

MEMOIRS

Those We Honor

Deceased Clergy

The Rev. Don D. Anderson, 83, born September 3, 1937; died November 14, 2020. He served churches in the former Kansas East Conference including Kansas City Wesley, Junction City Church of Our Savior, Ogden Friendship House, LaCygne-New Lancaster, and Topeka East before retirement in 2003. Survivors include wife, Bobbie, children Roger and April, two granddaughters and one great-grandson.

The Rev. Gary Aten, 82, a retired clergy member of the Great Plains Conference, born September 4, 1938; died January 7, 2021. He served churches in Nebraska starting in 1963 at Lodgepole, followed by Cambridge, Cambridge-Bartley, University of Nebraska, Lincoln South Gate, Crawford-Whitney, Columbus-Fairview-Silver Creek, Custer Parish, Bloomfield-Verdigre-Crofton, and Sidney and before retirement in 2001. He is survived by wife Caroline, two sisters and a brother.

The Rev. Garner J. Berg, 92, a retired clergy member of the Great Plains Conference, born July 15, 1928; died November 25, 2020. On July 27, 1946 he was united in marriage to Harriet F. Rossow in McPherson. She preceded him in death on November 25, 2008. He later married Nancy (Wheatcroft) Stanka. He served the following churches in the former Kansas West conference: Burden, Sedgwick, Wichita Cedar Chapel, Lincoln-Beverly, Plainville, Hays, Quinter-Grinnell, Salina Church of the Cross and Ness City before retirement in 1995. Survivors include his wife Nancy, two sons, Barry Berg and Jon Berg, and a daughter, Brenda-Berg Morrow.

The Rev. Larry Lee Bowyer, 83, a Great Plains clergy member, born Nov. 24, 1937, died March 29, 2021. He served churches in Centralia and Church of Our Savior Junction City before moving overseas to study at Ecumenical Institute at Chateau de Bossey. He moved back and served at the Church of All Nations in Boston and then Kansas City St. Marks; Moultonborough-Weirs Beach, New Hampshire; and Enfield-Canaan-West Canaan, New Hampshire. He then back to Kansas, where he served Gridley-Turkey Creek, Cottonwood Falls-Saffordville-Bazaar, Cherryvale, Moline-Grenola;

Sedan-Elgin-Peru, Cedar Vale-Wauneta; Frankfort and Easton. He was preceded in death by brothers, and sister. Survivors include wife, Beverly (Randall), daughters Amy McComb (Robert) and Lara Strube (J.T.); step-daughter Kristin Njoroge (Matt); five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Pastor Mark Demas, 61, a member of the Great Plains conference, born March 3, 1925; died January 6, 2021. Mark began serving churches in the former Kansas East conference in 2003 at Hamilton-Virgil-Neal, Parsons First, Erie Federated, Galesburg-St. Paul, and was serving Coffeyville First-Edna at the time of his death. Survivors include his wife, Diann, three children, Sarah Lopez (Fernando), Kyle Demas, Trenton Demas, and four grandchildren. Mark was preceded in death by a son, Isaac Demas.

The Rev. Junius Boyd Dotson, 55, a clergy member of the Great Plains conference, born Aug. 7, 1965; died February 25, 2021. After serving 14 years as senior pastor of Wichita Saint Mark UMC, he was appointed as the general secretary and chief executive officer of Discipleship Ministries, an international agency of The United Methodist Church, and was a clergy delegate to the South Central Jurisdictional Conference in 2016 and had been elected as a clergy delegate to the General Conference in 2020. He is survived by his son Wesley and daughter Janelle.

The Rev. Jimmie (Jim) Leroy Fredrickson, 81, a retired clergy member of Great Plains Conference, born January 20, 1939; died December 14, 2020. He served parishes in Eskridge-Harveyville and at Topeka University before retirement. Survivors include wife, Annabel; brother, Ronald Fredrickson; sister, Janice Chandler (Tom); sons, Ken Fredrickson (Susan Langr-Fredrickson), David Fredrickson (Lori), Leslie Fredrickson; 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

The Rev. Bonnie Marie Gilmer, 96, a retired Great Plains Clergy member, born September 16, 1924; died January 25, 2021. She served the following churches in Nebraska -- Wolbach, Diller-Ellis, Juniata-Prosser, Cedar Rapids-Belgrade, Utica-Ulysses, Utica-Ebenezer, Union-Mynard Liberty and Fullerton -- before retirement in 1990. Survivors include her sister Betty Mitchell and sister-in-law Iva Gilmer. She was preceded in death by her twin

sister Beth Gilmer, brother Don Gilmer and sister Gayle Cornelius.

