

2005-2006 - MEMOIRS

Clergy

Rev. Harriett M. Alicea

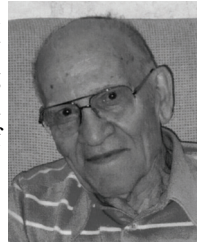
Harriett M. Alicea, a retired Local Pastor in the Wisconsin Annual Conference, passed away on November 14, 2005. She was born Harriett May Skenandore on September 24, 1932. She married Rafael Alicea on December 31, 1952. He preceded her in death on February 22, 2005. During her ministry Harriett served as pastor of the Oneida United Methodist Church from April, 1997 until her retirement in 2002.

The Aliceas had six children: Dean (Gloria) LaFlex, Rafael G. Alicea, Juan (Glynis) Alicea, Ana Alicea, Michael (Hilda) Wisneski, Leon (Tonya) Boucher, and fifteen grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at the Meadowbrook Church in Green Bay on November 17, 2005, with Rev. Julio Alvarado officiating. Burial was in the Oneida United Methodist Church cemetery.

Rev. Elmer L. Harvey

The Rev. Elmer Lee Harvey died July 22, 2005 at Mercy Medical Center in Oshkosh. He was 94. He was born in 1911 on his family farm in Indiana. He was valedictorian of his high school graduating class with his twin brother, Gene, as salutatorian. Elmer graduated from DePauw University and three years later from the School of Theology at Boston University, where he received a Master's degree in Psychology and a Master's degree (magna cum laude) in Theology. The following year he received a Fellowship and studied in Edinburgh, Scotland. While there one of his personal accomplishments was bicycling 1400 miles in Europe.



Elmer married Kathryn Pearson in 1938. She preceded him in death in 2004. They had two daughters, four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. For 22 years, Elmer was a pastor of churches in Indiana. A voice defect necessitated his leaving the pastoral ministry, but he continued serving his Lord and the church after earning a Masters in Business Administration from Northwestern University in Chicago. He was the administrator at Bellin Hospital in Green Bay for many years and then went on to become President and CEO of Evergreen Retirement Home in Oshkosh until his retirement.

He was a member and past president of Oshkosh Rotary Club. He was deeply involved in the work of the American Cancer Society, and for nine years was the Director of the State Society.

Elmer received many honors during his lifetime. In 1989 he was chosen as one of the ten most admired seniors in the State of Wisconsin. He was the recipient of the conference award for evangelism for his work at his church, where he was an active member since 1966. He wrote and published more than 118 articles for professional journals and newspapers. He had two books published, *The Other Side of Eighty* and *Awakening the Dawn*. He was proud that with the help of his churches, he was able to sponsor refugee families from Yugoslavia, Vietnam and Laos. Elmer was proud his many accomplish-

ments, including donating 13 gallons of AB negative blood over the years. He established two scholarships: the Rector Scholarship at DePauw; and the Robinson Scholarship at Northwestern. He established a permanent endowment fund for his church and another one for Evergreen Retirement Community. He also established the Care Assurance Plan at Evergreen whereby residents whose funds have been exhausted do not have to leave or change their apartments. Elmer was an amazing man who loved God, family and every person that he met. His motto for living was to make a difference in others lives.

Rev. Kenneth W. Krueger

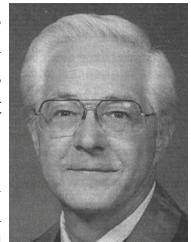
The Rev. Kenneth W. Krueger, a former clergy member of the Wisconsin Conference, passed away on October 23, 2005 in Dayton, Ohio at the age of 88. He was preceded in death by his wife, Florence in 1993. He is survived by his daughter Marie (Eric) Larson, two grandchildren, a great-granddaughter and numerous relatives and friends.

Rev. Krueger enjoyed life and had many outstanding accomplishments. He was the editor of adult Sunday school publications and the author of numerous books and publications. In addition, he led the building of Fountain Park United Methodist Church in Sheboygan, where he served for 22 years as their pastor. He later served at Fairview United Methodist Church in Dayton, Ohio for 16 years, where he became Pastor Emeritus upon his retirement. Pastor Krueger served on the Building Committee for the Sheboygan YMCA and was a founding member of the Y's Men's Club. Both in Dayton and Sheboygan he was an avid golfer who enjoyed sharing the game with family and friends.

Funeral services for Rev. Krueger were held at Fairview United Methodist Church in Dayton Ohio on October 28, 2005.

Rev. Thomas E. Lowery

The Rev. Thomas E. Lowery of Baraboo passed away on February 9, 2006 at St. Mary's Hospital in Madison at the age of 72. He was born on August 24, 1933 in Galesburg, Illinois the son of Thomas and Lois Lowery. On June 7, 1953 he was united in marriage to Vera Osborn at the United Brethren Church in Galesburg.



Tom entered the ministry as a Probationary Member of the Central Illinois Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1953. He was ordained Elder in 1959, and served several United Methodist churches in central and northern Illinois. Tom also taught sixth grade for ten years in Annawan, Illinois. After moving to Wisconsin, Tom served the Asbury church in Janesville (1987-1990) and Wisconsin Dells and Davis Corners (1993-1997). Tom and Vera purchased their farm in 1985. After retiring from the pastoral ministry in 1997, he was employed by Ace Hardware and most recently by Corner Drug Store in Baraboo. Tom was a perpetual student of history. He participated in several Volunteers In Missions (VIM) trips. He also enjoyed working around the farm, traveling and camping, but especially spending time with his family. Survivors include his wife, Vera, of Baraboo, two children, seven grandchildren and one great grandchild.

