

## O. MEMOIRS

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

Richard A. Vickery, Memoirs Secretary

### CLERGY MEMBERS

#### Legacy Rocky Mountain

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date of Birth</b>	<b>Date of Death</b>
Russell Hawkins	April 28, 1930	May 3, 2017
William D. Bruce	May 16, 1948	June 17, 2017
Henry Everding, Jr.	February 2, 1934	June 29, 2017
David West Engle	February 20, 1936	August 1, 2017
Douglas Lathrop	March 14, 1945	August 7, 2017
Gary Blackmon	October 18, 1953	August 8, 2017
Keith Spahr	September 7, 1930	December 27, 2017
Guy Botkin	July 29, 1933	December 27, 2017
Elias Lopez Martinez	March 15, 1949	December 28, 2017
Sandra C. Stephens	November 22, 1939	January 9, 2018
Alice Riemer-McKee	March 22, 1939	February 6, 2018

#### Legacy Yellowstone

John Lewis	December 3, 1931	September 17, 2017
Wilbur Whanger	October 5, 1921	January 11, 2018

### SPOUSES

#### Legacy Rocky Mountain

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date of Birth</b>	<b>Date of Death</b>
Betty Ely	June 21, 1924	May 2, 2017
Lois Higgins Gilbert	March 13, 1929	June 15, 2017
Karon Arline Franz	June 16, 1943	September 7, 2017
Doris Marie Matthews	October 7, 1926	October 22, 2017
Herschel Randolph Phelps, Jr.	February 19, 1931	December 12, 2017
Wesley James "Wes" Thring	July 9, 1921	June 6, 2017

#### Legacy Yellowstone

Sarah Allagene Mason	January 16, 1920	July 26, 2017
Florence Jane Winterheld	September 19, 1942	September 18, 2017
Patricia Klingman	December 15, 1925	February 23, 2018

## Rocky Mountain Memoirs

### Betty Ely

June 21, 1924 – May 2, 2017

Betty was born June 21, 1924 in Texas. In 1944, she married Robert who was a studying to become a pastor. Betty shared in his ministry serving churches in Texas, Colorado, and Utah. Upon retirement, the couple moved back to Texas.

Betty died in May of 2017.

### Russell D. Hawkins

April 28, 1930 – May 3, 2017



Russell Hawkins was born April 28, 1930 in Valley Park, Missouri, to Isabelle Pauline (Hewitt) Hawkins and Dalton Thomas (Bud) Hawkins. He graduated from Central Methodist College in 1954. He then enlisted in the U.S. Army and spent two years in Seoul, Korea. Russ earned a Masters of Divinity in 1961 from Garrett Biblical Institute in Evanston, Illinois. Russ married Patricia Harrell in 1959; they were married for 15 years, and had three children. He married his second wife Helma (Rohrer) Hawkins in 1975. Together they had a blended family of seven children. He was a United Methodist clergyman for 41 years. During his career, he served churches in Missouri, Colorado, and Wyoming. Russ was an activist for social justice relating to the LGBT community, AIDS, racial justice, peace issues including nuclear disarmament, and human rights. He also had great interest in the arts including singing, theater, painting and photography. With his warm personality and his engaging smile, he was truly a Renaissance man.

Russ died on May 3, 2017 in Kansas City, Missouri at the age of eighty-seven.

### Lois Higgins Gilbert

March 13, 1929 – June 15, 2017



Lois Higgins Gilbert was born March 13, 1929 in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Her family moved to Houston where she attended junior high and then graduated from Lamar High School. In 1947, she married Binford Gilbert, and they were married for 60 years. In 1991, they moved to Cañon City, where they retired and resided until their passing. As a preschool teacher, Lois worked for Head Start and several churches in Denver and Pampa, Texas. She was active in P.E.O. and had served as an officer with them. She was also involved with many church activities wherever she lived. She was a member of several bridge clubs over the years and always had a jigsaw puzzle on the table for anyone to help her. For many years, Lois swam daily, which was a highlight of her day. She was also a huge Broncos and Rockies fan.