The Rev. John C. Gingerich, 98, a Great Plains clergy member, born December 2, 1921; died June 5, 2020. He married Roberta Crow on June 6, 1943. He served congregations in Oklahoma, Colorado, Iowa, Ohio, Kansas and Tokyo, Japan. He came to the Kansas East Conference in 1969 serving churches at Parsons First, then serving in roles as Conference Program Director and in 1973 taking on the role of Director of the Council on Ministries. He retired in 1985 after serving Leawood UMC. He was preceded in death by his wife, Roberta Crow Gingerich, and his daughter, Harriet Gingerich Caplan. Survivors include daughter, Robin Gingerich (Tom Mersmann) son, John Gingerich Jr.

The Rev. Dr. Vernon Goff, 92, a retired member of the Great Plains United Methodist Conference, born December 15, 1928; died October 26, 2020. He married Alice Goff on September 17, 1949. Vernon served the following churches in Nebraska: Mount Zion, Omaha St. Paul, and founding pastor at Omaha St. Luke from 1964 until his retirement in 1999. Survivors include wife Alice, four children, Todd Goff (Sally), Vern Goff (Deb), Kandy Duncan (Vic) and Debbie Bonner (Shawn), seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

The Rev. R. Laurence Hastings, 87, a retired clergy member of the Great Plains Conference, born August 23, 1932; died June 26, 2020. He served these churches in the former Kansas West Conference: Mentor, Friendship Parish, Copeland and Belle Plaine, and Burchfiel-Bluff City. He retired in 1997.

The Rev. Jerald "Jerry" Keith Hooley, 86, born December 4, 1933; died September 12, 2020. He served in the former Kansas West Conference, Hutchinson First, Oxford, Plains, Wichita Trinity and Arkansas City First. After retirement, he served the Cassoday UMC. Later, he served as an interim pastor for Presbyterian churches in Arkansas City, Derby and Winfield. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Mary Ann; daughters Rev. Jessie Zimmerman, Jeri Kay (Rev. Dr. Richard) Reed, and Karen Tingley; nine grandchildren and six great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son Daniel and daughter-in-law Lisa.

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The Reverend Doctor Warthen Talmadge “Bud” Israel, 88, a retired clergy member of the Great Plains United Methodist Conference; born January 30, 1932, died October 5, 2020. He served churches in Palmer, Benkelman, Milford and Cozad, Nebraska; was South Central District superintendent and senior pastor of Hastings First United Methodist Church. In 1987, he was inaugurated as president of Vennard College in Iowa. He returned to the Nebraska Conference to serve Sargent and Gretna. He retired in 1998 and moved to Hastings, serving as a part-time pastor of Second Presbyterian Church. Preceding Bud in death was his wife, Ann, in May 2019. He is survived by his sons, W. Stephen (Nancy) Israel, David (Sara) Israel; daughters, Deborah (Doug) Israel Wiens, Priscilla (Hamish) Israel List, Elizabeth (Shawn) Israel Hartmann of Hastings; six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

The Rev. Dr. Robert Jewett, 86, a retired Great Plains clergy member, born December 31, 1933; died December 4, 2020. He served churches in Dakota City and Homer before beginning his academic career at Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa. He went on to serve as theologian-in-residence at American Church in Paris, France; professor of New Testament interpretation at Garret-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, Illinois; and coordinating faculty member of the joint Garrett and Northwestern Ph.D. program in religious and theological studies before retirement. He continued his academic career at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.; the University of Montana; Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado; Vancouver School of Theology; and as guest professor of New Testament at the Wissenschaftlich-Theologisches Seminar, University of Heidelberg. Dr. Jewett served as the featured instructor for the annual “Wesleyan Live” Lenten studies in cooperation with Nebraska Wesleyan University and the Great Plains Conference until 2016. Author of numerous published writings, Dr. Jewett was Theologian in Residence at St. Marks United Methodist Church in Lincoln at the time of his death. He is survived by daughter Ellen.