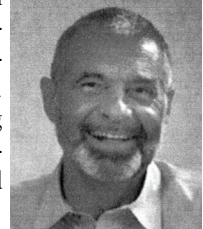
Rev. Allen P. McCaul

Rev. Allen P. McCaul, a retired clergy member of the Wisconsin Annual Conference, passed away on July 25, 2005 in Topeka, Kansas, just five days before his 92nd birthday. Rev. McCaul was born on July 30, 1913. He entered the United Methodist Ministry in the Kansas Conference in 1938, where he was 'On Trial' until 1941, when he became a full member and was ordained Deacon. He transferred to the Rock River Conference in 1941, and was ordained Elder in 1942. While a member of the Rock River Conference he served churches in Crete and Evanston, Illinois. He transferred to the West Wisconsin Conference in 1947, where he served Madison: First (Associate) and Madison: University (Associate). He transferred to the East Wisconsin Conference in 1951, where he served at Manitowoc: St. Paul's from 1951 to 1960, Oshkosh: Wesley from 1960 to 1962; Rhinelander from 1962 to 1965; Racine: Christ (Associate) from 1965 to 1968. In 1968 he was appointed to Green Bay: Zion UMC, and also as chaplain at Bellin Memorial Hospital in Green Bay. In 1974 he moved to the Waukau, Eureka charge, where he served until his retirement in 1978.

A memorial service was held at the Otterbien United Methodist Church in Topeka, Kansas on August 6, 2005.

Rev. David J. Peterson

Rev. David J. Peterson, a former clergy member of the Wisconsin Annual Conference, was born on December 16, 1936 in Omro, Wisconsin. Three days before his second birthday, he received an incredible gift: he was adopted by Beryl and David Peterson of Neenah. Dave's childhood years in Neenah were filled happy times: biking with friends, raising Bantam chickens in the back yard, lots of cousins, grandparents, camping trips, school band and canoe camp, and church.



David attended Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa, with the intention of becoming a doctor or going into forestry. While he was at Morningside he developed a consuming interest in the type of questions that would lead him to seminary. It was also at Morningside that he met Iris Walter. They were married on June 17, 1962.

After graduation from college, David attended Iliff Seminary in Denver, Colorado. Upon his graduation from seminary he and Iris returned to Wisconsin, where he served churches in Milwaukee, Evansville, Cuba City, and Ash Creek-Willow valley. During his time in Cuba City Dave was instrumental in organizing the rescue squad.

After seventeen years serving in parish ministry, Dave left the pastorate to pursue other callings. He worked as a co-facilitator for court-mandated groups dealing with domestic violence. He also worked for a number of years as a vendor for the American Girl Company, making prototypes of furniture and accessories, especially for the Addy, Josephina, and Molly dolls. He loved the challenge of making something he had never attempted before, and was always amazed when the actual toys looked exactly like the prototypes he had developed.

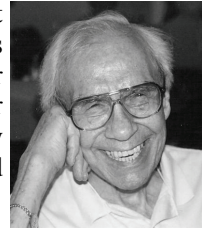
One of Dave's main interests was his membership in the Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter

of Trout Unlimited. In May, 2005, he received the Golden Net Award for his contributions to the organization. Each year he planned a solo canoe trip to Woodland Caribou Provincial Park in Ontario. He enjoyed the preparation for the trip almost as much as the trip itself, and always loved sharing the stories from each trip!

Dave and Iris moved to Madison to be closer to their daughters, Lisa and Shandra. He was very proud of them, and felt lucky to be so close to them and his grandchildren. Dave died on May 16, 2006 in his home, with his wife and his daughters by his side. He is also survived by five grandchildren. A memorial service was held at First United Methodist Church in Madison on May 19.

Rev. William Rodney Shaw

Rodney Shaw, a minister and leader in the national United Methodist Church, died in his sleep on February 5, 2006 at the age of 88. His work through five decades led to national legislation and major church initiatives on civil and human rights, world peace, nuclear disarmament, and population concerns. His conviction that equality and peace can be achieved, his buoyant spirit and enduring faith, and his concern for others are part of his legacy.



Born on January 10, 1918 in Hazen, Arkansas, Shaw was educated at Hendrix College and Arkansas State Teachers College before entering divinity studies at Garrett Biblical Institute in Illinois. He and his life-long love, Mary Frances Gist, were married on May 24, 1944. Together they started the first student-controlled college loan fund in the country and, in 1941, as Presidents of the campus YMCA and YWCA, established the first interracial camp in the Southwest. To support his studies, Shaw organized and coached a boxing team and, to everyone's surprise, advanced to the quarterfinals in the national Golden Gloves tournament. Shaw's life almost ended on a late summer day in 1939 when he and his sister narrowly survived an accidental plunge over a 96 foot waterfall in Petit Jean State Park in Arkansas.

Shaw served as an Army Chaplain in the European theater during World War II, and was en route to Asia when Japan surrendered in August, 1945. After the war he served as pastor of Union Grove and Paris Corners churches in the East Wisconsin Conference of The Methodist Church. His wartime experience and the subsequent nuclear arms race of the cold war led him in 1955 to pursue the cause of world peace and disarmament full time as Midwest Director of the United World Federalists, strengthening the United Nations' role in preserving world peace. In 1961 Shaw joined the Methodist General Board of Christian Social Concerns in Washington, D.C. as the Director of Disarmament Education, and launched the church's Race for Peace movement. He worked tirelessly in 1961 to help secure adoption of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, and was invited by President Lyndon B. Johnson to attend the signing. He then played a leadership role in an ecumenical effort to organize the religious community throughout the country in support of the Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty of 1963. As part of his mission to spur understanding and education about disarmament, he wrote *None Shall Make Them Afraid* in 1962.

