

## N. MEMOIRS

### SPOUSE OF ACTIVE MEMBER

**Lane Ashton DeLarme** who grew up in Buckley, WA passed away on October 11, 2022, at the age of 67. He was born on September 23, 1955, to Lane B. and Barbara DeLarme. He was a 1973 graduate of White River high school and was a life-long learner. Along the way, he attended Green River Community College, Western Washington University, the University of Washington, and Syracuse University. It was at Syracuse that he met the love of his life, Shirley Marie (Waldruff) whom he married in 1988. They had been married 34 years when he died.

Lane and Shirley raised three sons, Brant, Asher, and Ethan. Lane loved their sons tremendously and he and Shirley raised their boys in a kind and loving home that included much humor. The DeLarme family had homes in Port Angeles, Olympia, Delaware County OH, Sumner, Bonney Lake, and Port Orchard as the boys grew.

Lane made a career of public service. He worked for the Department of Natural Resources; Delaware County, OH; the city of Lakewood, and as bus driver for Kitsap Transit. He was always mindful of those whom he served and did his best to provide quality work to them. Lane loved maps and spent much of his career working in Geographic Information Systems. He always knew where he was going and where things were. Lane loved to travel and visited 49 of 50 US states, the most recent and best being New Mexico with Shirley. Lane volunteered in many ways, including driving homeless individuals to shelter, mentoring in youth ministries, and providing extensive audio-visual work for church worship.

In 2018 Lane and his siblings had a wonderful surprise. They discovered an unknown sister, Teri, living in Colorado. They quickly bonded and Lane made several trips to Colorado getting to know this new part of the family.

His youngest son Ethan preceded Lane in death, passing away in 2018 at the age of 20. This took an incredibly heavy toll on Ethan's parents, one that Lane could never shake. We know that Lane was incredibly joyful when he met up with Ethan again in God's heavens.

Lane is survived by his wife, the Reverend Shirley DeLarme, sons Brant DeLarme (Kayla) and Asher DeLarme (Ashley), 3 grandchildren, his sister Lola Bowler (Mike), his brother, the Rev. Lance DeLarme (the Rev. Janine), and his brother-in-law Rege Vogan (Teri). He is survived by many nieces and nephews who were all near and dear to him.

Preceding him in death was his beloved son Ethan, his parents Lane B. and Barbara DeLarme and his sister Teri from Colorado Springs.

A celebration of Life was held on Sunday November 20, 2022 at 2:00 pm at the Port

Orchard United Methodist Church.

### FULL MEMBERS – RETIRED

**Norman Roger Lawson** was born June 6, 1931, to Willard and Helen Lawson in Mount Vernon, Washington. He was the youngest of four siblings, two older brothers and his twin sister, Nancy. He would say he had an idyllic childhood, growing up on a farm, surrounded by a loving family. He graduated from Bow-Edison High School, going on to Willamette University in Salem, Oregon. It was in college that he met the love of his life, Lola. They married after he graduated from Willamette, and moved across the country to Northwestern University, where Norman earned his degree as a Master of Divinity and was ordained into the United Methodist Church. He later obtained his Doctor of Ministry from San Francisco Theological Seminary. He served in the United Methodist Church from 1956-2012. During that time, he was a part of the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference, pastoring in Toppenish, at Auburn: First, Tacoma: First, Wenatchee: First, Richland: Central United Protestant, and Bainbridge Island: Seabold. He also served as the District Superintendent for the Columbia River District and the Seattle District.

One of Norman's greatest gifts was that of encouragement. He was the ultimate optimist, and always had a kind word to share. He was a talented preacher, delivering over a thousand sermons through his career. Throughout his ministry, he mentored others. He and his wife, Lola hosted a college group from University of Puget Sound out of which arose numerous pastors and at least 5 Bishops! He loved young people and participated in church youth camps whenever possible. He also loved his family. He was always very close to his brothers and sister, and was an amazing father to his two daughters, Ellen, and Kathy. Aside from ministry and family, Norman had an insatiable appetite for the Puget Sound. He spent as much time as he could on the water, beginning in his childhood, and fostering a similar love in his daughters and grandchildren.

Norm and Lola moved into the Wesley Community in 1995 and were very active in helping others. He drove the bus, shuttled people to appointments, hosted Vesper services, and served as the Chaplain for Lea Hill in Auburn. Most recently, Norm relocated to Wesley at Bradley Park, living in the Arbor Community for the last six months of his life.

Norman was predeceased by his parents, brothers, sister, and wife Lola. He is survived by his two daughters, Ellen and Kathy, his grandchildren, Jimmie, Evan, Katie, Jeffrey, and Jared. He had 4 great grandchildren, Emily, Liam, Logan, and Lily. His favorite scripture was Galatians 5:22, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law." He personified one who possesses these gifts. Many of his sermons have been crafted into a daily Devotional, "Children, Love One Another". This was his other mantra, if we loved one another as Christ loved us, the world would be a different place.

**David Gary Hullin** - On July 26, 2022, Rev. David G. Hullin, beloved husband, father, and pastor, passed away peacefully at home on Mercer Island at the age of 80. Dave was born in Seattle on September 4, 1941, to Arvid ("Swede") and Pat Hullin. He attended

View Ridge Elementary School, Concordia Lutheran School, Roosevelt High School, Seattle Pacific University, and Wesley Theological Seminary, before beginning a lifelong ministry with the United Methodist Church.

Dave devoted himself to being a 'Doer of the Word', especially in his work with young people. As a tireless coach, organizer, and counselor, he exemplified a life of service to others. Dave was always first in line to organize a fundraiser, a youth trip, or sports league. The nature of his faith was professed through his kindness, openness, and a healing spirit. After serving churches in Maryland and Virginia, Dave returned to Seattle and served as a pastor at Seattle: Bryn Mawr and Tukwila: Riverton Park UMCs, a chaplain at Wesley Homes in Des Moines, and pastor at Seattle: Highland Park United Methodist Church until his retirement. Dave remained highly active as a volunteer at the Mercer Island United Methodist Church until the end of his life.

On July 23, 1989, he married Judith Anne Borseth, a childhood friend from View Ridge, with whom he had reconnected after their parents had become neighbors again in a South Everett retirement community. They celebrated 33 happy years together shortly before Dave's passing.

Dave was an avid sportsman who loved skiing, camping, baseball, basketball, volleyball, and - above all - golf. On vacation, he would visit every post office he could, to build his prodigious stamp collection. After a stroke reduced his mobility and speech in later years, he found new ways to express himself through visual arts, sketching scenes from daily life - and many stamps.

Dave was preceded in death by his brothers, Dennis, and Arvid ("Buddy"). He is survived by his wife Judith, his children Anna Bloxham and Marty Hullin (from his prior marriage to Judy Alexander), as well as his two grandchildren, Tess and Sam. Dave and Judith have spent the last 10 years on Mercer Island living with Judith's daughter Jane and her husband, Craig.

Dave's gifts and graces were remembered at a Memorial Service held at Mercer Island United Methodist Church on Saturday, August 27th at 2 pm, officiated by Reverend Carol Mariano and Reverend John Go. The service was held outside because of Covid 19 considerations.

**Mary Karen (Simmons) Brown** passed away on the evening of August 1, 2022, from injuries suffered in a fall three weeks earlier. Her daughter was by her side. She was 87 years old.

Mary was born in Los Angeles, California on March 17, 1935, the second daughter to Frank and Hilda Simmons. She had an idyllic childhood growing up in Los Angeles with her parents and older sister Eleanor. The family would vacation in the summers at Camp Richardson in Lake Tahoe, as well as Balboa Island in Newport Beach, California. Mary was a great student and was active in the Girls Athletic Association. After graduating from Hamilton High School, she attended and graduated from Stanford University. Mary treasured the lifelong friendship she made while attending high school (Girls of '53) and college.

She was attending graduate school at San Francisco State University, obtaining a master's degree in Radio/TV/Film, when she met her future husband, William Clarence Brown, on a Sierra Club hike. They were married a year later July 10, 1965, at Old St. Mary's Church in San Francisco, California. For their honeymoon, they traveled to the Basque Country (in Spain), the home of Will's ancestors. They fell in love with the Basque Country and made their home there for many years, returning temporarily for the birth of their daughter Mirén. Their son Piers was born in Spain. The Brown family lived in a small Basque fishing village until returning to the United States in 1978. The family then settled in the Seattle area where Mary worked for the University of Washington's School of Nursing.

