

In Memoriam and Roll of Honored Dead

2021 Desert Southwest Conference



Rev. Kelly Bender

March 21, 1946 – December 23, 2020

In 2001, Rev. Kelly Bender began service in the Desert Southwest Conference where he served at Paradise Valley: Paradise Valley UMC. He retired in 2012 but continued to serve as pastor to the UMOM New Day Centers homeless shelters and in 2018, he served at Tempe: First Tempe UMC. Rev. Bender's entire ministry proclaimed the radically unconditional grace of God revealed in Jesus Christ, and its equipping of John Wesley's "Vital Piety", i.e., the gospel personal first and social justice always. He was grateful for the privilege of having "labored in the vineyard all day long."

Pastor Fred Jameson

August 12, 1938 – August 9, 2020

Pastor Jameson became a licensed local pastor in 2003 and served in the Desert Southwest Conference: Blythe, CA: Blythe Community part time from 2003-2005. He is survived by his wife, Jeanne Jameson. While his calling to the pastorate was late in life, Pastor Jameson truly found a passion for the ministry. He will be remembered as unselfish, always smiling, and always willing to jump in and help people and the church. He was a generous friend and an enthusiastic co-worker to many who knew him.



Rev. Lori Martin DeWitt

June 15, 1955 – January 30, 2021



Rev. Marian Lori Martin DeWitt was a retired elder in the Desert Southwest Conference. She served at: Tempe: Dayspring UMC (Associate); Safford: First UMC; Tucson: Desert Skies UMC; Phoenix: Faith UMC; Scottsdale: Scottsdale UMC; and Tucson: Christ Church UM. Rev. Martin DeWitt retired in 2005. She provided hospice family care and served at the Southern Arizona Mental Health Corporation as a counselor while in retirement. Rev. Martin DeWitt was an intelligent, caring person in action and deed and she practiced that care with all around her. She was a proponent of

Creation Spirituality and engaged in many conversations about the goodness God created. She engaged life with her wit and a laugh that drew you in. Rev. Martin DeWitt and her husband John traveled often and made friends wherever they ventured.

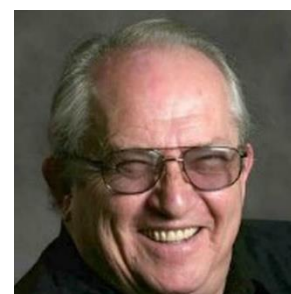
Pastor James (Jimmy) Nelson, Jr.

February 12, 1951 – May 27, 2021

Pastor James "Jimmy" Leonard Nelson, Jr. became licensed as a local pastor in 2006 and served at Tucson: Hope UMC; Holbrook: Holbrook UMC; Winslow: First UMC; Mesquite: Mesquite UMC (Associate); and Kearny: United Methodist Church of the Good Shepherd.

Working diligently with the Board of Ordained Ministry, Jimmy was working toward receiving Associate Membership in the Desert Southwest Conference. His achievement was recognized posthumously during this year's ordination service.

Jimmy was passionate about ministry. He gave his entire heart and soul into reaching people with God's love. Whenever there was a problem, Jimmy could see the possibilities and the hope in nearly any situation.





Rev. J. Michael Pearson

November 21, 1948 – March 20, 2021

Rev. J. Michael Pearson was a retired elder in the Desert Southwest Conference. He began his service in the Desert Southwest Conference in 1987, serving in Phoenix: Director of Connectional Ministries; Scottsdale: Scottsdale UMC. Following his transfer to the Desert Southwest Conference, Rev. Pearson served at Glendale: Dove of the Desert UMF; Glendale: Dove of the Desert UMC; Mesa: Velda Rose UMC; Phoenix: Director of Connectional Ministries; Tucson: South District Superintendent and Phoenix: First UMC. He is survived by his wife Bethyl. Rev. Pearson was a tremendously good preacher, had a terrific sense of humor and was a very skillful potter. The later of which gave him a different perspective of the world in which we live. He was a published author, a very successful “New Church Start” pastor and a true visionary. He loved God, his family and the Church.