Lois died on June 15, 2017 in Cañon City, Colorado.

**William Bruce**  
**May 16, 1948 – June 17, 2017**



William "Bill" David Bruce was born on May 16, 1948 in Hilo, Hawaii to James and Ruthe Bruce. His family moved to Maui in 1950 and he lived there until he went to Wasatch Academy in Mt. Pleasant, Utah where he graduated high school. He got his bachelor's degree from Westminster College in Salt Lake City, Utah and then was called to ministry and attended Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, Texas. He initially married Jean Turner with whom he had two children, Heather and David. Following that he married his dear wife Laurie, and celebrated 33 years of marriage.

Bill served churches with his clergy wife Laurie in Colorado, Wyoming and Utah before he retired in 2013. Bill & Laurie learned to fly in Laramie, Wyoming in 1984 and flew together with great joy for many years. In later years Bill loved spending quality time with his grandchildren. Bill was the most wonderful, humorous, kind and loving human being you would ever meet.

Bill died on June 17, 2017.

**Henry Edward "Ed" Everding, Jr.**  
**February 2, 1934 – June 29, 2017**



Henry Edward "Ed" Everding, Jr. was born on February 2, 1943. Ed brought empathy, intelligence, generosity, and humor to every relationship, be they family, friends, colleagues, or acquaintances. In 2013, he published a book *Henry and Papa: A Letter to Emma from Her Great Grandfather*. Ed's love of travel, adventure, and good food was shared by his wife Lee, and with her they traveled the globe, visiting every continent on educational trips and cruises. They also loved visiting Hawaii and Las Vegas on a regular basis.

Professionally, Ed was Emeritus Professor of Religious Education and New Testament at The Iliff School of Theology where he taught from 1967 to his retirement in 1999. From 1982-1985 he was Iliff's first Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs. Frequently he was asked to chair search committees for new faculty members. He also led a long-range planning process in the 1980s that established social change and the global context as goals in the education of students. Before his tenure at Iliff, he taught New Testament at Perkins School of Theology. In addition, he frequently served as the Director of Iliff's Summer School in the 1970s and 1980s, teaching courses at Ring Lake Ranch near Dubois, Wyoming.

His publications reflect his interests in interdisciplinary research and writing. He co-authored three academic books during his career. Professor Everding was a member of both the Society of Biblical Literature and the American Academy of Religion; the Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education, the United Methodist Association of Scholars in Christian Education, and the Religious Education Association. Professor Everding also had a strong commitment to relate his scholarship and teaching to the ministries of churches. He was an Elder in The United Methodist Church, served in several United Methodist congregations, taught in many congregations as part of their Christian education programs. In his retirement, Prof. Everding and his wife, Lee, established the Distinguished Lecture Program in Anglican and Inter-Religious Studies at St. John's Episcopal Cathedral and the Iliff School of Theology.

Ed died on June 29, 2017 in Denver, CO.

**David West Engle**  
**February 20, 1936 – August 1, 2017**



David Engle was born on February 20, 1936 in Denver, Colorado, the eldest son of two educators and gracious parents. Growing up, he always enjoyed the mountains and was a member of the Colorado Mountain Club.

He earned his Bachelor's degree in philosophy from Puget Sound University in Tacoma, Washington, where he met and married Mary Carolyn Egbert. David and Mary moved to Boston for his studies at Harvard Divinity School. During the practical part of his studies, David developed his passion for caring for other people.

They returned to Colorado to finish his studies at the Iliff School of Theology in advance of his first posting as a Methodist minister in Dolores, a great place to raise their three young boys. With further postings to Fort Collins and Cortez, David quickly grew to enjoy the small Colorado towns where everyone seemed to know everyone and his service could extend into the people in tiny neighboring towns. He was particularly engaged with finding care for the transient and homeless people in the area, elderly people, and those suffering from mental illness.