Mary had a big second act when she returned to higher education at the age of 51. In 1986, Mary applied and was accepted to the Claremont School of Theology where she obtained a Master of Divinity. In 1990, she became the pastor of the Snoqualmie United Methodist Church in Snoqualmie, Washington. Mary was the beloved pastor at SUMC until she retired in July of 2000. During her time as an ordained pastor, Mary went on a trip to Israel with her sister and members of the United Methodist Church. This trip deepened and enriched Mary's faith in the ministry.

Shortly after retiring, Mary's husband, Will, suffered a stroke. He died from complications resulting from the stroke on September 15, 2003. Mary was very active in the later years of her life after her husband passed. She enjoyed skiing, kayaking, and hiking in the Snoqualmie Valley, with her faithful dog Guapa. She went on three memorable "Road Scholar" trips. The first trip was to Costa Rica, the second was to the Teton Science School in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and the last was a trip to a camp in Wisconsin called Trees for Tomorrow, a school focused on natural resources.

Mary spent the latter years of her life living on Bainbridge Island, Washington, where she made many friends. She was very active in her local church, Eagle Harbor Congregational Church and volunteered at Bainbridge Island Volunteer Caregivers. She also spent much of her time in climate activism, working with Earth Ministries, an ecumenical religious organization that helps to bring awareness to the ongoing climate crisis. She also enjoyed being a great "Amona" to her four lovely grandchildren. Mary's bright light will be sorely missed by her family and all her friends.

Mary is survived by her daughter Mirén (Ron) First of Bainbridge Island and Piers (Hillary) Brown of Orange County, California, and her four grandchildren. Mary was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, William Clarence Brown, her sister, Eleanor L. Todd, and her beloved dogs Guapa and Carlo.

There was a memorial celebrating Mary's life on November 19, 2022, at 1:30 pm, at Eagle Harbor Congregational Church at 105 Winslow Way W, on Bainbridge Island, WA.

**George Clifford Pratt**- was born to George Cameron Pratt and Glenna Leone Milton Pratt on April 1, 1932, on the family farm in Rockford, Washington. He was the second of three children with his older brother Milton and his younger sister Joanne. George was baptized and placed on the cradle roll of the Rockford Methodist Church on August 19, 1932.

George attended school in Rockford from the first grade through high school. In addition to helping with farm chores, he played football, basketball, and baseball. He was a member of Future Farmers of America and the Boy Scouts of America. George achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

After graduating from Rockford High School, George attended Washington State University, but then transferred to Eastern Washington College of Education (EWC). It was there, while taking a class on the literature of the Bible, that he discerned a call to Christian ministry. It was also at EWC that he met his wife, Elizabeth Ann Baldwin. They were married on July 25, 1954, at Westminster Congregational Church in Spokane, Washington. Just a few weeks later, they traveled to Evanston, Illinois, where George began his training at Garrett Evangelical Seminary.

George served small churches while in seminary, and then after graduation returned to Washington State to begin his ministry at the Fall City United Methodist Church. He served the church in Fall City for thirteen years. It was there they raised their four children, Mary, Cathy, Jim, and Belinda.

As a part of his ministry, George led members of the church, community, and surrounding region to produce the Fall City Passion Play, which was performed on weekends leading up to Easter in the school gym from 1959 to 1988. He saw the power of theater to share faith and build community, and thus he led the group to expand beyond the annual passion play to form the Christian Players. The group purchased one hundred acres and built an amphitheater with a view of Snoqualmie Falls. In time, it became the Snoqualmie Falls Forest Theater. Each summer, they offered weekend dinner theater with a steak barbecue and plays that ranged from melodrama to Shakespeare. He took a four-year leave from pastoral ministry to serve as executive director.

In 1976, George returned to pastoral ministry at the Seaview United Methodist Church in West Seattle, where he served for twenty years. He encouraged community engagement through hosting 12-step and other small groups at the church. He also built relationships with the growing community of Tongans in the Seattle area.

On behalf of the Pacific Northwest Conference of The United Methodist Church, George chaired the committee that led the celebration of the 250th anniversary of John Wesley's Aldersgate experience, a key moment in the development of the Methodist movement. He, once again, utilized theater to tell the story of John Wesley and other important leaders of the Methodist movement.

After his retirement, George became active in the retired clergy association. He encouraged his colleagues to write down and share the stories of their spiritual journeys at their monthly meetings. In 2011, George and Elizabeth moved to Wesley Homes in Des Moines where he lived until his death on August 3, 2022.

George was preceded in death by his parents, Cam and Leone, his brother Milt, and his son-in-law George Cooney. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth, his sister Joanne Abey, his daughter Mary Cooney, his daughter Catharine Morris (Peter), his son James Pratt (Karen Brubeck), and his daughter Belinda Burkitt (Chip). He is also survived by fifteen

grandchildren and many great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on Thursday, August 25th at 2 p.m. in the chapel of Wesley Gardens, 815 216th St., Des Moines. The Rev. Jeremy Smith officiated. Memorial gifts may be made to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) or the Snoqualmie Falls Forest Theater, PO Box 249, Fall City, WA 98024.

**Earl Page Cooper**— was born in Amarillo, Tx. September 9, 1938. He came to the United Methodist Church by way of the N.W. Texas Conference and Iliff School of Theology in 1965. Once here in the Pacific Northwest, he was appointed to Waitsburg UMC; Port Townsend: Trinity; and then began appointed work in Spokane with the Division of Chaplains. He was Chaplain at Deaconess Hospital; Chaplain at Deaconess Medical Center; Mgr. of Pastoral Care, Deaconess Medical Center; all in Spokane WA, then to Yuma Regional Medical Center, Yuma, AZ; where he retired in 2008, but kept on as Chaplain there.

As a pastor, hospital chaplain, community mentor, teacher and volunteer, Earl Cooper was known for his compassion for those in greatest need. Earl changed the energy in a room! His graciousness pervaded his actions and his interest in others led him toward friendship and ease and peace. Conversations provided Earl great pleasure. He had a rare ability to pull someone in and make that person feel safe to talk and share while giving comfort and assurance. Earl showed up (usually late) any place he went, groomed & spiffy in splendid shirts and pressed jeans (preferably a dark navy color), and without fail he impressed animals, babies, grownups, - they all liked Earl best. Beaches, Starbucks, movie theaters, restaurants and wine cellars, horse barns, roping arenas, brew pubs and family dinner tables – these were Earl’s gathering places – he loved the human connection.

His second love was horses. HORSES made Earl happy! He’d grown up with them and felt at home with even the biggest, meanest, and most erratic horse and was convinced that, despite occasional minor weirdness, horses made good sense—their responses, abilities, steadiness, and horsey intuition. “Mr. Bill” and “Mr. T”- his two favorite horses over the years, were big-hipped quarter horses trained to rope steers but who defected to puppy-like behavior by following Earl around. At the boarding place for his own horses, others in nearby stalls vied noisily for Earl’s attention.

Dennis Reis, Dale Woodard, Pat Parelli, George Aros, Buck Brannaman – they all worked with or influenced Earl who made being a student a life-long pursuit by asking questions, traveling miles, sometimes over state lines, to out-of-the-way arenas, watching DVDs galore, interviewing anyone who seemed to know more about horses than he did.

Earl’s centeredness made him a pivot point, a leading man. He often took veterans and students to work with his horses: to brush them, to observe them. Through the horses, Earl created a sense of balance and love and acceptance for anyone who needed it. His focus and passion and deeply held beliefs were passed to every recipient with his conviction and blessing.

Earl Page Cooper died at sunset on August 29th, 2022, while under hospice care in Scottsdale, Arizona. He is survived by his beloved spouse, Penelope (Penny) Cooper in Scottsdale

AZ and their daughter Samantha Cooper of Knoxville, TN. His family invites you, if you are so inclined, to honor Earl with a donation to the following scholarship fund: Earl Page Cooper Scholarship, ATTN: Hunkapi Programs, 12051 N. 96th St., Scottsdale, AZ 85260

**Walter Kenneth Sauer** was born on Feb 4, 1926, in Ritzville, Washington to Rudolph and Bertha Sauer, the last of three children. The family later moved to Harrington, and Walter's family attended the Harrington Evangelical Church where he felt the call to serve in the ministry.

