

NEW MEXICO CONFERENCE  
UNITED METHODIST  
HISTORICAL JOURNAL



**Edward Eugene Hamilton**  
1917 – 1992

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**Volume 2 2019**  
**November 2019**

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### **A New Church is Born**

Southern Heights Methodist Church  
Hobbs, New Mexico

Edward Hamilton was student pastor of the Methodist Church of Stratford, Oklahoma, commuting to Dallas, enrolled in Perkins, when he received a phone call from Hobbs, New Mexico. His brother-in-law Carl Rodolph inquired if he wasn't about finished with his seminary work and ready for a full appointment. First Methodist Church of Hobbs was looking for a young pastor to start a new church in Hobbs.

After explaining his status in seminary he affirmed his interest in the appointment and explained that he had not been as yet ordained elder.

First Church pastor C.E. Jameson, D. S. Carl Clement and Bishop Angie Smith got together and made a decision. Ed, then a member of the West Ok-

lahoma Conference, was transferred to the East Oklahoma Conference then meeting in Ada. He was ordained Elder and immediately transferred to the New Mexico Conference and appointed to the New Church, Hobbs.



Loading all earthly belongings on a U Haul trailer, Ed arrived in Hobbs with his wife Robbie Nelle and three young daughters the first week of June 1951.

For a month they lived in the home of Earl Kornegay, then were moved to a duplex on the south side of Hobbs. The furnishings were sparse but adequate.

Ed immediately began going up and down the streets of the Southern Heights Elementary School.

The first service was held June 24, 1951. Several members of the First Methodist Church agreed to transfer their membership to the new church for purposes of helping it get started. On that first Sunday the following people placed their membership in the church:

Mike and Frances Brewer

W. H. and Marie Killian and son Dick

Harry and Betty Nelson

Allen and Caroline Newsome

M. A. and Faye Shaw and son Malcolm

Ben F. and Ruth Slaughter

Mr. and Mrs. W.F. Strickland & son Floyd Dean

Mrs. LeRoy Watkins and son Bobby

Robbie Nelle Hamilton

Lots for the site of the new church were purchased by the First Church at a location immediately east of the Southern Heights Elementary School. Permission was granted by the Hobbs school board for the church members to use the elementary school as a temporary meeting place.

The next step was securing a parsonage for the new family. A new home was built. Rev. Hamilton had this to say about his new home:

When I came to Hobbs last June, all I had was my family, a rented trailer holding our possessions, a welcome from members of the First Methodist church here, and faith in my fellowmen. We had no congregation, no church, no parsonage and very little money. The people of Hobbs did not let us down. After learning of our problems, they offered us help in many ways, whether solicited or unsolicited.

An open house was held at the new Southern Heights Methodist church parsonage at 1202 South Linam on Sunday afternoon, January 5, 1952

The Rev. Hamilton gave much credit in the construction of the parsonage to Dan Little, foreman for Colonial Homes, Inc. "After spending eight hours on company work each day," the pastor revealed, "he came over and worked each night for three more hours on the parsonage. His leadership and skill inspired other workers. Other employees of Colonial Homes furnished the rest of the skilled labor."

The minister also commended Hester Reagan of the New Mexico Furniture Co., L. W. Bingham of Con-

tinental Oil Co., John Wilcox of Civil Aeronautics Administration, and Phil Yates of Continental Air Lines, for their labor in constructing the home. Other work was done by members and friends of the church, with the nightly work varying from five to twenty five men.

A newly organized Women's Society of Christian Service of the church bought and made draperies for the entire house. The planning and making of the draperies was under the supervision of Mrs. Paul S Brown. The ladies also served refreshments to the men who worked on the house.

Many other individuals and businesses donated time and materials...

When the parsonage was within a few hours of completion, it was damaged by an estimated \$2000 blaze. The family was expecting to move into the house the next day when the blaze occurred. The blaze was caused while the floors were being sanded. An inflammable filler mixture had been applied to the floor and a sander was being used. A short in the plug-in wire to the sander caused an arc and a flash of flame followed.

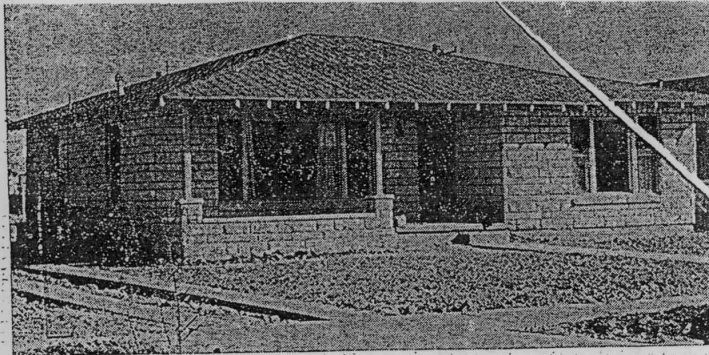
The fire department was called. However, a large part of the interior walls were damaged before the blaze was extinguished. A complete refinishing job was necessary before occupancy. The loss was covered by insurance.

A few weeks after the Hamilton family moved into the new parsonage another fire almost broke out when a stack of magazines was left over one of the floor furnaces. Heavy smoke in the house alerted

the family to phone the fire department who promptly found the cause of the smoke and took care of the problem.

## RESOURCE

Stone, Cyril. *A Limited History of Southern Heights Methodist Church, Hobbs, New Mexico*. Cyril Stone, 1996.



Jan, 1952  
[89-17]

NEW PARSONAGE for the Southern Heights Methodist church minister, the Rev. Edward E. Hamilton, and his family. This attractive and modern home was constructed at 1202 South Linam by the volunteer labor of friends of the church and members of the congregation. News-Sun photo by Jim Rawls.

## Open House Planned At New Parsonage

An open house to enable Hobbsans to examine the new Southern Heights Methodist church parsonage at 1202 South Linam, will be held Sunday afternoon from 2 to 5.

The house, recently completed, was built by members of the church to provide a home for their pastor, the Rev. Edward E. Hamilton and his family. Said one member of the church, "We are very pleased with the new home that we have been able to build for our pastor. The planning and construction of this home has been a test of the faith of a few Christian people. Five months ago the members of this little church hardly knew each other. Today they are fast friends and have demonstrated their ability to work together for a common cause."

The Rev. Mr. Hamilton had this to say about his new home: "When I came to Hobbs last June, all I had was my family, a rented trailer holding our possessions, a welcome from members of the First Methodist church here, and faith in my fellowmen. We had no congregation, no church, no parsonage and very little money. The people of Hobbs did not let us down."

"Offered Us Help"  
"After learning of our problem, they offered us help in

tor revealed, "he came over and worked each night for three more hours on the parsonage. His leadership and skill inspired other workers. Other employees of Colonial Homes furnished the rest of the skilled labor."

