

2026 SECTION J MEMORIALS

SECTION J: MEMORIALS

SECTION J MEMORIALS

(1) Introduction from the Bishop	J-2
(2) Deceased Bishops and Deceased Spouses	J-3
(3) Clergy Memorials	J-5
(4) Life Companions	J-26
(5) Lay Staff	J-44

The content of this section is taken from the Memorial Book, as created for the Memorial Service at the 2025 Annual Session of the California-Pacific Conference.

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2026 SECTION J MEMORIALS

Dear Beloved,

When our loved one is no longer with us, our life changes in ways we never imagined. The little habits we shared are now performed alone. The food that satisfied our palate is now eaten alone. The space we co-habited feels empty. This is the journey we experience at the door of grief. Our whole world changes.

In this worship service, we are hoping to bring honor and remembrance to your loved ones. For as they transformed your life, they also transformed ours. We felt their love, we received their words of encouragement, and we are benefactors of their wisdom. They brought their gifts to the church that we continue to nurture.

And so, at this service we will worship God together, remembering all that has come before. And we will lift our beloved up to God who loved them before we even knew they existed. As we sing, pray, read scripture, and hear the word, we ask God to sustain us in our grief, to give us courage to go on loving, and to draw us together in love.

May God bring us the comfort of the Holy Spirit, and the continuance of a love that never dies.

*Grace y paz,
Bishop Dottie Escobedo Frank*



*Deceased Bishops
and
Deceased Spouses*



2026 SECTION J MEMORIALS

 *Bishops*

Bishop Timothy Whitaker

March 28, 2024

Bishop Carlton P. Minnick, Jr.

May 4, 2024

Bishop Joseph C. Humper

May 7, 2024

Bishop Clay Foster Lee, Jr.

November 11, 2024

Bishop George W. Bashore

December 13, 2024

Bishop Richard B. Wilke

April 20, 2025

 *Spouses*

Mrs. Velma Duell McConnell

January 24, 2024

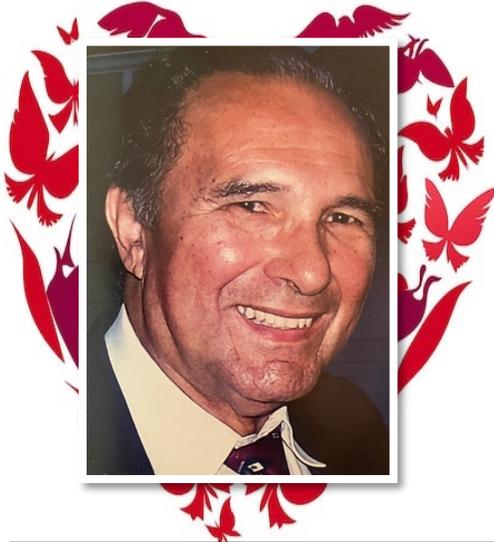
Mrs. Mae "Mitzie" Marie Dew

January 27, 2025



Clergy





Djalma Araujo

February 14, 1939 - July 23, 2024

ARAUJO, DJALMA (T.69; F.71) SCA 1969 On Trial; 69 LA: Temple; 71 FM; 71 LA: Temple; 72 (Sep) UCLA: Asst. Dean; 77 PSW; 77 UCLA: Asst. Dean; 81 Leave of Absence; 84 LA: Wilshire, Assoc (LFT); 85 California-Pacific; 85 LA: Wilshire, Assoc (LFT); 91 First UMC of San Diego, Assoc; 2005 (Dec 31) Retired

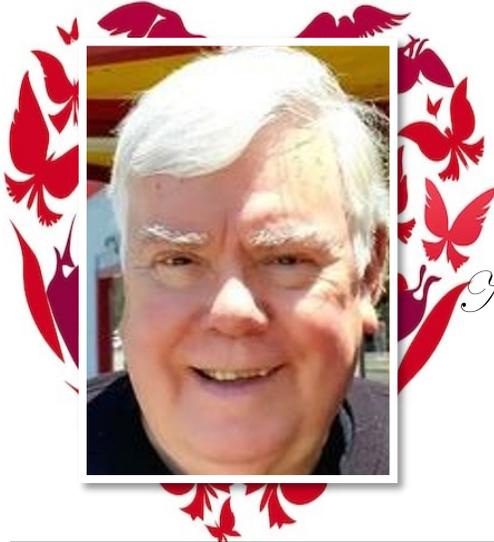
The Rev. Djalma Araujo was born in Campina Grande, Paraiba, Brazil on February 14, 1939. He married Marcia Araujo on December 16, 1961, in Natal, Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil. He graduated from Seminario Cristao Congregacional do Norte in Recife, Brazil in 1957 with a Bachelor's Degree in Theology. Djalma pastored the Congregational Church in Patos and Guarabira, PB, before coming to the United States on October 23, 1963, where he attended Andover Newton Theological Seminary in Boston, Massachusetts, for Special Studies for one year. He graduated from Claremont School of Theology in Claremont, California, with a Master's Degree in Theology in 1970.

Djalma pastored El Buen Pastor Congregational Church in Pomona from 1964-1970, then transferred to The United Methodist Church Conference in 1970. He served seven years as Associate Dean of Students at UCLA (1972-1979), where he earned an additional Master's Degree in 19th Century Latin America Studies. Among other churches in Los Angeles, he served Temple and Wilshire (where he initiated the Hispanic Ministry). He served as Associate Pastor at San Diego: First United Methodist from July 1991 through June 2005.

Djalma enjoyed teaching Summer classes at Claremont School of Theology. The office of Ministerios Latinos had an outpouring of appreciation when he taught Course of Study Seminary classes in El Salvador in 2005. Djalma loved languages, to listen to classical music, and traveling the world.

Djalma is survived by his wife J. Marcia; children Djalma Jr. (Irma) and Suely (Jack) Haynes; four grandchildren, Giovanni, Victoria, Hannah, and Rebekah; and three great-grandchildren, Addison, Amma,, and Stetson.

Mrs. Marcia Araujo



David Burgeson

November 26, 1949 - September 7, 2024

BURGESON, DAVID M (P.97; F.04) California-Pacific 1993 FL; 93 (Simi Valley UMC, Assoc); 97 PM; 97 Simi Valley UMC, Assoc; 2000 Ojai UMC; 04 FE; 04 Ojai UMC; 08 First UMC of Arroyo Grande; 15 Retired

Rev. David Mansfield Burgeson was born in Los Angeles, California, and passed away unexpectedly.

David's early years were shaped by his family, particularly after the passing of his mother, Elaine. In 1958, his father married Lorraine, and together they fostered a loving household. In 1964, the family moved to Camarillo, where they joined The United Methodist Church, instilling in David a strong sense of community. A graduate of Adolfo Camarillo High School in 1967, David was actively involved in the Drama Club and choir, showcasing his talent in productions such as "West Side Story," where he played the role of Little John.

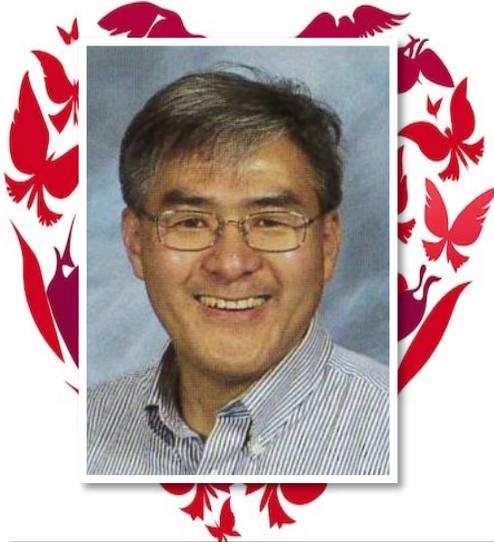
In 1968, David joined the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War, serving aboard the USS Bonhomme Richard before being honorably discharged. After his military service, he worked at First Interstate Bank, where he met his wife, Deborah Marie Burgeson. They married in 1981 and welcomed their daughter Amber in 1989. Tragically, Deborah passed away in 1992, and David devoted himself to raising Amber as a single father.

Inspired by a calling to serve, David pursued a degree in ministry, earning his bachelor's degree from the University of Redlands and attending Fuller Theological Seminary. He served as a minister in Simi Valley, Ojai, and Arroyo Grande, dedicating his life to guiding and supporting his community and church. In 2008, David moved to Arroyo Grande, where he met and married Sarah Burgeson in 2011. They later relocated to Santa Paula in 2020. David embraced his role as a grandfather to Jameson David Graham, born the same year.

David was an avid fan of the Los Angeles Dodgers and Lakers, and he cherished his travels, including several cruises, trips to Hawaii, and memorable train rides across the country. A highlight of his journeys was a trip to Israel, where he explored the historical sites, he had learned about throughout his life. He loved spending holidays with his family and enjoyed retirement while remaining active as a member of the credit union and serving as Interim Pastor in Santa Paula. His warmth, kindness, and unwavering faith touched the lives of many.

David is survived by his wife, Sarah Burgeson; his daughter, Amber Graham; his stepdaughter, Sadie Barber; and his cherished grandson, Jameson David Graham; sisters, Maureen Hernandez, Corinne New, and Diane Middleton and many nieces and nephews. His legacy of love, faith, and dedication will forever be remembered by all who knew him.

Public bio



Daesun Chung

August 29, 1960 - May 29, 2024

CHUNG, DAESUN (P.90; F.94) California-Pacific 1990 PM; 90 Tustin Disciples Korean Min.; 92 (Feb 1) Fullerton: Cornerstone; 94 FM; 94 Fullerton: Cornerstone; 96 Riverside: Grace; 2000 Center for Pacific Asian American Ministries; 02 (May 1) (¶344.1a) Claremont School of Theology, Associate Development Office; 03 (May 15) Young Nak Korean Presbyterian Church; 05 Trinity UMC of Lakewood; 10 (May 1) East Whittier UMC; 22 (May 4) (¶358.1) Medical Leave

Excerpt from sermon by Rev. Dr. Daesun Chung, "Have You Seen Yourself Today?"

The obvious answer is "Of course, we have." I am sure you have seen yourself in the mirror this morning but the person you have seen in the mirror, was that you or was that your outer image? Is your outer image really you? What makes you truly you?

We are often told to "know ourselves." Different philosophers and religious leaders have given this advice. "Know Yourself" is the inscription that we find on the Temple of Apollo at Delphi as a source of wisdom. Knowing yourself is the beginning of wisdom. The Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu is quoted as saying, "He who knows others is wise. He who knows himself is enlightened."

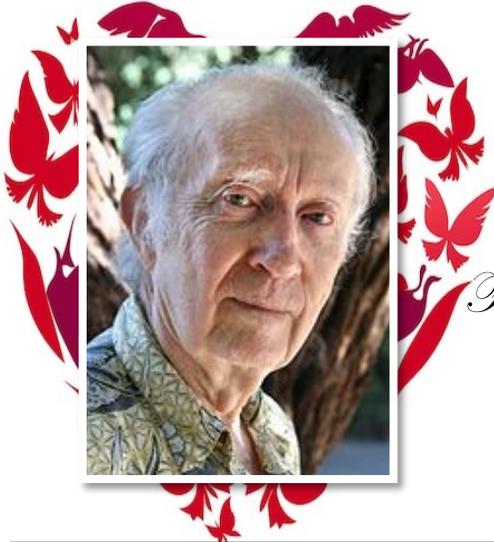
But what does it mean to know yourself? Knowing oneself could mean many different things. It could mean knowing what we believe and why we believe what we believe. It could mean knowing how we think. It could mean knowing what we really want and why we want what we want. It could mean knowing our strengths and limitations. It could mean understanding our emotions and desires. It could mean knowing what we like or dislike and the reasons for it. I am sure there are many different things we can consider when we think about who we are and what we are.

