



Service of Thanksgiving & Remembrance

Monday, May 23rd, 2022

7:00 p.m.

St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Oklahoma Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church

Oklahoma Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church
2022

The asterisk † denotes that one is invited to stand in body or spirit.

Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance

2022 Annual Conference Memorial Service

Monday, May 23rd, 2022

7:00 p.m.

St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

“Rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.” – 2nd Timothy 1:6-7

PRE-SERVICE CONCERT 6:30 p.m. – *Combined OKC Area UMC Choir*

WORSHIP 7:00 p.m.

As we enter into worship please note:

- Silence or turn off all electronic devices.
 - The special offering tonight goes to the Circle of Care Boys Ranch Legacy Campaign. Please make all checks payable to the OKUMC with the memo line indicating conference offering. Join Circle of Care in transforming their historic Boys Ranch into a foster care community.
 - A reception honoring the families of the deceased will be in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship. A gracious thank you to St Luke's UMC and the Retirees Fellowship for hosting the reception.
 - Thank you to the staff of St. Luke's UMC for all their work and hospitality in hosting tonight's service.
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PRELUDE

“Nun Danket Alle Gott”
by Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Tyler Stone

WELCOME

Keith King

† **OPENING HYMN**

“For All the Saints”

UMH 711

1. For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

4. O blest communion, fellowship divine,
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

2. Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

5. And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

3. O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win with them the victor's crown of gold.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

6. From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest
coast, through gates of pearl streams in the countless
host, singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Patrick McPherson

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
there is no end to his greatness.
One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.
All your works praise you, Lord,
and your faithful servants bless you.
They make known the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your power.
My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord:
Let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

† OPENING PRAYER

Richard Ayers

God, our Creator, we gather here this day to hear you
speak to us once again your Word of life and death.
Setting aside all voices but your own, give us ears to hear only you.
Just as your faithfully departed servants whom we celebrate today heard and obeyed,
give us the desire to move beyond merely hearing to doing.
Make us aware of your presence that is already and always with us.
Work within our hearts to prepare us to be your people who are filled
with your Spirit and power to share your Good News with all the world.
In the name of the One who was, who is, and who is to come,
Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

ANTHEM

Combined Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 49:29-33; 50:24-25

Jackie Guajardo

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,
That, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed,
we may hear with joy what you say to us this night.
Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 11:8-22

Shelly Owen

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

“Seeking a Homeland”

Chris Tiger

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

“The Nicene Creed”

Chantelle Foster

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
 We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
 begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
 through him all things were made.
 For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
 who has spoken through the prophets.
 We believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic church.
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

† HYMN OF REMEMBRANCE

“Sing with All the Saints in Glory”

UMH 702

1. Sing with all the saints in glory,
 sing the resurrection song!
 Death and sorrow, earth’s dark story,
 to the former days belong.
 All around the clouds are breaking,
 soon the storms of time shall cease;
 in God’s likeness we, awaking,
 know the everlasting peace.

2. O what glory, far exceeding
 all that eye has yet perceived!
 Holiest hearts, for ages pleading,
 never that full joy conceived.
 God has promised, Christ prepares it,
 there on high our welcome waits.
 Every humble spirit shares it;
 Christ has passed th’eternal gates.

3. Life eternal! heaven rejoices:
 Jesus lives, who once was dead.
 Join we now the deathless voices;
 child of God, lift up your head!
 Patriarchs from the distant ages,
 saints all longing for their heaven,
 prophets, psalmists, seers, and sages,
 all await the glory given.

4. Life eternal! O what wonders
 crowd on faith; what joy unknown,
 when, amidst earth’s closing thunders,
 saints shall stand before the throne!
 O to enter that bright portal,
 see that glowing firmament;
 know, with thee, O God Immortal,
 “Jesus Christ whom thou has sent!”

ROLL CALL OF THE HONORED DEAD

Derrek Belase and Joe Harris

Tonight, we honor those saints who have kindled the gifts of God in their lives throughout life.

As we remember them this evening, let us rekindle the gifts of God in our own lives.

As each name is read, family members and any who were impacted by his/her ministry are invited to stand in silent prayer.

