

**Class of 1970 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion:**  
**Classmate Updates and Memories**

**2020-2021**

## **A Part of The Still Continuing Story . . .**

Fifty plus years is a long time, but as *only yesterday* when we recall aspects of our shared experience together at the Yale Divinity School. What about the intervening years? The following notes what many of us have done, where we have traveled and in countless ways, continued to grow, learn and become whomever we are today. Too many of our YDS colleagues: students, faculty, and staff, have completed their life journeys too soon. A goodly selection of many of the rest of us follows here. Such a wide variety of things we have done and persons we have become! All of this forever linked to one uncommon place and one remarkable time.

### **The Reunion Committee**

Phil Blackwell  
Wayne Conners  
Cathie Cipolla  
Ron Evans  
Roy Rhodes  
Greg Turner  
David Werley  
Chuck Wildman

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## Ralph Tomas "Tom" Beason, Jr., B.D.

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**Spouse: Christine Marie Soucy Beason** | Deceased

### Children:

**Joshua Thomas Beason** | b. 1975

Clinical Manager, Nurse Anesthesia Team at VA Hospital | Miami, FL

**Spouse: Jacklyn Garcia Beason**

**Children:**

**Reagan Marie Beason**

**Riley Paige Beason**

Within YDS in the 60's, this southern boy learned about the imposing and intimidating world of academia, a passion for the intellect with a healthy dose of Bill Coffin. Ordained in a campus ministry post at New College/USFL on the same day my son was baptized in the midst of a gathered YDS "reunion, I later learned about meditative prayer. On that same day, I discovered on the kitchen wall of my son's elderly godmother, a calligraphic framed print which read: "Love is the heart of the matter". Serving as the pastor of a small, interracial Presbyterian Church on the Southside of St. Petersburg, I learned about this crucial aspect of prophetic ministry: the necessary alignment of contemplation with social justice. In a month-long sabbatical sojourn in a monastery above the Pacific Ocean in Big Sur, CA I learned in the presence of disciplined and joyous monks the little recognized fact in my life that the Holy One really did love me. When I knew that, I began to love myself and experience the love of others in a mutual exchange. Ironically following that realization came a bruising personal crisis in my life. The resolving of that experience and its initial healing phases called me into a discovery of the work for my life. The connection in that call was my understanding that the monastic ordered life correctly held death as a daily conscious spiritual occurrence. day of their lives. And so I began a new learning practice in hospice chaplaincy and bereavement which would last 24 years. The essence of this hospice ministry is a practitioner presence at the bedside where you learn to relinquish who you are at the behest of a listening presence for the other. It is a radical kind of kenosis, self-surrender, and it may last for as long as your life. This learning came awfully, painfully for me when my wife was diagnosed with a glioblastoma/brain cancer. Dying and death was not only about patients, it was about the love of my life. That searing suffering and separation over the fourteen months she lived taught me other things about myself. And it was the very lessons that I learned from hospice patients and fellow practitioners that sustained me. This experience I now understand to be the central core of my life. It has carried me through a Buddhist practice of meditative mindfulness to the presence now of a mystical wisdom practice. Most of my gratitude for YDS is the gift of men who are beloved friends I met there. Paul Stames, David Warren, Mel Williams, and the late Walter Gaffney. They remain my brothers. Thanks be to their sustenance through the Holy One. Love really is the heart of the matter.

## Philip "Phil" Blackwell, B.D.

Retired

### Additional Degree(s):

D.Min., The Divinity School at the University of Chicago, 1986

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### Children:

**Elizabeth** | b. 1970

Social Worker in St. Louis, married with two children

**Peter** | b. 1972

Banker in St. Louis, married with two children

YDS provided me with a solid platform -- exegesis, theology, history, ethics, worship, and pastoral care -- upon which I could be in ministry for 45 years, but it was the Church itself that made my world so much bigger than I had known. My appointed positions across the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church took me to the dairy farming community of Apple River (where I was asked on my first day by a member seeing my YDS diploma on the wall behind the desk, "What's that?", and I answered with false humility, "Oh that, that's my degree from Yale," and he responded, "Yale, don't they make locks and keys, too?"), to the blue collar city of Rockford, to campus ministry at the University of Chicago, to the upscale suburb of Wilmette (the "Home Alone" church), to the Conference mission coordinator, to the Chicago Temple on Daley Plaza in the Loop. In every setting, I had to discover new things inherent in what I had been taught at YDS. And in every setting, I had to discover new things about myself that no one could have taught me in seminary.



Students eating in the Refectory, YDS Archives.

## Dennis Campbell, B.D.

Vice Chairman and Trustee, The Duke Endowment

### Additional Degree(s):

A.B., Duke University | 1967

Ph.D., Duke University | 1973

D.D. Florida Southern University | 1986

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### Spouse: Leesa Heydenreich Campbell

Retired

### Children:

**Margaret Heyden Campbell Krause** | b. 1974

Realtor | Charlotte, North Carolina

I reflect on my time at YDS all the time and have a wonderful framed picture of Marquand Chapel on the wall in my office which I look at every day. YDS will always be special to me for faculty relationships, enduring friendships and most importantly, as the place I met my wonderful wife of 51 years, Leesa Heydenreich Campbell. Together we have served parish churches, devoted many years to shaping men and women for ministry at Duke University Divinity School and to leadership of Woodberry Forest School. Together we also raised two children and have three grandchildren in whom we delight. Yale Divinity School encouraged me to work hard, think in new ways and explore a variety of ways to serve the church. Life in Sterling Divinity Quadrangle was truly a fruitful community for Christian ministerial formation. Chapel, coffee hour, three meals a day in the Refectory, class discussions, gatherings in the Common Room, and study in the Day Missions Room in the library were very special and determinative in my development. I regret that for many reasons the kind of community we experienced at YDS exists in very few theological schools today. The fact that YDS is an integral part of Yale University was also a key to my progress because I got involved in a number of ways in the rest of the University and was privileged to get to know, interview and explore a research project with President Kingman Brewster, who once invited me to meet him in his home when he was ill. I also remember meeting with him on several occasions in his office in Woodbridge Hall, particularly noting that he did most of his own typing because, he said, he was a faster and more accurate typist than most of his aides. That comment shows our age: it was before the days we all had personal computers at hand. I am sure that none of us will forget the spring of 1970 when we experienced the all-University meeting in the ice rink, the uproar on the Green and the tensions surrounding the proposed shut-down of the University over the Vietnam war and the Black Panther trial. Our nation has had some difficult periods, though even 1970 pales in comparison to 2020 and January 6, 2021. Leesa and I now divide our time between our principal residence in Durham, North Carolina, a home we bought in 2015 in downtown Washington, D.C. and a summer cottage in Northfield, Massachusetts. We hope very much that it will be possible for us all to gather together for a proper reunion in 2021.

## Joe Paul Case, B.D.

Dean of Financial Aid, Emeritus | Amherst College

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### Spouse: Judith Leno Case

Retired, Higher Education Administration

### Children:

**Brian Christopher Case** | b. 1988

Grants Administrator, College of Education | University of Massachusetts, Amherst

My education at YDS was as much outside of the classroom as in it. I am grateful for my professors (especially Gaylord Noyce, Harry Baker Adams, Ed Dobihal, and Marvin Pope) and my friendship with Roland Bainton. My future roles were shaped by my field work assignments in secular positions – administrative assistant to the director of the New Haven health department (including work with Planned Parenthood), field coordinator for a summer VISTA Associates program in southeastern Oklahoma, and biology instructor in East Haven High School. I also valued my association with undergraduates in Saybrook College (through VISTA with Don Nakanishi, Yale '71). Also influential was my volunteer involvement in First United Methodist Church downtown, including participation in a biweekly house church of 15 FUMC members and joint work with the churches on the Green in religious education and launching the Downtown Cooperative Ministry. I also value my service as administrative secretary of the Ecumenical Continuing Education Center at Yale and work with Joan Bates Forsburg, YDS '53. My focus on social ethics, especially distributive justice, and counseling at YDS was the foundation for my 42 years in higher education and my perception of my work as a ministry throughout.



