
Memoirs 2002-2003

Clergy Persons

Rev. Kenneth F. Brice

Rev. Kenneth Fay Brice, 95, of Richland Center, died peacefully at the University of Wisconsin Health Center in Madison on September 15, 2002, following an automobile accident. He was born on August 27, 1907 in Lime Ridge, Wisconsin. Kenneth graduated from Indiana Central College in 1934 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He received his Bachelor of Divinity degree from Bonebrake (United) Seminary in 1937. He was united in marriage to Dorothy Dix Waltemathe on July 16, 1935 in Dayton, Ohio.

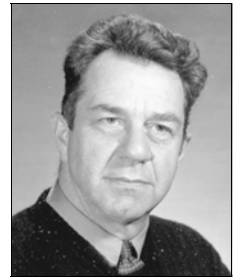


Rev. Brice began his pastoral service in the Wisconsin Conference of the United Brethren Church. He served parishes in New Auburn from 1937 to 1942 and in Janesville from 1942 to 1951. Following the merger of the Evangelical Church and the United Brethren Church, he served Evangelical United Brethren churches at Elk Mound and Iron Creek from 1951 to 1961, and Richland Center from 1961 to 1968. When the Evangelical United Brethren and the Methodist Churches merged in 1968, Rev. Brice stayed at Richland Center, but the church was called Peace United Methodist Church. He served there until his retirement in 1973. He and Dorothy remained in the Richland Center community.

Kenneth was survived by his wife, who passed away six months later on March 21, 2003. Other survivors include their four sons, Joseph, David, Philip and Mark, along with 12 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Rev. Richard Davis

Rev. Richard Davis passed away on Wednesday, June 18, 2003, at Cedar Crest Nursing Home in Janesville. He was 81 years of age. Rev. Davis was born on February 6, 1922, in Boston Massachusetts, the son of Robert I.G. and Avalia (Hilton) Davis. He served in the United States Army during World War II from 1937 – 1942. He married Helen Louise McKechnie on September 7, 1949 in Portland, Maine. They celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in 1999. Rev. Davis entered the Methodist Ministry in the Maine Conference “On Trial” in 1955. He was ordained a Deacon in 1958, and became a Full Member and was ordained Elder in 1960. He served appointments in Milo-Alton (Maine) and Shelley (Idaho) before transferring to the East Wisconsin Conference in 1963. In Wisconsin he served at Footville and Plymouth from 1963-1967, Elkhorn: Bethel and LaGrange from 1967-1973, and as School Psychologist in Janesville and Plymouth from 1975 – 1983. He went on Leave of Absence in 1983, and retired in 1990.



Rev Davis is survived by his sons, Warren and Blaine, 4 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren. His wife, Helen, preceded him in death on April 15, 2003. He was also preceded in death by one son, Roger, and a sister, Elizabeth.

Rev. David A. Fuller

Rev. David Lee Fuller, most recently of Baraboo, departed this life on March 11, 2003. He was 68. Dave was born on April 28, 1934 in Columbia County, Wisconsin. He was a graduate of Poynette High School. While at the University of Wisconsin in Madison he was very active in the Wesley Foundation. After earning his bachelor's degree he went on to graduate from Garrett Biblical Institute in Evanston, Illinois.



David served the Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church for more than 37 years in the following pastorates: Blanchardville and Fayette (1958-60), Bloomington and Bagley (1960-62), Bloomington, Cassville and Beetown (1962-64), Stanley, Cadott and Thorp (1968-75), Fennimore (1975-82), Borth and Poy Sippi (1982-90), Oconto and Abrams (1990-94), and Ash Creek and Willow Valley from 1994 until his retirement in 1997. After his retirement he was active in the retired clergy group in the Baraboo area.

David was an avid collector of antiques. Because of his open and friendly personality, it is said that he knew no strangers. In the public square at the Farmer's Market or in his neighborhood he was known and loved by all.

Rev. Earl A. Hackett

Rev. Earl Alan Hackett died unexpectedly on June 9, 2003, just a few days prior to his anticipated retirement from active ministry. Rev. Hackett was born on February 18, 1940 on a farm in Jewell County, Kansas, where he spent his early years. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Kansas Wesleyan University, the M.Th. and S.T.M. degrees from Perkins School of Theology, and the D.Min. degree from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur Georgia. He was a fellow of the Menninger Foundation in Topeka, Kansas.