But the most important thing in understanding who we are is to understand our mind and heart. Someone wrote a poem about the importance of our mind and heart.

Watch your Thoughts, they become Words!
Watch your Words, they become Actions!
Watch your Actions, they become Habits!
Watch your Habits, they become Character!
Watch your Character...It becomes your Destiny!
And whenever you give your word, say the truth.

It is true that all actions and behaviors begin with our thoughts, hearts and minds. Our thoughts, hearts and minds are the core of who we are. King Solomon said in Proverbs 23:7, "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he."

Rev. Dr. Daesun Chung



John B. Cobb, Jr.

February 9, 1925 - December 26, 2024

COBB JR, JOHN B (T.50; F.53) North Georgia; 1950 On Trial; 53 FM; No Record; 58 Transfer to SCA; 58 Southern Calif. School of Theology & Claremont Graduate School, Professor; 77 PSW; 77 Southern California School of Theology & Claremont Graduate School, Professor; 80 Claremont School of Theology, Ingraham Mem Professor; 85 California-Pacific; 85 Claremont School of Theology, Ingraham Mem Professor; 90 Retired

Rev. Dr. John B. Cobb, Jr. was born in Kobe, Japan, in 1925 to Methodist missionary parents, he spent his early years at the multi-ethnic Canadian Academy in Japan. When he moved to Georgia for high school in 1940, he found himself bewildered and disgusted by the pervasive racism in the region, particularly the demonization of the Japanese.

He attended Emory-at-Oxford before enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1943, where he served in the Japanese language program. After the war, he entered the University of Chicago, later transferring to its divinity school, where he earned his Ph.D. in 1952 under Charles Hartshorne.

He began his teaching career at Young Harris College in Georgia while serving as a part-time pastor. After a brief tenure at Emory University, he joined the faculty at Claremont School of Theology in 1958, and served as Ingraham Professor of Theology at CST and Avery Professor of Religion at Claremont Graduate University.

In 1973, he founded the Center for Process Studies with David Ray Griffin, which played a major role in promoting a process-relational worldview globally. He was particularly influential in China, where his contributions toward ecological civilization became a formal part of China's national policy. In 2014, he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

His impact continues through the many nonprofit organizations he founded and inspired, including: Progressive Christians Uniting (1996), the Institute for the Postmodern Development of China (2005), Process Century Press (2013), Pando Populus (2014), EcoCiv (2015), the Cobb Institute (2019), and the Living Earth Movement (2023).

He experienced his decline in health as natural, opening into a new awareness of life, which he celebrated. He repeated words he had written in 2014 in "Theological Reminiscences": "I am ready to be surprised. I look forward to a new adventure."

He was also deeply devoted to his family. He was predeceased by his wife, Jean, and survived by their four sons — Theodore, Clifford, Andrew, and Richard — and their families.

Public bio



Rosemary Davis

February 12, 1938 - September 3, 2024

DAVIS, ROSEMARY ALICE (DM.79; FD.97) PSW 1979 DM; 79 San Bernardino: St. Paul's, Director of Christian Education; 85 California-Pacific; 85 San Bernardino: St. Paul's, Director of Christian Education; 88 Pasadena District, Program Assistant; 95 Claremont, Diaconal Minister of Program; 97 FD; 97 Claremont, Minister of Program; 2006 Retired;

Rosemary Alice Mills was the second of three children born to Dorothy and Raymond Mills, and grew up in Hollywood. Inspired by her Southern Methodist grandmother, Rosemary began attending nearby Methodist churches, eventually getting baptized at age 11, with the rest of her family in tow. She learned what it meant to be part of a church family, and youth camps fostered additional religious growth experiences. Though ill-health kept her grandmother from physically attending church with her, Rosemary always felt her presence.

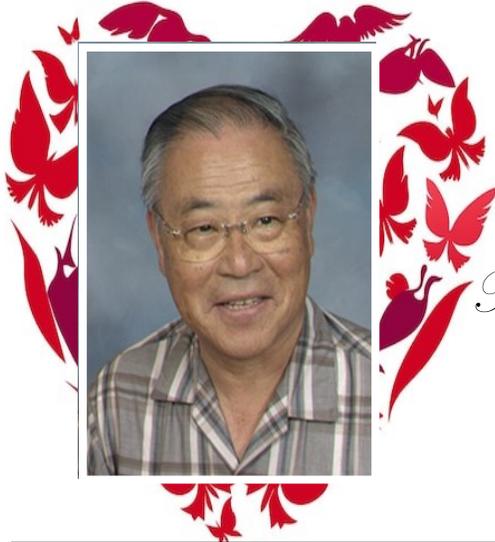
The family became very involved at Hollywood First Methodist, where Rosemary started considering full-time Christian Service. With her mother working in Bishop Kennedy's office at Methodist Headquarters near Olvera Street, another door opened: "During my senior year at Hollywood High School, I went to 4 classes . . . and then took public transportation to get to my part-time job as the Mimeograph Operator. I met really wonderful people who made a profession in the church seem possible for me."

Upon entering the University of Redlands, she joined The Wesley Club, in which Robert (Bob) Davis was also active! The supportive faith environment furthered her call to a career in the church. She graduated from Redlands in 1960 and earned her masters in Christian education from the Claremont School of Theology in 1962. In 1963, she married Bob, who in that year had graduated from CST, been ordained a deacon, and assigned to start the North Oxnard church. Their son Wesley arrived in 1967 and daughter Tamara in 1969, the same year they also moved to National City. Shortly following the family's 1978 move to St Paul's UMC San Bernardino, Rosemary was consecrated a diaconal minister, and hired there as Director of Christian Education; a development which firmly cemented the ministerial team Rosemary and Bob would continue to be. Through blurry lines at that time surrounding the "dutiful clergy spouse," Rosemary helped highlight new professional opportunities for women in ministry.

Following Bob's appointment as Pasadena District Superintendent and her work as district Program Director, they served at Claremont UMC for 12 years, furthering CUMC's Reconciling commitment and the inclusive work they so strongly believed in.

Rosemary is joyfully remembered by her family and others for her skills in silkscreening, graphics, sewing, ceramics, cooking, and numerous other crafts. She delighted in the creative legacy she inspired for her children and churches alike. In 2006 Rosemary and Bob retired to Pilgrim Place and enjoyed reuniting with their past colleagues, travel, and gardening. Rosemary is survived by her children, Wesley and Tamara Nicoll, and granddaughter, Chloe Nicoll.

Wes and Tamie



Hidemi Ito

March 16, 1935 - September 25, 2024

ITO, HIDEMI (PM.71; FM.73) SCA 1969 FL; 69 (Harris, Assoc); 71 PM; 71 Harris, Assoc; 73 FM; 73 Harris, Assoc; 75 (Jan) El Monte: Sage; 77 PSW; 77 El Monte: Sage; 79 Rocky Mountain: Simpson; 85 California-Pacific; 85 LA: Centenary; 91 Monterey Park: Sage, Assoc; 93 Santa Ana: Nazomi; 94 Chatsworth: West Valley; 95 Chatsworth & Chatsworth: West Valley; 97 Wahiawa; 2002 Retired; 16 (Torrance: Faith) (1/4); 18 Retired

Rev. Dr. Hidemi Ito was born on March 16, 1935, in Tokyo, Japan, to Yoshio, a pastor, and Hatsue, a teacher. He was the youngest of six children. Hidemi's early childhood was shaped by the realities of wartime Japan. He remembered poverty, hunger, and scarcity. In third grade, he was evacuated from Tokyo along with his school and lived apart from his family for a year and a half. He recalled his brother visiting him before departing for war, offering encouraging words that stayed with him throughout his life.

After the war, he reunited with his family and continued his education, attending Hiroo Middle School, Toyama Senior High School, and later earning a B.A. in Linguistics from Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo. In 1958, he came to the United States to study English at Western Maryland College in Westminster, Maryland, before enrolling at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., where he earned his Master of Divinity in 1964. He returned to Japan to serve as a staff member of the National Christian Council of Japan.

On March 24, 1966, Hidemi married Shoko Omae, a kindergarten teacher at his father's church. In October 1967, he left his pregnant wife to participate in a World Council of Churches program in Switzerland. Their daughter, Miki, was born on October 22, two weeks after his departure. Upon his return to Japan in 1968, he became an English teacher and chaplain at a girls' middle school. In March 1969, he was appointed the Japanese Language Pastor at Harris United Methodist Church in Honolulu, Hawai'i. It was during this time, on April 30, 1971, that their son, Ken Paul, was born. He would go on to earn a Doctor of Ministry degree from Claremont School of Theology in 1996.

One of the great honors of his ministry was being named Pastor Emeritus by Rev. Allison Mark during the Japanese American UMC Convocation in October 2019, with Bishop Grant Hagiya present. Ministering to people was his life's calling. He cherished meeting individuals from all walks of life and faith backgrounds, always eager to share the love of God. He was deeply grateful for the unwavering support of his beloved wife, Shoko, acknowledging the many sacrifices she made that enabled him to follow his passion for ministry. In his younger days, he enjoyed playing ping pong, collecting souvenir spoons from his travels, and stamp collecting. In later years, he found joy in playing mahjong at Faith's Senior Hangout, gathering with the Men's Support Group and Men's Breakfast Group, and having coffee at McDonald's with friends. His greatest joy was spending time with his grandchildren: Madison, Jolie and Chase.

Rev. Hidemi, Shoko, Miki, and Ken Ito

2026 SECTION J MEMORIALS



Afrie Joye

August 8, 1942 - March 18, 2025

JOYE, AFRIE SONGCO (PM.90; FM.92) California-Pacific 1990 PM; 90 Laguna Hills, Assoc; 92 FM; 92 Hollywood, Co-Pastor; 93 Hollywood, Assoc; 94 Tarzana; 2000 GBGM: Missionary to Philippines; 02 EM: Philippines: Union Theological Seminary, Academic Dean and Faculty; 08 (Jan 1) Retired

Rev. Dr. Afrie Songco Joye was born in Guagua, Pampanga, Philippines. She is a third-generation Methodist. She decided to be in ministry at age nine and delivered her first sermon during vespers at age sixteen.

She graduated from Harris Memorial College with Bachelor of Arts in Christian Education, Manila, and was assigned in Naga UMC and later became the District Coordinator in Bicol/Palawan Region. She was the Founder-Director of the Student Center and Youth Ministry at Central Church, Manila. She pursued her Master of Arts in Christian Education at Scarritt Graduate School, Nashville, Tennessee. She worked at two United Methodist churches in Charleston, South Carolina.

She was the one of the first Asian American women to work at the General Board of Discipleship as Program Director of Asian and Native American United Methodist Churches, National Director of Christian Education in Small Membership Churches, and Christian Education Consultant. The tasks were consulting, training and teaching lay and clergy leaders in annual conferences and jurisdictions.