The Rev. Duane W. Lenz, 95, a retired clergy member of the Great Plains Conference; born March 25, 1925; died April 21, 2020. While in seminary he served a church in Gillingham, Wisconsin. He served churches in Crofton, De Bois, Orchard, Kearney (Faith), Aurora, Sidney, Lincoln (Warren) and as Southeast Nebraska

District superintendent. He retired in 1991. Survivors include his wife of 72 years, Lucile Deike Lenz; children Nancy (Jack) Armitage, David (Patty) Lenz, Steven (Anne) Lenz, and Barbara Lenz; 27 grandchildren and great grandchildren; sister, Marilyn Lenz Krause, Hurst, Texas.

The Robert Joseph “Bob” Loomis, 91, a retired clergy member of the Great Plains conference, born November 23, 1929; died November 29, 2020. Bob served the following communities: Langdon-Lerado, Norcatur-Lyle, Quinter-Banner-Collyer before serving as a school psychologist before retirement in 1977. He was preceded in death by wives, Sally Loomis and Phyllis Loomis; grandson, Tyler Loomis; two sisters and one brother. Survivors include son, Monty Loomis; daughters, Terri (Wayne) Wells and Mary (Sherfy) Kemper; seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

The Rev. Aaron Sekwawaedza Madondo, 69, a retired Great Plains clergy member, born June 14, 1951; died January 4, 2021. He was united in marriage on July 12, 1976, in Zimbabwe, to Lois Chikara, who preceded him in death on August 6, 2017. He served churches in the Missouri West and Missouri East conferences before beginning service in the Kansas West conference in 2003 at Hill City-Bogue-Morland and Kingman before retiring in 2019. Survivors include children Praise, Tapiwa Ferries (Fatima) and Pamela (Enock) and eight grandchildren.

The Rev. M. Lyle Miller, 92, a retired Great Plains clergy member, born March 13, 1928; died December 22, 2020. On June 11, 1950, Jeannie and Lyle were married at the Waterloo, Iowa Church of the Brethren. He served churches in Kensington-Beulah. Other churches served include Pleasant View- Hunter, Scandia-Courtland-Norway, Tisdale-Burden, Stockton-Woodston, and Rose Valley before retirement in 1993.

The Rev. Paul George Mugler, 89, born on March 20, 1931; died November 10, 2020. He married Marjorie Davis on December 23, 1953. He served churches in Wakefield, South Hutchinson, Plainville, Winfield, Liberal and Salina. He is survived by his children Donna (Tim) Surlles, Greg (Patty) Mugler, Marcy Cone, and Jeff (Sonja) Mugler, ten grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife Marjorie.

The Rev. Robert “Bob” William Nowling, 91, a retired clergy member of the Great Plains Conference, born October 14, 1929; died November 27, 2020. He served as the head chaplain at Swedish Medical Center in Englewood for more than 20 years. He was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife Jackie, his sister Marilyn Moore, and brother David. Bob is survived by his wife Maria; his sister Sandra Krueger; his children Kenneth (Louise), Mary Hartman (Dan), Jenny Martin (Aaron) and David (Roxane). He has five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Pastor Gary C. Parsons, 85, a retired member of the Great Plains conference, born April 20, 1935; died August 18, 2020. He married and enlisted in the Air Force in 1955. He began ministry at a United Methodist Church in Gridley, California. He served churches in White City-Wilsey and Howard-Severy, Kansas. He retired from his full-time pastoral duties in 1999, then served as part-time pastor at Moline United Methodist Church. He is survived by his brother Wayne Parsons, his wife Jean Parsons, children Susan Parsons Klein, Joseph Parsons, Gary Halverson and Hank Halverson and seven grandchildren.

The Rev. Dr. Ivan D. Richardson, 88, born February 8, 1932; died September 6, 2020. He served churches in Nebraska including Douglas-Burr, Omaha Rockbrook, Hay Springs, Wahoo, Nebraska Omaha Cooperative Ministry, Kearney Faith Parish, Lincoln Havelock, South Sioux City, St. Paul and Murdock-Eagle before retirement in 1997. He is survived by his wife Marlys Richardson; children, Steve (Lisa), Deb (Erv) Havranek, Mike, Tim (Mary) Richardson; 12 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren.