In 1973, David and Mary accepted an exchange posting on the Isle of Man. After they returned to Montrose the next year, they hosted high school exchange students from Finland and Germany. After another exchange posting in Cambridge England, they returned to Denver, where David earned a Master's degree in Social Work; and, retiring from the church, he continued his passion as a hospice social worker. He continued that work after he and Mary moved to Skagit County, Washington.

David passed away on August 1, 2017 in Estes Park, Colorado.

**Douglas G. Lathrop**  
**March 14, 1945 – August 7, 2017**



Reverend Douglas G. Lathrop was the son of the late George J. Lathrop of South Lincoln, Vermont and the late Jean Burnham Lathrop of Groversville and Littleton, Colorado. He was born in the old Littauer Hospital in Groversville on March 17, 1945. The family moved to Amsterdam, NY in 1953 where he spent most of his formative years.

Doug graduated from Wilber H. Lynch High School in 1963; Fulton-Montgomery Community College, in 1966; SUNY Oneonta with a BA and MEd degrees in 1967 & 1972 respectively. He also attended the Course of Study at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC.

Mr. Lathrop began his teaching career in 1967 at the Glen Worden Elementary School. Moving back to Groversville in 1971, his career consisted in teaching at Estee Middle School Physical Science, Chemistry and Earth Science. He retired from teaching in 2000.

Douglas received his license to preach in 1965, serving at first in the summers filling in for pastors on vacation. In 1971, he was appointed the part-time pastor of Northampton UMC, and went on to serve churches in Groversville, Wells, Kanab (Utah), and Fredonia (AZ). He retired from the ministry in 2009.

Douglas spent summers working for the N.Y. S. Department of Health as a Public Health Inspector for Fulton, Montgomery and Herkimer Counties. He was an Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 53, Health Director, Program Director, and Camp Director of the former Woodworth Lake Scout Reservation. He was a NYSDEC Licensed Guide and a charter member of the New York State Outdoor Guides Assn. He was also trained in scouting for the handicapped and served on the committee to establish Lexington Center's Troop 5. He spent 20 years representing Groversville on the Groversville-Johnstown Joint Sewer Board. He served as a Chaplain for the Local Hospice Assn. and part-time Chaplain at the Nathan Littauer Hospital.

While living in Kanab, Utah, he volunteered in the Paleontology Lab for the Bureau of Land Management, preparing Hadrosaur specimens for the Utah Natural History Museum.

He was a Past Master of Gloversville Lodge 429 F. & A. M., St. Patrick's Lodge 4 F & A. M., and Grand Chaplain Emeritus of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, a member of Sacandaga Chapter 116, Royal Arch Masons, St. George Commandry 37, Knight Templars, and 32nd Degree Mason of the Valley of Schenectady Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.

Douglas Lathrop died on August 7, 2017 in Yuma, AZ.

**Gary Blackmon**  
**October 18, 1953 – August 8, 2017**



Gary was born October 18, 1953, in King City, California, the son of Alfred and Floretta (Bailey) Blackmon. Gary was preceded in death by his mother and his grandparents.

Gary preached the gospel for 20 plus years as an evangelist and pastor. He held a Master's degree in Theology, and was a very talented pianist.

Gary died on August 8, 2017 in Springfield, MO at the age of sixty-three.

**Karon Arline Franz**  
**June 16, 1943 – September 7, 2017**



Karon Arline Key was born June 16, 1943 in Childress, Texas. She was the youngest daughter of Arlie Hunter Key and Allie Pieratt Key. She attended schools in Kirkland and Childress, graduating valedictorian of her class in 1960. She received a Bachelor of Science degree from West Texas State University in Canyon, Texas in 1964.