She was assigned to Huntington Beach: Community while obtaining her Doctor of Philosophy in Theology and Religious Education at Claremont School of Theology. She worked as Associate Pastor at Laguna Hills United Methodist Church after her graduation. She was the first woman and first Asian pastor in the lead role at Hollywood United Methodist Church, sharing the work tenure with Rev. Dr. Ignacio Castuera, 1992. Other appointments followed.

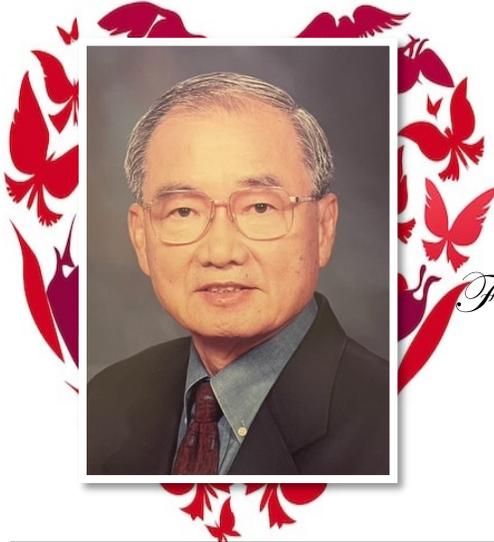
Her dream to teach in the Philippines was realized when the General Board of Global Ministries appointed her to become short-term missionaries at Harris Memorial College. She accepted the position of Academic Dean of Union Theological Seminary in Dasmariñas, Cavite 2002 -2003, and faculty member until her retirement. She became an honorary alumna in 2018.

She was persistent and resolute in her advocacy that calls for justice, equality, dignity and worth of persons, protection of the environment, and inclusion of LGBTQ+ persons.

She traveled every chance she could around the world. She was an avid reader and good storyteller. She loved gardening and enjoyed her roses and fruit trees. She had a penchant of adopting stray dogs and cats that she loved, rescued and cared for over the years. She was full of energy, generous, joyous, adventurous, and always on the move.

She is survived by her brother Emilio Songco, Jr, sister Amelia Carreon, numerous nieces and nephews, and their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Melinda Songco



Thomas Donghyung Kim

February 22, 1929 - December 18, 2024

KIM, THOMAS DONGHYUNG (PM.79; FM.80) Minnesota 1977 FL; 77 (Korean); 79 PM; 79 Korean; 80 FM; 80 Korean; 82 (Jan 1) New Brighton Korean; 86 (Oct 1) (Korean Christian Los Angeles); 88 Transfer to California-Pacific 88 Van Nuys, 90 Van Nuys First Korean; 98 Retired

Rev. Thomas Donghyung Kim was born in Manchuria, China when Korea was a Japanese colony. He moved to Seoul, Korea, after completion of his elementary school and he continued his education in Seoul, Korea. After he served in the Korean Air Force during the Korean War, he attended Methodist Theological University in Seoul and graduated in 1957.

In that same year, Thomas married Young Sook Kim, who was an alumna of Methodist Theological University, and he had pastored the Juan Methodist Church in Incheon for 10 years. From 1967 to 1975, he served the Bu-Gwang Methodist Church in Incheon.

In 1975, Thomas and Young Sook immigrated to the United States with their four children. He and his family settled in Los Angeles in CA. He founded the Los Feliz Korean United Methodist Church and served there for 1 ½ years.

In 1976, he and his family moved to St. Paul, Minnesota, with several families from the Los Feliz Korean United Methodist Church. He served the Minnesota Korean United Methodist Church for 10 years. From 1986 to 1998, he served the Van Nuys Gospel Korean United Methodist Church in California.

Since his retirement in 1998, he continued his ministry through Mission for China by founding the Bookbang Mission for China, founding the China Dongguan Korean Church in Guanzhou, China, and doing short-term missions in China annually until 2018.

He was a faithful servant of Christ who loved God, church, family, and friends. He shared the Gospel and Christ's love to many people throughout his life in Korea, the U.S.A., China, and wherever he went. He lived a life pleasing and glorifying the Lord as he has always prayed.

He is survived by his four children: Christine E. Ro, Grace E. Cho, Eunice E. Kim, and Shin Kim; his three brothers: Joseph D. Kim, David D. Kim, and Dong Gul Kim; his sister: Susan J Yu; his six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

To God be the glory.

Christine E. Ro



Martha Kogle

July 26, 1933-May 13, 2025

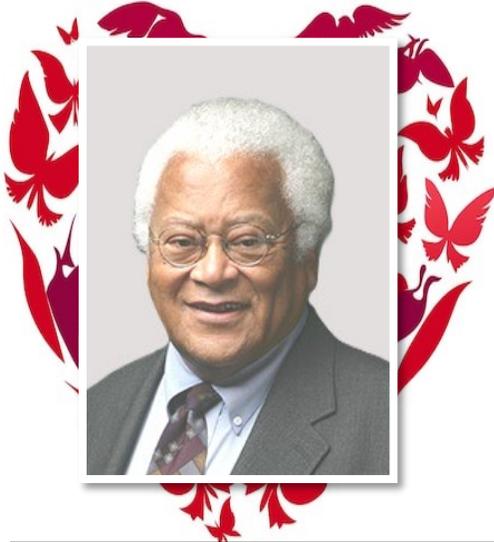
KOGLE, MARTHA L (DM.81; FD.97) PSW 1981 DM; 81 SD: San Carlos, Assoc in Evangelism; 85 California-Pacific; SD: San Carlos, Director of Church Growth & Family Ministry; 88 La Mesa: Foothills, Diaconal Minister of Visitation & Evangelism; 96 Consulting in Program; 97 FD; 97 Program Consultant; 98 Retired

When our sister in Christ, Rev. Martha Kogle, passed away, she was surrounded by her family during her final days, and up until the day she passed, she was still calling friends to her apartment to share love, memories, and final words of blessing.

She is fondly remembered for her warm and intentional hospitality—often saying to new members or visitors, “I have just the thing for you.” Alongside her beloved husband Gerald, who preceded her in death, Martha offered ministry that was as expansive as it was grounded: hosting church BBQs, leading mission and work teams, teaching Disciple Bible studies, mentoring confirmands, visiting the homebound, and cultivating deep, enduring relationships across every season of her life.

Today, many of us grieve her loss with full hearts, grateful for the faithful witness and friendship she shared so freely.

Rev. Dr. LeighAnn Shaw



James Lawson Jr.

September 22, 1928 - June 9, 2024

LAWSON JR, JAMES M (T.50; F.60) Lexington 1950 On Trial; 50 School; 53 Division of World Missions; 57 School; 60 FM; 60 Shelbyville; 62 (Memphis: Centenary); Tennessee-Kentucky (Central Jurisdiction); 64 (Memphis: Centenary); 74 SCA; 74 Holman UMC; 77 PSW; 77 Holman UMC; 85 California-Pacific; 85 Holman UMC; 99 (¶355.1) Retired

Reverend James Morris Lawson Jr. was born on September 22, 1928, in Uniontown, Pennsylvania. His great grandfather was a member of the underground railroad and escaped to Canada and married the daughter of William Still, Sophia. Jimmy, as he was called until age 14, was number 9 of 14 children. His parents were Philane Mae Cover, originally from Jamaica, and Reverend James Morris Lawson Sr., originally from Guelph, Ontario in Canada. His father was a Methodist minister who was often moved to different churches and widely known because he started NAACP chapters in any town or city to which he was sent.

At some point in their travels, the family arrived in Massillon, Ohio where his father was Pastor of a local Methodist church. It was in Massillon that his mother decided that the family would make roots, despite his father continuing to travel to different churches throughout the south. He played sports in high school, led the debate team, and played tuba for the band.

After an encounter where Jim slapped a child for calling him a racial slur, his mother admonished him and gave him the advice that would influence the course of his life; "What good did that do Jimmy... there must be a better way."

Jim was committed to finding a better way to deal with the troubles of the world. He dedicated his life to following the examples of Jesus and creating a nonviolent way for dismantling injustice and racism. His nonviolent direct action began early in his life when he and some classmates tried to desegregate a local diner in town after school one day. In another instance, he and his brothers went to one of the movie theatres and refused to sit upstairs.

His early reading of Mahatma Gandhi further nurtured his growing understanding and use of nonviolence or ahimsa. This commitment to love led him to refuse the draft for the Korean War during his senior year at Baldwin Wallace College. As a result, he spent 13 months in prison. Upon release, he served as a missionary in India to further his study of Gandhi's principles of nonviolent resistance. While in India, he learned of the Montgomery Boycott which was the sign he needed to return to the states and be engaged in the nonviolent struggles for equality.

While attending the graduate school of Theology at Oberlin College, he and Martin Luther King Jr. first shook hands in 1957. At the urging of Rev. King, Jim moved to Nashville, Tennessee as the field organizer for the Fellowship of Reconciliation and began his studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School.

Con't

2026 SECTION J MEMORIALS



In Nashville he trained students in nonviolent strategy for the lunch counter sit-in movement. He was eventually expelled from Vanderbilt for his leadership in the movement. His expulsion led to the resignation of every professor at the Divinity School and many professors from other disciplines.

It is in Nashville where Jim met Dorothy Dolores Wood. That initial meeting in 1958 led to a wedding on July 3, 1959, in Charleston, Tennessee. Jim often reflected that his life would not have been possible had God not put Dorothy as his partner. Together they had three sons, John C. II, James Morris III; and Curtis Seth.

After being expelled from Vanderbilt, Jim finished his M.Div. at Boston University. Jim was a Methodist pastor of many congregations in his lifetime. As a staunch United Methodist, he served nationally and internationally on numerous boards and agencies, such as the Board of Global Ministries and The Commission on Religion and Race. He also helped to establish the Black Methodist for Church Renewal (BMCR) and encouraged The United Methodist Church to include HBCU's as part of their financial commitment. He believed that his activism was part and parcel of his ministry. He organized and participated in freedom rides, voter registration drives, and other nonviolent campaigns throughout the South. He was Pastor of Centenary United Methodist Church in Memphis, Tennessee from 1962 to 1974. It was in his capacity as a pastor that he strategized for the Memphis Sanitation Strike, ultimately recruiting Dr. King to march and speak before that fateful day in April of 1968.

In July of 1974, Jim became the Pastor of Holman UMC and remained there until his retirement in 1999. As part of his ministry in Los Angeles, Jim worked with Cesar Chavez and Delores Huerta, led the Los Angeles Chapter of SCLC, challenged The United Methodist Church in its stance on war, LGBTQ+ issues, racism, women's rights; and constantly pushed the church to be followers of Jesus. He hosted a successful 30-minute talk show known as "Lawson Live," trained union workers in how to utilize nonviolent direct action to grow in membership and in strength and supported the development of strong Black and Latino union representation across the city, state and world. He taught courses on nonviolent social action at both UCLA and California State University, Northridge and held nonviolent workshops at Holman monthly until 2023, constantly speaking on the continuous harm of plantation capitalism.

In 2007, he was asked by Vanderbilt to return as its first Distinguished Visiting Professor and he and Dorothy lived in Nashville until 2011. Rev. James M. Lawson Jr. is the recipient of many awards, citations and honors. He is referenced in numerous books, articles and news clippings. He has a Memoir set to be released in 2025, which will serve as a guide for the continued usage of nonviolence in the transformation of this planet, starting with the United States.