Shaw became a key organizer and spokesman for the Methodist Church in the field of civil rights and represented the church in the full 54-mile Selma March in 1965 – a watershed event in civil rights history which contributed to the enactment of the Voting

Rights Act of 1965. He was present at the signing of that landmark legislation by President Lyndon B. Johnson. Shaw also was a driving force in the national ecumenical leadership group that helped establish the U.S. Model Cities Program, where again he attended President Johnson's signing. Partners throughout their lives in compassionate activism, Shaw and his wife worked in Washington, D.C. on a team to integrate Petworth Methodist Church in the inner-city.

Shaw became convinced in the late 1960s that there could be no peace on Earth unless the world population explosion was brought under control. In 1968, he convinced the Methodist Church to establish the Department of Population Problems of the Board of Christian Social Concerns. In 1970, Shaw co-lead ecumenical efforts to establish the U.S. Commission on Population Growth and the American Future (and attended President Nixon's signing) and to pass the Title X legislation making family planning services available to all low-income women. He co-created the organization now known as the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice. From 1969 through 1984, Shaw created three international non-profit organizations – The Population Institute, Population Communications International, and most recently The Population Media Center – to promote small families and women's rights through entertainment-education strategies, using tools such as 'soap operas' on radio and television in developing countries. In Mexico, the program was the single most powerful contributor to the decline in population growth rates. The programs were the most popular soap operas in Mexico, India, and Kenya.

Shaw continued working into his 80s on world peace and population control. He was preceded in death by his parents Gilbert Waite Shaw and Pearl Lee Shaw, his wife Mary Frances Gist Shaw, and his sister Geraldine Johnson Fewell. He is survived by his daughters Jerri Lea Shaw, Merri Lea Shaw, and Karen Lea Pye, along with a nephew, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and many devoted friends and family. His work will continue through the Shaw Nuclear Disarmament Fund.

Shaw was buried on February 11, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. in Solgohachia, Arkansas at Solgohachia Friendship Cemetery. A memorial service was held on February 26, 2005, at the Dumbarton United Methodist Church in Washington DC.

Rev. Richard G. Sweitzer

The Rev. Richard G. Sweitzer passed away June 6, 2006 at Capeside Cove Good Samaritan Center in Siren, Wisconsin at the age of 91. He was born January 14, 1915 in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin to Phillip and Mary Sweiter. He married Myrtle Popple on June 1, 1938 and continued to live in Chippewa Falls, where he worked as a lineman for Northern States Power.



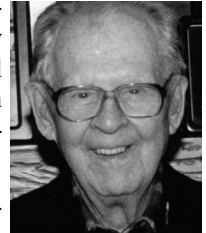
On September 21, 1945 he answered God's call to enter the Christian ministry. He returned to school, beginning four years of college and then three years of seminary. He graduated with honors. Together with Myrtle, Richard served Evangelical United Brethren and then United Methodist Churches throughout Wisconsin in Butternut (1947-1950), Portage (1950-1953), Webster (1953-1956), Concord Avenue in Milwaukee (1956-1963), Trinity in Lomira (1963-1973), Oconto Falls and Lena (1973-1980). After his retirement in 1980 they made their home in Oconto

Falls. Myrtle passed away on May 25, 1997. In 2002 Richard moved to Siren to be closer to his daughter. In 2004 he moved to Capeside Cove, where he resided until he left for his heavenly home. He is survived by a daughter and son, as well as six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren

Richard's hobby was gardening, and his passion was his flowers. For years he grew roses and was even featured in the newspaper. The best part of growing them was giving them away to friends and neighbors! He will be remembered most by his family and friends for his total commitment and dedication to serving his Lord and Savior. He lived what he believed, "Jesus Never Fails."

Rev. John A. Wagner

The Rev. John Albert Wagner, a retired clergy member of the Wisconsin Conference, died on February 13, 2006 at the Fountain View Care Center in Ripon, Wisconsin. He was 96. John was born April 21, 1909 in Bristol, Wisconsin, the son of Rev. William F. and Lillian Nohr Wagner. John's father, William, served German Methodist congregations in Wisconsin from 1902 until his death in 1938.



John graduated from Sun Prairie High School in 1927. After graduating from Ripon College, he went on to Drew University and then Chicago Theological Seminary. He married Janet Murphy in Madison on August 15, 1938. John and his wife, Janet, served twenty churches from eleven parsonages in the East Wisconsin and Wisconsin Conferences from 1937 until 1984. These included Orfordville and Plymouth (1937-1940), Wild Rose, Dopp and Crystal Lake (1940-1946), Stoughton (1946-1947), Markesan, Kingston and Marquette (1947-1952), Lake Mills and Medford (1952-1954), St. Matthews in Fond du Lac and North Fond du Lac (1954-1959), Oconto and Abrams (1959-1963), Elkhorn: Bethel and LaGrange (1963-1967), and Waterloo from 1969 until his retirement in 1974. After retirement he went on to serve at Kingston and Dalton Congregational from 1976 until 1983. John was active for another ten years after that providing regular and special services, including funerals and weddings.

John was a long-time member of the Masonic Lodge and served as Chaplain of the Grand Prairie Lodge of Ripon-Green Lake-Markesan.