Gates to Sterling Quadrangle, YDS Archives.



## Cathie Koutsogiane Cipolla, B.D.

Retired

### Additional Degree(s):

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**Spouse: The Rev. Richard Cipolla (BDS), Ph.D. D. Phil.,**  
Retired Priest and Teacher

### Children:

**Mary Benedicta**

Publisher | CHALKBEAT

**Nicholas Becker**

Date Services for Art Museums

After three years in England where I worked primarily at the Bodleian and as Music Appeal Secretary for Christ Church, Oxford University, we moved to Codrington College (Anglican Seminary), Barbados, where I taught Old Testament and Introductory Hebrew. We then re-located to Connecticut, and I taught nursery school, high school English (all girls), and later an English and writing course for seminarians at Sacred Heart University.

In 1984 Richard became a Roman Catholic priest. In retirement, he serves at various churches in CT and New York.

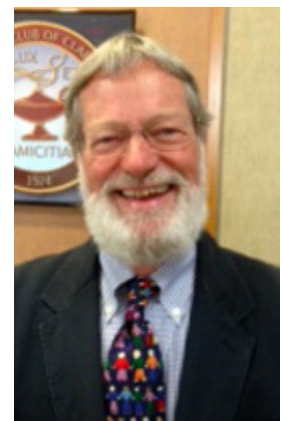
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## Ronald G. Evans, B. D.

Retired

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**Spouse: Janet Evans**



As a boy, I lived on a farm near New Haven. From the outside, Yale was formidable and mysterious. During the war years I saw men (it never occurred to me how young those Yale students really were) in uniform marching

on the Green. I remember seeing airplanes, some dismantled and others with engines roaring in front of Cox Cage, rows of Quonset Huts near the Yale Bowl and where the science complex is now on Whitney Avenue, and, of course, a view-widening of the natural world sparked by the awe of silent story-telling rooms in the free Peabody Museum.

All this was enhanced when years later, such early recollections were overcome by personal encounters with a vast and varied cast of Yale faculty, students, and no end of associations that I came to appreciate both the greatness of the university and realize its centrality to my life, from the inside. Years later, Janet and I moved to the YDS *Fertile Crescent*, from which she daily commuted to her professional practice of social work, while I struggled to make sense of the role theology had and might continue to play in the world Y. M. C. A. With encouragements from Gay Noyce, Roland Bainton, Rowen Greer, Bob Johnson, Bill Muehl, and Sydney Ahlstrom, my intended MA was extended to a full ride. David Bartlett, Tim Lull and George Stroup were among classmates and mentors, too many to list. This and Refectory and Common Room conversations, the *way-off* Broadway production of *Elsinore* (with book by David Bartlett and music by Don Saliers), countless concerts and lectures just down the hill, all this and more set against a backdrop of Anti-War and Pro-Civil Rights concerns that culminated in university-wide May Day events, made each of those fleeting happy-sad years a never-to-be-forgotten fiber of my life.

Much of this was further enhanced and intensified by our living with Bill Coffin's home and his children for a year, serving as deacons at Battell.

Our farm was fertile and productive. For me, Yale was as well. Each fostered my innate sense of wonder and fed my curiosity. Looking back now on each of these on question, among many remains... Were we ever so young?

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## Michael Finley, M.A.R.

Retired

### Additional Degree(s):

S.M. 1979 | Harvard School of Public Health

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After a career in health management, I retired to my farm in Tennessee, where I live with an extended animal family and write poems, a book of which I published in 2012.



## **Samuel T. Gladding, M.A.R.**

Professor of Counseling | Wake Forest University



### **Additional Degree(s):**

B.A., Wake Forest University | 1967

M.A., Wake Forest University | 1971

Ph.D., University of North Carolina-Greensboro | 1978

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### **Spouse: Claire Gladding**

Librarian

### **Children:**

**Benjamin Templeman Gladding** | b. 1987

High School French Teacher

**Nathaniel Tillson Gladding** | b. 1988

Forsyth County NC Board of Elections

**Timothy Huntington Gladding** | b. 1981

Separk Music

YDS enriched my life in numerous ways - cognitively, socially, spiritually, and psychologically. I was able to discern at Yale that I was not being called to the ministry but to the helping professions, specifically counseling, as a clinician and as an academic. My mind was opened to a whole new world of social justice and action having come to YDS as a rather conservative Southern Baptist from Georgia. (I may not have been the only one with that background but I was an anomaly).

I became a United Methodist after YDS and married Claire Tillson, a Nutmeg librarian and United Methodist. I checked her out and took her out of circulation on my return to Connecticut as an assistant professor at Fairfield University. We moved from Connecticut to the Deep South, where I taught at the University of Alabama-Birmingham and where we were blessed with two of our three children (all boys, all joys). I have found a wonderful home in John Wesley's legacy of faith and methods throughout this move and others and came to appreciate the wide spectrum of theology within the Methodist church. My faith and spiritual growth have been nourished in the Methodist environment. The depth I have found within this tradition has been a comfort and challenged to me as a mental health clinician.

Since 1990 I have found an academic home at Wake Forest University in the roles of assistant to the president, associate provost, departmental chair, and faculty member. I find it intriguing that I am back where I received my

initial college degree and just as importantly where my maternal grandfather, for whom I was named, was minister of his last church. I sometimes feel his presence as I go about my daily life. I modeled my life after him growing up and was sure I wanted to be a minister. Interestingly, after he graduated from a Southern college - University of Richmond - he went north to study theology at Colgate. I followed his example and chose Yale instead of going to a Southern Baptist seminary. I am glad I did!

The city of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, has been wonderful places to live and grow. I have been most fortunate and blessed as a person and a professional. People plan. God laughs. I am delighted my life's journey included mind-stretching encounters and joy at YDS!

## Robert Goldstein, B.D., '70, S.T.M '71

Retired

### Additional Degree(s):

B.A., Abilene Christian University | 1965

Ph.D., Princeton Theological Seminary | 1982



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### Children:

**Lynette** | b. 1977

Glencoe, Illinois

Her sons **Ben** and **Logan**

**Alison** | b. 1982

Illinois Public Health | Guadalajara, Mexico

For laborer's son from Australia, YDS was the most extraordinary intellectual experience of my life. Brevard Childs and Nils Dahl in Biblical studies. George Lindbeck opened up a world of Catholic thought and of comparative dogmatics. An interest in clarity in our theological disagreements led me to Paul Holmer. Another world opened up there. Carol Brighton, who became my wife, was a Lutheran and I was confirmed into the Lutheran faith. Carol became the third woman ordained to parish ministry. Only a parish in Trenton NJ accepted her and that took me to Princeton Seminary to receive a Ph.D. But Holmer indirectly influenced me to the flesh and faith of ordinary parish ministry. There were many years of ministry. Carol and I separated in 1987 when I came out of the closet. Years were hard, but I became a teacher of urban youth in a college to give them the skills for employment in business. Good times.