CLERGY

Jack Lee Atkinson
Maurice Gerald “Jerry” Ball
Russell Edward Bracy
Mary Louise Ewing
Michael Lloyd Fletcher-Taylor
Robert Charles Gilbert
Leland Griffin Jr
Carolyn Lee Higdon
Robert Edward Kilpatrick
Raymond Ellis McCartney
Glenn Millard
James Curtis Nigh
Donald Ray Nobles
Virgil Troy Pults Jr.
Charles Edwin Watson
Perry Williams

CLERGY SPOUSES

Richard Henry Benson
Leanne Chaffin
Mary Edna Engleking
Lola Mae Hambrick
Mae Audell Hughes
Wanda King
Loraine Lawrence
Evelyn Martin
Earl Minter
Martha Jane Montgomery
Dawn Ritchie Johnston
Ynette E Sapp
Marilyn Spencer
Barbara Waters
Patricia Wood

PRAYER FOR THE SAINTS AND FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Bishop Nunn

**O God of both the living and the dead, we praise your holy name
for all your servants who have faithfully lived and died.
We thank you for the sacred ties that bind us to those unseen
who encompass us as a cloud of witnesses.
We pray that, encouraged by their example and strengthened by their fellowship,
we may be diligent followers and that nothing will be able to separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.**

CALL TO OFFERING AND PRAYER

Keith Howard

(The special offering tonight goes to the Circle of Care Boys Ranch Legacy Campaign. Please make all checks payable to the OKUMC with the memo line indicating conference offering. Join Circle of Care in transforming their historic Boys Ranch into a foster care community.)

OFFERTORY

“Count Your Blessings”
arr. Dan Miller

Robert Fasol

† DOXOLOGY

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

UMH 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to Christ's table with singing and praise.

We come to join the assembly of faithful followers.

Come to Christ's table with dancing and laughter.

We come to join the hope-filled saints of God.

Come to the feast of our faithful savior.

We come to join the lineage of our faith.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH 17

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty (almighty God), Creator of heaven and earth: God of Abraham and Sarah, God of Miriam and Moses, God of Joshua and Deborah, God of Ruth and David, God of the priests and the prophets, God of Mary and Joseph, God of the apostles and the martyrs, God of our mothers and our fathers, God of our children to all generations.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you,

broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,

poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving

as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,

as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

(All are welcome to come forward to share in Holy Communion)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Bishop Nunn

Our ancestors were wanderers, O God. We remember their journeys of faith.
Hearing our voices in times of sorrow, you lifted us up and brought us forth
into new places of promise and hope. With signs and wonders,
you shared with us the grace of Christ Jesus, and the abundance of your constant love.
We offer now our thanks and praise, with gifts for others who wander still.

† DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Bishop Nunn

Now may the Triune God, according to the abundant richness of God's mercy, grant you to be strengthened with might through God's Spirit in your inner being, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that each of you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with the fullness of God. **Amen.**

† PARTING HYMN

"Hymn of Promise"

UMH 707

1. In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

3. In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity,
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

2. There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

POSTLUDE

"Carillon"
Jules Massenet

Robert Fasol

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Bishop Jimmy Nunn, resident bishop, Oklahoma Area of the United Methodist Church
Chris Tiger, director of congregational development and conference resources, Oklahoma Conference, UMC
Maddie Day, director of youth ministry at New Hope United Methodist, Oklahoma City
Jacob Harrell, youth director, Goodrich UMC, Norman
Keith King, pastor of worship, St. Luke's UMC, Oklahoma City
Patrick McPherson, senior pastor, First UMC, Muskogee
Richard Ayers, senior pastor, First UMC, Yale
Jackie Guajardo, senior pastor, First UMC, Fay
Shelly Owen, deaconess, Intake Case Manager II, Developmental Disability Services, OKDHS
Chantelle Foster, lay member, Acts 2 UMC, Edmond
Keith Howard, president/CEO, Circle of Care, Oklahoma City
Joe Harris, conference secretary/director of Communication, Oklahoma Conference, UMC
Derrek Belase, executive director of connectional ministry, Oklahoma Conference, UMC
Robert Fasol, organist/choirmaster, St. Luke's UMC, Oklahoma City
Kevin Wilkinson, director of music ministries and communication, New Hope UMC, Oklahoma City
Tyler Stone, director of student ministries/associate director of traditional worship, New Hope UMC, Oklahoma City
Judy Horne, director of music, Village UMC, Oklahoma City

