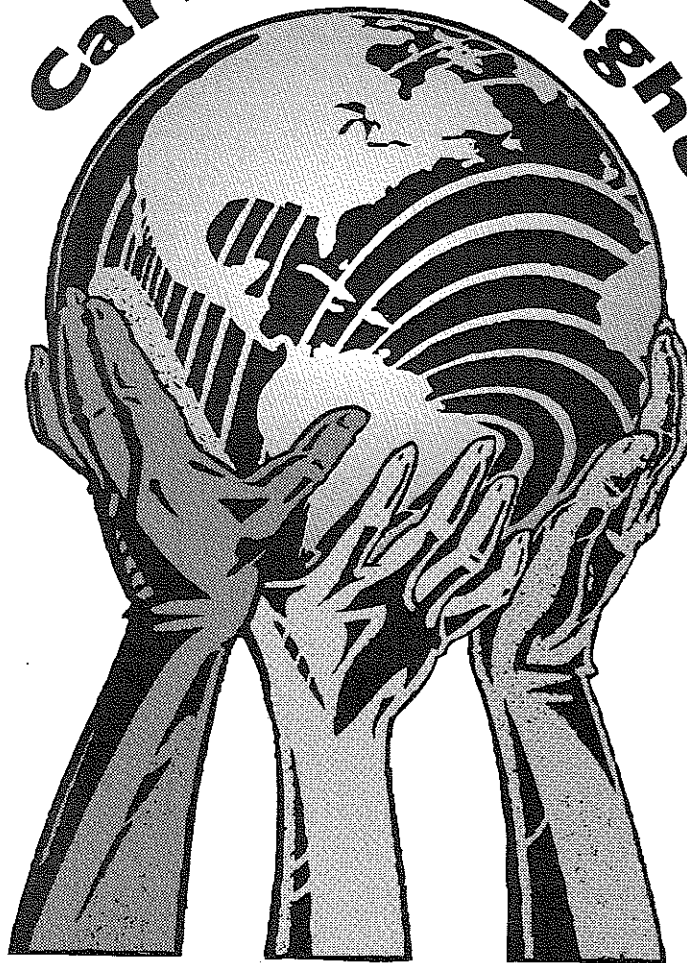


**1998**

**Florida Annual Conference**

# JOURNAL

**Carry the Light**



---

**May 27-30**

**George W. Jenkins Civic Arena — Lakeland, Florida**

Submitted by: Sylvia Cope, daughter

Don and his wife, the former Marilyn Smith, were married in Daytona Beach, FL, on June 7, 1953. They have three married children: a son, Richard L. Cockburn; a daughter, Donna L. Bartels; and a son Ross E. Cockburn. They also have 9 grandchildren.

Don and Lyn were a Clergy presenting couple for the Marriage Encounter United Methodist Weekends and served in many State offices and on the National Board as the SE Jurisdictional Representative Clergy. With Don's retired status, he and Lyn were able to travel to present Weekends in many states.

Donald was diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (one of the 40 muscular dystrophic diseases in the MDA) in September 1987. He and Lyn sold their home in Tampa and moved to Houston, TX in August 1992, to be near Donna and Ross and their families. While in Shreveport for Christmas of 1993, Don was admitted to the hospital with acute respiratory failure.

He was placed on a respirator and was very critically ill. He was able to be transferred to the Houston VA Hospital in January of 1994. Extensive testing found that Don's disease had progressed and was diagnosed as the motor neuron/dystrophic muscular disease known as Lou Gehrig's disease. He expired on May 26, 1997 in the hospital. Memorial Services were held in the Chapel of the First UMC of Houston with the Reverends David Snowden and Richard Cockburn officiating. Interment was in the Houston National Cemetery. Don was able to continue his ministry even when his condition was deteriorating. He served Communion to his roommate and family several times and was able to keep the tradition of baptizing the grandkids with the help of the VA Chaplain for #7 and the Ministerial Staff at First UMC for #8. His comment to many, "I may be down, but I am not out of the Ministry," exemplified his commitment to the Lord.

Submitted by: Marilyn Smith Cockburn, wife

Submitted by: Sylvia Cope, daughter

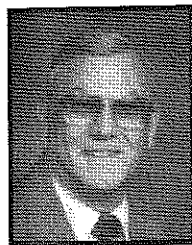
COCKBURN

Maude Smith Cockburn of Dalton, GA, 1928. Both parents are deceased. Her brother, Robert, deceased, and Richard Cockburn. The family were members of the Methodist Church and Donald was con-

joined the Army Air Corp in September 1944. Former member of the United States Air Force in Atlanta, GA, and graduated from West Point and was active in the Wesleyan Church for several years.