The Family



Mary Alice McKinney

July 6, 1932- January 28, 2025

MCKINNEY, MARY ALICE (PM.87; FM.89) California-Pacific 1987 PM; 87 First UMC of Chula Vista, Assoc; 89 FM; 89 First UMC of Chula Vista, Assoc; 94 San Marcos UMC; 95 Disability Leave; 96 (¶452.2c) Retired; 98 (Oct) (Yellowstone, Anaconda); 99 (Feb) Retired; 2000 (May) (Imperial Beach UMC); 2000 Retired; 04 (Feb) (Yellowstone, Ruby Valley Parish); 06 Retired

Rev. Mary Alice McKinney lived a life of open hearts, open arms, open doors—a spirit she inherited from her father's ministry. His bold, progressive embrace of radical hospitality helped shape Mary Alice's own lifelong calling to faith, service, and ministry.

Born in Boston, raised in Montana and later California, Mary Alice felt the stirrings of her call from a young age. When told that ministry was a man's profession, she simply smiled and said, "We'll see." She married her sweetheart, Mack McKinney, and together they raised a family grounded in learning, laughter, and steadfast love.

Mary Alice thrived as a mother, as a leader in her church and community, and as an academic counselor at the University of California, San Diego. But with maturity came the growing sense that her true calling was still unmet. In her fifties, Mary Alice formally answered her call—earning a Bachelor's Degree in psychology and a Master of Divinity concurrently. She was ordained in 1987 at the California-Pacific Annual Conference, surrounded by four generations of family.

Mary Alice served congregations across San Diego with wisdom, kindness, and endless compassion. Her ministry stretched far beyond the pulpit—she counseled, mentored, gently challenged, and loved without condition. She saw not just who people were, but who they could become.

In 1996, Mary Alice and Mack "retired" to Anaconda, Montana—though God had other plans. She soon found herself back in the pulpit, first at the church where she had been baptized as an infant, and later at the Ruby Valley Parish. Her Montana ministry became a time of deep spiritual renewal reconnecting her early roots of faith to her lifetime of service.

In her sixties and seventies, she and Mack led teams to South Africa, helping build sanctuaries for rural Methodist congregations. There, she was affectionately named "Gogo Mary"—grandmother of faith—a title she wore with joy and humility.

Wherever she served—churches, homes, hospitals, dusty building sites—Mary Alice brought grace, courage, and deep abiding love. She lived fully and loved fiercely, answering every call to build, nurture, heal.

She is survived by her husband of 74 years, Mack McKinney; her three children, Bill (Linnea), Mike, and Laura; their former spouses, still cherished family; seven grandchildren; and thirteen great-grandchildren.

We who knew her, love her, and carry her legacy forward—may we walk in the light she left behind, blessed and inspired by her spirit.

Mack McKinney



Carmen Pak

February 14, 1939 - July 23, 2024

PAK, CARMEN UTZURRUM (PM.80; FM.82) PSW 1980 PM; 80 Honolulu First UMC, Assoc; 82 FM; 82 Waimanalo; 83 Waimanalo & Hawaii Loa College; 85 California-Pacific; 85 Trinity UMC of Pearl City; 89 La Verne UMC; 95 (¶452.2c) Retired;

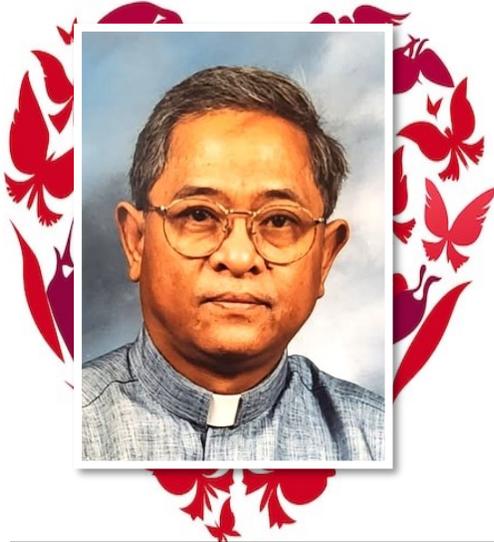
Isaiah 57:1-2

"The righteous perish,
and no one takes it to heart;
the devout are taken away,
while no one understands.

For the righteous are taken away to be spared from evil.

Those who walk uprightly enter into peace;
they find rest as they lie in death."

This passage speaks of peace and rest for the righteous after death



Juan Riingen

June 23, 1944 - March 4, 2025

RIINGEN, JUAN N (PM.71; FM.72) Mindanao Philippines; 1971 PM; 72 FM; No Record; 85 Transfer to California-Pacific; 85 Hon: Aldersgate; 97 El Centro; 2000 National City; 08 Retired

Rev. Juan “John” Nalundasan Riingen, age 80, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on March 4, 2025. John was born on June 23, 1944, in Cotabato, Philippines, to Honora-to and Mercedes Riingen, the middle of 10 children. He received a Master of Divinity degree in Cavite, where he met his late wife Gloria. He served as a reverend and a district superintendent before moving to the United States.

As a reverend at the Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Honolulu (1984–1997), the First United Methodist Church of El Centro (1997–2000), and the First United Methodist Church of National City (2000–2008), John coordinated and provided care, comfort, and support for hundreds of members of these communities.

Rev. John is survived by his son Omar John; grandson Alexander Keoni; sisters Salome, Crisanta, Raquel, and Leila; brother Daniel; nephews Kristopher, Reginald, Raynard, and Angelo; niece Leilani; best friend Magic; and extended family. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife Gloria and loyal dog Salem. He will be remembered for his wisdom, open-mindedness, boundless devotion to family, and above all, compassion.

Son, Omar



Donald Roe

December 13, 1951 - December 3, 2024

ROE, DONALD CHARLES (DON) (PM.76; FM.80) SCA 1976 PM; 76 School; 76 La Habra UMC, Assoc; 77 PSW; 77 La Habra UMC, Assoc; 80 FM; 80 La Habra UMC, Assoc; 81 Los Altos UMC, Assoc; 84 Norwalk: First; 85 California-Pacific; 85 Norwalk: First; 86 Chino UMC; 92 St. Matthew's UMC of Hacienda Heights; 2000 Fullerton First UMC; 09 United UMC of Anaheim; 14 Leisure World Community UMC

Donald Charles Roe was born on December 13, 1951 to Richard and Vivian Roe in Rockford, Illinois. He was followed by brother, Jim, and sister, Kathy. The family moved west and settled in La Mirada, California. They attended the Whittier: First United Methodist Church; and in fourth grade, Don felt reading the Bible was the best assignment of all.

He studied at California State: Fullerton and graduated with a BA in history in 1974. Don met Gaylen Griffenhagen during college; and they married in December 1974. They relocated to Denver while Don attended the Iliff School of Theology.

In 1978, they returned to California and Don began his career in ministry for The United Methodist Church. In 1982, daughter Andrea was born, and in 1985, son Matt joined the family.

In 2006, Andrea married husband Jon West, and Don became a grandfather to Ryan (2009), Evan (2012) and Olivia (2015). In 2014, Matt welcomed daughter Emma. In 2015, Don remarried to April Johnen. Don retired from ministry in 2018.

On December 3, 2024, Don passed away in Fullerton, California at the age of 72.

If you knew Don, you know there is much more to his story. Don will be remembered for his caring heart, service to the church and his ability to comfort those around him in difficult times. His love of the Beatles, Dodgers, trains, coffee, and funny sounds will forever be in our hearts.

Andrea West (daughter)



Teresa Santillana

April 28, 1943 - June 8, 2024

SANTILLANA, TERESA SEVILLANO (PE.98; FE.03) California-Pacific 1998 PE; 98 Dallas, TX: Mexican American Program, Perkins School of Theology; 99 Dallas, TX: Perkins School of Theology, SMU: Mission Assoc for Latino Missiology; 2001 Fullerton: Orangethorpe, Assoc Latino Ministry; 03 FE; 03 Fullerton: Orangethorpe, Assoc Latino Ministry; 04 Fullerton: Orangethorpe, Assoc (LFT) & Santa Ana: El Getsemani (LFT); 06 Hawthorne; 12 (Mar 1) Hawthorne (1/2) and Paramount (1/2); 13 Retired

Rev. Teresa Sevillano Santillana was born in Lima, Peru. She attended Colegio Maria Alvarado Lima High School, which at the time was a Methodist school. There, she learned English, developed secretarial skills, and gained a strong sense of justice and service. Growing up as an active member of the Methodist Church of Lima, she participated in many youth activities. During one of these events, she met her future husband, Fernando Santillana of Callao, Peru. They married in 1965, moved to the United States, and had three children: Diego, Sofia, and Rocio.

In the 1980s, Teresa worked alongside her husband Rev. Fernando Santillana at Pico Rivera United Methodist Church in California, focusing on community development. Together, they helped establish one of the first sanctuary churches for immigrants fleeing war in Central America. Their impact on the Central American community in the Los Angeles area was significant and is still felt today.

Always up for an adventure in God's work, Teresa and Fernando decided to become missionaries. In 1987, they returned to Lima with their two teenage daughters for a three-year mission at the seminary there.

In 1990, Teresa, Fernando, and their youngest daughter continued their missionary work in Porto Alegre, Brazil, where they served poor communities and supported at-risk youth. During this time, Teresa began her theological studies.

After returning to the United States in 1995, Teresa completed her studies and earned her degree from Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, Texas. After completing her studies, Rev. Teresa returned to California and became the pastor at Hawthorne UMC. She later semi-retired and moved back to Peru to enjoy the country of her birth and reconnect with family and friends. While there, she was invited to serve as pastor at Chorrillos Iglesia Metodista, where she worked to rebuild the church's community and helping the children in need.

Teresa leaves behind her two beloved daughters, Sofia and Rocio, her son-in-law Ken Thompson and her cherished grandchildren, Tiarnan and Tegan Santillana Thompson. She is deeply missed. Her radiant smile, unshakable confidence, joyful laughter, and rare gift for connecting with others made her truly one of a kind. Her optimistic spirit carried her family through life's challenges with grace and strength. Teresa loved life—and she lived it fully, with heart, courage, and joy.

Sofia Santillana and Rocio Santillana



Lisle Stewart

May 13, 1933 - March 14, 2025

STEWART, LISLE EDWIN (T.59; F.61) West Ohio; 1959 On Trial; 61 FM; No Rrecord; 81 (Jan) Transfer to PSW; 81 (Jan) U.S.N., Chaplain; 85 California-Pacific; 85 US Navy, Chaplain; 90 (¶451.2a) Retired

Pastor Stewart is a native of Ohio where he attended the Ohio State University. After graduation, he was commissioned Ensign in the Navy after completing four years of NROTC.

Completing his two year obligation, he remained in the Reserves and attended one year post graduate study at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio. He then attended Drew Theological Seminary in Madison, NJ where he graduated with an MDiv degree and was ordained by the Methodist Church in June 1961. Served as an Associate Minister in Cincinnati and then pasturing a church in Whitehouse, Ohio.

Lisle was re-commissioned in the Navy as a Chaplain where he served 24 years with the United States Marines and the Navy on shore and at sea.