She married Jerry Don Franz on June 20, 1964 in Canyon, Texas. Jerry was a Methodist minister and served several appointments in Texas and in 1971 transferred to the Rocky Mountain Conference where he served churches in Colorado and Wyoming.

While in Greeley, Colorado, Arline received her Master of Arts Degree from the University of Northern Colorado. She taught math in Burlington and was an adjunct faculty member at Casper College, Aims Community College and Morgan County Community College.

She also worked as administrative secretary at Westview Presbyterian Church in Longmont, Colorado where she and Jerry lived after his retirement from the ministry. Jerry died in 2006.

She loved her mom's maraschino cherry ice cream and her homemade biscuits, going to the movies with her dad, spending time with family and friends on Main Street in Childress, Texas on a Saturday evening, pictures of family, her Fort Collins book club, cooking casseroles, playing her piano, driving through Poudre Canyon and backpacking trips especially to Estes Park.

Karon died on September 7, 2017 in Boulder, Colorado at the age of seventy-four.

**Doris Marie Matthews**  
**October 7, 1926 – October 22, 2017**



Doris Marie Schoolcraft Matthews was born October 7, 1926 in Ralls, Texas. She graduated from Ralls High School and attended McMurry College in Abilene, Texas. She married Rev. Eugene Matthews July 21, 1946. He preceded her in death in 1971.

Doris served with her husband in his ministry in The United Methodist Church. Pastorates included in the Northwest Texas Conference and Denver, Colorado. She returned to Amarillo in 1974 and was employed as a secretary until her retirement in 1993.

She is survived by children, Michael Matthews; Larry and Laura Matthews, Rory Matthews, and Marta Matthews; sister, Marjorie Criswell; grandchildren; Drew and Verity Matthews, Justin and Luke Neff; great-grandchildren; Milo Matthews and Astrid Ferguson.

Doris died on October 22, 2017 in Amarillo, Texas at the age of ninety-one.

**Herschel Randolph Phelps Jr.**  
**February 19, 1931 – December 12, 2017**



Dr. Herschel "Boppy" Randolph Phelps Jr., 86, of Greeley, passed away on December 12, 2017 at Tru Hospice in Greeley.

Herschel was born in Denver to Herschel R. Sr. and Irene (Bollen) Phelps on February 19, 1931.

He grew up in Denver and graduated from East High School in 1949, becoming an Eagle Scout before 16 and earning his way to Princeton University through a full ride Boettcher scholarship. While in college, Herschel focused on his pre-med studies and exhibited a musical talent as an accomplished pianist, pipe organist, trombonist and participant in the Princeton Men's Chorus.

After graduating from Princeton in the spring of 1953, he married his high school sweetheart, Marilyn June Watters who was a member of the Rocky Mountain Conference, on September 1, 1953, in Denver and then entered the University of Colorado Medical School. Four years later with an M.D. degree, he and Marilyn left with new son, David, for St. Louis and a residency in ophthalmology at Washington University.

While in St. Louis, their first daughter, Debbie, was born. Herschel then entered active service with the Air Force, stationed in San Antonio, Texas, at Lackland Air Force Base, where a second daughter, Sarah, was born. After finishing his term in the service, he moved his young family north to Greeley, a second home during Herschel's youthful summers where he spent time on his grandfather John Phelps' farm just east of Greeley, or walking the beat with his other grandfather and Greeley's Chief of Police, Ben Bollen.

He began his private practice as an eye surgeon at the Greeley Clinic in 1965 and later opened an office in Loveland, dividing his time between the two practices until he finished his practice years at the Loveland office in 1993.

Herschel enjoyed participating in the Greeley Chamber Choir, directing church youth choirs, and providing piano and organ accompaniment. He was for many years a Rotarian. He learned to read and write Mandarin Chinese and enjoyed his monthly Great Books Study Club. He remained an active reservist in the Air Force until his retirement at the rank of Colonel in 1988. Herschel died on December 12, 2017.

