17, 2006**

Judith Ann was born on August 2, 1944 in Newark, New Jersey to Dorothy and Arthur Bond, and grew up in Caldwell Township with her younger brother Jeff. She was proud to be in the first graduating class of West Essex High School, and went on to Trenton State Teacher’s College to study elementary education.

Judi put her energies into teaching Third grade, being an Administrative Assistant for National Freight Company, and volunteering for Contact as a crisis counselor. Her first priority...
was constantly her three children. Debbie, Sharon, and Bryan were and always will be the “joys of her life”.

In the late 1970’s Judi heard God’s call to the ministry and attended Local Pastor’s Licensing School at Drew University in New Jersey to begin theological studies. She completed training at The Course of Studies School at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. She not only found spiritual inspiration there, but also met and fell in love with Richard C. Mills. Judi and Dick were married on November 27, 1982.

Licensed as a Local Pastor in the Southern New Jersey Conference in 1978, she was ordained and became an Associate Member in the New York Annual Conference in June 1991. She was appointed to the Hillsdale/North Hillsdale charge, which also included Philmont, West Tagkanic, and Glenco Mills at various times during her 14 years there. She moved to Bethpage in 1998 and Dix Hills in 2001. At the time of her death, Judi was the first female Associate Member serving on the Board of Ordained Ministry and was Registrar for Local Pastors.

Throughout her life Judi embodied the concept of unconditional love and acceptance. Although her husband, children, stepchildren and grandchildren were at the core of this love, there was a wide circle of extended family that also felt her loving presence. She delighted in sharing with her friends and congregation special events such as the birth of her granddaughter Rachel, the safe return of her son Bryan from a year in Iraq, and her recent surprise birthday party.

Their retirement home in Catskill, New York was Judi and Dick’s place of peace. There she could enjoy the nature that she so loved. Watching the hummingbirds come to the feeders and deer roam near the home brought her many hours of special pleasure. Judi did her “happy dance” when the bedroom addition was finally completed in August and she could lie on her new bed and view all her woods through the new picture window.

Watching Judi face her illness this past year was a lesson in courage for all of us. She was truly amazing! Despite some difficult times, she went to Alaska, attended a family wedding in the Virgin Islands, and had many special times with all of her family. She continued her ministry with the same passion she always had, preaching the Sunday before her passing.

On Sunday, September 17, 2006 at 6:35 in the evening, she went Home.

— Debra, Sharon and Bryan

Rev. Latimer Baker Neale
June 17, 1917 - October 6, 2006

Latimer and his twin, Herbert Whitby, were born to their previously childless parents, Herbert Henry and Kathryn Baker Hauck, in her 42nd year, on June 17, 1917 in Trenton, New Jersey. Early years were in towns on the southern Jersey coast, where his father served various Methodist pastorates. After graduation from
Trenton Central High School in 1935, through the generosity of a cousin, Latimer and Herbert attended the College of Wooster, in Wooster, Ohio. Latimer graduated in 1939 with a B.A. in Economics.

Feeling called to the Christian ministry, Latimer studied at Yale Divinity School in New Haven, CT. Earning his B.D. (M.Div.) in 1945, he began ministry in the New York East Conference. In subsequent years he did additional graduate work at Union Theological Seminary and Child Study Association in NYC. In his first year at Yale, Latimer was a student assistant in the First Congregational Church in Washington, CT. Cornelia Abigail Ford was a Sunday school teacher there at that time. The two were married in the Yale Divinity School Chapel on February 19, 1943, and spent a long portion of their brief New York City honeymoon in a subway tunnel due to a World War II blackout.

Latimer became a Local Preacher in 1939 in the Northeast Ohio Annual Conference and a probationary member in the New York East Conf. in 1943. He was ordained an Elder in full connection in 1945. His appointments included Centerport, Great Neck, East Meadow, Orient, and Southold on Long Island, and also Middletown, N.Y. at St. Paul’s. Many remember his positive contribution to the children and youth when he was appointed as Executive Director of the N.Y. East Conference Board of Education, Director of the Conference Summer Program (camping), Executive Secretary of the N.Y.E. Conference Board of Education, and the merged N.Y. Conference Board. In 1974 he served as Superintendent of the Hudson North District until his retirement in 1980. He was also on many conference boards, including the Board of Ordained Ministry and as chair of the Program and Budget Committee of the Conference Council on Ministries. Latimer was clear that throughout his ministry, he enjoyed the abiding skill of his wife, Cornelia.

