

MEMOIRS 2003-2004

Clergy

Edith-Mary Ash

Edith-Mary Ash lived her life with joy in the Lord and love for all God's people. She went to her heavenly home April 24, 2004. She graduated from Elroy High School in 1940 and kept in touch with many of her classmates through the years.

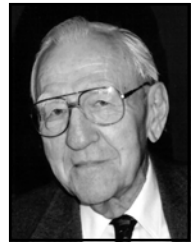
Edith-Mary served God throughout her life. She was ordained as a "Local Deacon" in 1972. She was always enthusiastic about life and was ever watchful for what God was doing in the lives of people. Her delight in the Lord was obvious to anyone who talked to her for more than two minutes. When she said she would hold someone or something in prayer, she didn't just offer a brief petition to God, she grabbed those people and carried them to the heavenly throne in prayer and wouldn't let go.

Living in Elroy, Wisconsin, Edith-Mary worked in the Elroy Church wherever there was a need or a task to be done, from the folding of the newsletters to providing pulpit supply when pastors were on vacation. She worked on the Pastoral Care Council at St. Joseph's Community Health Services in Hillsboro, Wisconsin as one of the chaplains serving the hospital and the nursing home. Wherever there was a need, Edith-Mary felt it was her privilege to help, from the Elroy Food Council to the Juneau County Aging Coalition. Her strong faith in God and clear love for people touched many lives. Now her friends are assured that they are still held in her love and prayers; it is just that she now offers them from God's throne room.

Bernard "Ben" Bartel

The Rev. Bernard "Ben" Bartel passed into the Great Beyond on November 7, 2003 in Madison at the age of 89, following heart surgery. He was born on April 23, 1914 near Wautoma, a son of Fred and Martha Bandt Bartel.

After attending a one-room rural school, he attended and graduated from Wautoma High School. The following year he attended the Waushara County Normal School, receiving a certificate to teach in elementary education. After teaching briefly in a rural school, he attended North Central College in Naperville, Illinois where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. The next three years were spent attending the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Naperville where he earned a Master of Divinity degree. Ben spent the next 23 years in the ministry of the Evangelical United Brethren Church, serving Faith EUB in Milwaukee (1938-1940), Zion EUB in Beaver Dam (1940-1943), First Evangelical EUB in Madison (1943-1956), Monroe (1956-1960), and Oak Creek (1960-1963).



After earning a Master of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin in the School of Education, he changed professions. The focus of this degree was on special education, in meeting the educational needs of the mentally challenged. He was also interested in understanding and meeting the needs of parents of the mentally challenged children. He worked in the Milwaukee County Schools. After taking additional training at Marquette University and the University of Chicago, the State of Wisconsin granted him a license as a psychologist. He spent the next 17 years working in state institutions and in public schools. Summer vacations were frequently spent at Southern Colony in Union Grove, a state sponsored institution for mentally

challenged persons. After several years he moved to Madison where he worked in the Cooperative Educational Service Agency. At the time of his retirement he worked in the McFarland and River Valley School Districts. He especially enjoyed working with troubled middle school pupils. Ben spent his entire lifetime on vocations that sought to help people.

Over the years Ben was a member of the Wisconsin School Psychologist Association; the Downtown Kiwanis Club; a former board member of MARC; and a life member of the Olbrich Botanical Society. During his presidency of the Olbrich Botanical Society expansion plans were begun, resulting in the building of the Conservatory, the Evjue Commons, a library and adjoining rooms.

Retirement was a special time for Ben. He firmly believed that unless elderly people continue to stimulate their minds, they will lose the skills they once had. He was still taking courses at Madison Area Technical College at the time of his passing.

His hobbies kept him busy year around. Growing dahlias occupied more of his time than his other interests. He enjoyed sharing his favorite flower with others and providing altar arrangements at First UMC during the fall. Both he and his wife, LaVerne, enjoyed competing in local, regional and national dahlia shows. Ben won the over-all sweepstakes award at the National Show in St. Louis in 1985. He had the best dahlia photograph at the National Show in Akron, Ohio in September, 2003. He received the American Dahlia Society Gold Medal, its highest award, in 2001 for outstanding contributions to dahlia culture.