Walter enrolled in Whitworth College graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree. On June 6, 1948, he married Dolores Koch, also from Harrington. After Whitworth, he enrolled in Western Evangelical Seminary and received a Master of Divinity. During his time at Whitworth and Western Evangelical Seminary, Walter and Dolores had three children: Stephen, Rebecca, and Miriam. After ordination, he was assigned to pastor his home church in Harrington. During this time, Walter attended the US Army Chaplain School in New York City, after which he performed duties as a Chaplain in the Army Reserve in addition to serving the Harrington church.

In 1964, while serving as pastor at Seattle: Green Lake, Walter received orders to report for active duty with the US Army. He was assigned to the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Lewis, Washington where he served as Chaplain to the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment. During his 20-year career Walter also served two tours in Vietnam, as well as tours in Korea, Germany, and several locations in the United States. As a career officer he received a Purple Heart, a Bronze Star, and many other commendations. He retired after 20 years in the Service at the rank of Colonel.

After his military retirement, Walter continued to serve in the ministry in Sunsites, Arizona and as Chaplain at Rockwood Retirement South Hill, Spokane, Washington.

Walter was known as a man of his word. He was steady, reliable, and thoughtful. He kept in touch with, prayed for, and supported several missionaries and students throughout his life. He was gratefully remembered by men he ministered to in Vietnam. He prayed for each of his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren every day. When Dolores was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, he took care of her at home for many years and visited her every day after she was placed in memory care. Walter spent his final years living at Touchmark on the South Hill, where he was active in the community. He was greatly appreciated and respected by all at Touchmark.

Rev. Walter Kenneth Sauer died on June 28, 2022. He was preceded in death by his wife, Dolores Koch Sauer; his parents, Rudolph and Bertha Sauer; his brother Richard Sauer and sister Ruby Kelleher. He is survived by his children: Steve (Connie) Sauer, Portland, OR, Rebecca (John) Wilson, Spokane, WA, Miriam Piccard, Spokane, WA; his grandchildren: Sta'Cee (Jimmy) Godard, Steve (Shauna) Sauer, Tom (Claire) Sauer, Timothy (Shayna) Sauer, Martha Wilson, Andrew (Kumiko) Wilson, Sam (Susan) Wilson and Jenn (Curt) Black and his great-grandchildren: Annikah, Amelia, Titus and Adalie Godard, Nathan and Madison Sauer, Wilson Black, Makoto and Izumi Wilson, and another on the way.

Friends and family were invited to share in the Memorial Service, held on July 23, 2 pm at Touchmark: 2929 S Waterford Dr, Spokane, WA. The family would like to thank Horizon Hospice & Palliative Care for providing care for Walter in his last days. In lieu of flowers, charitable donations may be made in Walter's name to the charity of your choice. Matthew 25:23a, "His Lord said to him "Well done, good and faithful servant."

**Larry S. Nicholson** died peacefully at the age of 87 on the evening of Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2023, in the presence of family in Hayesville, N.C. He was born on Sept. 10, 1935, to the late E.W. and Elizabeth Nicholson in Harrison, Arkansas. He was the oldest of six children and was always considered a provider for his family. He prided himself on hard work and the dedication it took to succeed.

He married his loving wife, Carolyn, in June 1960 and the two built a beautiful life together spanning decades of love, laughter and adventure. Larry graduated seminary at Southern Methodist University in 1965 and University of Puget Sound Law School in 1978 and was fulfilled by a life of ministry and serving others. He served several small congregations in Texas and Arkansas before moving out West to raise his family, where he served United Methodist Churches in the Pacific Northwest Conference: Tumwater-Littlerock, Mercer Island, Lewiston: First, Port Angeles: First, Walla Walla: Pioneer, and Kelso. He and Carolyn retired in 1998 and moved to Hayesville, N. C.

Everyone who knew Larry through his 40 years of ministry felt the impact of his big heart and giving nature; his kind spirit helped him inspire others to love and accept unconditionally through the grace of God. He never knew a stranger and was a natural at building relationships with anyone he ever met.

You would never find Larry without a book in his hand, a Sudoku puzzle to work on, or following an Atlanta Braves game on television or the radio. He was always up for a good debate and was a lifelong learner of new things.

Larry Nicholson is survived by his wife Carolyn; five children including three sons, Stephen and wife Lisa, Michael and wife Lesa, David and wife Jennifer, and two daughters, Patricia and Mary; ten grandchildren; three great grandchildren and one brother, Rodney. He is preceded in death by his parents and four siblings.

He leaves behind a legacy that will never be forgotten and has touched the hearts and lives of so many. We take comfort in knowing that Larry is now at peace surrounded by light and love.

**Bill Doyle Smith** aged 84, passed away peacefully Saturday, March 4, 2023, at home in Seattle, Washington. Born December 2, 1938, to Ben and Lillian (Dring) Smith, on a farm in Dundee, Kansas, the family moved to nearby Great Bend when Bill was four and his father was drafted to serve in WWII. Bill grew up with an older brother Pete and a younger brother Rich. His mother instilled a passion for the church and for education and was always concerned that Bill did his best. His dad instilled a strong work ethic, and Bill held a variety of jobs from a young age, including working at a dry cleaner before and after school, beginning in 6th grade. His best memory of his youth was playing second base for the Great Bend High School baseball team, crowned Kansas State Champions in

1955.

Bill attended the University of Kansas (KU), where he worked as a pastry chef at his scholarship hall and graduated with a BS in Education. His biggest thrill at KU was seeing Wilt Chamberlain play basketball for the Jayhawks, and in later years watching the Jayhawks play in Allen Fieldhouse and on television, including winning the NCAA Men's championship in 2022.

After graduating from KU, Bill taught social studies in Kansas City for a year before enrolling at Boston University School of Religion, and later, Cambridge University in England (where he was on the basketball team), and Yale Divinity School in New Haven, CT. Bill also spent a year as an intern at Union Church in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. Following graduation from Yale Divinity, Bill studied Urban Affairs at Indiana University and earned an MA in Political Science. He also, more importantly, met the love of his life Patricia Goering, also from Kansas, who also earned an MA in Political Science at IU. Bill and Patricia were married June 8, 1968.

After graduating, Bill and Patricia packed up their 1969 VW bus and headed west to Monroe, Washington, where Bill was appointed as pastor of Monroe United Methodist Church. Son Mark was born in 1970. Desiring more change, Bill, Patricia, and Mark headed to Wesley Methodist Church in Auckland, New Zealand in 1971 for a year-long pulpit exchange. Returning to Washington State, the family moved to Seattle in 1973, where daughter Jennifer was born. While in Seattle, Bill earned a Doctorate in Theological Studies from San Francisco School of Theology, where he wrote his thesis on stages of adult development. Before retiring, Bill served seven churches, most in the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Favorite memories from ministry include starting a prison ministry and day care for families of inmates while at Monroe UMC, holding marriage enrichment weekends and parenting classes at Green Lake UMC, starting Light of the Hill UMC in South Hill (Puyallup), housing the homeless at Woodland Park UMC, and organizing and moderating two public forums on police reform and homelessness through Sandpoint UMC. Bill treasured the memories he made sharing life and faith with so many caring individuals during his time serving the church.

One of Bill and Patricia's favorite activities together was travel. Bill's fond memories include a cross country family camping trip in a Chevy Chevette; several sabbatical months in East Berlin where Patricia had a fellowship year; a sabbatical year in Romania which included teaching school; trips to Israel and to Nicaragua exploring political conflicts; and travel to the Soviet Union/Russia, Ukraine, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Morocco. Bill and Patricia also loved taking each of their six grandchildren on trips of their choice, when they turned 12.

When he retired in 2000, Bill and Patricia moved to Ocean Shores where Bill enjoyed gardening, playing tennis, and golfing. He had a beautiful garden there, became a Master Gardener, and served as president of the Grays Harbor County chapter. For many years Bill and Patricia also hosted friends for Ocean Shores' annual jazz weekends. In 2017 Bill and Patricia moved back to the house in Seattle where they had raised their children.

Bill transformed the extra lot at their home into a magnificent garden, a testament to his gardening skills and his love of beauty.

Rev. Bill is survived by Patricia Goering Smith, his wife of 54 years, daughter Jennifer Smith and grandchildren Jasmine and Fenêtre, and son Mark Smith and wife Amanda and grandchildren Anna, Lillian, James, and Hailey. He is also survived by brother Rich and wife Jeanne Smith and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service to celebrate Rev. Bill Smith's life was held at 2 pm, Saturday, March 25, 2023, at Sand Point United Methodist Church in Seattle, with a reception following in Perry Hall.

