

23. MEMOIRS

Those We Honor

DECEASED CLERGY

Morland S. Adell, retired minister, was born November 2, 1925 and passed away June 28, 2012 at the age of 86. He was married to Gudrun on September 15, 1951. They had two children, Mark and Christine. Morland served churches in Wisconsin, Illinois, Connecticut and Minnesota before coming to Nebraska in 1975. In Nebraska he served Omaha Olive Crest and later became administrator of Crowell Memorial Home until his retirement in 1989. A celebration of life was held July 6 in Sun City West, AZ.

Richard A. Fairbanks, retired minister, was born February 1, 1948 and passed away September 10, 2012 at the age of 64. He was married to clergy member Dorthea Putscher Fairbanks on October 12, 1996. His children are Keith Fairbanks, Amanda Lorimer, Stacy Bloom, Tim, Brian and Amber Putscher, and Rebecca Meyer. Richard served Clarks-Pierce Chapel and Red Cloud-Guide Rock before retiring in 2011. A funeral service was held at the United Methodist church in Nebraska City on September 13. Burial was at Wyuka Cemetery in Nebraska City.

John O. Craig, retired minister, was born October 19, 1923 and passed away September 12, 2012 at the age of 88. He was married to Elizabeth Clark on August 30, 1945. They had four children: Heather, Jessica, John Clark and Paul. On February 14, 1968 he married Edith Matson, and two more children, Paul Matson and Pauline Peterson, were added to the family. On November 18, 2006 he married Glenna Zern. John served churches in Oklahoma before coming to Nebraska. In Nebraska, he served Ponca-Maskell, Wayne-Carroll-Winside and St. Paul-Fairdale-Wolbach. He became Conference Evangelist and then served Milford before retiring in 1985. A memorial service was held September 15 at the Lexington United Methodist Church with inurnment in the columbarium at the church.

Paul A. Leperd, retired minister, was born July 21, 1944 and passed away October 18, 2012 at the age of 68. He was married to Janet on June 17, 1967. They had two children, Kent and Jennifer. Paul served Lincoln St. Mark's before retiring in 2010. A memorial service was held on October 22 at St. Mark's.

John Paolini, retired minister, was born June 24, 1927 and passed away December 4, 2012 at the age of 85. He was married to Jacqueline McRae on November 26, 1980. He had three children, Rosina, Marc and Jon. John served churches in New Jersey and as a missionary to Africa in his early career. He came to Nebraska and served as chaplain at Bryan

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Memorial Hospital in Lincoln for many years. Then he moved to Spokane, WA where he served the Valley Christian Counseling Service before retiring in 1988. A memorial service was held at Bryan-LGH Medical Center East on December 27.

Robert E. Frescoln, retired minister, was born July 29, 1928 and passed away December 26, 2012 at the age of 86. He was married to Ellen on June 21, 1949. They had three children, Scott, John and Alice. Robert served churches in South Dakota and Southern New Jersey before coming to Nebraska in 1965. He then served Sargent-Walworth, Milford, Minden-Upland and Gering before retiring in 1993. A funeral service was held on December 29 at the United Methodist Church in Mountain View, MO. Rev. David Fowler, son-in-law and former pastor in the Nebraska Conference, officiated. Interment was at the Mountain View Cemetery.

Gilbert E. Karges, retired minister, was born February 12, 1931 and passed away January 4, 2013 at the age of 80. He was married to Connie on June 7, 1953. They had three sons, Todd, Kelly and Casey, who are all clergy members of the Nebraska Annual Conference, as is his daughter-in-law Cynthia Karges. Gil served Doniphan-Rosedale, Waverly and was Central District Superintendent before retiring in 1995. A memorial service was held on January 8 at Lincoln Christ United Methodist Church.

Robert L. Miller, retired minister, was born March 10, 1926 and passed away January 30, 2013 at the age of 86. He was married to Marjorie on September 12, 1947. They had five children: Ronald, Sherilynn, Joy, Lou Ann and Jon. Robert served Julian and then served churches in Wisconsin for a brief time. He returned to Nebraska and served Mira Valley-Ord, Elgin-Tilden-Morning Star, Holstein, Bladen-Holstein-New Virginia, Greeley-Wolbach, Greeley-Ericson-Bartlett, Syracuse-Unadilla, Wisner-Beemer, Alvo-Prairie Home and Hallam-Martell before retiring in 1989. A celebration of life was held on February 5 at Lincoln Calvary United Methodist Church.

