

MEMOIRS

In loving memory of all the clergy members of the Rocky Mountain Conference and their spouses who have died during this year, these memoirs are submitted. A sincere thanks to family members and others, including the liaison work of Nancy Cox and Jana Collins, who share the information on which these memoirs are based.

Richard A. Vickery, Memoirs Secretary

CLERGY MEMBERS & SPOUSES

Name	Date of Birth and Place	Date of Death and Place
Evan Vance Brian, Sr.	11/14/1918, Arriba, CO	05/07/2016, Stillwater, OK
Bethel Charlotte Brian	06/03/1922, Beaver County, OK	05/24/2016, Stillwater, OK
Laura Virginia Knudsen	08/11/1922, Brighton, CO	06/05/2016, Fort Collins, CO
George Arthur Brown		06/23/2016, Centennial, CO
Jack A. Pedotto, Sr.	04/09/1934, Adams County, CO	07/09/2016, Greeley, CO
Gertrude (Trudy) Barlow	12/1925, Vienna, Austria	07/29/2016, Englewood, CO
Patricia Lee Bollack	07/27/1941, Baltimore, MD	08/24/2016, Colorado Springs, CO
Kathleen Maulsby Grooters	04/26/1921, Vinton, IA	09/10/2016, Fort Collins, CO
Louis M. Pratt	08/30/1932, Jamestown, NY	09/24/2016, Pueblo West, CO
Erma L. Hines	10/11/1920, Hamilton County, NE	09/30/2016, Akron, CO
Thomas William Hall	09/20/1921, Portis, KS	10/24/2016, Davis, CA
Christine Williams Xavier	09/11/1943, Pakistan	11/14/2016, Lafayette, CO
Helen H. Keeseey	08/31/1929, Philadelphia, PA	11/18/2016, Aurora, CO
Harold Estevan Sanchez	06/10/1930, Alcalde, NM	12/20/2016, Albuquerque, NM
Clair Eugene Mitchell	04/23/1929, Sioux Falls, SD	01/06/2017, Des Moines, WA
Joy M. Smith	11/05/1943, Houston, TX	01/22/2017, Aurora, CO
John Alton Templin	09/27/1927, Hoehne, CO	02/01/2017, Englewood, CO
Gene Dennis Yelken	10/17/1930, Macon, NE	03/07/2017, Colorado Springs, CO
Dorothy (Dotty) A. Creager	03/19/1937, Illinois	03/24/2017, Littleton, CO
Edna Teague Bragonier	07/18/1927, Bluemont, VA	04/15/2017, Fort Collins, CO
David Robert Huffnagle	09/21/1938, Philadelphia, PA	04/20/2017, Denver, CO

EVAN VANCE and BETHEL CHARLOTTE BRIAN

Evan Vance Brian, Sr. was born on November 14, 1918, on a homestead north of Arriba, Colorado to Basil and Effe Norman Brian, the ninth of ten children. Both parents died in Evan's adolescent years, leaving him without the benefit of a permanent home in 1935, in the middle of the Great Depression. He was provided for by family and friends during this difficult time. He was employed at various times on farms, ranches, saw mills and construction companies.

Evan joined the armed services during the Second World War and was stationed at Camp Roberts and Fort Ord, California. He became an instructor in field artillery and completed almost six years of military service prior to his discharge.

Bethel Charlotte Brian was born on June 3, 1922 in Beaver County, Oklahoma to Wilson Elmer Douglas and Ruth Millikan Douglas. She was one of two daughters. She grew up in the Sunset Community of Beaver County, where she attended grade and high schools. During the war years, Bethel worked as a riveter on aircrafts as part of the war effort. Later she worked as a home care products representative and a greenhouse employee. She enjoyed knitting, crocheting and reading.

Evan and Bethel were married on May 26, 1942, at Beaver, Oklahoma. They had three children: Evan Vance, Jr., Barry Lynn, and Donna Beth. They also had seven grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

Evan was a graduate of McMurry College, Abilene, Texas in 1950 and the Iliff School of Theology, Denver, Colorado in 1960 where he earned a Master's of Theology degree. Evan was ordained a deacon and admitted on trial to the Northwest Texas Conference in 1954 and ordained an elder and received as a full member into the Rocky Mountain Conference in 1960. Together they served churches in Texas, Wyoming and Colorado, and retired in 1982 from 31 years of pastoral ministry. In retirement they made their home in Cortez, Colorado for two decades, in La Junta, Colorado for an additional eight years and eventually in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

It was there that they both died in May 2016: Evan on the 7th at ninety-seven years of age and Bethel on the 24th at ninety-three years of age.