District Superintendents and Lay Leaders

Diana Northcutt, Cimarron district superintendent
Nikki Gates, Cimarron lay leader
Connie Gibson, Council Oak district superintendent
Kristen Harlin, Council Oak lay servant ministry director
Sam Powers, Crossroads district superintendent
Vicki Trussel, Crossroads lay leader
Terry Koehn, Green Country district superintendent
Debra Horsechief, Green Country lay leader
Victor McCullough, Heartland district superintendent
Laura Aldridge, Heartland lay leader
Larry Bauman, Lake Country district superintendent
Maurice Hawthorne, Lake Country lay leader
Carol Cook Moore, Northern Prairie district superintendent
Aaron Box, Northern Prairie lay representative
James Kim, Wichitas district superintendent
Jo Ann Pierce, Wichitas lay leader

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

An Annual Conference Memorial Service and Great Thanksgiving for All Saints and Memorial Occasions, *Book of Worship*, United Methodist Publishing House, Nashville, TN, 1992.
United Methodist Hymnal, United Methodist Publishing House, Nashville, TN, 1989.
Beu and Scifres, *Is It Communion Sunday Already?: Communion Resources for all Seasons*, author copyright, 2017.
The Worship Sourcebook.
Opening Prayer written by Dyton Owen.
"Nun Danket Alle Gott" by Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)
"Count Your Blessings" composed by Dan Miller, published by MorningStar Music Publishers
"Carillon" composed by Jules Massenet, published by MorningStar Music Publishers

OUR HONORED DEAD

CLERGY

Jack Lee Atkinson | May 25, 1931 – July 3, 2021

Jack Lee Atkinson was born on May 25, 1931 in Enid, Oklahoma to Ralph Edward and Harriett Mae (Duggan) Atkinson. He died on July 3, 2021 at in Elk City at 90 years old. Jack attended seminary school in York, Nebraska, completing his degree at the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. On August 14, 1955, Jack married Virginia Goldsmith in Harlem, Montana. They had four sons: Barry, Marty, David and Jon. Jack was ordained as an elder in the United Methodist Church on June 1, 1957. He served 10 churches in the Oklahoma Conference: Fairfax, Yale, Ponca City-St. Paul's, Elk City, Ada-First, OKC-St. Matthew, Miami, Enid-First, Ponca City-First, and Erick. Though he retired from ministry in 1993, he continued to pastor churches until 2019. Jack was preceded in death by his wife Virginia on June 23, 2015. Among his survivors are their four sons.

Maurice Gerald “Jerry” Ball | August 1, 1937 – August 26, 2021

Maurice Gerald “Jerry” Ball died on August 26, 2021. He was born on August 1, 1937 to Haskell and Thelma Ball in Duncan, Oklahoma. Jerry earned a bachelor's degree at Oklahoma City University and a master's degree in religion at Southern Methodist University. He later earned a master's degree in educational psychology and a doctoral degree in counseling psychology from the University of Oklahoma. Jerry married Oteka Ann Little on September 5, 1959. They had a son and daughter, Jeremy and Oteka Lyn. Jerry was ordained in the United Methodist Church on June 1, 1963. He pastored Mustang UMC from 1963 to 1967. In 1970, Jerry began to minister at the Oklahoma State Department of Health. He moved to the Regional Guidance Center in 1974, and he continued to minister there until 1997. Among his survivors are his wife and children.

Russell Edward Bracy | June 3, 1928 – September 13, 2021

Russell E. Bracy died on September 13, 2021 at 83 years old. He was born on June 3, 1928 in Clarksville, Tennessee to William C. and Iona C. Bracy. He was the first in his family to graduate high school. Russell joined the U. S. Army near the end of World War II and served in the military police. In 1952, Russell attended Vanderbilt University Divinity School in Nashville, Tennessee. He met Margaret Janelle Lovelace while attending school, and they were married on December 28, 1952. They had three children together: Sharon, Pamela and Steven. Russell was ordained on June 1, 1954. In 1955, Russell joined the Air Force Reserve as a chaplain. He served in El Paso, Texas and Miami, Florida before returning to congregational ministry in Tennessee. He moved to Oklahoma in 1960. Between 1960 and 1990, Russel pastored nine churches: Coweta, Temple, Hennessey, Shawnee-Wesley, Blackwell, Sand Springs, Lawton-First, Pryor, and Weatherford-First. He continued to serve as a chaplain, continuing with the Air Force Reserve until joining the U. S. Army Reserve in 1965. Russell became a colonel in 1980 and was appointed as the head of the Oklahoma Army National Guard Chaplain Corps. He retired from the military in 1987 and retired from the Oklahoma Conference in 1990. Russell was preceded in death by his parents. Among his survivors are his wife and children.