The minister also commended Hester Reagan of the New Mexico Furniture Co., L. W. Bingham of Continental Oil Co., John Wilcox of Civil Aeronautics Administration and Phil Yates of Continental Air Lines, for their labor in constructing the home. Other work was done by members and friends of the church, with the nightly work crews varying from five to 25 men.

### Made Draperies

A newly organized Woman's Society of Christian Service of the church bought and made the draperies for the entire house. The planning and making of the draperies was under the supervision of Mrs. Paul S. Brown. The ladies also served refreshments to the men who worked on the house.

Many other individuals and businesses donated time and materials. They are: Bob Wham, architect; Paul Brown, J. T. Sayers, Mills Roberts, and W. K. Aldridge who gave the lot; M. A. Shaw, builder and acting contractor; Paul Brown Insurance

## Fire Damages Church Home

A new parsonage for the Southern Heights Methodist church at 1202 South Linam, which was within a few hours of completion, was damaged an estimated \$2,000 in a blaze early yesterday morning.

The Rev. Edward E. Hamilton, pastor of the church, and his family were planning to move into the home tomorrow.

According to the Rev. Mr. Hamilton, the blaze occurred at 3 a.m., while the floors were being sanded. An inflammable filler mixture had been applied to the floor and a sander was being used. A short in the plug-in wire to the sander caused an arc and a flash of flame followed.

The fire department was called. However, a large part of the interior walls were damaged before the blaze was extinguished. A complete refinishing job will be necessary before occupancy, the Rev. Mr. Hamilton said. The loss is covered by insurance.





**Southern Heights Methodist Church  
Hobbs, New Mexico**

Memories and Recollections by W. T. Perry

In December of 1951, we moved to Hobbs and because the church was being located where we then lived, we joined Southern Heights Church. In 1952 we had grown to the point that we needed our own building, so plans were drawn up for the first unit of the Southern Heights Methodist Church plant. This included a large multipurpose room, to serve as the first Sanctuary and later a Fellowship Hall. Included in this building was two classrooms and an office on the south-east corner, rest rooms, from the front entrance there was one more classroom. On the south-west corner was located what we then used as a Fellowship Hall, which was not really adequate for this fast growing church, but with the help of burlap curtains we were able to divide the room into four more classrooms. Nevertheless, we still had to use some of the rooms of the Southern Heights School building for

the Adult Classes.

At the front of the main entrance into the new building, there was placed a sealed jar with the names of the founding members of the church and a brief history of the founding and progress of the church to that point. This jar was placed inside one of the cement blocks forming the west wall, down near the ground to the right side of the door as you would enter. The block had an "X" scratched on it that could be seen at one time.

For several years the church met in this building and the public school rooms across the street, the congregation continued to grow and need was seen for additional space. Rev. Hamilton was pastor for three years, followed by Rev. Cyril Stone who also served three years. It was during Rev. Stone's ministry that the balance of the originally planned building was built, adding a beautiful sanctuary, office spaces for the pastor and secretary, more classrooms, including what was planned to eventually be a Chapel. It was then felt that we had built a building that would be adequate for the growth of the church in the future. After Rev. Stone's three years of service, Rev. Robert Tomlinson was sent to be the pastor for one year, followed by Rev. Alfred Pace.

It was during Rev. Pace's ministry that the men of the Church saw that they needed a classroom of their own, plus the need of another adult classroom. So the men took on as a project to build an addition to the north end of the origi-



**Rev. Alfred Pace**

nal building, by then called the Fellowship Hall. The addition was built, and in one of the corner blocks at the North-East corner of this new addition another jar was "planted" with a list of the then members of the church, a history of the beginning of the church and the reason for adding those additional two classrooms.

Somewhere in that time, a vacant lot next to a house located on the east side of the fellowship hall was purchased, mostly to give the church control of possible future purchase of that house for the land, along with the lot east of the house to be used for future growth of the church plant.

Southern Heights Church sent three young men into the ministry of the church. Rev. Daniel A. Turner, who is now a member of the Pacific and Southwest Conference, Rev. John Edwards, who is in the New York Conference and Rev. W. T. Perry, now retired, a member of the New Mexico Conference who in retirement lives in Mission, Texas.

Somewhere along the way after we left Hobbs, the growth of the city going southward was stopped because of unavailability of land at that time. The Public School had expected the southward growth as well and had built a beautiful new Junior High School at the extreme south edge of Hobbs, known as Heizer Junior School.

When the southward growth stopped, Hobbs began to grow to the north, however, there were still a lot of people living in the southside. For a number of reasons, we suppose, it was felt that Southern Heights Church was in the "wrong place" and a third church was started in the north side. In there some-

where it was decided that the two churches would be served by one pastor, and eventually the two churches were merged into what is now called St. Paul's United Methodist Church. The church plant of Southern Heights Church has been sold and those faithful members have scattered elsewhere we suppose.

Southern Heights Church was known across the Conference for its great fellowship outreach. There was strong Methodist Men's organization that often entertained men from across the then Clovis District [and elsewhere] with their famous charcoal broiled steak dinners, often being host to over 100 men. The men were also known for their Pancake Sales Luncheon and Dinner each year by which they raised money to support a boy at the Methodist Home in Waco, Texas. Tommy Jett was their first boy sponsored and when the late Dr. Hubert Johnson brought Tommy to Southern Heights Church one year, men from all over the District packed the Fellowship Hall.

The Women [W.S.C.S. then] were active and sponsored many activities, the Youth Program was strong and growing. One Sunday School Class of younger adults were called the Willing Workers Class and each year that class had a Retreat at Sacramento Assembly on the Memorial Day Weekend which was well attended.

## **RESOURCE**

Stone, Cyril. *A Limited History of Southern Heights Methodist Church, Hobbs, New Mexico*. Cyril Stone, 1996.



**W. T. Perry**



## **THE HOBBS STORY**

In the very early development of the area there were circuit riders throughout the country preaching to anyone who wanted to come. W. L. Jenkins and Rev. Speed were two of those riders. Then in 1919, Rev. Beauchamp and a Rev. Logan (Baptist) held a revival meeting in Hobbs, and it was after this revival that the Methodist people living in the ranch land country known as Hobbs, New Mexico, organized a church under the leadership of Rev. Whidden, a motorcycle circuit rider of the Lovington Circuit. In 1920, at the time of organization, there were seven members, Mrs. Sam Dalmont, Mr. B. H. Turner, Mrs. Bob White, and Mrs. Frank Sel-



**Edward K Whidden**

man. This group had no church building, but met in the school house.

In 1921, Bishop Dubose appointed the Rev. W. M. Beauchamp as Circuit Rider and in 1924, Rev. H. L. Thurston. The last one to ride the Circuit was the Rev. W. R. Bur-



**W M Beauchamp**

nett, after which Hobbs became a station in 1930. Hobbs was in the Roswell District at that time, with Rev. A. L. Moore as Residing Elder.