Rev. Gary F. Prichard

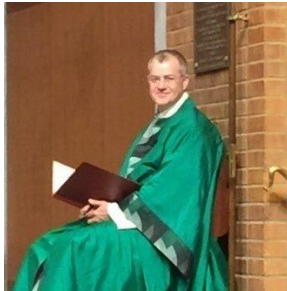
January 10, 1941 – June 13, 2020

Rev. Prichard was a retired elder who served in the Desert Southwest Conference. He was admitted on probation in 1977 and was ordained as an elder in full connection in 1982. He served in the Pacific Southwest Conference at Yorba Linda: Yorba Linda UMC (Associate); Coolidge: Coolidge UMC; the Desert Southwest Conference: Coolidge: Coolidge UMC; Gilbert: UMC of Gilbert; Phoenix: Calvary UMC. He retired in 2002 and during retirement he served at Bisbee: Trinity UMC (Interim); Flagstaff: Trinity Heights UMC (Interim); Sun City: Willowbrook UMC. Rev. Prichard is survived by his wife Phyllis. Gary never lost his ability to adapt his ministry in order to challenge and inspire, and he was able to do it with a sense of humor.



Rev. Scott Ritchey

November 26, 1965 – May 6, 2021



Rev. Scott Ritchey was an elder in the Desert Southwest Conference. He was admitted on probation in 2001 and appointed to serve at Scottsdale UMC in Scottsdale, AZ. He was admitted into full connection in 2003 and served at First UMC of Phoenix, AZ (Associate). He began his service at Justa Center in Phoenix, AZ in 2006 as the Director. In 2015, he served at Central UMC in Phoenix, AZ. He is survived by his wife Laura. Scott Ritchey was a force for good in this world. Many people were inspired by his decision to embrace his new vocation in The United Methodist Church and at the Justa Center. Scott changed his vocation to preserve his faith—he followed where God led him.

Pastor Evelyn Roberts

August 11, 1942 – August 22, 2020

She became a licensed local pastor in 1996. Pastor Roberts served in the Desert Southwest Conference: Navajo Reservation AZ: Northern Arizona Native American Ministries (associate) and Page: Community UMC. Pastor Roberts retired in 2005 and continued serving at Page: Community UMC until 2012. She is preceded in death by her spouse Joe Roberts. Pastor Roberts lived life with the everyday intention to leave the world a little better today than it was yesterday. She was kind, generous, and with heart for social justice. As a school teacher, she was an advocate for children whose first language was other than English and also for victims of domestic violence.



Rev. Harry Ryan

September 23, 1931 – March 10, 2021

Rev. Harry Ryan was a retired elder in the Desert Southwest Conference. He was admitted on trial in 1951. He transferred to the Southern California-Arizona Conference in 1969 and served: Eloy: First UMC; Phoenix: Desert West UMC; in the Pacific Southwest Conference at Phoenix: Desert West UMC; Phoenix: Christ UMC (Associate); in the Desert Southwest Conference at Paradise Valley: Paradise Valley UMC (Associate) and Phoenix: Bethel UMC. Rev. Ryan retired in 1997 and served at Sun City: Willowbrook UMC in 2002 before returning to retirement in 2003. He is survived by his wife Marlene. Rev. Ryan was first and foremost “a pastor”, one who cared for and looked over his flock. He was loved by everyone, as well as being a friend to those who knew him. He only saw good in everyone and always had time for everyone.

Mrs. Shirley Strivings

May 26, 1923 – May 19, 2021

Mrs. Shirley Strivings died one week shy of her 98th birthday. She was the spouse of the late Rev. Roscoe Strivings, who was the founding pastor of Aldersgate UMC in Phoenix. He and Shirley married in 1954. Until age & dementia took their toll, Aldersgate UMC and related activities were Shirley’s main interests. She was a combo of feisty and sweet right up to the end, liked to be treated like a princess and loved a piece of cake!