Mary Louise Ewing | August 27, 1945 – January 16, 2022

Mary Louise Ewing passed away on January 16, 2022 in Geary, Oklahoma at 76 years old. She was born to Glenn and Dorothy Jean (Lawry) Fash on August 27, 1945 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. She pursued a bachelor's degree at Oklahoma City University, and in 1988, she completed a course of study at the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University. Mary married Ben Delta Ewing, Jr. on April 5, 1965. She became a part-time local pastor in 1986 and an associate member in 1990. From 1986 to 2012, Mary pastored six churches in the Oklahoma Conference: Friendship, Pocasset, Duncan-Stephens, Geary, Tishomingo, and Muskogee-Trinity. After her retirement in 2012, she and Ben served in the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary teaching boat safety. Mary was preceded in death by her parents and son Ben “Delta” Ewing. Among her survivors are her husband and children Bryan Nevar, Branson Ewing, and Louann Ewing Roach.

Michael Lloyd Fletcher-Taylor | October 5, 1942 – July 14, 2021

Michael L. Fletcher-Taylor passed away on July 14, 2021. Michael was born to Manilla Taylor and Zack Taylor in San Diego, California on October 5, 1942. Michael joined the Marine Corps out of high school in 1960. He earned his master's degree at Phillips Seminary in 1989. Michael became a part-time local pastor on June 1, 1986, and he was ordained on June 1, 1991. During his time in the Oklahoma Conference, Michael pastored eight churches, including Bridgeport, Red Rock, Chapel Hill, Arapaho, Vici, Walters, OKC-Mayfair Heights, and Tulsa-Hope. He also led more than a hundred volunteers in missions throughout the world, including Mexico, Slovakia, Zimbabwe, the old Soviet Union, Alaska, and many national disaster sites. He retired from the conference in 2014. Among Michael's survivors are his wife Rev. Sharon Fletcher-Taylor and children Mary, Zack Matthew, and Daniel.

Robert Charles Gilbert | October 25, 1949 – October 24, 2021

Robert Charles "Chuck" Gilbert passed away on October 24, 2021 in Garland, Texas. He was born on October 25, 1949. Gilbert served three churches in the Oklahoma Conference between 1996 and 2017, including Canton, Anadarko-First and Leedey/Hammon. He retired in January 2017.

Leland Griffin Jr | June 22, 1938 – December 15, 2021

Leland Gardner Griffin, Jr passed away on December 15, 2021 in Muskogee, Oklahoma. He was born on June 22, 1938, to Leland Gardner Griffin, Sr. and Helen Estella Griffin in Harris, Oklahoma. He attended Oklahoma City University. Leland joined the U. S. Army while in college and served in Germany. Afterward, he returned to OCU and completed his bachelor's degree in 1967. Following college, he earned his Master of Divinity degree in 1970 at the St. Paul School of Theology in Leawood, Kansas. Leland married Elizabeth Ann Harman on May 26, 2000 in Muskogee, Oklahoma. They were married for 21 years. Leland became a part-time local pastor on June 1, 1958. He was ordained as a full elder in 1970. He pastored seven congregations in the Oklahoma Conference: Cashion, Perkins, Hugo-Wesley, Wilburton, Sulphur, Fairland, and Commerce. He was appointed to an honorable location in 1978 and retired from conference ministry in 2002. Leland was preceded in death by his parents. Among his survivors are his wife, son Jerry Griffin, and daughter Kathy Thomson.

Carolyn Lee Higdon | September 4, 1951 – August 15, 2021

Carolyn Lee Higdon, died on August 15, 2021. She was born on September 4, 1951 in Ringling, Oklahoma to parents Clayton "Doe" Mitchell and Georgia Canada. Carolyn married James Virgil Higdon on August 18, 1967. They had two children together: James V. Higdon, Jr. and Stephanie Hammons. Higdon served the Oklahoma Conference from 2007 to 2015 as the pastor of Courtney United Methodist Church in Ringling.

Robert Edward Kilpatrick | April 4, 1942 – February 9, 2022

Robert Edward "Ed" Kilpatrick was born in Pauls Valley, Oklahoma on April 4, 1942. He passed away on February 9, 2022 in McAlester, Oklahoma. He was 79 years old.