In 1991 a Bishop invited me to Chicago and there I returned to ministry. I also became outspoken for LGBT rights in Chicago. From Chicago and two California Synods the issue of gender equality gained traction. After 20

years the Evangelical Lutheran Church approved the ordination of LGBT married clergy in 2009. My last call was in San Francisco from 2005-2011 after which I retired. I live in Chicago where my daughters are. YDS made my mind flexible so that I always welcomed the changing church. I am reading a lot and have been writing a lot. Will it become a book? I'm not sure. I become more of a spectator to my profession -in which I delight. After all the grand categories of theology and the long history of the churches and cultures, for me it is still the unpretentious story of Jesus. It seems to take a long time to reach that simplicity.

## **Thomas L Hall, B.D.**

Retired

### **Additional Degree(s):**

M.S., Boston University School of Communication | 1980

Doctor of Ministry, Graduate Theological Foundation | 2006

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**Spouse: Laura Sakaguchi Novosad Hall**

### **Children:**

**J. L. Novosad** | b. 1976

**John Novosad** | b. 1980

**Todd Novosad** | b. 1980

Granddaughter:

**Oliver Erin Rose Novosad** | b. 2013

Who would have thought that a young man graduating from the University of Montana, having grown up in New Hampshire would be a student at Yale Divinity School considering ministry? Of course, my presence was due to a strong recommendation from Toshimi Tatsuyama, head of the religion department at Montana and a friend of Professor Paul Minear. In hindsight, this was the beginning of the realization that Christianity is about encouraging others to be fully human and to awaken that divine spark that lies within. It is about relationships. Yale Divinity was the beginning of that “awakening” and support and encouragement.

Gaylord B. Noyce was one of the first to see the potential. His classes on Pastoral Theology, but more important his willingness to have an open door along with Harry Adams and Prof. James Dittes, led me to think deeply on pastoral ministry. Rev. John Cook, pastor at First Congregational Church in Derby, CT and later head of Music and Art department taught me of the important role of the arts and music in worship which later I brought to the

various churches I served both as a called minister and as an interim. All three teachers encouraged me to participate in the first of its kind Clinical Pastoral Education in a pastoral setting in Greenville, PA for one year, with Rev. Robert Nace. Fr. Bernard Haring inspired me to delve deeply into the moral questions of our time there particularly the Vietnam War and issues of Justice. Professor Paul Holmer was instrumental in helping to formulate deeper thoughts on religion with a self-directed course on Leo Tolstoy, a writer who also influenced my thinking.

Eco Watanabe, a visiting Buddhist priest at YDS, asked me one day, because of my knowledge of Buddhism, if I would like to become a Buddhist. I replied that I would have to think about this. Later, my response was: "Thank you, but I have not yet given my own religion time to affect me. For religion is like wine, one must consume it to feel its affect. I haven't given Christianity ample time yet."

The time at Yale opened my mind to new ways of thinking and being, provided insights into critical thinking which inspired further reading. Perhaps the most important benefit of being at Yale was experiencing the openness and willingness of all the teachers, staff, and students who gave me sensitivity to the importance of presence and listening.



Marquand Chapel interior, YDS Archives.

**Barbara Brayton Hines, M.A.R.**

Retired

**Additional Degree(s):**

M.A., Southern Connecticut State College

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**Children:****Michael** | 1975-1999

Killed by lightning

**Meagan**

Veterinarian | Berkeley, CA

Married

**Bedford Hines, M.Div.**

Semi-retired, still practicing psychotherapist

**Additional Degree(s):**

M.A. in Counseling, Boston University

YDS was pivotal in building my theological mindset and leading me initially into the pastoral care and counseling ministry. I began my ministry with a UCC church in Appleton, WI with responsibility for a pastoral counseling agency started by the church a few years prior to our moving to Appleton in 1973. I assumed full leadership of the agency with the church's blessing and steered it to become a United Way-supported agency along with receiving support from area churches. Then about 10 years after being settled in Appleton I began to question the basic orthodox Christian beliefs of sin and salvation. This led me to become a student of A Course In Miracles and, later in the 1990s, to join the Unity Church with the conviction that Christ is within all of us and not exclusionary of everyone except one historical person, Jesus, who, nonetheless, powerfully demonstrated the Christ as inherent within humankind. Though I may or may not express this directly with my clients, this belief does profoundly inform the overall perspective of my counseling. I especially find effective that aspect of psychology which uses various energy approaches. I'm working just three days a week mostly motivated by my love of helping people but also by the personal benefit of keeping my mind sharper. Barbara and I are looking forward to yet another trip to Hawaii a year from now after the pandemic has almost certainly ended and we'll be joined by our daughter and her husband and, possibly a grandchild.

Barbara has been fully retired for several years. She worked in a hospital as a play therapist for a few years before moving to Appleton and then transferred her credentials to become a licensed psychotherapist in Wisconsin. She helped start the Wellness Counseling Center from which she retired and with which I still practice. She also founded the Appleton/Kurgan Sister City program between Appleton and the then Soviet Union. We both traveled to Russia on that program. She likes Mindfulness and Spiritual Energy as well belonging to the First United Methodist Church here in Appleton.



## Richard "Dick" Hutch, B.D.

Retired Professor, University of Queensland | Brisbane, Australia

### Additional Degree(s):

B.A., Gettysburg College | 1967

Ph.D., University of Chicago | 1974

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### Spouse: Glenda Trappett Hutch

Australian Federal Government Public Servant

### Children:

**Jemima** | b. 1988

Associate Director, KPMG | Brisbane, Australia

**Annabel** | b. 1992

Team Leader, Employsure | Australia

### Grandchild:

**Millicent** "Millie" | b. 2021

I continue to reflect on the application of the theology of Paul Tillich and its application to my lived experience. Training in the theories and practices of psychoanalysis also remains a potent wellspring of insight into human behaviour and everyday encounters with others. My current faith is all about the courage to be in the face of otherwise, this made evident in an ageing body and how to maintain as much health and fitness as possible. I have enjoyed lap-swimming for decades, which is a ritual process that has grown out of my faith. Sailing a large sailboat for a decade taught me much about perils that nature can throw at us, and also about the sheer joy that is possible at sea when things go well. When I came off my motorcycle as a novice rider in 2007 and broke some ribs, well, the paradoxical experience of the "thrill of victory" and the "agony of defeat" was a powerful marker on my road of faith. It took courage to get a new motorbike and continue my journey of faith that way. My family harbours me in love in spite of myself, for which I am forever grateful. Although I have appreciated the spirit of Emersonian self-reliance over the years, my family has bolstered my courage to be in ways too subtle to list, especially when that spirit fails me as it does increasingly as time marches on.

I would add that ever since I joined the voter registration drive throughout the South in the summer of 1965 (SCOPE Project), meeting Martin Luther King, Jr, and joining his team of civil rights workers, to be schooled in community organization, political education and non-violence, I have been an activist mostly concerned about ending racial injustice the world over. It was in the South back then that the New Jersey boy I was first learned

the courage to be well before I arrived at YDS two years later to hear about Paul Tillich. It took some harrowing times, including being shot in the leg at night by a white opponent of my presence in his rural Alabama town, along with being beaten by some white boys during a protest aimed at increasing voter registration and also spending a few days in jail for driving with an out of state driver license (so I was told by the local police chief). My lived experience then would later be expressed in many ways, not the least of which was with Tillich's thought. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination early in 1968, along with my Southern tumult in 1965, profoundly affected me. My life changed forever then, but little did I realize what was happening to me clearly enough at the time. All study and professional formation thereafter (and to this day) has been aimed at turning the tables on frightful experiences and injustice in the world, clarifying conscience to take effective action to turn those tables and then asserting the courage to be when that is all that can be done in the face of overwhelming odds.