**Keith Wayne Spahr**  
**September 7, 1930 – December 27, 2017**



Rev. Keith Wayne Spahr, was born to Chester Lee and Bernice Pauline (Jeffers) Spahr on September 7, 1930, in Bethune, Colorado. His family later moved to a farm west of Loveland on the Big Thompson River. He graduated from Loveland High School in 1948 and attended college in York, Nebraska, preaching his first sermon at St. Michael's Evangelical United Brethren (EUB) Church near Ravenna, Nebraska, two weeks after his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. He graduated in June 1952. On December 26, 1949, he married Norma Jean Rutledge in Loveland, Colorado.

As a student, Keith served Thayer Presbyterian Church and the Christian and Methodist churches in Anselmo and Beaver Crossing, Nebraska, before graduating and moving to Dayton, Ohio, to attend United Theological Seminary, where he served as pastor at the Westborough, Ohio, EUB Church for three years until his graduation in 1955. While in seminary in Dayton, he worked at the historic Rike-Kumler Department Store and played on their basketball team. His uniform will be sent to the Rike-Kumler Museum.

Following graduation, Rev. Spahr was appointed to serve the Johnstown, Colorado EUB church at Dilly Chapel, and then in 1959 the First EUB Church in Loveland (later Trinity United Methodist). While serving in Loveland, he started a mission church in Fort Collins, which became Christ United Methodist Church. The first service was held on January 8, 1961, at the Grange Hall on West Mulberry Street. The church, begun with a \$100 check and no members, was chartered with 29 members on Easter Sunday 1961. He was appointed to full-time ministry in Fort Collins in June 1962, and the newly built parsonage served as the church until the church building was completed in 1964. Over 150 people attended the service in the parsonage the Sunday after JFK was assassinated. While in Fort Collins, he started the police chaplaincy program and served as police chaplain until his move to Colorado Springs in 1971. He served Central United Methodist Church until 1988, presiding over the relocation of the church and construction of a new building. He was then appointed to First United Methodist in Ogden, Utah, where he oversaw the church's restoration project of the historic pipe organ. He served Ogden until his retirement in 1994, returning briefly to Colorado Springs before moving to Greeley for 20 years. He was a resident of Brookdale North Loveland for the past three and one-half years.

He began officiating at high school and college games when he was 16 years old and, as an adult, officiated at softball games for the Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department as well as high school district, state, and regional volleyball tournaments. He supported many charities and valued music and the arts. As the conference director of youth work for the EUB church, he mentored and inspired many young men and women to make a lifelong commitment to Jesus Christ. He traveled extensively throughout the world and was a popular after-dinner speaker for civic groups and a preacher for mission services at multiple churches. He also served on the Board of Trustees for Westmar College in LeMars, Iowa, and on the General Board of Missions for The United Methodist Church.

Keith died on December 27, 2017 in Loveland, CO at the age of eighty-seven.

**Guy Botkin**  
**July 29, 1933 – December 27, 2017**



Born to Paul and Oralee Botkin on July 29, 1933, Guy Romance Botkin was raised by Charlotte and Paul Botkin after Oralee's death. Following his graduation from Fruita High School, he served in the U.S. Air Force. He then studied at Mesa College, Westminster College, then graduated from Iliff School of Theology with a Masters in Divinity. He married Helen Green and later divorced. He married Roberta Heuschkel on December 31, 1964.

Guy was a man of vision, commitment, and perseverance. He offered wisdom in few words. He was nonjudgmental and offered unconditional love for all. He served churches in Mesa, Colorado, Salt Lake City, Utah, Carbondale, Colorado, Epworth Parish and University Park Church in Denver, Fowler, Colorado, Haxtun, Colorado and Grand Valley UMC in Parachute (17 years). During this time, he also served DeBeque UMC and Fruita UMC. He was the youth

camp director at Buckhorn and Grand Mesa church camps. He also was the Spiritual Director for numerous Emmaus walks.