**John Wesley Martin** was born on March 13, 1929 in Wallace, Idaho where his father was Pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He had seven siblings and was the last survivor. John is survived by his wife BJ (Betty Jane), and a blended family of eight children: Colleen Janiece Titman, Airway Heights, WA; John Frederick Martin, Clark-son, WA; Matthew Hinkle, DuPont, WA; Allen Hinkle and James Allen, Spokane, WA; Valarie Seitz and Mark Hinkle, Houston, TX; Bobbie Jo Allen, Tucson, AZ and a host of grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Music was very important to his family, and his parents were fortunate in that his father's appointments during the Great Depression yielded qualified music teachers in the towns they were appointed to. Mrs. Beulah Long was an accredited violin instructor who gave private lessons in her home. She gave John's parents a discount rate of 25 cents for a half hour weekly. That began what would be a musical journey which ended in Olympia, WA in 1995.

John studied violin for six years and played the cello through high school and for two years in the Everett Symphonette while attending Everett Community College. John learned to play several different instruments and proved to be a reliable fill-in wherever needed. Basically, he played the baritone horn, or the sousaphone and he could play fill-in on the French and the e flat/f horn. Wherever he went he always found a group to play with. Some of his past associations were with the Omak Okanogan Inter City Band, the Shrine Band in Okanogan, the Eagles Band in Spokane, and the senior citizens band in Olympia.

John Martin graduated from the Vancouver School of Theology in British Columbia after a long process identifying his call. He began in our PNW Conference as a student local pastor, then to a FT Local Pastor, then to Associate Member, Probationary Member and finally in 1977, graduated from VST., and was assigned to Edwall-Reardan. (In those intervening years before becoming an Elder, he had served in Seattle: South Park; South Bend-Bay Center; transferred to OR-ID Conference 1966, returned to PNW 1967, Lakewood; La Conner: Deacon; Bellingham: Aldersgate: Probationary; Bellingham: Fair Haven and Bellingham: Garden Street as Associate.) Following John's graduation from seminary and ordination as an Elder, he asked to be appointed to a rural church. He was sent to the Davenport-Edwall circuit. John was in his 30's by this time. John loved small rural churches and preferred them. Next followed: Spokane: Liberty Park-Moran; Chaplain: Rockwood Manor in UMC Spokane; Orofino-Peck, ID; and Orofino-Peck-Caven-

dish. They retired in 1991. Upon retirement John and BJ purchased a home in Endicott, WA, a community of 237 people located in the Big Bend wheat country of Washington. During these times he drove school buses and cleaned cafeterias. A farmer came to John one day and said their pastor could no longer commute to their rural church. Would John fill in for a few Sundays? Eventually they chose John to be their pastor. It was a small, non-denominational German church. However, John did not like the pastoral requirements... but after several church meetings they were able to come to an agreement. Rev. John also served PeEll UMC in retirement in 2010.

How did they end up in Casa Grande, AZ? At one point, BJ (Betty Jane) worked for HUD housing for low-income families and John was her maintenance man. They moved to Tucson, AZ where BJ took a job as Property Manager at Carousel Ranch, a mobile home park. John got a call from the South District's District Superintendent. The resident Bishop had dismissed a pastor and asked John to conduct Good Friday services and then Easter Sunday as well. After that the District Superintendent called a meeting with John and asked him to serve in Benson, AZ. While in Benson, AZ the church built a Fellowship Hall as a stand-alone structure, built with 4 sliding doors so that it could be converted to classrooms. The Fellowship Hall on Wednesday evenings became filled with musicians consisting of guitars and harmonicas. Chairs were provided so the community could come and go as they wished. It became a community event/building for all. Up until this time, the Benson UMC had been a part time appointment but as the community activities had developed, they were ready for a full time pastor. It was at this time the District Superintendent asked if the Martin's would move to Douglas, AZ to serve Grace UMC, which was struggling. They could afford him in his retirement status!

There was a service to celebrate Rev. John's life, music, and ministries on Saturday, May 20, 2023 at 11 a.m. at the Casa Grande United Methodist Church, located at 1428 N. Pueblo Dr. in Casa Grande, Arizona. His passing is grieved by Betty Jane who misses him, whilst knowing he is in a more beautiful place, and he is missed by many in the Casa Grande community and at the UMC of Casa Grande, AZ. Well done, good and faithful servant!

### SPOUSES OF RETIRED FULL MEMBERS

**Carol B. (Bryan) Biles** was born in Portland, Oregon on September 17, 1938, to Jessie and George "Bud" Bryan. She was born into a musical family, and picked up piano at an early age, given her mother taught piano lessons in their home. She was teaching piano lessons herself before she graduated from high school. She was the valedictorian at her high school graduation and went on to college: two years at Clark College, then transferred to University of Puget Sound for her last two years. She is remembered for her bright smile, hearty laugh, and love of music, especially church music. She graduated with a degree in Piano and Music and had a teaching certificate to teach elementary school.

The summer after graduation, she met David Biles, (newly graduated himself from U.W.)

when they were put on a task force of two, to devise a section of programming for a high school youth retreat about “being Christian and not losing one’s faith during the college years.” Their working relationship turned into a personal relationship, and they were married on August 21, 1960. David had plans for seminary, so off they went to Pacific School of Religion in Berkely, CA, where Carol got her first job teaching at an elementary school.

Following David’s seminary completion, he was appointed to St. John, WA, and off they went again. A wonderful story in the family is of the first autumn days in the first church in the small community of St. John: the morning dawns and Carol announces to David that the baby is on its way. They called the doctor. The Dr. advised them to get to the hospital, whereupon David gets Carol settled, then drives 2 hours back to St. John for his church service in this first appointment. Then, turned around and drove 2 hours back to the hospital and they were now a family of three. Gregory D. Biles came into the world during church on October 25, 1964. Three years later in Mead, WA, Cynthia A. Biles was born on Feb. 1, 1967, and completed their little family. (This writer does not know if she arrived during church.)

Carol’s ability on the piano and organ made her a wonderful addition to every church they were appointed to, as they always had a substitute when needed. She began a Community Choir, teaching others to love music. She became a staff member for the Girl Scouts organization. She became a counselor for Parents Anonymous to help and support others learning how to become good parents. She was a very involved parent to Cindy and Greg, wanting to know all the friends and staying integral in their lives in those formative years. She and Dave learned physical therapy for Greg when he was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy and advocated for Greg.

Later in life, Carol went back to school to become a Marriage and Family Therapist. She started at Seattle Pacific College and finished at W.S.U. because of a new church appointment. She had her first practice at the UW Counseling Center, located in the basement of the University Temple United Methodist Church, then later in Bremerton for 6 years, her private practice included service to many Navy families.

Carol was diagnosed with breast cancer later in life and was a proud finisher at the Breast Cancer Awareness Walk. She beat that challenge and moved on to work for the Council on Aging, and joined Jubilate, to keep singing. Carol LOVED a good cup of coffee. She loved the trip to Kenya which Jubilate took. Carol loved to travel, and the ocean beaches called. She loved to meet people on trips, explore the beaches and enjoy water activities. Did we say she truly loved a good cup of coffee? Four trips to Hawaii, a second trip to Scotland and a tour in Iceland got her excited to move to Iceland. Hurricane Katrina in 2005 created a formidable disaster and soon Carol was working on the disaster clean-up crews. Later, after they moved to Wesley Homes in 2012, she studied and became a part of the Hospice Team at Wesley.

Well done, good and faithful servant! What a beautiful witness of a servant of Christ with a song in her heart and a smile for everyone. She lived a very full life.

Carol died on December 18, 2022. She leaves behind her beloved spouse, Rev. David Biles and daughter Cynthia A. Biles of Seattle, WA. Their son Gregory D. Biles pre-deceased

Carol in April of 1988. A celebration of Carol's life was held at Kent United Methodist Church on April 15, 2023, at Kent United Methodist Church with Rev. Jim Head-Corliss officiating.

**Sharyn Cooper McPherson** died on Sunday morning January 15, 2023, after an illness of several months. The family is devastated at the passing of their beautiful and joyful wife, mom, sister, and dear friend. Only diagnosed in September 2022, she fought an incredible battle against an extremely aggressive cancer. She passed peacefully at home surrounded by some of her closest loved ones.