Woodworking was another hobby that he enjoyed, especially if the wood came from trees grown on the family farm. He always looked forward to deer hunting on the Bartel Homestead. Ben was fond of trying to outsmart the lake trout in Green Lake, where he had a cottage. Photography also played an important role in his life. Many of his dahlia pictures were used on covers of the National Dahlia Society Bulletin. Ben never forgot his boyhood roots. One of his favorite pastimes was driving his restored Farmall tractor over the acres of the family farm he once worked with horses as a teenager.

Ben touched the lives of many. He is survived by his wife, LaVerne, three sons: Bruce, Timothy and Jon; seven grandchildren and one great grandchild.

S. Stephen Foster

Rev. S. Stephen Foster was serving as pastor of the Wesley United Methodist Church in Wausau, when he died unexpectedly on January 7, 2004. He suffered a heart attack while snorkeling on vacation in Mexico. He was 62. He was born in West Allis on November 3, 1941, the son of Samuel L. and Mary Foster. On June 15, 1963 he married Sherian Wilson in Bloomington, Minnesota.

Although he stood only 5 foot 4 inches tall, Foster had a booming voice that reached into the depths of a person's soul and touched the gates of heaven. "You could tell that it wasn't a guy singing a song – he was really feeling it," said his daughter Becky. He combined a personal touch and outgoing nature with an abundance of joy and energy to draw people to him, and as a result closer to God. He had a kind heart, a big smile and was willing to help anyone and everyone.



He entered the ordained ministry through the East Wisconsin Conference as a deacon in 1966, and was ordained an elder in 1967. He assisted at the churches in Minocqua and Mercer during the summers of 1966 and 1967, while he attended Asbury Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky during the school year. He served in Elm Grove from 1969 to 1973, then the New Hope Larger Parish from 1973 to 1976. He was an Assistant Professor of Religion at Hamline University in

St. Paul, Minnesota during the 1976/1977 academic year. He returned to parish ministry, serving the churches of Ashland, Sanborn and Odanah between 1977 and 1987. In 1987 he moved to Lodi, serving there for eight years.

He was the pastor at Faith UMC in Neenah from 1995 until 2001. He began his pastoral work at Wesley UMC in Wausau in June of 2001.

In addition to his love for Christ and his family, Steve loved the outdoors and skied down the slopes of Granite Peak Ski Area as often as possible. One Christmas when he desperately wanted a bicycle, his parents gave him skis. As unhappy as he was at the moment, it became a lifelong love. Hugs, laughter and smiles were staples of daily life in the Foster family and reflected Steve's joy in the Lord everywhere he went.

He is in his heavenly home, but survived by his family: his wife Sherian and their four children, David (Meg) Foster, Tracy (Paul) Foster, Don Foster and Becky Foster, and four grandchildren.

Lowell L. Reykdal, Sr.

Rev. Lowell L. Reykdal, Sr. finished his earthly travels and went Home on August 12, 2003. He passed away at the hospital in Tomahawk, Wisconsin at the age of 91. Lowell Lawrence Reykdal was born June 5, 1912 in Larmartine, Wisconsin. He graduated from Neenah High School in 1930, received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1934 from Lawrence College and his Bachelor of Divinity degree from Garrett Seminary in 1937. He married Margaret Faye Hahn on July 24, 1942, and they traveled together through 61 years of marriage. He entered pastoral ministry through the East Wisconsin Conference and served churches in Bear Creek (1931 – 1932), Weyauwega (1932 – 1937), Manawa (1937 – 1940), Greenbush and Glen Beulah (1940 – 1943), Yorkville and Franksville (1943 – 1947), Oshkosh: First (1947 – 1955), Lake Geneva (1955 – 1957), Antigo and Mattoon (1957 – 1963), Watertown (1963 – 1967). He transferred to the West Wisconsin Conference and served churches in Barren (1967 – 1972), and Whitehall, Arcadia and Montana (1975 – 1978). Lowell had only good things to say about each and every church. He was a director of a Jr. High Camp at Camp Byron for five summers (1940 to 1945), and was the volunteer Conference Youth Director from 1945 to 1947. He was also a Conference Laboratory School Director for four years.



The Reykdal family liked to travel. When their sons, Lowell Jr., Howard, Philip and Clifford were young, they camped in each of the 50 States. After the boys grew up and left home, Lowell and Margaret continued to camp, and they went on two cruises and three trips overseas.