With the discovery of oil in 1929, Hobbs was becoming a thriving community and Rev. Moore saw the great need of a church being built. He agreed to send a man to serve until the Conference convened and could appoint someone for this area. He sent a Rev. J. P. Cole, who had been out of the ministry for some time, and he served three months.

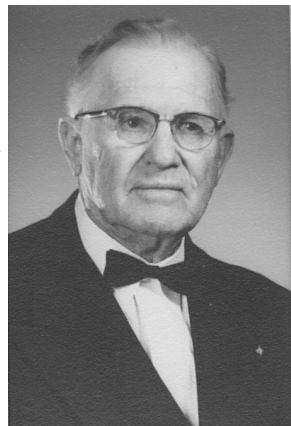
The Hobbs Townsite Company donated three lots on which to build a church. A one-room parsonage was built for the Rev. Cole and services were held in one of the theater buildings. When the Conference convened in October of 1930, Reverend C. A. Ridge was appointed to Hobbs as the first regular pastor. That first year, a small three-room house was contracted for as a parsonage and the one-room parsonage became a garage. Services were held in one of the frame school houses on the site of the Will Rogers Intermediate School, dividing time with some other denominations who were having trouble also acquiring their own buildings.



Rev. Ridge was paid \$1,100 that first year. He was returned for a second year, and, under his leadership, we were determined that a place of worship had to be built. The Board of Church Extension loaned some money, then donated some, and money was raised locally, also. There was enough money to buy lumber but none left over to pay carpenters. However, there were rig builders and pipe liners who had time on their hands, and one member, who was a building contractor, agreed to oversee construction, so the first sanctuary was built (corner of Snyder and Houston) with donated labor from members of the church, plus a lot of help from oil field roughnecks who never expected to come to church. The white frame church was later moved to the present church site and used for an educational building and a parsonage was built at the old location.

Rev. Ridge was followed by LeRoy Brown, J. M. Perry, C. W. Walker, and F. K. Suddath.

In 1935, Dr. C. A. Clark came and although not a young man he soon proved himself equal to the task and the church began to expand. The congregation outgrew the original plant, so in 1936, an old school building was purchased and moved next to the church. This was remodeled for an education building. Plans were laid for the present sanctuary. On Sunday, March 26, 1939, church conference was called, the present site was selected, and work was soon started on the basement. This was the church for seven years as the war delayed



the building of the sanctuary.

Mrs. Clark wrote: "The excavation began for the new church, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Montgomery sent their men with teams and scraper, and removed the dirt for the basement. From that-interest caught fire. Soon foundations and floor were poured, walls went up to the tops of the basement windows and frames set. And all 'because people had a mind to work'.

"It was during our stay in Hobbs that the Uniting Conference met in Kansas City. C. A. Clark was one who attended. It was the culmination of many years of Conferences and planning on the part of leaders in each of the branches of Methodism."

In 1942, Rev. R. Lee Wilshire became pastor and served three years. He was followed by Rev. A. F. Tucker in 1945. It was during this pastorate that the present sanctuary was completed in 1948.

Trustees were Mr. A. L. Langford, Mr. L. R. King, Mr. A. D. Williams, Mr. George T. Harris, and Mr. V. J. Graham. Quoting from a directory printed in 1945: "The Official Leadership of our Church and the Building Committee are unanimous in agreeing that we should build BOTH a Sanctuary and an Education Building NOW!"

In 1949, Bishop Ivan Lee Holt sent Rev. C. S. Jameson as minister. He remained four years and during this time, plans were made for a new educational building. In 1953 Rev. LeRoy Sewell was appointed as pastor and during his ministry the present educational building was completed. Rev. Sewell served in Hobbs four years.

In May, 1957, Dr. L. B. Trone was sent to First Methodist Church. During his pastorate, a new par-



sonage was built at 909 North Selman and additional lots were bought north of the church for parking. Dr. Trone served in Hobbs three years.

In May, 1960, Dr. H. L. McAlester was appointed pastor. In 1963 our first associate pastor was appointed, Rev. George F. Riter, and a second parsonage was bought. This one adjoins the church property at 201 East Alston.



In 1965 the three lots east of the church were bought, and two lots on the northeast corner of the block were purchased for parking or future building.

In September of 1965 Reginald L. Brown was added to the staff as Minister of Music and Youth Director.

Dr. McAlester served in Hobbs for eight years, and in May of 1968, Reverend James W. Miller was appointed pastor. Reverend Riter was transferred at the 1968 Conference.

## **RESOURCE**

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Program, First United Methodist Church. August 22, 1971.





**Rev. Dr. Simon Nieto**

A Native New Mexican in Methodist Ministry  
to Hispanic Population, by David Maldonado

A native New Mexican, Simon Anaya Nieto was born to Eusebia and Daniel Nieto in Las Vegas, New Mexico June 11, 1911, during the territorial days of New Mexico. His early years were spent in the Trujillo-Trementina area east of Las Vegas in Northern New Mexico, as the son of a blind father on land obtained through the Homestead Act of 1862. As a young boy, Simon became the eyes for his father, Daniel Nieto, and guided him through his daily life. Young Simon was baptized in Las Vegas in the local Presbyterian Church and was nurtured in a family that had converted from the Catholic Church two generations before him. He and his sister, Mary, attended a one room school in that part of rural New Mexico.

When Simon was a young boy, the Nieto family

sold their homestead and moved to Denver, Colorado, seeking employment with the railroad and looking forward to a better life. It was in Denver that the Nieto family encountered Methodism at the First Spanish Methodist Church on West Colfax. This church became the center of their religious and social life, and was where Simon met Natalia Venegas who was to become his wife. At the youthful age of 20 Simon married 17 year old Natalia in April, 1931.



It was at First Spanish Methodist Church that Simon became active in the Epworth League and drew the attention of the church pastor. Rev. Seneca Garcia, the pastor, encouraged young Simon to consider church ministry and Simon soon made his decision to prepare for the Methodist ministry. He became a licensed Local Pastor in May, 1935. Soon afterward, Simon had his first Methodist appointment to El Buen Pastor Methodist Church in El Paso, Texas where he served from 1937 to 1938. El Buen Pastor Church was located in the Second Ward (Segundo Barrio) of El Paso as part of Friendship Square that included several Methodist social ministries. In 1938 Simon was admitted to The College of Emporia in Em-



poria, Kansas where he studied for four years (1938-1942), receiving his university degree in May, 1942. During his studies, Simon served as pastor

of the Emporia Spanish Mission.