He welcomed many people into his home. He was an artist with rocks, loved woodworking and gardening. He liked renovating his families' homes and had the vision for the church expansion in Parachute. He was very active in the community. He served Lift Up Board, Garfield County Housing Authority, Visitor Cabin, and on the Board of Ordained Ministry. He served in the Air Force in Okinawa and was a Missionary on the islands with the Navigators.

Guy died on December 27, 2017 in Parachute, Colorado at the age of eighty-four.

**Elias Lopez Martinez**  
**March 15, 1949 – December 28, 2017**



Dr. Elias L. Martinez, 68, of San Antonio, passed away Thursday, December 28, 2017 at his home. He leaves behind his three sisters to cherish his memories, B.E. Parham, Elisa Mitchell and Sonia Martinez.

Elias Lopez was born March 15, 1949 and died on December 28, 2017.

**Sandra Stephens**  
**November 22, 1939 – January 9, 2018**

Sandra was born on November 22, 1939. She began her ministry in the United Church of Christ and transferred to the United Methodist Church in 1977. She served churches in Denver, Littleton, and Breckenridge. She was a lover of pets and had a daughter. She retired in 2005 after 24 years of service.

Sandra died on January 9, 2018.

**Wesley James "Wes" Thring**  
**July 9, 1921 – June 6, 2017**



Born on July 9, 1921, in Coronation, Alberta, Canada, Wesley James "Wes" Thring was raised on a homestead in the great prairie.

He joined the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II where he was stationed in Toronto, Ontario. There he met Willa Evans and they were married in 1945. Following the war, he accepted a position as a branch manager with the Bank of Toronto in a small Saskatchewan community.

In 1948, he moved his family of four to Cody, Wyoming, where he has resided for the past 69 years. He and Willa were proud to become Naturalized U.S. Citizens in the early 1950s. His lifetime career was in banking and insurance. He eventually became the owner of the R.W. Allen Insurance Company.



His exemplary traits of honesty, kindness and integrity were always complimented by his keen sense of humor. He was an active participant in the activities of his children and grandchildren, often traveling great distances to share in their "life" experiences.

Following the passing of his beloved wife Willa, Wes later married Reverend Mary Barbee and with his new blended/extended family, they embarked on a new and eventful adventure of travel discovery and joyful times together.

Wes died on June 6, 2017.

**Alice Riemer-McKee**  
**March 22, 1939 – February 6, 2018**



Alice Riemer-McKee was born March 22, 1939 in Wisconsin Rapids, the daughter of Delbert W. and Cornelia A. (Damm) Riemer. She graduated from Lincoln High School in 1957 and Carroll College in Waukesha in 1961 with a degree in education.

After teaching a year in Neenah, she attended Garrett Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois to pursue a degree in Christian Education, being one of only 13 female students. There she met Douglass J. McKee whom she married on June 15, 1963 at the Garrett Chapel. She taught school in Chicago while her husband completed seminary. They lived in a number of communities in Wisconsin where her husband served United Methodist churches, and she was involved in his ministries while raising their two sons.

In 1975 they moved west, serving churches in Wyoming and Colorado including eleven years as co-pastors of the Wesley Foundation, the Methodist campus ministry at the University of Colorado, Boulder. After attending Wesley Seminary in Washington D.C., Alice was ordained in 1997 in Fort Collins, Colorado. She served the United Methodist Church in Fruita, Colorado, and together with her husband, they served Methodist churches in Grand Junction, Colorado and Sandy, Utah. Alice and her husband retired from the ministry in 1999, and following her husband's death in 2002, she moved back to Wisconsin to be near her son and his family in Appleton. She came out of retirement to serve Evergreen Retirement Community of Oshkosh as their chaplain for five years.