In 1978 Lowell retired to their home on Deer Lake. Lowell did a lot of substitute preaching and fishing. He was busy with many repair and remodeling projects at the house, including the building of a new deck. He also made beautiful 'old stamp covered' wastebaskets. He liked to read, and did more during the later part of his 28 years of retirement. He especially enjoyed E. Stanley Jones' books.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret and their extended family, who continue to travel faithfully until they meet again in glory.

Eldon L. Riggs, Jr.

Rev. Eldon Riggs passed away peacefully into the arms of Jesus on July 24, 2003 of injuries suffered when he was hit by an automobile while riding his scooter two weeks earlier. He was 80 years old and had been living in Waupaca since his retirement in 1985. He was born November 24, 1922 in Wichita, Kansas and grew up in Muskogee, Oklahoma.

Eldon enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard during World War II. While serving in Newfoundland, Canada, he met Kay Whiffen. They were married on February 12, 1946 in Bonivista, Newfoundland. He received his undergraduate degree at Ohio Northern College in Ada, Ohio, and his Masters of Divinity at Garrett Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. He was ordained a deacon in 1952 and an elder in 1957, and began his pastoral ministry in the Ohio Conference, serving the churches in Marseilles, Wesley Chapel and Salem from 1949 to 1953. He transferred to the Des Moines Conference and served the Musserville and Island charge from 1953 to 1955. After transferring to the East Wisconsin Conference he served the churches at Plover and Buena Vista (1955-1958), Algoma and West Kewaunee (1958-1962), Evansville (1962-1967), and Oneida and Angelica from 1967 until his retirement in 1985.

His favorite pastimes included spending time outdoors, riding his motorcycle, wood cutting, exercising at the Waupaca Fitness Center, performing weddings and spending time with his family and friends. Survivors include his wife, Kay Riggs, three daughters and two sons-in-law: Shirran (Richard) Rabenhorst, RuthAnn (Ken) Voelz, and Beth Tiederman and his five wonderful grandchildren. He was a man of great faith, who lived it and shared it.

Clergy Spouses

Nona Agema

Nona Agema, age 90, formerly of Altoona and Augusta, passed away on February 19, 2004 at Heritage Nursing Home in Rice Lake. Nona, a daughter of Jacob and Amelia Ostrander, was born November 2, 1913 in Boscobel and there married George Agema on June 10, 1934. The couple lived the first 30 years of their married life in Augusta, Menomonie and Hudson. After her husband attended seminary in Evanston, the couple moved to Altoona, where George served as pastor in the United Methodist Churches in Altoona and Lake Hallie from 1963 until his retirement in 1975. Rev. Agema and Nona were beloved by the parishioners they generously served. After retirement, the Agemas moved back to Augusta. Her husband passed away shortly after that, on February 22, 1998. Nona had been a resident of the nursing home for the last year of her life.



For nearly 70 years, Nona was a member of the Rebekah Lodge, serving in various local and state offices. She served eight years as the camp manager at the Odd Fellows and Rebekah's Youth Camp in Waupaca.

She is survived by her son, Rev. Larry Agema, of Eau Claire; and two daughters, Marie Olson of Webster, and Karen Furlong of Andover, Minnesota, six grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren.

Marilyn Callahan

Marilyn Callahan, age 58, passed away on August 26, 2003 in Lancaster, Wisconsin. She was born in Ames, Iowa on November 21, 1944. She married Tom Callahan on June 26, 1965.

Marilyn was a gifted pianist and served the church for many years through her music. Tom answered the call to ordained ministry and began serving churches in 1990. Even before this Marilyn had been serving as church pianist and she continued to play at many of the churches to which Tom was appointed. Together they were in ministry at Soldiers Grove, North Clayton and Readstown (1990 – 1994), Algoma and West Kewanee (1994 – 1997), Zion in Chippewa Falls (1997 – 2002), and Lancaster since 2002. She has served churches as chairperson of Evangelism and Social Concerns. She was always involved in working for the rights of minorities. In the United Methodist Women, she served as president, and on the district level. She also served as a member of the Chippewa District Council on Ministries. On the conference level she served on the Commission of Religion and Race.

Besides her love of music, Marilyn enjoyed doing many crafts such as stamping, crocheting, knitting, etc. She deeply loved her Lord and her family. She is survived by her husband, Tom, and her grown children, Patrick and Jennifer, and three grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents and one grandchild.