The Rev. Chester Wheeler Ross, 97, a retired clergy member of the Great Plains United Methodist Conference, born November 3, 1922; died August 12, 2020. Chaplain, Lt. Col., USAF; Retired. He enlisted in the United States Army Air Force in 1942, completing 27 years of active Air Force service. Chet married Ruth Briney on August 30, 1949. He retired from US Air Force chaplaincy in 1975. He served parishes in Iuka, Byers, Cullison and Ness City. In the 1940s and early 1950s he served parishes in Mentor and Bogue. Preceding him in death are his wife of 65 years, Ruth. Survivors are son, James of Goodland; daughters, Deborah (Mike) Edwards,

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Judith Cutler Martha (Brian) Kruger; son, John (Stacey) Ross; brother, Glen Ross; sister, Lois (John) Helfrick; 11 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

The Rev. Wayne Leroy Schreurs, 92, a retired clergy of the Great Plains Conference, born August 17, 1928; died November 1, 2020. He married Caltha Rhoads on August 29, 1948. He served churches in Texas, and in Nebraska: Geneva, Norfolk, Seward and Beaver Crossing-Salem, before retirement in 1994. He is survived by his sons Major Greg (Sharon) Schreurs, Chaplain Les (Karin) Schreurs, daughter Anita (Floyd) Meyer; seven grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, a brother and a sister. He was preceded in death by wife Caltha.

The Reverend LaRoy Edward Seaver, 99, born September 21, 1920; died July 6, 2020. In 1943, he married Pauline Roberts of Lewellen, Nebraska, and together they had five children. Beginning in 1953 he served as a Methodist pastor for Exeter-Milligan, Big Springs, Hebron-Belvedere, Wahoo-Ithaca, Omaha Pearl Memorial and Lincoln Southminster. He also served the Nebraska Conference as Director of Ministries. His retirement was in 1987. Pauline died February 2, 1979, and on December 21, 1981, he married Mary (Stoffel) Newman. He was preceded in death by his three sisters and one son, David A. Seaver. He is survived by his wife, Mary Seaver, daughters Judi Seaver and Miriam Seaver, sons Mark Seaver and Tim Seaver, four stepchildren, six grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

The Rev. Dr. Donald James Snyder, 89, a retired Great Plains clergy member, born September 6, 1930; died July 28, 2020. He married Dixie Darlene Dodson March 16, 1952 in Pratt, Kansas. He served congregations in the Kansas West Conference, including Hicks Chapel-Arkansas City First: Arkansas City First (associate); South Haven; Kanorado-Neville; Quinter-Grinnell; WaKeeney-Prairie Home; Abilene First; Ness City; and Rose Hill before retirement in 1997. Don and Darlene were united for 68 years. They had two sons, Robert Eugene (Robin) and Alan Lee (Beth), seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

The Rev. Susan Montgomery Stover, 71, a retired Great Plains clergy member, born February 18, 1949; died July 28, 2020. She

served churches in the Kansas West Conference including Fowler, Mayfield Federated, Nickerson, Salina Trinity, Wichita First as associate and Clearwater before retirement in 2013. Survivors include husband, George; sons, George (Trisha) Stover of Lyons, Sterling (Sarah) Stover; a brother, and four grandchildren.

The Reverend Gerald “Toby” Lee Toburen, 85, a retired clergy member of the Great Plains Conference, born June 17, 1934; died 4, 2020. On June 11, 1961, he married Winona Brown. He served churches in Lebo-Olivet, Tecumseh, Olathe, Iola Calvary-Salem, Edgerton, Overland Park St. Mark’s, Kansas City Wyandotte, Paola and Wellsville-Clearfield before retirement in 1997. Toby is survived by his wife Winona, son Lance Toburen, daughters Shannon Toburen, and Gretta Toburen, and his sister Sarah Lindblad.