Laura “Virginia” Knudsen was born in Brighton, Colorado on August 11, 1922, the third of three daughters, to a homesteading family on the threshold of Colorado’s eastern plains. On August 12, 1945 she married the Rev. Harold C. Knudsen. Upon his death in July, 1996, they had shared fifty years of marriage. They parented three sons: Herb, John and Richard and enjoyed six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

With Hal, Virginia entered into the life of local congregations and communities across Colorado, including an eighteen year pastorate at East United Methodist Church, Colorado Springs. With Hal’s appointment as Denver North District Superintendent and subsequently as Rocky Mountain Conference Treasurer, Virginia’s talents were focused in connectional work as a leader in the conference United Methodist Women and as an advocate for the Kenyan Partnership. She derived much pleasure from her flower and vegetable gardening, she was an ardent fan of the Colorado Rockies and enjoyed playing bridge.

In her retirement years, Virginia was a resident of the Sunny Acres Villa of Northglenn, Colorado and The Worthington in Fort Collins, Colorado, where she continued to be the consummate volunteer. Virginia’s life was a hallmark of the Christian faith, devotion to Christ’s Church, the love of family and abiding friendships. In March of 2016, Virginia suffered a stroke. She died in Fort Collins, Colorado, on June 5, 2016 at ninety-three years of age.

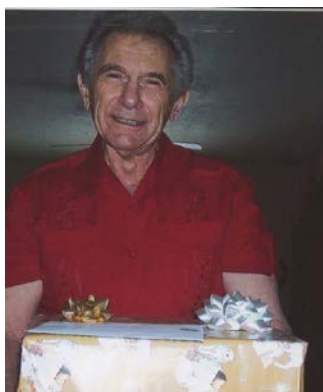
GEORGE ARTHUR BROWN

George Arthur Brown was ordained a deacon and admitted on trial into the Rocky Mountain Conference in 1977, and ordained an elder and received in full connection in 1982. George earned undergraduate and Doctor of Jurisprudence degrees. He was the founding pastor and served for nine years at Heritage United Methodist Church, Littleton, Colorado, and seven years as pastor of Emmanuel United Methodist Church, Englewood, Colorado, before retiring in 1998.

George died on June 23, 2016 in Centennial, Colorado.



JACK A. PEDOTTO, SR.



Jack A. Pedotto, Sr., was born into the vegetable farming family of Dominic and Mary Pedotto on April 9, 1934 in Adams County, Colorado. He received a Master’s of Divinity degree from Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California and took graduate studies at The King’s Seminary and Bible College, Southlake, Texas.

Jack was ordained a deacon and admitted on trial in the Rocky Mountain Conference in 1986 and ordained an elder and admitted in full connection in 1989. He served as an associate pastor for the Steamboat Springs and Oak Creek Charge, 1986-1991 and the Holyoke Charge 1991-1998, after which he took the retired status. Jack will be remembered for the many persons both inside and outside the church whom he led to Christ. In retirement, Jack served the Wiggins Community Church in Wiggins, Colorado, led home-centered Bible studies and conducted worship services at a skilled-care facility.

Jack was the father of nine children: David, Jack, Jr., Donna, Dan, Joann, Jeff, Darryl, John and Jennifer. Jack had nine grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. On June 14, 1997, Jack was married to Alma

Jean in Holyoke, Colorado and shared nineteen years together at the time of his death.

Jack died in Greeley, Colorado, on July 9, 2016 at eighty-two years of age.

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GERTRUDE (TRUDY) BARLOW



Gertrude (Trudy) Barlow was born in December, 1925 in Vienna, Austria to Rudolf and Berta Hoyer as one of two daughters. At the end of the Second World War she married Thomas A. Barlow. The couple relocated to Lawrence, Kansas. To them were born daughters Louise (now deceased) and Rhonda and a son Thomas A., Jr. They also celebrated two granddaughters and several step-children and their families. In 1954 the family returned to Europe for a decade, living in Germany and France, and relocated in 1964 to Boulder, Colorado.

Trudy was consecrated a diaconal minister in the Rocky Mountain Conference in 1982 and served on the staff of First United Methodist Church, Boulder, Colorado. She retired in 1994. In retirement she was involved in many of the ministries of Hope United Methodist Church, Greenwood Village, Colorado.