In her second retirement she enjoyed her involvement in a number of groups in the Fox Valley area including the Hearing Loss Association, Memory Cafes, and being a conversation partner for English language learners as well as serving on a number of area boards. Throughout her life she was passionate about issues for women and children and was involved in many social justice projects.

Alice died on February 6, 2018 in Neenah, Wisconsin at the age of seventy-eight.

## Yellowstone Memoirs

### **Loy Sidney Estes** **July 25, 1921 – August 3, 2016**

Loy Sidney Estes was born in Palacios, Texas on July 25, 1921.

He served churches in the Southwest Texas Conference, The Montana Conference, and the Yellowstone Conference. He finished serving in 1984. After that he moved to Washington State and was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease.

Loy died in Gig Harbor, Washington on August 3, 2016

### **Sarah Allagene Mason** **January 16, 1920 – July 26, 2017**



Sarah "Allagene" Mason was born to Fred Folger Jefferis and Sarah Katherine Fife Jefferis in Washburn, North Dakota, on January 16, 1920. After finishing high school in Washburn, Allagene graduated from North Dakota Agricultural College (now NDSU) in Fargo. She participated in many college affairs.

Allagene married Walter Fred Mason on July 30, 1942. They were assigned to Chile in 1944 under the auspices of The United Methodist Church and worked there for 23 years. Allagene served as manager of a Boys Agricultural School Boarding Department and helped establish a girl's school where she took on teaching duties. She also worked with children and women's groups in the area, and especially enjoyed teaching adult literacy classes. One of Walter and Allagene's most notable assignments was the Punta Arenas Circuit on the Straits of Magellan, the southernmost United Methodist Churches in the world.

Walter and Allagene had four children, all born and raised in Chile. After returning to the States for the children's college education, the family lived in Athens, Tennessee, where Allagene worked in a dry goods store. They later moved to Brigham City, Utah, where she taught in the Intermountain Indian School, and then relocated to Browning, Montana, where she worked as assistant to the County Agent, also working in the day care center that the United Methodist Church managed, as well as in the churches where Walter was pastor.

Walter and Allagene retired to Bozeman in 1981 where Allagene continued to be active in the United Methodist Church, especially United Methodist Women's Circles, Masonic-related organizations, Eastern Star and White Shrine. She enjoyed volunteer work – especially for the Museum of the Rockies, where she accumulated more than 3500 hours of service.

Allagene died on July 26, 2017 in Bozeman, Montana.

### **John Lewis** **December 3, 1931 – September 17, 2017**

John Lewis died September 17, 2017 in Great Falls, Montana. He was a retired United Methodist elder who served the former Montana Conference beginning in 1959 and then for many years in the Yellowstone Conference. Churches he served include Bridger/Belfry, Glendive, Kalispell, Great Falls First, Choteau/Pendroy, and Cody. Lewis served as the superintendent of the Great Falls District for six years beginning in 1975. He retired in 1994.

**Florence Jane Winterheld**  
**September 19, 1942 – September 18, 2017**

Jane was born in Chickasha, Oklahoma, in 1942 and graduated high school in Bridgeport, Texas. Her father was a Southern Baptist local pastor and Jane played piano in the churches he served. She married Robert Henry Winterheld in 1963. They lived in Tulsa, Oklahoma then moved to Fort Benton, Montana and in a couple years to Fairfield, Montana where Bob was a lineman for the Montana Power Company. Bob passed away in 1990.

Jane married Rev. GW Bill Warren in 1992 and they decided Bill would become a candidate for ordained ministry. Jane and Bill served churches in Sand Coulee and Belt, Dillon, Chinook, Hobson and Moore, Heron and Noxon in the Yellowstone Annual Conference and Clark Fork, Idaho of the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference.

Jane was always involved in church activities during their years of service. She learned to direct choirs when the need arose and always supported and was active in United Methodist Women.

Jane died on September 18, 2017 in Pensacola, FL at the age of seventy-five.