Card Catalog in Library, YDS Archives.

## David "Dave" F. Keller, M.Div.

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Tree Farmer, currently

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### Spouse: Kathy Keller

Retired Early Childhood Education Teacher

### Children:

**Peter** | b. 1988

**Rebecca** | b. 1981

### Grandchildren:

**Matthew** | aged 6

**Elisabeth Rose** | aged 3

My experience at YDS sometimes felt like trying to drink from a fire hydrant. There was incredible wisdom being offered, if only I could take it in. I will be forever grateful for that opportunity.

As a single person in 1967-8, I benefited from the wisdom and friendship of my Bacon House roommate Richard Hutch and of a very special group of friends living on the quad. Every meal at the Refectory was an ongoing opportunity for an enriching conversation or seminar together. Then, as a married student living in Curtis Hall, I learned from my wife Kathy and from another very special group of married classmates. It seemed that those were two distinct eras and groups- availing me of much needed learning.

I remember the personal transactions:

- taking walks with Uncle Ken Lauourette (his office was in Bacon House next to our room),
- visiting Roland Banton for a fireside chat in his home,
- serving on the Battell Chapel Student Board that met Wednesday evenings with Bill Coffin at his house to discuss the state of the world,
- benefiting from all the side conversations with faculty.
- attending together the 1967 National Mobilization/Vietnam in Washington D.C. where we lobbied members of Congress in their offices and soaked in the charismatic leadership of William Sloane Coffin and Dr. King.

Many of us were together in several "core classes" our first year. That allowed additional cross-fertilization of ideas that worked well for me. Tom Campbell took us for a week-long field trip in New York City to learn from

an amazing variety of creative urban ministries that became seeds for thought for my own urban church ministries: small groups modeled after AA, drama groups, art groups, and community organization efforts modeled by Saul Alinsky...

Of course, it seemed the turbulence of that time lent itself to self-examination by the whole YDS community. If I am correct, we had a different grading system every semester! More importantly, we were always asking ourselves how we could further enrich our learning environment and “build community.” I remember wanting to have us focus more on learning from faculty and students alike talking about their personal faith experience. This was part of our quest to get inside of the traditions of our faith and to be better able to nurture our own faith and the faith of others. That of course is an ongoing quest.

My wife Kathy and I also found special inspiration sailing in Long Island Sound. As members of the Yale Yacht Club (\$10 membership to students), we frequently sailed out of the Branford Harbor in one the Club’s 18-foot sailboats rigged with a main and a jib sail. We were thrilled by the experience of setting the sails to catch the full power of the wind, slapping through the waves, and “hiking” on the high-side the boat to keep it all balanced! Recalling those experiences, I have told numerous congregations that “living by grace” is can be like the thrill of that sailing experience. It is akin to opening one’s heart to the empowering love of God, enabling an incredible ride!

In retrospect, it is amazing that the faculty was exclusively male and white (am I right?). That of course was a sign of the time and has changed significantly! Likewise, I thought more about “being color blind” than about celebrating diversity. And LGBTQ issues were only beginning to emerge from the closet and emerge into my personal consciousness.

Seemingly, just for the fun of it in the spring of 1970, some of our classmates put together a “musical drama” that incorporated slapstick dialogue, witty humor, and theological reflections. In addition to being taken by the content of the drama, I was taken by how the cast seemed to have captured a close sense of community. I remember thinking, “That would work to build community in a local church!” Following that example, throughout my ministry to six United Methodist congregations, I have written and directed cabaret-style dramas that presented vignettes offering fresh definitions and, metaphors of the gospel. Amazing talent emerged in every congregation to put on these plays. Much to everyone’s delight, the cast and the congregation became animated by this form of “doing theology” and we all grew closer as a community. Amazingly, that seemingly minor event in the spring of 1970 was yet another major YDS inspiration for my life and ministry.

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**Spouse: Ruth Kuntzman** | Deceased

### Child:

**James Kuntzman**

HVAC Technician | Florida

Four children

In 1966, the YDS faculty was concerned that fewer graduates were entering parish ministry. To reinvigorate the program, entering students were grouped in several classes oriented toward the work of parish ministry. We met with selected faculty to get a sense of the practical as well as theological dimensions of parish ministry. Dean Robert Johnson, Tom Campbell, Jim Dittes, Sibley Towner, Gaylord Noyce, and Rowan Greer made that first semester less foreboding for many of us. Evidently, the program was effective. Many classmates and I took an intern year to find ourselves and returned with a sense of call for parish or chaplaincy ministry.

The first evening at YDS students gathered in the Common Room for a “discussion” about theology between Julian Hartt and Paul Holmer. By the end of the debate, metaphorically speaking “there was blood all over the floor.” I was sure I was at the wrong place at the wrong time. Julian Hartt’s knowledge of systematic theology was daunting. He had a facile mind and quick wit. Equally spirited, Paul Holmer was well versed in philosophy and theology. His course on Kierkegaard was so deeply moving that after the final lecture on Kierkegaard’s life, the class gave a standing ovation. I had classes with both men. They were fine teachers and challenged your faith and intellect.

In my third year, I had a job checking around the divinity school at night to make sure faculty offices were locked. One evening I found Paul Schubert’s door ajar. The lights were on and when I knocked and entered his office, I found him sitting behind his desk, open books stacked one on one and papers everywhere. Clearly, he was writing a book or preparing a lecture.

“Excuse me, Dr. Schubert. Could you answer a question for me,” I asked? “If I can,” he said



“A story is told that you and Rudolf Bultmann were at breakfast at your home. In the middle of a theological disagreement, your friend Robert Lowery Calhoun dropped by to bring you some eggs. He listened for a moment, intervened, showed how the dispute could be resolved and he left.”

According to the story, Bultmann was incredulous. “My Gott America is truly amazing. Even the egg men are theologians!”

Dr. Schubert quickly debunked the story. With a twinkle in his eyes and a smile on his face, he said: “However this is a wonderful example of oral tradition!”

The first twenty-three years following my graduation I served as a “called pastor” in the United Church of Christ. I served churches in Benton Harbor, Cadillac, and Manchester, Michigan, and Louisville, Kentucky. Mid-career, I changed direction and for seven years I was a nursing home administrator.

In 2002, I returned to parish work as an Intentional Interim Minister. My wife Ruth told me years earlier that I should become an interim minister. She knew me better than I know myself. We enjoyed the interim experience. Just prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, my beloved Ruth and wife of forty-five year died after a long illness. Her passing was peaceful and I am thankful she did not have to experience the isolation and quarantine that characterized the present and recent past.

I am truly grateful for my memories and time at the divinity school. By looking back, I have come to appreciate how deeply my experiences at Yale Divinity School helped me integrate theory and practice in my ministry through the years.

I recall the humility and faith of faculty members. Jim Gustafson in his opening lecture on Christian ethics observed that “most of us are moral clods!” He illustrated the point by telling a story when he was a student in Chicago. He and a friend were walking by a panhandler. Said the friend, “Give him some money.” Gustafson demurred. (The guy might just blow it on booze or something worse.) “Give him some money. It’s your Jesus who said if someone is hungry, feed them.”