Rev. Hackett entered the United Methodist Ministry in the Kansas West Conference, where he was ordained a Deacon in 1963 and an Elder in 1969. He transferred to the North Georgia Conference, where he served for 12 years, and then to the Wisconsin Conference in 1995. During his ministry he served United Methodist Congregations in Kansas from 1960-62, and 1967-1970. He was Chaplain at Brewster Place, the Congregational Church's Home for the Aging in Topeka, Kansas, from 1971-1972, Chaplain Supervisor in at North Carolina Baptist Hospital from 1972 - 1975, and Director of the Department of Pastoral Care at University Hospital in Augusta Georgia from 1975-1994. He was also an Adjunct Professor at Erskine Theological Seminary in South Carolina, and in the Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior at the Medical College of Georgia. After moving to Wisconsin he served as Chaplain at the Sinai-Samaritan Medical Center in Milwaukee from 1995-1998. He also served part-time as pastor of Emmaus UMC in Milwaukee. He was Chief of Chaplain Services at the VA Medical Center in Gulf Port, Mississippi from 1998 - 2001. He was on Leave of Absence from December, 2001 until the time of his death. During his ministry he wrote numerous articles that were published in a number of Chaplaincy-related publications.

Rev. David A. Hein

Rev. David A. Hein, age 60, of Prairie du Sac, died April 23, 2003 at University Hospital in Madison after a courageous battle following liver transplant surgery. He was born in Milwaukee on June 16, 1942, the son of birth parents Harry and Ruth Edwards and adoptive parents Art and Verna Hein. He was raised on a farm in Dunn County near Menomonie. He was united in marriage to Ellie Lund on June 9, 1962.



He earned a degree in psychology and mathematics at UW-Eau Claire in 1965. Dave and Ellie both taught high school math in Los Angeles for a year. Upon their return to the Midwest, Dave entered Garrett Seminary. After several years of seminary he went back to teaching math for a while. He later completed seminary and was ordained in 1971. Due to some heart problems Dave left the active ministry for a few years and went into computer work until he recuperated. He returned to ministry in 1978.

Dave was an avid sports fan. He loved watching tennis, golf and, of course, his beloved Green Bay Packers. He traveled extensively with friends and family. He particularly loved motorcycling with his sweetheart, Ellie. Dave was a longtime Lions Club member, and was actively involved in the community, serving on the Sauk Prairie Safe Community Coalition, the Sauk Prairie Foundation for Academic Excellence, the Sauk Prairie Area Clergy Association, the Sauk County Ethics Board, the Sauk Prairie Hospital Ethics Committee, the Sauk Prairie SOAR Committee, and the Sauk Prairie Fire Department – Stormwater Utility Committee. He was chairperson of the Coulee District Committee on Ordained Ministry at the time of his death. He served the following churches and communities during his life as a United Methodist pastor: Zion and Trinity of Beaver Dam (1971-74), Suamico (1974-75), Jim Falls, Holcombe and Anson (1978-82), First Church in Madison (1982-88), and Concordia in Prairie du Sac (1988-2003). He also took part in a pastoral exchange in Birmingham, England for six weeks in 1991.

Dave was a quick-witted person with a beautiful sense of humor. He had a smile for everyone he met, and his optimism and love of life were apparent in even the smallest deeds. His selflessness, his devotion to family and friends, and his uncompromising character will be the legacy which he leaves to all those who were privileged to know him. Above all else, Dave's faith was the foundation of his life. He is survived by his wife, Ellie, their son Pat and daughter Kimberly.

Rev. Galen A. Luebke

Rev. Galen Arvid Luebke passed away on February 11, 2003 in Baraboo at the age of 68. He was born on July 2, 1934 in Baraboo, the son of Harvey H. and Marge E. (Craker) Luebke. He married Luanne M. Unbehau on June 17, 1960 in Richland Center.



Galen graduated from North Central College in Naperville, Illinois, and went on to earn his Bachelor of Divinity degree from Evangelical Theological Seminary in Naperville in 1959. He served Our Masters EUB church in Beloit (1959-64), Bethany EUB church in Milwaukee (1964-68), Bay View UM church in Milwaukee (1968-72), Salem UM church Waukesha (1972-85) and Bethany UM church of Green Bay (1985-93).

He was active in the Annual Conference, serving on the Conference Finance and Administration committee, directing Senior High camps at Lake Lucerne, and taking part in many church growth seminars around the United States. He enjoyed contemporary church music, visiting many churches that were growing due to new ideas in worship. He started guitar groups and

contemporary worship in the churches he served. He led many youth groups canoeing in the boundary waters. He also enjoyed camping with his family and close friends over the years. He was interested in population control and environmental causes. He was involved in Volunteers In Missions, going on three trips to the Caribbean with mission work groups from Salem and Bethany churches.