She is survived by her husband of 50 years, Rev. Richard (Dick) L. McPherson, her son Jeremy McPherson and wife Carmen McPherson, and daughter Jessica Thwaites and husband Tim Thwaites, and her beautiful grandchildren, Cooper and Madison McPherson and Henry and Lucille Thwaites, her sister Gaye Light, and her brother Thomas Cooper. Sharyn is predeceased by her loving parents, John and Joy Cooper, and her cherished brother Grant Cooper.

Sharyn and Richard were married on February 3, 1973. She lived a life of deep compassion, service and love and is remembered by countless dear ones as "best friend." There was a Celebration of Life for Sharyn on Saturday, February 11, 2023, at the Deer Park United Methodist Church in Pine, CO.

Charitable donations were asked to be given in her honor to Elevation Hospice <https://elevationhpsc.com/donate> and/or to the Denver Chapter of Project Linus <https://www.projectlinus.org> Sharyn, an avid quilter, made numerous quilts for this organization, always thinking of and praying for each recipient. Sharyn was the very definition of unconditional, boundless love.

## SURVIVING SPOUSES OF DECEASED MEMBERS

**Arvada "Vada" Louise (Swain) McVicker** - of Richland, WA died on June 28, 2022. As she went to sleep for the last time, she was surrounded by family expressing their love.

Arvada Louise Swain was born to Ethel and Guy Swain in Portland, Oregon, on October 18, 1927. Arriving 30 days early, her mother barely made it to the hospital, so she was born in the hospital elevator. Her eldest sibling Dorothy Olson (Oscar) was married with sons Eldon and Calvin Andrews, whom she grew up with. Her eldest brother John died in a work accident before she was born. Her closest brother Robert Swain, seven years her elder, served in WWII where he met his wife Dorothy, and they had two children Mark Swain and Carrie Turansky (Scott).

Her favorite childhood activity, Sunday family picnics at the beach, imprinted a love for family, sharing good food together, and the beach. During WWII, she worked at Manning's Cafeteria six hours a day and attended school four hours per day. She graduated from Portland's Franklin High School and then attended Oregon State College. She married Johnny McGilvra in August 1946. Johnny died unexpectedly the following year due

to complications of tuberculosis.

She continued her education at Willamette College and then moved to The Dalles, Oregon to live with the Burdette family who attended The Dalles Methodist Church. There she met the McVicker family including eldest son and returning WWII serviceman, Donovan E. McVicker. Vada volunteered at the hospital, where Don was hospitalized. She often read to Don, and they discovered shared interests, especially in God's Word. Upon return to his studies, their relationship continued with letters. They were married on June 26, 1949, at The Dalles Methodist Church. Vada and Don studied together at Wheaton College; but she ended her studies in 1951 to work at the post office to send funds to their parents.

Four children were born to this marriage: Carolyn Ruth, David Lars, Sandra Lynn, and Mary Kay. As the family grew, Vada participated in many communities as they followed Don's studies at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA, and pastorates across Washington state: Napavine (w/Baptist denom.), then acceptance into the United Methodist Church and the following appointments for the PNW Conference of the UMC: Cosmopolis, Ridgefield-Sara; Bellingham: Garden Street; Lacrosse; and as Associate at Richland: CUP.

In 1968, she and Don moved to Richland, WA where Don pursued his passion as pastor of Christian education at Central United Protestant Church (CUP), and the place Vada called home. She loved being part of the "Central family." In the 1970s alongside Don, she was part of Life in the Spirit seminars, helped guide a CUP trip to Israel and the summer intern program; and for decades, she co-hosted the weekly CUP Booktable. Her tuna noodle casserole and blueberry buckle coffee cake were staples at church potlucks. She found great fulfillment in being beside Don in ministry until his death from lymphoma on May 16, 1979.

In 1980, she began work at Fabricland in Uptown and for 12 years enjoyed the comradery and creativity she found there. She served for many years on the CUP Missions Committee. Her love for and involvement at Central Church remained steadfast and one of her favorite activities was Bible study. In 2002, she beat death and lived another two decades at Wynwood/Alterra/Brookdale where she served on multiple committees and found delight by encouraging fellow residents and staff. Among her fondest memories were annual beach outings with the McVicker siblings (Raleigh & Nancy, Margaret & Ned, and Mary) and a surprise 90th birthday celebration filled with the joy of her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Vada was preceded in death by her parents and siblings, by her husband Johnny McGilvra in 1947, and by her husband Rev. Donovan E. McVicker in 1979. She is survived by daughter Carolyn McVicker Hanson (Gary), son David McVicker (Shanna), daughter Sandi Rasmussen (Bob), daughter Mary McVicker Camp (David), 9 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-granddaughter and another on the way, 3 sisters-in-law, and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held at Central Church, 1124 Stevens Drive, Richland on Friday, July 22, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. A private family service was held earlier in the day at Einan's at Sunset, where her ashes were placed next to her husband, Rev. Don McVicker. Memorials

may be given to Central Church: Missions or Wind of the Spirit Ministries Northwest (Silverdale).

**Elizabeth Ann (Baldwin) Pratt** lived a life of praise to God. She was born on August 10, 1933, in Spokane, Washington. She was the second of three children born to Raleigh and Louise Baldwin. Along with her brother Robert and her sister Mary, she was surrounded by a loving family of grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Her family instilled in her a deep devotion to God, expressed in a vibrant spirituality and commitment to a life of service to others.

After graduating from Lewis and Clark High School in Spokane, Elizabeth attended Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington and later transferred to Eastern Washington State College. It was there she met George Clifford Pratt of Rockford, Washington. He was the president of the student Christian association and had answered the call to ordained ministry in the Methodist Church. They were married on July 25, 1954 at Westminster Congregational Church in Spokane. Just a few weeks after the wedding, they headed to Evanston, Illinois where George attended Garrett Evangelical Seminary. Elizabeth fully embraced George's call to the parish ministry and worked side by side with him. She loved their many conversations on theology and the life of the church. While George was attending classes during the week, Elizabeth lived in the parsonage of their student appointment in Essex, Illinois. It was there they welcomed their first two children, Mary and Catharine. After graduation from seminary, they returned to Washington State. They were appointed to serve the Fall City Methodist Church. They added two more to their family, James and Belinda. Elizabeth was very busy in those years caring for four children, teaching Sunday School, singing in the choir and working with the Women's Society of Christian Service. She was also an active participant in the Fall City Passion Play and the formation of the Snoqualmie Falls Forest Theater.

The family lived in Fall City for thirteen years. They then lived in Bellevue for four years while George served as executive director of the Snoqualmie Falls Forest Theater. In 1976, George was appointed to the Seaview United Methodist Church in West Seattle. They served that church for 19 years, but then moved to their own home in West Seattle where they lived until 2012. Before moving from Fall City, Elizabeth began working for Weyerhaeuser counting logs at the Snoqualmie mill. She worked for Weyerhaeuser for 25 years moving from accounting to the research and development lab and ended her career as a lab technician.

Following her retirement, Elizabeth and George became very active with Seattle First United Methodist Church, as well as with the retired clergy and spouse association. She took advantage of every opportunity to visit her growing family of grandchildren: Cameron, Christopher, Danial, Jonathan, Michael, Anne, Hannah, Grace, Charles, Elizabeth, Claire, Jane, Noah and Nelly.

Elizabeth and George moved to Wesley Homes in Des Moines, Washington in 2012. Elizabeth became active in the life of the community and took on a leadership role with the weekly vesper service and other activities. Elizabeth moved from Wesley Homes shortly after George's death, which took place on August 3, 2022. She received loving care at an

adult family home until her death on November 26, 2022.

Elizabeth was known for her sincere love for others. She was a gifted listener, and always tried to learn people's names and to find out where they were from. It was not uncommon to find her sitting beside someone she had just met and listening to their life story. Music in general and hymns were a source of comfort and strength for her. She could be heard coming down the hallway humming. Even as her body became weak, she sang her faith in God her Maker and Savior. There was a memorial service celebrating Elizabeth's life on Monday, December 5th at 2:00 p.m. at Seattle First United Methodist Church, with Reverend Jeremy Smith officiating.