His loving wife, who left for her heavenly home in June 2004, preceded John in death. His survivors include his son, Jack, and daughter, Jill Hull, along with four grandchildren.

Rev. John Arnold Weaver

The Rev. J. Arnold Weaver, 96, died April 19, 2006 at All About Life Rehabilitation Center in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. He was born on October 29, 1909 in Liberty, Pennsylvania, a son of Edward R. and Effie Smith Weaver.

Arnold was a graduate of Cleveland Bible College (Malone College) and Evangelical Theological Seminary in Naperville, Illinois. On August 24, 1949 he married Grace A. Rhode in Princeton, Wisconsin.

Rev. Weaver was a minister for over 40 years, serving churches in Door County (1934-1941), Wautoma and Neshkoro (1941-1954), Marinette (1954-1958), Beaver Dam (1958-1967), and Faith United Methodist Church in Milwaukee from 1967 until his retirement in 1975. He then moved to Fond du Lac and continued to serve other needs, performing weddings, baptisms, funerals or just being there to counsel and encourage. He was affiliated with the Salem United Methodist Church in Fond du Lac, and served as a substitute preacher for sister congregations. Arnold enjoyed sports – baseball being his first love, especially the Cubs. There were many times he would get an inspiration for a sermon on the golf course, too. He and his only grandson had many great times hitting that little white ball and having good conversations. There is a plaque on Highway 23 in Fond du Lac in memory of Arnold Weaver because the men’s group he was a major part of would clean up that section of road. Arnold did this even at the age of 94. He also started the men’s dart ball league at Salem United Methodist Church and played on the team well into his 90s. Arnold went to Annual Conference every year and would tell of the good times he had playing golf and ‘Methodist cards’ – Rook. He would always have a new batch of good stories when he returned home.

His wife, Grace, went to her heavenly home May 2, 1983. Arnold is survived by two daughters, five grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Clergy Spouses

Betty Blaisdell

Betty E. Blaisdell, spouse of Rev. Arthur H. Blaisdell, a retired clergy member of the Wisconsin Annual Conference, died on Wednesday, November 30, 2005 in Batavia, Illinois.

Betty and Arthur were married on August 22, 1954 while he was pastor of Grace United Methodist Church in Elgin, Illinois. In 1957 the couple moved to Newark New Jersey, where he served as Chaplain at the Newark State School and Hospital. They returned to Illinois in 1961, where he became chaplain at Child City in Mooseheart. In 1966 they moved to Madison, Wisconsin, where he served as chaplain at Methodist Hospital. They later served United Church in Sun City, Arizona, until his retirement in 1986.

A private memorial service was held for the family only. Interment was in Arlington Park Memorial Cemetery in Rockford, Illinois.

Alberta DeGarmo

Mrs. Alberta Elizabeth “Bert” DeGarmo, 76, passed away October 4, 2005 at Meadow View Nursing Home in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Alberta was born April 15, 1929, in Shullsburg, Wisconsin, the daughter of Albert and Myrtle Iseli. She graduated from Shullsburg High School in 1947. She was employed at Tregalon Hardware Store and was a secretary at Centenary United Methodist Church. She moved to Las Vegas in the early 1960s where she was employed as the sales manager at Olsen’s Dress Shop and also was a coordinator at various wedding chapels.



She married Rev. Cecil Cody DeGarmo on December 20, 1964, in Las Vegas. He preceded her in death in 1988. Alberta was a very active member of Wesley United Methodist Church in Las Vegas, where her husband was the pastor for many years. She served as the office administrator and a member of United Methodist Women. She was a true helpmate to her husband in and through the church.

Bert was very fond of hummingbirds, and enjoyed collecting figurines and other art objects of these beautiful birds.

Her memorial service was celebrated October 8, 2005, with Rev. Jane Sommers of Wesley United Methodist Church of Sheboygan officiating. She was buried in the Shullsburg cemetery in Lafayette County.

Leita Feay

Leita Feay, age 74, died November 29, 2005 at her home in Shawano, Wisconsin. She was born May 16, 1931 in Madison, South Dakota to Floyd and Carmaleita Siefried. She grew up in that community, and was very active in music, drama, 4-H and school. She received her nursing diploma at Sioux Falls, South Dakota and became a registered nurse. Her nursing career covered gynecology, newborn nursery, and postpartum obstetrics. Leita married James Feay on August 31, 1952, at First Methodist Church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The couple operated a fishing resort in Ashby, Minnesota for seven years, returning to Sioux Falls every fall. They moved to Madison, New Jersey in 1963, where Jim attended Drew Theological Seminary. Leita audited a class each semester. In 1968 the family moved to Shawano, Wisconsin.

Leita was active in The United Methodist Church throughout her life in many ways. She taught Sunday School for 10 years, as well as banner making and sacred dance. She served on most of the committees in the church at one time or another and held all the offices in the United Methodist Women, as well as District level offices. She was a certified Lay Speaker and completed Disciple I and III Bible Studies. Leita loved music and sang in choirs since the eighth grade. She served as a short term Volunteer-In-Mission, traveling and serving in Costa Rica, Kenya and Phoenix, Arizona. Leita and Jim were active participants in Northland Recreation Lab for over 30 years, learning many arts and crafts and sharing them with others. She combined her love for watercolor painting and traveling with trips to France, Austria, Switzerland, the Scandinavian countries, Spain and Portugal. Leita also took classes in French and Spanish, as well as a class in sign language. She enjoyed quilting, playing cards, reading, and folk and tap dancing. For the past 10 years Leita and Jim enjoyed summers in Hill City, South Dakota in the Black Hills.