At this time, WWII was fully engaging the nation, and upon graduation, Simon served his country in the US Bureau of Censorship in San Antonio and Brownsville, Texas. His excellent language skills led him to managerial and leadership positions with this bureau during World War II. Eventually, he became the Director of the Office of Censorship in San Antonio, Texas. His commitment to and passion for ministry led him to accept part time ministry serving churches in Kingsville and Raymondville, Texas in the Rio Grande Conference. From that point forward, Simon served his entire ministerial career in the historic Rio Grande Annual Conference. Beginning in 1946, Simon served full-time ministerial appointments in San Antonio (El Divino Salvador), Laredo (La Trinidad), and Edinburg (El Buen Pastor), Texas.

June 1956 marked his return to his native land of New Mexico. His appointment was as pastor of El Buen Samaritano Methodist Church in Albuquerque. Simon pastored El Buen Samaritano for six years (1956-



62) during which time the old downtown location at 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Gold was sold and the new building was constructed on the present location at 700 Granite. The building of the current church was long a source of pride and satisfaction for Rev. Nieto and demonstrative of his effective leadership.



In 1962, Simon Nieto was selected to serve as superintendent of the Western District of the Rio Grande Conference. The district office was based in El Paso and covered all of New Mexico and parts of West Texas. He served in this capacity six years from 1962 to 1968. During his superintendency in New Mexico, Rev. Nieto was a tireless advocate for Methodist ministries among the Spanish speaking population from El Paso to Northern New Mexico.

After serving several congregations in Texas (San Antonio and Corpus Christi), Rev. Nieto returned to Albuquerque in 1974 to serve as pastor of El Buen Samaritano United Methodist Church once again. He served for two years before being called back to serve as District Superintendent, this time based in San Antonio. He continued to serve as their District Superintendent until his retirement in June of 1981.

His colleagues remember Rev. Nieto as a strong leader with a clear Methodist identity and commitment to Methodist principles. For Simon Nieto, the Methodist Discipline was second only to the Bible. As District Superintendent, Brother Nieto was a strict adherent to the Methodist Discipline. He was known for his high moral values and impeccable ethical principles in his life and ministry. His dry sense of humor was widely appreciated and his subtle smile was expected. He was known as a sharp dresser and was never seen without wearing a proper suit and tie. He was a clergy who held the office of pastor in high regard and expected all of his colleagues to dress, live, and minister accordingly.

Rev. Simon Nieto was among the first clergy in the Rio Grande Conference to have graduated from college (1942). His education, fluency in both Spanish and English, and his intellect, led him to be identified as a conference leader, being assigned to important congregations, serving as district superintendent twice, serving on Boards of national agencies (General Board of Global Ministries), and serving as a Delegate to General Conference. He also was recognized by Huston-Tillotson College, a school affiliated with the United Methodist Church with an honorary doctoral degree. The Governor of New Mexico also honored him with the recognition of Colonel de Camp. Upon his retirement, Rev. Nieto was recognized by El Buen Samaritano United Methodist Church as Pastor Emeritus.

Simon and Natalia Nieto were blessed with a large family: fourteen, seven sons and seven daughters. Throughout his ministry, the appointment of



Rev. Nieto to a church presented that church with the challenge of providing a parsonage large enough for such a large family. It usually resulted in renting, purchasing, or enlarging the home for the pastor's family. Yet, congregations welcomed the large Nieto family which many times meant an increase in attendance and a larger youth group. In addition, his daughters Shirley and Pauline had immediate impact with their musical talents. The arrival of the Nieto family many times resulted in a special local newspaper picture and article welcoming the Nietos to town.

In 1981, after 45 years of ministry in the United Methodist Church, Rev. Simon Nieto and his wife Natalia chose to retire in their native state of New Mexico and made their home in Albuquerque. Natalia was also a native of New Mexico having been born in Alamo-gordo. Rev. Nieto's retirement in New Mexico helped his large family become even more acquainted with New Mexico as they learned to appreciate it as their ancestral home.

Simon passed away on October 18, 1998, and Natalia passed away on August 4, 2010. Both are buried at Sunset Memorial Park in Albuquerque, New Mexico.





## **History of Methodism in the Sacramento Mountain Area**

By R Francis Carroll

The earliest mention of a church in the mountain area, as shown by the Conference Records of Rev. Carpenter, is a listing of a church at Weed in 1890. In 1891 the Penasco Church is listed... In 1903, Cloudcroft is listed, with Rev. F. H. Trone as supply.

Conference Journals show the following charges in the mountain area between 1913 and 1921:

1913 Sacramento Mission ——— Rev. R.C. Marshall  
1914-15 Sacramento Mission ——— Rev. W.L. Jenkins  
1916 Sacramento Mission ——— Rev. E.W. Monton  
1917-18 Sacramento Mission/Hope --- Rev. W.L. Jenkins  
1919-21 Sacramento Circuit ——— Rev. W.B. Simmons

...in 1921 the charge was listed as Tularosa-Cloudcroft. Rev. A.J. Brown was pastor and the combined membership of the two churches was 101...the following appointments are listed:

1922-25 Sacramento Circuit ——— A. Lewis Means



1926-27 Hope and Sacramento ----- Rev. B.M. Stradley  
 1928 Hope and Sacramento ----- Rev. F.L. Marlin  
 1929 Hope and Sacramento ----- Rev. G.W. Edmundson

In 1930, the Rev. John Klassen was appointed to the Hope Circuit, which included Weed and Lower Penasco. Rev. Klassen writes that he also preached at James Canyon, Cox Canyon, and Marcia Logging Camp as he was able, although these places were not a part of the Hope Circuit...



Rev. McGrew ... moved to Weed in July and stayed until October. The church then was located in Weed and not on the Methodist Assembly grounds. The Penasco Church at that time was old and "almost in a state of dilapidated ruins"...

In 1934 Rev. McGrew succeeded Rev. Klassen at Hope, and Dr. C.A. Clark was appointed to Tularosa and Sacramento...Dr. Clark also served James Canyon and Cox Canyon. He had previously served at Artesia, NM, where a Methodist Church is named for him. During his pastorate at Sacramento, a log cabin church was built at the Sacramento townsite...

Dr. Clark tried to organize a Methodist congregation in Cloudcroft, and proposed to move the James Canyon Church to Cloudcroft. In this he was blocked by the James Canyon residents, many of whom were not Methodists, who had built the church and were determined to keep it. The James Canyon Church had been built on property deeded to the Methodist Church by a Colonel Edington, and this property still belongs to the Methodist Church, although it is now

used as a Baptist mission...

Dr. Shook says that he was appointed to the Sacramento Circuit in October, 1938, and had three places to preach: Sacramento, James Canyon and Lower Penasco. He states that the James Canyon Church was organized in the spring of 1939...

When Dr. Shook left the Sacramento Circuit to enroll in school. Rev. Blevins was requested to serve the preaching places that Dr. Shook had been serving on Sunday afternoons and evenings. This continued until the close of the Conference year, which was about six weeks.

Rev. J.J. Spurlin was assigned to the Sacramento Circuit in 1939-40, and Dr. Shook recalls that the Sacramento Circuit was closed at the end of his ministry in 1941...