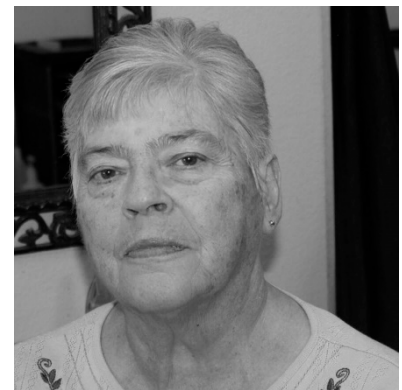
For the past dozen years she was a resident of the Brookdale Meridian Englewood. After a brief illness, Trudy died on July 29, 2016 in Englewood, Colorado, at ninety years of age.

PATRICIA LEE BOLLACK

Patricia Lee Bollack was born in Baltimore, Maryland, on July 27, 1941, the oldest of two children to Bob and Alice Hicks. She grew up and graduated from high school in Bel Air, Maryland. On June 12, 1960, she married her high school sweetheart Ed Bollack at the Methodist Church in Bel Air. They celebrated 56 years together in the summer of her death.

It was in 1960 that Ed and Pat came to Colorado. They were parents to three children: Laura, Deb and John. They also enjoyed five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Pat's life calling was as a mother and homemaker. She was also employed for 13 years as secretary for the Phillips United Methodist Church of Lakewood, Colorado.

In her church life Pat served as Church School Superintendent, Vacation Bible School Director, president of United Methodist Women, lay director of the Walk to Emmaus, Stephen Minister and Communion steward. In her community life Pat gave leadership to the Girl Scouts, she volunteered as a Cub Scout Den Mother and a transporter of Meals-on-Wheels. She supported Ed's ministry as a local pastor for the churches in Sundance, Wyoming, Yuma, Colorado, and - in Ed's retirement - East United Methodist Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado. She was a long-time member of the Central United Methodist Church of Colorado Springs.



Pat died in Colorado Springs, Colorado, on August 24, 2016, at seventy-five years of age.

KATHLEEN MAULSBY GROOTERS

Kathleen Maulsby Grooters was born on April 26, 1921 in Vinton, Iowa, into the farming family of Forrest McKinley King and Bertha Belle (Harper) King. She graduated in 1942 with a Registered Nursing degree from Iowa Lutheran School of Nursing, Des Moines, Iowa.

She met and married the Rev. Donald J. Grooters on October 1, 1983 at Allenspark, Colorado. Kathleen had four children: Ron, Bill, John and Janet and two-step-sons: Ron and Jay. In addition she was grandmother to fourteen grandchildren and thirty-five great-grandchildren. During her lifetime Kathleen knitted over sixty afghans for family and friends. For over twenty years she sang with the Wesleyannes at the First United Methodist Church in Longmont, Colorado.

Kathleen died in Fort Collins, Colorado, on September 10, 2016 at ninety-five years of age.

LOUIS M. PRATT

Louis M. Pratt was born on August 30, 1932 in Jamestown, New York to William T. Pratt. His mother died when Louis was 10 years of age. He received a Master's of Divinity degree at the Iliff School of Theology, Denver, Colorado in 1968 and a Master's of Arts degree from the University of Chicago School of Divinity, Chicago, Illinois in 1972.

He married his wife Rosa on July 11, 1963 in Rümlang, Switzerland. They shared fifty-three years of marriage at the time of his death. To them were born two children, Edna Catherine and Susan Elizabeth, and two grandchildren.

Louis was ordained a deacon and admitted on trial into the Rocky Mountain Conference in 1962, and ordained an elder and received into full connection in 1966. After his appointment to the Kit Carson United Methodist Church in Colorado, he transferred to the Rock River Annual Conference, serving the Manhattan United Methodist Church in Illinois for seven years. He then transferred to the Yellowstone Annual Conference and served churches of the Dutton-Brady charge in Montana. Returning to the Rocky Mountain Conference, he served as pastor to churches for twelve years in Utah at Price, in Colorado at the Sargent Community-Mosca charge, at Walsh, at the Calhan-Rush charge and at the Walsenburg-Gardner charge. He also served in Wyoming at Christ United Methodist Church in Casper.