Sheila Ann Ross Doering

Sheila was born April 3, 1925, the eldest child of her Scottish father, Alexander Ross, and her English mother, Ann Jennings Ross, in Knutsford, Cheshire, England. She came to the end of her 78 year walk on the narrow way that leads to life in Jesus Christ on December 23, 2003, and was greeted by Jesus with the words, ‘Come on home, dear child of my heart.’

What a gift of God Sheila was to everyone whom she touched: her British family and friends, her husband, Rev. Paul H. Doering, their three sons, Donald, Malcolm, and David, and their families, including the 6 grandchildren. As faithful helpmate she worked with Paul serving with love the congregations in Belmont and Whig (1956-1960), Loyal and York Center (1960-1966), and Ladysmith, Tony and Glen Flora (1966-1983). After Paul retired in 1983, they continued to minister in churches in Iron Mountain and Quinsee Michigan (1983-1984), in the Boyceville Charge (1984-1985), in the Whitehall Charge (1985-1987) and in Knapp (1990-1993).

She blessed many lives with God’s love and grace, including her many American friends, students, colleagues, retired teachers, sorority sisters and brothers, her fellow writers, and her church families. Sheila Ann Ross Doering was faithful to the end of her earthly journey as a pilgrim ‘just-a-passin’-through’.



Mary M. Fritz

Mary M. Fritz died February 19, 2004 at the age of 97 in Lakeland, Florida where she had been living since 1966. She was born on February 7, 1907 in Rush Lake, Wisconsin, the daughter of Fred and Elizabeth Betry. She graduated from the Berlin, Wisconsin Normal School.

She was a Certified Occupational Therapist and a teacher at the Fairwater Elementary School from 1924 until 1931. She married Rev. Clifford M. Fritz on June 16, 1931 in a country church near Ripon.

Mary was very actively involved in all the local churches that Clifford served. These included Elo and Rosendale; Hebron, Peasant Valley and Siloam; Delavan and Allen Grove; Stevens Point; and West Allis: First. She had served on the local, district and conference levels of the United Methodist Women. After Clifford's retirement in 1969, the couple moved to Lakeland, Florida, and become active in the community there.

In the mid to late 1960's she was the Program Director at Methodist Manor in West Allis. She used her Occupational Therapy training and skills with senior citizens in both Wisconsin and Florida. She also served as Activities Director for seniors at the Methodist Conference Center and Camp Leesburg in Florida.

Her husband, Clifford who passed away September 24, 1977, and their two sons, Donald and Roger, preceded her in death. She is survived by seven grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.



Kathryn Harvey

Kathryn Harvey, wife of retired minister, Rev. Elmer Harvey, passed away on April 19, 2004. Her funeral service was held at Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church in Oshkosh with a later memorial service held at Evergreen Retirement Community.

Kathryn Pearson married Rev. Elmer R. Harvey on June 24, 1938. Their two daughters are Susan Kay Harvey Flanders and Sally Lee Harvey. Elmer served as the Administrator of Bellin Memorial Hospital in Green Bay for 10 years and then as the Administrator for Evergreen Manor Retirement Home from 1967 until his retirement in 1975. No further information was available at the time the Journal was printed.

Carol E. Rothgeb Kohlhepp

Carol E. Kohlhepp died on December 17, 2003 at Walker Methodist Health Care in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She had suffered a severe stroke in August and died at the age of 69. Carol Eileen Rothgeb was born on April 10, 1934 in Toledo, Ohio, the daughter of Rev. Earl and Pearl Rothgeb. Her grandfather, Rev. Will Zeller, served Evangelical Churches in Wisconsin until his retirement in 1940.

Carol met her future husband, Rev. Glenn O. Kohlhepp, at North Central College in Naperville, Illinois. They were married on August 27, 1955 in Greensburg, Ohio. She was a faithful companion to her husband as they served pastorates at Tomah and Tunnel City (1957-1964); Elk Mound and Iron Creek (1964-1968); Concordia in Prairie de Sac (1968-1979); Marion and Wittenberg (1979-1984); Berlin (1984-1993); and Lancaster (1993-1996). She was active in all the local churches to which her husband was appointed. In addition, she held offices in the United Methodist Women on the



local, district and conference levels, including active roles in annual Schools of Christian Mission. She was instrumental in developing and directing a Children's Mission Study Camp to coincide with the Annual School of Christian Mission.

She served as secretary of the Conference Council on Ministries for a quadrennium, as well as serving on the Boards of Christian Education and Higher Education. She also served as camp counselor for many years.