Leita's husband, Jim, passed away unexpectedly on July 30, 2006 while visiting family in South Dakota. A memoir for Rev. Feay will be published in the 2007 Wisconsin Conference Journal.

The Feays are survived by four children, eight grandchildren and the numerous people whose lives have been blessed by their spirit over the years.

Arline Grover

Arline Grover, widow of Rev. Wayne Grover, died on Saturday, July 2, 2005 in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, where she had been a long-time resident.



The former Arline Tunks married Rev. Grover in 1940. During his ministry they served churches in Soldiers Grove—North Clayton-Readstown, Kendall-Wilton, Hazel Green, Frederic-Lewis-Lorain-Danbury-Grangsborg; Black River Falls-Trout Run, and LaCrosse: Asbury. Rev. Grover was then appointed as Superintendent of the Northern District from 1960-1966. After his retirement, the couple moved to Eau Claire. He preceded her in death in 1988.

Arline was a delightful friend to those who had the privilege of sharing her life. She was an avid reader and was a member of two book clubs. She enjoyed gardening, worldwide traveling, and taking daily walks. Arline was active in various church organizations throughout the community and at Lake Street United Methodist Church. She worked for several years at the downtown Samuelson's Department Store.

Arline was a moral compass and the heart of her family. Her grace, energy, spirit, intelligence, and unconditional love will be greatly missed.

Arline is survived by four daughters: Dr. Shirley Sands, Donna Larsen, Judy Eames, and Joan Barber, as well as seven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and two sisters.

Services were held on Wednesday, July 6 at Lake Street United Methodist Church in Eau Claire with burial in the Chapel of Resurrection Mausoleum in the Town of Washington.

Lorice Lepien

Lorice I. Lepien, 84, widow of Rev. Irvin Lepien, of Grantsburg, Wisconsin, died December 14, 2005. She was born October 2, 1921, in Trade Lake, Wisconsin to Ester and Carl Brask. After graduating from high school in Grantsburg in 1937 she earned an associate degree from Bethel Institute and a Bachelor of Science degree in home economics from the University of Minnesota.



Lorice married Rev. Irvin A. Lepien in Trade Lake on June 18, 1946. Together they served Evangelical United Brethren Churches in Webster, Prairie de Chien, Clarno and Staver, and Butternut. She taught home economics in Webster, Butternut and Clayton. After Irvin retired in 1966 they enjoyed spending time in Florida, Arizona and other southern states during the winter months. Lorice moved to Grantsburg after Irvin's death in 1989 to be closer to her family. She enjoyed 14 more years of independent living before moving to the Continuing Care Center in Grantsburg due to declining health. She is survived by her son, Dana (Mary) Lepien and daughter, Kandis (Les) Olsen, three grandchildren, and many loving friends. Lorice was preceded in death by her husband, Irvin, two infant children, and a great-grandson. Although she loved to travel, cook and sew, nothing was more special to Lorice than visiting with family and friends over a good cup of coffee.

Debbie Ann McMurray

Debbie Ann McMurray, 45, wife of Rev. Scott McMurray, died unexpectedly at home on January 6, 2006. She had been recovering from heart surgery. Debbie was born November 4, 1960 in Charleston, Illinois to Lawrence and Elizabeth Lake. She grew up on a farm in central Illinois, was involved in basketball, track and field, and 4-H, and helped her parents on the farm. She lost her father to illness at the age of 18. She graduated from Eastern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Science degree in teaching. She taught high school physical education, drivers education, and health in both Illinois and Wisconsin.



Debbie married Rev. Scott McMurray on April 9, 1988. The marriage was the result of a careful conspiracy between the school where she taught and the church he pastored in Donovan, Illinois. They moved to Homer, Illinois in 1989. When Scott transferred to the Wisconsin Conference in 1994 he was appointed as pastor of the Mt. Horeb United Methodist Church, where Debbie served as Christian Education Director. The family moved to Trinity United Methodist Church in Lomira in 1999 and to Onalaska in 2005. They have two children, Katie and Adam. Debbie and Scott were world explorers. Among their travels they hosted a group to Israel, and spent two summers in England on pastor-family exchanges. Last year Debbie was the moderator during a church bell choir tour of England and Scotland, where she spoke in several churches at the heart of the Methodist heritage. She and Scott were avid bicyclists, pedaling back from the Twin Cities during the summer of 2005. Debbie was also a tri-athlete and enjoyed tennis and skiing. She was a Certified Lay Speaker and had recently been employed as youth director at Onalaska United Methodist Church. Debbie quietly and obviously loved the Lord Jesus Christ, her family and her friends. She lived her life adventurously and invested herself in family, youth, and her church family.

Arlyn Merritt

Arlyn Merritt, the widow of Rev. Gordon Merritt, died on June 15, 2005. No further information was available at the time the Journal was printed.

Margaret Reykdall

Margaret F. Reykdal, 86, died October 13, 2005 at her home in Wausau. She was born June 29, 1919, in Manawa to Otto and Anna Marie Hahn. Prior to her marriage, Margaret was the organist at the Manawa Methodist Church. On July 20, 1942, she married Rev. Lowell L. Reykdal. He preceded her in death on August 12, 2003. She is survived by four sons and their wives and five grandchildren.