Raymond Ellis McCartney | February 17, 1944 – November 30, 2021

Raymond McCartney died on November 30, 2021. He was born on February 17, 1944. Raymond became a part-time local pastor in June 1977. He was ordained as an elder in June 1986. Raymond served in the Oklahoma Conference between 1977 and 1993, pastoring churches in Hominy, OKC-Second, Nicoma Park, and OKC-Lambuth. Among Raymond's survivors is his wife Valerie.

Glenn Edward Millard | November 5, 1933 – March 15, 2022

Glenn Edward Millard passed away on March 15, 2022. He was born on November 5, 1933 to Guy and Faye Millard in Bristow, Oklahoma. He earned a master's degree from the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in 1960. He was awarded an honorary doctorate degree from Oklahoma City University in 1986. He married Mary Millard on August 19, 1960. Glenn became a part-time local pastor in June 1953. He was ordained as an elder in June 1960. He pastored 13 churches in the Oklahoma Conference between 1953 and

1995, including McAlester-Christ, Sasakwa, Cromwell, Chickasha-Christ, OKC-First, Elmore City, Highland, Fort Cobb, Manchester, Wakita, Madill, Elk City, and Muskogee-St. Paul. In June 1995, he was appointed to Oklahoma City University in 1995 as the Vice President of University-Church Relations until his retirement in 2001. Glenn was preceded in death by his parents. Among his survivors are his wife and children Todd Millard and Traci Buckley.

James Curtis Nigh | October 29, 1941 – January 31, 2022

James Curtis Nigh passed away on January 31, 2022 in Oklahoma City. He was 80 years old. Curtis was born to James Roy Nigh and Mildred Novy Nigh on October 29, 1941 in Oklahoma City. Curtis earned a doctorate in philosophy of religion from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a master's degree in marriage and family therapy from the University of Oklahoma. Curtis pastored several churches throughout Oklahoma and Texas. He became a provisional elder in the United Methodist Church in 1995 and a deacon in full connection in 1999. He served four appointments in the Oklahoma Conference: a chaplain at Baptist Medical Center, a counselor at the Center for Therapy & Wellness, an associate pastor at OKC-Church of the Servant, and a counselor at the Center for Psychotherapy Education & Spiritual Growth. He retired from conference ministry in 2015. In 1965, Curtis married Linda Jane Stephens. The couple received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Oklahoma Association of Marriage and Family Therapy. Curtis was preceded in death by his parents. Among his survivors are his wife and daughters Andrea May and daughter Kelly Horton.

Donald Ray Nobles | March 7, 1938 – July 9, 2021

Donald R. Nobles passed on July 9, 2021. He was born in Sulphur, Oklahoma on March 7, 1938 to Leo Scott Nobles and Lillian Beasley Nobles. He married Fran Hill on March 27, 1959, and they were together for 62 years. Donald earned his Masters of Divinity from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University. He received an honorary doctorate from Oklahoma City University. On June 1, 1961, Donald became a part-time local pastor. He was ordained as an elder on June 1, 1970. He pastored eight churches in the Oklahoma Conference: Ada-First, Fitzhugh, Roff, Woodville, Kingston, Moore-New Life, Edmond-First, and Yukon-First. On June 1, 1986, Donald was named the Muskogee District Superintendent, a position he held until May 31, 1992. Don was preceded in death by his parents. Among his survivors are his wife Fran and sons Scott and Kent.

Virgil Troy Pults Jr. | September 15, 1936 – January 23, 2022

Virgil Troy Pults, Jr. passed away on January 23, 2022. He was 85 years old. Troy was born on September 15, 1936 to Virgil Troy and Bessie Mae Pults in Shawnee, Oklahoma. Troy earned a bachelor's from East Central State University in Ada, Oklahoma and a master's degree from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. Troy married Phyllis Freudenberger on August 3, 1958 in Morrison, Oklahoma. Troy first became a part-time local pastor in June 1958. He was ordained as an elder in 1970. He pastored churches in both Texas and Oklahoma. Between 1958 and 2001, Troy pastored 14 churches in the Oklahoma Conference: Morrison, Weleetka, Davis-Pathway, Highland, Fort Cobb, Mustang, Bartlesville-First, Texhoma, OKC-Penn Avenue, Duncan-St. Paul's, Newkirk, Anadarko-First, Kaw City, and Fairfax. Troy was preceded in death by his parents and son John Thomas. Among his survivors are his wife and two daughters, Teresa Franklin and Allison Pults.