Donald E. Littrell, retired minister, was born May 30, 1911 and passed away February 6, 2013 at the age of 101. He was married to Thelma (Tommie) on July 9, 1934. They had one son, Joe. Donald served Royal-Fairview and Dixon-Rose Hill and then served churches in the Rocky Mountain Conference. Upon returning to Nebraska, he served Kimball, Ogallala, Fairbury, Omaha Pearl Memorial, Mitchell-Hull and Ansley-Westerville before retiring in 1981. A memorial service was held in the spring.

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William C. Simmer, retired minister, was born June 16, 1921 and passed away February 24, 2013 at the age of 91. He was married to Blanche on June 3, 1945. They had five children: Judith, Stephen, Scott, David and Mark. William served churches in the New England Conference before coming to Nebraska in 1952. In Nebraska he served Hemingford-Marsland, Wayne, North Platte-Tryon and Fremont First. He retired in 1981. His service was held on February 27 in the chapel at Langsford Funeral Home in Lee's Summit, MO.

J. Richard Shapland, retired minister, was born April 14, 1925 and passed away February 25, 2013 at the age of 87. He was married to Dorothy on December 28, 1947. They had two sons, Donald and David. Richard served Strang-Martland, West Point, St. Francis in Kansas, Taylor-Rock County, Taylor-Rose-Sybrant, Burwell-Taylor, Atkinson-Amelia, Clay Center Emmanuel-Sutton Salem-Saronville and retired in 1992. A funeral service was held on February 27 at the Holdrege United Methodist Church. Interment was at the Prairie Home Cemetery.

Robert D. Wigert, retired minister, was born April 22, 1921 and passed away April 13, 2013 at the age of 91. He was married to Helen on June 6, 1947. They had four children: Lee, a clergy member of the Nebraska Conference, Howard, Bob and Marilyn. Robert served Ayr, Pauline, Herman, Harvard-Trumbull, Superior, Mitchell-Hull, Alliance-Lakeside, Waverly, Holdrege-Ragan-Wilcox, Holdrege and Eustis-Farnam before retiring in 1987. Memorial services were held on April 19 at Scottsbluff United Methodist Church and on April 27 at Hastings Grace United Methodist Church. Interment was at the Blue Valley Cemetery in Ayr.

SPOUSES AND OTHER DEPENDENTS

Kevin Keezer, son of Jean Clayton, was born October 8, 1968 and passed away July 2, 2012 at the age of 42. Kevin was severely brain-injured at the age of 15 and suffered many disabilities as a result. He was a man of great faith and enjoyed music. A funeral service was held July 6 at the First Baptist Church in Holdrege. Rita Skiles spoke. Interment was at the Mt. Hope Cemetery in Beaver City.

Sharon R. Linder, widow of Robert Linder, was born May 22, 1940 and passed away September 12, 2012 at the age of 72. Sharon was married to Robert on August 7, 1983. They had two children, Tim and Lisa. Robert served churches in Ceresco, Page-Inman, Peru-Brock, Genoa, Genoa-Fullerton, Johnson-Cook-Elk Creek, Eagle, Murdock and Polk. Sharon developed Multiple Sclerosis in 1975 but lived life to the fullest until the time of her death. Services were held on September 18 at the Polk United Methodist Church. Interment was at the Polk Cemetery.

Ardis D. Bevins, spouse of C. Rex Bevins, was born October 5, 1933 and passed away October 30, 2012 at the age of 79. Ardis was married to Rex on June 21, 1953. They had three children, Mike, Mark, and Debra. Rex served Otoe in Nebraska and then served churches in the California-Nevada Conference. Upon returning to Nebraska, he served Lincoln Warren, was Conference Executive Director of Ministries and then served Lincoln Saint Paul for the remainder of his career. Services were held on November 5 at Lincoln Saint Paul. Interment was at Lincoln Memorial Park.

Lois M. Naylor, widow of Robert Naylor, was born July 21, 1913 and passed away January 30, 2013 at the age of 99. Lois and Robert were married on December 26, 1967. Robert served churches in the Oklahoma and New Mexico Conferences before coming to Nebraska in 1959. He served Omaha First for a number of years and retired in 1978. The Naylor's lived in St. Petersburg, FL in retirement. No information about her service is available.