After his retirement in 1996, Louis taught bible classes, provided pulpit supply and built homes with Care-A-Vanners of Habitat for Humanity. During the early years of his ministry he published two books on worship resources. Louis had a love of hiking, skiing, playing the guitar and singing.

Louis died in Pueblo West, Colorado on September 24, 2016 at eighty-four years of age.

ERMA L. HINES

Erma L. Hines was born on October 11, 1920 in Hamilton County, Nebraska, to the farming family of Ray and Margaret Lewis Eckerson. She was one of five siblings. She graduated from public school in Aurora, Nebraska. Erma taught from 1938-1942 in a one room schoolhouse where her mother taught 40 years earlier.

In 1939 York College student Ralph Clifford Hines was a candidate as pastor at the Prairie Gem United Brethren Church and Erma was on the selection committee which chose him. Ralph frequently had Sunday dinner in the Eckerson Family Home. They were married on June 8, 1942 in Aurora, Nebraska. They parented four children: Ronald Lee, Cheryl Louise, Max Allen and Calvin Ray. They also enjoyed 10 grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

For the five years Ralph attended seminary they were house parents at Otterbein House in Dayton, Ohio. Upon Ralph's graduation the couple moved to Colorado where Ralph served as pastor of Evangelical United Brethren Churches in Denver, Boulder, Pueblo, Sterling and Fort Lupton. The family also lived in Colorado Springs after Ralph was elected Conference Superintendent.

It was during the early years of their ministry that Erma took tailoring classes and developed a lifelong love of tailoring, sewing, millinery, fabric and leather goods. For a quarter of a century, Erma was a member of the Extension Homemakers and thoroughly enjoyed many projects with her love of sewing, making crafts, cooking, baking and being with people.

Erma died on September 30, 2016 in Akron, Colorado at ninety-five years of age.



THOMAS WILLIAM HALL



T. William “Bill” Hall was born on September 20, 1921, in Portis, Kansas into the Methodist parsonage family of Elmer and Myrtle Hall. He graduated with a Bachelor’s of Arts degree with majors in history and music from Kansas Wesleyan University, Salina, Kansas, in 1942; with a Master’s of Arts degree from the Iliff School of Theology, Denver, Colorado, in 1946; a Ph.D. from Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, in 1956.

Bill married his college sweetheart Ruth Fisher in Belleville, Kansas in 1943. At the time of Bill’s death they had shared seventy-three years of marriage. To them were born three children: Carolyn Jane, Kristin Elaine and Douglas William. They also had five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Bill was ordained a deacon and admitted on trial in the Colorado Conference in 1944 and ordained an elder and admitted into full connection in 1946. Throughout his career Bill served local churches in Denver, Colorado; Providence, Rhode Island; and Pittsburg, Kansas. He was named “Alumni of the Year” by both his undergraduate and graduate institutions. He served as missionary to the English

speaking church in Indonesia.

Bill’s passion was teaching, holding academic positions at Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kansas; Stephens College, Columbia, Missouri; and for twenty years at Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York. Bill and Ruth traveled widely, lecturing about and studying the origins of world religions. He published three books and innumerable articles. It has been said that Bill’s commitment to liberal religion was the foundation of his passion for justice for all peoples regardless of race, religion or sexuality.

Bill died on October 24, 2016 in Davis, California at ninety-five years of age.

CHRISTINE WILLIAMS XAVIER

Christine Williams Xavier was a native of Pakistan. She met Francis Xavier while she was a student and he was an advisor to the Student Christian Movement of Pakistan. They were married on August 23, 1947 and together they parented son Zahid Pasha and daughter Seemie.

Christine was ordained a deacon and admitted on trial into the Rocky Mountain Conference in 1982, and ordained an elder and received into full membership in 1985. After filling several positions on ministerial staffs of churches in the Denver area, Christine became pastor of Colorado congregations including Brush, Lafayette, Hygiene, Springfield, Walsh, Two Buttes, and Commerce City. She took the retired status in 2009.

In the life of the conference, Christine was an outspoken advocate for the role and status of women, racial equality and social justice causes. Known for her angelic smile, sparkling energy and unconditional love, she was appreciated for the kindness, compassion and integrity by which she lived.



Christine died suddenly on November 14, 2016 in Lafayette, Colorado at seventy-three years of age.

