

**WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
MEMORIAL CENTER**

Location: 3400 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte, NC 28215  
Mail: P.O. Box 18005, Charlotte, NC 28218  
Web Site: www.wnccume.org

**PHONE EXTENSIONS OF CENTER STAFF**

Local Phone 704-535-2260  
N.C. Wats 800-562-7929  
Fax 704-567-6117

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*of the*  
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*of the*  
**WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
*of*  
**THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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- North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church (1869)
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- Western North Carolina Conference of The Methodist Church (1939)
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Charles D. (Denny) White, Jr., Secretary  
Shannon A. Redden, Editorial Assistant  
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How grateful we are for William Anderson's influential role in the itinerant ministry of The United Methodist Church as he diligently followed God's call for his life, for the churches he served, for the communities in which he lived, and for the parishioners for whom he cared. He gave us a pronounced "benchmark" standard for our discipleship and personal commitment of faith. We are saddened by his physical loss but are comforted to acknowledge that he has achieved the full measure of Christ's resurrection for his spiritual life, one of the basic emphases of his preaching, teaching, and pastoral care. After his death, his daughter discovered one of his sermons in which he was evaluating his own life by referencing Paul's words to Timothy: "The time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." Bill Anderson definitely kept the faith as one of our comrades in ministry, and we thank God for his life and service.

J. Michael Leatherwood

**FLOYD LEE BERRIER**  
October 4, 1933 – October 22, 2002

Floyd Lee Berrier was born on his family's farm in the northern part of Davidson County, near Midway, on October 4, 1933. One of the things he cherished most was God's having blessed him by allowing him to be born into a devoted Christian family with loving parents, Harvey and Elzie Berrier. As the ninth child out of 11 in this close-knit, rural family, Floyd learned the significance of personal faith, self-reliance, hard work, intimate relationships, and strong determination from an early age. While growing up and working on the farm, Floyd also gained an education, earning his diploma from Midway High School.

On April 25, 1952, Floyd married his sweetheart of one and a half years, Ann Portis, whom he had met when she transferred to Midway School for her senior year. Thus began the romantic journey of his lifetime with the cherished life companion God had graciously given him, and together they began to build their family. Their first son, David Lee, was born on April 25, 1953; their second son, Bruce Kevin, on March 29, 1956; and their third son, Danny Glenn, on November 27, 1959. During this time, Floyd was

an industrious husband and father as he sold vehicles at a Ford Motor Company dealership in Thomasville and then, from 1954 to 1962, drove a truck for the Coca-Cola Company in Winston-Salem.

So it was that Floyd, now responsible for a growing family, attended a revival one night in the latter part of 1961 at his home church, Canaan Methodist Church, where the Reverend Herb Penry was preaching. God's Spirit began to work mightily upon him that particular night as his struggle with God's call for him to become a preacher reached its most intense point. Fortunately for us all, Floyd answered the call that very night, and his life would never be the same.

Floyd Berrier would prove to be a person who understood and lived out commitment on a daily basis. In this spirit, he gave himself fully to the ordained ministry of God's holy church. In January of 1962, Floyd received his license to preach. Since he only had a high-school diploma at that point, he began to further his education at High Point College (now University), where he graduated with an A.B. degree in 1965. While a student there, he would serve his first appointment, Johnstown in Thomasville, from 1962 to 1965. Then it was on to further theological training at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., 1965-68. While a student in seminary, Floyd would take on the responsibility of pastoring a two-point charge, Huntingtown-Emmanuel, in Huntingtown, Maryland. He was admitted on trial in the Western North Carolina Conference and ordained deacon in 1966.

Upon graduation from Wesley, Floyd and family returned to the Western North Carolina Conference, where he would faithfully serve the rest of his earthly life. He was admitted to full connection and ordained elder in 1968. His first appointment upon returning was at a two-point charge, Oak Ridge-Morehead, 1968-71. Then it was off to Charlotte to serve at St. James, 1971-76, and from there he would go to High Point: Christ, 1976-82. Floyd would serve next at Monroe: Central, 1982-84, and then go back to Charlotte to serve as a vital member of the conference staff, with areas of focus in evangelism, stewardship, and social concerns, 1984-87.

Always maintaining a deep passion for pastoring in the local church, Floyd eagerly returned to serve as minister at Charlotte: Dilworth, 1987-91. During this time, he completed his education by earning a doctor of ministry degree from Columbia Theological Seminary in 1990. He then served in the Northeast District as superintendent, 1991-95. Floyd's final appointment in the conference was at Kernersville: Main Street, 1995-2000. Over the span of 38 years, 10 different churches, in a variety of settings, were greatly impacted by Floyd's visionary leadership and his personal/pastoral connection with his people.