After his retirement in 1993, Galen played golf, traveled four times to Europe, and journeyed in his motor home to the southwest during the winter. He enjoyed caring for the family Morgan horses. He loved restoring and maintaining the 130-year-old farm in Greenfield Township that was settled by his great grandfather. He and Luanne built a home on the family farm. He was privileged to conduct wedding services for his daughter and son, and also baptized his grandchildren. He loved having his grandchildren visit, taking them on pony, ATV and hayrides. He liked entertaining his family and friends with stories about his life experiences.

Galen was diagnosed with Waldensrom's Macroglobulinemia (a rare cancer of the blood) in 1994 and fought a brave battle with many treatments over eight years. He is survived by his wife, Luanne, his daughter, Lisa (Randy) LaCombe, his son, Jamin (Gretchen) Luebke and six grandchildren.

Rev. David Phillip Lyons

Rev. David Phillip Lyons died unexpectedly on December 1, 2002 at his home in Middleton. He was 66. David was born on March 3, 1936 in Flint Michigan. He married Judith Ann Peterson on July 2, 1960 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. A graduate of Oberlin College (1958) and Drew Theological School (1961), he served faithfully in the United Methodist Church for more than 40 years in both Ohio and Wisconsin. David served as a Seminary Intern/Youth Minister at Upper Ridgewood Community Church in Ridgewood, New Jersey. He was ordained in the East Ohio Conference in 1961. He served Granger UMC in Granger, Ohio from 1961 to 1966, Chapel UMC in North Madison, Ohio from 1966 to 1973 and then Asbury UMC from 1973 to 1988. He transferred to the Wisconsin Conference in 1988 and served First UMC in Madison from 1988 until his retirement in 2000. David also participated in pastoral exchanges, serving churches in England and Wales through the World Methodist Council in 1976, 1983, and 1995.



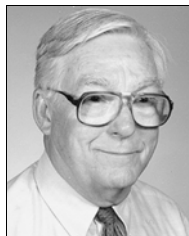
David served the church on the district level on the Finance Committee, the Board of Ordained Ministry, and the Council on Ministries. On the Conference level, he was a member of the Board of Church and Society, the Board of Ordained Ministry, the Board of Higher Education, and the Ethnic Minority Missional Priority Task Force. He also served on the Jurisdictional Committee on Ordained Ministry.

David was active in the many communities where he lived. He served as chaplain of Hospice of Delaware, originated the Delaware Community Advent Services, was the president in the Delaware Ministerial Association, and was a member of Campus Ministries Group through the chaplain's office. He also served on the boards of Help Anonymous; Liberty Community Center, People in Need; Meals on Wheels; and United Campus Christian Center at Ohio State University. He enjoyed gardening, cooking, reading, and traveling. In retirement he audited classes at the University of Wisconsin and volunteered in a local elementary school classroom.

David is survived by his wife, Judy, a son, Paul, and a daughter, Janet, and four grandchildren.

Rev. Lee Charles Moorehead

Lee Charles Moorehead, age 84, died March 21, 2003 in Batavia, Illinois. He was born February 28, 1919 in Peoria, Illinois, the son of Lee Coddington and Dial Winifred Davis Moorehead. His family soon moved to Decatur, Illinois where, at the age of 3, he experienced the death of his father. Lee's love of Abraham Lincoln developed from living in this area.



He graduated from Decatur High School and then Millikin University (1941). He entered seminary at Boston University School of Theology. After one year of study there, he married Betty Birmingham of Chicago on August 22, 1942. They returned to Boston University where Lee finished seminary. Millikin University later awarded Lee an honorary doctorate.

Lee was ordained in the Methodist Church in 1944 and was first appointed Minister to Students at the Wesley Foundation at Ohio State University and associate pastor of Indianola church in Columbus. There followed pastorates in Ada, Chillicothe and Columbus, Ohio. He served 4 years as professor of preaching and worship at St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City. Lee then returned to serving churches at Delaware, Ohio; Carbondale, Illinois; and Green Bay and Madison, Wisconsin. After his retirement in 1984, Lee and Betty made their home in Batavia, Illinois. He served as parish minister at Community UMC in Naperville and Batavia UMC, where he was named Minister Emeritus.

During his years of leadership in the church, Lee was a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences three times. He was a member of the National Board of Christian Social Concerns for 12 years. In the summer of 1956 he took his family on an exchange pastorate in England. In 1961 he wrote the book "Freedom of the Pulpit" and in retirement he co-authored the book "Six Stages of a Pastor's Life". At the time of his retirement, his church, First UMC of Madison, published a collection entitled "Sermons to Remember".

For many years he taught at the UMC School for Missions. He also directed the Wisconsin Conference School of Preaching. He was mentor to countless young ministers and greatly enjoyed leading confirmation classes in the churches he served.