**Virginia "Ginny" Louise (Wilkes) Berney**, the eldest child of Gordon and Catherine (Fancher) Wilkes, was born July 1, 1929, in Portland, Oregon. When she was very young, the family moved to the Spokane, Washington area, where she graduated from West Valley High School in 1947. She attended Whitman College for the first two and a half years of her college career and then transferred to Washington State College, where she graduated in 1951 with a Bachelor of Sociology degree. She met William "Bill" Berney when attending Whitman College and they maintained their relationship while he was attending seminary at Garrett Biblical Institute in Evanston, Illinois. They married in June 1951, in the Spokane Valley, after completing their respective programs.

The newlyweds spent the summer in Independence, Iowa, where Bill did chaplaincy training in the Iowa Mental Health Hospital, and Virginia worked as a social worker. They then went on to New Haven, Connecticut, where Bill pursued graduate work at Yale Divinity School, completing a master's degree in Sacred Theology in the spring of 1952. Returning to the Northwest, the couple began a partnership in ministry in Moses Lake, Washington, when Bill was appointed to establish a new Methodist Church. The region was booming due to the Columbia Basin Project that brought irrigation water into the area. Over the five years spent in Moses Lake, the new church grew to 200 members. Daughters Gail and Ann were born during that time.

In 1957, Virginia and Bill moved to Grangeville, Idaho, where they served the Methodist Churches there and in White Bird. Daughters Joyce and Celia were born during that period. After four years, Virginia and the four daughters moved with Bill to Tacoma, Washington, when he was appointed to Bethany Methodist Church. While there, the Berneys added a baby son, John, to their family.

Three years later, in 1964, Bill was appointed to serve the Methodist Church in Pullman, Washington. Virginia relished the stimulation of a university town and appreciated contact with inquisitive university students as well as discussions of the social challenges of the times. In addition to her church involvements, she was very involved with Washington State University's International student program, hosting several foreign students for meals and holidays. She also provided hospitality for Job Corps men and women. Ten and a half years later, in 1974, Bill was assigned to the United Methodist Church in Renton, Washington, where both Bill and Virginia thrived. Virginia worked part-time in office administration through the years, but it was volunteer work that she found most fulfilling. Among their many involvements was helping to initiate an area feeding program and in-

roducing the Crop Walk (for hunger relief) to the Renton area. After ten and a half years in Renton, and a short stint at the Wenatchee First United Methodist Church, Virginia and Bill moved on to Garden Street United Methodist in Bellingham, Washington, where Bill completed his 40 years of full-time ministry. There, both he and Virginia found many opportunities for meaningful community involvement, including offering support to Central American refugees on their way to Canada. Through the couple's many moves over the years, Virginia embraced the opportunity to become a part of each new community and generously shared her talents and time.

At Bill's retirement in 1992, Virginia and Bill moved to Bill's childhood home in Walla Walla, Washington. They became active at both Pioneer United Methodist Church and the United Church of Christ church that was a block away and participated in a wide assortment of activities. An avid reader of all kinds of books, Virginia enjoyed regular gatherings with her book group. Other ventures included her PEO meetings, weekly bicycling excursions with friends, and gardening. Virginia and Bill together were volunteers at the State Penitentiary, where they worked with inmates to prepare them for the transition from prison.

Virginia and Bill were enthusiastic travelers. When their children were young, they camped in many state and national parks. Later they did a lot of international travel, some church-related, to India, Africa, Central and South America, Europe, the Middle East, Japan, and China. Spending time with Bishop Tutu in South Africa just after he received the Nobel Peace Prize was one of their most memorable experiences.

In 2007, Bill had a stroke caused by an infected heart valve. This sadly deprived him of his remarkable gift of language, so Ginny had new roles to take on. She made the decision in 2010 to move closer to family which led Ginny and Bill to move to Panorama in Lacey, Washington. There she served as a representative of her apartment building in the Panorama organization, participated in book discussion groups, and despite her husband's physical limitations, she signed them up for what turned out to be a wonderful trip to Costa Rica. She later moved to Bonaventure in Lacey for memory care.

Virginia will be remembered for her smile, warmth and hospitality and her genuine interest in others. She sincerely lived out her faith, working for peace and justice, and reaching out to those in need of food, sanctuary, and friendship. She applied her artistic talent and sewing skills to the creation of dozens of liturgical banners, clothes for her large family, upholstery projects, curtains, and quilts. She authored various articles, scripts for presentations and poems of all types, as well as writing several beautiful hymns. She was a pianist and accordionist, and many church congregants and members of her family will remember her playing for church services and sing-a-longs. The collection she had of Noah's Ark-inspired art objects, ornaments, toys, and cartoons, was extensive and one that friends, and family will always remember with a smile. In the coming years, many will miss the homemade Christmas cards and letters she and her husband lovingly designed and created each year. Indeed, her talents were many and she shared them generously.

Virginia Berney passed away on December 4, 2022. She is survived by daughters, Gail Schmunk (Peter) of Lacey, Ann Berney (Jane Appling) of Olympia, Joyce Berney (Scott

Corbett) of Portland, Celia Nightingale (David) of Olympia; son, John Berney of Seattle; and nine grandchildren, Stephen Schmunk and Hannah Price, Paulo Berney, Colin, Rebecca and Evan Corbett, Reed and Joel Nightingale, and Tabytha Berney; and three great-grandchildren, Novella, Grayson, and Noah. Virginia's beloved husband, Bill, and grandson, Jevyn Berney, predeceased her.

**Lois Joanne (Lauby) Tipple** loving wife, daughter, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother passed away peacefully on March 15, 2023. Lois was born on July 21, 1932, to Rev. Howard and Gwendolyn Lauby in Akron Ohio, the oldest of two children. She spent her early years in Akron/Canton, with extended family in the area.

While attending Cleveland Bible College, Lois met and married Ralph Tipple, and shortly after, they began their lifetime in ministry, serving at many Evangelical United Brethren churches and were eventually assigned to Fowler United Methodist in Spokane. Lois worked beside her husband, leading Sunday school classes and bible studies, along with anything associated with music, including choir, hand bells and playing piano and organ.

Lois earned a Bachelor of Sacred Music degree from Malone College, an AA in accounting from SCC and a BA in both accounting and business management from Whitworth College. With her accounting degree, Lois worked at Whitworth College in the financial office and Skyhawks Sports Camps.

Ralph and Lois loved to travel, leading tours to the Holy Land, China, Europe and Great Britain. She also loved all her extended family gathered on the holidays, in the large old Spokane home she and Ralph had transformed. He cooked and she provided fabulous music!

After Ralph passed away in 2012, Lois moved to Fairwood Retirement Village where she spent the remainder of her days. She enjoyed all the activities, not having to cook, and took several trips, visiting Iceland, Abu Dhabi, and cruised to Alaska and Mexico. She is survived by her children, Ralph, Brian (Lori), Phyllis (Steve) and Patricia (Jeff), 7 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren, along with sisters-in-law Carol and Audrey, and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Rev. Ralph W. Tipple Jr., her parents, her sister Fae, and brother-in-law Carl.

A memorial service to celebrate the life of Lois Tipple was held March 30, 2023, at 12 noon at the Heritage Funeral Home in Spokane, WA.

**Elizabeth Ann (Soper) Bachman** was born in Arlington, WA on September 2, 1926, to parents Edward W. and Louise F. (Stilke) Soper. She grew up on what is known today as the "old Soper family dairy farm", 50 acres southeast of Arlington. When Elizabeth was four years old, they moved onto the farm. She was quoted for a story on the family farm, in the Everett Herald in 2012. "When we moved there, the pasture was full of burned-over stumps," Elizabeth said. "Gradually, my dad cleared all that area down below the house and also the patch down by the bridge." She also said her father spent most of his career as a state dairy inspector. The family's small herd, ranging from three to five cows, produced enough milk to pay for her to go to Washington State University. The Darigold company was supplied by this little farm, among many other little farms just like it. "Those cows

put my sister and me through college,” Elizabeth said. Soon after the family moved in, her mother, Louise Soper, hired a landscape architect from Edmonds to design the garden. It included much of the stone wall that still stands along the road. Jim Creek, during her childhood, teemed with salmon every fall. “I can remember wading across Jim Creek and not being able to wade across without having fish touch my ankles,” she said.

After college at WSU, Elizabeth met Clyde P. Bachman. She was getting her MA in Religion at Northwestern in Evanston, IL. She attended church on the campus of Garrett Evangelical

Theological Seminary and met Clyde Bachman there. He was attending Garrett. She wanted to be a pastor, but that avenue wasn't yet open to her in the 1950's.