Following her husband's retirement in 1996, they moved to Bryan, Texas, where she continued to be an active volunteer for sharing the Good News of God's love in United Methodist Women, at Crestview Retirement Community, at Hospice, at Habitat for Humanity, and at the Wesley Foundation for students at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. Carol thoroughly enjoyed antique shopping, which gave birth to collections of angels, stamps and 'depression glass.' She also found pleasure in gardening and took pride in her flowers. Her favorite red and white roses were present at the services of Thanksgiving and Celebration held in her memory in Bryan, Texas and at Concordia UMC in Prairie du Sac. She is survived by Glenn, her husband of 48 years, and their son, Lyle.

Melvin Emery Waldron

Melvin Emery Waldron, age 85, passed away on June 25, 2003 at Vernon Manor in Viroqua. Mel was born in Youngstown, Illinois on March 21, 1918, the son of Emery and Ethel Waldron. Mel married Florence Beatrice Ulm on October 7, 1939 in Davenport, Iowa. She preceded him in death in 1982. On July 2, 1988, Mel married Jean Lesley Weatherbie Ott in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Mel worked as a stripminer for 39 years for Midland Coal and drove school bus for many years before retiring. Mel was a member of the London Mills UMC, serving as Chair of the Board, Trustee, Adult Bible study leader, President of the Senior Citizens, and church maintenance man. He was a former Mayor of London Mills for four years; President of the Homecoming Committee and volunteer fireman. Mel enjoyed playing baseball, fishing, and gardening. In 1936, Mel was the high school baseball pitcher when the school team advanced to the State Tournament. He was active in the Future Farmers of America in school.

He is survived by his wife, Rev. Jean Waldron of La Farge, five children, Carol Day of Abingdon, IL, Jeffrey of Redlands, CA, and Paula Waldron of Galesburg, IL. Stepson Jason Ott of Hemet, CA, and stepdaughter Debra Miller of Fort Wainwright, AL., seven grandchildren and ten great grandchildren.



Roxanne Conrad Webster

Roxanne Conrad Webster died on January 27, 2004 at her home in Ladysmith of ovarian cancer. She was 49. Roxanne Conrad was born on January 19, 1955 in Waukesha, the daughter of Delbert and Beverly Conrad. She graduated from Waukesha High School in 1973 and attended the University of Wisconsin-Superior, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology in 1976. While at Central UMC in Superior, Roxanne was a Sunday School teacher and a Jr. High United Methodist Youth Fellowship advisor. She and Paul L. Webster were married in Superior on January 21, 1978.



Roxanne and Paul served in the United States Peace Corps in Guatemala

from 1980 to 1984, where she organized and advised 4-H clubs for village girls. Roxanne taught sewing, crocheting, nutrition, childcare, food preparation, and recreational skills to many dozens of girls and young women.

In 1984, Roxanne returned to the United States where she served as Social Worker for the Glenhaven Nursing Home in Glenwood City. Roxanne she was also a foster parent for many children in St. Croix County. She and Paul adopted their daughter, Summer, during this time. She was active in the Forest UMC (Willow River Parish) as a Lay Member of Annual Conference and in the local United Methodist Women. She was also an officer on the Chippewa District of the United Methodist Women.

In 1992, Roxanne again answered the call to mission. Paul and Roxanne were commissioned missionaries with the United Methodist Church where they were to serve the rural poor in Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo) and Zambia. Roxanne continued in her missionary work until illness forced her to leave Africa. In 2003, Roxanne came to Ladysmith, where Paul was appointed as pastor. There she joined the Faith United Methodist Church.

Roxanne's last greatest joy was the birth of her grandson, Aaron Bradley in September, 2003. Roxanne was a quiet, fun-loving individual who saw only the good in people. She enjoyed her involvement in politics. She also liked to do crossword puzzles and trivia games. She read literature and art history. She was a person of great internal strength, patience, and courage. Death was only the last of many adventures she faced with optimism and expectation.