HELEN H. KEESEY



Helen Keeseey was born on August 31, 1929 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to educators Charles Wendell and Eliza Holmes. She graduated summa cum laude in 1971 from Metropolitan State College, Denver, Colorado with a Bachelor of Arts in Education; and the University of Denver, Denver, Colorado with a Master’s in Social Work, majoring in geriatrics, in 1984.

Helen was married to the Rev. James C. Keeseey on September 2, 1947. They shared sixty-five years of marriage at the time of Jim’s death in 2013. They raised a son, James Carroll, Jr., and a daughter, Dorthea. They also had one grandson. Helen supported Jim’s pastorates in Worland, Wyoming; Denver and Pueblo, Colorado and his superintendency on the Rocky Mountain Conference cabinet. She received awards for her work with Volunteer Services for Seniors in Grand County, Colorado and as an Advocate for the Elderly in Pueblo, Colorado. She was a lifelong member of the P.E.O. Sisterhood and United Methodist Women.

Helen died on November 18, 2016 in Aurora, Colorado at eighty-seven years of age.

HAROLD ESTEVAN SANCHEZ

Harold Estevan Sanchez was born on June 10, 1930 in Alcalde, New Mexico, into the home of Augustine Sanchez and Ophelia Sanchez. He was the oldest child in a family of two brothers and two sisters. Harold was a graduate of McCurdy Mission School. He attended Highlands University, Las Vegas, New Mexico, received his undergraduate degree at York College, Nebraska, and a Master's of Divinity degree from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.



It was while at the McCurdy School that Harold met his high school sweetheart, Audelia. They were married on June 5, 1947. To them were born sons: Philip (deceased) and Stephen Harold Estevan II; daughters Winona (deceased), Rebecca Lois Joy, Elizabeth Quintina and Anita Mae. They were also grandparents to two grandchildren.

Harold was ordained a deacon and admitted on trial in the Rocky Mountain Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1953 and ordained an elder and received into full connection in 1956. Both Harold and Audelia were assigned and commissioned as home missionaries by the National Division of the former Board of Missions of the Evangelical United Brethren Church, now Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. Harold served as the Pastor at La Iglesia del Salvador in Hernandez, New Mexico, for 14 years. He was bilingual – fluent in both English and Spanish. During that time Harold and Audelia served as counselors at Temple Hills (Rocky Mountain Conference) Camp. They were then assigned to El Paso, Texas, where Harold taught at Lydia Patterson Institute for two years. After retiring from the Rocky Mountain Conference, the family moved to Albuquerque where Harold taught for many years in the Albuquerque Public Schools system, and continued his involvement in the church.

In recent years, Audelia cared for Harold following a debilitating stroke until her death when members of his family continued the care. Harold died on December 20, 2016 in Albuquerque, New Mexico at eighty-six years of age.

CLAIR EUGENE MITCHELL



Clair Eugene Mitchell was born on April 23, 1929 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, one of three sons, to Lloyd and Marie Antoine Mitchell. He graduated from Washington High School, Sioux Falls, South Dakota in 1947, from Dakota Wesleyan University in 1951, and from The Iliff School of Theology, Denver, Colorado with a Master's of Divinity degree in 1955. He later earned a Master's degree in guidance and counseling at South Dakota State University, Brookings, South Dakota.

Clair met his future wife Phyllis Zenor on the University of Denver campus, and they were married on June 11, 1955 in Denver, Colorado. At the time of Clair's death, they had been married for sixty-one years. To them were born sons Jon (deceased) and Paul, and daughter Sally Jo (deceased). They also enjoyed three grandchildren.

Ordained a deacon and admitted on trial in 1951 in the South Dakota Conference, Clair was ordained an elder and received into full membership in 1956. His first 26 years of representative ministry were spent in local churches, campus ministries and institutions of higher education in the South Dakota Conference. Transferring to the Rocky Mountain Conference in 1978, Clair shared in the life of local congregations on Colorado's western slope, Denver and Colorado Springs. He took the retired status in 1989.

A lover of music, photography and his faith, Clair will be remembered for the love shown, the care provided and the dedication expressed throughout his thirty-four years of pastoral ministry. He died on January 6, 2017 in Des Moines, Washington, at eighty-seven years of age.