Margaret attended numerous circle groups at the nine parishes served by Rev. Reykdal prior to his retirement. The churches served were Greenbush and Glen Beulah (1940-1943), Yorkville and Franksville (1943-1947), Oshkosh: First (1947-1955), Lake Geneva (1955-1957), Antigo and Mattoon (1955-1963), Watertown (1963-1967), Barron (1967-1972), Berlin (1972-1975), and Whitehall, Arca-

dia and Montana (1975-1978). In 1978 they retired on Deer Lake near Tomahawk, where she often accompanied the organist on the piano. She had heart surgery in 1999. Margaret enjoyed cooking and will be remembered by many visitors to Deer Lake who often arrived at lunch or dinnertime. She liked to swim in Deer Lake and in pools in Panama City Beach, Florida where they wintered for the last 20 years.

The Reykdal family has fond memories of camping throughout the United States and Canada during the 1950s and 1960s. They visited all the Canadian Provinces contiguous to the United States and most of the states in the U.S. In 1967, after returning 800 miles on the graveled Alcan 'Highway,' Margaret kissed the blacktop. For several years during the 1970s they visited Manitoulin Island in Lake Huron, and they continued to use the tent trailer even after retirement. Each year, Margaret would send a story about a recent trip in their Christmas greetings.

Margaret Reykdal's memorial service was held on October 22, 2005 at the United Methodist Church in Tomahawk, with the burial in Forest Cemetery near Birnamwood.

Mary Logan Wells

Mary Logan Wells, widow of Rev. Fred Logan, died on December 21, 2005. A service celebrating her life was held on Saturday, January 7, 2006 at the Coker United Methodist Church in San Antonio, Texas. No further information was available at the time the Journal was printed.

Mary Elizabeth Wolf

Mary Elizabeth Wolf, widow of Rev. Frank Wolf, passed away on January 20, 2006. The former Mary Elizabeth Bowman married Rev. Wolf on September 25, 1936, shortly after his graduation from Evangelical Theological Seminary. They served the Evangelical Church in LaSalle, Illinois in 1936. The couple moved to Wisconsin in 1937, where they served churches Wauzeka, Eastman, Prairie du Chien, Milwaukee, Westfield, Coloma, Arlington, Norwalk, and Sparta. In 1972 they retired to Westfield, where Rev. Wolf continued in ministry as pastor of the Pine River Congregational Church. He returned to active ministry from 1984 to 1990 to serve the Portage United Methodist Church. Rev. Wolf preceded his wife in death on February 28, 2000.

Lay Members And Others Related to the Wisconsin Annual Conference

The following lay persons related to the Wisconsin Annual Conference were remembered at the 2006 Annual Conference Memorial Service. Memoirs are printed for those persons for whom information was submitted to the Conference Secretary.

William Abendroth

*A Lay Member of the Annual Conference from Markesan.
Mr. Abendroth passed away on April 6, 2006.*

Robert S. Bradshaw

*A former Lay Member of the Annual Conference from Pleasant Prairie.
Mr. Bradshaw passed away on July 15, 2005.*

Anna K. Burgess

Anna K. Burgess, 86, of Bristol died January 10, 2006 at Kenosha Hospital. She was born January 26, 1919 to Frederick and Nelsigna Bauman, She spent her early life in Pleasant Prairie and graduated from Mary D. Bradford High School in Kenosha. On November 17, 1939 she married Paul L. Burgess. They lived in Bristol. Paul preceded her in death on July 27, 1991. She is survived by her three children and three grandchildren.



Anna was a member of Bristol United Methodist Church and the United Methodist Women of the church. She was awarded a Special Mission Recognition Pin for work done on the church recipe book. She was also very involved with the church's annual beef dinner. She was a Lay Member of Annual Conference for several years, attending while the Conference was held in Stevens Point.

She enjoyed knitting and crocheting, card games and traveling. She was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Homemakers (HCE) and T.O.P.S., and regularly attended the Westosha Senior Center. Anna was voted Bristol's Outstanding Woman in 1987.

Betty Callow

*A former Lay Member of the Annual Conference.
Ms. Callow passed away on May 30, 2006.*

Leona "Lee" Jean Chadwick

Leona "Lee" Jean Chadwick, of Fort Atkinson, died March 18, 2006 at University Hospitals in Madison, Wisconsin at the age of 73. Lee was born in Viroqua, Wisconsin on March 6, 1933, the daughter of Harold and Esther Bishop. She graduated from Viroqua High School in 1951 and received her Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Wisconsin – Whitewater in 1955. She married Leslie Chadwick in Viroqua on June 23, 1955. She taught for 35 years, retiring in 1994 from Johnson Creek High School. Lee was a member of Capital Area UniServ North and served as the original association secretary for 1974 until 2002. Over the years she was a multi-term President of the Johnson Creek Education Association. She was a contract negotiator for the Teachers Association and one of the representatives on the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Educators Association (WEAC) for many years. Prior to her death she was serving on the Fort Atkinson School Board.



Lee was an active member of First United Methodist Church in Fort Atkinson, sang in the church choir, was a United Methodist Women's officer, taught Sunday School and

Confirmation Class. She was the church's Financial Secretary, served on the Staff-Parish Relations Committee and represented the church as a Lay Member of Annual Conference.

She was a fantastic baker and cook, reportedly making pies and cookies "to die for." She often created her own recipes and supervised many funeral lunches (not in that particular order!) Lee was involved in the Fort Atkinson Community Theater for more than 25 years and the Fort Atkinson Community Foundation. She is survived by her husband, four children and six grandchildren.