Nils Dahl, in a final Common Room conversation, gave some final remarks on historical-critical approaches to the New Testament. Research had not undermined his faith in the truth of the gospel. “I still believe!” he said with humility and conviction.

Finally, it took me a number of years to appreciate the contributions of Jim Dittes to the practice of Christian ministry. His book “The Church in the Way” helped me understand how to deal with behavioral resistance in the church. As timely and ever helpful was his book “Minister on the Spot” which demonstrated an appreciation of the dynamics which shape a minister’s choices and sense of vocation.

## Robert "Rob" Lively, M.A.R.

Retired Dean Emeritus, University of Maine Farmington

### Additional Degree(s):

Doctor of Philosophy, University of Oxford | 1977

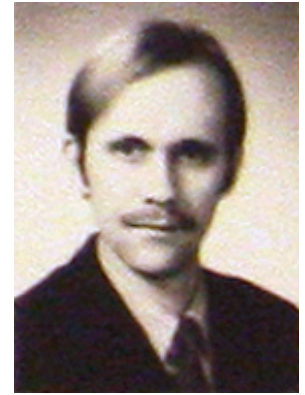
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### Spouse: Martha

Retired Data Base Administrator, IBM

### Children:

**Emma** | b. 1973

Born in Oxford, England | Musician, writes musicals

**Ben** | b. 1977

Born in Oxford, England | Broadway Musician

### Grandchildren:

**Delphine**

**Marian**

After completing my doctorate at Oxford, we returned to the US after a seven-year hiatus. I took a job at the University of Maine Farmington, thinking we would "move on" after a year, after getting resettled in the US. Now, 44 years later, we are still in Maine and still live in Wilton, having found it a great place to live and to raise a family (if you don't mind the winters). I established the Religion program at the University of Maine Farmington and was then kicked upstairs to become Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, and eventually I became Associate Provost. I retired in 2014. I am active in the Fulbright Association at the state and national level, our local lake association, and Western Maine storytelling. I was an EMT with our local ambulance service for eleven years; (life in a small, rural, west-central Maine town where citizens tend to wear many hats.)

In 2016, I published THE MORMON MISSIONARY; Who IS That Knocking at My Door? based on interviews with nearly 300 past, present, and future missionaries. I am not LDS and have never served a mission; I let the missionaries tell their own stories.

## Gary Miller, B.D.

Retired College Chaplain

### Additional Degree(s):

A.B., Dartmouth College | 1966

D.Min., Princeton Theological Seminary | 1983



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**Spouse: Marilyn (Lynn) Barnes Miller** | Deceased

Retired Asst. Superintend of Schools

### Children:

**Jonathan Miller**

Realtor

**Dr. Cynthia Miller-Idriss**

Professor | American University, Director of the Polarization and Extremism Research and Innovation Library

Spouse: **Shamill Idriss** | CEO of Search for Common Ground

Daughters, aged 13 and 14

**Zee Miller Smith**

VP Adventures in Writing

Spouse: **Milas Smith** | Asst. Director of Public Works, Fredericksburg

Daughter, aged 10

My most memorable experience at YDS was meeting and marrying my wife, Lynn, an M.A.R. candidate. We met before classes began for my second year and were married on June 1 at the end of that academic year. Several YDS students served in our wedding as bridesmaids. We then departed for Waverly Ohio where I served as an intern for the Pike Co. Council of Churches and Community Organizations, working as an organizer among poor Appalachian communities and Lynn taught in an elementary school.

At the end of that year, we moved back to YDS, living in Bellamy Hall, and finishing our degrees. Upon graduation, I was ordained in the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. and took a position as Assistant Pastor of the Union Presbyterian Church in Schenectady N.Y. Lynn taught elementary school briefly before leaving to take care of our adopted son, Jonathan. Our daughter Cynthia was born in 1972 as well.

In 1973, I received a call to serve as Chaplain and Pastor of the College Church at Lafayette College in Easton Pennsylvania, a position I then held for 31 years. During that time Lynn taught in various schools, earned an

Ed.D. and became eventually the Assistant Superintendent of Schools in the Palisades District in Bucks Co. PA. Our daughter Amy (Zee) was born in 1975.

At Lafayette, I created or help to create a Brown Bag Luncheon discussion series on moral issues, an annual student produced benefit musical and a variety of interfaith programs such as an Interfaith Seder. As student interest in community volunteer work grew, I began to develop a comprehensive community outreach program, helping students find places to serve and learn in Easton and beyond. This eventually became the Landis Center for Community Outreach, now the Landis Center for Community Engagement. After receiving my D. Min. I also began to teach one or two courses a year and eventually taught a service/learning First Year Seminar exploring community and diversity. After retiring as Chaplain in 2004, I continued to teach that course for another eight years.

Lynn retired in 2009 and not long after was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. As her health began to deteriorate, we moved to Fairfax Co. VA in 2015 to be closer to our daughter and her family living in Washington. Lynn died in 2019 ending 51 years of marriage.

Throughout our life together, we enjoyed spending time in the summer in Guilford CT where Lynn's parents had a cottage on the Long Island Sound. We eventually inherited that cottage and I still spend my summers there usually making a visit or two up Prospect Ave. to YDS to reminisce.

I remember fondly our time at YDS, the evening communal watching of the CBS news, the folk music gatherings in the Common Room, the times working and browsing in the Student Book Supply, the classes with David Kelsey, William Muehl and James Gustafson and others, the annual adjustment in the grading system from letter grades to pass/fail to high pass/pass/fail to honors/high pass/pass/fail.

Those years, 1966-1970, were tumultuous times in the country with an unpopular war raging, the assassinations of MLK and RFK, urban unrest, the chaotic election of 1968. YDS was a place for vigorous debate on the issues of the day but we were for the most part isolated from engagement with harsh realities of the war, racial injustice, wide-spread poverty. And there was very little ideological or political diversity within the faculty and students. We were a liberal intellectual bubble in a world being torn apart by divisions of race, politics, economic inequality etc.

Still the YDS experience prepared me for the intellectual if not the practical engagement with these issues in my work in the church and on the campus. At Lafayette, I tried to create spaces and places where issues of importance could be discussed as they were at YDS and where a sense of community could take shape as it did for us in those years there on the hill. I am very grateful for my time at YDS, for the intellectual engagement in and outside the classroom and especially for all the friendships made there.

## Don Morgan, M.A.R.

Retired Community College Teacher

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**Spouse: Shirley**

Social History Writer

**Children:**

**David** | b. 1969

**Scott** | b. 1975

**Grandchildren:**

**Breanna** | b. 1995

**Brady** | b. 2005

**Chase** | b. 2009

**Great-Granddaughter:**

**Morgan** | b. 2014

Like most of us probably, I loved my time at YDS. What a rich learning community we were blessed to be a part of. Shirley and I were married before coming to New Haven, and our first son David was born there.

My fieldwork led to future endeavors. At the Connecticut Mental Health Center in New Haven, I worked on the inpatient unit of the Hill-West Haven Division. Lots of African and Latino Americans lived in the Hill area. It was transforming to be just down the street from Black Panther headquarters at that time in history; I have lots of stories. Also taught humanities and psychology in the Transitional Year Program, grant funded by the Ford Foundation, offering a prep year for minority youth. I'd worked on a research project as an undergrad finding that paraprofessionals could be effective in helping roles in psychiatric settings. So when I looked for jobs it was a shock to see that North Country Community College in Saranac Lake, New York was looking for someone to start an associate degree Mental Health Assistant Program. Job requirements: a graduate degree, experience in mental health, and teaching experience. Didn't know that programs like this existed, let alone that I had prepared for doing just that! After a brief stint as a social worker for juvenile offenders in New Hampshire, I started a 40-year career at North Country. Being a small college I got to teach a lot of subjects: psychology, sociology, human services, philosophy, and religion. I was involved with regional and state organizations for community college human services program educators. Shirley and I still live there in the Adirondacks, near Moody Pond at the foot of Mt. Baker.