He graduated in 1959. He was ordained by Bishop Arthur J. Moore in the North Georgia Conference at Cokesbury UMC of Birmingham, 1957-59. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1959 and retired in December 1976. He served at Fort Monmouth, NJ, 65-67; Dyabikur AB, Turkey 68; and Fort Monmouth Air Station, NJ, 73-76.

He served in the North Georgia Conference and the Florida Conference. He served at Temple Hill UMC at Forest Hills UMC 79-83. He is now in a nursing home.



ALBERT LEE LEGGETT, JR.

I regard it a high honor to write our conference memoirs for the Rev. Al Leggett, Jr. Al and his wonderful wife Rosie became very dear friends in my first pastorate after Seminary. His down to earth "Real" spirituality encouraged and touched me in ways I cannot adequately express.

Albert Lee Leggett, Jr. was born July 2, 1926 in Greenville, Florida. He graduated from Greenville High School in June of 1944 as president of his Senior Class. He enrolled in the University of Florida on a basketball scholarship in September of 1944. By December of the same year he was inducted into the Army Air Force and honorably discharged October 16, 1946 after serving in the Pacific.

Al was so blessed to marry Miss Rosella (Rosie) Parker on July 2, 1949. The two of them had a wonderful life, as Rosie would say, that was never boring. Al, nicknamed Rooster, after his dad, carried his North Florida southern roots proudly. I loved to listen to him tell stories of how they used to be decades ago in Greenville and surrounding communities. I found myself feeling right at home with a man that loved God and enjoyed people.

Rev. Leggett was a man that loved his family as well. I remember once when his son's child was very ill, Al was so concerned in the midst of his own incapacitating illness. During his ministry, his family had a special place on the Santa Fe River that they could escape from their busy world. The memories of those moments will always be deeply cherished by them.

Al made one statement to me that has always remained in my heart. One day visiting at the hospital I asked him if he had any resentment over spending a decade of being ill, at times in excruciating pain. He said, "If I had known when I was a young man what I would eventually go through, I would have thought of all people I would have been very bitter, but I'm not. God did not give me this"... Al knew that God gave him strength. Al could spell strength by the letters, R O S T E.

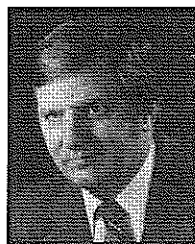
Al was called to the ministry in 1961 and attended the Baptist Bible Institute in Greenville, Florida. He served there as a Chaplain for the Sunland Center for the mentally disabled. In 1964 as a member of the Greenville United Methodist Church he was appointed as a student pastor at the Wakula Charge. He then completed his BS degree at Florida State University. Al served the Madison Charge 1966, Grace UMC, Perry 1968, Calvary, Tallahassee 1972, Marathon 1975, Madison First UMC 1977, First Bowling Green 1981, Lealman, St. Petersburg 1984, Disability in 1985, Retired in 1992, D1968, FC 1970, E 1970.

Last year at Annual Conference May 28, 1997 Al left this world and went to be with his Lord. Funeral services were held at First UMC, Madison. Officiating were the Reverends Nicholas Godun and Eddie Fulford. Burial was at Ebenezer Cemetery in Madison.

Al is survived by his wife Rosie, daughters, Nancy, Susan, Terri and one son Mac, plus seven grandchildren.

Al to me, was a very Godly man, but not too pious or too holy to be no earthly good. He was real! We miss you Al but know in Christ we will hear your old stories once again.

Submitted by: The Rev. Eddie Fulford



#### NORMAN TAIT ALLERS

Norman Tait Allers was born on November 22, 1929 to Harry W. Allers and Martha McClaren in Pittsburg, PA. The youngest of two sons, Norman grew up playing basketball and the trumpet, enjoying hiking, reading and writing poetry, and deeply caring about the needs of others.

Norman attended West Virginia Wesleyan College where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1951. During his freshman year he received his local preacher's license in the Pittsburg Conference of the Methodist Church and later served as a Supply Pastor in the West Virginia Conference from 1948-1951. Upon graduating, with honors, Norman became a deacon in the West Virginia Conference and enrolled in Boston University School of Theology where he received his Bachelor in Sacred Theology degree in 1954.

While attending Boston University he was hired as part-time assistant to the minister at Grace UMC in Haverhill, MA, where he met his future wife and loving mate, Barbara Elizabeth French, originally from Manchester, NH.

Ordained an Elder in the New Hampshire Conference in 1954, his first full time appointment was in Hampton, New Hampshire where he brought his new bride, Barbara. Before leaving New Hampshire and his first major building project, Norman and Barbara would be blessed with a daughter, Rebecca Jayne.