The Rev. Armin E. Vogt, 92, a retired clergy member of the Great Plains United Methodist Conference; born February 9, 1928; died September 24, 2020, in Lincoln. Armin married Mary Hahn in Le Mars, Iowa, in 1951. He served EUB and Methodist churches in Nebraska at Eustis, Orafino, Marquette, Archer Zion, DeWitt, Papillion, Grand Island Faith, Wahoo and Ithaca. He also provided leadership on the conference level as coordinator of the camping program for the EUB Church. In 1993, he was the clergy recipient of the Harry Denman Award for Evangelism. In 1989, he was an exchange pastor to Ulverston, England, where he shared in pastoring 12 small churches in the area. After his retirement to Lincoln in 1993, he served as a visitation pastor for St. Paul UMC for 14 years. He is survived by sons David (Kirsten), Timothy (Debby) and Daniel (Kathy); five granddaughters and six great-grandchildren.

The Rev. Thomas Wallrabenstein, 83, a retired clergy member of the Great Plains United Methodist Conference, born July 31, 1937; died December 13, 2020. His ministry began in California and Arizona before serving in Kansas beginning in 1963 in the Development Office of Southwestern College, followed by Oswego and Monticello before retirement in 1990. He is survived by his wife Mariana (Mari) of the home, son Russell (Trish), three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, and sister Dr. Jan Cone.

Diaconal Ministers

Darlene Moore Montgomery, 90, a retired Great Plains clergy member, born October 27, 1929; died August 24, 2020. She served at Susanna Wesley UMC and the United Methodist Home, both in Topeka. She has been involved in the UMC at the District, Conference, Jurisdiction and General Conference levels, including District UMW President, Conference UMWW Secretary, Study Leader and Dean of the Conference School of Christian Mission, delegate to three Jurisdictional and General conferences, eight years on the General Board of Church & Society and four years on the South Central Jurisdiction. She was preceded in death by her husband, Sterling Montgomery Sr. She is survived by her children, Sterling Montgomery Jr., Terri Montgomery, Phillip Montgomery and Michelle Montgomery; 10 grandchildren, 28 great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

Spouses

Opal Anderson, 89, spouse of a Great Plains clergy member, born October 7, 1931; died October 20, 2020. Opal married the Rev. Bill Anderson on February 6, 1953, at the United Methodist Church in Oakland, Nebraska. Bill served Laurel, Dixon, Allen Hebron-Belvidere and Pender. Following retirement, he served Allen-Dixon. Survivors include children Irma, Arlene, Lula, Harold and Eric.

Betty Jane Bandy, 91, spouse of a Great Plains clergy member, born May 4, 1929; died November 30, 2020. She was preceded in death by her spouse Rev. Thomas Alvin Bandy; and great-grandson Emmett Bandy. She's survived by her sons, Philip (Deborah), Bruce (Leatte), Brad and Kirk (Jia); 8 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

George Berlin, 99, spouse of a Great Plains clergy member, born July 15, 1921; died March 17, 2021. He married Rev. Dee Ann Mezger on March 19, 1988. He is survived by his wife, son Randy Berlin (Carol Imwalle), daughter Jeanne Berlin Roberts (Bob), 6 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren.

Euna Vaye (Ukena) Brant, 98, spouse of a Great Plains clergy member, born March 16, 1922; died August 19, 2020. She married Rev. Walter R. Brant on June 10, 1943. Preceding her in death were her husband and daughter, Joan Barhydt, in 2016. She is survived by her children and their families, Marilyn Spatz; Elaine and LeRoy Schrader; son-in-law Bob Barhydt; Nita and David Zeit; and David and Deba Brant; 14 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandson.

Madge Buehler, 97, spouse of a Great Plains clergy member, born March 6, 1923; died August 8, 2020. She married Rev. Clarence Wesley Buehler after graduating from Asbury University. She was preceded in death by her sister Jo, her brother Ed, one of her grandsons Andy, and her husband Clarence. Survivors include son Gary (Duncan), her daughter Judy, two grandchildren and one great grandson.

Terry Lynn Clugston Sr., 72, spouse of a Great Plains clergy member, born October 29, 1947; died Friday, July 31, 2020. He was married to Pauline McDougal on May 17, 1989, in Cherokee, Kansas. She survives. Additional survivors include two sons, Terry L. Clugston Jr. (wife, Brenda), and Roger Aaren Marshall, ; one daughter, Jennifer Leeper, and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, one daughter and two brothers.