A focus for me has been encouraging small groups to listen and respond to each other around their varied experiences and their perspectives on finding meaning. I developed courses, Religion and the Modern World, and Meanings of Life, and workshops at regional and national conferences with titles like Honoring Spiritual (or Meaning) Diversity. For many years I've coordinated a reading group at a local church. Along these lines, I've been inspired by YDS Professor Willie James Jennings who writes about theological warrants for educational and spiritual communities to foster belonging.

## **Arthur Pedersen, B.D.**

Retired

### **Additional Degree(s):**

Dip. Theol., Oxford University | 1968

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### **Spouse: Dale**

Retired School Teacher

### **Child:**

**Mark**

My Senior Year at YDS followed a terrific intern year at a large “cathedral-like” congregation in downtown Akron, Ohio. My primary focus was to study and observe the inner workings of a “multiple staff” ministry first-hand. Upon my return to YDS, classes with Bill Muehl in Homiletics and John Vanorsdall in Practical Theology sent me in the opposite direction. My 40-year ministry was spent just about equally between two fairly-small parish churches in New Jersey. Both never had pastoral leadership for any length of time. But after several years of commitment and mutual trust, growth and fellowship became ever stronger. Both parishes developed strong ecumenical ties to both Christian and non-Christian religious groups in their communities, a blessing that probably would never have taken place had I not been so strongly influenced by my time at Yale. In the end, both of those parishes ministered to me and my family way more than I ministered to them [insert: “here God chuckles”]. Bottom line: I wish my time at YDS had not been interrupted for two years (one in England, then one in Ohio). Practically everyone from my first year at YDS had gotten their degrees and were off in all directions, so my senior year felt as though I were starting all over again. For me, it was a bit of an interesting time. I would love to hear from anyone who remembers me from either year, as I honestly have not kept up communication with any of you down through the years. Mea culpa!

## Sachiko Shirai

Clinical Psychologist, and Emeritus Professor at Japan Lutheran College

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### **How I was Before! Need for Being Myself**

It was the year of 1963 when I first visited the U.S.A. under the Fulbright Exchange Program. I came from Japan where feudalistic social and family systems were still prevailing among the Japanese people. Therefore, I had strong need for being myself.

The U.S. was the country where democracy based upon freedom, equality, and individual human rights had been respected. But, it was 1963 when President. J. F. Kennedy was assassinated, and, later, his younger brother, Senator Robert Kennedy too. Those events were such a shock that brought me deep sadness and disappointment.

### **Nevertheless, it was such an exciting and grateful experience to be in the States!**

My dream came true! The United States of America was the best country to be Myself, and study. First two years, I went to **Andover Newton Theological School** and worked on M.R.E., then, moved to the **Graduate School of Indiana University**, where I learned **Adult Education Stemming from the Danish Background**. I returned to Japan in 1966 and worked as a college chaplain while teaching religious education for two years. Finally, I came to Yale Divinity School in 1968, and graduated in 1970 with an M. Div.

### **YDS had deep impacts upon myself and my life thereafter!**

**YDS** had deep impacts upon myself and my life thereafter in many ways, and the following factors were involved in bringing impacts:

1) Unique and excellent CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) programs carried out by Rev. Ed Dobihal and Kathy Turner. Dr. Dobihal just came back from England where he had the leave of absence participated in founding the Hospice Palliative Care Program started by Dr. Cicely Saunder at St. Christoffer Hospice. Mary Ryder and I were fortunate to be the first participants to be the CPE program led by Ed Dobihal and Kathy Turner which lasted for 6 months.

2) The Seminar on Chronically Ill Patients was the most difficult, stimulating, and challenging seminar I've ever attended. It was the interdisciplinary Seminar led by Rev. D. Duncan, chaplain at the Medical School. There were 7~8 of us from various schools at Yale. Each one of us was assigned to a patient who was hospitalized in Yale New Haven Hospital facing very serious illness. Every week we had to visit them, listen to them, and learn what

they we were worried about facing difficult situations in life. Rev. Duncan was a fascinating person. He was deeply involved in the Civil Rights Movement. Later, he was sent to prison, and he practiced hunger strikes which jeopardized his health immensely, so I heard. I was so useless and helpless facing dying patient, that made me decision to study further the CPE Residency Program at University of Va. Hospital.

3) The people I met at the YDS campus were so nice and so precious and relationships with them lasted for 40 years, even I left the campus.

- Mary and Harl, her husband, were so kind, and helped me out whenever I ran into the difficulties on campus. When Harl came to Japan to do research at Tokyo University, our family were so happy and excited to have them at our home and, and when I visited the States they let me stay at their home.
- Jennifer Riggs and her family were precious friends of ours who invited me over to their Christmas dinner twice driving for 8 hours or so! And our relationships lasted, and still lasting for 40 years. Both Ryder's family and Riggs family are so precious, and my husband and I would like to cherish our friendships would like to cherish through the rest of our lives.

### **What I did, after I came back to Japan**

1) I worked at the National Sanatorium for 20 years as counselor where "the people suffering from Hansen's diseases were hospitalized." Their basic human rights were disregarded and have not treated with warm human cares. In 1999, Japan Lutheran College invited me to be a full-time professor and teach clinical psychology, and to be responsible for the CPE Program at Japan Lutheran Seminary.

2) While I was teaching at the Japan Lutheran College, I helped them found the Department of Clinical Psychology and the Graduate Department of Clinical Psychology.

3) I got married, have one son, and two grandchildren. Both my husband and my son are Pediatricians.

4) Published 5 books on clinical psychology, and translated several books

### **What YDS has given to Me!**

More than anything else, YDS and the people there helped me have self-confidence and to live my life in a way I want. And, yet, strangely enough, thinking and feeling that I am one of the YDS alumni members, **makes my faith undoubtedly and unshakably put the center of my being.**

On the other hand, however, I was very happy, excited and so grateful for having given the opportunity to be in the county where my dreams came true! For the first two years, I studied religious education at Andover Newton Theological School, then, moved to the Graduate School of Indiana University. I returned to Japan for 2 years to work as college chaplain. Finally, I came to Yale Divinity School in 1968, and graduated in 1970 with the M. Div. degree. YDS had a deep impact on me and my life thereafter. I took the seminar on Chronically Ill patients, taught by Medical School Chaplain, D. Duncan who was deeply involved in the Civil Rights Movements. Later, he was sent to prison, but, he practiced hunger strikes which jeopardize his health immensely. His seminar was interdisciplinary, and students from any schools at Yale could take it. 7~8 students took the course, and each of us was assigned the patient to visit, listen, and learn difficulties and pains from them facing death.

I also took the CPE course taught by Ed. Dobihal and Kathy Greg who have sent me Christmas cards each year lasting 40 years. I was deeply stimulated by their dedication to the people who are suffering from physical, mental, and spiritual pains and decided to take further training, Chaplain Residency Training Program at the University Virginia Hospital. The chaplaincy training there had a deep impact on me and greatly influenced my life thereafter.