They were married in Arlington, WA on August 15, 1953, and had three children, all boys: Charles, David, and Roger. Together they served the Methodist churches in East Wenatchee: Trinity; Monitor; Oroville; Arlington-Darrington; Spanaway; Yelm; and Battle Ground. They retired from church ministry in 1988.

In retirement, Elizabeth became a Master Gardener. She joined the Olympia Garden Club and had a large vegetable and flower garden. She was very active at Tumwater UMC. She spent time with her eight grandchildren, remained active in her local PEO group, sewed and quilted and read a couple new books every week!

## RETIRED LOCAL PASTORS

**Janice “Jan” Marie (Day) Rowe** was born on September 23, 1947, to parents Jack Henry Day and Margaret Day in Renton, Washington. A “miracle baby” she was extremely premature and not expected to survive. Her parents wrapped her up in one of her father's kerchiefs and fed her round an eye dropper every hour. Doctors were amazed when they returned for her first checkup.

Jan graduated from Renton High School in 1965, and attended Western Washington State College in Bellingham, WA where she earned degrees in Spanish Language and received her standard teaching certificate. It was there that she met her future husband William (Bill) H. Rowe.

Jan and Bill were married in 1970 and Jan began a long career in teaching. She taught at Eisenhower Middle School in Everett, WA for over 15 years and went on to teach Social Studies and Spanish at Lakeside Middle School in Seattle, WA from 1987 to 2002. In her last three years at Lakeside, she also served as Head of the Middle School History Department.

When she perceived a call to ministry, she left Lakeside to follow her call. In 2005, she received her Master of Divinity at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, CO. Jan then returned to Seattle to serve the following churches: Renton: Kennydale; Seattle: Seaview UMC & Tongan Fellowship; Seattle: Green Lake; Renton: First; Seattle: Skyway; and Des

Moines UMC. She also worked in service to Shoreline: Ronald UMC for five years. She officially retired in 2019.

Jan's husband, Bill, predeceased her in 1997. She is survived by their three daughters, Meredith Lynn Rowe, Lindsay Erin Rowe (George Watters), and Mackenzie Lael Rowe. She loved nothing more than spending time with her three grandchildren, Chauncey, Odessa, and Leilani. She also leaves behind a brother and 3 sisters who will miss her dearly, one sister who is very familiar and dear to this conference, Joan Holms.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers gifts be given to the National Leiomyosarcoma Foundation (<https://nlmsf.org/>), an organization Jan was pleased to support.

A Celebration of Life was held Sunday, June 12, 2022, at 1:00 PM at Des Moines United Methodist Church, followed by a reception at the church.

**Norma Kathleen “Kathy” (Sloan) Cottrell** passed into eternal life on July 15, 2022, in Spokane, WA. Norma Kathleen (known to everyone as Kathy) was born January 16, 1933, in Detroit, Illinois to Clay and Marjorie (Ayers) Sloan as their first child and only daughter. Kathy grew up in Pittsfield, IL and graduated from high school in Pittsfield, IL. She attended the Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Springfield, Illinois and graduated from the University of Tennessee (Knoxville), receiving her RN degree.

Kathy met Paul Cottrell when Paul's mother Joyce invited Kathy and other out-of-town nursing students to her home to share a meal with the Cottrell family (and to meet her youngest son, Paul.) Kathy and Paul were married 3/23/1957, becoming parents to Mark and Jeffrey as life rolled along. As a US Air Force wife, Kathy served with Paul at many bases in the United States and at Goose Bay, Labrador, Canada, making a home for her family at each of Paul's duty stations until his retirement from the Air Force in 1980.

In 1980, Kathy and Paul settled in Spokane, WA, becoming active members of Audubon United Methodist Church, where they sang in the choir and volunteered with the Food Bank. They were both very active in the Walk to Emmaus movement. Kathy attended classes at Clairmont School of Theology. (Clairmont, CA) In 1998, Kathy fulfilled her calling of serving as a pastor in the UMC when she was appointed to Morton UMC, Morton, WA. She served at Morton UMC until retiring in 2004, then came out of retirement to serve as pastor at Trinity UMC in the Hillyard neighborhood of Spokane from 2005 through 2008.

Kathy's life was filled with artistic expression, from stitching prize-winning handmade garments for 4-H sewing contests, to working with stained glass, creating original hand-woven fiber art and painting in acrylics. Her sons share that she was a wonderful, loving, and caring wife and mother. She did love art and was loved by many and respected by all. Kathy was a blessing to all who knew her.

Kathy was preceded in death by her parents and by her husband Paul. She is survived by her sons Mark Cottrell and Jeffrey Cottrell, as well as by her brother James T. Sloan. A memorial service to celebrate Kathy's gifts and graces was held August 25, 2022, at Audubon Park UMC, in Spokane, WA with Rev. Geoff Helton officiating.

**BELOVED SERVANTS IN THE LIFE OF THE CONFERENCE WHO HAVE DIED SINCE THE LAST ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**Larry Monroe Anderson** aged 75, went to be with his Lord and Savior on January 20, 2023 in Spokane WA. He was born on September 8th, 1947, in Tacoma, WA to Stanley E Anderson and Lilah E Anderson. Larry is survived by his sisters Janet E Slagle (Dan) Kennewick WA, Cheryl Anderson Parrill (Eric) McDermott, NV, brothers Stephen A Anderson Bremerton WA, Russell A Anderson Salt Lake UT, nephews Jason W Slagle (Trudy) Kennewick, Joshua M Slagle (Anna) Reno NV, niece Wendy N Slagle Kennewick, great nephew David J Slagle, great niece Faith E Slagle, and numerous cousins. He was preceded in death by his father, mother, sister Carol M Anderson, and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Larry attended Lincoln High School in Tacoma, WA, where he was active in Voice of Christian Youth and graduated in 1965. He then went on to Washington State University where he was active in Campus Crusade for Christ and received a Bachelor of Arts in Math in 1969 and later a Master's of Education degree in 1978. Larry served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War for two years and was in the reserves after his overseas duty. Pastor Larry was serving as pastor at Reardan United Methodist Church when he died on Friday January 20, 2023.

Pastor Larry Anderson served in the PNW Conference at the Reardan United Methodist Church since 2005. He became a Certified Lay Minister in 2008. Prior to his service in the Pacific Northwest Conference, he had retired from 37 years as an educator at the middle and high school levels in Nishinomiya, Japan; Spokane, WA; Federal Way, WA; and as a Graduate Instructor at Washington State University in Pullman, WA.

In his free time, Larry enjoyed sharing the love of and salvation through his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as well as enjoying time with his family, his friends, cars, and books.

A Celebration of Life service for Larry will be held on Thursday, June 15th, 2023, at 2 pm at the Reardan United Methodist Church, 155 S Oak St. Reardan, WA 99029. Interment will take place at Tahoma National Cemetery. Donations may be made in his memory to Worldwide Heart to Heart (H2HCV.ORG) or PO Box 32275, Clackamas, OR 97015.

**Bobbi Jean (Craig) Virta** age 64, of Ferndale, WA passed away unexpectedly on Sunday morning, February 12th, 2023. Her beloved husband Pasi was with her. Bobbi was cherished by her family, friends, and community. She was a social justice advocate, faith leader, and artist. She exuded grace, kindness, wisdom, and generosity.

Bobbi was born on May 22, 1958, and received her diploma from Enumclaw Senior High School in 1976. She continued her education at Western Washington University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and graduated in 1980. Bobbi then continued her education at Seattle University, where she earned a Master of Divinity degree along with a post-MA certificate in Transforming Spirituality and Spiritual Direction. She served the United Church of Christ for over 32

years first as Christian Education Coordinator and later as an ordained minister.

Bobbi Virta served the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Methodist Church in her appointments to Custer UMC, 2004-2006 and then to the United Church of Ferndale UMC, for 16 years, participating in United Methodist conference events where she represented the Methodist portion of her congregation well and where she made an impact upon everyone who knew her. She is very well known in our Conference, as she served as spiritual advisor to the Board of Ordained Ministry. She had recently retired. Her bright light of love, justice and compassion served one of the finest examples for us all to live by.