Rev. William (Bill) Usher

April 26, 1927 – August 19, 2020



He and his late wife Donna were married in 1948. Rev. Usher was ordained and entered into full connection in 1959. Beginning in 1968, he served in the Southern California-Arizona Conference of The United Methodist Church: as the Administrator at Desert Crest (Phoenix AZ); as the Administrator at Casa de Manana (San Diego); as the Admission Administrator of Pacific Homes (Los Angeles CA); as the Administrator of Lake Park Retirement Residence; as supernumerary; and at Phoenix: Creighton. He served in the Pacific & Southwest Conference of The United Methodist Church at Phoenix: Creighton; Sun City: Lakeview (associate); Las Vegas NV: First; and in the Desert Southwest Conference: Las Vegas NV: First; Las Vegas NV: Griffith. Rev. Usher retired in 1989. Rev. Usher served with a caring, servant-heart. He was at his best as he cared for the congregation and nurtured folks in the faith and being disciples of Jesus Christ. Being around Bill gave one a feeling that all is well.

Mr. Robert (Bob) Wagner

September 22, 1947 – January 20, 2021



Mr. Robert (Bob) Wagner, spouse of the Rev. Pam Wagner a retired elder in the Desert Southwest Conference. Bob was a pharmacist and was drafted into the Army proudly serving at Ft. Rucker Lyster Army Hospital for two years before his honorable discharge. Over his years of pharmacy, he received an honorary doctorate, as well as several awards for his excellent leadership in the many pharmacies he served. Often the quieter one in the bunch, Bob’s real passion was music. At home he developed a small recording studio over the years, writing and recording his own music. As Bob and Pam moved around, he sang in many church choirs, even leading the choir at Desert Chapel UMC for two years, played in bell choirs, provided special music, and helped with the sound systems in churches Pam served in.

Mr. Russel C. Wells

July 4, 1934 – December 6, 2020

Mr. Russel C. Wells, spouse of Rev. Shirley Wells a retired deacon in the Desert Southwest Conference. She retired in 2005 and has been serving at Dayspring UMC as the Minister of Spiritual Formation. Mr. Wells served as a Shriner and was past Grand Master of the Masons for the State of Michigan. He was active in the leadership of DeMolay, mentoring young men for community service. He will be remembered as a loving father, loving husband, loving friend and a precious child of God.



Roll of Honored Dead

The Honor Roll of our Conference is a list of those who have been called from our midst to hear their Master's "Well done." Memories of their beautiful and fruitful lives are cherished in the hearts of those who knew and loved them. They have passed through the valley of the shadow and entered into the glory of those mansions prepared for them. Only those who have died since the creation of the Desert Southwest Conference are listed. For a record of all former "Honored Dead" including those from the California-Pacific Conference are found in the Historical Section of the 1985 Desert Southwest Conference Journal.