YDS always allowed me to be myself, and to do what I wanted to do. YDS taught me the true meaning of freedom. What was really respected at YDS was not social status, but truth itself. That liberated me from my feudalistically influenced self. I also experienced true friendship with Mary Ryder and her family. She helped me even though she did have enough time for herself. She showed me what real love means. Our friendship has lasted, and still lasting over 40 years. Jennifer Riggs and her family also showed very warm and sincere love to me.

When I came back from YDS, I worked with leprosy patients who had been ill-treated and not respected as human beings for over 20 years. After that, Japan Lutheran College invited me to be a full-time professor. I also teach at the Japan Lutheran Seminary.

I am happily married. My husband and son are medical doctors, and we have two grandchildren. I have published several books. YDS has helped me be liberated from my selfishness and narrow-mindedness. I feel that I received so much happiness from YDS and the people there.

## **T. Gregory "Greg" Turner, M.Div.**

Retired Parish Minister

### **Additional Degree(s):**

B.A. Kansas | 1964

M.A., Kansas | 1969

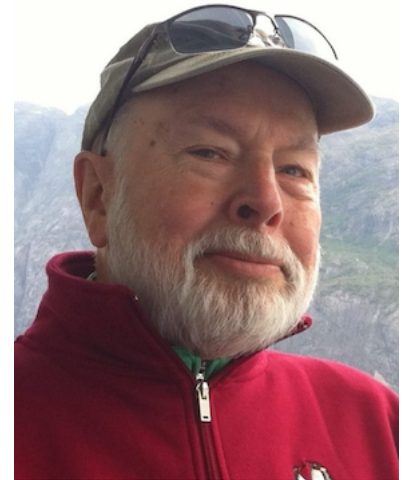
D.Min., Andover Newton | 1999

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### **Spouse: Kathy A. Turner**

Retired Chaplain and Clinical Pastoral Educator

### **Children:**

**Aaron Turner** | 1971

Rehabilitation Psychologist | VA Puget Sound Health Care System, Clinical Faculty | U. of Washington

**Matthew Turner** | b. 1974

Cultural Coordinator, Japanese Government, Portland Consulate

**Sophie** (18), **Lily** (15), **Amelia** (8)

Just off a plane-bus-train-taxi ride from somewhere across the Atlantic, I arrived at YDS to discover at breakfast the next morning that everyone was talking about religion. As a Jayhawk, we did not do that in public; but clearly, I wasn't in Kansas anymore. Kathy claims to have spotted me walking somewhere near the old Porter Hall, probably in a daze. We were married the next Labor Day Weekend.

From there it was a third-floor railroad walk-up on Sachem St, a year in Hong Kong, and then back to YDS and New Haven, mostly New Haven. Signing up for field work at the Council of Churches, put me near the Green on May Day 1970. Kathy had discovered Ed Dobihal, started CPE training and was already ordained at her home church. Mine was held in Marquand a week after graduation. At YDS and beyond, I had "trained" to be an ecumenical administrator. I was about to be a parish minister.

Then we were off to Brussels, following my call to the American Protestant Church. Four years and two sons later it was Denver and Christ Congregational for six years. Next came First Congregational UCC in Corvallis, Oregon, eleven. In 1991, it was New Hampshire and South Congregational: seven years.

With a mismatched pastorate in Ohio over, we followed Kathy's call to Madison, Wisconsin. On our road, her ministry bloomed in the cracks of mine. I now had a seventy-mile commute through dairy farms to a wonderful

time as Intentional Interim Minister of the UCC church in Ripon, with a small teaching role at the college next door. Two years later came my final stint, Interim Senior at the American Church in Paris. In addition to parish tasks, memory most recalls “counseling” political refugees from many parts of Africa.

After YDS ministry began with a short drive to the Common Market and ended a shorter walk to the Eiffel Tower. My work there was completed fifteen months later. It was 2005 and back to Madison to consult the pensions. I retired, we moved to Seattle, and, of course, Kathy sailed on. She retired twelve years later.

Bill Coffin counseled us to be patient with our older parishioners whose lives were marked by a World War I, The Great Depression, World War II, Hiroshima, Korea and Elvis. They had a lot to teach as Vietnam was grinding us all. But patience is a virtue I could rarely summon. Itchy Feet is my story. I am grateful so many provided such good ground along the way.

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## William “Bill” Vann, B.D.

Retired

### Additional Degree(s):

B.A., Randolph-Macon College | 1967

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### Spouse: Katherine

Teacher

### Children:

Howard

Sarah



A lively preaching class, 1973, YDS Archives.



## David M. Werley, M.Div.

Retired, and 5 x's in retirement, served as an Interim Pastor

### Additional Degree(s):

Masters of Public Administration, Kutztown University | 1998

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**Spouse: Linda**

### Children:

**Matthew David** | 1970

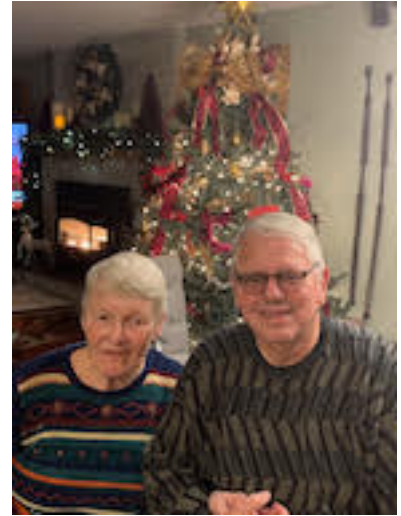
Middle School Guidance Counselor

Spouse: **Melissa**, father to **Elijah Muir** (21) and **Ava Grace** (16)

**Rebecca Joy** | b. 1973

Corporate Travel Agent for World Travel, Inc for 26 years

Spouse: **Duzur Palmieri** (deceased for 3 years)



YDS was a very good and exciting time in my life! So many caring, bright and engaging fellow students, diverse in culture, race and background, and life-enriching to come to know and befriend. The professors and staff were also challenging, talented and outstanding.

My mind, heart and spirit were continually being stretched while at seminary and it laid a wonderful foundation for a life time of openness to continue to grow and be open to all the ways God's Spirit seeks to expand who we may each become under the ongoing grace of a loving God! While attending a retreat where Chaplain Coffin was presenting on the theme of social justice and the Viet Nam War, he said to me: "The Church needs faithful and able 'quarter-masters' behind the scenes and in the trenches of daily ministry, in order to be faithful to the ongoing work of the Kingdom." Chaplain Coffin's one sentence has stuck with me, for well over 50 years, as a way of me understanding who I can be in doing the vital work of social justice, day in and day out, over the long haul. And if the truth be told and could be revealed in such a short response as this piece allows, many of my fellow students, and many of my teachers, contributed so many building blocks to the structure of my personal and life as a pastor!

YDS allowed me to gain so many personal opportunities to broaden who I have become as a pastoral care giver in various ministries. Some of these were as an Experimental Minister driving a Yellow Taxi Cab for 1 1/2 years; a student in training at Bethesda Lutheran along with Tim Lull and Allan Letts and other gifted students; a life changing Internship in Los Angeles, California along with Bill Lee from YDS and three other seminarians from other Lutheran seminaries. My Intern assignment was in a Swedish Lutheran Church in the midst of Watts, LA, a year after the famous riots there. It was on this internship where I met and fell in love with my future wife,

Linda Evenson. Linda and I married a year later during Spring break in my final year at YDS. We were married among many of our friends and professors in Battel Chapel and Linda and I moved in to the 'fertile crescent' after our honeymoon. The fertile crescent lived up to its time-honored name and two weeks before our first-year anniversary, our dear son, Matthew, was born and then baptized on our first year's anniversary at Tabor Lutheran in Branford, Conn. By that time, I was serving as a Youth Pastor at Tabor and as the first protestant chaplain at St. Raphael's Hospital in New Haven in a yearlong CPE residency with Father Douglas Morrison. What an amazing and special way to end up my time at Yale Div. School!