Latimer and Cornelia raised three sons: Philip Whitby, L. Ford, and Gordon Lewis, and there are five grandchildren.

Latimer, who loved nature and camping, also loved music, especially vocal music. This pattern was set when he and his twin brother sang as a child duet in Methodist venues such as Asbury Park and Ocean Grove, N.J. In most periods of his life he was a member of a male or mixed chorus; and in later years he led a choral trip to Europe.

Throughout his life and ministry, Latimer was concerned with issues of social justice. He was a strong supporter of the civil rights movement and concerned with justice issues related to gender and disability as well as color.

In later life, Latimer and his brother Herb were offered the opportunity to participate in a Duke University twin study on memory and aging. In old age he wished to extend useful knowledge to others by contributing brain tissue for Alzheimer’s disease research, a continuation of his caring for others.
In retirement, Latimer and his wife of 63 years, Cornelia, first lived in Essex, CT, and then moved to Fresno, CA, close to his twin brother. Since 1995 they lived at Palm Village, a Mennonite Brethren Retirement Community.

“Those of us who benefited from Latimer’s ministry in the camping program have much to thank him for. I myself, in preparing this Memoir, know that Latimer’s intervention in my life in early seminary days was crucial to my ordination and first church appointment. When many were questioning my ordination and appointability because of my disabilities, Latimer offered me a job as camp manager at Epworth in South Jamesport, L.I., so that many clergy, laity, and children in the Conference would get to know me. My own 40 years of active ministry would not have happened without Latimer. Thank you!” - John Carr

Latimer died at Palm Village Health Care on October 6, 2006. A memorial service was held at Palm Village Chapel in Reedley, CA with the Rev. Larry Patten, Pastor of Wesley UMC in Fresno, and Rev. Robert Kroeker, Chaplain at Palm Village, officiating. Interment was at Washington Cemetery in Washington, CT.

Philip Neale and Rev. John Carr

**Rev. Phillip Elmore Sandbek**  
**October 11, 1922 - March 12, 2007**

Reverend Phillip Elmore Sandbek was born October 11, 1922 in Grand Forks, North Dakota to John Sandbek and Alice Leaf. His brother, Vernon, also entered the ministry.

Education was in the Minnehaha Academy in Minneapolis, MN; after which he served in the Army Air Corp from 1943 to 1945, as a ball turret gunner on a B-17. He flew 30 missions over Germany.

After the War was over he attended North Park Theological Seminary in Chicago, IL, graduating in 1952. As a minister in the Evangelical Covenant Church, he was ordained a deacon in 1954 and served at Northport, Michigan; Plainville, and East Northport.

Further studies took him to the State University in Oneonta, N.Y. where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Education; and then a Master of Divinity from Drew University School of Theology in Madison, N.J.

In June 1961 he began ministry in the New York Annual Conference, with assignments to Prattsville, Lexington, Westkill and Spruceton; Treadwell and Ouleout; and Roosevelt, L.I. In 1968 he was ordained an elder, and in 1970-72 pursued further education before appointments to Brooklyn: Grace in 1972, and Hauppauge, L.I. 1977-80. In 1981 he was granted retired status while living in Arkansas. There he served at Paragould, Highfill, Elm Springs, Oakley Chapel in Rogers, Pea Ridge, Gentry, Perryville, Russellville, and the Bella Vista Wesleyan Church.
On April 14, 1946 he and Willavene Shank married in Baltimore, Maryland. They became parents to Arlyce and Rebecca; grandparents to two boys, and great grandparents to nine children.