Name	Age	Place of Death	Date of Death	Service Years
David F. Tarver	79	San Diego, CA	12/23/1984	37
William Martin Opitz	66	Tucson, AZ	10/16/1985	39
Charles E. Madinger, Sr.	88	Tucson, AZ	2/9/1987	11
Donald W. Cummings	80	Scottsdale, AZ	3/13/1987	23
Domenick Tamietti	80	Las Vegas, NV	6/5/1987	15
Rolly Cecil Manning	78	Rowland Heights, CA	9/4/1987	13
Hayden S. Sears	76	Tucson, AZ	9/21/1987	47
Gilbert J. Gray	72	Las Vegas, NV	12/27/1987	37
Ralph H. Supplee	87	Winslow, AZ	3/1/1988	38
John Y. Allan	81	Phoenix, AZ	3/5/1988	21
Ottoniel M. Camarena	94	Tucson, AZ	3/26/1988	28
George B. Bondley	65	Henderson, NV	12/25/1989	6
J. Erben Moore, Jr.	76	Mesa, AZ	2/28/1990	16
Cecilia E. Brandenburg	70	Sun City, AZ	5/5/1990	11
George McElroy Hoyle	86	Phoenix, AZ	6/10/1990	40
William F. Mealio	76	Phoenix, AZ	4/5/1991	29
Charles L. Wharton	73	Tucson, AZ	6/22/1991	27
A. Finley Reid	89	Phoenix, AZ	8/3/1991	55
John Chester Mardis	97	Deer Lodge, MT	11/3/1991	N/A
Robert C. Waltermann	71	Phoenix, AZ	8/16/1992	3
Donald B. Cooke	65	Tucson, AZ	8/28/1992	43
Donald A. Bassett	59	Sun City, AZ	9/19/1992	36
Baltazar G. Garcia	93	Nogales, AZ	6/24/1993	26
Thomas P. Green	35	Prescott, AZ	7/7/1993	N/A
Charles H. Crouch	90	Tempe, AZ	12/17/1993	25
Elbert S. Morford	89	Carmel, IN	1/8/1994	38
George A. Boss	84	Phoenix, AZ	1/10/1994	37
Walter A. McCleneghan	96	Scottsdale, AZ	11/23/1994	34
A. Leonard Miller	88	Dallas, TX	2/17/1995	40
Jordan Thomas Walker, Jr.	59	Gilbert, AZ	5/25/1995	20
Edwin Hoyt Grant, Sr.	90	Phoenix, AZ	9/3/1995	46
Ralph Gerald Gay	59	Phoenix, AZ	11/11/1995	33
John Jacques Rousseau	76	Sacramento, CA	1/13/1996	16
Orville G. Wilson	81	St. Petersburg, FL	2/9/1996	20
John Wesley Neal	79	Phoenix, AZ	4/15/1996	29
Donald Virgil McIntyre	62	Prescott, AZ	4/26/1996	17
Raymond W. Moore	76	Long Beach, CA	4/30/1996	37
Donald E. Springer	84	Albuquerque, NM	8/6/1996	39
Mardoqueo B. Garcia	93	Phoenix, AZ	12/31/1996	47
Claire Lewis Harris	90	Phoenix, AZ	1/20/1997	46
Joseph W. McShane, Sr.	84	Prescott, AZ	1/22/1997	37
Kenneth J. Porray	80	Las Vegas, NV	3/7/1997	20
Millard W. Wolfe	82	Mesa, AZ	2/24/1998	40
Arthur L. Mansure	84	Phoenix, AZ	2/5/1999	44