Bernita Mae Whitney

Bernita Whitney died on September 21, 2003 at Dove Healthcare in Glendale, Wisconsin at the age of 88. She was born on May 16, 1915 in Herrick, South Dakota. She graduated from Dakota Wesleyan College and taught elementary school in St. Charles, South Dakota and Ida Grove, Iowa. She married Kenneth E. Whitney on May 25, 1938. Kenneth was appointed to serve churches in South Dakota, Iowa, and these United Methodist Churches in Wisconsin: Bashford in Madison (1952-1962), Trinity in Beaver Dam (1962-1964), Fort Atkinson (1964-1969), and Summerfield in Milwaukee (1969-1974). Bernita was very active in all these churches. She taught Sunday School for many years and was active throughout her life with the United Methodist Women. She often worked in the church office of the churches served by her husband.



Bernita was an excellent seamstress and interior decorator. She was a wonderful and loving wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

She is survived by their one child, H. Ann (Rev. Richard) Jones and two granddaughters, Julie (Dr. Robert) Whitney and Rev. Lori Lossie. She has five great grandchildren. Her husband preceded her in death on September 29, 1999.

Lay Members and Others

Donald L. Erickson

Donald Erickson died May 31, 2004 at his home at the age of 69. Don was born October 17, 1934 in Menomonie to Raymond and Agnes Erickson. He graduated from Menomonie High School in 1952, and enlisted in the Army. He served in Korea from 1952 to 1955. Don attended UW-Stout after being discharged from the Army, and graduated in 1959.



Don married Vivian Albright on June 19, 1957 at Tainter UMC. He worked for Flint Printing Company for 33 years and the Dunn County Reminder, retiring in 1966. Don was an active member of Tainter UMC, serving as church treasurer for many years, teaching Sunday School for over 40 years, and was the chair of the finance committee. He was a licensed lay speaker, doing pulpit supply in area churches. He served as Lay Member of Annual Conference several times and was a district president of the United Methodist Men.

He was also a registered Scouter for over 50 years, serving as Cub Master, Webelos leader and an assistant Scout Master. He held district offices in Boy Scouts and received the Silver Beaver award.

Don was devoted to his family, church and Scouting. He especially cherished his four children, ten grandchildren and his great grandson.

George V. Hanson

George Hanson, age 82, was found dead and covered with snow in his backyard on January 27, 2004. He was born in Racine, September 6, 1921, son of Ole and Adelyn (Veth) Hanson, and had been a lifelong resident of Racine.

He graduated from Park High School in 1939 and earned a degree in Journalism from the University of Wisconsin in 1948. During World War II, George served three years in the Navy as a lieutenant (junior grade) assigned to amphibious duty in the Pacific Theater.



He worked with the Racine Journal Times for over 35 years until his retirement in 1981. He began by covering sports for the first few years and then moved to general news reporting. His assignments included the police and county government beats and he wrote of education, medicine and religion before being named city editor in 1959. He became managing editor in 1969 and served there until his retirement.

He was an active member of First United Methodist Church of Racine and served in many capacities over the years, including being a Lay Member of Annual Conference. He also was a volunteer with Respite services and Ridgewood Care Center. He was described as “a volunteer organization’s dream” because of his generosity and enthusiasm. “I volunteer because I feel like I’m doing something worthwhile and meeting new people.” George said. He will be sadly missed by many.

Eldred L. Miertz

Eldred L. Miertz awoke in heaven September 18, 2003 at the age of 87. He was born October 21, 1915 in Milwaukee.

He represented his beloved Zion United Methodist Church as a Lay Member of Annual Conference for several years. He was a 'table parent' for the Wednesday night children's group and was a leading mischief-maker in the back row of the choir. He led weekly Bible Studies, and served his guests "killer desserts" on his night to host.

He loved vacations in Myrtle Beach, breakfasts at Cracker Barrel, and the lasagna at Mama Mia's. He enjoyed crossword puzzles, "Jeopardy", and speed-reading hundreds of books. He cheered the Packers, suffered with the Brewers, and was fascinated by boxing. He was the champion of table games, from "Uno" to "Rook". He loved to entertain and laughter was as plentiful as his home-cooked meals and his newest baking achievement. His Christmas card list was long, and his letters were filled with the latest family news. He spent a long winter living in a summer cottage while the house he had purchased for \$4,000 at a 1949 auction underwent a second remodeling. He grew tomatoes, loved to watch the geese, and proudly wore a T-shirt bearing a picture of his cat Buzzy, whom he bottle-fed from a tiny kitten into a well-nourished cat which he declared to be "all-muscle".