JOY M. SMITH

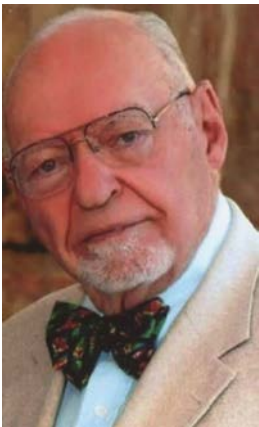
Joy M. Smith was born on November 5, 1943 in Houston, Texas to Roy Smith, a ship construction worker, and Frances Wall. She married O. Gregory Smith on August 26, 1964 in Hobbs, New Mexico. They had shared fifty-two years of marriage at the time of her death. To them were born two daughters: Carol and Sheryl. They also had five grandchildren.

Joy earned a Bachelor's of Arts degree, magna cum laude, in 1965 from McMurry College, Abilene, Texas. Gregory transferred from the North Texas Conference to the Rocky Mountain Conference in 1972 and was appointed to charges in southeast Colorado. Joy volunteered in the local churches in the areas of visual and composition art. In addition, she owned her own wedding cake business for six years.

During the years Gregory was appointed to charges on the front range, Joy was employed at the Division of Attorney Regulation for the Colorado Supreme Court. In addition, she arranged for the donation of seventy-five wheelchairs to world-wide ministries, she volunteered at the Childhood Division of Denver's National Jewish Center and taught English as a Second Language (ESL) classes.

With Gregory she compiled the scriptural verses for their joint publication *9-1-1 for Souls in Life Crisis*, with side stories of her forty-one years as a pastor's wife. She shared in bible study groups for a lifetime. Joy died on January 22, 2017 in Aurora, Colorado, at seventy-three years of age.

JOHN ALTON TEMPLIN



John Alton Templin was born on a farm homesteaded by his grandparents, near Hoehne, Colorado on September 27, 1927. He was the eldest of four children of John Wesley and Stella Mable Canterbury Templin. He graduated from high school in 1945 in Fort Morgan, Colorado. He joined the Army Air Corps as a part of the United States occupying force in Japan. He served as an organist and as secretary to the headquarters chaplain of the Fifth Air Force in Nagoya, Japan.

Alton graduated from the University of Denver in 1950 with majors in psychology and religion and minors in music and German. He graduated from The Iliff School of Theology, Denver, Colorado with Master's and Doctor's of Theology degrees in 1950 and 1956. He completed a Doctor's of Philosophy degree in history and the philosophy of religion from Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1966.

In the summer of 1951 Alton met Dorothy Jean Lear on the Denver campus. They were married on December 31, 1952 in Garden City, Kansas. They had three children: Kayla Jean, Anne Revae, and Bryce Alton; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. At the time of Alton's death, the two had celebrated sixty-four years of marriage. Together they traveled to all fifty states and fifty-nine foreign

countries.

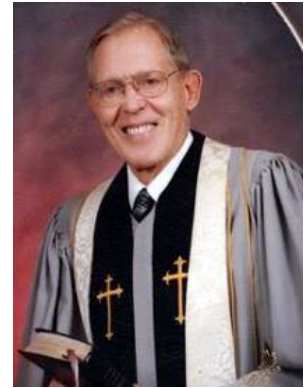
Alton held teaching positions at University of South Dakota, Vermillion, South Dakota and Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas. He spent a thirty-year teaching career at The Iliff School of Theology, Denver, Colorado as Professor of Historical Theology and Church History. He retired in 1997. Author/editor of at least four books and countless other publications, Alton was the authority on northern European Reformation History and Theology. He had a deep devotion to the people of Kenya and their academic pursuits, and traveled to that African nation with Dorothy nine times to teach.

In the words of another, "Overall, Alton was a man of depth - depth of knowledge in his fields of interest, depth of character and devotion, depth of thinking and reflection, depth of love for all living things that he brought into this world and nurtured."

Alton died on February 1, 2017 in Englewood, Colorado at eighty-nine years of age.

GENE DENNIS YELKEN

Gene Dennis Yelken was born on October 17, 1930 in Macon, Nebraska, the son of the farming family of Frank T. and Esther Blank Yelken. Graduating from Franklin High School, Franklin, Nebraska, Gene went on to earn a Bachelor's of Science degree from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska in 1953 and a Master's of Divinity degree from the Iliff School of Theology in 1960.