Mary E. Champion

Mary E. Champion, 88, of Prairie du Chien passed away November 7, 2005 at Mercy Hospital in Dubuque, Iowa. She was born May 3, 1917, in Wyalusing Township, daughter of Albert and Jessie Quinn. She married Clinton Champion on July 25, 1936 in Waterloo, Iowa. The early years of their marriage were spent on a farm in Wyalusing Township. She worked for eight years at the Wyalusing Motel and Café, and 16 years at Hamann's Store in Prairie de Chien. She was a 57-year member of the Liscum Brothers Legion Post 482 Auxiliary.



Mary was an active member of the Bagley United Methodist Church for 60 years. She served as secretary to the Administrative Board, taught Sunday School and helped in many ways at numerous church meals. She was the Lay Member of Annual Conference in 1961, 1972 and 1973. Many people appreciated her cooking and baking. Mary also enjoyed sewing, crocheting, quilting with her mother and weaving on a rug loom.

She is survived by her husband of 69 years, their son and daughter, three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Esther Christenson

*A former Lay Member of the Annual Conference from North Prairie.
Ms. Christenson passed away in August, 2005.*

Glenn Ellison

Glenn C. Ellison, 74, was called to his heavenly home unexpectedly on October 8, 2005. He was born in Windsor Heights, West Virginia on August 10, 1931. On September 23, 1961 he married Nancy L. Du-Brucq at the Whitefish Bay Methodist Church. Glenn served his country in the United States Marine Corps. He attended the Milwaukee School of Engineering, and was employed by Westinghouse Supply, Bohm Electric and Nelson Electric Supply.



Glenn was a very active member of Christ United Methodist Church in Racine, where he served as church treasurer, Lay Leader, and Sunday School teacher. He was a member of the Administrative Board, and the Building, Day Care and Staff-Parish Relations committees. He was also a Lay Member of the Annual Conference.

Glenn was a member of the West Racine Kiwanis, serving as their President for a term, and was a past President of the Tuesday Nite Commercial Golf League and the group's longtime secretary. He also enjoyed tennis and curling. He participated in the Cops for Kids Reading Program. His greatest loves were his God, his family, his church, his work and his friends.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy, their daughter Debra Slaggert, one sister, Charlotte Mills, and several nieces, nephews and other relatives. A memorial service for Glenn was held on Friday, October 14, 2005 at Christ United Methodist Church in Racine, with Rev. Jaime Nolla officiating.

Barbara A. Escher

Barbara Ann Escher, 63, died unexpectedly on April 11, 2006 at her home in Lodi, Wisconsin. She was born July 12, 1942 in Monroe to Leo and Anna Gempler. She grew up in Monticello, and graduated from the University of Wisconsin X-Ray Technician program in 1962. She married her high school sweetheart, William Escher, on July 7, 1962. She lived most of her adult life in Lodi, where she worked for several years as a receptionist for the cardiology department at the former Jackson and Lodi Medical Clinics, and then at Sauk Prairie Memorial Hospital as a credit manager until her retirement in 2002.



Barb was an active member of the Lodi United Methodist Church and served on nearly every committee in the church. She directed the choir there for 15 years. She had a gift for music and used it generously, accompanying numerous musical students in various competitions, shows, musicals and plays. She played and sang for as many as 20 weddings and funerals per summer. Her passion for music and her Lord had her working closely with the pastors so that the service music complemented the message of the day. She produced numerous Christmas Cantatas and programs and wrote narrations that focused on the Christ. Every other summer for about 20 years she assembled a 'Women's Chorale' from all over the county to produce a show that was always very popular in the community.

Barbara served the Annual Conference as a member of the Conference Board of Trustees and the Council on Finance and Administration.

For 36 years she was a member of the same bridge club. She was an avid reader, having three or four books going at a time, and was a member of the Lodi Book Club. She used her crocheting talents to make gifts for new babies and was a member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry at the church. She is survived by her husband, a son and a daughter and five grandchildren.

Robert "Bob" G. Hood

Robert G. Hood of North Prairie, Wisconsin died February 15, 2006 at Waukesha Memorial Hospital at the age of 75. Bob was born January 31, 1931 in Waukesha, the son of Walter and Margery Hood. He was united in marriage to Nancy Playman on October 12, 1968. Bob served as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Korea. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he rowed on the Varsity Crew Team which won the National Championship in 1951. During college he belonged to the "W" Club and Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity. He was a member and past president of the Lincoln Fellowship.

Bob was a lifelong dairy farmer in North Prairie, and was an active member of the North Prairie United Methodist Church. At the time of his death, he chaired the Staff-Parish Relations Committee and was part of the Adult Bible Study and the Men's Breakfast. He had taught the Adult Church School class, was a counselor for the Youth Group, and had been a member of the Finance and Building Committees, as well as a Lay Member of Annual Conference. He had a special interest in Progressive Christianity.

He enjoyed being a member of the Milwaukee Art Museum and the International Crane Foundation. Bob loved gardening (especially prairie restoration), traveling, computer genealogy, reading, square dancing and cooking.

Bob will be sadly missed by his wife, Nancy, two daughters, Ann and Julie, son John, three grandchildren, and many other relatives and friends.

Marion Pfaeffle

A long-time lay member of the Annual Conference.

Marion passed away on June 3, 2006

Donald C. Pier

Donald C. Pier died on December 27, 2005 at the age of 96, surrounded by his family. His wife, Margaret Ann Howell Pier, preceded him in death. They had six children, ten grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Donald was a charter member of Christ United Methodist Church in Beloit, Wisconsin. After moving to Milwaukee in 1988, he was a member of Summerfield and later Bay View United Methodist Churches. He was active on many church boards and committees, including Finance, Trustees, Administrative Board and Adult Education. He was a Lay Member of Annual Conference for several years. He is also well remembered for all the times he worked fixing church microphones and sound systems.