In 1947, a Community Church was organized at Cloudcroft, and the building now used by the Cloudcroft United Methodist Church was built. The Mitchells and others remember that concrete materials for the church came up the mountain on the last train operated over the famous "Cloud Climbing Railroad", which ran from Alamogordo to Cloudcroft.

The first pastor of the Community Church was Rev. Miller, a Lutheran, who, after his retirement, was followed by his son. They were the only regularly assigned ministers of this church, and after them, the church was served by several men, not all of whom were ordained ministers. One of these was Rev. Milton Chester, now a Methodist minister, but at the time of his service in 1951-52, he was in the military service at Holloman Air Force Base. The pastor of Grace United Methodist Church encouraged Milton

Chester to perform this service, which he discontinued at the request of his parents who were concerned over his trips up the mountain.

In 1952, the Community church building was acquired by the Presbyterian Church, and for the next seven years, the Presbyterians conducted the church with cooperation from several Methodist families who had been a part of the Community Church. The first Presbyterian minister to serve this church was Rev. Dodson.

In 1959 the Presbyterians ceased to conduct the church and for ten years, the building was not used. There was a proposal to turn the building into a Community Center, but this was not done. However, it was used for a short time by a square dance club.

When the Presbyterian Church ceased to operate in 1959, Rev. Ed Hamilton, pastor of Grace United Methodist Church in Alamogordo, conducted a reorganization of the Methodist Church in Cloudcroft. The congregation met in the Baby Sanitarium, near the Cloudcroft Lodge, known locally as "Baby-San". The church shared a minister with the High Rolls Church, and the first minister was Rev. James Brunner, who was appointed for 1960-61. The Mitchells recall that the High Rolls Church had been organized during the mid-1950's and used a building which belonged to the Baptists. Rev. Brunner was followed by Billy Chappell, a lawyer who was also a lay preacher. At the end of his service, the church was disbanded, and until 1969 there was no Methodist Church in Cloudcroft. Some of the Methodist families attended church in High Rolls and Alamogordo.

In 1969, the Methodist Church was again reor-

ganized in Cloudcroft, and purchased the present building from the Presbyterians. It was organized as a mission church, and shared a pastor with another mission church, Wesley United Methodist Church of Alamogordo.

The first minister was Rev. Clifford Hutton who served from May 1969 until June 1971. During his ministry, the congregation met in a vacant store building on Burro Avenue while the old Community Church was being remodeled into the present building. All work on the building was done by members of the church and no debt was created. During the time the congregation used the Baby Sanitarium, they started a building fund and this money was used to obtain title to the building from the Presbyterian Church. In this effort, the congregation and Rev. Hutton were aided by Rev. Hubert, who was minister of the Presbyterian Church in Alamogordo.

Rev. Loyd Cain was the second minister appointed to the Wesley-Cloudcroft Mission and he served two years, 1971-73. Dr. Buren Stewart was District Supt. of the El Paso District when the church was re-organized.

Rev. Cain writes that the congregation moved into the present building shortly before he came. During his pastorate, the roof was built, and all the inside work was done. The carpet was laid after he left.

He says that in his two years, he recalls missing only one Sunday because of bad weather. However, there were a couple of other times he wished he had never started up the mountain because of ice; but he always made it.

It was in Cloudcroft that Rev. Cain had his first

experience in baptizing by immersion. His story of that experience follows: I baptized Carol and Jake Carner on a Saturday afternoon, (May 19, 1973) at the First Baptist Church. I found out too late that the waders I was wearing, borrowed from a friend, were full of holes. By the time I got out of the water my pants and socks were soaked. Luckily I had taken off my shoes. It was a cool ride from there back to Alamogordo so I could change clothes. But the experience was meaningful and significant for the ones baptized and that's what was important.

Rev. Jack Moffett was appointed to Wesley-Cloudcroft in June 1973, and resigned after about one and one-half years to become an Air Force Chaplain. For a short time the church was without a pastor, and the members conducted the worship services. It was during this period that the church building was dedicated by Bishop Alsie Carleton, assisted by District Superintendent Richard Whitwam. This occurred in November of 1974.

Rev. Russell Simpson was appointed to the charge in November 1974 and completed the conference year. Rev. Simpson had served about twenty years as an Air Force Chaplain, and it was during his ministry that the Cloudcroft Church achieved its greatest growth. He was also largely responsible for the Cloudcroft Church being changed from a mission to the present status of Cloudcroft United Methodist Church in May, 1975. He conducted what is believed to be the church's first confirmation class, and received seven young people and two adults into the church on Mother's Day, 1975.

Rev. Simpson also strongly encouraged the

Cloudcroft Church to take a greater part in the program of the Board of Global Missions. He recommended that the congregation become familiar with the work being done by some eight missionary families in the World Division who were members of the New Mexico Conference.

In line with the Cloudcroft Church's policy of operating with no indebtedness, the congregation obtained some used pews from San Angelo, Texas, and the members began rebuilding and refinishing these for use in the Sanctuary...

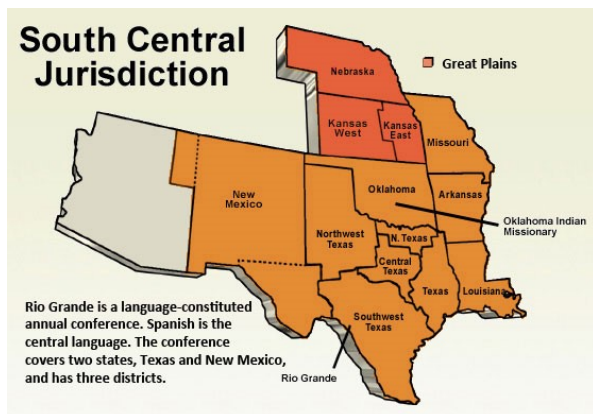
Rev. Simpson retired at the 1975 Annual Conference and was followed by Rev. Martin R. Gutzmer. During his pastorate, the emphasis on Missions was continued on the Advance projects in the National Division in New Mexico. Donations were made to the Hunger Program during the One Great



Hour of Sharing, to Lydia Patterson Institute, the Navajo Mission School at Farmington, NM, and to the Guatemala Disaster Relief Fund. In addition a donation was made to the mission in Sumatra conducted by Rev. and Mrs. William Rice sufficient to purchase about 35 Bibles written in the Indonesian language for use in the Sunday School. The Youth of the congregation, wanting to do something on their own toward the Bibles, sold cold drinks during the Aspencade in October 1975.