Gene married Alice Ann in Franklin, Nebraska in 1954. They had celebrated fifty years of marriage at the time of Alice's death in 2004. Gene married Miriam DePlomb in Colorado Springs in 2007. Left to mourn and remember are Gene and Alice's son Chris, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Prior to being called into representative ministry, Gene was a high school teacher of English and biological science and a track and field coach, whose teams won Nebraska State championships. Throughout his life, Gene enjoyed athletics, receiving state honors in football, basketball and track, setting high school records for the 800 meters, and playing semi-professional baseball and basketball. In later life Gene came to love the game of golf. He was an ardent "Big Reds" (University of Nebraska) fan. In addition, Gene loved singing classical and hymnody quartets.

Having been ordained a deacon and admitted on trial into the Rocky Mountain Conference in 1958, Gene was ordained an elder and received into full connection in 1960. Throughout thirty-seven years of representative ministry, Gene served conference churches in Salt Lake City, Utah, and Colorado churches in Sterling, Golden and Denver - capped by a seventeen-year pastorate at the St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He took the retired status in 1995.

In addition to mentoring sixteen associate pastors, Gene touched the lives of countless laity. He had the gift of remembering the name of every person he met. Gene died on March 7, 2017 in Colorado Springs, Colorado at eighty-six years of age.

DOROTHY (DOTTY) A. CREAGER

Dorothy (Dotty) Creager was born on March 19, 1937 in Illinois to Bert and Freda Creager. The family moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado, when Dotty was in elementary school. As a youth she enjoyed choir and being employed as a playground advisor for the city's recreation department.

Dotty graduated from the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado in 1959 and taught at the junior high level in Colorado Springs for several years. Graduating from Garrett Theological Seminary, Evanston, Illinois in 1965 with a Master's of Religious Education, Dotty became a director of Christian education of a church in Long Beach, California, and returned to Colorado to take a similar position at First United Methodist Church, Littleton.

Consecrated as a diaconal minister in the Rocky Mountain Conference in 1983, she was ordained a deacon and was received into Conference membership in 1999. For nearly two decades Dotty was the sole member of the committee on investigation for diaconal ministers for the conference.

In 1978, Dotty became director of housing for the Iliff School of Theology, Denver, Colorado, a position she held for 22 years until her retirement in 2005. In this role she was always helpful and responsive to students and their family members for their housing needs and concerns. In particular she made certain that each child of student families in Iliff housing received a Christmas and Easter present.

Dotty thoroughly enjoyed classical music, her animal companions (including birds and canines) and raising house plants. In retirement, Dotty participated in local church choirs, United Methodist Women and volunteered in her local library. Dotty died on March 24, 2017 in Littleton, Colorado at eighty years of age.

EDNA TEAGUE BRAGONIER



Edna Teague Bragonier was born on July 18, 1927 in Bluemont, Virginia, to Millard and Lottie Bishop Patterson. She married Harold H. Teague on September 14, 1946 in Washington, D.C. To them were born four daughters: Lorraine, Donna, Barbara and Beverly. They also enjoyed thirteen grandchildren, seventeen great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. Edna and Harold had been married thirty-six years at the time of Harold's death in 1982. Harold was a local pastor in the Rocky Mountain Conference. Together they served the LeRoy, Colorado and Price, Utah charges for five years.

On October 3, 1987, Edna married Wendell Bragonier and shared thirteen years of marriage with him prior to his death in 2000. Edna had been a resident of Fort Collins, Colorado, since 1982. She was a member of First United Methodist Church, president of that congregation's United Methodist Women, Spiritual Life Secretary, a Stephen Minister and hospice volunteer. She enjoyed flower gardening, playing bridge, visiting shut-ins, building bird feeders and spending time with family and friends.

Edna died on April 15, 2017 in Fort Collins, Colorado at eighty-nine years of age.

DAVID ROBERT HUFFNAGLE

David Robert Huffnagle, a native of Pennsylvania, was born on September 21, 1938 as one of four children to Milford James and Evelyn Louise Huffnagle. He was ordained a deacon and admitted on trial into the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference in 1976. Transferring to the Rocky Mountain Conference in 1977, he was ordained an elder and received into full membership in 1979.

For twenty-seven years David provided pastoral leadership to Colorado congregations on Colorado's western slope and in the metro Denver area. He retired in 2000. David was known for his empathetic, caring and supportive pastoral relationships which led those seeking community back into the life of the church.

He and his wife Cecilia had two daughters, Deborah and Megan, and three granddaughters. Dave was known as a loving and kind parent. He is survived also by his constant canine companion, his loving dog Mona Lisa. David died on April 20, 2017 in Denver, Colorado at seventy-six years of age.