Phillip was 84 at his death in Bentonville, Arkansas. His service was at Oakley Chapel United Methodist in Rogers, AR, with his brother Rev. Vernon Sandbek delivering the eulogy, and Rev. James Keith speaking about “Phil has blest so many”. Burial was at Bella Vista Cemetery. Bella Vista. AR.

A tribute to Our Dad from Arlyce and Becky: “Husband, father, brother, uncle, grandfather, great grandfather...... mentor, friend, teacher, preacher, minister, carpenter, fix-it-man, rock hound, coin collector, antiques dealer, mystery reader, crossword puzzler, chair caner, jig-zoner, computer techie, world traveler, volunteer fireman... master gardener, maple syrup maker, digital photo wizard, lover of nature, duffer, fisherman, Norwegian-Swede, magician, furniture restorer, lobster-lover, gadget man, great grandchild sitter, lefse-flipper, Man of God.”

He loved the Lord, His Church, his family, and is very much missed.

Willavene S. Sandbek

Captain Gerald Hornor Sargent, CHC, USN, (Ret.)
November 4, 1916 - March 3, 2006

Born in Atlantic Highlands of New Jersey, Gerald Sargent was the son of the Rev. Norman Vincent Sargent and Grace Hornor. He graduated from Merchantville High School in 1934, and prior to college attended the Hun Prep School in Princeton. Graduating from Lafayette College in Easton, PA in 1939, he had played varsity basketball and was active in fraternity life. He completed his B.D./MDiv.; at Drew Theological Seminary in Madison, NJ.

On April 5, 1941 he and Edith Barnard married in Merchantville, They became parents to daughters Geraldine and Frances; and in March 18, 1943 Gerry was ordained a deacon in the New York Annual Conference, and served as Assistant Pastor of St. Luke’s Church in Manhattan. With World War II under way, he entered the Navy Chaplain Corps in June 1943. While on duty he was ordained an elder in 1945.

Service in the Navy was at the following duty stations: Naval Air Station, Alameda, CA; Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, TX;

USS Pine Island; MSTSPAC; Naval Station, Guam; Naval Air Station, Norfolk, VA; Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Camp Lejeune, NC; Headquarters Fifth Naval District, Norfolk, VA; FMFPAC, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; and at the Chaplains’ Division in the Bureau of Naval Personnel, Washington, DC. Retirement was granted in 1978.
As a Chaplain he served his country with distinction. In addition to theatre medals Gerald was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal and the Legion of Merit. On July 1, 1975 he was recognized as being the “Gray Shepherd”, an honor accorded the earliest appointed active duty member of the Navy Chaplain Corps.

Gerald was active in the Masonic Order, Sons of the American Revolution, and a variety of social and service organizations.

His devoted wife, Edith, predeceased him on April 14, 1994. Vel McCarty of Norfolk was his loving companion in later years. He enjoyed being with his daughters and their families. There are four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

While wintering in Honolulu, Hawaii, Chaplain Sargent passed away from respiratory and heart failure on March 3, 2006 at the age of 89 years. His life was celebrated at a memorial Service on April 1 at Epworth United Methodist Church in Norfolk. The eulogy was given by Rear Admiral Neil M. Stevenson, CHC, USN (Ret.). Interment was at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Norfolk.

While some of the time Chaplain Sargent was not able to be present at N.Y. Annual Conference sessions, it is recalled that he was usually in his summer white uniform when he came to meet his colleagues.

Vel McCarty, Geraldine Habas, Frances Cowles

Rev. Gene Martin Smith
October 4, 1943 – May 16, 2007

Rev. Gene Martin Smith passed away on Wednesday, May 16, 2007, at home. He was 63. Rev. Smith was pastor of the United Methodist Church of Monticello.

This northern Wisconsin farm boy was born in Amery, WI, on October 4, 1943. He attended grade school at Sunnyside School, which was one of the few remaining one-room school houses. After graduating from Clear Lake High School he went on to graduate from the University of Wisconsin at River Falls. Post graduate work was done at both the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis and the Wesley Seminary in Washington, DC.