Eldred could vividly recall the sound of church bells announcing the end of World War I, the Great Depression, and the dark days of World War II. His early years were difficult: his parents unable to care for him, two years in the County Children's Home, and teenage years spent as a farm hand in a foster home while not being allowed to attend high school despite his gift for learning. World War II took him to Normandy one month after D-Day, and his was in the Battle of the Bulge. It was while he was in Normandy that he felt God's call following a Sunday Service in an apple orchard.

These early experiences helped define his priorities. His love of God came first, and once home, he became a member of Zion Church in Colgate, a membership that he held for more than 50 years. Through the years he was a trustee, lay leader, choir member, youth counselor and Children's Sunday School Superintendent including writing and directing many Christmas Pageants, complete with special lighting effects.

Eldred married Grace Elizabeth Busse on December 31, 1946 and for 56 years they made a loving home. As a family man, he was determined to give his two daughters, Margie and Nancy (Schuster), not only the material things he never had, but also the attentive love of an involved father. He worked as a welder most of his life, but always made time for family vacations, swimming and sledding with his children, and helping with school and 4-H projects. His house was always open to family and friends. When Grace was stricken with rheumatoid arthritis in the 1960's, he learned to cook and clean. During her last illness in 1993, he was never far from her side during many months of hospital and nursing home care; despite his own come-back from quintuple bypass surgery two years earlier.

Eldred looked forward to heaven, but lived a full life in the remaining 10 years. He often spoke of his faith in his Lord and Savior. When God called him home, the outpouring of love from his many friends and church family was a witness to how many lives he had touched with his kind spirit, wise counsel, sense of humor and big smile.

Evelyn Rose Moede

Evelyn R. Moede, age 84, of Reedsville, died unexpectedly on Feb. 13, 2004. She was born on Nov. 28, 1919 to Edward and Ella Streckert in the town of Eaton. Evelyn graduated from Kiel High School in 1937, and from UW-Milwaukee in 1941. She married Leslie Moede on Sept. 17, 1949.

She taught elementary school in Rhinelander, West Bend, Appleton and Reedsville, where she served as principal from 1968 to 1982. Evelyn held about every position in the church, including Sunday school superintendent, teacher, lay leader, various positions on the Administrative Board, Pastor-Parish Relations Committee and Lay Member of Annual Conference. She also took an active part in many Bible Study groups. The church was her life. She was an amazing, loving and devoted mother, wife, sister and friend. She was also a member of the Maple Rock Homemakers, American Legion Auxiliary, Manitowoc County Retired Educators Association, and was named Citizen of the Year by the Reedsville Lions Club.

Evelyn loved to spend time with her children, Bruce, Douglas and Mary (Pohl), 4 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. She volunteered many hours reading to the Head Start classes, serving meals to the elderly, serving as a tour guide at Pinecrest Historical Village, and also baking, canning and making meals for many neighbors and friends. She enjoyed gardening, reading, playing golf and spending winters in Arizona. Evelyn touched many lives in so many loving ways. Many have been richly blessed for having had the chance to know and love her. Her husband, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and many, many friends will sadly miss her.



Hattie Rambo Polzin

Hattie R. Polzin went home to be with her Lord peacefully on December 31, 2003 after living through many changes during her 101 years. 13 presidents have held office during her lifetime. Hattie was born on July 20, 1902, near Big Falls, Wisconsin, the oldest of the eight children of Isabelle and Hans Rambo. The family lived on a farm with no electricity, plumbing or running water. Hattie worked hard as a child, milking cows and doing fieldwork with horse-drawn equipment. She attended a 3-room school with 1st through 9th grades. She lived 2 ¼ miles away, which meant she walked there and back most days except in winter, when they were sometimes taken to school by horse-drawn sleigh. When the weather was really bad, she stayed with her grandparents who lived in Big Falls. After completing grade school, she graduated from business college in Wausau in 1919. She was employed in the office at Marathon Shoe Company in Wausau.



She married Harvey Polzin on October 21, 1922. They lived in Big Falls until 1928, when they moved to Poysippi. The family moved to Plainfield between Christmas and New Years in 1929, where they spent the rest of their lives. They had six children: John, Ruth Stream, Eugene, Rosemary Schumann, Carol Odeen and Douglas.

Hattie taught Sunday School in the Plainfield United Methodist Church for 50 years and sang in the choir for 68 years. She was always active in the women's groups in the church and was church financial secretary and Lay Member of Annual Conference for many years. She was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star for 81 years. She was active in the County Homemakers, Plainfield Women's Club, Plainfield Senior Citizens and the VFW Auxiliary.