Because of his lifelong special interest in Abraham Lincoln, for 22 years he directed an annual seminary trip to the Springfield, Illinois area to study the life and leadership of Lincoln. He was well known to many of the most prominent Lincoln scholars and authors. Another great love was for books. He launched a program called "Books Between Bites" in Green Bay, Madison and Batavia.

Lee was an extremely inquisitive and vigorous person. He dedicated himself to many causes, especially the civil rights movement and to the brotherhood and exchange of cultures and religions. He thrived in university towns, befriending people from all over the world and enjoying theatre, symphony, opera and most especially sporting events.

In Batavia after his retirement, he was a member of ACCESS, serving as its president and chair of the Heritage Committee. He established the annual Lincoln Dinner Theater, was elected to the Batavia Library Board and in 1991 was chosen Batavia's Citizen of the Year. Together, Lee and Betty coordinated Batavia UMC's involvement at Hesus House homeless shelter. They also delivered meals for the Golden Diners program, volunteered at the Depot Museum, assisted with RSVP and its senior prescription program and drove seniors to medical appointments, and coordinated blood drives at their church.

He is survived by his wife, Betty, two sons, David and Tim, two daughters, Debbie Thorpe and Becky Hoag, 8 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

Rev. Charles B. Sanford

Rev. Charles Belding Sanford, age 82, passed away peacefully on April 30, 2003 at the Theda Clark Medical Center in Neenah after a short illness. He was born on July 16, 1920 in Syracuse, New York, the only child of Lewis and Mae (Belding) Sanford. He graduated from Syracuse University in 1942 with honors and was Phi Beta Kappa. He was a 1945 graduate of the Colgate Rochester Divinity School, and it was there that he met his future wife, Rev. Lourinda Rhoades. They were married at the Divinity School Chapel in January of 1945. Lourinda preceded him in death in March of 2002, after 57 years as loyal helpmates.



Charles' published two books on Thomas Jefferson which are cataloged in the Library of Congress. One examined Jefferson's religious influences and views, including the three books he wrote on Jesus, and the other looked at the Jefferson library, which later became the basis for the Library of Congress.

Charles and Lourinda were among the first husband and wife clergy teams to practice ministry together. Because she was not allowed to be a fully ordained minister in the Methodist Church in Wisconsin at that time, they worked together serving 7 churches as American Baptists in Vermont. When Wisconsin did finally allow women to be fully ordained in 1964, Charles and Lourinda returned to Wisconsin to become the first clergy couple to serve in the Methodist ministry in the state. In the last 22 years of their active ministry they served 22 churches. Charles was appointed to: Grantsburg, Siren, Danbury and Lewis (1964-68), the Wesley Parish (Gays Mills, North Clayton, Readstown, Seneca, Soldiers Grove) (1968-72), North Fond du Lac and Eldorado (1972-75), Trinity UMC in Brookfield (1975-77), Loyal and York Center (1977-82), and Phillips, Hawkins and Kennan (1983-86). At times Charles and Lourinda were serving five churches at a time and conducting three or four different services every Sunday. They enjoyed traveling, and each year would try to take month-long study trips abroad with each other, usually visiting church leaders and historical sites in over 60 different countries. They both retired in 1986 and moved to Neenah. Even after retirement, they served a church at Ring, Wisconsin, the last Welsh church in the state that had had continuous services.

Now Charles can say with the Apostle Paul, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. And now there is waiting for us and all the faithful, the prize of victory awarded for a righteous life."

Rev. Orvis "O.B." Smith

Rev. Orvis Bryton "O.B." Smith was 94 when he passed from this life into his eternal life on November 26, 2002. He was born January 7, 1908 to Brayton E. and Mary Kimball Smith. In December 1934 O.B. married Virginia Valiquet, who preceded him in death on February 17, 2001. They had been married 66 years. He is survived by his three sons, Stuart, Steven and Philip, nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Following his wishes, his body was cremated and his ashes sent to Mwinki Methodist Church in Meru, Kenya.



O.B. was a 1929 graduate of Lake Forest College, and spent several summers of post-graduate study at Garrett Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL. He worked at the First National Bank of Chicago, where he also played on the company basketball team. He moved to Wausau to study law with his father but chose instead to join Employers Mutual as a claims adjuster. In 1947, O.B. redirected his life into church work and was employed as an Urban Worker in Milwaukee, canvassing the suburbs to determine where churches should be located. He was to become the Ruling Elder in the Presbyterian Church, Director of its Camps and Conferences and the Field Director

for Christian Education for the Presbyterian Synod of Wisconsin, which he served until 1957. He accepted the position of Director of Christian Education for Sunnyside Church in South Bend, Indiana, and in 1962 assumed the same position for Union Congregational Church in Green Bay. In 1968 O.B. retired, only to become the minister for the Lamartine, Oakfield and South Byron United Methodist Churches. He retired again in 1976, going to Green Bay where he became the Minister of Visitation for First UMC. His third and final retirement was in 1985.