## **RESOURCES**

Prepared by: R. Francis Carroll, Mable Mitchell, and Curtis Mitchell - May 19, 1976



## **The Historical Record of The Rio Grande Conference and Its Precursors**

By Rev. Edgar Avitia

The ministry of The United Methodist Church by way of the Rio Grande Conference, had its precursors beginning in 1815, both with ministers working in the border areas of Texas as well as with colporteurs of the Bible societies working among some communities of faith and colonists. However, more institutionalized efforts traces its history to two of the branches of Methodism: The Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

The Methodist Episcopal Church launched its mission and ministry in 1850 with appointments to New Mexico, by way of the Oregon and California Mission and the Mission Society. These first efforts, although they formally paused in 1856, would bear fruits by giving us a mission church in Peralta. This mission church would continue distantly connected but faithfully in ministry with local class members from 1856 to 1869 when the mission church will be again closely overseen by the Methodist connection. It

was not until 1871 when the work in New Mexico would reinitiate formally as a district of the Colorado Conference. In 1876 this bilingual district would be constituted as the New Mexico Mission which would continue to be part of the Colorado Conference until 1884. Although the Mission maintained its relation with the Colorado Conference until 1891, the Mission would take a new course and reorganize itself in 1885 to give way to the New Mexico Spanish Mission which later in 1892, continues to be strengthened and becomes the New Mexico Spanish Mission Conference. In 1915 and until 1924, the Spanish speaking and English speaking Missions rejoin, forming the bilingual New Mexico Conference. In 1924 another reorganization becomes necessary and from this comes the Southwest Spanish Mission which, in 1932, changes into the Latin American Mission, which continues as such until 1936. Finally, from 1937 to 1939, the Mission reorganizes itself as the New Mexico Mission. From 1924 until 1927, the majority of the preachers maintain their clergy membership with the New Mexico Conference, then in 1928 with the New Mexico Mission Conference, and then in several other conferences up until the unification of Methodisms in 1939.

On the other hand, the Episcopal Methodist Church, South launches its mission and ministry in 1859 with appointments to El Paso and to San Antonio, through the Rio Grande Mission, which would last only one and two years respectively. In 1871 the efforts would resume with an appointment to Corpus Christi, through the West Texas Conference, which produces a district. The mission work grows and in



1885 it is established as the Mexican Border Mission Conference. In 1890 the above mentioned Conference splits into two, begetting the Northwest Mexican Mission Conference. During 1914 and 1915 the first reorganization takes place and the work is started to be divided based upon the boundary between the United States and Mexico, from which the Texas Mexican Mission is formed in 1914 and the Mexican Border Conference in 1915. Nonetheless, the majority of the clergy of the Texas Mexican Mission maintain their membership in Mexico with the Mexican Border Mission Conference in 1914 and in the Mexican Border Conference until 1918. On the other hand, there is yet another reorganization in 1918 of the western work and with this the Mexico Conference and the Western Mexican Mission are formed. It is from 1918 until 1930 that the Texas Mexican Mission and the Western Mexican Mission maintain the majority of its clergy membership in the Mexico Conference. In 1930 a definitive separation occurs between the Mexico and United States mission work and both Missions become the Texas Mexican Conference and the Western Mexican Conference, respectively, and continue as such up until the above mentioned unification of 1939.

In 1939, with the formation of the Methodist Church, also came the unification of the New Mexico Mission, the Texas Mexican Conference and the Western Mexican Conference, forming the Southwest Mexican Conference, which changes name in 1947 to the Rio Grande Conference. In January 1, 2015 the Rio Grande Conference unifies with the Southwest Texas Conference to form the Rio Texas Conference.

# IN MEMORY

## From the 2019 New Mexico Conference Journal

48. Deceased (List alphabetically in the spaces provided)

a) What associate members have died during the year?

None

b) What provisional members have died during the year? (Indicate credential.)

None

c) What elders have died during the year?

Active:

Name	Date of Birth	Date of Death
Michael Brunk	May 25, 1954	Feb 11, 2019
Barry Robert Dickens	Jun 12, 1956	Dec 25, 2018

Retired:

Name	Date of Birth	Date of Death
James Welch	May 24 1946	Nov 22, 2018
Ira Eustace Williams Jr.	Oct 14, 1926	Jun 25, 2018
O.A. McBrayer	Mar 20, 1925	Jul 1, 2018
Ralph Fishburn	Mar 29, 1929	Aug 17, 2018
Bert Scott Affleck Jr	Apr 22, 1934	Mar 13, 2019
Milton Propp	Dec 19, 1930	May 30, 2019

d) What deacons have died during the year?

none

e) What local pastors have died during the year?

None

*The following pages are meant to share some of the historical record of those names most recently added to our roll of the Honored Dead. We can not hope to tell their full story of sacrifice and service in so few words, but here is where they left their footprints in our story...*



## **Michael Steven Brunk**

**Desert Southwest:** 88 PM; 92 FE

### **APPOINTMENTS:**

**Desert Southwest:** 80 First, Mesa; 88 Prescott Valley; 91 Christ, Phoenix; 92 First, Phoenix; 93 St. Paul's, Tucson; 96

Los Arcos, Scottsdale

**New Mexico:** 99 First, Roswell associate; 01 Alpine; 03 Christ, Albuquerque; 09 First, Portales; 14 Silver City/Mimbres

**DOB:** May 25, 1954

**DOD:** Feb 11, 2019

### **EDUCATION:**

Golden Gate Theological Seminary, MDiv

### **MARRIED:**

Joyce Ann Snell 11/20/1976; DOD: 1/25/2017

### **CHILDREN:**

Andrew Steven, Jonathan Patrick

### **NOTEWORTHY:**

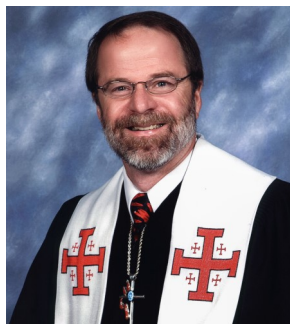
In 1999 he crossed both Conference and Jurisdictional boundaries, to come to New Mexico. His last appointment in Silver City proved to be a wonderful blessing. He loved hiking in the beautiful mountains. When the church in Silver City made the decision early in 2017 to close the day care in their church for financial reasons, Michael Brunk faced strong criticism from the community. True to his nature, he defended their need to do so, and when pressed by reporters to answer how this could affect their reputation as a church, he simply answered, "We leave our reputation in the hands of a loving God." Later that same month, sadly, Joyce passed away on January 25, 2017 at the age of 64. Michael passed away on February 11, 2019, only two years after his wife died.