In 1981, he received his Doctorate of Ministry degree from the Claremont School of Theology. Retiring in 1990, he continued to be active in volunteering in the community and in local churches.

Mrs. Diane Stewart

2026 SECTION J MEMORIALS



Gilbert Stones

August 31, 1955 - August 22, 2024

STONES, GILBERT GEORGE (PM.81; FM.84) PSW 1981 PM; 81 Kearny & Hayden; 83 (Nov) Grace UMC of Long Beach, Assoc; 84 FM; 84 La Habra UMC, Assoc; 85 California-Pacific; 85 La Habra UMC, Assoc; 87 First UMC of Orange, Assoc; 89 Westchester UMC, Assoc; 91 Long Beach, Silverado; 93 Woodland Hills First UMC; 2001 Parker UMC; 10 Lompoc First UMC; 15 Trinity UMC of Los Osos; 23 Retired

Rev. Gilbert Stones was raised in San Diego, California, the eldest child and only son of Irvin and Faye Stones. His sister, Susan, joined him in the family in 1957. The two of them were raised in a loving family that opened its arms to all the kids in the neighborhood.

Gilbert started his formal education at La Jolla Elementary School before transferring in the 4th grade to Hans Christian Anderson Elementary School in the Clairemont neighborhood of San Diego. He later attended Mildred Hale Junior High School, and James Madison High School, from which he graduated in 1973. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of California, San Diego, attended San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo, and then graduated with a Master of Divinity degree from Fuller Theological Seminary in 1981.

Gilbert married Rachel Thurston on July 23, 1977, at the La Jolla Presbyterian Church. Their daughter, Jennifer, was born on August 12, 1987, shortly after Gilbert was appointed to serve as the Associate Pastor of Orange United Methodist Church.

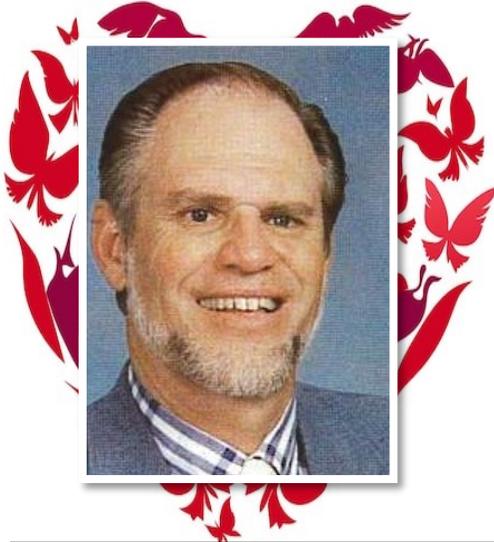
Gilbert was a gifted and self-taught musician who could play almost any instrument with strings (guitar, banjo, dulcimer, ukelele...). He was adept at prestidigitation and was even accepted into membership at Los Angeles' exclusive Magic Castle. He was an expert in fine wines and was well known in wineries throughout the Central California Coast. He was a renaissance man who excelled at almost anything he set his mind to... gourmet cooking, wood-working, photography. He loved animals... especially his beloved cats and his daughter's dog. And he was always a passionately loyal friend. He was the one who built and maintained communities.

Above all, he was a strong Christian. He accepted Christ during his high school years and never looked back. He was an intuitive Bible teacher, an eloquent preacher, a caring pastoral counselor, and a well-loved presence in the communities he served. He was a life member of the Order of St. Luke. For several years, he served as the chair of the Conference Nominating Committee. Gilbert retired from active ministry in 2023.

Gilbert is survived by his wife, Rachel, his daughter, Jennifer, his brothers-in-law, Ralph Thurston and Bob Gale, several nieces and nephews, and many friends. His sister, Susie, died shortly after Gilbert did.

Rev. Gilbert George Stones, absent from the body, present with the Lord!

Rev. Frank Wulf



Bruce Marvin Warner

October 2, 1936 - April 24, 2025

WARNER, BRUCE M (T.64; F.68) SCA 1964 On Trial; 64 School; 67 Missionary to Malaysia; 72 Transfer to SCA; 72 (Jun 12) GBGM, Missionary to Indonesia, World Division; 75 Tucson: Catalina, Assoc; 77 PSW; 77 Tucson: Catalina, Assoc; 84 Laguna Hills, Assoc; 85 California-Pacific; 85 Laguna Hills, Assoc; 88 Capistrano Beach: Palisades; 99 (¶1355.2b) Retired

Bruce Marvin Warner passed away peacefully on April 24th. He is survived by his beloved wife of 65 years, Mary Ann, three children Arene (Mike), Kari (Ed) and Chris (Jenny), seven grandchildren, Melissa (OJ), Tyler, Shelby, Payton, Taylor, Audra (Collier) and Emmy, and three great-grandchildren, Ivy, Carson and Ellie.

Bruce was born on October 2, 1936, in Bozeman, Montana to Marjorie and Marvin Warner. At two years of age, they moved to Cheyenne, WY and in 1941 to Vallejo, California where his sister Cathie was born. He attended school in Vallejo and college at U.C. Berkeley. While at college, he met his future wife Mary Ann when he offered to drive her home from church choir practice!

His degree was in Mechanical Engineering and upon graduation he went to work for United Aircraft Research Labs in Hartford, Connecticut, where his research focused on the development of rocket engines. Mary Ann stayed in Berkeley to complete her final year and their relationship grew through many letters.

During his attendance at a church missionary conference, Bruce strongly felt the call to serve people in other countries by sharing God's love. At the same time, Mary Ann was attending a conference in Berkeley that led to a similar call. Their letters crossed in the mail and confirmed they were meant to be life-long partners in life and ministry. After Bruce's first year at UA Labs and Mary Ann's graduation they were married.

After five years in research, Bruce responded to his calling by attending Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA. It was while he was earning his Master's in Divinity that Chris and Kari were born.

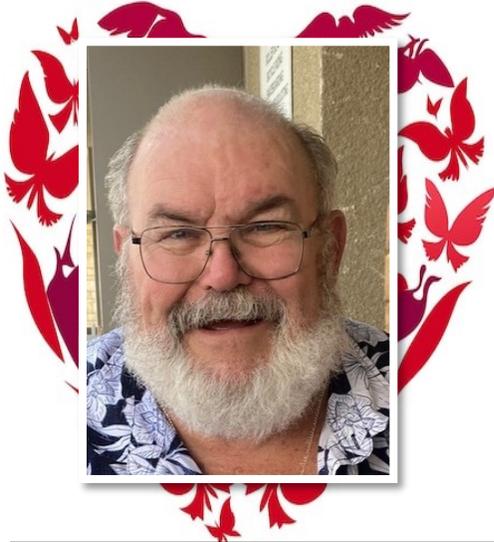
Upon graduation, the family moved to Malaysia where Bruce taught physics in a local high school and was pastor to the local church. Despite cobras and chicken pox, the family thrived and grew with the birth of Arene. After four years, the family returned to Fuller Seminary, so Bruce could continue his education.

When Bruce contracted walking pneumonia three years later, he was sent to 'dry out' in Tucson, Arizona as Associate Pastor at Catalina Methodist Church, where he served for nine years. During this time, he began a prison chaplaincy at the county jail.

The years at Fairwinds were rich with friendship, Bruce hosted a Sunday afternoon chapel service and enjoyed connection with the wonderful Fairwinds staff. In this community, Bruce passed on to more life, knowing he was loved and appreciated.

Public bio

2026 SECTION J MEMORIALS



Sidney C. Wilson

July 31, 1953 - May 24, 2025

WILSON, SIDNEY (LPA.14; PL.15) California-Pacific 2014 LPA; 14 (Walteria UMC, LPA) (1/4); 15 PL; 15 (Walteria UMC) (1/4)

Sidney Celoe Wilson {also known as SID} was born to Celoe Belle "Sonny" and Margaret Wilson on July 31, 1953 in Greenwood, MS. His father moved the family to Mountain Home, Arkansas to prevent his children from being bused to schools 30 miles away from their home. Sid eventually moved to Little Rock, Arkansas where he met Laura at a party {long story}. They married on December 30, 1977 and were married for 47 yrs. They were blessed with two children, a son, Zachary and daughter, Natalie. Both are married and have blessed Sid and Laura with 5 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. Sid is also survived by his 3 brothers, sister and loving extended family members.

Sid was involved with his children during their early years with Indian Guides, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Little League and Bobby Sox softball. Sid also assisted the Bellflower Unified School District in organizing an "after school" program at Esther Lindstrom Elementary School where Zach and Natalie were students. Zach earned a "full ride" football scholarship to USC and Sid attended many of Zach's games. He was proud that Zach graduated with a BS degree in public policy and management communications. He was most proud of his daughter, Natalie, upon earning her BS from Fullerton State in Business and she and her husband, Donald, adopting Donald's nephews.

Sid was a vibrant member of Trinity UMC in Lakewood for 40 years serving on Finance, Trustees, SPRC, Sunday school Teacher, and instructor for Discipleship classes. Sid also was an instructor for the Long Beach District Lay Speaking Courses and served on the Board of Trustees for the Calpac Conference for many years.

Sid worked for KT Electronics in Long Beach upon relocating in 1984. He started his own business, Audio Visual Installation Services in 1995 until closing in 2021, providing low voltage audio visual equipment and installation to a large number of retail businesses, government institutions, schools and private citizens throughout northern and southern California and Las Vegas.

Sid listened to the Lord's calling in 2010 and became a Certified Local Pastor in 2014 serving at Walteria UMC as a quarter time pastor, doing full-time work. He was instrumental in establishing two pre-schools at Walteria UMC, leading Bible studies, and assisting in the serving of meals at the church's Hot Meal Outreach ministry.

Sidney C. Wilson was a Child of God, a warm and loving husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather, great grandfather, brother, brother-in-law, uncle, friend, mentor, Boy Scout leader, Little League umpire and coach, teacher, employer, church leader and Pastor. He was a good and honest man and he is sorely missed by all who knew and loved him.

Laura Wilson



Life

Companions



2026 SECTION J MEMORIALS



Jane Arrowsmith

November 13, 1942 - January 9, 2025

ARROWSMITH JR, FRANK LANE (T.65; F.69) SCA 1965 On Trial; 65 School; 67 Inglewood: First, Assoc; 69 FM; 69 Inglewood: First, Assoc; 70 Redondo Beach: St. Paul's; 75 Ojai; 77 PSW; 77 Ojai; 83 San Luis Obispo; 85 California-Pacific; 85 San Luis Obispo; 90 Tarzana; 93 Vista; 2001 Retired

Graduated - Hollywood High School, 1960

Graduated - UCLA School of Assisted Dentistry, 1962

Instructor of Dental Assistant - Tufts University School of Dentistry 1965 - 1967

Lanny and Jane Arrowsmith were married on August 28, 1965, at Hollywood First United Methodist Church with Dr. Charles Kendall and Rev. Richard Cain as officiants.

Jane was the kind of person who truly believed in the goodness of people. She had an unwavering love for those around her, always extending kindness to everyone she met. Her heart was wide open, and she never hesitated to share her love with family or friends. Whether through a kind word or a thoughtful gesture, she had a way of making everyone feel seen, valued, and loved.