O.B. and Ginny were world travelers with special affinities for Scotland and England. O.B. loved acting and often performed with the Chancel Players. His favorite roles were The Undertaker in Evergreen's "A Christmas Carol" which he played for 10 years, and Mr. Brownlow in Music Theater's "Oliver". Last year, at age 93, he reprised the role of Old Tawm in Fry's "Boy With A Cart". His special loves were his Companions in Christ class led by Pastor Grace Imathiu and his Disciple II class with Pastor Karen Ebert. He enjoyed his cat, crossword puzzles, Jeopardy, Hershey bars, computer card games, spoonerizing words, and reading Agatha Christie and Carl Hiaasen. Every year for the past 52 years, O.B. would compose a family Christmas Letter – much anticipated for its insights and humor. His spiritual mentor was the theologian, Paul Tillich, and O.B. would often quote this summary phrase: "Experiencing God's grace is the hearing a still, small voice saying...you are accepted. You are accepted by something greater than yourself. Just accept the fact that you are accepted." That's how O.B. Smith lived and how he completed his life. Many will miss his wisdom, his love of life, and his infectious humor.

Clergy Spouses

Dorothy Dix Brice

Dorothy Dix Brice, 95, died peacefully at Colony Oaks Care Center in Appleton on March 21, 2003. Dorothy Dix Waltemathe was born in Dayton, Ohio on April 25, 1907. She married the Rev. Kenneth Fay Brice on July 16, 1935 in Dayton, Ohio.

Dorothy, for a time, held a Quarterly Conference license to preach, and was a faithful servant-companion to her husband Kenneth as they served parishes in Wisconsin. They lived and worked in New Auburn from 1937 to 1942, and in Janesville from 1942 to 1951 through the Wisconsin United Brethren Church. Following the merger, they worked in the Evangelical United Brethren churches at Elk Mound and Iron Creek from 1951 to 1961, and Richland Center from 1961 to 1968. Again there was a merger and they remained at Richland Center but the church was called Peace United Methodist Church. Kenneth retired in 1973, and they continued to live in the Richland Center community.

Kenneth preceded her in death on September 15, 2002. Their survivors include their four sons, Joseph, David, Philip and Mark, 12 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Margaret A. Burkhard

Margaret A. Burkhard was born to her eternal life on November 12, 2002 from The Waters of Westmoreland in Waukesha. She was 94. Margaret was born April 29, 1908 in Berlin, Germany to August and Bertha Kehr. She moved to the United States with her parents and brother and the family settled in Milwaukee. She met Rev. John M. Burkhard in Milwaukee and they married on August 23, 1930. John left for his eternal home on July 18, 1974



Margaret always had great love for her family. She was the dear mother of William, Ruth Sorbel, Donald, Robert, the late John W. and the late Carol Davis. She loved and enjoyed her six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Along with her husband, Margaret shared her strong faith and love in churches in Canada, North and South Dakota and Wisconsin. She was formerly a member of Calvary UMC in Milwaukee, Calvary UMC in West Allis, and Whitefish Bay UMC. At the time of her death, she was a member of First UMC of Waukesha. She loved music and played piano and organ for countless church services. She appreciated the beauty of flowers and had many houseplants and outdoor flower gardens.

Helen M. Davis

Helen Davis, wife of Rev. Richard Davis, a retired clergy member of the Wisconsin Conference, passed away on April 15, 2003. A memorial service was held on Saturday, April 20, 2003, in the Cedarcrest Chapel in Janesville.

Helen Louise McKechnie was born in Maine. She married Richard Davis in Portland on September 7, 1949. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1999. Together with her husband, Helen served congregations in Main, and Idaho, before coming to Wisconsin in 1963. During his ministry in Wisconsin, Richard was appointed to serve at Footville, Plymouth, Afton, LaGrange, and Bethel UMCs, where Helen was active in the congregations.

Helen is survived by two sons, Warren and Blaine, 4 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren. Her husband, Richard, joined her in eternal life on June 18, 2003.

Pearl Knoespel

Pearl Knoespel, widow of Rev. Clarence Knoespel, died on Sunday, January 5, 2003.

Born Pearl Fredericks, she married Clarence Knoespel on August 15, 1942 at the Emmanuel United Methodist Church in Appleton. Her husband served congregations in Lark, Milwaukee, Jefferson, Mosinee, and Pardeeville, where she was active in the congregations. They retired in 1975.

Pearl is survived by a son, Michael, of Appleton. No further information was available at the time the Journal was published.