Charles Edwin Watson | April 15, 1937 – December 11, 2021

Rev. Charles E. Watson passed away on December 11, 2021 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He was 84 years old. Watson was born on April 15, 1937 to Al and Gladys (Drew) Watson in Los Angeles, California. He attended both Oklahoma City University and Southwestern State University before completing his bachelor's degree at East Central State University in 1968. He later attended Phillips Seminary. Watson began to serve in the Oklahoma Conference in 1955. He was ordained as a full elder in 1970, and he served as a pastor until his retirement in 2001. His appointments included Hollister, Sappington Chapel, OKC Penn Avenue, Arapaho, Eakly, Headrick, Friendship, Lawton Bethel, Dryden, Gould, Tupelo, Stonewall, Byars, Paoli, McLoud, Shawnee Draper Street, Altus Highland Heights, Woodward First, Camargo, Leedey, Waurika, Seiling, Cogar, Gracemont,

Elgin First, Mount Zion, Rocky, Sentinel, Beaver, Mangum First, Lawton Grace and Verden. Charles was preceded in death by his parents Al and Gladys Watson as well as his step-father Samuel Ratner. Among his survivors are his wife, Ila May Watson, and sons Mark, Christopher, and David Watson.

Perry Williams | June 5, 1955 – October 30, 2021

Perry Lynn Williams died on October 30, 2021 at the age of 66. He was born on June 5, 1955 to Chester and Kathleen Williams in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He graduated from U.S. Grant High School in 1973 and married Cynthia Vanderburg in 1976. They had two sons together: Zachary and Lucas. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Religion at Oklahoma City University, a Master of Divinity at Saint Paul School of Theology, and a Doctor of Ministry at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.. He became a part-time local pastor in 1996 and was ordained as an elder in full connection in 2014. While in the Oklahoma Conference, Perry pastored Yukon-First, Union City, Billings and Garber before transferring outside the conference in 2003. He returned in 2013 and led Shawnee-St. Paul's and OKC-Village. He also led churches in Kansas and Maryland. He married Amy Oden in 2004. Perry is preceded in death by his parents and son Zachary. Among his survivors are his wife Amy and son Lucas.

CLERGY SPOUSES

Richard Henry Benson | September 10, 1944 – September 29, 2021

Richard Henry Benson passed away on September 29, 2021. He was born on September 10, 1944. Richard married Cheryl Benson, a local pastor who served the United Methodist churches in Randlett and Grandfield from June 1, 2001 to May 31, 2004. Among Richard's survivors are his wife Cheryl.

Leanne Chaffin | December 5, 1958 – February 28, 2022

Leanne Chaffin died on February 28, 2022 at 63 years old. She was born on December 5, 1958 to parents, Richard Hedger and Dolores Hedger. Leanne married Rev. Mike Chaffin on May 20, 1978. Chaffin served five churches in the Oklahoma Conference between 1978 and his retirement in 2019, including Helena, Rosston, Laverne, Guymon-Victory, and Stillwater-First. He was also the Tulsa District Superintendent between 2004 and 2011. Among Leanne's survivors are her parents, husband, and children Nick Chaffin, Aaron Chaffin, Michelle Dykes, and Markie Chaffin.

Mary Edna Engleking | June 27, 1927 – October 29, 2021

Mary Edna Engleking passed away on October 29, 2021. She was born on June 27, 1927 to parents Adron and Katherine Bradfor in Polk County, Missouri. She graduated from Shindler High School and studied secretarial skills in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. While in Bartlesville, Mary met Ray Paul Engleking. They were married on March 16, 1946. Ray was a full-time local pastor in the Oklahoma Conference. Between 1965 and 1982 he pastored Dacoma, Orlando, Shawnee-St. Pauls, Calumet, Skedee, and Pawnee-First. Ray passed away in 1982. Mary continued to be involved in United Methodist Women ministries at OKC-Cornerstone and the Mobile Meals program. Mary was preceded in death by her parents, husband, and son Billy Joe. Among her survivors are her children Ed, Don, and Paula.

Lola Mae Capps Hambrick | May 19, 1940 – November 3, 2021

Dr. Lola Mae Capps Hambrick passed away on November 3, 2021. She was born to Geneva Lucas and Luther Capps on May 19, 1940 in Sallisaw, Oklahoma. She earned her Master of Liberal Arts at Oklahoma City University and a Doctorate of Christian Counseling at American Christian College and Seminary. She worked as a registered nurse, teacher of nursing, and hospital administrator. Lola married Rev. Fred Hambrick, an ordained minister who served several churches in Arkansas as well as the Oklahoma Conference. Lola was a mother by marriage, adoption, birth, and fostering to Margaret, Wade, Allen, and Greta, respectively. Lola was preceded in death by her parents, husband, and son Wade. Among her survivors are children Margaret, Allen, and Greta.