Jane was many things to many people. As a preacher's wife, she was a partner in ministry, a guide, and a constant source of love and support. She supported her husband, Lanny, with grace, strength, and quiet wisdom. She often helped in the background, giving her love and energy freely to everyone who needed it.

But above all, she was the most loving and devoted mom and grandmother. Her family was the center of her world. Her love was constant and comforting. As a mom, she showed what it means to love without limits, to care deeply, and to always put family first. She delighted in her role as a grandmother. Spending time with Tyler, Scott, and Sarah gave her so much joy. Her legacy will continue to live on in the lives of Todd, Tim, Lauri, Sarah, Laura, Tyler, and Scott.

We miss Jane very much, but her legacy of kindness will continue. Jane's love of family and friends, and her deep appreciation for all the adventures that life is all about will last. Jane was one of a kind, and we will always be thankful for the love she gave to Lanny and our family.

Their theme song, "One Hand, One Heart" from West Side Story, was sung at their wedding and Jane's Celebration of Life.

ONE HAND, ONE HEART

"Make our lives one life
Day after day, one life.
Now it begins, now we start;
One hand, one heart
Even death won't part us now!"



Virginia Gollery

September 3, 1928 - January 9, 2025

GOLLERY, STANLEY J. (T.55; F.58) SCA 55 Van Nuys, Min. of Youth; 57 S.D.: Wesley, Min of Ed.; 60 Covina, Min. of Ed.; 67 Escondido, Assoc.; 72 S'y.; PSW 77 L/A; 78 Winslow; 82 Sun City: Lakeview, Assoc.; 84 Hemet, Assoc.; C-P 85; 93 R'd (¶ 452.2c).

Virginia Ruth (Butler) was born to Rev. William Fay Butler and Barbara Elen (Goppert) Butler in Chandler, AZ on September 3, 1928 and grew up in the greater Los Angeles area. She married Stanley James Gollery on Friday, October 13, 1950, in Pasadena, California. They had five children, Steve, Sharon, Janet, John, and Martin.

Virginia was a Registered Nurse and worked various shifts as her children were growing. She was a part of the unionizing effort for California Nurses. She was progressive and believed in equity and fairness. But she did not let political differences stand in the way of deep, life-long friendships.

Virginia loved music and she sang and played flute. Stan caught her eye when she was a high school senior and he played piano with a college jazz ensemble. Their house was always filled with music. The family sang a lot, a wide variety of songs.

She and Stan loved each other and loved life and provided a fun and silly environment for the children. They also shared a love of travel and adventure. They loved piling the children in the car (also filled with music) for daytrips and month-long vacations in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and across the country. They usually camped, but sometimes Virginia called up a friend and all 7 Gollerys would camp out on their floor in sleeping bags. Even when the car broke down, Virginia made it so fun that the children thought it was an adventure to spend the day near a gas station somewhere in 100-degree weather!

Later in life, she and Stan traveled to many other countries. Even at the age of 96, she was always up for another trip. She attended the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington, explored as many gold rush towns as she could, hiked in Yosemite and visited her brother in Mexico. She loved exploring and was looking forward to looking for wildflowers in the Owens Valley with Martin and to going to Pittsburgh for Sharon's DMin hooding in May.

An amazing woman who enjoyed life to the last, Virginia has made a difference in the world by loving us all freely and fully. She left a legacy of children who love music, are compassionate, silly, adventurous and filled with love. On January 10, 2025, she breathed her last and was welcomed home into the loving embrace of her God and into the company of all who preceded her on that final trip. She is greatly missed here.

The Family



Judith Howard

August 26, 1943 - May 22, 2024

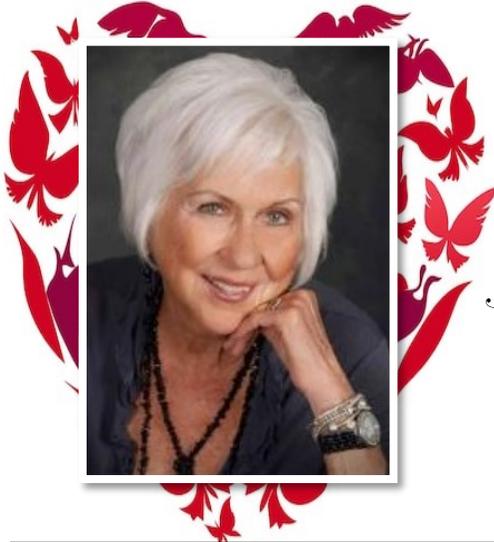
HOWARD, ROBERT D. (T.59; F.62) SCA, 59 School; 61 Oxnard, St. Paul's, Assoc.; 63 L.A., Florence Heights; 68 L.A., Ocean Park; 70 Pomona, Philadelphia Street; 75 Bellflower; PSW, 77 Bellflower; First; 81 Kilohana, HI; C-P. '85; 87 Alhambra; First.

Judy was born in El Paso, Texas on August 26, 1943. She graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School and continued to receive an Associate's Degree from Los Angeles City College. Judy was married to Robert D. Howard on Sept. 9, 1961 and they were married for 28 years.

During her marriage Judy worked tirelessly to support Bob in his role as a minister in The United Methodist Church at their postings in various congregations in California and Hawaii. She particularly enjoyed their time in Hawaii immersing in the culture of the islands. After Bob's death, Judy returned to her native Texas living and working in Austin and later in Dallas. She served as an official Fairy Godmother bringing joy to those she interacted with. Judy was also an aspiring writer and loved dancing the Texas Two-Step. She enjoyed traveling and visited England with the Red Hat Society.

Judy is preceded in death by her parents, Blanche and Ferris Gay, her husband, Bob Howard and her brother Bob Gay. Judy is survived by partner of 20 years, Stan Basse, her children Brian Howard (Beth), Mark Howard (Shannon), Christopher Howard, four grand-children, and siblings Steve Gay and Christy Gay (JJ).

Public bio



Donna Johnson

January 9, 1934 - March 7, 2025

JOHNSON, RICHMOND C (T.57; F.60) SCA 1957 On Trial; 57 Whittier: East, Minister of Education; 58 Maywood, Asst; 60 FM; 60 Costa Mesa: Mesa Verde; 68 Sepulveda; 75 (Apr 15) CCOM: Program Counselor; 77 PSW; 77 Sherman Oaks; 82 Sepulveda: V.A. Hospital, Chaplain; 85 California-Pacific; 85 Sepulveda: V.A. Hospital, Chaplain; 92 (Jan 1) (¶451.2,d) Retired; 94 (Jan 16) (Torrance: Walteria); 94 Retired; 23 (Mar 1) Deceased

Donna Babcock Johnson passed away peacefully on March 7, 2025, in Laguna Woods, California, at the age of 91. Her passing came just days after the second anniversary of the death of her husband, Rich, on March 1, 2023. They would have celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary on March 25.

Born on January 9, 1934, in La Crosse, Wisconsin, Donna was the only child of David D. Babcock and Mildred Olsen. She is survived by her two sons, David and his wife, Carol, of Alexandria, Virginia, and Marshall and his wife, Kim, of Bakersfield, California; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

After moving frequently with her parents during her early years, Donna settled in California, where she met and married Rich. Though she supported his ministry, she was determined to forge her own path. While raising their two sons, she pursued a bachelor's degree and an MBA from California State University Northridge and Pepperdine University.

Donna found her calling in the nonprofit sector when she joined United Way of Los Angeles in the early 1970s. Over the years, she became Senior Vice President, and a leader and mentor for other women.

Nearing retirement, Donna and Rich made their home in Cardiff-by-the-Sea and became active members of San Dieguito United Methodist Church. Always wearing a hat, she had a gift for making newcomers at the Church feel welcome. She continued her fundraising for organizations such as the San Diego Literacy Council, San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy, San Diego Repertory Theatre, and San Dieguito Church. Above all, she cherished time spent with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

David Johnson



Meryl M. Johnson

February 17, 1928-December 13, 2024

JOHNSON, HAROLD E. (T42; F44) New England 41 (Oakdale); SCA 42 School; 43 Santa Ana: First, Min of Youth; 45 (Apr 1) Pasadena: Trinity; 46 San Bernardino: St. Paul's, Co-Pastor; 48 Oceanside: First; 53 Sepulveda; 58 Hawthorne; 63 Glendora: First; 69 Redondo Beach: First; 71 Exec Sec, Conf Board of Pensions; PSW 77 Los Angeles: Westchester; 83 Fullerton: Orangethorpe; C-P 85; 86 Leave of Absence; 86 (Jul 31) Retired; 1998 (Mar 17) Deceased

Meryl Kuss and Harold Johnson married in 1986, just before his retirement. Meryl had been a member of his church in Hawthorne, twenty-five years before.

Upon his retirement, they moved to Encinitas, where together they created a quiet, lovely home where they graciously entertained friends, enjoyed life, the church and their new expanded family. Meryl felt her family circle was complete when her son, Michael and Harold's Larry found in each other brothers.

Meryl was delighted when Harold preformed the wedding of his son and baptized their children.

Meryl was a devoted spouse. When Harold became ill, Meryl was constantly at his side caring for him until he passed in 1998.

Meryl was a dotting praying grandmother who will be missed.

Contributing Editor

2026 SECTION J MEMORIALS



Kye Ja Kim

August 16, 1933 - March 6, 2025

KIM, JIN YOUNG (F.84) Korea; 84 Northridge: Valley Korean: C-P 85; 90 Canoga Park: Valley Korean Central; 95 Winnetka: Valley Korean Central; 2000 Retired; (Deceased)

Mrs. Kim was born in Seoul, Korea. She did her undergraduate work at Methodist Seminary. While studying at the seminary, she met her husband, Rev. Jin Young Kim. Upon graduation of the college, she got married to Rev. Jin Young Kim in 1958. In their marriage, they had four children, Helen, Grace, Jay, and Hester.

In 1959, Rev. Kim was appointed as a senior pastor at SuJungLee Methodist Church and she helped the church serving as a pianist.

In 1963, Rev. Kim transferred to HanSung Methodist Church in Seoul Korea and there, she also helped the church serving as a Sunday school teacher and also as an assistant pianist.

In 1971, Rev. Kim became a senior pastor at MoonRaeDong Methodist Church in Seoul. Raising four children as a mother, and helping the church as a pastor's wife, she also served God as a Sunday school teacher, and as an organist.

In 1982, whole family immigrated to USA, and Rev. Kim became a senior pastor at Valley Korean Central UMC. She had worked on few side jobs in order to help supporting family's financial needs.

Upon retirement of Rev. Kim in 2001, they have settled in Baker Home. But following year, she widowed but she served God as choir members until she no longer able to drive to a church. She was dedicated to the Church and to God and has been a great influence in so many lives. She was also dedicated mother to her children and wife to her husband.

Mrs. Kim is survived by her children Helen (Stanley), Grace (Paul), Jay (Irene) and Hester (Young); 8 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. She leaves us as an inspiration, and a lasting memory of the many ways.