Anneta LaRue "Neta" Conway, 82, spouse of a Great Plains clergy member, born July 1, 1938; died January 20, 2021. She was united in marriage to the Rev. Robert Conway on July 3, 1960. Survivors include her husband, children Selah (Scott) McBride and Kevin (Brenda) Conway, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Jerry A. Friesen, 87, spouse of a Great Plains clergy member, born January 22, 1933; died September 11, 2020. He married Donna Voth on December 27, 1955. He is survived by his wife, the Rev. Donna Friesen; children, Janelle Albertson, Sharon (Keith) Penner and Kent (Dawn) Friesen; sister, Paula Sauder; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Schatzie K. Gillming, 64, spouse of a Great Plains clergy member, died Saturday, June 6, 2020, in Kimball, Nebraska. She married Roger Gillming at Trinity United Methodist Church on Oct. 9, 2004. She was proud to serve as a lay minister for the Melbeta United

Methodist Church, until moving to Callaway. Survivors include her husband, Roger Gillming; sons, Karl (Jacqueline) Ayers, John (Alicia) Pearce, and Josh (Jennifer) Gillming; daughters, Desiree (Bradley) Kelly, Bonnie Ayers, Maeghanne Evers and Jessica (Connor) Cooper; 18 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death one brother, Richard; and one sister, Karla.

Catherine “Cate” F. Hayen, 92, spouse of a Great Plains clergy member, born March 24, 1928; died January 12, 2021. She married Rev. Leon Hayen on August 17, 1948 in Minnesota. She is survived by her husband Leon Hayen, children, Robert (Sheila) Hayen, Marlene (Dave) O’Neal, Scott (Kelly Jo) Hayen, and Janet Diemer; 10 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

Betty Jean (Laurence) Holdridge, 89, spouse of a Great Plains clergy member, born June 14, 1930; died April 17, 2020. She married the late Rev. James R. Holdridge, March 2, 1953. She was preceded in death by her husband, James. She is survived by her daughters, Cynthia Smith, Linda Kohler, and Cheri (Kurt Young) Holdridge; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Marilyn Morgan Hunt, 91, spouse of a Great Plains clergy member, born August 31, 1929; died July 1, 2020. She married Rev. Billy M. Hunt on April 10, 1947. She is survived by her son Rick Hunt and wife, Marcia; daughter-in-law, Jacki Hunt; four grandsons and six great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by Billy her husband and her son Ted Hunt.

Beverly “Bee” Bernise Johnson, 97, spouse of a Great Plains clergy member, born February 17, 1923; died June 3, 2020. She married Paul J. Johnson on August 30, 1942. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Rev. Paul J. Johnson, two sisters, a daughter, Son-in-law and two infant grandchildren. Bee is survived by sister Ann Turrie, daughters Oralee Volwiler, Marie (Al) Zimmermann, Sandra Johnson and Jacque (Joe) Hamelin, 11 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, eight great-great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Ruth Esther (Reeves) Kemling, 91, spouse of a Great Plains clergy member, born February 23, 1929; died December 3, 2020. She

married Dwight Kemling on February 18, 1951. She is survived by four children: Mark of Omaha, Heidi Heidemann of Lincoln, Jon of Lincoln and Neal of Colon, Nebraska, a brother and a host of grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Luella Jean (Minter) Martin, 90, spouse of a Great Plains clergy member, born July 13, 1929; died June 5, 2020. In 1949, she married Rev. Gerald Martin. Luella is survived by her five children: son, Ken Martin (Melinda); daughters, Faye Martin, Vonda McKenna (Phil), LaDona Martin, Shauna Martin; nine grandchildren; five great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by husband of 67 years, Rev. Gerald Martin and grandson Ramsey Martin.

Marjorie Mae (Walter) Miller, 93, spouse of a Great Plains Conference pastor, born May 13, 1927; died October 8, 2020. On September 12, 1947, she married the Rev. Robert Leland Miller also of St. Francis, Kansas. She is survived by her children, Ronald Lynn Miller (Margaret); Sherilynn Reynolds (William Keith); Joy Ellen Soddors (Daniel Richard); Lou Ann Colborn (Mark Douglas); and Jon Marc Miller (Teresa Lynn); nine grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. Marjorie was preceded in death by her husband Robert and a grandson.