Bill Knutson

William Charles Knutson passed away suddenly on September 8, 2002 at his home in Greenville. He was 61. William was born on January 3, 1941 in Rhinelander, the son of William and Irene (Onson) Knutson Sr. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee with a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism. Bill started his journalism career at the *Rhinelander Daily News*. He went to Appleton in 1965 and started with *The Post-Crescent* as the police beat reporter. He served as managing editor of that paper from 1983 until his retirement in January of 2002.



Bill married Patricia Stenson at First UMC in Appleton on March 5, 1983. Bill was a member of Brillion Faith UMC at the time of his death and a past member of Appleton First UMC. He was always a faithful, self-sacrificing supporter of his wife's ministry. Bill was also a former member of many civic organizations in the Fox Cities Area. He was a past president of the Wisconsin Associated Press. He was recently cited by the State of Wisconsin for his years of excellence in Journalism, and was received an award for service to the Wisconsin Associated Press.

He is survived by his wife, Rev. Patricia Knutson, his first wife, Kathy Bates, and his children: Kerry Zuelzke, Craig, Steve and Kristy, and 6 grandchildren. His family writes, " We will never forget our Dad's zest for life; always wanting to be 'at the scene' so he had more stories to tell. He was looking forward to retirement, wanting to travel more and spend more time with friends, family, and especially the grandkids. We never realized how many friends our Dad had and how many lives he touched. Our Dad always wanted to do the right thing, he treated people with respect and never once did he let his popularity go to his head. We are still not sure if our Dad knew how much he accomplished in his short 61 years; how many people admired him, how proud we were of him, or what as asset he was to the community." Bill remains greatly loved and dearly missed.

Myrtle G. Matteson Leatherman

Myrtle G. Matteson Leatherman, age 94, died November 12, 2002 at her home in Monroe. Myrtle G. Matteson was born in Cortland, Illinois, on October 29, 1908. She lived there 9 years before moving to Colorado where she resided until her marriage to Wilbur J. Leatherman on June 16, 1935. After graduating from the University of Colorado, she taught high school English in Steamboat Springs, Colorado for 3 years and later in Mondovi, Wisconsin.



The couple lived in Kansas, Iowa and Minnesota before moving to Wisconsin. In Wisconsin they lived in Osceola, Rural, Greendale, Poynette, Wentworth, Hawthorne, Burlington, Antigo and Richland Center. When her husband became a full time minister, Myrtle was active training Sunday School teachers statewide. They served Methodist churches in Brodhead, Lancaster, Mondovi, Lodi and Blue River. Upon retiring they moved to Monroe in 1976.

Myrtle enjoyed writing and was proud of her Norwegian heritage. She continued her education at Elderhostels throughout the United States. She was actively involved in the Institute of Cultural Affairs and a member of the Monroe UMC and the Peace and Friendship Circle. Of special importance was her collection of over 60 Madonnas from all over the world. She enjoyed sharing them with groups throughout the community.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Rev. Wilbur Johnston Leatherman. She is survived by her three daughters: Sonja Van Dusseldorp, Heidi Holmes and Jonna Heins, 9 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

Beth M. Redfearn

Beth M. Redfearn died suddenly at her home in Prescott, Arizona on May 5, 2003 at the age of 75. Beth was born in Osborne, Kansas on February 28, 1928. She met her future husband, Kenneth R. Redfearn, at Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina. They were married on March 15, 1947.



Beth was the mother of three children, Mark M. Redfearn, Timothy J. Redfearn and Luanne Ng. She had six wonderful grandchildren.

Beth's college career was interrupted by the birth of her first child. As her three children grew up, she was able to resume her studies and graduated magna cum laude from Colorado Women's College in 1966. She taught English in public schools in Denver, Minneapolis and Milwaukee. While serving as the assistant director of the residential treatment facility in Racine, she received a Master of Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin.

Beth was a minister's wife who deplored the goldfish-bowl existence of life in a parsonage. Yet she devoted many years of service to the church by leading youth groups and even preached occasionally. After her retirement from teaching, she worked for a year as the Christian education director of a large church in metropolitan Denver.

Beth was a social activist, serving at one time as program director of Yavapai HIV/AIDS. She was a lifelong member of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR), an organization that works for world peace.

Beth was also an accomplished writer. Her story, "The Ultimate Sacrifice" was published in 2002 in the book "Heartwarmers of Spirit: Triumphs Over Life's Challenges". The story was a tribute to her parents, who taught her the meaning of love.