Mae Audell Hughes | February 15, 1931 – September 7, 2021

Mae Hughes of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma passed away on September 7, 2021 at 90 years old. She was born on February 15, 1931 to Tony Orton and Hazel Audrey Murray in Thomas, Oklahoma. Mae married Rev. Clayton O. Hughes in 1954. Clayton pastored nine churches in the Oklahoma Conference, including Olustee, Granite, Cheyenne, McAlester-Wesley, OKC-South Lee, Altus-First, Guymon-Victory, Clinton, and Weatherford-First. They had two children together: Ned and Mary. Daughter Mary was ordained as a deacon in 2003 and serves as both the Executive Director of Crisis Care Ministries and associate pastor at St. Luke's -Edmond. Mae was preceded in death by her parents and husband; her children are among her survivors.

Wanda King | April 23, 1924 – November 9, 2021

Wanda J. Ward King was born on April 23, 1924 in Marshall County, Oklahoma. She passed away on November 9, 2021, in Hamilton, Texas. She was 97 years old. Wanda, a long-time teacher in the Madill Public Schools system, married Rev. Roy L. Ward, Sr., a United Methodist minister who passed away in September 1971. Later in life, she married Lester King, who also preceded her in death. Among Wanda's survivors are son Roy Ward and stepson Royce King.

Loraine Lawrence | February 22, 1939 – March 24, 2022

Loraine Marie Lawrence died in Rogers, Arkansas on March 24, 2022. She was born on February 22, 1939 to Thomas and Anna Bryant in St. Louis, Missouri. She attended Northwest Bible College in Minot, North Dakota and earned her associate's degree from Connors State College in Warner, Oklahoma. She married Vernon Lawrence on April 28, 1956. Vernon pastored 14 churches in the Oklahoma Conference between 1974 and 2005, including Erick, Liberty, Altus-Grace, Friendship, Red Rock, Hinton, Carnegie, Muskogee-Trinity, Stigler, Gould, Hollis, Eufaula, Sulphur, Vian. Loraine was preceded in death by her parents and husband. Among her survivors are her children Renee, Sheryl, Marcus, Roger, and Nathan.

Evelyn Martin | March 18, 1920 – January 29, 2022

Evelyn Laverne Martin passed away on January 29, 2022. She was 101. Evelyn was born on March 18, 1920 to L. L. and Beulah McCown in Haskell County. She married Homer M. Martin, Jr. on November 30, 1947. Between 1960 and 1974, Homer pastored six churches in the Oklahoma Conference, including Hydro, Tulsa-First, Muskogee-Trinity, Sand Springs, Whitebead, and Maysville. Evelyn is preceded in death by her husband, parents, and son Michael Martin. Among her survivors are her daughters Sue Martin and Jan Snow.

Earl Samuel Minter Jr. | November 21, 1937 – March 4, 2022

Earl Samuel Minter, Jr., passed away on March 4, 2022. He was born to Earl Sr. and Lila Copp Minter on November 21, 1937 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Earl attended Oklahoma State University and earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in business. He married Rev. Carole Sue Graham on August 29, 1959. Carole began her ministry in the Oklahoma Conference in 1997 and served the Tulsa-University and Fairland churches. Though she retired in 2008, she continued to pastor Fairland until 2013. Earl was involved in church missions, including working with Backyard Missions of Kendall-Whittier Ministries and taking a mission trip to North Macedonia. Earl was preceded in death by his parents. Among his survivors are his wife and children Jeff Minter, Cindy Alonso, and Todd Minter.

Martha Jane Montgomery | June 26, 1936 – September 21, 2021

Martha Jane Montgomery passed away on September 21, 2021. She was born on June 26, 1936 to G. Munsell and Mildred Lane in Springfield, Ohio. Martha received a bachelor's degree in nursing from Ohio State University in 1958 and a master's degree in public health from Oklahoma University in 1980. She was a member of the Oklahoma Nurses Association and received the Oklahoma Nurse of the Year Award in 1980. Martha married Reed Lane Montgomery on January 2, 1956. Reed was a full-time local pastor in the Oklahoma Conference from 1991 to 2010. He served the Red Rock, Waurika, and OKC-Linwood churches. Martha was preceded in death

by her husband and son Robin Montgomery. Among her survivors are Ryan Montgomery, Chris, Brandon, Bo Montgomery, Brandi Morrill, Kathy Lane, and Pete Lane.