Katherine Mohlstrom, 83, spouse of a Great Plains clergy member, born July 6, 1937; died October 24, 2020. She married Rev. Carl Mohlstrom on August 24, 1958. She was preceded in death by her husband and son Eric. She is survived by daughters Donanne Kasikci (Ali) and Carla Mohlstrom and one granddaughter.

JoAnn Nuetzman, 86, spouse of a Great Plains clergy member; born May 8, 1934; died December 28, 2020. She married the Rev. Raymond Nuetzman on October 27, 1953. He preceded her in death. Survivors include daughters Suzanne Jo (Gerald) Mayo, Deborah (Jeff) Soneson, two grandchildren and a great-grandson.

Patrick Lee Norris, 75, spouse of a Great Plains clergy member, born March 17, 1945; died August 23, 2020. Patrick married Rev. Pat Norris on June 8, 1985. Patrick was a former Director of Youth Ministries of the Nebraska Conference. He is survived by his wife Pat; children Leslie and Troy and two grandchildren.

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Jane Pope, 95, spouse of a retired Great Plains clergy, born June 24, 1925; died February 9, 2021. She married Al Pope, a retired associate pastor of Prairie Village Asbury UMC, in 2006, and they lived in Lakewood Village retirement community. She is survived by her husband Al; her three children: Mark (Darcy) in Denver, David (Carol) in Zionsville, Indiana; and Melissa in Overland Park; a sister, brother and three grandsons.

Barbara P. Schmidt, 86, spouse of a Great Plains clergy member, born May 10, 1934; died January 15, 2021. She married the Rev. Jay E. Schmidt in 1956. She was preceded in death by her husband on March 19, 2020, and two brothers. She is survived by her children, Rachel (Jim) Garver, Philip Schmidt and Michael (Brenda) Schmidt, and four grandsons.

Dorothy Mae Stagner, 92, spouse of a Great Plains Clergy member, born February 20, 1929; died February 21, 2021. She married her husband Giles in 1949. Survivors include children; Cynthia (Ron) Myers, Curtis (Kay) Stagner, Cathryn Laird, Cora Stagner; nine grandchildren, and one great granddaughter.

James L. Stapleton, 73, spouse of a Great Plains clergy member; born April 13, 1947; died June 20, 2020. He married Carol Jean Jackson on July 9, 1967, at Allen United Methodist Church. He is survived by wife Carol Jean; son, Greg (Chantel) Stapleton; daughter, Carla (Rusty) Dickens; six grandchildren: sisters: June Stapleton and Lori (Dale) Jackson; brother, John (Sue) Stapleton.

Zelda "Tag" Swartz, 88, spouse of a Great Plains clergy member, born November 3, 1931; died June 30, 2020. She is survived by her husband, Rev. Warren C. Swartz; children, Cynthia A. Hodges and Lloyd C. Swartz, eight grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. She was predeceased by her daughter, Susan L. Knight.

D. Jean Thuma, 90, spouse of a Great Plains clergy member, born August 30, 1929; died May 17, 2020. She married Rev. Lowell Thuma in 1947. She is survived by her daughters, Janet Herndon (Robert) and Joan Clary (Buddy), one grandson and two great grandsons. She is preceded in death by her husband Lowell and one sibling, Phil Kissling.

Nina VanVerth, 94, spouse of a Great Plains clergy member; born

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February 4, 1926; died January 6, 2021. She married Rev. LeRoy VanVerth on September 15, 1946. LeRoy preceded her in death, as well as her son David. Survivors include daughter Diana Lee (Jim) Myers, son Steven (Lynn) VanVerth, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

M. Christine Vogt, 84, spouse of a Great Plains clergy member, born May 27, 1936; died December 8, 2020. Survivors include husband, Rev. Dr. Jerold W. Vogt; sons, Sheldon (Paula) Vogt and Clifton (Brianna) Vogt; daughter, Sharla Vogt; four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, a step-granddaughter, three step-great grandchildren and two brothers.

Jimmy Wayne Wickiser, 80, spouse of a Great Plains clergy member, born November 15, 1939; died October 14, 2020. He married his wife Susie in 1975. Jimmy is survived by his wife, the Rev. Susie Wickiser; sister Kay Bizelli, sister-in-law Pinkhan C.R. Warouw Wickiser, stepsons Barry Marshall and Brad Marshall.