Beth had definite ideas about how her memorial service was to be conducted and left these instructions: "Have a service of worship and celebration in church. No flowers unless they come handpicked from the garden or field or houseplants from someone's home. Dandelions, yes! Wildflowers, Amen! But if I die when the ground is frozen or barren, then just a twig with the promise of leaf or flower will suffice. At my Service of Celebration, I would like for people to share the silly, dumb, loving, aggravating, anger-evoking, funny things they remember. Have someone read or tell one of my children's stories. Please understand that no one should feel obligated to come to my end-of-life-on-this-earth celebration, but I would much appreciate it if those who care would either fly a balloon or kite for me. I always wanted to be a kite-flier and was too klutzy to accomplish it. So now others can do it in my name. If, like it was for me, a kite is too hard to keep aloft, then fly a balloon. They both float high and free as I always wished to. I'm not afraid of death. It's beyond death that still mystifies me. On my death, I hope people don't cry and don't sigh, but sing that I was once alive and that I brought new life into the world. So have music for sure, but no dreary 'sweet-by-and-by' stuff. I'd rather have some foot-stomping, hand clapping music. Let the rafters ring!"

Edna M. Sutton

Edna Mae Shamps Sutton, age 99, passed into her eternal life on May 27, 2003, at Schmitt Woodland Hills in Richland Center. She was born on April 25, 1904, in Freeport Illinois, the daughter of David and Rachel (Griffin) Shamps. She met and married Warren Washington Sutton in Fennimore Wisconsin. She graduated from Black River Falls University and taught grade school in various places in Wisconsin. She assisted her husband in his ministry in the United Brethren and later the Evangelical United Brethren denomination. During World War II, she was manager of a K-ration production facility in Monroe, Wisconsin.

Edna was the Director of Junior High Camping for the Wisconsin EUB Conference at the time that Camp Lucerne was being developed. She conducted the very first camp held on that site. Campers slept in tents erected on the cement pads that later supported cabins.

Warren preceded her in death on March 15, 1965. Edna chose to reside in Richland Center since her retirement in 1969 and was an active member of Peace UMC. She was a cheerful and dedicated visitor to shut-ins and hospital patients. She also provided rides for church friends until she was nearly 90 years old. She was known as the "Butterfly Lady", taking exhibits, and larvae, as well as actual chrysalis stage and Monarch butterflies into grade school classrooms and Sunday School and Vacation Bible Schools, where she would use their life cycle as both a nature study and a symbol of the resurrection. Edna became so interested with the mystery of Monarch migration that she became a volunteer for the University of Toronto research study. For a number of summers she raised dozens of Monarchs from eggs, placed research bands on their wings, and recorded their release. One of her tagged butterflies from Wisconsin was found in Texas.

Edna is survived by her only son, Paul, his wife Lana and two grandchildren. In celebration at her burial in Boaz Cemetery, 16 Monarch butterflies were released.

Lay Members of Annual Conference

Eugene L. Books

Eugene L. Books, a resident of Hortonville Wisconsin, passed away on October 12, 2002 at the Appleton Medical Center following a brief illness. He was 77 years old. He was born on May 9, 1925 in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, the son of Oscar and Ellen (Olson) Books. On January 29, 1955 he was united in marriage to Marion Root in Madison.

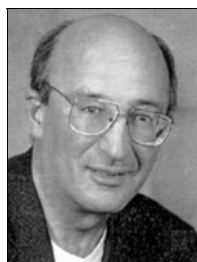


Gene was an active member of the Hortonville Lions Club, the New London Masonic Lodge #131, and Royal Arch Masons #62, serving each in various capacities. He was also a docent at the Experimental Aircraft Association Museum in Oshkosh. Gene was an active and faithful member of the Emmanuel UMC in Center, Wisconsin. He served the church in many capacities including the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, the Trustees, as chairperson of the Administrative Council and as a Lay Member of Annual Conference. He enjoyed traveling, bird watching and nature. He appreciated music of many kinds and spent much of his career working in radio and television.

Gene is survived by his wife, Marion, his six children: Ronald, Christopher, Gregory, Alicia Hribal, Rebecca Koszalinski, and Andrew, and 14 grandchildren.

David C. Fordham

David Crofoot Fordham, age 60, passed away peacefully at his home in Baraboo on January 3, 2003, following a courageous battle with cancer. He was born in Albany, New York on November 27, 1942 to Stephen and Marian (Crofoot) Fordham and grew up on the Delmar Game Farm, which his father managed. It was there he learned his love of nature. He graduated from Bethlehem Central High School where he was a Merit Scholarship winner, and from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, in 1965, with a Bachelor of Chemical Engineering degree. He served his country as an officer in the Army from 1965-68, and then continued to work for the Department of the Army as a civilian.



