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Upon returning to Louisiana, they served St. Matthews and, Haven United Methodist Churches as the pastoral family receiving the affectionate undergirding of both congregations. The family was then enhanced by the blessing of a son, Russell, Jr.

Delicately, Nancy sought to balance responsibilities as a faithful wife, devoted mother, and a teacher of exceptional children as she ardently struggled with an escalating illness. She was a gracious supporter of the church with presence in the Adult Fellowship and Sanctuary choirs, Ushers, United Methodist Women, and Parsonettes. Nancy enkindled herself in reciprocal relationships with her many friends and colleagues. She supported the Kidney Foundation, Federation of the Blind, and varied civic fellowships with her membership. She shared her compassion frequently with fellow sojourners who were sick and shut-in.

Having enjoyed traveling with her close-knit family in her early life, she continued that pleasure with us and now has travelled ahead of us. She is preceded in life's final transition by her Savior Jesus Christ, her mother, and three brothers, namely, L'David, Jr., Michael, and Terrell.

She is loved, honored, and treasured by her husband, Russell, Sr., and son Russell, Jr.; brothers Benjamin and Ronald; sister-in-law Catherine (Mrs. Benjamin) Hayes and Brenda (Mrs. William) Jones; brother-in-law Rev. William L. Jones; Aunts Nancy Jolivet, Elosia Wells, Azalea Watson, Alverta Hayes, Ninetta Hayes, Louisiana Lanier; God-children Benjamin D. Hayes, Jr., and Alphonsine Crump; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and gracious friends.

We celebrate her spiritual wherewithal, fighting spirit, and the grace God has bestowed upon her as His child.

Rev. Kenneth M. Fisher

TALMADGE EUGENE MCELROY, III

(1904 - 1994)

The Rev. Talmadge Eugene McElroy, III, was born on September 6, 1904 in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, to the marriage union of the late Rev. Talmadge Eugene McElroy, Jr., and Mrs. Lelie Ann Standez Sherrod McElroy.

He was an honor graduate of Eureka High School, Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He held a Bachelor of Arts degree from Williams College, Chicago, Illinois. Other higher education degrees were conferred on him from Central Alabama College, Birmingham, Alabama. He was also a graduate of Myers College of Mortuary Science, Springfield, Illinois. He served as Principal of Carrollton School, Mississippi.

He answered the "call" to the Christian Ministry in Lumberton, Mississippi and came to the Louisiana Conference of The Methodist Church in 1932 by request of the late Bishop Robert Elijah Jones.

Realizing that a fruitful and well-rounded ministry needs the love, patience, devotion, concern, understanding, and compassion of a dedicated Christian woman, Rev. McElroy chose as his wife the former Miss Eloise Daniels. They were united in Holy Matrimony on April 23,

1933. To their marriage union four children were born: three sons (now deceased) and one daughter, Mrs. Mattie Louise McElroy Brown, who now resides in Cleveland, Ohio. The McElroys boast and "brag" about their six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Reverend McElroy served more than 15 appointments during his more than 40 years of active ministry. He spoke often about serving at St. Mark in Opelousas where under his administration the church was built and paid for. He also held the distinction of serving as District Superintendent of the Franklin, Lake Charles, Shreveport and New Iberia Districts.

Prior to merger of the former Conference "B" to the now United Methodist Church - Louisiana Conference, Reverend McElroy served with distinction as Chairman of the Board of Missions and the Board of Trustees of the Louisiana Annual Conference.

At the close of the 1976-77 Conference Year, Rev. McElroy retired and along with his lovely wife claimed Walmsley United Methodist Church in Morgan City.

As his pastor he shared with me some words of wisdom which shall always remain with me. In Rev. McElroy's final days his actions summed up his ministry in the words of a song:

*Come thou fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing thy Grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Calls for songs of loudest praise.*

He was laid to rest on January 14, 1994 from Brooks United Methodist Church in New Orleans, Louisiana.

My thanks to Mrs. M. Mason Gordon, a family friend, and Mrs. Eloise McElroy, his devoted wife, for their contribution to this writing.

Rev. Dan Washington, Jr.

DOROTHY MAE MCGOWEN

(1932 - 1994)

Dorothy Mae McGowen was born in West Monroe, Louisiana, on March 17, 1932. Her parents were T. J. and Evvie McGowen. Dorothy was one of seven children born to this union. Her brothers and sisters are George McGowen, James McGowen, Jo Ann Dumas, Thelma Aulds, Irma Krawec and Mary Etta Eagleson.

Before going into the ministry at the age of 41, Dorothy attended college at Northeast Louisiana University and graduated with a degree in nursing. She worked at hospitals in Monroe.

Dorothy was originally a member of the Assemblies of God Church, but joined Southside United Methodist Church in 1967 under the leadership and guidance of Rev. Lea Joyner. She made her commitment to the ministry in 1973, and went to seminary from May, 1973 until May, 1975.