He married Terrence Lee Chapin on June 26, 1965 in River Falls, Wisconsin. Two children were born to this union: Scott Martin Smith and Heidi Chapin Smith.

His corporate career in marketing included Webb Publishing in St. Paul, MN; The Parker Pen Co. in Janesville, WI; Star Expansion in Mountainville, NY; and Eran Lighting & Plastics in Poughkeepsie, NY.

Gene was appointed by the New York Conference United Methodist Church to serve as an interim lay speaker at the Mountainville UMC and as a local missionary.
at the Pine Bush UMC. After graduating from Wesley Seminary, Gene served the churches of the Fosterdale, Kenoza Lake, Jeffersonville Parish, and in 1997 was sent to the Milton and Marlboro charge. In 2002 he was ordained a Deacon and an Associate Member of the New York conference; and, was appointed to serve proudly at the Monticello United Methodist Church. He became the Chaplain for the Village of Monticello, NY.

The Annual Conference voted him as Conference Secretary in 2004. Previously he served on Board of Ordained Ministry, Council on Finance and Administration, Nominating Committee, chairman of Equitable Compensation, Visioning Team, Steward Consultant and was the Local Pastor Registrar. He served on various committees within the Hudson East, Delaware Hudson and Catskill Hudson Districts.

Gene was a strong and active supporter of the Cooperative School of Christian Mission in the New York Conference.

Gene was also an avid sports fan, who especially loved his Green Bay Packers and St. Louis Cardinals. His love of sports, and the lessons sports can teach, was shared and passed on to his son and grandchildren, all of whom knew that they had a true All Star as a Dad and Grandfather!

Gene is survived by his wife Terrence, one son, Scott and grandchildren Terriann and Scott. His siblings also survive: Kirt, Myrna, Carmen, Maureen, and Coleen. He was pre-deceased by his daughter Heidi, and by parents Wilford and Elsie Martin Smith.

Pastor Smith's memorial service was held on May 20, 2006, at the Monticello Church with the Rev. Dr. Mark Chatterton officiating and Bishop Jeremiah Park speaking. Interment was at the Hamptonburgh Cemetery, Campbell Hall, NY.

“Well done, good and faithful servant!”

Submitted by his loving family

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**Rev. Dr. John Monroe Vayhinger**

**January 27, 1916 - June 11, 2006**

Rev. Dr. John Monroe Vayhinger, age 90, passed away in Colorado Springs on Sunday, June 11, 2006. John was the first son born to Harriet (Palmer) and Paul Vayhinger in Upland, Ind. His Grandfather, Monroe Vayhinger, was president of Taylor University at that time. John was born in his Grandfather’s study and he always proclaimed that that environment created his great love of books.

Most of John’s growing up years were spent in central Indiana. He graduated from high school and then Taylor
University where he met his one and only, Ruth Imler, whose father was the pastor of the Upland Methodist Church. John had lost his father at age 12, and Ruth’s father. Rev. Earl Imler, became his new father and mentor in ministry.

John and Ruth were married in 1939. They had two children: Jack and Karen. Jack is a wildlife biologist with the Colorado Division of Wildlife and has three children. Karen (Childs) is a pediatrician and has seven children. John always loved and cherished his family!

‘Education and knowledge are critical’ and ‘learning never ends’ were John’s lifelong mottos. After graduating from Taylor University, he attended Drew Theological Seminary receiving a BD and MA in Philosophy and Systematic Theology. He volunteered for the Army and served his country in WWII as a Chaplain aboard ships in the Pacific theater. After the war, he earned an MA in Experimental Psychology and a PhD in Clinical Psychology from Columbia University. In April, 2005, John received the honorary Doctor of Science degree from the school of Professional Psychology in Colorado Springs. John always strongly believed there was no conflict between Science and Religion.

John loved to preach and pastor, but teaching became his passion - especially training pastors in counseling and care of the whole person. His teaching career included being head of the Department of Psychology at West Virginia Wesleyan College and establishing a Mental Health Clinic in South Bend, Indiana while also pastoring the Portage Chapel Methodist Church. He then had positions as professor at Garrett Seminary, department head and professor at Iliff School of Theology, and finally Anderson School of Theology. After his retirement, he taught at Asbury Theological Seminary.