Jay Kim



Dorothy Lawson

August 29, 1935 - August 25, 2024

LAWSON JR, JAMES M (T.50; F.60) Lexington 1950 On Trial; 50 School; 53 Division of World Missions; 57 School; 60 FM; 60 Shelbyville; 62 (Memphis: Centenary); Tennessee-Kentucky (Central Jurisdiction); 64 (Memphis: Centenary); 74 SCA; 74 Holman UMC; 77 PSW; 77 Holman UMC; 85 California-Pacific; 85 Holman UMC; 99 (¶355.1) Retired

Dorothy D. Lawson was born August 29, 1935, to Curtis Cortez and Pauline Berry Wood in Charleston, Tennessee. She grew up in a loving family with her three brothers Darwin, Lonnel, and Phillip. Her parents helped most to shape her character and to encourage her to strive for excellence. Her nurturing environment included elementary school teachers, who happened to be her cousins, who not only taught her reading, writing, and arithmetic, but also how to dream and imagine a world yet to come. She inherited the incentives and ideals of nurturing the mind from her family who believed that education was essential not only for personal fulfillment but also as a way of advancing the race. She graduated from Charleston High School as valedictorian of her class.

She completed her undergraduate work at Tennessee State University in 1957 where she was a business education major with a minor in business administration. She graduated with the highest-grade point average of her class and was dubbed "Miss Brain." She completed her graduate work at Memphis State University and California State University, Los Angeles.

While working in the office of local activist Will Campbell in Nashville, Dorothy met James Morris Lawson Jr. Their initial meeting in 1958 led to a wedding on July 3, 1959, at Greens Chapel Presbyterian Church in Charleston, Tennessee. Together they had three sons, John C. II, James Morris III; and Curtis Seth. From 1962 to 1974 she served as first lady of Centenary Methodist Church in Memphis, Tennessee.

During the Voter Registration Campaign in 1960, known as the "Mississippi Summer," the NAACP Legal Defense Fund could not find office space in Mississippi. Dorothy opened an office in Memphis, Tennessee and coordinated the schedules of volunteer attorneys who offered their services during this turbulent time in our land.

Professionally, Dorothy has been an Administrative Assistant for the National Council of Churches; Curriculum Coordinator, Board of United Methodist Church; Director of Law Office in Memphis, Tennessee with the responsibility of deploying volunteer lawyers to represent the Freedom Riders and other civil rights workers in Mississippi during the 1960s. Dorothy taught for two years in Memphis before moving to Los Angeles in 1974.

Mother of three sons, Dorothy felt that her most important role was to love, nurture, and educate them for a global world. Not only was she committed to quality public education, but she was also committed to quality Christian education. Upon moving to Los Angeles, Dorothy became Chairperson of the Inner-City Task Force, a project which evolved to create curriculum for The United Methodist Church designed specifically to make Christian education "Come Alive" for educators in Black churches.

Con't

2026 SECTION J MEMORIALS

She developed a model for recruiting and training teachers. As an LAUSD educator, she taught English and Typing at Orville Wright Middle School from 1979 to 2002. During her tenure at Orville Wright, she was class sponsor, Academic Pentathlon coach, member of the Leadership Team, Graduation speakers' coach, and English Department chairperson for 12 years.

In addition to energizing the family and home, Dorothy was a tireless humanitarian. As the wife of one of the nation's most prominent leaders, Dorothy opened her home to many friends and strangers along the way, lobbied for reforms calling for better treatment for women and people of color. Boycotting, sitting in, and stepping up, Dorothy exhibited great strength and courage with unparalleled dignity.

Dorothy's passion for peace and justice continued through her volunteer work with adult literacy, FACTS, Holman United Methodist Church, and other community organizations. While serving as first lady of Holman United Methodist Church from 1974 to 1999 and continuing until recently she was active in the United Women of Faith (formerly United Methodist Women), Sunday school, the Arts Council, Advent & Lenten task force, double ring club, and many other ministries. She received numerous awards in recognition of her services including California State University, Northridge's Phenomenal Woman Award.

Dorothy believed that life is always evolving. Old and new stories of struggle, survival, triumph, family values and ancestral wisdom are documented through her life. She lived her life grounded in faith and service to God. No matter the challenges, Dorothy always looked to the promise of tomorrow.

Dorothy will be remembered by her son John (Cima); her son Morris; her son Seth (deceased); her grandchildren Raven, Devin and James Charles; her brother-in-law Phillip (Jo Ann); her sister-in-law Ralphene Davis; two goddaughters Amber (Mark) and Jennifer (Todd); and a myriad of nieces, nephews, great nephews, great nieces of the Lawson and Wood tribes; the extended Centenary and Holman families; and numerous friends.

The Family





Chan Sook Lee

August 28, 1951 - November 12, 2024

LEE, WON HO (P.77; F.91) Korean Methodist Church 1977; California-Pacific 90 La Palma Korean; 94 (November) South Pasadena; Pacific Korean

2 Timothy 4:6-8

"For I am already being poured out like a drink offering,
and the time has come for my departure.

I have fought the good fight,

I have finished the race,

I have kept the faith.

Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness,

which the Lord,

the righteous Judge,

will award to me on that day—and not only to me,

but also to all who have longed for his appearing."



Kay Lee

July 4, 1930 - August 14, 2024

LEE, YOUNG CHULL (T.62; F.64) Central Texas; SCA 62 Gardena: Alondra Park, Assoc; 64 Long Beach: Grace, Assoc; 66 Clarkdale & Jerome; 70 Phoenix: Aldersgate; 77 PSW; 78 Covina UMC; 80 Norwalk: Evangelical Korean; 83 Hillgrove: Hacienda Hts.; 85 California-Pacific; 86 Leave of Absence.; 87 Disability Leave; 94 (¶452.2c) Retired

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14, 17-18

"Brothers and sisters,

we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death,

so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind,

who have no hope.

For we believe that Jesus died and rose again,

and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him...

And so we will be with the Lord forever.

Therefore encourage one another

with these words.

" These verses offer assurance of a future reunion and hope beyond the grave.



Bradley R. Mettam

November 12, 1952 - August 6, 2024

METTAM, DIANE YEE (FL.04; RL.17) California-Pacific 2004 FL; 04 (Pioneer Memorial UMC); 06 Incapacity Leave; 17 RL; 17 Retired

Brad Mettam was born in San Francisco to Ron and Dolores Mettam. On October 16, 1976, he married Diane Yee and her son, David, became his son, too. On March 27, 1978 their daughter Jessica Joy was born. Their family complete, Brad and Diane moved as their jobs demanded, living in San Francisco, Half Moon Bay, South Lake Tahoe, Dyer, Nevada, and Bishop, California, before finally relocating in Eureka where Brad was the Deputy District Director for Planning and Local Assistance with CalTrans. Upon his retirement he was honored with a Resolution from the California State Legislature.

Prior to his career with CalTrans, Brad worked with Esmeralda and Inyo Counties seeking to impede the negative aspects of the proposed nuclear waste facility at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. He served as Chair of the Esmeralda County School District, and, in Bishop, as Chairman of the Great Basin Air Pollution Control District Hearing Board.

Brad and Diane shared their blessings. While the children were school-age they coached soccer, led 4-H groups, taught dance, tutored students, and offered a temporary home to kids who needed a roof over their heads. They welcomed three AFS exchange students for various periods of time from Thailand, China, and Norway. As a couple and a family, they did things together.

Brad was Santa's elf each year at the Bishop Christmas Parade. Diane made his costume. Brad had a long affiliation with firefighting. He served as a volunteer firefighter in Half Moon Bay and South Lake Tahoe, and reorganized and served as Chief of the Fish Lake Valley Fire Protection District in Dyer, Nevada.

After settling in Bishop, Brad joined the local Rotary Club. He served in several offices before becoming President. When Brad and Diane moved to Eureka, Brad joined the Eureka Rotary Club and was again elected to serve as President. He remained active in Rotary until his death.

Brad was a devoted church member, serving as the sound tech for the Bishop and Eureka First United Methodist Churches and kept the books for the Bishop church. When Diane served Pioneer Memorial United Methodist Church in Independence, Brad ran the music system, proofread and folded the bulletins, made sure there was a dish for the potlucks, and that Diane had a clean robe and stole.

Brad passed away suddenly on August 6, 2024 in Eureka.

Pastor Diane Mettam



Pasepa Ngauamo

May 30, 1952- March 27, 2025

NGAUAMO, MOAHENGI 'O-VAVA'U (SIONE) (AM.99) California-Pacific 1994 PL; 94 (Compton First UMC, Assoc Tongan Ministry) (LFT); 99 AM; 99 Compton First UMC, Tongan Ministry (LFT); 2000 First UMC of Honolulu, Assoc Tongan Ministry; 04 Lahaina UMC, Assoc (LFT); 11 (Apr 10) (§361.1) Involuntary Leave of Absence / Suspension; 12 (Jun 14) Leave of Absence; 13 Hawthorne UMC (1/2)

In Loving Memory of Pasepa 'Ilafehi Ngauamo

Pasepa 'Ilafehi Ngauamo was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and faithful servant of God whose life was a reflection of unwavering love, grace, and devotion. A pillar of strength and faith within her family and community, she dedicated her life to serving Christ and His church through The United Methodist Church California-Pacific Conference in many meaningful ways.

As a pastor's wife, a committed member of United Women in Faith, and a passionate advocate for youth and young adults, Pasepa poured her heart into every ministry she touched. Her legacy is one of deep faith, steadfast obedience, and boundless love—a legacy that calls us all to follow Christ more closely and love His church more deeply.

She was gently called home to glory, surrounded by her beloved family. In her final moments, her grandchildren lifted their voices in song, filling her home with her favorite hymns—a sacred and intimate farewell. It was a holy and beautiful passing, a blessing beyond measure, and a glimpse of heaven on earth.

Her life was a gift, and her memory will remain a guiding light for all who knew and loved her.

The Family



Yoshiko Nishikawa

October 12, 1937 - September 27, 2024

NISHIKAWA, GEORGE YOSHINOBU (T.54; F.58) Pacific Japanese Prov; 1954 On Trial; 58 FM; No Record; 63 Transfer to SCA; 63 Monterey Park: Bella Vista, Assoc; 64 El Monte: Sage Memorial; 60 West Los Angeles UMC; 71 San Francisco: Research & Development for Asian Ministry, Director; 73 Los Angeles District Superintendent; 77 PSW; 77 Los Angeles District Superintendent; 78 Lakewood First UMC; 83 Centenary UMC; 85 California-Pacific; 85 Centenary UMC; 90 (Sep) GBGM, Finance & Field Service; 96 (1452.2c) Retired

Yoshiko (Miyaoka) Nishikawa was born in Sunnyvale, WA. She was the youngest of eight children born to immigrant parents from Japan. Her early years were shaped by challenges, yet she faced them with grace and was always kind and genuine to others.

When Yoshiko was just 4 ½ years old, she and her family were forced from their home during World War II and relocated to internment camps in Tule Lake, CA and later Topaz, UT. After the war, her family moved to Sacramento, CA. After graduating from high school, she was a stenographer for the CA Department of Water Resources.

In 1957, Yoshiko met her husband, George Nishikawa at church and were married by Bishop Tippet on January 24, 1960, at Sacramento First United Methodist Church. Together, they built a life centered around the church that spanned almost 65 years while raising four children. She supported George's ministry across many appointments in California. She was the dutiful pastor's wife as Rev George served congregations and assignments in Sacramento, Berkeley, Monterey Park, El Monte, West Los Angeles, San Lorenzo, Lakewood and Los Angeles. She packed up the family and moved 15 times in her lifetime, mostly into church parsonages.