# Barry Robert Dickens

**New Mexico:** 1983 PM; 1985 FE

## **APPOINTMENTS:**

**New Mexico:** 83 Mountainside; 87 St. John's, Santa Fe, associate; 89 Tucumcari; 93 Epworth, Carlsbad; 98 Los Alamos; 06 Clovis DS; 12 Medical Leave



**DOB:** June 12, 1956

**DOD:** December 25, 2018

## **EDUCATION:**

Asbury Seminary 1983, MDiv

## **MARRIED:**

Susan Toenniges 7/18/1977

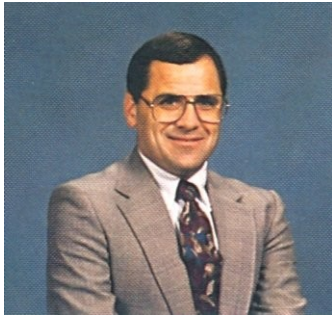
## **CHILDREN:**

David DOD 5/8/2003

Kimberly, Rachel, Peter

## **NOTEWORTHY:**

His love of God and his love of people led Barry to be called to the ministry. Barry led a compassionate and passionate life. He reached out to everyone he met, including strangers, and strived to help others in any way that he could. He conducted a backpacking ministry for the conference for 20+ years, touching the lives of many youth throughout New Mexico. Along with his other appointments, Barry also served 6 years as the District Superintendent of the Clovis District, being the "pastor's pastor" for 52 churches and their clergy. Feeling the onset of early Alzheimer's Disease, he took disability from the Conference in 2012 and moved back to Albuquerque with his wife. When he passed away on Christmas day in 2018, he was 62 years old.



## **James Joseph Welch Jr**

**New Mexico:** 70 PM; 73 FE; 06 RE

### **APPOINTMENTS:**

**New Mexico:** 70 AAS; 71 St. James, El Paso; 72 Ft. Stockton, associate; 73 Epworth, Carlsbad; 76 Hobbs/Jal; 77 Asbury,

Odessa; 79 LA; 80 Harwood, Albuquerque; 83 Trinity, Roswell; 85 Division of Chaplains;

**North Texas:** 04 Sherman, TX, associate

**New Mexico:** 06 Retired; 08 Vista-Ysleta

**DOB:** May 24, 1946

**DOD:** Nov 22, 2018

### **EDUCATION:**

Perkins School of Theology

US Army War College

### **MARRIED:**

Andrea Wallen, 1967

### **CHILDREN:**

Brian Welch, Kelley Shepard, Jennifer Smith

### **NOTEWORTHY:**

James Welch served appointments in the New Mexico and NW Texas Conferences both before and after his service as a military Chaplain. In the late 1990's he began a course of study at the US Army War College, plowing through 10,000 pages of course material. He completed this work in 1999 by which time he was already serving as the "Chief of Mobilization and Readiness of the Headquarters for the US Army Forces Command," then located at Fort McPherson, Georgia. His country owes him a debt of gratitude for his service, and we are honored to have known him as a member of the NM Conference over the years.

# **Ira Eustace Williams, Jr**

**Oklahoma: 49 PM; 51 FE;**

**New Mexico: 90 RE**



## **APPOINTMENTS:**

**Oklahoma:** 47 Harrah; 49 Little City; 51 AAS; 52 Roff; 58 Clinton

**New Mexico:** 51 AAS; 53 Santa Rosa; 55

Grace, El Paso; 62 First, Albuquerque; 90 Retired

**NW Texas:** 74 St. Paul, Abilene; 81 DS Amarillo; 85 Polk Street; 89 Union Church of San Juan PR, 99 Wesley UMC, Marco Island, FL (11/1-5/15/00)

**DOB:** Oct 14,1926

**DOD:** June 25,2018

## **EDUCATION:**

1949-1952 - Perkins School of Theology, SMU - Master of Divinity

## **MARRIED:**

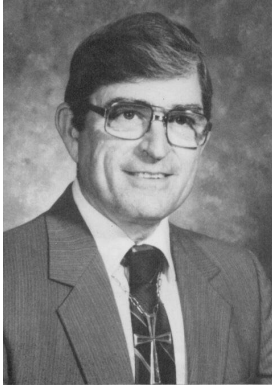
Marilyn Lee Towers 8/25/1952

## **CHILDREN:**

Mary DOD 2-2-1954, Marilyn, Shelley, Ira Wesley

## **NOTEWORTHY:**

After serving other appointments in both Oklahoma and New Mexico, he returned to the New Mexico Conference in 1962 to serve the First Methodist Church in Albuquerque. In the 12 years that followed he truly became their most beloved pastor. He went on to other appointments in NW Texas before retiring in 1990, and later served interim appointments in Puerto Rico and Marco Island Florida. Age took its toll on his abilities. True to form though, he still had memories from his 50 years of service and many stories to tell those who asked him to do so. He was 91 years old when he died peacefully on June 25, 2018 at home with his family by his side.



## Oscar A McBrayer

**NW Texas:** 45 PM; 47 FE;

**New Mexico:** 89 RE

### **APPOINTMENTS:**

**NW Texas:** 43 Anson; 45 AAS; 46 Boyd/Rhome; 48 Wylie; 49 Wolfforth; 53 Wheeler; 55 Paducah; 57 Borger/Wesley; 60 St. Paul, Amarillo; 62 St. Mark, Midland; 65 Forrest Heights, Lubbock; 73 DS Big Spring; 75 DS Lubbock; 77 St. Luke's,

Midland

**New Mexico:** 82 Ft. Stockton; 89 Retired

**DOB:** Mar 20, 1925

**DOD:** July 1, 2018

### **EDUCATION:**

Perkins School of Theology, SMU

### **MARRIED:**

Ida Belle Sherrod 8-29-1943 DOD: 10-20-2011

### **CHILDREN:**

Linda Kay, Cynthia Ann

### **NOTEWORTHY:**

Fort Stockton UMC was his one and only appointment in the New Mexico Conference. While living in Ft. Stockton, he saw the need for an ambulance in Presidio County, and helped to secure a grant to obtain one on their behalf. He established an ecumenical thrift shop in Fort Stockton and led the first CROP Walk for World Hunger in Fort Stockton raising more than \$6000. He then also established their city wide Thanksgiving Dinner for the poor. After his retirement he moved to Lake Palo Pinto, TX, where they also needed an ambulance, so he wrote a grant request to secure one for them too. When O A passed away on July 1, 2018, he was remembered as simply "a good and just man who was faithful to God."

# Ralph D Fishburn Jr.

**Colorado:** 53 PM; OD 1954

**West Ohio:** 56 FE;

**New Mexico:** 92 RE

## **APPOINTMENTS:**

**Colorado:** 53 Cameron, Denver, assistant;  
54 Hudson;

**Ohio:** 55 Glendale; 57 Harrison, Cincinnati;  
61 div. of chaplains

**New Mexico:** 81 div. of chaplains; 81 Trinity-First, El Paso associate; 84  
Tucumcari; 89 St. Paul, El Paso; 91 LA; 92 Retired

**DOB:** Mar 19, 1929

**DOD:** Aug 17, 2018

## **EDUCATION:**

Iliff School of Theology, M Div; Princeton University, Master of Theology

## **MARRIED:**

Nannie (Nancy) Halcomb Jan 1, 1952

## **CHILDREN:**

Mark, Paul, Timothy, David

## **NOTEWORTHY:**

After serving in Colorado and Ohio, he became a military chaplain in 1961, serving both God and country for the next 20 years. His final assignment brought him to the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico as staff Chaplain. He retired from the military and transferred to the New Mexico Conference in 1981. In 1984 he was appointed to Tucumcari and served there for 5 years. He returned to El Paso in 1989 serving St Paul's UMC, until he was granted a leave of absence in July of 1991, retiring the following year in 1992. He loved his family, his country, and his God, and served them all with great devotion throughout his life.