Dawn Ritchie Johnston | October 18, 1934 – September 6, 2021

Dawn Johnston went home to be with Jesus on September 6, 2021, with her loving daughters at her side. She was born on October 18, 1934, in Poteau, Oklahoma to James and Virginia Daley. She moved to Oklahoma City as a young girl. She married and raised three daughters, Cindy White, Wendy Gorman and Laurie Kelly. She worked as a dental assistant and was active in her church. In her later years she moved back to the Poteau area where she lived until recently when her health declined. She is survived by her daughters; brother, John Daly.

Ynette E Sapp | August 23, 1926 – July 19, 2021

Ynette Elizabeth Sapp passed away on July 19, 2021 in Parker, Colorado. She was 94 years old. Elizabeth was born on August 23, 1926. She and her identical twin sister Olvette were adopted at birth by Carl and Minnie Culley of El Reno, Oklahoma. She attended St. Anthony's School of Nursing in Oklahoma City. Ynette married Charles L. Sapp on June 6, 1948 She and Charles lived in several states while he pursued his calling to ministry. Charles served six churches in the Oklahoma Conference between 1976 and his retirement in 1994, including Norman-McFarlin, Enid-Bethany, Stillwater-Highland Park, Perry-First, Oklahoma City-Village, and Texhoma. She worked full-time as an obstetrical nurse, and she volunteered in each church community in many capacities. She also traveled with Olvette across the country to participate in twins conferences. Ynette was preceded in death by her husband and parents. Among her survivors are her children Michael Sapp and Lynette McKinney.

Marilyn Spencer | November 22, 1927 – August 29, 2021

Marilyn Spencer passed away on August 29, 2021. She was born to Mitchell and Gladys Garrison in Tulsa, Oklahoma on November 22, 1927. Marilyn attended the University of Tulsa. There she met Gordon Spencer, whom she married in 1947. Together they raised six children. After living in Illinois for Gordon to complete his degree in seminary, they returned to Oklahoma. Gordon served several churches in the Oklahoma Conference between 1952 and 1987, including Zion, Stilwell, Stigler, Turley, Weatherford-First, Dewey, OKC-Britton and Tulsa-Boston Ave.

Barbara Waters | September 10, 1929 – September 1, 2021

Barbara Jane Waters passed away on September 1, 2021, just nine days away from her 92nd birthday. She was born to Virgil and Fern Troup on September 10, 1929 in Amarillo, Texas. Barbara graduated from Enid High School and attended Phillips University. While there, she met Donald Scott Waters. They were married on August 5, 1949 and soon after moved to Stillwater. Barbara earned her bachelor's degree in English at Oklahoma A & M in 1950. After her graduation, she and Donald moved to Texas where they had three children. Donald attended seminary, and he served two United Methodist Churches in Texas. Barbara and Donald later moved back to Oklahoma, and Donald received his first appointment in the Oklahoma Conference in 1961. He served as a pastor until 1990. Donald's appointments included Lamont, Newkirk, Prairie Chapel, Drumright, Tulsa Trinity, OKC St. John's and Pauls Valley. Barbara is preceded in death by Donald, who passed away on November 29, 2012. Among Barbara's survivors are her children: Dan Waters, Cindy Martindale and Mary Cecelia Shirazi.

Patricia Ann Wood | May 20, 1941 – January 19, 2022

Patricia Ann Wood died on January 19, 2022 at the age of 80. She was born on May 20, 1941 in Houston, Texas to Mary Hallie Rhea and Eldridge "Cotton" Rhea. She married Kent Wood on May 3, 1969. They had four children together. Kent served as an elder in the Oklahoma Conference between 1976 and 2009. He pastored congregations in Fargo, Hunter, Lawton-Aldersgate Redemption, Mountain Park, Snyder, Waukomis, Arnett, Atoka, Gracemont, Cogar, Union City, and Arapaho. In addition to supporting her husband's ministry, she was involved with the United Methodist Women. Patricia was preceded in death by her husband. Among her survivors are her children Tony Wood, Linda Peck, Brad Wood, and Tricia Magavern.

OKLAHOMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2022

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the Gifts of God:

LOVE, POWER & SELF-DISCIPLINE

For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. 2nd Timothy 1:6-7 NRSV

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