At 66 years of age, Floyd made the decision to retire, but only from an official perspective. He never had any intention of slowing down or doing less ministry, just transitioning into a new phase of ministry. Floyd's vision for the latter years of his life was to continue to answer the call of God for active and productive service in the name of Jesus Christ. Possessing an amazing intensity and desire for churches to grow in spirit and ministry,

But life is not always fair. As he was preparing for retirement in the summer of 2000, Floyd began experiencing health problems that would turn out to be cancer of the kidney. During the last two years and four months of his life, Floyd still gave it his all as he served as the Charlotte District Director of Congregational Development, even as he doggedly fought the cancer. In a Lenten devotional booklet published by Davidson Church, he described his experience in dealing with a terminal illness:

During a stay in the hospital, I was asked how I cope with cancer. Among other things, I spoke of hope, grounded in faith that God is involved in all of life — and that God will overcome every foe. It seems to me this is the essence of Lent and Easter — God involved in God's world, and emerging victorious. Of course, 'down times' still occur, but I am grateful for the gift of hope which helps me to overcome them — hope grounded in faith that God is our constant companion, and that in everything God works for good.

In August of 2002, Floyd's health and energy began to diminish more rapidly. After a brief stay at Forsyth Medical Center in Winston-Salem, he went to the Kate B. Reynolds Hospice Home, where he died in the early morning hours of Tuesday, October 22, 2002. He is survived by his wife, three children, and eight grandchildren, who were the love of his life: Lucy and Jacob, of Greensboro; Elizabeth, Emily, and Elyse, of Charlotte; and Andrew, Patrick, and Paige, of Holly Springs. Floyd is also survived by three sisters: Maude Hartman, Florence Warden, and Vi Nichols; and three brothers: Clyde, Clay, and John Berrier, all of Winston-Salem. He was predeceased by his sister, Helen, and brothers Ray, Everett, and Paul Berrier.

As an outstanding, faithful leader in God's Church, Floyd Lee Berrier was a builder above all things. Yes, he oversaw the building of several physical projects (sanctuaries, a multi-purpose building, and an education building) during the course of his ministry. But, more significantly, Floyd was intently focused on building up the souls of his parishioners and then on building up their God-given gifts so that they could be sent out into the world to accomplish ministry for the sake of God's kingdom. He energetically gave his life to fulfilling this biblical purpose: "to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ." Floyd described his ministry well in this quote from an interview with a reporter from the *Union Observer* in Monroe when he moved there in the summer of 1982:

I like to work with people to develop their potential both as human beings and as Christian disciples. I think it's helped by setting them free to be who they are, helping them to affirm themselves. I'd like my ministry to be one of affirmation — everybody's special, everybody's important.

Floyd encouraged his congregations to have strong ministries of outreach to the communities in which they were located, but he did not want it to stop there. Knowing that God's love was for all the world, Floyd embodied his belief that we must be willing to go far from home, if necessary, to help the hurting in our world. And so he traveled to places such as Haiti and Puerto Rico on building teams as his ministry's sphere of influence expanded into new territory. No doubt about it, Floyd was a terrific builder.

Floyd also had a precious gift of building relationships with young people, especially those who were contemplating their call into ordained ministry. I was privileged and blessed to have been one of those young people. Floyd Berrier was the first Methodist preacher I ever knew, and I loved him because he taught me, in his own unique way, how exciting ministry can be if you strive to do it well.

A worship service to celebrate the life, faith, and ministry of Floyd Lee Berrier was held on October 26, 2002, at Main Street Church, Kernersville. Presiding over the service was J. Alexander Ward, Jr., senior pastor, with James C. Howell and Debra D. Paulsen also participating by making remarks. Earl Wilson, Jr., superintendent of the Charlotte District, preached the funeral sermon entitled, "Heavy on Grace," in which he highlighted the ongoing emphasis in Floyd's own ministry: The power of God's grace is greater than the power of sin and, therefore, we must consistently preach and live grace every day that God gives us.

After the funeral service, Floyd's body was laid to rest in the cemetery of his home church, near the land upon which he was raised as a child and where he had accepted God's call on his life over 40 years previously. The graveside service was conducted by the R. Dale Hilton and the writer.

Thanks be to God for the victory He has given us through Jesus Christ and for the message of that victory that came to us through the loving ministry of Floyd Berrier.

E.E. (Gene) Richardson, Jr.