She was a beloved member of the Ferndale community. She was a founding member of "Connect Ferndale" a community organization working to develop community growth and connections through civic involvement and community building, thereby promoting inclusiveness and honoring diversity. She was fiercely courageous, curious, thoughtful, passionate, dedicated, and unconditionally loving. Bobbi was an incredible advocate and Interfaith Coalition Member for decades. Bobbi was also a member of The Bellingham Multifaith Network for Climate Justice, a Veriditas certified Advanced Labyrinth Facilitator, a certified Spiritual Director and a Zentangle Teacher. Her leadership in the community will be sorely missed.

Bobbi is survived by her loving husband, Pasi, of nearly 43 years, her son Mikael and his wife Michelle, their child Anders, her daughter Melissa and her husband Sam, their two children Benjamin and Henry, and her son Markus and his fiancé Emily. Her circle of love reached far and wide and included her extended family, chosen family, beloved friends, colleagues, and faith community. Bobbi's happy places were hiking, beach walking, birding, and making art, though she was happiest when she was with her grandchildren.

A memorial service and celebration of life was held on Saturday February 18, 2023 at the First Congregational Church of Bellingham. In lieu of flowers Bobbi's family asked for memorial donations to go to Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services (DVSAS) and/or The Interfaith Coalition of Whatcom County.

**Denis G. Long**, 89, died Sunday February 26 at Grangeville Health and Rehabilitation Center. Denis was born May 27, 1933, on the family ranch in the foothills southwest of Grangeville, to Ralph D. and Carrie Lee (Grant) Long. He attended school in Grangeville and graduated from the University of Idaho in 1956 with a B.S. in General Agriculture. After teaching at Salmon River High School for three years, he entered ranching with his father, which he continued until his death.

He married Anne A. Granville Payne on January 10, 1968. Denis's interests included history, reading, creative writing, family, and hunting. He also had an avid interest in skiing which he shared with many others as a ski instructor at Snowhaven. He was very proud of his ranch and family roots in the Grangeville area, dating back to the 1880's. He loved Hereford cattle, working in the woods and stewardship of his ranch.

He served on the board of the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation District and the Central Committee of the Idaho County Democrats. He was a member and Past Master of the Idaho Lodge #9 AF&AM of Idaho and Mountain Queen Chapter #11 Order of the

Eastern Star of Idaho. He was a Level II Certified Ski Instructor of the Pacific Northwest Ski Instructors Association.

He was a member of the White Bird Community Church. He was interested in theology and became a Certified Lay Minister in the United Methodist Church, assigned to the Grangeville Parish, which he served for 11 years, and then was assigned pastor to the Nez-perce Community UMC Church.

Survivors include three children, Dean (JoAnn) Payne of Seattle, Jeff (Jeralyn) Payne of Grangeville, and Karen Payne (John Latimer) of Bellingham, WA; three grandchildren, Julia and Caroline Latimer of Bellingham, and Matthew Payne of Bainbridge Island, WA; and many, many friends that assisted, were there for him, and brightened his life in his later years.

Preceding him in death was his wife, Anne, and his infant brother Thomas.

A memorial service was held at 11 AM Saturday March 11, 2023, at the United Methodist Church in Grangeville. He requested that memorials be sent to the American Heart Association.

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Clergy and Laity Memoirs compiled and written by Cathy Lang

## DISCONTINUED CHURCHES

### East Wenatchee: Trinity United Methodist

On October 9, 2022, East Wenatchee: Trinity UMC faithfully completed 67 years of ministry. They honored that occasion with a special worship on the 67th anniversary of the first service held in 1955 at the home of Lewis and Alice Clark. The church was started shortly after Alcoa opened its plant in along the Columbia River when the community of East Wenatchee was growing rapidly.

The founding pastor was Ruth Lortz, one of the first women ordained in the Pacific Northwest Conference. Over the years it went on to welcome several pastors who were newly graduated seminary students. They brought enthusiasm and energy to the ministry. One of those pastors, Joyce O'Connor Magee, preached at that final worship.

Over the years the congregation had a passion for reaching out to the community. Among the first groups organized was the WSCS (predecessor of UMW). The United Women in Faith continued that tradition and will move that ministry to Wenatchee: First UMC. Youth ministry was another passion bringing many youth and their families into the life of the church.

Beginning in the 1990's Trinity was the first church in the Wenatchee Valley to welcome the LBGTQ+ community. The church hosted the local PFLAG group for many years. This led to the congregation not only welcoming LBGTQ+ folks to worship but also became a comfortable place for their friends and families.

Gathering around the table and feeding the hungry were at the core of its ministry until the final days of ministry. Whether it was sharing a meal with one another or gathering food for those in need in the community, they had a heart for service. Fellowship time after worship became a lunch for everyone. Their annual Harvest Festival was a fundraising community event. For several years the youth challenged the adults to collect food for the Food Bank during the holiday season. During the pandemic they established a “Little Essential Pantry.” Even though the congregation was declining in numbers they carried on this ministry faithfully.

And the Master said, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

Faithfully,

Julia Price

### Pe Ell Methodist Church

The first stones to mark the Pe Ell Methodist Church were put in place by people at God’s urging before Washington became a state. When the first settlers came, there were no churches, no schools, no roads, just trails. For some time prior to the presence of any preacher, a small band of believers, representing both Baptists and Methodists, met in the home of Mrs. William Hendricks, Pe Ell’s first postmaster.

In 1890, with the appointment of Rev. W.H. Ludwick, the group became Methodist Episcopal. Ground for construction of a church building was leased in 1892 on the corner of Cedar Street and Pe Ell Ave. Six years later, the lease was canceled and the property given to the church by Simeon C. Wheeler.

The church was a wooden structure built mostly by volunteer labor and, in later years, cables had to be strung from one side to the other to keep the walls from bursting out! It was dismantled in 1956 and its materials used to build a home on the site.

The first parsonage was adjacent to the church. Various sites became home for pastors (including one that burned to the ground in 1928) until 1991 when the church placed a modular home on property donated by the Justice family on Cedar street. The mortgage was burned 5 years later.

When a new school was built, the church bought the agricultural building, and after renovation to suit use as a church, moved to that location in 1954. The church was incorporated that year. The mortgage was paid off in 1962 and a Service of Dedication was held to “dedicate the building to the Glory of God and the service of men.”

All through the years, it has been the ladies’ organizations that have helped keep the church functioning, as well as funding mission projects. Oyster and chicken dinners, bazaars, basket socials, 2 different cookbooks, Valentine Luncheons, yard sales and other money-making schemes were instrumental in providing funds for the ministry of the ladies. Through their efforts, repairs have been made, new carpet, an organ and a bell were purchased, as well as other needs met as they arrive. In the early days, they also paid for the minister and for water to be piped into that first parsonage. In later years, they footed the bill for the church janitor.

Over the years, the church has participated in numerous community outreach programs, holding an annual Christmas re-gifting program for the locals, giving away school supplies and winter coats to the local school, supporting missionaries overseas, sending monetary support to victims of natural disaster and fundraising in partnership with several other churches to donate the gift of an “Ark” full of animals through the Heifer Project. We collaborated with the Kiwanis Club for years to run coffee stops on I5. We have given annual scholarships to graduating seniors from the local high school. We have hosted the baccalaureate service numerous times over the years. Our choir participated in a mass choir concert with area Methodist churches and we traveled down the road to the local Catholic church for an ecumenical service. We ran successful Bible School programs for several years and combined with the New Harvest Church one year. Our Sunday School program ranged from 80 in the Depression years to a handful or less in recent years.

In 1990, we celebrated our centennial with a special re-dedication service. We made it 32 more years, but the COVID shutdown cost us dearly. Because on-line church was not viable for us due to lack of technology, Ron sent out weekly mailings to our remaining members. We have done everything we can, but our numbers are just too small to continue. While once we numbered upwards of 70 adult members plus 50 or so children (in 1960), we are down to a handful of attendees.

For many years, the church was a two-point charge linked with other towns. In 1985, a new conference program called LIMPOP gave the Pe Ell church a full-time resident pastor. Mahlon and Lila Douglass came as volunteer lay pastors to serve the church. They were well loved and served our church for almost 11 years. They were followed by Barbara Firoved (4yrs), Forrest Ann Daniel (3yrs), Pastor Barb again (3 more yrs), Rev. John Martin (1 yr), Christy Osborne (3 yrs) and Ron Grant (8yrs) who retired in December on 2021. Since that time, services have been led by Hope Phillips using her father’s (a Lutheran minister) sermons.