Name	Age	Place of Death	Date of Death	Service Years
Harrison R. Thompson	80	Las Vegas, NV	2/11/1999	34
Donald C. Stilwell	71	Bardstown, KY	7/8/1999	40
Harold R. Fuss	83	Willow Springs, IL	8/29/1999	13.75
John R. Scott	56	Seattle, WA	11/21/1999	32
Richard H. Peterson	74	Sun City, AZ	12/7/1999	43
Norman C. Yetman	88	Prescott, AZ	12/8/1999	40
Frederick M. Rogers	85	Tucson, AZ	1/14/2000	46
Leslie J. Ross, Sr.	85	Sun City, AZ	4/13/2000	44
A. Paul Stout	68	Tucson, AZ	5/14/2000	41
Mary J. Flanigan-Crouteau	64	Bisbee, AZ	5/27/2000	12
Olin E. Lehman	81	Mesa, AZ	6/21/2000	42
DeWane R. Zimmerman	70	Phoenix, AZ	7/11/2000	42
Rollins L. Winslow	87	Phoenix, AZ	10/21/2000	23
Charles E. Neigh	79	Pine, AZ	12/29/2000	37
John R. Cox	55	Winslow, AZ	11/7/2001	25
John W. Somerville	81	Lawrence, KS	11/8/2001	7
Charles W. Stilwell	93	Sunizona, AZ	12/18/2001	11
Oscar Magee Wilkes	83	Mesa, AZ	2/18/2002	33
Paul E. Caskey	88	Taylor, AZ	5/26/2002	N/A
Leonard J. Smoot	92	Atlanta, GA	7/27/2002	43
Gary D. Van Boening	68	Gilbert, AZ	9/27/2002	40
Charles Edwin Daniel	68	Pine Mountain, GA	10/16/2002	35
Ancel H. Arnold	81	Grand Junction, CO	11/26/2002	36
Gilbert S. Zimmerman	83	Camino, CA	3/17/2003	24
Edward E. Thomas	82	Tucson, AZ	4/11/2003	8
William N. Charles	78	Glendale, AZ	6/22/2003	30
William H. Merwin	89	Fairfield, CA	7/26/2003	41
Chilton C. McPheeters	88	Willsboro Point, NY	10/2/2003	41
Paul M. Wilkinson	90	Tucson, AZ	7/17/2004	39
Patricia N. Niere	67	Sun City West, AZ	1/1/2005	3
John F. Tucker	78	McMinnville, OR	5/25/2005	N/A
Albert J. Wilson, Jr.	92	Sun City, AZ	11/5/2005	43
Samuel Eugene Collett	81	Escondido, CA	3/16/2006	37
Anita L. Iceman	66	Sonoita, AZ	9/12/2006	38
John T. Moore	77	Las Vegas, NV	11/17/2006	35
Robert H. Simpson	90	Sun City, AZ	12/19/2006	33
Louis S. Eaton	99	Phoenix, AZ	2/3/2007	5
William R. Colby	78	Tucson, AZ	4/19/2007	41
Lydia H. Moreno	59	Phoenix, AZ	8/10/2007	22
Gerald S. DeGrow	79	Sun City, AZ	11/28/2007	3
Richard E. Lyddon, Jr.	61	Phoenix, AZ	12/20/2007	32
Kim A. Hauenstein	58	Cleveland, OH	3/10/2008	33
Dale K. Dunbar	85	Tucson, AZ	5/10/2008	36
Ruben G. Carrico	76	Phoenix, AZ	11/11/2008	49
Harry L. Long	87	Salt Creek Community, OK	12/5/2008	38
Loren T. Ridge	82	Phoenix, AZ	12/17/2008	42
Edwin H. Grant, Jr.	80	Fountain Hills, AZ	1/22/2009	43
Roland W. Brammeier	72	Glendale, AZ	3/26/2009	46
Russell K. Douglass	80	Apache Junction, AZ	4/19/2009	42
Douglass A. Harrell	84	Parowan, UT	10/14/2009	58
Nathan Holt	80	Mesa, AZ	10/15/2009	20
Mahlon A. Miller	88	Tempe, AZ	12/19/2009	32