**Wilbur Thomas Whanger**  
**October 5, 1921 – January 11, 2018**



Wilbur Thomas Whanger, was born on October 5, 1921, to Frank and Glenna Whanger in Ronceverte, West Virginia. His parents were very religious and instilled a strong work ethic into him. Those values carried him throughout his life.

On June 18, 1946, he married the love of his life, Marilyn Caines. He received his B.A. from West Virginia Wesleyan and attended seminary school at Garret Evangelical Seminary. After serving at the Belmont Church in West Virginia, they transferred to the Montana Methodist Conference in 1952 where he pastored the churches of Fromberg, Edgar and Boyd. He also volunteered for the local fire department. In 1961, they moved to Sidney and he pastored the Lonsdale Methodist Church. While there, the new Sunday School edition was built.

In 1969, the Yellowstone Conference Bishop asked Wilbur to serve as the District Superintendent for the Great Falls District where he served for six years. At Great Falls, he served on the board at the Deaconess Hospital. After that, he pastored the Epworth Methodist Church from 1975 to 1978. He served on the board at the Flathead Methodist Camp and was instrumental in the building of the new dining hall. From there, Wilbur pastored churches in Laurel, Fort Benton/Carter and Ronan/Charlo before retiring in 1989, making Missoula their home.

Since the ministry was his calling, he couldn't turn down the opportunity to serve churches at Plentywood and Glasgow. He also served as the guest preacher at several churches in Western Montana and at Grizzly Peak in Missoula.

In his younger years Wilbur enjoyed hunting and fishing and that is what brought them to Montana. He also enjoyed reading and was a great story teller. His family was the most important thing to him. Every summer, the family would pack up the trailer and head back to West Virginia to visit relatives. The family enjoyed many camping trips over the years, including Fort Peck and the Flathead Methodist Camp. Some of the best memories are singing around the campfire at Luccock Park. He loved music, especially the old hymns. There were many bike rides and hiking trips with his daughters. In fact, Wilbur rode his bike into his late 70s.

Wilbur died on January 11, 2018 in Missoula, Montana at the age of ninety-six.

**Patricia Klingman**  
**December 15, 1925 – February 23, 2018**



Patricia Klingman was born in 1925 and grew up in the Los Angeles suburbs. She met and married Vern Klingman while earning her BA in Christian Education at the University of Denver. Wife to a Methodist Minister for 66 years, she sang in the Choir, taught Sunday School and had an irrepressible artistic soul which found its expression in everything she did. She was undeniably her own person in all things.

She is remembered by a whole generation of Billings' children who watched her appearances on The Happy Herb and Froggy Doo show singing folk songs and accompanying herself on a Martin Tenor guitar she bought in a junk store for \$25.

Even though she was a California girl, she embraced life in Montana – loving rock hunting and the annual Yellowstone Boat Float - river raftering on various boats for several years and only capsizing twice. Another adventure of hers was driving a school bus for District #2 where she

eventually served as School Bus Safety Coordinator.

Pat lived a life of kindness and service. She became a mentor in Billings' Deferred Prosecution program, giving struggling people a second chance. Many of her clients continued to call her "friend" long after finishing the program.

An accomplished classical singer, she was known for her dramatic church solos. In her 90's, after moving to Spokane to be near her children, she reprised her entire repertoire of solos for the congregation of Manito UMC. She also loved to do interpretive scripture readings whenever given the opportunity.

Ever the 3-dimensional woman, Pat loved baseball, and could always be counted on to have the scoop on her Seattle Mariners. Attending her grandchildren's' sporting events was a priority as well, outings she – a vocal fan -- regarded as participative.

Pat remained active in her final years reading her Kindle, writing limericks, carving soapstone sculptures, and enjoying the lives and exploits of her many friends, children, nieces, nephews and grandchildren. It was a good life, and she is deeply missed. Patricia Klingman died on February 23, 2018 at the age of ninety-two.