In Colorado Springs, John volunteered as staff counselor at First United Methodist Church and also taught and cherished the Odds & Ends Sunday School class for 20 years.

John joined and was active in many professional organizations and traveled extensively to many conventions often reading a paper or leading a group discussion. He especially enjoyed the Society of Pastoral Scientists in England. He never missed the New York Annual Conference except for his years in the service, and always looked forward to meeting friends and former students. He was most active leading and supporting the Family Life movement and was always a strong conservative voice believing in the Bible as the true word of God.

During his Seminary days, John served multiple parishes in Southern Indiana, New York, and Connecticut. Throughout his career, John was often called upon for preaching appointments, seminars and workshops throughout the US and overseas.

All during his teaching years and in retirement he maintained a private practice as counselor/therapist. Since his death, many former clients have responded with thankful notes of appreciation for his care and love that changed their life from brokenness to wholeness.
Throughout John’s last illness, he constantly maintained his love of his family and friends and found strength through his deep and personal faith. His memorial service was held in First United Methodist Church, Colorado Springs on June 19, 2006 with former student Dr. Richard Ruth officiating. Burial was in Evergreen Cemetery, Colorado Springs. He always said he had a million questions to ask St. Peter. Now he’s getting his answers.

*Ruth I. Vayhinger*

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**Rev. James Lee White**  
**October 7, 1930 - March 6, 2007**

One of five children, James White was born on October 7, 1930 in Wilson, North Carolina to Eugene and Verna White. In 1933 the family moved to Taunton, MA. Jim graduated from Boston University, receiving an A.B. degree from the College of Liberal Arts, and a Master of Divinity from the School of Theology.

During his school years, while serving as an assistant pastor at Central Methodist in Brockton, MA, in 1951 he met Dorothy who became his wife, the wedding being at Central. They had five sons, Donald, Douglas, Dennis, Dale, and Andrew (Duncan) who died in 1996. There are nine grandchildren, and one great grand daughter who survive, plus three daughters-in-law.

Jim was ordained a deacon in 1953 in the New England Southern Conference and an elder in 1955, serving congregations in that Conference at East Braintree, MA; and Thompsonville and Danielson, CT. In June 1960 he came to the New York East Conference as Director of Youth Work under Rev. Latimer Neale’s leadership. In that position he also served as Director at Camp Quinipet on Shelter Island, Long Island. He then itinerated to Amityville: Simpson in 1964; as Associate Pastor at White Plains: Memorial; and then to Floral Park, N.Y. in 1972. Six years later he was appointed as Chaplain and later general manager at Bethel-Springvale Inn and assistant Director of the Bethel Methodist Homes in Croton-on-Hudson and Ossining, N.Y. During his time there he was elected to the Lakeland School Board in Shrub Oak, N.Y. In 1983 Jim was appointed Administrator of Friendly Acres retirement home in Newton, Kansas, and served there until returning to service in the New York Conference and his roots as a loving pastor. In 1989 he was appointed to Newburgh: Gardnertown, N.Y.; in 1992 to Saint James on Long Island; and in 1995 to Bronx: City Island (Trinity) in N.Y.

He moved to retired status in 1997, and he and Dorothy took residence in DeBary, Florida after a time in Plainfield, N.J.

They attended First United Methodist Church in Orlando, FL regularly, and enjoyed going to Bach Festival Society concerts in Winter Park. Besides love of his family and music, Jim enjoyed working part-time at a number of local businesses.
Rev. James L. White, 76, died on March 6, 2007 as the result of pneumonia following treatment for cancer. A memorial service was held on March 17 at First Church, Orlando, with the Rev. Rodney C. Wallace officiating. Final committal took place on March 31 at the Dighton Community Church in Dighton, Massachusetts.

Dorothy, his wife of 53 years, and all his family, including four siblings, mourn his passing and commend him to God’s care.

*Dorothy White*