Name	Age	Place of Death	Date of Death	Service Years
James O. Burch	66	Mesa, AZ	12/20/2009	27
William E. Ramsey, Jr.	74	Jacksonville, FL	6/11/2010	40
Donald C. Harmon	90	Tucson, AZ	7/10/2010	20
Eldon L. Brown	72	Prescott, AZ	7/19/2010	45
Eustace D. Allen	87	Tempe, AZ	10/30/2010	44
Philip Norton	68	Tempe, AZ	11/12/2010	19
Tevita T. Kale	73	Mesa, AZ	1/20/2011	24
Franklin W. Greene	92	Sun City, AZ	1/27/2011	47
Marshall S. Lindsay	81	Phoenix, AZ	2/23/2011	39
Rebecca Oakes Long	60	Green Valley, AZ	3/26/2011	24
Anthony M. Yim	73	San Clemente, CA	4/25/2011	26
Herbert E. Osman	79	Mesa, AZ	5/24/2011	40
Frank M. Cartwright	98	Prescott, AZ	5/27/2011	33
Claude E. Love	82	Prescott, AZ	7/14/2011	23
Edward Clyde Smith, II	83	Tujunga, CA	8/15/2011	40
J. Antonio Flores	81	Ontario, CA	11/26/2011	18
David O. Ellsworth	89	Sedona, AZ	12/25/2011	33
Charles C. Mitchell	97	Wickenburg, AZ	2/19/2012	27.5
Howard R. Higgins	77	Houston, TX	7/11/2012	30.25
Donald G. Sapp	85	Phoenix, AZ	7/29/2012	39
Howard B. Warriner	84	Rochester, NY	10/8/2012	28.75
Jane A. Tews	60	Tempe, AZ	6/22/2013	37
Marion D. Bennett, Sr.	80	Las Vegas, NV	7/21/2013	47.75
Paul L. Daniell, Sr.	82	Marietta, OH	8/22/2013	35.25
Melvin J. Pritts	86	Tucson, AZ	9/22/2013	36
Ralph M. Worden	83	Phoenix, AZ	11/11/2013	26
Stewart L. Elson	69	Des Moines, IA	12/4/2013	42.25
Harold N. Byrn	90	Wade, OK	1/9/2014	39
Diana M. Williams	65	Mesa, AZ	1/30/2014	15
F. David Weber	66	Tyaskin MD	4/17/2014	36
Paul L. Hall	97	Glendale, AZ	4/25/2014	19
James R. Aitken	87	Mohave, AZ	5/29/2014	19
Jerry D. Elrod	76	Fountain Hills, AZ	2/8/2015	37
Deanna M. Hershberger	75	Payson, AZ	3/1/2015	19
Evyn M. Adams	94	Hilo, HI	3/5/2015	33.25
Carolyn L. Scribner	75	Casa Grande, AZ	5/28/2015	16
Charles Travis Kendall	83	Phoenix, AZ	6/25/2015	40
Jerome G. Blankinship	81	Las Vegas, NV	8/27/2015	46.5
Dean E. Humbert	90	Scottsdale, AZ	10/12/2015	38
Robert D. Fraley	91	Show Low, AZ	9/20/2016	27
Lawrence A. Hinshaw	84	Carmichael, CA	11/13/2016	44
Mariano H. Moreno	86	Corpus Christi, TX	11/14/2016	19
James D. Stewart	83	Tucson, AZ	11/25/2016	39.75
Cheryl A. Jones Cumbee	72	Scottsdale, AZ	12/10/2016	25
Helen L. Wigle	87	Colorado, CO	2/26/2017	5
Robert J. Remp	78	Prescott, AZ	5/20/2017	15
J. David Barkley	84	Sierra Vista AZ	6/30/2017	36
William D. Griffith	85	Phoenix AZ	6/30/2017	45
Daniel A. Turner	75	Mesa AZ	9/11/2017	40
Jacqueline R. Somerville	71	Tempe AZ	9/22/2017	15
Carol J. Chandler	82	Tucson AZ	12/10/2017	20
Jack S. Troutman	91	Mesa, AZ	4/23/2018	33

Name	Age	Place of Death	Date of Death	Service Years
Harold M. Cowart	80	Tucson, AZ	7/4/2018	42
Dennis D. Ramsey	90	Sun City, AZ	12/17/2018	46.25
Wayne D. Brown	76	Las Vegas, NV	3/27/2019	38.25
Brown, Joseph F.	82	Tucson, AZ	5/13/2019	15
Kirk, Cynthia Langston	67	Tucson, AZ	10/25/2019	18
Stressman, Roger	97	Gilbert, AZ	10/27/2019	48.25
Nelson, Phyllis Ayers	83	Las Vegas, NV	11/20/2019	12
Koli, Mavae	63	Las Vegas, NV	1/28/2020	5
Kimbel, Sandra	67	Scottsdale, AZ	3/20/2020	6.75
Jensen, Dale	87	Las Vegas, NV	6/3/2020	10
F. Gary Prichard	79	Surprise, AZ	6/13/2020	25
Fred Jameson	81	Avondale, AZ	8/9/2020	4
William (Bill) Usher	93	Richardson, TX	8/19/2020	31
Evelyn Roberts	78	Page, AZ	8/22/2020	8
Kelly Bender	74	Phoenix, AZ	12/23/2020	43.25
Lori Martin DeWitt	65	Tucson, AZ	1/30/2021	22
Harry Ryan	89	Glendale, AZ	3/10/2021	42
J. Michael Pearson	72	Phoenix, AZ	3/20/2021	42
Scott Ritchey	55	Loveland, CO	5/6/2021	19.75
James "Jimmy" Nelson	70	Kearny, AZ	5/27/2021	14