Donald was a member and an award recipient of the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry (TAPPI). He was also a member of the Men's Garden Club, the Quarter Century Club at the Beloit Corporation, and was active as a 4-H leader. He was called a master of innovation and repairer of all things mechanical. Donald was a deeply honest, kind and gentle man and maintained a wonderful sense of humor until his last days.

Neil C. Pier

Neil C. Pier, 67, died at his home in Potosi, Wisconsin on March 22, 2006. He was born and raised in Beloit. He married Pamela Jean Martin on June 9, 1962 in Beloit, and graduated from the University of Wisconsin - Platteville in 1965. Mr. Pier worked at the Potosi State Bank/F&M Bank for 29 years.

Neil was a member of the Lancaster United Methodist Church, and later Davis Memorial United Church of Christ. He served as church treasurer for many years and on various boards and committees. He was active in his community and served on the Potosi Chamber of Commerce, a museum board, the Potosi School Board and more recently, the Southwest Planning Commission Review Board. He enjoyed working in his garden and yard. Neil and Pam also liked traveling to warm, sunny locations and taking cruises

Neil especially enjoyed spending time with his family and is survived by his wife, two daughters, a son, an "adopted" daughter from Tokyo, Japan and seven grandchildren.

Richard Prince

*A former Lay Member of the Annual Conference from Kenosha.
Mr. Prince passed away on September 30, 2005*

Elizabeth R. "Betty" Tennant

Betty Tennant died on January 2, 2006. She was 90 years old. Betty was born in Madison, Wisconsin, but from 1 year of age on Portage was her home. Raised in a Christian home where the expansion of one's intellectual capacities was stressed enabled Betty to graduate from Grinnel College. Then she returned to Madison and worked for the Wesley Foundation. When World War II ended, Betty read about the Methodist Church's 'J-3' program. This was a call for missionaries who were committed to serving in Japan for a period of three years. Betty applied and served from 1948-1951 at the Tokyo Women's Christian College. She observed: "Driving from Yokohama to Tokyo I was impressed with the flat land. The rubble of saturation bombings had leveled the capital except for a few small buildings, which had already been erected. From a variety of vantage points in Tokyo one could view Tokyo Bay, which was normally not visible due to high rise buildings." Upon returning to the U.S.A., Betty served as an intern with the United Nations (1951-52) then applied and was accepted as a commissioned missionary to Japan in 1953.

After two years of intensive study of the Japanese language and culture, Betty was assigned to the Kwassui Women's College in Nagasaki. She taught Phonetics, Conversational English, Church History, Bible, Western Manners and English Composition. Seeking to reach a larger audience, she taught English Bible classes in her church (Nagasaki United Christian Church) and home (located on the college campus). Elizabeth served over 30 years as a commissioned missionary in Japan for The United Methodist Church.

The connectional bonds to the Japanese continued even after she suffered a stroke in July, 1997. Following the stroke she moved into the Columbia Health Care Center in Wyocena, Wisconsin. Upon her death the Portage UMC received a variety of memorial

gifts from students whom she had touched as an educator. Ms. Toshiko Ito observed: "I used to be one of her students at Kwassui College about 50 years ago and later had a chance to work with her at our Kwassui junior and senior high school for some years before she left Nagasaki. She helped me in lots of ways even when I was working to get my MA at the University of Wisconsin (Madison)." Letters arrived from the Kwassui Alumnae Association and from Rev. Hirofumi Kuki, current pastor of Nagasaki United Christian Church, along with cards and gifts in appreciation and loving memory of Betty's years of service with the Japanese people.

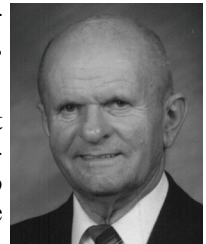
Betty's 1980 Christmas greeting captures some of the spirit of this Christian lady's concerns: "Pray for help in our collective efforts toward peace, may a revitalizing spirit come among us bringing hope for reconciliation and healing wherever fear, distrust and suffering abound among the peoples of the world."

A memorial celebration of Elizabeth R. "Betty" Tennant's life was held at the Portage United Methodist Church on Friday, January 6, 2006.

Donovan C. Weis

Donavan C. Weis left his home in Almond, Wisconsin for his heavenly home on February 5, 2006. He was 79. His wife of 44 years, Janet, preceded him in death in 1994.

Donovan served as a Staff-Parish Relations Committee member at Bethel Hill United Methodist Church, Trinity-Pilgrim United Methodist Church and Wild Rose United Methodist Church from 1968 to 2002 at various times. He was always a support and confidant to the pastor of his church, as well as to his son, Dennis, who serves as pastor at the Pardeeville United Methodist Church. Don served on the Trustees and Administrative Council, and was a member of the United Methodist Men in the churches to which he belonged. He attended Annual Conference as a lay member from 1976 to 1991, and then as an alternate from 1993 to 1994.



He helped around the church with maintenance and lawn care. He was a handy man who loved to work in his garden and care for his yard and woods. Don worked at Methodist Manor and the Village at Manor Park from 1961 to 1991, when he retired as Maintenance Engineer for the complex. Don was a caregiver for an elderly gentleman in the Wild Rose area. He played pool with the senior men of Waupaca, loved to read a variety of books and enjoyed visiting his six children and eleven grandchildren.