He moved to Baraboo in 1971 to work at the Badger Army Ammunition Plant and held the position of Commander's Representative from 1976 until his retirement in November 2002. It was through his leadership that the transition of the plant from military to non-military ownership began. His foresight in beginning prairie restoration at the plant in the late 70's helped the destiny of the area include a major focus on the environment. David received the Meritorious Civilian Service Award, a tribute in the Congressional Record, and commendations from the Wisconsin State Legislature and the Sauk County Board of Supervisors, among other awards.

In 1965 David married Joan Alexander and they raised three children. He taught his family the importance of the natural world through camping, canoeing and hiking vacations from Wisconsin to the Rocky Mountains and the Ozarks. David is survived by his wife, Joan, his children Steve Fordam, Debrah Fordham and Judy Lipham, and his two grandchildren.

David's special interests included flying. He was a private pilot with more than 3,000 hours to his credit. He enjoyed riding his recumbent bicycle and for several years rode more than 3,000 miles per year. He and Joan rode a tandem bicycle, and together completed the 500 mile Ride Across Wisconsin three times. He played folk music on his guitar with a group of friends, co- led hiking and canoeing trips for church youth and was an accomplished birder. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Baraboo, serving on many committees, singing in the choir and ringing bells in the bell choir. He served as the Statistician for the Wisconsin Annual Conference for 14 years, and also served on the Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries and was the chair of the facilities committee.

David's life had a significant impact on his community due to his vision and his care for the land and the people. He was always professional and honest, and his leadership in the restoration of the prairie at Badger will provide a gift for generations to come. His faithful work through the church has left blessings with countless others.

John Edward Human

John Edward Human was born June 12, 1952 in Kingston, Tennessee. He passed away in Chula Vista California on April 17, 2003 at the age of 50.

John touched many hearts and lives because he read, reflected and liked to discuss weighty topics with others. He challenged people to question long held assumptions and encouraged many to grow in their understanding of human sexuality. John had the "Tennessee gift of gab". He loved to garden and had a green thumb with flowers and vegetables. He also enjoyed playing the piano and reading.



John was an active member of Wesley UMC in Sheboygan. He participated in numerous Adult Sunday School Classes and Bible Studies. He was very involved in helping the Wesley church become a Reconciling Congregation. He cared enough about his church and about Gay issues that he spoke out and shared his experiences even when it was risky to do so. He worked hard for the changes he believed in. He once wrote that although organized religion could be hurtful, all the hurt he experienced brought him closer to God. He was a lay member of Annual Conference from 1991 to 1995.

After his sister died of cancer, John sold his house in San Francisco, quit his job with Kohler Co. and moved to Chula Vista, CA to help his brother-in-law raise the children.

Joyce L. Nelson

A resident of Tomahawk, Joyce L. Nelson, passed away unexpectedly on September 26, 2002 at St. Mary's Hospital in Rhinelander. She was 71 years old. Joyce was born December 30, 1930 in Rockford, Illinois to George O. and Lois Nelson. She married Eugene Nelson in June 1947 in Oregon, Illinois. He preceded her in death in 1992.

Joyce lived in Rockford most of her life, where she attended Rockford schools. She was a member of Our Masters UMC in Rockford until she moved to Tomahawk, Wisconsin. Joyce was a very active member of the Tomahawk UMC. Her greatest joy was singing in the choir. She was a loyal member of the United Methodist Women, where she served in several offices. At the time of her death was the Dean of the School of Christian Mission. Joyce served as a Lay Member of Annual Conference for several years. Her involvement in the community included assisting with the Tomahawk Food Pantry and the Hatchet Booster Club. Joyce loved to sing, cook and be involved with the young people.

Joyce is survived by a daughter, a son and four grandchildren. The celebration of her life, death and resurrection was held at Tomahawk UMC with interment at Sunset Memorial Gardens in Rockford, Illinois.

Lois Whitmore

Lois Whitmore, age 88, died August 19, 2002, at Lakeland Medical Center in Elkhorn. She was born on February 9, 1914 in Spring Prairie Township to Pem and Eleanor (Jones) Comstock. She spent her lifetime in Spring Prairie Township. She received her education in Burlington grade and high schools. She married Floyd "Lee" Whitmore on November 16, 1946. He preceded her in death July 25, 1980.



Lois was a member of the Spring Prairie UMC where she taught Sunday School for more than 40 years, served on numerous committees and was a Lay Member of Annual Conference. She was a member and past matron of the Burlington Eastern Star #153 and was a 4-H sewing instructor. She loved sewing, gardening, reading and crossword puzzles.

Survivors include her sons, Gary and Dale, daughter-in-law Jeanne (Brian) Whitmore-Tanking, 5 grandchildren and one great grandchild. Her son, David, preceded her in death.