Hattie took many trips and tours with the Eastern Star during her life and, in her later years,

traveled with her son Doug and his family. She loved to travel and enjoyed every trip, especially from the front seat of the motor home! Rosemaling was one of her hobbies, and she belonged to the Waushara rosemaling group out of Wautoma. She made dozens of quilts. Many babies born in Plainfield and in the family were wrapped in one of Hattie's quilts. She had 22 grandchildren, 21 great grandchildren and 2 great, great grandchildren.

Hattie lived her life for her church and as she thought God would have wanted her to live. She was beloved by her entire family and by many foster children and the community and church family of which she was an active part, and will be missed by all.

Betty J. Thompson

Betty J. Thompson was a long-time resident of Milwaukee who served for 29 years as Executive Director of Project Equality of Wisconsin, a non-profit organization which the Wisconsin Annual Conference has supported for many years. Betty continually worked for equality, justice and promoting love for one another. Her leadership and tireless efforts made the Project Equality office in Milwaukee a strong and stable force in the community before her retirement in 2000. Through her professional career and personal relationships, Betty touched the lives of many and her legacy will live on through the many lives she touched during her 64 years.



Betty was born in Shreveport, Louisiana on January 5, 1939. Her family moved to Milwaukee where she said she was ashamed because she lived in the "worst house on the block." So she vowed that when she graduated from North Division High School, she would devote her life to improving conditions for her family and community. Her earliest jobs were at Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co. and as the project director for the Council on Urban Life's Juvenile Delinquency Division Program. In 1971 she began working at Project Equality as its deputy director and later its executive director. As head of the agency, she would encourage employers to recruit minorities and women who may not have been qualified but were "qualifiable", which she understood from her personal experience. She prided herself on having worked all her life, except for six weeks after the birth of each of her three children, Charmaine (Woods), Kimberly Harris, and Mark Harris, who died at the age of 32.

Betty Thompson worked with numerous boards, religious and civil rights organizations. One of the highlights of her storied career came in 1979, when she was chosen by representatives of the National Council of Churches as one of 50 people to go to Iran in an attempt to free American hostages there. In 1984 she helped found the National Interreligious Commission of Civil Rights, a group formed to "provide a counterbalance to the weakening of and general insensitivity to civil rights". She received many honors for her work. They included a YWCA Racial Justice Award, a community service award from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and an honorary doctorate degree for public service from Carthage College. Betty considered it her deepest belief that "only by giving of yourself do you find true happiness and success." "I am convinced that the truest act of courage, the deepest act of humanness is to give of ourselves for others in a totally caring, non-violent struggle for equality and justice."

Betty passed away unexpectedly at her home in Montrose, Alabama on July 3, 2002. She is survived by her beloved husband, William H. Thompson, two daughters and eight grandchildren. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel wrote that she "wasn't a star of stage or screen, but through her acts of kindness and caring, she helped to illuminate Milwaukee and lots of folks who would have otherwise disappeared into the city's shadows."

Anna Marie Weddle

Anna Marie Weddle, affectionately known as “Ree”, went to heaven on October 24, 2003. She was the beloved wife of McArthur Weddle, Executive Director of the Northcott Neighborhood House in Milwaukee. They were married on May 23, 1998.

Anna Marie Hooker was born on October 7, 1953, the youngest child of Morgan and Annie Lee Hooker. She was raised and came to faith in the Canaan Missionary Baptist Church, where she served faithfully in many capacities throughout her life.



She graduated from Rufus King High School in 1971 and received a Bachelor’s Degree in Early Childhood Education in 1979 from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. She began her career as a schoolteacher in Kindergarten at Benjamin Franklin School. Other school assignments included Blaine School, Victor Berger School, High Scope Implementor and Implementor for Starms Early Childhood Center. After receiving her Master’s of Education Degree in 1993 from National Lewis University, Anna was promoted to Assistant Principal for the Frances Starms Centers, where her gift of administration was realized.

Her talents were also evident in community activities, especially the Ms. Juneteenth Pageant, which she chaired in 2003. Anna leaves precious memories to be cherished by her husband, McArthur; sons, Marcus McClain, McArthur Weddle, Jr. and Martin Weddle, many relatives; and many children, their parents and co-workers whose lives she touched with her love, care and generous nature.