## **Bert Scott Affleck Jr**

**NW Texas:** 58 PM; 60 FE

**New Mexico:** 98 RE

### **APPOINTMENTS**

**Northwest Texas:** 56 Perkins; 61 Chaplain, McMurry

**New Mexico:** 76 Wesley, UTEP/St. James

Myrtle; 83 Director, Perkins; 00 Retired

**DOB:** Apr 22, 1934

**DOD:** Mar 13, 2019

### **EDUCATION:**

Perkins Bachelor of Divinity; Drew University, PhD in Philosophy

### **MARRIED:**

Patsy Ruth Green 12/27/1955 DOD 3/29/2016

### **CHILDREN:**

Ellen , Scott

### **NOTEWORTHY:**

Bert Affleck only served one church in New Mexico, for about 7 years in the 1970's. While only a few of us may have known him from his time in El Paso, many met him at McMurry, or SMU and got to know him as more than just a professor. His home was often a gathering place for his students, and his charm and intelligence coupled with a deep faith endeared him to many. His scholastic work on cultural issues, racism, and religion also influenced many along their journey, and still continues to inform our policies today and to open hearts and minds to the need for change.

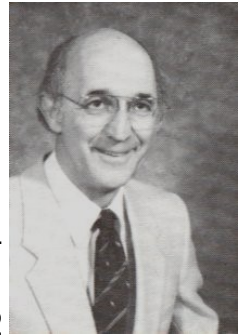
"Our emphasis is not on the legalism of laws, but on each person's responsibility to maintain respect for others."

- Exploring Religious Meaning, 1971

# Milton Chester Propp

**NW Texas:** 58 PM; 60 FE

**New Mexico:** 98 RE



## **APPOINTMENTS**

**Oklahoma:** 53 AAS; 54 Fitzhugh; 55 AAS; 56 Wesley, Ardmore; 59 OCU Dir Rel Life; 62 Goodwell

**New Mexico:** 65 Anthony; 68 Pecos/Toyah; 72 Council on Ministries; 75 Asbury, Albuquerque; 82 First, Farmington; 85 SL; 86 St. Paul's, Albuquerque; 90 Retired

**DOB:** Dec 19, 1930

**DOD:** May 30, 2019

## **EDUCATION:**

SMU-Dallas, BA English and History 1953, Master of Sacred Theology, 1956; Univ of Wisconsin, Post Graduate Studies, 1960; SMU Post Graduate Studies 1961

## **MARRIED:**

Dixie Lindsay 1954

## **CHILDREN:**

David; Melissa; Wren

## **NOTEWORTHY:**

Organizing Pastor for Wesley MC, Ardmore, OK. Assistant Director of Religious Life and Professor of Religion at Oklahoma City University, 1959-1962. Instructor in Religious Education at Panhandle University 1962-1965. Associate Director of Council on Ministries 1972-1975. Certified as a youth Laboratory Leader in 1968, leading 21 "laboratory schools" with middle and senior high youth. Participated in a 6 week pastoral exchange program in 1980, going to Plymouth, England. Took a sabbatical in 1985-86 to learn Spanish at UNM. Enjoyed camping and hiking and climbed 4 of Colorado's 14000 foot peaks. Named Emeritus Pastor In 2003 at Asbury UMC where he had served for 7 years.

# Archives and Historical Society

## *Preserving our History*



**Purpose:** The purpose of this Society shall be to aid in the collection and preservation of facts, documents, reports, records, relics, memoirs, books, periodicals, reminiscences, etc. which may be of historic value relating to the origin and growth of the United Methodist Church and its historic antecedents within the bounds of the New Mexico Annual Conference.

**Membership** in the NM Conference Historical Society is open to all interested persons.

**Officers for the Historical Society** shall be chosen annually by a ballot mailed to all members. Only members in good standing shall be eligible to vote.

**Annual dues** are \$12.00 per calendar year, which shall include printed copies of the New Mexico Conference United Methodist Historical Journal to be received by mail in May and November.

**Archives and History Endowment:** A fund has been established to benefit the NMAC Archives. Donations to this fund are tax deductible. An amount will be allocated from this fund each year to purchase supplies for the day-to-day operations of the Archives, and to carry out projects to preserve photos, books, documents and historical objects found within the Archives. We welcome any and all donations. Please consider supporting this fund to help preserve and share our history.

## **Donations can be sent to**

Archives and History Endowment  
NM Conference of the UMC  
11816 Lomas Blvd NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87112

## *Sharing Our Story*

**Heritage Tour:** The NM Conference Historical Society sponsors an annual Heritage Tour, highlighting places and events in our NM Conference History.

**Kate Warnick Award** (TUMHS) for the Best Local Church History written during the past year. Guidelines are available and entries should be addressed to W. J. Bryan III, P.O. Box 750133, Dallas, TX 75172 by January 31. Copies of the guidelines can be obtained by emailing [wbryan@smu.edu](mailto:wbryan@smu.edu).

## *Recognizing Service*

**Living Archives Awards** are presented at the Annual Conference. The purpose of the award is to lift up and honor exemplary individuals of the conference whose work and/or spirit provide hope and inspiration. The full criteria for this award can be found in the 2019 Conference Journal, page 193, and is available on request.

**Nominations** may be made either by letter or EMAIL to the Archives at the NM Annual Conference Office at any time prior to February first of the nomination year. The nomination should describe the reasons you believe that the individual deserves consideration, sharing their spiritual journey, any offices held, recognition or honors received, and their contribution to the life of the NM Annual Conference.



## THE LAST WORD

We as individuals and governments are facing, on a world scale, organized evil and sin and destruction in a way that it has never been faced before in all of the history of man. The thing that we need to do is become proclaimers of the gospel of Jesus Christ

and let the gospel become our guidebook.

Now there is a negative approach to this problem. Politically, both of our major political parties have wandered afield in many ways. I love our two party system in America. Our way of defending so often becomes wrong. We contribute to the very factors that would destroy us.

Speaking of politicians, someone said that Columbus must have been a modern politician for he didn't know where he was going, and when he got there he didn't know where he was, and when he returned he didn't know where he had been. And he did the whole thing on borrowed money.

From "Go Tell It on the Mountain", a sermon preached at Grace Methodist Church, Alamogordo, NM on February 18, 1962