My wife, Linda, accused me of being so pleased to be in the energizing environment of YDS and my new role as Youth Pastor and Chaplain at a Catholic Hospital, that she thought I might never move to another phase of our lives. Alas, we did move on! We moved to Baltimore, Md. where I became Associate Pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church and served with the Rev. Donald Haas. There were some happy years there with our new young family, and shortly, a new addition of our daughter, Becky born in Feb. of 1973. I loved doing youth ministry and was responsible for Educational Ministry and preaching regularly every other week. However, on a day just before I was to lead a Five Church Consortium on Confirmation ministry at a retreat setting, Linda and Becky went with me to do a pastoral visit at a Sinai Hospital and while on our way to pick up our son, Matthew, at his pre-school at the Methodist Church, we were hit by a hit and run driver going 80 plus mph through a traffic light. We were all ejected through the front window of our VW Bus and feared to have serious head trauma. It turned out that Linda received the worst injury and remained in a coma for over three months with a brain stem injury and stayed in the Intensive Care for 2 months and at a Rehab Center for the next 6 months and then in rehab hospital for the next year. Linda suffered severe, life-long injuries to every aspect of her whole person. Leaving out all of the countless ways and impacts of Linda's injury, what is possible to say, is that the Lord made each day possible to endure and get through them. And, the story continues even now.

Our families, the Church, friends along the way, our faith and the reality that Jesus lives has made our lives possible and even at times, amazing! YDS and Clinical Pastoral Education and growth in and through Bible Study, worship and an openness to the Spirit and special people along the way, have made our lives not possible but good.



Students deep in thought, YDS Archives.

## **Charles "Chuck" L. Wildman, B.D.**

Retired clergy, United Church of Christ

### **Additional degree(s):**

Countless other courses, doctoral work, certificates

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### **Spouse: Anne Dunn Wildman**

Retired educator, Family Supporter-in-Chief

### **Children:**

#### **Katherine L. Zinger**

Educator

Finnian L. Zinger, Grade 5

#### **David B. Wildman**

Health Services Administration

Entering YDS a United Methodist, I interned with the Presbyterians and emerged ordained in the United Church of Christ. Therein began some forty privileged years as pastor of UCC congregations in Connecticut, Illinois, Nebraska and Virginia. The last and longest (20 years) was Rock Spring Congregational UCC, in Arlington, VA, a progressive group of dedicated leaders in government, journalism and world affairs. In each position, I have labored for racial justice, peace and the Open and Affirming ministries of our denomination.

Along the way were many volunteer projects- United Way, YMCA, councils of churches, regional and national denominational roles. In 2008, I officially retired and we relocated to Cape Cod. A year later, I flunked retirement and became the Interim Conference Minister for the UCC's Connecticut Conference, a three-year ministry based in Hartford.

My journey also has taken me abroad- Greece, Colombia, Israel/Palestine, Egypt, Australia, Japan, South Korea for professional and personal purposes. There have been several Viking river and ocean cruises including up the Norwegian Coast into the Arctic Circle and to Alaska's inside passage and central interior.

Anne and I began married life at YDS, gaining a good foundation that has sustained us for 54 years. We are blest with two talented children and an amazing grandson. Throughout, YDS has been central to our formation as a couple both embraced and challenged by the Holy One made visible in the Church!

## **Sandy Wylie, B.D.**

Retired

### **Additional Degree(s):**

D. Min., Vanderbilt Divinity School | 1984

3 Wembly Circle

Bella Vista, Arkansas 72715

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### **Spouse: Susan**

Retired Nurse and Hospital Administrator

### **Children:**

#### **Benjamin**

Chemistry Professor | Texas Tech University

#### **Micah**

Doing Graduate Degree in Speech Therapy | University of Arkansas

My fondest memories of YDS are of the many wonderful people I met there. Sibley Towner was such an outstanding teacher of Old Testament that I also drove down to the old campus to take his class in Hebrew. His prayers at the beginning of each class were spellbinding, and many of his lectures had a sermonic quality that lifted both the mind and the spirit. When I returned from the Iona Community (in which I worked from June 1968 to August 1969), I was astounded that YDS had pushed Sib out! A lot of things in life are so unfair and never make any sense. Sib was my best professor ever.

It was my great privilege to work with Sydney Ahlstrom on several of his books. My little Smith Corona electric typewriter really got a workout. Believe me, I needed the money I was paid! My greatest satisfaction was being in regular contact with one of the greatest minds in the scholarship of religious history. Sid was the best!

Preaching was at such a low point in the late '60s that even a school like YDS had no preaching scholar on faculty. Bill Muehl was a lawyer who could make his mouth work, so that was close enough to qualify him as a teacher of preaching. I profited from taking Bill's course on preaching during my senior year. One day in the early spring of 1970 I went to my mailbox and found a notice that I was being awarded the Mersick Prize for preaching. It might as well have been the Nobel Prize for this awkward kid from the hills of Oklahoma who had stumbled thru YDS. That prize (which was Bill's to award) was an anointing, and to this day I swell with pride when I think about it. Little did I realize, though, how long it would take me to become proficient at the craft of preaching. It wasn't until 30 years or so after my graduation that I began to feel I was coming into my own as a preacher. The last ten years of my career were very gratifying. It was good to know that I was finally realizing some of the potential that Bill Muehl had seen in me those many years ago. Life is funny: you spend decades developing your craft; then when you start to get good at it and can-do people some good, it's time to retire. Now explain that to me.

# In Memoriam

O God, before whom generations rise and pass away, we praise you for all your servants who, having lived this life in faith, now live eternally with you.

Especially we thank you for your servants, our classmates.

We praise you for the gift of their lives; for the grace you gave them; for all in them that was good and kind and faithful.

We thank you that for them death is past and pain ended, and that they have now entered the joy you have prepared; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Book of Common Worship (1995; adapted)*

## We remember:

Larry E. Axel	February 1, 1991	Constance W. Mann	February 19, 2014
Wm. Douglas Bookwalter	November 2, 2003	Marilyn B. Miller	May 7, 2019
Sandra Forrester Dufresne	August 8, 2014	Kermit B. Morrison	January 1, 2015
Walt Gaffney (STM 1969)		Steven E. Olson	September 6, 2016
Ed Garrigan (1971)		Warner H. Sanford, Jr.	September 18, 2020
Robert Hamilton		Ken Powell (1971)	
George Lea Harper, Jr.	April 18, 1994	John B. Shopp	March 19, 2018
Sharon Hornberger-Brown	May 27, 2015	Harold P. Sloan	December 14, 2006
William J. Horvath	November 23, 1998	D. Keith Stanford	
Jerald L. Kirkpatrick	January 11, 2021	Paul L. Toland	September 30, 2005
Leonard R. Klein	December 4, 2019	Kermit B. Westerberg	April 2, 2021
Marjorie Peace Lenn	October 16, 2010	Jeffery C. Wilson	December 17, 2000
Larry LeSeure (1971)		Mary Ann Yukevich (1971)	