Yoshiko contributed to each church community behind the scenes, nurturing a sense of belonging for the members and making sure everything ran smoothly. Whether in the kitchen preparing meals, teaching Sunday school, or simply offering a listening ear, she was a constant source of love and support for everyone around her.

Although she never wanted to stand out, Yoshiko loved being with people. She loved serving alongside the church members and lived her life through sharing God's love and spirit in everything she did and with everyone she met. She always brought her warmth, generosity, and tireless service to each appointment. Yoshiko's life was marked by a deep sense of duty to others, a profound kindness, and a selflessness that knew no bounds.

Yoshiko is survived by her husband Rev. George Y. Nishikawa, four children, Daniel (Chloe) Nishikawa, Marla (Stanley) Nakaso, Anne (Derrick) Chang, and Karen Nishikawa. Seven grandchildren, Jeffrey Nishikawa, Lauren (Julian) Nakaso Kunzman, Katie Nishikawa, Payton Chang, Kelly Nakaso, Devon Chang, Kenny Nishikawa, and great granddaughter Clara Jean Kunzman.

The Family



Eleanor Staup

October 18, 1923 - June 22, 2024

STAUP, SR. ROBERT L. (T.58; F.64) Erie; SCA 58 (Nov) no record; 59 Discontinued; SCA 65 (Sept) Tucson: Hope; 69(Feb 9) Douglas: Grace; 75(Mar 15) Sierra Vista; PSW 77; 82 El Centro, First; C-P 85 Nestor; 87 R'd

Eleanor Staup of Sun City, Arizona passed away on June 22, 2024, a few months shy of turning 101. She was born on October 18, 1923 in Sharpsville, Pennsylvania, and moved to Arizona in 1965.

Eleanor was married to the late Reverend Robert Staup, Sr. for 67 years. They were very active in The United Methodist Church, having served in over 10 parishes. She is survived by her son, Robert Staup, Jr., daughter-in-law, Patty and previous daughter-in-law, Donna Davis, mother of Eleanor's two grandsons, Robby and Jayson (Jordanna) Davis. Eleanor was close to her sister-in-law, Carolyn Miglin of Ohio.

A special thank you goes to Helen Napoleon who played a key role in Eleanor and Robert's life. Helen and her husband, Ruben along with their extended family helped Eleanor stay in her home at El Dorado Retirement Community in Sun City, Arizona. Some of Eleanor's talents included typing 140 words per minute with precision and making homemade cards on her computer. She knitted many treasures for loved ones, babies and patients in local hospitals. She also sold her handiwork at numerous church fundraisers.

Eleanor stayed busy by using her IPAD to catch up on emails and FaceTimed with her family. She valued the many friendships she had with the residents and staff at El Dorado.

Public bio



Margaret Strand

January 22, 1940-January 30, 2025

STRAND, LEON D. (P.97; F.00) California-Pacific 97 Newhall: Friendly Valley; 2008 Retired

Margaret (Marge) Claire Bangham Strand was a lifelong Pasadena resident who loved the City deeply. She graduated from Pasadena High School in 1958 and held a number of administrative jobs throughout her life including in a medical office, her father's engineering office, and finally over 20 years with the Los Angeles Funeral Society. She attended Holliston United Methodist Church for most of her life and met her husband Leon in the choir there. Their son Alan was born in 1969.

Marge was a dedicated learner, reader, and hobbyist. Her greatest passion was animals; her house was never wanting for cats, dogs, and birds, and at one point she cared for 100 birds in her backyard aviary. She was an accomplished seamstress who made prom outfits for her son and Halloween costumes for her grandsons. She was a great collector who surrounded herself with reminders of the animals, art, and other things she loved.

She was especially known for her thoughtful and generous gift-giving, and for her elaborate Christmas decorations, which filled the house during the holidays when she hosted large family and church gatherings. Marge is preceded in death by her husband, the Rev. Leon Strand, her parents Margaret and Willard, and her eldest brother Rodney.

She is survived by her son Alan, daughter-in-law Kathy, grandsons Rohan and Rory, brothers Larry and Bill, and many other beloved extended family.

Public bio



Gaynl Clair Trotter

August 14, 1935 - October 29, 2024

TROTTER, J. IRWIN (T.50; F.54) SCA 50 School; 54 Granada Hills; 62 La Crescenta; 67 (Feb 1) Sup't., LB Dist.; 68 Sup't., LA Dist.; 72(Sept) Sup't., LA Dist. & Exec. Dir., CCOM; 73 Exec. Dir., CCOM; PSW 77; 78 LA: Wilshire; 84 Prof., School of Theology at Claremont and Montclair; C-P 85; 91 Rd. (451.2c)

Gaynl Clair Trotter was born in Modesto, California, to Weslie and Mavis Stouffer. She grew up in the small town of Ripon, which deeply influenced her lifelong commitment to family and community.

Gaynl attended University of California, Davis, earning a degree in home economics. While common for women at the time, she liked to point out that her coursework included organic chemistry with the veterinary students. At Davis, she participated in the Cal-Aggie Christian Association, where lively discussions and close friendships enriched her faith. Her faith, rooted in the prophetic call for social justice, became the foundation for her work and volunteer service.

Following college, Gaynl served a two-year missionary assignment with the Congregational Church, at Kobe College in Japan, and earned master's degrees from Cornell University (home management) and Yale Divinity School (arts in religion).

In the late 1960s she moved to Los Angeles to work with All Nations United Methodist Church in the Aliso-Pico housing project. There, she worked with the Rev. Nat and Jean Lacy, who developed Vacation Bible School resources centered on the Black experience, something missing at the time and important for the community. Later, as director of children's ministries for the Southern California-Arizona Conference, Gaynl organized the inner-city task force and developed and led teacher training workshops across the region.

During her time with the Conference, she met the Rev. J. Irwin Trotter. They married and later welcomed their only child, Sheena – a feat that felt miraculous at their later age. When Irwin joined the faculty of the Claremont School of Theology, Gaynl immersed herself in peace with justice causes. She was especially proud of her role in the 1986 Great Peace March when she rallied the Claremont community to house and feed 1,000 marchers.

In 2000, the couple returned to Ripon to be closer to her mother. Gaynl continued to volunteer, including raising \$1 million to expand Mavis Stouffer Park. She lovingly cared for both Irwin and her mother, ensuring their final years remained active and joyful. Irwin playfully called her “the champion of hopeless causes.”

In her later years, Gaynl was a devoted grandmother to Katherine and Lauren, frequently traveling to Calgary, Canada to attend their performances and milestone events.

Gaynl lived and modeled great love and devotion to her family, a passion for peace with justice, and endless hope. We are so grateful for her life and witness.

Sheena Trotter-Dennis



Eunice Tseng

October 1, 1929 - March 3, 2025

TSENG, STEPHEN (P 81; F 83; Terminated 90; FL 90; RL 99) Northern Illinois 81 Evanston Hemenway; 83 (June 5) Honorable Location; California-Pacific 90 (Bell Memorial); 97 (Blessed Chinese); 99 Retired

Born on October 1, 1929, in Xin Ying, Tainan, Taiwan, Eunice grew up in a devout Christian household where she developed a profound love for Jesus Christ and the Bible. She attended Taiwan Holiness Bible College and participated in missionary work across various villages and mountain tribes in Taiwan.

On September 17, 1962, Eunice married Stephen Tseng. After she married, she dedicated herself to her role as a minister's wife serving faithfully alongside her husband. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend. Known for her gentle and kind personality, Eunice was dearly loved by family and friends alike. Her life exemplified the grace and love of Jesus.

Eunice is survived by her children: Grace Tseng of Rowland Heights, California, and Ann Lin (married to Jireh Lin) of Plano, Texas; her grandchildren: Emily Lin of Los Angeles, California, and Janel Chiang (married to Timothy Chiang) of McKinney, Texas; and numerous other family members and friends.

Ann



Lay Staff





Gaundzale Dixon

November 1, 1933 - April 14, 2025

Gaunnie served The United Methodist Church (UMC) in many capacities.

In 1999, she retired as Director of Development and Resources from The United Methodist Ministries – Los Angeles District of the UMC. She was elected Annual Conference Lay Leader of the Cal-Pac Annual Conference and served in this capacity from 1996-2004, serving with Bishops Roy I. Sano and Mary Ann Swenson.

Prior to joining the staff of the Los Angeles District, Gaunnie was Vice President for Administration of the Financial Services Group (a Century City stock brokerage firm), Deputy Director for the Los Angeles Business Labor Council, and Administrator of the political office of then Attorney General John Van de Kamp.

Gaunnie served as co-chair of the Cal-Pac Leadership Team. She was Treasurer of the National Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders of the UMC, vice-chair of the National Urban Strategy Council of the UMC, member of the Coordinating Committee to Strengthen the Black Church for the 21st Century, and Vice-Chair and Treasurer of Western Jurisdiction Urban Network of the UMC. She served on the Western Jurisdiction Inter-Ethnic Coordinating Committee.

Gaunnie was one of 18 Mission Interpreters of the 1987 Cal-Pac Annual Conference Team, who spent a month studying hunger and development projects in Africa. After the Cal-Pac District Realignment in 2012, Gaunnie established and Co-Chaired Loaves and Fishes in the West District through 2015. From 2013 to 2014 she Co-Chaired the West District Urban Ministries.

Gaunnie was a member of Wilshire UMC. Prior to uniting with Wilshire, she was a long-time member of Calvary UMC, and Crescent Heights UMC in Los Angeles.

She was an accredited T'ai Chi Chih instructor teaching classes in Senior Citizens Centers of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department and in United Methodist Churches. She often served as a speaker, retreat and workshop leader, and taught in United Methodist Women (UMW) Schools of Missions.

For her work she was awarded the Mildred Hutchinson Outstanding Laywoman award in 1989, the Crenshaw UMC African American Trailblazer Award in 2000, the Los Angeles District Leadership Award for Cross Cultural Ministries and Lay Leadership Development in 2004, and the Cal-Pac Annual Conference Bishop's Award.

Gaunnie was preceded in death by her husband Gordon, who passed away in the summer of 2017. She is survived by her daughter, Angie McCard, one sister, nieces, nephews, and host of relatives and special friends.

The Family

2026 SECTION J MEMORIALS



Joyce Zirkle

March 20, 1953 - April 18, 2025

“Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your Lord.” – Matthew 25:23

It is with deep sadness and Christian hope that we announce the passing of Joyce Zirkle, who entered eternal life on Good Friday. Joyce worked in the Conference Treasurer’s office for 24 years and received the Bishop’s Award in 2019, a moment that she recently shared was the highlight of her life.

Bishop Swenson shares, “She was the heart of the San Fernando United Methodist Church congregation, and I was there with her on many occasions. Joyce was the spirit of the beloved community. Now she is absent from the body but present with the Lord.”

Dan Gara, the Conference Treasurer for most of Joyce’s career shares, “Joyce was my partner in ministry at which she excelled for our 17 years working together. She also was a dear friend we considered part of the Gara family. We thank God for the blessing of Joyce.”

Joyce lived a life full of faith, kindness, and love, touching the lives of all who knew her. We celebrate her life and the promise of the resurrection, giving thanks for the many ways Joyce reflected God’s love in our world.

Cathy Wilson